

2019 GHS Football Awards



Thomas Cranford
 Senior
 2019 NEC
 Honorable Mention



Brodyn DeHoet
 Senior
 Most Improved
 Offense
 2019 NEC
 Honorable Mention



Kaden Kurtz
 Sophomore
 Most Improved
 Defense
 2019 NEC
 All Conference



Jonathan Doeden
 Senior
 MVP Offense
 2019 NEC
 All Conference



Alex Morris
 Junior
 MVP Lineman
 2019 NEC
 All Conference



Jordan Bjerke
 Scout Team
 Defense MVP



Jonathan Doeden
 — Honorable Mention All-State as BOTH a Safety and a Running Back. Quite an accomplishment!!

2019 Groton Area Football Letterwinners

Seniors: Jonathan Doeden, Brodyn DeHoet, Thomas Cranford, Austin Jones, Peyton Johnson, Darien Shabazz, Kayde Stange, Grady O'Neill, Garret Schroeder, Jamesen Stange
Juniors: Chandler Larson, Trey Gengerke, Alex Morris, Kale Pharis, Adrian Knutson, Caleb Furney
Sophomores: Kaden Kurtz, Pierce Kettering, Jackson Cogley, Jordan Bjerke
Freshman: Andrew Marzahn
Student Managers/Water Girls: Colby Merkel, Lee Iverson, Douglas Heminger, Brooke Gengerke, Alexa Herr

Photos by Brooke Gengerke

11B Honorable Mention All-State Football Team
 Argus Leader
 Elite 45
 Running Back
 Safety

Career Stats
 3-Year Starter
Rushing: 404 carries for 2,500 yards, 21 touchdowns.
Receiving: 35 catches for 260 yards, 5 touchdowns
Passing: Completed 40 of 85 passes for 450 yards, 5 touchdowns.



Jacob Lewandowski
 Scout Team
 Offense MVP



Peyton Johnson
 MVP Defense



Erdmann places fourth at State FFA LDE

Tessa Erdmann placed 4th in the Employment Skills Leadership Development Event (LDE) at the State FFA LDE held in Pierre on December 8 and 9. In this event she created a resume and coverletter, filled out a job application and wrote a follow up letter to her interviewer. She also went through a round of personal interviews with judges who asked her questions about her selected job. Tessa initially competed at the district level, which she placed first. Then, this past weekend, competed against the top three individuals from the seven districts in the state and placed 4th overall.



The Groton C&MA Church held its Christmas program Sunday evening. In case you missed it, you can view it under the video archives at 397news.com.

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.harrmotors.com
 605-225-3078 ~ 1-800-658-3463

SCHULTZ CONSTRUCTION LLC
 CARPENTRY • CONCRETE • BATH, SD •
 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

Webster Theatre
 Theatre opens at 7 pm with movies starting at 7:30 pm, Friday through Monday.
 12/21 to 12/23 Midway, PG-13
 12/28 to 12/30 Frozen 2, PG
 1-4 to 1-6 Richard Jewel - R

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 BARN
 (605) 216-2677 (605) 226-4062

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

Harris Auto Body
 "From minor scratches to a complete rebuild... we can do it all!"
 NOW OPEN
 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

INTERSTATE AUCTION CENTER. Saturday, December 21 10:00 AM. Vehicles, tractors, trucks & trailers, livestock and farm equipment. 3 miles east of Sioux Falls, exit 402. 605-331-4550. Visit our website auctionzip.com.

EMPLOYMENT

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR, Hill City, SD. Seeking a working Public Works Director experienced in team building & long-range planning. Staff of 6. Job description at www.hillcitysd.com.

CITY OF LEMMON is seeking a full-time Assistant Superintendent. Must be able to work independently and effectively with employees, contractors, and general public. Requires experience with equipment operations, CDL, water distribution and wastewater certificates. Pay DOE. Attractive benefit package. Deadline 1/2/2020. Pick up applications at City Hall. Contact Dave Huber at 604-374-5631 for information. City of Lemmon is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

LAND AUCTIONS

SEALED BID LAND AUCTION- 418.5 acres Grant county crop land offered in 3 tracts. Visit www.totalaar.com for bid sheet and terms or call 605-274-6500 Andy Harr - Auctioneer/Broker Total Auctions and Real Estate

MISCELLANEOUS

GOT LAND? Our Hunters will Pay Top \$\$\$ to hunt your land. Call for a Free info packet & Quote. 1-866-309-1507 or www.BaseCampLeasing.com.

RADON: invisible, odorless gas that slowly creeps into your home and is the #2 cause of lung cancer.
HAS YOUR HOME BEEN TESTED?
 RADON BY Blackburn Basement Systems
 Waterproofing & Repair Systems
 Basement & Foundation Specialists
 RADON TESTING & MITIGATION
 www.blackburnbasementrepair.com Toll Free 1-800-392-3389
 * Call or visit us online today to get your FREE Radon Test Kit.
 * Receive 5% off Radon Mitigation Systems with this ad.
 Cannot be combined with any other offers. Expires 2/1/2020.

It's the clever way to help loved ones remain living at home.
 Call Dakota at Home to find trusted, local programs and services for older adults and people with disabilities.
 SD's Aging and Disability Resource Center
 1-833-663-9673
Dakota at Home
 One Call Countless Resources
 DakotaAtHome.org

Johnson places first at LaMoure Tournament

Porter Johnson made his varsity debut at the LaMoure Wrestling Tournament held Saturday and he came home with a first place finish. Groton Area had six wrestlers that placed at the tournament including Dragr Monson with a second place finish, Thomas Cranford and Grady O'Neill both placed fourth, Cole Bisbee placed fifth and Lane Krueger placed sixth.

106JV Porter Johnson (3-0) placed 1st and scored 14.0 team points.

Round 1 - Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 3-0 won by decision over Jace Duffy (LaMoure) 2-2 (Dec 14-10)

Round 2 - Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 3-0 won by fall over Holter Bridwell (Linton) 1-4 (Fall 0:53)

Round 3 - Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 3-0 won by fall over Jerimiah Kolstad (Ellendale/Edgeley/Kulm) 1-5 (Fall 1:37)

120 Dragr Monson (4-1) placed 2nd and scored 18.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 4-1 won by fall over Polo Cantu (Linton) 0-7 (Fall 0:27)

Semifinal - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 4-1 won by fall over Jace Nitschke (South Border JV) 7-2 (Fall 1:11)

1st Place Match - Marshall Lindgren (South Border) 8-0 won by decision over Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 4-1 (Dec 7-3)

160 Cole Bisbee (1-4) placed 5th and scored 7.0 team points.

Round 1 - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 1-4 received a bye () (Bye)

Round 2 - Easton Ogren (Kindred) 10-0 won by fall over Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 1-4 (Fall 0:57)

Round 3 - Lucien Peterson (South Border) 5-5 won by fall over Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 1-4 (Fall 1:13)

Round 4 - Brady Lettenmaier (LaMoure) 9-1 won by fall over Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 1-4 (Fall 1:05)

Round 5 - James Schumacher (South Border JV) 6-4 won by fall over Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 1-4 (Fall 1:09)

170 Thomas Cranford (5-3) placed 4th and scored 14.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 5-3 won by fall over Bram Johannsen (Bishop Ryan) 6-8 (Fall 2:12)

Semifinal - Jaden Bosch (Linton) 4-3 won by fall over Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 5-3 (Fall 1:43)

Cons. Semi - Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 5-3 won by fall over Sage Gusaas (LaMoure) 3-4 (Fall 0:55)

3rd Place Match - Nick Seefeld (Ellendale/Edgeley/Kulm) 4-4 won by fall over Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 5-3 (Fall 4:01)

182 Lane Krueger (3-3) placed 6th and scored 7.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Noah Klusmann (Ellendale/Edgeley/Kulm) 2-2 won by fall over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 3-3 (Fall 3:52)

Cons. Round 1 - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 3-3 won by fall over Brooke Leedahl (Kindred) 2-5 (Fall 2:53)

Cons. Semi - Ashton Peterson (South Border) 8-2 won by fall over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 3-3 (Fall 0:52)

5th Place Match - Noah Klusmann (Ellendale/Edgeley/Kulm) 2-2 won by decision over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 3-3 (Dec 8-5)

195 Grady O'Neill (3-3) placed 4th and scored 3.0 team points.

Round 1 - Nathan Schauer (South Border) 8-0 won by fall over Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) 3-3 (Fall 2:12)

Round 3 - Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) 3-3 won by fall over Wyatt Weight (LaMoure) 5-4 (Fall 1:00)

Round 4 - Bridger Mathern (Ellendale/Edgeley/Kulm) 6-2 won by fall over Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) 3-3 (Fall 3:15)

Round 5 - Chris Heyd (LaMoure) 7-2 won by fall over Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) 3-3 (Fall 1:10)

285 Adrian Knutson (3-3)

Quarterfinal - Grant Lyons (Lisbon JV) 2-2 won by fall over Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) 3-3 (Fall 1:15)

Cons. Round 1 - Zachary Lahlum (LaMoure) 5-4 won by fall over Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) 3-3 (Fall 2:54)

Frederick School Dec. 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes

OFFICIAL BOARD PROCEEDINGS

FREDERICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #6-2

DECEMBER 10, 2019

The meeting was called to order on December 10, 2019, at 6:05 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 Kusters, K-8 Principal Jessica Ringgenberg, and Business Manager Janel Wagner. Visitors present were teachers Jennifer Little, Tonya Zinter and Maggie Ulmer.

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 19-048 Motion by Achen, second by Nickelson to approve the agenda as presented. All aye, carried.

Action 19-049 Motion by Hart, second by Ellwein to approve consent agenda which included the following items as presented: minutes of meeting held November 11, 2019; November 2019 financial report, agency accounts and investments; District bills and November 2019 payroll. All aye, carried.

Ending November 30, 2019	General Fund	Capital Outlay	Special Education Fund	Pension Fund	Food Service Fund	Driver's Ed Fund	Trust & Agency
Beginning checking Balance ...	\$119,628.99	\$188,054.42	\$293,988.83	\$7,798.67	\$1,470.97	\$669.82	\$50,593.08
Revenue:							
Taxes.....	\$240,449.45	\$251,879.47	\$168,313.57				
Local Sources.....	\$1,555.48	\$621.56			\$3,380.00		\$4,445.56
Intermediate Sources.....	\$672.55						
Interest	\$30.90						\$2.05
Federal & State	\$55,903.57		\$43.00		\$3,820.40		
Total Revenue	\$298,611.95	\$252,501.03	\$168,356.57	\$0.00	\$7,200.40	\$0.00	\$4,447.61
Disbursements							
Bills.....	\$20,974.09	\$2,040.56	\$169.18		\$3,696.13		\$10,146.94
Payroll.....	\$132,511.86		\$18,100.72		\$4,821.12		
Total Disbursements	\$153,485.95	\$2,040.56	\$18,269.90	\$0.00	\$8,517.25	\$0.00	\$10,146.94
Transfers.....	(\$290,000.00)	(\$290,000.00)	(\$290,000.00)				
Total Net Transfers.....	\$0.00	(\$290,000.00)	(\$290,000.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total checking balance.....	\$264,754.99	\$148,514.89	\$154,075.50	\$7,798.67	\$154.12	\$669.82	\$44,893.75
Beginning investment balance.....	\$421,140.98	\$1,493,634.20	\$956,175.05	\$17,189.23			
Interest	\$1,351.39						
Transfer from checking	\$290,000.00	\$290,000.00					
Total investment balance.....	\$422,492.37	\$1,783,634.20	\$1,246,175.05	\$17,189.23			
Ending Balance.....	\$687,247.36	\$1,932,149.09	\$1,400,250.55	\$24,987.90	\$154.12	\$669.82	

Claims approved: November 2019 Payroll - General Fund salaries 76,987.98; Special Education salaries 11,929.17; Food Service salaries 2,637.77. EFTPS, federal income tax/Social Security/Medicare 24,611.52; AFLAC, supplemental insurance 917.74; American Funds, retirement 1,265.02; Delta Dental, insurance 1,693.50; Express Collections, garnishment 568.21; AMI, garnishment 988.90; Re-

liastar Life, insurance 261.78; Security Benefits, retirement 1,000.26; VSP, vision insurance 290.34; Wellmark, health insurance 17,616.00; SD Retirement 14,150.25; SD Retirement Supplemental, 465.26.

General Fund: Aberdeen School District 6-1, ATEC tuition 1,828.80; Agtegra, diesel/gasoline 4,759.43; Amazon Capital Services, supplies 324.90; Churchill, Manolis, Freeman, Kludt & Burns LLP, legal services 948.49; Cole Papers Inc, supplies 541.36; Crawford Trucks & Equipment Inc, repairs 36.97; CWD, Fresh Fruits & Vegs program 459.90; DRN, repairs 208.50; Farnam's Genuine Parts Inc, repairs 212.79; Foreman Sales & Service, repairs 2,535.25; GDI News, publishing 114.66; Green Iron Equipment, repairs 725.47; House of Glass Inc, repairs 51.87; HP Inc, repairs 675.00; Hutson, Betty Pat, vb game worker 15.00; James Valley Telecommunications, telephone 247.61; JW Pepper & Son Inc, music 10.49; King, Hunter, fb game worker 15.00; King, James, fb game worker 40.00; King, Jericho, fb game worker 15.00; Kusters, McKinley, fb game worker 15.00; Lapka, Patrick, fb game worker 15.00; McGaugh, Darin, fb game worker 15.00; Meidinger, Melissa, education reimbursement 94.00; Menards, supplies 29.23; Merchant Services, online lunch payment fees 49.08; Mid-American Research Chemical, supplies 322.74; Miedema, Bradley, education reimbursement 500.00; Montana-Dakota

Administrative fee 58.61; Steven Lust Automotive, car wash 9.00; Stoecker, Keenan, vb game worker 30.00; Sumption, Austin, fb game worker 50.00; Sumption, Chris, fb game worker 15.00; Sumption, Gary, fb game worker 15.00; Sumption, Tristan, fb game worker 15.00; Sumption, Warren, fb game worker 65.00; Taylor Music Inc, repairs 30.00; Town of Frederick, utilities 276.49; Trust & Agency Account, Imprest reimbursement 545.61; United States Postal Service, postage 63.30; Woodman Refrigeration, Inc, repairs 275.00. Capital Outlay Fund: A&B Business Solutions, managed print 649.56; Amazon Capital Services, library books 110.70; CommTech, security upgrade 3,548.92; DRN, switches 333.60; Menards, water heater 1,049.00; Northern State University, online curriculum 26.53; Price Plumbing, water heater installation 355.00. Special Education Fund: Anliker, Jennifer, mileage 37.80; Avera St Luke's, occupational/physical therapy 2,304.44; Trust & Agency Account, Imprest reimbursement 20.00. Food Service Fund: Child & Adult Nutrition, food 289.62; Community Store, food 23.42; CWD, food/supplies 3,140.64; Pantorium Cleaners Inc, supplies 74.40.

The following reports were presented:

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

B. Jessica Ringgenberg - K-8 Principal

Action 19-050 Motion by Nickelson, second by Ellwein to begin

transfer of \$24,987.90 from Pension Fund to General Fund; and \$10,000 from General Fund to Food Service Fund. All aye, carried.

Action 19-053 Motion by Ellwein, second by Achen to discontinue and close the Pension Fund (24) per 2016 SD131 Section 25. All aye, carried.

Action 19-054 Motion by Nickelson, second by Hart to set the 2020 school board election date for April 14, 2020. All aye, carried.

Action 19-055 Motion by Nickelson, second by Ellwein to approve the following policies: BCA-Annual Board Organizational Meeting; BCE-Board Committees; BCG-School Attorney; BD-School Board Meetings; BDA-Electronic Communications by Board Members; BDC-Executive Sessions; BF-Board Policy Development; BFB-Preliminary Development of Policies; BFCA-Board Review of Regulations; BFD-Policy Dissemination; BFF-Suspension of Policies; and GCB-DC-Jury Duty. All aye, carried.

The school board would like to congratulate the Football, Volleyball and Cross Country teams for receiving the Academic Team Achievement Award this past fall. Congratulations on a 1st place award at the STEAM competition in Leola. Team members include 8th graders Olivia Morlock, Laura Sumption, Maddie Sumption and Morgan Sumption. Mr. Kusters congratulated the board members for earning the ALL Award Plaque from the 2018-19 school year. It is ASBSD's board recognition program and stands

Aberdeen's Only 24/7 Emergency Heart Care

Avera St. Luke's is the only hospital in Aberdeen to offer 24/7 heart care.

Heart attack signs and symptoms:

- Pain, pressure, squeezing, tightness or heaviness in the chest, jaw or neck
- Difficulty breathing unrelated to activity
- Heaviness, tingling or numbness in either arm
- Dizziness, light-headedness or unusual fatigue
- Profuse sweating unrelated to activity

**If you experience any of these symptoms,
listen to your heart, think Avera.**

Learn more at Avera.org/st-lukes

305 S. State St.
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605-622-5000

19-ASLH-19744

The Groton Independent
 21 N Main, Groton 605/397-NEWS (6397)
 Paul Irvin Kosel, Publisher paperpaul@grotonsd.net ~ 605-397-7460
 Tina Kosel, Office Manager office@grotonsd.net ~ 605-397-7285
 Notices: legals@grotonsd.net
 News Items: 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
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
 Mail Completed Form to:
 Groton Independent
 P.O. Box 34
 Groton, SD 57445-0034
 or scan and email to paperpaul@grotonsd.net

Opioids: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

My patient was in severe pain, suffering from an obstruction in his gastrointestinal tract as a result of spreading cancer. I knew that morphine, one of the opioids, would provide immediate and merciful relief, and it did. We are thankful that we have something that can palliate pain and provide comfort for severe acute pain, especially for patients at the end of their lives. That's good!



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

In contrast to the good that opioids can do for certain acute pain, we know they are not very effective for musculoskeletal or neuropathic pain and fail terribly in helping long term pain and chronic pain syndrome. Despite this inadequacy, opioids are still being over-prescribed for most post-operative musculoskeletal pain.

Also, our bodies quickly develop tolerance to opioids, thus continually requiring increased doses to get the same effect. In addition, withdrawal symptoms from opioids can be significant making it difficult to stop taking opioids once hooked. It is estimated that about 75 percent of those taking illicit opioids got started from a prescription, more than 100,000 people are regularly using heroin and about 12 million people are taking non-prescribed illicit opioids. That's bad!

It gets worse. Opioids have an insidious potential for overdose which depresses the drive to breathe so much as to suffocate people to death. In the U.S., it is estimated that about 70,000 people die each year from opioid overdose. In comparison, 83,000 die from diabetes, 56,000 from influenza and pneumonia, 47,000 from suicide and 40,000 from motor vehicle crashes. That's very bad!

Ultimately, care providers need to prescribe opioids very judiciously and people must be careful when taking prescribed opioids. AND people need to avoid dangerous illicit forms. We do have an antidote to opioid overdose called naloxone (or Narcan®). If given soon enough, it displaces the opioid from the brain pain receptor and the victim starts breathing again. Thus, every ambulance and emergency room have multiple doses of this lifesaving reversal agent readily available.

Unfortunately, in response to this opioid epidemic, the drug manufacturer of naloxone, which costs 50 cents to six dollars to make, raised its price up to \$4,000 for a dual pen auto-injector. Fortunately, a generic version will be available soon with a two-pack of auto-injectors for \$180. Until then, we pay the higher price. That's ugly!

Bottom line: If we hope to find help for this crisis, we need to understand the good, the bad and the ugly about opioids.

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.

December Students of the Month



From Left in back: Kyleigh Englund (8th), Grace Traphagen (9th), Stella Meier (10th), Karter Moddy (6th)
 From Left in Front: Elizabeth Flihs (7th), Kaylin Kucker (12th), Alexa Herr (11th)

Groton Area MS/HS School works to ensure that all levels of academic instruction also include the necessary life skills teaching, practicing, and modeling that encourages essential personal life habits that are universally understood to facilitate helping our students become good human beings and citizens.

It is learning with our heads, hearts and hands to be caring and civil, to make healthy decisions, to effectively problem solve, to be respectful and responsible, to be good citizens, and to be empathetic and ethical individuals.

Students are selected based on individual student growth in the areas of: positive behavior, citizenship, good attendance, a thirst for knowledge, and high academic standards.

Three Groton Area grapplers take first at Clark Tourney

Three Groton Area wrestlers placed first at the Clark/Willow Lake Wrestling Tournament held Saturday in Clark. This is the first wrestling match of the season.

Dragr Monson at 120, Lane Krueger at 182 and Grady O'Neill at 195 all placed first. Adrian Knutson at 285 placed second while Christian Ehresmann at 113 and Thomas Cranford at 170 both placed third.

Groton Area placed third as a team in the field of eight teams. Kingsbury County placed first with 204 points followed by Clark/Willow Lake with 118, Groton Area had 97 points, Webster Area placed fourth with 90.5 points, Canton JV placed fifth with 81.0 points, Faulkton Area had 66 points, Britton-Hecla 32 and Hamlin /Castlewood had 29 points.

113 Aiden Heathcote (1-2)

Quarterfinal - Aiden Heathcote (Groton Area) 1-2 won by fall over Riley Jutting (Hamlin/Castlewood) 0-2 (Fall 3:29)

Semifinal - Cael Larson (Webster Area) 3-0 won by fall over Aiden Heathcote (Groton Area) 1-2 (Fall 0:28)

Cons. Semi - Dashed Davidson (Britton/Hecla) 2-2 won by fall over Aiden Heathcote (Groton Area) 1-2 (Fall 0:46)

113 Christian Ehresmann (3-1) placed 3rd and scored 13.5 team points.

Quarterfinal - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 3-1 won by tech fall over Caden Wilson (Faulkton Area) 0-2 (TF-1.5 4:52 (18-0))

Semifinal - Gunnar Kvistad (Clark/Willow Lake) 2-1 won by major decision over Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 3-1 (MD 10-0)

Cons. Semi - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 3-1 won by decision over Elliott Bratland (Clark/Willow Lake) 1-2 (Dec 9-3)

3rd Place Match - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 3-1 won by fall over Dashed Davidson (Britton/ Hecla) 2-2 (Fall 4:00)

120 Dragr Monson (2-0) placed 1st and scored 18.0 team points.

Round 1 - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 2-0 received a bye () (Bye)

Round 2 - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 2-0 won by fall over Gavin Witt (Webster Area) 0-2 (Fall 1:26) Round 3 - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 2-0 won by fall over Ethan Johnson (Kingsbury County) 1-1 (Fall 0:56)

126 Korbin Kucker (0-2)

Quarterfinal - Luke Steffensen (Kingsbury County) 1-2 won by decision over Korbin kucker (Groton Area) 0-2 (Dec 8-3)

Cons. Round 1 - Korbin kucker (Groton Area) 0-2 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Semi - Ethan Mcelhone (Clark/Willow Lake) 2-1 won by fall over Korbin kucker (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 0:32)

170 Thomas Cranford (2-1) placed 3rd and scored 13.5 team points.

Quarterfinal - Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 2-1 won by tech fall over Chase Mundt (Britton/Hecla) 1-2 (TF-1.5 5:19 (16-1))

Semifinal - Gavin Holland (Kingsbury County) 2-0 won by fall over Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 2-1 (Fall 1:05)

Cons. Semi - Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 2-1 received a bye () (Bye)

3rd Place Match - Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 2-1 won by fall over Chase Mundt (Britton/Hecla) 1-2 (Fall 1:38) 182

Lane Krueger (2-0) placed 1st and scored 22.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 2-0 received a bye () (Bye)

Semifinal - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 2-0 won by fall over Dakota Lilly (Clark/Willow Lake) 2-1 (Fall 3:05) 1st Place Match - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 2-0 won by fall over Dylan Geary (Kingsbury County) 1-1 (Fall 4:51)

195 Grady O'Neill (2-0) placed 1st and scored 16.0 team points.

Round 1 - Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) 2-0 received a bye () (Bye)

Round 2 - Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) 2-0 won by decision over Sam Grantham (Hamlin/Castlewood) 0-2 (Dec 8-2)

Round 3 - Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) 2-0 won by fall over Owen Kerkvliet (Kingsbury County) 1-1 (Fall 1:09)

285 Adrian Knutson (2-1) placed 2nd and scored 14.0 team points.

Round 1 - Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) 2-1 won by fall over Ben Lasley (Canton JV) 1-2 (Fall 2:50)

Round 2 - Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) 2-1 won by fall over James Mickey (Hamlin/Castlewood) 0-3 (Fall 1:22)

Round 3 - Joe Hubsch (Webster Area) 3-0 won by fall over Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) 2-1 (Fall 0:54)

Groton Area goes 4-0 over Leola/Frederick



Gracie Traphagen
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

The opening day of basketball was held Saturday at the GHS Gym with the Groton Area Tigers winning all four games. In the junior varsity games, Groton Area won the girls game, 33-9, and the boys won their game, 41-6.

Gracie Traphagen led the Tigers with 18 points followed by Brooke Gengerke with 14, Alyssa Thaler had 10, Tricia Keith six, Madeline Flihs five, Maddie Bjerke three and Kaycie Hawkins added two points. Allyssa Locke led the boards with 10 of the team's 39 rebounds. Locke and Thaler each had two steals, Flihs had two blocks and Gengerke had three assists.

Avery Wolff led the Titans with eight points followed by Anna Lapka with six and Kaylin Achen had one. Groton Area made 24 of 45 two-pointers for 53 percent and was three of 18 from three-point country for 17 percent. The Tigers were one of there from the line. Leola/Frederick made five of 32 field goals for 16 percent.

Groton Area led at the quarters tops at 17-3, 34-10 and 49-13 en route to the 58-15 win. Meanwhile the boys varsity game was a barn burner down to the end with free throws determine the outcome. Leola/Frederick missed two free throws with just 14 seconds left. Then on the other end, Jonathan Doeden was fouled with two seconds left and he made one of two free throws to give Groton Area a 56-55 win.

Groton Area jumped out to a 4-0 lead before the Titans came back and the game went back and forth five times before the Titans had a 14-12 lead.

Leola/Frederick scored 10 unanswered points in the second quarter and took a 39-19 lead at halftime. The Tigers made only 30 percent of their shots in the second quarter. The Titans kept adding to the score difference with at point, the Titans enjoying a 16-point lead 36-20. Then the Tigers kept chipping away at the lead. IT was down to nine at the end of the third quarter, 48-39. It was a dunk by Jonathan Doeden that tied the game at 52 and the Tigers took the lead, 54-53. The Titans tied the game at 55 before the one free throw determined the winner.

Jonathan Doeden and Brodyn DeHoet led the Tigers with 16 points each followed by Kaden Kurtz with 11, Austin Jones had six, Tristan Traphagen four and Isaac Smith had three points. DeHoet had seven of the team's 20 rebounds. DeHoet and Doeden each had two of the team's seven steals. Doeden, Traphagen and Jayden Zak each had a blocked shot.

Groton Area made 16 of 25 two-pointers for 64 percent and five of 19 three-pointers for 26 percent. Groton Area was nine of 19 from the line for 47 percent off of Leola/Frederick's 17 team fouls. Leola/Frederick was six of 11 from the line off of Groton Area's 14 team fouls with DeHoet fouling out with 14 seconds left in the game. Isaac Sumption led the Titans with 18 points followed by Spencer Hoffman with 13, Haydn Podoll had nine, Jake Kenser had seven and Josh Hoffman had six points. Leola/Frederick made 20 of 40 field goals for 50 percent. They shot 54 percent in the first three quarters.



Brodyn DeHoet
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

- Paul Kosel

Plastic Surgery in Aberdeen



Mark Shashikant, MD, FACS



April Saufley, DNP

Plastic Surgeon, Mark Shashikant, MD, and April Saufley, DNP, of Avera Medical Group Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery are passionate about collaborating with patients to create a look that's natural and comfortable – all while ensuring you remain in control of your treatment plan.

Avera 
Medical Group
Plastic and
Reconstructive Surgery

Schedule a consultation today.
605-322-4130
Avera.org/plasticsurgery

GT Robotics showed themselves worthy at Minnesota tourney



Geek Squad with Judges Award – Nick Morris and Charlie Frost. (Courtesy Photo)



Gear Heads Right side. Left to right – Axel Warrington, Jack Dinger, Ethan Clark. (Courtesy Photo)



G-Force Right side. Left to right - Garrett Schultz and Travis Townsend. (Courtesy Photo)

Since a Rapid City robotics tournament was canceled, GT Robotics chartered new territory, literally, and traveled to a Ramsey, Minnesota tournament instead on Dec. 14. Coach Jim Lane said, "My robotists would have had nearly two months in the middle of the season with no competition, so I looked into other competitive options with less travel. Those ideas didn't pan out, so off we went to the PACT Charter School's VRC Tournament, the Ramsey Rumble." GT robotists were obviously ready for the new challenge. G-Force and G.A.T. Wrenches started the day by winning their first two matches.

At the end of the qualifying matches, not one of the 32 participating teams was undefeated. "There were a lot of good teams at the tournament," Lane said. Groton had three teams in the top 11. G.A.T. Wrenches (Corbin Reich, Tannor McGannon) was Groton's highest ranked team with a record of six wins and two losses. Tannor is normally a member of G-Force but helped Corbin for the day since he'd have otherwise been alone. They made some vital adjustments first thing in the morning that helped their robot tremendously. G-Force (Travis Townsend, Garrett Schultz) ended the day with a record of five wins, two losses and one tie. They started with four wins and a tie until they were defeated by G.A.T. Wrenches. G-Force finished a rebuild the morning of the tournament. Galaxy (River Pardick, Jace Kroll, Isaac Higgins) finished with five wins and three losses, after starting the day with three losses. Most of the day, they combatted the issue of overheating motors by chilling the robot outside between matches. By the end of the day, they figured out the cause of the problem and fixed it.

Geek Squad, the youngest team (Nick Morris, Charlie Frost) ended the qualifying matches with a record of four wins and four losses. The Gear Heads (Ethan Morris, Jack Dinger, Axel Warrington) also rebuilt their robot after the prior tournament and will need to look at design options and decide where to go from here with their robot. They ended the day with a record of no wins, seven losses and one tie. Redesign? Adjustments? Stay tuned and we will see.

"I was very happy to see four of the teams advance to the elimination rounds. There were 10 alliances selected. So, 20 of the 33 teams made it to the elimination rounds, while 12 were done for the day," Lane said. Groton's teams did not fare well in elimination rounds. All but G.A.T. Wrenches lost in the first round. G.A.T. Wrenches tied in their first quarter-final match and then lost the rematch.

G-Force and Geek Squad were in a four-way tie for second place in the Skills Competition (like a throw-free contest).

Geek Squad was honored with the Judges Award. The Judges Award is presented to a team the judges determine is deserving of special recognition. Judges consider a number of criteria for this award, such as exemplary effort and perseverance at the event or team accomplishments throughout the season that may not fit under existing awards but are nonetheless deserving of special recognition.

"The Ramsey people were wonderful tournament hosts, and it was a great tournament," Lane shared. "The Ramsey coaches and tournament officials were amazed we would travel so far, four and a half hours. But, here in South Dakota, our closest tournament is two and a half hours away. I received several compliments on how nice Groton's robotists were. Way to go boys!"

GT Robotics' next competition will be Jan. 11 in Canton.

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

Tournament Location		Groton	Mitchell	Box Elder	Ramsey
Number of teams in		18	21	20	33
Tourney and date		Oct 19	Nov 9	Nov 16	Dec 14
9050A	G-Force	8	13	6	10
9050B	Gear Heads	2	9	2	30
9050C	G.A.T. Wrenches	4	12	13	6
9050D	Geek Squad	10	14	3	17
9050E	Galaxy	15	20	18	11

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

Tournament		Groton	Mitchell	Box Elder	Ramsey
9050A	G-Force	Semi-Finals	Semi-Finals	Semi-Finals	1 st round
9050B	Gear Heads	Finals	Semi-Finals	Qtr-Finals	
9050C	G.A.T. Wrenches	Qtr-Finals	Qtr-Finals	Qtr-Finals	Qtr-Finals
9050D	Geek Squad	Semi-Finals	Qtr-Finals	Finals	1 st round
9050E	Galaxy		Qtr-Finals	Finals	1 st round



G.A.T. Wrenches Left side. Left to Right – Corbin Reich and Tannor McGannon. (Courtesy Photo)



Left to right G.A.T. Wrenches - Tannor McGannon and Corbin Reich, Galaxy – River Pardick and Jace Kroll. (Courtesy Photo)

**Get B&W 8.5x11
copies for just
9¢ at
The Groton
Independent
21 N Main, Groton**

Brown County Dec. 10, 2019

Meeting Minutes December 10, 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, Kippley and Wiese. Commissioner Sutton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:

Moved by Wiese seconded by Feickert to approve the General County Commission meeting minutes of December 3, 2019. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL:

Moved by Sutton seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims and payroll:

Payroll: Commission \$4,285.10; Elections \$0.00; Auditor \$8,583.40; Treasurer \$12,065.47; SA \$22,834.54; SVAWA \$1,193.49; Maintenance \$7,910.87; Assessor \$12,514.13; Register of Deeds \$8,812.19; VSO \$2,181.52; GIS \$2,367.50; IT \$8,311.66; HR \$2,153.85; Sheriff \$36,288.73; Jail \$51,081.33; Coroner \$0.00; Court Security \$4,289.83; JDC \$26,221.01; Welfare \$2,057.70; Museum \$7,027.64; Parks/Fairgrounds \$4,905.75; Fair Board \$3,248.90; 4-H \$0.00; Weed \$0.00; Planning & Zoning \$5,083.58; Highway \$49,727.66; Dispatch \$28,276.67; Emergency \$4,079.58; Teen Court \$604.80; JDAI \$1,576.93; 24/7 Sobriety \$3,620.94; Landfill \$13,401.72; Matching Benefits, FICA \$19,888.59, Medicare \$4,654.35, Health Savings Account, \$175.0

Claims: Professional Fees: Bantz, Gosch & Cremer \$605.97; Cogley Law Office \$180.50; Michelle Gaikowski \$653.60; Helms & Assoc. \$2,629.88; Kuck Law Office \$75.20; Language Line Services \$1,267.61; LexisNexis \$150.00; Morton Co. Sheriff \$35.00; NE Mental Health Center \$20,076.00; Matthew Payne \$200.00; SD DENR \$4,012.86; SD State Treasurer \$1,115.08; Christy Griffin-Serr Law Office \$2,897.50; Tammy Stolle Court Reporting \$460.15. Publishing: Aberdeen American News \$586.88; Bennett Co. Booster \$53.83; Hub City Radio \$300.00; Rapid City Journal \$18.85; Todd County Tribune \$44.51. Rental: Dakota Electronics \$1,804.40. Repairs & Maintenance: AmeriPride \$278.64; Butler Machinery \$1,304.20; Crawford Trucks & Equip. \$2,201.13; Dakota Electronics \$354.20; DFP \$40.73; DMI \$10,450.00; Electrical, Engineering & Equip. \$390.00; G & R Controls \$1,365.61; Gardner Locksmith \$15.00; Graham Tire \$113.41; Great Western Tire \$20.00; Habitat Mgmt. Solutions \$8,315.00; HF Jacobs & Son Construction \$19,017.90; Hoven Auto Repair \$253.04; Huff Construction \$598.43; JGE \$1,207.50; Laursen Asphalt Repair Equip. \$23.18; Leidholt Electric \$376.07; Lien Transportation \$1,842.50; Midwest Pump & Tank \$85.41; Minn-Kota Communications \$752.50; Pierson-Ford \$55.45; PowerPlan \$6,428.15; Productivity Plus \$1,177.57; Smart Choice Solutions \$3,591.00; Traffic Solutions \$3,650.35; TransSource \$5,312.73; Woodman Refrigeration \$2,355.17; Zastrow's Sales & Service \$20.00. Supplies: A-1 Locksmith \$45.00; AgTegra \$25,066.84; Allegiant Emergency Services \$345.00; American Business Forms \$180.91; American Stamp \$109.71; AmeriPride Services \$74.28; Bakken Build Maint. \$500.00; Br. Co. Sheriff \$6.00; Butler Machinery \$185.57; Cash-Wa \$5,424.47; Crawford Trucks & Equip. \$2,937.09; Dakota Electronics \$1,090.85; DFP \$3,944.45; Dakota Oil \$3,818.27; DSG \$141.08; Dean Foods \$682.45; Earthgrains Baking \$726.28; Exhaust Pros \$55.00; FedEx \$12.66; Geffdog \$368.07; Great Plains Fire \$211.00; Great Western Tire \$20,094.35; Heartland Paper \$1,152.56; Hedahl's Auto Value \$46.46; HF Jacobs & Son Construction \$4,590.00; J & J Dog Supplies \$1,401.99; JGE \$595.18; Ken's SuperFair Foods \$15.95; Kiesler's Police Supply \$448.50; Laursen Asphalt Repair Equip. \$192.50; Midstates Printing \$566.76; Midwest Pump & Tank \$34.77; Newman Signs \$43.85; Northwest Divers \$4,700.00; Panorium Cleaners \$91.00; PowerPlan \$381.46; Premier Biotech \$929.74; Sander's Sew 'n' Vac \$149.94; Traffic Solutions \$8,872.00; TransSource \$2,009.38; Walth Safety Service

\$62,708.19; Web Water Bottling Co. \$19.50; Zastrow's Sales & Service \$8.95. Travel & Conference: Ross Aldentaler \$80.00; Kelly Inn-Mitchell \$109.50; Best Western Ramkota-Aberdeen \$639.92; Br. Co. Sheriff \$306.00; City of Groton \$145.80; Derek Ricci \$282.00. Utilities: Aberdeen City Treasurer \$1,241.28; BDM Rural Water \$36.00; City of Hecla \$197.35; Economy Propane \$1,816.24; Exec. Mgmt. \$96.22; Midcontinent Communications \$510.21; NWPS \$14,157.96; Town of Frederick \$61.00. Other: Safe Harbor \$520.00; SDACO \$898.00. Buildings: Dacotah Bank \$250.00; Great Plains Educational Foundation \$424,211.51.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT:

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following HR Office Report:

Acknowledge the retirement of Scott Kolb, Sheriff Deputy for the Brown County Sheriff, effective December 14, 2019; Acknowledge the transfer of Linn Kamin from Sheriff's Deputy to Jail Supervisor, effective November 17, 2019; Acknowledge the transfer of Anthony Sorenson from Jail Deputy to Sheriff's Deputy, effective December 1, 2019; Acknowledge the transfer of Samuel Hoppock from Jail Correctional Officer to JDC Correctional Officer effective December 1, 2019; Transfer of John Clark from JDC Correctional Officer to Jail Correctional Officer, effective December 1, 2019; Authorize advertising one part-time employee for the museum (Front Desk/Volunteer Coordinator) @ \$13.59 per hour; Authorize raise of \$1 per hour to part-time museum employees: Marianne Marttila-Klippel and Mary Baird @ \$14.84 per hour effective January 3, 2020; Approve hiring of Sierra Kamin, as needed, for Brown County 24/7, effective November 27, 2019 at \$13.94 per hour; Approve the following employee step increases effective December 15, 2019: Charles Gruenstein @ \$20.44 per hour, Ermelinda Marcuson @ \$23.27 per hour, Rachel Wilson @ \$16.93 per hour; Approve the personal use of county vehicles at a rate of .545 per mile: Kendell Titze 144 miles @ \$78.48; Dirk Rogers 798 @ \$434.91; Mike Scott 210 @ \$114.45. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIM ASSIGNMENT:

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

JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to authorize chair sign joint powers financial and maintenance agreement between Brown County and the State of South Dakota Department of Transportation. Project PH0010(155) PCN 06TV for rumble strips, pavement marking Equip. \$23.18; Leidholt Electric \$376.07; Lien Transportation \$1,842.50; Midwest Pump & Tank \$85.41; Minn-Kota Communications \$752.50; Pierson-Ford \$55.45; PowerPlan \$6,428.15; Productivity Plus \$1,177.57; Smart Choice Solutions \$3,591.00; Traffic Solutions \$3,650.35; TransSource \$5,312.73; Woodman Refrigeration \$2,355.17; Zastrow's Sales & Service \$20.00. Supplies: A-1 Locksmith \$45.00; AgTegra \$25,066.84; Allegiant Emergency Services \$345.00; American Business Forms \$180.91; American Stamp \$109.71; AmeriPride Services \$74.28; Bakken Build Maint. \$500.00; Br. Co. Sheriff \$6.00; Butler Machinery \$185.57; Cash-Wa \$5,424.47; Crawford Trucks & Equip. \$2,937.09; Dakota Electronics \$1,090.85; DFP \$3,944.45; Dakota Oil \$3,818.27; DSG \$141.08; Dean Foods \$682.45; Earthgrains Baking \$726.28; Exhaust Pros \$55.00; FedEx \$12.66; Geffdog \$368.07; Great Plains Fire \$211.00; Great Western Tire \$20,094.35; Heartland Paper \$1,152.56; Hedahl's Auto Value \$46.46; HF Jacobs & Son Construction \$4,590.00; J & J Dog Supplies \$1,401.99; JGE \$595.18; Ken's SuperFair Foods \$15.95; Kiesler's Police Supply \$448.50; Laursen Asphalt Repair Equip. \$192.50; Midstates Printing \$566.76; Midwest Pump & Tank \$34.77; Newman Signs \$43.85; Northwest Divers \$4,700.00; Panorium Cleaners \$91.00; PowerPlan \$381.46; Premier Biotech \$929.74; Sander's Sew 'n' Vac \$149.94; Traffic Solutions \$8,872.00; TransSource \$2,009.38; Walth Safety Service

MEMORANDUM SDSU 4-H:

Moved by Kippley, seconded by Feickert to approve and authorize the Chairman sign Memorandum of Understanding between SDSU Extension to provide guidance and active assistance to the 4-H Advisor; and further that Brown County reimburse SDSU \$20,621 for cost share of 4-H Advisor 2020 salary. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

NORTHWESTERN ENERGY APPLICATION:

Commissioner Kippley offered the following resolution: RESOLUTION #60-19 NorthWestern Energy application for permission to maintain and erect electric lines on and along the public highways of Brown County, South Dakota; WHEREAS, NorthWestern Corporation, a Delaware Corporation, d/b/a NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern), has filed an application with the Brown County Board of Commissioners pursuant to Chapter 31-26 of the South Dakota Codified Laws, seeking 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 (Power Lines) on and along the county highways located in Brown County, South Dakota. WHEREAS, the Brown County Board of Commissioners has the jurisdiction and authority to grant the application of NorthWestern as set forth in paragraph I above, subject to such conditions as it may desire to impose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Brown County Board of Commissioners as follows:

1. That the application of NorthWestern dated November 4, 2019, for permission to erect and maintain Power Lines on and along Brown County public highways is granted subject to the conditions set forth herein.

2. That this grant is for a period twenty (20) years from and after December 10, 2019, or as may be extended by the Brown County Board of Commissioners in writing at a subsequent date.

3. That as consideration for this grant, NorthWestern agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Brown County, its officers and employees from any and all liability, damages, claims, demands or otherwise, whether the same is based on contract or otherwise in law or in equity associated with the design, construction, installation, operating, inspecting, repairing, maintaining, replacing or removal of the Power Lines along with all appurtenances thereto located pursuant to this grant, except such liability, damages, claims or demands which arise as a result of the negligence of the county, its officers, employees or agents.

4. That as additional consideration for this grant, NorthWestern agrees to restore, at its expense, the affected areas in as good condition as before said work was commenced and replace any structures affected, i.e. culverts and signs; and if the public highways in the county should be rebuilt or construction and relocation of the Power Lines, it shall be solely at the expense of NorthWestern.

5. That the rights and conditions by this grant shall be binding upon the successors and assigns of NorthWestern.

6. This grant shall further be subject to all rules and regulations as specified in the current edition of the National Electrical Safety Code.

7. That this grant shall not be effective until execution of the acceptance of the conditions set forth below by NorthWestern.

Dated this 10th day of December, 2019. Seconded by Feickert. Roll call vote: Commissioners Feickert aye, Sutton-aye, Wiese-aye, Kippley -aye, Fjeldheim -aye. Resolution Adopted.

REMOVE BURN BAN:

Commissioner Sutton offered the following Resolution: RESOLUTION #61-19

WHEREAS, Resolution #55-19, a Resolution by the Brown County Board of Commissioners declaring a fire danger emergency and prohibiting open burning within the County (except campfires), was adopted on November 12, 2019; and WHEREAS, Ordinance 18.0702 authorizes the Brown County Board of Commissioners to rescind the Open Burn Ban (Fire Danger Emergency). NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Brown County Board of Commissioners rescinds Resolution #55-19 dated November 12, 2019, removing the open burn ban effective at 8:50 a.m. on December 10, 2019, with the stipulation that the Brown County Communications Center be notified prior to an open burn. Seconded by Commissioner Kippley. Roll call vote: Commissioners Feickert -aye, Sutton-aye, Wiese-aye, Kippley -aye, Fjeldheim -aye. Resolution Adopted.

AC UNIT- 124 BUILDING:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Kippley to accept quote for 124 Building server room air conditioner. Accepted quote from Woodman Refrigeration at \$5,173., rejecting quote from Climate Control at \$5,871. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Kippley, seconded by Wiese to go into executive session to discuss personnel, legal, and contracts per SDCL 1-25-2(1,3,4). All members present voting aye. Motion carried. The Chair declared the executive session closed with no action taken.

PLANNING AND ZONING UPDATE:

Scott Bader (Planning and Zoning Director) met to introduce new department employee Ron Keller and give a department update. Zoning Director expressed a need for computer program updates.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Sutton to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:35a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$123.12. 18436

Westport Town Dec. 2, 2019

Meeting Minutes

OFFICIAL Town of Westport General Meeting

December 2nd, 2019

The Town of Westport met on December 2nd, 2019 with Tim Selzler, Shane Storm, & Doreen Hertel present.

The following expenses were presented:

City General

NWPS (\$458.98), Groton Independent (\$19.10), Fire Safety first (\$30.00), SDML (\$166.89) Doreen Hertel (\$ 900.00), Tim Selzler (\$80.00), Shane Storm (\$75.00) & Mike Wilson (\$175.00).

Sewer

NWPS (\$48.94), NRW -loan repayment (\$210.13), Doreen Hertel (\$300.00)

Water

WEB (\$1663.12), Water Maintenance District (\$408.16), Doreen Hertel (\$300.00).

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

The following deposits were presented:

City General

Brown County Collections (\$3,778.56), THE SHED (\$900.00), State of SD (\$2,689.89), Interest (\$21.33).

Sewer

Resident Payments - (\$1,757.25), Brown County Collections (\$157.50).

Water

Resident Payments - (\$2,928.75), Brown County Collections (\$273.00).

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion was held on the cemetery. The city needing to update information on plots, so more than one person may access the information and help with grave sites. The city will look at purchasing a computer program to help with this process.

SDPAA insurance for liability and damage was reviewed and approved.

Doreen Hertel, Finance Officer Published once at the total approximate cost of \$18.22. 18443

Frederick Town Dec. 11, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Town of Frederick

December 11, 2019 Minutes Frederick's town board meeting was held Wednesday December 11, 2019 in the Frederick Community Center beginning at 7 PM. Attending the meeting were chairman R. Campbell, board members Troy Millard and Jeff Koster, Finance Officer and Assistant Finance Officer Diane Bruns and Mariah Heine, and citizens Craig Larson and Kevin Barton.

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

The minutes of the November meeting and special meeting were read and approved with a motion by Millard/Kosters. Motion carried. The financial statements were reviewed and accepted with a motion by Kosters/Millard. Motion carried. The December accounts payable was approved with the stipulation to call the US Treasury to confirm the amount owed with a motion by Millard/Kosters. Motion carried.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Alpha Circle cemetery expenses Cem \$2,160.61; Badger Meter meter fees Wtr \$115.70; Century Bus Products lease printer + copies Gen'l \$82.75; City of Ellendale mosq foggings Gen \$2,840.50; Community Store supplies CC/FO \$43.89; D. Bruns wage + scheduling CC \$114.51; D. Bruns wage + 1 mtg FO \$1,308.34; DENR renewal Class I cert Wtr \$6; First National Bank annual security box Gen'l \$8; Fred Dev Corp Econ Dev \$1,200; FU Oil Co Propane EBL \$507.35; GDI minutes Gen'l \$40.84; JVT phone/svc/internet Gen'l/FO/Wtr/EBL \$336.11; .. J. Kosters wage + 1 mtg Gen'l \$46.17; M. Cox wage EBL \$526.72; M. Heine wage + 1 mtg FO \$876.32; MDU electric Sts/Mun Bldg/EBL/SP/ SP/Wtr/Swr \$1,411.50; R. Bakeberg wage Sts/Wtr/Swr \$208.25; R. Bakeberg veh allow Wtr/Sts/Swr \$75

R.S. Campbell 4 mtgs + 1 trip Gen'l \$214.34; SD Dept of Rev sales tax Garb \$71.72; SDML .. annual membership dues Gen'l \$188.02; SD Gov't FO Assoc 2020 dues FO \$70; SD Public Health Lab coliform test Wtr \$15; SD Wtr & Wstwr Assoc operator renewal Swr \$10; T. Millard

4 mtgs + 1 trip Gen'l \$121.99; USDA-RD Wtr \$475; US Treasury penalty Gen'l.....\$254.31; WEB Water Wtr \$2,888.85

OLD BUSINESS

The wastewater project is out for bidding with the deadline being December 17. Bids will be opened on that day and special meeting held to award the bid on December 19, 2019 at 12 PM. Simmons Park will have more trees cut down in the coming weeks.

NEW BUSINESS

Craig Larson was in attendance to discuss abating the nuisance in his lots. He has mowed down the grass areas and will burn the pile of trees and shrubbery later this winter. The first reading of the Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance #213 was read and approved with a motion by Millard/Campbell. Motion carried.

2nd Reading of Supplemental Ordinance #213 will be Saturday, December 21, 2019, 10:00AM in the Frederick Community Center.

The board motioned to recess into executive session at 7:39 with a motion by Kosters/Millard. The board returned and declared they were out of executive session at 8:18. The following changes in salaries were approved with a motion by Kosters/Millard: Diane Bruns \$1,550 monthly, Mariah Heine \$1,000 monthly, Mavis Cox \$11.25 monthly, Rich Bakeberg to receive \$550 semiannually as cemetery sexton, Rich Bakeberg \$14/hour as utility manager, Rich Bakeberg \$75 monthly as a vehicle allowance, board members Troy Millard and Jeff Kosters \$50 per meeting, and chairman Scott Campbell \$75 per meeting. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn made by Millard/Campbell at 8:26 PM

M. Heine Assistant Finance Officer Published once at the total approximate cost of \$37.32. 18444

Claremont Town Dec. 9, 2019

Meeting Minutes

The board of trustees for the Town of Claremont met on 12-9-19 at 7p.m. President Johnson called the meeting to order with trustees Spencer and Rasmussen present.

The minutes of the November meeting were presented and on the a motion by Rasmussen and seconded Spencer were accepted.

On a motion by Spencer and seconded by Rasmussen the following warrants were allowed:

General: NWE, lights, 383.87; Groton Independent, publishing, 27.91; AI's repair, repair of tractor, 361.64; James Valley, phone and internet, 90.00; Shane John-

son, 9 meetings, 623.36; Jason Spencer, 9 meetings, 623.36; Frank Rasmussen, 9 meetings, 623.36; Charla Rye, office supplies, 97.32; Charla Rye, wage, 350.00; Jason, Spencer, 13.5 hrs/snow removal, 199.48;

WSSW:

BDM, water used, 847.00; NWE water, 199.35; NWE sewer, 216.81; Rural Development, water loan, 576.00;

The board went through the paperwork concerning the purchase of Hanse Service Station. It will become city Hall and shop.

The board also reviewed the sale of the now City Hall to the Claremont Fire District . All agreed to go forward with both.

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

CRye, F.O.

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$14.99. 18445

Brown County Supplemental Budget Hearing

NOTICE OF HEARING 2019 BROWN COUNTY BUDGET SUPPLEMENT

A public hearing will be held by the Brown County Commission on the 24th day of December 2019 beginning at 8:47 a.m. in the Brown County Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Aberdeen, SD to consider supplementing the 2019 fiscal year budget, as follows: General Fund - Court Appointed Attorney 101.5.214 @ \$375,000.00; County Fair 101.5.524 @ \$110,000; Mental Illness Board 101.5.445 @ \$25,000; Planning and Zoning 101.5.711 @ \$40,000, Court Security 101.5.214 @ \$35,000 funded by undesignated surplus cash in the General Fund 101.5.101.99 @ \$585,000. General Fund - Maintenance 101.5.161 @ \$455,000 funded by sale of county property 101.4.374 @ \$200,000 and surplus cash in the General Fund 101.5.101.99 @ 255,000. Solid Waste 504.5.322 @ \$150,000 funded by undesignated surplus cash in the Solid Waste fund 504.1.101.99. Federal State Grant/POD 234.5.222.426 @ \$281.79 funded by undesignated surplus cash in the Federal State Grant/POD Fund 234.1.101.99. The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the supplements.

ATTEST:
Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor
(1211.1218)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$29.97. 18426



BEEF GIFT CERTIFICATES ARE ON EVERYONE'S LIST

Redeemable anywhere in the U.S. at supermarkets, meat markets and restaurants for American Beef.

- Convenient! Just mail. Send beef certificates and your shopping is done.
- Perfect for gifts to business acquaintances, friends, employees and for Christmas bonuses.
- Available in \$5, \$10, \$20 and \$25 Certificates.
- Also, available at some local banks.

Order by mail by sending check to
SD Cattlemen, PO Box 451, Winner SD 57580
or call: 605-842-9066 or email at: beefcertificates@yahoo.com

Paying too much for Medicare Supplement Insurance?

Consider a Plan G with low rates and quality coverage.

Connect with Avera Health Plans

Avera Health Plans offers some of the lowest rates available for Plan G Medicare Supplement coverage. Even better, our team is at the ready to answer any questions you have about enrollment and your coverage.

We serve all of South Dakota and have trusted local agents ready to help you.

Connect with an agent or visit
AveraHealthPlans.com/east

Male, age 65:
\$88.94

Female, age 65:
\$82.54

Rates effective
Oct. 1, 2019

Network restrictions apply with Select plans. Standard plans are also available. Neither Avera Health Plans nor its agents are connected with Medicare or state or federal government.



SPECIAL REPORT: Expansion of large 'CAFO' livestock farms causing division and concern across South Dakota

By: Bart Pfankuch

PART 1 OF A 2-WEEK SERIES: South Dakota livestock production is undergoing a major transition with the expansion of concentrated animal feeding operations, or CAFOs, in which thousands and even millions of animals are raised in a confined space. The large livestock operations are efficient and profitable, but they can also harm human health and damage the environment. As opposition rises, state government is offering financial incentives to counties that approve new projects. Along the way, the farms are sowing heated division in many rural communities and stoking fears South Dakota may end up like CAFO-heavy Iowa, which has seen fish kills and waterway pollution. THIS WEEK: Overview of CAFO growth in S.D.; Health concerns follow CAFOs; New state program provides financial incentives for CAFOs. NEXT WEEK: A visit to three large S.D. livestock operations

The livestock industry in South Dakota — among the state's largest economic engines — is undergoing a fundamental transformation that may alter farms, farmers and rural communities for generations to come.

Despite a rising wave of grassroots opposition, South Dakota is seeing a steady increase in the development of livestock operations known as CAFOs, concentrated animal feeding operations, in which thousands and sometimes more than a million animals are bred, housed and fed in a confined space.

Supporters of CAFO development say the farms can boost the state's agricultural economy and strengthen rural communities. Opponents say the farms are causing division among rural populations and will limit opportunities for non-agricultural development in small-town South Dakota.

The state has seen a nearly 15% rise in the number of CAFOs in operation over the past decade, and the pace of development has picked up recently, with 18 new CAFOs put into production over the past 18 months.

As of October 2019, there were 452 permitted CAFOs allowed to house about 9.6 million cows, hogs, turkeys and chickens in the state, according to the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

When it comes to CAFO development, the stakes for South Dakota are high in terms of both risk and reward.

Supporters of the farms — including Gov. Kristi Noem — see strong opportunity for expansion of the livestock and related products market, which accounted for \$4.5 billion in sales in 2017, about half of the state's total agricultural economy.

A single hog-birthing facility recently approved for a rural site south of Miller in Hand County, for example, is expected to create 19 full-time jobs with an annual payroll of \$1.3 million and produce another \$1.3 million in annual feed purchases.

But each new large livestock operation brings environmental and odor concerns, and for some, emotional heartache and health problems.

Lyle Reimnitz, who lives a half-mile from a Davison County hog farm permitted for 8,000 sows, said the odors and gasses from the farm prevent him from living a normal life. He and his wife suffer from headaches and respiratory problems, they rarely sit outside or hang out laundry, and they have given up on their dream of having their daughter's family move

to the farm when her husband retires from the military.

"It doesn't smell every day, but in the evenings, especially when the wind goes down and the humidity is high, we stay inside and keep our windows shut," said Reimnitz. "The manure pits have gasses in them, and it gives me headaches, my eyes burn and I start coughing. My doctor said if I breathe it long enough, I will end up with respiratory problems."

Reimnitz and others fear that if livestock confinements continue to develop rapidly in South Dakota, the state may follow the path of Iowa, the national leader in large hog farms where consistent odors, waterway pollution and fish kills have resulted from heavy CAFO development.

"I don't want to see South Dakota become another Iowa," he said. "We don't need all our rivers and streams polluted. I know everybody wants cheap meat, but that comes at a terrible price for people who live here."

Each time a new CAFO project is proposed, it invariably faces objections from some neighbors and environmentalists who raise concerns over human health risks, reduction of property values, animal treatment and antibiotic use, odors, and fears of potential contamination of air, land and waterways from high volumes of animal waste.

Yet, at the same time, the state of South Dakota this year started a new effort to provide a major financial incentive to county governments that approve new CAFO projects.

Industry groups and some state officials say CAFOs provide new opportunities for existing farmers, create options for young farmers to get started and add significant financial value to the state's largest industry.

"I do think we need more ag development in South Dakota," Gov. Noem said in an interview with News Watch in September. "Anytime we can add value to the commodities and livestock that we raise here, it puts more money into



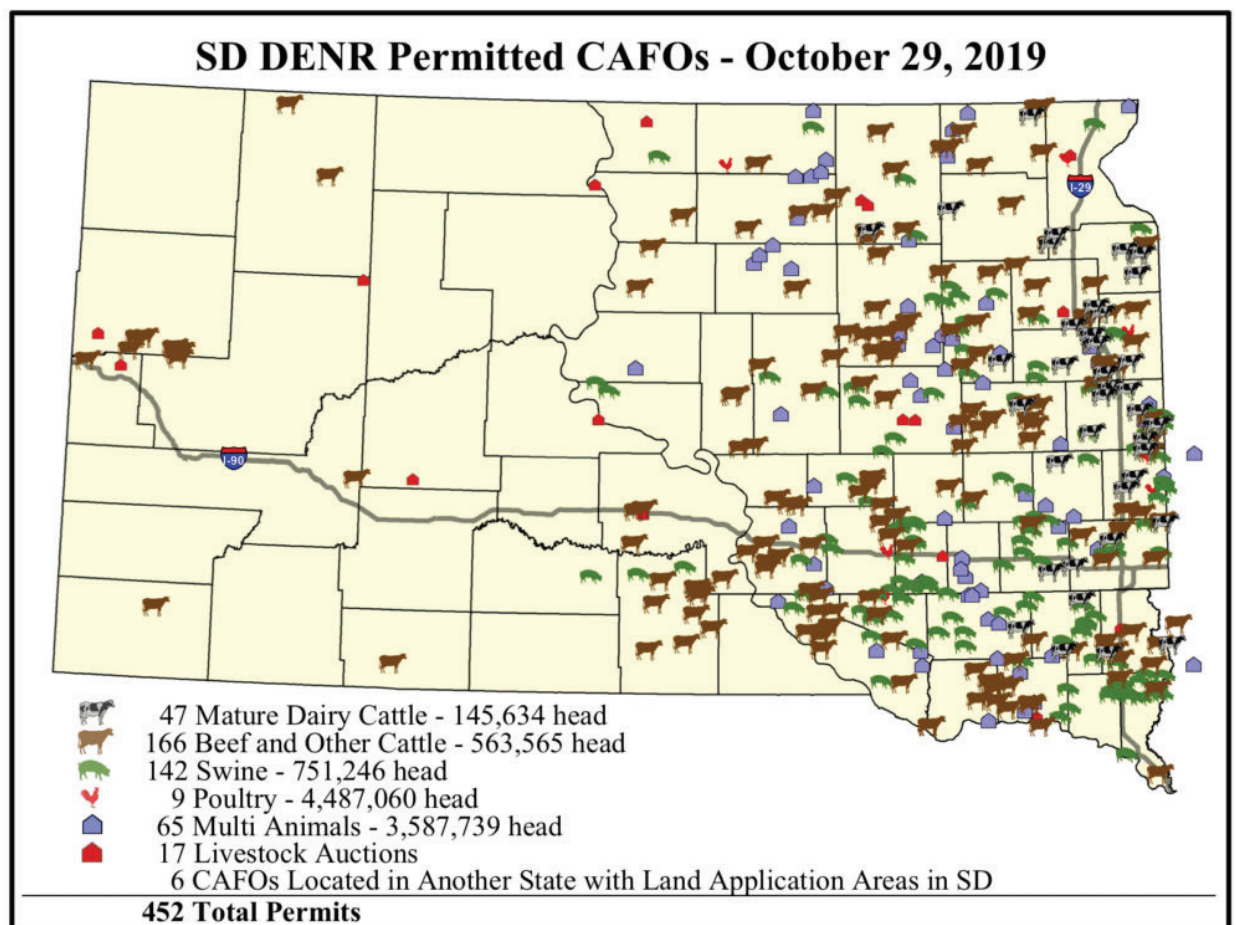
South Dakota's pocket and for those producers out there that are working so hard to feed the world."

Operators and industry groups say large livestock farms are generally well run and are subject to strong permitting processes and regular inspections that don't apply to smaller farms.

Noem said she will continue to support CAFOs as long as they are properly sited and operate within state guidelines.

"I actually live right down the road from a large dairy that has thousands of head of dairy cattle, and I'm a rancher too," Noem said. "The smart thing is to make sure we're putting these in the right locations, that we're protecting our resources, and that we're protecting our environment and putting them in areas where economic development can grow. Agriculture is our number-one industry and if we can add value to those products right here, that is a win for everyone."

Continues on next page



This map from the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources gives the approximate locations and types of concentrated animal feeding operations across the state. South Dakota has seen a steady increase in the number of large livestock operations in recent years, particularly in the hog and dairy cattle industries.



Lyle Reimnitz has lived on his family farm in Davison County since he was born 67 years ago. But since a hog CAFO was built nearby in 2013, his life has changed for the worse. When odors and gasses waft in, he and his wife suffers health problems and his dream of having his daughter and her family move onto the farm is now gone. Photo and video: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

Livestock industry scaling upward

The vast majority of American livestock is now raised in CAFOs, with federal data showing that about 70% of cows, 98% of pigs and 99% of chickens and turkeys are produced in CAFOs each year.

The farms differ from traditional livestock farming in the number of animals raised and where and how they are kept.

Large CAFOs are farm operations that require a state permit and are subject to regular inspection once they reach 1,000 or more "animal units." Based on weight, 1,000 animal units equates to either 700 dairy cows, 1,000 head of cattle, 2,500 adult hogs or 10,000 juvenile swine, 55,000 turkeys, 82,000 laying hens or 155,000 chickens.

Rather than feeding and holding animals in fenced fields, outdoor pens or open barns, the animals are kept en masse in large barns that often are segregated into smaller pens inside. Animals typically are not exposed to the sun or the elements, usually live on concrete slabs or metal slats, and sometimes stand almost shoulder-to-shoulder, especially as they age and grow closer to harvesting weight.

South Dakota has increasingly become a magnet for CAFO development by both existing local farmers and out-of-state firms that partner with local landowners and investors to implement well-defined systems of animal birthing, feeding and housing. South Dakota, particularly in the east, is attractive for CAFO developers owing to access to inexpensive



Hog production is rising in South Dakota and much of the increase is taking place in concentrated animal feeding operations, or CAFOs, in which thousands of hogs are held within huge barns and not allowed to roam. These hogs are located in a CAFO at the Oak Lane Hutterite Colony in Hanson County. Click the arrow in the image to watch a montage of animals housed in South Dakota CAFOs, including turkeys, hogs, beef cattle and dairy cows. Photo and video by Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch.

feed, solid infrastructure, available land and close proximity to major slaughterhouses and processing plants. The state is bordered by three states that are top-five in the nation for number of large CAFOs — Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska.

CAFOs provide farmers with a way to produce a high-volume, valuable and stable crop of animals in a climate-controlled setting with low capital costs for equipment and land. The development of CAFOs is also generating new jobs, state and local tax revenues and significant spinoff spending on feed and other commodities. The ultimate result is affordable meat for a growing population of consumers in the U.S. and across the world.

Agricultural organizations say CAFOs are part of an ongoing advancement in efficiency of handling and raising animals. They also stress that the vast majority of CAFOs and other farm operations in South Dakota remain owned or operated by families.

"Agriculture has been changing for 100 years, and just like the four-row planter became the 16-row planter and then the 20-row planter, the common theme is that there's still a family that is out there doing it," said Steve Dick, director of Ag United, a Sioux Falls organization that represents farmers in several agricultural sectors in South Dakota. "And I don't know if hogs or cattle being in a confined space has changed. I think what has changed in the last 10, 15 or 20 years is the technology for the comfort of those animals."

Farmers and industry officials say that in order to make a good living in the modern agriculture industry, getting larger and creating economies of scale is one way to find success.

"The days of having a few chickens, a few milk cows, a few cows, those days have changed a lot as [livestock] farmers have specialized in one species, just as a lot of farmers have specialized in corn or soybeans," Dick said.

Supporters and producers also say the growth of large livestock operations that produce cheap meat is being driven by consumers, not farmers.

"This is what we're getting pushed into doing; we're not driving our own market, it's demand," said Brian Alderson, a part-time cattle farmer who raises about 600 head in a CAFO-style barn in western Minnehaha County. "You tell us what you want us to do when you go to the grocery store. It's supply and demand, and the consumers make the rules, not us."

But opponents worry that aggressive development of CAFOs, particularly by out-of-state firms, will change the nature of farming and rural living in South Dakota.

"Industrial CAFOs that store manure under their operations for 365 days before spreading are a separate agricultural business than compared to grazing animals that are not confined, not under a roof, but are under the sun and the air where they can naturally distribute the manure that makes it a positive, instead of a toxic overload," said Candice Lockner, a Ree Heights rancher who fended off a proposed 50,000-head cattle CAFO in her neighborhood in 2014 and has since become a grassroots organizer against the farms. "If we want to have strong rural communities, we should have farms that have family farmers who care about the animals in a way that is environmentally sound and is regenerative and sustainable."

Research done mainly in North Carolina and Iowa has shown that large livestock operations can cause health problems in workers in the farms and to neighbors. One study found that children who live or attend school near large livestock operations suffer from higher rates of asthma. The farms emit high levels of ammonia and hydrogen sulfide that can harm humans, the research has shown.

So far, South Dakota has avoided major environmental disasters from large livestock farms.

According to data obtained through a public-records request by News Watch to the DENR, permitted CAFOs in South Dakota violated state regulations 217 times from October 2009



Steve Dick is the executive director of Ag United, a Sioux Falls-based organization that supports producers in several agricultural sectors. Dick said CAFOs tend to be well-run, efficient farms that are operated mostly by families and are subject to county and state permitting and regular inspections. Photo and video by Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

Photo and video by Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

to August 2019 and \$207,000 in fines were levied. Violations led to farm wastes making their way into state waterways nine times during that period, but little or no environmental damage resulted, DENR officials said.

But opponents worry that aggressive development of CAFOs, particularly by out-of-state firms, will change the nature of farming and rural living in South Dakota.

"Industrial CAFOs that store manure under their operations for 365 days before spreading are a separate agricultural business than compared to grazing animals that are not confined, not under a roof, but are under the sun and the air where they can naturally distribute the manure that makes it a positive, instead of a toxic overload," said Candice Lockner, a Ree Heights rancher who fended off a proposed 50,000-head cattle CAFO in her neighborhood in 2014 and has since become a grassroots organizer against the farms. "If we want to have strong rural communities, we should have farms that have family farmers who care about the animals in a way that is environmentally sound and is regenerative and sustainable."

Research done mainly in North Carolina and Iowa has shown that large livestock operations can cause health problems in workers in the farms and to neighbors. One study found that children who live or attend school near large livestock operations suffer from higher rates of asthma. The farms emit high levels of ammonia and hydrogen sulfide that can harm humans, the research has shown.

So far, South Dakota has avoided major environmental disasters from large livestock farms.

According to data obtained through a public-records request by News Watch to the DENR, permitted CAFOs in South Dakota violated state regulations 217 times from October 2009 to August 2019 and \$207,000 in fines were levied. Violations led to farm wastes making their way into state waterways nine times during that period, but little or no environmental damage resulted, DENR officials said.

Further expansion of CAFOs likely in S.D.

Development of new large livestock farms and expansion of existing farms can result in large payments to counties that approve them under a new tax-rebate program started by the Governor's Office of Economic Development in spring 2019.

Continues on next page

The program is not the first time the state has tried to encourage counties to approve new CAFOs. In 2013, the state Department of Agriculture embarked on a program to use Geographic Information Systems data to provide each county in the state with a report on which areas would be appropriate for new agricultural operations, specifically including CAFOs.

Just as worldwide demand has led to more mechanized livestock production, changing consumer desires have also led to an increase in organic and sustainable farms that eschew the use of antibiotics and hormones and raise animals in a free-range setting. Recent research shows that the millennial generation, in particular, has a desire for more organic and sustainable agricultural products.

The website for the group EatWild, a consortium of sustainable farms in South Dakota, lists 15 farms that feature only grass-fed, open-range livestock. A 2017 report on farm size by South Dakota State University indicated a 57% increase in the number of farm operations with 100 or fewer acres.

However, such farms still make up only a small fraction of farms in the state overall.

Farm size and production data also illustrate the rapid growth in the largest farms in South Dakota, both in row cropping and in livestock. SDSU found that farms with more than 2,000 acres took up almost 67% of the state's total cropland in 2017, compared with only 48% in 1997.

South Dakota has seen a steady increase in the number of CAFO operations permitted by the state since state regulation began in 1997, from 15 that year to 338 in 2007 to 452 as of October 2019.

State data also show that the number of animals allowed at those operations has also increased significantly in recent years, from 8.4 million animals at 400 permitted operations in January 2011 to 9.8 million animals at 443 permitted operations in January 2019.

The majority of the recent growth has occurred in the hog industry, which has seen a 21% increase in permitted operations from 2011 to 2019 and a 32% rise in the number of permitted animals during that time.

The largest CAFO operations in South Dakota include the National Foods egg hatchery east of Plankinton in Aurora County with 1.98 million chickens; the Schlitz Goose Farm in Sisseton with 193,000 geese; the PIC Apex Farm in Mound City in Campbell County, with 36,400 sows; and the Fall River Feed Yard southeast of Hot Springs in Fall River County with 25,000 head of beef cattle.

Hog farming has grown significantly in scale in recent years, and statistics reveal the impact of CAFO growth on the industry. While the number of hog farms overall in South Dakota has fallen by 16% from 2012 to 2017, the number of large farms producing 5,000 or more hogs per year has jumped by almost 30% over that period.

In 2012, the state had 145 large hog farms



Flies hang heavy in the air above the land and roads near the National Foods egg laying plant in Aurora County and can quickly infest a vehicle that stops nearby with windows lowered. The plant is the largest CAFO in the state, permitted to house about 1.98 million chickens. Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

CAFOS IN THE GREAT PLAINS

Here is a look at 2018 data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency listing the number of concentrated animal feeding operations with 1,000 or more animal units by state in the Great Plains, and the percentage of those operations that have a federal wastewater-discharge permit that provides regulations on how and where wastewater can be spread.

State	CAFOs	% with federal permit
Iowa	3,744	5%
Minnesota	1,400	79%
Nebraska	1,207	36%
South Dakota	431	100%
Montana	124	83%
North Dakota	76	0%
Wyoming	49	82%
United States	20,382	32%

CAFOs can be found in all U.S. states except Alaska, Hawaii and Rhode Island; the top five states for large CAFOs are Iowa (3,744), Minnesota (1,400), North Carolina (1,222), Nebraska (1,207) and California (1,083).

that produced 3.6 million hogs valued at \$390 million, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Census of Agriculture. In 2017, 188 large farms produced 5.2 million hogs valued at \$545 million, the USDA said. Also, the USDA data show that 20 of the 85 largest hog farms in South Dakota are operated by contract farmers or integrators, indicating the growing push into the state by outside interests.

The concerns over involvement of non-local CAFO system providers are misplaced, said Nick Fitzgerald, business development manager with the Pipestone System, a Minnesota-based firm that works with landowners and investors to start up and operate hog facilities in seven Midwestern states, including South Dakota.

Pipestone operates 74 hog birthing and weaning facilities, including more than 20 in South Dakota. The company provides new hog farmers with siting expertise, management training and full production systems to raise hogs.

Fitzgerald said the firm, started by a group of veterinarians in Pipestone, Minn., employs a proven method of farming that engages safeguards for animal safety and protection of the environment.

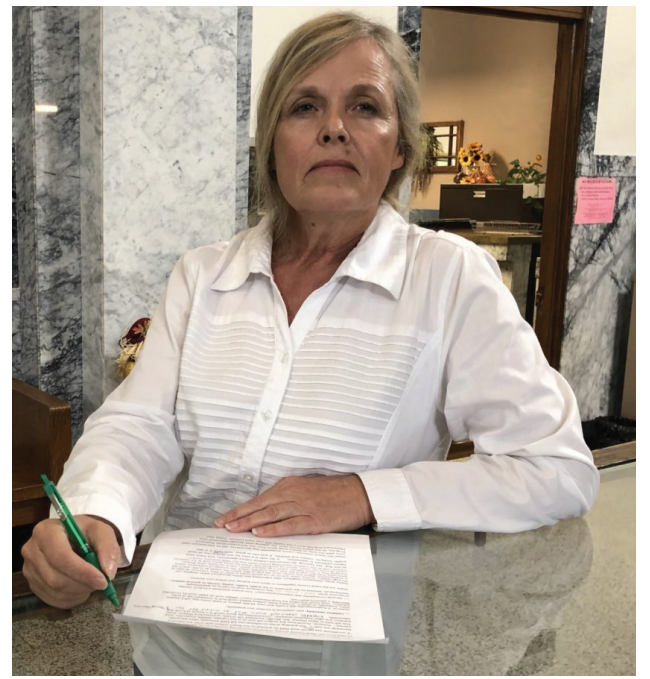
"We want to be great neighbors, and we don't want to be an environmental risk in any way, shape or form," Fitzgerald said.

Pipestone will likely continue its expansion in South Dakota, which has inexpensive feed, including corn and ethanol byproducts, Fitzgerald said.

"In terms of setbacks and siting, South Dakota is more strict than other states," Fitzgerald said. "But we would like to raise more pigs in South Dakota because we can raise them at a lower cost than in the state of Iowa, for example."

Industry experts say there is more room for growth in American hog production, particularly due to growth in the foreign market. Iowa, for instance, passed the \$1 billion mark in exports of hogs to China and Hong Kong alone in 2016.

South Dakota is also likely to see strong growth in dairy cattle CAFOs, especially in the far northeast, to accommodate expansion in the cheese-making industry. The



Candice Lockner of Ree Heights is a farmer who successfully fought against a CAFO proposed for her neighborhood and has since become an opponent of large-scale livestock operations. Lockner is against how animals are treated in CAFOs and is also concerned that the large farms harm the environment and rural communities. Photo and video: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

Valley Queen Cheese company in Milbank, Dimock Dairy in Dimock and the Agropur cheese plant in Lake Norden all underwent significant expansion in 2019. The tripling of capacity at Agropur alone will require milk from 85,000 more cows in the region, the company said.

The expansion of CAFOs in South Dakota may also be hastened by a need for room for expansion within the livestock industry in the Great Plains.

South Dakota is flanked by three states that are in the national top five for number of large CAFOs — Iowa at No. 1, Minnesota at No. 2 and Nebraska at No. 4.

David Osterberg, who has studied CAFOs in Iowa for three decades for the Iowa Policy Project, said South Dakota should expect to see even more CAFO projects proposed as those neighboring states reach a saturation point for CAFOs, with dwindling land where CAFO wastes can legally be spread.

"It makes sense they are moving into South Dakota, because we're running out of room to put the manure over here," said Osterberg. "Especially in the northwest of Iowa toward you guys, there are so many CAFOs that finding a place to get rid of the manure is getting difficult."

Regulation higher on largest CAFOs

Even though CAFOs can generate millions of gallons of cattle and hog manure and thousands of pounds of litter from turkeys and chickens, industry and government officials say CAFOs can be cleaner than smaller farms.

The animal wastes created by CAFOs are collected and held in lagoons or huge underground tanks and then are spread onto nearby farm fields as fertilizer. Spreading typically takes place when the frost breaks in spring and before the ground freezes in fall. Farmers use trucks to haul wastes or flexible pipes that run for miles to get the liquid manure to nearby farm fields, where it is forced into ground dug up by a discing machine. The days when the manure is spread are the most malodorous.

The manure is an effective, valuable fertilizer that reduces the need for commercial fertilizers; CAFO operators are typically paid for the nutrient value of the manure by crop farmers.

Regulation of large animal-feeding operations in South Dakota is based on the federal Clean Water Act, which became law in 1972, and subsequent livestock laws that were developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1974.

The state began regulating animal-feeding

Continues on next page

Continued from previous page

operations beginning with hog farms in 1997 and adding other animal types in 1998. The CAFO permit rules were updated in 2003 and again in 2017.

CAFOs in South Dakota are subject to far more regulation than smaller farms. Once a farm reaches CAFO status, it must obtain a state permit that provides for regulation of waste management and water use, said Kent Woodmansey, who oversees the CAFO inspection program within the state DENR. CAFO operators must attend a producer training class to become educated on state regulations and monitoring requirements, he said.

New CAFOs are inspected within the first 18 months of operation and then every one to three years after, depending on size, Woodmansey said. Inspections are announced in advance so operators can prepare and in some cases arrange to have their outside waste management consultant present, Woodmansey said. "Otherwise we drive out there and they're not there," he said.

CAFO operators are held to strict standards on proper storage of wastes, with a close eye on their not overreaching the capacity of waste-holding ponds or lagoons that are typically lined with clay or concrete. Soil testing is done, and operators must adhere to plans for how, when and where they will spread the wastes, Woodmansey said.

State regulators will also make contact with an operator or inspect the operator's property if they receive a formal, signed complaint from the public. Most complaints relate to concerns over potential contamination of water sources and the spreading of wastes, he said.

The state also receives complaints about odors, but has no authority to monitor or take action against strong odors because no state or federal law regulates smells released by agricultural operations, including CAFOs.

"We won't respond to an odor complaint because we don't have any criteria for that," Woodmansey said. "If somebody sent something in about odors or called about that, we would respond that we have no authority over that."

South Dakota CAFOs also must gain approval, typically in the form of a conditional-use permit, from county commissions or planning and zoning boards before being built. That process provides a level of local control not in place in states such as Iowa.

Counties can have a range of local rules and guidelines, the most important being the "set-back" limits on how close a CAFO can be to residences, municipalities and water sources. The limits can vary from county to county, and undergo fairly frequent updates.

The new hog farm in Hand County has a two-mile setback requirement from any residence and 660 feet from any ground or surface water supply. Voters in Grant County passed a referendum in 2016 to double the setback from homes of new large CAFOs from a half to a full mile. Meanwhile, the Minnehaha County Commission in 2017 reduced the setback from buildings for new feeding operations of 2,000 or more animals from 4,620 feet to 3,960.

CAFOs also face significant scrutiny at the county level and are sometimes rejected.

The Hamlin County Board of Adjustment in May 2019 rejected a proposal for a 10,000-head dairy CAFO in part because a well was discovered within a half-mile of the farm.


Yankton County has had an embattled history with CAFOs and the zoning and approval processes. CAFO proposals have faced strong opposition; a few that were approved faced a lawsuit. Over the years, the county has floated a special zoning designation to allow CAFOs, but is now considering a full moratorium on CAFO development.

At least 20 counties in Iowa have passed resolutions to ban further development of large livestock farms, but the measures are virtually meaningless because only state approval is needed for CAFO development in that state, Osterberg said.



Seth Holmstrom from Pipestone System gave the Angel Tree lady, Tina Kosel, a bunch of jackets for the Angel Tree. Pipestone System manages Elm Valley Farms at the Hutterville Colony. He said that the organizations wanted to do something to help out for the Christmas season.

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.



Support Investigative Journalism in South Dakota

South Dakota News Watch produces unbiased, investigative journalism that sheds light on the concerns of all South Dakotans.

Will you join us? Now through Dec. 31, double the impact of your tax-deductible gift with a dollar-for-dollar match. Your donation will advance the role of a free and vigilant press in our state.

SDNEWSWATCH.ORG/donate



SOUTH DAKOTA NEWS WATCH

Inform. Enlighten. Illuminate.

Bowling Scores

Conde National League
Dec. 16 Team Standings: Cubs 7, Giants 5, Tigers 4, Braves 4, Pirates 3, Mets 1
Men's High Games: Larry Frohling 236; Troy Lindberg 214, 211; Ryan Bethke 209; Butch Farmen 207
Men's High Series: Troy Lindberg 597, Larry Frohling 561, Ryan Bethke 553.
Women's High Games: Vickie Kramp 164, Mary Larson 159, Joyce Walter 156
Women's High Series: Vickie Kramp 449, Joyce Walter 449, Mary Larson 406.
Dec. 9 Team Standings: Cubs 4, Tigers 3, Braves 3, Mets 1, Giants 1, Pirates 0
Men High Scores: Ryan Bethke 209, 195; Russ Bethke 195; Larry Frohling 179
Men's High Series: Ryan Bethke 536, Russ Bethke 512, Larry Frohling 489
Women's High Scores: Cheryl Reyelts 190, Sandy Hoops 179, 178, Mary Larson 178
Women High Series: Sandy Hoops 482, Vickie Kramp 429, Nancy Radke 421

Groton Prairie Mixed
Team Standings: Shih Tzus 16, Cheetahs 16, Chipmunks 13, Foxes 13, Coyotes 13, Jackelopes 13
Men's High Games: Brad Waage 233, 210, 205, Roger Colestock 205, Roger Spanier 203, Brad Larson 200
Women's High Games: Karen Spanier 174, Darci Spanier 170, Michelle Johnson 169
Men's High Series: Brad Waage 648, Roger Colestock 553, Roger Spanier 519
Women's High Series: Michelle Johnson 480, Vicki Walter 447, Darci Spanier 444

Groton Coffee Cup
Team Standings: Biker Chix 4, Ten Pins 2, Kens 2, James Valley 0
High Scores: Nancy Radke 182, Sandi Bistedeau 179, Joyce Walter 166
High Series: Joyce Walter 458, Sandi Bistedeau 440, Sam Bahr 436

When you shop Mom & Pop, you're making a personal investment in your neighborhood and community.

THIS Holiday Season SHOP



South Dakota RETAILERS
 Since 1897

SOUTH DAKOTA RETAILERS ASSOCIATION | SDRA.ORG



Young turkeys, such as these at the Oak Lane Colony in Hanson County, will be held in a "starter barn" like this for five to six weeks until reaching a weight of about 3 pounds. They are then transferred to a finishing barn for about 20 weeks when they will reach a shipping weight of about 45 to 50 pounds each. Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

THINKING ABOUT HEALTH

Big Questions Underlie Debate About Making Health Care Accessible to All

By Trudy Lieberman, Community Health News Service

In recent days, several tweets shared ominous news about the state of health insurance in the country. One tweeter said she bought an Affordable Care Act policy for a \$1,200 monthly premium and a \$7,500 deductible. By May, she said, she could no longer afford that premium.

Another tweeter said her 59-year-old friend would be paying \$900 a month in premiums with an out-of-pocket maximum of \$8,150. The friend has assets, but the insurance restricts where she can get care, a common policy feature.

A third tweeter was disgusted with his job-based coverage, which he told the world was his fifth insurance plan in four years. That's not an uncommon complaint among workers with employer-based coverage. The man's daughter has Type 1 diabetes, and the constant switching of doctors and plans was disruptive and hardly optimum for her health. It's time to disconnect health insurance from the job, he tweeted.

The tweeters were fed up with the price of coverage and were having trouble either paying for it or accessing care. Millions are in the same pickle. At the crux of their dilemma is the relentless rise in medical prices along with America's inability or unwillingness to provide health care to all its citizens and to establish a mechanism that can finally put the brakes on relentless price increases.

As Americans grow more dissatisfied with their insurance arrangements, public discussion about the wisdom of switching to a system sometimes referred to as Medicare for All has grown. There's more press attention to this topic than I have ever seen. What's not been discussed, however, is how providing health care for everyone and controlling prices are interrelated.

New U.S. spending data show that the U.S. spent \$1 trillion more on personal health services in 2018 than in 2008. Hospital care accounted for 44 percent of the increase, physician services 23 percent and retail prescription drugs only 9 percent. With increases like those, dissatisfaction is bound to increase.

But in the current discussion of Medicare for All, which a few columnists are beginning to say should be put aside – one New York Times columnist argued that the moral and political case is now stronger for focusing on issues other than health care – the discussion has focused on why such a change won't work: how it will harm the big stakeholders; how much it would cost; and that Americans are satisfied with their current arrangements.

It is the fear of controls on prices, which other advanced countries have, that has kept the U.S. from changing its system for decades. If every American were in the system, including the 30 million who have no health insurance, it might make it easier for federal regulators to control prices, which is what big stakeholders fear. It is the primary reason the idea of Medicare for All, or an equivalent plan, has never advanced very far.

There's another question that must be tackled before we can reach the point of providing coverage for everyone: Should America provide health insurance for every citizen?

The concept of solidarity – which loosely means a unity based on a community of interests, objectives, or standards – is the basis for the health systems in most European countries. It also undergirds our own Social Security retirement and disability programs, workers' compensation, and, of course, Medicare.

When it comes to health care, there is still no universal embrace of the concept of solidarity. But unless Americans agree that every citizen is entitled to medical care and a way to pay for it, this round of discussion about Medicare for All is as likely to fail as all the previous proposals.

But what about Obamacare, you might be thinking? Remember when the former president told us his health plan would bring "affordable, quality care for all"? The Affordable Care Act established the principle that everyone should be able to buy health insurance regardless of preexisting health conditions, but it did not take the further step of guaranteeing everyone the right to medical care and a way to pay for it.

"Winning the argument about universal coverage first is really important," says Joel Kutzin who heads the health care financing team at the World Health Organization.

It's the prerequisite to solving the insurance cost and service problems the three unhappy tweeters shared with the twitterverse.

Should every American have the right to affordable health care? Write to Trudy at trudy.lieberman@gmail.com.

Day Position RNs, LPNs

May qualify for up to \$10,000 sign on bonus
Competitive wages, benefit package.

Full Time CNA

Not certified? No problem!
We will provide necessary training and education.



Apply at Bethesda Home

129 W Hwy. 12, Webster, SD 57274
(605) 345-3331
Please contact
Dawn Rithmiller at (605) 588-3204 or at
Dawn.Rithmiller@sanfordhealth.org



Ken's SUPER FAIR FOODS
FOOD FAIR SHELL EXPRESS

Aberdeen • Groton • Clark • Ipswich • Eureka • Britton

View Our Weekly Flyer on the American News Mobile App!

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 Gourmet Coffee Beans \$2.00 OFF	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18 Gourmet Salsas \$2.00 OFF
MONDAY, DECEMBER 16 Gourmet Pasta & Sauce Mixes \$2.00 OFF	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19 Gourmet Mustard & Aiolis \$2.00 OFF
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17 Gourmet Dipping Oils \$2.00 OFF	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20 Gourmet Pickled Items \$2.00 OFF

\$5 & \$10 Gift Cards For Your Gourmet Coffee Drinker Available

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!





\$1.99

General Mills
CHEX CEREAL
12-14 Oz. Box

APP DEAL OF THE WEEK

Best Choice Cream Cheese

Reg or 1/3 Less Fat 8 Oz. Pkg.

SALE PRICE 99¢

-99¢

With Digital Cpn

Your Final Price FREE

with \$10 Purchase through the Ken's App

Limit 1 per customer, requires \$10 additional purchase and use of Ken's App



\$10.99

Per Lb.

USDA Choice Demkota
WHOLE BONELESS RIBEYE
Cut, Wrapped & Frozen FREE



\$1.99

Fresh
RASPBERRIES, BLUEBERRIES OR BLACKBERRIES
6 Oz. Pkg.



\$2.59

Per Lb.

Kretchmar
WHOLE BONELESS HAM



4 for \$3

Green Giant
VEGETABLES
14.5-15.25 Oz. Cans



2 for \$4

Nabisco
RITZ OR SNACK CRACKERS
3.5-13.7 Oz. Boxes



\$1.59

Per Lb.

Sugardale
BUTT OR SHANK PORTION HAM



99¢

Cool Whip
WHIPPED TOPPING
8 Oz. Tub



2 for \$5

Best Choice
GRADE AA BUTTER
1 Lb. Qtrs.

<p>ABERDEEN</p> <p>OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK</p> <p>11 AM - 8 PM MON-SAT</p> <p>11 AM - 7 PM SUN</p> <p>605-223-6871</p>	<p>BRITTON</p> <p>OPEN MON-FRI</p> <p>9 AM - 5 PM</p> <p>605-445-2281</p>	<p>CLARK</p> <p>OPEN MON-FRI</p> <p>9 AM - 5 PM</p> <p>605-532-3434</p>	<p>EUREKA</p> <p>OPEN MON-FRI</p> <p>9 AM - 5 PM</p> <p>605-294-5245</p>	<p>GROTON</p> <p>CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER</p> <p>OPEN MON-FRI</p> <p>9 AM - 5 PM</p> <p>605-397-6540</p>	<p>IPSWICH</p> <p>CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER</p> <p>OPEN MON-FRI</p> <p>9 AM - 5 PM</p> <p>605-426-6651</p>	<p>Find us on Facebook</p> <p>Follow us on Twitter</p>	<p>EBT WELCOMED</p> <p>PRICES GOOD AT ALL KEN'S STORES</p> <p>DECEMBER 15TH THRU DECEMBER 21ST</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center; font-size: x-small;"> <tr> <th>Day</th> <th>Mon</th> <th>Tue</th> <th>Wed</th> <th>Thu</th> <th>Fri</th> <th>Sat</th> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> </tr> </table>	Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat															
15	16	17	18	19	20	21															

Latex and Mylar Balloons

Groton Daily Independent
21 N Main
Downtown Groton
605-397-NEWS (6397)