

The Groton Independent

Vol. 138 No. 02 ♦ Groton, South Dakota ♦ Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2020 ♦ Established in 1889

Injury reflects like mother, like son



Kaden Kurtz talks with Paul Kosel at half-time on GDILIVE.COM. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)

"It's kind of eerie," said Kaden Kurtz during an interview on GDILIVE.COM on Friday. There are several parallelisms between Kaden's knee injury and that of his mom's 33 years ago.

"It was 33 years ago when I blew out my knee and mom did it to hers playing basketball."

Kurtz suffered his knee injury on August 28, 2020, while playing football against Ellendale-Edgely-Kulm. His mom, Diane (Dohman) Kurtz suffered her injury on Sept. 5, 1987 while playing basketball against Aberdeen Roncalli. Both injured their left knees.

Kaden described what happened to him: "I had two options. I would spin around and fake it to the running back. I had an option to throw it to Jaimen Farrell or to Jackson Cogley. I should have thrown it to Cogley and I ran it instead toward the northeast got a shoulder pad to the side of the knee and I rolled over the top of him and my leg got caught up a little bit. I tore my ACL, MCL and meniscus."

Kaden will be in recovery mode for nine months and will undergo surgery on Wednesday.

"I'm hoping to have a positive experience from an unfortunate event."
- Paul Kosel



While everyone was looking at the field or visiting, Jeslyn Kosel was looking in the sky and this unique cloud was hovering over Doney Field at half time.



Tom Woods (left) has been keeping stats for the Groton Area football teams for 34 years. He has become a staple for halftime stats on GDILIVE.COM. In addition, Woodsy's Place was a sponsor of the Webster game on GDLIVE.COM. He is being interviewed by Paul Kosel. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)

Dohman, Jensen injured

Diane Dohman, Groton, and Julie Jensen, Langford, were two basketball players that were injured last week.

Dohman suffered torn ligaments and cartridge in her knees during the Aberdeen Roncalli girls' basketball game Saturday in Aberdeen. She was taken to St. Luke's Hospital where she underwent eight hours of surgery Sunday.

Dohman, a senior this year, will be unable to play basketball this year and her participation in track also looks doubtful.

Meanwhile Jensen, a freshman at Langford High School, was much luckier in her injury.

Jensen suffered a sprained ankle last Wednesday during practice. Coach Byron Utter said, "She suffered a pretty good injury." He said she is a possible starter and should be back in about two weeks.

From the Sept. 9, 1987 issue of Groton Regional Independent.

Masks now recommended, not required



The Groton Area School Board reviewed its newly implement policy on requiring face coverings at indoor events. Shawn Gengerke was one of those speaking in favor of recommending instead of requiring. The board noted that those attending the volleyball match wore masks at the beginning of the event, but by the end of the event, 95 percent were not wearing masks. Superintendent Joe Schwan said he did not want to go down the road of having the police come in to escort out fans for trespassing; nor was there any good way to enforce the policy. So in the end, the board voted to alter its policy from requiring to wear face masks to recommending to wear face coverings.



GRIEF SHARE

Tuesdays, 6 p.m., beginning Sept. 15, 2020

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church 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 for the workbook, but we will scholarship anyone who may need help. We also need a couple of volunteers to be part of the leadership team. If you are interested in this program as a volunteer or to join the group, please all our parish office at 605/397-2775 or email us at seas@nvc.net.

**Brown County
Sept. 1, 2020
General Meeting**

SEPTEMBER 1, 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 Fjeldheim, Wiese and Sutton. Commissioner Feickert was absent. Commissioner Wiese led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the general meeting minutes of August 25th, 2020. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

Commission \$4,285.10; Auditor \$8,730.13; Treasurer \$13,495.36; SA \$21,898.15; SVAWA \$1,730.76; Maintenance \$7,750.50; Assessor \$13,961.81; Register of Deeds \$8,983.40; VSO \$4,687.50; GIS \$2,387.50; IT \$7,377.56; HR \$2,173.85; Sheriff \$41,235.79; Jail \$55,683.99; Court Security \$6,019.46; JDC \$23,941.20; Welfare \$2,077.70; Museum \$7,782.16; Parks/Fairgrounds \$6,251.18; Fair Board \$11,373.34; 4-H \$896.06; Weed \$4,366.66; Planning & Zoning \$4,529.08; Highway \$44,142.79; Dispatch \$27,134.62; Emergency \$4,119.58; Teen Court \$657.38; JDAI \$1,769.23; 24/7 Sobriety \$565.83; Landfill \$15,061.74; Professional Fees: Aberdeen Advanced Care Ambulance \$2,700.00; Avera St. Luke's \$311.42; Kristi Brandt \$36.75; Brick's TV & Appliance \$7,136.25; Carlsen Funeral Home \$157.50; Climate Control \$4,138.50; Dakota Counseling Group \$150.00; GBR Interpreting \$240.00; Haar Law Firm \$67.80; Mark Katterhagen \$15.00; Kuck Law Office \$31.00; Lucy Lewno \$160.00; Darcy Lockwood \$15.00; Sanford Health \$375.58; SD Dept. of Health \$2,870.00; SD Dept. of Public Safety \$5,400.00; Tammy Stolle Court Reporting \$159.20; West Payment Center \$169.95; Yankton Co. Sheriff Office \$50.00; Publishing: Aberdeen American News \$351.19; Aberdeen Magazine \$310.00; Times-Republican \$17.88. Repairs & Maintenance: Aberdeen Plumbing & Heating \$595.70; Bahr Spray Foam \$12,495.00;

Dakota Doors \$125.50; Gardner Locksmith \$227.07; Gary's Auto Body \$109.50; Ken's Alignment \$543.00; Olson's Pest Control \$250.00; Pierson-Ford \$1,325.00; RDO Equip. \$4,015.22; TrueNorth Steel \$1,000.00. Supplies: Aberdeen Fire & Rescue \$228.00; AgTegra \$912.66; Carlsen Funeral Home \$375.00; Dakota Electronics \$55.00; DSG \$88.86; Domino's Pizza \$121.80; Heartland Paper \$5,988.56; Jensen Rock & Sand \$238.60; Lucy Lewno \$6.50; Mac's \$103.96; Marco \$32.12; Menards \$220.30; Midstates Printing \$633.90; Pierson-Ford \$443.66; Pro Ag Supply \$138.45; Running's \$48.96; Specialty Mfg. \$25.08; TrueNorth Steel \$663.40. Travel & Conf.: SD Counties \$1,295.00.

Utilities: AT&T \$184.27; CenturyLink \$2,837.76; Midcontinent \$260.00; Montana Dakota Utilities \$25.58; NWPS \$8,723.06; NVC \$2,460.50. Other: Aberdeen Advanced Care Ambulance \$620.75; Aberdeen American News \$1,000.00; Lincoln Co. Treasurer \$164.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT:
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the following HR Report:

Acknowledge resignation of Pam McBride, Brown County States Attorney's Office Legal Secretary, full-time; effective September 11, 2020. Request to fill; Acknowledge resignation of Brandon Wiest, Brown County Jail Correctional Officer, full-time; effective August 18, 2020. Request to fill; Approve pay increase for Sheldon Noess, Brown County States Attorney's Office, Legal Secretary, full-time, pay increase \$17.10 effective September 20, 2020; Approve Hiring of Kyle Couchey, as Brown County Sheriff's Department Transport Driver, as needed; effective September 8, 2020.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 175 – SET HEARING DATE:

Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to authorize advertising and set hearing date for application 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. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 176 – SET HEARING DATE:

Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to authorize advertising and set hearing date for application 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. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 172 – FIRST READING:

Moved by Wiese, seconded by Sutton to approve first reading of ordinance 172, an ordinance to amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended, to rezone the following described property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG): Lot 2, "HAPI 2020-1 Subdivision" in the NE1/4 of the NW1/4 of Section 6-T123N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. (1522 130th St NE). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 173 – FIRST READING:

Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Sutton to approve first reading of ordinance 173, an ordinance to amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended, to rezone the following described property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG): Lot 1 & 2, Gabler-Brakefield Addition in the NE1/4 of Section 22-T122N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota; Lot 1, "Johnson South Subdivision" and Lot 1, "Johnson South 2nd Subdivision" in the NE1/4 of section 22-T122N-R64W, Brown County, South Dakota. (38585 139th St and 38579 139th St). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 174 – FIRST READING - PUBLIC COMMENT:

Steve Dick with Ag United of South Dakota discussed the animal units and classifications being restrictive for small operations. Steve recommended changes to reduce the need for small farms to require a conditional use permit. Concern was also given for Chapter 4.32 10F regarding following restrictions of a neighboring township in an adjacent county.

ORDINANCE 174- FIRST READING - AMENDMENT:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to amend proposed ordinance change in Title 4 Zoning, Chapter 4.32 as follows: Remove section 10. F "A neighboring township that adjoins between two counties will follow the regulation of the county that is most restrictive." Current Section G will be re labeled as section F. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 174- FIRST READING

Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve first reading of ordinance 174 as amended to consider an ordinance amending Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, Title 4 Zoning, Chapters 4.01 – 4.07 and 4.32; Title 5 Subdivision Regulations, Chapter 5.01. The proposed ordinance will be made available for public inspection at the Brown County Auditor's Office during regular business hours and is available on our website Brown.SD.US. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

POLICY MANUAL CHANGE – INTRODUCTORY PERIOD:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to adopt the following employee policy: Employees will have an introductory period. The introductory period lasts for six (6) months. The introductory period for Sheriff's Department employees: Deputy's, Correctional Officers and Dispatchers is one (1) year. During this time it is an opportunity for Brown County to evaluate the employee's performance.

ALCOHOL LICENSE TRANS-

FER:
Moved by Wiese, seconded by Sutton to approve transfer of Retail (on-sale) Liquor License, Dennis Jones DBA: Dakota River Ranch/Tacoma Park Place LLC, 5 acres NW corner of NW1/4 of 23-124N-62W, Brown County, SD to transfer to Tyler Jones DBA Dakota River Ranch/Tacoma Park Place LLC, 5 acres NW corner of NW1/4 of 23-124N-62W, Brown County, SD. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

PROVISIONAL BUDGET 2021 – PUBLIC HEARING:

Public hearing held as advertised for 2021 provisional budget. Opportunity for public comment was given. No action taken.

ORDINANCE 171 – FIRST READING:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve first reading of ordinance 171, an ordinance to amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended, to rezone the following described property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG): East 30 Rods of South 55 Rods in the SE1/4 of Section 25-T124N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. (12891 388th Ave). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 172 – FIRST READING:

Moved by Wiese, seconded by Sutton to approve first reading of ordinance 172, an ordinance to amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended, to rezone the following described property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG): Lot 2, "HAPI 2020-1 Subdivision" in the NE1/4 of the NW1/4 of Section 6-T123N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. (1522 130th St NE). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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ORDINANCE 174 – FIRST READING - PUBLIC COMMENT:

Steve Dick with Ag United of South Dakota discussed the animal units and classifications being restrictive for small operations. Steve recommended changes to reduce the need for small farms to require a conditional use permit. Concern was also given for Chapter 4.32 10F regarding following restrictions of a neighboring township in an adjacent county.

ORDINANCE 174- FIRST READING - AMENDMENT:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to amend proposed ordinance change in Title 4 Zoning, Chapter 4.32 as follows: Remove section 10. F "A neighboring township that adjoins between two counties will follow the regulation of the county that is most restrictive." Current Section G will be re labeled as section F. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 174- FIRST READING

Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve first reading of ordinance 174 as amended to consider an ordinance amending Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, Title 4 Zoning, Chapters 4.01 – 4.07 and 4.32; Title 5 Subdivision Regulations, Chapter 5.01. The proposed ordinance will be made available for public inspection at the Brown County Auditor's Office during regular business hours and is available on our website Brown.SD.US. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

POLICY MANUAL CHANGE – INTRODUCTORY PERIOD:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to adopt the following employee policy: Employees will have an introductory period. The introductory period lasts for six (6) months. The introductory period for Sheriff's Department employees: Deputy's, Correctional Officers and Dispatchers is one (1) year. During this time it is an opportunity for Brown County to evaluate the employee's performance.

It also is an opportunity for employees to decide whether they are happy being employed by Brown County. Brown County may extend the introductory period if it desires. Completion of the introductory period does not alter the employee's at-will status. During the introductory period employees will accrue sick and vacation time; accrued sick leave may be used after three (3) months of employment; accrued vacation leave may be used after six (6) months of employment. If you are terminated/resign before completing the introductory period: three (3) months for sick leave, six (6) months for vacation leave, your accrued sick and/or vacation leave will not be paid out. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

POLICY MANUAL – CALL IN PAY:

Discussion on call in pay for employees. Discussion on call in for public safety and 24/7 departments. No Action Taken.

POLICY MANUAL – LEAVE SHARING POLICY:

Discussion on transitioning from an emergency sick bank to leave sharing policy. Concern from employees was expressed over the removal of the emergency sick bank. Chair directed Human Resources to draft a policy switching from accrued vacation and sick time to paid time off (PTO) with option for sick bank. No action taken.

2020 GENERAL ELECTION POLLING LOCATIONS:

Commissioner Fjeldheim brought the following resolution: RESOLUTION # 51-20 A Resolution Amending Vote Center Locations. WHEREAS, as per SDCL 12-14-17, the Brown County Board of County Commissioners authorized the use of vote centers in lieu of precinct polling places and designated polling locations for Brown County in Resolution 108-13, and WHEREAS, resolution R26-20 changed vote center 1 location from AmericInn Event Center, to Aberdeen Mall, WHEREAS, the AmericInn Event Center (Vote Center 1) will be available for use as a polling place on November 3rd, 2020 and WHEREAS, AmericInn is known as a polling location by voters in Brown County, WHEREAS, AmericInn is adequate to accommodate a vote center for November 3rd, 2020 General Election, and NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Brown County Commission to amend Resolution R26-20 by changing the polling place locations for Vote Center 1 in Brown County as follows: Vote Center 1, AmericInn Event Center, 301 Centennial St. S. Aberdeen, SD 57401 Dated this 1st day of September, 2020 Seconded by Sutton: roll call vote: Commissioner Feickert – absent, Sutton –aye, Wiese –aye, Fjeldheim –aye, Kippley –aye. Resolution adopted.

ABSENTEE VOTING – SATURDAY'S:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve courthouse to be open Saturday October 24th and 31st for absentee voting. Election service will be the only service offered. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to go into executive session to discuss personnel and contracts per SDCL 1-25-2(1,4). All members present voting aye. Motion carried. The Chair declared the executive session closed with no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:46a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$160.15. 19243

**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 rezon-

ing 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

**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

Published Twice at the total approximate cost of \$17.04. 19225

**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

The Groton Independent

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Deadline to submit items: Noon Monday]

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Aberdeen: 605/725-4900

Groton City Sept. 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2020

The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00 pm at the Community Center for their first monthly meeting with the following members present: Wells, Blackmun, Flihs, Kappes and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Also present were: Attorney Drew Johnson, Finance Officer Hope Block, and Terry Herron.

Public comments were welcomed pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1, but none were received.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Blackmun and seconded by Wells. All members voted aye.

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Kappes to authorize the following bills for payment. All members voted aye.

Payroll, \$44,055.00, Employee salaries; Executive, \$738.79; Administrative, \$6,735.24; Public Safety, \$8,028.28; Public Works, \$18,168.37; Culture & Recreation, \$10,384.32; First State Bank, \$13,403.64, SS and WH; First State Bank, \$933.32, HSA contributions; Dakotaland FCU, \$2,100.00, Employee savings; Aflac, \$338.26, Employee insurance; Colonial Life, \$340.78, Employee insurance; Allied, \$10,410.74, Employee insurance; Employers Mutual, \$85.20, Employee insurance; Guardian Insurance, 140.52, Employee insurance; Chase Visa, \$2,387.23, Dump internet, taser training registration fee, postage, catcher's set, welding sleeve, paper products, carpet cleaner, hand sanitizer, annual fee for website; Harves Sport Shop, \$1,883.85, Helmets and baseballs; True Pitch Inc, \$641.75, Clay for fields; Seth Erickson, \$667.00, Coaching mileage; SD Retirement, \$8,225.20, Employee retirement; Kristie Flihs, \$254.80, Mileage and meal reimbursement for the Elected Official's Workshop in Pierre; City of Groton, \$311.34, Utility deposit refunds, postage; Web Water, \$22,629.92, Water 8/20; SD Public Assurance Alliance, \$57.31, Annual insurance for the digital sign on the highway; Ameripride, \$49.32, Rug rent; Railroad Management Company, \$258.95, Power line crossing fee; Harry Implement, \$97.48, Cemetery mower repairs; (Nelson Sales and Service: \$280.23, Snapper mower belt cutter deck, idler plate; \$199.95, Trimmer; \$44.00, Chain saw chains); JGE, \$246.23, AC condenser fan; Stan Houston, \$214.95, Diamond blade; Angerhofer Concrete Products, \$52.50, Brick engraving for the pool; Lien Transportation, \$1,300.51, Hot mix; Clarke, \$1,796.52, Pump for fogger; Border States, \$516.76, Electrical lines for new service; NW Energy, \$507.16, Natural gas; SD Retirement System, \$305.00, Employee retirement; Menards, \$89.40, Stove bolt, clevis pin, mount; Diesel Machinery, \$285.00, Roller rental; Drew Johnson, \$550.00, Legal fees 8/20; S&S Lumber, \$72.60, Rake, reflective letters, gloves, oil, grease gun; Clark Engineering, \$15,942.32, Water tower staking and administration fees, negotiations; Metering & Technology, \$2,767.93, Meter, tire, screw, end points, bracket; Sperry Stump Removal, \$2,380.00, Stump removal; Flihs Sales & Service, \$48.00, Blades; Full Circle Ag, \$108.48, Propane for sewer generator for lift station; Patios Plus, \$6,690.52, Transformer pad; Lori's Pharmacy, \$38.50, Funeral flowers; A1 Sanitation, \$504.40, Clean up week; A&B Business, \$372.49, Copier rent; Groton Daily Independent, \$126.19, Publishing; Western Area Power, \$19,252.20, Power 8/20; Heartland, \$63,126.68, Power 8/20

Herron gave an update on the water tower project. Some dewatering has been done, and the new pump house may not be constructed until next year. Herron left the meeting at 7:27pm.

The Groton Area Chamber provided an update on the volunteer group's recent donations, advertising, promotional events, and expenses. The Groton City welcome signs will be repaired, and the bill will be submitted to the City.

After revisions, the first reading of the 2021 Appropriation Ordinance #736 was approved on a motion by Blackmun and seconded by Flihs. All members voted aye.

Moved by Wells and seconded by Kappes to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal items 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 8:01pm. All members voted aye.

Council reconvened into regular session at 8:11pm.

Moved by Wells and seconded by Flihs to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 pm. All members voted aye.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor
Hope Block, Finance Officer
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$38.66. 19244

Frederick Town Aug. 26, 2020 Special Meeting

Town of Frederick
August 26, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes

Frederick's special meeting was held Wednesday August 26, 2020 in the Frederick Community Center beginning at 7:00 PM. Attending the meeting were Chairman R. Scott Campbell, Board members Jeff Koster and Troy Millard, Finance Officer and Assistant Finance Officer Diane Bruns and Mariah Heine, and citizen Kevin Barton.

Chairman Campbell opened the meeting and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board discussed the budget for the 2021 year. They discussed needing less repair money for roads as the roads will be redone with the wastewater project funds. The possibility of moving funds for updating some equipment or to pay for increased police presence were also discussed.

Motion to adjourn made by Koster/Millard at 7:47 PM.

M. Heine
Assistant Finance Officer
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$10.58. 19245

Bates Township Weed Notice

BATES TOWNSHIP WEED NOTICE

OWNERS & TENANTS of Bates Township are hereby notified and required, according to law, to cut all weeds and grass in road ditches adjacent to their property or tenanted by them within Bates township on or before October 1, 2020 or same will be hired done by the township board and assessed property taxes at the rate of \$300 per half mile.

Bates Township Board of Supervisors reminds all landowners and tenants that the road right-of-way extends 33 feet from the center of the township road. This ditch is to be maintained and mowed. Any crops planted in the road right-of-way will be mowed and charged to the landowner. Landowner is responsible for spraying all noxious weeds.

Bates Township Board of Supervisors
Betty Geist
Township Clerk

Groton School Aug. 31, 2020 Special Meeting

UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6

SPECIAL MEETING
August 31, 2020

Vice-President Weismantel called the special meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the elementary commons area. Members present: Flihs, Harder, Pharis, Rix and Weismantel. Gengerke and Smith were present on-line. Others present were Superintendent J. Schwan and Principal B. Schwan. Principal Sombke was present on-line.

Moved by Rix, second Harder to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Pursuant to SDCL 23-3, there was no potential conflict disclosure reported.

Members of the public are allowed five minutes to address the board on any topic of their choice. With no public members requesting to speak, the board proceeded with their agenda items.

The board discussed necessary action on District response to COVID-19 issues including the treatment of school district employees as essential critical infrastructure workers under federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) guidelines, parameters for attendance at school district sponsored activities, installation of NFHS Pixellot camera streaming system and review of

Department of Health guidelines for close contact and school exclusions.

Moved Pharis, second Harder to adopt resolution declaring school district employees as essential critical infrastructure workers. Motion carried 7-0. A copy of the resolution is on file in the business office.

Moved by Rix, second Flihs that attendance at indoor activities of the Groton Area School District will not be limited by number and to require spectators at indoor events to wear masks. Motion carried 7-0.

Moved by Smith, second Harder to approve installation of Pixellot system. Motion carried 7-0.

Moved by Pharis, second Gengerke to approve educational lane change for Diane Kurtz from MS+15 to MS+30 for an increase of \$750. Motion carried 7-0.

Moved by Gengerke, second Flihs to approve education lane change for Shelby Hendrickson from BS to BS+15 for an increase of \$750. Motion carried 7-0.

Moved by Rix, second Harder to approve hiring Andrea Brunson as special education at \$11.85/hr. Motion carried 7-0.

Moved by Harder, second Flihs to approve open enrollments #21-16 and #21-17. Motion carried 7-0.

The board acknowledged receipt of Notification of Public-School Exemptions #21-06, #21-07, #21-08 and #21-09.

Moved by Rix, second Harder to go into executive session at 8:05 pm pursuant to SDCL1-25-2(4) for negotiations. Motion carried 7-0.

Weismantel declared the board out of executive session at 8:19 pm.

Moved by Harder, second Rix to adjourn at 8:20 pm. Motion carried 7-0.

M. J. Weber, Business Manager

Steven R. Smith, President
The addition of signatures to this page verifies these minutes as official.

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$27.95. 19246

Groton School Sept. 7, 2020 Special Meeting

UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6

SPECIAL MEETING
September 7, 2020

Vice-President Weismantel called the special meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the elementary commons area. Members present: Flihs, Gengerke, Harder, Pharis, and Weismantel. Rix and Smith were present on-line. Others present were Superintendent J. Schwan and Principals B. Schwan and Sombke and Business Manager Weber.

Moved by Harder, second Gengerke to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Pursuant to SDCL 23-3, there was no potential conflict disclosure reported.

Members of the public are allowed five minutes to address the board on any topic of their choice. Shawn Gengerke spoke to the board about their recent decision to require that masks be worn at indoor school events. He does not intend to honor that decision and feels that much of the public agrees with him.

With no other public members requesting to speak, the board proceeded with their agenda items.

Moved by Harder, second Flihs to go into executive session at 7:09 pm pursuant to SDCL1-25-2(3) for legal matters. Motion carried 7-0.

Weismantel declared the board out of executive session at 7:51 pm.

The board continued discussion and necessary action on District response to COVID-19 issues including masking requirements for indoor school activities.

Moved by Harder, second Pharis to change the board's position on requiring masking at indoor school activities to recommending masking at indoor school activities. Motion carried 7-0.

Moved by Harder, second Gengerke to adjourn at 8:39 pm. Motion carried 7-0.

M. J. Weber, Business Manager

Steven R. Smith, President
The addition of signatures to this page verifies these minutes as official.

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$18.81. 19247

Legion Auxiliary takes part in backpack project for Veterans

The Groton American Legion Auxiliary is taking part in a Backpack and personal care items challenge for our Veterans in VA centers in South Dakota.

Just like our children needing backpacks to go back to school our veterans are in need of a backpack or luggage to help take their personal items home in once they leave the hospital or clinic. Backpacks and luggage can be new or gently used. Please drop off your donated items at the Legion in Groton and place them in the boxes provided.

Items will be delivered on Wednesday, September 16 to Hot Springs VA. Every month items will be delivered to VA centers in South Dakota so you may continue to donate items through the month of December .

Personal care items include: new or used: Men's jeans (big need), men's belts, men's shirts, men's shoes, blankets, gloves, hats, kitchen items, backpacks, suitcases.

New items only: Pillows, long underwear, underwear, socks, toothbrushes and toothpaste, combs, brushes, deodorant, large shampoo, lotion.

Wolter chosen as SD Legionette of the Year

Congratulations to Karen Wolter on receiving the South Dakota Legionette of the year award from Samantha Oswald, Groton auxiliary president. Karen has quilted many honor quilts for the veterans of the surrounding area.

Photo and info from (Marjorie Overacker's Facebook Page)



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.

S.D. auditors vow to hold secure and accurate 2020 general election

By: Bart Pfankuch September 9, 2020

Editor's note: This article, the first in an ongoing series on the 2020 election, was produced through a partnership between South Dakota News Watch and the Solutions Journalism Network, a national non-profit group that supports rigorous journalism about responses to problems.

The people who will operate and oversee the 2020 general election in South Dakota are highly confident that the vote for president, Congress, legislative seats and statewide ballot measures will be done fairly, accurately and in a timely manner without a risk of fraud.

Despite concerns raised by President Donald Trump and others who have repeatedly questioned the legitimacy of widespread absentee voting by mail, all South Dakota county auditors who responded to a South Dakota News Watch poll say they believe the 2020 election in South Dakota will be fair and accurate.

The 25 auditors who responded to News Watch by email were unanimous in their answers on several questions, including their conviction that absentee voting can be done fairly, that in-person voting on Nov. 3 can be done safely, and that results from the election will be accurate. All auditors also said they have experience in managing



Bob Litz

voting by mail in the past, and most said they are taking extra steps to ensure an orderly and safe election. They also said it is costing more to run the election this year.

Record numbers of voters in South Dakota and across the country are expected to cast ballots by mail this year, both due to the convenience of voting early from home and due to concerns of being exposed to the potentially deadly coronavirus while voting in person in November.

As of early September, South Dakota Secretary of State Steve Barnett said more than 100,000 applications for absentee ballots had been received; ballots will be sent to voters starting on Sept. 18. The state had about 558,000 registered voters as of Sept. 1, 2020.

The 2020 general election will bring a variety of challenges for elections officials. In addition to processing far more absentee ballots, auditors who are the ground-level, local operators of elections in South Dakota must prepare safe environments for in-person voting amid a deadly pandemic.

In the News Watch survey, a vast majority of auditors said they do not foresee delays in reporting of election results, and many auditors said they are offended by the mostly national rhetoric that has called into question whether the American electoral system can operate efficiently and produce accurate results amid the pandemic.

Minnehaha County Auditor Bob Litz said the integrity of the election is driven by the integrity of the people who are part of the process.

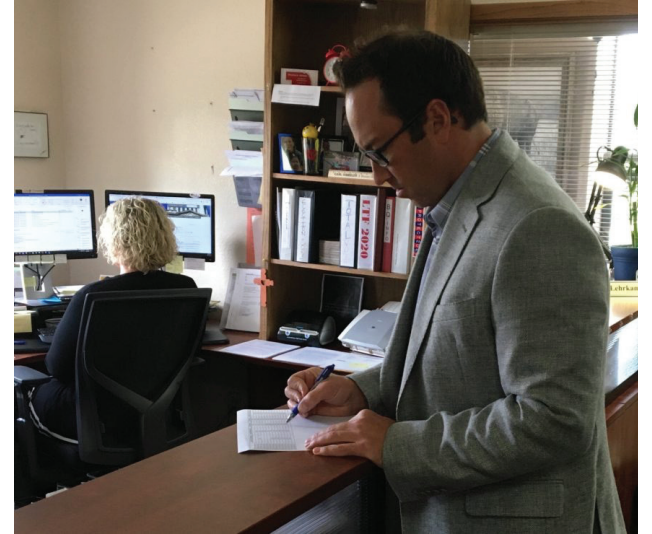
Barnett said he is also confident that the U.S. Postal Service can handle the increased number of absentee ballots filed by mail, though he warned voters not to wait till the last minute to request their ballots or to send them in once filled out. Trump and others have questioned whether the postal service can be trusted to properly handle high levels of mail-in ballots.

"The way I understand it, it's like Christmas cards at Christmastime in that we know these are coming," he said. "You've got the 46 days to early vote, so do your best as a voter to allow some adequate processing time on the front end and the back end."

Kea Warne, elections director in the Secretary of State's office, said she expects the 2020 general election will be run more efficiently than the primary in June because recently elected auditors will have gained experience from running an election and because about half of the counties used new tabulating machines for the first time in the primary.

"There was a learning curve," Warne said. "I'm pretty confident that it will be a little smoother because (for) some of these auditors, it was their first election during the primary and that newness won't be there for them in November."

On Aug. 31, Gov. Kristi Noem said she had not heard about any problems cropping up in



South Dakota Secretary of State Steve Barnett, show in his office in Pierre, is confident that the 2020 general election can produce fair, accurate and timely results. Photo: Courtesy S.D. Secretary of State's office

the run-up to South Dakota's general election.

"I haven't had a discussion with Steve Barnett about what this looks like for his office," she said in an interview with the Sioux Falls Rotary.

Noem said she has heard stories from other states "that are a little scary," such as someone receiving six ballots at their home, but she was unable to provide any evidence of election fraud in South Dakota or elsewhere.

Miner County Auditor Susan Connor said she is highly confident that the 2020 general election can be conducted with integrity in spite of any challenges presented by the pandemic.

"South Dakota county auditors take great pride and many measures to ensure that all elections are conducted fairly and accurately," Connor wrote to News Watch.

Preparations underway in S.D. and across U.S.

In South Dakota, voters have been allowed to vote absentee since 1913, and the process was expanded to allow anyone to vote absentee for any reason in 2003. Voters can submit completed absentee ballots by mail, in person at their local auditor's office or at the polls on election day.

To vote by mail, voters must register and request a ballot either through the application sent out by Barnett in April, through the state's online ballot portal or through their local auditor's office.

Ballot requests must be signed and include a copy of a voter's official photo identification, such as a driver's license. When received, the application signature is scanned by election workers, the ID is checked and if the application is approved, the ballot is then mailed to the voter.

Once the ballot is filled out, the sealed envelope containing the ballot must be signed on the outside and sent back to the auditor's office, where the signature is compared with the application signature and must match.

Approved ballots are then held in the sealed envelope until being opened and counted on election day. Rejected ballots may be returned to voters, or the voter may be called and informed of any discrepancy, if time allows.

Corrected ballots can then be mailed back in or dropped off before the close of the election.

Susan Kiepke, Davison County auditor, said in an email to News Watch that her office has encouraged people to vote absentee by mail. In anticipation of receiving more absentee ballots, she has hired more people to process

Continues on next page

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Continued from previous page

absentee ballots on Election Day. Kiepke said she expects the general election will go off without a hitch as it did in the primary.

"I don't know of anything I would do differently, as the process went pretty smoothly," she wrote.

Kiepke also said Mitchell-area voters should expect a safe environment at polling sites but may want to allow for more time due to coronavirus prevention efforts.

Kiepke said her office will have masks, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes and Plexiglas shields in place between voters and poll workers.

"I am holding the election in one place as I did in the primary so that social distancing can be monitored," Kiepke wrote. "I hired an individual specifically to maintain control, and only one voter is allowed at a table at a time."

Across the country, secretaries of state who run elections are diligently preparing both for safe in-person voting and for collecting and processing mail ballots in a secure manner, said Maria Benson, spokeswoman for the National Association of Secretaries of State, a group representing public officials including Secretary Barnett.

Benson said that the national political rhetoric questioning the legitimacy of the 2020 general election has not affected the critical roles played by election officials at the state or local level. Instead, secretaries of state are focused on educating voters and running fair, safe and accurate elections during the pandemic and a time of unprecedented levels of by-mail voting.

"I don't think voter misconduct is the big issue at hand; it's more or less voter education and ensuring people understand the state laws surrounding voting by mail," Benson said. "Free and fair elections are the cornerstone of our democracy, and the members of NASS are working diligently to work within state law and not only run those fair elections, but also to educate voters about any changes that might have occurred this election cycle."

Much emphasis is being placed on preparing polling sites in regard to protection from the virus and maintaining electoral integrity, Benson said. "State and local election officials are trying diligently to obtain the proper PPE," she said, referring to personal protective equipment. "This has been an ongoing process that election officials are definitely knee-deep in and consulting with their state health officials to help keep voters and election workers safe."

Benson said some states do expect possible delays in reporting of initial election results, which are typically unofficial until well after Election Day.

"The canvassing and certification process to make results official takes time and depends on state law," she said. "That's normal, but it might be something that most voters haven't thought about before."

Pennington County Auditor Cindy Mohler expects the county will mail out about 20,000 absentee ballots to voters who want to avoid going to the polls on election day. Mohler saw the impact of the pandemic on early voting in the June primary election, when the county saw 13,000 absentee ballots cast and only



Cindy Mohler

8,500 cast in person.

She also attributes the high level of absentee voting to the fact that voters were mailed their ballot applications and due to an increased awareness that voting by mail was not only available as an option but is also very convenient.

Mohler said the signature-checking process is an important and effective security measure. The dual

signatures is also an area where voters can make an error, by forgetting to sign both documents or signing in different ways, and potentially render their ballot invalid. But Mohler said that is a rare occurrence in Pennington County.

If errors are found prior to election day, Mohler's staff will try to contact the voter and give them a chance to fix the error. Ballots that are questioned on election day are reviewed and a determination of validity is made by a non-partisan absentee ballot board, she said.

"It really does not happen that often," Mohler said, adding that fewer than 10 discrepancies occurred during the primary in which more than 20,000 people voted. "If we have time, we do call and tell them you can drop down at the office and clear it up."

Amy Scott-Stolz, president of the League of Women Voters of South Dakota, said voter interest in candidates and issues is high this election season.

The league is a national non-partisan organization that promotes civic engagement and voter education. In South Dakota, the league created a website where voters can quickly get information about candidates in their area and on statewide ballot measures.

The league election information website, 411.org, was accessed by more than 2,500 people from 100 different South Dakota cities in the 2016 general election and by 3,300 people from 120 different South Dakota cities in the 2018 midterm election, she said.

Scott-Stolz expects mail-in voting will become more popular in America and South Dakota in the coming years.

"A lot of people are using the absentee ballot for the first time and finding the convenience of it," she said. "They're able to do research with the ballot right in front of them and really become more educated before they vote."

Voter fraud remains relatively rare

Scott-Stolz said that significant research indicates that neither Democrats nor Republicans tend to benefit or suffer more when widespread voting-by-mail is allowed.

"What the research has shown is that voting by mail does not help or hinder either party, but it does increase voter participation which is good because the more people that vote, the better we elect people who reflect our communities," she said.

Confirmed cases of voter fraud are uncommon in America and most cases result in prosecutions. Recent data analyses have also found that fraud is rare in the five states — Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Utah and Washington — where widespread vote-by-mail has taken place for years and in which ballots are sent directly to registered voters.

A database created by the Heritage Foundation revealed 1,296 incidents of voter fraud

Continues on next page



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across the country dating back to 1982, resulting in 1,120 criminal convictions and 143 civil penalties or enrollments in judicial diversion programs.

An analysis of the Heritage data by the Brookings Institution found only 29 attempts at fraud in voting-by-mail had occurred in those five states over a combined period of 52 years in which about 50 million votes were cast.

The Heritage database showed that South Dakota had five cases of election fraud from 2005 to 2020, three of which were related to candidate petitions and two which consisted of voters casting more than one ballot. All cases ended in criminal convictions or entry into a judicial diversion program.

Scott-Stolz said she visited polling sites and the election headquarters in Sioux Falls during the primary in June and came away impressed by the checks-and-balances in vote tabulation and also with the extent of COVID-19 safety measures in place.

Many polling sites across the state feature floor marking to improve social distancing, extensive cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces and even single-use pens that reduce the chance of spreading the virus.

Scott-Stolz said election workers took great care in checking signatures on absentee ballots

SOUTH DAKOTA ELECTION FRAUD CASES

Here is a look at the five South Dakota election fraud cases included in the national Heritage Foundation database of incidents from 2000 onward.

2015 — Janice Howe, of Harrold, received probation in 2015 on a perjury charge after falsely vouching for signatures made on a petition for a statewide constitutional amendment in 1999.

2015 — Clayton G. Walker, of Black Hawk, was sentenced to probation on charges of perjury and offering a false or forged instrument on an electoral nominating petition in a U.S. Senate race.

2015 — Annette Bosworth, of Sioux Falls, was sentenced to probation on charges of perjury and filing false documents due to misrepresentations on a candidate petition in a U.S. Senate race.

2013 — Craig Guymon, of Mitchell, voted twice in a school board election, once in person and once by absentee ballot. He was convicted and sentenced to a month in jail.

2005 — Rudolph Vargas, also known as Rudolph Running Shield, of Pine Ridge, was convicted of submitting two absentee ballots in the 2004 general election and served some time in jail.

Sources: Heritage Foundation, South Dakota news archives

"South Dakotans are overall great people, and if you remember that the people doing the [election] work are your neighbors and your friends, it will make it easier to trust the process."

— Amy Scott-Stolz, League of Women Voters



Amy Scott-Stolz

and applications to ensure that no one voted twice or in any fraudulent way.

"To be able to see the process can sometime help diminish concerns," she said. "It increased my confidence in what's being done."

Scott-Stolz said South Dakota voters should take comfort in knowing that election officials and poll workers tend to have a strong commitment to integrity.

"There are a lot of good people that are doing this to help their communities and doing it the right way," she said. "South Dakotans are overall great people, and if you remember that the people doing the work are your neighbors and your friends, it will make it easier to trust the process."

Scott-Stolz said voters should be patient as election results roll in on Nov. 3 and thereafter as it may take more time than usual for some states, including South Dakota, to count large numbers of absentee ballots and do so accurately.

"What we look for is our elections to be secure and correct, so the quickness of it is not as much of a priority as long as they're doing what is necessary to make sure it's secure and correct," Scott-Stolz said. "Part of what we need to do is let our voters know that the results may not coming in as quickly."

A process of constant review and improvement

Sue Roust of Sioux Falls spent 20 years as Minnehaha County auditor from 1991 to 2011 and continues to be involved in local elections. Roust was a member of the task force Litz formed after the primary to suggest improvements before the general election.

Roust said recent rhetoric has focused on the idea that voters may submit an absentee ballot and then try to vote again at the polls. President Trump recently suggested that voters should do just that in order to test whether their absentee ballot was counted, though elections officials have noted that even an attempt at voting twice is a felony.

Roust said checks are in place in South Dakota and elsewhere to prevent people from voting twice, and that poll workers will know if someone shows up to vote and has already mailed in or dropped off an absentee ballot.

In her two decades running local elections, Roust said she and her staffs processed more than a million votes and she recalls only five times when someone try to vote twice. "In every case it was an elderly voter and due more to confusion than intent to commit fraud," she said.

In one incident, an elderly woman voted absentee and then was taken to the polls on election day by her daughter who insisted that her mother vote in person. The error was caught and determined to be "an honest misunderstanding," Roust said.

A big part of running successful and accurate elections is learning from past mistakes or finding solutions to problems that took place, Roust said.

Roust helped change a law to stop holding primary elections on the first Tuesday in June, which sometimes put the vote on the day after the Memorial Day holiday, which did not give auditors enough time to prepare. She also helped enact a law that allowed for creation of more resolution boards, which are non-partisan panels that a review questionable ballots or those rejected by tabulating

machines.

Early in her career, she also pushed for rules that allowed for greater access to the polls by people with physical disabilities.

"After every election, the auditors and the secretary of state analyze what went right, what went wrong, what we need to improve on, what



Sue Roust

we need to train better for, and in some cases what laws need to be changed to make things go better," Roust said.

The recent task force in Minnehaha County was called after election results were delayed by one day during the June primary. The strongest recommendation by the task force was to encourage Litz to hire more people to handle absentee ballots, Roust said.

Litz faced a series of unique challenges during the June primary — holding an election amid a pandemic, managing separate city and county elections at the same time, and processing an unprecedented number of absentee ballots.

Voters submitted about 30,000 absentee ballots in the June primary, Litz said, with about 40% of those arriving in the last week of the early voting period. At one point, so many absentee ballots were dropped off at a slot in the door at the elections office that the door wouldn't open, Litz said.

"It was like a rat passing through a snake," Litz said. "And if everybody hangs onto their ballots and dumps them in at the last minute, we'll be in the same place we were in June."

At 1 a.m. on the day after the June primary, Litz decided to stop processing absentee ballots and pick up again at 7 a.m. The break delayed the reporting of unofficial election results but made the process more manageable and accurate, Litz said. At one point, 88 workers were opening, checking and processing absentee ballots, he said.

The June primary had some quirks, as is common in any big election, Litz said. For example, 654 ballots were cast but left blank and 326 ballots sent by mail arrived too late to be counted, he said.

Still, Litz does not endorse, nor appreciate, the rhetoric by Trump and others who are questioning the validity of the upcoming election or suggesting that widespread fraud or attempted fraud will occur.

"We all know that's garbage; I've not yet seen evidence that this happens," Litz said. "I think it's BS and for that to be put out there, and for other people to play into that lie, it's offensive and it's also dangerous for our election process."

Given her experience as a voter, auditor and election volunteer, Roust has a strong conviction that the 2020 general election, like all elections prior, will be conducted in a fair and accurate manner.

"We can trust our election process," she said.

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Send applications to cityadministrator@itctel.com or mail to City of Milbank, 1001 E. 4th Avenue, Suite 301, Milbank, SD 57252.

Position will be open until September 18, 2020.

Groton Area goes 2-1 with win over Webster Area

Groton Area scored seven touchdowns en route to a 47-0 win over Webster Area on Friday. The game was played in Groton and was sponsored by Woodsy's Place with Bahr Spray Foam being the touchdown sponsor.

Groton Area's first possession lasted one whole play as the Tigers fumbled the ball on the first play. But Webster's first two possession were four attempts and a punt. Groton Area's next drive started on its own 18 yard line. On third and 13, Jaimen Farrell caught a pass from Lane Tietz and dashed down the field for an 86 yard pass play to score. Jackson Cogley kicked the PAT and it was 7-0 with 7:35 left in the first quarter.

Webster got it's first first-down on the next



Jackson Cogley made this catch near the end zone and then dashed in for a 26 yard pass play from Lane Tietz. This gave Groton Area a 21-0 lead after Jackson Cogley kicked the PAT. This was the last play of the first quarter. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Jaimen Farrell made this catch from Lane Tietz and then turned around, broke a couple of tackles and scored on an 86-yard pass play. This gave Groton Area an 7-0 lead after Jackson Cogley kicked the PAT with 7:35 left in the first quarter. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Jordan Bjerke made this catch right in front of him and hung on to the ball while being chased to the end zone. This was a 65-yard pass play from Lane Tietz with 10:54 left in the third quarter and it gave Groton Area a 41-0 lead after Jackson Cogley kicked the PAT. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

drive thanks to a Groton Area penalty, but ended up punting on fourth and 25.

Groton Area would start its next drive at Webster Area's 46 yard line. The Tigers got two first downs before Farrell would score on a six-yard run with 2:37 left in the first quarter. Cogley kicked the PAT and it was 14-0.

Webster Area would punt on fourth and nine and the TIGERS had the ball at the Webster Area 42 yard line with 61 seconds left in the first quarter. Groton Area got a first down. The Tigers snapped the ball just before time expired and Cogley caught a pass from Lane Tietz for a 26-yard pass play. Cogley kicked the PAT and it was 21-0 at the end of the first quarter.

Webster Area had possession of the ball to start the second quarter. The Bearcats had four first-downs on that drive and was down to the Groton Area 20 yard line before fumbling the ball that was recovered by Paxton Bonn who returned to the 45 yard line. Webster Area had the ball for 5:30 on that drive.

Groton Area needed about three minutes and one first down before Farrell would score on a 28-yard run with 3:12 left in the half. Cogley kicked the PAT and it was 28-0.

Webster Area would have the ball for about two minutes before having to give up the ball. Groton Area had the ball with 1:36 left in the half at the Webster Area 25 yard line. On the next play, Favian Sanchez would score on a 25 yard pass play from Lane Tietz. The PAT kick was no good and it was 34-0 with 1:27 left in the half.

In the remaining 78 seconds of the half, Webster had four plays, Groton Area had four plays and Webster Area had one more. It was 34-0 at half time.

Groton Area had the ball first in the third quarter. A Pierce Kettering touchdown was recalled due to a penalty, but then Jordan Bjerke had a 65-yard pass play from Lane Tietz to score. Cogley kicked the PAT and it was 41-0. The contineous clock then began as the score had reached 35 points.

Webster Area had the ball for about seven minutes. It converted on fourth and 10 to get a first down, but was unable to do it a second time. Groton Area had the ball for the rest of the third quarter, starting at the Webster Area 49 yard line. That drive extended into the fourth quarter, culminating with a Tate

Larson touchdown on a 16-yard pass play from Jacob Lewandowski. The PAT run was no good and it was 47-0 with 11:15 to go in the game. After that, it was basically the younger players taking the field and the score remained at 47-0.

Gorton Area had 12 first downs, had 24 carries for 132 yards and two touchdowns. Jaimen Farrell had six carries for 62 yards, Pierce Kettering had six for 38 yards, Jacob Lewandowski had seven for 30 yards, Favian Sanchez had one for six yards and Lane Tietz had one for two yards.

In passing, Lane Tietz completed five of 10 passes for 212 yards and three touchdowns. Jacob Lewandowski completed two of two passes for 39 yards and one touchdown. Receivers were

Jaimen Farrell with one catch for 86 yards, Jordan Bjerke had two for 75 yards, Tate Larson had two for 39 yards, Fvian Sanchez had one for 25 yards and Jackson Cogley had one for 24 yards. Groton Area had four fumbles and lost one and seven penalties for 70 yards.

Defensive leaders were Jaimen Farrell with seven tackles, Favian Sanchez had seven tackles and one interception, Alex Morris had six tackles, Colby Dunker had six tackles, Tate Larson had five tackles and two sacks, Jacob Lewandowski had five tackles, Paxton Bonn had two sacks and a fumble recovery, Evan Nehls had two sacks and having one sack each were Caleb Furney, Ethan Gengerke and Kale Pharis.

Webster Area had nine first downs and carried the ball 28 times with a minus 53 yards. Jacob Pereboom completed 13 of 23 passes for 91 yards and Brent Bearman attempted one pass. Pass receivers were Brent Bearman with five catches for 36 yards and Colby Toerence with two catches for 24 yards. Webster Area had six fumbles and lost one and had two penalties for 10 yards. Carson Mount led the defense with six tackles while Brent Bearman, Andy Johnson and Ethan Opitz with five each and Colby Torrence and Brent Snaza with four each.

Groton Area, now 2-1, will travel to Sisseton on Friday. Webster Area, now 0-3, will have this week off.

- Paul Kosel

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The Life of Terrance Allen Walter

Terrance (aka Terry, Wally, TW, and T-Dub) Allen Walter, 70, of Pierre, SD, passed away on September 8, 2020 after battling lung cancer. Services will be held at 11:00am, Thursday, September 10, 2020 at Faith Lutheran Church with visitation from 10:00-11:00am. Interment will take place at Black Hills National Cemetery. Terry's service will also be broadcast live at www.feigumfh.com.



Terrance Walter was born August 2, 1950 in Aberdeen; SD. Terry was the middle son of Vernon and Jean Walter. Terry grew up on a farm west of Groton, SD. He attended the rural Wilson School and later graduated with the Groton High School Class of 1968. Terry received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from NSU in 1972, and his Masters of Business Administration from USD in 1979. Terry was athletic and enjoyed all sports, he grew up playing baseball starting with the James Jimmies team, (which was started by his Mother and other neighbor Moms), on to Teener and Legion years in Groton. Terry's college years involved baseball as a pitcher for the teams on which he played. Terry joined the Army in 1972 and completed basic training at Ft. Leonardwood, MO. He then received advanced training at Ft. Sill, OK, before serving in South Korea and being honorably discharged in September of 1974.

Terry began employment in January 1975 with the SD Department of Revenue as an auditor. In 1984 he was appointed as the Director of the SD Division of Child Support and held that position until he retired in June of 2012. Through his leadership the SD Division of Child Support was recognized as the most effective performing state program in the nation for many years. Terry also received several national awards for his outstanding achievements.

Many of Terry's friends will have long lasting memories of good times socializing, fishing and hunting along the Missouri River and other destinations. The past few winters Terry enjoyed time spent at South Padre Island, Texas.

Terry is survived by his son, Tate (Olivia) Walter, granddaughters Emma and Sophia, AZ, son Paul (Nichole) Walter of Groton, SD and son Alex Walter of Sioux Falls, SD. Terry's mother Jean Walter of Groton also survives him along with his brothers, Merle (Nancy) Walter of Arlington and Robert (Vicki) Walter of Groton along with several nieces and nephews.

Memorials will be donated to the Pierre American Legion Post 8 Baseball Program. Condolences may be mailed in care of Paul Walters at 40448 129th St, Groton, SD 57445 or conveyed online at www.feigumfh.com

Webster Area hands Groton Area second volleyball loss

Groton Area's volleyball team lost to Webster Area Tuesday in Groton, 3-0. The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM/GDIRadio 89.3FM, sponsored by Patios Plus, Doug and Wanda Hamilton, Sign Gypsies and Hefty Seed.

Game scores were 25-16, 25-12 and 25-21. The last game was tied 10 times and there were three lead changes before the Bearcats scored the last five points of the game for the win.

Groton Area had four ace serves with two by Stella Meier and one each by Brooklyn Gilbert and Brooke Gengerke. Of the 18 kills by the Tigers, Madeline Flihs had seven and Grace Wambach three. Allyssa Locke and Brooke Gengerke each had six of the team's 16 assists. Groton Area had 58 digs with Grace Wambach having 12, Tricia Keith 11 and Alyssa Thaller nine. Stella Meier had three of the team's six blocks and Kenzie McInerney had one.

Webster Area had six ace serves with Brianna Duerre having two. The Bearcats had 19 kills with Cara Shoemaker leading the way with

nine. Baylie Somson had five of the team's 10 assists. Emily Richie had 42 of Webster Area's 94 digs. Brianna Duerre had three of Webster Area's seven blocks.

Webster Area won the junior varsity match, 22-25, 25-23 and 15-10. Groton Area won the C match, 25-19 and 25-19.

Groton Area, is now 1-2, will travel to Sisseton on Thursday.

- Paul Kosel

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