

THE Groton Independent

South Dakota

Growing Families & Opportunities

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This was chalked on the sidewalk at the Norma Helmer home on East Second Avenue. A USPS contractor alerted the Independent to this neat photo op. Groton Postmaster Mindy Vandervorst drew the art work.



BJ Clocksene, Groton Area's head cook, hands out the food in a drive-by fashion at the elementary school. He has the van loaded with the bags and they are distributed and put in your vehicle.



Jack, the family dog, looks at the computer screen as if wondering if you could help Kason with his home work. Students are working from home and many of the classes are done through Zoom. Kason is the grandson of Bruce and Karyn Babcock, Groton.

GHS March Students of the Month



Tadyn Glover (12th)



Regan Leicht (11th)



Madeline Flihs (10th)



Cole Simon (9th)

Allowing chickens in town discussed

Three items were discussed at the Groton City Council Meeting held Tuesday at the Groton Community Center.

The first was accepting the only soda bid for the baseball complex, pool and park, and that was from Coca-Cola. That will be contingent on if there is a summer rec season this year.

The next item was allowing chickens in town. There are three people in Groton that already have chickens. Aberdeen has an ordinance outlining the raising of chickens and the Groton City Council will review that ordinance and present something at the next meeting.

There was discussion on whether to have remote council meetings instead of personal meetings. Mayor Scott Hanlon said, "As long as we're all healthy, I would like to meet here (Groton Community Center)."



Anna Bisbee (8th)



Kaden Kampa (7th)



Logan Warrington (6th)

These students have been chosen as Groton Area MS/HS Students of the month for March. Groton Area MS/HS School works to ensure that all levels of academic instruction also include the necessary life skills teaching, practicing, and modeling that encourages essential personal life habits that are universally understood to facilitate helping our students become good human beings and citizens. It is learning with our heads, hearts and hands to be caring and civil, to make healthy decisions, to effectively problem solve, to be respectful and responsible, to be good citizens, and to be empathetic and ethical individuals. Students are selected based on individual student growth in the areas of: positive behavior, citizenship, good attendance, a thirst for knowledge, and high academic standards.

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Classifieds and Card of Thanks

The following rates are for Classifieds published in both the Groton Daily Independent and the Groton Independent, and posted online at www.grotonsd.net. Cut rate in half if you just want it in the GDI or just the weekly.
 1 Week: \$9 for first 30 words, 20¢/word thereafter
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AUCTIONS

SPRING LAWN MOWER, garden equipment, recreational and sports auction. May 2, 2020. 10 am. 3 miles east of Sioux Falls, I-90 exit 402. 605-331-4550, auctionzip.com bpage1@gmail.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.

NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS in Isabel, SD is seeking applications for the following position: Health Science Instructor: South Dakota certification is required. Work-related experience may count toward certification. NWAS offers competitive salary, benefits, transportation and SD Retirement. Please contact Quinn Lenk, NWAS Director at 605-466-2206, or by email at: quinn.lenk@k12.sd.us position is open until filled.

ELECTRIC SUPERINTENDENT position open in the City of Miller, SD electric department. Visit www.cityofmiller.com for a job description, application, and more details. Salary DOE. EOE.

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Brown County April 14, 2020 County Equal.

APRIL 14, 2020 - BROWN COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

This being the second Tuesday, April 14, 2020, the Brown County Commission organized themselves as the Brown County Board of Equalization, in accordance with SDCL 10-11-25, at 10:30 A.M. in the Community Room, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota. Oaths of office were taken by Commissioners Mike Wiese, Duane Sutton, Rachel Kippley, Dennis Feickert and Doug Fjeldheim. Director of Equalization Gene Loeschke and Office Assistant Becky Desens were also present. Auditor Cathy McNickle called the meeting to order and called for nominations for Chairman.

Commissioner Sutton nominated Rachel Kippley as Chair for the 2020 Brown County Board of Equalization. Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Commissioner Kippley as Chair of the 2020 Brown County Board of Equalization. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Sutton to instruct the Director of Equalization to reduce values on all properties qualifying for Assessment Freeze for the Elderly and Disabled for 2020. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Wiese to instruct the Director of Equalization to reduce values on all properties qualifying for 100% Disabled Veteran Exemption for 2020. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Sutton to instruct the Director of Equalization to reduce values on all properties qualifying for Paralegic Veteran Exemption and Paralegic Exemption for 2020. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve the applications submitted per SDCL 10-4-15 for 100% Tax Exempt Status (complete listing available for public inspection Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Director of Equalization Office, 25 Market Street Ste 6, Aberdeen, SD). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve 100% Tax Exempt Status, as requested, for the following new applications: Aberdeen City #32: AVERA ST LUKES on #1E PHYSICIANS PLAZA BK 83 HAGERTY & LLOYD ADD (SUITE E105); AVERA ST LUKES on LT 3 HAGERTY'S RESD BK 73 HAGERTY & LLOYD ADD; Brown County on LT 5-6 BK 15 ORIGINAL PLAT; FOHO I, LLC on LT 6 BK 1 NORMAL ADD; FOHO I, LLC on LT 2 RANDALL 1ST SD (B1 NORMAL); FOHO I, LLC on LT 2 JOHNSONS 1ST RPL OF LT 1 JOHNSONS RPL LT 5-6 BK 26 THOMAS ADD; FOHO I, LLC on LT 7 BK 1 NORMAL ADD; NORTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY on S 40' LT 2 & N 3' LT 3 SD OF N 421.7' BK 9 SIMMONS 1ST ADD; NORTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY on LT 1 & N 7' LT 2 SD OF N 421.7' BK 9 SIMMONS 1ST ADD 1ST ADD; NORTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY on LT 2 JOHNSONS RPL OF LT 5-6 BK 26 THOMAS ADD; Frederick City #38 FREDERICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT on N 62' LT 7 & N 62' OF W 40' LT 8 BK 2 ORIG PL FREDERICK; West Hanson #49MEHLHAFF CEMETERY on MEHLHAFF CEMETERY SW 28-122-61; Aberdeen Twp #20 Brown County on SW SE 1-123-64. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve partial Tax Exempt Status, as requested, for the following applications: # 32 ABERDEEN CITY REQUESTS FOR LESS THAN 100% AVERA ST LUKES 32 %on #1B PHYSICIANS PLAZA BK 83 HAGERTY & LLOYD ADD (SUITE W240) 3.34% INTEREST; FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 33 %on LT 12-13 BK 29 SD OF LT 4-5 BK 29 1ST ADD & LT 12-13 BK 29 2ND ADD; TDAF/ TOM AMAN 100 %on LT 1 BLACKSTONE 2ND SD (2.48AC) (RR ROW); AVERA ST LUKES 40 %on LT 3 AVERA-LAND-O-LAKES 2ND SD (B72 H&L & OL 2 LANES); AVERA ST LUKES 49 %on LOT 2 AVERA-LAND-O-LAKES 2ND SD AVERA ST LUKES 54 %on LT 4 HAGERTY & LLOYDS 3RD SD SE 13-123-64 ABERDEEN DEVELOPMENT CORP 62 %on LT 1 ABDN DEV CORP 2001-1 SD NE 16-123-63 (INDUSTRIAL PK EAST); ACT 2 INC 63 %on #2 MIDWEST CAPITOL PROJECT OF LT 10-12 BK 27 1ST ADD; ACT 2 INC 63 %on #3 MIDWEST CAPITOL PROJECT

OF LT 13-18 BK 27 1ST ADD EX MEZZANINE HALLWAY UNIT 3; ACT 2 INC 63 %on MEZZANINE STORAGE UNIT 4A #4 MIDWEST CAPITOL PROJECT OF LT 13-18 BK 27 1ST ADD; AVERA ST LUKES 71 %on LT 1 AVERA ST LUKES SD (B73&82 H&L); AVERA ST LUKES 72 %on LOT 1 AVERA-LAND-O-LAKES 2ND SD; AVERA ST LUKES 77 %on LT 1 AVERA ST LUKES SD (B73&82 H&L)

LOYAL ORDER OF MOOSE LODGE #590 80 %on LT 1-8 & ALL OF VAC ALLEY BLK 54 2ND ADDN; YELDUZ TEMPLE 90 %on LT 1 YELDUZ CORNER SD (LT 1-3 BK 50 2ND ADD) FREEDOM WORSHIP CENTER 100 %on LT 2 ADC 2005-1 SD NE 16-123-63 (INDUSTRIAL PK EAST); AVERA ST LUKES 99 %on LT 1 AVERA ST LUKES ADD (B86, 87, & 96 H&L ETC) # 22 WARNER TWP REQUESTS FOR LESS THAN 100%; FOUNDATION FOR YOUTH FIREARMS SAFETY INC 80% on N 820' OF SE 15-122-64 E OF RR EX HWY; # 33 GROTON CITY REQUESTS FOR LESS THAN 100%; GROTON AMERICAN LEGION POST # 39 60 % on LT 22-25 BK 11 ORIG PLAT GROTON; GROTON COMMUNITY TRANSIT INC. 75 % on LT 9-12 BLK 10 ORIG PLAT GROTON; # 35 HIGHLAND TWP REQUESTS FOR LESS THAN 100%; ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMS (HIGHLAND) 85 % on ST JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OL LOTS 1 & 2 SW 24-122-65. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to remove Tax Exempt status on the following:

FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES LT 4-12 BLK 22 1ST ADDITION; AVERA ST LUKES #1A PHYSICIANS PLAZA SUITE W140; NORTHEASTERN MENTAL HEALTH CENTER LT 9-10 BK 23 HAGERTY & LLOYD ADD; NORTHEASTERN MENTAL HEALTH CENTER LT 3 BLK 6 ADDISONS ADDITION; NORTHEASTERN MENTAL HEALTH CENTER LT 1 BK 1 HYDE PARK 1ST ADD. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

REMOVE EXEMPT STATUS: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Sutton to deny exemption request from Ellsbee Estates of Aberdeen Inc. on LT 12 HHS PROPERTIES 3RD SD (LT 9 HHS PROPERTIES SD) and add \$10,890 value. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

APPEALS: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization: ONEOTA Township #6 MICHAEL MORLOCK on LT 2 PENCE ADD SE 2-126-64 1986 SCHULT 28X60 VIN # 198936AB (TITLE SURRENDERED) from \$74,660 to \$67,047; STRATFORD Township #45 EUGENE FACE on LT 1-2 BK 13 STRATFORD from \$2,700 to \$1,700; ABERDEEN Township #20 KBJ INVESTMENTS LLC on LT 1 WHITNEYS 1ST ADD SE 16-123-64 (2.35 A) from \$176,277 to \$139,918; NORTH DETROIT Township #9 COLBY OLSON on BOLS S2 NE 15-127-60 (MH) 2000 PATRIOT PAT24761IN from \$17,450 to \$17,450 - REMOVED O.O.; LIBERTY Township #31 ROLLIN STEARNS on BRETSCH'S OL 1 NE 9-128-62 from \$79,753 to \$75,753; HECLA CITY Township #40 ELAINE FROHLING on LT 7-8 BK 38 SD N2 BK 25 & 35-46 & OL M HECLA VLG from \$59,844 to \$56,382; PRAIRIEWOOD Township #53 MOCCASIN CREEK COUNTRY CLUB on PRAIRIEWOOD VLG OL 6 NE 33-124-63 EX LT 1 (73 AC) from \$495,794 to \$427,671; PRAIRIEWOOD Township #53 MOCCASIN CREEK COUNTRY CLUB on PRAIRIEWOOD VLG OL 7 E2 33-124-63 from \$1,385,772 to \$1,143,325; ABERDEEN Township #20 TROY WOEHL on LT 3 BK C DROOG 1ST SD S2 22-123-64 from \$374,961 to \$368,825; ABERDEEN Township #20 ANGELA HUFFMAN on LT 1 HUFFMAN'S SD LT 2 B & J 1ST SD NE 15-123-64 from \$264,511 to \$256,810; ABERDEEN Township #20 TERRY HUFFMAN on LT 2 HUFFMAN'S SD LT 2 B & J 1ST SD NE 15-123-64 from \$330,058 to \$297,945; BRAINARD Township #7 FELTL JOHN on SW 7-126-63 EX HWY from 178,972 to \$131,377; BRAINARD Township #7 FELTL JOHN on SE 6-126-63 EX LAND DEEDED from \$26,9107 to \$233223; BRAINARD Township #7 FELTL JOHN on SW 6-126-63 from \$309,482 to \$242,198 to maintain equalization. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

RECESS: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to recess the Board of Equalization recessed until 10:30 a.m. on April 21, 2020.
 Cathy McNickle - Brown County Auditor
 Published once at the total approximate cost of \$83.45. 18885

Brown County April 14, 2020 Meeting Minutes

ARIL 14, 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 Fjeldheim seconded by Sutton to approve the general meeting minutes from April 7th, 2020. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

Payroll: Commission \$4,285.10; Auditor \$8,721.00; Treasurer \$13,527.19; SA \$21,786.27; SVAWA \$1,193.49; Maintenance \$7,344.95; Assessor \$12,798.93; Register of Deeds \$8,983.39; VSO \$2,482.59; GIS \$2,387.50; IT \$4,581.28; HR \$2,173.85; Sheriff \$40,002.60; Jail \$46,330.28; Court Security \$5,735.15; JDC \$21,379.17; Welfare \$2,077.70; Museum \$7,441.94; Parks/Fairgrounds \$4,986.55; Fair Board \$3,969.88; 4-H \$614.00; Weed \$825.02; Planning & Zoning \$4,494.25; Highway \$48,791.29; Dispatch \$23,900.56; Emergency \$4,119.58; Teen Court \$600.40; JDAI \$1,596.93; 24/7 Sobriety \$3,404.15; Landfill \$14,726.82; MATCHING BENEFITS: FICA \$19,294.99; Medicare \$4,512.49; Discovery HSA \$200.00

Claims: Insurance: SDACC \$16,914.00. Professional Fees: Aberdeen Advanced Care Ambulance \$270.37; Aberdeen City Treasurer \$500.00; AMG – Emergency \$79.68; AMG- Radiology \$231.81; Avera St. Luke's \$2,521.19; Kristi Brandt \$31.50; Certified Languages \$1,027.95; Dean Schaefer Court Reporting \$288.00; GBR Interpreting \$366.00; Haar Law Firm \$42.20; Helms & Assoc. \$1,396.15; Mark Katterhagen \$36.00; Kuck Law Office \$53.20; Lewis & Clark BHS \$356.00; Lucy Lewno \$230.00; LexisNexis \$150.00; Darcy Lockwood \$36.00; Jerold McNeary \$2,421.80; Microfilm Imaging \$1,615.00; Minnehaha Co. Auditor \$98.50; Matthew Payne \$200.00; Thomas Price \$1,800.00; Sanford Clinic \$606.00; Sanford Health \$10,075.95; Sanford Health Occupational Medicine \$182.00; SD Attorney General's Office \$466.00; SD Dept. of Revenue & Regulation \$740,998.82; Spitzer Miller Funeral Home \$4,484.00; Yankton Co. Sheriff \$50.00. Publishing: Aberdeen American News \$283.04; Groton Independent \$564.58; Hub City Radio \$300.00. Rentals: 446-Praxair \$25.79. Repairs & Maintenance: Ace Refrigeration \$236.64; Chris & Dan's Tarp & Canvas Repair \$135.00; Clark Engineering \$1,202.37; Dakota Doors \$61.22; Exec. Mgmt. \$747.40; Graham Tire \$24.61; Groton Ford \$21.55; Lien Transportation \$225.00; Pierson-Ford \$69.23; Pomp's Tire Service \$5,341.66; Schwan Welding \$612.00; Service Signs \$1,303.35; Steven Lust Automotive \$54.46; TranSource \$6,296.88. Supplies: AgTegra \$12,299.95; Bonnie Bitz \$96.00; Dakota Oil \$300.31; Gall's \$1,323.92; Geffdog \$1,843.50; J Gross Equip. \$415.02; LG Everist \$4,939.30; Lucy Lewno \$6.50; Matheson Tri-Gas \$1,095.42; Menards \$42.16; Pomp's Tire Service \$1,102.64; Pro Ag Supply \$2,338.19; Satellite Tracking of People \$552.50; Sewing Shoppe \$24.00; TranSource \$317.22. Travel & Conf.: Duane Sutton \$112.80. Utilities: Aberdeen City Treasurer \$1,509.72; City of Hecla \$212.33; Exec. Mgmt. \$70.87; Northern Electric \$86.00; NWPS \$98.25; Web Water Development \$93.48. Other: Safe Harbor \$677.50; SDACO \$1,022.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT:
Moved by Feickert seconded by Sutton to approve the following HR Office Report, which includes the following personnel changes: Acknowledge 24/7 Sobriety staff with the Brown County Sheriff's office laid-off effective April 6, 2020.; Approve the following personal miles driven to be taxed at a rate of .575 per mile: February: Kendall Titze- 102 miles @ \$58.65; John Florey @ \$102 @ \$58.65; Dirk Rogers 570 miles @ \$327.75; Mike Scott 160 miles @ \$92. March: Kendall Titze- 108 miles @ \$62.10; John Florey @ \$126 @ \$72.45; Dirk Rogers 722 miles @ \$415.15; Mike Scott 160 miles @ \$92.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

SHERIFF REPORTS:
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the following March 2020 Sheriff Reports:

Incidents and offenses, Prisoner care, JDC, and Money deposited with the County Treasurer. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

NOTICE OF HEARING – ALCOHOL LICENSE:

Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to set hearing date and authorize publication of notice for alcohol licenses. 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. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ABATEMENT:
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to deny abatement request from Raymond Nutting. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY:

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following applications for occupancy: Northern Valley Communications for occupancy of Brown County Highway Number 16, in section 19, township 123, range 62, Brown County, South Dakota and Highway 16, in section 8, Township 123, range 62, Brown County South Dakota for telecommunications. Midco for occupancy of Brown County Highway Number 132nd st, in section 15, township 123N, Range 64W, Brown County, South Dakota and Highway Number 388th ave, in section 6, township 123N, Range 63W, Brown County, South Dakota for telecommunications. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

REPAYMENT OF DELINQUENT TAXES:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve repayment of delinquent tax agreements on file with the Brown County Treasurer. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

QUARTERLY INTEREST:
Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Sutton to accept for filing the Quarter 1 interest statement in the amount of \$26,034.12, as submitted by County Interim Treasurer Patty VanMeter. All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

NOTICE OF HEARING – ROOFING CONTRACTORS:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to set hearing date and authorize publication of notice for roofing contractors. Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received for removal of existing rubber roof and installation of new rubber roofing system on the Brown County Courthouse. Bid specs are on file with Brown County Maintenance and can be obtained at no charge. Bid opening scheduled for May 5th, 8:45a.m., courthouse annex, 25 Market St. All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

MPS CHANGE ORDER:
Change order for managed print service presented. Request for more information on rate changes. No action taken.

BID OPENING:
Place and time as advertised, to open read and consider bids for domestic hot water tank and pump. Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to award bid to Haar Plumbing and Heating in the amount of \$65,651.00. Haar Plumbing and Heating was the sole bidder. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

REZONE ORDINANCES – FIRST READING:

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Sutton to approve first reading on the following rezoning ordinances:

ORD 160: An ordinance to amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances as amended to rezone certain described property. Applicant Clarence Habeck to change the zoning on the following described property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG): Lots 1 & 2, "C&L Habeck's 1st Subdivision" in the SW1/4 of Section 27-T124N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (12854 & 12862 391st Ave).

ORD 161: An ordinance to amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances as amended to rezone certain described property. Applicant Keith Miller to change the zoning on the following described property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG): "K. Miller Addi-

tion" in the SW1/4 of Section 15-T122N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (38514 139th St).

ORD 162: An ordinance to amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances as amended to rezone certain described property. Applicant Jeff Hanson to change the zoning on the following described property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG): Lot 2, "JT Hanson Farm Addition" in the SE1/4 of Section 9-T126N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (39698 114th St).

ORD 163: An ordinance to amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances as amended to rezone certain described property. Applicant Jeff Hanson to change the zoning on the following described property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG): Lot 2, "JT Hanson Farm Addition" in the SE1/4 of Section 10-T126N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (11396 397th Ave).

ORD 164: An ordinance to amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances as amended to rezone certain described property. Applicants A.) Jamie Jones and Steven Goetz, B.) Bruce Jones and Sandy Jones to change the zoning on the following described property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG): A.) "Lockwood's Outlot 1" in the NE1/4 of Section 24/T123N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (37963 133rd st). B.) "Jones's Outlot 1" in the NE1/4 of Section 24-T123N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. (37965 133rd st).

ORD 165: An ordinance to amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances as amended to rezone certain described property. Applicant Paul Meyers to change the zoning on the following described property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.16 Heavy Industrial District (H-1): Lot 2, "Luke's Landing Addition" in the N1/2 of Section 13-T123N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (13245 394th Ave).

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

BUDGET SUPPLEMENT PUBLIC HEARING:

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following 2020 budget supplement for the Modernization and Preservation Fund 251.5.163.422 @ 32,297.92 funded by undesignated surplus cash in the Modernization and Preservation Fund 251.1.101.99. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LANDFILL SPRING RESIDENTIAL CLEANUP:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve waiving fees on all material types from Residential Users only during the Spring Residential Cleanup at the Brown County Landfill, to be held from April 24 thru May 9, 2020. No large demo projects (houses, tree belts etc) will be allowed for free. No free waste will be accepted from commercial contractors or businesses (including mobile homes). In the event circumstances beyond the control of Brown County (flood, tornado, fire, other) would occur during the FREE Cleanup period the Brown County Commission reserves the right to end the free cleanup period at such time and implement the regular fee structure. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ABSENTEE VOTING UPDATE:

Cathy McNickle, County Auditor gave an update on absentee voting and how voting will be conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic. Absentee voting starts Friday April 17th and can be conducted by mail or in person. Voters are encouraged to vote by mail as the safest way to vote. In person voting will be following CDC guidelines and social distancing recommendations.

SERVER SWITCH PROJECT QUOTES:

Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Sutton to approve the server switch project quote from ByteSpeed in the amount of \$5,555. Rejecting quotes from ByteSpeed (alternate quote) in the amount of \$6,785, RediTech in the amount of \$75,000, RTI in the amount of \$15,995, and Loffler in the amount of \$19,570. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

RTI VMWARE LICENSE RENEWAL:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Kippley to approve VMWare Maintenance Renewal quote in the amount of \$12,659.09 from Riverside Technologies, Inc. All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

COVID-19 DISCUSSION:

Update from Scott Meints, Emergency Management on COVID-19. Recommendation that departments limit work related travel to what is necessary only. No action taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:05 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$137.82. 18882

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

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 & Analyt-

ics, Hot Springs, AR; Construction Plans Exchange of Bismarck-Mandan, Bismarck, ND; or Construction Plans Exchange of Fargo-Moorhead, Fargo, ND.

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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 \$111.80. 18859

Brown County April 14 Consolidated Mtg

APRIL 14, 2020 – CONSOLIDATED BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

Members of the Brown County Commission, Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeen School District 6-1 organized themselves as the 2020 Consolidated Board of Equalization, in accordance with SDCL 10-11-66 at 1:00 P.M. on April 14, 2019 in the Community Room, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota. Oaths of Office were taken by Commissioners Duane Sutton, Rachel Kippley, Aberdeen School Board Member Duane Alm and Aberdeen Mayor Travis Schanaman (teleconference). Director of Equalization Gene Loeschke and Deputy Director of Equalization Russell Metz were also present. Meeting was called to order and called for nominations for Chair.

Commissioner Sutton nominated Commissioner Kippley as Chairman for the 2020 Con-

solidated Board of Equalization. Moved by Sutton, seconded by Alm that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Commissioner Kippley for Chairman of the 2020 Consolidated Board of Equalization. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

APPEALS:

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Sutton to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization: Aberdeen City #32 KYBURZ CARLSON CONSTRUCTION on LT 23 AUTO PLAZA ADD from \$173,163 to \$164,071; FURN USA ABERDEEN LLC on LT 1 DIAL 4TH ADD S2 17-123-63 (LT 3 DIAL 2ND ADD) from \$3,897,629 to \$3,369,985; JORDAN PARK LIMITED on S 300' OL 4A GANJE ADD OF MELROS EST from \$1,766,600 to \$1,455,826; LAMONT STRIP MALL I LLC on LT 5 LAMONT 5TH ADD (N2 NE 20-123-63) from \$121,792 to \$1203949; LAMONT STRIP MALL III LLC on LT 1 LAMONT 10TH ADD N2 20-123-63 from \$826804 to \$799746; LAMONT STRIP MALL III LLC on LT 2 LAMONT 10TH ADD N2 20-123-64 from \$832400 to \$806162; PATRICK SCHUMACHER on LT 2 PRAIRIE'S EDGE 9TH ADD from \$558682 to \$510888 to maintain equalization. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

RECESS:
Moved by Alm, seconded by Sutton to declare the Board of Equalization recessed until 1:00 p.m. on April 28, 2020.

Cathy McNickle – Brown County Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$23.80. 18884

Brown County Roofing Bid Notice

NOTICE TO ROOFING CONTRACTORS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown

County Board of Commissioners at the Brown County Courthouse Annex, 25 Market

Street Suite 1, Aberdeen, South Dakota; until the hour of 8:45 A.M. on May 5, 2020, at said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read and considered by the Brown County Board of Commissioners for: Project – Remove existing rubber roof and install a new rubber roofing system on the Brown County Courthouse..

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

Street Suite 1, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401 and be marked on the envelope.

"Brown County Courthouse Roof" to be opened on May 5, 2020.

PROPOSAL GUARANTY: No proposal will be considered unless accompanied by a certified check, a cashier's check or bank draft, for 5% of the amount of the bid, such check to be issued by either a state or a national bank and payable to Brown County, or in lieu thereof a bid bond for 10% of the amount of the bid, such bond to be issued by a surety company authorized to do business in South Dakota and payable to Brown County.

PERFORMANCE BOND: Brown County will give notice to the successful bidder that

the proposal has been accepted, and said bidder shall within ten (10) days thereafter enter into a contract with Brown County and furnish a performance bond in an amount equal to the contract price.

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

Copies of the specifications are on file at the Brown County Maintenance, 25 Market Street Suite 1, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401 and obtained at no charge. Phone: 605-626-7124.

ATTEST:

Cathy McNickle
Brown County Auditor
(0422.0429)

Published twice at the total \$44.08. 18883

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The Groton Independent

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Paul Irvin Kosel, Publisher paperpaul@grotonsd.net ~ 605-397-7460

Tina Kosel, Office Manager office@grotonsd.net ~ 605-397-7285

Notices: legals@grotonsd.net

News Items: news@grotonsd.net

Deadline to submit items: Noon Monday]
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Postmaster: Send address changes to Groton Independent, PO Box 34, Groton, SD 57445

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Groton Independent

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Groton, SD 57445-0034

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Trust the Scientific Process

It is the year 2020, and we find ourselves in the midst of a rapidly changing, worldwide pandemic of a novel Coronavirus. This virus and public knowledge of it has spread and changed with greater speed than our scientific method can accommodate. Science, and the progression of medical knowledge, is by nature and necessity slow and methodical. This pandemic is neither. But we ought not abandon our deliberate striving for truth; not now, not because it feels too slow.

The gold standard in medical science, the randomized controlled trial (or RCT), is a relatively new development in the history of medicine. The British epidemiologist Sir Bradford Hill is credited with designing and publishing the first RCT in medical science, a study of streptomycin in treating tuberculosis, in 1948. Sure, even randomized controlled trials are never perfect, and they require large numbers of patients, time, and investment. However, their design does seek to remove variables that are sure to taint all other trial designs. They are the best we have, especially when it comes to evaluating a therapeutic intervention.

Much speculation has arisen, both in the medical community and the media, about possible drug therapies for this disease: hydroxychloroquine, azithromycin, remdesivir, convalescent plasma, and others. Why have so many physicians and scientists been less-than-fully-enthusiastic about these interventions? It is because we do not have sufficient data yet. There has not been time for any quality randomized controlled trials.

Still, if these things might help, why not just throw them at patients with severe cases of COVID-19? What do we have to lose? The truth is, the history of medicine is flush with examples of therapies that we thought would be helpful – studies in the lab were favorable, we had promising initial observational data, and expert opinion was in favor of it – but, when put to the test, they were not. In many of these cases the interventions turned out not only to be not helpful, but harmful, when they were tested in a randomized controlled trial.

We must demand a high threshold of proof before accepting therapy as effective. History has taught us that mistakes are made if we do not. We want solid evidence that an intervention helps more than it hurts before recommending we give it to everyone with this disease. Yes, even if it seems slow.

One thing is for certain: our collective scientific energy will be best spent investing in developing a vaccine for this highly contagious virus. Fortunately, there are very smart people all over the world working around the clock in this endeavor. A vaccine: now that would be a game-changer.

In the meantime, our best defense against this pandemic continues to be social distancing – so stay home and minimize contact with others. The more we flatten the curve now, the more people will benefit from the hard work of science in the future.

Kelly Evans-Hullinger, MD is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices internal medicine in Brookings, South Dakota. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit www.prairiedoc.org and follow Prairie Doc® on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show streaming on Facebook and broadcast on SDPB most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.



By Kelly Evans-Hullinger, M.D. ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

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 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:
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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.

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

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$115.46. 18862

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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.

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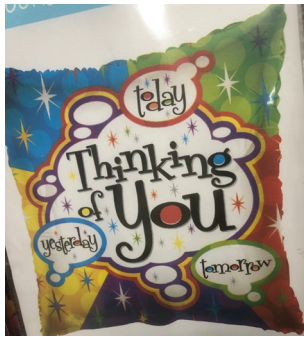
BY:
Hope Block, Finance Officer
PUBLISHING DATES: April 15, 2020 & April 22, 2020
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$116.50. 18858

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 \$28.21. 18864



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Groton area

Groton Area Third Quarter Honor Roll Seniors

4.0 GPA: Kaycie Hawkins, Nicole Marzahn, Kayla Jensen, Indigo Rogers, Kaylin Kucker, KaSandra Pappas, Kya Jandel

3.99-3.50: Caitlynn Barse, Tadya Glover, Tashayla Fetherman, Payton Colestock, Noah Poor, Madeline Schuelke, Eliza Wanner

3.49-3.00: Cole Johnson, Benjamin Higgins, Jamesen Stange, Austin Jones, Rylee Rosenau, Kimberly Kohrs, Thomas Cranford, Ashley Fliehs

Juniors

4.0 GPA: Isaac Smith, Tanae Lipp, Erin Unzen, Grace Wambach, Sage Mortenson, Alexa Herr, Alexis Hanten, Regan Leicht

3.99-3.50 Alex Morris, Brooklyn Gilbert, Tessa Erdmann, Samantha Pappas, Trey Gengerke, Hailey Monson, Chandler Larson, Grace Wiedrick, Kannon Coats

3.49-3.00 Dragr Monson, Paxton Bonn, Jasmine Gengerke, Alyssa Fordham, Braden Freeman, Steven Paulson, Eh Tha You Say, Connor Lehman, Lucas Simon, Chloe Daly

Sophomores

4.0 GPA: Jordan Bjerke, Madeline Fliehs, Trista Keith, Travis Townsend

3.99-3.50: Seth Johnson, Allyssa Locke, Stella Meier, Hannah Gustafson, Kansas Kroll, Kennedy Anderson, Torrence Wiseman, Pierce Kettering, Jace Kroll, Julianna Kosel, Madisen Bjerke, Alyssa Thaler

3.49-3.00: Megan Fliehs, Lane Krueger, Ryder Daly, River Pardick

Freshmen

4.0 GPA: Ethan Clark, Jackson Dinger, Jacob Lewandowski

3.99-3.50: Cole Simon, Andrew Marzahn, Kaleb Antonsen, Elliana Weismantel, Caleb Hanten, Porter Johnson, Aspen Johnson, Gracie Traphagen, Cadance Tullis, Cole Bisbee, Jacelynn Gleason, Sierra Ehresmann

3.49-3.00: Brenna Carda, Isaac Higgins, Brooke Gengerke, KayLynn Overacker, Jackson Bahr, Carter Barse, James Brooks, Shalyn Foertsch, Hollie Frost, Ava Kramer, Marlee Tollifson, Kamryn Fliehs, Michael Aalseth, Dylan Anderson, Tate Larson Tyson Parrow

Eighth Graders

4.0 GPA: None

3.99-3.50: Emily Clark, Kyleigh Englund, Claire Heinrich, Camryn Kurtz, Hannah Monson, Holden Sippel, Jaycie Lier, Ashlyn Sperry, Anna Bisbee, Abigail Jensen, Cadence Feist, Lexi Osterman, Lydia Meier, Lane Tietz

3.49-3.00: Sydney Leicht, Anna Fjeldheim, Faith Fliehs, Karsyn Jangula, Sara Menzia, Dillon Abeln, Bradin Althoff, Jackson Garstecki

Seventh Graders

4.0 GPA: Payton Mitchell, Axel Warrington

3.99-3.50: Gretchen Dinger, Elizabeth Fliehs, Aiden Heathcote, Ashlyn Feser, Jeslyn Kosel

3.49-3.00: Rebecca Poor, Blake Pauli, Faith Traphagen, Laila Roberts, Emma Kutter, Kaden Kampa, Kellen Antonsen, Savannah Bible, Blake Dennert, Carter Simon, Turner Thompson

Sixth Graders

4.0 GPA: Nathan Unzen

3.99-3.50: Jaedyn Penning, Carly Gilbert, Jerica Locke, Lucas Carda, Mia Crank, Natalia Warrington, Talli Wright, Karter Moody, Benjamin Hoelt, Logan Warrington

3.49-3.00: Garrett Schultz, Gage Sippel, Karol Flores Torres, Raelee Lilly, Ryder Johnson, De Eh Tha Say, London Bahr, Rylee Dunker, Landon Smith, Olivia Stiegelmeier, Lincoln Krause, Karsten Fliehs, Jayden Schwan, Cali Tollifson, Keegen Tracy, Brady Wienk

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Need for food skyrocketing among poor or unemployed S.D. residents during pandemic

Nick Lowrey

South Dakota News Watch

Demand for food assistance among needy South Dakota residents has skyrocketed during the COVID-19 pandemic, and donations of food and the volunteers needed to help distribute it are becoming harder to find.

So far, the food collection and delivery systems in South Dakota have kept up and most families are getting the food they need.

But in early April, the state's largest network of food banks, Feeding South Dakota, said it expected food donations to fall by half for the month. At the same time, the 211 Helpline Center — a key connection between people in need and the organizations that provide help — has seen its number of calls for help more than double.

During the month of March 2020, the 211 Helpline Center received more than 2,280 calls from people running short of food, said Betsy Schuster, vice president of program development. In all of 2019, the Helpline Center fielded slightly more than 4,600 calls for food assistance, Schuster said.

The pandemic has left thousands of South Dakota families needing help on a number of fronts, both financially and in terms of meeting basic needs.

Many of the people asking for help are doing so for the first time and have no experience in managing a severe financial crisis, Schuster said. For some, the pandemic is the first time they have signed up for unemployment benefits, sought food stamps under the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or asked for help from food pantries, she said.

"It just compounds everything," Schuster said. "Not only are they looking for food, but they're also just looking for answers on what their next steps are, how do they pay rent, how do they pay their utility bill coming up. They're tough calls."

In February, the latest month for which data is available, there were 78,006 South Dakotans enrolled for SNAP benefits. About half those enrolled, 37,763, were children under the age of 18.

The number of people who are now, or soon will be, considered "food insecure" is not expected to fall anytime soon. The number of unemployed people in South Dakota is surging.

The first full week of April saw first-time unemployment claims in South Dakota hit 7,916, which was roughly 40 times higher than the first week of March. Demand for SNAP benefits and other government-run food security programs likely surged as well in March but data from last month won't be available until April 20, Department of Social Services spokesperson Max Wetz said.

Meanwhile, Feeding South Dakota expects to see higher demand for its services for up to a year.

"We're going to see the effects of the pandemic, and what we're doing to respond to it, for six to 12 months," said Jennifer Stensaas, communications coordinator for Feeding South Dakota.

The companies who make food products and the grocery stores who usually provide most of the food donations to Feeding South Dakota's parent network, Feeding America, don't have as much product to donate during the pandemic. Nationally, people have virtually



Despite being in an age category that is at higher risk for serious COVID-19 symptoms, longtime Pierre resident Don Zeller has continued to volunteer at the Feeding South Dakota distribution center during the pandemic. Photo: Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

stopped eating out and instead are buying more food from grocery stores, which means there are fewer surplus items for grocers to donate to food banks.

Meanwhile, the separate supply chain that serves restaurants, resorts and even schools has been unable to quickly shift gears and sell products to grocers. The companies that sell foods to restaurants don't typically have contracts to sell to grocery stores and such contracts are difficult and time consuming to secure. The food would need to be repackaged, too.

Also, creating a new delivery system to move large amounts of fresh food from fields to food banks would take too much time, labor and money for either farmers or food banks to handle while finances are already strained

"We're going to see the effects of the pandemic, and what we're doing to respond to it, for six to 12 months ... we're seeing fewer donated products, more purchased products and higher shipping costs."

-- Jennifer Stensaas, communications coordinator for Feeding South Dakota

by the pandemic.

"The whole system is in shock," said Evert Van der Sluis, an economics professor at South Dakota State University. "About half of the money that we spend on food is spent on food away from home. That food away from home, other than the takeout food, that market is pretty well shot. It's gone. So now, most people are eating their food at home and that's less expensive but switching to that new system cannot easily be done."

Still, some suppliers for the restaurant and hospitality industries have been able to donate products locally. In one recent example, Grand Prairie Foods in Sioux Falls, which sells prepared foods for hotels and other businesses, donated thousands of packets of scrambled eggs once destined for hotel continental breakfast bars, Stensaas said. Those packets were distributed April 14 during the first of what will be bi-weekly food distributions at W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds in Sioux Falls.

Usually, most of the food Feeding South Dakota gives away has been donated either by grocers or manufacturers to its parent or-

ganization Feeding America. The donations are then divided among Feeding America affiliates based on need and population. Large donations, such as the recent pledge of 10 million pounds worth of pork products to Feeding America made by the Smithfield Foods Inc, are divided up between states too, Stensaas said. Exactly how the Smithfield donation will be divided up hasn't been decided yet, she said.

The need for food aid has increased dramatically across America and because demand for groceries has also increased and is projected to cause a decline in food donations, Feeding South Dakota has had to start buying more food than it typically does in order to keep up with the increased need, Stensaas said. The situation has greatly added to the importance of monetary donations and cost-saving volunteer labor.

"We've got a couple of different things going on here," Stensaas said. "We're seeing fewer donated products, more purchased products and higher shipping costs. So we're really going to be asking for funds, asking for the community to help us pay to bring this product into South Dakota."

More volunteers needed, yet harder to find

Feeding South Dakota shuttered its food pantries in the state early on during the pandemic to ensure safety of employees, volunteers and customers, Stensaas said. Instead, the organization has switched much of its operation to pre-packing boxes and delivering them to a more diverse set of distribution sites.

As a consequence of pre-packing food boxes, the need for volunteers to pack the boxes has increased along with the demand for food aid. The pandemic, though, has limited the pool from which volunteers can be drawn.

"We used to benefit from the Department of Corrections work program. We don't have access to that anymore, and so really we're relying on everybody working overtime and volunteers coming in," Stensaas said. "Those are getting fewer and fewer

because people are afraid to come in. We're doing our very best to keep people six feet apart from each other and everyone's washing hands and using gloves and all of that, but the reality is that our workforce is getting slim."

The problem has become particularly acute at Feeding South Dakota's distribution hub in Pierre, which serves a wide swath of the state with its mobile food pantry trucks.

Several of the communities that the Pierre warehouse typically serves have seen up to 50% increases in demand for food aid, said Operations Manager Andy Walz. For example, 300 cars showed up at a recent drive-in food distribution in Fort Pierre, when usually there might be 200 served, he said.

"We've seen that rise depending on the com-



Jennifer Stensaas, Feeding South Dakota

Continues on next page

munity," Walz said. "It varies location to location, but we're seeing that greater increase."

During the week of April 6-10, the Pierre warehouse expected to distribute food to between 750 and 800 households in three communities — Fort Thompson, Pierre and Reliance. Each household was slated to receive two boxes of food totaling 60 pounds; one box for shelf-stable items and another for frozen or refrigerated items. That means about 1,600 boxes with roughly 96,000 pounds of food needed to be packed by hand.

On the afternoon of April 7, two volunteers packed dry, shelf-stable goods into boxes. Long-time Pierre resident Don Zeller, worked at the head of a collapsible conveyor, started the box-packing process with canned goods and juice. Despite being at high-risk of COVID-19, Zeller volunteered three days in a row during most recent weeks.



Andy Walz, Pierre operations manager for Feeding South Dakota, says the COVID-19 pandemic has forced the organization to adapt in order to keep providing food to needy people throughout South Dakota. Photo/video: Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

"This is a whole lot better than playing solitaire at home," he said.

Lynelle Asher has been a regular volunteer at the Pierre warehouse for years. Asher said packing boxes is one way to do her part in fighting against the disease.

"I'm nervous but I'm still going to keep doing this," Asher said. "If at least I'm here, I know I'm doing something."

Asher and Zeller were beefing up the stockpile of pre-packed food boxes. Thousands of the boxes were stacked floor-to-ceiling in the industrial warehouse on April 7 awaiting delivery. There were enough boxes, Walz said, to meet demand for a couple of weeks of mobile food pantry deliveries.

Having a stockpile of boxes on hand helps ensure reserves, but also requires more volunteers to continue preparations, Walz said.

Meals on Wheels, which delivers meals directly to elderly people in need, has also seen a sharp increase in demand for its service and volunteers, said George Larson, executive director of Meals on Wheels of western South Dakota.

In Rapid City, the number of households receiving meals jumped from about 470 at the beginning of March to about 597 in early April. Many communities in his service area have seen up to a 50% increase in demand for meals, Larson said.

"We've made some really amazing relationships here in town with Youth & Family Services, with YMCA, and even with the city of Rapid City," Larson said. "These organizations have actually stepped up and allowed their staff to be able to come volunteer for us."

Many, Many Balloons available at the Groton Independent 397-6397

Communities stepping up to meet the challenge

Even with a large pool of available volunteers, Meals on Wheels has had to increase the work hours for many of its paid, part-time staff, said Larson, who may hire more workers. All told, the organization has seen an additional \$150,000 worth of expenses during the pandemic to pay for more storage space, food and staff, Larson said.

"We have some truly amazing community partners. Through Black Hills Energy, the South Dakota Community Foundation, the Black Hills Area Community Foundation, there have been some very generous donations that

have offset a large portion of that," Larson said.

The future, though, is uncertain. Prominent midwest economists such as Neel Kashkari, president of the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank, say they are expecting the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic fallout to last up to 18 months. If that were to happen, demand for food aid would remain high.

At the same time, outbreaks of COVID-19 in meat processing facilities, such as the shuttered Smithfield Foods pork processing plant in Sioux Falls, are beginning to slow production of meat products. Processing plant closures threaten to create a longer-term disruption in the meat supply chain, which could drive meat prices higher, Van der Sluis said. Meat is already one of the most expensive items for food banks to obtain.

Similar disruptions are expected in produce markets as fresh fruit and vegetable crops become ready for harvest. Those crops often need to be harvested by hand with workers in close proximity to each other.

"This Smithfield plant closure is just one more thing that points out the vulnerability of these supply chains, whether they are global or not," Van der Sluis said.

Feeding South Dakota officials are working to make sure the organization is able to keep providing food to those who need it, even if prices rise and supplies run short, Stensaas said. In one effort to control costs, Feeding South Dakota has been working closely with its sister organizations in Minnesota, Nebraska and Wisconsin to avoid bidding wars on food products, Stensaas said.

The organization has sought more monetary donations and has had some success, Stensaas said. Since the beginning of April, Meals on Wheels and Feeding South Dakota have secured large, new financial commitments. The Black Hills Community Foundation on April 13, announced \$64,000 in grants as part of its Collective



Lynelle Asher packs boxes with food at the Feeding South Dakota distribution center in Pierre on April 7. She said volunteering is a way to fight back against COVID-19 and help people who are struggling to make ends meet during the pandemic. Photo: Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch


Impact Food Security Initiative. Both Meals on Wheels and Feeding South Dakota were awarded \$20,000.

On April 15, MDU Resources Group, a partnership between several natural gas companies, announced it would give \$500,000 to food banks and pantries, including the Lemmon, S.D. food pantry and Feeding South Dakota.

"We live in a really great state. People are really stepping up," Stensaas said. "Some are deciding to change the timing of their annual donations and some are donating in addition to their annual contributions."

Larson is confident that support from businesses, foundations and government will ensure his organization will continue to provide meals for those who need them. "We are going to be here today, tomorrow and into the future," he said.

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.



The Life of Betty Taylor

Private graveside services for Betty Taylor, 92, of Conde will be held at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, April 23rd at the Conde City Cemetery. Rev. Matt Proctor will officiate. Arrangements are under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Betty passed away April 17, 2020 at Avantara Groton.

Betty was born on June 14, 1927 in Conde to Henry and Elma (Claussen) Busing. She attended and graduated from Conde High School. Betty continued her education at Northern Normal College, where she earned her teaching certificate.

She worked in the college business office for several years before she began teaching. On March 25, 1950 she was united in marriage to Keith Taylor at the United Methodist Church, Conde. Together, they made their home on the farm and were blessed with two children. Betty enjoyed working on the farm operation, often helping to drive tractor or grain carts. In addition, she did many years of gardening work.

Betty was a member of the United Methodist Church in Conde. She was actively involved in the Women's Circle, choir and had served as the organist for nearly 40 years. Through the church, she took many mission and retreat outings, often traveling out of state.

Celebrating her life are her children, Rex (Larae) Taylor of Conde, Peggy (Peter) Tillman of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, three granddaughters, Carrie (Matt) Proctor, Alyssa Taylor, Nicole (Drew) Mickelson and 6 great-grandchildren, Taylor and Aubree Mickelson, Samuel, Caleb, Elias and Charity Proctor. Betty is also survived by two sisters, Wanda (Burleigh) Grimes of Crown Point, Indiana and Diane (Kenneth) Ketel of Rapid City.

Preceding her in death were her parents, her husband Keith in 2002 and one sister, Dolores Grimes.



THINKING ABOUT HEALTH

LOSING A JOB OFTEN MEANS ALSO LOSING INSURANCE

By Trudy Lieberman, Community Health News Service

The growing numbers of unemployed Americans – likely to hit 20 million or more thanks to the effects of the coronavirus – bring with them a loss of employer-provided health insurance coverage. The pandemic has laid bare the deficiencies in America's main vehicle for providing health insurance.

The system, which grew up after World War II as a way to attract workers, had already begun to decline. Over the past 20 years the share of non-elderly Americans covered by job-based insurance dropped from 68 percent to 57 percent. Significantly, that drop has been true for all income groups below \$104,800 for a family of four and about \$51,000 for a single person.

Those grim stats raise a crucial question: How will laid off middle-income workers be able to pay for insurance premiums on their own let alone the deductibles, coinsurance, and copays that come with policies these days? Many cannot.

Still if you are in this predicament or know someone who is, this column lays out the main options available. A warning: All have drawbacks.

As a general rule, the option that gives you the greatest coverage, for the lowest price, for the longest time is the best choice.

COBRA: The Consolidated Omnibus Budget Act passed in 1985 gives employees who have lost job-based coverage the right to remain on their employers' policies for at least 18 months, longer under some circumstances. COBRA applies to employers with 20 or more employees, and workers who've lost their jobs have to pay the entire premium plus a small administrative fee. The average annual family premium for employer-provided coverage last year was \$20,500 with the employee paying only \$6,000 of that amount. This isn't likely to be a great option for someone who was just laid-off.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT policies are a better option for many workers who've lost their jobs. While they are a good solution for some people, they are problematic for others. Those with low and middling incomes below 250 percent of poverty, or a little more than \$64,000 for a family of four, should consider an ACA policy. You'll receive government help paying the premium and, most important, help paying the

deductibles, coinsurance, and copays, which are increasingly pinching family budgets, making it hard for them to afford care.

Families with incomes between 250 percent and 400 percent of poverty (nearly \$105,000 for the family of four) do get some help paying the premiums, but the amount of help declines the higher the income. The biggest problem for families in this group is that there is no help from the Affordable Care Act with the cost-sharing expenses: deductibles, co-insurance, and co-pays. That makes these policies less attractive, especially when someone gets sick and finds that a deductible of \$8,000 means they won't get any help until they have paid at least that amount out of pocket.

If you don't qualify for cost-sharing subsidies, you'll have to make this choice: Go with a cheaper premium but higher cost sharing and be prepared to pay more if you get sick. Or pay more up front and have more protection when illness strikes.

Remember that having a preexisting health condition is not a barrier to obtaining an ACA policy. That is a huge help to anyone who is ill.

Since the president has said he will not open the federal ACA marketplaces now closed, you'll have to apply for a policy through a special provision that lets people enroll if they've lost employer coverage in the last 60 days or expect to lose it in the next 60 days. You can also qualify if you've lost coverage you had through a family member. Go to this website for more information: <https://www.healthcare.gov/glossary/special-enrollment-period/>

MEDICAID is a good option for people with very low incomes. It provides comprehensive coverage, but it's hard to get. In most states, an adult's income must be no greater than \$17,609 to qualify. Some states have even lower limits to receive benefits. Some have tried to impose work requirements as a condition for receiving benefits, but those are gone now. And the Families First Coronavirus Response Act that Congress passed on March 18 bans states from disenrolling anyone who was covered by Medicaid as of that date, making it easier to maintain coverage.

SHORT-TERM POLICIES are an alternative made available last year by the Trump administration. They offer coverage for up to three years and can cost as much as 50 percent less than more comprehensive policies. But they generally don't cover preexisting conditions and often don't cover maternity care, mental health, or prescription drugs. I call them the "buyer-beware" option because some consumers have purchased them only to be left with large bills when they got sick. If you're offered one of these, proceed with extreme caution.

Navigating this marketplace has never been easy. Send your health policy questions and concerns to Trudy at trudy.lieberman@gmail.com.

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