

THE Groton Independent

South Dakota
Growing Families & Opportunities

Vol. 137 No. 28 ♦ Groton, South Dakota ♦ Wednesday, Mar. 11, 2020 ♦ Established in 1889



The Creative Girls took second place in the elementary level of Improv. The Northeast South Dakota Destination Imagination Tournament was held Saturday at the Groton Area High School. Pictured are Arianna Dinger, Aurora Washenberger, McKenna Krause, Aubrey Craig, Novalea Warrington and Raelynn Feist. Their team managers are Joni Groeblichhoff and Laura Washenberger. The team will advance to state competition March 28th in Pierre. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



It's About Caring ...

Pictured above are Brodyn DeHoet and Major Dolan.

(Courtesy Photo)

Groton Area Head Boys' Basketball Coach Brian Dolan posted the following on his Facebook Page: "For everyone who said one negative thing about the young man holding my son in this picture.....you were wrong. This is the impact he made on my 8 year old son. None of you who judged him are perfect, so keep that in mind next time you think you should talk about him. My son is better because of him and that is a fact. Thank you Brodyn we appreciate you in our house."



The Organized Chaos Destination Imagination Team of Carter Barse, Rylie Rosenau, Alyssa Fordham and Jack Dinger placed first in the senior division of Improv at the NE Region DI Tourney held Saturday in Groton. Their team managers are Tina Fordham and Pam Barse. They will compete in the state tournament March 28th in Pierre. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The Super Smart Super Heros placed first in the Elementary Improve at the NE Region Destination Tournament held Saturday in Groton. Pictured left to right are Camille Craig, Claire Schuelke, Keira Weismantel, Shaydon Wood and Addison Hoffman. Their team managers are Julie Milbrandt and Darcy Wood. They will advance to the state tournament March 28th in Pierre. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The Solar Planet Dumplings competed in the middle school Scientific Division at the NE Region Destination Imagination Tournament held Saturday. Pictured are Gavin Khali, Axel Warrington, Jacob Tewskbury, Rebecca Poor, Jeslyn Kosel and Natalia Warrington. Their team managers are Tina Kosel and Sarah Tewksbury. (Photo by Tina Kosel)

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 Friday, March 20, Closed Saturday, 3/21, open again on Sunday (3/22) and Monday (3/23)

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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
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CURT CARTER MEMORIAL GUN SHOW special 50th annual Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Association. Codington County Extension Complex, Watertown, SD, March 21 & 22. Information 605-793-2347.

AUCTIONS

INTERSTATE AUCTION CENTER. Saturday, March 21 10:00 AM. Tractors, trucks, trailers, livestock/farm equipment. 3 miles east of Sioux Falls, I-90 exit 402. 605-331-4550 or jdmach@yahoo.com. Visit our website auctionzip.com.

EMPLOYMENT

GREAT PAYING JOBS! Statewide construction jobs, \$17.00 - \$23.00 hourly + benefits. Summer or permanent. No experience necessary, great career opportunities. Apply Online www.sdwork.org.

TEACHERS NEEDED IN CUSTER School District starting August 2020 in Special Education. Salary DOE. See csd.k12.sd.us, 527 Montgomery St., Custer, SD 57730, (605)673-3154. EOE

MCCOOK COUNTY EMS: Seeking full-time Paramedic. Salary DOE, health insurance provided, must live in Salem. Resume: Box 309, Salem, SD 57058, FAX 605-425-2555, mcems2@triotel.net

IMMEDIATE OPENING for a Full Time Deputy Sheriff. High school diploma or GED. SD LEO Cert. preferred. Location Timber Lake, SD. Salary DOE. Call Dewey County Sheriff's Office at 605-865-3330.

DOT
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 1 POSITION - ABERDEEN, SD
 Duties: Deliver and/or pick up testing equipment/supplies and material samples. Assist with testing equipment inventory, assembly, maintenance, repair and cleaning. Maintain general cleanliness of Lab, Warehouse and vehicles. Assist with buildings and yard maintenance. Mow/trim yard weekly. Transport supplies to Rest Areas. Assist Operations Coordinator with Fall Sale preparation and cleanup. Assist Parts Room and Repair Shop with various activities such as delivering parts and vehicles to outside Region Shops. Other duties as requested.
 Requirements: Must be age 18. Valid driver's license required. Ability to perform strenuous physical labor, perform occasional heavy lifting, and operate hand tools. Travel required for some positions.
 Closing Date: 03/31/20. Salary: \$13.00/hour. Applications are available online at: <http://bhr.sd.gov/files/seas-tempapp.pdf>. Submit application to the following address/fax number or contact the Department of Transportation by phone:
 Department of Transportation, Aberdeen Region Office
 Attn: Todd Hertel, PO Box 1767, Aberdeen, SD 57402-1767
 Phone: 605-626-2244, Fax: 605-626-7875
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**ANNUAL REPORT FOR BROWN COUNTY
OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED December 31, 2019
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS--MODIFIED CASH BASIS**

	General Fund	Road and Bridge Fund	Other BCT1 Fund	Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Beginning Balance	3,550,369.77	791,149.88	0.00	597,854.53	4,939,374.18
Revenues and Other Sources (minor level):					
Taxes:					
Current Property Taxes	14,260,663.73	0.00	913,754.24	0.00	15,174,417.97
Delinquent Property Taxes	213,016.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	213,016.58
Penalties and Interest	33,953.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	33,953.33
Telephone Tax (Outside)	1,543.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,543.56
Mobile Home Tax	614.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	614.13
Wheel Tax	0.00	801,919.27	0.00	0.00	801,919.27
Tax Deed Revenue	12,483.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,483.52
Other Taxes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Licenses and Permits	67,487.80	12,470.00	0.00	6,690.00	86,647.80
Intergovernmental Revenue:					
Federal Grants	69,268.23	0.00	0.00	78,349.84	147,618.07
Federal Shared Revenue	19,268.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	19,268.18
Federal Payments in Lieu of Taxes	222.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	222.00
State Grants	21,200.00	1,098,082.73	0.00	36,874.75	1,156,157.48
State Shared Revenue	509,900.66	3,734,418.19	0.00	426,757.33	4,671,076.18
State Payments in Lieu of Taxes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Payments in Lieu of Taxes	4,930.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,930.75
Other Intergovernmental Revenue	28,508.06	0.00	0.00	331,657.58	360,165.64
Charges for Goods and Services:					
General Government	831,842.79	0.00	0.00	25,536.70	857,379.49
Public Safety	364,650.07	0.00	0.00	71,513.82	436,163.89
Public Works	0.00	7,872.20	0.00	0.00	7,872.20
Health and Welfare	116,245.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	116,245.87
Culture and Recreation	1,303,905.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,303,905.35
Urban and Economic Development	1,205.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,205.67
Conservation of Natural Resources	44,257.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	44,257.64
Other Charges	19,449.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	19,449.53
Fines and Forfeits:					
Fines	218.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	218.75
Costs	35,877.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	35,877.99
Forfeits	8,005.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,005.00
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Revenue and Other Sources:					
Investment Earnings	49,959.07	4,145.02	436.32	1,308.96	55,849.37
Rent	143,440.88	8,507.03	0.00	0.00	151,947.91
Special Assessments	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Contributions and Donations	3,394.95	0.00	0.00	500.00	3,894.95
Refund of Prior Year's Expenditures	0.00	0.00	0.00	321.97	321.97
Other Miscellaneous Revenue	32,571.82	5,546.42	0.00	2,153.60	40,271.84
General Long Term Debt Issued	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Insurance Proceeds	71,948.79	4,791.15	0.00	0.00	76,739.94
Sale of County Property	201,471.75	29,170.29	0.00	0.00	230,642.04
Total Revenue and Other Sources	18,471,506.45	5,706,922.30	914,190.56	981,664.55	26,074,283.86
Expenditures and Other Uses (subfunction level):					
Legislative	315,106.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	315,106.86
Elections	28,194.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	28,194.87
Judicial System	62,334.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	62,334.32
Financial Administration	862,576.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	862,576.46
Legal Services	1,993,036.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,993,036.96
Other Administration	3,332,122.13	0.00	0.00	71,094.44	3,403,216.57
Law Enforcement	5,120,794.81	0.00	0.00	102,236.12	5,223,030.93
Protective and Emergency Services	16,972.50	0.00	0.00	1,423,432.11	1,440,404.61
Highways and Bridges	0.00	9,182,606.68	0.00	0.00	9,182,606.68
Sanitation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transportation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Water System	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Public Works	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Economic Assistance	121,032.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	121,032.33
Health Assistance	18,763.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18,763.00
Social Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,506.92	11,506.92
Mental Health Services	173,027.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	173,027.61
Culture	404,666.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	404,666.87
Recreation	1,682,821.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,682,821.82
Soil Conservation	247,221.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	247,221.18
Water Conservation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Urban Development	160,748.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	160,748.25
Economic Development	20,750.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,750.00
Intergovernmental Expenditures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Debt Service	0.00	0.00	904,918.51	0.00	904,918.51
Payments to Local Education Agencies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capital Outlay	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Discount on Bonds Issued	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Payments to Refunded Debt Escrow Agent	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Expenditures and Other Uses	14,560,169.97	9,182,606.68	904,918.51	1,608,269.59	26,255,964.75
Transfers In (Out)	(3,041,762.12)	4,504,582.86	(141.69)	537,320.95	2,000,000.00
Special Items (specify)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Extraordinary Items (specify)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Increase/Decrease in Fund Balance	869,574.36	1,028,898.48	9,130.36	(89,284.09)	1,818,319.11
Ending Fund Balance:					
Nonspendable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Restricted	36,776.25	423,243.27	9,130.36	197,166.67	666,316.55
Committed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Assigned	56,404.00	1,396,805.09	0.00	311,403.77	1,764,612.86
Unassigned	4,326,763.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,326,763.88
Total Ending Fund Balance	4,419,944.13	1,820,048.36	9,130.36	508,570.44	6,757,693.29
Governmental Long-term Debt					4,894,406.20

PROPRIETARY FUNDS--MODIFIED CASH BASIS

	Landfill 504 Fund
Beginning Balance	6,146,525.92
Revenues	2,725,784.26
Expenses	(2,737,274.67)
Transfers In (Out)	(2,000,000.00)
Ending Balance:	
Restricted For:	
Landfill Closure and Post Closure Costs	1,400,479.44
Unrestricted	2,734,556.07
Enterprise Long-term Debt	1,400,479.44

The preceding financial data does not include fiduciary funds or component units. Information pertaining to those activities may be obtained by contacting the County Auditor at (605) 626 - 7110.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$142.37. 18685

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Application deadline: March 20, 2020.

**Brown County
March 3, 2020
Meeting Minutes**

March 3, 2020 – GENERAL MEETING

Meeting called to order by Commission Vice-Chair Fjeldheim at 8:45 A.M. in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. Present were Commissioners Feickert, Sutton and Wiese. Commission Chair Kippley was absent. Commissioner Sutton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:
Moved by Wiese seconded by Feickert to approve the general meeting minutes from February 25th, 2020, and amended minutes from February 4th, 2020. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

Payroll: Commission \$4,285.10; Auditor \$8,721.00; Treasurer \$13,431.74; SA \$22,341.71; SVAWA \$1,193.49; Maintenance \$7,816.10; Assessor \$12,798.94; Register of Deeds \$8,983.39; VSO \$2,417.11; GIS \$2,387.50; IT \$7,578.75; HR \$2,173.85; Sheriff \$44,515.65; Jail \$51,715.12; Coroner \$2,100.00; Court Security \$4,273.52; JDC \$23,970.73; Welfare \$2,077.70; Museum \$7,533.08; Parks/Fairgrounds \$4,986.55; Fair Board \$3,956.89; 4-H \$634.16; Weed \$2,076.54; Planning & Zoning \$4,459.43; Highway \$44,862.01; Dispatch \$27,375.27; Emergency \$4,119.59; Teen Court \$692.44; JDAI \$1,596.93; 24/7 Sobriety \$3,595.76; Landfill \$13,213.04; Matching Benefits: Fica @ \$20,416.61, Medicare @ \$4,774.92, Discovery H.S.A. @ \$175, Wellmark BlueCross @ \$124,869.96; Delta Dental @ \$7,122.15, Dearborn Life Insurance @ \$1,094.12, SDRS @ \$41,321.44.

Claims: Professional Fees: Aberdeen Advanced Care Ambulance \$258.64; AMG – Emergency \$365.16; Avera St. Luke's \$6,564.65; Kristi Brandt \$26.25; Cogley Law Office \$1,064.80; Compass Counseling & Assessment \$339.75; Christopher Darboe \$20.00; Dependable Sanitation \$19,266.62; DevNet \$3,445.31; GBR Interpreting \$300.00; Tiffany Hanson \$100.00; Kuck Law Office \$95.00; Ryan Magnuson \$20.00; Michaelanne Roundhead \$20.00; Sanford Health \$96.00; Lybecca Schaanaman \$20.00; Schneider Corp. \$2,475.00; SD Dept. of Health \$1,575.00; SD Dept. of Revenue – Special Tax Division \$150.00; SD Humanities Council \$100.00; SD Retirement System \$17,717.73; Tammy Stollee Court Reporting \$290.60; Jodi Sudweeks \$27.20; Mitch Vilhauer \$2,956.83; West Payment Center \$169.95; Yankton Co. Sheriff \$100.00. Publishing: Aberdeen American News \$183.51; Argus Leader \$32.09; Dakota Press \$1,089.59; Groton Independent \$79.34; The Norman Transcript \$18.75; Phillips Media Group \$46.26. Repairs & Maintenance: Aberdeen Plumbing & Heating \$746.17; Double A Plumbing \$330.54; Ecolab \$147.16; HF Jacobs & Son Construction \$115.82; Lang's \$41.00; Newman Signs \$77.36; Olson's Pest Technicians \$225.00; Smart Choice Solutions \$1,672.00; Woodman Refrigeration \$1,466.23. Supplies: American Business Solutions \$296.94; AmeriPride \$76.28; Keith Baker \$35.40; Dakota Electronics \$120.00; DSG \$365.64; DT Pharmacy \$2,742.62; Heartland Paper \$1,718.68; Honeywell \$4,871.04; Leidholdt Tool Sales \$104.08; Mac's \$643.23; Menards \$546.96; Midstates Printing \$179.00; Midwest Card & ID Solutions \$1,619.00; Cindy Mitchell \$61.74; Newman Signs \$2,434.50; Running's \$184.35; Sander's Sew 'n' Vac \$951.89; Share Corp. \$921.00. Utilities: AT&T Mobility \$247.85; CenturyLink \$2,368.84; Midcontinent \$132.01; NWPS \$9,590.71; Kelsi Thilmoney-Vinger \$20.00.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT:
Moved by Feickert seconded by Wiese to approve the following HR Office Report, which includes the following personnel changes: Acknowledge employment end date of James Ingram, Brown County Communications Dispatcher, effective February 24, 2020, and approve request to fill vacancy. Acknowledge employment end date of Lucas Champlain, Brown County Jail Correctional Officer full-time, effective February 27, 2020, and approve request to fill vacancy.

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

IT DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION:
Board discussed proceeding with researching needs for dedicated public safety IT staff. Kent Jones, 911 director is interim point of contact for public safety IT needs.

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

ADJOURNMENT:
Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:24 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$84.92. 18704

Approve hiring of Shane Hamlin as Brown County Jail Correctional officer full-time at \$16.65 per hour effective March 9, 2020. Approve hiring of Randy Evans as Brown County Jail Correctional Officer full-time at \$16.65 per hour effective, March 9, 2020. Approve hiring of Amber Olson as Brown County 24/7 sobriety tester part-time at \$14.19 per hour, effective March 6th, 2020. Approve hiring of Mandy Bahr as Brown County 24/7 sobriety tester part-time at \$14.19 per hour, effective January 23, 2020. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ABATEMENT:
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the following abatement: Craig Larson (remove solid waste on vacant property) \$34.49. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

EQUALIZATION UPDATE:
Gene Loeschke, County Assessor, gave update on the process to appeal property tax assessment. Deadline to appeal to local board is March 12th. Deadline to appeal to county board is April 7th (County board includes residents of Aberdeen City).

LOAD LIMITS:
Commissioner Sutton offered the following Resolution: RESOLUTION #11-20
WHEREAS: Enforce Annual Seasonal Load Restrictions on overweight limits, over width load limits, and speed limits on Brown County Roads. All Brown County oil Roads are posted at 6-ton per axle and truck speed of 40 MPH, with the exception of Brown County Road #10, from Brown County Road #13 (Prairiewood Road) north 2.00 miles is posted at 12-ton gross load limit with truck speed at 40 MPH year round.

WHEREAS: The Brown County Board of Commissioners request that the South Dakota Highway Patrol assist and enforce load restrictions on the posted gross limit per axle and truck speed at 40 MPH as posted by the Brown County Board of Commissioners during the February/March/April spring thaw and breakup period that the roads are posted.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:
That the Brown County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Brown County Highway Department Superintendent to work with the South Dakota Highway Patrol to reduce weight maximums due to the thawing and excessive moisture and until the roads are free of frost and become stable. SDCL 32-22-25
Seconded by Commissioner Wiese. Roll call vote: Commissioners Feickert-aye, Sutton-aye, Wiese-aye, Kippley-absent, Fjeldheim-aye. Resolution adopted.

BID AWARD - CULVERTS:
Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to award bid, submitted by TrueNorth Steel Company, Huron, SD for furnishing and delivery of metal culverts and bridge material, as bid by Beadle County on January 7, 2020. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

BID AWARD - MILLING AND RECLAIMING:

Moved by Wiese, seconded by Feickert to award bid to Loiseau Construction, Inc for Milling and Reclaiming equipment rental with operator. Grind with Lay-Back Process, Grind with Additive Injection & Lay-Back Process, and Milling. Price chart is on file and open for inspection with the Brown County Auditor (M-F 8-5). Loiseau Construction, Inc was sole bidder. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent met to give department update.

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

IT DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION:
Board discussed proceeding with researching needs for dedicated public safety IT staff. Kent Jones, 911 director is interim point of contact for public safety IT needs.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:
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ADJOURNMENT:
Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:24 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

The Groton Independent
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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)
 Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$11.75.
 18695

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)
 Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$12.93.
 18694

Savo Township Equalization

The Savo Township Board of Equalization will meet at 10326 390th Ave. on Monday, March 23, 2020 at 7 pm. All appeals shall be filed in writing with the clerk no later than Saturday, March 21, 2020.
 (0311.0319)
 Judy Bretsch - Clerk
 10326 390th Ave.
 Frederick, SD 57441
 Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$9.40.
 18710.

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

Groton City Board of Equalization Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE TO GROTON PROPERTY OWNERS
 Notice is hereby given that City Council, sitting as the Local Board of Equalization, will meet at The Groton Community Center for the purpose of reviewing, correcting and equalizing the assessment of property on March 17, 2020 at 7:30 pm.
 Appeals must be submitted in writing with supporting documentation by 5:00pm Thursday, March 12th at City Hall or mail appeals to the Finance Officer, PO Box 587 Groton, South Dakota. Those appealing will be notified of their scheduled time to meet with the Board. Contact City Hall for more information at 605-397-8422.
 Hope Block, Groton City Finance Officer
 Published once at the total approximate cost of \$7.31.
 18709

Groton City Notice of Voter Registration

NOTICE OF DEADLINE FOR VOTER REGISTRATION
 CITY OF GROTON, SOUTH DAKOTA
 Voter registration for the City of Groton, South Dakota Election to be held on April 14, 2020 will close on March 30, 2020. Failure to register by this date will cause forfeiture of voting rights for this election. If you are in doubt about whether you are registered check the Voter Information Portal at www.sdsos.gov or call the Brown County Auditor at (605) 626-7110.
 Registration may be completed during regular business hours at the county auditor's office, municipal finance office, secretary of state's office and those locations which provide

driver's licenses, SNAP, TANF, WIC, military recruitment, and assistance to the disabled as provided by the Department of Human Services. You may contact your county auditor to request a mail-in registration form or access a mail-in form at www.sdsos.gov.
 Voters with disabilities may contact the county auditor for information and special assistance in voter registration, absentee voting, or polling place accessibility.
 Hope Block, Groton City Finance Officer
 Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$24.56.
 18708
 (2t. Mar. 9 & Mar. 16, 2020)

Groton School Notice of Voter Registration

NOTICE OF DEADLINE FOR VOTER REGISTRATION
 GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6
 Voter registration for the Groton Area School District School Board Election to be held on April 14, 2020 will close on March 30, 2020. Failure to register by this date will cause forfeiture of voting rights for this election. If you are in doubt about whether you are registered check the Voter Information Portal at www.sdsos.gov or call the Brown County Auditor at (605) 626-7110, the Clark County Auditor at (605) 532-5921, Day County Auditor at (605) 345-9500, Marshall County Auditor at (605) 448-2401, or Spink County Auditor at (605) 472-4580.
 Registration may be completed during regular business hours at the county auditor's office, municipal finance office, secretary of state's office and those locations which provide driver's licenses, SNAP, TANF, WIC, military recruitment, and assistance to the disabled as provided by the Department of Human Services. You may contact your county auditor to request a mail-in registration form or access a mail-in form at www.sdsos.gov.
 Voters with disabilities may contact the county auditor for information and special assistance in voter registration, absentee voting, or polling place accessibility.
 Michael J. Weber, Business Official
 Groton Area School District
 Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$28.20.
 18707
 (2t. Mar. 9 & Mar. 16, 2020)

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.
 18691

Groton City March 3 Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2020
 The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00pm at the Community Center for their first monthly meeting with the following members present: Wells, Blackmun, Cutler, Babcock via telephone and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Also present were: Finance Officer Hope Block, Kathy Sundermeyer, Terry Herron, Dan Sunne, Bev Sombke, Dwight Zerr, and Brenda Waage.
 Attorney Drew Johnson entered the meeting at 7:03pm.
 Sombke, president of the Garden Club, informed the group about the club's plan to install irrigation at the City Park for the flowers. Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Wells to accept the irrigation system as a donation to the City. All members voted aye. Sombke and Waage left the meeting at 7:13pm.
 Public comments were welcomed pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1, but none were received.
 The minutes from the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Blackmun and seconded by Cutler. All members voted aye.
 Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Wells to authorize the following bills for payment. All members voted aye.
 Payroll, \$20,614.10, Employee salaries; Executive, \$577.19; Administrative, \$3,147.71; Public Safety, \$7,732.54; Public Works, \$8,416.88; Culture & Recreation, \$739.78; First State Bank, \$6,859.44, SS and WH; First State Bank, \$466.66, HSA contributions; Dakotaland FCU, \$1,050.00, Employee savings; SD State Treasurer, \$10,339.26, Sales tax 1/20; April Abeln, \$61.73, Dep flex; Hauge Associates, \$360.00, Payroll garnishment; Aflac, \$397.72, Employee insurance; Hope Block, \$584.20, Med flex; Colonial Life, \$340.78, Employee insurance; Employers Mutual Insurance, \$85.20, Employee insurance; Guardian Insurance, \$140.52, Employee insurance; JGE, \$344.37, Cutting edge, seat belt; SD Retirement, \$8,075.26, Employee retirement; T&R Electric, \$592.50, Pole mounts; Crawford Trucks & Equipment, \$154.47, Digger truck lifts and absorber; Drew Johnson, \$1,450.00, Legal fees 2/20; Ameripride, \$47.14, Rug rent; S&S Lumber, \$78.06, Salt, gloves, paint, batteries; Merchant Job Training & Safety, \$650.00, Book 2 tuition LJ; Galls, \$112.59, Boots; NW Energy, \$11.56, Natural gas; SD Dept of Health, \$30.00, Water testing; Dakota Pump & Control, \$408.16, New impellers at Olson lift; \$2,107.83, Impellers; Associated Supply Company, \$3,018.50, Pool chlorination system; SD Supplemental Retirement, \$285.00, Employee retirement; Dakota Press, \$841.34, Publishing 9/19-2/20.
 Herron gave some updates on the new water tower project and left the meeting at 7:22pm.
 Zerr reported replacing some impellers, and that sump pumps need to be drained outside as soon as possible. He left the meeting at 7:24pm.
 Sunne reported servicing trucks and trimming trees. He left the meeting at 7:28pm.
 An update was provided on some unexpected water meter system and swimming pool expenses.
 Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Cutler to donate two baseball season tickets to the BB/SB Foundation for their annual fundraising event. All members voted aye.
 Moved by Cutler and seconded by Babcock to add the paid holidays of April 10th and 13th to follow the Easter declaration by Governor Noem. All members voted aye.
 Moved by Wells and seconded by Blackmun to allow April Abeln and Drew Johnson to attend the Employment Law Seminar in Sioux Falls. All members voted aye.
 Moved by Cutler and seconded by Babcock to approve the contract from A&B Business for printers in City Hall. All members voted aye.
 Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Wells to set the Equalization meeting date for March 17th at 7:30pm at the Community Center. All members voted aye.
 Moved by Babcock and seconded by Cutler to approve the second reading of the revised Summer Salary Ordinance #733. All members voted aye.
 Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Wells to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal items 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 7:49pm. All members voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 8:05pm.
 Moved by Cutler and seconded by Wells to adjourn the meeting at 8:05pm. All members voted aye.
 Scott Hanlon, Mayor
 Hope Block, Finance Officer
 Published once at the total approximate cost of \$39.96.
 18705

Groton City Summer Salary Ordinance

Ordinance No. 733 - Summer Salary Ordinance
 An Ordinance entitled "Summer Salary Ordinance", An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 725.
 BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Groton, South Dakota, that Ordinance No. 725 be amended to read as follows:
 Section I: Schedule of Salaries. The salaries and time of payment of employees shall be as follows:
 Swimming Pool Manager, \$13.25, Hourly, Biweekly
 Swimming Pool Lifeguard-First Year, \$9.30, Hourly, Biweekly
 Swimming Pool Lifeguard-Second Year, \$9.55, Hourly, Biweekly
 Swimming Pool Lifeguard-Third Year, \$9.80, Hourly, Biweekly
 Swimming Pool Lifeguard-Fourth Year, \$10.05, Hourly, Biweekly
 Swimming Pool Lifeguard-Five plus Years, \$10.30, Hourly, Biweekly
 WSI Lifeguards during Swimming Lessons, Regular Salary Plus \$1.00, Hourly, Biweekly
 WSI Assit Lifeguard during Swimming Lessons, Regular Salary Plus \$.50, Hourly, Biweekly
 Concessions Manager, \$50.00, Daily, Biweekly Plus 50% Net Profit, End of Season
 Baseball Coordinator, \$3,000.00, Yearly, Monthly
 Softball Coordinator, \$1,000.00, Yearly, Monthly
 Legion Baseball Coach, \$3,500.00, Yearly, Monthly
 Assistant Legion Baseball Coach, \$2,000.00, Yearly, Monthly
 Jr Legion Baseball Coach, \$2,000.00, Yearly, Monthly
 Jr Teeners Baseball Coach, \$1,500.00, Yearly, Monthly
 Midget Coach, \$1,250.00, Yearly, Monthly
 Pee Wee Coach, \$1,250.00, Yearly, Monthly
 Girls Softball Coach, \$800.00, Yearly, Monthly, (per team)
 Baseball Grounds Keeper-First Year, \$9.30, Hourly, Biweekly
 Baseball Grounds Keeper-Second Year, \$9.55, Hourly, Biweekly
 Baseball Grounds Keeper-Third Year, \$9.80, Hourly, Biweekly
 Baseball Grounds Keeper-Fourth Year, \$10.05, Hourly, Biweekly
 Baseball Grounds Keeper-Five plus Years, \$10.30, Hourly, Biweekly
 Baseball Gatekeeper, \$9.30, Hourly, Biweekly
 Public Works Laborer-First Year, \$10.25, Hourly, Biweekly
 Public Works Laborer-Second Year, \$10.50, Hourly, Biweekly
 Public Works Laborer-Third Year, \$10.75, Hourly, Biweekly
 Public Works Laborer-Fourth Year, \$11.00, Hourly, Biweekly
 Public Works Laborer-Five plus Years, \$11.25, Hourly, Biweekly
 Cemetery Caretaker, \$13.25, Hourly, Biweekly
 Section II: Requirements. Final payment of wages will be paid after completion of all duties of all seasonal employees.
 Scott Hanlon, Mayor
 Hope Block, Finance Officer, Passed First Reading: February 18, 2020
 Passed Second Reading: March 3, 2020
 Published: March 11, 2020
 Effective: March 31, 2020
 Published once at the total approximate cost of \$27.69.
 18706

Conde National League

March 9 Team Standings: Cubs 33, Giants 24, Mets 24, Tigers 23, Pirates 20, Braves 20
Men's High Games: Troy Lindberg 226, Ryan Bethke 224, Russ Bethke 214, Lance Frohling 202
Men's High Series: Troy Lindberg 542, Lance Frohling 539, Russ Bethke 526
Women's High Games: Vickie Kramp 181, 168; Mary Larson 159; Joyce Walter 156
Women's High Series: Vickie Kramp 466, Joyce Walter 448, Mary Larson 408

Middle School Music Department to host 4th Annual Talent Show

On Thursday March 12th, the Groton MS School Music Department will be hosting our Country Western Talent Show. The event will be held at the Groton High Old Gym at 7:00 pm. The talent show is a fundraiser for the MS Music Students to earn money for their future music trips. The show will consist of talent acts made up of middle school students and popcorn. For people that purchase tickets in advance there will be a drawing for special prizes at the end of the show. The general admission cost is \$5.00. Tickets will not be sold at the door, but a \$5.00 donation will be requested. The 6th Grade Band, 6th Grade Band Girls, 6th Grade Band Boys, JH Band, and JH Show Choir will also perform. You can get your tickets from any MS Music Student. Come enjoy a fun-filled night of talent and music. Thank you all for your support!

Silver Skates Annual Meeting

Please plan to attend the Carnival of Silver Skates Annual Meeting this Sunday, March 15, at 1:00 at the warming house! Parents of all skaters are encouraged to attend. If your child enjoys being a part of this valuable community activity, then we need your help! If you cannot attend on Sunday, but are willing to serve on the board, please contact Lindsey Tietz. Thanks for your help in continuing this community tradition!

2019-20 NEC Boys All-Conference Team

Two Groton Area basketball players were named to the Northeast Conference All-Conference team. Jonathan Doeden was named to the second team and Brodyn DeHoet was named to the third team.

1st Team: Jamison Pratt - Tiospa Zina - Senior; Gray Imbery - Aberdeen Roncalli - Junior; Caleb White - Tiospa Zina - Senior; Stone Burke - Clark/Willow Lake - Senior; Max McCulloch - Milbank - Senior

2nd Team: Cole Fosness - Britton-Hecla - Senior; Jonathan Doeden - Groton Area - Senior; Jaxson Frankenstein - Redfield - Junior; Nate Holida - Hamlin - Senior; Kaleb Marx - Webster Area - Junior

3rd Team: Payton Halseide - Tiospa Zina - Senior; Tyler Oneill - Clark/Willow Lake - Sophomore; Bennett Schwenn - Milbank - Sophomore; Brodyn DeHoet - Groton - Senior; Dylan Goodhart - Sisseton - Junior

Groton Area rated 11th best school in South Dakota

Recent test scores presented cause for concern for South Dakota educators as results indicated that less-than-half of the state's students are proficient in math and science. Nevertheless, there are public school districts where things are going right, and students perform at a level well above state standards. Here's a closer look at the best school districts in South Dakota.

The best school district in South Dakota is Brandon Valley School District, which consists of

seven schools located across five cities near the state's eastern border. Last year, BVSD logged a 94% graduation rate, which is a testament to the district's quality.

Yankton School District 63-3 is the 2nd best school district in South Dakota. Comprising four elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school in Yankton County. Students in the district benefit from a progressive education with access to state-of-the-art technology, including a large number of computers (2.5 to 1 student-to-computer ratio) and SMART boards in all core elementary and middle school classes.

Earning the 3rd spot is Harrisburg School District, consisting of nine schools in the Sioux Falls suburb of Harrisburg. The district's students display a higher-than-state-average rate of proficiency in English language arts, mathematics, and science.

Watertown School District places 4th among South Dakota school districts. Made up of five elementary schools, one intermediate school, one middle school, and one high school, WSD has a graduation rate of 86% and a 62% rate of proficiency in reading language arts.

Filling out South Dakota's top five is Mitchell School District, a high-performing district with an enrollment of around 2,800. Although a large percentage of MSD students experience economic hardship, the district regularly manages graduation rates above 95%.

The Aberdeen School District 06-1 was rated seventh, the Groton Area School District 06-6 was rated 11th, Webster Area was 12th, Warner was 27th, Britton-Hecla was 35th, Frederick Area was rated 47th.

**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING/ OPEN HOUSE**

P-PH 0010(124)296, Brown & Marshall County, PCN 05F4
SD10 - From 400th Ave near Houghton to 422nd Ave near Britton
Structure # 46-065-100
Shoulder Widening; Replace Structure (RCBC); Approach Grading;
Intersection Improvements; Pipe Work

Date: March 23, 2020
Time: 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Central Time
Place: Britton Event Center
1203 3rd Street
Britton, SD 57430

The South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) will hold an open house style public meeting to discuss and receive public input on the above project. The open house will be informal, with one on one discussion with SDDOT design staff.

A presentation will take place shortly after 5:30 p.m. Afterwards, SDDOT staff will be available with displays to discuss the proposed project and answer your questions. During this time, you will also have the opportunity to present written comments.

Information will be available on the acquisition of right-of-way and relocation assistance. This project is being developed in compliance with state and federal environmental regulations.

Public Meeting Information @ <https://dot.sd.gov/projects-studies/projects/public-meetings>

Notice published twice at a cost of \$ 150.00 .
18703

Matt McCaulley: Sioux Falls lawyer has become a behind-the-scenes power broker in Pierre

For someone who doesn't hold elected office, attorney Matt McCaulley of Sioux Falls has amassed a significant amount of political clout, and he is among the most influential people in Pierre during South Dakota's annual legislative sessions.

Throughout his more than 14 years of lobbying, McCaulley, 47, has developed a reputation for quiet competence, effective problem-solving and honest negotiation — and, recently, for serving as a top adviser to Gov. Kristi Noem. McCaulley's talent for navigating complex legal and political issues has made him a go-to lobbyist for clients ranging from Noem to Sanford Health, and from South Dakota agricultural interests to national cell service provider T-Mobile.

In addition to maintaining one of the deepest client lists of any lobbyist in South Dakota, McCaulley is also the managing partner of Redstone Law Firm in Sioux Falls, which has been hired to provide outside legal counsel to the Noem administration. So far, Redstone's work for Noem has cost taxpayers more than \$123,000 over the course of about 15 months, according to state records.

McCaulley shuns publicity and operates mostly behind-the-scenes of the legislative process. But his work for Noem over the past 15 months, while continuing to lobby for 16 private clients, has raised some eyebrows in Pierre. The dual role — well known by decision-makers in Pierre — could give McCaulley unfair and undue influence to affect policy and legislation, according to one legislative leader.

"I do think it's problematic," said Senate Minority Leader Troy Heinert, D-Mission. "If you're going to lobby for the governor's office, or any government department, you shouldn't be able to lobby for the private sector."

In an interview with South Dakota News Watch, McCaulley said he would not comment on his relationships with current clients, including the governor. Instead, he said he thrives on public service and always tries to do what he thinks is best for South Dakota and for his clients, whether they are in private industry or in the Governor's Office.

"I'm never looking for the attention or the credit. I want to help move the state forward, figure out what's good, sound public policy, fix problems and just keep us moving forward," McCaulley said.

McCaulley's pattern of success has positioned him to play key roles in some of South Dakota's most complex, controversial issues.

"This is a guy who legitimately wants to get deals done. He wants to solve problems, he wants to make South Dakota better," said Nathan Sanderson, a senior policy adviser to former South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

Sanderson worked closely with McCaulley, in 2017, to draft and successfully lobby for a controversial piece of legislation to address the state's handling of legally unrecognized lakes that had formed over private property. The meandered waters bill was passed into law during a special legislative session.

In 2018, McCaulley was listed as the attorney of record for a pharmaceutical industry-backed group called South Dakotans Against the Deceptive Rx Ballot Measure. The group filed a legal challenge that ultimately got an initiated measure aimed at controlling the price of prescription drugs thrown off the 2018 general election ballot.

McCaulley helped draft and successfully lobbied for then-newly elected Gov. Kristi Noem's so-called riot-boosting legislation in 2019. The



"Once you get out [to Pierre] and you meet the great people and you see the difference that just one person can make as an elected official, public service kind of gets in your blood. I think It's hard to walk away from that." -- Matt McCaulley, lawyer, lobbyist and legal counsel to Gov. Kristi Noem, on why he transitioned to lobbying after serving in the state Legislature

riot-boosting laws caused outrage among the state's Native American communities and ultimately were negated by a settlement in federal court.

During the 2020 legislative session, McCaulley worked as a lobbyist for Heartland Consumers Power District, which sells electricity to city-owned utilities. That relationship put him on the front lines of a fight between rural electricity cooperatives and municipal utility departments.

As part of Redstone law's contract with Noem, McCaulley also registered as a lobbyist for the governor's office. Redstone's connections to the Governor's Office have been further strengthened of late as Tony Venhuizen, recently a partner in the firm, has taken over as Noem's chief of staff.

Close ties to Gov. Noem

Beyond sharing a similar set of political values, McCaulley has professional ties to Noem going back a decade. He served as Noem's campaign attorney when she successfully ran for South Dakota's lone seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2010. He continued to serve as Noem's campaign attorney each time she defended her seat and throughout her 2018 campaign for governor.

After Noem defeated her 2018 Democratic opponent, state Sen. Billie Sutton, she brought McCaulley in to lead her transition team. McCaulley was one of two transition team members not brought into the governor's administration full time, however. The other transition member not brought in full-time was Lt. Gov. Larry Rhoden, whose elected position is part-time.

In early 2020, McCaulley and Redstone's ties to the Noem administration got even stronger. Tony Venhuizen, former Gov. Dennis Daugaard's long-time chief of staff who had gone to work for Redstone law after leaving government, was named as Noem's interim chief of staff.

The announcement was made in late December, 2019, after the departure of Noem's second chief of staff, Joshua Shields. Venhuizen

took over the role in his capacity as a lawyer providing legal services to the governor's office through the Redstone contract. Venhuizen was slated to fill the post through the 2020 legislative session. But on March 2, well before the end of the 2020 session, Noem announced that Venhuizen would officially rejoin state government as her third full-time chief of staff.

While McCaulley didn't take a full-time job with Noem, he did pick up a potentially lucrative set of contracts for his firm. On Jan. 5, 2019, former Noem chief of staff Herb Jones and McCaulley signed the first of what would become three contracts — two for legal services and one for legislative consulting services — worth a combined total of up to \$259,375.

"The governor has a long-standing professional relationship with Matt," Noem spokeswoman Kristin Wileman said in an email to South Dakota News Watch. "He brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the table, so when it came time to decide who the outside legal counsel would be for the governor's office, Matt was undoubtedly the top pick."

Redstone's first contract to provide legal services for the Governor's Office was for up to \$129,200 and expired on June 30, 2019. The second legal services contract, worth up to \$71,400, is set to expire on June 30, 2020. The legislative consulting services contract worth up to \$58,775 also is set to expire on June 30, 2020. To date, according to state records on the website open.sd.gov, South Dakota taxpayers have paid Redstone Law Firm a total of \$123,592.76 for the firm's work with the Governor's Office.

A Sioux Falls native, USD law grad

McCaulley who grew up in and around Sioux Falls, actually got his start in South Dakota politics more than 20 years ago. Not long after earning his law degree from the University of South Dakota Law School in 1997, a chance meeting with long-time legislator and lawyer Roger Hunt provided the spark.

"Had I not had coffee with Roger Hunt, and had he not urged me, I certainly wouldn't be here today," McCaulley said.

Hunt's prodding led McCaulley to run for and win a seat in the state House of Representatives as a Republican in 2000. He represented District 10, in the eastern part of Sioux Falls, from 2001 to 2004.

By 2004, McCaulley had learned that being a lawyer and a legislator isn't easy and only gets tougher with a pregnant wife at home. He resigned from the legislature on May 10, 2004 and became a father that September.

McCaulley joined what would become Redstone Law Firm in 2004. At the time, the firm was known as Murphy, Goldammer and Prendergast after its founding partners. One partner, Jeremiah D. Murphy, had decades of experience as a lobbyist in Pierre and had helped then-Gov. Bill Janklow in his effort to convince Citibank to relocate to Sioux Falls. Murphy became McCaulley's mentor and, in 2006, McCaulley was back in the Capitol learning the ropes of lobbying under Murphy's tutelage.

"Once you get out (to Pierre) and you meet the great people and you see the difference that just one person can make as an elected official, public service kind of gets in your blood," McCaulley said. "I think It's hard to walk away from that."

One of McCaulley's earliest clients was the South Dakota Corn Growers Association. In 2008, the organization's legislative director,

Continues on next page

Continued from previous page

Teddi Mueller, needed help for what would turn out to be a years-long fight over how to fairly assess property taxes on agricultural lands. She said she had heard of McCaulley and that he was a quick study. Their first conversation took place over the phone as McCaulley was headed to Pierre; he took the job and has been working for the corn growers ever since, Mueller said.

"He never tries to trump our decisions ... and that to me is probably one of the biggest pieces. It's not about him, it's about making sure that the organization and the farmers of South Dakota are taken care of or benefited in the right way," Mueller said.

McCaulley's work with South Dakota corn directly led to his key role in one the most high-profile legislative debates he's participated in to date — the 2017 legislative clash over non-meandered lakes.

The fight was touched off when the South Dakota Supreme Court, in March 2017, ruled for the second time that neither the public nor landowners had a right to use non-meandered lakes for recreation. In response, the state Game, Fish & Parks Department shut down boat ramps on several lakes and stopped helping anglers access others. The GFP move sparked a panic in communities that had come to rely on the money spent by visiting anglers.

McCaulley, who had been hired by a group of farmers whose land was flooded by non-meandered lakes, worked hand-in-hand with Sanderson, an advisor to then-Gov. Daugaard, to craft legislation aimed at solving the dispute. Ultimately, the legislation was passed during a June 2017 special legislative session.

While neither side was completely happy with the result, the new law did provide some clarity on how non-meandered lakes can be used for fishing or hunting, Sanderson said.

"I always felt like when he and I were having conversations, we could be honest and open with each other and we knew where each other stood and where the governor stood. And I certainly got the impression that we trusted each other completely and that we were going to hold each other to our word," Sanderson said of McCaulley.

Sanderson wasn't alone in coming away from the non-meandered waters debate with a positive impression of McCaulley. Rep. Steven McCleery, D-Sisseton, said he was impressed by how well McCaulley represented landowners' viewpoints and interests during the debate.

"He definitely helped make a path for that legislation to pass," McCleery said.

Still, McCaulley's work for the governor while lobbying for private clients is troubling, McCleery said. Whether real or imagined, the idea that McCaulley might have extra pull or support from the Governor's Office can affect legislators' decisions on bills he lobbies on, he said.

"I would say it does have an impact depending on the issue," McCleery said. "I think some would say it has a big impact."

McCaulley, for his part, said he was happy to have helped resolve the meandered-waters impasse that had threatened so many livelihoods. The toughest issues can be some of the most rewarding to work on, if you're in it for the right reasons, he said.

"If you're serving for the right reason, and it's not just to advance yourself, then it makes politics and public policy a lot of fun," McCaulley said.

Board adopts 2020-21 School Calendar

There was discussion on the 2020-21 school calendar. Superintendent Joe Schwan proposed a start date of August 20th. Board members Deb Gengerke and Kara Pharis were in favor of the the later start date of August 25. The board agreed with the August 25th start date and the final day of school will be May 17th.

Schwan also mentioned that McLaughlin has forfeited its football season for this fall. Groton Area will pick up Stanley County. There will be five home games this year and three away games. Homecoming will be September 25th with Redfield.

For this year, it was voted to amend this school year to end May 21st with faculty last day to be May 22nd.

A bill waiting for the governor's signature would allow school districts to have a maximum amount of Capital Outlay set from \$2,800 per student to \$3,400 per student. Business Manager Mike Weber said that would increase the district's revenue by \$200,000 to \$250,000 in Capital Outlay.

Weber reported that there will be a school board election on April 14th with voter registration deadline set for March 30th.

Sarah Schuster presented her project for filling water bottle stations - one in the Arena and one in the

concessions stand area. Schuster has received over \$4,000 in donations for the filling stations. The board granted approval of allowing logos on the filling stations and they should be installed by the start of the next school year. Schuster has had overwhelming support for this project.

The resignation/retirement of Darlyne Johnson was approved effective by the end of this school year. Schwan also reported that there are four applications for her position.

The bus bid from Harlow's of Webster was approved for \$82,156.13. The district was approved

for a 25 percent grant for eliminating a diesel bus with a maximum of \$21,000 for the grant.

Two mower bids were opened from RDO and Green Iron Equipment. The board accepted Green Iron's bid of \$20,018.62 with a trade-in value of \$10,000.

The board decided to secure bids for work comp and property liability insurance with bids to be opened first meeting in April.

The health food service inspection for February was 100 percent for the elementary school and 99 percent for the MS/HS (something was spilled on the freezer door).

Hannah Gustafson was hired a student custodian at a rate of \$9.45 an hour.

The board gave Mike Nehls permission to run for Brown County Commissioner.

A lane change for Carrie Weisenburger was approved from MS to MS+15

All administrative contacts were turned in signed.

- Paul Kosel



Sarah Schuster talking to the Board of Education about the water bottle filling stations. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)



Mike Nehls talked to the Board of Education about his running for Brown County Commissioner. School employees need to get permission from the board before they can for public office. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)



Sioux Falls lawyer and lobbyist Matt McCaulley (center), spoke with House Majority Whip Rep. Mike Diedrich, R-Rapid City, (left) and Tim Rave, CEO of the South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations (right) before the House of Representatives began its session on Monday, March 9, 2020. Over nearly 15 years as a lobbyist, McCaulley has built one of the largest client lists of any lobbyist in the state with 16 private clients and one public client — South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem. Photo: Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

ABOUT NICK LOWREY

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



Westport Town March 2, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Town of Westport General Meeting

March 2nd, 2020
The Town of Westport met on March 2nd, 2020 with Tim Selzler, Shane Storm, Mike Wilson and Doreen Hertel present.

The following expenses were presented:

City General
NWPS (\$563.75), Groton Independent (\$16.46), Payroll - Tim Selzler (\$75.00), Shane Storm (\$75.00), Michael Wilson (\$75.00), & Doreen Hertel (\$900.00).

Sewer
NWPS (\$48.87), NRWA -loan repayment (\$210.13) & Payroll -Doreen Hertel (\$300.00).

Water
WEB (\$1,398.24), Water Maintenance District (\$321.43), Payroll- Doreen Hertel (\$360.00).

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

The following deposits were presented:

City General
Brown County Collections (\$664.02), State of SD (\$462.23) & Interest (\$21.63).

Sewer
Resident Payments - (\$1,800.00).

Water
Resident Payments - (\$3,022.32).

NEW BUSINESS:
Ted Dickey (NECOG) called into the meeting, to discuss resolution 11. This resolution authorizes financial assistance for sewer project. It was passed and signed.

Water maintenance contract was review and signed. They are charging the same as last year.

Equalization meeting will be held on Monday March 16, 2020.

The city annual report for 2019 was presented and reviewed.

Flood forecast was reviewed and will be posted on Facebook and copies will be placed in the Westport post office.

Doreen Hertel, Finance Officer
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$18.81. 18711

The Life of Norman Townsend

Services for Norman Townsend, 85, of Andover were held Monday, March 9, 2020 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton. The Rev. Charlie Bunk officiated. Burial with military honors followed in Sunset Memorial Gardens, Aberdeen under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Norman passed away March 2, 2020 at his home. Norman Howard was born on June 28, 1934 in rural Pierpont to Howard and Marie (Torguson) Townsend. He attended and graduated from Pierpont High School. Norman enlisted in the US Army in November of 1955 and was honorably discharged in November of 1957. He returned home and worked for several years hauling gravel for Stanton Hammer. Norman was also employed at the local filling station in Pierpont. On May 6, 1962 he was united in marriage with Doris Hauck in Aberdeen. Together they farmed side by side for 55 years.

Norman was a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton. He was also a member of Eastern Star Diana Chapter #83 and served many roles in the OES Grand Family. Norman began as a Mason in the Pierpont Veritas #196, later transferring to Andover Corinthian #82 and more recently, Groton #65. In earlier years, he enjoyed bowling, playing cards, and enjoyed many trail rides as a member of the Silver Spurs Saddle Club. Together, he and Doris took many bus trips and enjoyed meeting new friends along the way.

Norman made it a priority to attend as many lutefisk suppers as he could and more importantly, he enjoyed the company and conversation of others. One of his greatest joys was his grandchildren and great grandchildren. He always enjoyed hearing about their many activities and adventures.

Celebrating his life are his children, Brian Townsend of Brookings, Dean (Kellie) Townsend of Andover, Jane (Wade) Gubrud of Gary and Gaylon (Nichol) Townsend of Warner, nine grandchildren: Kayla (Jordan) Martens, Collin Townsend, Cassandra & Travis Townsend, Grant, Kaitlyn and Nolan Gubrud, Colton and Kya Townsend, three great-grandchildren, Rylee, Owen and Mya Martens. Norman is also survived by his sisters, Dee Herrick of California, Velma (Mel) Pibal of Minnesota, sister-in-law, Marjorie Townsend and brother-in-law, Luke Auen.



Pappas earns third at State Speech and Debate Contest

GHS Junior Samantha Pappas earned 3rd place in Domestic Extemp at the SDHSAA State Speech and Debate Contest March 6-7 in Huron, SD. Also participating at state were juniors Sage Mortenson (Public Forum Debate and Original Oratory) and Hailey Monson (Public Forum). The speech season will come to a conclusion on March 12th with the Congressional Debate national qualifying contest in Aberdeen.



**Samantha Pappas
Third at State**
(Courtesy Photo)

Preceding him in death were his parents, his wife, one brother, Russell, two sisters, Anna Lou Auen, Elaine (Harold) Herr, and brother-in-law, Robert Herrick.

Casketbearers were Norman's grandchildren.



Pictured are Hailey Monson, Sage Mortenson, Samantha Pappas and Coach Kristen Gonsoir. The Groton team competed in the state speech and debate contest. (Courtesy Photo)

DeHoet has double-double night against Milbank

Despite cold shooting, Brodyn DeHoet had a double-double night against Milbank with 20 points and 19 rebounds. The Tigers lost the second round of Region 1A competition in the Groton Area Arena, 64-56, to Milbank.

The Tigers shot 31 percent from the field while the Bulldogs made 48 percent. Jonathan Doeden added 14 points while Cade Guthmiller while Lane Tietz had 10, Cade Guthmiller nine, Kaden Kurtz three and Isaac Smith one.

Bennett Schwenn led the Bulldogs with 23 points while Max McCulloch had 16, Will Cummins 11, Ryker Trevett nine and Carter Hartman five. Milbank led, 21-9, after the first quarter thanks to a 16-point run, and they led, 31-24 at half time. Groton Area had a 42-39 lead at the end of the third quarter but Milbank would score the first 10 points of the fourth quarter and pulled away for the win.

Notice of Garbage Pickup- Effective March 11th



Groton residents are asked to bring their garbage to the following locations until further notice:
Railroad Avenue, Main Street, Sixth Street, & Highway 37
 Residents of the Broadway Mobile Home Park need to take their garbage to Hwy 37. Residents north of 13th Avenue (Olson and Jacobson Development) need to bring their garbage to the **Bus Barns**.
 Your cooperation is greatly appreciated during the spring thaw.

Please bring your garbage bags & cans to these streets for Tuesday pickup

Groton Coffee Cup League

March 10 Team Standings: Ten Pins 27, Biker Chix 26, James Valley 21, Kens 14

High Games: Sam Bahr 201, 191, Vickie Kramp 175, Mary Jane Jark 155

High Series: Sam Bahr 529, Vickie Kramp 450, Joyce Walter 423

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APP DEAL OF THE WEEK

StarKist Chunk Light Tuna in Water
 2.6 oz. Pkg. **SAVE \$1.79**
YOUR FINAL PRICE FREE WITH APP
 Limit 1 per customer, requires \$10 additional purchase and use of Ken's App

This Week's Super Buys

Skylark Corned Beef Brisket
\$2.99 Per Lb.

Green Cabbage
33¢ Per Lb.

Meat

Ken's Fresh 80% Lean Ground Beef
Value Pack \$2.49 Per Lb.
 GROUND FRESH DAILY

Dairy

Land O' Lakes Dairy Pure Milk
 Whole, 2%, 1% or Skim **\$2.88** 1 Gallon Jug

USDA Choice Demkota Boneless Chuck Roast
\$3.19 Per Lb.

Boneless Skinless Chicken Breast
\$1.49 Per Lb.

Frozen

Brew Pub 12" Lotzza Motzza Pizza
2/\$11 for

Liquor

Black Velvet Reserve
\$17.95 1.75 Ltr.

Best Choice Corn, Green Beans or Carrots
5/\$3 for 14.5-15.25 Oz. Cans

Kool-Aid Jammers Drinks
2/\$4 for 10 Pack Boxes

Health & Beauty

Crest Toothpaste
99¢ 4.6 Oz. Tube

Tide 2X Liquid Laundry Detergent
 Sale Price \$11.99 - \$2.00 Digital Coupon
Net Price \$9.99 92-100 Oz. Jug or Pods 32-42 Ct.

Folger's Classic Roast Coffee
 Sale Price \$5.99 - \$.50 Digital Coupon
Net Price \$5.49 30.5 Oz. Can

Bakery

Black Forest Rye Bread
\$1.99 Sliced Loaf

Deli

Our Famous Homemade Krab Salad
\$6.49 Per Lb.

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