

THE Groton Independent

South Dakota
Growing Families & Opportunities

Vol. 137 No. 43 ♦ Groton, South Dakota ♦ Wednesday, June 24, 2020 ♦ Established in 1889

Groton Swimming Pool accommodates the Aberdeen Swim Club

In amidst the COVID-19 pandemic that has flooded the planet with closures and season cancellations, the Groton Swimming Pool is host to the Aberdeen Swim Club.

Aberdeen has closed down its aquatic center and the Aberdeen Family Y has limited access to the pool. That left the Aberdeen Swim Club with no place to practice, even though the season was cancelled.

According to Kileen Limvere, head coach for the Aberdeen Swim Club, "Technically our season is not being held. Our National governing body, USA Swimming, cancelled all meets until July. All major regional competition that is held in August has been cancelled and our state meet this summer is not taking place."

Limvere then explained the outline of the swimming season. "Swimming is a sport with two seasons Fall/Winter and Spring/Summer. One season builds off the next season. The longest break we take is August to mid September, six weeks. Our swimmers had 3 months off. Being a part of a swim team the athletes develop friendships with not only the swimmers but the families. Being isolated from friendships that have been developed over years is hard on anyone, on top of that also being unable to swim for 3 months puts emotional hardships as well as losing their fitness level. When a situation poses itself as hopeless you find goals and unity to bring your team together."

One thing that Limvere never did was give up. "Everyone in the nation was looking for pools. As a coach I saw no option but to look to neighboring communities to see who had pools, were they open, were they going to open and do they have any time available we could use without disturbing the local cities use." Limvere came across the information for the Groton Swimming Pool. She emailed Finance Officer Hope Block who passed on the information to one of the pool managers. "I got a call and drove over to visit and talk about the pool," Limvere said. "I was so grateful for the willingness of the pool managers to help us through this time. The kids have been so strong through the beginning of Covid but once the aquatics center closed it was a blow to our hope. But we just needed to press on."

Kami Lipp, one of the Groton Pool managers, said, "It's good to be a good neighbor. If we can help them, that's great. They have to work around our schedule, though." Lipp said that they practice Saturdays and Sundays and some Fridays, depending on the swimming lesson schedule. "Limvere brings her stuff, sets up the pool and then takes it down at the end," Lipp said. According to Lipp, each swimmer has to have a swim pass and the club also pays an hourly rate for the facility. "The swimmers don't come in the shack," Lipp said. "They enter and exit through the gates." Before the swimmers enter the facility, Limvere takes each person's temperature. Limvere said, "We are so happy not only with the pool; the managers at the pool have truly made this bad situation so easy for us and the team."

Matthew Grebner is in his final year of being on the Aberdeen Swim Team. He attends Aberdeen Christian and he said of practicing in the Groton pool, "I like it."



Kileen Limvere (pictured far right) is the head coach for the Aberdeen Swimming Club. She has been the head coach for three and one-half years and she actually swam on the team when she attended school. She is having a short discussion with this group of swimmers after their practice at the Groton Swimming Pool.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Proper CDC guidelines are being followed. Coach Kileen Limvere takes each person's temperature before they can enter the gate going to the pool. Limvere is taking the temperature of Addisyn Hoven. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

It is also interesting to note that South Dakota and Hawaii are the only states that do not have high school swim teams.

Practices will continue despite there being no meets. "Right now it doesn't look as though we would host a meet this season," Limvere said. "If we would we would need to do the meet in Aberdeen at the YMCA because they have starting blocks. It would be fun to do something in Groton before we finish for the season. So far hosting any type of meet would be difficult because of social distancing."

There is such a thing as a virtual swim meet where one team would race in their location and another team would swim in another location and place is awarded by time.

The Aberdeen Swim Club will be using the Groton facility through July and possibly a couple of weeks in August and then look to see what happens with the start of school.

- Paul Kosel



Megan Gustafson of Claremont has been swimming with the Aberdeen Swim Club for three years. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



There is social distancing even in the pool. Siblings can assemble in the same lane. Where there are other family members, when they rest, one is at one end of the pool and the other is at the other end. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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 June 9
 Regular Meeting**

The board of trustees for the town of Claremont met in regular session on 6-9-2020 at 3:30 p.m. President Johnson called the meeting to order with trustee Spencer present. Rasmussen absent. The minutes of the May meeting were reviewed and on a

motion by Spencer and seconded by Johnson were approved as written. On a motion by Johnson and seconded by Spencer the following warrants were allowed: General: Full Circle Ag, RFD dyed diesel, 48.15; Holland NAPA Auto Parts, battery, 131.38; NWE, lights, 397.49; James Valley, telecommunications, 87.25; Missi Smith, mowing x30 hrs., 277.05; First State Bank, city hall loan, 587.50; Shane Johnson, 9 meetings, 623.37; Frank Rasmus-

sen, 9 meetings, 623.37; Jason Spencer, 9 meetings, 623.37; Charla Rye, wage, 350.00; Jack Klinger, road work 3.5 hrs. 45.50; Post office, postage, 55.00; Claremont Fireworks, display, 1000.00; WSSW: Helms and Asso. Wastewater improvement phase, 12,030.00; Ecolab, pest elimination, 171.38; BDM, water purchased, 940.70; NWE, water,

206.73; NWE, sewer 209.30; Rural Development, loan payment, 576.00; With no further business before the board a motion was made to adjourn by Jason Spencer and seconded by Shane Johnson. Motion carried.
 CRye, F.O.

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Baseball Schedule

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
June 26	Legion	Clark	Groton	5:30 (2)
June 27	Jr. Teener	Lake Norden	Lake Norden	2:00 (2)
June 27	Legion	Redfield	Redfield	2:00 (1)
June 28	Jr. Teener	Northville	Groton	4:00 (2)
June 29	Jr. Legion	Redfield	Groton	6:00 (2)
June 29	Legion	Webster	Webster	6:00 (2)
June 30	Jr. Legion	Northville	Northville	6:00 (2)
July 1	Jr. Teener	Lake Norden	Groton	5:30 (2)
July 1	Legion	Northville	Northville	6:00 (2)
July 2	Jr. Teener	Clark	Groton	6:00 (2)
July 6	Jr. Legion	Clark	Groton	5:30 (2)
July 7	Legion	Redfield	Redfield	6:00 (2)
July 9	Jr. Legion	Milbank	Milbank	5:30 (1)
July 9	Legion	Milbank	Milbank	7:00 (1)
July 10	Jr. Legion	Faulton	Groton	6:00 (2)
July 14	Jr. Legion	Lake Norden	Lake Norden	5:30 (1)
July 14	Legion	Lake Norden	Lake Norden	7:00 (1)
July 15	Jr. Legion	Redfield	Redfield	6:00 (2)
July 15	Legion	Webster	Groton	6:00 (2)
July 20	Jr. Legion	Clark	Clark	6:00 (2)
July 20	Legion	Northville	Groton	6:00 (2)

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- Notify people you've had close contact with if you become ill
- Seek medical care if symptoms become severe

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Pandemic threatens fragile rural health-care system in South Dakota

Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

Editor's note: This article is the second of three parts of a special report by South Dakota News Watch called "Small Towns, Big Challenges."

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed a significant and unexpected financial burden on rural health-care providers who were already struggling to maintain hospitals and clinics that help keep small-town residents — and their communities — alive and well.

A slowdown in patient visits and drop in medical procedures due to fears of spreading the virus have led to a major loss of revenues for medical providers and health-care systems that serve rural areas. While the virus has not led to mass infections in small towns, the drop-off in activity and billable services has put stress on the already fragile financial state of many rural clinics, small hospitals and dental offices.

With the first wave of the pandemic possibly over, more safety measures in place and life returning somewhat to normal, most clinics and hospitals in rural South Dakota have headed off any imminent concern of closure.

Yet in a rural health-care system made up of a patchwork of providers and hospital systems, the losses from the pandemic could curtail the hiring of health-care workers, slow plans to expand services, and further restrict access to health care for hundreds of thousands of small-town and rural residents of the state.

In a state of 885,000 people spread out over roughly 76,000 square miles, and with only nine of 66 counties having more than 20,000 people, South Dakota is among the most rural of all states and home to a heavily diffused population. Even before the pandemic, that equation presented a major challenge for health-care providers to serve small-town and remote populations, and do so in a financially viable manner. Likewise, rural residents have a hard time getting adequate preventive, maintenance, emergency and palliative health care.



Thomas Worsley

Thomas Worsley, president of Spearfish Hospital and Hills Markets for Monument Health, the largest medical system in West River with its flagship hospital in Rapid City and smaller facilities in Hot Springs, Custer, Sturgis, Lead-Deadwood, Wall and Buffalo, among others. "It's always going to be at risk because it's not a profitable endeavor or something that is going to attract big dollars, but it's something that fills a real need in these rural communities."

Worsley, who also serves on the Future of Rural Health Task Force within the American Hospital Association, said the challenge for rural health-care providers and hospital groups is to maintain the highest level of care possible while also protecting the overall financial viability of the health-care system.

"If you polled all these rural health-care CEOs [on the task force], I think they all feel like they're fighting for their lives on a daily and yearly basis," he said.

Horizon Health Care, a rural health provider with more than two dozen medical and dental clinics in small towns across South Dakota, saw its revenue fall by roughly half in the weeks

after the pandemic hit and patients began staying home, according to Wade Erickson, chief financial and operations officer.

By early June, patient activity and revenues had returned to about 90% of normal, Erickson said, and the group benefited from receiving about \$3 million in emergency aid from the federal CARES Act pandemic bailout fund.

The aid and bounceback in procedures have been critical to Horizon, based in Howard, S.D., but especially to its patients in rural communities who are never turned away because of ability to pay, Erickson said. About a third of Horizon's funding comes from the federal government, and about 20% of its patients are uninsured.

"In really rural communities where we are, just about touching every corner of South Dakota, we're really the only access to care that they have," Erickson said.

Access to health care remains a serious challenge in much of rural South Dakota, where federal data show that residents tend to have greater rates of serious illness and death from diseases and far less access to doctors, nurses and dentists than in the state's few urban areas.

Rural residents "face a unique combination of factors that create disparities in health care not found in urban areas," according to the National Rural Health Association.

The South Dakota Office of Rural Health has performed a needs assessment that ranks all 66 counties in terms of resident health status, access to health care and other health-risk factors. Ten counties — all rural and several home to Native American reservations — have consistently ranked in the bottom quartile in all health and access categories (Buffalo, Bennett, Corson, Dewey, Gregory, Jackson, Mellette, Roberts, Todd and Ziebach.)

The pandemic has heightened the challenge of providing medical care to rural areas and small towns that the vast majority of South Dakotans call home.

The rural medical system in South Dakota varies by location, but in general, health care is provided through an informal continuum of care in which patients must travel more owing to the remoteness of their residence or as their care needs increase.

The smallest towns and most remote areas likely have no local health-care provider; as towns get larger, they are more likely to have non-emergency clinics that provide basic diagnostics or treatment during regular business hours; medium-size cities often have a "Critical Access Hospital" with 24/7 emergency services and greater diagnostic and treatment capabilities that qualify for significant federal funding; and urban areas are home to full-service hospitals with critical care, extensive diagnostics, multiple surgical options and specialty providers. In major medical emergencies, rural residents can expect to drive hundreds of miles or pay for a ride in an ambulance or a helicopter in order to survive.

During the pandemic, the urban medical centers in South Dakota collectively lost hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue due to a lack of elective surgeries and routine and preventive care. Though federal emergency funding has helped counter those losses, some staff was laid off and the long-term im-

pacts are still unknown.

Because they already had small staffs, most rural clinics were unable to cut positions or reduce services, though those providers also aren't yet sure what the future may hold as billing cycles close and revenue reductions become fully clear. As a result, the long-range effects of the pandemic on rural health care in South Dakota are not yet known.



Shelly Ten Napel

"Imagine running an operation that is mostly staff salaries and your revenue is cut in half or by a third, and you still have to try to make that work," said Shelly Ten Napel, CEO of the Community Healthcare Association of the Dakotas, which represents rural health providers.

Before and during the pandemic, Ten Napel has lobbied for greater state and federal support for community hospitals and clinics.

"Without help, we would not make it through this, or we would just make it and it would be such a different picture of [which] communities providers can afford to be in," she said.

Even with federal CARES Act aid, however, Ten Napel said elected officials, policymakers and the public must think deeply about the need for rural health care and find ways to continue to support providers who serve small communities.

"It's kind of mind-blowing when you see your revenue crater," she said. "We as a community

IN RURAL SOUTH DAKOTA, SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS ARE MORE COMMON WHILE HEALTH CARE IS LESS ACCESSIBLE

Rural South Dakotans have a higher rate of death from many health conditions, a higher prevalence of poverty and less access to health-care providers than non-rural residents, according to data from the Rural Health Information Hub. The following data show the rate of death per 1,000 residents or the prevalence of diseases in percentages in non-rural (metro) and rural (non-metro) areas.

CONDITION	NON-RURAL RATE	RURAL RATE
Heart disease	47.6 per 1,000	63.4 per 1,000
Cancer	72.3 per 1,000	86.4 per 1,000
Stroke	8.8 per 1,000	12.1 per 1,000
Lung/COPD	16.4 per 1,000	22.6 per 1,000
Accidental death	17.1 per 1,000	25.7 per 1,000
Diabetes	9.1%	10.6%
Obesity	30.7%	32.5%
Poverty	9.3%	16.2%
Child poverty	14.5%	19.1%
Healthy food access	49.7%	25.1%
Life expectancy	80.3 years	78.9 years

Meanwhile, doctors, dentists and nurses are far less accessible to rural residents of South Dakota compared to non-rural residents. The data indicate the number of practitioners available per 1,000 residents in 2018.

PRACTITIONER	NON-RURAL RATE	RURAL RATE
Physician	38.3 per 1,000	12.2 per 1,000
Dentist	8.5 per 1,000	5.4 per 1,000
Physician asst.	20.0 per 1,000	9.3 per 1,000
Nurse pract.	13.0 per 1,000	6.6 per 1,000

Notes: Death rates are rates per 1,000 residents from 2005-2016; illness percentages are from 2018; life expectancy is from 2014. Rural/non-rural designation based on population of counties. Sources of data include National Center for Health Statistics, Health Resources & Services Administration, Kaiser Family Foundation and U.S. Census.

The Groton Independent

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Yearly Subscription Rates are listed below.
The Groton Independent (USPS# 230-440) is published weekly with its periodicals postage paid at Groton, SD.

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need to figure out what services we think are important and figure out a way to support that. It's not enough to say, 'Well, this is a small town, it's not economically viable so they're just not going to have health care. We need to collectively figure out a reasonable set of services that can be provided.'

Ten Napel and others say that if rural health care is allowed to diminish, small towns in South Dakota and across the country — and the cherished way of life they provide — may falter or even cease to exist.

"We talk about the life of a town and a community and we've all seen different exoduses from Main Street, but once you get down to losing your health care, your school, your grocery store, a few of those core entities, at what point does a community become non-viable?"

Medical access a trade-off in rural areas

Federal data show that rural residents fare worse than their urban counterparts in several health-related categories, such as death rates from cancer, heart and lung disease and from accidents. They also tend to have higher rates of obesity and a lower life expectancy. While attitudes about medical care may play a role, medical experts say a lack of access to preventive care and a variety of treatment options is also a factor.

Conversely, some rural residents, such as farmers and ranchers, tend to be hearty and remain healthy into their elderly years, Worsley said. But they may also eschew preventive treatment and tend to suffer from slow-progressing illnesses like skin cancer and orthopedic problems that crop up after years of agricultural work.

Many small-town residents in South Dakota accept the trade-off they make when choosing a remote, rural lifestyle that doesn't include access to immediate or high-level medical care, Worsley said.

"The folks that live in those communities understand that they are not going to have at-the-elbow, immediate access to care, and that's one of the understandings they have about living in those locations," Worsley said. "I'm not sure those small towns need a cardiologist or a surgeon, but they really need strong access to primary care."

Rural clinics and hospitals in medium-size cities are a critical part of the health-care spectrum in rural America, providing basic care in small towns and more advanced diagnostics and treatment in the larger communities, he said.

Monument clinics in towns like Buffalo, Belle Fourche, Hill City, Hot Springs and Wall are able to provide rural residents with routine care but also foster strong relationships between provider and patient that allow for diagnosis and treatment of more serious issues.

In rural clinics, nurse practitioners or physician's assistants are able to provide basic care and can also save lives by referring patients to more well-equipped facilities when the need arises.

Rural providers also may perform a variety of functions in the same community, Worsley



Many small towns in South Dakota, including Faith, are served by small clinics that provide basic preventative, routine and diagnostic care that can be a first step toward receiving more extensive or invasive treatment at hospitals in larger cities. This clinic is operated by Horizon Health Care. Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

said. A small-town physician or provider may manage an emergency room, treat patients as a family doctor and also oversee care at a nursing home, for example.

Worsley said small clinics, even those with only basic care, are critical components of what a rural community needs to retain population, attract new residents and establish a healthy economy. Those factors are crucial to maintaining population and economic stability in small towns that have historically been on the decline in South Dakota.

"Any kind of a business that wants to be located in a small community, they're always going to look at what access to health care do employees have," he said. "Education, public safety, there's a very short list of things people want to look at when considering a move to small communities, and health care is right there at the top."

A rural clinic or small hospital is also an economic driver and creator of jobs that help rural communities thrive, Worsley said.

"I would say it's vital," he said. "If you think about what are good jobs that folks who grow up in a small community can come back to, health care would surely fall into that category."

Small-town health care in rural areas across the country is supported by the federal Critical Access Hospital program, which provides targeted funding through a federal Medicare reimbursement program for small regional hospitals with 25 or fewer beds.

Bryan Breitling is the regional administrator at Hand County Memorial Hospital in Miller, a critical-access hospital that is part of the Avera Health system. Breitling said critical-access facilities were better-positioned to withstand the revenue drop associated with the pandemic than urban medical centers.

"COVID-19 is going to have less of an impact on critical-access hospitals [than] it will have on our more urban counterparts," Breitling said. "We do have a cost-based reimbursement mechanism in there from Medicare ... and so, from that standpoint, we're going to largely be protected."

Yet despite those protections, the 38 critical-access hospitals in South Dakota — including facilities in Armour, Burke, De Smet, Eureka, Freeman, Mobridge, Parkston, Philip, Viborg, Webster and Winner, among others — have also taken a financial hit, Breitling said.

"The revenues have taken a dive, clearly. So anyone who presents through the emergency room who has a broken arm or a heart attack, those types of patients are still being seen and being cared for," he said. "It's the patients that used to come in for routine physicals, for screenings, all of those traditional regular health-related issues. Those have essentially ended for the last two months and so we're in the process of restarting those again, and that's where a lot of that revenue issue is."

The drop in people seeking medical treatment during the pandemic may have unexpect-



Many areas of South Dakota are served by 38 "Critical Access Hospitals" that receive federal funding to remain viable in small towns, including the privately run non-profit Fall River Health Services hospital in Hot Springs. Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

ed consequences, including among patients who miss an annual physical and could be exposed to greater danger from slow-developing illnesses such as skin cancer.

Breitling said one pressing concern is that children may be less protected against other illnesses upon returning to school in the fall.

"There are some stats out there that say over the last couple of months, fewer people have brought their kids in for wellness visits, which translates into fewer vaccinations and things like that," he said. "So we need to get back to the vaccinations to get them protected this fall once the traditional cold or flu season comes into place."

Recruitment a challenge; tele-health on the rise

Recruiting doctors, nurses and dentists to practice in towns of 2,000 people or fewer has been an ongoing challenge for health-care systems and rural hospitals.

Some practitioners seek higher pay, greater social options, easier access to housing, and the prestige of working in big-city hospitals, and are not interested in living in a small town in the early stages of their careers.



Bryan Breitling is the administrator of the Avera hospital in Miller, S.D. In the video, Breitling discussed the financial challenges faced by small-town hospitals but how he expects they will weather the pandemic in strong shape. Photo/video: Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

Horizon Health Care is in almost constant need of qualified personnel and tries to highlight the benefits of living and working in a small community when pitching prospective employees, Erickson said.

"It is hard at times because a lot of times they see the money, and money talks, and we try to compete as best we can with salaries," he said.

But Horizon has had success in attracting practitioners who either grew up in a small town or who see the value in providing a service that is absolutely critical to the community and its people, and in living in a safe, quiet community, Erickson said.

"We have this opportunity in rural places to bring back true

primary care through the entire life spectrum, and there's great satisfaction in that," he said. "There's this great opportunity to see kids all the way up to our elder populations, and there's a challenge in that you've got to know a lot more things."

Federal programs that allow new practitioners to eliminate part or all of their student debt by agreeing to practice in underserved areas can also be a strong incentive.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to an expansion of tele-health services in which patients use computers and an internet connection to visit in real time with a doctor or nurse. Avera Health has been a national leader in providing tele-health, but the pandemic has sped up the transition to tele-health by smaller community health systems as well.

One problem providers have faced is that federal Medicare and Medicaid programs did not in many cases reimburse providers for tele-health appointments and care. During the pandemic, the CARES Act has expanded reimbursement of tele-health and provided \$158 million in funding for providers to engage in tele-health and improve tele-health services. The Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas received about \$450,000 in the latest round of payments on June 24 for computers and videoconferencing equipment to expand services

Rural health providers are hopeful the tele-



Rural health-care providers have played a critical role in stopping the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. This temporary testing facility was operated by the Horizon Health Care clinic in Alpena in May. Photo: Courtesy Horizon Health Care

health reimbursements may be made permanent once the pandemic subsides.

Another growing gap in rural health is the dearth of behavioral-health options for small-town residents and a lack of follow-up care after surgeries or physical injuries. Small-town clinics sometimes serve as hubs for independent providers who treat rural patients. In Faith, S.D., the Horizon clinic rents space to a private, independent physical therapist who visits weekly and has a strong patient base.

A roadblock to expanding rural health care in South Dakota has been the state's refusal to expand Medicaid coverage as allowed by the Affordable Care Act. Lawmakers have not approved the eligibility expansion that would cover about 43,000 more people under Medicaid and enable the state to receive federal funding to support much of that care. The option to expand protection has been available for several years; it does not appear at this time that the state is moving toward expanding eligibility.

The pandemic has made it even harder for Native Americans in South Dakota to get health care at any level, from preventive and emergency care to treatment for major illnesses or by specialists, said Jerilyn Church, CEO of the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board.

Native Americans have access to care at federally supported Indian Health Service facilities, but those hospitals have been underfunded for years, Church said.

"Indian Health Services have been funded at 50% of the need for a really long time," Church said. "So, while facilities are there, they're not designed to meet the need and demand of what is needed."

Meanwhile, a long-range trend has seen IHS hospitals become centralized geographically and offer less services over time by replacing full-service hospitals with local clinics, increasing travel times for Native patients and forcing more into the non-federal health-care system.

During the pandemic, tribal leaders have locked down reservations and taken bold steps to reduce the spread of the virus, generally seeing success in limiting infections.

But Church said tribal health facilities remain woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Native Americans, who suffer high levels of poverty and high rates of chronic illness.

"The ideal situation during a pandemic is that we would have the ability to manage in-patient care on the reservation," she said. "But with Indian Health Services as it is, tribal members are relying more on large health systems to provide care, requiring them to travel great distances."

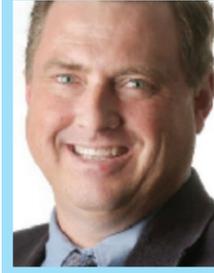
Church said her organization is working on a long-range solution by increasing the number of Native Americans who enter the health field, thereby building a system in which tribal

members become able to live with and treat members of their own communities.

"We hope to accomplish much if we are a healthy people," she said. "It really does begin with growing our own and ensuring that our babies, our children, our new moms all the way up to our elders are receiving the best quality care that they can."

ABOUT BART PFANKUCH

Bart Pfankuch, Rapid City, S.D., is the content director for South Dakota News Watch. A Wisconsin native, he is a former editor of the Rapid City Journal and also worked at newspapers in Florida. Bart has spent more than 30 years as a reporter, editor and writing coach.



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
2 Wks: \$17 for first 30 words, 38¢/word thereafter
3 Wks: \$24 for first 30 words, 54¢/word thereafter
4th consecutive week is free

605/397-NEWS (6397)

PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

EMPLOYMENT

MAINTENANCE MANAGER: Timber Lake is seeking full-time Maintenance Manager. Contact City of Timber Lake at 605-865-3790 or cityoftl@tisd.us. Wage depending on experience. Equal opportunity employer.

NOTICES

ADVERTISE IN NEWSPAPERS statewide for only \$150. Put the South Dakota Statewide Classifieds Network to work for you today! (25 words for \$150. Each additional word \$5.) Call the Groton Independent at 605/397-6397 for details.

STIP PUBLIC MEETINGS

S.D. Dept. of Transportation has developed a Tentative 2021-2024 Four-Year Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The Tentative STIP includes all the state sponsored transportation projects for this time period.

Prior to final approval of the STIP by the Transportation Commission, public meetings will be conducted on the following dates to receive public comment on the tentative program.

July 7, 2020	Conference Call	Aberdeen Region	7:00 PM (CDT)
July 8, 2020	Conference Call	Mitchell Region	7:00 PM (CDT)
July 9, 2020	Conference Call	Rapid City Region	7:00 PM (MDT)
July 14, 2020	Conference Call	Pierre Region	7:00 PM (CDT)

Please visit dot.sd.gov for more information on how to view the pre-recorded presentations (when available) and participate in the Conference Calls.

Any individuals with disabilities who will require a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting should submit a request to the department's ADA Coordinator at 605-773-3540 or 1-800-877-1113 no later than 2 business days prior to the meeting.

HELP WANTED: Finance Officer/Administrator

The City of Parker, SD is seeking a Finance Officer/Administrator to manage the city's finances, annual budget, and city employees. Candidates must possess a degree in accounting, finance, business administration, public administration, or a closely related field, and must have three (3) years of progressively responsible municipal finance work. Requires a strong working knowledge of governmental accounting procedures. Ideal candidate will display excellent communication, leadership, and supervisory skills, and the ability to engage with the general public.

To apply, submit a cover letter, resume, salary requirements, and references to the City of Parker, financeofficer@parkersd.org or mail to: PO Box 265, Parker, SD 57053. For more information or to obtain the full job description, contact Adam Jans at 605-297-4453. AA/EOE.



Clean, clean, clean!

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus. Here are two things you can do to stay safe:

1. Practice good hygiene

- Wash hands often with soap & water for 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, & mouth with hands
- Always cover your mouth & nose with a tissue or the inside of your elbow when you cough or sneeze

2. Disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily

- countertops & tables
- doorknobs, light switches & handles
- faucets, sinks & toilets



SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

covid.sd.gov

COVID-19 Questions: 1-800-997-2880

**Brown County
June 16, 2020
Meeting Minutes**
JUNE 16, 2020 – GENERAL MEETING

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

MINUTES: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the general meeting minutes of June 9th, 2020 and the Special Meeting Minutes of June 12th, 2020. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAMS: Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims:

Professional Fees: Certified Languages \$1,409.10; Comtech \$832.09; Dependable Sanitation \$33,587.80; Horn Law Office \$222.50; Kuck Law Office \$122.40; LaCroix Law Office \$238.55; Language Line Service \$416.33; Lewis & Clark BHS \$356.00; Marco \$300.00; Medical Waste Transport \$207.75; Microfilm Imaging System \$1,615.00; Midstates Printing \$500.00; NE Mental Health Center \$1,222.00; Sanford Health Occupational Medicine \$82.00; SD Dept. of Health \$1,760.00; SD Dept. of Revenue & Regulation \$723,427.90; Software Unlimited Corp. \$2,016.00; Kristi Spitzer \$200.00; Tammy Stolle Court Reporting \$365.50; US Bank \$329.00. Publishing: Aberdeen American News \$282.43; Groton Independent \$899.87; Marshalltown Newspaper \$16.91. Rentals: 446-Praxair \$26.25; Brad Hart \$150.00; Eugene Mitchell

\$50.00. Repairs & Maintenance: Cintas \$124.72; Ecolab \$147.16; Gary's Auto \$501.83; Haar Plumbing & Heating \$315.09; Jensen Rock & Sand \$60,785.85; Mega Construction \$2,821.43; Pheasantland Industries \$28.88; Pomp's Tire Service \$464.46; US Bank \$343.44. Supplies: Advance Auto \$808.37; Best Western Ramkota - Aberdeen \$295.00; Century Business Products \$10.50; Cricket Media \$39.95; Danko \$405.64; DT Pharmacy \$1,034.37; Gov-Connection \$639.58; Heartland Paper \$5,702.03; Jebro \$67,510.95; Jensen Rock & Sand \$61,669.37; Menards \$26.82; Midstates Printing \$117.00; Past Perfect Software \$540.00; PharmChem \$378.00; Pheasantland Industries \$2,108.50; Running's \$14.99; SD State 4-H Office \$175.00; Share Corp. \$114.00; Kelsi Thilmony-Vinger \$291.79; Town & Country Building Supply \$5,582.89; US Bank \$18,362.92; US Postmaster \$291.40; West Payment Center \$1,938.13. Travel & Conf.: US Bank \$2,102.41. Utilities: Aberdeen City Treasurer \$898.74; CenturyLink \$1,652.01; City of Hecla \$131.90; Midcontinent \$265.00; Northern Electric \$1,846.63; NWPS \$173.10; NVC \$902.52; US Bank \$643.86; Kelsi Thilmony-Vinger \$20.00; Verizon \$3,629.00; Web Water \$80.90. Other: JRWD \$36,022.31; Safe Harbor \$915.00; SDACO \$1,208.00. 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 resignation of Jennie Hubert, Brown County Jail Correctional Officer, full-time, effective June 8, 2020 and approve

request to fill vacancy.

Acknowledge resignation of Shane Hamlin, Brown County Jail Correctional Officer, full-time, effective June 22, 2020 and approve request to fill vacancy. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

FIREWORKS PERMIT: Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Feickert to approve the following fireworks permits: Big Shots Inc. for display at the Brown County Fairgrounds Grandstand July 3rd, 2020 after the races and Neil Hannahs (Northern Plains Baptist Church) for consumer fireworks at the Brown County Youth Camp June 26, 2020. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LEASES: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve the following leases: New Life Fellowship for lease of one stage June 20, 2020 and Rob VanMeter for lease of Richmond Lake Youth Camp Lodge July 4th, 2020. All member present voting aye. Motion carried.

NOTICE OF TAX DEED SALE: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to authorize advertising the following described property to be offered for sale by auction in the Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, on June 13, 2020 at 10a.m.: Aberdeen City: West 42' Lot 7 and West 42' of South 12.5' Lot eight (8) block forty (40) Bennett and Thomas Addition to the North Aberdeen, Brown County, South Dakota (224 2nd Ave NW- Bare

Lot); Lot five (5) Block four (4) Nicollet park Addition to Aberdeen, Brown County, South Dakota (318 S Jackson St - Bare Lot); West one-half (W1/2) of Lot Five (5) and all of Lot Six (6) Block Seventy-Five (75) Hagerty & Lloyd Addition to Aberdeen, Brown County, South Dakota (412 1st Ave SE - Bare Lot); Lot Two (2) Diver's 2nd Rearrangement of Lots Eleven - Twelve (11-12), Block Twenty-three (23) First Addition to the City of Aberdeen, Brown County, South Dakota (317 4th Ave SW- Bare Lot); Westport City: Lots fifteen- Sixteen (15-16) Block Two (2) Park Addition, Westport, SD (bare lot). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ABATEMENT: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the following abatements: City of Aberdeen @ \$23,429.00 (tax deed sale). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 166 - BARNETT REZONE:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to approve first reading of Ordinance 166, an ordinance to Amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended, to rezone the following described property filed by Jimmy Barnett is hereby granted and Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances is hereby amended to change the zoning on the following described property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.10 Lake Front Residential (R-3): Lot 29, Dewald & Huffman's 2nd Richmond Lake Subdivision in the E1/2 of the Section 14-T124N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (126668 W Shore Dr). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 167- RURAL ADDRESSING AMENDED: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve first reading of Ordinance 167, and ordinance to amend Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, Title 4 Zoning, by amending Chapter 4.33 Rural Addressing. Proposed ordinance on file for public inspection at the Brown County Auditor's Office Monday - Friday 8am-5pm. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LEASE - HARDY ROSARIANS: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Sutton to approve reduce fee for Hardy Rosarians for lease of clubhouse at \$50. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY-NORTHERN ELECTRIC: Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Sutton to approve application made by Northern Electric Cooperative for occupancy of Brown County roads for boring to provide electric service. Location as follows: GPS 45.54574 - 98.30981 and GPS 45.54547 - 98.30981 (near the intersection of 396th ave and 127th st.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY- VANDERVORST: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the application made by Ricky VanderVorst for occupancy of Brown County Highway Number 11 in Claremont Township, range 125-60 to drain water off farm. Roll call vote: Commissioner Feickert- Nay, Sutton - Aye, Wiese - Aye, Fjeldheim - Aye, Kippley- Aye. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE - HIGHWAY: Dirk Rogers (highway superintendent) met to give a department update. No action.

LANDFILL DUMPSTER FINE: Individual met to discuss dumpster fine. No action taken.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS DISCUSSION: Individual met to discuss change of address notice.

DRAINAGE DISCUSSION: Individual met to discuss drainage concerns and impact of right of way access requests. BROWN COUNTY FAIR 2020: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Sutton to postpone the 2020 Brown County Fair until 2021. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

BROWN COUNTY FAIR-GROUNDS WORK GROUP: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Fjeldheim to create a management group to oversee the postponement of the 2020 Brown County Fair and facilitate alternative community events held at the fairgrounds.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Sutton to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:47a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$87.27. 19039

**Frederick School
Bus Bid Notice**

REQUEST FOR BIDS
FREDERICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Sealed bids will be received by the Business Manager for the Board of Education, Frederick Area School District 6-2, Brown County, South Dakota, at the Business Office, Frederick Area School District, 202 E Main St, PO Box 486, Frederick, SD 57441 for one (1) 65-passenger bus. Must meet or exceed all specs on file in the business office. Such bids will be received until 2:00 P.M. on Monday, July 13, 2020.

Copies of the bidding documents are on file at the Business Manager's office at the above address and may be obtained at that office by bidders.

Bid proposals shall be submitted to the Board of Education in sealed envelopes clearly marked: "Bid for School Bus" to be opened July 13, 2020. Bids will be acted on at the July 13, 2020 school board meeting.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to waive any irregularities therein.

FREDERICK AREA BOARD OF EDUCATION
Frederick Area School District 6-2

Janel Wagner
Business Manager
(0617.0624)
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$27.04. 19023

**Frederick School
Suburban For Sale**

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF CHEVROLET SUBURBAN SALE

FREDERICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 6-2

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Frederick Area School District No. 6-2 will be taking sealed bids for the 1999 Chevrolet Suburban. It has approximately 211,327 miles. Sealed bids will be due by July 13, 2020, 7:00 p.m. CST. Envelope must say "Suburban sealed bid". Mail bids to Frederick Area School District No. 6-2, C/O Suburban sealed bid, P.O. Box 486, Frederick, SD 57441. The school board has the right to refuse any or all bids. The bids will be opened at the July 13, 2020 regular monthly board meeting. Contact Superintendent, Mr. Jeff Kosters at 605-329-2145 with questions.

FREDERICK AREA BOARD OF EDUCATION

Frederick Area School District 6-2

Janel Wagner
Business Manager
(0617.0624)
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$21.74. 19024

**State of S.D.
Sealey Name
Change**

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA COUNTY OF BROWN IN CIRCUIT COURT FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF DONAVAN GEORGE SEALEY, a minor child.

06 CIV. 20-000216
NOTICE OF CONTINUED HEARING ON PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA SENDS GREETINGS TO ALL: NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Hope D. Block has filed in this Court a Petition requesting an order changing the name of her minor child, Donovan George Sealey to Donovan George Block, and that the originally scheduled date of the 30th day of June, 2020, at 8:55 o'clock a.m., has been continued and said hearing will now be held on the 15th day of July, 2020, at 9:00 o'clock a.m., in the third floor east courtroom of the Brown County Courthouse in the City of Aberdeen, South Dakota, which has been set as the time and place when and where said Petition will be heard. You are referred to the Petition on file with the Clerk of Courts for further particulars.

Dated at Aberdeen, South Dakota, this 15th day of June, 2020.

BANTZ, GOSCH & CREMER, L.L.C.
/s/ Rory King
Attorneys for the Petitioner
Hope D. Block
305 Sixth Avenue S.E.
P.O. Box 970
Aberdeen, SD 57402-0970
(605) 225-2232
(605) 225-2497 - fax
rking@bantzlaw.com
(0617.0708)

Published four times at the total approximate cost of \$62.17. 19025

**Brown County
June 12, 2020
Meeting Minutes**

JUNE 12, 2020 - SPECIAL MEETING

Meeting called to order by Commission Chair Kippley at 1:00 P.M. at the Grandstand at the Brown County Fairgrounds, Brown County, SD. Present were Commissioners Feickert, Sutton, Wiese and Fjeldheim.

FAIRGROUNDS GRANDSTAND INFIELD DRAINAGE:

Discussion to have highway maintain ditch at east end of grandstand and review culverts with camera.

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Kippley to proceed with crush concrete pad in the infield and requests quotes on hauling and shaping crushed concrete. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 1:33 p.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$10.28. 19040

**Brown County
Notice Sale of
Property**

NOTICE SALE OF PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to Chapter 6-13 SDCL, the following described property will be offered for sale by auction in the Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota on July 13, 2020 at 10:00 A.M. This property has been approved for public sale by the Brown County Commission. At the conclusion of this sale, Brown County will issue and file a Quit Claim Deed to the property in the name requested by the purchaser. All delinquent taxes, penalties and interest are abated and are not the responsibility of the new owner. Brown County makes no guarantee of absolute fee simple marketable title to the property. It is recommended that the purchaser of a county quit claim deed pursue a quiet title action in order to acquire marketable title to the property (see SDCL Chapter 43-30, title standards 26-01 and 26-02).

Purchase price of the property along with a \$30.00 recording fee shall be paid in full on the day of the sale. Property offered for sale is as follows:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: MINI-MUM BID

ABERDEEN CITY

West 42' Lot 7 and West 42' of South 12.5' Lot Eight (8) Block Forty (40) Bennett and Thomas Addition to North Aberdeen, Brown County, South Dakota 224 2ND Ave NW (Bare Lot): \$50

Lot Five (5) Block Four (4) Nicollet Park Addition to Aberdeen, Brown County, South Dakota, 318 S Jackson St, (Bare Lot): \$3,000.

West One-Half (W1/2) of Lot Five (5) and all of Lot Six (6) Block Seventy-Five (75) Hagerty & Lloyd Addition to Aberdeen, Brown County, South Dakota, 412 1st Ave SE (Bare Lot): \$500

Lot Two (2) Diver's 2nd Rearrangement of Lots Eleven - Twelve (11-12), Block, Twenty-Three (23) First Addition to the City of Aberdeen, Brown County, South Dakota, 317 4th Ave SW (Bare Lot): \$3,800;

WESTPORT CITY

Lots Fifteen-Sixteen (15-16) Block Two (2) Park Addition, Westport, SD, (Bare Lot): \$100.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

(0624.0701)
Published twice at the approximate total cost of \$42.90. 19041

**Claremont Town
June 9
Special Meeting**

Members of the board of trustees for the town of Claremont met for pre-bid meeting with Karen Schaefer of Helms and Associates on 6-9-2020 at 2:00p.m. Ted Dickey absent. This was to go over bid documents, conditions, equal opportunities Clause EEO Construction/contract conditions for providing info on bonding, insurance, payments, and other contract conditions. Project Deadlines-Agreements. Completion September 30, 2021, Final Completion October 31, 2021. ETC

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$6.17. 19042

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Farmland Whole Boneless Pork Loin
\$2.59 Per Lb.

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Crystal Farms Chunk or Shredded Cheese
6-8 Oz. Pkgs. **2/\$5**

Frozen
Ken's Gourmet Pizza
18-28 Oz. Pkg. **\$6.99**

Liquor
Jack Daniels
1.75 Ltr. **\$44.99**

Household
Xtra 2X Liquid Laundry Detergent
175 Oz. Jug **\$4.99**

Bakery
Hamburger Buns
12 Ct. Pkg. **\$2.99**

Deli
Chicken Tender Meal Deal
8 Tenders & Choice of 2 Large Sides **\$16.99**