

THE Groton Independent
 South Dakota
 Growing Families & Opportunities

Vol. 137 No. 21 ♦ Groton, South Dakota ♦ Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2020 ♦ Established in 1889

Dacotah Bank to buy First State Bank of Claremont

Dacotah Bank has signed agreements to purchase First State Bank of Claremont and Stohr Agency. The agreements include the Groton and Langford locations.

"We are pleased to announce to the First State Bank of Claremont and Stohr Agency customers and communities that Dacotah Bank is here for you," said Joe Senger, Chief Executive Officer.

First State Bank of Claremont's Groton and Langford locations fit nicely in the middle of Dacotah Bank's existing locations across South Dakota, North Dakota and Minnesota. Closely surrounding First State Bank of Claremont's locations are our branches in Aberdeen, Clark, New Effington, Roslyn, Sisseton and Webster. Along with the geographic alignment of locations, the customer base is a natural fit as well. Groton and Langford are agricultural-centric communities and Dacotah Bank is the 12th largest Ag lender in the nation.

First State Bank of Claremont president Jeff Stohr shared, "our bank has roots dating

to 1903 and our family has associated with it since 1937. We have fantastic employees who will continue serving the customers and communities we cherish. In many ways our objectives align well with Dacotah Bank, and they will bring greater lending capacity and a variety of additional products and services that I believe will serve our employees, customers and communities well for years to come."

The addition of Groton and Langford bring our total number of locations to 34 from which



we offer a number of convenient traditional and mobile financial services.

A "Dakota-grown" company, our home office is just 20 miles west of Groton and 46 miles southwest of Langford in Aberdeen, S.D. While some of our locations were established in the late 1800s and have been serving local communities since, Dacotah Bank's charter location in Aberdeen was founded in 1955.

The agreement for acquisition is pending regulatory approval. An open house at the bank locations is planned for late 2020.

- Dacotah Bank Facebook Page

A Parents Only Forum for Gospel Solutions to Social Issues

Gospel Solutions to Social Issues are presenting a seminar specifically for Parents Only on February 5th at Groton United Methodist Church, 906 N 1st St., Groton, SD at 6:30PM. Speakers include Andrea Kost the Safe Harbor Shelter Coordinator and Levi Jensen and Shane Johnson, SD Highway Patrol Troopers and Pastor Brandon Dunham. If you are concerned about deterring drug problems and problems with social media in this digital age for our youth, please attend. Sponsors are the Groton United Methodist Church, the Groton C&MA Church and the Groton Emmanuel Lutheran Church. There is no charge for the event but a free will offering will be taken.

Levi Jensen and Police Dog Handler Shane Johnson with the SD Highway Patrol will be presenting on drug awareness for parents of all ages of children, grandparents, and school administrators. There will be some drug samples on hand for attendees to view, along with time to ask questions both during and after the presentation. Those that have a vested interest in deterring the drug use in our region and community are encouraged to attend.

Andrea Kost, the Safe Harbor Shelter Coordinator has worked with at risk children since the age of 21. Andrea was the recreational coordinator and personal counselor at New Beginnings for a year and a half. Andrea and her husband also started "Almost Home", a therapeutic foster care for girls age 13-21 coming out of lock down residential facilities and also housed 40 plus teenage girls in their home. Andrea will be sharing her firsthand knowledge of social media and teens. Andrea will present an open discussion about raising our children to be Christian adults in a digital age. She will be discussing popular apps and websites, which ones to be wary of, and how to monitor your youth/teens activities. She will also be talking about how to balance sheltering them and exposing them to an online world to help them to be smart consumers.

Refreshments will be served after the event. A snow date has been set for Feb. 12th



Tullis, Barse represent Groton Area at SD Jr. Honor Choir

By Cody Swanson

Cadance Tullis (left) and Carter Barse were chosen as members of the auditioned SD Junior Honor Choir which was held last weekend, Jan. 17-18, in Rapid City. Cadance and Carter rehearsed with prestigious directors, Michelle Bendett and Tefsa Wondemagegnehu.



Ryan Fair shoveled out the fire hydrant near his house on West Second Avenue. Is the fire hydrant near your house cleaned out? If not, it should be. It's your responsibility. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Webster Theatre
 Theatre opens at 7 pm with movies starting at 7:30 pm, Friday through Monday.
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 2/1 - 2/3, Star Wars, PG 13
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Classifieds and Card of Thanks
 The following rates are for Classifieds published in both the Groton Daily Independent and the Groton Independent, and posted online at www.grotonsd.net. Cut rate in half if you just want it in the GDI or just the weekly.
 1 Week: \$9 for first 30 words, 20¢/word thereafter
 2 Wks: \$17 for first 30 words, 38¢/word thereafter
 3 Wks: \$24 for first 30 words, 54¢/word thereafter
 4th consecutive week is free
605/397-NEWS (6397)
 PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

EMPLOYMENT

COMMERCIAL APPLICATORS. Competitive wage and benefits, meal allowance, paid lodging. Traveling position for railroad vegetation control, 60-80 hours/week. RAW (Cooperstown, ND). 888.700.0292 | www.rawapplicators.com | info@rawapplicators.com

THE GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for the position of Certified Sign Language Interpreter. Applicants should complete and submit the certified staff application form along with a current cover letter, resume, and three letters of recommendation. All materials should be submitted to Joe Schwan, Superintendent PO Box 410 Groton, SD 57445. EOE

GUN SHOW

GUN SHOW: Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Association 18th Annual ABERDEEN Gun Show. Saturday, February 1, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, February 2, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dakota Event Center on LaMont East. Terry Ennen 701-391-2416.

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.

NOTICES

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Frederick Town Vacancy Notice

NOTICE OF VACANCY MUNICIPALITY OF FREDERICK

The following offices will become vacant, one due to loss of Board Member Gary Schlosser and one due to expiration of the present term of office of the elected officer.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
1 2-YEAR TERM
1 3-YEAR TERM

Circulation of nominating petitions may begin on January 31, 2020, and petitions may be filed in the Finance Office located at 406 1/2 3rd Avenue, Frederick, SD, (behind the Community Center) between the hours of 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM (Central Standard Time) on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday. Final day for turning in petition is February 28, 2020, when the Finance Office will be open until 5:00 PM.

Diane Bruns
Frederick Finance Officer
(0122.0129)

Published twice at the approximate cost of \$19.39. 17553

Frederick School Vacancy Notice

NOTICE OF VACANCY ON SCHOOL BOARD

FREDERICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-2

The following school board positions will become vacant due to the expiration of the present terms of office.

Jon Ellwein, Board Member, 3-year term
Dan Nickelson, Board Member, 3-year term

Circulation of nominating petitions may begin on January 31, 2020 and petitions may be filed in the office of the business manager located at 202 E Main St, Frederick, SD between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., central time, not later than February 28, 2020, at 5:00 p.m., or mailed by registered mail not later than February 28, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

Janel Wagner
Business Manager
(0122.0129)

Published twice at the approximate cost of \$18.81. 17554

Groton City Vacancy Notice

NOTICE OF VACANCY MUNICIPALITY OF GROTON

The following offices will become vacant due to the expiration of the present term of office of the elected officer.

Councilperson Ward 1 - 2 year term
Councilperson Ward 1 - 1 year term
Councilperson Ward 2 - 1 year term
Councilperson Ward 3 - 2 year term

Circulation of nominating petitions may begin on January 31st, 2020, and petitions may be filed at City Hall located at 209 N Main, Groton, SD between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. central standard time not later than the 28th day of February, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

(0122.0129)

Published twice at the approximate cost of \$15.14. 18550

Groton School Vacancy Notice

NOTICE OF VACANCY ON SCHOOL BOARD

GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6

The following school board positions will become vacant July 1, 2020, due to the expiration of the present terms of office of the following school board members:
Grant Rix, 3-year term
Steven R. Smith, 3-year term

Circulation of nominating petitions may begin on January 31, 2020, and petitions may be filed in the office of the business manager located at Groton Area High School between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., central standard time not later than February 28, 2020, at 5:00 p.m., or mailed by registered mail not later than February 28, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

Michael J. Weber, Business Officer
Groton Area School District
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$16.72. 18551

(2t. Jan 20 & Jan 27, 2020)

Claremont Town Vacancy Notice

The following office will become vacant do to expiration of the present term of office: 3 year term held by Jason Spencer). Circulation of the nominating petition may begin on 1-24-2020 and petitions may be filed with the Finance Officer at 606 6th Ave. in Claremont, SD 57432. Petitions must be filed not later than 5 pm on 2-21-2020.

(0122.0129)

Published twice at the approximate cost of \$9.99 18552

Westport Town Vacancy Notice

Town of Westport General Meeting

January 6th, 2020

The Town of Westport met on January 6th, 2020 with Tim Selzler, Shane Storm, Mike Wilson and Doreen Hertel present.

The following expenses were presented:

City General
NWPS (\$571.59), Groton Independent (\$18.22), SD Unemployment Insurance (\$17.29), B&B contracting (\$406.25), US treasury (\$642.13) & US treasury (\$53.97).

Sewer
NWPS (\$48.11), NRWA -loan repayment (\$210.13)

Water
WEB (\$1,735.36), Dept. of Health (\$15.00) SDDENR (\$50.00), & Water Maintenance District (\$408.16)

Shane Storm made motion to pay all bills; second by Mike Wilson.

The following deposits were presented:

City General
Brown County Collections (\$1,392.23), Building Permits (\$20.00), State of SD (\$4,343.47), Interest (\$22.54).

Sewer Resident Payments - (\$2,025.00).

Water Resident Payments - (\$3,374.18).

NEW BUSINESS:
It was approved to rebid the lift station. The board will let Clark engineering proceed with the process.

Discussion was held on a leak in the roof of the town hall, this will be tabled until weather permitting to see what repairs need to be done.

Doreen Hertel, Finance Officer
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$16.46. 18556

Brown County Vacancy Notice

NOTICE OF VACANCY MUNICIPALITY OF BROWN COUNTY

The following offices will become vacant due to the expiration of the present term of office of the elected officer.
Meeting called to order by Commission Chair Kippley at 8:45 A.M. in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. Present were Commissioners Feickert, Sutton, Wiese, and Fjeldheim. Commissioner Feickert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:
Moved by Wiese, seconded by Sutton to approve the County Commission January 7, 2019 Minutes. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

Insurance: SD Unemployment Insurance Division \$1,082.37. Professional Fees: Avera Queen of Peace \$187.10; Avera St. Luke's \$84.75; Br. Co. Treasurer \$16.00; Certified Languages \$1,552.65; Clark Engineering \$4,709.18; Dallas Co. Sheriff \$30.00; Dean Schaefer Court Reporting \$120.00; DevNet \$3,445.31; GBR Interpreting & Translation Services \$120.00; GIS Workshops \$999.60; Haar Law Office \$21.00; Helms & Assoc. \$1,710.30; Horn Law Office \$213.00; IAAO \$200.00; Kruse Law Office \$178.15; Kuck Law Office \$74.20; Language Line Services \$2,089.44; Lewis & Clark BHS \$712.00; LexisNexis \$150.00; Lincoln Co. Treasurer \$225.25; Microfilm Imaging Systems \$1,530.00; Sanford Health Occupational Medicine \$39.00; Schneider Corp. \$2,475.00; SD Assoc. of County Weed & Pest Supervisors \$50.00; SD Dept. of Public Safety \$11,050.00; SDAAO \$450.00; Christy Griffin-Serr Law Office \$1,140.00; Kristi Spitzer \$1200.00; Terrago Technologies \$500.00; Tyler Technologies \$25,863.85. Jurors: Della An-

Frederick School Meeting Minutes

OFFICIAL BOARD PROCEEDINGS

FREDERICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #6-2
JANUARY 13, 2020

The meeting was called to order on January 13, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. by President Rich Schlosser. Members present were Dan Nickelson, Richard Achen and Alex Hart. Jon Ellwein was excused. Others present were Superintendent/9-12 Principal/Athletic Director Jeff Kosters, K-8 Principal Jessica Ringgenberg, and Business Manager Janel Wagner. Visitors present were Marty Morlock, Steve Voeller, Jake Voeller and Tamie Nickelson.

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. Tamie Nickelson presented safety concerns in the drop off area of the SE parking lot. Steve and Jake Voeller requested their bus driver pick up the kids at the house instead of at the road.

Steve and Jake Voeller exited at 6:11p.m.

Action 19-057 Motion by Achen, second by Nickelson to approve the agenda as presented. All aye, carried.

Action 19-058 Motion by Hart, second by Achen to approve consent agenda which included the following items as presented: minutes of meeting held December 10, 2019; December 2019 financial report, agency accounts and investments; District bills and December 2019 payroll. All aye, carried.

Ending December 31, 2019	General Fund	Capital Outlay Fund	Special Education Fund	Pension Fund	Food Service Fund	Driver's Ed Fund	Trust & Agency
Beginning checking Balance ...	\$264,754.99	\$148,514.89	\$154,075.50	\$7,798.67	\$154.12	\$669.82	\$44,893.75
Revenue:							
Taxes.....	\$100,553.63	\$91,398.45	\$61,028.33				
Local Sources.....	\$2,846.56	\$1,429.91			\$1,955.05		\$3,036.13
Interest.....	\$25.98						\$1.84
Federal & State.....	\$44,596.04		\$493.90		\$3,197.78		
Total Revenue.....	\$148,022.21	\$92,828.36	\$61,522.23	\$0.00	\$5,152.83	\$0.00	\$3,037.97
Disbursements.....							
Bills.....	\$20,823.54	\$6,073.31	\$2,362.24		\$3,528.08		\$4,813.41
Payroll.....	\$130,747.90		\$15,559.00		\$3,689.76		
Total Disbursements.....	\$151,571.44	\$6,073.31	\$17,921.24	\$0.00	\$7,217.84	\$0.00	\$4,813.41
Transfers.....							
Transfer-from Gen Fund to Food Service		(\$10,000.00)				\$10,000.00	
Transfer-from Pension to Gen Fund.....	\$7,798.67			(\$7,798.67)			
Total Net Transfers.....	(\$2,201.33)	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$7,798.67)	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total checking balance.....	\$259,004.43	\$235,269.94	\$197,676.49	\$0.00	\$8,089.11	\$669.82	\$43,118.31
Beginning investment balance	\$422,492.37	\$1,783,634.20	\$1,246,175.05	\$17,189.23			
Interest.....	\$3,730.53						
Transfer-from Pension to Gen Fund.....	\$17,189.23			(\$17,189.23)			
Total investment balance.....	\$443,412.13	\$1,783,634.20	\$1,246,175.05	\$0.00			
Ending Balance.....	\$702,416.56	\$2,018,904.14	\$1,443,851.54	\$0.00	\$8,089.11	\$669.82	

erson \$20.08; Shannon Beckler \$1,118.48; Edward Binfet \$20.92; Linda Boschee \$11.68; Jessica Buckley \$1,067.64; Linda Buzalsky \$11.68; Todd Campbell \$1,051.20; Jacqueline Clement \$12.52; Doreen Erhart \$12.52; Joan Ernst \$11.68; Jane Fischer \$18.40; Lois Fischer \$10.84; Jeffery Fliehs \$26.80; Joseph Gustafson \$41.08; Jean Haaland \$18.40; Monica Hein \$1,188.64; Nicholas Hinkle \$559.24; Belinda Jepsen \$10.84; Kent Johnsen \$1,169.32; Janelle Klapperich \$10.84; Anna Kolasch \$10.84; Bryan Kriech \$11.68; Lora Larson \$14.20; Linda Marcuson \$11.68; Monica McCranie \$40.24; Chad Mielke \$11.68; Samantha Mitchell \$11.68; Brittany Murray \$1,033.60; Donald Neifer \$12.52; Darla Nelson \$10.84; Joanne Nemmers \$11.68; Kaitlyn Newman \$14.20; Bernard Pence \$10.84; Harlow Peterson \$1,067.20; Joseph Piatz \$24.28; Timothy Pierson \$54.20; Jacqueline Quiggle \$26.80; Eileen Schuelke \$1,380.92; Julie Stuhr \$10.84; Dawn Theunissen \$14.20; Lee Thompson \$26.80; Timmy Thoreson \$11.68; LaVoena Vitense \$26.80; Steve Wander \$31.00; Joseph Zerr \$12.52. Publishing: Aberdeen American News \$1,344.74; Hub City Radio \$300.00; NW Blade \$107.50. Repairs & Maintenance: Ecobal \$118.77; Farm Power Mfg. \$100.00; Hoven Auto Repair \$77.16; I-State Truck \$21.00; Interstate Powersystems \$1,615.84; Jason's Electric \$474.43; Leidholt Electric \$1,745.07; Lien Transportation \$1,290.00; Pantorium Cleaners \$33.00; Pierson-Ford \$14.68; Quality Welding \$190.00; Schwan Welding \$668.55; Trans Source \$723.09; Walth Safety Service \$1,500.00. Supplies: AgTegra \$4,987.50; Assoc. of SD County Weed & Pest Board \$0.55; Cash-Wa \$5,111.03; Dakota Mailing \$847.00; Dakota Oil \$642.50; DT Pharmacy \$1,901.96; Heartland Paper \$956.00; I-State Truck \$213.82;

Ken's SuperFair Foods \$192.72; Kessler's \$20.98; Leidholdt Tool Sales \$15.39; Menards \$445.47; Performance Rentals \$20.00; PharmChem \$28.55; Pitney Bowes \$15,000.00; Running's \$3.59; Satellite Tracking of People \$559.00; TranSource \$138.00; Walth Safety Service \$45.00; Web Water Bottling Co. \$13.00. Travel & Conference: Assoc. of SD County Weed & Pest Board \$60.00. Utilities: Aberdeen City Treasurer \$1,572.17; City of Hecla \$209.95; Economy Propane \$904.20; Exec. Mgmt. \$82.24; Northern Electric \$606.60; NWPS \$4,985.29; NVC \$26.02; Town of Frederick \$70.65; Verizon \$160.04; Web Water Development \$78.35.
Other: JRWD \$1,440.68; SDACO \$946.00; SD Attorney General's Office \$427.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
HR REPORT:
Moved by Feickert seconded by Sutton to approve the following HR Office Report, which includes the following personnel changes: Acknowledge resignation of Brenda Hamrich, Home Detention Supervisor effective January 7, 2020 and approve appointment of Interim Home Detention Supervisor Samiuela Mounga effective January 12, 2020 at \$22.21 per hour; Approve promotion of John Florey from Brown County Highway Labor Grade 3 to Brown County Highway Foreman, effective January 20, 2020 at \$23.50 per hour; Approve changing the employee step increase from anniversary date to all being effective the 4th payroll of 2020 and then the 1st payroll of every year to follow. Department heads will provide notification to the HR Director annually if they do not approve an employee's step increase. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
LOTTERY PERMIT:
Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Lottery Application: South

Claims approved: December 2019 Payroll - General Fund salaries 75,786.56; Special Education salaries 10,080.33; Food Service salaries 1,797.81. EFTPS, federal income tax/Social Security/Medicare 23,551.08; AFLAC, supplemental insurance 917.74; American Funds, retirement 1,265.02; Delta Dental, insurance 1,693.50; Express Collections, garnishment 508.60; AMI, garnishment 988.90; Reliastar Life, insurance 261.78; Security Benefits, retirement 1,000.26; VSP, vision insurance 290.34; Wellmark, health insurance 17,616.00; SD Retirement 13,773.48; SD Retirement Supplemental, 465.26.

General Fund: Aberdeen Family YMCA, fee 15.00; Agtegra, gasoline/diesel/heating fuel 4,723.10; Amazon Capital Services, supplies 240.65; American Red Cross Training Services, CPR/first aid training supplies 1,347.52; Cole Papers Inc, supplies 740.66; CommTech, repairs 200.00; Crawford Trucks & Equipment Inc, repairs 394.87; CWD, Fresh Fruits & Vegetables Prog/supplies 544.61; Dakota Electronics, alarm maintenance 60.00; Double D Body Shop, repairs 117.15; Farnam's Genuine Parts Inc, repairs 90.45; GDI News, publishing 125.87; Graves IT Solutions, IT support 200.00; Hitchcock-Tulare School District, student assembly 500.00; HP Inc, repairs 225.00; James Valley Telecommunications, telephone 244.36; JM Electric Inc, repairs 1,296.95; JW Pepper & Son Inc, music supplies 31.48; Kessler's, supplies 34.32; Main Street Station, repairs 690.00; Menards,

supplies 166.77; Merchant Services, online lunch payment fees 41.13; Mid-American Research Chemical, supplies 161.52; Montana-Dakota Utilities Co, electric 4,191.13; Mosyle Corporation, subscription 495.00; Pantorium Cleaners Inc, supplies 112.55; Pomp's Tire Service Inc, repairs/tires 1,515.74; Quality Quick Print, postage 3.27; School Specialty, supplies 21.70; So-Dak Track Clinic, coach training 60.00; Taylor Music Inc, supplies 67.49; Town of Frederick, utilities 276.26; Trust & Agency Account, Dec 2019 reimbursement 884.50; United States Postal Service, postage 10.65; USA Clean, repairs 77.10; Woodman Refrigeration, Inc, repairs 392.81. Capital Outlay Fund: A&B Business Solutions, managed print 649.56; Double D Body Shop, bus repairs 3,929.91; JM Electric Inc, lighting upgrades 4,551.09. Special Education Fund: Anliker, Jennifer, mileage 37.80; Bain, Larissa, mileage 163.80. Food Service Fund: Child & Adult Nutrition, food 289.62; Community Store, food 23.42; CWD, food/supplies 4,395.65; Pantorium Cleaners Inc, supplies 74.40.

Tamie Nickelson exited at 6:15 p.m.

The following reports were presented:

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

B. Jessica Ringgenberg - K-8 Principal

C. Dan Nickelson, North Central Special Education Cooperative

Action 19-059 Motion by Hart, second by Nickelson to approve

Open Enrollment applications #20-13, #20-14, #20-15 and #20-16. All aye, carried.

Action 19-060 Motion by Achen, second by Nickelson to approve 2020 Driver Education fee at \$150.00. All aye, carried.

Action 19-061 Motion by Achen, second by Hart to approve the following policies: BDB-School Board Study Sessions and Work Retreats, BDDA-Notification of School Board Meetings, BDDC-Board Meeting Agendas and Format, BDDC-Agenda Preparation and Dissemination, BDDCA-Agenda Related Supplemental Information, BDDD-Quorum, BDDE-Parliamentary Procedure, BDDF-Voting Method, BDDG-Minutes, BDFG-Policy Review and Evaluation, BHA-New Board Member Orientation, BHAA-Board Member Education, BHB-Board Member Development Opportunities, BHD-Board Member Compensation and Expenses, BJ-School Board Memberships, EEADA-Use of Private Vehicles and EI-Insurance Management. All aye, carried.

The school board would like to congratulate Emily Kocher as the Frederick Area Junior Snow Queen and Irelande Podoll as the Frederick Area Senior Snow Queen.

Action 19-063 Motion by Achen, second by Nickelson to adjourn at 6:48 p.m. All aye, carried.

Rich Schlosser, President
Janel Wagner, Business Manager

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$116.97. 18555

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the 4rd Quarter Interest Report. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT 4th QUARTER REPORT:
Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Feickert to approve the 4th quarter report for Emergency Management. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
GENERATOR CONTRACT:
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to authorize chair sign 2020 service contract with Interstate Power system for Courthouse Generator Service and Maintenance.
LEGAL ASSIGNMENT:
Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Sutton to assign claims against individuals to Credit Collection Bureau for the purpose of collecting liens. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
TAX DEED SALE:
Moved by Feickert, seconded by Fjeldheim to authorize advertising the following described property to be offered for sale by auction in the Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, on February 10, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.: Aberdeen City: West 42' Lot 7 and West 42' of South 12.5' Lot eight (8) Block forty (40) Bennett and Thomas Addition to North Aberdeen, Brown County, South Dakota (224 2ND Ave NW) and Lot five (5) Block four (4) Nicollet Park Addition to Aberdeen, Brown County, South Dakota (318 S Jackson St). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
ABATEMENTS:
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the following abatements: Abiding Love Fellowship @ \$1,909.29 (Tax Exempt); Paul Wagner (error) \$435.84; Olive Drive Rentals LLC (error) \$750.62; Aberdeen City (Tax Exempt) @ \$336.21; Brown County (Tax Exempt) @ \$100.23; Matthew Beck (Damaged Property) @ \$48.82; Betty Breck (error) @ \$631.35. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
WEATHER CLOSING:
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to authorize hour hours of vacation be issued to those required to report to work when the courthouse was closed due to inclement weather Monday December 30, 2019. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
POLICY MANUAL DISCUSSION:
Proposed policy manual changes were discussed including the following: call-back pay; Over-time and exemptions, Holiday's, and Weather Emergencies. No action taken.
ADJOURNMENT:
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:05 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$79.93. 18557

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Brown County Gravel Bid Notice

NOTICE TO GRAVEL PRODUCTION CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS

Sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Court House Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota until the hour of 8:47 A.M. on January 28, 2020 at said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read and considered for furnishing and delivery of ONE (1) YEARS SUPPLY OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GRAVEL MATERIALS. Proposal Guaranty: No deposit or bid bond will be required at time of the bid opening.

Performance Bond: Brown County will give notice to the successful bidder that his proposal has been accepted, and said bidder shall within ten (10) days thereafter enter into a contract with Brown County and furnish a performance bond in accordance with the bid as accepted or as required by the Brown County Highway Department Superintendent.

Envelopes containing bids shall be addressed and delivered to the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401, and to be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope: "BIDS ON GRAVEL AGGREGATE MATERIALS" to be opened January 28, 2020 at 8:47 A.M. The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County.

Bids shall include all applicable taxes and fees for materials furnished and/or installed by the Contractor and all applicable taxes and fees for materials supplied by the County. Brown County is exempt from all Federal Excise Tax and State Sales Tax.

Contract for GRAVEL MATERIALS shall be firm and will be in effect for a period of one (1) year from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor (0115.0122)
 Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$40.55. 18543

Brown County Rental Equipment Bid Notice

NOTICE TO ROAD CONTRACTORS AND MACHINERY DEALERS

Sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Court House Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota, until the hour of 8:47 A.M. on January 28, 2020. At said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read and considered for furnishing Full Operation Rental Services of Gravel Trucks and Road Machinery for construction and maintenance repairs on Brown County Road Projects for the year 2020. Successful bidders will be working along with Brown County Highway Department Forces, Brown County Landfill Forces and the Brown County Fairground Forces to complete the projects.

Proposal Guaranty: No deposit or bond will be required at time of bid opening.

Performance Bond: Brown County will give notice to the successful bidder that his proposal has been accepted, and said bidder shall within ten (10) days thereafter enter into a contract with Brown County and said bidders shall then be required to furnish the following: Certificates of Insurance as per Bid Specifications or Requested from Brown County. Brown County must be listed as additional insured on all Certificates of Insurance.

Contract for Rental Equipment shall be firm and will be in effect for a period of one year from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021.

Envelopes containing bids shall be addressed and delivered to the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401, and to be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope: "BIDS FOR RENTAL OF EQUIPMENT" to be opened January 28, 2020 at 8:47 A.M. The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County.

Bids shall include all applicable taxes and fees for materials furnished and/or installed by the Contractor and all applicable taxes and fees for materials supplied by the County. Brown County is exempt from all Federal Excise Tax and State Sales Tax.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor (0115.0122)
 Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$46.42. 18541

Brown County Road Oil Bid Notice

NOTICE TO ROAD OIL SUPPLIERS

Sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Court House Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota, until the hour of 8:47am, January 28, 2020. At said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read and considered for producing, furnishing and delivery of Road Oil to the Brown County System of Roads, F.O.B. Brown County, South Dakota.

Item (A) Cutback Asphalt Road Oil – MC-70
 Item (B) Cutback Asphalt Road Oil – MC-3000
 Item (C) Emulsion Asphalt Road Oil- CSS1H
 Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor (0115.0122)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$17.64. 18542

Brown County Hot Mix Bid Notice

NOTICE TO ASPHALT CONCRETE PLANT MIX SUPPLIERS

Sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Court House Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota, until the hour of 8:47 A.M., January 28, 2020. At said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read and considered for producing, furnishing all materials and delivery of Asphalt Concrete Plant Mix Materials for road maintenance and construction on Brown County System of Roads, F.O.B. Brown County, South Dakota.

Proposal Guaranty: No deposit or bid bond will be required at time of bid opening.

Contract Notice: Brown County will give notice to the successful bidder that his proposal has been accepted, and said bidder shall within ten (10) days thereafter enter into a contract with Brown County.

SDCL 58-6-62: POLICY TO BE WRITTEN THROUGH LICENSED RESIDENT OR NON-RESIDENT AGENT-COUNTERSIGNATURE OF RESIDENT AGENT – VIOLATION AS MISDEMEANOR. No authorized insurer may make, write, issue or place any policy, contract or insurance, or general or floating policy upon persons or property, or covering a subject of insurance or bonding to be performed in South Dakota unless the policy is written through a licensed resident agent, or a non-resident agent when countersigned by a resident agent. If two or more insurers issue a single policy, it may be countersigned on behalf of all of them by one of the insurer's licensed resident agents in this state. Violation of this section is a Class 2 misdemeanor.

Contract for Asphalt Plant Mix Materials shall be firm and will be in effect for a period of one (1) year from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021.

Envelopes containing bids shall be addressed and delivered to the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 57401 and to be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope: "BIDS ON ASPHALT CONCRETE PLANT MIX MATERIALS" to be opened on January 28, 2020 at 8:47 A.M. The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County.

Bids shall include all applicable taxes and fees for materials furnished and/or installed by the Contractor and all applicable taxes and fees for materials supplied by the County. Brown County is exempt from all Federal Excise Tax and State Sales Tax.

Section 320.5 – Basis of Payment: "A" – Asphalt Concrete Plant Mix Materials for Maintenance and Construction. The accepted quantities of Asphalt Plant Mix will be paid for at the contract unit price per ton.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor (0115.0122)
 Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$58.18. 18544

Brown County Notice Sale of Property

NOTICE SALE OF PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to Chapter 6-13 SDCL, the following described property will be offered for sale by auction in the Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota on February 10, 2020 at 10:00 A.M. This property has been approved for public sale by the Brown County Commission. At the conclusion of this sale, Brown County will issue and file a Quit Claim Deed to the property in the name requested by the purchaser. All delinquent taxes, penalties and interest are abated and are not the responsibility of the new owner. Brown County makes no guarantee of absolute fee simple marketable title to the property. It is recommended that the purchaser of a county quit claim deed pursue a quiet title action in order to acquire marketable title to the property (see SDCL Chapter 43-30, title standards 26-01 and 26-02).

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

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:
 MINIMUM BID
 ABERDEEN CITY
 West 42' Lot 7 and West 42' of South 12.5' Lot eight (8) Block forty (40) Bennett \$ 1,200 and Thomas Addition to North Aberdeen, Brown County, South Dakota 224 2ND Ave NW Lot five (5) Block four (4) Nicollet Park Addition to Aberdeen, \$ 7,500
 Brown County, South Dakota, 318 S Jackson St
 Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor (0122.0129)

Published twice at the approximate total cost of \$33.50. 18558

Brown County Nomination Petitions Notice

NOTICE OF DEADLINE FOR FILING NOMINATING PETITIONS FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION AND FOR FILING INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE PETITIONS

The deadline for filing nominating petitions for the primary election is March 31, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. central time. If a petition is mailed by registered mail by March 31, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. central time, it is considered filed.

The deadline for filing nominating petitions to run as an independent candidate in the general election is April 28, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. central time. If a petition is mailed by registered mail by April 28, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. central time, it is considered filed. For the offices of County Commissioners, County States Attorney, County Coroner and County Treasurer, nominating petitions must be filed in the office of the Brown County Auditor, and nominating petitions for the offices of U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, Public Utilities Commissioner, State Senate District 1-3, State Representatives District 1-3 must be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State, State Capitol Building, Pierre, SD 57501.

The deadline for filing nominating petitions to run as an independent candidate for president in the general election is August 4, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. central time. If a petition is mailed by registered mail by August 4, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. central time, it is considered filed.

Nominating petitions for the offices of County Commissioners, County States Attorney, County Coroner, County Treasurer, Statement to be filed by persons wishing to fill the position of Precinct Committeeman and Committeewoman for the Democratic and Republican Party must be filed in the office of the county auditor during regular business hours. Nominating petitions for the offices of President, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, State Senate District 1-3, State Representatives District 1-3 must be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State, State Capitol Building, Pierre, SD 57501, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. central time. (0122.0129)
 Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor
 Published twice at a total approximate cost of \$45.25. 18559



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**Groton School
Jan. 13, 2020
Meeting Minutes**

UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
NO. 06-6
REGULAR MEETING
January 13, 2020

President Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the High School Conference Room. Members present: Flihs, Gengerke, Harder, Pharis, Smith and Weismantel. Absent: Rix. Others present were Supt. J. Schwan, Principals B. Schwan and Sombke, and Business Manager Weber.

Moved by Weismantel, second Gengerke to approve the agenda with two amendments: under Old Business Item #5a – approve open enrollments and under New Business Item #4 – executive session for student issue. Motion carried.

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

Moved by Pharis, second Flihs to approve consent agenda items as follows: December 9, 2019 minutes, and bills. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND: Net Salary – 179,162.22; FIT – 16,352.86; Medicare – 6,739.04; FICA – 28,814.80; American Funds – 542.80; SDRS – 28,635.78; Health Savings Account Contributions – 100.00; Waddell & Reed – 1,440.00; Horace Mann – 1,177.61; Thrivent – 250.00;

AFLAC – 3,358.66; Delta Dental – 3,880.46; SD Supplemental Retirement – 702.29; Breit Law Office – 641.28; Wellmark – 57,686.00; Reliastar – 588.64; Avesis – 280.23; Agency Fund – advanced pays, 28,671.21; Allied Climate Pros – repairs, 1,800.00; Amazon – supplies, 306.32; Angela Antonson – clothing, 581.00; ABC – fire testing, 2,028.00; Avera Training Center – fee, 45.00; Best Western Kelly Inn – lodging, 365.98; CHS – registration, 250.00; Cole Papers – supplies, 2,356.31; Dakota Brush – supplies, 524.00; Dependable Sanitation – service, 1,238.00; Edmunds Central – dues, 40.00; Farnam's – supplies, 59.81; GDI – printing/advertising, 778.46; J.W. Pepper – music, 45.36; Locke Electric – services, 113.58; Matheson – supplies, 323.39; McLeod's – checks, 148.87; Menards – supplies, 15.97; MJ's – fuel, 234.37; My Place – rooms, 462.00; National Speech/Debate – dues, 80.00; Nelsons – repairs, 330.00; Northside Implement – repairs, 4,314.36; Northwestern Energy – utilities, 4,542.46; QQP – trophies, 80.00; Jasmine Schinkel – refund, 43.25; School Specialty – supplies, 19.44; Schwan Welding – repairs, 49.00; Cody Swanson – refund, 1,338.76; Taylor Music – repairs, 270.00. Total General Fund – \$381,807.57.

CAPITAL OUTLAY: A&B Business – lease, 1,489.03; AgEd-Net – subscription, 415.00; Agency Fund – advanced pays,

2,260.97; Everyday Speech – subscription, 199.99; Farnam's – tools, 236.88; House of Glass – door cylinder, 309.64; Stan Houston – saw, 218.34; Cody Swanson – USB DVD, 29.71; US Bank – fee, 600.00. Total Capital Outlay – \$5,759.56.

SPECIAL ED: Net Salary – 27,546.28; FIT – 2,280.26; Medicare – 1,023.82; FICA – 4,377.76; SDRS – 4,530.28; Waddell & Reed – 200.00; AFLAC – 907.33; Delta Dental – 707.34; SD Supplemental Retirement – 100.00; Wellmark – 10,095.00; Reliastar – 211.42; Avesis – 74.24; Agency Fund – advanced pays, 1,045.80; Avera St Luke's – PT/OT, 33,856.16; Jasmine Schinkel – supplies, 24.48; Judy or Gene Williamson – mileage, 458.64. Total Special Ed – \$87,438.81.

ENTERPRISE: Food Service Net Salary – 5,730.14; FIT – 355.12; Medicare – 202.38; FICA – 865.40; SDRS – 630.36; AFLAC – 271.34; Wellmark – 1,526.00; Reliastar – 3.84; Avesis – 52.78; Agency Fund – advanced pays, 184.02; CWD – food, 880.03; Dean Foods – milk, 593.50; Earthgrains – food, 216.90; Reinhart – food, 3,546.33; SD Dept of Ed – food, 565.93; SNA – dues, 48.50; US Foods – food, 1,444.18. Total Food Service – \$17,116.75. OST Net Salary – 1,845.56; FIT – 127.39; Medicare – 66.08; FICA – 282.56; SDRS – 233.24; AFLAC – 163.93; Wellmark – 671.00; Reliastar – 16.92; Agency Fund – advanced pays,

270.60. Total OST – \$3,677.28. Total Enterprise Funds – \$20,794.03. AGENCY FUND: Total – \$78,442.19. RECEIPTS: Local Sources, Taxes – 437,414.31; Other Local Sources – 89,367.96; County Sources – 3,171.33; State Sources – 1,125.91; Federal Sources – 12,760.30; Other Sources – 200,000.00. Total Receipts – \$743,839.81. Members of the public were allowed five 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. Weber and J. Schwan presented the mid-year financial report, agency and investments report, transportation report and school lunch report. Moved by Weismantel, second Harder to approve the reports. Motion carried. Schwan discussed a certified sign language interpreter job description. Moved by Pharis, second Gengerke to approve. Motion carried. Moved by Harder, second Flihs to approve open enrollments 20-11 and 20-12. Motion carried. The following items were discussed in administrative reports: State Fire Marshall Report, Special Education Corrective Action Plan Review, ESSA state plan revisions, DOE Strategic Plan, Civics Education Plan, Cyber Security Risk Assessment, Science Steve visit to elementary,

SD Comprehensive Needs Assessment, teacher observations, Title I level 3 monitoring, dual credit summary, e-learning courses, dual credit summer courses and property/liability insurance issues. Moved by Weismantel, second Pharis to set April 14, 2019, as Annual School Board Election Day and authorize Weber to designate election officials and voting precincts at Andover, Bristol, Columbia and Groton. Motion carried. Three-year terms are expiring for Grant Rix and Steven R. Smith. A petition for school board can be circulated between January 31st and February 28th. The board reviewed first reading of recommended policy changes: ACAB Prohibition Against Aiding or Abetting Sexual Abuse (New); BDC Executive Sessions (Amend); BDDB Agenda Format (Amend); BDDC Agenda Preparation and Dissemination (Amend); BDEA Parliamentarian (Delete); BDDG Minutes (Amend); BDDH Public Participation at Board Meetings (Amend); BFC Policy Adoption (Amend); DB Annual Budget (Amend); BDC Budget Deadlines and Schedules (Delete); BDD Budget Planning (Delete); DBH Budget Adoption Procedures (Delete); DBKA Promissory Notes (Delete); DBK Budget Transfer Authority (Delete); DGD Credit Card Use Policy (Amend); DIC Financial Reports and Statements (Amend); DJB Petty Cash Accounts (Amend); DJC Bid-

ding Requirements (Amend); DJD Local Purchasing (Amend); DJF Purchasing (Amend); DJ Purchasing (Amend); EH Service Animals at School (New); GBCBA Freedom of Expression (Amend); GBC Staff Ethics (Amend); GBEC Use of Alcohol and Drugs by Employees (Amend); GCBDF Nursing Mothers (New); GCB Qualifications of Teachers (Amend); GCD Professional Staff Hiring (Amend); JB Equal Educational Opportunities (Amend); JECA Admission of Resident Students (Amend); JFCD Cyberbullying (Delete); JFCE Student Bullying (Amend); KO Patriotic and National Organizations (New). The 2020-21 School Calendar was discussed. No action was taken. The board took a short recess at 8:02 pm and returned at 8:07 pm. Moved by Gengerke, second Pharis to go into executive session at 8:07 pm pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) for personnel issues and SDCL 1-25-2(2) for student issues. Motion carried. President Smith declared the board out of executive session at 9:04 pm. Moved by Weismantel, second Pharis to adjourn. Motion carried. M. J. Weber, Business Manager Steven R. Smith, President The addition of signatures to this page verifies these minutes as official. Published once at the total approximate cost of \$140.22. 18560

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

General Fund	Restricted Gen Funds	Capital Outlay	Special Education	Pension Fund	Bond Redemption	Capital	Enterprise Projects	Agency Fund	District Total Fund
1. Beginning Balance	1,180,146.26	1,572,935.94	193,439.14	0.00	158,345.95	0.00	47,733.16	274,624.46	3,459,277.12
a. cash	1,180,146.26	1,572,935.94	193,439.14	0.00	158,345.95	0.00	47,733.16	274,624.46	3,459,277.12
b. petty cash	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2. Transfers in	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3. Revenue to date	2,555,461.14	798,566.77	422,854.64	0.00	97,406.56	0.00	158,121.10	445,805.98	4,478,216.19
4. Total accounted for	3,735,607.40	2,371,502.71	616,293.78	0.00	255,752.51	0.00	205,854.26	720,430.44	7,937,493.31
5. Transfers out	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6. Expenditures to date ..	2,084,819.71	1,334,126.69	286,025.21	0.00	208,536.25	0.00	152,243.05	517,053.43	4,582,804.34
a. encumbrances	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
b. disbursements	2,084,819.71	1,334,126.69	286,025.21	0.00	208,536.25	0.00	152,243.05	517,053.43	4,582,804.34
7. Ending Balance	1,650,787.69	1,037,376.02	330,268.57	0.00	47,216.26	(0.00)	53,611.21	203,577.01	3,354,888.97
a. checking	1,650,787.69	1,037,376.02	330,268.57	0.00	47,216.26	0.00	53,611.21	203,377.01	3,354,688.97
b. petty cash	(0.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
December Receipts	422,707.24	146,355.59	74,276.37	0.00	21,159.68	0.00	21,854.54	57,486.39	743,839.81
December Expenses	395,372.32	890,057.93	54,127.73	0.00	208,536.25	0.00	22,377.56	76,657.19	1,647,128.98
Agency Checking	203,377.01								
District Checking	1,151,311.96								
Certificate of Deposit	2,000,000.00								
Agency Cash on Hand	200.00								
Total all Funds	3,354,888.97								

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Groton Ice Rink—West Side of Groton

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Effort begins to reduce risk of death of S.D. mothers during childbirth

By: Nick Lowrey

New or expectant mothers in South Dakota — and across the United States — are dying during or after childbirth at higher rates than in nearly every other industrialized nation, and evidence suggests as many as 60% of maternal deaths are preventable.

Nine mothers in South Dakota died in 2018 within a year of giving birth, and 10 South Dakota mothers died due to pregnancy complications within six weeks of giving birth from 2010 to 2015, according to federal data.

Experts say that in South Dakota, high rates of obesity, diabetes and smoking, as well as a trend toward giving birth at older ages, may all contribute to the relatively high maternal complication and death rate. A lack of access to health care and inefficiencies or mistakes in the birthing process are also seen as factors. Native American women in South Dakota face a particularly high risk of death during pregnancy.

The state Department of Health has formed a new committee made up of medical professionals that will begin meeting later this year to address the risks during childbirth and seek solutions.

Giving birth is one of the most common reasons younger American women, including South Dakotans, are admitted to a hospital, with roughly 3.7 million births recorded nationally each year (about 12,000 in South Dakota annually.)

Between 2010 and 2015 in South Dakota, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates there were 10 “pregnancy-related” deaths, those that occurred during or within six weeks of a pregnancy ending and are directly due to a pregnancy complication. The number is an estimate based on birth and death records and is likely a conservative figure.

Maternal “pregnancy-associated” deaths — those that occur within a year of the end of a pregnancy but are not necessarily connected to the pregnancy — averaged 7.2 per year between 2010 and 2018, according to the state Department of Health. There were nine such deaths in 2018.

The CDC estimates that roughly 700 American women die due to pregnancy-related complications every year. In 2017, the U.S. maternal mortality rate was 19 deaths per 100,000 live births, according to the World Health Organization. Countries with similar economic conditions saw a much lower rate. The United Kingdom saw 7 deaths per 100,000 live births and Canada recorded 10 maternal deaths per 100,000 births that year.

About 50,000 women in the U.S. annually are estimated to experience life-threatening pregnancy complications such as heavy bleeding, organ failure or the dangerous blood-pressure condition called preeclampsia.

South Dakota does not keep data on the prevalence of severe pregnancy complications, but such problems are “not uncommon,” according to Dr. Kimberlee McKay, who oversees obstetrics and gynecological services at Avera Health. The CDC estimates that severe pregnancy complications are up to 50 times more common than death.

Yet relatively little is known about how often complications arise. In South Dakota, there is no requirement for hospitals to publicly report how often they give new mothers blood transfusions or treat a pregnant woman for dangerously high blood pressure. Until this



year, South Dakota didn’t have a statewide review process to study the factors causing pregnant women to die in childbirth.

Many experts believe a lack of systematic review of maternal deaths in each state has been a significant factor in why America has become, statistically, one of the most dangerous industrialized nations in which to give birth.

Data that does exist largely are based on national surveys of hospital admissions and discharge paperwork as well as analyses of death certificates and birth certificates. The data show that both maternal deaths and the incidents of life-threatening complications are significant and have been growing in the U.S. since at least 1987.

The occurrence of life-threatening complications, for example, rose by nearly 200% between 1993 and 2014, according to the CDC National Inpatient Sample, a random sample of the nation’s hospital admissions. The data do not show whether the number of South Dakotans who experience severe pregnancy complications has risen.

The national rate of pregnancy-related deaths more than doubled between 1987, when the rate was 7.2 deaths per 100,000 births, and 2014, when the rate was 18 deaths per 100,000 births, according to the CDC Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System, which surveys death certificates as a way to monitor pregnancy-related deaths.

Existing data also show that roughly 60% of maternal deaths could be prevented. Researchers with the CDC have found that delivery hospitals could do a better job of creating standard procedures for monitoring and responding to emergencies such as high blood pressure and excessive bleeding in mothers before, during and after delivery.

South Dakota hospital systems are aware of the risks. At Avera Health, one of the state’s largest hospital systems, McKay said she and her colleagues have been implementing new protocols for monitoring blood loss. At Sanford Health, another leading health provider in South Dakota, an innovative piece of technology is helping hospital staff better monitor blood pressure in new mothers.

Renewed national focus on maternal health and safety has pushed South Dakota officials to take initial steps toward understanding and addressing the problem. Later this year, the state’s new Maternal Mortality Review Committee will hold its first official meeting to analyze maternal deaths and try to figure out how to prevent more such deaths in the future.

“It may change what we think about maternal mortality,” said Colleen Winter, division director for family and community health at the South Dakota Department of Health.

Causes of high maternal mortality varied

No single cause has been pegged as the reason for America’s rising rates of maternal death and severe pregnancy complications. But the trend has coincided with rising health-care costs as well as rising rates of chronic conditions such as obesity and diabetes. The average age of women giving birth has risen, too. And, until this year, there really wasn’t a standard for how hospitals were expected to identify, treat and train for responding to severe pregnancy complications.

“What’s interesting about women in South Dakota is that we tend to be overweight and gain too much weight (during pregnancy). We have higher rates of smoking. We are rural, which people don’t think of rurality as being a social determinant of health but in fact it is. And then we have the complications of obesity like diabetes, like hypertension, we have all of those things,” McKay said.

The state has a particular problem with gestational diabetes, a condition that affects how the body processes sugar, McKay said. Roughly one in 10 South Dakotans who got pregnant in 2017 were diagnosed with the condition, according to the South Dakota Pregnancy Risk Assessment Survey. Gestational diabetes, if recognized early, can be treated but it can also cause a baby to grow larger in the womb, McKay said.

“If you have gestational diabetes, the downstream effects of that pregnancy are severe hypertension and big babies, and when you deliver a great big baby, a lot of times your uterus bleeds afterwards,” McKay said.

One of South Dakota’s biggest challenges when it comes to maternal health is proximity to health care. Most of the state is already considered a shortage area for primary health-care. When it comes to maternal health, McKay described many of the state’s rural areas as maternity deserts, meaning women must travel 30 minutes or more to see an OBGYN or to give birth in a hospital.

Access to quality care may be one of the biggest reasons that Native American women are almost twice as likely to die from pregnancy-related causes as white or Hispanic women, said Dr. Ashley Briggs, an OBGYN at Sanford Health. She has been working with the federal Indian Health Service and other critical access hospitals in the Dakotas to provide better prenatal and post-pregnancy care in rural areas. In 2018, Briggs helped create a multi-state group of healthcare providers and public health officials who seek to improve both maternal and infant health in both states.

“We are trying to do things that focus on the specific concerns of Native Americans,” Briggs said.

Hospitals also share some of the blame for the country’s rising maternal death rate. Experts say that not enough attention has been paid to using standardized research-based best practices to both watch for and treat complications, such as heavy bleeding or high blood pressure in pregnant women before the situation gets out of hand.

The Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health within the Council on Patient Safety in Women’s Healthcare has spent years trying to get hospitals to adopt sets of standardized procedures and practices, called bundles,

Continues on next page



Dr. Ashley Briggs,
Sanford Health



Dr. Kimberlee McKay
Avera Health

"They were very interested in improving outcomes for moms and getting a better handle on the data for our state ... any maternal death is too many. Our numbers are smaller, but we'd rather have none."

-- Colleen Winter, division director for family and community health at the South Dakota Department of Health

that can be taught to anyone who works in a birthing hospital.

Many of the bundles are based on practices originally developed in California by the California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative. Implementation of the bundles helped reduce that state's maternal mortality rate by 55% between 2006 and 2013. California's maternal death rate during those years fell from 16.9 deaths per 100,000 births to 7.3 per 100,000. California now has one of the lowest maternal mortality rates in the U.S, according to the state's maternal mortality review committee.

The bundles include such practices as weighing blood absorbing pads in order to more accurately measure blood loss during delivery and making sure every delivery room has easily accessed kits for treating heavy bleeding. Hospitals also develop standard practices for monitoring blood pressure, including how and when to respond if a pregnant woman's blood pressure gets too high. The new standards also include annual training requirements for hospital staff.

Avera Health has been implementing procedures that conform to the AIM bundles for both high blood pressure and bleeding for a few years now, McKay said. One of the hospital system's most recently added practices is weighing blood absorbing pads to get a more accurate measure of a mother's blood loss during and after birth.

"I think our teams have done just a tremendous job of interrupting the bad things that can happen in deliveries because of the approach we've taken," McKay said.

Most hospitals that deliver babies in the U.S. will be forced to have such policies in place by July 1, 2020. The Joint Commission is a non-profit group that evaluates performance for about 80% of U.S. hospitals, including most

hospitals in South Dakota. The group recently updated its accreditation requirements for labor and delivery hospitals to create procedures and training regimes that conform to AIM supported maternal care bundles for monitoring and responding to high blood pressure and bleeding.

Sanford Health also has been developing its own set of practices in response to the Joint Commission's new requirements to improve patient safety, Briggs said. One innovation the hospital system plans to take advantage of is a way to automatically alert doctors and nurses when a patient's blood pressure is recorded as dangerously high in their electronic medical record. The technology will help prevent a high blood pressure reading from being missed and going untreated.

"We are all human and we all make mistakes. I think these standards are a way to head that off," Briggs said.

Having new protocols in place won't solve all of the problems, McKay said. Medical errors, whether they involve pregnant women or not, tend to be caused by a failure to recognize when a problem occurs or a failure to communicate about the problem, she said. While putting the protocols in place is a good first step, hospitals will need to adopt a more team-based culture to implement them.

"You can put a protocol in place all day long, but unless you address the culture and really adopt a culture of safety, you're not going to be successful at implementation," McKay said.

Despite ongoing efforts to prevent maternal deaths at the state's hospitals, physicians and public health officials say they need to get a better understanding of maternal mortality in South Dakota.

"We don't have complete data," said Winter, of the Department of Health.

Sanford Health also has been developing its own set of practices in response to the Joint Commission's new requirements to improve patient safety, Briggs said. One innovation the hospital system plans to take advantage of are blood pressure cuffs that automatically notify operators when a patient's blood pressure is dangerously high. The technology will help prevent a high blood pressure reading from being missed and going untreated.

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"We don't have complete data," said Winter, of the Department of Health.

Committee formed to improve safety

At the end of 2018, South Dakota was one of only nine states that had not established a Maternal Mortality Review Committee to analyze each death of a pregnant or recently pregnant woman. Establishing a state MMRC is regarded by the CDC and the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs as a necessary first step toward lowering the rate of maternal deaths.

"They were very interested in improving outcomes for moms and getting a better handle on the data for our state," Winter said.

After months of laying the groundwork, Winter said South Dakota's MMRC will hold its first meeting later this year to evaluate all nine maternity-associated deaths reported in 2018. The evaluations will help public health officials and healthcare providers pinpoint which areas of maternal health need more focus. The state has had success with a similar review committee that helped reduce the state's rate of infant deaths.

"In the case of infant mortality we found that infants were dying as a result of not having safe sleep environments and so we implemented a statewide safe sleep program," Winter said. "I feel like we'll learn a lot from maternal mortality review."

Because the DOH created the new MMRC without any additional funding from taxpayers, its members will be volunteers from the South Dakota medical community, Winter said. The state's hospitals also will be asked to provide access to medical records for each maternal death recorded in the state.

That access will be provided through a memorandum of understanding between the DOH and each hospital or hospital system. A DOH employee who has been assigned to work on maternal health will collect the pertinent information from each set of medical records and format a report on each death for the committee to review.

The committee may take years to devise policy recommendations. Maternal deaths are rare, of the roughly 11,890 women who gave birth in South Dakota in 2018, only nine died. Such a small number of deaths can make it difficult to draw conclusions, Winter said. But, she said, the MMRC will make a difference.

"Any maternal death is too many," Winter said. "Our numbers are smaller ... but we'd rather have none."

Trends in pregnancy-related mortality in the United States: 1987-2016



*Number of pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 live births per year

■ Pregnancy-related mortality ratio

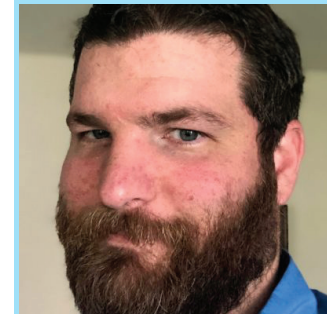
Data Table

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Pregnancy-related mortality ratio	7.2	9.4	9.8	10	10.3	10.8	11.1	12.9	11.3	11.3

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have been tracking maternal mortality since 1987 through its Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System, which compares death certificates to birth certificates to determine whether a death was pregnancy related or associated. The rate of maternal death has been increasing since 1987 and public health officials are beginning to grapple with the situation. The U.S. is one of only a handful of nations around the world to have seen a rising rate of maternal mortality over the last three decades. Source: Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention

ABOUT NICK LOWREY



Nick Lowrey, based in Pierre, S.D., is an investigative staff reporter for South Dakota News Watch. A South Dakotan for more than 20 years, he is a former editor of the Pierre Capital Journal.

Groton Boys win by one, Girls lose by one versus Ipswich

It was rock and roll city Tuesday night in the Groton Area as the battle of the Tigers resulted in two one-point games. The games were carried live on GDILIVE.COM with a record 700+ viewers. The game sponsors were the Groton Dairy Queen, Milbrandt Enterprises Inc, Allied Climate Professionals with Kevin Nehls, Blocker Construction, Tyson DeHoet Trucking, the John Sieh Agency and Jark Real Estate.

The Groton Area girls started out strong and with a 10-point rally in the first half, Groton Area took an 18-8 lead. Groton Area led after the first quarter, 11-6, and at half time, 22-15. Ipswich rallied in the third quarter to tie the game twice, but Groton Area held the lead at the end of the third quarter, 31-30. Ipswich took the lead with 5:08 left. Groton Area reclaimed the lead and it went back and forth in the final minute. Groton Area had the lead, 40-39, with 30 seconds left after Alyssa Thaler hit a field goal. Ipswich would get the ball and make the shot with 20 seconds left and hung on to win, 41-40.

Free throws were a critical part of the game as Groton Area was two out of 10 for 20 percent off of Ipswich's 13 team fouls while Ipswich was eight of 12 for 67 percent off of Groton Area's 13 team fouls. Groton Area had one of its better field goal shooting games, making 16 of 45 for 36 percent. Ipswich finished with 14 of 46 for 30 percent. Groton Area had more turnovers, 10-8.

Ipswich's Halle Heinz would score her 1000th career point with 1:27 left in the second quarter and she led Ipswich with 19 points, making one three-pointer and was five of seven from the line.

Gracie Traphagen would lead Groton Area with 19 points as well, making five three-pointers while Alyssa Thaler finished with 10 points, Kaycie Hawkins had six, Allyssa Locke had four and Madeline Flihs and Brooke Gengerke each had two points.

The rest of the scoring for Ipswich had Katie Bierman with six, Hailey Bierman five, Tessa Kilber, Chesney Olivier and Bailey Pitz with three a piece and Lindsey Grabowska added two points.

Ipswich won the junior varsity game, 30-19. Allyssa Locke led Groton Area with six points followed by Trista Keith with five, Shallyn Foertsch had four and Madeline Flihs and Marlee Tollifson each had two points. Katie Bierman led Ipswich with eight points.

Then the boys hit the floor and that proved to be just as exciting. Ipswich controlled the tip and scored first, but Cade Guthmiller hit a three-pointer and the Tigers were off and running. Groton Area held a six-point lead 13-

7, and led at the end of the first quarter, 15-13. Groton Area opened up a seven-point lead at 22-15, but Ipswich would score seven unanswered points to tie the game at 22 and then again at 24. Groton Area led by as much as eight points, 34-26, but a three-pointer by Ty Kadlec at the buzzer made it a 34-29 game at half time.

Ipswich's zone defense took away the inside game and the Tigers struggled with it. Ipswich tied the game at 36 and went on to out-score Groton Area in the third quarter, 13-5, to take a 42-39 lead into the fourth quarter. Cold shooting by Groton Area resulted in only two made field goals out of 10 for 20 percent in the third quarter.

Groton Area would tie the game at 42 early in the fourth quarter, but could not shake Ipswich. In face, the visiting Tigers opened up their biggest lead of five points a 52-47. Groton Area would take the lead with 24 seconds left, 54-53. Ipswich made one of two free throws with 17 seconds left to tie the game. Jonathan Doeden was fouled with four seconds left and made one of two free throws for the 55-54 win.

Groton Area made 17 of 44 field goals for 38 percent and Ipswich was 18 of 40 for 45 percent. Groton Area made 17 of 25 free throws for 68 percent off of Ipswich's 20 team fouls. Ipswich was 12 of 22 from the line for 54 percent off of Groton Area's 17 team fouls. Groton Area had 12 turnovers and Ipswich had 15.

Brodyn DeHoet led Groton Area with 24 points, making 10 of 14 free throws. Cade Guthmiller made three three-pointers and finished with 11 points Kaden Kurtz had 10 points while Jonathan Doeden had eight and Jayden Zak and Austin Jones each had one point.

Ipswich won the junior varsity game, 27-24. Wyatt Hearnen led Groton Area with seven points followed by Tristan Traphagen with five, Lucas Simon and Tate Larson each had three and Jayden Zac, Isaac Smith and Chandler Larson each had two points.

- Paul Kosel

Sisseton girls run past Groton Area

Sisseton girls came to Groton on Thursday and went home with a 51-33 win over Groton Area. The Tigers started out with a good first quarter, making three three-pointers and taking a 12-9 lead at the end of the first quarter.

In the first quarter, Groton Area made four of nine field goals for 44 percent and Sisseton was four of 15 for 27 percent.

Then during the next two quarter, the Redmen outscored Groton Area at one point, 30-1. It was 32-16 at half time and 41-24 at the end of the third quarter.

Groton Area was one of nine in the second quarter for 11 percent, three of 14 in the third quarter for 21 percent and four of 14 in the fourth quarter for 29 percent. Sisseton was nine of 14 in the second quarter for 64 percent, four of seven in the second quarter for 57 percent and three of 10 in the third quarter for 30 percent.

Gracie Traphagen led the Tigers with nine points followed by Alyssa Thaler with eight, Brooke Gengerke had five, Allyssa Locke and Kacie Hawkins each had four, Madeline Flihs had two points and Trista Keith added one point.

Lexus RedThunder led the Redmen with 22 points. Kellie Karst scored all 11 of her points in the first half. Hailey Nelson added eight points while Hannah Goodhart had seven, Taryn Yammirino had two and Ayianna Chanku added a free throw.

Groton Area was four of 10 from the line for 40 percent off of Sisseton's 13 team fouls. Sisseton was six of 11 from the line for 55 percent off of Groton Area's 10 team fouls with Traphagen fouling out with 2:15 left in the game.

Sisseton had 12 turnovers, four of which were steals. Groton Area had 13 turnovers, six of which were steals. Sisseton commanded the boards, 33-15, with Brooke Gengerke and Allyssa Lock each having five rebounds and Sisseton was led by RedThunder with 13 and Nelson with 10. Traphagen had one block.

Sisseton won the junior varsity game, 36-17. Trista Keith, Madeline Flihs and Emma Schinkel each had four points while Anna Fjeldheim had three and Carly Guthmiller two.

- Paul Kosel

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