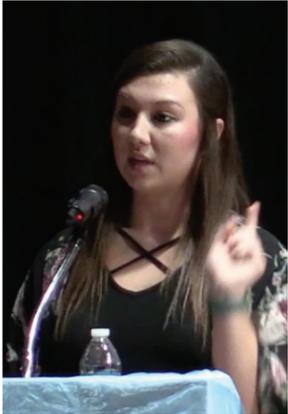




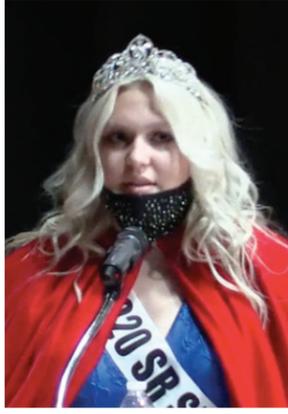
The Groton Independent

Vol. 138 No. 13 ♦ Groton, South Dakota ♦ Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2020 ♦ Established in 1889

Groton Area holds Snow Queen Contest



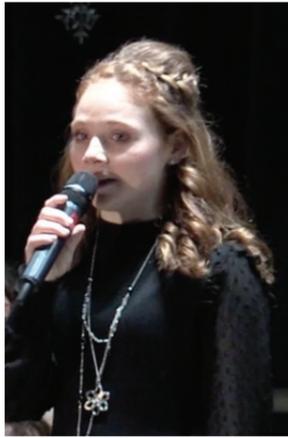
Emily Grabowska was the master of ceremonies. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)



Ashley Flihs, 2020 Groton Senior Snow Queen, gave a short talk. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)



Cadance Tullis sang, "Wondering." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)



Camryn Kurtz sang, "Just Breathe." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)

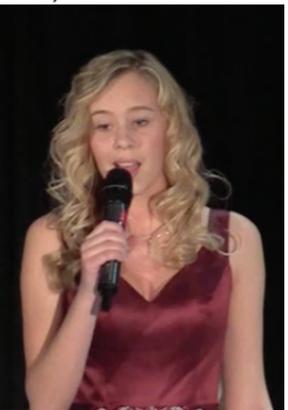
DeHoet, Meier are new Snow Queens

The entire Groton Area Snow Queen Court is pictured above. The four on the left are the senior candidates - in back are Hailey Monson and Kenzie McInerney and in front are Alexis Hanten and Tessa Erdmann. The three on the right are the junior candidates - in back are Faith Flihs and Anna Bisbee and in front is Cadence Feist. The Prince in front is Keenan Moody and the Princesses is Railey Mulder. In back middle are the runner-ups - Erin Unzen for Senior Snow Queen AND Camryn Kurtz for Junior Snow Queen. In the chairs are Senior Snow Queen Tiara DeHoet (who was also selected as Miss Congeniality and Junior Snow Queen Lydia Meier.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Shaylee Peterson, 2020 Groton Junior Snow Queen, gave a short talk. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)



Anna Bisbee sang, "On Eagles Wings." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)



Steven Paulson and Isaac Smith were the pages at the Groton Snow Queen Contest. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Kyrie Yeigh sang, "A Million Dreams." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)



Trinity Smith sang, "Control." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)



Ellie Weismantel revealed Patti Woods as Frosty. The clues were: Graduated as a Tiger, Wolves Graduate, 3 children, 6 grandchildren, 3 siblings, homebody, September baby, Binges "Grace & Frankie", Catholic, Frequents Slim Chickens, Devoted Grotonite, Quilter and Sewer and Sung National Anthem at sporting events. Dion Bahr was the only person to correctly guess that it was Patti. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM Video)

**Groton City
Nov. 17, 2020
Meeting Minutes**

November 17, 2020
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, Kappes, Blackmun and Babcock via telephone, and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Also present were: Attorney Drew Johnson, Finance Officer Hope Block, 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 Blackmun and seconded by Kappes. All members voted aye.

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

Payroll, \$19,848.67; Employee salaries; Executive: Administrative, \$3,562.40; Public Safety, \$7,815.37; Public Works, \$8,470.90.....

; Culture & Recreation; Dacotah Bank, \$6,686.89, SS and WH; Dacotah Bank, \$466.66, HSA contributions; Dakotaland FCU, \$1,050.00, Employee savings; USPS, \$203.78, Utility billing postage; Allen McKiver, \$172.55, Utility deposit refund; Olde Bank N Cafe, \$122.49, Gov Noem lunch; Justin Cleveland, \$2,749.84, Med flex; Cannon, \$989.40, Repeaters; WAPA, \$19,405.92, Power 10/20; EcoLab, \$106.00, Pest control; Core & Main, \$133.58, Water couplings, inserts; Dakota Pump & Control, \$5,144.57, Retrofitting level controller in place of float switches; Jesse Howard, \$640.00, Snow chains for loader; D&J Hoist Pros, \$187.50, Annual inspections; Pressure Washer, \$285.00, 100 ft 4000 psi hose; MJs, \$637.61, Gas; Groton Independent, \$34.97, Publishing; Heartland Power, \$47,941.95, Power 10/20; A&B Business, \$324.81, Copier rent; Geffdog, \$967.92, Electric uniforms; , \$55.42, Pool signs; US Bank, \$600.00, Admin fees for 2015 bond; DSG, \$268.37, Meter; Farmers Union, \$1,045.00, Fuel; Ken's Food Fair, \$675.88, Gas; Runnings, \$199.95, Shredder

vac; Galls, \$516.97, Police uniforms;

The October finance report was approved on a motion by Wells and seconded by Kappes. All members voted aye.

Doug Hamilton was appointed to the vacant Planning and Zoning board member seat with a term expiring in 2025 on a motion by Babcock and seconded by Wells. All members voted aye.

The council committee representative list was revised and approved as read on a motion by Babcock and seconded by Wells. All members voted aye.

Moved by Kappes and seconded by Babcock to approve the Mayor's signature on the letter of support for the Small Technical Assistant Grant consideration. All members voted aye.

AB Contracting's first payment request for \$15,736.57 was approved on a motion by Blackmun and seconded by Babcock. All members voted aye.

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Wells to approve the first reading of Ordinance #738 - 2020 Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance. All members voted aye.

Moved by Kappes and seconded by Wells to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal items 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 7:23pm. All members voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 7:56pm.

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Wells to accept the Deputy Finance Officer's resignation. Mayor Hanlon thanked Peggy Locke for her years of dedication to the City of Groton. All members voted aye.

April Abeln was promoted to the Deputy Finance Officer position at a wage of \$23.10 per hour on a motion by Wells and seconded by Kappes. All members voted aye.

The following people were hired on a motion by Babcock and seconded by Blackmun: Skating rink manager Grace Wambach, skating rink attendants Shalyn Foertsch, Andrew Marzahn, Hollie Frost, Emma Schinkel, Ava Kramer, Sara Menzies, Madeline Flihs, Marlee Tollison, Anna Fjeldheim, Bryson Wambach, Carly Guthmiller, Stella Meier, and Elizabeth Flihs. All members voted aye.

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Kappes to approve the

2021 renewal employee group health plan with Allied insurance. All members voted aye.

Moved by Wells and seconded by Babcock to approve the first reading of Ordinance #739 - 2021 Salary Ordinance implementing a 2.3% wage increase for full-time employees. All members voted aye.

Moved by Kappes and seconded by Wells to adjourn into executive session for personnel items 1-25-2 (1) at 8:01pm. All members voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 8:13pm.

Moved by Kappes and seconded by Wells to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 pm. All members voted aye.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor
Hope Block, Finance Officer
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$47.31. 19456

**Brown County
Nov. 17, 2020
Meeting Minutes**

NOVEMBER 17, 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, Wiese and Sutton. Commissioner Fjeldheim led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

MINUTES:
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the general meeting minutes of November 10, 2020. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAMS:
Moved by Feickert seconded by Fjeldheim to approve the following claims:

Election Workers: Larua Adema \$19.10; Brenda Aman \$5.00; Kirt Bender \$5.00; Becky Berreth \$48.24; Bonnie Bourassa \$5.00; Lynn Butler \$16.28; Felicia Callisaya \$5.00; Kelly Clark \$40.72; Dolly Evans \$5.00; Cheryl Fjeldheim \$25.38; Rebecca Flihs \$5.00; Deb Gustafson \$30.38; Marcia Haaland \$5.00; Lisa Ham \$14.10; Julie Hinds \$23.80; Sally Hofer \$5.00; Mary Jane Jark \$22.86; Rebecca Jeschke \$5.00; Penny Krogstrand \$5.00; Cynthia Larson \$5.00; Donna Marmorstein \$5.00; Heidi Martilla-Losure \$5.00; Monica Meyer \$5.00; Deb Pagel \$5.00; Joyce Pfeifer \$5.00; Linda Can De Rostyne \$5.00; Mary Jane Weisenburger \$5.00; Sharon Zastrow \$23.80. Professional Fees: Michelle Gaikowski \$13.60; GBR Interpreting & Translation \$60.00; Christopher A. Haar \$12.40; Kuck Law Office \$280.80; Language Line Services Inc \$276.03; Sanford Health \$511.89; SD Dept of Revenue & Regulation \$2,051.63; Siegel, Barnett & Schutz \$19,391.70; Jodi Sudweeks \$47.60. Publishing: Aberdeen American News \$52.77; Groton Independent \$220.68; TDS Media Direct Inc \$420.00. Rentals: Pantorium Cleaners Inc \$111.00. Repairs & Maintenance: Dakota Doors Inc \$100.00; Graham Tire Inc \$35.84; Jason's Electric Inc \$72.19; Myers Tire Supply \$34.59; Poms Tire Service Inc \$1,393.44; Steven Lust Automotive \$283.48; Transource Truck & Equipment \$13,921.85. Supplies: Agtegra: Praxair Distribution Inc \$82.87; American Business Forms \$542.27; Dakota Oil \$593.45; Aberdeen Medical Center Pharmacy \$2,739.94; East Side Jersey Dairy Inc \$553.98; Election Systems & Software \$20.25; Fedex \$20.52; Great Plains Fire Inc \$1,404.50; Heartland Paper \$296.60; Kessler's \$48.30; Leidholdt Tool Sales \$202.35; Lien Transportation Company \$1,452.89; McKesson Medical-Surgical \$329.56; Menards \$353.04; Midstates Printing \$190.00; Myers Tire Supply \$481.56; Northern Valley Communication \$27.10; Pantorium Cleaners Inc \$56.00; Poms Tire Service Inc \$27.96; SD Secretary of State \$7.00; Transource Truck & Equipment \$21,757.01; Web Water Bottling Company \$26.00. Travel & Conference: City of Groton \$136.62. Utilities: City of Aberdeen \$283.76; Qwest Corporation \$9.90; City of Hecla \$167.33; James Valley Telecommunication \$232.70; Northern Electric Coop \$86.00; Northwestern Energy & Communication \$1,907.68; Northern Valley Communication \$2,105.65; Verizon Wireless \$3,345.28. Other: SD Assoc of County Officials \$1,436.00; SD Dept of Revenue & Regulation \$608,232.80. All

members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

Acknowledge resignation of Mike Lout, Brown County Landfill Equipment Operator, full-time; effective November 30, 2020 and continue as part-time maintenance landfill employee at \$15.91 per hour and approve request to fill full-time position.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LEASE ADDENDUMS:

Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve the following lease addendums: Larry Akkerman for lease of hay land approximately 38 acres of county hay land located at the Brown County Fairgrounds, Lot 1 First Replat of Dahme Northview Addition SE ¼ Sec T-123N-R64W of the 5th, P.M., for the second one-year period terminating on December 31, 2021; Sheryl Erickson for lease of hay land located at 24-T124N-R65W for the second one-year period terminating on December 31, 2021.

FIRST READING: ORDINANCE 178

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Sutton to approve first reading of ordinance 178: Applicant Carol Aberle requesting to rezone 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). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FIRST READING: ORDINANCE 179:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve first reading of ordinance 179: Applicant Brandon Schaffer requesting to rezone 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). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FIRST READING: ORDINANCE 180:

Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve first reading of ordinance 180: Applicant Melissa Schultz to rezone 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). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FIRST READING: ORDINANCE 181:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to approve first reading of ordinance 181: Applicant Randy Scherbenske to rezone 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). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ELM LAKE DAM:

Commissioner of School and Public Lands (Ryan Brunner) met to give an update on the repair needs of Elm Lake Dam. Dam repair is scheduled for next summer and proposals for solutions to Elm Lake Flooding were presented. No action taken.

RFP-INDIGENT DEFENSE SERVICES:

One RFP was received under SDCL 5-18A-5 (9). The following attorneys collectively proposed indigent defense services: Tom Cogley, Ryan Dell, Christopher Dohrer, Christopher Haar, Scott Kuck, Jerald McNeary, Christy Griffin Serr, Brandon Taliaferro in a total amount of \$615,000.00. Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to defer one week to review proposal. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$72.29. 19457.

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and Card of Thanks**

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INSURANCE

SD Health Insurance Marketplace OPEN ENROLLMENT November 1 - December 15. Statewide assistance available. Go to Healthcare.gov or call a Navigator at Western SD Community Action 888-441-0117.

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**Frederick School
Notice of Audit
Year End 6-30-20**

Notice of Audit of the Fiscal Affairs of Frederick Area School District No. 6-2

Notice is hereby given that the records and books of account of Frederick Area School District No. 6-2 of Brown County, South Dakota, have been audited by Eide Bailly LLP for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, and that a detailed report thereon is filed with the governing board, the Business Manager, and the Department of Legislative Audit, 427 South Chapelle, Pierre, South Dakota, for public inspection.

The following findings and recommendations referred to in the report are hereby published in compliance with the provisions of SDCL 4-11-12:

Current Audit Findings and Recommendations
Finding 2020-001 - Lack of Segregation of Duties

Criteria: A good system of internal controls contemplates an adequate segregation of duties so that no one individual handles a transaction from its inception to its completion.

Condition: Frederick Area School District No. 6-2 has a limited number of office personnel and, accordingly, does not have adequate internal accounting controls, and payroll functions due to a lack of segregation of duties.

Cause: The School District has an insufficient number of staff members to adequately separate duties.

Effect: This condition increases the risk that fraud or errors might occur and not be detected in the financial reporting process.

Recommendation: Although it is recognized that the number of office staff may not be large enough to permit an adequate segregation of duties in all respects, it is important that management and those charged with governance be aware of this condition. We recommend that the School Board exercise adequate oversight of the accounting function.

Views of Responsible Officials: Management agrees with the finding.

Finding 2020-002 - Preparation of Financial Statements and Footnotes and Material Proposed Adjustments to the Financial Statements

Criteria: An organization's internal control structure should provide for the recording of all necessary material adjustments and the preparation of financial statements and footnotes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Condition: Frederick Area School District No. 6-2 does not have an internal control system designed to provide for the preparation of the financial state-

ments being audited, including required footnotes and disclosures and all necessary material audit adjustments, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Cause: The School District does not have adequate staff trained to prepare the financial statements and footnotes.

Effect: This condition may affect the School District's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statements.

Recommendation: This circumstance is not unusual in an organization of this size. It is the responsibility of management and those charged with governance to make the decision whether to accept the degree of risk associated with this condition because of cost or other considerations.

Views of Responsible Officials: Management agrees with the finding.

(125.1201)
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$68.17. 19458

**Claremont Town
Nov. 10, 2020
Meeting Minutes**

The board of trustees for the town of Claremont met on November 10, 2010 at city hall 7p.m. President Johnson called the meeting to order with trustees Spencer present. Rasmussen absent. The minutes of the previous meeting were presented and on a motion by Johnson and seconded by seconded by Spencer approved. On a motion by Spencer and seconded by Johnson the following warrants were allowed: General: General: GDI, publishing , 29.39; Full Circle Ag., propane, 67.07; SD. Gov Finance Officers Ass., 2021 dues, 40.00; SD Municipal Street Maint. Ass., 2021 dues, 35.00; SD Municipal League, 2021 dues, 165.97; SDML Comp. Fund, 2021, 475.00; Fire Safety First, fire extinguisher inspection, 25.00; NWE, lights and city hall, 390.82; Dakota Bank, city hall loan, 573.55; Charla Rye, wage, 350.00; WSSW: BDM, water purchased, 859.30; Helms and Ass. Design phase/change order, 1882.50; Dakota Pump, sewer repairs, 454.08; SD Publish Health Lab. Water samples 105.00; NWE, sewer, 54.96; Rural, water loan, 576.00; The trustees on a motion by Spencer and seconded by Johnson the Liquor On and Off Sale have renewed the Licenses for the Bull Pen for 2022. On a motion by Johnson to adjourn and seconded by Spencer was approved. Motion carried.

C. Rye, F.O.
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$14.10. 19459

The Groton Independent

21 N Main, Groton 605/397-NEWS (6397)
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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.

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2020 Quilts of Honor

Korean War Veterans & WWII Veteran American Legion Auxiliary

Karen Wolter, a member of Groton's American Legion Auxiliary, had a vision a few years ago to honor veterans through her love of quilting. The auxiliary fulfilled Karen's mission to honor veterans touched by war with love, prayer, and healing thoughts by presenting them with a quilt of honor. We hope that when you need a hug, you will wrap your quilt around yourself and it will provide you the comfort and healing that has been sewn into every seam. These quilts say, "Thank you for your service, your sacrifice, and OUR freedom." On behalf of the community and nation, with our deepest appreciation, we honor you with this Quilt of Honor.



Jerrold Abernathy

Jerrold served in the United States Marine Corp for nine years. He had the privilege of serving America in World War II and the Korean. During WWII, he was stationed in Japan.

After service, Jerrold attended SDSU using the G.I. Bill and graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering. He was employed with the Los Angeles County Road Department for 20 twenty years, and he also worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Aberdeen, for six years.

Jerrold has been married to Elizabeth for 58 years. They have five children, 16 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.



Les Dohman

Les Dohman joined the U.S. Army and served during the Korean War. He was in the tank company of the 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Division. From 1952 to 1954, Les served in Korea, the United States, and Japan. He had three job assignments through the years as a tank driver, gunner, and commander. One of Les's most memorable experiences during the war was when he flew from Japan to Korea in a storm. Les was honorable discharged from the service in 1954 as a Staff Sergeant.

Les worked and retired from Belle Telephone and farming. Les went south for the winter for 30 years.

Les is married to Carol and they have seven children, 18 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.



Carroll "Spike" Nehls

In December of 1953, Spike enlisted in the Marine Corp and was sent to boot camp in San Diego, California. After boot camp, he served on El Toro Marine Air Base in California. Spike was such a great typist that he remained as an office assistant until June of 1957. One of his best friends at El Toro was Mike Hammer who is from Westport. The joke at the office was there was a Hammer and Nehls at work. Spike's job assignment was to report to the Adjutant every morning.

A few of his most memorable experiences have to do with athletics. Spike played basketball for the Santa Anna League, which played against the base team and won. Spike also participated on the track team and jumped to an all-time high of 5 feet 11 inches in the high jump competition. Another funny memory is that Spike and other Marines got to be in the movie "Battle Cry" when Tab Hunter arrived at the base and began shooting his film as Spike and the other marines where in dress uniform and parading.

Spike was honorably discharged in 1957 at the rank of sergeant and is grateful for all the friends he made in the service. After service, Spike worked as a carpenter for 40 years. Spike married Pat Vig from Veblen and they have two sons, Scott and Lance, and four grandchildren.



Benny Schaller

Ben Schaller enlisted in the Air Force January 2, 1951 at the age of eighteen. He was sent to San Antonio, Texas for two months of basic training then to Camp Gordon, Georgia for two months of combat training. After eighteen months of air police at Roswell, New Mexico, Ben was a sharpshooter and was sent to Fairford Air Force Base in England for thirty months where is guarded the A-Bomb.

Ben was honorably discharged January 7, 1955 and returned to Groton where he and a partner bought a service station and added a bowling alley to it. They sold that business and then he bought a truck route and built another bowling alley and lounge.

In 1966, Ben married Jean and they had three daughters One of his twin daughters was a PIC Unit Navy Nurse, her twin an accountant, and the youngest is a 737 commercial airline captain. All three are married and have given Ben eight grandchildren. Ben retired as a rural mail carrier in 1994.

Lester Nehls

Lester Nehls entered the US Army in 1951 with the 5th Heavy Transportation Company. He was stationed at Fort Story, Virginia. Lester's assignment was to drive and deliver supplies to other companies.

A few memorable experiences for Lester include maneuvers down in Fort Hood, Texas, and watching tanks go through farmers' land. Lester was a Corporal when honorably discharged from the Army in 1953.

Lester married Patricia and they have three children.

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That's Life by Tony Bender

property several years ago. I suppose I should explain that. Basically, I was tired of losing theological arguments—sometimes with real preachers trained in the art of hand-to-hand religion. I suppose I could have gone to seminary, but like vampires burst into flames in the sunlight, or wicked witches melt, I figured I might be a victim of spontaneous combustion.

So I bought my own church. I even bought the pulpit. So when I need to do some parenting, I like to stand behind it and pontificate. I feel it strengthens my position. Thou shalt clean thy room.

And now, whenever I think I am losing a religious argument to someone armed with facts and historical perspective, I interrupt them. "Do you have your own church? Because I do." End of argument, because moving a church 70 miles shows commitment.

Anyway, I have the space, and I thought I would give my Mom a break. You remember my Mom, reigning Ashley Oktoberfest Cooking Champion. So, this offer of mine was already pressure packed. But I was confident. Because up to that point I had no idea of the carnage I had wrought. I suppose no one ever gave me the body count because they didn't want to hurt my feelings.

Even from 60 miles a way, this thing was micromanaged from the start. I decided to do festive but disposable place settings rather than drag all of that over from the main house.

Then Mom called. "Did you put the turkey in the refrigerator to thaw?"

"Of course not. I've been thawing birds in cold water in the sink since the Eighties. Thanksgiving is four days away."

But then she explained, as one does to the dim-witted, in short succinct sentences, that it was much safer to do it her way. She made it sound like there are hand grenades in each bird. One wrong move and ka-boom! So we negotiated. She agreed to let me use sturdy plastic dinnerware if I promised to put the turkey in the refrigerator to thaw "the right way".

Well, I got up at 5:30 a.m. Thanksgiving Day and threw a ham into one oven and then trudged across the yard to start the turkey. (The church has a functional kitchen.)

The turkey was a brick. It might have even been more frozen! Apparently the hunters who had rented the church earlier, had cranked up the cold. But I blame my mother. None of this would have happened if she had just let me continue my annual unintentional killing spree.

I went from despair to anger. I considered calling her at that ungodly hour to chew her out, but then thought better of it. I realized she'd probably just give me more bad advice.

Meanwhile, my sister Sherry, who is bossier than my mom, and my sister-in-law Pam, who I have nothing bad to say about because she scares me, were already contemplating the disaster that awaited them. They wondered what I would forget or what I would burn. And what the number of the coroner was.

I called the Butterball hotline. I never got a real answer. Just hysterical laughter. Can you cook a frozen turkey? As a matter of fact, yes. It came out a delicious brown and the meat fell off the bone. And it was done on schedule. I'd rather not talk about the giblets.

The minute Mom arrived, I lit into her, though, just as a matter of principal. Our family functions are usually combative anyway, so throwing the first punch is a widely respected strategy. I had her on her heels all day. No matter what the subject, I brought it right back to flawed tur-

key thawing methods and the heroic efforts required to overcome them.

I sensed my sister hovering, looking for something to worry about. I placated her with wine.

My brother Mike prayed before we ate. "Please Jesus, don't make us eat this food. Amen."

Mom called the next day to report that the debriefing went well. Everyone was suitably impressed with my organizational and culinary skills. Mike was still praying though, in case of a delayed reaction. "It's nice to meet the low bar of expectations," I said.

The turkey soup is on simmer.

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NOTICE OF VACANCY



A vacancy exists on the Heartland Consumers Power District ("Heartland") Board of Directors in Heartland's Subdivision Ten, which consists of the municipalities of Groton, Madison and Volga, South Dakota.

Written applications are presently being accepted to fill the vacancy. Any applicant must be a registered voter and legal resident in Heartland's Subdivision Ten. A letter of application and a resume should be submitted to Mark Joffer, President, Heartland Consumers Power District, PO Box 567, Parker, SD 57053-0632. Alternately, materials may be submitted via email to mark.joffer@pegrouppengr.com. Applications must be post marked no later than December 20, 2020. Additional information regarding this vacancy can be obtained by contacting Mark Joffer at 605-366-8824. The position will be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors of Heartland.

Heartland is a public corporation and political subdivision of the State of South Dakota headquartered in Madison, South Dakota. Heartland markets wholesale power and energy to municipal electric systems in South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska. Heartland is governed by a Board of Directors elected from eleven subdivisions in eastern South Dakota.

Heartland is an equal opportunity employer.

After winning three in a row and clawing their way back into the playoff picture, the Minnesota Vikings faltered on Sunday, losing to the Dallas Cowboys 31-28. This game was a reminder that the Vikings can win games when things go their way, but are not good enough yet to overcome much adversity. The Vikings now sit at 4-6 this season and are technically still in the playoff hunt but can't afford to lose many more games if they want to be playing in the postseason.



By Jordan Wright

The offense was able to move the ball and put up points against the Cowboys, totaling 430 yards and getting three touchdowns on their three red-zone trips. Kirk Cousins completed 22/30 passes for 314 yards and three touchdowns. He was under pressure all game because of the poor offensive line play, yet this was still one of the best games he's played so far this year. Dalvin Cook touched the ball 32 times for 160 yards and a touchdown, and has now rushed for over 1,000 yards this season. Adam Thielen was targeted early and often in this one, and he caught eight passes for 123 yards and two touchdowns – highlighted by an amazing one-handed catch in the corner of the endzone. The offense was its own worst enemy, however, as both Cousins and Cook fumbled the ball which led to 10 points for Dallas.

With no Dak Prescott and Andy Dalton just coming back from injury, it wasn't a secret that the Cowboys were going to run the ball. Unfortunately, nobody told Mike Zimmer. The Vikings' defense was gashed on the ground Sunday, allowing 180 yards and 5.8 yards per carry. Jaleel Johnson and Eric Kendricks were the only two players on defense who had a decent game – Johnson had the team's only sack while also adding a tackle for a loss and a quarterback hit, while Kendricks had two pass breakups and an impressive interception.

The drive of the game

With four minutes left in the fourth quarter, the Vikings were forced to punt. They were up by four points, so all the defense needed to do was bend but don't break – spoiler alert: they broke. The defense allowed Dallas to go on an 11-play, 61-yard touchdown drive. The Vikings had multiple chances to stop Dallas, including a fourth-and-six play (they gave up 10 yards) and a near-interception by Kris Boyd.

Looking ahead, the Vikings remain home and will prepare to face the Carolina Panthers. The big storyline in this one will be the return of Teddy Bridgewater, who signed with the Panthers this past offseason after spending time in New Orleans. The Panthers are 4-7 this season and have been without their top offensive weapon Christian McCaffrey – although he has a chance to play this week. This is another game the Vikings should win, which likely means it will be too close for comfort. Ultimately, the Vikings are a better team than the Panthers and should come out of this one with a win. Skol!

Gratitude for Grandparents

A three-pound baby entered the world in recent days. This precious child was born after his Mom spent seven weeks in the hospital on bedrest. At home, Dad and two siblings were working, going to school, and worrying. Surrounding the family were two sets of grandparents who ensured that the pieces all fell into place. From meals and lawn care, to virtual school, from evening shifts and overnights to early mornings, these grandparents were there every step of the way. They will continue to offer support while the baby remains hospitalized and growing, and after he comes home, because that is what grandparents do, if they are able.

Grandparenting can be an awesome stage in life, benefitting the grandchildren, the parents, and of course the grandparents in significant ways. Grandparents are known to influence values and behaviors and provide valuable life experiences. A child who has a connection with grandparents may have increased self-esteem, with better emotional and social skills. A relationship with a grandparent can give a child strength and comfort into adulthood.

In an article titled "Why Grandparents are VIPs," social researcher, educator and author, Susan V. Bosak writes, "The special kind of love you get from a grandparent is a love you can't get anywhere else. It is an important kind of love – in fact, a very important kind of love. Parents have to worry about who children will become in the future; their role is to be providers and disciplinarians. Grandparents can just enjoy children for who they are in the moment. The love of a grandparent is often freer, more unconditional, and far less psychologically complex than a parent's love. The love of a parent and the love of a grandparent are different, second in emotional importance only to the parent/child relationship."

In a world of many dual-career families, the benefits of active grandparents can be lifesaving for parents. Often grandparents fill in the gap between school and the time parents get off work, driving kids to different events or helping them with homework.

Lastly, active grandparents report less depression and a higher degree of life satisfaction and a hopeful feeling for the future.

Margaret Mead, a well-known American cultural anthropologist, said the connection between generations was "essential for the mental health and stability of a nation."

This Thanksgiving, may we celebrate the grandparent-grandchild relationship with gratitude.

Joanie S. Holm, R.N., C.N.P. is co-founder and president of Healing Words Foundation, a 501c3 which funds Prairie Doc® programs. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit www.prairiedoc.org and follow Prairie Doc® on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show streaming on Facebook and broadcast on SDPB most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

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Christmas decorations were put up Monday in Groton. If you notice in the above photo, the slider is being put up, saluting the flag blowing in the wind. (Photo by Tina Kosel)

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The Life of Marjory Townsend



Marjory Fern Townsend was born September 20, 1932 in Webster, South Dakota to James and Emily Feller Murray. Marjory (Mom) passed away peacefully on November 21, 2020 at the age of 88 in Webster, SD cradled in the arms of Lord Jesus as she once lovingly cradled her eight children.

Marjory was married at the age of 18 to Russell Andrew Townsend. Together they started their own family farm in the Andover/Ferney area.

Marjory was a member of the United Methodist Church in Groton, South Dakota. Her eight children were all baptized and confirmed in this church. Marjory was not only a member but held leadership positions over the years including UMW (United Methodist Women) President and Secretary, and the UMW Membership and Nurture committee. Mom was a woman of faith who took comfort from praying The Lord's Prayer and singing church hymns. When the farm needed rain, she

could be heard singing There Shall be Showers of Blessings.

Marjory touched many lives with her quiet presence and ready smile. Mom's kitchen was a gathering place for good food, good memories, much laughter and love. She enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and great grandchildren whether reading or singing to them, sharing her memories, and her baked treats.

Celebrating her life through memories are her surviving children: David (Judy) Townsend of Denver, Colorado; Gary (Julie) Townsend of Sioux Falls; Janell (Larry) Little of Madison, SD; Bonnie Townsend of Santa Fe, New Mexico; Janet Deuel of Aberdeen; Dona (John) Schulte of Derby Kansas; Laura (Gene) Soukup of Wagner; daughter-in-law Jolene Townsend of Conde; sister-in-law Velma (Mel) Pibal of Minneapolis, Minnesota; 25 grandchildren and 31 great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her husband Russell, son Alan Townsend, son-in-law Dean Deuel, her parents, her husband's parents, her brothers Jim Murray and Bob Murray, special friend Marlys Rodman and brothers and sisters-in-law.

Honorary pallbearers are all her children and grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be her grandchildren.

Groton Area School First Quarter Honor Roll

Seniors

4.0 GPA: Samantha Pappas, Sage Mortenson, Isaac Smith, Trey Gengerke, Brooklyn Gilbert, Alexis Hanten, Alexa Herr, Erin Unzen, Tanae Lipp, Hailey Monson, Tessa Erdmann, Jasmine Gengerke, Regan Leicht, Grace Wambach

3.99-3.50: Alex Morris, Kale Pharis, Dragr Monson, Eh Tha You Say, Grace Wiedrick, Alyssa Fordham, Chloe Daly, Chandler Larson, Kaden Carda, Braden Freeman, Steven Paulson, Lee Iverson, Connor Lehman, Austin Anderson

3.49-3.00: Paxton Bonn, Kannon Coats, Jaimen Farrell, Dylan Krueger, Trevor Harry, Tristan Traphagen, Adrian Knutson-Kvistad, Tiara DeHoet, Tucker Carda

Juniors

4.0 GPA: Madeline Fliehs, Trista Keith, Allyssa Locke, Travis Townsend, Stella Meier, Seth Johnson, Pierce Kettering, Kansas Kroll,

3.99-3.50: Jordan Bjerke, Madisen Bjerke, Hannah Gustafson, Alyssa Thaler, Kennedy Anderson, Jackson Cogley, Julianna Kosel, Jace Kroll, Lane Krueger, Brayden Hansen, Favian Sanchez-Gonzalez

3.49-3.00: Megan Fliehs, Torrence Wiesman, Trey Johnson, Kaden Kurtz, Landon Kokales

Sophomores

4.0 GPA: Cole Bisbee, Jackson Dinger, Jacob Lewandowski, Andrew Marzahn, Elliana Weismantel

3.99-3.50: Kaleb Antonsen, Ethan Clark, Shaylee Peterson, Cadance Tullis, Carter Barse, Brooke Gengerke, Caleb Hanten, Cole Simon, Sierra Ehresmann, Aspen Johnson, Cade Larson, Tate Larson, Porter Johnson, Jacelynne Gleason, Gracie Traphagen, Jackson Bahr, Brenna Carda

3.49-3.00: Shallyn Foertsch, KayLynn Overacker, Kaleb Hoover, Ava Kramer, Lener Perez Torres, Nathalia Garcia

Freshmen

4.0 GPA: Hannah Monson

3.99-3.50: Emily Clark, Claire Heinrich, Jaycie Lier, Lexi Osterman, Ashlyn Sperry, Holden Sippel, Camryn Kurtz, Kyleigh Englund, Anna Fjeldheim, Bradin Althoff, Anna Bisbee, Sara Menzia, Lydia Meier, Shea Jandel, Colby Dunker, Lane Tietz, Cadence Feist, Sydney Leicht, Emma Schinkel, Abigail Jensen, Logan Ringgenberg

3.49-3.00: Faith Fliehs, Ava Wienk, Dillon Abeln, Jackson Garstecki, Karsyn Jangula, Carly Guthmiller, Jacob Zak, Bryson Wambach

Eighth Graders

4.0 GPA: Gretchen Dinger

3.99-3.50: Axel Warrington, Elizabeth Fliehs, Payton Mitchell, Blake Pauli, Faith Traphagen, Jeslyn Kosel, Ashlyn Feser, Karrah-Jo Johnson,

3.49-3.00: Emma Kutter, Corbin Weismantel, Easten Ekern, Blake Dennert, Turner Thompson, Aiden Heathcote, Korbin Kucker, Brevin Fliehs, Kaden Kampa, Kayla Lehr, Laila Roberts, Kellen Antonsen, Carter Simon, Ashley Johnson

Seventh Graders

4.0 GPA: Carly Gilbert, Jaedyn Penning, Nathan Unzen

3.99-3.50: Talli Wright, Jerica Locke, Natalia Warrington, Mia Crank, Lucas Carda, De Eh Tha Say

3.49-3.00: Benjamin Hoeft, Gage Sippel, Keegan Tracy, Ryder Johnson, Olivia Stiegelmeier, Cali Tollifson, Karter Moddy, Logan Warrington, Rylee Dunker, London Bahr, Lincoln Krause, Raelee Lilly, Jayden Schwan, Karsten Fliehs

Sixth Graders

4.0 GPA: Teagan Hanten

3.99-3.50: Carlee Johnson, Ashlynn Warrington, Kira Clocksene, Gavin Kroll, Emerlee Jones, Brody Lord, Liby Althoff, Colt Williamson, Halee Harder,

3.49-3.00: Addison Hoffman Wipf, Blake Lord, Hailey Pauli, Aiden Strom, Walker Zoellner, Zander Harry, Claire Schuelke, Estella Sanchez-Gonzalez, McKenna Tietz, Maggie Cleveland, Jackson Hopfinger, Sklyer Kramer, Kella Tracy, Leah Jones

In lieu of flowers the family asks for donations to Mom's church home, the Groton United Methodist Church.

On Saturday November 28, 2020, a public viewing will be held at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel from 10:00 to 11:00; family may not be present. A private viewing for family will be held from 11:00 to 12:00 and a 12:30 graveside service for immediate family at Scotland Cemetery, Rural Verdon, South Dakota. Masks and social distancing guidelines are requested by the family.

Death Notice: Joyce Bawek

Joyce Bawek, 90, of Conde passed away peacefully at her home on November 25, 2020.

Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Death Notice: Craig Jondahl

Craig Jondahl, 60 of Groton, passed away suddenly on Saturday, November 21, 2020 in Valley City, ND. A memorial service is planned for a later date and will be announced by the Price Funeral Chapel of Britton.

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<p>Deli Fresh</p> <p>Mrs. Gerry's Cranberry Orange Relish \$4.99 Per Lb.</p>	
<p>Dairy</p> <p>Kraft Philadelphia Cream Cheese \$1.69 8 Oz. Pkg.</p> <p>Land O' Lakes Sour Cream \$1.79 16 Oz. Ctn.</p>	
<p>Frozen</p> <p>Best Choice Whipped Topping 79¢ 8 Oz. Tub</p> <p>Mrs. Smith's Pies \$3.99 32-37 Oz. Pkg.</p>	
<p>Bakery</p> <p>Apple or Pumpkin Pies 8 Inch \$3.99 Ea.</p> <p>Dinner Rolls White or Wheat \$2.99 12 Oz.</p> <p>Tea Buns White or Wheat \$2.99 12 Oz.</p>	
<p>Health & Beauty</p> <p>Axe Shower Gel \$3.99 16 Oz. Bottle</p>	
<p>Household</p> <p>Reynolds Foil \$3.59 35-75 Ft. Pkg.</p>	

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New Crop Sweet Potatoes **69¢ Per Lb.**

Ocean Spray Cranberries **\$1.99 12 Oz. Bag**

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Stella Rosa Wines **\$10.99 750 ML. 48 Varieties**

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Coke or Pepsi **4/\$11**

Crown Royal, Crown Apple **\$46.99 1.75 L.**

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Coffee Drink of the Week Caramel Mocha Latte **50¢ OFF**

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