

The Groton Independent

Vol. 138 No. 04 \diamond Groton, South Dakota \diamond Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2020 \diamond Established in 1889



GHS 2020 Royalty

The 2020 GHS Homecoming Royalty were selected Monday evening at the coronation ceremony held in the GHS Gym. They are pictured above with their parents: Chandler Larson, son of Carson and Julie Larson, and Alexis Hanten, daughter of Sarah and Cody Hanten. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Lots of home activities during the next few days. On Thursday, Groton Area will be hosting boys soccer at 4 p.m. with James Valley Christian. Clark/Willow Lake will come to town for volleyball action with the C match at 5 p.m., the junior varsity at 6 p.m. and the varsity to follow, all in the Arena. The junior high matches will be played in the GHS gym with two matches starting at 5 p.m.

The homecoming parade is set for Friday at 1 p.m. with the football game at 7 p.m. Tea Area will come to Groton on Saturday for soccer with the girls game at 1 p.m. and boys at 3 p.m.

Schedule Addition

There is an addition to the volleyball scheduled. Groton Area will host Wauaby-Summit on Monday, Oct. 12th. There will be a junior high match, junior varsity and varsity.

The SDHSAA has ruled that there will be no wrestling tournaments this year. Only duals and triangulars will be held during the regular season.





Base for new water tower The base for the new Groton water tower was poured Wednesday afternoon. As you can see in the photo above, they had the concrete truck with a long conveyer belt moving the concrete to the hole. Bottom left photo features the round base as workers smooth it out and make sure all of the air bubbles are out of it. (Photos by Paul Kosel)

Columbia City 2021 Appropriation Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-03 2021 CITY OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE Be it ordained by the Municipality of Columbia that the following

	arried by the Municipality of Columbia	
sums are a	ppropriated to meet the obligations	of the municipality.
411.1	Mayor and Council:	
411.5	Contingency	
414.2	Finance Officer	
414.1	Attorney:	2,000.00
419.2	General Government Buildings:	
431	Highways and Streets:	
441.3	West Nile	
452	Parks	
470	Debt Service	
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	
MEANS	OF FINANCE:	
310.0	Taxes	102,444.00
320.0	License and Permits	
330.0	Intergovernmental Revenue	
360.0	Miscellaneous Revenue	
TOTAL N	IEANS OF FINANCE	
	ETARY FUNDS:	
Beginnir	g Unrestricted Cash	172,850.00
Estimate	d Revenue	
TOTAL A	VAILABLE	192.850.00
Less App	propriations (Expenses)	13,000.00
ESTIMA	red surplus	179,850.00
Transfer	s - In (Out)	0.00
ESTIMA	TED SURPLUS RETAINED	179,850.00
The audi	tor/finance officer is directed to certify	the following dollar
amount of	tax levies made in this ordinance to	the County Auditor.

\$60,000.00 2021-62000

Signed and Dated by Mayor or President of the City Council). (Signed and Dated by the Finance Officer) Published once at the approximate cost of \$32.50. 18268

Frederick Town **Sept. 10**

Meeting Minutes Town of Frederick

Construction Meeting Minutes September 10, 2020

The Frederick Town Board met with associates of the WasteWater Project in the Frederick Community Center on Wednesday Noon, September 10, 2020. Attending the informational meeting were Frederick Chairman R. Scott Campbell, Board Member Jeff Kosters, Utility Manager Rich Bakeberg, Helm's and Associates' Engineer Brandon Smid and Helm's Site Engineer James DeGeest, NECOG Planning Director Ted Dickey, by phone Dahme Construction Company, Inc. CEO Hugh Dahme and Frederick Finance Officer Diane Bruns.

Discussion was based on questions presented by Smid. There are no safety issues with the project. A change order was requested for laying a water line on 3rd Ave South not in the con

tract. Another change order will come for dredging sludge from a cell in the Lagoon. Tentatively they are working

on the manhole by the lagoon and will move N up 3rd Avenue before going East on 2nd Street, although things may change.

They are currently not on schedule but Dahme's is hoping to get another crew up here in the future. A concern was heavy equipment in the way of semis during harvest season if they go beyond the time limit: Dahme's asked to be kept informed.

Bakeberg currently oversees the project and commented,

"Everything is going fine." The next construction meeting

will be Thursday Noon, October 15, 2020 in the Community

Center. Meeting adjourned at 12:25

PM. **Diane Bruns**

Frederick Finance Officer Published once at the approximate cost of \$17.04. 18270

The Broton Independent

21 N Main, Groton 605/397-NEWS (6397) Paul Irvin Kosel, Publisher paperpaul@grotonsd.net ~ 605-397-7460

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Deadline to submit items: Noon Monday] Yearly Subscription Rates are listed below. The Groton Independent (USPS# 230-440) is published weekly with its periodicals postage paid at Groton, SD.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Groton Independent, PO Box 34, Groton, SD 57445



Groton City 2021 Appropriation Ordinance

2021 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE Be it ordained by the city of Groton that the following sums are appropriated to meet the obligations of the municipality. General Gross Rec Tax Total Airport Fam Crisis Debt Service Fund (BBB) Fund Governmental Funds General Government 410 27,180.00 Legislative 27,180.00 50,000.00 411.5 Contingency 50,000.00 412 Executive 9,310.00 9,310.00 1,510.00 413 Elections 1,510.00 Financial Administration 334,978.00 334,978.00 30,350.00 30,350.00 Other Total General Government \$453,328.00 \$-\$-\$-\$453,328.00 \$ Public Safety 464,840.00 464,840.00 Police Other Inspection 1,100.00 1,100.00 \$465,940.00 \$-\$465,940.00 Total Public Safety \$-\$-\$ Public Works 418,035.00 Highways and Streets 418,035.00 Weed Control 4,600.00 4,600.00 32,500.00 32,500.00 Airport Cemeteries 23,580.00 23,580.00 2 500 00 Transit 2.500.00 Total Public Works \$448,715.00 \$32,500.00 \$-\$ \$481,215.00 \$ 440 Health and Welfare 6,575.00 Health 6,575.00 Health and Welfare \$6,575.00 \$-\$-\$6,575.00 Total \$ \$-Culture and Recreation Recreation: 7,580.00 Skating Soccer Swimming Pool 109,900.00 23,690.00 Golf Basketball 300.00 Tennis 300.00 Baseball 96,000.00 6,620.00 6,620.00 Parks Libraries 6,000.00 6,000.00 Community Center 4,000.00 4,000.00 Total Culture and Recreation \$230,700.00 \$23,690.00 \$-\$254,390.00 \$ Economic Development 14,470.00 14,470.00 and Assistance Conservation and Development \$14,470.00 \$14,470.00 Total \$ \$ \$-Debt Service Refinance 150000 150,000.00 Principal Interest 87500 87,500.00 \$237,500.00 \$237,500.00 Total Debt Service \$ \$ \$-\$ Intergovernmental Expenditures 480 Miscellaneous Liquor licenses 50.00 50.00 Miscellaneous \$-\$50.00 Total \$50.00 \$ \$ \$ Other Financing Uses 510 Operating Transfer--Out Total 2020 Appropriations \$1.619.778.00 \$237,500.00 \$23,690.00 \$32,500.00 \$ \$1,913,468.00 Total Appropriations and

\$237,500.00 \$1,913,468.00 Accumulations \$1,619,778.00 \$23,690.00 \$32,500.00 Note 1: The amounts shown here should not reflect accumulations to-date nor should it reflect the total to be accumulated. It should only report the amount to be accumulated in the budget year that you are working on.

(9-22-1)(9-21-19 (9-21-20)

		(9-21-20)					
The f	ollowing designates the	fund or funds that mo	ney derived fro	om the following	sources is applied	l to.	
	Governmental Funds						
	Unassigned Fund Bala	nce					
310	Taxes	1,212,000.00	26,900.00				1,238,900.00
320	Licenses and Permits	14,500.00	,				14,500.00
330	Intergovernmental Rev	venue 65,550.00					65,550.00
340	Charges for Goods and						70,330.00
350	Fines and Forfeits	300.00					300.00
360	Miscellaneous Revenue						16,400.00
390	Other Sources	474,388.00		18,000.00		15,100.00	507,488.00
	Means of Finance	\$1,853,468.00	\$26,900.00	\$18,000.00	\$-	\$15,100.00	\$1,913,468.00
rotar		<i>\\\\\\\\\\\\\</i>	420/200100	Electric Fund	Water Fund		olid Waste Fund
Propr	ietary and Fiduciary Fun	ds		Electric Fund	Water Fund	Server Fundos	
riopi	Beginning Unrestricted			250000	-	-	
	Estimated Revenue	cash		1767500	366,600.00	201,300.00	99,400.00
	Transfer In			1707500	290,000.00	100,000.00	55,100.00
	Other Financing Sour	2005			250,000.00	100,000.00	
	TOTAL AVAILABLE	005		2,017,500.00	656,600.00	301,300.00	99,400.00
	Less Appropriations (Evnenses)		1467510	494,520.00	232,170.00	88,500.00
	Less Debt Service	Lxpenses)		1407510	90,000.00	46,210.00	00,000.00
	Less Transfer Out			250000	50,000.00	40,210.00	
	ESTIMATED NET POSI			\$299,990.00	\$72,080.00	\$22,920.00	\$10,900.00
Tho f	inance officer is directed		a dollar amour				
	amount of tax levy reque	st is 97/0,291, allu til		pr our request is	φ230,000. The t	otal request be	ing \$700,291.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor

Hope Block, Finance Officer

First Reading: 9/8/20 Second Reading: 9/15/20

Publish Date: 9/23/20

ORDINANCE NO. 736

411

414

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Part II

Effective Date: 10/13/20

Published one time at the approximate cost of \$215.03. 19271

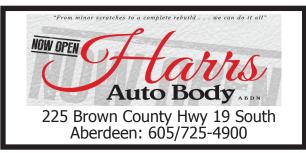
Groton City Sept. 15 Meeting Minutes September 15, 2020

ity deposit refund; Dakota Press, \$171.65, Utility deposit refund; Kacie Lawrence, \$125.47, Utility deposit refund: Chad Haight. \$57.46, Utility deposit refund; Clark Engineering, \$2,500.00, Creating the report for the funding application for the water main loop to the Olson devel-opment; Lisa Hudson, \$50.12, Refund for error in card services; S&S Lumber, \$13,174.00, Dugout project materials reimbursed by the foundation donation; Geffdog, \$1,782.73, Groton hats; TreeLine Tree Service, \$4,900.00, Trimming trees; Kathy Bjerke, \$100.00, Sewing patches for PD; James Valley, \$632.68, Utilities; Heartland Waste, \$8,029.00, Garbage hauling 8/20; Grand Slam, \$350.00, Laptop for CO-VID 19 guarantined employees; MJs, \$1,004.34, Gas, car washes, mower tire repair, PD Ford battery replacement, repair tire and rotate tires; Ecolab, \$106.00, Pest control; Galls, \$104.60, Batteries for flashlight. The August finance report was approved on a motion by Wells and seconded by Kappes. All members voted aye. Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Babcock to close Main Street and a portion of Railroad Avenue from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm October 30th for Downtown Trick-or-Treat. All members voted aye.

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Cutler to approve City employees to open Dacotah Bank credit cards and to close the Chase Visa credit cards. All members voted aye.



Groton Chiropractic Clinic Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C. 1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204



The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00 pm at the Community Center for their second monthly meeting with the following members present: Wells, Blackmun, Fliehs, Kappes, Babcock, Cutler via phone and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Also present were: Attorney Drew Johnson, Finance Officer Hope Block, Officer Tony Garcia and Paul Kosel.

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 Fliehs and seconded by Wells. All members voted aye. Moved by Blackmun and sec-

onded by Babcock to authorize the following bills for payment. All members voted ave

Payroll, \$10,480.16, Employee salaries; Executive, \$277.05; Administrative; Public Safety, \$10,203.1; Public Works; Culture & Recreation; First State Bank, \$3,273.67, SS and WH ; USPS, \$202.73, Utility billing postage; Tristen Doering, \$250.00, Utility deposit refund; Damian Bahr, \$301.85, Utility deposit refund; Leonard Garness, \$108.60, Util-

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Fliehs to approve Maguire Iron's application for Pay-ment Number 2 in the amount of \$100,561.50. All members voted aye.

The first reading of Ordinance #737 Revising Cemetery Regulations was approved on a motion by Blackmun and seconded by Kappes. All members voted aye.

After an \$1,800 transfer from the swimming pool appropriations to the baseball appropriations, the second reading of the 2021 Appropriation Ordinance #736 was approved on a motion by Blackmun and seconded by Babcock. All members voted ave

Moved by Wells and seconded by Fliehs to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal items 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 7:49pm. All members voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 8:06pm.

Moved by Wells and seconded by Babcock to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 pm. All members voted aye.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor Hope Block, Finance Officer Published once at the total approximate cost of \$34.67. 19272 **ORDINANCE 174**

REVISION TO BROWN COUN-TY ORDINANCE TITLE 4 AND TITLE 5

Notice is hereby given that Ordinance No.174, an ordi-nance amending Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, Title 4 Zoning, Chapters 4.01 – 4.07 and 4.32; Title 5 Subdivision Regulations, Chapter 5.01, was duly adopted by the Brown County Board of Commissioners on the 8th day of September, 2020, and that such Ordinance shall be in full force and effect on and after the 13th day of October, 2020 unless the referendum shall have been invoked. A copy of the adopted ordinance is on file with the Brown County Auditor and is available for public review during regular business hours at the Brown County Courthouse (25 Market St, Suite 1, Aberdeen, SD).

Cathy McNicklé, Brown County Auditor

(0916.0923)

Published twice at the approximate cost of \$21.15. 19259

Groton School Sept. 14 Meeting Minutes UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF EDUCATION

GROTON AREA SCHOOL DIS-TRICT NO. 06-6

REGULAR MEETING September 14, 2020

President Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the High School Conference Room. Members present: Fjelstad, Gengerke, Harder, Pharis, Rix, Smith and Weismantel. Others present: Supt. J. Schwan, Principals Sombke, B. Schwan, and Business Manager Weber.

Moved by Weismantel, second Pharis to approve the agenda as proposed. Motion carried.

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

Moved by Harder, second Rix to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: District minutes of August 10 2020, August 31, 2020, and September 7, 2020, bills, financial reports, agency accounts and investments, public-school exemptions #21-09b, #21-10, #21-11 and #21-12. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND: Net Salary 53,209.56; FIT - 4,444.71; Medicare - 1,975.82; FICA 8,448.46; SDRS - 7,275.44; Waddell & Reed - 625.00; Horace Mann – 250.00; AFLAC – 940.55; Delta Dental – 1,085.98; SDRS Supplemental – 502.29; Wellmark – 15,995.00; Reliastar 206.81; Avesis Vision - 66.10; Advanced Auto - parts, 55.16; Allied Climate – air conditioning, 31,461.95; Amazon – supplies, 295.75; Susan Appl – judge, 50.00; Ávera St Luke's – training service, 2,543.89; BK Custom T's – shirts, 112.86; Brown County – spraying, 375.04; Chicago Children's Choir - music, 22.50; Cole Papers - supplies, 2,678.89; Custodial Fund advanced pays, 29,237.50; Dependable Sanitation - service, 1,254.50; Dollar General – supplies, 34.00; Follett – site renewal, 744.83; Groton Daily Independent – legals, 122.45; Groton DQ - supplies, 168.00; Joel Guthmiller – supplies, 16.00; Hanlon Brothers – snow re-moval, 5,530.00; Harry Implement - parts, 280.29; Hauff Mid-America - supplies, 158.35; Headsets.com - battery, 38.92 Hillyard – supplies, 823.74; JW Pepper – music, 341.99; Ken's – supplies, 325.84; Locke Electric – repairs, 2,248.46; Matheson Tri-Gas – supplies, 33.42; Menards - supplies, 85.88; Julie Milbrandt – supplies, 72.61; National Speech – dues, 149.00; North Central Special Ed - assessment, 5,500.00; Northeast Superintendents - dues, 50.00; Northside Implement - parts, 774.43; Northwestern Energy – natural gas, 309.45; Arista Padfield – supplies, 6.39; Petty Cash – supplies, 70.00; Popplers - music, 117.65; Prorate Service – screening, 480.00; Renneberg – wood, 655.07; Robotics – supplies, 660.18; School Specialty – supplies, 486.82; SDSBF – assessment, 68,271.41; Taylor Music – music, 266.69; Carla Tracy – services, 70.00; Sydney Wilkinson – supplies, 42.53; Timothy Woods - judge, Total General Fund -50.00. \$252,098.16.

CAPITAL OUTLAY: A&B Busi- print services, 1,984.33; Allied Climate Professionals – air conditioning, 38,440.27; Ama-zon – speaker, 516.12; BeyondTrust – software, 2,047.94; BK Custom T's – bags, 243.00; Custodial Fund - advanced pays 54,331.59; Fred J Miller – bell covers, 784.00; Goverlan – software, 253.00; Hauff Mid America equipment, 2,249.75; High Plains Technology – software, 489.00; Junior Library Guild – media, 1,689.30; McGannon P&H – coolers/filling stations, 12,996.78; Monoprice – USB chargers, 2,678.57; N2Y - software, 191.08; Play Versus - software, 1.00; Renaissance - software, 2,537.50; Runnings - fan, 429.99; Savvas Learning - software, 1,200.00; School Specialty – equipment, 755.24; Sherwin Williams – sprayer, 2,000.00; Taylor Music – equip-ment, 1,253.00; Typing Agent – software, 575.00. Total Capital Outlay Fund – \$127,646.46. SPECIAL EDUCATION: Net Salary – 3,117.71; FIT – 185.43; Medicare – 110.92; FICA – 474.32; SDRS – 459.00; Cus-todial Fund – advanced pays, 8,385.38; Dollar General – sup-lias – 149.80; North Control plies, 148.80; North Central Special Ed Coop – assessment, 31,868.66; School Specialty – supplies, 4.25; SDSBF – assess-ment, 8,453.48; Judy/Gene Williamson - mileage, 282.24. Total

RR

FIT – 238.19; Medicare – 70.10; FICA – 299.78; SDRS – 302.32; AFLAC - 82.81; Wellmark -763.00; Reliastar - 1.92; Avesis Vision - 19.06; Cintas - aprons/ towels, 61.34; Custodial Fund advanced pays, 1,579.61; CWD-Aberdeen – food, 2,240.13; Earthgrains – food, 69.20; East Side Dairy – milk, 601.34; Re-inhart – food, 1,450.27; SDSBF assessment, 1,480.92; US Foods – food, 3,749.90. To-tal Food Service – 14,853.10. OST - Net Salary - 1,267.19; FIT - 38.85; Medicare - 43.86 Social Security – 187.56; SD Retirement – 181.50; SDSBF – assessment, 264.19; Total OST 1,983.15. Total Enterprise

Special Ed Fund – \$53,490.19.

Service - Net Salary - 1,843.21;

Description.....

2. Transfers in

5. Transfers out

1. Beginning Balance 1,310,020.82

a. checking...... 1,310,020.82

b. petty cash 0.00

3. Revenue to date..... 756,388.34

4. Total accounted for..... 2,066,409.16

6. Expenditures to date 391,429.15

a. encumbrances...... 0.00

b. disbursements 391,429.15

7. Ending Balance 1,674,980.01

a. checking..... 1,674,980.01

August Expenses..... 141,873.41

Custodial Checking

District Checking...... Certificate of Deposit.....

Total all Funds

Funds – \$16,836.25 AGENCY FUND: Total -\$99,032.96.

RECEIPTS: Local Sources, Taxes – 27,226.70; Other Local Sources – 84,325.89; Coun-ty Sources – 2,838.34; State Śources – 166,871.00; Federal Sources - 0.00. Total Receipts \$281,261.93.

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 continued discussion and necessary action on District response to COVID-19 issues including amendments to 2020 Back-to-School Plan, close contacts and quarantine protocols, symptom screenings and school exclusions, school sponsored activities and possible federal payroll tax deferral. Superintendent Schwan expressed his frustration with South Dakota State Department of Health (SD DOH). When it comes to interpretation of federal CDC guidelines and regulations, SD DOH has been telling inquiring school patrons that the enforcement of CDC guidelines is a school personnel decision. School patrons Bruce Babcock, Diane Kurtz and Carla Sperry expressed the same story to the board from conversations they had with SD DOH. As a result it was moved by Weismantel, second Rix to amend the school's Back-to-School Plan appendix C reading the steps that happen after a student of staff member tests positive for COVID-19. Motion carried

Moved by Rix, second Weismantel not to proceed with a federal payroll tax deferral program until more guidance is provided. Motion carried.

The following items were discussed in administrative reports: current enrollment at 615, Brown

about a discrepancy in the ad-ENTERPRISE FUNDS: Food dressing system for the HS at 406 North 2nd Street: 911 dispatch will work on a resolution, Coronavirus Relief Funds at \$500 per student, Teacher Effective-ness Schedule, Student Learning Objectives Process, Teacher Self Assessment form, and certified salary handout.

..... General

Fund

Assigned

0.00

Gen Funds

166,442.24

166,442.24

2,599.00

3,191.91

3,191.91

2,599.00

29,777.12

2,087,130.54

1,500.000.00

3,616,907.66

947.24

165,849.33

165,849.33

0.00

0.00

169,041.24

Moved by Gengerke, second Harder to approve lane change for Ashley Seeklander from MS+30 to MS+45 for an increase of \$750. Motion carried.

Smith declared a short recess at 9:44 pm and the board resumed their meeting at 9:49 pm. Moved by Weismantel, second Harder to go into executive session at 9:50 pursuant to SDCL

1-25-2(4) for negotiations. Motion carried. Smith declared the board out

of executive session at 10:01 pm

Moved by Gengerke, second Harder to approve 2020-21 GASA Negotiated Agreement. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, second Pharis to adjourn. Motion carried

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 \$122.19. 19273.

Bates Township Mowing 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 asessed property taxes at the rate of \$300 per half mile.

Bates Township Board of Supervisors reminds all landowners and tenants that the road rightof-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

(9/16-9/23)

Published twice at the approximate cost of \$19.39. 19262

East Hanson Mowing Notice

MONTHLY DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT FOR GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 06-6

For the reporting period beginning July 1, 2020, and ending August 31, 2020

Capital

Outlav

0.00

0.00

0.00

8,435.52

134,795.05

1,494,432.18

1,494,432.18

19,978.23

1,514,410.41

267,568.00

267,568.00

1,246,842.41

1,246,842.41

Special

0.00

0.00

0.00

Education

282,971.70

282,971.70

16,898.80

15,859.46

15,859.46

284,011.04

284,011.04

8,609.33

8,360.99

299,870.50

East Hanson Owners and tenants of East Hanson Township are hereby notified and required according to law, to cut all weeds in road ditches adjacent to their property or tenanted by them within said township on or before October 1, 2020 or same will be hired done by the township board and \$300 per half mile charged to abutting property.

By order of the township board.

Betty Schinkel Township Clerk

(9/16-9/23)

Published twice at the approximate cost of \$11.75. 19261

Columbia City Sept. 16

Special Meeting City of Columbia Council Special Meeting

Wednesday - September 16, 2020 7:00 p.m.

Call Meeting to Order/Roll Call- Trevor, Ellen, Corey, Cara and Cole via phone.

Mayor Corey Mitchell called the meeting to order. Cole Kampa joined the meeting via phone. After review of the proposed 2021 budget, Ellen Harr made a motion to pass the 2nd reading of the 2021 ordinance budget. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All were in favor motion carried.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ellen Harr, seconded by Trevor Meints. All in

Note meeting date/time

Next Regular Council Meeting Wednesday, October 7, 2020 7:30 p.m.

Published once at the approximate cost of \$9.40. 18269

AUCTIONS

Bond Enterprise

2,890.96 20,685.39

0.00 17,665.01

Fund

0.00

0.00

0.00

17.665.01

54,738.65

54,738.65

20,728.84

8,765.17

51,718.27

51,718.27

Redemption

157,818.14

157,818.14

160,709.10

160,709.10

160,709.10

1,093.96

0.00

0.00

0.00

0.00

0.00

Custodial

161,560.84

161,560.84

53,721.98

72,403.66 215,282.82 4,498,126.89

185,505.70

185,505.70

29,777.12

29,777.12 0.00

49,629.90

99,032.96

Fund

0.00

0.00

Total for

3,624,964.19

3,624,964.19

873,162.70

881,219.23

881,219.23

(0.00) 281,261.93

393,774.82

3,616,907.66 3,616,907.66

District

0.00

0.00

INTERSTATE AUCTION CENTER, Exit 402, I –90, Fall Building Materials, Construction Equipment Consignment Auction, September 26th 2020 10 am. Call 605-331-4550, email bppagel@gmail.com, auctionzip.com

NOTICES

ADVERTISE IN NEWSPAPERS statewide for only \$150.00. Put the South Dakota Statewide Classifieds Network to work for you today! (25 words for \$150.00. Each additional word \$5.) Call the Independent at 605/397-6397 for details.

WANTED TO BUY

WANTED 1970S MOTORCYCLES. Running or not, no title okay! Get cash and make some room! Always paying more! Call Mike at 320/420-7675.

PARTS COUNTER SALES

Self motivated individual needed to fill our Parts Counter Sales position. Duties include parts sales, display stocking, shipping and receiving. Sponsored training, excellent benefits package

Contact Steve at 605-395-6421 or email resume to s.harry@harrysinc.com.

Harry Implement Inc.

PO Box 841 Ferney, SD

57439



AVERA WELCOMES

MASSEY FERGUSON

favor – motion passed. Meeting adjourned. change

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Groton Independent \diamond Wed., Sept. 23, 2020 \diamond 3

S.D. sheep farmers hurting as pandemic reduces demand and processing capacity

In March 2020, the sheep-farming industry in South Dakota — the sixth-largest in the country — was humming along nicely.

SOUTH DAKOTA NEWS WATCH

After a few sluggish decades, prices for meat and wool were at or near all-time highs and markets were stable. Fine-dining restaurants and the cruise-line industry continued to fuel strong demand for South Dakota lamb. And the annual massive sales boost during the lamb-centered celebrations of traditional and orthodox Easter, Passover and Ramadan in late March or April lay ahead.

But then the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and the statewide sheep industry that produces about 250,000 head a year and generates nearly \$42 million in annual revenues took a dive.

Demand for lamb and wool in the U.S. and

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Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch



Sheep are herded through pens at the St. Onge Newell Sheepyards during a sale held in Newell, S.D. in late August. Though prices for lamb have plummeted during the COVID-19 pandemic, producers are still trying to get what they can for animals that are ready for harvest.

Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

across the world fell dramatically as restaurants closed, cruise ships stayed docked and international trade and travel came to a halt.

Prices paid to farmers for each animal fell by half, leading to major financial losses. Ranchers were forced to store thousands of pounds of sheared wool in warehouses to wait for prices to rebound.

Almost all sheep ranchers have had to drastically alter their business plans and shift breeding, lambing, finishing and slaughter cycles to reduce losses and keep their operations alive.

"This COVID pandemic couldn't have come at a worse time for the sheep industry in South Dakota," said Lisa Surber of Newell, who is executive secretary of the South Dakota Sheep Growers Association. "It's been a really difficult period for the industry."

The bad news for sheep producers only got worse when the rancher-owned Mountain States Rosen sheep-processing plant in Greeley, Colo., went into bankruptcy this spring and was purchased in August by Brazilian meatpacking giant JBS, which has said it may close the plant or convert it to beef production.

The closure created another challenge for lamb producers who were already finding it hard to get animals processed at plants that slowed or halted operations during the pandemic. Before closing, the Greeley plant had processed about 20% of the national annual sheep harvest.

"This [the plant closure] hit right at the run-up to the holidays in April, which is the single-highest consumption period for lamb, said Peter Orwick, executive director of the Colorado-based American Sheep Industry Association, the national trade group for sheep farmers. The low per-pound prices and processing challenges forced many sheep producers to stall delivery of sheep to feedlots or processing plants and keep feeding their animals much longer than usual, which increases feed costs and reduces the price paid per animal, Orwick said. Industry experts do not predict that many sheep farms will go under or that a glut of animals will lead to euthanizations, like those that occurred in the hog industry after pork processors shut down amid the pandemic. Sheep farming allows for adaptations in how animals are bred, raised and harvested, so producers have been able to hold onto animals or shift them around until prices rebound. Most American sheep farmers received money to offset pandemic losses through the

the congressional CARES Act, which provided a per-head payment. Those payments, however, only covered about 20% of losses suffered by many sheep farmers, some of whom have had to visit their bankers with bad news about loan payments that may be hard to make, said Orwick.

"For us, it's really about survival at this point," Orwick said.

John Erk, 42, works with his father, Paul, on the Erk Ranch in western South Dakota, where they raise sheep and cattle and grow hay about 30 miles north of Newell in Butte County.

Erk recently left his job as a partner in a Sturais engineering firm to return to the farm, where he plans to build a home, take over the operation from his father and become the fourth generation of the Erk family to run the ranch, which was homesteaded in 1912 by his great-grandfather, a German immigrant.

The Erks saw strong prices for lamb in recent years but watched the bottom drop out of the market when restaurants and cruise ships shut down amid the pandemic, Erk said.

"Nobody's making any money right now, because if nobody is eating it, nobody's going to be buying it," he said.

Erk said the family owns about 1,200 ewes and mostly raises "feeder" sheep that are sold to feedlot operators for finishing and then slaughtering. He said they sold ewes for \$100 to \$120 during the pandemic that would usually fetch about \$200 per head.

Erk said his family has endured prior upheavals in the sheep industry over their long history, and he is keeping a positive attitude and has high hopes that the market and prices will return to profitability soon.

"If this would be a few years in a row, I probably would be panicking, but I'm familiar with the ups and downs in the ranching industry," Erk said.

The number of U.S. farms that raised sheep fell from about 105,000 nationally in 1990 to 80,000 in 2010, but rose back to about 100,000 in 2019 as demand for meat and wool stabilized and more farmers took on small flocks to diversify their operations, according to the USDA.

The American sheep industry saw average annual production growth of 3.8% from 2015 to 2020. In all, farmers raised 5.2 million animals in 2019. In 2017, gate receipts for animals and wool sold were about \$500 million, and the overall economic impact of the industry was an estimated \$5.8 billion, according to the sheep industry association. In South Dakota, the sheep industry has followed a similar pattern of historic decline and recent stabilization, and also in the growth of small farms, known as farm-flock producers with annual production of fewer than 100 animals. The great majority of sheep farms in South Dakota, about 88%, produced fewer than 300 animals in 2017, and only 31 farms produced 1,000 animals or more. In 2012, about 260,000 sheep were raised on roughly 1,800 farms; in 2017, about 235,000 sheep were raised on roughly 1,350 farms, according to the state Department of Agriculture. Not unlike cattle ranches, sheep farms are more common West River but with a significant number of farms dotted across East River. Most South Dakota lamb is processed and shipped domestically to high-end restau-

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Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

rants and cruise lines, Surber said. American producers cannot meet the full domestic demand for lamb meat, with Australia and New Zealand the top exporters to the U.S. market. Texas, California, Colorado, Wyoming and Utah are the top states for sheep production, with South Dakota sixth with about 5% of the total U.S. production.

ТОР		
SHEEP-PRODUCING		
STATES IN U.S. AND		
GREAT PLAINS		
Here is a look at state pro-		
duction of total sheep across		
the country and in Great Plains		
states as of Jan. 1, 2020.		
STATE ANIMALS PRODUCED/YEAR		
1. Texas735,0002		
2. California		
3. Colorado425,000		
4. Wyoming340,000		
5. Utah		
6. South Dakota250,000		
7. Idaho230,000		
8. Montana200,000 9. Oregon165,000		
10. Iowa151,000		
12. Minnesota115,000		
20. Nebraska 78,000		
21. North Dakota 75,000		
Source: American Sheep In-		
dustry Association		

Wool is still sold to the U.S. military and also shipped to China, where sales were hurt by tariffs implemented by the Trump administration during its ongoing trade war, Orwick said.

No sheep farm in South Dakota has been as dramatically affected by the pandemic and supply-chain challenges as the VanWell Livestock operation in Watertown, the largest in the state.

Trevor VanWell runs VanWell Livestock with his brother, Travis, and their mother, Stephanie. The family's breeding, lambing and finishing operation handles about 140,000 lambs a year in one form or another.

The VanWells sold thousands of sheep in April and May for 75 to 80 cents per pound, less than half the \$1.65 per pound they were receiving before the pandemic, Trevor VanWell said.

They also held onto and fed animals longer than the ideal period, selling some at weights of 200 pounds or more after a year on feed when 150 to 165 pounds after seven to 11 months on feed is preferable. The farm lost money on those larger animals due to extra costs for feed, vaccines and labor in addition to price discounts demanded by buyers.

"We're pretty much doing all that work and nothing has paid off for it so far," VanWell said.

The VanWells also have about 300,000 83 and place pounds of wool in storage in a Watertown Simon who warehouse, creating another lost revenue shot a 112. stream.

The family owned about 10,000 shares in the rancher-owned Mountain States Lamb Cooperative, which operated the processing plant that shut down in Greeley. Bankruptcy rendered the shares, once valued at about \$200,000, totally worthless.

The VanWells were still losing money on each animal sold in August, VanWell said.

"The bloodbath continues, and we're just hoping to see some daylight at the end of all the chaos," he said.

Surber said positive signs emerged at a "premium sale" held in Huron in July, in which sheep ranchers presented their best animals to buyers seeking the best genetic material to launch new flocks. Interest and prices paid at the event were both high despite the ongoing gloom of the pandemic, Surber said. The wool industry may also bounce back, Orwick said. The U.S. military has commissioned a new line of wool uniforms, and washable wool socks have become a popular retail product, he said.

Warner has clean sweep in volleyball action

Warner had a clean sweep in Groton Tuesday night as the Monarchs won all three matches in volleyball action.

The C match was broadcast live on GDILI-VE.COM/GDIRADIO, sponsored by Frost Construction. Game scores were 25-18 and 25-6. The junior varsity match was also broadcast on GDLIVE.COM/GDIRADIO sponsored by Jerry and Kathy Bjerke. Game scores were 25-10 and 25-16.

The varsity match was broadcast on GDILI-VE.COM/GDIRADIO, sponsored by BK Custom T's & More, S & S Lumber, Hefty Seed, Bary Keith at Harr Motors and the Groton Chiropractic Clinic. Game scores were 25-6, 25-6 and 25-8.

In the varsity match, Aspen Johnson and Megan Fliehs each had three kills and Madeline Fliehs had two. Allyssa Locke had seven of the nine sets. Alyssa Thaler had nine of the team's 24 digs with Madeline Fliehs and Allyssa Locke each having four.

The Monarchs had 15 ace serves, 33 kills, 31 assists, 31 digs and six blocks.

Mobridge-Pollock defeates Groton Area netters

Mobridge-Pollock defeated Groton Area in volleyball action Thursday in Mobridge, 25-19, 25-14 and 25-16.

Groton Area had six ace serves with Allyssa Locke and Tricia Keith each having two. The Tigers had 18 kills with Madeline Fliehs having six and Aspen Johnson and Grace Wambach each having four. Groton Area had 17 assists. Allyssa Locke had 10 of the team's 39 digs while Madeline Fliehs had nine and Grace Wambach seven. Stella Meier had two of the team's three blocks.

Mobridge-Pollock won the junior varsity match, 25-14 and 25-15.

Fliehs places fifth at Tiospa Zina golf meet

Tiospa Zina hosted a golf tournament Thursday at Dakota Magic Golf Course, the host site of the regional this year. Brevin Fliehs shot a 83 and placed 5th. Other golfers were Lucas Simon who shot a 105 and Logan Pearson who shot a 112.

Smith places fifth at Deuel Cross Country Meet

Isaac Smith placed fifth at the Deuel Invitational Cross Country Meet held Monday in Clear Lake. He finished the 5000m course in 17:39.05. Jackson Garstecki placed 41st with a time of 23:03.07.

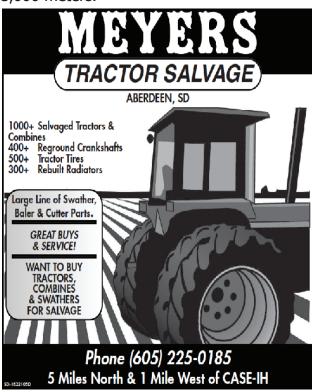
In the girls junior varsity division, Sierra Ehresmann placed 13th with a time of 15:30.10 and Rebecca Poor was 29th with a time of 18:34.28. Dragr Monson placed third in the junior varsity boy's division with a time of 11:54.41 and Jayden Schwan placed 20th with a time of 13:38.38. The junior varsity races run







3,000 meters.





Put our experienced team to work for you!





Groton Independent \diamond Wed., Sept. 23, 2020 \diamond 5

Milbank wins own homecoming game

Milbank, somewhat, celebrated homecoming on Friday and won it's homecoming game over Groton Area, 27-0. Milbank did not have a homecoming parade due to COVID-19.

The football game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Kevin and Kara Pharis.

Milbank had 249 yards rushing, 15 first downs and 69 yards passing. Groton Area had 77 yards rushing, seven first downs and 82 yards passing.

Andrew Marzahn had 42 yards rushing and caught three passes for 20 yards. Jaimen Farrell had 18 yards rushing and 20 yards receiving. Colby Dunker and Jacob Lewandowski each had 10 yard rushing. Jordan Bjerke had 20 yards receiving and Jackson Cogley had 22.

Alex Morris led the defense with 17 tackles followed by Pierce Kettering with 16, Jaimen Farrell 11 while Evan Nehls, Paxton Bonn and Tate Larson each had seven tackles.

Justin Osborn had 140 yards rushing for Milbank.

Milbank scored with 34 seconds left in the first half and with the PAT conversion, it was 8-0 at halftime. The Bulldogs scored again with 3:16 left in the third guarter and it was 14-0. Milbank scored two more times in the fourth quarter.

Groton Area will host Redfield on Friday in Groton's homecoming game at 7 p.m. The game will be broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM/ GDIRADIO 89.3 FM, sponsored by Mike Nehls for Brown County Commission.

Lady Tigers tame **Blue Dragons**

Groton Area posted a 5-0 win over Garretson in soccer action played Saturday in Groton. The event was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Jason Roberts and Lisa Pray.

The Tigers are struggling to get into the playoffs as Garretson is still holding on to the number six position while Groton Area is at number seven. The top six teams advance to the playoffs.

The five goals were scored by five different players. The first score was with 22:37 left in the first half. A Groton player kicked the ball and it bounced off the top bar, landing just in front of the goal. Garretson's goalie lost track of the ball and Jerica Locke was there to give the ball and boot and it rolled into the net. The second score in the first half came with 38 seconds left when Mia Crank kicked the ball towards the goal and Kenzie McInerney finished the play with the hard kick and the ball went flying into the net for a 2-0 lead.

Groton Area scored early in the second half at the 38:07 mark when Riley Leicht kicked the ball into the net. The Tigers scored again at the 23 minute mark when Regan Leicht kicked the ball in, and the final score was with 14:40 left when Brooklyn Hansen scored.

Groton Area, now 3-4-1, will host Tea Area on Saturday for the regular season finale at 1 p.m. That game will be broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM/GDIRADIO 89.3 FM.

The boys were suppose to play Freeman Academy on Saturday, but that game was called off. Freeman Academy has not played any games this year. The boys will host James Valley Christian on Thursday and that game will be broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM/GDIRADIO 89.3 FM, sponsored by the White House Inn.

Then on Saturday, Groton Area will host Tea Area with the girls playing at 1 p.m. and the boys at 3 p.m. Both games will be broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM/GDIRADIO 89.3 FM. The girls game is sponsored by Dan & Marjae Schinkel, Nick & Sadie Leicht, rent & Heather Traphagen ~ Del & Joan Lehr, Emily & Wes Dinger ~ Stacy & Craig Hansen and Jeff & Bridget Fliehs. The Groton Vet Clinic is sponsoring the boys game. - Paul Kosel







Brooklyn Gilbert (Photo by Paul Kosel)





Regan Leicht (Photo by Paul Kosel) LECT Michael FOR COUNTY COMMISSION A Fresh Voice for Brown County (D) RA 12 **VOTE BY MAIL** STAY SAFE

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September 18th

A



Jaedyn Penning (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Michael Nehls

*

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