

The Groton Independent

Vol. 138 No. 01 ♦ Groton, South Dakota ♦ Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2020 ♦ Established in 1889

Face coverings required at home indoor events

The Groton Area Board of Education voted Monday night to require all spectators attending indoor events at Groton Area to wear face mask. It's an effort to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus and to hopefully, keep the sports seasons flowing.



The board also passed a resolution making employees Critical Infrastrurce employees. The resolution would allow the staff to continue working, if they want, as long as they are asymptomatic, they wear a mask and show no symptions. Superintendent Joe Schwan said, "We can't make them come to work, but it would allow them to come to work if they are considered close contact." It was stated that the teachers seem to be in favor of this so they don't have to use leave time for situations like this. "It's easier for them to stay and work than to try and work from home," Schwan said.

There was a lengthy discussion on fan attendance at activities. At this point in time, the board decided that all fans attending indoor events will need to wear a mask. Board Member Deb Gengerke said, "The goal is to keep our kids going to school in person and to the preserve our sports season. We have to make attempts, whether we like it or not. This is not going to go away."

The board agreed to pay \$2,500 in installation fees for installing a NFHS (National Federation of State High School) Pixellot camera streaming system at the football field and the Arena.

The board approved lane changes for Diane Kurtz and Shelby Hendrickson which will result in a pay raise of \$750. Andrea Brunson was hired as a special education paraprofessional at \$11.85 an hour.

Groton Area COVID-19 Update by Supt. Joe Schwan

As we enter the month of September, we are grateful for a good start to our 2020-2021 school year. Discussions about how to best handle the health pandemic will continue throughout the duration of the school year and changes to practices should be expected as conditions warrant, guidelines change, or better information becomes available.

Below is a brief summary of COVID-19 related information. Thank you all for your support and efforts in trying to keep our kids in school and school activities.

Masks required for indoor activities.

Beginning with the home volleyball match tonight vs. Ipswich, the Groton Area School District will require spectators to wear masks during indoor activities. Spectators will not be admitted without an appropriate face covering and are expected to correctly wear it during the event until they leave the building.

Our student-athletes and coaches have been working very hard to follow the protocols necessary to protect their season. Everyone in attendance is asked to do their part to help us give our student-athletes the best opportunity to complete all season long by cleaning their hands and using the hand sanitizer available, wearing a mask, and physically distancing from others. Those who are showing symptoms of COVID-19 need to stay home. Those at an elevated risk of complications from COVID-19 should strongly consider staying home.

Tonight's match vs. Ipswich will be streamed by Paper Paul on GDILive.com.

Exclusion from school based on COVID-19 symptoms.

On August 18 the South Dakota Department of Health revised the definition of substantial community spread. Brown County is now

considered to have substantial community spread of COVID-19 which requires different action on the part of the school district in response to students showing symptoms of COVID-19.

We are definitely aware that the symptoms of COVID-19 overlap many other regular conditions likely to be affecting our students. Those symptoms, however, combined with possible community exposure require one of three actions before we can re-admit students or staff members to the school setting:

- 1.Student or staff receives a negative COVID-19 test.
- 2.Student or staff is assumed to be positive and self-isolates for a period of ten days.
- 3.Student or staff sees their healthcare provider and is cleared to return to the school setting.

What to expect when there are positive cases within your child's school.

When we experience a positive COVID-19 case within the school, we will notify those families potentially impacted by such a case by use of a general notification letter. The letter indicates only that someone within the school has tested positive along with a reminder of the symptoms to be watchful for and the basic precautions for avoiding illness.

What to expect when your child may be considered a close-contact.

If your child has been within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive individual for a period of fifteen minutes or longer, they will be considered a "close contact" and asked to quarantine for a period of fourteen days from the date of last exposure. If the district has knowledge of a positive case and is reasonably certain that the South Dakota Department of Health will consider your child a "close contact" we will provide you a letter indicating such and asking you to begin the quarantine period. The South Dakota Department of Health will continue to investigate each positive case and develop their list of "close contacts." If your child has been excluded from school attendance and the South Dakota Department of Health later determines that they do not meet the definition of "close contact" your child will be immediately re-admitted to the school setting.

Respectfully,
Joe Schwan, Superintendent

Recycling Trailer has moved

Groton's recycling trailer has been moved to the west of where it used to be. It is now located west of the city shop across Broadway, just south of the railroad tracks.



The hole is being dug for the footing for the new water tower. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Brown County Aug. 25, 2020 General Meeting

AUGUST 25, 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, Fjeldheim, Wiese and Sutton. Commissioner Sutton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the general meeting minutes of August 18th, 2020. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAMS:
Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims:
Professional Fees: Avera St. Luke's \$6,303.27; Cogley Law Office \$6,250.00; Ryan Dell \$6,250.00; Dependable Sanitation \$36,472.80; Dohrer Law Office \$6,250.00; Haar Law Firm \$6,250.00; Mark Katterhagen \$6.00; Kuck Law Office \$6,250.00; Lucy Lewno \$110.00; Darcy Lockwood \$6.00; Jerald McNeary \$6,250.00; Minnehaha County \$7,344.00; Sanford Clinic \$310.27; Sanford Health Occupational Medicine \$48.00; Schrivers Memorial Mortuary \$1,800.00; Christy Griffin-Serr Law Office \$5,250.00; Taliaferro Law Firm \$6,250.00; United Way of NE SD \$2,000.00; US Bank \$149.99; Yankton Co. Sheriff \$100.00. Publishing: Aberdeen American News \$2,091.91; Groton Independent \$802.79; US Bank \$346.56. Repairs & Maintenance: Auto Glass Solutions \$40.00; Exhaust Pros \$67.09; Gardner Locksmith \$207.07; HF Jacobs & Son \$6,003.43; Pierson-Ford \$1,344.46; SD Dept. of Public Safety \$2,340.00; TrueNorth Steel \$48,389.80; US Bank \$3,128.51; Western States Fire Co. \$934.73.
Supplies: American Business Solutions \$69.85; Amerpride \$72.85; BPro \$90.00; Century Business Products \$1,221.30; Crescent Electric \$552.78; DT Pharmacy \$1,954.70; HF Jacobs & Son \$15,649.43; Honeywell \$772.00; LabSource \$1,441.40; Leidholdt Tool Sales \$59.30; Lucy Lewno \$2.25; Menards \$214.76; Midwest Card & ID Solutions \$61.92; Millstone Restaurant \$74.18; Pharmchem \$1,574.10; Share Corp. \$90.00; Tyler Business Forms \$412.40; Tyler Technologies \$1,190.00; US Bank \$11,438.41.
Travel & Conf.: SD Counties

\$385.00; US Bank \$750.00. Utilities: Exec. Mgmt. \$91.07; NWPS \$1,672.68; NVC \$26.76; US Bank \$759.51; Verizon \$40.01. Other: Catching Fireflies Boutique \$695.00; SDACO \$1,542.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT:
Approve hiring of Joseph Embury, as Brown County Jail Correctional Officer, part-time; starting wage \$14.19/hour; effective August 19, 2020. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LEASES:
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the following lease: Roncalli School for lease of 2 sets of small bleacher for football field August 18 – October 31, 2020. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

TRAVEL REQUEST – OUT OF STATE:
Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve out of state travel request to North Dakota for Sheriff's training September 8-10, 2020. Request on file with the Brown County Auditor. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

SURPLUS PROPERTY REQUEST:
Move by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve surplus request from Highway Department and authorize for sale at auction the following items: 1991 Cat Asphalt Paver (asset 1678), 2001 International 4900 Oil Truck (asset 668), 1998 trail king 8x43 bottom dump trailer (Asset TR1554 #1833), 1999 trail king TK54BDU (asset 1556 #1856), 1999 Red River Dump25 bottom dump trailer (asset TR1558 #1961). Auction will conclude October 6th, 2020. Bids can be placed on purplewave.com. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

GRANT AGREEMENT- LEMPG:
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to authorize chair sign grant agreement with the South Dakota Office of Emergency Management for 2021 Local Emergency Management Performance Grant (LEMPG). All member present voting aye. Motion carried.

AUDITOR REPORT OF ACCOUNT:
Moved by Feickert, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve the Auditor's report of account for July 2020 as follows: Total Cash and Checks on Hand 7700 Total Checking Account Balances: 8472787.77 Total Savings Account Balances: 2075447.42 Total Certificates of Deposit: 4923127.01 Grand Total Cash

and Balances: 15479062.2 General Fund Cash and Investment Balances by Funds: General Fund 5482260.14 Road & Bridge Fund 2098442.95 Road & Bridge Fund - restricted 423243.27 911 Service 649258.36 Emergency & Disaster 146610.18 Domestic Abuse 1430 Teen Court 30799.44 Grant 189.61 JDAI -16249.37 Richmond Youth 21916.96 24/7 Sobriety 29280.75 ROD M&P 93278.51 Tif Debt Service 10457.28 Landfill + cash change 3360148.06 Landfill - restricted 1400479.44 Trust and Agency Funds 1747516.62 GRAND TOTAL GENERAL FUND CASH AND INVESTMENTS 15479062.20. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

SOLID WASTE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FEES - 2021
Commissioner Wiese offered the following Resolution: RESOLUTION #44-20
WHEREAS, Title 3, Solid Waste Management System, Chapter 3.07011 of the Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, effective March 12, 1997, as amended, requires the Board of County Commissioners to establish the Solid Waste Special Assessment fee schedule for the following year.
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following Solid Waste Special Assessment fees shall be effective January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, for the Brown County Sanitary Landfill:
SOLID WASTE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FEE SCHEDULE
(Assessment plus applicable sales tax billed with the Real Estate Tax Notice)
Households within Incorporated Cities or Civil Townships that require curb service @ \$33.00 per year
Households within Incorporated Cities or Civil Townships that do not require curb service @ \$83.00 per year
Condominiums taxed as single units within Incorporated Cities or Civil Townships that require curb service @ \$33.00 per year
Condominiums taxed as single units within Incorporated Cities or Civil Townships that do not require curb service @ \$83.00 per year
Apartment Units and Assisted Living Units within incorporated Cities that require curb service @ \$15.00 per unit per year
Seasonal Lake Cabins @ \$50.00 per year
Mobile Home parks, outside incorporated municipalities, which provide or require lot side waste pickup during the entire assessment period, for deposit into a permitted landfill solid waste facility @ \$33.00 per unit per year
Mobile Home parks, outside incorporated municipalities, which do not provide or require lot side waste pickup during the entire assessment period, for deposit into a permitted landfill solid waste facility @ \$83.00 per unit per year
Dated this 25 day of August, 2020. Seconded by Commissioner Sutton. Roll call vote: Commissioners Feickert-aye, Sutton-aye, Wiese-aye, Kippley-aye, Fjeldheim-aye. Resolution adopted.

SOLID WASTE TIPPING FEE SCHEDULE - 2021
Commissioner Sutton offered the following Resolution: RESOLUTION #45-20
WHEREAS, Title 3, Solid Waste Management System, Chapter 3.07010 of the Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, effective March 12, 1997, as amended, requires the Board of County Commissioners to establish the fees for use of the landfill.
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following Solid Waste Tipping Fee Schedule shall be effective January 1, 2021:
SOLID WASTE TIPPING FEE SCHEDULE
PRICES EXCEPT MINIMUM CHARGE DO NOT REFLECT APPLICABLE SALES TAX
ALL LOADS MUST BE TARPED AND SECURED
ALL WASTE MUST BE SORTED AND PUT INTO PROPER AREAS
Type: Fee
Appliances: Refrigerators, Freezers, Air Conditioners, Dehumidifiers: \$12.50 per item With or Without FREON
Asbestos1 Friable – Powdery or Dusty state, can be crumbled and reduced: \$ 5.00 per bag to powder by hand
Compost.. Grass, Leaves and Light Garden Residue: FREE
Contsoil: Gas and Diesel Contaminated Soil (notification and analysis: \$14.00 per ton. required before disposal)
Contsoilsp: Contaminated Soil Special (i.e. NW Energy, Coal Gasification): \$38.00 per ton
E-Waste: Electronic Waste – TVs, Computers, Copiers, Printers, etc: \$100.00 per ton
MSWRB Rubble waste placed in Unit 1: \$20.00 per ton
INDSWIndustrial Solid Waste: \$38.00 per ton
MSW1: Municipal Solid Waste – IN COUNTY (Paper, plastic, cardboard, carpet, upholstered furniture, mattress, box springs etc.) \$38.00 per ton. (Check with Landfill for material not accepted)
MSW2: Municipal Solid Waste – OUT OF COUNTY (same as MSW1): \$38.00 per ton
MSWRC .Rural container site collection waste: Assess per ton
MSWDACarcasses (notification required prior to dumping): \$38.00 per ton
Rubble 1Construction debris-lumber, shingles, sheetrock etc.: \$20.00 per ton
Rubble 2 Heavy debris, concrete, dirt, rocks etc.: \$14.00 per ton
Rubble 3: Pallets: \$20.00 per ton
Mobile Homes – all sizes: \$250.00per unit
Scrap Metal: Metals: \$20.00 per ton
Sludge: Sump waste (analysis may be required): \$20.00 per ton
Tires: Large quantities priced per ton: \$200.00 per ton
Tires Count.....Car and light truck: \$ 2.50 per tire
Tire Shreds... Shredded tires (cell disposal): \$38.00 per ton
Tree Chips..Wood chips from trees: \$14.00 per ton
Trees1: Trees less than 8 inches in diameter: \$20.00 per ton
Trees 2: Trees more than 8 inches in diameter (must be 8' or shorter in length): \$14.00 per ton
Minimum Charge (except on per item fees) 4 1/2 % Sales Tax included: \$ 5.00 per ton
The following items are accepted free:
Grass and Leaves, Lead Acid Batteries, Waste Oil/ Antifreeze (Residential Only)
Dated this 25th day of August 2021. Seconded by Commissioner Wiese. Roll call vote: Commissioners Feickert-aye, Sutton-aye, Wiese-aye, Kippley-aye, Fjeldheim-aye. Resolution adopted.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION – CELL 4:
Commissioner Feickert offered the following Resolution: RESOLUTION 46-20
WHEREAS, Brown County is proposing to construct a new cell for the Brown County Landfill; and
WHEREAS, Brown County is applying for a Solid Waste Management Program Grant (SWMP) in the amount up to, but not exceeding \$1,301,875; and
WHEREAS, Brown County needs to authorize a SWMP signatory.
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Brown County make application to the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources for a SWMP grant in an amount up to, but not exceeding \$1,301,875; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair of the Brown County Commission be the authorized signatory for all related documents, including application and pay requests.
Signed this 25 day of August, 2020 Seconded by Commissioner Fjeldheim. Roll call vote: Commissioners Feickert-aye, Sutton-aye, Wiese-aye, Kippley-aye, Fjeldheim-aye. Resolution adopted.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION APPEAL:
Ron Erickson representing the Jobee Acres Homeowners association met to discuss a concern for the approved special exception/conditional use approved at the August 18th, 2020 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting (item V. 1). No action taken.
POLICY MANUAL PROPOSED CHANGES:
Erica Coughlin (HR Director) met to discuss proposed changes to the employee policy handbook including changes to introductory period, call-in pay, and leave sharing donation policy. Proposed changes are on file with the Brown County Auditor. No action taken.
EXECUTIVE SESSION:
Moved by Sutton, 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 Fjeldheim, seconded by Feickert to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:58a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$128.12. 19224

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Brown County Notice Sale of Surplus Property
 NOTICE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY SALE

Notice is hereby given for surplus auction. Auction to consist of the following highway department surplus: 1991 Cat Asphalt Paver (asset 1678), 2001 International 4900 Oil Truck (asset 668), 1998 trail king 8x43 bottom dump trailer (Asset TR1554 #1833), 1999 trail king TK54BDU (asset 1556 #1856), 1999 Red River Dump25 bottom dump trailer (asset TR1558 #1961). Bids may be submitted online at Purplewave.com. Auction to conclude October 6th, 2020. For information please contact the Brown County Highway Department at (605)626-7118.

ATTEST:
 Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor
 (0902.0909)
 Published Twice at the total approximate cost of \$17.04. 19225

Brown County Loeschke Rezoning Notice
 NOTICE

Application has been made by Gene Loeschke to the Brown County Board of Commissioners for a change of zoning. Hearing to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota on September 22, 2020 at 8:45 A.M. for the purpose of rezoning the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG):
 Lot 2, "Hanlon Subdivision" in the NE1/4 of Section 20-T123N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. (13330 Park Rd)

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony

regarding the amendment to Second Revision Brown County Ordinances pertaining to rezoning the described property. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt first reading of Ordinance No. 175
 ATTEST:
 (0902.0909)
 Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor
 Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$22.92. 19226

Brown County Kriesel Rezoning Notice
 NOTICE

Application has been made by Sandra Kriesel to the Brown County Board of Commissioners for a change of zoning. Hearing to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota on September 22, 2020 at 8:45 A.M. for the purpose of rezoning the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.10 Lake Front Residential District (R-3):
 "Outlot 1", "Replat of Miller's Outlot F" in the SE1/4 of Section 24-T124-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. (379540 N. Shore Drive)

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the amendment to Second Revision Brown County Ordinances pertaining to rezoning the described property. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt first reading of Ordinance No. 176
 ATTEST:
 (0902.0909)
 Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor
 Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$23.51. 19227

Upcoming Events

- Thurs., Sept. 3: Cross Country at Redfield, 10 a.m.
- Fri., Sept. 4: Football hosts Webster Area, 7 p.m.
- Sat., Sept. 5: Boys (3 pm) and Girls (1 pm) soccer at Tea Area
- Mon., Sept. 7 - LABOR DAY - No School
- Tues., Sept. 8: Cross Country at Britton, 4 p.m.
- Tues., Sept. 8: Volleyball hosts Webster (C Match at 5 p.m.)
- Tues., Sept. 8: City Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Groton Community Center

Environmental Services

Join our Growing Team!

Sanford Aberdeen Medical Center is growing our Environmental Services team. We are looking for a full-time floor technician and several housekeepers for both day and evening shifts.

Responsibilities include general housekeeping as well as operating cleaning and laundry equipment. Sanford offers comprehensive benefits including 401k, PTO, Health, Dental, and Vision Insurance & more! Education assistance is available after just one year of employment.

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State of S.D. Gonsoir Name Change to Craig

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
 COUNTY OF DAY
 IN CIRCUIT COURT
 5th Judicial Circuit
 In the Matter of the Petition regarding Camille Roxanne Gonsoir and Aubrey Connie Lou Gonsoir for a Change of Name to Camille Roxanne Craig and Aubrey Connie Lou Craig.
 CIV: 20-29

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR NAME CHANGE OF A MINOR CHILD (UNCONTESTED)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Verified Petition for Name Change of a Minor Child has been filed by Desiree Gonsoir the object and prayer of which is to change their minor child's name from Camille Roxanne Gonsoir, Aubrey Connie Lou Gonsoir to Camille Roxanne Craig, Aubrey Connie Lou Craig.

On the 14th day of October, 2020, at the hour of 2:30 p.m. said Verified Petition will be heard by this Court before the Honorable Jon S. Flemmer, presiding, at the Court Room in the Day County Courthouse, City of Webster, Day County, South Dakota, or as soon thereafter as is convenient for the court. Any interested party may come and appear at that time and place and show reasons, if any, why said name should not be changed as requested.

Dated this 18th day of August, 2020, at Webster, South Dakota.

/s/ Jon S. Flemmer
 Circuit Court Judge (SEAL)
 /s/ Claudette Opitz
 Clerk of Court (0826.0916)

Published four times at the total approximate cost of \$57.72. 19202

Preschool Developmental Screening
 Groton Area Schools #06-6

Preschool Developmental Screening is for children ages 3-5 who reside in the Groton Area School District. The child needs to be 3 years of age before the screening date/day. This screening is not required to enter Kindergarten.

The screening consists of communication skills, motor skills, and concepts.

If your child is already receiving services or enrolled at Groton Elementary School they will not need to be screened. If your child has already been screened but you have concerns please contact the elementary school. If you are new to the district and have a child under the age of 5, we also ask you to contact the elementary school.

Screenings will be held on an appointment only basis. Please contact Paula Johnson at 605-397-2317 or Paula.M.Johnson@k12.sd.us to schedule a screening time.

CATHOLIC FAMILY SERVICES IS NOW OFFERING

GRIEF SHARE

Grief Share is a worldwide Christian-based program. It is a support group for adults who have lost a loved one through death. It combines educational videos, a workbook titled "Your Journey From Mourning to Joy" and time for discussion. The group runs for 11 weeks.

Participants can attend in person at Catholic Family Services or your own parish can participate via Zoom for the educational component and then hold small group discussion lead by an identified team leader. (CFS will train the identified leader and offer continued support.)

2020 DATES
 • SEPTEMBER 15 thru NOVEMBER 24

2021 DATES
 • FEBRUARY 2 thru APRIL 13
 • JUNE 1 thru AUGUST 10
 • SEPTEMBER 14 thru NOVEMBER 23

sfcatholic.org/cfs 800-700-7867 (STOP)

GRIEF SHARE

Tuesdays 6pm beginning Sept 15th in the SEAS Gathering Space
 (This is for adults who have lost a loved one.)

Ruby Donovan from our parish has gone through the training with the Catholic Family Service for the purpose of leading a Grief Sharing Group. Although she is not a professional, she has also gone through the grieving process concerning the loss of several family members.

After viewing the professional counselor from the Catholic Family Services via a zoom conference, Ruby will be hosting a group discussion. As you listen to the professionals and Ruby, you will see you are not alone in your grieving, there is hope and you too can journey from grief to hope.

This program, although run by Catholics is good for any person going through the grieving process. The cost of the program is \$15.00 for the workbook but we will scholarship anyone who may need help. We also need a couple volunteers to be part of the leadership team. These volunteers will help with hospitality and support for our team leader. If you are interested in this program as a volunteer or to join the group, please call our parish office at 605-397-2775 or email us at seas@nvc.net.

Concerns arise over merger of S.D. agricultural and environmental agencies

Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch



Some environmentalists are worried that waterways such as the James River, shown here near Mitchell, could see less protection from agricultural wastes if creation of a new state agency reduces regulation of farming operations. Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch file



Scott VanderWal

Some South Dakota farmers, ranchers and environmental advocates are concerned about Gov. Kristi Noem's plan to combine the state Department of Agriculture and Department of Environment and Natural Resources into a single agency and are wondering what the new agency could mean for the state's largest industry and the regulation of agricultural practices and pollution.

So far, almost no details have been released about the merger and the new agency that will result, causing concern among many whose lives and livelihoods depend on agriculture and the successful regulation of the industry.

Based on a News Watch analysis of surrounding states, South Dakota would become the only state in the Great Plains region that does not separate its environmental protection agency from its department of agriculture.

The planned merger has the potential to profoundly reshape the complex relationship between agriculture, the environment, and the people charged with promoting and regulating the industry. But the governor's office has not yet released a plan on how the new agency will work, what the merger will cost or save in terms of tax dollars, if state employees will lose their jobs, what its budget will be or how regulation may be affected.

Some South Dakota agricultural leaders are concerned that the current Department of Agriculture's mission to "promote, protect and preserve" the industry could be diminished under the new department. Environmental advocates, meanwhile, say they are worried that the DENR's mission to protect public health and the environment will be undermined, given the Noem administration's support for the agricultural industry, including her push to expand the number of concentrated animal feeding operations, or CAFOs.

"Without knowing all the details, it's hard to say exactly what might happen," said Jay Gilbertson, the manager of the East Dakota Water Management District who is a staunch advocate for water quality and strict regulation. "It's hard for me to imagine what the advantage of this merger is."

The concerns of farmers and ranchers is that even though the Noem administration has been supportive of the agricultural industry, future governors may take a different approach, said Scott VanderWal, president of the South Dakota Farm Bureau Federation. If a future governor appoints a department secretary who favors tougher environmental regulation of agriculture, there won't be someone of equal rank to push back, he said.

"Historically, there have been some issues that come up where the Department of Ag and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources have not met on the same side," VanderWal said. "Most of the concern would be that the ag department would turn more toward regulation, and maybe have a lack of understanding of what [farming] operations need."

VanderWal said the farm bureau will wait until the group's members have a chance to discuss the merger before taking a formal position for or against the plan. Details on the merger are hard to come

by because they don't exist yet, said Maggie Seidel, senior adviser and policy director for Gov. Noem. The merger, announced in an Aug. 27 news release, calls for current Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Hunter Roberts to take the top job at the Department of Agriculture on Sept. 8 and officially begin the process of merging the two disparate departments. The stated goal for the merger is to streamline the functions of both departments and make more efficient use of tax dollars.

The new department will be known as the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Beyond the name and who will be in charge of the new department, most details still need to be ironed out, Seidel said.

"There have been some initial conversations that have already taken place, but Secretary Roberts will lead a lot of those efforts," she said.

Right now, both DENR and the Department of Agriculture are relatively small agencies with small budgets. The DENR budgeted for about 180 full-time employees and is authorized to spend \$25.9 million; the Department of Agriculture budgeted for 225 full-time employees and a budget of about \$47.5 million.

If current budget and staffing levels are maintained, the new Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources would have roughly 405 employees and a budget of about \$73.4 million. At 405 employees, the new department would be similar in size to the Department of Public Safety, which includes the state highway patrol and Office of Emergency Management and is budgeted to have around 428 full-time employees.

Seidel would not say how long the governor has been contemplating the merger. The plan, though, is to have the new Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources budget set before Noem delivers her annual budget address to the Legislature in early December, Seidel said. Roberts would have roughly three months to devise a budget and plan the merger.

Even after the merger plan is finalized, the South Dakota constitution requires Noem to submit an executive order outlining the merger to the Legislature within five days of the start of the 2021 legislative session on Jan. 12. Legislators would then have the opportunity to pass a resolution disapproving the merger. If no such resolution is passed within 90 days, the merger would go into effect.

Early critics of the merger plan say they struggle to think of any scenario in which the merger would lead to improved outcomes for the environment. At least one Democratic state senator has indicated his willingness to push back against the merger.

"I'm philosophically opposed to the idea of combining these two departments because one is supposed to be about promoting agriculture and the other one is supposed to be about making sure we have clean water," said state Sen. Reynold Nesiba, D-Sioux Falls. "Those are going to be in conflict and I don't know how to resolve that within one department."

Industry a source of waterway pollution

One of the first things environmental groups such as Dakota Rural Action and the Friends of the Big Sioux River in Sioux Falls noticed about the merger is that the word "environment" will be dropped from the new department's name. Dropping the word "environment" from the

Continues on next page

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new name, they say, is a signal that protecting the environment will be given short shrift among the new department's priorities.

"What's the old saying, 'Out of sight, out of mind?'" said Kelly Kistner, president of the South Dakota division of the national conservation organization the Izaak Walton League. "You can support a clean environment, healthy natural resources and agriculture, but there will be times and some issues, where it will be very difficult to support both."

Kistner said in an email to News Watch that the new combined department could reduce the environmental watchdog role now played by the DENR. "The division believes the people of South Dakota need a department to be their watchdog for our water, air, and natural resources."

Agriculture is one of the biggest sources of pollution in South Dakota, largely because it is the state's biggest industry but also because it uses land and consumes natural resources. Runoff from farm fields and pastures carries sediment containing fertilizer residue into lakes and rivers, which can cause blooms of toxic, blue-green algae. Livestock with unfettered access to rivers and streams, meanwhile, can leave waste on and around a river's banks and cause elevated levels of e.coli and other fecal coliform bacteria in the water. Individual CAFOs that house thousands of hogs or cattle and in some cases more than a million birds can each generate millions of gallons of animal waste annually.

More than three quarters of the river and stream miles the DENR monitored for water quality between 2014 and 2019 were found to be impaired for at least one of the intended uses, such as fishing or swimming. The Big



Hogs and other animals are increasingly being housed and fed in CAFOs, or concentrated animal feeding operations. Individual CAFOs, of which there are about 450 in South Dakota holding about 10 million animals, can each produce millions of gallons of liquid animal wastes per year. CAFOs are regulated by the state DENR. Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch file

Sioux River, which runs through numerous farm fields and through downtown Sioux Falls, is considered impaired for immersion recreation, which is any activity that includes human contact with the river water.

Part of DENR's role is to both monitor water quality and to prevent too much pollution from entering rivers and lakes. Effective regulation is difficult even under the best conditions in South Dakota, given the state's relatively lax rules regarding farm runoff, Gilbertson said. Combining the agency that regulates farm pollution with the organization that promotes farming could make the job more difficult.

"In an ag state, where many of our water quality issues are related to agriculture, and that's not because ag is inherently bad, it's because it's all we have, putting ag promotion in the same group as the folks who are charged with protecting the resource, protecting our water, protecting our air and all the rest, would seem to present a conflict," Gilbertson said. "You know, you can't both promote an activity and then regulate that activity effectively."

Noem downplayed those concerns during an Aug. 31 interview hosted by the Sioux Falls Rotary Club.

"Some of the best stewards of our land are farmers and ranchers. They're going to pass this on to their children, grandchildren, great grandchildren so they're very interested in keeping it as pristine as it is today," Noem said.

"Also, within agriculture and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, there's all kinds of checks and balances and partnerships and federal government requirements that make sure that we are doing due diligence and protecting the environment," the governor added.

Seidel said there is no significance to dropping the word "environment" from the new department's name. Cutting the word from the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources' name was about keeping the name short, she said. Plus, the federal government requires and pays for a substantial portion of the environmental protection and monitoring work that DENR currently does, Seidel said, so it will happen regardless of an agency's name.

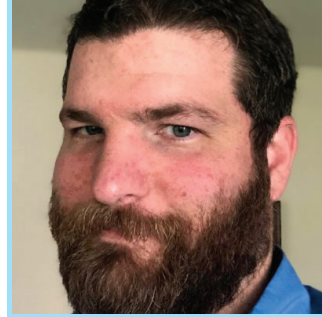
About 43%, or \$10.5 million, of the DENR's roughly \$26 million annual budget comes from the federal government.

"This merger doesn't, in any way, reduce or limit the long-standing environmental regulations and authority that DENR has," Seidel said.

Still, there is reason to worry about merging two major state government departments that have such different and often competing missions, said David Osterberg, a senior researcher focusing on environmental policy at Common Good Iowa, a public policy group in Iowa. In states whose economies are dominated by agriculture, including in South Dakota and Iowa, governments tend to favor policies that make agriculture as profitable as it can be, even if the profits come at the expense of environmental protection, Osterberg said.

"If you put these agencies together, your ag establishment, your corn growers and soybean people and your cattlemen, will just have a way in which they will keep anything approaching regulation away from them," he said. "Because that's what departments of Ag do; they protect agriculture."

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.

TWO DEPARTMENTS MERGING INTO ONE

Here is a brief look at the two state agencies that Gov. Kristi Noem has announced will merge.

South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources

— FY2021 budget: \$25,977,065

— Budgeted employees: 180.5

— Mission statement: "The mission of DENR is to protect public health and the environment by providing environmental monitoring and natural resource assessment, technical and financial assistance for environmental projects, and environmental regulatory services; all done with reduced red tape, expanded e-government functions, and exceptional customer service to promote a prosperous economy while protecting South Dakota's environment and natural resources for today and tomorrow."

South Dakota Department of Agriculture

— FY2021 Budget: \$47,558,714

— Budgeted employees: 224.9

— Mission statement: "To promote, protect and preserve South Dakota agriculture for today and tomorrow."

HUNTER ROBERTS AT A GLANCE

Clint Hunter Roberts is the South Dakota Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, and will head the newly created Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Hunter Roberts



Roberts, who goes by the name Hunter, is a third-generation South Dakota public servant in addition to owning and operating the Roberts Ranch in Stanley and Roberts counties. He also holds a law degree from the University of South Dakota.

Roberts, 52, has worked in state government since 2007 when he joined the Governor's Office of Economic Development as the assistant state energy director. He took over as the state energy director at GOED in 2008 and in 2014 became a policy advisor for Gov. Dennis Daugaard, working on agricultural policy and overseeing the South Dakota Department of Agriculture.

Gov. Noem appointed Roberts to be the secretary for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in July 2019; his annual salary is \$126,622 and he resides in Pierre with his wife, Stephanie, and their two children.

Roberts is the son of Clay and Pam Roberts; his mother has served in multiple state administrations in various roles. Pam Roberts now sits on the Board of Regents, which governs the South Dakota public university system.

Roberts' grandfather, Clint Roberts, served in the U.S. Congress and as state Secretary of Agriculture from 1979-80 during the administration of Gov. Bill Janklow.

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2020-21 Groton Area Tigers School Calendar

Football

Fri., Aug. 21	Mobridge-Pollock	7:00
Fri., Aug. 28	EIL/Edgeley-Kulm	7:00
Fri., Sept. 4	Webster	7:00
Fri., Sept. 11	at Sisseton	7:00
Fri., Sept. 18	at Milbank	6:00
Fri., Sept. 25	Redfield	7:00
Fri., Oct. 2	at Roncalli	7:00
Fri., Oct. 16	Stanley County	7:00
Thurs., Oct. 22	First Round Playoffs	
Thurs., Oct. 29	Second Round Playoffs	
Fri., Nov. 6	Quarterfinals	
Nov. 12-14	State at Dakota Dome	

School Calendar

Aug. 19	.....	First Day of School
Sept. 7	.....	Labor Day - NO SCHOOL
Sept. 19	.....	ACT testing at Groton Area
Sept. 21	.....	Homecoming Coronation (7:30 p.m.)
Sept. 25	.....	Homecoming game with Redfield
Oct. 8	.....	P-T Conferences (1:30-8:30)
Oct. 9	.....	Lake Region Marching Festival
Oct. 14	.....	LifeTouch Pictures at Elementary
Oct. 15	.....	LifeTouch Pictures at GHS
Oct. 16	.....	End of First Quarter
Oct. 24	.....	ACT testing at Groton Area
Oct. 27	.....	Financial Aid Night
Nov. 11	.....	Veteran's Day Program
Nov. 26-27	.....	Thanksgiving Vacation
Dec. 10	.....	MS/HS Christmas Concert (7:00)
Dec. 22	.....	Elementary Christmas Concert (1:00)
Dec. 22	.....	Early Dismissal (2:00)
Dec. 22	.....	End of First Semester
Dec. 23-Jan. 1	.....	Christmas Vacation
Jan. 4	.....	School Resumes
Jan. 15	.....	NCSEC Faculty Inservice - NO SCHOOL
Feb. 10	.....	LifeTouch Pictures at GHS Gym
Feb. 11	.....	P-T Conferences (1:30-8:30)
Feb. 12	.....	Faculty Inservice - NO SCHOOL
Mar. 4	.....	End of Third Quarter
Mar. 6	.....	NE Region DI at Groton
Mar. 19	.....	Spring Break - NO SCHOOL
Mar. 27	.....	State DI in Pierre
Apr. 2	.....	Good Friday - NO SCHOOL
Apr. 11	.....	POPS Concert (2:00 & 5:00)
Apr. 17	.....	ACT testing at Groton Area
Apr. 24	.....	PROM
Apr. 29	.....	MS Spring Concert (7:00)
May 4	.....	Elementary Spring Concert (7:00)
May 6	End of 2nd Semester
May 6	HS Concert/Awards Night (7:00)
May 16	Graduation (2:00)

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Boys Golf

Mon., Aug. 17	at Sioux Valley	10:00
Thurs., Aug. 20	at Milbank	10:00
Thurs., Aug. 25	NEC at Groton	10:00
Tues., Sept. 1	at Aberdeen Central	10:00
Thurs., Sept. 10	Milbank at Groton	10:00
Tues., Sept. 15	at Redfield	10:00
Thurs., Sept. 17	Tiospa Zina Invite @10:00	
	Dakota Magic Golf Course	
Thurs., Sept. 24	at Sisseton	10:00
Mon., Sept. 28	Region 1A at	10:00
	Dakota Magic Golf Course	
Oct. 5-6	State at Hot Springs	

Track

Tues. Apr. 6	at Ipswich	12:30
Tues., Apr. 13	Groton Luecke Invite	11:30
Fri., Apr. 16	at Milbank	3:00
Tues., Apr. 20	at Deuel	3:00
Tues., Apr. 27	Groton Invite	11:30
Fri., Apr. 30	at Webster	2:00
Tues., May 4	at Milbank	1:00
Fri., May 7	at Sisseton	3:00
Thurs., May 13	NEC at Groton	11:00
Thurs., May 20	Region at Sisseton	12:00
Fri., May 28	State at Spearfish	
Sat., May 29	State at Rapid City	

Basketball

	Boys	Girls
Fri., Dec. 11	Britton-Hecla	6:00
Sat., Dec. 12	at Britton-Hecla	6:00
Thurs., Dec. 17	at Hamlin	4:00
Mon., Dec. 21	Redfield	6:00
Tues., Dec. 22	at Redfield	6:00
Mon., Dec. 28	at Brookings Swiftel Events Center	
Tues., Dec. 29	Northwestern	7:00
Tues., Jan. 5	Warner	5:00
Thurs., Jan. 7	Sisseton	6:00
Fri., Jan. 8	at Sisseton	6:00
Sat., Jan. 9	Classic at Redfield	
Mon., Jan. 11	at Webster	4:00
Tues., Jan. 12	Ab. Christian @ Civic Center	6:00
Thurs., Jan. 14	Roncalli	6:00
Fri., Jan. 15	at Roncalli	6:00
Mon., Jan. 18	at Langford	6:30
Tues., Jan. 19	at Ipswich	8:00
Fri., Jan. 22	at Clark/Willow Lake	7:30
Mon., Jan. 25	Northwestern	6:00
Thurs., Jan. 28	at Tiospa Zina	6:00
Fri., Jan. 29	Tiospa Zina	6:00
Sat., Jan. 30	at Madison Classic	
Tues., Feb. 2	Roncalli	6:00
Tues., Feb. 2	at Langford	6:30
Thurs., Feb. 4	Faulkton Area	7:45
Sat., Feb. 6	at Madison Classic	
Thurs., Feb. 11	Milbank	4:00
Sat., Feb. 13	at Mobridge-Pollock	2:00
Mon., Feb. 15	at Roncalli	5:00
Fri., Feb. 19	Deuel	4:00
Tues., Feb. 23	Region at highest seed	
Thurs., Feb. 25	Region at highest seed	
Fri., Feb. 26	Aberdeen Christian	6:00
Tues., Mar. 2	Region at highest seed	
Thurs., Mar. 4	SoDak 16	
Fri., Mar. 5	Region at highest seed	
Tues., Mar. 9	SoDak 16	
March 11-13	State at Watertown	
March 18-20	State at Sioux Falls	

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JH Volleyball

Mon., Sept. 21	at Webster	7th 4:00, 8th 5:00
Tues., Sept. 22	Warner	7th 5:00, 8th 6:00
Thurs., Sept. 24	Clark/WL	7th 5:00, 8th 6:00
Tues., Sept. 29	Florence/Henry	1 JH Match: 5:00
Thurs., Oct. 1	at Hamlin	7th 5:00, 8th 6:00
Fri., Oct. 9	Roncalli	7th 5:00, 8th 6:00
Tues., Oct. 13	Tiospa Zina	7th 5:00, 8th 6:00
Thurs., Oct. 15	at Milbank	Both matches 4:30
Mon., Oct. 19	Langford	7th grade only
Tues., Oct. 20	at N-Western	7th 5:00, 8th 6:00

JV Football

Mon., Sept. 14	Sisseton	5:00
Mon., Sept. 21	Milbank	4:00
Mon., Sept. 28	at Redfield	5:30
Mon., Oct. 5	at Roncalli	5:15

JH Football

Mon., Sept. 14	Sisseton (1 combined game)	4:00
Tues., Sept. 22	at Milbank	7th 4:30, 8th to follow
Mon., Sept. 28	at Redfield	1 combined game 4:30
Mon., Oct. 5	at Roncalli	1 combined game 4:00
Thurs., Oct. 15	Webster	7th 4:40, 8th 5:30

Cross-Country

Thurs., Sept. 3	at Redfield	10:00
Tues., Sept. 8	at Britton	4:00
Mon., Sept. 14	at Webster	2:00
Thurs., Sept. 17	at Roncalli (Lee Park)	4:00
Mon., Sept. 21	at Deuel (Clear Lake)	4:00
Mon., Sept. 28	GROTON (OGGC)	4:00
Thurs., Oct. 1	at Sisseton	4:00
Thurs., Oct. 8	NEC at Webster	4:00
Thurs., Oct. 15	Region at Webster	3:30
Sat., Oct. 24	State at Yankton Trails, SF	

Girls Golf and Wrestling Schedules not Available

Soccer

	Boys	Girls
Sat., Aug. 15	at Garretson	1:00
Sat., Aug. 15	at Freeman Academy	3:00
Fri., Aug. 21	at Belle Fourche	4:00
Sat., Aug. 22	at St. Thomas More	11:00
Sat., Aug. 29	Vermillion	
Sat., Sept. 5	at Tea Area	
Thurs., Sept. 10	at JV Christian	4:00
Fri., Sept. 11	at West Central	
Sat., Sept. 12	S.F. Christian	3:00
Sat., Sept. 19	Garretson	1:00
Sat., Sept. 19	Freeman Academy	3:00
Thurs., Sept. 24	JV Christian	4:00
Sat., Sept. 26	Tea Area	3:00
Tues., Oct. 6	1st Round Playoffs	
Sat., Oct. 10	Semi-Final Playoffs	
Sat., Oct. 17	State at Huron	

Robotics

Sat., Oct. 10	Groton Invite	
Sat. Nov. 7	Mitchell Invite	
Sat., Nov. 21	Box Elder at Douglas Invite	
Sat., Dec. 12	Harrisburg Invite	
Sat., Jan. 9	Canton Invite	
Sat., Feb. 6	Groton Invite	
Sat., Feb. 27	State at Harrisburg	
April 20-29	VEX World at Dallas, Texas	

Forensics

Oral Interp	October 5: Milbank Invitational
October 17: Florence Invitational	
October 24: NSU Invite, Aberdeen	
October 26: Brookings Invitational	
October 31: Pumpkinstakes, Watertown	
November 17: Regions, Virtual	
December 4-5: State Oral Interp, Virtual	
Oral Interp and Debate Combination	November 6-7: Golden Eagle Cup, Aberdeen
November 20-21: McGovern, Mitchell Debate	
November 2: Brookings Novice	
November 10: Watertown Novice	
December 1: Sippel Novice, Groton	
Dec. 8: Milbank Novice PF/Congress	
December 18-19: Brookings Bell	
January TBA: Big Question Debate	
January 15-16: Silver Bowl, Sioux Falls	
January 22-23: Speech Fiesta, Watertown	
February 12-13: Rushmore Challenge, Harrisburg	
February 19-20: National Qualifier, Watertown	
March 5-6: State Debate, Aberdeen	
March TBA: Big Question National Qualifier, Aberdeen	
Congressional Debate (Student Congress) only	December 8: Milbank Congress
January 12: UDFL Student Congress, Groton	
March TBA: State Student Congress, TBA	

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Ipswich hands Groton Area netters first loss



Madeline Flihs
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Groton's volleyball team suffered its first loss of the season to the hands of a good Ipswich team Tuesday in Groton, 3-1.

The game was broadcast live on GDLIVE.COM and GDI Radio at 89.3 FM, sponsored by Ed and Connie Stauch.

Ipswich had a rally of 11 points to win the first game, 25-15. The second game was very competitive with the game being tied nine times and there were seven lead changes and Grace Wambach had the winning kill as Groton won, 25-24. Ipswich then won the next game games by identical scores of 25-16.

Ipswich had 43 kills on the night with Paige Mehlberg leading the way with 12 and Katie Bierman nine. Gorton Area had 22 kills with Grace Wambach having seven, Madeline Flihs five and Kenzie McInerney four.

Ipswich had three solo and one assisted block with Mehlberg having two solo and an assist while Bierman had one solo. McInerney had one solo kill for Groton Area.

Ipswich had 10 aces serves and Groton Area had six. Halle Heinz of Ipswich and Allyssa Locke of Groton Area each had three ace serves while Brooklyn Gilbert of Groton Area and Chesney Olivier of Ipswich each had two.



Allyssa Locke
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

Vermillion hands Groton girls first loss

Groton Area girls soccer team lost to Vermillion on Saturday, 4-2. The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by the junior parents: Tricia and Bary Keith, Sadie and Nick Leicht, Karla and Russell Davidson, Tammy and Matt Locke and Bridget and Jeff Flihs.

Ellie Schroeder scored first for Vermillion with 23:15 left in the first half. The Tanagers scored again with 9:58 left in the first half by Levi Regnerus. Kenzie McInerney scored for the Tigers with 6:30 left in the first half to make it 2-1 at halftime with Vermillion leading.

Vermillion would score first in the second half with a goal by Schroeder. Regnerus added a score with 12:02 left which gave Vermillion a 4-1 lead. McInerney would score on a penalty kick with 4:48 left in the game and the final score was 4-2, Vermillion.

- Paul Kosel



The goalie is Tucker Carda
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

Vermillion boys hand Groton Area loss

Vermillion defeated Groton Area in boys soccer action on Saturday, 6-1. The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Milbrandt Enterprises, Inc., and Julie Milbrandt, a Ruby Ambassador for Plexus.

Vermillion jumped out to a 3-0 lead. Groton Area would score with 31:50 left in the second half when Jayden Zak kicked the ball in from the corner and Brayden Hansen head bunted the ball into the net.

Scoring the goals for Vermillion were Jakob Dobney with two and adding one goal each were Alex Georgescu, Hari Kadarkaraisamy, Will Gilbertson and Noah Gilbertson.

- Paul Kosel

- Paul Kosel

Farrell has big game as Tigers calms the Thunder

Groton Area's gridiron team scored in all four quarters to post a 48-16 win over Ellendale/Edgely/Kulm. The game was played Friday in Groton and was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Delbert Hinkelman of Big Iron Auctions.

Jaimen Farrell had nine carries for 7 yards, had one catch for eight yards and led the defense with 10 tackles, an interception and a sack.

In the first quarter, Jordan Bjerke scored on a six yard pass from Kaden Kurtz. The PAT kick by Jackson Cogley was good.

Jaimen Farrell scored in the second quarter on a two yard run. The PAT kick was no good. Pierce Kettering scored on a seven yard run with Lane Tietz connecting with Jordan Bjerke for the extra points.

Farrell scored right away in the third quarter with a 75 yard kickoff return. The PAT pass was no good. Tietz then connected with Bjerke for a 21-yard pass play. The PAT kick was blocked. Farrell scored on a 37 yard run. Tietz connected with Bjerke for the PAT.



Jaimen Farrell led the Tigers on both ends of the field. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Area would score once in the fourth quarter on an eight yard pass play from Tietz to Farrell. The PAT kick by Cogley was good.

EEK scored twice in the game, once on a 13-yard run and once on a 21 yard pass.

Groton Area had more first downs, 20-12. Both teams had four penalties with Groton having 30 yards and EEK 40 yards. Groton Area lost one fumble and EEK recovered both of its own fumbles.

Kaden Kurtz had five carries for 50 yards and had completed two of three passes for 34 yards before he was injured midway in the second quarter. Favian Sanchez had eight carries for 69 and had seven tackles. Pierce Kettering had eight carries for 39 yards and 10 tackles. Colby Dunker had six carries for one yard and had six tackles. Tietz completed three of four passes for 48 yards. Chandler Larson had a fumble recovery and six tackles, Caleb Furney had a fumble recovery and had a sack, Tate Larson, Paxton Bonn, Cole Bisbee and Kaleb Antonson each had a sack and Alex Morris had seven tackles. Jordan Bjerke had three catches for 52 yards and Ethan Gengerke had one catch for 19 yards.

EEK had eight yards rushing and 183 yards passing.

- Paul Kosel



By Dr. Ken Bartholomew, MD ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

Let's Exercise Our Brains

Albert Einstein conducted thought experiments to figure out theoretical problems. Let's do one of our own. Suppose that you fell and broke your left leg and had to be in a cast for eight weeks. Would you expect your left leg to be as strong as your right leg when the cast was removed? Of course not. You know that muscle that is not exercised gets smaller and softer. Secondly, would you expect that, by sitting in a recliner for the next two months, your left calf would magically grow back and strengthen to where it was before? Of course, you wouldn't.

However, that is exactly what many of us do with our brains. We sit around passively and take our brains for granted. We don't exercise the brain, yet we expect it to take care of itself. But all cells in the body need to be used or they suffer from what is called disuse atrophy. When body builders start lifting, they use muscle cells that were previously sitting idle. As these cells are exercised vigorously, they hypertrophy,

the opposite of atrophy. We can do the very same thing with our brain cells, and the potential is enormous.

The human brain is composed of approximately one hundred billion cells, and neuroscientists using PET scans and other devices estimate that we only use about ten billion of these cells in our lifetime. That means that there are ninety billion cells just sitting on top of our shoulders waiting for something to do!

Different areas of our brains control different functions such as speech, walking, writing, music, math, and coordination. So, just as the body builder targets each muscle group with specific exercises, we must exercise all the different parts of our brains.

For example, balance is a function of multiple areas of the brain all of which can be strengthened by walking. When we walk, we strengthen the legs but at the same time we stimulate the nerves that signal the balance centers of the brain. These signals fire millions of times a second, coordinating our eyesight with inner ear and cerebellar inputs. By practicing walking in a straight line, we target the balance and coordination centers, making them stronger which can help prevent falls and that dreaded broken hip.

Our brains have incredible potential, but nothing happens by itself. It starts with us making the decision to exercise our brain. This decision itself originates in a different part of the brain and that, too, will get stronger with repeated use. The fact is, decisions we make daily, will change our brain every day for the rest of our lives. Decisions we make today will affect how our brain functions ten years from now.

We can make it happen. We can do math, balance our checkbook in our head then double-check it with our calculator. We can study history, explore music, take educational courses online or via DVD. We can learn a new language, do crosswords, read, read, read. The more we do now the better our brain, and in turn, our lives will be.

Ken Bartholomew, M.D. is a contributing Prairie Doc® columnist. He practices in Pierre, South Dakota and serves on the Healing Words Foundation Board of Directors, a 501c3 which provides funding for Prairie Doc® programs. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit www.prairedoc.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.

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Oscar Mayer Deli Fresh Shaved Lunch Meats 5.5-9 Oz. Pkg. **2/\$6**

Homemade Italian Pasta Salad Per Lb. **\$6.29**

Choc. Chip Cookies 12 Ct. **\$3.99**

Heinz Ketchup 31-38 Oz. Bottle **\$2.88**

Bush's Baked or Grillin Beans 21.5-28 Oz. Cans **3/\$5**

Maxwell House or Yuban Coffee 24.5-30.6 Oz. Can **\$5.99**

Betty Crocker Suddenly Salad 7.25-8.3 Oz. Boxes **4/\$5**

General Mills Honey-Nut Cheerios 10.8 Oz. Boxes, **Lucky Charms** 10.5 Oz. Boxes, **Multi-Grain Cheerios** 9 Oz. Boxes or **Cookie Crisp** 10.6 Oz. Boxes **2/\$5**

Kraft Miracle Whip 22-30 Oz. Bottle or **A-1 Sauce** \$3.49 **Digital Coupon** **\$2.99**

Capri Sun Pouch Drinks 10 Oz. Bottle **2/\$4**

Frito-Lay Lay's Potato Chips 7.75-8 Oz. Pkgs. **2/\$4**

Frito-Lay Doritos 9.25-10.5 Oz. Pkgs. **2/\$7**

Aquafina Water 24 Pk. 5 Ltr. Bottles **\$3.99**

BI Color Sweet Corn Dozen **\$3.99**

Summeripe Yellow Peaches Per Lb. **\$1.99**

Assorted Pepsi or 7UP Products 12 Pk. 12 Oz. Cans **3/\$10**

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This Week's Super Buys

Meat
Hormel Boneless Pork Chops Per Lb. **\$1.99**

Produce
Fresh Raspberries - 6 Oz., Blueberries - 1 Pint or Strawberries - 16 Oz. **2/\$5**

Whole Seedless Watermelon **\$3.77** Ea.

Dairy
Cass Clay Cottage Cheese 22 Oz. Ctn. **\$1.99**

Cass Clay Orange Juice Reg. or Calcium 1/2 Gallon Plastic Jug **\$1.99**

Land O' Lakes Chocolate Milk 1/2 Gallon Plastic Jug **\$1.99**

Frozen
Dean's Country Fresh Ice Cream 56 Oz. Squares **2/\$5**

Tombstone Pizza 19-21 Oz. Pkgs. **3/\$10**

Bakery
Brat Buns 6 Ct. **\$1.99**

Deli
Reser's Pre-Pack Salads Potato, Macaroni or Cole Slaw 3 Lb. Ctn. **\$4.99** Ea.

Health & Beauty
Herbal Essences Shampoo or Conditioner 11.7 Oz. Bottle **\$3.99**

Household
Hefty Eco Save Plates or Bowls 12-30 Ct. Pkgs. **2/\$5**

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Week: 2 3 4 5

The Life of Charles Raap

Memorial services for Charles Raap, 87, of Groton were held Saturday, August 29th at PaetznickGarness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Rev. Bill Duncan officiated. Inurnment followed in Union Cemetery.

Visitation will be held at the chapel on Friday from 5-7 p.m.

Chuck passed away August 23, 2020 at Avantara Groton.

Charles Henry Raap was born on April 16, 1933 to Harry and Lucy (Mielke) Raap at his grandparents' home in Groton on Easter Sunday. He grew up near Andover and graduated in 1951 from Andover High School. He enjoyed playing basketball with the Andover Gorillas and was a member of the State Independent team that won back-to-back championships. Following graduation, he farmed with his dad.

On November 7, 1954 he married LaVonne Kirschman in Pierpont and together they were blessed with four children. Chuck and LaVonne moved to Aberdeen in 1960 where he was a route salesman for Coca-Cola for several years. In 1967 they moved to Groton and managed the Circle Pines Motel. Chuck also managed the Anchor Lounge prior to beginning a 40-year career selling cars and trucks for Trail Chevrolet in Groton.

Chuck was a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church and served on the church council. He was community minded, serving in Jaycees, Kiwanis, the Groton City Council and was Mayor. He was a volunteer fireman and an early member of the Olive Grove Golf Course board. Chuck enjoyed bowling, golfing, snowmobiling, hunting, and spending time with family.

Grateful for sharing his life is his wife of 65 years, LaVonne; children Kim (DeeDee) Raap, Sioux Falls, Kris (Bob) Schneider, Pierre, Kevin (Marcia Hiles), Andover, and Koni (Seth) Sims, Sioux Falls; grandchildren Jess (Aaron) Johnson, Kelsey (Dave) Halpern, Sara (Matt) Odden, Kacie Olson, Brittany (Ryan) Tennant, Melissa (Brandon) Spanier, Misty (Brandon) Heck, Chelsea (Bubba) Hildebrandt, and Taylor (Tracy) Johnson and 18 great-grandchildren. Chuck is also survived by siblings Joan Van Dyke, Sioux Falls, Kay (Lyle) Kranzler, Sioux Falls, Laurel (Bob) Kost, Ft. Collins, CO, Jerry (Carol) Raap, Andover, Tom Raap, Sioux Falls, and Allana (Frank) Novotny, Wisner, NE; sisters-in-law Karleen Holler, Aberdeen, Ruth Rademacher, Amherst, and Judy (Gary) McKiver, Shakopee, MN; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents; siblings Patricia Jeter Lackey, Bert Raap and Steven Raap; brothers-in-law John Van Dyke, Ray Lackey, Wayne Holler and Burton Rademacher; sister-in-law Darlene Raap and grandson-in-law Dale Olson.

