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THE Groton Independent

South Dakota
 Growing Families & Opportunities

Vol. 137 No. 12 ♦ Groton, South Dakota ♦ Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019 ♦ Established in 1889



Camryn Kurtz sang, "Feeling Good" in the junior division of the talent contest. Kurtz won the division. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Alexis Hanten won the senior talent contest with her singing of, "Dream a Little Dream." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Flihs, Peterson named Snow Queens

Ashley Flihs (left), daughter of Jarod and Kristie Flihs, was chosen as the 2020 Groton Area Snow Senior Snow Queen. The Junior Snow Queen is Shaylee Peterson (right), daughter of Kristi and Ben Peterson. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



April Abeln was the Mystery Snowman. Jordan Kjellsen was the master of ceremonies. Roger Rix was the snowman escort. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



2020 Snow Queen Event

The 2020 Snow Queen event was held Sunday evening in the Groton Area High School Gym. Pictured in back, left to right, are Marlee Tollifson, junior snow queen candidate, daughter of Travis and Debbie Kurth and Matt and Lana Tollifson; Shallyn Foertsch, junior snow queen candidate, daughter of Joe and Teri Foertsch; Anthony Schinkel, page; Kaycie Hawkins, senior Snow Queen first runner up, daughter of Lance and Kristie Hawkins; Caitlynn Barse, senior Miss Congenitally, daughter of Chris and Pam Barse; Brodyn DeHoet, page; Gracie Traphagen, junior Snow Queen candidate; daughter of Trent and Heather Traphagen; Brooke Gengerke, junior Snow Queen First Runner Up, daughter of Collin and Deb Gengerke; Elliana Weismantel, junior Snow Queen candidate, daughter of Marty and Amy Weismantel; and Jacelynne Gleason, senior Snow Queen second runner-up, daughter of Edward and Angela Gleason; in front, left to right, are Snow Prince Colton Pullan, son of Jason and Dannielle Pullan; Senior Snow Queen Ashley Flihs, daughter of Jarod and Kristi Flihs; Junior Snow Queen Shaylee Peterson, daughter of Ben and Kristi Peterson; and Snow Princess Cierra Lier, daughter of Nicholas Sauer and Jayde Lier. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Frederick Town Nov. 6, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Town of Frederick
November 6, 2019 Minutes
Frederick's town board meeting was held Wednesday November 6, 2019 in the Frederick Community Center beginning at 7:03 PM. Attending the meeting were Chairman R. Campbell, board member Troy Millard, Finance Officer and Assistant Finance Officer Diane Bruns and Mariah Heine, and proposed new board member Jeff Kosters.

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

The minutes of the October meeting were read and approved with a motion by Millard/Campbell. Motion carried. The financial statements were reviewed and accepted with a motion by Campbell/Millard. Motion carried. The November accounts payable was approved with a motion by Millard/Campbell. Motion carried.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Badger Meter Meter Fees Wtr \$115.70; Black Mountain Maint/UT Billing/Meter Reading Wtr/Garb/Swr \$1,621; Century Bus Products Lease Printer Gen'l \$78.77; D. Bruns wage CC \$160.22; D. Bruns Wage FO \$1,384.54; Dennis Durheim 57T gravel Sts \$684.48; Fred Dev Corp Econ Dev \$1,200; GDI Oct Minutes, Gen'l \$42.90; JVT Phone/Svc/Int Gen'l/FO/Wtr/EBL \$247.30; M. Cox Wage EBL \$583.67; M. Heine Wage FO \$854.24; MDU Sts/Mun Bldg/EBL/SP/Wtr/Swr \$1,317.27; R. Bakeberg Exp Sts \$8.80; R. Bakeberg Wage Sts/Wtr/Swr \$441.37; R. Bakeberg Veh Allow Wtr/Sts/Swr \$75; R.S. Campbell, Wage Gen'l \$46.17; SD Dept of Rev Sales Tax Garb \$84.92; SD Dept of Rev Lab Wtr \$30; SDML Worker's Comp Fund Gen'l \$673; T. Millard wage Gen'l \$23.09; USDA-RD Loan Wtr \$475; USPS stamps Wtr/Swr/Garb \$165; Visa Ink Wtr/Garb/Swr \$69.20; WEB Water Wtr \$3,198.05

OLD BUSINESS

The library expressed concern about storing the outdoor movie theater supplies long-term and asked the city to explore other places to store it. The city received a complaint about an unkempt lot at the corner of RR Ave and Brown Co Hwy 5. A notice will be sent to the landowner to abate the nuisance per a motion by Campbell/Millard. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Jeff Kosters took his oath of office to become the new board member to fill Gary's seat for the remainder of the term. The board approved liquor license applications for the Community Store and Titan's Bar & Restaurant with a motion by Kosters/Millard. Motion carried. Due to being unable to get hold of the payee, an unpaid utility bill from 2017 was written off with a motion by Campbell/Millard. Motion carried. The board discussed the tree removal and replanting project at Simmons Park. Ray Bower would like to move to phase 2 and cut down more trees, and the board will be looking into what trees to plant in place of the ones being removed. The board also discussed repairs on the city's truck used for snow removal and whether to go ahead with repairs or look into purchasing a new vehicle. The city will keep the current truck and send it in for repairs.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 11, 2019, 7 PM, in the Frederick Community Center.

Motion to adjourn made by Kosters/Millard at 7:49PM. Motion Carried.

M. Heine
Assistant Finance Officer

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$32.91. 18289

Brown County Nov. 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes

November 12, 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 Fjeldheim, Feickert, Wiese, and Kippley. Commissioner Sutton was absent. Commissioner Feickert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve the General County Commission meeting minutes of November 5, 2019. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL: Moved by

Kippley seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims and payroll:

Payroll: Commission \$4,285.10; Elections \$0.00; Auditor \$8,566.60; Treasurer \$13,875.72; SA \$21,001.56; SVAWA \$1,193.49; Maintenance \$7,971.85; Assessor \$12,514.13; Register of Deeds \$8,812.19; VSO \$2,387.66; GIS \$2,367.50; IT \$8,162.39; HR \$2,153.85; Sheriff \$38,072.13; Jail \$47,171.30; Coroner \$2,700.00; Court Security \$6,514.67; JDC \$24,104.30; Welfare \$2,057.70; Museum \$7,037.84; Parks/Fairgrounds \$5,825.19; Fair Board \$4,259.34; 4-H \$1,010.44; Weed \$4,956.06; Planning & Zoning \$2,501.50; Highway \$49,955.47; Dispatch \$24,162.78; Emergency \$4,079.58; Teen Court \$440.64; JDAI \$1,576.93; 24/7 Sobriety \$3,275.93; Landfill \$13,778.74; Matching Benefits: FICA \$20,022.86; Medicare \$4,682.79; Health Savings Account \$175.00; BlueCross Blue Shield \$124,852.80; Delta Dental \$6,989.85; Life Insurance \$1,013.90; SDRS \$42,153.91.

Claims: Professional Fees: AMG Emergency \$369.67; AMG Radiology \$218.33; Avera St. Luke's \$1,478.78; Brick's TV & Appliance \$3,609.72; Certified Languages \$805.20; Digi Security \$75.00; Dohrer Law Office \$661.90; Helms & Assoc. \$3,775.35; Horizon Health Care \$139.50; Kuck Law Office \$151.00; Language Line Services \$819.82; LexisNexis \$150.00; Matthew Payne \$200.00; Microfilm Imaging Systems \$2,380.00; Midwest Card & ID Solutions \$1,500.00; SD Dept. of Revenue \$578,837.87; Sanford Clinic \$514.79; Sanford Health \$664.48; Christy Griffin-Serr Law Office \$4,488.75; WSP \$6,452.23. Publishing: Aberdeen American News \$1,089.12; Hub City Radio \$300.00.

Rental: Dakota Electronics \$16.00. Repairs & Maintenance: Aberdeen Plumbing & Heating \$2,467.53; Clark Engineering \$9,000.00; Clarke Mosquito Control Product \$43.10; ComTech \$6,788.79; Consolidated Ready Mix \$1,103.00; Dakota Electronics \$4,492.00; Diamond Mowers \$12.42; DMI \$17,959.92; Ecolab \$113.54; Gardner Locksmith \$65.00; GCR Tires & Service \$579.08; House of Glass \$371.92; Hoven Auto Repair \$854.03; J & K Painting \$1,895.45; Lien Transportation \$33,113.64; Loiseau Construction \$311,145.03; Otis Elevator \$949.00; Panitorium Cleaners \$55.00; Performance Rentals \$125.00; PowerPlan \$27,373.63; Productivity Plus \$2,577.65; Traffic Solutions \$9,821.35; TranSource \$477.72; Walth Safety Service \$32.00. Supplies: A-1 Locksmith \$5.00; Aberdeen Auto Center \$22.77; AgTegra \$69,000.88; American Solution of Business \$61.69; Ameripride \$420.02; Bakken Build Maint. \$500.00; Butler Machinery \$96.06; Carlsen Funeral Home \$325.00; Cartney Bearing \$362.84; Cash-Wa \$8,118.83; Century Business Products \$779.22; Dakota Electronics \$1,535.00; DFP \$1,750.45; Dakota Oil \$4,485.23; Dean Foods \$752.02; Diamond Mowers \$192.32; DMI \$386.00; Earthgrains \$639.84; Geffdog \$104.68; GovConnection \$404.40; Government Forms & Supplies \$65.00; Heartland Paper \$3905.57; Interstate Battery \$1,238.55; J Gross Equip. \$258.69; Jensen Rock & Sand \$2,949.42; Karl's TV \$164.99; Lien Transportation \$124,353.93; Mac's \$14.23; McKesson Medical-Surgical \$861.16; Menards \$112.38; Midstates Printing \$1,246.00; PowerPlan \$2,640.01; Premier Biotech \$929.74; Pro Ag Supply \$357.25; Productivity Plus \$871.05; SD Federal Property Agency \$1,084.00; Satellite Tracking of People \$425.75; TranSource \$1,321.52; Van Diest Supply Co. \$13,892.75; Walth Safety Service \$3,871.47; Web Water Bottling Co. \$19.50. Travel & Conference: AmeriCnn-Aberdeen \$75.00; City of Groton \$85.32; Exec. Mgmt. \$96.79; Amy Lake-Harmon \$83.66; Sarah Swenson \$80.37. Utilities: Aberdeen City Treasurer \$1,490.12; Northern Electric \$221.52; NWPS \$2,947.10; Town of Frederick \$61.00; Web Water \$79.29. Other: SD Attorney General's Office \$374.00; SDACO \$1,218.00; SD DENR \$4,870.24. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following HR Office Report, which includes the following: Approve payment of retirement award for Larry Hardy and Sheila Enderson, in the amount of \$150.00 before

taxes, requirement was met. Approve hiring Erin Ackerman as full-time Brown County Communications Dispatcher, effective November 19, 2019 at \$16.71 per hour. Approve promotion of Cynthia Meyers from Brown County Deputy Treasurer to Brown County Chief Deputy Treasurer, effective November 18, 2019 starting wage \$24.13/hour. Approve request to fill vacancy. Approve the following employee step increases effective November 17, 2019: Dave Engraf @ \$16.41 per hour and Cameron Refsland @ \$17.77 per hour. Acknowledge the following personal miles driven to be taxed at \$.545 per mile: Kendall Titze 144 miles @ \$62.13, Dirk Rogers 665 miles @ \$362.43, Mike Scott 160 miles @ \$87.20. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

SET HEARING DATE - NORTHWESTERN ENERGY RENEWAL APPLICATION: Move by Wiese, seconded by Feickert to authorize advertising and set hearing date for renewal application by NorthWestern Energy to grant NorthWestern Energy the right to maintain and erect electric lines on and along the public highways of Brown County, SD for 20 years. Public hearing set for December 10, 2019 (8:45a.m.) Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Aberdeen SD. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

ORD 150- FIRST READING: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Feickert to approve First Reading of Ordinance #150, 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-Ag District (M-AG), said property described as follows: "Pence Addition: in the SE 1/4 of Section 2-T126N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORD 151- FIRST READING: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Kippley to approve First Reading of Ordinance #151, 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-Ag District (M-AG), said property described as follows: East half of Lot 1, "Keatts 3rd Subdivision" in the NW1/4 of Section 22-T124N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OPEN BURNING BAN: Commissioner Feickert offered the following Resolution; RESOLUTION NO. 55-19; WHEREAS, Brown County having received an abundance of moisture across the entire County, including the upper James River basin, and WHEREAS, Brown County roadways have become inundated with water, with numerous roadways closed, and WHEREAS, Townships in Brown County have also experienced numerous road closures making it difficult for Fire Departments to travel these said roadways. WHEREAS, the Brown County Commission is dedicated in taking steps to protect the health and safety of all residents of the County and all property within the County, and WHEREAS, the Brown County Commission has consulted with local fire officials and law enforcement officials in regard to the severity of this issue. NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Brown County Commission enact this resolution on an emergency basis and impose a ban to prohibit or restrict open burning with the exception of campfires in campfire rings or pits, burning barrels 55 gallon or less that are equipped with a screen, or barbecue grills in order to protect the public health and safety; and RESOLVE that the ban will take effect immediately thru Midnight on November 26th, 2019, and FURTHER RESOLVE that criminal and civil penalties per County Ordinance 18.0703 be imposed if found in violation of this Resolution. Dated this 12th day of November 2019. Seconded by Commissioner Wiese. Roll Call Vote: Feickert-aye, Sutton-absent, Wiese-aye, Kippley-aye, Fjeldheim-aye. Resolution Adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:
Chris Kassube updated the commission on SD Agricultural and Rural Leadership Foundation program.
Public Comment on raising the road at intersection of County Highways 16 & 23. Comment directed to Highway Superintendent for review.
EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Kippley seconded by Wiese to go into executive session to discuss contracts per SDCL 1-25-2(4). All members present voting aye. Motion carried. The Chair declared the executive session closed with no action taken.
ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:24a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$97.26. 18290

Brown County New Renewal Application

NOTICE OF HEARING
STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA,
COUNTY OF BROWN

Before the Honorable Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota
IN THE MATTER OF THE RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO MAINTAIN AND ERECT ELECTRIC LINES ON AND ALONG THE PUBLIC HIGHWAYS OF BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA by NorthWestern Energy Corporation, a Delaware Corporation, a Delaware Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern).

To all persons, firms or entities owning or operating electric, telephone or telegraph lines:
You will please take notice that NorthWestern Energy, a Delaware Corporation, having a business office in the City of Huron, Beadle County, South Dakota, has filed with the County Auditor of Brown County, South Dakota its Application for a grant and renewal of any former grants from said County for a period of twenty (20) years and for as long and extended period as the Legislature may provide, granting to NorthWestern the right to erect and maintain poles, wires and necessary appurtenances and bury cable for the purpose of conducting electricity for lighting, heating and power purposes, in and along any public highway in Brown County, South Dakota as provided by Chapter 31-26 of South Dakota Codified Law;

AND NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that on the 10th day of December, 2019, at 8:45 a.m. at Brown County Commission Chambers, Brown County Courthouse, Courthouse Annex in the City of Aberdeen, County of Brown, State of South Da-

kota, will be the time and place when and where said Application will be heard and considered by the members of the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota, when and where all persons, firms, or corporations owing or operating electric, telephone, or telegraph lines on any part of the highway or highways which the proposed lines may occupy may appear, file objections and show cause why said Application should not be granted.

The said Application now on file with the County Auditor of Brown County, South Dakota is hereby referred to for further particulars.

Dated this 12th day of November, 2019 at Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Attest: Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor
(1120.1204)
Published 3 times at the total approximate cost of \$69.61. 18291

Claremont Town Nov. 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The board of trustees for the town of Claremont met in regular session on 11-12-19 at 8:00 p.m. in City Hall. President Johnson called the meeting to order with trustees Rasmussen and Spencer present. On a motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Spencer the minutes of the October meeting were approved. On a motion by Spencer and seconded by Rasmussen the following warrants were allowed: General: Fire Safety First, LLC, extinguisher, 9.50; RDO, parts for snowblower, 117.74; SD municipal league, dues/annual, 161.14; SD Gov. Finance officers Asso., dues/annual, 40.00; SD municipal street maintenance . dues/annual, 35.00; NWE lights, 326.98; SDML workers comp. dues, 489.00; Charla Rye, wage, 350.00; Full circle Ag, desiol, 202.28; WSSW: SD Public Health Lab, water samples X2, 30.00; NWE, water, 117.54;

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Julianna Kosel sang, "Temporary Home" during the senior division of the talent contest. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Madeline Schuelke sang, "I Love Play Rehearsal" during the senior talent contest. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Anna Bisbee performed during the junior division of the talent show. She sang, "Don't Rain on My Parade." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



The 2019 Snow Queens came back to help crown the new Snow Queens. They are Stella Meier, 2019 Junior Snow Queen, and Cassandra Townsend, 2019 Senior Snow Queen. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



With the advent of cell phones, everyone now gets into the action of taking photos. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Michelle Muilenberg has been assisting with the Snow Queen Festival for eight year. However, this year, she took it upon herself to organize the event. The event used to be run by the Groton Kiwanis Club and they disbanded this summer. When asked why she undertook such a big task, she said, "I guess because "No" i not in my vocabulary." Michelle is pictured in the middle with the Snow Queens Ashley Flihs and Shaylee Peterson. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Michelle Muilenberg goes over the program details with Emma Davies and Breslyn Jeschke. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The Snow Queen Committee had a lot of extra help this year, including students from the school who helped with the sundae serving. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Michelle Muilenberg talks with Lee Iverson about running the spot light. The other spot light operator was Joe Gleason. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Roger Rix was the Frosty Escort this year. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Glade and I helped to store apples...

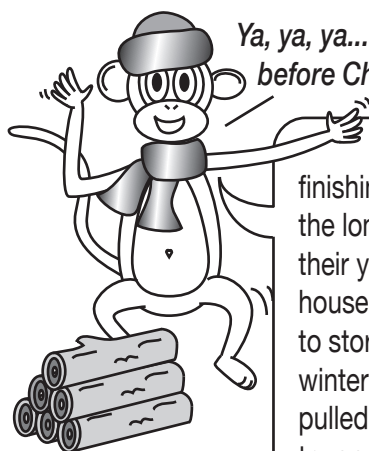
...potatoes and onions in the cellar.

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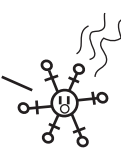
Kids: color stuff in!



Ya, ya, ya...I finished before Chatter!

Getting Ready for Winter

Sigh! I hate being the first flake of the season...it's such a lonely job.



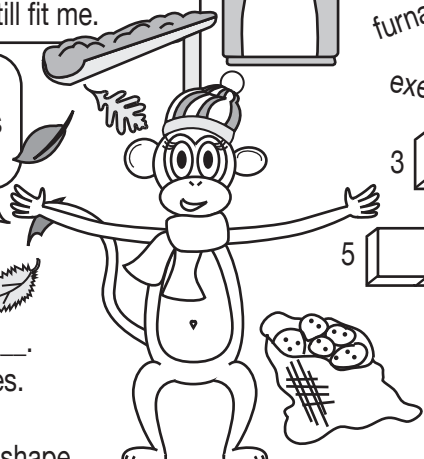
Winter will be here soon. Everyone is outside finishing tasks that need to be done to get ready for the long, dark, cold days. Some people are cleaning their yards. Others are emptying the gutters on their houses that are filled with leaves. Some people like to store potatoes, carrots and onions for hot, delicious winter stews and soups. Coats and jackets are being pulled out of closets. Oh, that reminds me...I need to try on last year's boots to see if they still fit me.

Read the clues below to fill in the crossword puzzle.

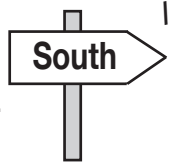
Kids in my class reported that their families are:

- having _____ checked and tuned-up.
- getting their oil _____ filled.
- raking _____ and cleaning them out of the gutters.
- storing _____ and salt in buckets to spread on sidewalks and driveways to prevent icing.
- bringing in the last of the fruits and vegetables from _____.
- digging out sweaters, _____, hats, mittens and scarves.
- putting heavier _____ and quilts on beds.
- making sure that _____ and snow blowers are in good shape.
- taking down _____ and putting up storm windows.
- bringing _____ and small trees into the house for the winter.
- cooking larger, hotter _____ and more baked pies and cookies.
- turning on the _____ earlier and starting to turn up the heat.
- cutting and stacking _____ into piles.
- signing up for classes to _____ inside or to play indoor sports.
- checking over their skiing, skating and sledding _____.

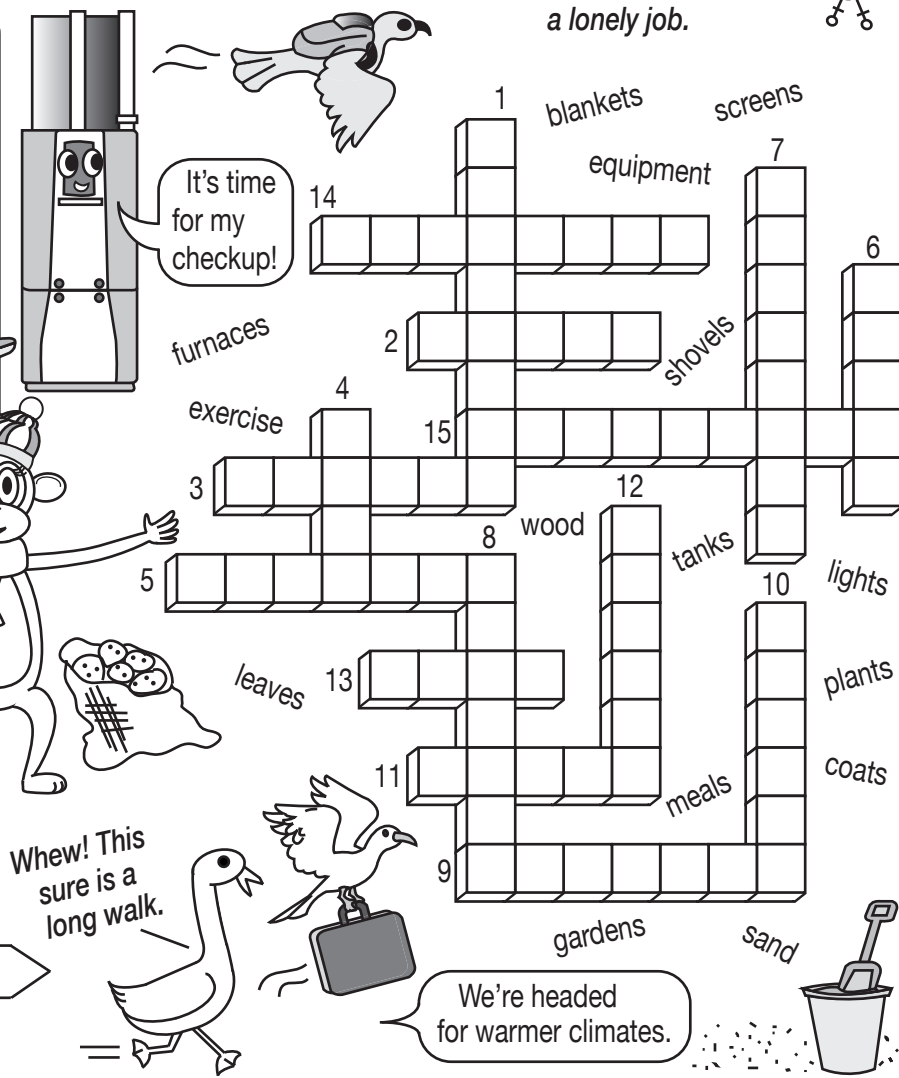
Hey, my list of chores was this long!



Whew! This sure is a long walk.



We're headed for warmer climates.

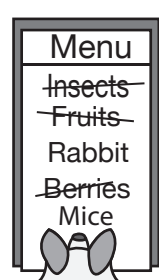


What Do Animals and Birds Do To Get Ready For Winter?

Match each animal in the first part of the sentence to the second part that tells what it does to prepare for winter.

- Snakes
- (some) Butterflies
- Weasels and Snowshoe Rabbits
- Red Foxes
- Moose
- Bears
- (some) Sharks
- (some) Turtles

- grow new, thicker fur. Sometimes the new fur is whiter to help them hide in the snow.
- go to the bottom of lakes and ponds where the water is warmer.
- swim to warmer waters near Hawaii.
- eat to increase body weight since there is less food.
- change their diet completely. In spring, summer and fall they eat berries and insects, but in late fall and winter they eat small rodents.
- gather together into a big ball underground for warmth.
- fly as far south as Mexico.
- eat lots of extra food before they go into hibernation or a deep sleep.

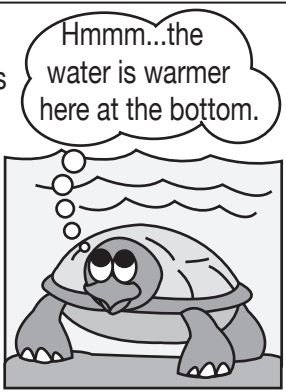


I see my diet has to change for the winter.



mmpfh...little busy here!

- (some) Frogs
- Squirrels
- Skunks
- (some) Bats
- Trees
- Alligators
- Robins
- Bobcats



I hide in mud.

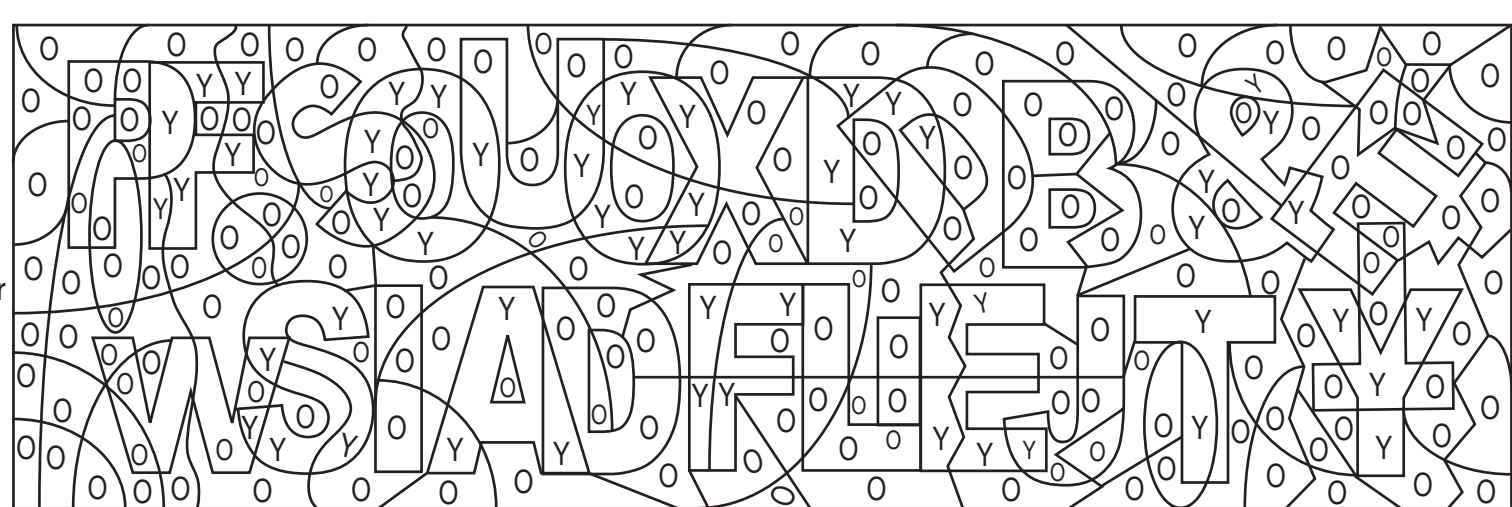
- gather acorns so they have a large amount of food stored.
- stop growing to save energy. This helps them get through very cold temperatures.
- usually live in the deep south, but some that live farther north in North Carolina or Georgia stay in dens and slow their metabolism, making them less active so they need less food.
- turn from hunting only during the night to hunting during the day.
- usually travel south for the winter, but those that live in Canada come to the United States, so you might not notice any change at all!
- hibernate in close clusters in their caves and holes. Others fly to find a warmer place to live.
- start to take very long naps, but they do not actually hibernate.
- allow themselves to be fully frozen! Their bodies thaw in the spring and are completely fine!

Why do Animals and Birds Go South?

People who go to the warmer southern states for the winter are sometimes nicknamed "Snowbirds."

Animals and birds go south for the warmer weather too! Two more reasons animals and birds travel south during the season of deep cold and snow are for:

O = orange Y = yellow



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Anthony Schinkel and Brodyn DeHoet were the pages for this year.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Yes, even Michelle Muilenberg's husband, Craig, helped with the Snow Queen Festival. He helped to set up and to tear down as well. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton School Nov. 11, 2019 Meeting Minutes

UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF EDUCATION GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6

REGULAR MEETING November 11, 2019

Vice-President Weismantel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Conference Room. Members present: Flihs, Gengerke, Harder, Pharis, Rix and Weismantel. Absent Smith. Others present: Superintendent J. Schwan, Principals B. Schwan and Sombke and Business Official Weber.

Moved by Rix, second Harder to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Pursuant to SDCL 23-3, there was no potential conflict disclosure reported.

Moved by Pharis, second Gengerke to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: October 14, 2019 minutes, district bills, financial report, transportation report, lunch report and agency report. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND: Net Salary

– 182,743.97; FIT – 16,129.04; Medicare – 6,828.86; FICA – 29,198.74; American Funds – 542.80; SDRS – 28,964.46; HSA Contribution – 100.00; Waddell & Reed – 1,440.00; Horace Mann – 1,177.61; Thrivent – 250.00; AFLAC – 3,326.36; Delta Dental – 3,984.34; SD Supplemental Retirement – 702.29; Wellmark – 59,120.00; Reliastar – 590.56; Avesis Vision – 292.00; ACDA – dues, 125.00; Advance Auto Parts – parts, 147.83; Agency Fund – advanced pays, 38,431.97; Allied Climate Professionals – repair, 275.51; Amazon – supplies, 104.60; Cintas – rugs, 560.17; Cole Papers – supplies, 4,515.10; Dakota Supply – supplies, 31.07; Dependable Sanitation – garbage, 1,254.50; Destination Imagination – supplies, 1,070.00; Dollar General – supplies, 42.00; East River Plumbing – repairs, 750.83; Adam Franken – meals, 11.72; Full Circle Ag – oil, 443.30; GCR Tires – tires, 164.28; Gold Medal Squared – camp fees, 1,000.00; Graphic Edge – jackets, 118.39; Groton Chamber – dues, 500.00; Groton Area Food Service – refunds, 340.07; GDI – printing, 135.26; Hillyard – supplies, 1,984.94; Holiday Inn Vermillion – rooms,

608.00; JW Pepper – music, 974.72; Jeff's District & Drain – repairs, 764.00; Jostens – diplomas, 471.36; Ken's – fuel, 7,349.04; Matheson Tri-Gas – supplies, 313.29; McLeod's – checks, 208.26; Mike-N-Jos – repairs, 65.00; MJ Sinclair – batteries, 288.77; Northside Implement – parts/repairs, 2,885.18; Northwestern Energy – utilities, 1,879.47; Runnings – wheel, 27.99; S&S Lumber – supplies, 1,637.75; School Specialty – supplies, 11.92; SDTEA – fee, 100.00; Stan Houston – supplies, 154.78; Cody Swanson – supplies, 187.84; Taylor Music – folders, 15.00; Trugreen – services, 734.00; Walmart – supplies, 155.61. Total General Fund - \$406,229.55.
CAPITAL OUTLAY: A&B Business – print agreement, 2,196.16; Agency Fund – advanced pays, 627.63; Amazon – supplies, 206.53; Daktronics – fee, 25.00; Dougherty & Company – fee, 400.00; Rebecca Erickson – refund, 12.25; House of Glass – door closer/keys, 442.60; Obermiller Nelson Engineering – designs, 297.50; S&S Lumber – pumps, 288.98. Total Capital Outlay - \$4,496.65.
SPECIAL ED: Net Salary –

29,764.99; FIT – 2,320.46; Medicare – 1,097.12; FICA – 4,691.50; SDRS – 4,686.08; Waddell & Reed – 200.00; AFLAC – 907.33; Delta Dental – 707.34; SD Supplemental Retirement – 100.00; Wellmark – 10,095.00; Reliastar – 211.42; Avesis Vision – 74.24; Agency Fund – advanced pays, 189.36; Educational Testing Service – fee, 110.00; Rebecca Erickson – supplies, 12.57; Jaimie Mitchell – supplies, 11.48; Walmart – supplies, 50.14; Judy or Gene Williamson – mileage, 740.88. Total Special Ed - \$55,969.91.
ENTERPRISE: Food Service Net Salary – 6,371.12; FIT – 361.70; Medicare – 223.68; FICA – 296.88; Wellmark – 1,526.00; Reliastar – 3.84; Avesis Vision – 54.61; Agency Funds – advanced pays, 471.28; Amazon – supplies, 14.98; Cintas – services, 184.02; CWD – food, 4,137.25; Dean Foods – milk, 894.37; Earthgrains – food, 94.47; Reinhart – food, 4,177.18; US Foods – food, 4,038.04. Total Food Service – \$24,467.38. OST Net Salary – 2,121.83; FIT – 124.17; Medicare – 74.60; FICA – 318.90; SDRS – 228.52; AFLAC

– 163.93; Wellmark – 671.00; Reliastar – 16.92; Agency Fund – advance pays, 8,420.58; Dollar General – supplies, 202.13; Groton Area Food Service – snacks, 36.00. Total Enterprise - \$123,785.8.
AGENCY FUND: Total – \$66,881.65.
RECEIPTS: Local Sources, Taxes – 121,175.84; Other Local Sources – 143,546.43; County Sources – 3,115.32; Federal Sources – 9,574.18. Total Receipts – \$279,066.41.
School Patron Toby Doeden requested eight to ten minutes to speak on issues pertaining to the school's athletic department. Since board policy BDDH limits a speaker's granted request to no more than five minutes, Superintendent Schwan informed the board that additional time would need to be approved by board motion. Moved by Flihs second Rix to allow Mr. Doeden 10 minutes to speak on his issue. Motion carried.
Mr. Doeden addressed the board on his concerns about the school's athletic program. No action was taken.

Team, 2019-20 school calendar development, Needs Assessment progress, NE Area Superintendent Meeting, 2020 Legislative Session, Veteran's Day Breakfast, teacher observations, 5th Grade Robotics, 4th Grade STEM project with NSU, Dakota Prairie Museum in Jr. Kindergarten, Junior Class Economic Leadership and Development, FBLA Blood Drive, FCCLA Food Drive, audit findings and Agency account reclassifications.

Weber presented a list of items to be surplus. Moved by Rix, second Flihs to declare the list of items as surplus property for disposal or resale. Motion carried.

The board acknowledged notification of Public-School exemption #20-13.

Moved by Pharis, second Gengerke to adjourn at 7:47 pm. Motion carried.

M. J. Weber, Business Manager
Steven R. Smith, President

The addition of signatures to this page verifies these minutes as official.

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$124.02. 18294

MONTHLY DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT FOR GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 06-6 For the reporting period beginning July 1, 2019, and ending October 31, 2019

	General Fund	Restricted Gen Funds	Capital Outlay	Special Education	Pension Fund	Bond Redemption	Capital Projects	Enterprise Fund	Agency Fund	Total for District
1. Beginning Balance	1,180,146.26	32,052.21	1,572,935.94	193,439.14	0.00	158,345.95	0.00	47,733.16	274,624.46	3,459,277.12
a. cash	1,180,146.26	32,052.21	1,572,935.94	193,439.14	0.00	158,345.95	0.00	47,733.16	274,624.46	3,459,277.12
b. petty cash.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2. Transfers in										
3. Revenue to date.....	917,656.92	0.00	54,514.48	31,663.01	0.00	5,063.67	0.00	109,913.59	314,886.31	1,433,697.98
4. Total accounted for.....	2,097,803.18	32,052.21	1,627,450.42	225,102.15	0.00	163,409.62	0.00	157,646.75	589,510.77	4,892,975.10
5. Transfers out										
6. Expenditures to date ..	1,284,536.18	0.00	439,572.11	176,694.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	93,644.48	383,138.08	2,377,585.61
a. encumbrances	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
b. disbursements.....	1,284,536.18	0.00	439,572.11	176,694.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	93,644.48	383,138.08	2,377,585.61
7. Ending Balance	813,267.00	32,052.21	1,187,878.31	48,407.39	0.00	163,409.62	0.00	64,002.27	206,572.69	2,515,589.49
a. checking	813,267.00	32,052.21	1,187,878.31	48,407.39	0.00	163,409.62	(0.00)	64,002.27	206,372.69	2,515,389.49
b. petty cash.....	(0.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
October Receipts.....	91,948.58	0.00	32,672.05	18,987.20	0.00	3,660.06	0.00	45,341.82	86,456.70	279,066.41
October Expenses	397,441.21	0.00	50,494.38	56,575.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	34,468.91	66,881.65	605,861.61
Agency Checking.....	206,372.69									
District Checking	2,309,016.80									
Certificate of Deposit	0.00									
Agency Cash on Hand.....	200.00									
Total all Funds	2,515,589.49									

Groton's Geek Squad and Galaxy in finals of Douglas Robotics Tournament

The GT Robotics teams worked hard during the last week to improve their robots and driving skills to perform great at the Douglas Patriot Invite in Box Elder Saturday. Groton teams were competing against teams from Harrisburg, Mitchell, Lead-Deadwood, Box Elder, Spearfish and Gillette, WY.

We had two teams battling for top ranking in the qualifying matches. Gear Heads (Ethan Clark, Jackson Dinger, Axel Warrington) and Geek Squad (Nick Morris, Charlie Frost, Keegan Harry) stayed in the top four, all day, as they worked with their alliance partners to defeat their opponents.

After the teams had each competed three or four times, we had four GT Robotics teams ranked in the top eight of twenty teams. When the qualifying matches ended GT Robotics had teams ranked 2nd, 3rd, 6th and then 13th and 18th.

The elimination rounds were tough on us:

6 ♦ Groton Independent ♦ Wed., Nov. 20, 2019

G-Force (Travis Townsend, Tannor McGannon, Dan Feist, Garrett Schultz) tipped-over at the beginning of their driver control period of the semi-finals. Gear Heads had the minicomputer on their robot have a port fail which sent them and their alliance partner G.A.T. Wrenches (Noah Tullis, Corbin Reich, Adrian Knutson) to the pits for the day. During the finals match Galaxy's robot got stuck in their scoring zone and was not able to move.

One other great highlight was that our G-Force team won the Skills Challenge. This is like a free throw contest; the team competes against the clock to score the most points.

The next robotics tournament for Groton is in Canton, January 11th.

- Jim Lane GT Robotics

Rankings of GT Robotics teams at the end of qualifying rounds for the tournaments

Tournament Location		Groton	Mitchell	Box Elder
Number of teams in		18	21	20
Tourney and date		Oct 19	Nov 9	Nov 16
9050A	G-Force	8	13	6
9050B	Gear Heads	2	9	2
9050C	G.A.T. Wrenches	4	12	13
9050D	Geek Squad	10	14	3
9050E	Galaxy	15	20	18

How far did GT Robotics team get in elimination rounds (playoffs)?

Tournament	Groton	Mitchell	Box Elder
9050A	G-Force	Semi-Finals	Semi-Finals
9050B	Gear Heads	Finals	Semi-Finals
9050C	G.A.T. Wrenches	Qtr-Finals	Qtr-Finals
9050D	Geek Squad	Semi-Finals	Qtr-Finals
9050E	Galaxy		Qtr-Finals

**Frederick School
Nov. 11, 2019
Meeting Minutes**

OFFICIAL BOARD PROCEEDINGS

FREDERICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #6-2

NOVEMBER 11, 2019

The meeting was called to order on November 11, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. by President Rich Schlosser. Members present were Dan Nickelson, Jon Ellwein, Richard Achen and Alex Hart. Others present were Superintendent/9-12 Principal/Athletic Director Jeff Kosters, K-8 Principal Jessica Ringgenberg, and Business Manager Janel Wagner. Visitor present was teacher Marty Morlock.

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

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

Action 19-039 Motion by Achen, second by Nickelson to approve the agenda as amended: change contract to contracts on #7; change #12 to Accept Resignation; change original #12 to #13 and original #13 to #14. All aye, carried.

Action 19-040 Motion by Hart, second by Ellwein to approve consent agenda which included the following items as presented: minutes of meeting held October 14, 2019; October 2019 financial report, agency accounts and investments; District bills and October 2019 payroll. All aye, carried.

Ending October 31, 2019	General Fund	Capital Outlay Fund	Special Education Fund	Pension Fund	Food Service Fund	Driver's Ed Fund	Trust & Agency
Beginning checking Balance ...	\$229,497.82	\$190,892.99	\$305,862.55	\$7,798.67	\$2,693.57	\$669.82	\$33,593.02
Revenue:							
Taxes.....	\$21,210.04	\$8,914.84	\$5,957.17				
Local Sources.....	\$2,516.96	\$2.10			\$4,736.80		\$19,600.13
Intermediate Sources.....	\$715.75						\$1.68
Interest	\$28.90						
Federal & State	\$41,675.54		\$32.27		\$3,996.57		
Total Revenue	\$66,147.19	\$8,916.94	\$5,989.44	\$0.00	\$8,733.37	\$0.00	\$19,601.81
Disbursements							
Bills.....	\$33,579.49	\$9,088.37	\$237.00		\$5,484.98		\$2,601.75
Payroll	\$145,103.67		\$17,626.16		\$4,470.99		
Total Disbursements	\$178,683.16	\$9,088.37	\$17,863.16	\$0.00	\$9,955.97	\$0.00	\$2,601.75
Total checking balance.....	\$116,961.85	\$190,721.56	\$293,988.83	\$7,798.67	\$1,470.97	\$669.82	\$50,593.08
Beginning investment balance	\$419,572.14	\$1,493,634.20	\$956,175.05	\$17,189.23			
Interest	\$1,568.84						
Total investment balance.....	\$421,140.98	\$1,493,634.20	\$956,175.05	\$17,189.23			
Ending Balance.....	\$538,102.83	\$1,684,355.76	\$1,250,163.88	\$24,987.90	\$1,470.97	\$669.82	

Language, Literature, Ethics, Music and Spirit

A muddle and mixture of family and friends surrounded the dying elderly woman like she was a campfire. They came to honor and pay their respects; many generations, from all over the country. This group seemed well educated, well-read, and the intellectual discussions were tossed around in that room like a basketball. She had said, to all, that it was time. "Please stop the dialysis," she insisted, and, it was stopped. At first, she was almost holding court, but over the days, as she was slipping across to the other side, the hymns started filling the room, spilling out into the hospital halls, helping to carry her home. Tears of sadness, appreciation, joy and family love flowed freely the night she died.

Hers was a story about language, literature, ethics, music and spirit. Take away language and literature, and the appreciation she deserved for years of pushing for education and learning for her family and friends would have passed without notice. Take away ethics, and the patient wouldn't have known she could stop dialysis. Take away music and spiritual energy, and the family wouldn't have grasped the true depth and value of the woman or the connection and love they shared with her and each other. The humanities give us meaning, but, from where and why did they begin?

There is no record or hard evidence as to how or when Homo sapiens began speaking, but there are plenty of theories. The one I like the most asserts that, at first, we sang and drummed descriptive sounds while pantomiming hunting stories around the campfire until, over hundreds and thousands of years, words and lyrics evolved. Much later, words became literature when written down in a retrievable way, first on clay tablets, then, on papyrus, parchment, paper and, now, computers.

More than one linguistic expert has theorized that it was language which facilitated the Homo sapiens species to grow and dominate. When ethical words about a common virtue, or rule, convinced, inspired and unified large collections of tribes, these ancient groups became empowered. Words from The Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," or the Code of Hammurabi, "A bag of barley is worth two shekels of silver," and even song lyrics like, "Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy)," have pushed civilization forward.

The history of humanity has been made bright by language, literature, ethics, music and spirit. Also bright was that room with the elderly dying patient and her loving and singing family and 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 and follow Prairie Doc® on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show streaming on Facebook and broadcast on SDPB most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.



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

Sarah Sumption, Assistant Girls Basketball coach at \$3,632.14 and Holly Lapka, Jr High Girls Basketball coach at \$2,164.86 to be administered by Leola School District. All aye, carried.

Action 19-042 Motion by Nickelson, second by Hart to transfer remaining funds from Trust and Agency Fund to General Fund for the following accounts: Golf \$7.54, Miscellaneous Student \$140.31 and JH Girls Basketball \$0.03. All aye, carried.

Action 19-043 Motion by Nickelson, second by Ellwein to close Trust and Agency Fund accounts for Golf, Miscellaneous Student and JH Girls Basketball. All aye, carried.

Action 19-044 Motion by Nickelson, second by Hart to appoint Rich Schlosser as board representative to the ASBSD Legislative Action Network. All aye, carried.

Action 19-045 Motion by Hart, second by Nickelson to approve the following policies: AA – School District Legal Status; BBAA – Board Member Authority; BBE – School Board Member Vacancy; BBFA – Unexpired Term Fulfillment Procedure; BBF – Board Member Code of Ethics; BBFA – Board Member Conflict of Interest; BCB – Board Officers and GCBC – Tax Sheltered and Annuity Program. All aye, carried.

Action 19-046 Motion by Ellwein, second by Achen to accept the resignation and early retirement from Janel Bergan effective at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. All aye, carried.

The school board would like to congratulate the Football, Volleyball and Cross Country teams for finishing out excellent

seasons. Congratulations to State Cross Country participants Johnathan Bretsch, placing 56th and Morgan Sumption, placing 62nd. Congratulations to the 8th grade MathCounts team of Morgan Sumption, Olivia Morlock, Laura Sumption and Sofi Losure for a second place finish at the Roncalli competition. Also congratulations go to North Border football players Isaac Sumption, Wil Nordine and Chance Mehlhaff for being selected for the Lake

Region All-Conference team and Cheyloh Brockel for receiving an Honorable Mention.

Action 19-047 Motion by Achen, second by Hart to adjourn at 6:27 p.m. All aye, carried.

Rich Schlosser, President
Janel Wagner, Business Manager

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Native American students left behind by S.D. education system

By: Nick Lowrey

EDITOR'S NOTE

This is the first of two stories in Part 1 of a two-week special report in which South Dakota News Watch will examine the historical and current educational achievement gap between Native American and white students in South Dakota.

This week: An examination of the problem and its causes, and a glimpse inside a successful community program helping Native students achieve.

Next week: A look at reforms that could vastly improve Native education in South Dakota, and an examination of a proposal for Native-focused charter schools in S.D.

The South Dakota constitution demands that state government provide equal opportunity to education for all of its citizens, yet for decades Native Americans – who make up 9% of the population – have been left behind by a system that fails to meet their needs and has resulted in generations of Natives suffering the consequences of inadequate educational achievement.

The systematic failure to properly educate Native American students is seen as a major source of devastating later-in-life consequences that have plagued Native people and communities for decades: generational poverty, high unemployment, substance abuse, high incarceration rates and reduced life expectancy.

The latest results from both state and national standardized testing provides a window into just how dire the situation has become, as Native students continue to perform far worse than white students in South Dakota across almost all measures of academic achievement.

During the 2018-19 school year, less than one in four Native American students in grades three to eight and grade 11 was rated as proficient in reading and writing on state standardized tests. Roughly one in seven Native American students was proficient in math, and just one in eight was proficient in science. A separate test, the 2019 National Assessment of Educational progress, found that South Dakota's Native American fourth and eighth graders were between 25 and 30 points behind their white peers in math and reading.

On-time graduation rates for Native American students also are lower than for every other racial group in the state at just 54%, compared with the rate of 85% for students of all backgrounds, according to the state report card. Some Native-dominated school systems

in South Dakota suffer more than others, such as in McLaughlin, on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation, where too few of the system's roughly 440 students scored proficient in any subject for statistics to be reported.

The reasons for the poor performance are varied and complex, but many educators and experts interviewed as part of a two-month reporting effort by South Dakota News Watch to examine Native education in the state agree that the problems are rooted in circumstances far outside a student's control.

"I believe wholeheartedly that we are extremely intelligent, innovative people, but this system is not designed in a way that nurtures that," said Sara Pierce, director of education equity at the West River nonprofit advocacy group NDN Collective.

Pierce, a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe who has worked in school systems in Omaha, Neb., and Rapid City, said the state's schools have struggled to teach Native students in a way that is relevant and responsive to the culture in which they grew up. There also are relatively few Native American teachers in public school districts, which reduces emotional and educational connections and relationships, she said.

The number of different school systems serving Native American students can also be a problem, said Juliana White Bull-Taken Alive, director of the state Office of Indian Education.

Each system has its own set of rules, philosophies and goals, she said. The lack of consistency hurts Native students, who tend to be more mobile than their peers and often hop between school systems one or more times before they graduate. Students in the Oglala Lakota County School District, for example, endure a built-in disruption to their educational path when they reach high school because there has not been a traditional high school in Pine Ridge for decades. Students must move to a virtual school online or transfer to a federal Bureau of Indian Affairs or private school on or near the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in order to stay on track to graduate.

"Over the years, as an administrator working for the tribal departments and now for the state, I've seen that the biggest challenge in terms of our students, ultimately, is building consensus among our schools in the state," White Bull-Taken Alive said.

Native students also have the long, traumatic history of their peoples treatment at the hands of the federal government to contend with, both Pierce and White Bull-Taken Alive said.

They are hampered as well by the most recognizable consequence of that traumatic history – a deep cycle of poverty that persists in tribal communities to this day. In South Dakota, roughly 60% of Native American children were considered to live in poverty in 2018, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation's annual Kids Count report. Only 8% of South Dakota white children were living in poverty that year, the report said.

Numerous studies show that people of any race who come from a low-income background are more likely to struggle in school. Impoverished students tend to have smaller vocabularies and are less likely to attend school regularly and graduate high school on time.

Poverty also tends to be self-replicating. According to the National Center for Children in Poverty, 82% of children whose parents didn't have a high school diploma were living in low-income families. Thus, they were less likely to graduate high school themselves. Data also show a strong link between low educational attainment and high rates of substance abuse



and incarceration, both of which make finding a way out of poverty more difficult.

Most schools in South Dakota do not have many, if any, Native American teachers, which reduces the ability of Native students to make strong connections with adults in schools. Research has shown that having even one minority teacher in a school can boost learning for all students in that minority group.

School districts where Native Americans make up the majority of the student body also tend to be in remote, rural areas, said Julie Garreau, director of the Cheyenne River Youth Project and a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. The youth project is a nonprofit that provides a variety of after-school programs and services to children in Eagle Butte on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation in north-central South Dakota.

Some rural districts do not have access to the same educational programs or job-training opportunities found in more urban districts such as Sioux Falls and Rapid City or even Aberdeen and Pierre. Transportation costs and time, teacher hiring and retention challenges, and restricted funding can also hamper rural districts where Natives commonly attend.

Furthermore, a lack of post-graduation options in small communities where Native populations reside can indirectly hold students back. If students who are trying to figure out what they want to do after finishing high school – whether it's finding a job, going to tech school or college or joining the military – don't see realistic opportunities ahead, they can be prone to giving up on school and perhaps turning to substances for solace, Garreau said.

"Kids are growing, they have a need to learn, they have a need to be active and to do things, and if that's not there, I think any child will find something else to do," Garreau said. "And sometimes that's a negative activity."

South Dakota's Native American population is not unique in facing challenges to getting a good education. Indigenous people across the country are struggling to close school-success gaps. In North Dakota, the graduation rate for Native American students was 72%, 20 points lower than that state's white students. In Montana, Native American fourth and eighth graders were 20 to 30 points behind their white peers on the 2019 national assessment tests. The Native student populations in Montana and North Dakota make up roughly the same percentage of the overall student population as in South Dakota.

In South Dakota, there is new hope on the horizon. More school districts across the state have begun to implement pieces of the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings, a set of educational standards that seek to encourage schools to incorporate Lakota language, culture and history into everyday lessons. Lakota-language classes have been popping



Sara Pierce, director of education equity at NDN Collective

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Julie Garreau, founder and director of the Cheyenne River Youth Project, at left, pours over a local newspaper with CRYP Deputy Director Meghan Tompkins. Garreau founded CRYP in 1988 to provide an after school-program education and job-skills program for children in Eagle Butte, a town on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation. Photo: Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

up in schools around the state, as well. In majority-Native districts such as Oglala Lakota County, teachers have started Lakota Immersion classrooms, which teach all their lessons in the Lakota language.

More than anything, schools are reaching out to Native communities, often for the first time, to find out what they want and need from schools, White Bull-Taken Alive said.

"For so many years, everyone came in and told us how we were going to educate our kids," she said. "It's only now that Native American people have begun to stand up and say, 'Hey, we want to teach our own kids.'"

Last month, Department of Education Secretary Ben Jones announced the formation of a partnership with education-consulting firm McREL International to design and implement programs to improve Native American educational outcomes in the state. Those efforts, he said, could include a new look at culturally relevant curricula and efforts to improve Native American teacher recruitment.

A push is also underway by the NDN Collective and other Native groups to pass legislation in 2020 to allow for development of the state's first public charter schools that would provide educators the flexibility to innovate to better reach and teach Native students.

The complexity and magnitude of the challenge facing South Dakota's Native American students certainly has created hurdles, but also provides a tremendous opportunity, Pierce said.

"In South Dakota we are ground zero for indigenous education mobility," she said.

Because there is so much room to grow, even incremental improvements to graduation rates, employment rates and college attendance could make a big impact on Native com-



Alexander "Zane" Zepher, a member of the Yankton Sioux Tribe, struggled early on in his education in the public schools in Wagner but graduated with the help of an influential teacher and went on to get a degree from the University of South Dakota and now works to help other disadvantaged students succeed. Photo: Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

munities, both financially and socially, Pierce said. After all, economic fortunes have been shown to improve as educational attainment increases, she said.

"There are huge financial implications to our communities as a result of this. That [financial impact] goes for reservations and urban areas in our state," Pierce said.

Enduring generations of trauma

As a high school freshman in Wagner about a decade ago, on the Yankton Indian Reservation in southeastern South Dakota, Alexander "Zane" Zepher found going to school nearly impossible.

He lived with his grandmother and younger brother and sister. Zepher's mother, suffering from addiction and substance-abuse disorders, had left the family. His father was in prison. Zepher, a member of the Yankton Sioux Tribe, had bounced between schools in the towns of Lake Andes and Marty before going to Wagner in time to start sixth grade.

When Zepher started high school, skipping class to stay home and play video games was easier than dealing with school on top of the other hardships in his life. Good grades didn't seem to matter too much in the grand scheme of things. Zepher said he had no idea where he was going after high school.

Trying to process the reality of his mother's departure and his father's absence wasn't easy. He found it difficult to connect with other students and instead withdrew into himself. Eventually, Zepher did find some friends that came from similar circumstances and started drinking with them. The booze was in his community, unfortunately, a readily available coping mechanism, Zepher said.



This image from the National Archives shows Sioux Indian boys as they were dressed upon arrival at Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania in 1879; many Indian boarding schools focused on education but also on depriving Native Americans of their language and culture.

By the time his grandmother started getting phone calls from the school threatening charges of truancy, Zepher said, he'd gotten so far behind that going back to class seemed impossible.

"It was just kind of a vicious cycle," Zepher said.

Zepher's struggles are common in tribal communities. Native American students have the lowest attendance rate of any racial group in South Dakota at 72%, according to the DOE report card. Native children also have the highest rate of chronic absenteeism of any racial group in the state at 37%.

While many factors play into whether any child, indigenous or not, will show up at school every day, Native communities have the added burden of a long history of historical, cultural and societal trauma. Zepher's story is one example of the impact such historical trauma can have on Native students.

No other group of Americans has as troubled a past with government-funded education than the country's indigenous population. In 1819 Congress passed the Civilization Fund Act, which appropriated \$10,000 (about \$202,000 in today's dollars) to teach Native Americans "the habits and arts of civilization." The money



LaRayne Woster, a Lakota Language instructor at St. Joseph's Indian School in Chamberlain, teaches eighth-grade students Zaylee Zepher and Javin Primeaux, both from Wagner, how to say "hello" and "goodbye" in Lakota. South Dakota education officials hope that increased teaching of Indian culture and language will heighten academic achievement by Native American students. Photo: Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

was mostly allocated to religious groups to fund mission schools on the country's frontier.

By the 1870s, most of the country's indigenous population had been conquered and forced onto remote reservations. That decade also saw the beginning of the federal government's notorious Indian boarding-school program. Native American children were forced to attend federally funded boarding schools that systematically stripped them of their cultural identity through a combination of harsh discipline and forced religion.

Generations of Native youths as young as six were required, by law, to attend schools where their hair was cut, their clothes were replaced by military-style uniforms and they were denied the right to speak their own languages. School instructors routinely disciplined students physically and mentally for even minor infractions. Often, these schools were hundreds or thousands of miles away from their families.

"In theory it was supposed to be this great tool for assimilation, and we would all coexist together. But what it really did was, it compromised indigenous culture in a way that we're still repairing," said Pierce.

The stated goal behind forced Indian education was, literally, to quash Native American culture under the notion that doing so would eventually lead Native Americans to assimilate into American society. Education at Indian boarding schools was usually trade-focused for boys and focused on domestic chores and skills for girls. Reading, writing and math were taught, too, but the idea was to give Native children practical skills that could lead to jobs in cities or in agriculture.

Racism often prevented former boarding-school students from finding work in American cities, Pierce said. Often, those former boarding-school students were driven back to the reservations where they came from and where opportunities were few.

"There weren't industries on the reservation conducive to those trades, and so what happened then is, they go back to the reservations, and they would feel super isolated because they didn't have deep understandings of their culture, language and spirituality," Pierce said.

In the end, the federal system of boarding schools failed to erase Native culture or force Native Americans to assimilate. What the boarding schools did instead was create several generations of traumatized youths with tenuous connections to their culture, history and families. Many turned to alcohol as a way to self-medicate for serious mental health problems, Pierce said.

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"If you're using alcohol to adapt and address some deep mental health issues, and then you start having a family, getting married, having children, when your children misbehave or you and your spouse disagree, you address it in ways that you learned ... the boarding-school movement really yielded chemical dependency, extreme mental health issues, abuse both physically and sexually. There's just a long list of issues," Pierce said.

Until the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924, Native Americans hadn't been granted automatic citizenship at birth (though some Natives were able to become citizens.) The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which grants nearly anyone born within the country's borders citizenship, had been interpreted by Congress and the courts to exclude indigenous people. Native Americans were instead considered almost as wards of the state.

Those who had been granted citizenship and were born before 1924 had to give up their tribal affiliations, join the military and accept land grants carved out of reservation lands, and start paying taxes on the land. That system led to tribes' losing hundreds of thousands of acres from reservations to private ownership. Often the lands were sold off to non-Native buyers.

Full citizenship wasn't granted to all Native Americans until 1948. By the 1950s, nationally, about half of all Native American children were being educated in locally controlled public schools. But Native Americans still had little say in what and how their children were taught in those schools. The same was true of the federally managed BIA schools.

Beginning in the late 1960s, tribal governments started taking on a larger role in the education of their children. They began taking over boarding schools and creating new partnerships with local school districts using federal grants authorized by the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975, as well as the Tribally Controlled Grant Schools Act of 1988.

Forced placement in boarding schools wasn't ended until 1978, when Congress passed the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Zephier, for his part, said he was able to graduate high school in 2013 and go to college thanks to the teachers and students in the Wagner High School Jobs for America's Graduates program. He was automatically enrolled in the program as a freshman because the school deemed him to be at high risk of dropping out due to his family history. Zephier was joined by 12 other students, all of whom had similar backgrounds, in his JAG class.

With help from lead JAG teacher Renee Van Der Werff, who students saw as a mother figure, the class became a second family, Zephier said. His classmates became an essential support system and kept him connected to school even as he struggled with drinking. Ven Der Werff, meanwhile was able to provide individual help to Zephier and his fellow JAG students with school work and in completing applications for summer programs and even college.

Zephier couldn't pinpoint exactly when he committed to breaking out of the cycle of poverty and substance abuse that had plagued his parents but he credits the stability he

found in the JAG program for giving him the emotional space to think about his future and his siblings' future.

"I constantly worried about the world they would grow up in when I was in high school. Those thoughts used to keep me awake at night and give me nightmares. I always thought to myself, 'If I can't make it out of here, how can I expect them to?'" Zephier said. "I also wanted to build a life that when I had my own family, my children would never have to know what it's like to grow up without parents or any of the things I had to witness and endure in my upbringing."

Zephier, now 24, graduated from the University of South Dakota in 2017 after having served in student government. Zephier now works as a field counselor for USD's Upward Bound program, which helps low-income high school students graduate and explore college opportunities.

His brother and sister, though, have both struggled. Zephier said his sister dropped out of high school and his brother has been sent to a juvenile-detention facility. He hasn't been able to speak with his brother or sister for a while, but he worries about them constantly and hopes they'll be able to make a good life for themselves. Unfortunately, his siblings' experience is common on reservations, Zephier said, and it's not something that will be easy or quick to change.

"I don't know how you fix generations of trauma," Zephier said.

Culture an essential piece of education

States and the nation as a whole have done little to make restitution or even acknowledge how the federal government treated Native Americans from the nation's founding through much of the 20th century through policies that amounted to genocide, Pierce said. Un-

"I constantly worried about the world they would grow up in when I was in high school. Those thoughts used to keep me awake at night and give me nightmares. I always thought to myself, 'If I can't make it out of here, how can I expect them to?'" -- Alexander "Zane" Zephier, sharing his concerns that his younger brother and sister, who also grew up in a broken home, were not getting a good education or being prepared for life ahead

less and until that acknowledgement is made, she said, healing the bitterness many Native Americans feel toward the rest of American society will be next to impossible. Without that acknowledgement and healing, getting Native children to engage with the education system will continue to be problematic, Pierce said.

"We've never really recognized collectively, the genocide of indigenous peoples here," Pierce said. "There's a lot of historical trauma in that."

One step in the right direction, said Pierce, would be to create school environments where Native American students can be unapologetically indigenous. In other words, she said, the state's schools need to do a better job of creating an environment where

Dakota has a long way to go when it comes to creating more culturally safe school environments, Pierce said.

A recent, widely reported example of a lack of cultural safety in South Dakota occurred in May 2019 at Brookings High School. The school principal confiscated an eagle feather, which has tremendous significance in Lakota culture as a symbol of accomplishment, that was attached to a Native American student's cap right before the school's graduation ceremony. The confiscation was illegal under a state law passed in 2018. Still, the principal insisted that the student give up the feather.

The student was eventually able to walk across the stage and receive his diploma while wearing the eagle feather he'd earned by graduating from high school – but only after the feather had been given to his mother, who found him and reattached the feather to his cap. Later, the Brookings School District formally apologized to the student.

Students, no matter what their race or religion, need to be able to be who they are without having to explain themselves at every turn, Pierce said. The state is getting better in that arena, she said, if only slowly.

White Bull-Taken Alive, head of the state Office of Indian Education, said each school's culture also plays a big role in how successful children of any background can be. Unfortunately, she said, there is often a culture of low expectations when it comes to Native American students.

"Actually hearing people say that Native kids can't learn or this work is too hard, that's devastating. Can you just imagine the trauma or the devastation to understand that, here is your trusted adult saying that, you know, Native kids can't learn this," White Bull-Taken Alive said.

Native American students also tend to be disciplined in South Dakota schools at much higher rates than their peers.

According to the most recent data reported by the federal Civil Rights Data Collection system within the Department of Education, despite Native Americans' being roughly 10% of South Dakota's student population, they made up more than 30% of both in-school and out-of-school suspensions as well as roughly 54% of expulsions during the 2015-16 school year, the latest year for which data is available.

Of the 221 violent incidents reported in the state's schools, 50 involved Native Americans. A total of 127 violent incidents involved white students. There were 123 Native American students arrested in South Dakota public schools, accounting for roughly 45% of the 270 arrests reported in the state's schools. A total of 109 white students were arrested in schools.

"The discipline data is indicative of the need for more culturally proficient strategies," Pierce said.

Ultimately, small improvements may help, but many believe that sweeping changes will be needed to the South Dakota public education system before outcomes improve significantly for Native students, Pierce said.

Jones, a former college dean who became state education secretary in January 2019, said he was not sure why it has taken so long to embrace Native American perspectives and input on education. Jones said he was optimistic that with strong input from Native leaders, educators and families, South Dakota can find a way to improve education outcomes for Native American students.

"For many years Native American (education) improvement has been an objective, and there's been various things tried ... it brings to mind a Winston Churchill quote: 'You can always rely on the United States to do the right thing after they have tried everything else,'" Jones said. "Regarding Native American education, we've tried a wide variety of things, and now we're going to try and listen to them and see how they'd like to approach it."

Native American students can celebrate and be proud of who they are.

Pierce, who became a Bush Foundation Fellow in spring 2019, is focusing her work on the concept of "cultural safety." The term refers to how comfortable people feel expressing their cultural heritage and identity in public places. South

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To Cheer On Our Volleyball Team
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Tuesday
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Groton High School and Community's Blood Drive Brings in 56 Volunteers

Groton High School and community hosted a blood drive with Vitalant, formerly United Blood Services, on November 13 and 14 at the high school and community center which helped collect a total of 57 units of blood products for patients in need.

A total of 56 individuals volunteered to donate blood and 49 individuals were able to donate at the Vitalant blood drive on November 13 and 14. A total of eight donors also came forward to donate Power Red Cells (2RBC) which collects two units of red blood cells while returning platelets, plasma and a saline solution back to the donor.



Mel Sombke was one of the many blood donors at the recent blood drive held in Groton. Sombke was one of eight who gave two units of red blood cells. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Vitalant expressed their gratitude to Kathy Sundermeyer, who coordinated the community drive along with Rose Locke and Daryl Sundermeyer. Vitalant also expressed their gratitude to Brook Compton, who coordinated the high school drive, and FBLA which sponsored the blood drive.

Vitalant strives to keep a 5-day supply of every blood type on the shelf at all times to be able to meet the needs of patients across the region. Donations from O-negative donors, the universal blood type, are especially important this time of year due to increased accidents and trauma cases.

Vitalant is the only blood provider to nearly 70 hospitals across the region. The blood supply is dependent on selfless donations from volunteer donors to ensure the lifesaving needs of the region are met.

About 30 percent of Vitalant's blood supply goes to cancer patients across the region and one in seven people entering the hospital will need blood. Those relying on blood in the region receive that lifesaving blood from Vitalant.

Donors can make a convenient appointment to give blood at www.bloodhero.com or by calling 877-25-VITAL. With each donation, donors receive a free total cholesterol test and earn points in Vitalant's donor rewards program. The next blood drive at this location is planned to be held on: February 10, 2020.

Blood donation takes about an hour from check-in to refreshments. Donors can save about 20 minutes by completing their Health History Questionnaire the day they donate on www.vitalant.org

The all-school play, Clue, was held last week.



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Why do Animals and Birds Go South? For warmer weather and for...

FOOD & SAFETY

14 EXERCISE
15 EQUIPMENT
16 SCREENS

1. Snakes
2. (some) Butterflies
3. Weasels and Snowshoe Rabbits
4. Red Foxes
5. Moose
6. Bears
7. (some) Sharks
8. (some) Turtles

A. grow new, thicker fur. Sometimes the new fur is whiter to help them hide in the snow.
B. go to the bottom of lakes and ponds where the water is warmer.
C. swim to warmer waters near Hawaii.
D. eat to increase body weight since there is less food.
E. change their diet completely. In spring, summer and fall they eat berries and insects, but in late fall and winter they eat small rodents.
F. gather together into a big ball underground for warmth.
G. fly as far south as Mexico.
H. eat lots of extra food before they go into hibernation or a deep sleep.

1. (some) Frogs
2. Squirrels
3. Skunks
4. (some) Bats
5. Trees
6. Alligators
7. Robins
8. Bobcats

A. gather acorns so they have a large amount of food stored.
B. stop growing to save energy. This helps them get through very cold temperatures.
C. usually live in the deep south, but some that live farther north in North Carolina or Georgia stay in dens and slow their metabolism, making them less active so they need less food.
D. turn from hunting only during the night to hunting during the day.
E. usually travel south for the winter, but those that live in Canada come to the U.S., so you might not notice any change at all!
F. hibernate in close clusters in their caves and holes. Others fly to find a warmer place to live.
G. start to take very long naps, but they do not actually hibernate.
H. allow themselves to be fully frozen! Their bodies thaw in the spring and are completely fine!

Feed The Families • Healthy Holiday Food Pantry Donations

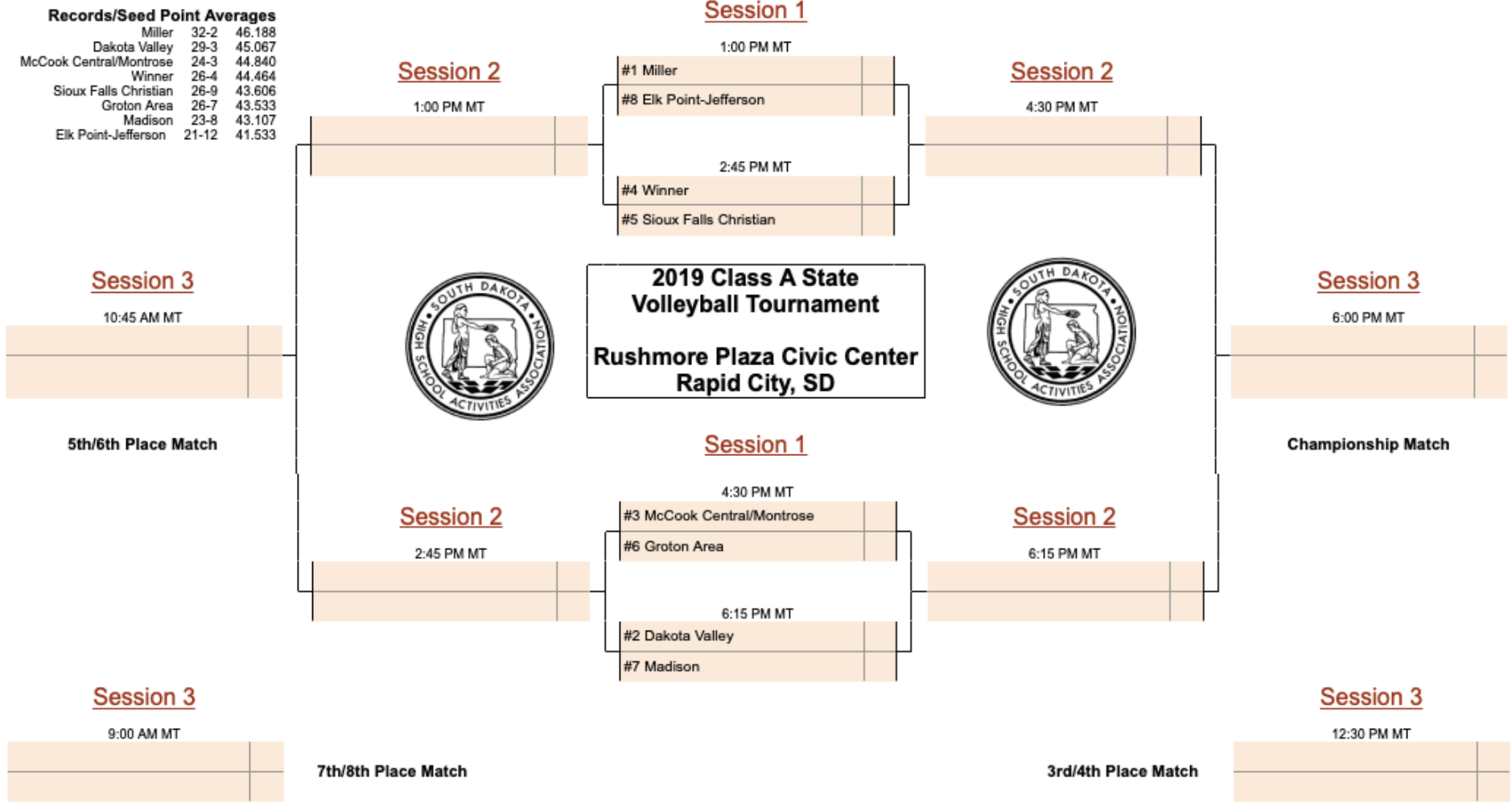
Items are marked throughout the Aberdeen store to make it easy to shop for healthy holiday food items to donate to the Salvation Army. Drop off items in the designated grocery cart at the store's exit through the end of the year!

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Nov 17	Nov 18	Nov 19	Nov 20	Nov 21	Nov 22	Nov 23
11:00	11:00	11:00	11:00	11:00	11:00	11:00
12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00
1:00	1:00	1:00	1:00	1:00	1:00	1:00
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Consolation Championship
Saturday, November 23rd
Consolation Semifinals
Friday, November 22nd
1st Round - Quarterfinals
Thursday, November 21st
Championship Semifinals
Friday, November 22nd
Championship Round
Saturday, November 23rd



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- Frost Construction
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- Groton Daily Independent
- Groton Dairy Queen
- Groton Vet Clinic
- John Sieh Agency
- Justin Hanson Family
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- KR Body Shop, Andover
- Mike-N-Jo's Body-N-Glass
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- Olive Grove Golf Course
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- Professional Management Services
- Spanier Harvesting & Trucking
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- Tyson DeHoet Trucking
- Weismantel Insurance Agency, Columbia
- Wells Fargo Bank