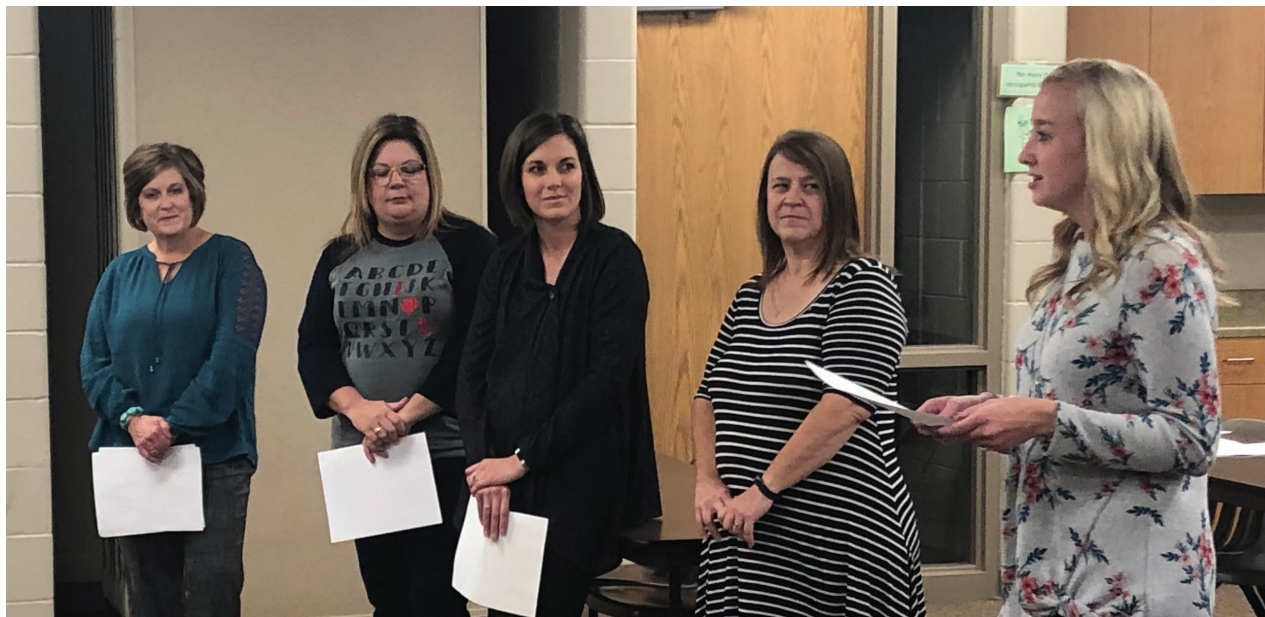


# THE Groton Independent

South Dakota  
Growing Families & Opportunities

Vol. 137 No.08 ♦ Groton, South Dakota ♦ Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2019 ♦ Established in 1889



Program reviews for junior kindergarten, kindergarten and first grade were presented at the school board meeting Monday evening. Pictured are kindergarten teachers Ann Gibbs and Lindsey DeHoet, first grade teachers Emily Eichler and Julie Milbrandt, and junior kindergarten teacher Alexa Schuring. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

## Groton Area receives accreditation renewal through 2023-24

During the program review of the junior kindergarten, kindergarten and first grade, Alexa Schuring thanked the board for adding the extra 15 minutes to the school day for JK. "It has really helped with our program. Ann Gibbs and Lindsey DeHoet talked about the kindergarten program and Julie Milbrandt and Emily Eichler talked about the first grade program.

The tuck pointing work is complete at the elementary school. The boiler at the middle/high school was fired up on Oct. 9 and is providing heat to the building. Superintendent Joe Schwan reported on the official school enrollment of 582 which is up slightly from last year. Due to the nature of the school not qualifying for state aid, the enrollment number does not enter into the financial situation.

The Groton Area School District received approval of accreditation renewal through the 2023-24 school year from the S.D. Department of Education.

Groton Area will be hosting a school crisis response team with area schools on December 2-3. Schwan reported on the crisis response team that was recently formed in the Dell Rapids/Elkton/Flandreau area.

Elementary Principal Brett Schwan reported that the elementary enrollment is up two from the last meeting to 278. He also reported that over \$5,000 was raised with the coffee sales fundraiser for the OST program. Schwan said that he and Kim Weber are looking to improving the education centers, especially for the older students. When school is dismissed early or there is no school, OST will be closed. On days of late start, Superintendent Schwan said when there is a late start and they are confident that school will be held, OST will be opened. However, on days when there is a late start and they are just buying time to see if there will be school, OST will not be opened in that event.

MS/HS Principal Kiersten Sombke talked about PSAT testing and about parent-teach conferences set for Thursday, Oct. 17, and they will be held in the high school gym instead of the teacher's classrooms.

The board gave the okay for the band and choir trip to Brandon, Mo., on April 16-19, 2020.

Superintendent Joe Schwan talked about the school's report card with the state. He said in all areas, Groton is trending up. He said that one area of concern is the middle school bottom quartile in mathematics is at 22.58 percent. "That is something we need to work on and we're going to talk about that on Friday at our in-service." The school's performance index for the elementary school is 81.13 while the high school is 91.25. "Our students and teachers are doing very well overall," Schwan said.

Kyle Gerlach was hired as an elementary paraprofessional at \$13.85 an hour and will also be the assistant high school boys basketball coach at 8 percent of base salary.


The district's attorney, Rodney Freeman, will attend the 2019 Education Law Association annual meeting at \$140 and the school can make free phone calls to him as long as there is no action needed. The board granted the approval.

The health service food service inspection was 100 percent at the high school and 97 percent at the elementary school because of a couple of screw holes in the wall.

The board approved for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church to use the school bus on Nov. 9 with the church supplying the driver and paying expenses.

The board approved the resignation of Molly Ringgenberg as paraprofessional effective October 25.

- Paul Kosel



Position	Western
Class	Fr.
Highschool	Groton Area H.S.
Hometown	Andover, S.D.

Cassandra Townsend

## ECAC Riders of the Week Ending September 29 include Townsend

DANBURY, Conn. – The Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) has announced the Equestrian Riders of the Week for the week ending September 29. They include Cassandra Townsend of Andover.

Cassandra Townsend is a freshman at South Dakota State University and she made her collegiate debut by winning points in both of her rides in reining. She defeated her TCU opponent 64-63 and won 74-71.5 against OSU.

**Before SDSU:** Competed in the American Quarter Horse Association and South Dakota Quarter Horse Association (2011-2019), National Reining Horse Association (2013-2019), North Central Reining Horse Association (2015-2019) and Central Plains Reining Horse Association (2013-2019) ... rode in South Dakota 4-H (2009-2019) as well as Quarter Horse and 4-H in Halter, Showmanship, Horsemanship, Western Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle, Hunt Seat Equitation, Trail, Ranch Riding, and Reining in youth, non-pro, derbies and futurities ... named Sunflower Slide Reserve Futurity Champion in 2017 ... has had multiple top-10 and finalist placings at the AQHA Novice Championship ... Central Plains Reining Horse Association Year End High Point in Youth 14-18 and Non-Pro (2017) ... has multiple championships and reserves at SD State 4-H Horse Show ... National Honor Society Member ... SD Regents Scholar Diploma ... earned Student of the Month each year from 2015-2019 ... also competed in track and field for three years ... Townsend's mother and several other family members attended SDSU.



**MIDWEST MASONRY &**  
 New or Replaced Sidewalk  
 Block Walls ~ Egress Windows  
 Driveway ~ Garage Floors ~ Basement Floors  
 Stone and Brick Work  
 Call for a free quote **605/397-8383**

**W** Weismantel Agency  
 AUTO HOME FARM COMMERCIAL CROP  
 Marty Weismantel  
 605/396-7341  
 weisag@nvc.net  
 ACCESS TO MANY MORE COMPANIES!

**JOHNSON AGENCY**  
 Real Estate & Insurance  
 Jay Johnson, Broker  
 www.johnsonagencygroton.com  
 102 N Main St. Office: 605/397-2424  
 Groton, SD 57445 Home: 605/397-8565

**Dakota Outdoors**  
 Erik Dean  
 402 N Main St  
 Aberdeen, SD 57401  
 605.229.0123  
 dakoutdoors@midconetwork.com

**HARR Motors**  
 www.harmotors.com  
 605-225-3078 ~ 1-800-658-3463

**SCHULTZ CONSTRUCTION LLC**  
 CARPENTRY • CONCRETE  
 Check out our portfolio on Facebook at Schultz-Construction-LLC  
 ~ New Construction and Remodeling-  
 renovations, additions, and carpentry work  
 ~ Concrete- foundations, flatwork, decorative concrete surfaces.  
 605-380-1717  
 www.shawnschultzconstruction.com

**Sperry Stump Removal**  
 Over 30 Years of Combined Experience!  
 Tyler: 605/216-8431  
 TJ: 605/380-7915  
 TreeLine Tree Service

Put our experienced team to work for you!  
**GROTON Ford**  
 GROTONFORD.COM 605-397-2311

**Harry Implement**  
 "Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"  
 CERTIFIED DEALER AFS  
 (605) 395-6421  
 Ferney

**Dakota Brush**  
 Brooms, Brushes, Mops, Can Liners, Paper Products.  
 Brushes & Squeegees and Snow Shovels  
**397-9337**

**Webster Theatre**  
 Theatre opens at 7 pm with movies starting at 7:30 pm, Friday through Monday.  
 10/19 to 10/21 Abominable – PG

**FROST CONSTRUCTION INC.**  
 GENERAL CONTRACTOR  
**605.290.1535**  
 custom homes | remodels | additions

**Hanlon Brothers Gravel Hauling**  
 New & Cleaning of Stockdams with our 60' reach trackhoe  
**605/395-6531**

**BLOCKER CONSTRUCTION**  
 NEW CONSTRUCTION  
 REMODELING  
 HOOP BARNs  
 (605) 216-2677 (605) 226-4062

**Groton Chiropractic Clinic**  
 Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.  
 1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204

*"From minor scratches to a complete rebuild... we can do it all!"*  
**Flarris Auto Body**  
 225 Brown County Hwy 19 South  
 Aberdeen: 605/725-4900

**Dr. Geoffrey Rath - Optometrist**  
 Eye Exams Glaucoma Tests Rx's Filled  
 - All Types Contact Lenses -  
 Doctor here Mondays Only - Office open Thursdays.  
 701-349-3223 to make appointments & adjustments  
 Hours at Ellendale, N.D. are:  
 Monday 9 - 12 & 1 - 5 Thursday 1:00 - 4:00

**MEYERS TRACTOR SALVAGE**  
 ABERDEEN, SD  
 1000+ Salvaged Tractors & Combines  
 400+ Reground Crankshafts  
 500+ Tractor Tires  
 300+ Rebuilt Radiators  
 Large Line of Swather, Baler & Cutter Parts.  
 GREAT BUYS & SERVICE!  
 WANT TO BUY TRACTORS, COMBINES & SWATHERS FOR SALVAGE  
 Phone (605) 225-0185  
 5 Miles North & 1 Mile West of CASE-IH

**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

**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

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.

MOTEL FURNITURE & FURNISHINGS. Large Online Only Auction. Holiday Inn Express, Custer, SD. 91 Rooms of Furniture and Furnishings. www.bradeenauction.com. Bradeen Auctions, Custer SD

**BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY**  
 PRICE REDUCED: the Faulk County Record weekly newspaper in Faulkton, SD is for sale as the owners are looking to retire. Call 605-460-0842 or 605-598-6525. Excellent turnkey business.

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

CHIEF OF POLICE: Kimball, SD. Must be certified or be able to be certified through the South Dakota Law Enforcement Training Center within one year of hiring. Must be highly motivated with a great work ethic. For further details and application requirements, email kimballcitysd@midstatesd.net. Phone 605-778-6277. EOE.

**NOTICES**  
 ADVERTISE IN NEWSPAPERS statewide for only \$150. Put the South Dakota Statewide Classifieds Network to work for you today! (25 words for \$150. Each additional word \$5.) Call the Independent at 605-397-6397 for details.

**We Have too Much Work!**  
 A recent email from one of our advertisers states:  
 "Our crews are booked to work far into the future. Advertising in the South Dakota newspaper network has worked very well for us!"  
 - Nathan Proper  
 Blackburn Basement Systems  
**EXTRA!**  
 If you'd like to have more business than you can handle, we can help! CALL TODAY!  
 Reach over 600,000 readers with Network ads!  
 Place an ad this size in over 125 Daily and Weekly Newspapers across South Dakota!  
**SDNA**  
 SOUTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION  
 We've got South Dakota covered.  
 Contact the Independent  
**605/397-6397**



## Class A

All teams qualify for postseason

Region 1	Seed Points	W-L
1 <a href="#">Groton Area</a>	43.636	18-4
2 <a href="#">Aberdeen Roncalli</a>	43.478	17-6
3 <a href="#">Redfield</a>	42.190	14-7
4 <a href="#">Webster Area</a>	41.208	16-8
5 <a href="#">Tiospa Zina</a>	40.222	11-7
6 <a href="#">Milbank</a>	38.000	7-12
7 <a href="#">Sisseton</a>	37.476	5-16

### Groton City Oct. 8, 2019 Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2019  
The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00pm at the Community Center for their first monthly meeting with the following members present: Blackmun, Wells, McGannon, Babcock, and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Also present were: Attorney Drew Johnson, Finance Officer Hope Block, Jon Cutler, Terry Herron, Ken Hier, Dwight Zerr, Brenda Madsen, Kami Lipp, and Dan Sunne.

Public comments were welcomed pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1, but none were received.

Moved by McGannon and seconded by Wells to appoint Jon Cutler for the Ward 1 board member vacancy. All members voted aye. Mayor Hanlon gave Cutler the Oath of Office.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Blackmun and seconded by Wells. All members voted aye.

Kathy Sundermeyer entered the meeting at 7:06pm.

Moved by Wells and seconded by Babcock to authorize the following bills for payment. All members voted aye.

Payroll, \$12,706.88, Employee salaries, Administrative, \$3,179.68; Public Works, \$9,164.54; Culture & Recreation, \$362.66; First State Bank, \$4,369.38, SS and WH ; First State Bank, \$499.98, HSA contributions; Dakotaland FCU, \$1,000.00, Employee savings; First State Bank, \$499.98, HSA contributions; Dakotaland FCU, \$1,000.00, Employee savings; Aflac, \$250.28, Employee insurance; Guardian, \$299.88, Employee insurance; Colonial Life, \$204.05, Employee insurance; SD Retirement System, \$7,114.84, Employee retirement; Heartland Waste, \$8,067.85, Garbage hauling ; SD Supplemental Retirement, \$285.00, Employee retirement; NW Energy, \$11.32, Natural gas; Kessler's, \$30.00, Funeral flowers; Menards, \$39.99, Fan for lift station; Web Water, \$13,722.25, Water 9/19; MJ's Sinclair, \$1,771.51, Gas; Ken's Food, \$442.77, Gas and water; St Paul Stamp Works, \$133.43, 2020 dog licenses ; Harry Implement, \$79.39, Mower blade; Dakota Electronics, \$140.34, Mic, clip, cover for PD radio; Ameripride, \$47.14, Rug rent; JGE, \$84.02, Filters; Groton Ford, \$617.96, 04 Sierra brake line rebuild; McGannon Plumbing, \$190.71, Stool repair and install window AC at ballfield; Drew Johnson,

\$650.00, Legal fees 9/19; Hydro Klean, \$19,767.40, Cleaning lift station and Pipes; Galls, \$132.98, Uniforms TG; Heartland Power, \$45,160.11, Power 9/19  
Ken Hier explained the low density issues in the new asphalt in the new streets and the price deduction associated with that. Hier felt that the adjustment is reasonable. The Change Order No. 3 by H.F. Jacobs and Son Construction was approved on a motion by McGannon and seconded by Blackmun. All members voted aye. Hier left the meeting at 7:26pm.

Lipp and Madsen reported that the pool season went well, and that there were 279 lessons with 94 of them being private. They also suggested raising prices at the pool. Madsen and Lipp left the meeting at 7:35pm, and Mayor Hanlon thanked them for keeping the swimmers safe this year.

Sunne reported that there have been some underground faults that have been repaired with the help of Locke Electric, and that they have been cutting trees in the alleys and boulevards. Sunne left the meeting at 7:39pm.

Zerr reported that he will be getting quotes for upgrading pumps and variable drives since the sewers have been so active this year. He also reminded everyone that sump pumps must be discharged outside for as long as possible. Fines will be implemented for improper discharge. Zerr left the meeting at 7:54pm.

Herron reported that the salt sand has been ordered, and that work has been done on a culvert by the golf course. Herron left the meeting at 8:13pm.

Blackmun gave an update on the Planning and Zoning activities, and suggested a few changes in ordinance and building permit fees that will be addressed at a later date.

Moved by McGannon and seconded by Babcock to send Herron and Block and any other interested employee to the 21st Annual Safety and Loss Control Training Conference in Mitchell. All members voted aye.

Moved by Wells and seconded by Cutler to adjourn the meeting at 8:26pm. All members voted aye.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor  
Hope Block, Finance Officer  
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$40.49. 18167



## Middle School Music Festival

The following students were nominated and selected to be apart of the Northwestern Middle School Music Festival on Tuesday, Oct. 15.

**Back Row: Instructor Desiree Yeigh, Lydia Meier, (Trumpet), Emily Clark (Percussion), Gretchen Dinger (1st Chair Flute), Faith Traphagen (Percussion)**  
**Front Row: Veronica Tank (Flute), Cadence Feist (Bari Sax), Jaedyn Penning (Clarinet), Garrett Schultz (Baritone), Jayden Schwan (Trumpet)** (Courtesy Photo)

**When you need assistance, we have you covered.**

Dakota at Home is the one resource for older adults and people with disabilities. Don't scurry around. Call today.

SD's Aging and Disability Resource Center  
**1-833-663-9673**

**Dakota at Home**  
One Call  
Countless Resources  
[DakotaAtHome.org](http://DakotaAtHome.org)

*Price Matters.*

If you're looking for high-value health insurance, it's time to connect with Avera Health Plans.

We have competitive rates combined with access to Avera's award-winning health care system. This exceptional value includes comprehensive well-being services — a fitness center incentive, online wellness technology and 24/7 virtual visits — at no additional cost. Now that's health coverage with connections.

Choose Avera Health Plans.

**Avera** Health Plans | [AveraHealthPlans.com/choose](http://AveraHealthPlans.com/choose)

19-AVHP-18288



*Haunted Warehouse*

Main Street Bristol  
Friday, October 25  
Saturday, October 26  
7:00-10:00 p.m.  
Tour and Hayride \$10  
Thank you to Rob Grewe for donating the porta-potty for the event!  
Hot Chocolate~Cider~Bars! Free Will  
(Not recommended for children under 6)

**Turton, SD  
ANNUAL  
TURTON FIRE DEPT  
GUN RAFFLE**

Saturday,  
October 26<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 p.m.  
Turton Gymnasium

**Guns include:**  
⇒ CZ Drake Over/Under 12 Gauge (retail \$600)  
⇒ Stainless Steel Savage Axis 6.5 Creedmoor w/Scope (retail \$450)  
(Need not be present to win / Guns must be claimed in 30 Days)

Lunch ~ Raffles ~ Frog Races ~ Games  
Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m.  
\$30.00 / Ticket • 1 ticket admits a couple

Tickets available at the door or from a Turton Fire Department Member!!

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY!



The Clark County Courier weekly newspaper is for sale!

The Clark County Courier serves the entire County of Clark; is a viable, award-winning newspaper; has a strong circulation; has had only three owners the past 60 years; and has solid community support.

Clark County  
**Courier**

The voice of Clark County since 1880

**OWN YOUR OWN BUSINESS!**  
If you like to write, take pictures and are a people person...

Call Bill at the Clark County Courier, 605-532-3654.



# The Groton Independent

21 N Main, Groton 605/397-NEWS (6397)  
Paul Irvin Kosel, Publisher [paperpaul@grotonsd.net](mailto:paperpaul@grotonsd.net) ~ 605-397-7460

Tina Kosel, Office Manager [office@grotonsd.net](mailto:office@grotonsd.net) ~ 605-397-7285

Notices: [legals@grotonsd.net](mailto:legals@grotonsd.net)

News Items: [news@grotonsd.net](mailto:news@grotonsd.net)

Deadline to submit items: Noon Monday]

Yearly Subscription Rates are listed below. The Groton Independent (USPS# 230-440) is published weekly with its periodicals postage paid at Groton, SD.

**Postmaster: Send address changes to Groton Independent, PO Box 34, Groton, SD 57445**

## MONTHLY DRAFTS AVAILABLE

If you would like to have automatic payment for your subscription to the Groton Independent, the following monthly rates would apply:

Colored Weekly: \$6.50

Colored Weekly + GDI: \$9.95

B & W Weekly: \$3.60

B & W Weekly + GDI: \$7.25

To sign up, mail in a voided check along with the complete form below to:

Groton Independent, PO Box 34, Groton, SD 57445

## The Groton Independent

Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

### Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.5% Sales Tax

- Black & White.....\$41.54/year
- Colored.....\$74.55/year
- Colored.....\$42.60/6 months
- E-Weekly\*.....\$21.30/year

\* The E-Weekly is a PDF file emailed to you each week. It does not grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

## Groton Daily Independent

[www.397news.com](http://www.397news.com)

### Subscription Form

This option will grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

- 1 Month.....\$15.98
- 3 Months.....\$21.30
- 6 Months.....\$26.63
- 9 Months.....\$31.95
- 12 Months.....\$42.60

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

The following will be used for your log-in information.

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Password \_\_\_\_\_



Pay with Paypal. Type the following into your browser window:

[paypal.me/paperpaul](http://paypal.me/paperpaul)

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent  
P.O. Box 34  
Groton, SD 57445-0034  
or scan and email to [paperpaul@grotonsd.net](mailto:paperpaul@grotonsd.net)

# Groton Area to begin comprehensive needs assessment

by Joe Schwan, Superintendent

Continuous and intentional improvement is essential for the growth and success of any organization. Public schools are no different. Prompted by the designation of our middle school as a "Targeted Support" school for achievement score disparities between our all student group and our students with disabilities subgroup, we have chosen to participate in a formal comprehensive needs assessment process vetted by the South Dakota Department of Education and piloted by other school districts to examine our practices around the four components of Effective Leadership, Curriculum and Instruction, Talent Development, and Family, Culture, and Climate.

This process is intended to provide us insight and shared direction as we work to improve results for all of our students. Much of our focus will be on data that we will gather through a variety of methods including student surveys, staff surveys, parent surveys, observation data, lesson plan analyses, and personal interviews. It is important that you choose to actively participate in those survey and/or interview opportunities whenever possible to give us the best information possible from which to make strategic planning decisions. Your first opportunity for such participation will be during fall parent-teacher conferences on Thursday, October 17.

This year long process will be encompassed by five primary steps: Planning, Collecting/Organizing Data, Analyzing Data, Prioritizing Needs, and Connecting to Implementation.

The district team appointed to conduct this work which will extend through the entire 2019-2020 school year are Joe Schwan, Brett Schwan, Kiersten Sombke, Becky Erickson, Ashley Seeklander, Brooke Compton, Anne Zoellner, and Sue Fjeldheim. To date, the team has attended two days of training in Watertown and has begun to finalize the survey tools that will be administered to various stakeholder groups. It is anticipated that data collection and organization will be completed by the middle of December followed by Analysis in early 2020 with a comprehensive plan being adopted in the spring of 2020 for implementation in the fall of 2020.

We believe that our school district is strong and that we consistently offer our students the best opportunity for long-term success after they've graduated. Through this process, we hope to be able to build upon our very strong foundation to be the best school district in South Dakota.

## Tigers beat Tiospa Zina, reclaim top spot in region



**Payton Colestock was one of the three leaders with most digs.** (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Groton Area's volleyball team traveled to Agency Village Tuesday night and came home with a 3-0 win over Tiospa Zina. The match was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Dakota Risk Management, Groton American Legion Post #39, Milbrandt Enterprises Inc., C & B Operations and Weber Landscaping.

Groton Area has taken over the top spot of the region after falling to second for about a week. The Tigers, now 18-4, are first with Roncalli second at 17-6.

There was a nice chat with Coach Chelsea Hanson which you can listen to at 397news.com and you can watch the match at the same site, but you have to be a Groton Daily Independent subscriber to get access.

Groton Area jumped out to a 3-0 lead and scored the last five points of the game to win, 25-10. Nicole Marzahn had the game winning ace serve. Payton Colestock led the way in digs with six in the first game while Indigo Rogers led in kills with four. Kaylin Kucker and Nicole Marzahn each had two ace serves.

Groton Area scored the last 10 points of the second game, taking a two-point lead at 15-13 and finishing with a 25-13 win. Eliza Wanner had the game winning kill. She led the attacks in that game with five kills while Tady Glover had five digs and Indigo Rogers had three ace services. The third game was challenging for the Tigers. It was tied at 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 with five lead changes sprinkled in that part of the game. Then

Tiospa Zina had a 14-12 lead when the game was stopped when the officials realized that the Wambdi had the wrong person serving. When all was said and done, the Wambdi lost their points for that server and Groton Area picked up those points and the Tigers then held a 14-12 lead. The game was tied at 17, 18, 20, 21 and 22 before the Tigers finished it off with a 25-22 win as Nicole Marzahn had the game winning kill. This game was tied more times than any other game this season. Marzahn led the way with six kills in the third game and Wanner had two ace serves.

For the match, Nicole Marzahn led the Tigers in the match with 11 kills, 12 digs, three ace serves and scored 14 points. Eliza Wanner had nine kills, three ace serves, 10 digs and scored 12 points. Indigo Rogers had five kills, three ace serves, 15 digs and scored eight points. Stella Meier had two kills, ice dig, one block and scored three points. Madeline Flihs had two kills, seven digs and scored two points. Tady Glover had two ace serves, 16 digs, one assist and scored two points. Payton Colestock had 15 digs and one assist. Kaylin Kucker had 27 assists, two ace serves, one dig and scored two points.

Groton Area won the junior varsity match, 25-16 and 25-14, and the Tigers also won the C match, 25-15 and 15-11.

- Paul Kosel



**Brown County  
Oct. 8, 2019**

**Meeting Minutes  
OCTOBER 8, 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 Kippley. Commissioner Wiese was absent. Commissioner Feickert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES:**

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Kippley to approve the General County Commission meeting minutes of October 1, 2019. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS:**

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

Professional Fees: Avera St. Lukes \$113.00; Richard A. Berreth \$50.00; Betty Breck \$50.00; Brick's TV & Appliance \$6,347.50; Dacotah Territory Muzzle Loaders \$100.00; John Graves \$50.00; Christopher A. Haar \$103.00; Mark Katterhagen \$6.00; Kozletsky Law Office \$221.50; Lucy Lewno \$110.00; Lincoln County Treasurer \$147.25; Darcy Lockwood \$6.00; Microfilm Imaging Systems Inc \$1,530.00; Mark Milbrandt \$56.00; Nardini Fire Equipment \$185.00; Prairie Fiber Arts Guild \$50.00; Schrivers Memorial Mortuary \$1,800.00; Christy Griffin-Serr Law Office \$1,092.50; Spitzer Miller Funeral Home \$1,800.00; University of North Dakota \$2,000.00; WSP USA Inc \$2,728.17; Yankton County Sheriff Office \$50.00.

Publishing: Aberdeen American News \$2,203.80; Dakota Press Inc \$1,336.80; Groton Independent \$238.32; Hub City Radio \$1,200.00; World Wide Audio Media Inc \$200.00.

Repairs & Maintenance: Aberdeen Plumbing & Heating \$784.91; Crawford Truck & Equipment \$89.00; Roland L. Moerke \$5,928.84; Dakota Fluid Power Inc \$616.70; Farm Power \$28.02; Fulcrum Biometrics \$749.00; House of Glass \$912.13; Huff Construction Inc \$30,111.00; Jarman's Water Systems \$153.50; Leidholt Electric LLC \$173.47; Powerplan \$2,244.00; CNH Industrial America LLC \$16.85; Sewer Duck Inc \$600.00; Transource Truck & Equipment \$5,372.00; Truenorth Steel \$47,656.82; Woodman Refrigeration \$501.02.

Supplies: Bakken Building Maintenance \$500.00; Cash-Wa Distributing \$5,780.05; Commtech Inc \$462.50; Crawford Trucks & Equipment \$10,420.13; Roland L. Moerke \$781.75; Dakota Fluid Power Inc \$314.97; Dakota Supply Group \$401.75; Dean Food North Central \$811.69; Earthgrains Baking Co \$726.44; Farm Power \$108.49; Farnams Genuine Parts Inc \$159.43; Fastenal Co. \$980.22; Great Western Tire Inc \$1,134.08; Haar Motors \$227.00; APH Stores Inc \$45.99; Jensen Rock & Sand Inc \$273,585.76; Kiesler's Police Supply Inc \$1,115.80; Gale Gunderson \$500.00; Lucy Lewno \$3.25; Mac's Inc \$43.70; Menards \$1,211.42; Russell Metz \$15.98; Midstates Printing \$658.56; Midwest Art Conservation Center \$100.00; National 4-H Council \$212.70; Nelson Sales & Service LLC \$99.28; Performance Oil & Lubricants \$326.25; Powerplan \$1,579.81; CNH Industrial America LLC \$3,610.66; Sander's Sew-N-Vac Inc \$55.00; Schwan Welding \$873.00; Tom Simmons \$200.00; Tri State Water \$40.50; Truenorth Steel \$3,222.24.

Travel & Conference: Advantage Self Storage \$1,500.00; Agtegra Coop \$10,192.36; Ameriprise Services \$268.40; Doug Fjeldheim \$186.12; Sarah Hartje \$23.50; Kiesler's Police Supply Inc \$2,450.00; Rachel Kippley \$184.24; Russell Metz \$167.22; Mark Milbrandt \$512.00; SDSU Extension \$42.84.

Utilities: Agtegra Coop \$163.74; AT&T \$78.48; BDM Rural Water System Inc \$36.00; State of South Dakota \$81.62; Midcontinent Communications \$629.43; Northwestern Energy & Communication \$1,425.82.

Other: Brown County Treasurer \$100.00; SD Association of County Officials \$1,154.00; SD Department of Environment & Natural Resources \$4,474.41.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**HR REPORT:**

Moved by Kippley, seconded by Sutton to approve the following HR Office Report, which includes the following:

- Acknowledge faze-out of

Legal Shield; 8 employees enrolled; will not be enrolling any new members.

- Acknowledge faze-out of Washington National; 6 employees currently enrolled; will not be enrolling any new members.

- Acknowledge faze-out of Valic; 5 employees currently enrolled; will not be enrolling any new members.

- Acknowledge faze-out of Assurity; 6 employees currently enrolled; will not be enrolling any new members.

- Acknowledge resignation of Gale Buchanan, part-time Maintenance for Brown County, effective September 27, 2019. Approve request to fill vacancy.

- Acknowledge resignation of Erin Bacon, Assistant Communications Director for Brown County, effective October 11, 2019. Approve request to fill vacancy.

All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

**NECOG-PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PLAN:**

Scott Meints, Emergency Management Director & Jennifer Sietsema met to discuss the NECOG Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan.

Commissioner Feickert offered the following Resolution:

**RESOLUTION #50-19**  
WHEREAS, Brown County is submitting a Hazard Mitigation Grant application to the South Dakota Division of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and

WHEREAS, Brown County is required to appoint an Applicant Agent for the purpose of signing documents and assuring the completion of all application documents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Brown County appoints the County Emergency Manager as the authorized Applicant Agent.

Seconded by Commissioner Sutton. Roll call vote: Commissioner Feickert-aye, Commissioner Kippley-aye, Sutton – aye, Commissioner Fjeldheim-aye, Commissioner Weise-absent. Resolution adopted.

**FAIR BOARD MEMBERS:**

Derek Ricci, Fair Manager, met to discuss fair board members. Moved by Sutton, seconded by Kippley to approve the following new members to a 3 year term(2020-2022): Stephanie Magas, Tom Miller, Jeff Malsam & Clint Sombke, also approve the following members to a 1 year term(2020): Randy Magas, Don Ganje, Mike Russell, Sarah Schumacher, Jayson Tollefson. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**PLANNING & ZONING:**

Erica Coughlin, HR Director, met to give personnel update on Planning & Zoning.

**RIGHT OF WAY:**

Moved by Sutton, Seconded by Feickert to approve Right of Way for WEB Water Development for Occupancy of Brown County 13(aka 130th st) section 35, Township 124 North, Range 64 West for potable water line. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**CRACK SEALING BID:**

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Kippley to buy off bid from Spink County to contract for crack sealing. Spink County awarded Highway Improvement at 1.25 Nuvo gap/1.40 Type 4 per lb crack sealant applied. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**HOME DETENTION & SHERIFF'S OFFICE DISCUSSION:**

Brenda Hammrich, Brian Bahr & Dave Lunzman met to discuss alternatives to detention for JDC. Discussion only no action taken.

**BASEMENT UPDATE:**

Judy Dosch, Building Superintendent, met to give an update on the progress of the basement remodel and move. Discussion only no action taken.

**CLAIM ASSIGNMENT:**

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

**SURPLUS PROPERTY:**

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Sutton to approve declaring foggers & tasers as surplus to be sold to other governments. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**3RD QUARTER INTEREST REPORT:**

Moved by Sutton, Seconded by Kippley to approve the 3rd Quarter Interest Report. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**LEASE:**

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Sutton to approve the following Lease: City of Groton Pump-

kin Fest for lease of 3 people movers September 12, 2019. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**OPERATING TRANSFERS:**

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to approve and authorize the following operating from the General Fund #101.5.911.191 in the total amount of \$2,537,320.95 to the following: Road and Bridge Fund #201-371 @ \$2,000,000; E-911 Fund #207-371 @ \$327,157.59; EM Fund #226-371 @ \$188,640.96; Teen Court Fund #230-371 @ \$4,500; 24/7 Sobriety Fund #248-371 @ \$17,022.40. Operating transfer from the Landfill Fund #504-322-911 in the total amount of \$2,000,000 to General Fund #101-371 @ \$2,000,000 as adopted in the 2019 budget. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**HIGHWAY 5 YEAR PLAN:**

Moved by Sutton, Seconded by Feickert to approve the Highways 5 year plan presented on October 1, 2019. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT 3RD QUARTER REPORT:**

Moved by Feickert, Seconded by Kippley to approve the 3rd quarter report for Emergency Management. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Kippley to go into executive session to discuss personnel per SDCL 1-25-2(1). All members present voting aye. Motion carried. The Chair declared the executive session closed with no action taken.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Moved by Feickert, seconded by Sutton to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:47 am. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Dave Engraf, Brown County Deputy Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$99.03. 18165

**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:, MINI-MUM 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

**Imaging With a Little Help From My Friends**

The world of radiology began in 1895 when a European physicist Wilhelm Röntgen noticed fluorescence behind heavy cardboard when a cathode tube was activated



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

nearby. Röntgen used his wife's hand to demonstrate for the first time how these unknown rays, or X-rays, could penetrate the soft tissue of a hand and illustrate the bones that lay within. Röntgen generously refused to patent his discovery which allowed the explosive growth and development of a new industry.

Unfortunately, the first researchers were unaware of the dangers of too much X-ray exposure and, during the early years, harm was done even causing death to some experimenters before safeguards were established. Over time, as technology advanced and more X-rays were being utilized in medicine, interpreting the images became a more difficult challenge and the field of radiology developed. Physicians trained in X-ray INTERPRETATION helped other physicians make better clinical decisions.

I was a first-year resident at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta in the fall of 1975 when the hospital purchased one of the earliest computerized tomography (CT) scanners. It was called an EMI scanner named after the British company, Electric and Music Industries, that took the financial risk for developing the technology. Years earlier, EMI had signed with the Beatles as their recording company. Having amassed a fortune from the exponential rise of Beatles popularity, EMI was able to fund the theoretical work of Godfrey Hounsfield. His invention took X-rays of the head from all directions while a computer compiled the results. "With a little help from his friends" at EMI, Hounsfield's brainchild happened.

I was rotating through neurology when the results of the EMI scans started making an impact. We were amazed how they showed tumors, blood clots and lesions inside the skull. We thought it was going to change everything, and indeed it did!

Jump to the present and see how INTERPRETIVE radiologists have expanded into INTERVENTION. Now, instead of simply identifying a tumor or abscess with ultrasound, X-ray, CT or MRI, radiologists, under the guidance of an imaging modality, can pass a needle into a deep tumor and take a biopsy, drain an abscess, open-up a blocked tube and much more. Procedures that, in the past, would have required open abdominal or chest surgery, now can be done with minimal trauma, with minimal pain and with quick recovery.

As a patient who has benefited under the expert image-guided hands of an INTERVENTIONAL radiologist, I too can sing loud and clear, "I get by with a lot of help from my friends."

Richard P. Holm, MD is founder of The Prairie Doc® and author of "Life's Final Season, A Guide for Aging and Dying with Grace" available on Amazon. 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.

# AVERA WELCOMES



Elizabeth Dimitrievich, MD  
OB/GYN

"I deliver care centered on the whole individual. When considering treatment, I don't look only at the health condition but at the entire person, where they are now and what they want to achieve."

Look to Elizabeth Dimitrievich, MD, for expert obstetric and gynecological care for women of all ages. Count on her for a wide variety of women's health services including well-woman exams, pre- and post-natal care, labor and delivery services, management of gynecological conditions and menopause symptoms and more.



Avera Medical Group OB/GYN Aberdeen

310 S. Penn Street, Suite 204 | Aberdeen, SD 57401  
605-622-5470 | [Avera.org/doctors](http://Avera.org/doctors)  
Schedule an appointment today.

19-PHYS-18104



# Severe dental diseases persist in S.D. due to chronic poverty and lack of access to dentists

By: Bart Pfankuch

Tooth decay, gum disease and many other oral-health illnesses are considered to be 100% preventable, yet many children and adults across South Dakota continue to suffer severe dental problems.

A lack of access to proper dental care in South Dakota is driven both by geography and income. With a relatively small population spread out across a large area, many South Dakota residents do not have ready access to a dentist. Meanwhile, a high level of poverty in rural, urban and reservation communities also inhibits the ability of both adults and children to obtain proper dental care.

The look of rotting or missing teeth and deep red gums can lead to isolation and ostracism, a lack of employment and educational opportunities and even increased likelihood of generational poverty for those who suffer from severe dental problems.

Increasingly, moreover, poor dental health is known to cause or be connected to numerous other serious health issues, including some that are life-threatening. The Mayo Clinic recently published a report called "Oral health: A window to your overall health," which links bacteria associated with tooth decay and gum disease to heart illnesses, including clogged arteries, stroke and endocarditis, an infection of the inner linings of the heart.

Links have also been established between poor oral health and premature birth and low birth weight, diabetes and pneumonia.

State and dental-association officials have long focused on educating people on the benefits of maintaining good oral health, and report that some progress has been made in terms of getting more adults and children to see a dentist at least once a year. Programs have been enacted to encourage dentists to practice in underserved areas, and charitable efforts to provide oral care to poor people in South Dakota have expanded.

And yet, many in the dental field are disappointed that improvement in dental health in general and particularly among low-income people has stagnated.

"I don't know that we're seeing oral health overall improving," said Paul Knecht, director of the South Dakota Dental Association. "You'd think that after hammering away at this thing for a couple of decades you would see light at the end of the tunnel, but the rates of decay



haven't changed significantly in the last ten years or so."

The sprawling nature of South Dakota and a shortage of dentists overall is certainly one factor. In South Dakota, 40% of counties — 26 of 66 — are considered by the state to have a shortage of dental-health services either because of geography or residents' low income.

Poverty is a major inhibitor of proper dental care in a state where 12.8% of residents, about 110,000 people, live below the federal poverty line, and nearly a third of residents fall within the federal definition of "low income."

Poor dental health is a significant and vexing issue on the state's Native American reservations, where limited access to dental care is exacerbated by high levels of poverty.

Problems also exist in the few metro areas of South Dakota, where many low-income residents find it hard to afford dental care or find subsidized care.

"The stories related to poor oral health exist in every corner of the state," said Mike Mueller, communications manager for Delta Dental of South Dakota, a major dental insurer and provider of charitable care. "It's everywhere; issues with access to good oral-health care exist across South Dakota."

## Reservations are 'ground zero' for S.D. dental issues

Marty Jones is the office manager and a dental hygienist at the St. Francis Mission Dental Clinic in Todd County on the Rosebud Indian Reservation. Jones calls her clientele "ground zero" for the dental-health problems that afflict many people living in poverty in South Dakota.

The south-central South Dakota reservation has about 12,000 tribal residents and thousands more non-Natives, yet very few dentists or dental services. Native residents can obtain care at Indian Health Services facilities, but access can be difficult and IHS dentists are quick to extract rather than treat teeth with cavities, due to expediency, said Jones, who worked for 13 years at an IHS dental clinic.

Both Native and non-Native residents often rely on the mission clinic to obtain subsidized dental services that range the gamut from prevention to extractions to surgery, Jones said. The clinic does not have a full-time dentist, and receives no state or federal funding, but rather relies on donations and grants for operating costs and relies almost exclusively on volunteer dentists from South Dakota and across the country to go beyond the basic care and education that Jones and one other clinic employee can provide.

Jones said the rate of serious dental problems among her clientele is severe.

"It's dire straits down here; there's epidemic proportions of dental caries or dental disease here," Jones said. "It's really sad. You cannot even fathom some of the things that we see

come through this door, just gross."

The clinic in 2013 had a registered clientele of about 2,000 people, of which 90% had significant dental problems, Jones said. The situation has only worsened since then. In just the first nine months of this year, the clinic logged 300,000 dental treatment needs that had not been met. Several patients suffer from rotten teeth, gum disease and more serious bone issues all at once, Jones said.

She said the Native and non-Native populations on and around the reservation have difficulty obtaining dental care due to a shortage of providers and several factors related to high rates of poverty and unemployment, including inability to pay, a lack of insurance, transportation challenges and sometimes a multi-generational failure to understand the importance of dental care and the potential health consequences when it is neglected.

Food deserts and a lack of money for healthful food leads to consumption of high-carb diets that create sugars that quickly erode tooth enamel, she said.

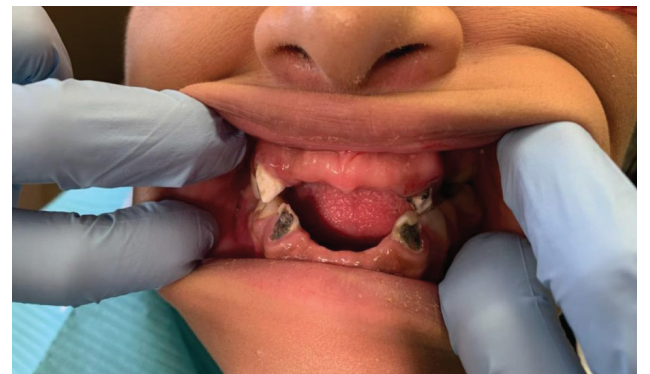
Children on the reservation sometimes suffer severe decay and almost complete tooth loss before they are old enough for school, Jones said.

"These kids are losing their teeth at a very young age; from age two to five they're extracting teeth," she said. "These kids go weeks or months with toothaches before they can be seen someplace."

Individual stories of severe dental decay are heartbreaking, Jones said. She tells of one beautiful young Native girl who excelled in school and had a college scholarship but faced the daunting challenge of having almost no healthy teeth. Jones refers to some patient's mouths as being "bombed out" by severe decay and showing only an "apple's core," Jones' term for a mouth left with no front teeth and only diseased gums showing.

"She was a smart, beautiful girl, but how can she go to a university setting beyond here and have any confidence when the rest of that population does not have that level of decay in their mouth?" Jones said.

Jones arranged for the girl to get help and a dentist was able to bring her mouth back to relative normalcy. Jones said she frequently sees mission clients break down in tears when they get dental care and begin to smile again or even feel comfortable going out in public. Jones said some people see Natives with rotten teeth and mistakenly assume they are addicted to methamphetamine, which can severely damage teeth.



**This image shows the damage suffered by a 21-year-old woman who had limited access to dental health care in Todd County. The woman received significant subsidized dental treatment from a visiting dentist at the St. Francis Mission Dental Clinic, including two root canals and a temporary partial that restored much her smile.** Photo Submitted



**A young girl and a dental assistant walk away after receiving treatment at one of two mobile dental health clinics operated by Delta Dental of South Dakota. The mobile clinics have provided about \$21 million worth of subsidized dental care to roughly 40,000 patients in more than 80 communities over the past 15 years.**

Photo: Submitted



The St. Francis Mission Dental Clinic is hosting volunteer dentists from Connecticut and Rhode Island in the coming weeks, but after that will not have a dentist on site from November until March, Jones said.

## Some progress, but challenges remain

Despite these problems, state health and dental-association officials say there has been some improvement in access to dental care in the state.

Department of Health Epidemiologist

Josh Clayton said recent statewide surveys have shown an increase in the number of adults and children who have had a dentist visit in a 12-month period, and that South Dakota has an overall dental-visit rate that is higher than the national average.

In 2016, phone surveys done as part of the biennial Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System showed that 70.3% of adults had visited a dentist in the past year, compared to the national average of 66.4%. For children ages 1-17 in South Dakota, 88% reported visiting a dentist in the past year, up from 85% in 2011.

Clayton added that the survey showed that statewide in 2015-17, about 85% of children were covered by some type of public or private dental insurance, compared with only 76% covered in 2011-13. The rate of emergency-room visits for dental or oral-health issues has also dropped in recent years, Clayton said.

"I think we're doing better than the national average overall, but I think we still have room for improvement because of the importance of oral health, not just on whether a person will have dental caries or cavities, but because the mouth does play an important role in overall health," Clayton said.

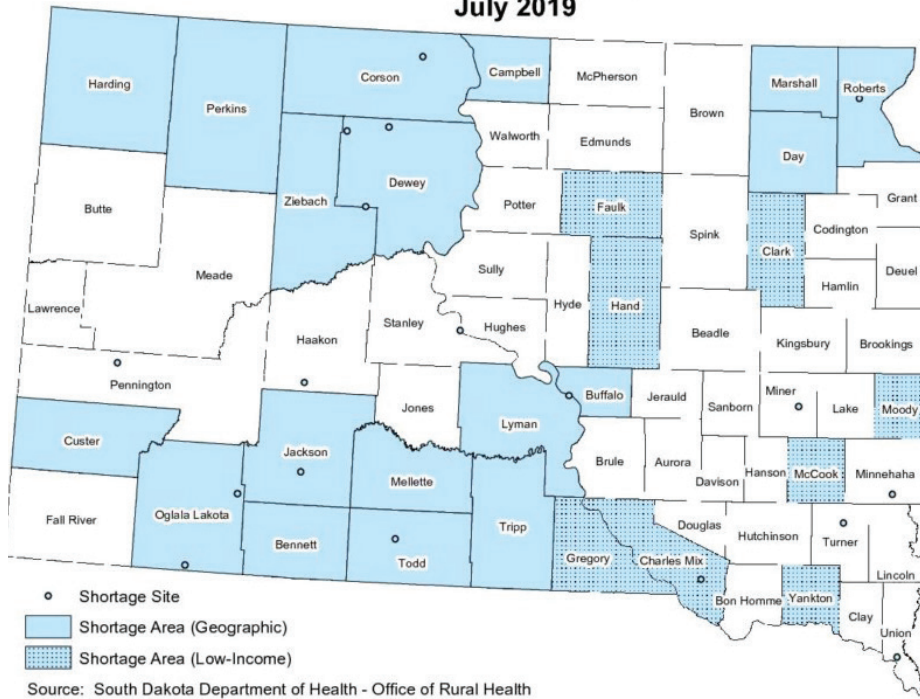
Multiple research studies and anecdotal information from those on the front lines of dentistry in South Dakota have shown a strong correlation between income and access to dental care.

Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program, or CHIP, are the two main avenues



**A University of Missouri dental student poses with a woman to whom he provided dental care during a recent volunteering visit to the St. Francis Mission Dental Clinic on the Rosebud Indian Reservation. The clinic is one part of a larger charitable effort to help improve access to dental care for all South Dakotans.** Photo: Submitted

## SOUTH DAKOTA HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS DENTAL HEALTHCARE July 2019



**This map from the Office of Rural Health within the South Dakota Department of Health shows counties, in blue or blue shade, that have a shortage of dental care either due to low population, low income levels or both.**

for low-income residents to obtain subsidized health care, including dental services. Native Americans can receive subsidized dental treatment at Indian Health Service hospitals.

The American Dental Association Health Policy Institute said in a 2016 study that only half of American children on Medicaid or CHIP had a dental visit in the past year, compared to 67% of children on private insurance. That study, "Main Barriers to Getting Needed Dental All Relate to Affordability," revealed that, in all, 15.2% of Americans, roughly 48 million people, said they needed dental care but did not get it during the past year.

The top reasons cited for not obtaining dental care were "could not afford the cost," "insurance did not cover procedures," and "did not want to spend the money." The study said that more than a quarter of all working adults in America do not receive dental benefits.

Another ADA study showed that cost barriers were the most likely factor inhibiting someone's ability to get dental care, as compared with obtaining any other type of health care, including prescription drugs, medical care, eye care and even mental health services.

Knecht, of the state dental association, which has about 410 active members, said that about 70% of dentists statewide accept Medicaid, among the highest acceptance rates in the nation.

Knecht said that although South Dakota dentists generally do a good job of treating low-income people, challenges remain. Despite efforts to expand access, he said, many low-income adults and children may still face significant hurdles in getting good oral-health care, either owing to wide-open geography or low Medicaid payment rates to dentists.

Medicaid payment rates are set and shared by federal and state governments, including in South Dakota, which has among the lowest Medicaid-provider reimbursement rate in the nation.

This situation can lead some Medicaid patients to struggle to get care, he said, especially in rural regions where there are few if any dentists to begin with.

"For the folks in the greatest need, our experience is that things are actually improving, but that we are basically swimming upstream," Knecht said. "We are challenged because we're in a very conservative, low-tax environment where the program itself does not pay very well, so we have a lot of dentists who will limit the number of patients they will see, or maybe they won't take Medicaid patients at all."

Research by the Health Policy Institute within the American Dental Association highlights the difficulty of getting subsidized dental care in rural areas of South Dakota.

In South Dakota, a third of children under public insurance plans do not live within 15

minutes of a dentist who accepts Medicaid. South Dakota is tied with North Dakota for worst in the Great Plains region at 32% of children in that category, compared with 21% of children in Montana isolated from Medicaid dental services, 16% in Wyoming, 7% in Iowa and Minnesota and only 6% in Nebraska.



**Jaclyn Schuler is a Sioux Falls dentist who accepts patients on Medicaid and believes that helping lower-income people with their dental care is part of her commitment to improving patient health as well as their ability to thrive in society.**

Photo: Submitted

## Charitable efforts chip away at access issues

Multiple efforts are underway in South Dakota to help improve access to dental care.

For the past 15 years, the Delta Dental Mobile Program and its two dental offices on wheels have provided more than \$21 million worth of dental care to about 40,000 patients in more than 80 communities, including tribal reservations.

The trucks and dentists that provide preventive, diagnostic and restorative care travel about 40 weeks out of the year. No patient is denied care because he or she cannot pay.

The mobile dentistry program is perhaps the most visible effort to aid low-income South Dakotans with their dental care by the foundation that is the charitable arm of the nonprofit Delta Dental Insurance Company.

The foundation also supports a loan-repayment program for dentists who agree to treat a certain number of patients on Medicaid, and a program that trains other medical professionals to identify dental issues that may require treatment. The state has a tuition reimbursement program for dentists who agree to practice in underserved areas for three years; since 2012, that program has placed dentists in 10 rural communities.

Delta also teams up with the South Dakota Dental Association to fund the Donated Dental Services Program that provides free dental care to children, adults and senior citizens who cannot afford it. Last year, the program provided \$675,000 in care to about 158 patients. Due to the extensive need for services, the program typically has a long waiting list in some locations, Knecht said. The SDADA also provides scholarships and supports dental-health educational programs.

## Income no barrier to one Sioux Falls dentist

Some dentists in South Dakota are highly attuned to the challenges facing some parents and children in their desire to obtain adequate dental care.

Jaclyn Schuler is a dentist at the Dakota Dental practice on West 37th Street in Sioux Falls who has accepted patients on Medicaid for more than a dozen years.

Schuler said the great need for subsidized dental care in Sioux Falls is evidenced by the fact that her office receives about five to seven calls per day from people who want to know if the practice takes Medicaid. As one of only three dentists in the office, Schuler said she never turns away a child or a disabled person who is on Medicaid, but must limit the number of adults on Medicaid she treats because the program pays only about 60% of the typical cost of dental care.

Concludes on next page



# NewsWatch

Continued from previous page

Providing subsidized care is somewhat of a calling for Schuler, who said many people are unable to understand the challenges and stresses faced by people in poverty.

"It's different than the stress we think of, which is work stress or homework stress or whatever," Schuler said. "These people have real stress; the stress of not knowing where they're going to get their next meal from, let alone how they can get to their child to the dentist."

Schuler recalled one mother whose 3-year-old daughter had "a mouthful of decay" and needed dental surgery, but she relied on buses that didn't run early enough in the day to make her appointments. In response, Schuler said her office paid for a car service to get the mother and child to their doctor's office.

As for why such a young girl had rotten teeth, Schuler said some families become trapped in a generational cycle of poverty that reduces their ability to properly prioritize dental care.

"A lot of these patients are growing up in a family where their grandma had her teeth removed when she was very, very young, and the mother had her teeth removed when she was very, very young, so it's just not some-

thing that they've learned," Schuler said. "So, to make that active effort to seek out information and care is a bigger challenge than we realize. Their stress is unique to poverty, and we as human beings have the ability to only cope with so many things, so they don't have the ability or the energy to put their child's dental care or dental health as a priority."

Schuler said she understands why some dentists do not accept Medicaid patients, but she added that for her and others in her office, the reduced payment rates are worth the positive outcomes they see for patients who have few or no other options for care.

"You get paid less, but in some ways, you get paid more," she said.

**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.



**Groton Coffee Cup**  
**Oct. 15 Team Standings:** Biker Chix 16, James Valley 15, Ten Pins 9. Kens 8.  
**High Games:** Joyce Walter 188, Sam Bahr 170, Vickie Kramp 161.  
**High Series:** Joyce Walter 468, Vickie Kramp 452, Sam Bahr 402.

**Conde National League**  
**Oct. 14 Team Standings:** Mets 17, Pirates 14 1/2, Cubs 12, Braves 11 1/2, Tigers 10, Giants 7.  
**Men's High Games:** Lance Frohling 198, 195, 178; Russ Bethke 179, 176, 172; Larry Frohling 179, 172; Ryan Bethke 160.  
**Men's High Series:** Lance Frohling 571, Russ Bethke 527, Larry Frohling 491.  
**Women's High Games:** Joyce Walter 177, Vickie Kramp 175, Michelle Johnson 157.  
**Women's High Series:** Joyce Walter 477, Vickie Kramp 461, Michelle Johnson 452.

**Latex and Mylar Balloons**  
**Groton Daily Independent**  
21 N Main  
**Downtown Groton**  
605-397-NEWS

**Claremont Town Meeting Minutes**  
**Oct. 10, 2019**

The Board of Trustees for the Town of Claremont met on 10-10-19 at 7:00 pm in City Hall.

President Johnson called the meeting to order with Trustees Spencer and Rasmussen present.

The minutes of the September meeting were presented and on a motion by Spencer and seconded by Rasmussen were approved. On a motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Spencer the following warrants were allowed:

General:  
Groton Independent, publishing, 15.59; Fire Safety First, extinguishers, 110.00; James Valley, phone and internet, 89.52; Missi Smith, mowing, 8.5 hrs., 82.39; Br. Co. Treasurer, mosquito spraying, 846.68; NWE, lights, 330.03; SDPAA, insurance, 2889.20; Jack Klinger, road main., 6.5 hrs., 97.55; Charla Rye, wage, 350.00; Holland Auto, repair tire/grader, 268.25; IRS, 3rd quarter fed., 290.46.

WSSW:  
DPC, service call/lift station, 678.57; SD Public Health Lab, water sample, 15.00; NEW, water, 109.88; NWE, sewer, 105.09; BDM, water used, 1040.40; Rural Development, water loan, 576.00.

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

C. Rye, F.O.  
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$13.81. 18168

**Groton's 4th PUMPKIN FEST**  
**Saturday, Oct. 19, 2019**  
10 am to 3 pm  
**Groton City Park**

-  **Hayrides to and from the Pumpkin Patch**
  -  **Train Rides**
  -  **Face Painting**
  -  **Pumpkin Painting**
  -  **Inflatables**
  -  **Fall Mini Photo Sessions**
  -  **Lunch Served 11am-1pm**
- Thanks to our many sponsors!!

**Ken's SUPER FAIR FOODS**  
www.kenssuperfair.com  
Aberdeen • Groton • Clark • Ipswich • Eureka • Britton  
View Our Weekly Flyer on the American News Mobile App!

**FREE COFFEE PUNCH & COOKIES**  
**HELP US HONOR KEN AND HIS MEMORY**  
**"Ken" APPRECIATION DAY!**  
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18TH • 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM**  
At All Ken's Locations...

**BAKERY FRESH**  
French Steak Buns 4 Ct. **SALE PRICE \$1.99**  
With Digital App  
Your Final Price **FREE** with \$10 Purchase through the Ken's App

**Best Choice** CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP **69¢**  
**Best Choice** TOMATO, CHICKEN NOODLE OR VEGETABLE SOUP **69¢**  
**Zesta** Originals **2 for \$4.00**  
**Zesta** Originals **2 for \$4.00**  
**Dakota** WHITE GRADE A LARGE EGGS **69¢**

**USDA Choice** Demkota **SMOKELESS NEW YORK STRIP STEAKS** **\$7.99** Per Lb.  
**Jimmy Dean** **SMOKED BACON** 12 Oz. Pkg. **2 for \$5.00**  
**Sanderson Farms** **100% NATURAL WHOLE FRYER CHICKENS** **\$1.39** Per Lb.

**J Lohr** **CABERNET, CHARDONNAY OR MERLOT** 750 ML **\$13.99**  
**Hormel** **WHOLE BONELESS PORK LOINS** Cut, Wrapped & Frozen FREE **\$1.39** Per Lb.  
**HEINEKEN, HEINEKEN LT, STELLA ARTOIS** 12 Pk. 12 Oz. Bottles **\$14.99**

**USDA Choice** Demkota **BONELESS SIRLOIN TIP ROAST** Per Lb. **\$3.69**  
**Hormel** **BONELESS PORK CHOPS** Per Lb. **\$1.99**

**Best Choice** **COOKED SHRIMP** 41-50 Count, 16 Oz. Pkg. **\$6.99** Ea.  
**Cloverdale** **1/4 TEARDROP HAM** Per Lb. **\$3.69**  
**Smithfield Prime Fresh** **LUNCH MEATS** 8 Oz. Pkg. **\$2.99** Ea.

**Red or Green** **SEEDLESS GRAPES** Per Lb. **99¢**  
**Green Giant** **KLONDIKE ROSE OR GOLD POTATOES** 5 Lb. Bag **\$2.99**  
**Yellow** **ONIONS** 5 Lb. Bag **\$1.39**  
**Homemade** **CHICKEN PASTA SALAD** Per Lb. **\$5.99**  
**Mrs. Gerry's** **STEAKHOUSE BAKED BEANS** Per Lb. **\$2.99**

**Swanson** **BROTH** 14-14.5 Oz. Cans **2 for \$1.00**  
**Red Baron** **12" PIZZA** 14.87-23.43 Oz. Pkg. **3 for \$10.00**  
**Tropicana** **JUICE** 52 Oz. Bottles **2 for \$7.00**  
**Blue Bonnet** **MARGARINE** 1 Lb. 9lbs. **64¢**  
**Blue Ribbon** **ICE CREAM** 4 Qt. Pail **\$4.99**

**BAKERY FRESH** **VANILLA CAKE DONUT** 6 Ct. **\$2.69**  
**BAKERY FRESH** **WHITE BREAD** 1 Lb. Loaf **\$1.69**  
**Best Choice** **APPLE JUICE OR CIDER** 64 oz. Jug **2 for \$3**  
**Best Choice** **SPLIT TOP WHITE OR WHEAT BREAD** 20 oz. Loaves **2 for \$3.00**  
**Tito's** **VODKA** 1.75 L **\$29.95**

**SOUTH DAKOTA PHEASANT OPENER** SAT., OCT. 19TH  
**HUNTERS: BE SURE TO PICK UP YOUR SACK LUNCHES FOR YOUR HUNTING GROUP - KEN'S DELI CAN PREPARE THEM FOR YOU. LARGER GROUPS PLEASE CALL IN ADVANCE.**

**PRICES GOOD AT ALL KEN'S LOCATIONS: OCTOBER 18TH THRU OCTOBER 19TH**  
OCT 16 OCT 17 OCT 18 OCT 19

# OUR AVERA SPINE TEAM WELCOMES



## Daniel Dixon, MD ORTHOPEDICS

Are you facing a painful, back-related orthopedic condition? Daniel Dixon, MD, joins James B. MacDougall, MD, and Brian Ermer, PA-C, and the Avera spine care team in providing surgical and non-surgical spine care options. He is fellowship-trained in spinal surgery and strives to find pain relief for lumbar-area musculoskeletal conditions. Trust the Avera team to support your health needs with expert, compassionate orthopedic care.



James B. MacDougall, MD    Brian Ermer, PA-C



**Avera Orthopedics Aberdeen – 8th Avenue**  
701 8th Ave. NW, Suite A | Aberdeen, SD 57401  
605-226-2663 | Avera.org/doctors  
Schedule an appointment today.