

THE Groton Independent

South Dakota
Growing Families & Opportunities

Vol. 137 No. 27 ♦ Groton, South Dakota ♦ Wednesday, Mar. 4, 2020 ♦ Established in 1889

GT Robotics Travels to State Tournament

Three of GT Robotics' five teams finished the qualifying matches ranked in the top half of the thirty teams that competed in the South Dakota State VEX Robotics Championship in Mitchell Sat., Feb. 29. They were competing against teams from Sioux Falls, Mitchell, Menno, Box Elder, Lead-Deadwood, Spearfish, Harrisburg, Canton, Jefferson-North Sioux City, Vermillion and Eureka.

Galaxy (River Pardick, Jace Kroll, Isaac Higgins) was the top GT Robotics team during the qualifying matches with a record of three wins and two losses. When I congratulated them after the tourney, River gave the credit to Jace and also Garrett Schultz of G-Force, who had helped work on the robot during the week when River was sick and missed three days of school.

G.A.T. Wrenches (Noah Tullis, Adrian Knutson, Corbin Reich) and Gear Heads (Ethan Clark, Jack Dinger, Axel Warrington) were our other two teams that finished in the top half. Both ended qualifying matches with a record of two wins, two losses and a tie.

G-Force made a huge impression on the judges and the crowd each match when their robot expanded from an 18 inch cube to a robot over seven feet tall. This feat earned them the Judges Award. This expansion is really something to see if you get the opportunity, but stand back so you don't get slapped as the robot unfolds. During one match, this unfolding did not go as usual. I watched the crowd's reaction and heard their murmur's, "It didn't expand!" G-Force (Travis Townsend, Tannor McGanon, Dan Feist, Garrett Schultz) ended the qualifying matches with a record of two wins and three losses.

Geek Squad (Charlie Frost, James Brooks) finished the qualifying matches with a record of four losses and one tie.

It was a busy day in the pits for GT Robotics teams. Each team was busy working on something. Autonomous programs that worked on the practice field did not work on the competition field. Cubes did not want to load like they had at home. Latches bent. So the robotists were constantly fixing, correcting, repairing, rebuilding, thinking and rethinking. Hey, doesn't that sound like a typical day at work for most of us? The robotists met the challenges and kept their chins up all day.

We have one team traveling to the CREATE U.S. Open Robotics Championship in Council Bluffs, Iowa April 2-4.

Jim Lane, GT Robotics



Lane receives State Coaches Volunteer Award
Congratulations to Jim Lane for receiving the Coaches Volunteer Award at the Robotics State tournament today! So well deserved! (Photo from Kellie Townsend's Facebook Page)

Two elections on the horizon

There will be a school board election this year. There are three candidates running for two three-year terms on the Board of Education for the Groton Area School District. Incumbents Steven R. Smith and Grant Rix along with Jason Bickel have turned in their petitions.

Meanwhile there will also be an election in Groton City's Ward 2. Incumbent David McGannon did not take out a petition. Those turning in a petition for the two-year term in that ward are Troy Lindberg and Damian Bahr.

Jon Cutler turned in this petition for the one-year term and David Blackmun turned in his petition for the two-year term in Ward 1. Both are incumbents.

Kristie Flihs turned in a petition for the two-year term in Ward 3, vacated by Burt Glover.



Groton Area Tigers

In back, left to right, are Assistant Coach Kyle Gerlach, Jackson Cogley, Isaac Smith, Tate Larson, Jayden Zac, Kannon Coats, Kaden Kurtz, Tristan Traphagen, Chandler Larson, Lucas Simon, Wyatt Hearnen and Head Coach Brian Dolan; in front are Lane Tietz, Cade Guthmiller, Jonathan Doeden, Cyrus DeHoet, Brodyn DeHoet Austin Jones and Jordan Bjerke. (Photo by J Simon Photography)

2nd Round Region 1A Basketball Game
Friday, March 6, 2020
Groton Area Arena

Groton Area Tigers



VS.



Milbank Bulldogs



G-Force wins State Judges Award

The G-Force team of Garrett Schultz, Travis Townsend and Tannor McGannon earned the Judges Award at the Robotics State tournament held Saturday. Not pictured is Danny Feist. (Photo from Kellie Townsend's Facebook Page)



G-Force: Garrett Schultz, Tannor McGannon, Travis Townsend, Dan Feist



Galaxy: Jace Kroll, River Pardick, Isaac Higgins



Geek Squad: Nick Morris, James Brooks, Charlie Frost



Gear Heads: Axel Warrington, Ethan Clark, Jackson Dinger



G.A.T. Wrenches: Noah Tullis, Corbin Reich, Adrian Knutson

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EMPLOYMENT

WASTEWATER TECHNICIAN: Position provides technical assistance and advice to rural and municipal wastewater systems within South Dakota. Candidate must have prior wastewater experience, good communication skills, and computer proficiency. Benefits include health, 401K. Relocation to Madison, SD not required, but reasonable commute preferred. To apply, send resume and cover letter to South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems, PO Box 287, Madison, SD 57042, Attn. Kurt; email: jobs@sdarws.com.

SPEARFISH, SD – PROJECT ENGINEER: This position provides project management/coordination, construction inspection, and development plan review. For more information visit www.cityofspearfish.com, under "Career Opportunities."

MISCELLANEOUS

LOOKING FOR VENDORS! Day County Farm, Home & Recreational Show, April 24 & 25. Check out webstersd.com for details. Call 605-345-4668 for more information.

FARMERS, LANDSCAPERS or GARDENERS, did you or a loved one use Roundup Weed Killer and were diagnosed with non-hodgkins lymphoma (Cancer)? You may be entitled to compensation. Call Attorney Charles Johnson 1-800-535-5727

LOST

Lost: Man's Gold ring with Large Black Onix insert with a diamond in the Onix. Believe lost at the Veterans Day Memorial Program at the Groton School Nov. 8th. Generous Reward. Contact George Alberts Jr. at 605-380-4568 or 605/397-8161.

Putney Township Equalization
 Putney Township equalization will be Wednesday, March 18 at 5 PM Mark Thompson Shop, prior notification to the clerk is required.
 Mark Thompson
 Township Clerk
 (0304.0311)
 Published Twice at the total approximate cost of \$4.12. 18696

INTERSTATE Welcome Centers
 Now Hiring!
 South Dakota Department of Tourism is now hiring staff for Interstate Welcome Centers at multiple locations.
 Starting wage: \$10.17/hour
 Please contact Nate Johnson, (605) 773-5036, for details.
 Details & application available at www.SDVisit.com
 Application deadline: March 20, 2020.

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Groton Area dominates Region 1A opening game

Groton Area dominated the first round of the Region 1A game on Tuesday with a 62-41 win over Aberdeen Roncalli. The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Aberdeen Chrysler Center, BaseKamp Lodge, Bierman Farm Sales, BK Custom T's & More, Blocker Construction, Groton American Legion Post #39, Groton Chiropractic Clinic, Groton Ford, Groton Vet Clinic, Harr Motors - Bary Keith, K&K Pharis Partnership, Lori's Pharmacy, Milbrandt Enterprises, Olson Development, Professional Management Services, S & S Lumber & Hardware Hank, SD Army National Guard, Subway of Groton, Tyson DeHoet Trucking. Brooke Gengerke and Alyssa Thaler provided the play-by-play of the game.

Brodyn DeHoet and Jonathan Doeden team for the opening three-pointers and the Tigers were off and running with a 6-0 lead. The Cavaliers were limited to two field goals in the first quarter as the Tigers took an 18-5 lead at the break. Both teams about doubled their scores in the second quarter which allowed the Tigers to double the lead over the Cavaliers at half time, 36-12. The Cavaliers, again, made only two field goals in the second quarter.

Roncalli doubled its score in the third quarter but the Tigers led by 20 at the break, 44-24.

DeHoet had a double-double night with 29 points (making four three-pointers), 13 rebounds, three assists and four steals. Kaden Kurtz made three three-pointers and finished the night with 12 points, one rebound and two assists. Jonathan Doeden made one three-pointer and had 11 points, five rebounds, four assists and one steal. Austin Jones had five points and five rebounds. Isaac Smith had three points, three rebounds, two assists and one steal. Cade Guthmiller had five rebounds, two assists and one steal. Jayden Zak had one rebound and one assist, Lane Tietz had three rebounds and one steal, Jackson Cogley had one rebound, Lucas Simon had two points and one assist, Tate Larson had two points and Kannon Coats had one rebound.

Groton Area made 14 of 31 field goals for 45 percent, eight of 26 three-pointers for 31 percent and was 12 of 19 from the line for 63 percent. The Tigers had 38 rebounds.

Roncalli was led by Gray Imbery with 20 points followed by Zeezrom Mouna with nine, Dawson Hoellein had six, Tommy O'Keefe had three, Harrison Kieffer two and Maddox May one.

The Cavaliers made 13 of 38 shots for 34 percent and was 11 of 18 from the line.

Groton Area had nine turnovers and the Cavaliers had 13.

Groton Area, now 17-4, will host Milbank on Friday in the next Region 1A Game. Roncalli finishes its season 1-20.



Brodyn DeHoet and Harrison Kieffer are ready for the opening tip off. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Cade Guthmiller dribbles around the Roncalli defense. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Jonathan Doeden shoots a three-pointer from the corner. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Snell rallies Webster Area in fourth quarter to end Groton Area's season



Kaycie Hawkins, tries to pass off the ball as she is double teamed by Webster Area's players. Hawkins is the lone senior of the Groton Area girls' basketball team. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

ment Services, S & S Lumber & Hardware Hank, SD Army National Guard, Subway of Groton, Tyson DeHoet Trucking. Kaden Kurtz and Cade Guthmiller provided the play-by-play on GDILIVE.COM.

Groton Area started out strong with a 14-8 first quarter lead and a 23-18 lead at half time. The Bearcats scored nine straight points to tie the game at 25 and at 28, but Groton Area still had the lead at the end of the third quarter, 32-31. From there, it was close all the way to the end with the lead changing hands three more times and the game being tied twice. It was tied at 43 with 56 seconds left. Abby Snell scored nine points in the fourth quarter to help lead the Bearcats to the win down the stretch.

Gracie Traphagen had a double-double night with 13 points and 10 rebounds. Brooke Gengerke led the scoring with 15 points and she had three rebounds, one assist and one steal. Alyssa Thaller had seven points, three rebounds, four assists and two steals. Maddie Bjerke had four points. Allyssa Locke had three points, five rebounds and two assists. Madeline Flihs had two points, one rebound and one steal. Kaycie Hawkins had eight rebounds and Trista Keith had four rebounds.

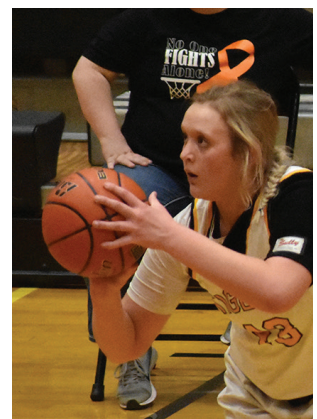
Groton Area made 10 of 37 field goals for 27 percent, four of 19 in three-pointers for 21 percent, and was 12 of 15 from the line for 80 percent. The Tigers had 34 rebounds, seven turnovers, seven assists, four steals and 17 fouls.

Webster Area was led by Abby Snell with 19 points followed by Cara Shoemaker with nine, Alivia Baumgarn five, Kayla Fischer five, Paige Snell five, and Morgan Jager four. The Bearcats made 16 of 46 field goals for 34 percent and was eight of 14 from the line and had 15 team fouls and eight turnovers.

Groton Area finishes its season with a 7-14 record. Webster Area is 6-15.

Groton Area's girls basketball season came to an end Monday night as Webster Area pulled out a 47-44 win. It was first round of the Region 1A tournament played in Groton Area.

The event was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Aberdeen Chrysler Center, BaseKamp Lodge, Bierman Farm Sales, BK Custom T's & More, Groton American Legion Post #39, Groton Chiropractic Clinic, Groton Ford, Groton Vet Clinic, Harr Motors - Bary Keith, K&K Pharis Partnership, Lori's Pharmacy, Milbrandt Enterprises, Olson Development, Professional Management Services, S & S Lumber & Hardware Hank, SD Army National Guard, Subway of Groton, Tyson DeHoet Trucking. Kaden Kurtz and Cade Guthmiller provided the play-by-play on GDILIVE.COM.



Gracie Traphagen gets a good eye at the basket for a shot. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Maddie Bjerke drives the lane to the basket. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Brown County Solid & Yard Waste Collection

NOTICE
SOLID & YARD WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE
BROWN COUNTY CONTAINER SITES

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Court House Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 57401, until 8:45 A.M. on March 10, 2020, at said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read, and considered by the Brown County Board of Commissioners for the "BID ON THE SOLID & YARD WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE FOR THE BROWN COUNTY CONTAINER SITES"

Envelopes containing bids shall be addressed to the Brown County Auditor, Brown County Courthouse Annex, 25 Market

Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 57401, and are to be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope: "BID ON THE SOLID & YARD WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE FOR THE BROWN COUNTY CONTAINER SITES" to be opened on Tuesday, March 10, 2020.

PROPOSAL GUARANTEE:..... The proposal guarantee required and must accompany each bid is a certified check, cashier's check or back draft. This guarantee must be certified or issued by a national or state bank and payable at sight to Brown County, South Dakota in the amount of five per cent (5%) of the total amount of the bid. In lieu thereof, bidder may furnish a bid bond of ten percent (10%) of the bid, such bond is to be issued, by a surety company authorized to do business in South Dakota and payable to Brown County, South Dakota.

Brown County will give notice to the successful bidder that his/her proposal has been accepted,

and said bidder shall within ten (10) days thereafter enter into a contract with Brown County, South Dakota. The successful bidder shall also furnish proper certificates of insurance required by Brown County.

The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids that they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County, and to waive any informalities or irregularities therein. Brown County is exempt from all Federal Excise Tax and State Sales Tax.

Copies of the specifications are on file at the Brown County Auditor's Office and the Brown County Solid Waste Department Office and may be obtained at no charge.

(0226.0304)
Cathy McNickle, Auditor
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$48.19. 18654

Groton City Special Event Beverage License

Notice of Hearing upon Application for a Special Event Alcoholic Beverage License

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT The Groton City Council on the 17th day of March, 2020 at 7:00pm at the Groton Community Center, 109 N 3rd Street, Groton, South Dakota will meet in regular session to consider a special event retail on-sale liquor license for the Groton Fire Men to operate within the City of Groton, South Dakota on April 25th, 2020.

Any person interested in the approval or rejection of any such application may appear and be heard.

Dated at Groton, South Dakota this 4th day of March, 2020.
Hope Block, Groton City Fi-

nance Officer
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$7.57. 18693

Bates Township Equalization

Bates Township Equalization Meeting Notice:

The Bates Township Board of Equalization will meet at the Clerk's home on Tuesday, March 17th, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

All persons disputing their assessments are requested to notify the clerk prior to the meeting.

Betty Geist
Bates Township Clerk
14523 409th Ave
Conde, SD 57434
(0304.0311)

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Bates Township ROW Notice

Bates Township Board of Supervisors reminds all landowners and tenants that the road right-of-way extends 33 feet from the center of the township road. This ditch is to be maintained and mowed. Any crops planted in the road right-of-way will be mowed and expenses charged to the landowner.

Landowner is responsible for spraying all noxious weeds.

Bates Township Board of Supervisors

Betty Geist
Township Clerk
(0304.0311)

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The Groton Independent

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Dragr places third at state wrestling

Dragr Monson placed third in the state wrestling tournament held this weekend in Sioux Falls. Monson won the first two matches, then got pinned by a Canton wrestler, and then came back to win the last two matches to take third place.

B-106: Christian Ehresman (27-16)
 Champ. Round 1 - Kasen Konstanz (Kimball/White Lake/Platte-Geddes) 40-9 won by major decision over Christian Ehresman (Groton Area) 27-16 (MD 15-5)

Cons. Round 1 - Maxton Brozik (Winner Area) 27-25 won by decision over Christian Ehresman (Groton Area) 27-16 (Dec 9-2)

B-113: Dragr Monson (40-8) placed 3rd and scored 18.5 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 40-8 won by tech fall over Logan Buseman (Parker) 29-25 (TF-1.5 4:59 (18-3))

Quarterfinal - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 40-8 won by decision over Jagger Tyler (Wagner) 22-8 (Dec 1-0)

Semifinal - Andy Meyer (Canton) 42-5 won by fall over Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 40-8 (Fall 3:29)

Cons. Semi - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 40-8 won by fall over Kaleb Osborn (Winner Area) 36-11 (Fall 2:41)

3rd Place Match - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 40-8 won by major decision over Bryson Muirhead (Lyman) 48-10 (MD 9-1)

B-160: Thomas Cranford (17-14)

Champ. Round 1 - Spencer Hanson (Kimball/White Lake/Platte-Geddes) 37-12 won by fall over Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 17-14 (Fall 0:49)

Cons. Round 1 - Elijah Steele (Custer) 22-24 won by fall over Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 17-14 (Fall 1:35)

B-182: Lane Krueger (24-19) scored 1.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Tanner Meyers (Canton) 16-4 won by fall over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 24-19 (Fall 0:09)

Cons. Round 1 - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 24-19 won by decision over Gabe Fanning (Bennett County) 28-19 (Dec 7-6)

Cons. Round 2 - Joey Wheeler (Potter County) 34-10 won by fall over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 24-19 (Fall 1:11)



Dragr Monson pinned Kaleb Osborn of Winner Area in 2:41. The win advanced Monson to the third place match at the state wrestling tournament. (Photo from Susan Foster's Facebook Page)

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<p>6th</p> <p>GOURMET FOOD BASKET</p>	<p>7th</p> <p>GOURMET COFFEE BASKET</p>	<p>8th</p> <p>OSTER ELECTRIC GRIDDLE W/WARMING TRAY</p>	<p>9th</p> <p>HORMEL WHOLE BONELESS PORK LOIN</p>	

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Columbia City March 3, 2020

Meeting Minutes

City of Columbia Council Meeting – March 3, 2020
CALL MEETING TO ORDER – 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL – Cara Dennert, Corey Mitchell, Cole Kampa, Ellen Harr, Dana Mohr
Community – Jeremy Dosch
Corey Mitchell called the meeting to order. Minutes were passed out from the February meeting. Dana Mohr made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Ellen Harr seconded the motion. All in favor – motion carried.

Warrant Vouchers: Northwestern Energy – 890.51; Agtegra – 644.64; Web Water – 37.89; NASASP – 39.00; JVT – 123.01; GDI – 39.96; Jeremy Dosch – 419.99; Kelsie Ehresmann – 293.99; Cara Dennert – 823.50; Runnings – 21.37; John Deere Financial – 75.00; Allen's Electric – 964.13; Petty Cash – 150.00

Ellen Harr made a motion to accept the vouchers as presented. Dana Mohr seconded the motion. All in favor – motion carried.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS / CORESPONDENCE – Brown County Assessor; Brown County Planning and Zoning, Governor's Office – 2019 Annual Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – none

Nuisances – none
Streets – there will be pot holes this spring
Parks – none

Lagoon/sewer – watching the water levels – should be good
Rubble Site – Site will be burned soon.

NEW BUSINESS – Council members will be thinking about our present animal/pet ordinances. They will come to the April meeting with ideas of what the city should be doing to address current issues (registering, vaccinating, vicious dogs, wild animals, number of pets, etc.). We are going to surplus a city truck. Ellen Harr made a motion to declare the truck surplus. Dana seconded the motion. Paul will be contacted with the information to publish. The city's equalization meeting is set for March 17th at 7:00 p.m. Dana bought a welder for the city. Dana talked to Park View (Dana Althoff) about replacing some of the trees in the tennis courts park. He also applied for a grant to cover \$1000 of the cost. Total of the cost of the 25 trees will be \$1800. Ellen Harr made a motion to approve the purchase. Cole Kampa seconded the motion. All were in favor – motion carried. We are looking for a 5000-watt generator for the city. Allen's Electric wired our city hall for generator use. Scott Bader from the Brown County Planning & Zoning set us new addresses for a few lots in town. He will be coming up to Columbia to have a meeting in the future.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Cara attended two Excel classes at the DEC in Aberdeen. She updated our physical address with area businesses and updated our Sam's renewal. Bank balances were presented. She is going to estimate how many stamps we will need to finish out the year and present that next month (so we can purchase forever stamps.)

Feb. 29, 2020 balances: SF - \$150,042.76; GF - \$147,567.07; FIT - \$13,961.06 Cash on Hand – \$6.85

Cole Kampa made a motion to accept the financial report as presented. Ellen Harr seconded the motion. All were in favor – motion carried.

Cole Kampa made a motion to adjourn. Dana Mohr seconded the motion. All were in favor – meeting adjourned.

Equalization Meeting - Tuesday, March 17th, 2020 7:00 p.m.
Next City Meeting - Tuesday, April 7, 2020 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Cara Dennert, Finance Officer

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$35.56. 18686

Brown County Feb. 25, 2020

Meeting Minutes

February 25, 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, Fjeldheim, and Wiese. Commissioner Sutton was absent.

Commissioner Kippley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:
Moved by Wiese seconded by Feickert to approve the general meeting minutes from February 18th, 2020. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

Insurance: Alliant Insurance \$1,729.00. Professional Fees: AMG – UPA \$2,750.00; Certified Languages \$1,975.05; Cogley Law Office \$6,250.00; Ryan Dell \$6,250.00; Dohrer Law Office \$6,250.00; GBR Interpreting \$120.00; Haar Law Firm \$6,533.60; Mark Katterhagen \$12.00; Kuck Law Office \$10,276.90; Lucy Lewno \$150.00; Darcy Lockwood \$12.00; Jerald McNeary \$6,250.00; Mikelson Law Office \$698.95; Minnehaha Co. Auditor \$157.50; NEMHC \$1,664.00; Sanford Health \$2,416.00; Christy Griffin-Serr Law Office \$6,250.00; SD Dept. of Revenue & Regulation \$2,477.29; Jodi Sudweeks \$30.60; Taliaferro Law Firm \$7,804.85; Mitch Vilhauer \$1,253.58. Publishing: Aberdeen American News \$520.06; Groton Independent \$273.16. Repairs & Maintenance: Commtech \$300.98; Dakota Doors \$122.45; Gardner Locksmith \$75.00; Midwest Pump & Tank \$856.36; Olson's Pest Techs \$95.00; Pierson Ford \$35.05; Steven Lust Automotive \$54.46. Supplies: 446-Praxair \$474.25; Aberdeen Fire & Rescue \$244.00; Advance Auto \$120.59; DSG \$83.52; I-State Truck \$64.50; LabSource \$288.00; Dan's Leather Creation \$153.00; Lucy Lewno \$5.00; Marco \$76.03; Matheson Tri-Gas \$1,827.80; Menards \$58.39; McLeod's Printing \$232.48; Midwest Pump & Tank \$941.13; Mark Milbrandt \$309.61; Pantorium Cleaners \$21.00; Productivity Plus \$680.74; Safeguard \$174.55; West Payment Center \$1,750.67. Travel & Conference: Mark Milbrandt \$28.00; Roberta Nichols \$194.16; SDACC \$60.00. Utilities: Dependable Sanitation \$165.00; Montana-Dakota Utilities \$105.21; NWPS \$2,617.68; NVC \$252.78. Other: JRWD \$11,869.81; NESDCAP \$2,500.00; Pizza Ranch \$61.46. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT:
Moved by Fjeldheim seconded by Feickert to approve the following HR Office Report, which includes the following personnel changes: Acknowledge employment end date of Paul Sivertsen, Brown County Chief Information Officer, effective February 18, 2020; Approve hiring of Josh Goetz as Brown County JDC Correctional Officer part-time at \$14.19 per hour effective February 27, 2020; Approve hiring of Caroline Graf Brown County JDC Correctional Officer part-time at \$14.19 per hour effective March 2, 2020. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORD 156- ADOPTION:
Moved by Wiese, seconded by Feickert to adopt ordinance 156, 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, "Geist Subdivision" in the N1/2NE1/4 of Section 29-T123N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. Roll call vote: Feickert- aye, Sutton- absent, Wiese- aye, Fjeldheim – aye, Kippley – aye. Ordinance Adopted.

ORD 157- ADOPTION:
Moved by Feickert, seconded by Fjeldheim to adopt ordinance 157, 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): "Wayne Cutler Subdivision" in the NE1/4 of Section 9-T125N-R60W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. Roll call vote: Feickert- aye, Sutton- absent, Wiese- aye, Fjeldheim – aye, Kippley – aye. Ordinance Adopted.

ORD 158- ADOPTION:
Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Feickert to adopt ordinance 158, 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 4.10 Lake Front Residential (R-3): Lot 2A of Lot 2 "Schaeffer Richmond Lake Subdivision" in the NW1/4 of Section 25-T124N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. Roll call vote: Feickert- aye, Sutton- absent, Wiese- aye, Fjeldheim – aye, Kippley – aye. Ordinance Adopted.

BID AWARD – WOOD WASTE GRINDING:
Time and place as advertised to open, read and consider sealed bids for wood waste grinding at the Landfill. Moved by Feickert, seconded by Fjeldheim to award bid to Dakota Wood-Grinding, Inc. at a rate of \$650 per hour with a \$2,500 mobilization fee, rejecting bid from Shred X Onsite at a rate of \$718 per hour with a \$6,850 mobilization fee. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

VEHICLE PURCHASE:
Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve one new vehicle purchase for the Landfill. 2020 Chevrolet Silverado off state bid item #18 contract #17340 from Beck Motors in Pierre, SD, in the amount of \$34,411.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ALCOHOL LICENSE PUBLIC HEARING:
Time and place, as advertised for public hearing to consider application for annual Retail (on-off sale) Malt Beverage and SD Farm Wine license. Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Feickert to approve an application for annual Malt Beverage & SD Farm Wine license, submitted by Motor Sports, LLC at Brown County Speedway (SW1/4, Sec 1,-T123N-R64W Grandstand-see map on file with auditor). All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

BID OPENING – MILLING AND RECLAIMING:
Time and place as advertised to open, read, and consider sealed bids for milling and reclaiming equipment for construction and maintenance repairs on Brown County Road Projects for the year 2020. Loiseau Construction was the sole bidder. Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to defer bids for review by Highway Superintendent. Bid tab will be presented with the award of bid. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE UPGRADE:
Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve accounting software and hr management software upgrade to the latest version (INCODE 10) in the amount of \$30,000. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

TIMEKEEPING SYSTEM:
Discussion on purchasing timekeeping system Executime. Additional research requested. No action taken.

2019 FINANCIAL REPORTS:
Moved by Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim, to accept the 2019 Financial Reports as presented February 25th, 2020, and approve not preparing the optional M, D & A (Manager's Discussion and Analysis) supplement to the report. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LOTTERY PERMIT:
Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve lottery permit submitted by Brown County Relay for Life for a raffle drawing to be held May 29, 2020, at the Expo Building. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

PLATS:
Commissioner Feickert offered the following Resolution: RESOLUTION 08-20 TR LAND MANAGEMENT ADDITION: "Be it resolved by the County Commission of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "TR LAND MANAGEMENT ADDITION IN THE SE1/4 OF SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 123 NORTH, RANGE 63 WEST OF THE 5TH P.M., BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA" having been examined is hereby approved in accordance with the provision of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-3, and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Wiese: Roll call vote: Feickert- aye, Sutton- absent, Wiese- aye, Fjeldheim – aye, Kippley – aye. Resolution Passed.

Commissioner Feickert offered the following Resolution: RESOLUTION 09-20 C&L HABECK'S 1ST SUBDIVISION: "Resolved by the County Commission of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "C&L HABECK'S 1ST SUBDIVISION IN SW1/4 SEC. 27-T124N-63W of 5th P.M., BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA", having been examined, is hereby approved

in accordance with the provisions of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-3, and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Wiese: Roll call vote: Feickert- aye, Sutton- absent, Wiese- aye, Fjeldheim – aye, Kippley – aye. Resolution Passed.

Commissioner Feickert offered the following Resolution: RESOLUTION 10-20 GOS-SMAN SECOND ADDITION: "Be it resolved by the board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing Gossman Second Addition in the SE ¼ of Section 15-T123N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota having been examined is hereby approved in accordance with the provision of SDCL 11-3, and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Wiese: Roll call vote: Feickert- aye, Sutton- absent, Wiese- aye, Fjeldheim – aye, Kippley – aye. Resolution Passed.

SET HEARING DATE- REZONE ORDINANCE:
Moved by Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve advertising and set hearing date of the following proposed rezone ordinances 159: Application has been made by TR Land Management to the Brown County Board of Commissioners for a change of zoning. Hearing to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota on March 17, 2020, at 8:45 A.M. for the purpose of rezoning the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.14 Highway Commercial District (HC): Lot 1 "TR Land Management Addition" in the SE1/4 of Section 4-T123N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

NATURAL GAS CONTRACT:
Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Feickert to authorize chair sign agreement with NorthWestern Energy for natural gas at a rate of 0.3672 from November 1, 2020, to October 31, 2021. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LEASES:
Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to authorize chair sign the following lease agreements: Hub City Radio for lease of Expo March 28-28, 2020; Titan Machinery for lease of Expo April 8, 2020; North Plains Baptist Church for lease of Richmond Lake Youth Camp Lodge June 22 -26, 2020. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIM ASSIGNMENT:
Moved by Wiese, seconded by Feickert to authorize chair sign documentation to assign claim against an individual to Credit Collection Bureau for the purpose of collecting liens. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FAIR CONTRACTS: none presented this week.

LEASE OPTION RENEWAL ADDENDUM:
Moved by Wiese, Seconded by Feickert to authorize chair sign lease option renewal addendum with RB Farms for leased land adjacent to the Landfill: 29 acres of county owned cropland located in the NW 14-123-65, directly west of the Brown County Landfill and 129 acres in the NW 13-123-65, directly east of the Brown County Landfill. This is the third of four options to renew effective January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

AUDITOR'S REPORT OF ACCOUNT:
Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following January 2020 Auditor's report of account: Total Cash and Checks on Hand 7700 Total Checking Account Balances: 6671072.42 Total Savings Account Balances: 1780447.42 Total Certificates of Deposit: 5523127.01 Grand Total Cash and Balances: 13982346.85 General Fund Cash and Investment Balances by Funds: General Fund 3754368.55 Road & Bridge Fund 1985497.09 Road & Bridge Fund - restricted 423243.27 911 Service 87021.79 Emergency & Disaster 45523.29 Domestic Abuse 583.67 Teen Court 36679.38 Grant 1199.19 JDAI -14465.16 Richmond Youth 21916.96 24/7 Sobriety 20030.39 ROD M&P 122663.48 Tif Debt Service 2949378.98 Landfill - restricted 1364284 Trust and Agency Funds 3175149.92 GRAND TOTAL GENERAL FUND CASH AND INVESTMENTS 13982346.85. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

WEED AND PEST UPDATE:
Commissioner Feickert gave an update on the weed and pest board.

CAFO UPDATE:
Commissioner Weise gave an update on Brown County CAFO Ordinance. Public input is being accepted. CAFO Ordinance update can be found online, and comments can be submitted online. Brown.SD.US.

ADJOURNMENT:
Moved by Wiese, seconded by Feickert to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:30 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$133.41. 18692

Brown County Whitman

Rezoning Notice

ORDINANCE #156
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED TO REZONE CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY

BE IT ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota, that the Petition to Amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended, to rezone the following described property filed by James Whitman is hereby granted and Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances is hereby amended to change the zoning on the following described property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG), said property described as follows:

"Geist Subdivision" in the N1/2NE1/4 of Section 29-T123N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota, that the zoning official for the County of Brown is hereby authorized to change the official zoning map for Brown County to reflect this Ordinance.

Notice of Hearing: February 5 and 12, 2020
Passed First Reading: February 18, 2020
Passed Second Reading: February 25, 2020
Adopted: February 25, 2020
Published: March 4, 2020
Effective Date: March 24, 2020

Rachel Kippley, Chair
Brown County Commission
ATTEST:
Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$18.28. 18689

Brown County Cutler

Rezoning Notice

ORDINANCE #157
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED TO REZONE CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY

BE IT ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota, that the Petition to Amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended, to rezone the following described property filed by Wayne Cutler is hereby granted and Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances is hereby amended to change the zoning on the following described property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG), said property described as follows:

"Wayne Cutler Subdivision" in the NE1/4 of Section 9-T125N-R60W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. (11901 409th Ave)

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota that the zoning official for the County of Brown is hereby authorized to change the official zoning map for Brown County to reflect this Ordinance.

Notice of Hearing: February 5 and 12, 2020
Passed First Reading: February 18, 2020
Passed Second Reading: February 25, 2020
Adopted: February 25, 2020
Published: March 4, 2020
Effective Date: March 24, 2020

Rachel Kippley, Chair
Brown County Commission
ATTEST:
Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$18.94. 18690

Brown County Gray

Rezoning Notice

ORDINANCE #158
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED TO REZONE CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY

BE IT ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota, that the Petition to Amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended, to rezone the following described property filed by Roger Gray is hereby granted and Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances is hereby amended to change the zoning on the following described property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.10 Lake Front Residential (R-3), said property described as follows:

Lot 2A of Lot 2 "Schaeffer Richmond Lake Subdivision" in the NW1/4 of Section 25-T124N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (379357 South Shore Drive)

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota that the zoning official for the County of Brown is hereby authorized to change the official zoning map for Brown County to reflect this Ordinance.

Notice of Hearing: February 5 and 12, 2020
Passed First Reading: February 18, 2020
Passed Second Reading: February 25, 2020
Adopted: February 25, 2020
Published: March 4, 2020
Effective Date: March 24, 2020

Rachel Kippley, Chair
Brown County Commission
ATTEST:
Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$18.94. 18691

Brown County TR Land Mgmt

Rezoning Notice

NOTICE
Application has been made by TR Land Management to the Brown County Board of Commissioners for a change of zoning. Hearing to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota on March 17, 2020 at 8:45 A.M. for the purpose of rezoning the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.14 Highway Commercial District (HC):

Lot 1 "TR Land Management Addition" in the SE1/4 of Section 4-T123N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. (13055 391st Ave)

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the amendment to Second Revision Brown County Ordinances pertaining to rezoning the described property. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt first reading of Ordinance No. 159

ATTEST:
Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor
(0304.0311)
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$24.10. 19691

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S.D. electricity fight heats up in Pierre

Nick Lowrey

South Dakota News Watch

A long, simmering battle between electricity providers in South Dakota is coming to a head as the 2020 legislative session winds down, and at stake is the potential for faster economic growth in some cities versus the possibility of higher electric rates for rural residents.

The debate is raging between municipalities that provide electricity to residents and rural electric cooperatives that serve customers living outside of South Dakota's major cities, and it is one of the quietest but potentially highest-impact issues now being considered in Pierre.

Rural electric cooperatives are angered by what they say is the unfair loss of tens of millions of dollars' worth of potential revenue due to the unilateral taking of parts of their service territories and customers by growing cities that annex new lands and homes — a process now legal under state law.

The rural providers are backing legislation that would add new hurdles to the process by which municipal electric utilities take over a co-op's service territory and begin collecting utility payments from customers within the territory. The bill under consideration this session is the second attempt at a change in the law in the past two years and follows the failure of a 2019 legislative study committee to reach a compromise between the co-ops and the municipal utilities.

Leaders from several cities that own their own electric utilities have been fighting against any attempt to curtail their ability to take electric service territory when they grow. Some city and municipal utility leaders argue that restricting city-owned utilities from taking territory when needed will slow economic development and harm the state's overall growth in the long run.

The rural electric co-ops this session are pushing House Bill 1262, introduced by Rep. David Anderson, R-Hudson. The bill would force city-owned electric utilities to meet in-person with the electric utility provider whose territory is being taken before a takeover can happen. The bill would also give co-ops the ability to demand a court hearing to contest a service territory takeover they think was fraudulent or an abuse of discretion.

The bill is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Commerce and Energy Committee at 10 a.m. on March 5. If the bill passes out of committee, it would move to the Senate floor either later that day or on March 9.

The conflict between electric co-ops and municipal utilities stems from a law known as the Territorial Act of 1975. During the 1970s, there was a nationwide public policy movement aimed at making the build-out of electrical infrastructure more efficient by giving various types of electric utility providers exclusive rights to serve pre-defined pieces of territory. That essentially created state-approved electric service monopolies for rural electric cooperatives, municipal utility departments and investor-owned utilities. The thinking was that by giving each electric utility a monopoly over their service territory, there would be less duplication of expensive infrastructure, which would keep rates down for end users.

"If we didn't have service territories and any company could build anywhere, you can imagine a residential city block and you have three electric companies running lines, poles and wires into a residential area each hoping to serve customers in that area, you can imagine how inefficient and, probably even from a safety perspective, hazardous it would be," said Chris Nelson, one of South Dakota's three public utilities commissioners.

But not all monopolies are treated equally under the 1975 law. City-owned electric utilities, in particular, were given a powerful tool — the ability to take over neighboring service territory whenever they deem it necessary for a city's growth. Of the three types of electric utility providers in South Dakota, municipal electric departments are the only ones allowed to take territory without first coming to an agreement with the provider from which they are taking territory.

"As those municipalities, over the years, have continued to grow and continue to take territory from my member systems, the economic impacts have continued to elevate and it hurts. It stings," said Ed Anderson, general manager of the South Dakota Rural Electric Association.

There have been 18 takings of territory from rural electric cooperatives since 2010, Anderson said. Several of the takings included infrastructure and customers and most were done without the expressed consent of the co-op whose territory was being taken, he said.

City leaders in communities such as Brookings, Watertown, Vermilion and Volga say the bill would create new and unnecessary hurdles to their economic development efforts. Uncertainty and delays due to red tape, they say, can kill a city's bid to bring in a new factory or ethanol plant, for example.

"They want to know who's going to serve them and what's the cost going to be," said Steve Lehner, general manager of Watertown Municipal Utilities. "And if I can't tell them that, because the (co-op) can challenge in court for who has the right to serve, or challenge in court the cost that we're gonna pay, then that company is going to go look for another community."

Cause for conflict

For several decades, the monopoly system created in 1975 worked pretty well. Power lines, substations and electric generation capacity expanded to serve most every customer that needed it. Rural electrical cooperatives worked closely with many of the state's 35 municipal electric utilities to build transmission lines and even provided emergency maintenance services.

But as the pace of growth sped up in cities such as Watertown and Brookings, two of the largest cities with their own electric utilities, the cities ran into the edges of their own defined service territories and started taking territory from neighboring rural electric co-ops. Those city-edge territories often became home to large, industrial customers who can generate a lot of money for the utility that sells them electricity. For cities, successfully recruiting such customers means more jobs and an increased tax base.

One recent example is the Bel Brands cheese plant in Brookings. The plant started construction in 2012 on land annexed into the city. The city's annexation included a takeover of electric service territory belonging to the Sioux Valley Energy co-op. At the time of annexation, there was no



Ed Anderson, South Dakota Rural Electric Association

electric infrastructure on the ground, said Al Heuton, executive director of the Brookings Economic Development Corporation.

"The standard practice for industrial development has been for Brookings to acquire the land, and between the city of Brookings and Brookings municipal utilities, they install all the infrastructure," he said. "They're basically fronting the development costs."

Promising to take over electric service on the land slated for the Bel Brands plant allowed Heuton and other city leaders to guarantee to the company that electrical infrastructure would be in place and what rates for service would be. The certainty and potential for cost savings were critical to Brookings' successful bid for the plant, Heuton said.

"If we can't provide that here, then they're going to go somewhere else," Heuton said.

Building power lines and substations is expensive, but providing electricity is the easiest utility service from which to turn a profit and provides revenue municipal utilities need to cover their costs, Heuton said. Selling electricity has been especially lucrative for Brookings. The municipal utility company annually returns about \$2 million to the city's general fund, city budget documents show.

While cities such as Brookings have been able to expand their service territories and boost their revenues, rural electric co-op members have been forced to pay higher rates as a result, said Carrie Vugteveen, director of communications and government relations for Sioux Valley Energy.

Sioux Valley Energy, one of South Dakota's largest rural electricity cooperatives, estimates it has missed out on about \$21.5 million in revenue over the past 20 years that could have been generated on territory taken by city-owned utilities. The estimate is based on rates that could have been charged to businesses and residents in the lost territory, Vugteveen said.

Co-ops were created specifically to give rural residents a way to provide themselves with electricity. Co-ops are owned by the people they serve and their biggest interest is in getting and providing electricity as inexpensively as possible. Adding large industrial members to a co-op means fixed costs for maintenance or new infrastructure can be spread over more kilowatt hours, which in turn can reduce the rate each member (including residential customers) pays for each kilowatt hour they use.

There is no guarantee, however, that co-ops would end up serving large consumers such as Bel Brands even if municipal utilities' ability to take territory was restricted. A provision in the 1975 law allows consumers who contract to use at least two megawatts of electricity — more than double the average U.S. household's monthly usage — to choose who will provide their electricity.

Rural electric co-ops have won several large customers over the years by submitting bids, said Chris Studer, chief member and public relations officer for East River Electric, a cooperative that builds electricity transmission lines and substations for other co-ops. In recent years, the Blunt, S.D.-based Oahe Electric Cooperative won the right to serve the new Ringneck Energy ethanol plant in Onida, despite the plant being located within the city's municipal utility service territory.

Still, rural co-ops are often at a disadvantage when bidding against municipal utility departments. On average, the state's co-ops serve 2.5 members per mile of power line. Municipal utilities, meanwhile, serve roughly 42 customers per mile of line. Because they tend to serve members dispersed over large, rural areas, South Dakota electric co-ops have had to spend more on construction and maintenance of everything from power lines to power plants.

The result is that co-op members tend to pay slightly higher rates than municipal utility customers. Usually the difference winds up being a few cents per kilowatt hour, which can add up to several dollars on monthly bills.

"There's this misnomer out there that electric co-ops have much higher rates and that's just not the



East River Electric Cooperative serves as the electricity transmission co-op for eastern South Dakota and built this substation near Onida to serve the Ringneck Energy ethanol plant recently built in the city. Electric co-ops such as East River Electric have been trying to change state law in recent years to restrict the ability of municipal utilities to take service territory from co-ops. Photo: Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

Continues on next page



Carrie Vugteveen, Sioux Valley Energy



Al Heuton, Brookings Economic Development Corporation

Continued from previous page

case, it just isn't," Vugteveen said. "We have bid on loads and we have won some of those loads. We can be competitive; we are competitive."

However, if municipal utilities continue to siphon away co-op customers, rates for rural residents could rise well above what they are now.

No common ground

As far as municipal utilities are concerned, there is no problem with the current system of defined service territories. Any service territory takings that included customers and infrastructure have been or are being paid for. Municipal electric utilities are required to compensate co-ops and investor owned utilities when they take service territory. According to a formula included in the Territorial Act of 1975, when a municipal utility takes territory from another utility, it must pay a quarter of the gross revenue generated in the territory for seven of the first 11 years after the territory is taken.

Such compensation is fair and allows cities to grow and actively compete for to bring new employers to their communities and the state, said Heuton, the Brookings development official.

"For our purposes, it would be much better if nothing were to change," he said.

The problem, as co-ops see it, is that the compensation is both too little and too temporary, while territory takings are permanent.

"These are lost forever. It's not just, 'Oh we got it and now it's ours for the time being.' It is lost revenue until that business goes away or to the end of time," Studer said.

Since the year 2000, Sioux Valley Energy has received about \$2.1 million in compensation for territory takings that around Brookings alone have covered 2,600 acres of land, 1,600 homes and 81

businesses, Vugteveen said.

"We have fixed service territories, the investor owned utilities have fixed territories. But municipal electric utilities don't. That's where we see the inequity and the unfairness," she said.

That perceived unfairness has driven efforts by rural co-ops over the past two years to change state law. During the 2019 legislative session, Sen. Brock Greenfield, R-Clark, introduced a co-op-backed bill that would have prevented municipal utilities from arbitrarily taking any territory from another utility. Greenfield's 2019 bill ignited a furious debate before being gutted and re-written to create a 9-member legislative summer study committee aimed at finding a compromise between co-ops and municipal utilities.

During the summer and fall of 2019, the study committee members spent more than 15 hours over three meetings listening to experts and lobbyists from co-ops and municipal utilities, as well as discussing the issue themselves. Ultimately, the 2019 study committee failed to find a workable compromise.

"The committee was set up to fail for the municipalities," said Lehner, the Watertown utility manager.

The committee was stacked so heavily in favor of co-ops, Lehner said, that he and other municipal officials complained to the Legislature's executive board. Many of the committee members had actually been co-sponsors of the original 2019 legislation, he said. And despite the many hours of testimony and discussion, the proposals that did arise from the committee's work weren't acceptable to municipal utilities.

Co-ops, though, helped write and found a sponsor this session for what became House Bill 1262, which they call a compromise. If the bill becomes law, it would force municipal utilities to give notice up to one year prior to taking service territory from another utility, to give co-ops a chance to negotiate for a better deal prior to territory being taken, and to give co-ops the option to challenge a territory taking in court. The co-ops see the legislation as necessary in order to level the playing field and protect their most vulnerable and remote customers from paying excessively high electricity rates.

Co-op officials also say they don't agree with municipality arguments that taking service territory is critical to recruiting new businesses.

Sioux Falls is a great example of how all types of utility providers can work together to boost a city's growth, Vugteveen said.

There are two co-ops — Sioux Valley and Southeastern Electric — serving members on the expanding edges of the city. Xcel Energy, an investor-owned utility, provides service to much of

Sioux Falls and the city itself owns a small electric utility serving part of the city center and the airport. Sioux Falls hasn't had any problem growing despite the variety of electricity providers serving the area, Vugteveen said.

"We all work in concert with each other. This is how it can work," she said.

Lehner said the window to respond to requests for proposals from companies looking for a new location can close within days of the city receiving notification. If cities can say quickly and with certainty that it will be able to provide everything a business needs, the odds of winning the bid get much better, Lehner said. He vowed to keep fighting HB1262 even if the bill becomes law.

"Quite frankly, every business I lose because I can't tell them what their costs are going to be because of 1262, I'm going to make sure that people know about that. That's going to get into our press," Lehner said.

Groton's defense prevents double digit scorers for Sisseton

Groton's defense prevented any of the Sisseton players to hit double figures and that helped the boys win the regular season finale with a 48-43 win.

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

The game was tied eight times and there were six lead changes. What helped the Tigers was cold shooting by the Redmen in the second quarter, making only one of 11 shots for nine percent. Groton Area held a 14-12 lead at the end of the first quarter and a 21-15 lead at half time. The Tigers opened up an eight-point lead right away in the third quarter, but the Redmen would go hot in shooting, making five of seven shots in the third quarter for 72 percent. Sisseton had taken a 27-25 lead in the third quarter, but had to settle for a one-point deficit at the end of the quarter, 32-31.

Kaden Kurtz lit the nets on fire in the fourth quarter, making a three-pointer and a two-pointer, and Austin Jones stole the ball for a lay-up and the Tigers took command of the game. In the final 63 seconds, Groton Area made five of eight free throws to secure the win.

Jonathan Doeden led all scorers with 20 points and he had five rebounds, one assist and two steals. Kaden Kurtz finished with 13 points and two rebounds. Austin Jones had eight points, eight rebounds and one steal. Tristan Traphagen had four points and five rebounds. Cade Guthmiller had three points, four rebounds and three assists. Isaac Smith had one assist and Jayden Zak and Lane Tietz each had one rebound.

Groton Area made 15 of 32 field goals for 47 percent, was two of nine in three-pointers for 22 percent and was 12 of 19 from the line for 63 percent off of Sisseton's 19 team fouls. Sisseton made 16 of 45 field goals for 36 percent and was nine of 18 from the line for 50 percent off of Groton Area's 16 team fouls.

Three leading scorers had nine points for Sisseton. They were Xavier Donnell, Andrew Kranhold and Anthony Tchida. After that, Ty Peterson had seven, Dylan Goodhart had five and Levi Greseth added two points. In the eight games that we have stats for Sisseton, they made anywhere from three to 10 three-pointers in game. Against the Tigers they made only two.

Groton Area had 26 rebounds and five turnovers. Sisseton had five turnovers as well.

Groton Area, now 16-4, will enter regional play on Tuesday when the Tigers will host Aberdeen Roncalli at 7 p.m. The girls will host Webster Area on Monday at 7 p.m.

Sisseton won the junior varsity game, 36-29. Chandler Larson led the Tigers with nine points (3 3-pointers), Jayden Zak had seven (1 3-pointer), Tate Larson six, Cade Larson had a three-pointer and Isaac Smith and Kannon Coats each had two points. Ty Langager led the Redmen with 15 points and Cayden Kohl had 12 points. The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM sponsored by Olson Development.

The C team finished its season with a perfect 9-0 record by beating Sisseton, 43-18. The whole game was recorded and the second half was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, but you have to listen to the first half on the archived videos - guest and very colorful commentators Kaden Kurtz and Cade Guthmiller provided the play-by-play. The play-by-play will start about half ways through the first quarter. We had technical difficulties getting on-line until the second half. The game sponsor by Ed and Connie Stauch.

Tate Larson led the Tigers with 14 points followed by Jacob Zak with seven, Cole Simon six, Jackson Bahr five, Cade Larson four, Tyson Parrow three, Jackson Cogley two and Wyatt Hearnen and Steve Paulson each had one point.

- Paul Kosel

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Groton Area wins four games by six points at Deuel

It was exciting basketball action Thursday at Clear Lake as it was a double header with the Deuel Cardinals. Groton area won four games by six points. The boys won all of their games, winning the varsity game, 45-43, the junior varsity game, 25-24, and the C game, 41-39, while the girls junior varsity team won its game, 25-24. Deuel made eight of 10 free throws in the closing minutes to pull away from the Groton Area girls team, 47-34.

Jonathan Doeden had a late game steal and scored and then Kaden Kurtz made a shot with 43 seconds left to lift the boys varsity team to its two-point win. The Tigers led the lead for the first quarter, 12-8. Deuel rallied in the second quarter to tie the game at 16 and then the lead changed hands three times before the Cardinals took a 25-24 lead at halftime. Deuel opened up a seven-point lead in the third quarter, 31-24, and Groton Area cut the lead to four at the end of the third quarter, 35-31. The Cardinals had a six-point lead, 41-35, before the Tigers started to claw its way back into the game. Groton Area tied the game at 43 with 2:11 left in the game and the winning shot went in with 43 seconds left. Deuel fouled the Tigers several times in the final 11 seconds, but needed to do it three



Gracie Traphagen and Deuel's Haley Winter battle for the opening tip-off. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Kaden Kurtz passes the ball to teammate Cade Guthmiller. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

times before the Tigers were sent to the line and by that point, only 4 seconds were left in the game.

Kaden Kurtz led the Tigers with 15 points, two rebounds and one steal. Jonathan Doeden had 12 points, five rebounds, one assist, two steals and one blocked shot. Cade Guthmiller had eight points, five rebounds, two assists, two steals and two blocked shots. Austin Jones had four points, one rebound, two assists and one steal. Tristan Traphagen had four points, six rebounds and two blocked shots. Lane Tietz, who started for the first time, had two points, two rebounds, one assist and one steal.

Groton Area made 18 of 31 field goals for 58 percent, one of 11 three-pointers for 91 percent, and was six of 12 from the line for 50 percent off of Deuel's 16 team fouls. Both teams had 25 rebounds. The Tigers had 11 turnovers, eight of which were steals. Deuel had 15 turnovers of which nine were steals.

Seven players scored for the Cardinals with Sutton Fritz leading the way with 11 points followed by Dylan Brandt with eight, Layton

Eide with seven, Cooper Schiernbeck and Dalan Dahl each had six points, Tanner Preheim had three and Zane Bingham added two points.

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

Deuel made a basket with 1.1 seconds left in the game as the junior varsity team hung on to win its game, 37-36. Groton Area led at the quarterstops at 13-7, 24-11 and 28-22.

Scoring for Groton Area: Isaac Smith 14, Jayden Zak 6, Wyatt Hearnen 5, Chandler Larson 3, Jacob Zak 3, Lucas Simon 2, Kannon Coats 2, Tate Larson 2. Deuel was led by Zane Bingham with 16 points.

The junior varsity game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by the Carson and Julie Larson family. The junior varsity team is 13-5 on the season.

Groton Area hung on to win the boys C game, 41-39, to remain undefeated at 8-0. Groton Area led at the quarterstops at 9-6, 21-14 and 28-22. Scoring for Groton Area: Wyatt Hearnen 15, Tate Larson 9, Jackson Cogley 7, Jacob Zak 5, Cole Simone 3, Cade Larson 2.

The girls varsity team had a good first quarter, but then struggled for the rest of the game as the Deuel Cardinals posted a 47-34 win. Groton Area shot 46 percent in the first quarter and held a 13-12 lead at the end of the first quarter. The shooting percentage tanked in the second quarter to 17 percent as the Cardinals took a 25-20 lead at half time. Both teams shot 30 percent in the third quarter as Deuel still led by five points at the end of the third quarter, 34-29. Free throws down the stretch allowed the Cardinals to pull away at the end for the final 47-34 win.

Gracie Traphagen led the Tigers with 15 points, nine rebounds, two assists and one steal. Alyssa Thaler had 11



Deuel's Britney Lovre and Groton Area's Allyssa Locke have a momentary staredown. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

points, four rebounds, four assists and one steal. Brooke Gengerke had three points, four rebounds, two assists and one steal. Madeline Fliehs had three points and three rebounds. Allyssa Locke had two points, seven rebounds and one assist. Kaycie Hawkins had six rebounds and one steal and Trista Keith had one rebound and one assist.

Groton Area made 12 of 34 field goals for 35 percent, was two of 17 in three-pointers for 12 percent and was four of six from the line. The Tigers had 32 rebounds, 13 turnovers, 10 assists, four steals and 11 team fouls.

Deuel was led by Britney Lovre with 22 points followed by Saycia Sime with 14, Harley Hennings six, Josie Anderson three and Sarah Ronne two. The Cardinals made 15 of 51 field goals for 29 percent and was 10 of 12 from the line. Deuel had seven turnovers and seven team fouls.

The game was carried live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Locke Electric and the South Dakota Army National Guard.

The girls junior varsity team hung on to win its game, 25-24, after Deuel made a three-pointer with 23 seconds left in the game.

Scoring for Groton Area: Maddie Bjerke 9, Trista Keith 8, Anna Fjeldheim 4, Aspen Johnson 2 and Shallyn Foertsch 2. Josie Anderson led Deuel with 12 points. The game was carried live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Larry and Kathy Harry.



Austin Jones and Deuel's Sutton Fritz battle for the opening tip-off. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Alyssa Thaler shoots the ball over the Deuel defense. (Photo by Paul Kosel)