

The Groton Independent

Vol. 137 No. 51 ♦ Groton, South Dakota ♦ Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2020 ♦ Established in 1889



Dewatering has begun for the new water tower
A big pump has been operating 24 hours a day at the site of the new water tower. You can see the big pipes above the ground with several white pipes in the ground as the area is dewatered for the new footings of the water tower. The new water tower will be about the same height as the existing one at 140 feet. The current tower holds 80,000 gallons while the new one will hold 125,000. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Hot Rod Overacker takes first

at BMX Nationals

Huntley (Hot Rod) Overacker placed first on Friday and Saturday at the BMX Hub City Nationals held August 7-9 in Aberdeen. Overacker took both days in the Intermediate division. He is the son of Jaymie and Jesse Overacker, Groton.

(Photo courtesy of Roger Overacker)

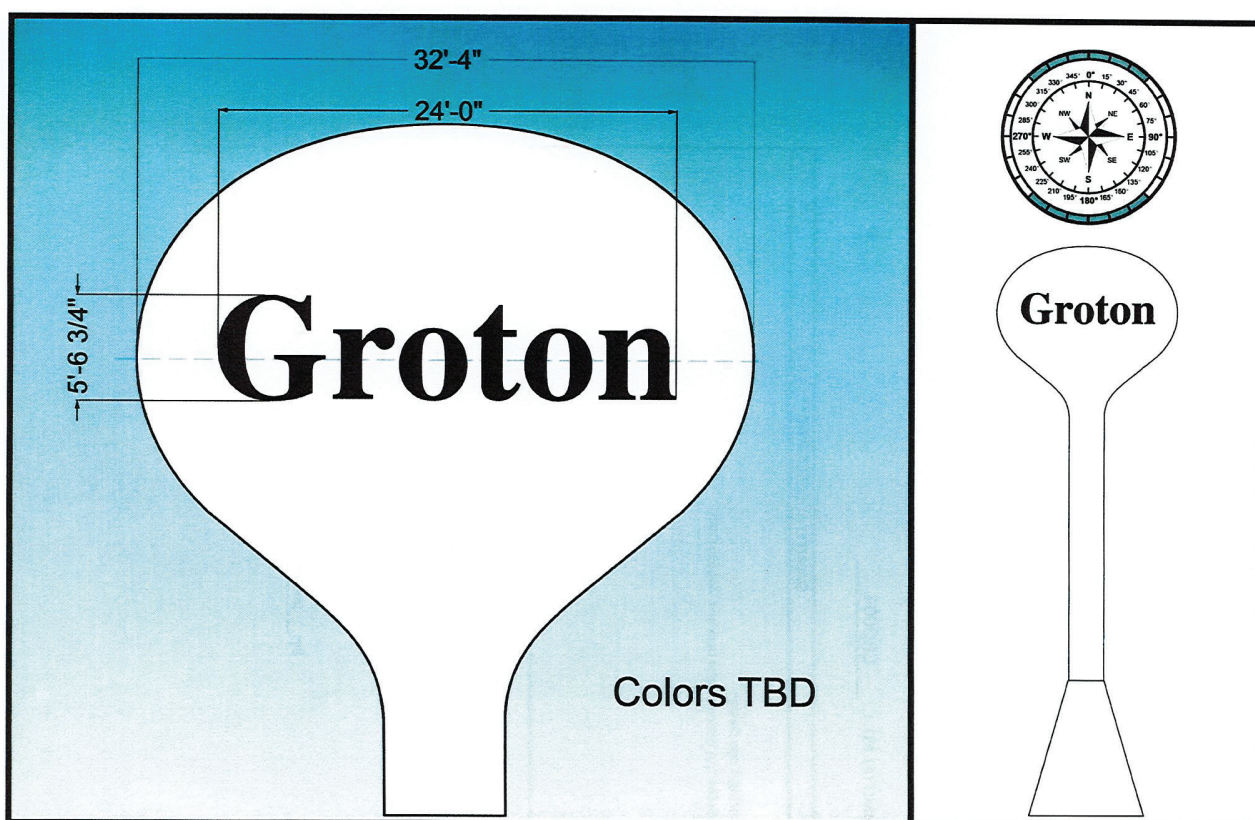
Carnival of Silver Skates Notice

On such hot days of summer it is hard to believe we are starting to plan for the 2021 Carnival of Silver Skates! With hopes that we will be able to hold the carnival, we will have the Registration and Costume Measurement days on Sunday, Sept 13 or Monday, Sept 14. If we are unable to hold the carnival due to COVID, we would refund all registration fees.

Please mark your calendars for SUNDAY, SEPT 13 from 11:00 to 3:00 or MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 from 4:00 to 6:00 for registration and costume measurement.

- * It will be at the warming house.
- * Skaters MUST be present.
- * Masks are required.

Registration forms will be coming home from school with students, so please be watching for those forms. We are excited to be finalizing plans for this year's 2021 Carnival. Thanks for your help!



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Notice:
Colors shown are close approximations. Printer and media variations may distort colors from actual print colors slightly. Readings are approximate and are provided for a visual aid. Final verify on actual design before installing patterns.

The original proposal for the water tower is a white tower with black "Groton" letters. There was discussion of possibly having gold letters with a black outline for the letters. This is what was proposed with the original draft and any changes will cost considerably more money and would require a change order.

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Westport Town Lift Station Re-Bid Notice
 ADVERTISEMENT
 WASTEWATER LIFT STATION REPLACEMENT RE-BID
 WESTPORT, SD
 Sealed Bids will be received by the Town of Westport, 16 West Main St., Westport, South Dakota until 2 P.M. local time on the 2nd day of September, 2020 for the above referenced project. Bids shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the Bidding Documents. The Town of Westport reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all Bids as set forth in the Bidding Documents.
 At or shortly after the time named above and within the office of Clark Engineering, 3314 Milwaukee Avenue NE, Suite 2, Aberdeen, SD such Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids will be reviewed by the Town of Westport at an upcoming Town Board Meeting.
 The Project includes the following Work: Removal of an existing dry/wet well lift station and replacing it by furnishing and installing a new duplex submersible lift station. Work includes, but is not limited to: F&I sanitary sewer manhole over existing 8" gravity PVC sanitary sewer line, bypass pumping of existing waste water flows into existing lift station and generator, F&I duplex submersible lift station, F&I 4" PVC Forcemain by conventional trenching, F&I modular block retaining wall and base course, remove and replace air release valve, and miscellaneous items for importing fill, grading, gravel restoration, seeding and dewatering.
 The Work to be performed under this contract shall be substantially completed by 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.
 Bidding Documents may be examined at the locations listed:

Town of Westport
 16 West Main St.
 Westport, SD 57481
 Ph: 605-290-5610
 Clark Engineering Corp.
 3314 Milwaukee Ave NE Ste. 2
 Aberdeen SD 57401
 Ph. 605-225-3494
 Clark Engineering Corp.
 1410 W Russell St.
 Sioux Falls SD 57104
 Ph: 605-331-2505
 The Bidding Documents may also be examined at the following locations: Aberdeen, SD Builders Exchange; Rapid City, SD Builders Exchange; Sioux Falls, SD Builders Exchange; Plains Builders Exchange, Sioux Falls, SD; Dodge Data & Analytics, Hot Springs, AR; Construction Plans Exchange of Bismarck-Mandan, Bismarck, ND; Construction Plans Exchange of Fargo-Moorhead, Fargo, ND, Dodge Data & Analytics, The Blue Book Building & Construction Network, constructconnect.com.
 An electronic copy of the Plans and Specifications on a compact disc may be obtained from the Aberdeen office of Clark Engineering Corporation upon payment of \$40.00 to Clark Engineering for shipping and handling or Plans and Specifications may be downloaded from the HYPERLINK "http://www.clark-docs.com" 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 Corporation 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.
 BY:
 Doreen Hertel
 Finance Officer
 PUBLISHING DATES:
 August 12, 2020
 August 19, 2020
 Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$75.22.
 19171

The Groton Independent
 21 N Main, Groton 605/397-NEWS (6397)
 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
 Yearly Subscription Rates are listed below. The Groton Independent (USPS# 230-440) is published weekly with its periodicals postage paid at Groton, SD.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Groton Independent, PO Box 34, Groton, SD 57445

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Frederick School Aug. 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes

OFFICIAL BOARD PROCEEDINGS

FREDERICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #6-2

AUGUST 10, 2020

The meeting was called to order on August 10, 2020, at 7:04 p.m. by President Rich Schlosser. Members present were Dan Nickelson, Jon Ellwein, and Richard Achen. Alex Hart was excused. Others present were Superintendent/9-12 Principal/Athletic Director Jeff Kosters, K-8 Principal Jessica Ringgenberg and Business Manager Janel Wagner.

The meeting began with all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members of the public are allowed three minutes to address the board on any topic of their choice. With no public members wishing to speak, the board moved on with their remaining agenda items.

Action 20-031 Motion by Achen, second by Ellwein to approve the agenda as amended: add Lake Region Conference custodial fund as #11; move original #11-#13 to #12-#14. All aye, carried.

Action 20-032 Motion by Nickelson, second by Ellwein to approve consent agenda which included the following items as presented: minutes of meeting held July 13, 2020 and July 30, 2020; July 2020 financial report, district bills and July 2020 payroll. All aye, carried.

Ending July 31, 2020	General Fund	Capital Outlay Fund	Special Education Fund	Food Service Fund	Driver's Ed Fund	Trust & Agency
Beginning checking Balance	\$674,576.24	\$265,647.10	\$301,064.50	\$8,196.59	\$931.92	\$3,500.00
Revenue:						
Taxes	\$49,596.06	\$11,826.43	\$5,667.49			
Local Sources	\$2,586.01	\$200.00				
Intermediate Sources	\$496.79					
Interest	\$51.64					\$0.19
Federal & State	\$38,888.23					\$0.19
Total Revenue	\$91,618.73	\$12,026.43	\$5,667.49	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.19
Disbursements						
Bills	\$60,163.28	\$12,410.17	\$654.04	\$876.00	\$19.00	\$126.50
Payroll	\$99,395.07		\$9,624.40	\$702.12		
Total Disbursements	\$159,558.35	\$12,410.17	\$10,278.44	\$1,578.12	\$19.00	\$126.50
Total checking balance	\$606,636.62	\$265,263.36	\$296,453.55	\$6,618.47	\$912.92	\$3,373.69
Beginning investment balance	\$258,036.75	\$1,783,634.20	\$1,246,175.05			
Interest	\$15.19					
Total investment balance	\$258,051.94	\$1,783,634.20	\$1,246,175.05			
Ending Balance	\$864,688.56	\$2,048,897.56	\$1,542,628.60	\$6,618.47	\$912.92	

Claims approved: July 2020 Payroll – General Fund salaries 54,420.52; Special Education salaries 5,846.81; Food Service 51.62. EFTPS, federal income tax/Social Security/Medicare 16,870.06; AFLAC, supplemental insurance 917.74; American Funds, retirement 1,140.02; Delta Dental, insurance 1,545.80; Express Collections, garnishment 495.67; The Standard, life insurance 264.43; Security Benefits, retirement 925.26; VSP, vision insurance 261.72; Wellmark, health insurance 16,610.00; SD Retirement 9,906.68; SD Retirement Supplemental, 465.26.

General Fund: Aberdeen American News, subscription 185.55; Amazon Capital Services, supplies 374.59; BlueTarp Financial/Mac's, repairs 28.87; Cole Papers Inc, supplies 361.46; Counselor Kerl, counseling materials 52.60; Crawford Trucks & Equipment Inc, repairs 723.49; Custodial Account-FASD, Imprest reimbursement 126.50;

Dakota Broadcasting, advertising 499.80; Dakota Supply Group, filters 882.34; Demco Inc, supplies 476.92; DRN, tech support 69.50; EAI Education, supplies 129.95; Ellendale True Value, supplies 19.99; Farnam's Genuine Parts Inc, repairs 847.67; Foreman Sales & Service Inc, repairs 590.33; GDI News, publishing 589.83; Graphic Edge, lifting club shirts 495.02; Hauff Mid America Sports, sports equipment 789.15; Heuer Publishing Inc, Oral Interp script 37.00; Innovative Office Solutions LLC, supplies 889.06; James Valley Telecommunications, telephone 239.73; Jostens Inc, yearbooks 759.00; Menards, supplies 742.95; Merchant Services, online lunch pymnt fees 40.80; Mid-American Research Chemical, supplies 3,217.03; Montana-Dakota Utilities Co, electricity 2,085.68; NFHS Learning Center, coach training 35.00; Northwest Pipe Fittings Inc, filters 379.75; Oriental Trading, supplies 30.89; Pepsi-Cola, concession supplies 670.31; Pomp's Tire Service Inc, repairs

72.00; Running Supply Inc, repairs 7.27; Scholastic Inc, subscriptions 453.87; SchoolMate, elem planners 195.25; School Specialty, supplies 1,111.72; SD High School Golf Coaches Association, membership 10.00; SDBCA, membership 22.65; SDFBCA, membership 20.00; SDHSCA, membership 140.00; SDSTE, annual membership 30.00; South Dakota Department of Education, FY2020 FFVP overpayment 6.68; Teachers Pay Teachers, lesson planning 655.00; Town of Frederick, utilities 320.04; United States Postal Service, postage 23.95; WalMart, supplies 251.92. Capital Outlay Fund: A&B Business Solutions, managed print contract 986.41; Cash-Wa Distributing, popcorn popper base/disposer 2,499.12; CommTech Inc, security cameras 42.37; Counselor Kerl, counseling materials 66.00; Demco Inc, library partitions 1,886.26; Foreman Sales & Service Inc, bus 63,750.00; Graphic Edge, GBB jerseys 528.36; Hauff Mid America Sports, sports equipment 590.00; Innovative Of-

fice Solutions LLC, chair mats 280.87; M-F Athletics, javelins 795.50; Menards, drill/window blinds 695.45; Northwest Pipe Fittings Inc, faucets/water dispensers 12,179.11; Price Plumbing, disposer/water dispensers installation 794.00; Riverside Technologies Inc, access point replacement 18,075.82; School Specialty, classroom chairs 713.08; Target, chair/filing cabinet 124.98. Special Education Fund: McGraw-Hill LLC, classroom supplies 200.21; Teachers Pay Teachers, lesson planning 50.00. Food Service Fund: Ganje, Kristin, lunch money refund 18.80; Himanga, Alan, lunch money refund 97.25; Selzer, Darcy, lunch money refund 15.30. Imprest checks: Brown County Sheriff, fingerprinting 40.00; Division of Criminal Investigation, background checks 86.50.

The following reports were presented:

- A. Jeff Kosters - Superintendent/9-12 Principal/Athletic Director
- B. Jessica Ringgenberg – K-8

Principal The board discussed the Back to School Plan. No action taken. Action 20-033 Motion by Achen, second by Ellwein to approve policy updates as presented: BDDG – Minutes, DB – Budget, DI – Fiscal Accounting and Reporting, DIB – Types of Funds, DIC – Financial Reports and Statements, DIE – Audits, DJ – Purchasing Procedures and DJC – Bidding Requirements. All aye, carried.

Action 20-034 Motion by Nickelson, second by Achen to remove policy DJF – Purchasing Procedures (now inclusive in Policy DJ). All aye, carried.

Action 20-035 Motion by Ellwein, second by Achen to accept Open Enrollment application #21-10. All aye, carried.

Action 20-036 Action by Ellwein, second by Nickelson to approve the opening of the Lake Region Conference custodial fund account. All aye, carried.

Action 20-037 Motion by Achen, second by Nickelson to approve the amendment of salaries on contracts for extra-curricular advisors, bus drivers and coaches. All aye, carried.

The school board would like to extend their appreciation to Brad and Alex Hart for their work on the removal of the old playground equipment in preparation for the upcoming remodeling project.

Action 20-038 Motion by Ellwein, second by Achen to adjourn at 7:56 p.m. All aye, carried.

Rich Schlosser, President
Janel Wagner, Business Manager

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$125.60.
19191

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THINKING ABOUT HEALTH

What You Need To Know About Coronavirus Testing

By Trudy Lieberman, Community Health News Service

Testing! Testing! Testing! That's what the experts say is necessary to move the country back to normalcy. Almost daily, local TV stations in New York City where I live run public service announcements urging viewers to get a test for COVID-19. Those announcements tell how to find a testing site, and most point out that the tests are free.

Many New Yorkers, as well as people in other states, are undoubtedly confused about the kinds of tests available, wonder about the delays in getting results, and worry about the tests' reliability. The recent experience of Gov. Mike DeWine of Ohio, who first tested positive for the virus and then negative on subsequent tests, illustrates the potential problems with the tests' accuracy.

To sort all this out, I contacted Teresa Carr, an independent health and science journalist I had worked with at Consumer Reports who had just written "A Consumer's Guide to Getting Tested for the Coronavirus."

The place to begin, she points out, is to distinguish between the two types of tests currently available, which people often confuse because the talking heads on television don't always make clear what they are talking about. Some tests are diagnostic and tell you whether you have an active viral infection that may require treatment or a quarantine. Others are antibody tests.

Antibody tests, which are not diagnostic tools, reveal whether your blood contains antibodies that can show that you were infected by the virus in the past. "These tests can't tell you if you're contagious or if the antibodies will cause you to be immune to future infections," Carr said. "This disease has only been around since February, and we have to do more research."

She explained that some people have COVID symptoms for a long time. They may go on for months and wax and wane. In those cases, are people exhibiting a long course of the same infection or several separate infections? "It's really not clear what the antibody tests means at this point."

Antibody tests are blood tests, unlike the more meaningful diagnostic tests that are rec-

ommended as an important way to fight the disease. Since the virus attacks the respiratory system, diagnostic tests – so called PCR tests – hunt for the virus that may be present in your nose and throat. A health care worker collects a sample by inserting a 6-inch swab through a nostril and obtaining some cells from the upper part of your throat.

Another, simpler test is less invasive. The swab reaches only an inch or so inside the nose and is more comfortable for the patient. Experts now believe the simpler test may work almost as well, but health care workers giving the test may also swab the back of your throat to obtain a more robust sample.

Carr told me that the FDA has now authorized do-it-yourself tests. "It's a shallower nasal swab test "but not quite as accurate." Another test requires users to spit in a test tube and send it to the lab. Both these kinds of tests are "probably pretty good," Carr says, and have been useful in places where testing materials have been in short supply.

Gov. DeWine reports that the first test he took, which gave a false positive result, was an antigen test. His later tests were PCR tests that, as I've explained, examine virus cells taken from a patient's nasal passages. DeWine called the PCR test "very, very, very reliable," and added, "People should not take away from my experience that testing is not reliable or doesn't really work."

In fact, testing and contact tracing, the practice of following up with people who have been in contact with a person who has tested positive for the disease, are major defenses against the spread of the virus. People identified through contact tracing are advised to self-isolate or get tested themselves.

Carr told me that the length of time people wait to get their test results "varies quite a lot" with some people waiting as long as two weeks to find out if they have the disease. In general, though, you can expect a test result within a week. But if you think you have COVID, "you really need to be quarantining the whole time" you are waiting for results.

Carr had a last piece of advice: "Nobody should have to pay for their tests." Under new laws passed this spring, COVID testing is now free with no cost sharing. Congress has made it possible for those without insurance to get free tests through their state Medicaid programs. Check with your state since a few states have not yet adopted that policy.

What has been your experience with testing? Write to Trudy at trudy.lieberman@gmail.com.

Financially strapped renters in S.D. seek help avoiding eviction amid pandemic

Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

Many people who rent homes or apartments in South Dakota are hurting financially during the pandemic, causing large numbers of renters to ask for public assistance or charitable help to stave off eviction and maintain a stable residence.

More than twice as many South Dakotans have looked to taxpayers or charities to cover at least one month of rent in the first half of 2020 compared to all of 2019, and new surveys from the U.S. Census Bureau suggest the need for rent assistance will rise as the COVID-19 pandemic continues.

In the middle of July, the Census Bureau, which has been conducting weekly pulse surveys of U.S. households since April, estimated 30%, or about 42,000 of South Dakota's roughly 139,000 renters had little or no confidence that they'd be able to make their August rent payment.

Meanwhile, the 211 Helpline Center has fielded more than 7,000 calls from people needing help making a rent or mortgage payment during the first seven months of the year, more than double the number of rent-assistance calls the organization saw in all of 2019.

Many of the calls have been from people who never thought they'd need help keeping a roof over their heads.



Betsy Schuster

"It's really humbling if you've never struggled making rent and then all of a sudden you're struggling," said Betsy Schuster, vice president of program development for the helpline center.

"It's really humbling if you've never struggled making rent and then all of a sudden you're struggling."

-- Betsy Schuster, 211 Helpline Center

"I do believe it's all across the board."

The 211 Helpline Center acts as a sort of hub for assistance programs of all types and has seen its call volume skyrocket since March, when the pandemic hit and many people lost their jobs or income streams.

The statewide 211 Helpline Center, a hub of assistance programs for those in need, had fielded 43,100 calls for help, that's roughly two-thirds of the center's normal yearly call volume, Schuster said.

Housing has long been one of the top needs for the people the Helpline Center works with, Schuster said. A long-term shortage of affordable housing has driven up the price of rent for many South Dakotans, while at the same time wages have largely stagnated. Prior to the pandemic, as many as 32% of South Dakotans were considered rent burdened by the U.S. Census Bureau, meaning they were paying 35% or more of their monthly income just to keep a roof over their heads.

Now, as federal pandemic relief programs have expired and big questions remain over the aid package President Donald Trump has tried to create through executive order, South

Dakota may soon face a tidal wave of rent delinquency and potential evictions.

Using its weekly household pulse survey, the Census Bureau estimated that more than 30,000 of the state's renters hadn't made their July rent payment using their own money. Thousands of homeowners, too, were behind on mortgage payments with more 31,000 estimated to have missed their July payment. About 40% of South Dakota households have seen incomes drop during the pandemic, census data show.

So far, 2020 has not seen an avalanche of evictions. The months of April, May and June actually saw fewer, about 288, eviction petitions filed with the state's court system than the same months in 2019, which saw 316 petitions filed, said Greg Satzahn, state court administrator.

At least part of the reason eviction numbers have stayed low is thanks to South Dakota's philanthropic community. Charity organizations across the state have scrambled to help people keep their homes, whether they rent or own. The Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation, for example, created the One Sioux Falls Fund with \$3.3 million specifically aimed at helping people avoid eviction due to pandemic-related financial stress.

By Aug. 12, the One Sioux Falls Fund had helped 3,300 individuals or families in Lincoln, Turner, McCook and Minnehaha counties stave off eviction, said Kelly Sprecher, communications manager for the foundation.

But charitable funding has limits. In many cases, Schuster said, each household is limited to two months of help or a maximum of \$2,000. The pandemic has already caused financial upheaval for more than five months, and now, many in the housing sector are beginning to worry that a rash of evictions may be coming soon.

"There's an assumption that charity will take care of it, that people can go to the mission and get back on their feet," said Sarah Stout, a volunteer organizer with the West River Tenants United, a tenant advocacy group based in Rapid City. "There are programs that will help people, but there are lots of gaps in those programs."

Heavy reliance on charity

Landlords and property managers generally do not want to kick people out of their residences. Empty units, whether apartments or houses, don't generate revenue for their owners and eviction is an expensive and emotional process.

"I think most landlords, as long as you communicate with them, want to work with the residents because they don't want their tenants to leave," said Amy Ibis, a property manager with Vantis Commercial in Sioux Falls. "It costs them more money to have a vacant apartment and to have to go through that eviction process, versus working with someone."

In many cases, Ibis said, a property manager will help tenants who are struggling if the tenant gives them a heads up that they'll be late with rent. Property managers can sometimes



Prior to the pandemic, a third of South Dakotans were considered "rent burdened," meaning they were paying 35% or more of their monthly income on rent and therefore unable in many cases to afford a nice rental home, such as this one in Rapid City. Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

help their tenants find financial help, she said.

"We have programs in place, in South Dakota, that are there to help these tenants," said Ibis, who also serves as chair of the South Dakota Multi-Housing Association board of directors. "And as long as they do go through the paperwork and get it done, they typically get the assistance that is needed."

Dedicated rent-assistance charities, such as the One Sioux Falls Fund, have popped up across South Dakota since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March. Those groups have already helped thousands of renters stave off eviction. Many of the new funds added their services on top of public assistance programs already available in many areas from govern-



Amy Ibis

ment agencies, which strengthened the safety net, said Schuster.

"Our communities across the state have just been phenomenal," Schuster said. "I just encourage anyone that is struggling with rent to definitely give 211 a call. We can look at what's in your area to see what is the normal standing resource to help with different payments, and then if there have

been special programs that have been identified to help."

One of the biggest COVID-19 specific rent assistance funds outside of Sioux Falls is the Beadle County Rental Assistance fund. It sprang into being when billionaire T. Denny Sanford gave \$75,000 to the Huron Community Foundation to help the community respond to the pandemic. The Huron Community Fund added another \$15,000 to the rental assistance fund and helped set up a volunteer committee to administer the money.

Assistance from the Beadle County fund is solely dedicated to people who have lost their jobs or seen their incomes dry up due to the

Continues on next page

pandemic, said Rhonda Kludt, a member of the fund oversight committee. But before the fund will write a check for someone in need, that person needs to apply, their former employer will be asked if the job loss was due to COVID-19, and they must show that they are a renter.

"We're very cognizant of making sure that the money goes where it is most needed," Kludt said.

So far, the fund has paid rent for 62 of 160 applicants. Another 10 applications for assistance were still pending as of Aug. 11. Demand for assistance from the Beadle County fund also appeared to be increasing in early August, even as South Dakota's economy continued to reopen, but also just after emergency federal unemployment benefits ran out, Kludt said.

"On August 10, we had eight or nine new applications come in, which is an incredibly large number for one day," Kludt said. "I have to believe that it is a direct result of the loss of the extra unemployment money."

No easy answers for renters

In Rapid City, the NWE Management Company is not aware of an increase in the number of tenants falling behind on rent.

"It's surprising to me that things have gone so well for so long," said Todd Hollan, a property manager with NWE, which has about 1,200 apartments.

Several of NWE's tenants have contacted their property managers over the last several months to report that they were going to have trouble making their payments. But early on during the pandemic, NWE made the decision to stop charging late fees, provided a payment was made within a month of when it was first due.

"We needed to give tenants opportunities to do what they can do the best way they can do it to stay current," Hollan said.

Simply stopping collection of all rent for all tenants, though, was and remains out of the question, he said. Some of the buildings NWE manages are mortgaged and all of them need maintenance — both routine and in emergencies. NWE needs continuing rent payments to cover those costs, and in some cases, the bank that loaned money to buy or build the apartments gets involved in decisions about rent collection.

"The first response in your mind and in your heart is, 'Yeah, absolutely we understand what's going on, we get it. We'll let you pay what you can,'" Hollan said. "Unfortunately, that just isn't as easily done as it is said."

Tenant rights advocates, though, say a blanket eviction moratorium is necessary during the pandemic because even though eviction rates haven't increased, people are still being kicked out of their homes even as a deadly virus spreads throughout their communities and affordable housing remains in short supply.

"It's not an overwhelming number. It's usually a handful of people a week, but that's still significant," Stout said.

In Minnesota, landlords have been banned from evicting tenants for non-payment of rent during the pandemic. Experts in that state estimate that as many as 5,800 evictions have been prevented by the moratorium. The Minnesota eviction moratorium does allow landlords to evict tenants if they endanger other residents or if they cause lots of property damage.

A similar statewide eviction moratorium was never on the table in South Dakota. Gov. Kristi Noem instead emphasized the use of financial

assistance both for landlords and tenants. In Sioux Falls, though, the Sioux Falls Tenants Rights Union petitioned the City Council to create a local eviction moratorium in May. The petition was rejected.

While it wouldn't solve all of the problems, an eviction moratorium would, temporarily at least, give tenants a leg up in conflicts with landlords. And could go a long way toward making life a little less stressful for people who are struggling with unemployment or loss of income due to the pandemic, Stout said.

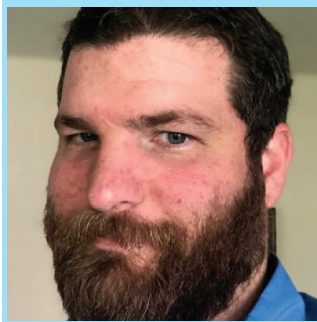


Todd Hollan

"The first response in your mind and in your heart is, 'Yeah, absolutely we understand what's going on, we get it. We'll let you pay what you can. Unfortunately, that just isn't as easily done as it is said.'"

— Todd Hollan, Rapid City property manager

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.

SDHSAA sets goals for new school year

By Dana Hess

S.D. Newspaper Association

BROOKINGS — A new school year means a new set of goals for the South Dakota High School Activities Association.

Goals for the coming year were approved by the SDHSAA's board of directors at its August meeting on Thursday. The Pierre meeting was preceded by a strategic planning session Wednesday where the goals were discussed at length. Both meetings were live streamed on the internet.

The goals include studying management fees for state events, exploring new sports and activities, examining the way in which schools' daily membership is counted and a review of the association's website.

As part of its study of management fees, the association will study new revenue sources that would help member schools deal with the costs of hosting state tournaments. The association has made a deal with a vendor for the sale of T-shirts and merchandise at state events. However, with the pandemic throwing schedules into disarray, SDHSAA Executive Director Dan Swartos said it didn't seem like the best time to be making changes to the management fees.

With the prospect of no fans at some events, Swartos said fees could be considerably lower. If state events are canceled again, there would be revenue losses from the television contract, merchandise sales and gate receipts.

Casey Meile of the Sioux Falls School District told the board that there has to be a change in the system. He said the Sioux Falls district lost \$30,000 when it hosted the state wrestling tournament.

"I don't think a school should have to lose that amount of money," Meile said.

SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director John Krogstrand said the current system for state tournaments is "backwards." In other states, community chambers of commerce bid on being able to host events.

"That's probably something we need to take a strong look at," Krogstrand said.

"Our model itself is a little bit backwards," said Swartos, noting that communities benefit from the tournaments while the schools are stuck with the costs.

According to Swartos, it's tough for school officials when they go to their school board and say, "We're hosting this for the association. Here's our bill for it."

The goal of exploring new sports to sponsor saw some success recently with the addition of girls' wrestling at the association's April meeting. Last year the association also made progress on judging interest in girls' softball and e-sports, but that effort will have to carry over into the new school year.

Swartos said he has fielded calls expressing interest in the association sanctioning hockey, swimming and diving, rodeo, trap shooting, bass fishing and boys' volleyball.

The association will also study the way average daily membership or ADM is counted in schools. That number determines a school's classification for sports.

SDHSAA will study ADM modifiers like free and reduced lunches, a small school factor and a success factor. Swartos said he was interested in knowing more about a system that adjusts ADM based on the number of reduced and free lunches served at a school.

"ADM is kind of a touchy subject to start with," said board chairman Craig Cassens of Faulkton, as schools are protective of the process that determines who their opponents will be in sports.

Board member Randy Soma of Brookings said that students who qualify for free or reduced price lunches often have to work to help out their families and can't participate in sports or activities.

"A lot of times those kids are not out for anything," Soma said.

Another goal for the year is beginning the process of developing a new website. The current site is 12 years old, Swartos said, and a new one would likely cost as much as \$25,000.

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Effects of pandemic safety measures being felt as sports seasons begin

By Dana Hess

For the S.D. Newspaper Association

BROOKINGS — As high school sports practices start up across South Dakota, coaches, athletes and administrators are realizing that it's not business as usual during a pandemic.

The South Dakota High School Activities Association board of directors heard reports about the start of fall sports Thursday at their August meeting in Pierre. The meeting was live streamed on the internet.

One safety measure in football has been particularly vexing.

The problem is "how the heck to keep each kid with their own water bottle," said SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director John Krogstrand. "That's required some creativity."

While it's important to keep players from sharing a water source, Krogstrand said most of the responsibility will fall to players. He said if they can each keep track of their own helmets, they can probably keep track of their own water bottles, too.

SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director Jo Auch said she has cautioned volleyball officials to wear masks if the school district where the match is being played mandates masks.

"This is what's best for the sport right now," Auch said.

Looking forward to large cheer and dance competitions, Auch advised that teams should be brought into the facility three at a time. They should warm up, perform and leave.

Auch said she didn't know if fans could stay or should leave after the team they're rooting for leaves.

"I don't have a good answer for that," Auch



U8 Pee-Wees

Back Row: Jace Hofer, Gavin Hanten, Major Dolan, Axel Abeln, Logan Olson, Ryder Schwan, Eli Heilman, Connor Kroll, Trayce Schelle, Carter Boerger

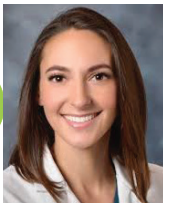
Front Row: Brantley Belden, Boston Kurth, Deylon Johnson, Rylan Blackwood, Graham Rose, Ivan Schwan, Bentley Ehresmann, Haden Harder, Mason Locke, Hank Hill, Dawson Feist

Missing: Drew Fjeldheim, Asher Zimmerman, Brody Zimmerman

Coached by Matt Locke (not pictured) with help from Seth Erickson, groundskeepers and volunteer dads. (Photo by April Abeln)

Seek Help for Urinary Incontinence

Just because something is common does not mean it is normal. Many diseases are common nowadays, yet few would consider them normal. For example, while obesity and diabetes are rampant, none would argue that these conditions are normal or should go untreated. However, when it comes to problems of the urinary tract, this is often the case. Millions of individuals suffer from urinary incontinence – the involuntary loss of urine. Leakage can occur due to a strong “gotta go, gotta go” urge, activity such as coughing or laughing, or even without awareness. Few people seek treatment for these bothersome, yet very treatable, conditions.



By Lauren Wood Thum, MD ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

On average, patients wait six years or more to bring these urinary complaints to their physicians. And some never do. Many are under the impression that incontinence is a normal part of aging, or something one must simply live with. This could not be further from the truth. Leakage itself is rarely dangerous, however serious consequences can arise from incontinence. Waking frequently at night or rushing to the bathroom can lead to falls, which in turn can result in injury and even the need for nursing home care.

These situations, while dangerous, are oftentimes completely preventable. The first step is a careful history and physical examination by a specialist. People leak for a multitude of reasons, and successful treatment depends upon correct diagnosis. Most types of leakage can be eliminated or cured. Depending on the cause, often a trial of simple behavioral modifications can do the trick. These may include limiting fluid intake, avoiding bladder irritants or urinating on a set schedule. Pelvic floor physical therapy may also be an option.

Some patients with a constant urge to urinate, frequent urination, or night waking may require the help of a medication. And not all medications have bothersome side effects. Fortunately, other options do exist. If medication does not work or is not appropriate, we have a multitude of office-based procedures in addition to minor surgical ones. For leakage with activity, a ten-minute procedure can cure leakage for years to come. Not every treatment option is appropriate for every patient, but the bottom line is that options do exist.

It saddens me to think of the number of individuals who suffer in silence with these and other very treatable complaints. And while these conditions affect up to half or more of all adults, they are not “normal”. If you are bothered by urinary complaints, be sure to let your doctor know and seek out the help of a urologist who specializes in pelvic medicine. Your quality of life could improve dramatically, and you will be glad you did.

Lauren Wood Thum, M.D. practicing urology in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, is a contributing Prairie Doc® columnist and guest on the Prairie Doc® television show. 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 SDPTV most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

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Upcoming Events

- Wed., Aug. 19: First Day of School**
- Thurs., Aug. 20: Boys Golf at Milbank, 10:00**
- Fri., Aug. 21: Football hosts Mobridge-Pollock, 7:00**
- Fri., Aug. 21: Boys and Girls Soccer at Belle Fourche**
- Sat., Aug. 22: Boys and Girls Soccer at St. Thomas More**
- Tues., Aug. 25: Boys Golf NEC at Groton, 10:00**
- Thurs., Aug. 27: Volleyball at Britton-Hecla, C at 5:15**
- Fri., Aug. 28: Football hosts Ell./Edgeley-Kulm, 7:00**
- Sat., Aug. 29: Boys and Girls Soccer hosts Vermillion**
- Tues., Sept. 1: Boys Golf @ Lee Park Golf Course, 10 a.m.**
- Tues., Sept. 1: Volleyball hosts Ipswich, 6 p.m.**
- Thurs., Sept. 3: Cross Country at Redfield, 10 a.m.**
- Fri., Sept. 4: Football hosts Webster Area, 7 p.m.**
- Sat., Sept. 5: Boys and girls soccer at Tea Area**

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