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# The Groton Independent

Vol. 138 No. 11 ♦ Groton, South Dakota ♦ Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2020 ♦ Established in 1889



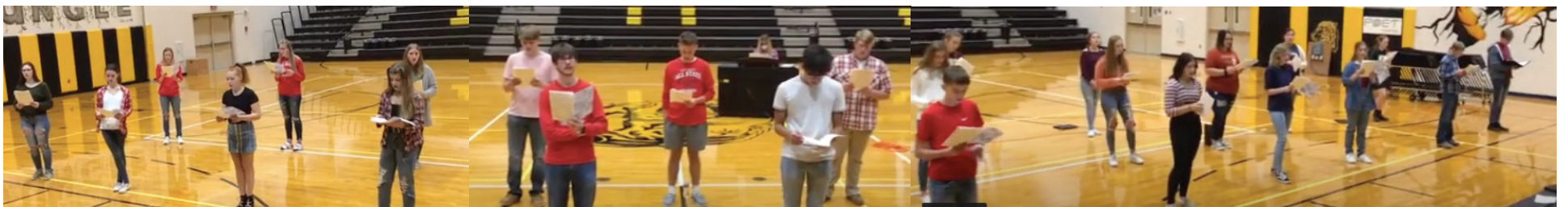
The GHS Band performed the National Anthem and the Service Songs.

## Groton Area Veteran's Day Video

**From the Groton Area Website:** To all our veterans, past and present, we thank you for your service. We may never fully understand the sacrifice and commitment made in service of our country, but humbly thank you for answering the call to serve. Freedom is not free. The Groton Area School District's annual Veterans Day celebration is not being held in-person this year. In place of that, we offer a video production from our students honoring our veterans.

**Editor's Note:** The photos featured here are lifted from the video presentation.

<https://youtu.be/pjebPkV3PYc>



"Song for the Unsung Hero" by the GHS Choir.



"I Love That Grand Old Flag" performed by Second and Third Graders



"Have You Seen A Yankee Doodle Boy" by the Fourth and Fifth Graders

These are some of the art projects done through Janene Harry's Art Class



"Veteran's March" performed by the Junior Kindergarten, Kindergarten and First Grade.





**Brown County  
Nov. 3, 2020  
Meeting Minutes**

NOVEMBER 3, 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, Feickert, and Sutton. Commissioner Wiese was absent. Commissioner Sutton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**  
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve the agenda. All member present voting aye. Motion carried.

**MINUTES:**  
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve the general meeting minutes of October 27th, 2020. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS:**  
Moved by Feickert seconded by Fjeldheim to approve the following claims:

**CLAIMS:** Professional Fees: Aberdeen Fire & Rescue \$183.00; Aman Flooring \$1,433.50; Carrels & Bain Family Dental \$146.41; Clark Engineering \$591.90; ES&S \$6,537.50; Michelle Gaikowski \$27.20; GBR Interpreting \$120.00; Haar Law Firm \$33.40; Lewis & Clark BHS \$184.00; SD DOT \$17,714.51; Yankton Co. Sheriff \$50.00; Zylstra Investigations \$227.50. Publishing: Aberdeen American News \$96.02; Aberdeen Magazine \$310.00; Groton Independent \$1,828.71. Repairs & Maintenance: Clarke Mosquito Control Products \$43.79; Crawford Trucks & Equip. \$614.80; Ecolab Pest Elimination \$118.77; Exec. Mgmt. \$73.71; Great Western Tire \$10.00; House of Glass \$2,852.01; Hub City Roofing \$49,750.00; Jake's Heating & Cooling \$5,102.50; Jarman's Water Systems \$127.10; Karl's TV & Appliance \$128.95; Kustom Signals \$186.00; Lien Transportation \$1,157.50; North 281 Auto \$250.00; Pierson-Ford \$69.23; Sewer Duck \$165.00; Woodman Refrigeration \$2,074.75. Supplies: A-1 Locksmith \$113.70; AgTegra \$603.23; Bakken Build Maint. \$500.00; Crawford Trucks & Equip. \$621.32; Crescent Electric \$217.65; CTR \$237.50; Da-

kota Electronics \$3,200.00; Great Western Tire \$10,873.90; Heartland Paper \$6,635.99; Hedahl's Auto \$335.99; Jensen Rock & Sand \$89,316.64; Leidholdt Tool Sales \$66.69; Mac's \$182.43; Menards \$146.99; Midwest Card & ID Solutions \$1,500.00; NADA Used Car Guide \$99.00; Pantorium Cleaners \$28.00; Plumbing & Heating Wholesale \$444.14; Premier Biotech \$1,840.88; Pro Ag Supply \$68.42; Running's \$42.98; US Foods \$1,866.86; West Payment Center \$159.00; Zastrow's Sales & Service \$47.94. Travel & Conference: Axon Enterprise \$495.00. Utilities: AT&T Mobility \$142.48; CenturyLink \$58.31; Midcontinent \$258.33; NWPS \$13,102.20. Other: Kari Lee \$200.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

Acknowledge Jeremy Batista reclassification as Jail Correctional Officer at \$17.57 per hour, effective October 23, 2020.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**LOTTERY PERMIT:**

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Sutton to approve lottery permit for Aberdeen Hockey for lottery to be held February 28, 2021 at the Odde Ice Arena. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**LEGAL ASSIGNMENT:**

Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Feickert to authorize Auditor sign agreement to assign claims against individuals to Credit Collection Bureau for the purpose of collecting liens. All member present voting aye. Motion carried.

**APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY:**

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve application for occupancy by Web Water to occupy Brown County Highway 14, in section 27, Township 123, Range 63, Brown County, South Dakota for potable water line. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**ALCOHOL LICENSE TRANSFER:**

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to approve transfer of Retail (on-off sale) Malt Beverage & SD Farm Wine license from Alan Lanphere DBA: Bath

Quick Stop LLC to Dustin Guthmiller DBA: Bath Quick Stop, LLC, Lt B Weismantels 1st SD Lt 1 Ex N12" Jenkins SD Inc. Ajd N 12" Lt 1 Jenkins SD E2, SE 18-123-62, Brown County, SD. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**NO ENGINE BRAKING:**

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to implement no engine braking on Brown County Highway 10 one mile north and south of 13952 387th Ave, Warner, SD 57479. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**GIS MAPPING PROJECT UPDATE:**

Scott Madsen (GIS Coordinator) and Kent Jones (Communications Director) presented and update on the Spillman project including improvement to GIS mapping of addresses used to dispatch emergency professionals on 911 calls. No action taken.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Fjeldheim to go into executive session to discuss information pertaining to the protection of public or private property and any person on or within public or private property exempted per SDCL 1-25-2(6) and personnel per SDCL 1-25-2(1). All members present voting aye. Motion carried. The Chair declared the executive session closed with no action taken.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:45a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$54.36. 19434

**Columbia City  
Nov. 8, 2020  
Special Meeting**

City of Columbia Council Special Meeting

Sunday – November 8, 2020 7:00 p.m.

Call Meeting to Order

Roll Call – Corey Mitchell, Ellen Harr, Cara Dennert, Cole Kampa and Trevor Meints via conference call

New Business – renewal of The Lodge's liquor license; next meeting date

Corey presented The Lodge's on & off sale liquor licenses. Cole Kampa made a motion to renew the liquor license for The Lodge. Ellen Harr seconded the motion. All were in favor – motion carried.

Because of a scheduling conflict – the next meeting will be pushed back one week – Wednesday, December 9, 2020 – 7:00 pm

With nothing further on the agenda, Trevor Meints made a motion to adjourn. Ellen Harr seconded the motion. All were in favor – motion carried.

Next Meeting - December 9, 2020 7:00 p.m.

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$10.58. 19435

**Frederick Town  
Nov. 4, 2020  
Special Meeting**

Town of Frederick Special Meeting

November 4, 2020

President Campbell called meeting to order at 7 PM. Board members present were Scott Campbell, Jeff Kusters and Troy Millard.

Board member Troy Millard made the motion to go into executive session to discuss Wastewater Project time extension. Jeff Kusters seconded the motion.

Board came out of executive session.

Board member Jeff Kusters made the motion to adjourn. Troy Millard seconded the motion.

R. Scott Campbell, President RSC/dkb

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$7.93. 19436

**Frederick Town  
Oct. 21, 2020  
Special Meeting**

Town of Frederick

Town Board Special Meeting

October 21, 2020

President Campbell called the meeting to order at Noon. Board Members present were Scott Campbell, Jeff Kusters and Troy Millard.

The board reviewed and discussed the Dahme Construction Co. Inc., Time Extension letter dated September 22, 2020. Jeff Kusters made the motion to deny the request for time

extension and to send a letter to Dahme Construction Co. Inc., informing them that we denied their request for extension. Troy Millard seconded the motion. All members voted Aye.

Board Member Jeff Kusters moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Troy Millard.

R. Scott Campbell, President RSC/dkb

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$8.82. 19437

**Columbia City  
Oct. 19, 2020  
Special Meeting**

Town Board Special Meeting

October 19, 2020

President Campbell called the meeting to order.

Board members present were Scott Campbell, Troy Millard and Jeff Kusters. Legal Counsel Dana Frohling present via telephone.

Motion by Jeff Kusters to go into executive session. Troy Millard seconded the motion.

The Board came out of executive session.

Motion by Kusters to adjourn. Motion seconded by Millard.

Scott Campbell, President RSC/dkb

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$6.46. 19438

**Brown County  
Aberle Rezoning  
Notice**

NOTICE

Application has been made by Carol Aberle 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 November 17, 2020 at 8:46 A.M. for the purpose of rezoning the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) and Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG) to Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District:

"Aberle Subdivision" in the SW1/4 of Section 27-T123N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (2502 135th St SW)

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. 178

ATTEST:

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

(1104.1111)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$24.10. 19417

**Brown County  
Schaffer Rezoning  
Notice**

NOTICE

Application has been made by Brandon Schaffer 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 November 17, 2020 at 8:46 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 1, "Van Den Eykel Second Addition" in the NE1/4 of Section 21-T124N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (12707 377th Ave).

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. 179

ATTEST:

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

(1104.1111)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$22.92. 19418

**Classifieds  
and Card of Thanks**

The following rates are for Classifieds published in both the Groton Daily Independent and the Groton Independent, and posted online at [www.grotonsd.net](http://www.grotonsd.net). Cut rate in half if you just want it in the GDI or just the weekly.

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**MISCELLANEOUS**

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**The Groton Independent**

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Deadline to submit items: Noon Monday]

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**Groton School  
Nov. 9, 2020**

**Meeting Minutes**

UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
OF BOARD OF EDUCATION  
GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6  
REGULAR MEETING  
November 9, 2020

President Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Elementary Commons Area. Members present: Flihs, Harder, Gengerke, Pharis, Rix, Smith and Weismantel. Gengerke was present via phone. Others present were Supt. J. Schwan, Principals B. Schwan and Sombke and Business Manager Weber.

Moved by Weismantel, second Pharis to approve the agenda as presented. 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: October 12, 2020 minutes, district bills, financial report, transportation report, lunch report, custodial accounts and investments, and public school exemptions #21-13 and #21-14. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND: Net Salary - 187,578.08; FIT - 16,662.14; Medicare - 7,038.84; FICA - 30,097.24; American Funds - 542.80; SDRS - 30,604.64; HSA Contribution - 100.00; Waddell & Reed - 1,390.00; Horace Mann

- 1,262.61; Thrivent - 250.00; AFLAC - 3,448.72; Delta Dental - 4,018.81; SD Supplemental Retirement - 977.29; Wellmark - 62,520.97; Reliastar - 714.44; Avesis Vision - 275.30; Wage Works - 666.65; Amazon Capital Services - supplies, 27.88; Avera - services, 974.03; Shelley Coats - labor, 75.00; Cole Papers - cleaners, 1,319.72; Custodial Fund - advanced pays, 25,633.20; Dakota Supply - repair kits, 246.03; Dependable Sanitation - garbage, 1,271.00; Brian Dolan - labor, 120.00; Kristi Ekern - labor, 105.00; Farmer's Union - diesel, 2,001.92; Groton Area - fees, 75.70; Groton Chiropractic - physical, 95.00; Groton Daily Independent - legal, 118.27; Groton DQ - meals, 32.43; Harry Implement - parts, 31.04; Hillyard - supplies, 611.52; Josie Hoffman - labor, 15.00; HUDL - memberships, 2,250.00; Mike Imrie - labor, 180.00; Institutional Compliance - training, 299.00; Jerke Irrigation - winterization, 266.25; Matheson - supplies, 105.23; Mid-American - supplies, 376.15; Midstates - plaques, 210.00; Northside Implement - repairs, 7,935.08; Northwestern Energy - utilities, 1,757.50; Ron Parker - labor, 200.00; Pfitzer - pest control, 220.50; S&S Lumber - supplies, 1,232.00; Scholastic - supplies, 163.63; School Specialty - supplies, 206.78; Sewer Duck - services, 235.00; Lindsey Tietz - movie fees, 8.34; Titan

Machinery - repairs, 5,954.04; Training Room - tape, 285.68; US Foods - supplies, 406.68; WageWorks - flex fee, 1,421.72; Carly Wheeting - labor, 15.00; Woodman Refrigeration - repairs, 483.94. Total General Fund - \$405,113.79.  
CAPITAL OUTLAY: 3X Gear - wrestling gear, 3,030.00; A&B Business - print agreement, 1,898.01; Amazon - equipment, 163.29; Cattle Software - software, 210.00; Custodial Fund - advanced pays, 1,592.23; Dakota Supply - flush valves, 421.51; Don Donley - labor, 1,875.00; Graphic Edge - apparel, 1,985.27; Hewlett-Packard - computer lease, 16,637.76; Matheson - pressure gauge, 105.23; NSU - texts, 164.70; Groton DQ - software, 10.10; US Bank - principal/interest, 611,075.00. Total Capital Outlay - \$639,168.10.  
SPECIAL ED: Net Salary - 32,572.49; FIT - 2,756.20; Medicare - 1,210.28; FICA - 5,175.06; SDRS - 5,280.32; Waddell & Reed - 200.00; AFLAC - 830.11; Delta Dental - 707.34; SD Supplemental Retirement - 100.00; Wellmark - 12,691.02; Reliastar - 221.45; Avesis Vision - 60.64; Wage Works - 259.16; Avera - PT/OT, 15,003.55; Custodial Fund - advanced pays, 245.60; School Specialty - planners, 23.19; Judy/Gene Williamson - mileage, 105.84. Total Special Ed - \$77,442.25.  
ENTERPRISE: Food Service Net Salary - 6,531.10; FIT -

413.75; Medicare - 230.72; FICA - 986.50; SDRS - 804.64; AFLAC - 218.49; Wellmark - 1,526.00; Reliastar - 3.84; Avesis Vision - 39.85; Wage Works - 8.33; Bimbo - bread, 159.62; Custodial Fund - advance pays, 306.70; East Side Dairy - milk, 83.72; Hillyard - supplies, 403.00; Reinhart - food, 2,276.57; US Foods - food, 2,748.69. Total Food Service - \$16,741.52. OST Net Salary - 1,746.00; FIT - 124.84; Medicare - 62.60; FICA - 163.93; Wellmark - 671.00; Reliastar - 23.28; BK Custom T's - masks, 1,368.00; Custodial Fund - advanced pays, 187.20. Total OST - \$4,816.25. Total Enterprise - \$21,557.77.  
CUSTODIAL FUND: Total - \$31,144.08.  
RECEIPTS: Local Sources, Taxes - 116,073.41; Other Local Sources - 76,665.88; County Sources - 2,374.35; Federal Sources - 36,845.44. Total Receipts - \$231,959.08.  
The board continued discussion and necessary action on District response to COVID-19 issues including Binax Rapid Testing, elementary and MS/HS Christmas programs and winter sports season protocols. No action was taken.  
The following topics were discussed in administrative reports: community use of school facilities, seamless summer option food service program, mass COVID testing event in Aberdeen, 2021 legislative ses-

sion, Title I Directors meeting, OST fundraiser, playground update, Kindergarten/Pre-School student teacher, dual credit enrolment, schedule changes for spring semester, remote learning deadline, payroll tax deferral program, audit update, and CARES/Essex budget.  
Moved by Weismantel, second Flihs to approve resignation of Amanda Morehouse as Business Office Assistant, effective Monday, November 30th. Motion carried.  
Superintendent Schwan reported that both school buildings received a 100% score rating from the SD Department of Health & Food Service.  
The board took a short recess at 8:24 pm and returned at 8:31 pm.  
Moved by Rix, second Pharis to go into executive session at 8:32 pm pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(4) for negotiations and SDCL 1-25-2(1) for personnel. Motion carried.  
At 9:18 pm, Smith declared the board out of executive session.  
Moved by Weismantel, second Harder 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 \$110.96. 19439

**Brown County  
Schultz Rezoning  
Notice**

NOTICE  
Application has been made by Melissa Schultz 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 November 17, 2020 at 8:46 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 1, "D and L 1st Subdivision" in the NE1/4 of Section 27-T123N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (39759 134th St).  
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. 180  
ATTEST:  
Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor  
(1104.1111)  
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$22.92. 19419

**Brown County  
Scherbenske  
Rezoning Notice**

NOTICE  
Application has been made by Randy Scherbenske 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 November 17, 2020 at 8:46 A.M. for the purpose of rezoning the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.17 Heavy Industrial District (H-1):  
West 888' of the South 988' in the SW1/4 of Section 7-T123N-R64W except the highway of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (13186 382nd Ave).  
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. 181  
ATTEST:  
Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor  
(1104.1111)  
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$22.92. 19420

**MONTHLY DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT FOR GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 06-6  
For the reporting period beginning July 1, 2020, and ending October 31, 2020**

Description	General Fund	Assigned Gen Funds	Capital Outlay	Special Education	Bond Redemption	Enterprise Fund	Custodial Fund	Total for District
1. Beginning Balance	1,310,020.82	166,442.24	1,494,432.18	282,971.70	157,818.14	51,718.27	161,560.84	3,624,964.19
a. checking	1,310,020.82	166,442.24	1,494,432.18	282,971.70	157,818.14	51,718.27	161,560.84	3,624,964.19
b. petty cash	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2. Transfers in								
3. Revenue to date	1,113,302.45	7,596.81	94,989.55	38,225.94	7,082.02	71,163.98	225,204.38	1,557,565.13
4. Total accounted for	2,423,323.27	174,039.05	1,589,421.73	321,197.64	164,900.16	122,882.25	386,765.22	5,182,529.32
5. Transfers out								
6. Expenditures to date	1,275,387.55	34,520.18	422,524.92	184,948.82	0.00	67,428.76	302,977.74	2,287,787.97
a. encumbrances	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
b. disbursements	1,275,387.55	34,520.18	422,524.92	184,948.82	0.00	67,428.76	302,977.74	2,287,787.97
7. Ending Balance	1,147,935.72	139,518.87	1,166,896.81	136,248.82	164,900.16	55,453.49	83,787.48	2,894,741.35
a. checking	1,147,935.72	139,518.87	1,166,896.81	136,248.82	164,900.16	55,453.49	83,787.48	2,894,741.35
b. petty cash	(0.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(0.00)
October Receipts	79,009.34	1,462.00	49,613.87	16,135.18	3,424.92	25,286.51	57,027.26	231,959.08
October Expenses	408,936.10	1,011.27	27,310.46	64,524.66	0.00	25,412.13	31,144.08	558,338.70
Custodial Checking	83,787.48							
District Checking	1,310,953.87							
Certificate of Deposit	1,500,000.00							
Total all Funds	2,894,741.35							



**Lunch with Governor Noem**

Governor Kristi Noem stopped in Groton on Friday and had lunch with community leaders. Pictured are Mayor Scott Hanlon, Joel Bierman, Finance Officer Hope Block, Chamber President Carol Kutter, Governor Kristi Noem, School Superintendent Joe Schwan and Rick Schelle. Noem was in Aberdeen earlier in the day to be part of the ribbon cutting ceremony of the new expanded facility at the 3M Plant. After lunch, Noem visited BaseKamp Lodge and Bierman Farm Service. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

**Cheer someone up!  
Send a balloon!**  
This one is \$9 (31")  
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21 N Main  
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**Thank you!** for your vote  
and your years of support.  
*District 1 Representative  
Steve McCleerey*

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**That's Life**  
by Tony Bender

significant issues.

Each state manages its own elections right down to the local level, and to suggest dishonesty in a system in which poll watchers from each party are part of the process, is to discredit Republican officials in states that Biden flipped as well as Democrats.

I've been reporting on government for 30 years from the highest level right down to city councils, and despite the labyrinth and foibles of elected officers, I find that most of them are honest people trying to serve the greater good, and when you get into the nuts and bolts of administration, they generally make sound, informed decisions.

I know where I live and who reads this column and I know I'm in the minority. I laughingly described myself as a wild-eyed liberal to a conservative friend once, and she corrected me; "No, you're a moderate." But in North Dakota, where 65% of the population just voted for Donald Trump, comparatively, that makes me a crazed leftist. In South Dakota and Montana, where this column also runs, Trump won 62 and 57% of the vote, respectively.

"How do you survive among all those conservatives?" I'm asked often. Well, from a journalistic standpoint, we keep the front page and the opinion page separate. News is news. Opinion is opinion, and newspapers are the most democratic private institutions in the country. We actually pay to print and mail critical letters to the editor. If we make mistakes, we run corrections.

But it all comes down to community. I always say (and believe) that folks would give you the shirt off their back and never give a thought to politics. It's a big deal on cable television and social media, but on the streets and in the fields, it's abstract.

An emigre asked me last week why her hometown had tilted so hard to the right, why Trump and his bad behavior got so much support—nearly 80% of the vote in our county. "Well," I said, "They abhor the bad behavior but they like his policies and really are concerned about socialism."

Can we admit that there's been a whole lot of fear-mongering about socialism, amplified by a small minority in Congress? The reality is Joe Biden was elected; he's a moderate with a history of good relationships with Republicans. He'll need them because while this election was a referendum on Trump's unsteady and disconcerting behavior and his inability to control the Coronavirus that is wreaking havoc through our communities and economy, Democrats lost ground in the U.S. House and are unlikely to have a majority in the Senate when run-off races in Georgia shake out.

Plus, while got Biden got 75 million votes, Donald Trump got 70 million. That's a message that better come through loud and clear. To move forward will require compromise from both sides, and that's what most Americans want. Compromise and progress. Stability. There are hot-button issues employed to divide us but far more things unite us. We want safe communities where Americans can make a decent living, get a decent education, have the opportunity to advance through hard work in a system that isn't rigged against them by big-money players, and in the end, we all want the peace of mind of a dignified retirement. Along the way, we don't want to fear bankruptcy because we can't afford healthcare.

It's time to turn down the heat in the kitchen. It's time for American citizens to take responsibility for the information they consume and share. There's a lot of fake news out there, but the majority of it comes from shady sources and not the traditional media. Research. Question all stories.

Look for and identify bias. Know the difference between opinion and news. Challenge your beliefs.

Remember that we're all red white and blue. Joe Biden is calling on our better angels, and when our better angels unite, America is unstoppable and truly is a beacon of hope and freedom.

God bless America.  
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The Minnesota Vikings are starting to find their groove. After starting the season 1-5, the Vikings (3-5) have now won two straight after taming the Detroit Lions (3-5) on Sunday 34-20. The offense is the reason for the win, but the defense deserves some credit for holding Matthew Stafford and the Lions to only 20 points – seven of which were gift-wrapped after a blocked punt gave the Lions the ball at the two-yard-line.



By Jordan Wright

The Vikings' offense was on fire this week, scoring a touchdown on three of their four drives in the first half and adding two more in the second half. The team put up 487 total yards on offense and averaged 8.9 yards per play. Quarterback Kirk Cousins played efficiently, completing 13 of 20 passes for 220 yards, three touchdowns, and zero interceptions. Justin Jefferson led the team in receiving yards (three catches, 64 yards), while Irv Smith Jr. led the team in receiving touchdowns (two catches, 10 yards, 2 touchdowns).

Dalvin Cook was once again the focal point of the offense, and for the second straight week, he had a fantastic day. Cook touched the ball 24 times for 252 total yards and two touchdowns on Sunday, highlighted by a 70-yard touchdown run that put the Vikings up 21 points and essentially put the game out of reach for Detroit. If you're keeping track at home, over the past two games Cook has run the ball 52 times for 369 yards (7.1 yards per carry) and caught four passes for 109 yards, totaling 478 yards and six touchdowns. Cook is only the third player in NFL history with at least 225 scrimmage yards and two touchdowns in consecutive games, joining Jim Brown and Deuce McAllister. At the mid-point of the season, Cook has carried the ball 144 times for 858 yards (6 yards per carry) and 12 touchdowns. He has also caught 16 passes for 173 yards and another TD.

The Vikings' defense has also been playing well. Against the Lions, the defense had three interceptions and two sacks. Eric Wilson was the player of the game on defense after leading the team with 13 tackles and adding an interception and half a sack. Harrison Smith and Eric Kendricks also had an interception, while Armon Watts, Shemar Stephen, and Hercules Mata'afa all had half sacks.

Looking ahead, the Vikings travel to Chicago to battle the Bears on Monday Night Football. The Bears were one of the hottest teams in the league after starting the season with a 5-1 record. Since then, however, the Bears have lost three straight games. They are still second in the NFC North but are free-falling and are in danger of letting the season slip away from them. The biggest reason the Bears have lost three in a row is the offense. Their offensive line is in shambles, the running game is stagnant, and starting quarterback Mitch Trubisky has been sidelined with an injury. The Bears' defense is still strong though, so they can't ever be counted out. These two teams are heading in opposite directions right now, it will be up to the Vikings' offense to ensure that trend continues. Skoll!

## Let's Put Ourselves in Their Shoes

When I met her, she was younger than I am now. I was responsible for admissions to our hospital that day, and the ER doctor called me about a woman with intractable bleeding. It had been going on for several months, but she was embarrassed and unsure. She hid the severity of her bleeding from her husband, until the day she passed out in the kitchen.



By Debra Johnston, M.D ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

Ultimately, we diagnosed her with cancer, and she started down a difficult road of surgery, chemo, radiation, and more surgery. But they faced many hurdles beyond her disease.

She and her husband each had finished high school with the help of special education classes. They struggled to understand the complicated reality of her cancer, and the choices they had to make. He was on disability, but she had never worked, and she certainly was not able to now. They got by on his social security check, which was not enough to cover her medications.

Her family lived several hours away, and their relationship with his family was often combative. The steps into their home were rickety, and she couldn't navigate them with her walker. They couldn't rely on their old car to get them to medical appointments, or even to the grocery store.

Fighting cancer or any life altering illness or injury is hard even for those who are financially secure and have the support of extended family. For a moment, let's put ourselves in the shoes of those who face an uphill battle just to get to neutral.

Perhaps we grew up with a parent who had an untreated mental illness or addiction, or who was abusive. Perhaps we face discrimination because of our race or religion or gender or sexuality or some other fundamental characteristic. Perhaps we struggle with poverty, and the attendant evils of housing and food insecurity. Perhaps we live in an unsafe neighborhood, or we cannot easily get to a grocery store.

How, then, do we eat right and exercise safely? How do we find and keep a good job if we have limited education or we don't have reliable transportation? How do we communicate with a doctor if we don't have a phone and can't read very well?

All these things are part of the social determinants of health. Our health and wellbeing depend on so much more than the factors we can control. Living with chronic stress, particularly chronic stress we experience as a child, impacts our physical health throughout our lives and that stress can continue down through generations. If we genuinely want to promote wellness, for ourselves and for our society, we must put ourselves in other people's shoes and pay close attention to these underlying issues.

Debra Johnston, MD is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices family medicine in Brookings, South Dakota. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit [www.prairiedoc.org](http://www.prairiedoc.org) and follow Prairie Doc® on Facebook, featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show streamed most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

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## Conde National League

**Nov. 9, 2020 Team Standings:** Pirates 21, Cubs 21, Giants 20, Braves 17½, Tigers 16½, Mets 12

**Men's High Games:** Lance Frohling 222, 219; Russ Bethke 214; Ryan Bethke 204.

**Men's High Series:** Lance Frohling 613, Ryan Bethke 568, Russ Bethke 561

**Women's High Games:** Nancy Radke 165, Deb Fredrickson 157, Mary Larson 157, Amanda Morehouse 157, Vickie Kramp 151, Cheryl Reyalts 151.

**Women's High Series:** Vickie Kramp 450, Nancy Radke 449, Mary Larson 443.

## Groton Prairie Mixed

**Nov. 5, 2020 Team Standings:** Shih Tzus 3, Chipmunks 2, Cheetahs 2, Jackelopes 1

**Men's High Games:** Brad Waage 196, Roger Spanier 173, Ron Belden 170

**Women's High Games:** Darci Spanier 180, Sue Stanley 147, Lori Wiley 145, Brenda Madsen 145

**Men's High Series:** Roger Spanier 493, Mike Siegler 461, Randy Stanley 457

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# The Life of Jarlene 'Jerry' Heupel

Private memorial services for Jarlene 'Jerry' Heupel, 83, of Groton, SD, will be 1:30 pm, Friday, November 13, 2020 at Spitzer-Miller Funeral Home, 1111 S. Main St., Aberdeen with Pastor Bill Duncan officiating. The family requests casual dress. Jerry died Sunday, November 8, 2020 at home in Groton, SD. You can watch the livestream of the service by following the link under her picture on the online obituary.



Jarlene Ann Sorenson was born on February 5, 1937 at Bristol, SD to Hans and Sophia (Sorensen) Sorenson. This is the area where she grew up and attended school. She graduated from Bristol High School with the class of 1957. She worked at the Club Café and Tiffany Laundry. On June 26, 1960 she married Harlan Heupel at Aberdeen. They lived in Aberdeen, Rapid City and Pierpont. They then moved to Groton where they have lived for forty-eight years. She was the first maid at the Super 8 Motel and also worked for the Groton School Lunch Program.

She loved gardening, flowers, playing cards, board games and working with ceramics. She loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Grateful for having shared Jerry's life are her husband, Harlan Heupel; children, Robert 'Bob' (Lynn) Heupel, Aberdeen, Darlene (Russell) Sass, Groton, grandchildren, Jeramy Heupel (Taylor Jorgensen), Josh (Josie) Heupel, Spencer Heupel, Zachary Heupel, Kyra Heupel, Jacob Sass and Ethan (Sarah) Sass, great-grandchildren, Brooklynn and Shane and sister, Darlene Lockhart.

Preceding Jerry in death are her parents Hans & Sophia Sorenson; brother, Robert Sorenson and niece, Amber Lockhart.

The family would like to express their gratitude to Avera@Home for their excellent care for Jerry.

## Political journalists: After unprecedented election, a tumultuous transition lies ahead

### Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

The transition of power from President Donald Trump to President-elect Joe Biden will be unlike any other in modern America history and is likely to lead to significant turmoil, two of the nation's top political journalists said in a Nov. 9 virtual town hall meeting hosted by South Dakota News Watch.

Susan Page, Washington bureau chief for USA Today, and Jim VandeHei, co-founder and CEO of the news website Axios, said that Americans need to brace for a rocky couple of months as Trump, a Republican, appears unwilling to concede the election and Biden, a Democrat, plans to reverse many Trump administration policies.

Page and VandeHei spoke as part of the virtual town hall meeting, "The 2020 Election: What Just Happened?," hosted via Zoom by South Dakota News Watch.

The 2020 presidential election was held during a global pandemic, saw record numbers of people vote early or by mail and shattered overall voter turnout records. The election results were also unconventional. Biden won the presidency, but he will be the first Democratic president since Grover Cleveland in 1885 to take office without also carrying his party to majorities in both chambers of Congress, Page said.

Defying convention has been a hallmark of the Trump administration. That is unlikely to change just because he lost an election, Page said, pointing to the Nov. 9 firing of Defense Secretary Mark Esper. The secretary of defense is a key cabinet position and would be an essential part of the transition process even if America was not still at war in Afghanistan, Page said. Removing Esper could complicate the transition process, she said.

"We don't know if there are more firings on the horizon before (Trump) gets out of town, we don't even know that he'll voluntarily leave town since he has not yet acknowledged that he lost the election," Page said.

Trump is unlikely ever to admit that he lost the 2020 election, said VandeHei, the co-founder and former editor of Politico.

"I think he'll forever say that this election was stolen, that he was a victim of media bias," VandeHei said. "And I think 40% or more of the country will agree with him."

The president's refusal to accept defeat, coupled with the silence of many key Republican leaders on the election result, will likely serve to polarize the American people further and disrupt what is already expected to be one of the most important and complicated presidential transitions in history.

Not only is the U.S. facing a pandemic that has killed nearly 240,000 people, but there are substantial foreign policy challenges to face, including a changing climate. Meanwhile, the national economy needs to recover from the devastation caused by COVID-19, the speakers said. On top of all that is a ballooning federal budget deficit, VandeHei said.

"There are just so many things, and on any one of these, you could say, 'Oh, my gosh, I could spend my whole presidency on this and only tinker around the edges,'" VandeHei said. "God bless him [Biden]; this will be a tough one."

One of the things Biden has going for him is that he is a fairly moderate Democrat, VandeHei said. The president-elect has shown some trepidation about his party's extreme left wing and has a history of working with Republicans while a U.S. senator.

"In some ways, Joe Biden is the right person to run the country right now, in terms of the Democratic Party, to run the country because I do think he understands intuitively some of the grievances that 50% of the country feels," VandeHei said.

One of the big surprises to come out of the 2020 election was just how well Trump and the Republican party he has led for four years fared, despite polls showing big leads by Biden. Both VandeHei and Page acknowledged that the national press and polling firms missed something about how voters view Trump.

"I've never seen so many people take money out of their own pocket and paint a president's name on their boat or their truck or their house," VandeHei said. "Something was happening out there, where he became almost a fashion statement and an identity statement and a cultural statement."

Another unique factor about covering President Trump and the 2020 election is Trump's loose relationship with facts, the speakers said.

Reporters struggled early during Trump's tenure in office with his frequent stretching, bending or outright disregard of facts, Page said. News organizations were forced to beef up their ability to fact-check the president quickly and fairly. During the election and now during the transition, there has been a constant struggle to challenge the president when he misstates a fact while at the same time remaining objective.

"That's one of the ways in which we responded, but of course, with the erosion of trust in the news media, there are a lot of people who simply don't believe us when we do fact checks," Page said.

Part of the reason trust has eroded in the news media, VandeHei said, is that so many of the nation's best political reporters can be found on Twitter being very clear about which side of the political aisle they identify with and who they are cheering for.

"I've said this before and I'll believe it, I think, now forever; Twitter might have destroyed journalism or a big piece of it," VandeHei said.

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