

THE Groton Independent

South Dakota
Growing Families & Opportunities

Vol. 137 No. 33 ♦ Groton, South Dakota ♦ Wednesday, April 15, 2020 ♦ Established in 1889

Jungle pizza hits the road

Jungle pizza is becoming a hit near and far. As people grow weary of cooking all the time and being confined to their homes, Dion and Samantha Bahr of the Jungle Lanes & Lounge have taken their pizza on the road. "We had to do something," Dion said.

They have been delivering pizzas for about a week now and it started with just one or two pizzas a night. Monday evening, Dion delivered 22 pizzas and wings to Columbia. "I stopped at the fire hall and they all came to get their food," Dion said.

At the March 17th council meeting, a group of Groton businesses showed up at the council meeting concerned that the city council was going to shut down the businesses. The council, at that time, had no intention of shutting down the businesses, but encouraged everyone to follow CDC guidelines.

Dion said the turning point was when Governor Noem issued the executive order and Brown County had gotten its first case. It was time to change the way they do business. "It was the right thing to do," Dion said.

One of the hottest pizzas is the Buffalo Chicken Mac & Cheese pizza. "People get upset when they get a medium. They say they'll get a large next time," Samantha said. Dion added when people first hear about that pizza, they are reluctant of getting it, but once they try it, he said they say "It's phenomenal."

The combination of the mac and cheese and buffalo chicken was an idea that sprung up. Dion said that Hot Stuff came out with the mac and cheese pizza about a month ago. There were a couple of variations added to the mac and cheese until one night, it was questioned of how buffalo chicken would taste with the mac and cheese. It proved to be a hit and the new combination came to life at the Jungle in Groton.

The Jungle offers delivery in the five mile radius of Groton, Monday through Saturday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. They do make exceptions to the mileage.

- Paul Kosel



Samantha Bahr puts a box of pizza in a warmer bag held by Dion Bahr, owners of the Jungle Lanes & Lounge in Groton. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Graduation moved to July. Last day of school remains May 21. Flex-learning could return in the fall. Vocal teacher position might be filled.

That is a lot in a headline, but the Groton Area Board of Education had a lot of things to decided at its zoom meeting held Tuesday night.

The board voted to move the graduation ceremony to Sunday, July 12, 2020 at 2 p.m. Superintendent Joe Schwan said the district will re-evaluate the date the first part of July in case CDC guidelines have not changed.

Schwan also reported that the last day of school will remain May 21. The South Dakota legislature had voted on veto day to forgive any shortfalls; however, districts still have to complete their school years. One thing Schwan reported that there has been discussion that in-person school may not resume in the fall. Schwan had high praise for the staff in pulling everything off for the end of this school year. He did say it will be more challenging if school in the fall has to be done with flex-learning. "Be prepared in case the flexible learning plan has to be implemented in the fall," Schwan said.

Cody Swanson has resigned effective at the end of this school year as the district's vocal instructor. The board was split on whether to hire someone for that position. Some of the board members said they owe it to the students to fill that position as it will have a ripple effect if not filled. Instrumental directors Dez Yeigh and Austin Fordham were in on the zoom school board meeting. Both said not filling the positions will result in fewer lesson times and other programs no longer being offered. Fordham said 50 percent of the session slots would be lost for lessons and such things as show choir, all school play and the one act play would dissolve.

Board member Deb Gengerke said the district has 2.5 FTE (full time employees) to teach every kid in school English. She emphasized that with the upcoming budget short falls, which Schwan reported that the district is receiving \$500,000 from Captial Outlay to fund the General Fund, she could not, in the interests of the tax payers, support filling the position. "If you go by the numbers, she said, "we don't need two band directors. The financial situation is real. I can't justify that on behalf of the taxpayers."

Board member Tigh Fliehs asked if the district could consider a part-time person for vocal. Schwan said they could advertise it as such and see what happens. On a 5-2 vote with Gengerke and Kara Pharis voting no, the district will advertise for a full-time or part-time position for vocal. Currently, Fordham and Yeigh are instrumental



The Groton Area Board of Education held its board meeting last night via zoom. This is also how students are connecting with their teachers and classmates for school instruction.

Continues on page 2

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School Board Story
 Continued from front
 instructors for K-12. Swanson was the vocal director for K-12.
 Business Manager Mike Weber reported that the fund balances for the district will be a little higher than normal with school not being in session. March 13 was the last day that the district had person-to-person school.

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Schwan reported that the new bus is being manufactured now and should be deployed in the district by the start of the new school year.
 Schwan reported that the lunch program is operating under three different waivers which allows the district to distribute free meals to all students in the district and that the student does not need to be present to pick up the meals. The waivers are the seamless summer option, area eligibility waiver and the child not present waiver. These waivers are good through the end of April. Schwan said he hopes the waivers will continue through the end of the school year. The district is serving 180 meals per day.

The district will receive \$65,000 through the CARES Act Funding act. With the state having a major shortfall in funding from a major drop in sales tax revenues, Schwan said do not expect the 2 percent increase in the general fund. That will result in a \$55,000 shortfall in the general fund if the funding gets put back to zero. There was also a \$20,000 increase in the district's general liability insurance premium.

Weber reported that he has had four unemployment claims. He said two were legitimate with the other two he is questioning.

The summer driver's ed program was discussed. It is more than likely that the classroom instruction would be done on-line with driving time starting in July. Student drivers would still need to have six hours of driving time behind the wheel. Letters will be mailed out today (Wednesday) to students who qualify for driver's ed. Students have to be 14 years of age by November 1 to qualify.

The board authorized membership to the South Dakota High School Activities Association for the 2020-21 school year.

Letters of resignation were accepted from Whitney Berner and Cody Swanson. Greg Kjellsen will come out of retirement and return to Groton Area to teach high school math.

- Paul Kosel

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COVID-19

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- Stay home
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- Wash your hands often with soap and water



If you have questions: Call 1-800-997-2880

Brown County April 7, 2020

Meeting Minutes ARIL 7, 2020 – GENERAL MEETING

Meeting called to order by Commission Chair Kippley at 8:45 A.M. in the Community Room, Courthouse Annex Basement, Brown County, SD. Present were Commissioners Feickert, Sutton, Wiese, and Fjeldheim. Commissioner Kippley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:

Moved by Wiese seconded by Sutton to approve the general meeting minutes from March 31st, 2020. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAMS:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims:

Professional Fees: Cogley Law Office \$1,397.70; Haar Law Firm \$24.00; Andrea Heupel \$40.00; Kuck Law Office \$5,876.60; Marco \$150.00; Matthew Payne \$200.00; Richardson, Wyly, Wise & Sauck & Hieb, LLP \$635.40; SD DOT \$404.21; Christy Griffin-Serr Law Office \$166.25; Jodi Sudweeks \$57.80; UND-Pathology \$40.00. Publishing: Aberdeen American News \$695.33. Rentals: Ameripride \$577.28; Dakota Electronics \$847.20. Repairs & Maintenance: Aberdeen Plumbing & Heating \$939.09; Bahr Spray Foam \$6,881.18; Butler Machinery \$500.00; Commercial Electronics Corp. \$5,550.00; Crawford Trucks & Equip. \$14.85; Dakota Doors \$122.45; Dakota Electronics \$40.00; DFP \$46.76; DMI \$19,762.75; Ecolab \$117.60; Great Western Tire \$5.00; Hanlon Brothers \$8,960.00; Horn Plastics \$192.00; Lawson Products \$11.99; Little Falls Machine \$800.00; Olson's Pest Control \$320.00; PowerPlan \$27,940.54; RDO Equip. \$4,133.79; Sewer Duck \$337.50; Specialty Mfg. \$3.00; Superior Jetting \$2,985.00; Thee Glass Doktor \$69.00; TranSource \$4,414.15; Trinity Services Group \$100.00.

Supplies: Aberdeen Fire & Rescue \$305.00; AgTegra \$20,206.56; Ameripride \$100.00; Bakken Building Maint. \$500.00; Cartney Bearing \$14.52; Cash-Wa \$9,771.10; Crawford Trucks & Equip. \$2,634.49; DFP \$692.67; Dakota Mailing \$241.42; Dean Foods \$707.36; Deluxe Small Business \$279.90; DMI \$89.84; Earthgrains \$634.87; Farm Power Mfg. \$324.79; Fastenal \$713.61; FedEx \$58.48; GovConnection \$1,726.88; Great Western Tire \$1,402.72; Heartland Paper \$2,200.54; Horn Plastics \$3,708.25; Interstate Battery \$122.95; JR's Furniture \$35.00; LG Everist \$3,334.25; Lawson Products \$100.60; Leather Creations by Dan Higgins \$240.00; Leidholdt Tool Sales \$12.59; Dave Lonzman \$22.87; Mac's \$135.66; Menards \$102.11; Mettler, Sichel Engineering \$6,000.00; Midstates Printing \$88.33; Pressure Washer Central \$450.00; Pantorium Cleaners \$56.00; PowerPlan \$195.96; Productivity Plus \$448.28; RDO Equip. \$849.54; Specialty Mfg. \$419.48; Thee Glass Doktor \$136.09; TranSource \$6,526.78; Walth Safety Service \$2,519.64; Zastrow's Sales & Service \$103.76. Travel & Conf.: Doug Fjeldheim \$225.60; Rachel Kippley \$203.04; Mark Milbrandt (Imprest Fund) \$242.00. Utilities: CenturyLink \$214.02; Economy Propane \$1,023.00; Midcontinent \$119.22; NWPS \$13,888.37; NVC \$2,475.74; Town of Frederick \$61.00. Machinery & Equip.: Butler Machinery \$51,735.00; Little Falls Machine \$9,895.00. 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: Approve retirement award for Monte Podoll in the amount of \$150 before taxes as requirement was met. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ABATEMENTS:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve the following abatement: Lloyd Jark (Paid special assessment) @ \$1,813.82 All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

SHERIFF REPORTS:

Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve the following February 2020 Sheriff Reports: Incidents and offenses, Prisoner care, JDC, and Money deposited with the County Treasurer. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

PLAT: RESOLUTION: 21-20 K.MILLER ADDITION

Commissioner Feickert offered the following resolution:

"Be it resolved by the County Commission of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "K.MILLER ADDITION IN T SW1/4 OF SECTION 15, TOWNSHIP 122 NORTH, RANGE 64, 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 Commissioner Wiese: Roll call vote: Commissioner Feickert – aye, Sutton- aye, Wiese- aye, Fjeldheim- aye, Kippley – aye. Resolution Adopted.

SDPAA ENDORSEMENT:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to authorize chair sign General Endorsement and Deductible Endorsement with South Dakota Public Assurance Alliance. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY:

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve the following applications for occupancy: WEB Water Development for occupancy of Brown County Highway Number 14W, in section 35, township 123, range 64 Brown County, South Dakota for installation of potable water lines. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

DOE ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

Gene Loeschke, Director of Equalization, met for conference per SDCL 10-3-14, discussing the 2020 County Consolidated Boards of Equalization and the Agricultural Land Assessment Plan for 2021. Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Feickert to acknowledge the Department of Equalization annual conference requirement as met. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

BID OPENING – WEED AND PEST CHEMICAL:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to award Weed and Pest Chemical to VanDiest Supply, rejecting bids from Univar and AgraSyst. Bid tab on file with the Brown County Auditor and open for public inspection. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ADDRESSING ORDINANCE: Scott Bader (Planning and Zoning Director) met to discuss upcoming changes to the addressing ordinance. No action taken.

COVID-19 DISCUSSION:

Update from Scott Meints, Emergency Management on COVID-19, and supplies. Communications Center Director Kent Jones gave an update on emergency response plans for the dispatch center. Department heads in the annex gave an update on how services are being conducted remotely. No action taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Fjeldheim to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:03 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$70.82. 18856

Brown County Moccasin Creek Wine Application

NOTICE OF HEARING
MALT BEVERAGE & SD FARM WINE LICENSE APPLICATION AND

WINE & CIDER LICENSE APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given according to SDCL 35-2, a Public Hearing on the following applications is set for 8:45 A.M. on the 28th day of April, 2020 in the Community Room of the Brown County Commissioners, Courthouse Annex Basement, Brown County, South Dakota, at which time any interested persons wishing to register a complaint on approval, may appear:

Retail (on-off sale) Malt Beverage & SD Farm Wine License: Moccasin Creek Country Club Prairiewood Vlg OL7, E2 33-124-63, Brown County, South Dakota.

Retail (on-off sale) Wine & Cider License: Moccasin Creek Country Club Prairiewood Vlg OL7, E2 33-124-63, Brown County, South Dakota.

ATTEST:
Cathy McNickle
Brown County Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$12.73. 18857

Groton City Water Main Extension Bid

ADVERTISEMENT
WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

WATER MAIN EXTENSION "SCHEDULE A"
GROTON, SD

Sealed Bids will be received by the City of Groton, South Dakota until 2 P.M. local time on the 12th day of May, 2020 for the above referenced project. Bids shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the Bidding Documents. The City of Groton reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all Bids as set forth in the Bidding Documents.

The Project includes the following Work:

- Installation of approximately 2825 LF of 8" PVC water main and appurtenances.
- Boring & jacking of two 16" steel casings (195' & 125') for pipeline crossing BNSF Railway property.
- Installation of 8" PVC water main in 16" steel casing for pipeline crossing BNSF Railway property.
- Installation of 1300 LF of 8" PVC water main by Horizontal Directional Drilling.
- Additional items as set forth in the Contract Documents.

As per the Contract Documents, the date for Substantial Completion on this project is August 30, 2021.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Documents. The Successful Bidder will be required to provide Payment and Performance Bonds as described in the Bidding Documents.

A Pre-Bid teleconference will be held on April 28, 2020, at 1:30 PM. Information for access to the teleconference will be distributed by email to <http://www.clark-docs.com> planholders on or prior to April 27, 2020. Information for access to the teleconference will also be available by contacting the Aberdeen office of Clark Engineering at 605-225-3494 or Donald.J.Weigel@imegcorp.com

Due to COVID-19 precautions, the Bid Opening for this project will be conducted by teleconference. Information for access to the teleconference will be distributed by email to <http://www.clark-docs.com> planholders on or prior to May 5, 2020. Information for access to the teleconference will also be available by contacting the Aberdeen office of Clark Engineering at 605-225-3494 or Donald.J.Weigel@imegcorp.com

Bid Packages can be submitted to the City of Groton by mail or other courier service, prior to the date of the Bid Opening. Bidders can contact the Groton City office – 605-397-8422 to make an appointment to submit their bid, or Bid Packages may be placed in the designated Drop Box at the entrance to the City offices from 12:00 Noon until 2:00 p.m. on the date of the Bid Opening.

At or shortly after the time named above and within the office of the Finance Office, such Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids will be reviewed by the City of Groton at a subsequent meeting of the Groton City Council.

Bidding Documents may be examined at the locations listed:

City of Groton
Finance Office
209 Main St.
Groton, SD 57445
Ph: 605-397-8422
Clark Engineering
3314 Milwaukee Ave. NE,
Suite 2
Aberdeen, SD 57401
Ph: 605-225-3494
Clark Engineering
1410 W. Russell St.
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Ph: 605-331-2505

The Bidding Documents may also be examined at the following locations: Aberdeen, SD Builders Exchange; Rapid City, SD Builders Exchange; Sioux Falls, SD Builders Exchange; Plains Builders Exchange, Sioux Falls, SD; Dodge Data & Analytics, Hot Springs, AR; Construction Plans Exchange of Bismarck-Mandan, Bismarck, ND; or Construction Plans Exchange of Fargo-Moorhead, Fargo, ND.

An electronic copy of the Plans and Specifications on a compact disc may be obtained from the Aberdeen office of Clark Engineering upon payment of \$40.00 to Clark Engineering for shipping and handling or Plans and Specifications may be downloaded from the <http://www.clark-docs.com> web site upon a payment of \$20.00. A printed 11" x 17" size set of Plans and Specifications may be obtained from the Aberdeen office of Clark Engineering upon payment of \$100.00 to Clark Engineering for shipping and handling. All pay-

ments are non-refundable. Upon request, one copy of Plans and Specifications shall be furnished, without charge, to each Contractor resident in South Dakota who intends, in good faith, to bid upon the project.

Bidders shall comply with the Equal Opportunity Clause published at 41 CFR Part 60 and Executive Orders 11246, 11518, and 11625, as amended. This requires Bidders will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Requirements are explained further in the specifications.

Bidders on this work shall be required to comply with Title 40 CFR 33 and Executive Order 12138. The requirements for Bidders and Contractors under this regulation which concerns utilization of Disadvantaged/Minority Business Enterprises (DBE/MBE) and Women's Business Enterprises (WBE) are explained in the specifications.

The DBE/MBE and WBE goals for participation in this contract in terms of percentage of contract value are as follows:

Disadvantaged/Minority Business Enterprises 1%
Women's Business Enterprises 4%

Davis-Bacon and Related Acts wages apply to this project in its entirety. All provisions relative to those acts must be met.

The low responsive bidder will be required to certify to compliance with the American Iron and Steel provision of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014. This certification form may be found on page AIS-21 and 22 of the State Revolving Fund (SRF) General Conditions and must be included in the bid proposal.

Please be advised that waivers or exemptions from the American Iron and Steel provision that cite International Trade Agreements DO NOT comply with the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 as it applies to the SRF programs. Claims from suppliers that the American Iron and Steel provision does not apply to certain products based on the International Trade Agreement exemptions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 will not be accepted.

The successful bidder— including any contractors and their subcontractors on the project, must be registered in SAM.gov (System for Award Management).

BY:
Hope Block, Finance Officer
PUBLISHING DATES: April 15, 2020 & April 22, 2020

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$116.50. 18858

Groton City Water Tower Bid Notice

ADVERTISEMENT
WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

WATER TOWER REPLACEMENT "SCHEDULE B"
GROTON, SD

Sealed Bids will be received by the City of Groton, South Dakota until 2 P.M. local time on the 12th day of May, 2020 for the above referenced project. Bids shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the Bidding Documents. The City of Groton reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all Bids as set forth in the Bidding Documents.

The Project includes the following Work:

- Construction of a new water tower and related appurtenances
- Removal of existing water tower
- Additional items as set forth in the Contract Documents.

As per the Contract Documents, the date for Substantial Completion on this project is September 1, 2021.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Documents. The Successful Bidder will be required to provide Payment and Performance Bonds as described in the Bidding Documents.

A Pre-Bid teleconference will be held on April 28, 2020, at 1:30 PM. Information for access to the teleconference will be distributed by email to <http://www.clark-docs.com> planholders on or prior to April 27, 2020. Information for access to the teleconference will also be available by contacting the Aberdeen office of Clark Engineering at 605-225-3494 or Donald.J.Weigel@imegcorp.com

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Aberdeen, SD 57401
Ph: 605-225-3494
Clark Engineering
1410 W. Russell St.
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Ph: 605-331-2505

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Disadvantaged/Minority Business Enterprises 1%

Women's Business Enterprises 4%

Davis-Bacon and Related Acts wages apply to this project in its entirety. All provisions relative to those acts must be met.

The low responsive bidder will be required to certify to compliance with the American Iron and Steel provision of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014. This certification form may be found on page AIS-21 and 22 of the State Revolving Fund (SRF) General Conditions and must be included in the bid proposal.

Please be advised that waivers or exemptions from the American Iron and Steel provision that cite International Trade Agreements DO NOT comply with the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 as it applies to the SRF programs. Claims from suppliers that the American Iron and Steel provision does not apply to certain products based on the International Trade Agreement exemptions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 will not be accepted.

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BY:
Hope Block, Finance Officer
PUBLISHING DATES: April 15, 2020 & April 22, 2020

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$111.80. 18859

Westport Town April 6, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Town of Westport General Meeting

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

The following expenses were presented:

City General
NWPS (\$553.55), Groton Independent (\$18.81), Card member service-computer (\$41.79), US treasury (\$479.26) & SD Unemployment (\$13.62).

Sewer
NWPS (\$52.5) & NRWA –loan repayment (\$210.13)

Water
Dept. of Revenue (\$30.00), Water Maintenance District (\$408.16), DENR –Loan repayment (\$3,912.12), Banyon (\$795.00), WEB water (\$1365.13).

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

The following deposits were presented:

City General
Brown County Collections (\$940.07), State of SD (\$3,838.18), Reimbursement to Little League (\$6000.00) & Interest (\$8.81).

Sewer
Resident Payments - (\$1800.00).

Water
Resident Payments - (\$3220.38).

NEW BUSINESS:

The city has deposited \$6,000.00 into the city account, for the Westport little league. Those funds will be transferred back upon request. The post office would like to have the trophy case and trophies removed, so parcel boxes may be put in. The city will try to move everything to the town hall.

Doreen Hertel, Finance Officer

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$17.34. 18860

COVID-19

Older adults are at HIGHER RISK for severe illness.

There is currently no vaccine for coronavirus. The best way to prevent it is to practice social distancing:

- Stay home
- Avoid social gatherings
- Stay 6+ feet away from others
- Wash your hands often with soap and water



covid.sd.gov

If you have questions: Call 1-800-997-2880

The Groton Independent
 21 N Main, Groton 605/397-NEWS (6397)
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Columbia City Dump Truck Declared Surplus
 The City of Columbia is putting a truck up for surplus. It is a 1995 Ford F 800 dump truck with a 10'box and 12' snowplow. It has 45,461 miles on it. It is an automatic with a single axle. Any interested parties can call the city at 605/396-2655 and leave a message or e-mail the city at columbiacity@nvc.net. Bids will be accepted until 5 p.m. on May 5, 2020. We have the right to accept or reject any or all bids.
 (0408.0415)
 Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$12.35. 18837

Groton School April 2, 2020 Special Meeting
 UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF EDUCATION GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6 SPECIAL MEETING April 2, 2020
 President Smith called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm. The meeting was held on-line via Zoom. Roll call attendance of members present included: Flihs, Harder, Pharis, Rix, Smith and Weismantel. Absent Gengerke: Others present were Superintendent J. Schwan, Principals B. Schwan, Business Manager Weber election candidate Jason Bickel and official newspaper editor Paul Kosel.
 Moved by Weismantel, second Rix to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 6-0 on a roll call vote with members Flihs, Harder, Pharis, Rix, Smith and Weismantel voting aye.
 Pursuant to SDCL 23-3, there was no potential conflict disclosure reported.
 Members of the public were allowed five minutes to address the board on any topic of their choice. With no public members requesting to speak, the board proceeded with their agenda items.
 Weber explained that state legislature has postponed all elections in South Dakota from April 14, 2020, through May 26, 2020. This action effected the Groton Area School Board Election scheduled for April 14, 2020. As a result, local school boards must now select a rescheduled date for their elections in the month of June. Weber recommended June 2, 2020, as the rescheduled school board election which would coincide with the date for the State Primary Election. Moved by Weismantel, second Harder to reschedule the Groton Area School Board Election to June 2, 2020. Weber

Groton City Pump House Bid Notice
 ADVERTISEMENT WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS NEW PUMP HOUSE & SITE PIPING "SCHEDULE C" GROTON, SD
 Sealed Bids will be received by the City of Groton, South Dakota until 2 P.M local time on the 12th day of May, 2020 for the above referenced project. Bids shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the Bidding Documents. The City of Groton reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all Bids as set forth in the Bidding Documents.
 This project consists of constructing a new Booster Pump House and Installation of Water Main to reconfigure the pipe network for the New Pump House and new Water Tower in Groton, SD.
 The work will include, but not necessarily limited to, new building and electrical, new booster pumps and controls, water main fitting & valves, demolition and removal of the existing pump house and all site restoration for this contract and for an associated Schedule "B" contract.
 As per the Contract Documents, the date for Substantial Completion on this project is October 15, 2021.
 Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Documents. The Successful Bidder will be required to provide Payment and Performance Bonds as described in the Bidding Documents.
 A Pre-Bid teleconference will be held on April 28, 2020, at 1:30 PM. Information for access to the teleconference will be distributed by email to <http://www.clark-docs.com> planholders on or prior to April 27, 2020. Information for access to the teleconference will also be available by contacting the Aberdeen office

will advertise the date change in the Groton Independent, Groton Dakota Press, Webster Farmer and Reporter and the Groton Area School website. Motion carried 6-0 on a roll call vote with members Flihs, Harder, Pharis, Rix, Smith and Weismantel voting aye.
 Moved by Harder, second Flihs to adjourn at 5:35 pm. Motion carried 6-0 on a roll call vote with members Flihs, Harder, Pharis, Rix, Smith and Weismantel voting aye.
 M. J. Weber, Business Manager Steven R. Smith, President
 The addition of signatures to this page verifies these minutes as official.
 Published once at the total approximate cost of \$20.63. 18861

of Clark Engineering at 605-225-3494 or Donald.J.Weigel@imegcorp.com
 Due to COVID-19 precautions, the Bid Opening for this project will be conducted by teleconference. Information for access to the teleconference will be distributed by email to <http://www.clark-docs.com> planholders on or prior to May 5, 2020. Information for access to the teleconference will also be available by contacting the Aberdeen office of Clark Engineering at 605-225-3494 or Donald.J.Weigel@imegcorp.com.
 Bid Packages can be submitted to the City of Groton by mail or other courier service, prior to the date of the Bid Opening. Bidders can contact the Groton City office – 605-397-8422 to make an appointment to submit their bid, or Bid Packages may be placed in the designated Drop Box at the entrance to the City offices from 12:00 Noon until 2:00 p.m. on the date of the Bid Opening.
 At or shortly after the time named above and within the office of the Finance Office, such Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids will be reviewed by the City of Groton at a subsequent meeting of the Groton City Council.
 Bidding Documents may be examined at the locations listed:
 City of Groton
 Finance Office
 209 Main St.
 Groton, SD 57445
 Ph: 605-397-8422
 Clark Engineering
 3314 Milwaukee Ave. NE, Suite 2
 Aberdeen, SD 57401
 Ph: 605-225-3494
 Clark Engineering
 1410 W. Russell St.
 Sioux Falls, SD 57104
 Ph: 605-331-2505
 The Bidding Documents may also be examined at the following locations: Aberdeen, SD Builders Exchange; Rapid City, SD Builders Exchange; Sioux Falls, SD Builders Exchange; Plains Builders Exchange, Sioux Falls, SD; Dodge Data & Analytics, Hot Springs, AR; Construction Plans Exchange of Bismarck-Mandan, Bismarck, ND; or Construction Plans Exchange of Fargo-Moorhead, Fargo, ND.
 An electronic copy of the Plans and Specifications on a compact disc may be obtained from the Aberdeen office of Clark Engineering upon payment of \$40.00 to Clark Engineering for shipping and handling or Plans and Specifications may be downloaded from the <http://www.clark-docs.com> web site upon a payment of \$20.00. A printed 11" x 17" size set of Plans and Specifications may be obtained from the Aberdeen office of Clark Engineering upon payment of \$100.00 to Clark Engineering for

shipping and handling. All payments are non-refundable. Upon request, one copy of Plans and Specifications shall be furnished, without charge, to each Contractor resident in South Dakota who intends, in good faith, to bid upon the project.
 Bidders shall comply with the Equal Opportunity Clause published at 41 CFR Part 60 and Executive Orders 11246, 11518, and 11625, as amended. This requires Bidders will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Requirements are explained further in the specifications.
 Bidders on this work shall be required to comply with Title 40 CFR 33 and Executive Order 12138. The requirements for Bidders and Contractors under this regulation which concerns utilization of Disadvantaged/Minority Business Enterprises (DBE/MBE) and Women's Business Enterprises (WBE) are explained in the specifications. The DBE/MBE and WBE goals for participation in this contract in terms of percentage of contract value are as follows:
 Disadvantaged/Minority Business Enterprises 1%
 Women's Business Enterprises 4%
 Davis-Bacon and Related Acts wages apply to this project in its entirety. All provisions relative to those acts must be met.
 The low responsive bidder will be required to certify to compliance with the American Iron and Steel provision of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014. This certification form may be found on page AIS-21 and 22 of the State Revolving Fund (SRF) General Conditions and must be included in the bid proposal.
 Please be advised that waivers or exemptions from the American Iron and Steel provision that cite International Trade Agreements DO NOT comply with the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 as it applies to the SRF programs. Claims from suppliers that the American Iron and Steel provision does not apply to certain products based on the International Trade Agreement exemptions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 will not be accepted.
 The successful bidder— including any contractors and their subcontractors on the project, must be registered in SAM.gov (System for Award Management).
 BY:
 Hope Block, Finance Officer
 PUBLISHING DATES: April 15, 2020 & April 22, 2020
 Published once at the total approximate cost of \$115.46. 18862

Attention: Groton Area School District Patrons

The election for the Groton Area Board of Education has been postponed to Tuesday, June 2, 2020. This is the corresponding date of the 2020 presidential primary election. Three candidates running for two open positions on the school board are Jason Bickel, Steven R. Smith and Grant Rix. In order to vote in this election, you must be a registered voter of the Groton Area School District. If you are in doubt about your registration status, contact your local county auditor. Voter registration ends May 18, 2020.

On election day, the school district will operate polling sites from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM at Andover Other Place, Bristol Community Center, Columbia Legion and Groton Community Center. Please note that Andover and Bristol patrons will not cast a presidential primary vote at their location. Day County will hold primary voting in Webster only. With respect to COVID-19 issues, please make good health related decisions when voting on election day.

In-person absentee voting is available at the school business office located at 406 North 2nd Street in Groton from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday. Voters may vote in-person up until 5:00 PM on the day before the election.

Voters may also vote absentee by mail or absentee by messenger, in the event of confinement due to sickness or disability. To receive a South Dakota Absentee Ballot Application Form call Mike Weber, at 605-397-2351 extension 1008, or email mike.weber@k12.sd.us. Forms are also available on-line at www.grotonarea.com and www.sdsos.gov.

**Mike Weber
 Election Superintendent
 Groton Area Schools**

Published 2 times at the approximate cost of \$144.00 (408.0415)

Columbia City COVID-19 Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-01
AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO ADDRESS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS BY IMPLEMENTING CERTAIN MEASURES WHICH HAVE BEEN DEEMED NECESSARY TO SLOW THE COMMUNITY SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

WHEREAS, the guidance issued by the White House further recommended that in states with evidence of community transmission, bars, restaurants, food courts, gyms and other indoor and outdoor venues where people congregate should be closed; and

WHEREAS, the city of Columbia has the authority pursuant to SDCL 9-29-1 and SDCL 9-32-1 to pass ordinances for the purpose of promoting the health, safety, morals, and general welfare, of the community, and to what may be necessary for the promotion of health or the suppression of diseases; and

WHEREAS, an outbreak of the disease COVID-19, which is caused by the novel coronavirus, has been confirmed in more than 100 countries, including the United States; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a severe respiratory disease transmitted by person-to-person contact, or by contact with surfaces contaminated by the virus. In some cases, especially among older adults and persons with serious underlying health conditions, COVID-19 can result in serious illness requiring hospitalization, admission to an intensive care unit, and death; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services have declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, many states and communities across the country have already implemented the White House recommendations by ordering all bars, restaurants, food courts, gyms, and other indoor and outdoor venues where people congregate be closed until the public health emergency is over; and

WHEREAS, the failure to successfully implement social distancing will likely result in higher numbers of infected individual and has the potential to overwhelm the capacity of the County's health care providers; and

WHEREAS, it is important that control measures be taken to reduce or slow down the spread of COVID-19 in order to protect the health and safety of the City's residents, especially seniors and those with underlying health conditions and make the particularly vulnerable to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency in response to the global pandemic of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of South Dakota entered an Executive Order (2020-04) declaring a state of emergency currently exists within the state of South Dakota, and further the Governor of the State of South Dakota entered an Executive Order (2020-08) providing direction and guidance for South Dakota citizens, businesses, and governing bodies of South Dakota in which all local and municipal government located in the State of South Dakota take specific steps contained within said Executive Order; and

WHEREAS, it is important that control measures be taken to reduce or slow down the spread of COVID-19 in order to protect the health and safety of the City's residents, especially for seniors and those with underlying health conditions that make them particularly vulnerable to COVID-19.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the city of Columbia, South Dakota:

1. Effective at 12:00 a.m. on April 14, 2020, all restaurants, food courts, food service locations, coffee houses, bars, breweries, distillers, wineries, clubs, cafes, motel lobbies offering food service, and other similar places of public accommodation offering food and beverages for on-site consumption, including and alcohol licensees with on-sale privileges, . These businesses may continue to operate in order to provide take-out, delivery, curbside service, and drive thru service and a maximum of 10

individuals in the establishment at any given time. Any business continuing to operate in order to provide off-site service should implement procedures to ensure social distancing and operate in compliance with federal and state health guidance in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This restriction will remain in effect through the next city meeting which is held on the first Tuesday of every month.

2. Effective at 12:00 a.m. on April 14, 2020, all churches, community centers, legion halls are directed to limit their operations to no more than 10 individuals in the establishment at one time. This restriction will remain in effect through the next city meeting which is held on the first Tuesday of every month.

3. The prohibitions and closures in the order do not apply to the following businesses:

a. Any emergency facility necessary for the response to the current public health emergency or any other community emergency or disaster.

b. Official meetings of the city, schools, county, or state, as may be set in said entities.

4. This ordinance shall remain in effect for a period of thirty (30) days, at which time it shall be revisited at every city council meeting, which are held on the first Tuesday of every month. Any dates identified in the ordinance for closures to automatically end may be adjusted at anytime within the thirty (30) day period covered by this ordinance by resolution of the City Council. This ordinance can be amended or canceled with an emergency Columbia City Council meeting at any given time.

5. Any violation of this ordinance is subject to a \$500 fine from the City of Columbia, South Dakota. Each day a violation of this ordinance is allowed to occur is considered a separate offense committed by the person(s) in charge of the facility in violation.

BE IN FURTHER ORDAINED, that, pursuant to SDCL 9-19-13, this ordinance is necessary due to health emergency and the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the City of Columbia and shall become effective immediately upon passage.

Dated this 7th day of April, 2020

CITY OF COLUMBIA, SOUTH DAKOTA

Corey Mitchell, Mayor
Passed First Reading: 4/7/20
Passed Second Reading: 4/14/20

Adopted: 4/14/20
Published: 4/15/20
Effective: 4/14/20 at 12:00 a.m.

ATTEST:
Cara Dennert, Finance Officer (seal)

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$70.85. 18865

Mud Creek Notice of Annual Meeting

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF BROWN COUNTY MUD CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That the Annual Meeting of the Brown County Mud Creek Watershed District, will be held in the Roger Rix Shop, located at 12960 406th Avenue, Groton, South Dakota on April 23, 2020 at 8:00 p.m., during which annual meeting the eligible voters in the district shall elect, by ballot, under the direction of the secretary of the district, managers to replace those whose terms have expired. All managers and candidates shall be eligible voters of the district or designees of eligible voters of the district as provided in SDCL 46A-14-15.1.

Upon the election of the managers of the district, officers of the district shall be elected by the managers, except the secretary/treasurer shall be appointed by the managers; and any other personnel of the district may be appointed or hired by the managers. Additionally, at such annual meeting any interested person may appear either in person or by a representative and will be given an opportunity for a full and complete discussion of all purposes, objectives, items, schedules, appropriations, estimates, amounts and any other matters relevant to the Brown County Mud Creek Watershed District. Grant Rix, Secretary, Brown County Mud Creek Watershed District.

Published at the total approximate cost of \$15.67. 18864

Columbia City 2019 Financial Report

Exhibit 1

STATEMENT OF FUND CASH BALANCES ALL FUNDS December 31, 2019

	General Fund	Sales Tax Fund	Ball Park Fund	Enterprise Funds Sewer Fund	Total
Cash Assets:					
Cash in Checking Accounts	122,239.33	28,191.00	6,134.01	144,450.71	301,015.05
Change and Petty Cash					0.00
Passbook Savings					0.00
Savings Certificates					0.00
SD FIT account	13,932.45				13,932.45
101 FUND CASH BALANCES	136,171.78	28,191.00	6,134.01	144,450.71	314,947.50
Municipal funds are deposited or invested with the following depositories:					
First State Bank of Claremont, Groton, Langford					301,015.05
SD FIT account					13,932.45
					314,947.50

Exhibit 2

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES ALL FUNDS

	General Fund	Sales Tax Fund	Ball Park Fund	Enterprise Funds Sewer Fund	Total
Receipts (Source):					
311 Property Taxes	56,805.97				56,805.97
313 Sales Tax		24,432.39			24,432.39
311-319 Other Taxes	4,214.07				4,214.07
320 Licenses and Permits	950.00				950.00
331 Federal Grants	936.00				936.00
335.1 Bank Franchise Tax	737.08				737.08
335.2 Prorate License Fees	435.62				435.62
335.3 Liquor Tax Reversion	1,551.45				1,551.45
335.4 Motor Vehicle Licenses (5%)	7,419.83				7,419.83
335.8 Local Government Highway and Bridge Fund	26,590.16				26,590.16
338.1 County Road Tax (25%)	93.00				93.00
338.3 County Wheel Tax	347.06				347.06
361 Investment Earnings	831.26				831.26
363-369 Other Revenues	1,211.33		50.00		1,261.33
ENTERPRISE FUNDS					
372-389 Enterprise Operating Revenue (380)				24,563.83	24,563.83
Total Receipts	102,122.83	24,432.39	50.00	24,563.83	151,169.05
Disbursements (Function):					
411-419 General Government	70,555.02	13,618.00			84,173.02
421 Police	255.00				255.00
422 Fire	1,962.24				1,962.24
431 Highways and Streets	33,984.09				33,984.09
432 Sanitation	5,025.00				5,025.00
441-449 Health and Welfare	2,841.78				2,841.78
451-459 Culture-Recreation	8,291.95		7,140.82		15,432.77
490-493 Miscellaneous	150.00				150.00
ENTERPRISE FUNDS					
426 Supplies and Materials				18,083.00	18,083.00
Total Disbursements	123,065.08	13,618.00	7,140.82	18,083.00	161,906.90
391.2 Money Received From Borrowing		5,261.47			5,261.47
Subtotal of Receipts, Disbursements and Transfers	(20,942.25)	16,075.86	(7,090.82)	6,480.83	(5,476.38)
Fund Cash Balance, January 1, 2019	143,434.85	12,115.14	13,224.83	137,969.88	306,744.70
Adjustments:					
SD FIT January 1, 2019 balance	13,679.18				13,679.18
Restated Fund Cash Balance, January 1, 2019	157,114.03	12,115.14	13,224.83	137,969.88	320,423.88
FUND CASH BALANCE, December 31, 2019	136,171.78	28,191.00	6,134.01	144,450.71	314,947.50
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$79.93. 18863					

Columbia City April 14, 2020 Emergency Mtg

City of Columbia Council
Emergency Meeting - April 14, 2020

CALL MEETING TO ORDER - 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL - Cara Dennert, Corey Mitchell, Cole Kampa, Ellen Harr, Dana Mohr, Trevor Meints
Mayor Corey Mitchell called the meeting to order.

The Council reread the COVID-19 Ordinance presented at last week's meeting. There was

discussion on the ordinance and other ordinances in the area.

Dana Mohr made a motion to pass the City of Columbia COVID-19 Ordinance effective April 14th, 2020 at 12:00 a.m. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried.

Cole Kampa made a motion to adjourn. Ellen Harr seconded the motion. All were in favor - meeting adjourned.

Next City Meeting - Tuesday, May 5, 2020 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Cara Dennert, Finance Officer

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$9.99. 18866

Cheer someone up! Send a balloon!

This one is \$6
(includes delivery in Groton & Tax)

Groton Daily Independent

21 N Main
605-397-NEWS (6397)

FARMERS ARE STILL WORKING. SO ARE WE.

There isn't a farmer or rancher who hasn't been impacted by the coronavirus. Despite the uncertainty of what lies ahead, you haven't stopped working. We're still working too, with the capacity to meet your financial needs and the expertise to support you through this challenging time.

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COVID-19 testing in S.D. is inefficient and imperfect, but remains only option for confirming cases

Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

The ability to quickly, regularly and accurately test for the deadly coronavirus is a key component of the ability of the medical field and the public to understand the extent of the pandemic, and of government officials' ability to adequately respond.

And yet, the testing for the presence of the virus in residents of South Dakota and around the U.S. has been plagued by a series of problems. Among them: a lack of needed testing supplies; inefficiencies in how the test is administered and how results are analyzed; and the potential inability of the test itself to accurately confirm the presence of the virus.

The consequences of those testing limitations are potentially fatal. Far more people are likely infected with COVID-19 than is known. The lack of confirmed positives has opened the door to downplaying of the depth and seriousness of the pandemic by government officials and individuals. And in some cases, the opportunity for "false negatives," in which tests do not indicate the presence of the virus in an infected person, can lead to unnecessary spreading of the virus.

South Dakota shares same testing challenges as rest of nation

South Dakota ranks among the top 20 states in testing per capita for the virus that causes COVID-19, and while state officials tout that fact, experts say testing rates are still too low to know just how widespread the disease really is.

Of the state's roughly 880,000 residents, about 7,100 had been tested for COVID-19 as of April 8, according to South Dakota Department of Health Data. The low rate of testing for COVID-19, though, is due almost entirely to a shortage of critical testing supplies. Similar shortages are being experienced all over the country and are forcing public health officials to put strict limits on who gets tested and when.

While it may not be as complete as health-care professionals would like, the data shared publicly through the South Dakota Department of Health's COVID-19 webpage, <https://doh.sd.gov/news/Coronavirus.aspx>, is the best data currently available. The data include the most recent reported testing results from the state health lab, Avera Health, Sanford Health, the Mayo Clinic's commercial clinical lab and Quest Diagnostics, a private, multi-national clinical laboratory company, said DOH spokesperson Derrick Haskins.

The private labs testing for COVID-19 have let the Department of Health take the lead on public sharing of test data, but officials at Sanford Health and Avera Health have been fairly open with South Dakota News Watch about what their individual testing regimes have found.

As of Wednesday, April 8, Sanford Health had performed 5,053 COVID-19 tests across its multi-state hospital system, according to Shawn Neistadt, a senior media relations specialist with Sanford. Of the more than 5,000 COVID-19 tests Sanford had conducted, roughly 2,900 of the tests were conducted on South Dakotans. Slightly over 200 of Sanford's tests returned positive results.

Leaders at Avera Health have been a little more reticent to share their testing data. On



The inability of the American medical system to perform timely, accurate testing for the presence of COVID-19 has hampered efforts to understand and respond to the pandemic. Photo: Stock image

Stock image

Monday, April 6, Dr. David Basel, vice president of clinical quality at Avera Health, told News Watch that Avera had recorded 192 positive COVID-19 tests. About 85 percent of Avera's tests were conducted on South Dakotans.

The state's numbers are updated every day by noon and represent the testing reported through the previous day. As of Thursday, April 10, 7,647 tests for the disease had been performed on South Dakotans, with 536 tests returning a positive result. Between April 7 and April 8, 399 new tests were reported to the DOH and 54 of those tests, roughly 13.5%, returned positive results. Between April 8 and April 9, 500 new tests were conducted. Of those, 89 tests, about 17.8%, were found to be positive for COVID-19.

A large part of the reason for the relatively high rate of positive results is that testing is being conducted on people who are already showing strong symptoms of COVID-19, such as pneumonia, and are more likely to test positive. But experts expect as many as 80% of people infected with the COVID-19 virus either don't develop symptoms at all or only show mild symptoms, such as a dry cough and fever. Simply put, far more people have been infected with the virus than have tested positive for it.

"That's a major driver for why the government has changed its recommendation to wear masks," said Dr. Marie-Louise Landry, direc-

"Every time we think things are better and we'll tell people we're going to expand testing, we find out that we're not going to be getting some key reagents and can't do it. We are doing testing, but it is more limited by far than we would like to, and very frustrating."

-- Dr. Marie-Louise Landry, Yale University

tor of the clinical virology laboratory at Yale University. "Now we realize that there are many people who may have such minor symptoms, they may have a runny nose or a little cough that is typical for this time of year, and say 'this can't be COVID,' and, in



Dr Landry

fact, it can be."

There is no way to know exactly how many people have actually been infected, Landry said. At least not yet. Severe shortages of critical testing supplies mean public health officials likely will have to continue limiting the availability of tests to high-need and high-risk populations.

However, there is some hope on the horizon, Landry said. New tests designed to identify COVID-19 antibodies in blood samples are likely to start arriving at hospitals and clinical labs within a month. Antibody tests aren't effective for identifying active infections but they could help scientists get a better understanding of how prevalent the COVID-19 virus actually is, she said.

"People are very hopeful the antibody test could give us that information and how many people are immune," Landry said. "If we have a lot of people with immunity, that can protect the people who are not immune. The antibody tests are going to be very important and could really help us."

In the meantime, the testing data DOH shares with the public is still useful, Basel said.

"Personally I pay a lot of attention to them, because it's kind of a leading indicator," he said. "It helps us quite a bit in knowing how many people are symptomatic and how many of those are symptomatic because of this coronavirus. It is still very helpful from that monitoring standpoint."

COVID-19 testing mostly restricted to high-risk patients

Shortages of necessary testing supplies, such as swabs and chemicals needed to run tests for the virus that causes COVID-19, are forcing hospitals to limit who they test to conserve supplies.

"We don't know how often we will get resupplied ... so we do still conserve somewhat on the number of tests that we do," said Basel of Avera Health.

Nationwide, clinical laboratories are running short of everything from sample collection swabs to the solution needed to transport samples from where they are collected at the lab. Even the chemical solutions required to run the actual tests are in desperately short supply.

"That's been very limiting. And every time we think things are better and we'll tell people we're going to expand testing, we find out that we're not going to be getting some key reagents and can't do it," said Landry, of Yale. "We are doing testing, but it is more limited by far than we would like to, and very frustrating."

In another example of the extent of the supply shortage, South Dakota's State Epidemiologist Joshua Clayton said during an April 9 conference call with healthcare providers that the state health lab's supply of "flocked" sample swabs was running very low. The state had ordered new foam-tipped swabs but didn't expect them to arrive until mid-May, Clayton said.

In an effort to manage their supply shortages, the state health lab, Sanford Health and Avera Health all are following guidelines set by the federal Centers For Disease Control and Prevention and have decided not to test anyone who isn't displaying active COVID-19 symptoms, such as a fever or shortness of breath. Patients who haven't been in contact

with someone who tested positive also aren't considered a high priority for testing, according to CDC guidelines.

The state health lab has further restricted testing to hospitalized patients with COVID-19 symptoms, healthcare workers and people living or working in nursing homes or assisted living facilities.

Sanford Health's lab also has restricted testing to hospitalized patients with COVID-19 symptoms, older adults and all patients with underlying medical conditions that put them at greater risk from COVID-19, said Neisteadt.

All of the restrictions on who gets tested and when has likely reduced the number of confirmed and reported cases of COVID-19 in South Dakota and across the country, experts said.

Uncertainty over accuracy of most common COVID-19 tests

Despite some glaring limitations, the most common methods used for diagnosing COVID-19 infections in South Dakota can be very accurate, experts say.

Doctors at the state public health lab and at Sanford Health and Avera Health are using polymerase chain reaction (PCR) technology to identify the virus in patients. Under the right circumstances, PCR-based testing is known to be nearly 100% accurate when it comes to identifying viral infections. Still, the science of diagnosing COVID-19 specifically has only been around for a few months, and there are a lot of unknowns, said Landry.

"We don't really know how a lot of these tests perform and which ones are more accurate than others," Landry said.

One example of what scientists don't know about COVID-19 testing is what part of the body is the most reliable place to find the virus



Hospitals across the country, including the Sanford and Avera health systems in South Dakota, have implemented drive-up testing sites during the COVID-19 pandemic. Photo: Stock image

that causes the disease, said Dr. Jim Dunn, director of medical microbiology and virology at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston. The virus tends to move around as it runs its course, so one day it might be concentrated in the nasal cavity, the next it might move to the lungs, which can lead to poor sample collections and bad test results, he said.

"There are people working on that," Dunn said. "They're looking at different types of samples at different time points during infection, even things like blood samples, or stool samples to really try to figure out how we can best identify those patients that are infected."

Right now, the CDC recommends taking swabs of mucus from the nasopharynx, a location deep in the nasal passage. To do that, a sample collection swab must be inserted through the nose all the way to the back of the nasal cavity to a point that is, roughly, right above the back of a person's mouth. Swabbing the nasopharynx, while not perfect, is still the best known method for obtaining a sample of the virus from an infected person. This is a common sampling method being used at drive-up COVID-19 test sites in South Dakota and elsewhere.

PCR-based testing methods work by es-

"That's one of the biggest reasons why we don't test people who don't have symptoms. Because their viral load is probably low enough that even if they do have some degree of the virus, it's not going to be high enough that we're going to detect it."

-- Dr. David Basel, Avera Health

entially copying relatively small amounts of a virus' genetic code so that it can be more easily identified. The method has been globally recognized by scientists as one of the most accurate ways to identify whether someone is actively infected with a virus. PCR-based tests have been used for many years to diagnose the flu and HIV, for example.

"This kind of testing looks directly for the presence of the virus in the patient's sample," said Dr. Lorne Holland, senior director of clinical pathology at Sanford Health. "Because they directly measure the virus, molecular testing methods are both sensitive and specific — they are able to detect small amounts of the virus and reliably detect this virus even if other viruses or bacteria are present too."

After the swabbing process is finished, the swab must be placed in a sterile transport medium to protect the virus' genetic material from degradation before it gets to the lab.

Once in the lab, the sample is placed in a chemical solution designed to copy one of the virus' genetic building blocks. In the case of SARS-CoV-2 — the official name of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 — the targeted building block is RNA, a molecule that is similar to DNA and is used to store genetic information. The chemical solution, aided by specialized lab equipment called thermocyclers, then specifically targets SARS-CoV-2 RNA and uses chemical reactions to make billions of copies of it. Eventually, the copies change the chemical solution's color to indicate the presence of the virus.

If the solution doesn't change color, there was no virus in the sample. The chain reactions that copy the virus' RNA don't work if the targeted RNA isn't present.

Sanford Health's labs have been using PCR-based viral testing for several years and the lab's procedures are well-established, Holland said. The instruments Sanford uses have a long track record of producing very reliable and accurate results, though there are still some limitations, he said.

"No laboratory test can ever be perfect. For example, if a patient was exposed to the virus an hour ago, then no test will be positive," Holland said. "However, performing our testing with proven, molecular PCR technology is the best possible testing we can offer for our patients."

Rate of 'false negatives' in COVID-19 testing unknown

The type of tests used to diagnose COVID-19 have proven reliable over decades of use with other diseases, but experts worry that because tests for the new virus were hastily designed, there could be higher than expected rates of "false negative" results, or those that do not indicate the presence of the virus when indeed the patient is infected.

Usually, before a medical test can get ap-



David Basel, MD

proval from the federal Food and Drug Administration, it is often subjected to years of development and evaluation for accuracy. The tests for SARS-CoV-2 were developed over the course of a couple of months and continue to be surrounded by unanswered questions, such as when and what type of sampling methods are best.

There are several ways a COVID-19 test could deliver a false negative result, Landry said. First, getting a good sample can be difficult. A swab must be inserted through a patient's nose to the nasopharynx. Not only is the swabbing process uncomfortable for the patient, it can cause coughing or sneezing which can expose whoever is administering the test to the virus if they aren't wearing the right protective gear, said Landry.

"You actually have to put the swab in very deep and a lot of people don't do that very well," Landry said.

Another major reason a test might deliver a false negative result is that the virus tends to move around the respiratory system as it progresses, said Dr. Dunn. A patient with COVID-19-caused pneumonia, for example, may not have a high concentration of the virus in their nose. In that case, a nasal swab might not collect enough virus for a test to detect it, Dunn said.

Taking a second, oral swab in addition to a nasopharyngeal swab and testing both at the same time might help ensure an accurate test result, Dunn said. Taking two swabs, though, would exacerbate a third testing limitation — the nationwide shortage of testing supplies.

Medical professionals can't use just any swab that happens to be at hand when they test someone for COVID-19. Swabs need to be long enough to reach all the way through the nasal cavity to the nasopharynx, and its tip has to be capable of collecting a clean sample. Cotton swabs, such as Q-tips, wouldn't work very well, Dunn said.

Still, another potential cause of false negative COVID-19 test results is taking a swab before a patient starts showing symptoms, said Basel.

"That's one of the biggest reasons why we don't test people who don't have symptoms. Because their viral load is probably low enough that even if they do have some degree of the virus, it's not going to be high enough that we're going to detect it," Basel said.

Exactly how high the false negative rate might be for COVID-19 tests isn't well understood. And is likely to take months of dedicated research to get reliable data, Basel said. Testing guidelines for COVID-19 were created at what amounts to light-speed in the medical world and continue to evolve as new information is discovered, Dunn said. Limits on supplies also are forcing hospital systems such as Avera Health to avoid retesting patients, Basel said.

The good news is that if a sample contains the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the tests South Dakota's labs use are nearly 100% accurate. None of the state's labs have reported any known false negative tests, so far.

"Thus far, we have identified no possible false positives or false negatives," said Holland, of Sanford Health. "No lab test is perfect, but we are more than 3,000 tests in and we've yet to identify a suspicious result."



James Dunn

Supt. Joe Schwan's report to the Board of Education

Flexible Learning Plan. We have made very few changes to our flexible learning plan since implementation. We are currently in the fourth week of our new educational model and continue to deliver necessary academic materials and supplies at the beginning of each week. All things considered, I believe our plan is working as well as can be expected. Our teachers have done a masterful job of working into an entirely new system of content delivery. It has been advised that schools are prepared to begin the fall term under similar restrictions in the event that becomes necessary.

Student engagement is the biggest challenge to plan implementation. We estimate work completion and engagement to be somewhere between 70% and 80%.

2019-2020 School Calendar. It is my recommendation to follow our school calendar as amended by the Board on March 3, 2020. Under this calendar, our final official day of flexible learning would be Thursday, May 21. We would likely use most of the final week for the collection of school property including computers, textbooks, library books, sports uniforms, band instruments, etc.

During the final day of the legislative session, schools were relieved of the minimum instructional time requirement. To that regard, I don't believe there is a necessity to add additional days to the end of our calendar on account of our lost time on March 16, 17, 18, 23, and 24. The Department of Education has also consistently encouraged districts to maintain the integrity of their school calendars through the end of the year.

Class of 2020 Graduation. It is my recommendation to postpone graduation to 2:00 PM on Sunday, July 12, 2020. While we don't know what the situation will look like by then, this would provide the best opportunity to be able to host a "normal" graduation before our many of our graduates leave for college. If, at that time, we are still advised

against holding group gatherings, we will have to consider other options (electronic, parades, etc.).

It is my recommendation that the final day for flexible learning for our seniors is Friday, May 8. During the week of May 18th materials would be collected, and any seniors that need to complete work to meet course requirements would be required to do that. In a normal year, we would dismiss student approximately 1 week early to allow for staff submission of final grades, final grade point calculations, and scholarship processes.

Food Service. The food service department continues to be very busy packing lunches for approximately 180 students/daily. We're delivering meals twice weekly. Mr. Clocksene is working on providing some different types of meals where possible but has had difficulty receiving supplies that are considered "special order."

Initially, we operated on a donations basis with no deliveries. When permitted by USDA, we were able to begin operating under a program called "Seamless Summer Option" or SSO. This option was extended to school districts as a way to provide nutrition to children during the unexpected school closures. We were required to submit an application to the South Dakota Child and Adult Nutrition (CANs) Office. Since the initial application, we've been granted two waivers. One waiver allows meals to be sent with a family member as opposed to requiring a child to be present to receive their meal. The second is an area eligibility waiver which allows us to deliver meals to all children regardless of income status. The area eligibility waiver also allows us to claim reimbursements for all meals for children aged 1 through 18 as opposed to enrolled students only.

We believe that if Governor Noem issues a shelter-in-place order statewide that the food service delivery will continue during that time. It is unclear at this point whether we will be asked to continue or if we'll have the option to continue the program beyond our school calendar.

CARES Act Funding. The CARES Act signed by President Trump on March 27 provides \$41M to South Dakota to be used for K-12 education. The Estimated allocation for the Groton Area School District based on the Title I allocation formula is \$65,057. USED must complete its application for the states by April 27 after which time SDDOE will have to complete and submit its application for approval. Once the SDDOE application is approved, they will have to issue applications to districts. We have not yet received guidance on allowable costs for CARES Act funding.

Family First Coronavirus Relief Act (FFCRA). Part of the FFCRA includes expanded medical leave for employees impacted by COVID19. This federal legislation went into effect on April 1, 2020. In summary, the Act provides up to 80 hours of Emergency Paid Sick Leave (subject to statutory limits) if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, have a COVID-19 diagnosis, are subject to a quarantine order related to COVID-19, or are caring for an individual subject to a quarantine order.

Additionally, employees who are caring for individuals subject to a quarantine order or caring for his/her child whose school or place of care is closed due to COVID-19 are eligible for up to 10 weeks of paid leave at a rate equal to 2/3 or an employee's regular salary subject to statutory limits (\$200/day).

1003 Grant. Additional flexibility has been offered to school districts so that we may utilize the remainder of our 1003 funds given that many training opportunities are either eliminated or substantially modified. We are now allowed to utilize these funds for the purchase of technology. We currently have just under \$13,000 in 1003 funds remaining for FY2020.

State Funding and Local Tax Levies. The South Dakota legislature passed (and the Governor signed) the general budget bill which includes a re-base of special education allocations based on disability category and a 2% increase to state aid for education. We anticipate the Governor calling a special legislative session to address the funding issues given updated revenue projections in light of the COVID-19 impact to spending. At our regular DOE conference call last week, Secretary Ben Jones indicated that education funding may be reduced for the next fiscal year due to lack of available resources. There seems to be some uncertainty at this point whether states will be permitted to use any federal aid as a replacement to normal revenues.

The chart below shows the difference in general fund tax levies at each level of state funding -0% or 2% compared to what levies are for taxes payable in 2020. Even though our district does not receive state aid to education, the amount of sales tax revenue allocated to K-12 education impacts the general fund levies. A reduction in state aid results in a calendar year reduction of about \$55,000 in local property tax collections for our district.

Classification of Property	2019 Payable 2020	2020 Payable 2021 - 0%	2020 Payable 2021 - 2%
Agricultural	\$1.473	\$1.416	\$1.443
Owner-Occupied	\$3.296	\$3.168	\$3.229
Non-Agricultural & Utilities	\$6.821	\$6.556	\$6.682

School Board Election. Absentee voting is taking place now through Election Day—June 2, 2020. Patrons may request an absentee ballot by mail.

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12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19