

THE Groton Independent

South Dakota
Growing Families & Opportunities

Vol. 137 No. 22 ♦ Groton, South Dakota ♦ Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2020 ♦ Established in 1889

Basin Electric helps Groton rescue squad purchase power cot

Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Bismarck, donated \$15,554.86 to Groton Area Fire Protection and Rescue District on Monday, January 27. The check was presented at the Groton Fire Hall and covers the entire cost of a new Power Pro Cot for their ambulance. The fire/rescue district covers approximately 280 square miles and services 894 housing units and 2,050 people.

The Groton Area Fire Protection and Rescue District is not a transporting unit. Instead, they work with the Aberdeen Fire & Rescue to transport patients to an Aberdeen hospital. Since the new power cot is the same cot used by Aberdeen crews, it will make an easy transition and ensure patients are safely made ready for transport and avoid further chance for injury.

Patti Woods, training officer for the Groton Rescue Squad, said in a video interview with GDILIVE.COM, "Volunteers are getting harder and harder to come by. Sometimes our staff is limited when we get a call. With the Power Cot, two people can lift someone into the ambulance where before, it would take four people to do it. Having a Power Pro Cot will reduce the chance of injuries, including back injuries which are a common problem due to lifting and moving patients."

This is the first Power Cot that Groton Rescue has ever received. She said that Groton Fire for-



Pictured left to right are Kelly Schafer, (Basin Electric Distributed Generation Safety Coordinator), Tom Tietz (Fire Chief), Andy Buntrock (Basin Electric Director of Strategic Planning and Communications), Char Hager (Northern Electric Manager), Ben Peterson (Northern Electric), Joe Nelson (Basin Electric Groton Station Supervisor), Rick Pigors, (Groton Area Fire Protection & Rescue board vice chairman), Patti Woods (Groton Rescue Training Officer), Wendy Monson (EMT), Charity Hinman (EMT), John Wheating (Groton Area Fire Protection & Rescue board member), and Nancy Larsen (EMT). (Photo by Paul Kosel)

mulated the cot to the same as Aberdeen so when we put a patient on the cot, they can take the patient and cot and put it into their vehicle. "Before, they would have to transfer the patient off our cot to their cot before transporting to Aberdeen," she said.

"We were hesitant in putting a patient on one of our cots," Woods said. "We would wait until they (Aberdeen Fire and Rescue) would get here and put the patient on their cot. Now we can get the patient ready on our cot and when they get here, they are ready to go. It will get them more quickly to the hospital."

Woods said she heard about the grant and the cooperative training session that Basin has. "It was one of the grants I applied for and we got it," she said. "We're pretty happy."

The enhancements of having a new power cot will

help to relieve patient fear and anxiety. It will have a wider base for more stability, and the stretcher will have a wider mattress for enhanced comfort. The hydraulic lift system raises and lowers the stretcher in a gentle, predictable speed, thus eliminating the jerk motion associated with manual lift cots. Also, the new ergonomic handles and wider base reduce injury risks for volunteers.

Woods had applied for the grant through Basin Electric. She was notified of the grant approval through Northern Electric. Northern Electric receives its power from Basin Electric. Both Basin Electric and Northern Electric are in the Groton Area Fire Protection & Rescue District.

Woods said the next item they would like to get is a loader for the vehicle that will actually load the cot. That feature is around \$23,000.



Patti Woods and Wendy Monson show the stages of the power cot. Videos from the event can be seen in the video archives of 397news.com. (Photos lifted by GDILIVE.COM video)

Upcoming Games

The Groton Area boys will be taking part in the NEC-DAK12 Clash at Madison. Groton Area will take on SF Christian at 6:30 p.m. this Saturday. Chamberlain will be coming to Groton for a boys' basketball game on Saturday, Feb. 8. The C game will begin at 1:30 with the junior varsity around 2:45 p.m. and the varsity around 4:15 p.m. This is a make-up game for the game lost from the Pentagon.

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 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENTION HIGH School Seniors! 2020 Better Business Bureau Student of Integrity Awards. \$2,000 Scholarships. Application Deadline 3-6-20. bbb.org/south-dakota, 800-649-6814 #8526.

ATTENTION HIGH School Students! 2020 Better Business Bureau Video Contest. Cash Prizes. Begins 2-3-20 & Ends 2-28-20. bbb.org/south-dakota, 800-649-6814 #8550.

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

MCLAUGHLIN SCHOOL DISTRICT #15-2 SUPERINTENDENT- Closing date 2/16/20. Interviews to be conducted the week of 2/17/20. Full family benefits, medical, dental, and vision. Salary negotiable. Position start date 7/1/20. Applications may be obtained on the school website or by contacting Anne Larson, Human Resources, McLaughlin School District 15-2 at 605-823-4484 ext. 201

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.

NOTICES

ADVERTISE IN NEWSPAPERS statewide for only \$150. Put the South Dakota Statewide Classifieds Network to work for you today! (25 words for \$150. Each additional word \$5.) Call the Groton Independent at 605/397-7460 for details.

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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 – 2 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
Official
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

Brown County Jan. 21, 2020 Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2020 – GENERAL MEETING

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 Fjeldheim led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the County Commission January 21, 2019 Minutes. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL:
Moved by Fjeldheim seconded by Feickert to approve the following claims and payroll:

PAYROLL: Commission \$4,285.10; Auditor \$8,829.67; Treasurer \$12,337.85; SA \$21,672.60; SVAWA \$1,193.49; Maintenance \$7,911.77; Assessor \$12,654.14; Register of Deeds \$8,932.22; VSO \$2,548.72; GIS \$2,387.50; IT \$8,520.32; HR \$2,173.85; Sheriff \$43,221.04; Jail \$49,375.41; Court Security \$4,467.32; JDC \$30,503.25; Welfare \$2,077.70; Museum \$7,054.51; Parks/Fairgrounds \$4,974.62; Fair Board \$3,733.43; 4-H \$347.30; Weed \$1,447.58; Planning & Zoning \$27.57; Highway \$47,173.65; Dispatch \$28,163.59; Emergency \$4,119.58; Teen Court \$688.05; JDAI \$1,596.93; 24/7 Sobriety \$3,669.28; Landfill \$13,346.85; Matching Benefits: FICA \$20,496.85; Medicare \$4,793.65; Discovery HSA. \$175.00.

CLAIMS: Insurance: SD Public Assurance Alliance \$210,840.10. Professional Fees: Bantz, Gosch & Cremer \$2,144.60; Clark Engineering \$624.07; Gellhaus & Gellhaus \$80.00; Geospatial Experts \$398.00; GovConnection \$3,230.37; Kuck Law Office \$16.20; LSS \$358.68; Sanford Health Occupational Medicine \$39.00; SDACC \$6,711.00; SDACO \$3,082.17; SD Dept. of Health \$3,000.00; SD Dept. of Revenue & Regulation \$528,507.46; State Bar of SD \$166.00; Tammy Stolle Court Reporting \$572.95; US Bank \$979.99; West Payment Center \$239.57; Publishing: Aberdeen American News \$666.54; Bennett Co. Booster \$26.22; Groton Independent \$521.40. Rentals: 446-Praxair \$26.25. Repairs & Maintenance: A-1 Locksmithing \$10.00; Aberdeen Chrysler Center \$84.00; At Your Service Heating & Cooling \$362.17; Cintas \$31.55; Custom Installation Solutions \$65.00; Dakota Electronics \$155.00; DMI \$15,433.34; Grote Roofing \$3,928.54; House of Glass \$177.06; Quality Welding \$176.00; Skyview Construction \$14,103.95; US Bank \$291.21. Supplies: 446-Praxair \$78.36; A-1 Locksmithing \$12.00; Aberdeen American News \$227.00; Aberdeen Chrysler Center \$541.00; Advance Auto \$140.59; Carlsen Funeral Home \$325.00; Century Business Products \$896.51; Crescent Electric \$13.26; Dakota Electronics \$529.80; Dakota Mailing \$241.73; DSS Image \$159.50; FedEx \$48.65; Jessica Geditz \$106.48; GovConnection \$6,126.58; Great Western States Supply Co. \$261.00; McKesson Medical-Surgical \$656.92; Midstates Printing \$1,835.00; NVC \$26.02; Pro Ag Supply \$89.30; Quality Welding \$31.20; US Bank \$7,376.29; West Payment Center \$1,750.67. Travel & Conference: US Bank \$500.00. Utilities: CenturyLink \$1,166.09; Dependable Sanitation \$513.00; James Valley Telecommunications \$219.50; Northern Electric \$2,927.21; NWPS \$3,055.57; NVC \$3,683.83; US Bank \$536.42; Verizon \$3,305.34. Other: NCOG \$25,154.33; Safe Harbor \$1,010.00. 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: Approve transfer of Keith Baker from jail Deputy to Sheriff's Deputy effective December 29, 2019; Approve pay increase for Sarah Jesz, Brown County Communications Assistant Director to \$24.02 per hour, effective January 26, 2020.; Approve the following employee step increases effective January 26, 2020: Barry Braaten @ \$19.57 per hour, Jason Kalenberger @ \$19.57 per hour, Rachelle Hochstetter @ \$23.18 per hour, Ben Smith @ \$26.51 per hour, Cory Lane @ \$25.26 per hour. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

QUIT CLAIM DEED:
Moved by Feickert, seconded by Sutton to approve and authorize the Chair sign Quit Claim Deed for the following property offered for auction on tax deed on October 21, 2019: Lot three (3) of Laufen's Replat of Lots Twenty-Three (23) and Twenty-Four (24) Block Forty (40), West Aberdeen, Brown County, South Dakota @ \$4,000. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS:
Moved by Fjeldheim seconded by Feickert to designate the following as the official Brown County newspapers for year 2020 (SDCL 7-18-3): Aberdeen American News, Aberdeen, SD and The Groton Independent, Groton, SD. Rescind recognition of Dakota Press, Groton from January 7, 2020 approval. Dakota Press no longer meets the criteria to be considered a legal newspaper. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CONSOLIDATED BOARD OF EQUALIZATION:
Commissioner Sutton offered the following Resolution: RESOLUTION #4-20
A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH CONSOLIDATED BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
PURSUANT TO SDCL 10-11-66 THROUGH 10-11-77
BE IT RESOLVED that a consolidated Board of Equalization as authorized by 10-11-66 shall be established pursuant to the Resolution of the Governing Boards of Brown County, City of Aberdeen, and the Aberdeen School District 6-1. The consolidated Board of Equalization as created by this Resolution shall be authorized to exercise all powers contained in SDCL 10-11-66.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that three members from the Brown County Commission and one member of the Aberdeen City Council and one member of the Aberdeen School District 6-1 School Board shall constitute a consolidated Board of Equalization as provided by SDCL 10-11-66.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Aberdeen City Council, Brown County Commission and the Aberdeen School District 6-1 shall be responsible for the per diem and salary and mileage costs of the respective members that serve on the Consolidated Board of Equalization. Brown County Commission shall be responsible for the ordinary and customary expenses associated with the equalization of property including appeals to the State of South Dakota Office of Hearing Examiners. The financial responsibilities contained in this resolution shall remain unless either the Aberdeen City Council, Brown County Commission or the Aberdeen School District 6-1 shall request that they be modified prior to December 1st of each year.

THIS RESOLUTION shall be binding upon the Brown County Commission, Brown County, SD and upon each governing body adopting this Resolution according to law.

Seconded by Commissioner Feickert. Roll call vote: Commissioners Feickert-aye, Sutton-aye, Wiese-aye, Kippley-aye, Fjeldheim-aye. Resolution adopted.

FAIR CONTRACTS (BOOTH, CAMPER, SPONSORSHIP):
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to authorize the Chair to sign Booth Rental Contracts, Camper Space Rental Contracts, and Sponsorship Agreements for the 2020 Brown County Fair, as they are presented. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FAIR CONTRACTS:
Moved by Feickert, seconded

by Wiese to approve and authorize the Chair sign the following contract for the 2020 Fair: Freddie Prez @ \$7,500 (entertainment); Keith Raymond @ \$4,000 (entertainment); W.H. Petting Zoo Inc. @ \$2,500 (entertainment); David Malmberg @ \$5,000 (entertainment); Creative Community Promotions LLC @ \$3,800 (entertainment); Farmers Market Music LLC @ \$3,000 (entertainment); Gerald Mark Flora @ \$4,500 (entertainment). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CONTINGENCY TRANSFERS:
Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Feickert to approve the following Contingency Transfers: increase spending authority (no cash): Fund #101-5-→.xxx.422.99; 711 Zoning @ \$1,146.43; Fund #504.322 Solid Waste @ \$953.21; reduce spending authority (no cash) 101-112.422 @ \$2,099.64. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HOMELAND SECURITY REGIONAL REVIEW BOARD:
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the appointments of the following Brown County employees to represent Brown County on the 2020 Homeland Security Regional Review Board: Director Scott Meints (Brown County Emergency Management) and Chief Deputy Dave Lunzman (Brown County Sheriff) All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORD 154- FIRST READING:
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve first reading of ordinance 154, an Ordinance to amend Title 4-Zoning, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, to rezone the following described property from its present zoning designation as Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG): Lots 1&2, "Marzenell Subdivision" in the SE1/4SW1/4 of Section 25-T123N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORD 155- FIRST READING:
Moved by Feickert, seconded by Sutton to approve first reading of ordinance 155, an Ordinance to amend Title 4- Zoning, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, to rezone the following described property from its present zoning designation as Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG) Lots 1&2 "1st Subdivision Larson Outlot 1: in the SW1/4 of Section 24-T122N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION FOR GRANARY LAND TRANSFER:
Commissioner Sutton offered the following resolution: RESOLUTION #5- 20
WHEREAS, the County is the owner of real estate located in Brown County SD described as: PARCEL 1: Sieh's Outlot 1 in the North Half of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 29, Township 124 North, Range 61 West, Brown County, South Dakota, subject to easements, reservations and restriction of record, if any.

WHEREAS, Brown County resolves to transfer ownership of said parcel to Dacotah Prairie Museum Foundation pursuant to SDCL §6-5-2.

WHEREAS, Dacotah Prairie Museum Foundation is a non-profit corporation

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: The County Board of Commissioners authorizes the transfer of the Granary (Parcel 1) from Brown County to the Dacotah Prairie Museum Foundation. Seconded by Feickert: Roll call vote: Commissioners Feickert-aye, Sutton-aye, Wiese-aye, Kippley-aye, Fjeldheim-aye. Resolution adopted.

DUMPSTER FINE:
Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Feickert to approve a payment plan for dumpster fine. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HOT WATER HEATER STORAGE TANK:
Judy Dosch (Building Superintendent) met to discuss upgrading the hot water storage tank. No action taken.

HOME DETENTION:
Sheriff's Office and Home Detention met to discuss Home Detention procedures and filling a full-time vacancy. No action taken.

HOLIDAY POLICY:
Moved by Feickert, seconded by Sutton to approve the following employee holiday policy effective January 20, 2020: Brown County recognizes and observes the following as paid holidays for eligible employees: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day,

President's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Native Americans' Day, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day. Each January, the Brown County Commission may announce additional paid holidays. If a holiday falls on a Saturday, it is observed on the preceding Friday. If a holiday falls on a Sunday, it is observed on the following Monday. Eligibility for Holiday Pay: Non-essential Employees: Full-time employees = 8 hours for full-day; 4 hours for half-day; Part-time employees = 4 hours for full day; 2 hours for half day

Essential Employees: Full-time employees = number of hours worked on holiday at 1.5 time and 8 hours holiday at regular pay. Part-time employees= number of hours worked on holiday at 1.5 time and 4 hours holiday at regular pay. Sheriff's Deputies, Correctional Officers: Jail, JDC/HD, 24-7, and Dispatchers, who are required to work, are paid for the actual Holiday day. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

ADJOURNMENT:
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:20 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$131.64 18574.

Frederick School Notice of Audit

Notice of Audit of the Fiscal Affairs of Frederick Area School District No.6-2

Notice is hereby given that the records and books of account of Frederick Area School District No. 6-2 of Brown County, South Dakota, have been audited by Eide Bailey LLP for the fiscal year ended June 30,2019, and that a detailed report thereon is filed with the governing board, the Business Manager, and the Department of Legislative of Legislative Audit, 427 South Chapelle, South Dakota, for public inspection.

The following findings and recommendations referred to in the report are hereby published in compliance with the provisions of SDCL 4-11-12.

Current Audit Findings and Recommendations
Finding 2019-001- Lack of Segregation of Duties

Criteria: A good system of internal controls contemplates an adequate segregation of duties so that no one individual handles a transaction from its inception to its completion.

Condition:Frederick Area School District No. 6-2 has a limited number of office personnel and, accordingly, does not have adequate internal accounting controls in revenue, expenditures, and payroll functions due to a lack of segregation of duties.

Cause: The school District has an insufficient number of staff members to adequately separate duties.

Effect: This condition increases the risk that fraud or errors might occur and not be detected in the financial reporting process.

Recommendation: Although it is recognized that the number of office staff may not be large enough to permit an adequate segregation of duties in all respects, it is important that management and those charged with governance be aware of this condition. We recommend that the School Board exercise adequate oversight of the accounting function.

Views of Responsible Officials: Management agrees with the finding.

Finding 2019-002- Preparation of Financial Statements and Footnotes and Material Proposed Adjustment to the Financial Statements

Criteria: An organization's internal control structure should provide for the recording of all necessary material adjustments and the preparation of financial statements and footnotes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Condition: Frederick Area School District No.6-2 does not have an internal control system designed to provide for the

preparation of the financial statements being audited, including required footnotes and disclosures and all necessary material audit adjustments, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Cause: The School District does not have adequate staff trained to prepare the financial statements and footnotes.

Effect: This condition may affect the School District's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statements

Recommendations: This circumstance is not unusual in an organization of this size. It is the responsibility of management and those charged with governance to make the decision whether to accept the degree risk associated with this condition because of cost or other considerations.

Views of Responsible Officials: Management agrees with the finding.

(0129.0205)
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$67.59. 18575

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.
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January Students of the Month

From back left: Brenna Carda (9th), KaSandra Pappas (12th), Alex Morris (11th), Trista Keith (10th)

From front Left: Kellen Antonsen (7th), Ava Wienk (8th), Natalia Warrington (6th)

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Taking Our Last Breath

It's a holy place when a patient is taking their last breath. For the most part, I've tried my best to give comfort at that time. There are many who have stated, "There are worse things than death." One study in 2016, asked end-stage patients about dying and found that more than 67 percent stated that "needing a breathing machine" was a condition worse than death.



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

Mr. B was an 84-year-old retired farmer who had been struggling with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). This condition is related to the loss of ability to exhale normally, which, in turn, is due to the destruction of tiny alveoli which are oxygen and carbon dioxide exchange units. This results in large unfunctional pockets of air which block the flow of air going out.

He had smoked and had extensive exposure to toxic farm dust throughout his life, and now he was on continuous oxygen therapy and couldn't do anything without running out of breath. He had been on pulmonary rehabilitation (exercises to stay in shape), a low carbohydrate diet, metered dose inhaler (MDI) bronchodilators and repeated antibiotics for a few years. This was the third time he was hospitalized in the last two months for "exacerbation of COPD."

He was suffering from a worsening of his lung disease with the added challenge of bacterial pneumonia. His oxygen levels were dropping, and survival was going to require a breathing machine (intubation). He had been intubated over several days during his previous hospitalization and this time, he did not want it.

His wife had died a year earlier, all siblings had passed away, but his only child, a son, lived nearby. I will never forget the conversation the three of us had that day. We talked about Mr. B's poor quality of life. His options were either to be intubated again or to go with comfort care using an opioid. Mr. B realized death was likely, as did the son. Mr. B said, "Let's try the comfort method." His anxiety and shortness of breath were reduced immediately after making that choice, and over the next two hours, as the pain medicine kicked in, Mr. B slipped away with his son at his side.

This is very serious business, and I usually encourage people who are aware of their situation to fight on, but Mr. B was very tired of fighting for breath. He was ready to let go. In his case, "needing a breathing machine" was a condition worse than death. After his last breath, he finally found relief.

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.

DeHoet, Doeden have double-doubles with Groton's win over Northwestern

Two Groton Area players had double-doubles in boys' basketball action played Monday night in Mellette. Brodyn DeHoet and Jonathan Doeden each had 19 points and 10 rebounds as the Tigers held off a stubborn Wildcat team for a 10-point win, 62-52. This was DeHoet's fourth straight game with a double-double.

The game was tied five times in the first quarter and there were two lead changes before the Tigers took an 18-13 lead. The Tigers were eight of 16 in shooting for 50 percent and Northwestern was five of 13 for 38 percent.

Northwestern scored six straight points in the second quarter to take the lead, 21-20, but Groton Area was quick to reclaim the lead, 22-21. Groton Area opened up nine-point lead, 34-25 and led it at half time, 35-29. In the second quarter, Groton Area was four of 15 in shooting for 27 percent and Northwestern was five of seven for 71 percent. A lot of free throws were shot in the first half with Groton Area making eight of 13 for 62 percent and Northwestern was seven of 12 for 58 percent.

Groton Area had a nine-point lead a few times in the third quarter and settled for a six-point advantage going into the fourth quarter. Groton Area was four of eight in shooting for 50 percent in the third quarter and Northwestern was five of 15 for 33 percent.

The Wildcats closed to within one in the fourth quarter, 46-45, and had chances to take the lead. At one point in the game, the Wildcats took four three-point attempts in a wild scramble for the ball before the Tigers finally came away with the rebound. Groton Area surged ahead down the stretch to open up a 12-point lead at 62-50, and went on to win, 62-52.

In the fourth quarter, Groton Area was five of 14 in shooting for 36 percent and Northwestern was five of 12 for 42 percent.

For the game, Groton Area was 17 of 43 in two-pointers for 40 percent, was five of 16 in three-pointers for 31 percent and was 13 of 21 from the line for 62 percent off of Northwestern's 19 team fouls. The Tigers had 11 turnovers and Northwestern had 10. Cade Guthmiller had four of the team's 13 assists, five of the team's 13 steals and had one blocked shot. Kaden Kurtz added 13 points and Austin Jones had two points.

Zech Clemens led the Wildcats with 24 points followed by Dalton Peterson with 18, Jace Haven had five, Jude Ortmeier had two, Hunter Schipke two and Sam Got one.

The Wildcats were 15 of 47 in shooting for 32 percent and was eight of 18 from the line off of Groton Area's 19 team fouls.

Northwestern won the junior varsity game, 36-32. Groton Area led for most of the game with the exception of a tie at 18. The Wildcats scored the last 10 points of the game to pull out the 36-32 win.

Lane Tietz had 10 points, Isaac Smith had seven, Chandler Larson, Lucas Simon and Tristan Traphagen each had three and Waytt Hearnen and Jayden Zak each had two points. Jude Ortmeier led the Wildcats with 14 points.

Groton Area won the C game, 39-17. Tate Larson led the Tigers with 13 points followed by Waytt Hearnen with 10, Jackson Cogley seven, Jordan Bjerke six, Cole Simon two and Cade Larson one.

Groton Area, now 9-0 on the season, will host Clark/Willow Lake on Friday.

All three games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM. The varsity game was sponsored by the Aberdeen Chrysler Center and the JV and C games were sponsored by Grain Solutions, LLC with Jesse Zak.

- Paul Kosel

The drought is over! Groton Area boys beat Aberdeen Roncalli

It seemed like on the football field, Groton Area and Aberdeen Roncalli were equally matched with Groton Area getting the upper hand in recent years. But when it came to the basketball court, Roncalli has dominated it for the past 15 years. But not this year.

After losing 39 straight games in a span of 15 years, Groton Area Head Coach Brian Dolan and the Groton Area Tigers finally broke the spell. The boys' basketball game was played in front of a packed Aberdeen Roncalli gym and the Tigers came home with a 61-53 win. "It's been a long time coming," Dolan said in an interview on GDILIVE.COM after the game. "We had a great crowd - it was awesome. I hope they keep coming out and supporting these kids at home."

Roncalli had the first basket and took a 3-0 lead. The Tigers tied the game at four and six before taking a 16-10 lead before Roncalli came back to tie the game at 16. The Tigers led after the first quarter, 18-16.

In the first quarter, Groton Area was seven of 16 in field goals for 44 percent and Roncalli was six of eight for 75 percent. Groton Area was three for five from the line and Roncalli was four for six from the line.

Groton Area opened up a nine-point lead in the second quarter at 29-20. The Cavaliers called time-out and then closed the gap to four at 29-25. Groton Area lead at half time, 32-27.

In the second quarter, Groton Area was four for 12 from the field for 33 percent and Roncalli was five of 11 for 45 percent. The Tigers were five for seven from the line and the Cavaliers were one for two.

Groton Area opened up a 13-point lead in the second quarter and held that lead at the end of the third quarter, 50-37. In the third quarter, Groton Area was six of 12 from the field for 50 percent and Roncalli was five of 10 for 50 percent. The Tigers made five of seven free throws and Roncalli did not attempt any free throws in the third quarter.

Roncalli battled back in the final quarter, closing the gap to seven at 53-46. The Tigers got back to a 13-point lead and ended up winning by eight, 61-52. In the fourth quarter, Groton Area was three of eight from the field for 38 percent and Roncalli was six of 10 for 60 percent. From the line, Groton Area was four out of seven and Roncalli was three of six from the line.

It proved to be the DeHoet-Imbery show as both players scored 32 points. "Imbery had an answer for everything we threw at him so we'll have to go back to the drawing board the second time we meet them later in the season." Dolan said. "DeHoet was the leader for us out there tonight. He did a lot of great things for us. I couldn't be happier for these kids. It was a team game and we won."

DeHoet had a double-double night with 32 points, 18 rebounds, two assists and three steals. Kaden Kurtz had 14 points, one rebound, one assist and two steals. Jonathan Doeden had nine points, three rebounds, three assists and two steals. Austin Jones had three points, four rebounds and three assists. Cade Guthmiller had three points, three assists and two steals. Tristan Traphagen had one rebound and one steal, Jayden Zak had two rebounds and two assists and Lane Tietz had one steal.

In two-pointers, Groton Area was 15 of 34 for 44 percent. From the perimeter, the Tigers were five of 14 for 36 percent. From the line, Groton Area was 16 of 31 for 52 percent off of Roncalli's 21 team fouls.

The Cavaliers were 22 of 39 from the field for 56 percent and were eight of 14 from the line for 57 percent off of Groton Area's 17 team fouls. The Cavaliers had 14 turnovers with 11 of them being steals. Groton Area had 11 turnovers.

"All the kids competed well," Dolan said. "It was a fun basketball game."

The boys will be at Northwestern on Monday and Dolan said, "We got bigger fish to fry with our upcoming games. The kids should be excited about this win, as they should be."

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by the Aberdeen Chrysler Center.

Groton Area made it a clean sweep, winning the junior varsity game, 45-20. Scoring for Groton Area: Jayden Zak 9, Tristan Traphagen 8, Chandler Larson 5, Cade Larson 4, Isaac Smith 3, Lane Tietz 2, Jackson Cogley 2, Jordan Bjerke 2, Tate Larson 2, Wyatt Hearnen 2.

Groton Area also won the C game, 48-27. Scoring for Groton Area: Tate Larson 19, Cole Simon 10, Wyatt Hearnen 5, Jackson Cogley 4, Jacob Zak 4, Jordan Bjerke 4, Cade Larson 1.

- Paul Kosel

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Hawkins paces Lady Tigers at Clark

Kaycie Hawkins had eight points and 10 rebounds as the Lady Tigers played at Clark/Willow Lake Tuesday evening. The Cyclone won, 50-35. The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Locke Electric and the South Dakota Army National Guard.

Clark/Willow Lake led at the quarterstops at 16-7, 30-20 and 45-27.

Alyssa Thaler led the scoring with 12 points while Brooke Gengerke had seven and Allyssa Locke and Trista Keith each had four points.

Charity Kabwe led the Cyclones with 11 points followed by Alicia Vig with seven, Jada Burke, Maggie Hovde and Jaycie Forbes each had six points, Kayla Jordan had five, Chayla Vig and Saylor Burke each had four points and Allison Kannegieter added a free throw.

Groton Area 13 of 45 two-pointers for 29 percent, two of 13 three-pointers for 15 percent and was three of eight from the line for 38 percent off of the Cyclones' 13 team fouls.

Clark/Willow Lake made 17 of 55 field goals for 31 percent and was 10 of 14 from the line off of Groton Area's 13 team fouls. Groton Area had 11 turnovers while Clark/Willow Lake had eight.

"I was proud to coach them tonight," said Head Coach Matt Locke in a GDILIVE.COM post game interview. "They got better. They can be proud of how well they represented their school. Kaycie Hawkins' rebounding was unreal. Madeline Flihs, too. That's the hardest I've seen them play in a while. They know they can do it. I know we probably got out rebounded, but it wasn't from lack of effort or lack of guts."

Locke and Thayer each had two of the team's six assists. Keith had four of the team's five steals.

The Cyclones won the junior varsity game, 44-20. Anna Fjeldheim and Emma Schinkel each had five points while adding two points apiece were Aspen Johnson, Marlee Tollifson, Shallyn Foertsch, Carly Guthmiller and Sydney Leicht.

The Lady Tigers are 3-7 on the season and will travel to Northwestern on Monday. Clark/Willow Lake is now 8-4 on the season.

- Paul Kosel

Monson takes first at Kingsbury County Tournament

Groton Area's wrestling squad took seventh place in a field of 18 teams at the Kingsbury County Wrestling Tournament held Saturday in Arlington.

Dragr Monson placed first at 113, Grady O'Neill placed third at 285 and Christian Ehresmann placed fourth at 106,

106: Porter Johnson (4-6)

Champ. Round 1 - Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 4-6 received a bye () (Bye)

Champ. Round 2 - Zachary Flute (Tiospa Zina) 3-11 won by major decision over Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 4-6 (MD 13-5)

Cons. Round 2 - Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 4-6 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 3 - Braydon Oldenkamp (Lyman County) 7-7 won by fall over Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 4-6 (Fall 0:13)

106: Christian Ehresmann (13-10) placed 4th and scored 17.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 13-10 received a bye () (Bye)

Champ. Round 2 - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 13-10 won by fall over Kaleb Johnson (Kingsbury County) 5-6 (Fall 2:48)

Quarterfinal - Nolan Miles (Brookings) 13-8 won by major decision over Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 13-10 (MD 15-4)

Cons. Round 4 - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 13-10 won by fall over John Yonker (Hamlin) 1-15 (Fall 1:48)

Cons. Round 5 - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 13-10 won by decision over Brady Risetter (Redfield Area) 10-8 (Dec 9-8)

Cons. Semi - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 13-10 won by fall over Gannon Gilligan (Kingsbury County) 13-10 (Fall 4:40)

3rd Place Match - Nolan Miles (Brookings) 13-8 won by decision over Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 13-10 (Dec 7-5)

113: Jacob Craig (1-3)

Champ. Round 1 - Skylar Trygstad (Sioux Valley) 22-17 won by fall over Jacob Craig (Groton Area) 1-3 (Fall 1:38)

Cons. Round 1 - Brayden Wiese (Flandreau) 10-16 won by fall over Jacob Craig (Groton Area) 1-3 (Fall 3:27)

113: Dragr Monson (19-5) placed 1st and scored 25.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 19-5 won by fall over Parker Gill (Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle) 1-14 (Fall 0:24)

Quarterfinal - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 19-5 won by fall over Ethan Johnson (Kingsbury County) 8-10 (Fall 1:23)

Semifinal - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 19-5 won by major decision over Lincoln Fink (Canby) 12-12 (MD 10-0)

1st Place Match - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 19-5 won in sudden victory - 1 over Andy Meyer (Canton) 22-4 (SV-1 8-6)

145: Cole Bisbee (2-13)

Champ. Round 1 - Mason Fey (Redfield Area) 24-2 won by fall over Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 2-13 (Fall 1:05)

Cons. Round 1 - Tyler Frick (Canton) 1-2 won by decision over Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 2-13 (Dec 8-1)

160: Thomas Cranford (12-12) scored 10.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 12-12 won by fall over Isaac McManigal (Lyman County) 3-13 (Fall 1:15)

Quarterfinal - Joe Hornick (Sioux Valley) 19-17 won by decision over Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 12-12 (Dec 3-1)

Cons. Round 2 - Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 12-12 won by fall over Cole Wilkie (Warner/Northwestern) 2-10 (Fall 1:37)

Cons. Round 3 - Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 12-12 won by fall over Grant Weisser (Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle) 9-14 (Fall 2:29)

Cons. Semi - Beau Williams (Canton) 10-5 won by decision over Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 12-12 (Dec 12-5)

182: Lane Krueger (11-10) scored 2.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 11-10 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Trevor Sagness (Sioux Falls Washington) 21-8 won by major decision over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 11-10 (MD 9-1)

Cons. Round 2 - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 11-10 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 3 - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 11-10 won by decision over Dylan Geary (Kingsbury County) 3-10 (Dec 6-4)

Cons. Semi - Sean Domke (Redfield Area) 20-8 won by fall over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 11-10 (Fall 0:54)

285: Grady O'Neill (13-11) placed 3rd and scored 18.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) 13-11 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) 13-11 won by fall over Gavin Nichols (Redfield Area) 13-9 (Fall 4:28)

Semifinal - Denver Noyes (Canby) 23-4 won by fall over Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) 13-11 (Fall 1:24)

Cons. Semi - Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) 13-11 won by fall over Ethan Skarnagel (Sisseton) 6-13 (Fall 2:09)

3rd Place Match - Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) 13-11 won by fall over Braden Peters (Flandreau) 9-6 (Fall 2:50)

Groton Coffee Cup League

Jan. 28 Team Standings: Biker Chix 17, Ten Pins 11, Kens 7, James Valley 5

High Games: Vickie Kramp 182, Mayme Baker 179, Nancy Radke 154.

High Series: Vickie Kramp 466, Mayme Baker 417, Nancy Radke 409.

Conde National League

Jan. 20 Team Standings: Cubs 14, Giants 14, Tigers 9, Braves 9, Pirates 7, Mets 7.

Men's High Games: Lance Frohling 196, Ryan Bethke 180, Russ Bethke 180, Topper Tastad 172.

Men's High Series: Lance Frohling 497, Russ Bethke 492, Ryan Bethke 475.

Women's High Games: Mary Larson 184, Vickie Kramp 182, Nancy Radke 174.

Women's High Series: Nancy Radke 485, Vickie Kramp 475, Mary Larson 463.

Jan. 27 Team Standings: Cubs 17, Giants 15, Braves 11, Tigers 10, Mets 10, Pirates 9.

Men's High Games: Russ Bethke 193, 178; Lance Frohling 192; Ryan Bethke 169.

Men's High Series: Russ Bethke 506, Ryan Bethke 455, Lance Frohling 446.

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Women's High Games: Mary Larson 168, Mayme Baker 164, Sandy Hoops 162.

Women's High Series: Mary Larson 467, Mayme Baker 438, Nancy Radke 425.

Groton Prairie Mixed

Jan. 16 Team Standings: Shih Tzus 36 ½, Foxes 35, Cheetahs 33, Jackelopes 32, Coyotes 22 ½, Chipmunks 21

Men's High Games: Brad Waage 257, Roger Colestock 199, Brad Larson 197

Women's High Games: Vicki Walter 171, 168, 162, Sue Stanley 164, Nicole Kassube 161, Darci Spanier 161

Men's High Series: Brad Waage 638, Roger Colestock 548, Roger Spanier 526

Women's High Series: Vicki Walter 501, Darci Spanier 460, Nicole Kassube 441

Jan. 23 Team Standings: Shih Tzus 50 ½ Jackelopes 46, Foxes 44, Cheetahs 44, Coyotes 28 ½ Chipmunks 27

Men's High Games: Brad Waage 225, Roger Spanier 206, 200, 199, Randy Stanley 197

Women's High Games: Darci Spanier 199, Nicole Kassube 163, Nancy Radke 157

Men's High Series: Roger Spanier 605, Brad Waage 586, Mike Siegler 548

Women's High Series: Darci Spanier 452, Nicole Kassube 449, Sue Stanley 418



New elk hunting season proposed to reduce feed loss and property damage on S.D. prairies

By: Nick Lowrey

North American elk are returning to the prairies of western South Dakota after more than 100 years of absence, a migration seen as a win for wildlife conservation but which has farmers and ranchers bothered by feed losses and property damage.

The herding of Rocky Mountain elk as far east as Jones and Stanley counties has led to calls for a new hunting season on the prairie to reduce elk numbers and the damage they are causing.

Landowners on the prairies north of Philip and west of Pierre say elk — one of the largest herbivores native to North America — are increasingly grazing in their fields and pastures and are damaging fences and eating food meant for their livestock. Previously, elk mainly resided only in the Black Hills region 175 miles or more to the west.

Spending by the Game, Fish & Parks Department Wildlife Damage Program on elk-related complaints jumped by nearly \$100,000 in 2019. Wildlife damage specialists also covered 7,000 more miles to assist landowners with elk damage in 2019 than in 2018.

Partially in response to landowner complaints and in the wake of more elk sightings, GFP officials have proposed that the game and parks commission approve creation of a massive new elk hunting unit.

"We know there's elk in there, and we're actually talking about opening that up for hunting at some point," GFP Secretary Kelly Hepler told News Watch in an interview.

Under the proposal, a total of 10 "any elk" hunting licenses would be made available for use in the new hunting unit. The unit would cover all of South Dakota west of the Missouri River that doesn't already have an elk hunting season or isn't managed by one of the state's tribal nations.

Tom Kirschenmann, wildlife division chief for GFP, said the new unit would be something of an experiment.

The experiment is needed because the department doesn't actually know much about elk populations outside the Black Hills. In that region, elk are counted every three to four years using aircraft flying low and slow over the mountains. The effort produces a reliable population estimate, biologists say. Current estimates put the number of elk in the Black Hills at around 7,200 animals, well within the population range sought by the GFP.

Out on the prairie, aerial surveys would be too expensive because there is too much ground to cover. Instead, GFP biologists have relied on landowners reporting elk sightings or damage.

If the new West River elk hunting unit is approved during the next GFP Commission meeting scheduled for March 5 and 6 in Pierre, it would be in place for the next two hunting seasons. Information on where elk are killed, when they're killed and whether landowners still have problems after elk hunting occurs would be used to inform decisions on whether more targeted hunting will be needed, Kirschenmann said.

Hunters will likely be eager to help out. Last year, South Dakota residents sent in more than 17,000 applications for the roughly 1,500 elk hunting licenses issued by the state. Most of those licenses were issued for the Black Hills, where there is plenty of public land for hunting.

Outside the Black Hills, the vast majority of land is privately owned and getting access to



South Dakota farmers and ranchers are increasingly seeing elk on the prairies east of the Black Hills. The South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks Department has proposed creating a massive new elk hunting unit for nearly all of the western half of the state to reduce numbers and damage caused by the large animals. Photo:

Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

that land can be a challenge, said Chris Hesla, executive director of the South Dakota Wildlife Federation, a nonprofit that advocates for wildlife and public hunting access.

"The easiest way to control wildlife damage is through hunting," he said. "We need to look at getting more access so we can harvest enough animals."

Landowners, though, are worried that 10 hunting licenses won't be enough to affect what they say is a steadily growing population of large, wild animals that are competing with their cattle for food and decimating crops.

Eric Jennings, a cattle rancher near Spearfish who is president of the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association, said elk populations in western South Dakota have grown faster than GFP has so far been able to respond.

"I have been advocating for them to do more for years," Jennings said. "It's just an issue that needs to be addressed."

Ty Eisenbraun, who raises cattle near the Cheyenne River in northeast Pennington County is one of the landowners dealing with an elk problem. He said elk have shown up on his property every fall since 2012, and that at first he was happy to see the animals. But now that he has counted more than 100 elk at a time in his alfalfa fields, he sees them as a problem.

"I kind of enjoy them. I can step out of my house and hear elk bugling," Eisenbraun said. "They're cool, but they're kind of destructive, too."

Elk are native to South Dakota. Historical records show elk were hunted on both sides of the Missouri River in the Dakota Territory through much of the 19th century. Over-hunting before the creation of modern conservation practices eliminated elk from both Dakotas before 1900.

In 1916, elk were reintroduced into what would become Custer State Park and Wind Cave National Park in the Black Hills. The idea was to keep the animals contained to the parks so they wouldn't compete with area ranchers' cattle. After 1980, elk management priorities changed and the GFP began trying to expand the Black Hills elk herd to provide more hunting opportunities. Now, the state manages for a herd of between 6,000 and 8,000 animals, depending on weather and range conditions.

Yet elk are naturally transient. As the Black Hills elk herd has grown, more of the animals are moving out and away from the mountains into areas dominated by cattle ranching and farm fields.

Farmers and ranchers in South Dakota have always had to deal with wildlife, such as deer and antelope, eating food meant for their cattle or sheep and eating grain in their fields before harvest. Elk, though, are a little different. They can weigh up to 700 pounds and tend to graze more like cattle.

Unlike cattle, elk will run through fences or knock them over while attempting to jump them. Fence damage has been the biggest problem for Eisenbraun. This year, he's had to replace more than a mile of fence because elk keep knocking it over. Fences are critical to ranchers because they keep their valuable livestock where they are meant to be, and can be expensive and time-consuming to fix.

"I can go out and fix a stretch of fence and within a few days, they'll have destroyed it again," Eisenbraun said.

Fence damage and some raids on his winter feed supply pushed Eisenbraun to start speaking with wildlife damage control specialists within GFP.

There are several things GFP can do to directly help ranchers such as Eisenbraun.

The department, through its wildlife damage program, will help pay for a strong cable to be strung across the top of a fence, which will help prevent elk from knocking the fence over.

To protect stored hay, GFP staff will provide exclusionary panels and help build a protected stack yard. To divert elk away from pastures and hay fields, GFP sometimes will pay up to \$6,000 worth of food plots aimed at reducing damage to alfalfa and other crops.

"We want to be a good partner to these landowners," said Keith Fisk, wildlife damage program administrator.

In the United States, wildlife is publicly owned. Private landowners don't have any more rights to the wildlife on their property than anyone else. Landowners can control access to their land, but they cannot stop wild animals from leaving their land, they cannot sell wildlife and they cannot just shoot problem wildlife without getting permission from the agency that manages it.

Because 85% of South Dakota land area is privately owned, and because most of the state's wildlife lives on private land, GFP has to work closely with landowners, especially when wild animals are damaging someone's livelihood, Fisk said.

In 2019, GFP spent just shy of \$300,000 working with farmers and ranchers to reduce and prevent elk damage to their property, up from slightly more than \$200,000 spent in 2018.

In all, GFP spent a little more than \$3.5 million on wildlife damage control in 2019, including nearly \$1 million spent on deer damage complaints alone. Nearly all of the money the department spent on wildlife damage control comes from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses.

"We want to work with landowners," Fisk said. "There's a ton of value to having those critters on the landscape."

Eisenbraun hasn't taken advantage of wildlife damage assistance just yet. For now, he's hoping a new hunting unit will help when the elk return to his land next fall.



Marzahn is Silver Skates Queen

Nicole Marzahn, daughter of Wade and Renee Marzahn, Groton, was chosen as the 2020 Carnival of Silver Skates Queen.

(Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Pictured are Coach Kristen Gonsoir, and team members KaSandra Pappas, Sage Mortenson and Samantha Pappas.

(Courtesy Photo)

GHS Debaters take second in Watertown Sweepstakes

The GHS Debate team placed second in sweepstakes at the Watertown Fiesta Debate Contest January 24-25, 2020. The team was represented by Samantha Pappas and KaSandra Pappas in Varsity Public Forum, Sage Mortenson in Original Oratory, Samantha Pappas in Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking, and K Pappas in Informative. While the team did not have any one break to a final round, the team had a strong showing in the preliminary rounds. The next contest for the GHS Debate team is February 14-15 at Harrisburg HS. After that the team will move into post season events with the National Qualifying Tournament followed by the SDHSAA State Contest.

Gospel Solutions to Social Issues for Parents is next week

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 and children 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. This is the fourth seminar that the 3 churches have sponsored.

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 want to be more educated are encouraged to attend. Please no children.

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.

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	Lynn	5-123-57	SW	157.9
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Tract 3	Farmington	15-124-59	NE	80.0
Tract 4	Farmington	15-124-59	S1/2 S1/2 NE	40.0
Tract 5	Farmington	15-124-59	N1/2 N1/2 NE	40.00
Tract 6	Farmington	24-124-59	NE	144.0
	Farmington	24-124-59	SW	118.0
	Farmington	24-124-59	SE	135.0
	Farmington	25-124-59	E1/2 NE	74.0
Tract 7	Lynn	21-123-57		80.0
Tract 8	Union	8-123-58	130.0	
Tract 9	Homer	31-124-58	E1/2 NW	147.87
	Homer	31-124-58	E1/2 SW	31.0
Tract 10	ALL			

Respond to: Arlan Holler, 12799 418th Ave., Pierpont, SD 57468
By March 7, 2020