



# The Groton Independent

Vol. 138 No. 14 ♦ Groton, South Dakota ♦ Wednesday, Dec. 02, 2020 ♦ Established in 1889

## MidCo looking to expand into Groton

Four representatives from MidCo came before the Groton Council Meeting Tuesday night to talk about bring their services to Groton. It would be a \$4 million investment in the community. They offer internet, phone and cable service and already serve over 400 communities in the Dakotas and Minnesota. They currently are in five communities that are already served by James Valley Telecommunications/Northern Valley Communications, which serves the Groton. Under the proposal, they would utilize existing utility poles throughout town and would also bore underground where there are no poles.

The council has to negotiate with MidCo for the franchise requirements, which would include a fee to the city for the use of the utility poles.

The council will continue dialog with MidCo at its next meeting.

The first reading of the liquor laws was approved. Basically, references are made to South Dakota Codified Laws that have been repealed. City Finance Officer Hope Block said there are no changes being made in the implementation, it is just making sure everyone is following the most current laws.

Second reading to the 2020 supplemental appropriation ordinance was approved, basically, balancing all funds for year-end.

The Holiday Lighting Contest was approved for judging on Dec. 17th with credits on the utility credits to be \$100 for first place, \$75 for second place and \$50 for third place.

After an executive session, the council approved a 2.5 percent raise for its full time city employees.



## Thanksgiving was overwhelming!

The Groton Community Thanksgiving feast was an overwhelming success as about 150 meals were served and delivered to homes to curbside for pickup at the Groton Community Center. Tom and Barb Paepke helped to coordinate the event this year and despite the COVID-19, meals went flying out the door as fast as they could make them up.



## GHS Volleyball Awards

**Back Row L to R: MVP Offense: Madeline Fliehs, Most Improved: Kenzie McInerney, Spirit of the Tiger: Brooklyn Gilbert and Grace Wambach, ACE Award: Jasmine Gengerke Front Row L to R: MVP Defense: Alyssa Thaler, Hustler: Alyssa Locke, Rookie of the Year: Sydney Leicht**

**All Northeast Conference Team: Madeline Fliehs** (Courtesy photo)



## Unemployment Claims Filed for Week Ending Nov. 28

PIERRE, S.D. – During the week of Nov. 22-28, a total of 380 initial weekly claims for state unemployment benefits were processed by the Department of Labor and Regulation. This is a decrease of 366 claims from the prior week's total of 746.

A total of \$613,000 was paid out in state benefits, in addition to \$210,000 in Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), \$286,000 in Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and \$184,000 in Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) benefits.

The Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund balance was \$122.0 million on Nov. 29.

The latest number of continued state claims is 2,930 for the week ending Nov. 21, a decrease of 907 from the prior week's total of 3,837. This indicates the number of unemployed workers eligible for and receiving benefits after their initial claim.

Benefits paid since March 16:  
Regular State = \$89.5 million  
FPUC = \$209.5 million  
PUA = \$17.4 million  
PEUC = \$3.3 million  
Total = Approximately \$319.7 million

## Spotlight on Groton Area Staff

**Name:** Todd Peterson  
**Occupation:** Middle School Resource Room Teacher  
**Length of Employment:** 2016-Present



**Todd Peterson**  
Photo by Benjamin Higgins

Todd Peterson has been employed at Groton Area High School for four years, but his history in the field of education is storied and long, reaching between decades of work and miles of ocean.

Mr. Peterson began his career in education at the Dakota House Treatment Facility in Aberdeen by teaching youths with violent tendencies. After his tenure at Dakota House, he worked at OM Tiffany, also in Aberdeen, teaching youths with criminal records. After his tenure with these specialized facilities, Todd Peterson moved to the island of Maui, Hawaii to teach at Waihee Elementary School. When asked about the reasoning behind this sudden move from Hawaii, Peterson attributed his decision to a "strong sense of wanderlust and adventure."

After working with younger children in Maui, Todd progressed to the islands of Oahu and Hawaii. After his stay on the various tropical beaches of the Hawaiian islands, his wanderlust kicked in once more. In his desire to experience the foreign cultures of the world, he traded the temperate humidity of Hawaii for the frigid cold of Emmonak, Alaska. He taught in a fishing village primarily populated by Yupik Eskimos. For Peterson, adjusting to the disparate climates of these locales was secondary to adapting to the new cultures he engaged with. In his words, "I didn't try to fit in with the culture. I respected it and learned from it." After a year in Hawaii, Peterson became familiar with the primarily Polynesian population of Maui. Unfortunately, the residents of Emmonak gave him a more frigid reception.

Todd Peterson has taught youths from South Dakota, Hawaii, and Alaska alike, bringing levity and humor to each class he taught. To quote Mr. Peterson, "I want kids to see school as a safe, happy place!" When he is not teaching middle school students in the Resource Room, Peterson can be found working at Ken's Grocery or spending time with his son.

- Benjamin Higgins



## Brown County Nov. 24, 2020

### Meeting Minutes

NOVEMBER 24, 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 Wiese led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**  
Moved by Wiese, seconded by Sutton 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 17, 2020. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**CLAMS/PAYROLL:**  
Moved by Feickert seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims and payroll:

Commission \$4,285.10; Elections (Voucher) \$17,962.50; Auditor \$10,233.67; Treasurer \$13,709.18; SA \$23,268.22; SVAWA \$1,730.76; Maintenance \$8,192.02; Assessor \$14,425.65; Register of Deeds \$9,253.41; VSO \$4,472.49; GIS \$2,387.50; IT \$7,536.30; HR \$2,173.85; Sheriff \$42,436.26; Jail \$54,887.93; Coroner \$3,900.00; Court Security \$5,914.55; JDC \$24,706.00; Welfare \$2,077.70; Museum \$8,549.15; Parks/Fairgrounds \$3,948.30; Fair Board \$4,060.30; 4-H \$651.42; Weed \$825.02; Planning & Zoning \$4,459.43; Highway \$38,852.91; Dispatch \$25,845.59; Emergency \$4,119.58; Teen Court \$769.79; JDAI \$1,769.23; 24/7 Sobriety \$967.76; Landfill \$16,065.37; Matching Benefits: FICA \$20,539.26, Medicare \$4,803.44, Discovery HSA \$300.00.

Claims: Professional Fees: BCT \$16.00; Drew Becker \$400.00; BPro \$9,600.00; Brick's TV & Appliances \$2,616.25; Cogley Law Office \$6,250.00; Dakota Wood Grinding \$38,984.50; Ryan Dell \$6,250.00; Dependable Sanitation \$34,258.00; Dohrer Law Office \$6,250.00; Michelle Gaikowski \$251.60; Geo-Comm \$10,313.90; Haar Law Office \$6,321.00; Kuck Law Office \$6,270.00; LTR \$13,782.03; Jerald McNearly \$6,250.00; NEMHC \$1,690.00; Christy Griffin-Serr Law Office \$6,250.00; SD Dept. of Rev-

enue & Regulation \$10,484.66; Taliaferro Law Firm \$6,250.00; US Bank \$1,212.73; Mitch Vilhauer \$1,850.02; WSP USA \$2,376.75. Publishing: Aberdeen American News \$1,065.45. Rentals: 446-Praxair \$44.89. Repairs & Maintenance: B & B Contracting \$4,812.50; Dakota Doors \$134.69; Dakota Pump & Control \$450.00; Dakota Pump \$2,672.37; Digi Security Systems \$75.00; Ecolab Pest Elimination \$366.15; Gardner Locksmith \$75.00; Interstate PowerSystems \$1,642.00; Olson's Pest Technician's \$245.00; Pantorium Cleaners \$412.22; Pomp's Tire Service \$5,992.95; These Glass Doktor \$82.80; TranSource Truck & Equip. \$6,271.25; US Bank \$860.89. Supplies: Advance Auto \$1,055.36; AgTegra \$2,288.74; Allegiant Emergency Services \$1,600.00; Best Western Ramkota - Aberdeen \$295.00; Century Business Products \$944.93; Dakota Structured Cabling \$360.00; ES&S \$2,479.88; Gappa Electric \$190.96; Geffdog \$220.50; Marco \$720.12; Menards \$306.35; Midstates Printing \$852.00; Pantorium Cleaners \$56.00; PharmChem \$256.95; Plumbing & Heating Wholesale \$2,434.23; Thee Glass Doktor \$88.45; TranSource Truck & Equip. \$973.20; US Bank \$20,609.11. Travel & Conference: IAFE \$150.00; Dave Lunzman \$28.16; SDSU Extension \$249.39; US Bank \$103.53. Utilities: Aberdeen City Treasurer \$33.81; CenturyLink \$2,151.65; Dependable Sanitation \$513.00; Montana-Dakota Utilities \$33.98; Northern Electric \$2,225.33; NWPS \$397.57; NVC \$3,006.92; US Bank \$229.65; Web Water Development \$81.42. Other: JRWD \$79,950.85; Safe Harbor \$925.84. Machinery & Equip.: Pierson-Ford \$34,497.00.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

• Acknowledge resignation of Jeremy Batista, Brown County Jail Correctional Officer, full-time; effective November 1, 2020 and approve request to fill vacancy.

Acknowledge resignation of Rachelle Jung, Brown County Sheriff's Deputy, full-time; effective December 3, 2020 and approve request to fill vacancy.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**SET HEARING DATE – ORDINANCE 182:**

Moved by Sutton, seconded

by Wiese to set hearing date and authorize publishing the following request to rezone property: Application has been made by Darnell Rainford and Bryan Crawford 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 December 15th, 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, "B Crawford Addition" in the SW1/4 of Section 2-T127N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (39206 107th 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. 182. All member present voting aye. Motion carried.

**PLATS:**  
Resolution 69-20 John Koehler Subdivision:

Commissioner Feickert moved the following resolution: "BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA, THAT THE PLAT SHOWING JOHN KOEHLER SUBDIVISION IN THE SE 1/4 OF SECTION 6-T123N-R63W OF THE 5TH P.M., BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA, HAVING BEEN EXAMINED IS HEREBY APPROVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISION OF SDCL 11-3, AND ANY AMENDMENTS THEREOF." Seconded by Wiese: roll call vote: Commissioner Feickert - aye, Sutton - aye, Wiese - aye, Fjeldheim - aye, Kippley - aye. Resolution adopted.

**Resolution 70-20 Broman Subdivision:**

Commissioner Feickert moved the following resolution: "BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA, THAT THE PLAT SHOWING BROMAN SUBDIVISION IN THE NW1/4 OF SECTION 21-T123N-R60W OF THE 5TH P.M., BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA, HAVING BEEN EXAMINED IS HEREBY APPROVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISION OF SDCL 11-3, AND ANY AMENDMENTS THEREOF." Seconded by Wiese: roll call vote: Commissioner Feickert - aye, Sutton - aye, Wiese - aye, Fjeldheim - aye, Kippley - aye. Resolution adopted.

**Resolution 71-20 Dorsett-Hanigan Addition:**

Commissioner Feickert moved the following resolution: "Be it resolved by the County Commission of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "DORSETT-HANIGAN ADDITION IN THE NW1/4 OF SECTION 13, TOWNSHIP 124 NORTH, RANGE 65 WEST OF THE 5TH P.M., BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA" having been examined is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-3, and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Wiese: roll call vote: Commissioner Feickert - aye, Sutton - aye, Wiese - aye, Fjeldheim - aye, Kippley - aye. Resolution adopted.

**Resolution 72-20 Weigel and Locken Subdivision:**

Commissioner Feickert moved the following resolution: "BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA, THAT THE PLAT SHOWING WEIGEL AND LOCKEN SUBDIVISION IN THE NE1/4 OF SECTION 7-T122N-R63W OF THE 5TH P.M., BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA, HAVING BEEN EXAMINED, IS HEREBY APPROVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISION OF SDCL 11-3, AND ANY AMENDMENTS THEREOF." Seconded by Wiese: roll call vote: Commissioner Feickert - aye, Sutton - aye, Wiese - aye, Fjeldheim - aye, Kippley - aye. Resolution adopted.

**Resolution 73-20 CWF Subdivision**

Commissioner Feickert moved the following resolution: "BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA, THAT THE PLAT SHOWING CWF SUBDIVISION IN THE SE1/4 SE1/4 OF SECTION 27-T123N-T63W OF THE 5TH P.M., BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA, HAVING BEEN EXAMINED IS HEREBY APPROVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISION OF SDCL 11-3, AND ANY AMENDMENTS THEREOF." Seconded by Wiese: roll call vote: Commissioner Feickert - aye, Sutton - aye, Wiese - aye, Fjeldheim - aye, Kippley - aye. Resolution adopted.

**Resolution 74-20 Dosch Subdivision**

Commissioner Feickert moved the following resolution: "BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA, THAT THE PLAT SHOWING DOSCH SUBDIVISION IN THE NW1/4 NW1/4 OF SECTION 8 T127N R63W OF THE 5TH P.M., BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA, HAVING BEEN EXAMINED IS HEREBY APPROVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SDCL 11-3, AND ANY AMENDMENTS THEREOF." Seconded by Wiese: roll call vote: Commissioner Feickert - aye, Sutton - aye, Wiese - aye, Fjeldheim - aye, Kippley - aye. Resolution adopted.

**Resolution 75-20 B Crawford Addition**

"Be it resolved by the County Commission of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "B CRAWFORD ADDITION IN THE SW1/4 OF SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 127 NORTH, RANGE 63 WEST OF THE 5TH P.M., BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA" having been examined is hereby approved in accordance with the provision of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-3, and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Wiese: roll call vote: Commissioner Feickert - aye, Sutton - aye, Wiese - aye, Fjeldheim - aye, Kippley - aye. Resolution adopted.

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE RENEWAL:**

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the following applications for renewal of Alcoholic Beverage Licenses to operate outside of the Municipality: PACKAGE (OFF-SALE) LIQUOR: Stacy Gossman DBA Mansfield Bar & Grill, (Lots 11-14, Block 4, Mansfield, 32-121-64). Marge Frohling DBA The Connection (Lots 13, 14, & 15, Block 2, Houghton, 31-127-61). Roderic L Hanson DBA Ferney Farmers Bar (Lots 4 & 5, Block 5, Ferney, 31-122-60). RETAIL (ON-SALE) AND SUNDAY LIQUOR: Stacy Gossman DBA Flying Pig, (Lot 2 Gossman Second Addition, SE 1/4 of Sec 15-T123N-R65W). Roderic L Hanson DBA Ferney Farmers Bar (Lots 4 & 5, Block 5, Ferney, 31-122-60). Moccasin Creek Country Club Inc (Prairiewood Village OL 7, 33-124-63). Travis Swenson DBA Elm Lake Resort (Lot 1 Elm Lake Subdivision in the SE 1/4 of 8-128-65). Stacy Gossman DBA Big Fella's (Lot 1B Gossman 1st Addn S 1/2 of 15-123-63). Tyler Jones DBA Dakota River Ranch/Tacoma Park Place (5 acres in NE corner of NW 1/4 of 23-124N-62W). PZA Inc DBA Anchors Away Lodge & Resort (Palmer's Richmond Resort Subd Lt 1, Subd OL 1 Richmond OL 1 & 2). Ron Wagner DBA Highway 12 Liquors (Outlot A SE 15-123-63). RETAIL (ON-OFF-SALE) WINE: ARR LCC DBA Flatland Flyways Lodge (Russo's OL 1 NW 1/4 1-127-62). Moccasin Creek Country Club Inc (Prairiewood Village OL 7, 33-124-63). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**SECOND READING AND ADOPTION: ORDINANCE 178**

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to adopt ordinance 178: an ordinance rezoning the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to 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.

**NOTICE OF HEARING: November 4th and 11th, 2020**

**Passed First Reading: November 17th, 2020**

**Passed Second Reading: November 24th, 2020**

**Adopted: November 24th, 2020**

**Published: December 2nd, 2020**

**Effective Date: December 22nd, 2020**

**Rachel Kippley, Chair**

**Brown County Commission**

**ATTEST:**

**Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor**

**Published once at the total approximate cost of \$145.46. (19477)**

**PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD ALTERNATE MEMBER:**

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to add an alternate member to the Planning and Zoning Board. James Meyers is appointed as alternate zoning board member. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**RFP-INDIGENT DEFENSE SERVICES:**

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to table the indigent defense contract award until contract is reviewed. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:**

Judy Dosch, building superintendent met to give an update on courthouse building projects.

**ZONING OFFICE MOVE:**

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to move the planning and zoning office to the old dispatch center in the Courthouse Annex Basement. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Moved by Wiese, seconded by Sutton to go into executive session to discuss contracts per SDCL 1-25-2(4). All members present voting aye. Motion carried. The Chair declared the executive session closed and the following action was taken: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve paying attorney fees as a result of executive session. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

**Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor**

**Published once at the total approximate cost of \$145.46. (19477)**

## Brown County Ord. 178 Approved

**ORDINANCE #178**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED**

**TO REZONE CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota, that the Petition to Amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended, to rezone the following described property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG) 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)

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota that the zoning official for the County of Brown is hereby authorized to change the official zoning map for Brown County to reflect this Ordinance.

**Notice of Hearing: November 4th and 11th, 2020**

**Passed First Reading: November 17th, 2020**

**Passed Second Reading: November 24th, 2020**

**Adopted: November 24th, 2020**

**Published: December 2nd, 2020**

**Effective Date: December 22nd, 2020**

**Rachel Kippley, Chair**

**Brown County Commission**

**ATTEST:**

**Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor**

**Published once at the total approximate cost of \$19.59. 19478**

## Brown County Ord. 179 Approved

**ORDINANCE #179**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED**

**TO REZONE CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota, that the Petition to Amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended, to rezone the following described property filed by Brandon Schaf-

fer is hereby granted and Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances is hereby amended to change the zoning on the following described 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).

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota that the zoning official for the County of Brown is hereby authorized to change the official zoning map for Brown County to reflect this Ordinance.

**Notice of Hearing: November 4th and 11th, 2020**

**Passed First Reading: November 17th, 2020**

**Passed Second Reading: November 24th, 2020**

**Adopted: November 24th, 2020**

**Published: December 2nd, 2020**

**Effective Date: December 22nd, 2020**

**Rachel Kippley, Chair**

**Brown County Commission**

**ATTEST:**

**Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor**

**Published once at the total approximate cost of \$18.94. 19479**

## Brown County Ord. 180 Approved

**ORDINANCE #180**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED**

**TO REZONE CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota, that the Petition to Amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended, to rezone the following described property filed by Melissa Schultz is hereby granted and Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances is hereby amended to change the zoning on the following described 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).

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota that the zoning official for the County of Brown is hereby authorized to change the official zoning map for Brown County to reflect this Ordinance.

**Notice of Hearing: November 4th and 11th, 2020**

**Passed First Reading: November 17th, 2020**

**Passed Second Reading: November 24th, 2020**

**Adopted: November 24th, 2020**

**Published: December 2nd, 2020**

**Effective Date: December 22nd, 2020**

**Rachel Kippley, Chair**

**Brown County Commission**

**ATTEST:**

**Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor**

**Published once at the total approximate cost of \$18.94. 19480**

## Groton City Schaller Special Exception

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL EXCEPTION HEARING**

The Groton Planning & Zoning Commission will be holding a public hearing on December 28, 2020 at 6:00pm CDT at City Hall, 209 N Main St., Groton, SD for a special exception of Title 14, Section 14.0104 of the Groton Zoning Ordinance. This application was made by Julie Schaller for the commercial operation of a bed and breakfast and/or a multi- and single-family dwelling in a Commercial 1 Zone at 101 N Main St., Groton, SD, legally described as Original Addition, Block 6, Lots 7-8 and S 1/2 Lot 9.

Any person wishing to present testimony for or against this special exception may appear in person or by representative at the above time and place.

**Hope Block**

**Zoning Administrator**

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## The Groton Independent

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

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Deadline to submit items: Noon Monday]

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**BLOCKER CONSTRUCTION** NEW CONSTRUCTION  
REMODELING  
HOOP BARNs

(605) 216-2677 (605) 226-4062



**Groton Chiropractic Clinic**

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.

1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204



*"From minor scratches to a complete rebuild... we can do it all!"*

**Flarris Auto Body**

225 Brown County Hwy 19 South  
Aberdeen: 605/725-4900



**Brown County  
Ord. 181  
Approved**

ORDINANCE #181  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING  
TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION  
BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES,  
AS AMENDED  
TO REZONE CERTAIN DESCRIBED  
PROPERTY  
BE IT ORDAINED by the  
Brown County Commission,  
Brown County, South Dakota,  
that the Petition to Amend Title  
4, Second Revision Brown County  
Ordinances, as amended, to  
rezone the following described  
property filed by Randy Scher-  
benske is hereby granted and  
Title 4, Second Revision Brown  
County Ordinances is hereby  
amended to change the zoning  
on the following described  
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).  
BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by  
the Brown County Commission,  
Brown County, South Dakota that  
the zoning official for the County  
of Brown is hereby authorized to  
change the official zoning map  
for Brown County to reflect this  
Ordinance.  
Notice of Hearing: November  
4th and 11th, 2020  
Passed First Reading: Novem-  
ber 17th, 2020  
Passed Second Reading: No-  
vember 24th, 2020  
Adopted: November 24th,  
2020  
Published: December 2nd,  
2020  
Effective Date: December  
22nd, 2020  
Rachel Kippley, Chair  
Brown County Commission  
ATTEST:  
Cathy McNickle, Brown County  
Auditor  
Published once at the total ap-  
proximate cost of \$19.26.19481

**Brown County  
Rainford/Crawford  
Rezoning Notice**

NOTICE  
Application has been made  
by Darnell Rainford and Bryan  
Crawford 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  
December 15th, 2020 at 8:46  
A.M. for the purpose of rezon-  
ing the following property from  
Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preser-  
vation District (AG-P) to Chapter  
4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG):  
Lot 1, "B Crawford Addition" in  
the SW1/4 of Section 2-T127N-  
R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown  
County, South Dakota (39206  
107th St)  
The public is invited to at-  
tend the hearing and to pre-  
sent comments and testimony  
regarding the amendment to  
Second Revision Brown County  
Ordinances pertaining to rezon-  
ing the described property. At  
the conclusion of the hearing,  
the Brown County Commission  
may adopt first reading of Ordi-  
nance No. 182  
ATTEST:  
Cathy McNickle, Brown County  
Auditor  
(1202.1209)  
Published twice at the total  
approximate cost of \$23.51.  
19482

**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 inspec-  
tion.  
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 in-  
ternal 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 lim-  
ited number of office personnel  
and, accordingly, does not have  
adequate internal accounting  
controls in revenue, expendi-  
tures, 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 increas-  
es the risk that fraud or errors  
might occur and not be detected  
in the financial reporting process.  
Recommendation: Although  
it is recognized that the num-  
ber of office staff may not be  
large enough to permit an ade-  
quate 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 ac-  
counting function.  
Views of Responsible Officials:  
Management agrees with the  
finding.  
Finding 2020-002 - Prepara-  
tion 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 ac-  
cepted 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 disclo-  
sures and all necessary material  
audit adjustments, in accordance  
with generally accepted account-  
ing principles.  
Cause: The School District  
does not have adequate staff  
trained to prepare the financial  
statements and footnotes.  
Effect: This condition may af-  
fect the School District's ability  
to record, process, summarize,  
and report financial data consis-  
tent with the assertions of man-  
agement in the financial statements.  
Recommendation: This cir-  
cumstance is not unusual in an  
organization of this size. It is  
the responsibility of manage-  
ment and those charged with  
governance to make the decision  
whether to accept the degree of  
risk associated with this condi-  
tion because of cost or other  
considerations.  
Views of Responsible Officials:  
Management agrees with the  
finding.  
(1125.1201)  
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**That's Life**  
by Tony Bender

**Windshield time**

I got some windshield time with Dylan recently—after the necessary COVID tests, since he lives and works in Bismarck where the pandemic has hit hard. But aside from the hoops we jump through these days to see the ones we love safely, it was like old times, the best of times when we'd drive just for the sake of driving.

Recently, with the advent of phone technology and with the proper connections to even aging car stereos, we've had great fun sharing old-school country songs as we putz along gravel roads. His knowledge and love of the genre are fast becoming encyclopedic, but I can still pull a cowboy hat out of my rabbit once in a while and show him a song he's never heard.

He loves gunfighter ballads but he'd never heard Gene Pitney's "The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance." He was so excited he had to send it to a friend that very moment. He's also a big Glen Campbell fan. "Galvaston" is a favorite. A few months ago I bought him a Lefty Frizzell album from the early '60s that was so good I had a hard time giving it up.

When India rides with me, the routine is the same as it is with Dylan—she DJ's—and between the two of them, I remain remarkably in tune with what's going on with this generation's music. One of the blessings of being an older father. Yes, I own Kanye albums.

Americans have always had a love affair with the road, which is why we've invested so much in chrome over the years. There's nothing like getting your first car. Mine was a '67 Pontiac Catalina. The Gray Ghost.

The expanse of the country is so great, our vaunted independence can't really be real unless you have a steering wheel in your hands. Out here on the prairie, in small-town Americana, even more so. I wonder how many miles my friends and I logged exploring every backroad and section line, and since the statute of limitations has expired, I'll confess, often with an open container.

Kids, don't try this at home. Actually, it would be smarter than trying it on the road.

But it was more about companionship. The radio. That first 8-track player with Kraco speakers. The Guess Who's greatest hits played over and over. And over. John "Records" Landecker coming through at night from WLS in Chicago as we parked in the moonlight in front of a slough I dubbed Lake Metigoshe. It was about the freedom that allowed us time with each other, time that that we knew was swiftly coming to an end.

It's funny, all the while I was cruising the backroads with my pals, I thought it odd that my Grandpa Bender was out on Sundays driving at glacial speeds, looking at the crops. Now, I do the same dang thing.

These days, with the kids off doing what kids do, work and college, out there building their own lives, my most common passenger is Gus the Wonder Pug who almost screams when he hears the word "ride." He squeals and whimpers again with each town we hit because they're alive with smells only dogs can smell. As excited as Gus is about "a ride" he settles in contentedly with his chin on my leg in long, uninterrupted stretches.

Funny, too, I thought the other day, with Dylan manning Spotify, this is how it started with us. When he was restless as a baby, I did what my mother did with me. Took him for rides in the wee hours of the morning. A 2 a.m. cruise in my old Bronco would have him sleeping peacefully in minutes.

I've written many columns in my head with my hand on the wheel over the years from Point A to Point B. I emerge from the cockpit clear-headed with things clarified. These are the moments I missed when I lived in cities.

As much as I liked Denver, there was no such thing as a pleasure cruise down I-25. But when I headed back for the holidays and the traffic grew more sparse, it felt a little like heaven, or home, at least. And when every driver behind the wheel of every pickup—the ones with barbwire and fence posts bouncing in the back—waved at you, you knew you were there.

It's good to be here.  
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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@pegrouper.com](mailto:mark.joffer@pegrouper.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.



The Minnesota Vikings have added to the win column after narrowly defeating the Carolina Panthers 28-27 on Sunday. Teddy Bridgewater almost beat the team that drafted him in the first round, but Panther's kicker Joey Slye missed a 54-yard field goal with six seconds left on the clock and the Vikings were able to hold on to the W. The Vikings are now 5-6 and are still in play for the playoffs with five games left in the season.



By Jordan Wright

The Vikings came out of the gates playing well, as the Panthers got the ball to start the game and were forced to punt after picking up 14 yards. The Vikings' offense took the field and drove the ball 68-yards on 13 plays, culminating in Kirk Cousins finding Justin Jefferson for a 12-yard touchdown. The two teams exchanged punts on the following two drives, but the Panthers found success on their third drive of the game, going 53-yards on 11 plays. Vikings' linebacker Eric Kendricks ended that drive with an interception at the Vikings' seven-yard-line, but the Vikings were unable to capitalize and were forced to punt the ball back. Teddy and the Panthers finally got on the board with less than two minutes left in the first half, tying the score 7-7. The Vikings got the ball back with 1:52 left before halftime and were able to answer the Panthers' score with an 11-play, 41-yard drive that ended with a Dan Bailey 53-yard field goal to give the Vikings a 10-7 lead.

The Vikings got the ball to start the second half and had a disastrous start, conceding back-to-back fumbles returned for a touchdown. Suddenly the Vikings were down 21-10 and things were looking bleak. They were forced to punt on their ensuing possession, and the Panthers were anxious to put this one out of reach. The Vikings were able to block the Panthers' field goal attempt, however, preserving the 11-point deficit. The Vikings and Panthers exchanged field goals on the next two possessions, and the score was 24-13 with 11:31 left on the clock in the fourth quarter. Knowing the Vikings were still in this one, Cousins came out and led a beautiful drive, going 75-yards on 11 plays which ended in a 10-yard touchdown to Jefferson. After a successful two-point conversion, the Vikings were only down three points with 5:31 left in the game. The Vikings forced a punt on the Panthers' next drive, but Chad Beebe muffed the punt and Carolina recovered at the Vikings' nine-yard line. The Vikings defense held strong once again, forcing a field goal and keeping it a one-score game with less than two minutes to go. Cousins stepped up to the plate when the team needed it the most, completing a seven-play, 75-yard drive for a touchdown and a 28-27 lead. Teddy Bridgewater, with only :46 seconds left, managed to get the Panthers into field goal range - but Slye missed wide left, and the Vikings players, coaches, and fans were able to let out a collective sigh of relief.

Kirk Cousins: 34/45, 307 yards, 3 touchdowns

Dalvin Cook: 18 carries, 61 yards

Justin Jefferson: 7 catches, 70 yards, 2 touchdowns

Looking ahead, the Vikings remain in Minnesota and welcome the 1-10 Jacksonville Jaguars. This game is a big mismatch on paper, with ESPN giving the Vikings an 82.9% chance to win, and Vegas setting the opening spread at MIN -8.5. Skol!

## Rheuma-What?

As a rheumatologist, I often get the question, "What do you do?" According to my kids, their mom does "something with joints." At the conclusion of patient visits, when I propose a diagnosis such as polymyalgia rheumatica or PMR, I often hear, "What is that?" The fact is most people do not think about rheumatology until they need a rheumatologist. And then, learning the lingo about disease, medications, and lab monitoring can be a challenge.

Rheumatology is a relatively new specialty in the world of medicine. Focus on the disease in America began in the early 1920s with initial definition and discovery, followed by the famous breakthrough of cortisone at Mayo Clinic in 1950, and grew to a deeper scientific understanding of arthritis diseases today. Treatments have progressed from cortisone and aspirin to immune system modification with biologic medications. Future therapies will involve genetics, engineering new cartilage, and creating cells that rheumatologists will command to do our bidding upon the immune system.

Today we work to manage autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis or lupus with medications that adjust the immune system response. Symptoms that can occur in association with some of these diseases are rashes, joint swelling, fevers, lung problems, and kidney issues. By adjusting the immune system, we can change the symptoms, hopefully lessening their impact on the patient.

In our fast-paced world, we often want answers and quick solutions to our problems. However, rheumatology cases require persistence. There are no blood tests that specifically diagnose the problem. Rheumatologists must take time to talk with and examine the patient. We gather additional information from labs tests, studies, and x-rays. Once all the data is available, sometimes the condition is clear. But other times, the case is more challenging and requires several visits before making a firm diagnosis.

Like most health providers, I enjoy solving patient problems and making a diagnosis. We get satisfaction from figuring things out and our reward comes when a treatment improves a patient's function or quality of life. Our goal in rheumatology is to help patients achieve remission, or better yet, to predict who is likely to get rheumatoid arthritis in hopes of preventing it from starting in the first place.

So, when patients look at me with that expression that asks "rheuma-what?", they don't necessarily want to hear about the science of what I do. Instead, I assure them that we will keep working together with the same goal: To get the immune system to quiet down, and

help the patient feel better so they can get back to life.

Jennifer May, M.D. is a contributing Prairie Doc® columnist. She practices rheumatology in Rapid City, South Dakota and serves on the Healing Words Foundation Board of Directors, a 501c3 which provides funding for Prairie Doc® programs. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit [www.prairiedoc.org](http://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.

-0-



By Jennifer May, MD ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives



## Conde National League

**Nov. 30 Team Standings:** Pirates 28, Cubs 26, Tigers 25 1/2, Braves 23 1/2, Giants 23, Mets 18.

**Men's High Games:** Russ Bethke 193, Ryan Bethke 191, Collin Cady 188.

**Men's High Series:** Russ Bethke 537, Ryan Bethke 508, Collin Cady 476

**Women's High Games:** Sam Bahr 197, Tanah Messevou 191, Michelle Johnson 179

**Women's High Series:** Sam Bahr 520, Tanah Messevou 504, Michelle Johnson 443

## Groton Prairie Mixed

**Nov. 27 Team Standings:** Shih Tzus 12, Cheetahs 10, Jackelopes 6, Chipmunks 4

**Men's High Games:** Tony Waage 200, Brad Waage 194, Tony Madsen 179

**Women's High Games:** Michelle Johnson 207, Nicole Kassube 175, 162, Sue Stanley 158

**Men's High Series:** Brad Waage 525, Ron Belden 506, Tony Waage 474

**Women's High Series:** Michelle Johnson 477, Nicole Kassube 458, Sue Stanley 417

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# Some severe covid patients flown out of state for care as S.D. hospital ICU capacity dwindles

By: Nick Lowrey

South Dakota's largest hospitals are at or above their capacity to care for critically ill COVID-19 patients, forcing some of the sickest patients to be flown out of state to receive care.

The strain of a months-long surge in coronavirus cases has reduced hospital capacity to care for those with severe symptoms, making it increasingly uncertain whether the sickest South Dakotans will be able to get treatment in the state, health providers say. Meanwhile, ICU space is quickly evaporating in neighboring states as well.

Both the Sanford USD Medical Center and Monument Health Rapid City Hospital have reported that their Intensive Care Units are out of space. On Dec. 2, Avera McKennan reported that 6.7% of its ICU beds were available for use. Statewide, the number of available ICU beds has been steadily declining as coronavirus cases have continued to climb.

Major hospitals are still taking patients when they can, but some sick South Dakotans are being sent out of state, forced to use expensive urgent transportation systems to get care hundreds of miles away from their families.

COVID-19 patient Robert J. Sliper of Lead, South Dakota, was flown on an airplane in mid-November to Greeley, Colorado, because there wasn't enough room in local hospitals, according to an emotional letter written by his son Mike Sliper. The letter, which Mike Sliper posted to Facebook on Nov. 18, detailed Robert Sliper's life and the anguish his family felt watching him get loaded onto a plane to fly 340 miles to a hospital they couldn't visit.

Robert Sliper, a Navy veteran and mining engineer who graduated from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, died in Greeley on Nov. 13 at the age of 84, the post said.

Sliper's body was brought back to South Dakota for his funeral. "We want to bury him in the state that he loved so much but near the end didn't have room for him," Mike Sliper wrote.

In South Dakota, hospital critical-care capacity was limited long before COVID-19 hit. Rural residents in need of intensive care already were frequently expected to travel up to hundreds of miles by plane, helicopter or ambulance to get lifesaving treatment at major healthcare centers in Sioux Falls or Rapid City.

As the pandemic has stretched on, South Dakota's three major hospitals — Avera McKennan and Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls and Monument Health Rapid City Hospital — are now struggling to find or make space to care for the most ill COVID-19 patients and others with serious health problems.

Hospitals are so full, and ICU bed availability is changing so fast at large hospitals, that data reported on the state Department of Health COVID-19 webpage often doesn't reflect reality, said Dr. Srinivas K. Gangineni, the ICU medical director at Monument Health Rapid City Hospital. The result is that the state's largest, best-equipped hospitals can't always guarantee they'll have space to care for the most critically-ill COVID-19 patients on any given day.

"To be honest, I don't look at the Department of Health website," he said. "The data I can give you right now, it could be different in 15 minutes."

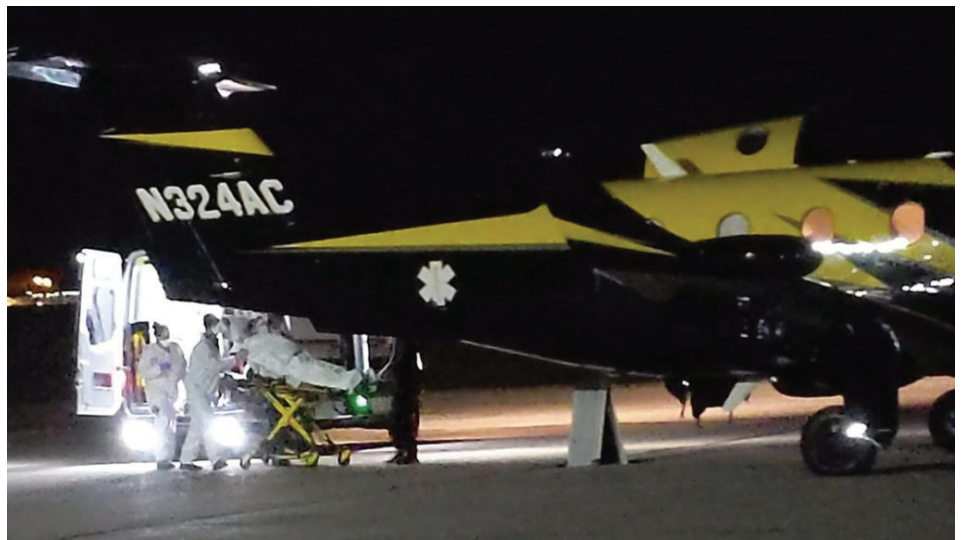
Sioux Falls-based Avera Health system, which owns Avera McKennan Hospital and dozens of smaller hospitals in South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska, is well into its coronavirus surge plan, said Dr. David Basel, vice president of clinical quality. Avera McKennan has nearly doubled its ICU capacity by postponing some non-emergency surgeries, cross-training hospital staff to work with COVID-19 patients and repurposing some hospital space for intensive care.

Most of the hospitals affiliated with Avera Health, including in South Dakota and neighboring states, are "at, near or above" their capacity to treat COVID-19 patients, Basel said.

Officials with Sanford Health were not made available to speak with News Watch for this story.

Hospital capacity data reported by the state Department of Health suggest there is plenty of room in hospital ICU units to handle more patients. The DOH reported on Dec. 2 that statewide about 16% of adult ICU beds in the state were available for use. Roughly 35.2% of all staffed hospital beds were available for use, the department reported.

But much of South Dakota's open ICU space is in smaller, more rural hospitals that don't have the staff or equipment to care for the most ill patients, including those with severe COVID-19 symptoms. Those most critical patients tend to stay in hospital beds and intensive care for



**Robert J. Sliper of Lead, S.D., is loaded onto a plane that took him from the northern Black Hills to Colorado for treatment of severe COVID-19 symptoms in November. Sliper, whose family was told there was no critical-care hospital space available for him in South Dakota, died shortly after arriving in Greeley, Colo. for treatment, his son reported on Facebook.**

Photo: Mike Sliper Facebook page

weeks and often require a level of care that can only be found at major medical centers, experts say.

"A lot of our hospitals would be comfortable caring for a patient with pretty normal lungs after surgery. But these COVID patients are really, really sick and have really complex lungs, and they take an additional skill set," Basel said. "Not all ICU beds are created equal."

The states surrounding South Dakota are also seeing strains on hospital capacity. North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum announced on Nov. 9 that the state's hospitals had reached 100% of capacity. By Dec. 2, North Dakota's hospitalization rate had fallen, and roughly 13% of the state's capacity to treat COVID-19 in hospitals was available.

Hospitals in South Dakota and across the country are also undergoing challenges providing critical care due staffing shortages due to illness and burnout. Across South Dakota, hospitals were enduring long-term shortages of doctors and nurses long before the pandemic. Now, hospitals are seeing dozens of staff forced to take time off due to the virus.

That has left some hospital administrators worried that they may have enough beds but not enough staff to care for critically ill patients if the number of coronavirus cases begins climbing again.

South Dakotans who need hospital-level care, including intensive care, can still get it, though they may be sent far from their homes, including to hospitals in other states. But hospital capacity has tightened across the country amid the nationwide coronavirus surge, limiting options elsewhere. Nationally, more than 98,000 people were in hospitals and diagnosed with COVID-19 on Dec. 2; more than 19,000 coronavirus patients were in intensive care.

As the number of COVID-19 hospitalizations continues to climb nationally and remains high in South Dakota, healthcare providers worry that holiday travel and the nascent 2020-21 flu season could cause another surge in hospitalizations. The state's hospitals may be forced to shut down clinics and restrict or ration care for chronic conditions such as diabetes and hypertension to free up doctors and nurses to treat COVID-19 patients. Even then, hospitals may reach the limit of their ability to care for everyone who gets sick.

"I don't know what that limit is, but if cases were to double for another month or two, we would be making some hard decisions," Basel said. "We've had reports that there are areas in Iowa where they are starting to really look at whether it's good to put individuals who are over 75 with COVID-19 on ventilators. We're not at that point, and I hope that we never get to any type of point like that. But there may come a day."

## Patients transferred out of state

Rose Mary Kor, who lives outside the Black Hills city of Custer, was rushed to the Emergency Room at Monument Health Custer Hospital on Nov. 2 after struggling to breathe for nearly a week. Kor, 70, said she thought her asthma had been acting up. Then, after an emergency X-ray, doctors told Kor that she had pneumonia due to COVID-19 and needed immediate hospitalization at a more well-equipped facility.

The problem was that Monument Health Rapid City Hospital, where critically ill patients from Custer are usually sent, was full and couldn't



David Basel

Continues on next page



accept new COVID-19 patients. Kor had to choose whether to be flown to a hospital in Gillette, Wyoming, or a hospital in Casper, Wyoming. Both options were more than 140 miles from her home.

"I was in disbelief," Kor said. "The hospital in Rapid City is not small. The question in my mind was, 'Why are they not prepared for this?'"

Kor is not alone in her experience. Several other South Dakotans from East River and West River who belong to a closed COVID-19 discussion group on Facebook have shared similar stories of loved ones being diverted to hospitals far from their homes.

Monument Health Rapid City Hospital is the flagship hospital for the Monument system in western South Dakota and offers the highest level of care available in the region. The hospital's 33-bed Intensive Care Unit has essentially been full through much of November, Gangineni said.

Monument Health took steps to prepare for surges in COVID-19 patients. Some hospital staff volunteered to work extra shifts, nurses have cross-trained to work in the ICU and the hospital is working to add six new ICU beds. Those new beds likely will come online in July 2021, Gangineni said. In the meantime, as patient volumes remain high and are expected to surge again following the holidays, Rapid City Regional's ICU will have to continue diverting at least some patients to other hospitals.

The number of COVID-19 hospitalizations rose sharply during November in almost every part of the U.S and was still growing at the end of the month. On Dec. 2, the nationwide number of COVID-19 hospitalizations stood at 98,691.

On Nov. 24, members of the Iowa Hospital Association warned that hospitals in and around Des Moines had been down to three open ICU beds during the week before Thanksgiving. Media reports in Minnesota during the last week of November warned of similar shortages.

State data in Wyoming, Montana and Nebraska have shown sharply rising numbers of COVID-19 cases through the middle of November. Meanwhile, the number of ICU beds has been dwindling in those states.

Ultimately, Kor chose to go to Casper, where she spent nearly two weeks at the Wyoming Medical Center with a high-flow oxygen mask helping her body function. The oxygen mask worked, and Kor narrowly avoided being placed on a ventilator. Still, the experience was painful.

"It was like sticking your head out of a car window at 80 miles per hour for two weeks," Kor said. The trip took an emotional toll as well. "I was very lonely," she said.

On Nov. 15, Kor was discharged from the Wyoming Medical Center. A family friend had to drive six hours to pick Kor up and bring her back to South Dakota.

Kor's lungs still are not functioning properly, and she needs supplemental oxygen. She is tethered to a machine by a 50-foot hose for most of the day and struggles to breathe when walking around her home. Kor also worries about how much her COVID-19 transportation and hospitalization will cost.

Patients with COVID-19 in western South Dakota face a challenging set of circumstances if they need care they can't get locally. Community hospitals tend to be isolated and usually send their most critically ill patients to Monument Health Rapid City Hospital. But if that hospital is full, the nearest comparable hospital is more than 100 miles away and in a different state.

"I don't want to say we're in the middle of nowhere, but if you look at tertiary care centers around our hospital, there aren't that many," Gangineni said.

Transfers from smaller hospitals to larger, better-equipped hospitals across state lines are routine in the healthcare industry. Small, rural hospitals can't afford the equipment or the specialized staff necessary to care for severe heart attack or stroke victims, for example.

"That's not unusual. Probably the majority of people in our Sioux Falls hospital were not from the immediate Sioux Falls area a year or two years ago," Basel said. "We don't pay too much attention to state lines. It's more whether we're sending patients to our closest hospital with the necessary resources for that individual patient. Within our family of hospitals, we certainly see people going back and forth across state lines a lot."

### Rural hospitals easing some burdens

One bright spot in terms of hospital capacity is that some rural hospitals have increased their ability to care for COVID-19 patients. When the pandemic began, Avera Health system hospitals started sending all of its COVID-19 patients to Avera McKennan in Sioux Falls because there were more specialists and space at the larger hospital.

Through the summer of 2020, rural hospital staff became more comfortable treating COVID-19 patients; supplies of personal protec-



Rose Mary Kor

**"I was in disbelief ... the hospital in Rapid City is not small. The question in my mind was, 'Why are they not prepared for this?'"**

-- Custer resident Rose Mary Kor, who was flown to Wyoming for COVID-19 care



**Nurse Amy Farley of Monument Health in Rapid City applies personal protective equipment before aiding COVID-19 patients in the intensive care unit. Hospital officials in South Dakota say rising COVID-19 cases are straining their ability to care for patients with the most severe symptoms.** Photo: Courtesy Monument Health

tive equipment increased; and new treatment options were developed, Basel said. Now, roughly two-thirds of Avera Health's COVID-19 patients are cared for outside of Sioux Falls, and only the most critically ill patients are sent to Sioux Falls.

The Huron Regional Medical Center was one of the first rural South Dakota hospitals to see a surge of COVID-19 patients. Consequently, the independent hospital pioneered some of the emergency remodeling that other smaller hospitals later used to treat coronavirus patients safely, said Erick Larson, hospital president and CEO.

"Utilizing temporary walls and additional HVAC equipment and venting, we were able to create negative pressure isolation areas. Now, the COVID unit is sealed off from the rest of the patient care areas," Larson said.

The hospital's COVID-19 unit has enough space for 14 patients at a time, with space for up to four patients in intensive care. The Huron hospital's staff also created a new five-stage surge plan and secured a steady supply of personal protective equipment by working with the state health department and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Hospital staff also formed small groups, or pods, that work closely together but separately from other staff as a way to prevent widespread exposure to COVID-19 if someone gets sick, Larson said.

Since September, Huron Regional has been caring for up to 10 COVID-19 patients at a time without having to cancel non-emergency surgeries, Larson said. The hospital's capacity has been improved through the use of telemedicine as well. Huron Regional participates in Avera Health's E-Care network. The network allows doctors and nurses in Huron to consult with specialists in Sioux Falls via video conference, which reduces the need for patient transfers.

Huron Regional do far has not had a problem finding space in larger hospitals in Sioux Falls for patients who need more specialized care, Larson said.

Continues on next page

## South Dakota COVID-19 hospitalization Dec. 3

Current hospitalizations	531
COVID-19 patients in ICU	107
COVID-19 patients on ventilators	63
COVID-19 Patients ever hospitalized	4,626

Source: South Dakota Department of Health



"Our teams are well connected to both Avera and Sanford and work together with their staff on a regular basis to get patients to the appropriate care as quickly as possible," Larson said.

## COVID's toll on health workers could impact hospital capacity

Right now, one of Huron Regional's biggest concerns is having enough staff to care for patients in its beds, Larson said. Through the end of November, between ten to 15 of Huron Regional's 300 staff members were out of work on any given day due to COVID-19. Some workers were sick; others took care of sick relatives or were exposed to the virus and needed to quarantine.

"Like most health care facilities, we do not have a lot of extra staff, so the teams must take extra shifts, and other departments have allowed their nursing staff to cross-train and work on the medical floor and in the COVID unit," Larson said.



George Sazama

Much of South Dakota was critically short of nurses and doctors long before COVID-19. As coronavirus infections have surged, hospital systems such as Avera Health have seen their workforces shrink due to the virus. At any given time, 200 to 300 of the roughly 17,000 employees spread throughout the Avera system aren't working due to coronavirus exposure infection or because they are taking care of a sick family member, Basel said.

"A lot of people are working in different areas than

they normally would. We're asking for volunteers to either take double shifts or to come in and work extra shifts in the hospital," Basel said.

Monument Health Rapid City Hospital's ICU has been fortunate that none of its physicians have gotten sick, Gangineni said. The hospital also has a plan in place to bring in another doctor if needed. Nurses, though, are in shorter supply.

"We're stretched thin. A lot of these patients have very high acuity, plus our traditional ICU patients have a very high acuity as well. We've had to flex and work shorthanded from time to time. Usually, on a typical day, there are three to four nurses that are working extra shifts," said George Sazama, director of the nursing unit at the ICU in Monument Health Rapid City Hospital.

In Iowa and North Dakota, some hospitals have relaxed their rules and have started allowing staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 but aren't showing symptoms to continue working with coronavirus patients. The move was made in response to severe shortages of healthcare workers at all levels. So far, South Dakota hospitals have not implemented similar measures.

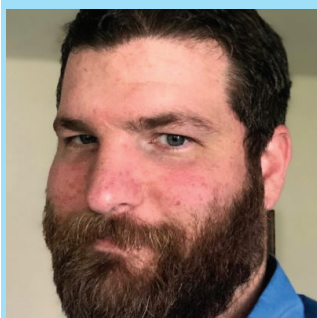
One of the most significant issues facing hospitals in terms of their capacity and staff wellbeing is the length of time COVID-19 patients tend to spend in the hospital. Some coronavirus patients are spending 60 days or more in hospitals, Sazama said. Typically, patients spend a few days at most in an ICU, not weeks or months.

"It's a huge change," Sazama said. "Usually, we live our days minute to minute, hour to hour; our patients' condition typically changes that quickly. But dealing with COVID, they don't change minute to minute or hour to hour, and typically they kind of get into a rut ... They're so sick that you can't really do anything."

Though new drugs have been approved for use early on during a COVID-19 infection, few treatments are available for the most critically ill. Such patients are put on oxygen and often must be sedated so a tube can be inserted into their airways to pump oxygen directly into their lungs. Some patients can be rotated onto their stomachs as a way to improve their oxygen intake. But for the most part, many patients must rely on their bodies to fight off the disease.

"That takes a toll on staff, seeing how sick some of these patients get, how they stay sick for days and weeks, and sometimes months," Sazama said. "These are the patients that a lot of people write-off as

the 2% who are going to die from COVID. I don't think people outside the hospital know how difficult that is and how much mental and emotional trauma that's causing when they make those comments, when they think that way."



### ABOUT NICK LOWREY

Nick Lowrey, based in Pierre, S.D., is an investigative staff reporter for South Dakota News Watch. A South Dakotan for more than 20 years, he is a former editor of the Pierre Capital Journal.

## The Life of Joyce Bawek

Private family Mass of Christian Burial for Joyce Bawek, 90, of Conde was held Tuesday, December 1st at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Father Tom Hartman officiated. Services were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM and also was broadcast on GDIRADIO at 89.3 FM, available within 1 mile of Groton. Inurnment followed in St. John's Catholic Cemetery, Conde under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.



Joyce passed away peacefully Wednesday, November 25, 2020, at her home in Conde surrounded by her family.

Joyce Darlene Nehls was born November 12, 1930, to John and Stella (Simpson) Nehls in Ferney, South Dakota. She grew up in Ferney, where she worked on the family farm with her parents and attended country school. She graduated from Groton High school in 1949.

Joyce was united in marriage with Morris Bawek on July 18, 1949, in Conde. Together, they raised 7 children. They made their home in various places before settling down in 1955, when they moved to Grenville. There, they opened and ran a gas station together, and she also worked as Sub-Postmaster. They eventually bought into a gravel business, and in 1974, the family moved to Conde to operate Bawek Construction, for which Joyce was the bookkeeper. Later, she was employed at the Conde School, where she spent 13 years working as a paraprofessional. Some of her hobbies included sewing, jigsaw puzzles, playing cards, word searches, bird watching, tending to her beautiful flowers, as well as meeting and holding her grand babies and great-grandbabies.

Joyce was a member of both the St. Joseph Catholic Church in Grenville and St. John's Catholic Church in Conde, both of which she served on the Altar Society. She was a member of the Conde City Board for many years. Joyce was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. She was a fabulous cook and hostess. She was known for her kind heart and warm personality by everyone who knew her. She was always a listening ear and comfort to all who needed it.

Celebrating her life through memories are her children: Brenda (George) Snaza of Bridgewater, SD; Pam Monson of Aberdeen, SD; Barry (Deanna) Bawek of Conde, SD; Don (Barb) Bawek of Grenville, SD; Cindy (Curt) Haskell of Conde, SD; and Cheryl (Jim) Saylor of Aberdeen, SD; Son-in-law Lester Lentsch of Burnsville, MN; 22 grandchildren; 42 great-grand children; 11 great-great grandchildren; brother, Lester Nehls of Groton, SD; sister, Florence Schaller of Phoenix, AZ; and her special dog Summer.

Preceding her in death were her loving husband, Morris; parents, John and Stella Nehls; her brothers Ralph Nehls and Dick Nehls; daughter Bonnie (Bawek) Lentsch; and Grandson Isaiah Haskell along with multiple grandchildren and great-grandchildren lost to miscarriages.

Our sweet mother will be missed by all. We will forever be grateful that she was our mama and hero.

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## Badger Clark: Cowboy Poet and Jailbird

Badger Clark probably hoped to find adventure, money and romance in Cuba. What awaited him instead was a prison cell.

South Dakota's first poet laureate (a title not yet bestowed upon him at the time) was among a group of people who left the country in December 1903 to colonize Cuba.

Colonizing plans fell through, and the 21-year-old Clark was the only would-be colonizer who remained in Cuba after April 1904. He went to work for plantation owner Augustin Rodriguez.

Clark's sense of humor was evident when, in 1906, he wrote about his experiences in Cuba. They were published in the Summer 1977 volume of "South Dakota History," the quarterly journal of the South Dakota State Historical Society.

Rodriguez often quarreled with two of his neighbors, father and son Emilio and Enrique Barretto. The feud escalated one morning when Enrique threatened Rodriguez with a machete. Rodriguez fired his gun at Enrique and wounded him. Rodriguez and Clark soon found themselves in a six-by-10 foot jail cell.

Brought before the court, Clark was informed that he had deliberately, feloniously, and with malice aforethought fired at Enrique at a distance of 10 feet and missed.

"I immediately put in an indignant plea of not guilty," Clark wrote.

Clark and Rodriguez were told that they could get "libertad provisional" if they would put up the sum of \$300 apiece for bail.

After three days in jail, the two men were transferred to the provincial penitentiary, where they were separated and forbidden to communicate.

"I reached the low water mark of despondency that afternoon when the steel doors of the big prison closed behind us," Clark wrote.

"I was thrust into a large cell with seventeen convicts. When I sized up these fellow sufferers of mine, I was if possible sicker than before ... Not one of them spoke English and most of them spoke a very poor dialect of Spanish ...."

His cell had an informal government with a prisoner called the "Presidente" in charge.

"The daily program at the prison was so simple and easy to learn that after a few days it became almost monotonous. We arose at six in the morning. At six thirty a man came to the door of the cell carrying a five-gallon kerosene can full of coffee. Under the supervision of the Presidente we filed out and one at a time filled our tin cups with the thick brown mixture. This coffee was all we were given for our breakfast, but we generally eked it out with a piece of bread saved from dinner the day before. This bread kept us busy because it had to be eaten slowly on account of the number of ants it contained.

"After breakfast we were left to our own devices for awhile ... As for me I lay in my bed and smoked innumerable cigarettes while I read stories from some old American magazines. Had it not been for these magazines, I might have gone crazy for want of something to take my mind off my troubles.

"At ten o'clock in the morning we ate our 'almuerzo' the first real meal of the day. Almuerzo consisted principally of soup. It was a thick soup and was probably highly nourishing, if grease and nourishment are synonymous.

"At four o'clock in the afternoon the comida or heavy meal of the day was served. The principal dish at this meal was the soup of the morning, only the strictly soup part had been drained off leaving the solids in the form of a kind of 'boiled dinner.' This was rather (more) palatable than the soup and the fact that they gave us a small allowance of bread, fruit, and coffee made it quite a feast."

The interval between comida and bedtime was generally the noisiest of the day, as this was the time the prisoners did most of their singing.

"At nine o'clock the guards would extinguish the lamps and the Presidente would command silence ... This was the hardest time of day for me. I could not sleep before midnight, and so I would lie and think unpleasant thoughts and listen to the prison bell as it struck the halves and quarters.

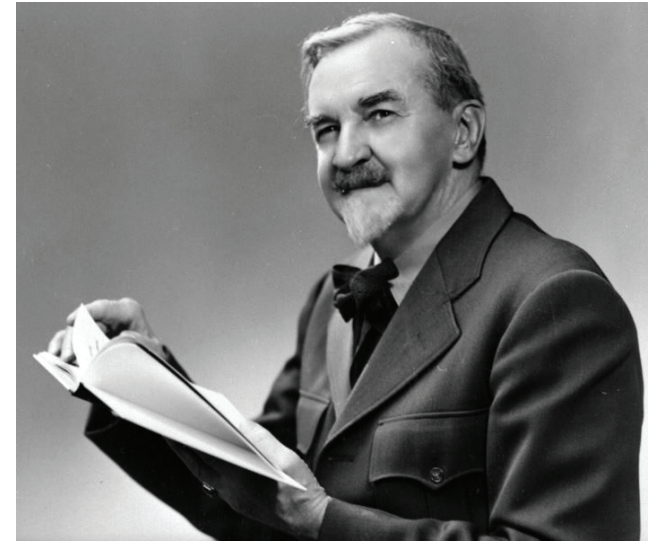
"Two weeks dragged on before I procured my release. Despite my troubles I thrived rather than pined, and the only possible damage my health suffered during my confinement was from smoking too much."

Rodriguez put up bail for Clark. Clark felt he had to stay in Cuba to keep Rodriguez from losing the \$300. Clark was acquitted at his trial on Jan. 31, 1905.

Clark returned to the United States, where he became known as a cowboy poet. He was named South Dakota's poet laureate on Dec. 24, 1937, a title he held until his death in 1957.

This moment in South Dakota history is provided by the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation, the nonprofit fundraising partner of the South Dakota State Historical Society at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. Find us on the web at [www.sdhsf.org](http://www.sdhsf.org). Contact us at [info@sdhsf.org](mailto:info@sdhsf.org) to submit a story idea.

## SOUTH DAKOTA HISTORY & HERITAGE



**Badger Clark was South Dakota's first poet laureate.** (South Dakota State Historical Society – State Archives photo)

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# 2020-21 Groton Area Tigers Updated Basketball (12-03-2020)



<b>Fri., Dec. 11</b>	at Britton-Hecla	JV at 6:00 followed by Varsity
<b>Sat., Dec. 12</b>	Britton-Hecla	JV at 1:30 followed by Varsity
<b>Thurs., Dec. 17</b>	at Hamlin - Boys C and Girls	JV at 4 p.m., Boys JV at 5:15, Girls Varsity at 6:30, Boys Varsity at 8:00
<b>Mon., Dec. 21</b>	Redfield	JV at 6:00 followed by Varsity
<b>Tues., Dec. 22</b>	at Redfield	JV at 6:00 followed by Varsity
<b>Tues., Dec. 29</b>	at Sioux Valley (Volga) - JV and Varsity double Headers,	Times to be determined.
<b>Tues., Jan. 5</b>	Warner - Girls JV at 4 p.m., Boys JV at 5:15 p.m., Girls Varsity at 6:30 p.m., Boys Varsity at 8 p.m.	
<b>Thurs., Jan. 7</b>	Sisseton	JV at 6:00 followed by Varsity
<b>Fri., Jan. 8</b>	at Sisseton	JV at 6:00 followed by Varsity
<b>Mon., Jan. 11</b>	at Webster - Girls JV at 4 p.m., Boys JV at 5:15 p.m., Girls Varsity at 6:30 p.m., Boys Varsity at 8 p.m.	
<b>Tues., Jan. 12</b>	Ab. Christian @ Aberdeen Civic Center	JV at 6:00 followed by Varsity
<b>Thurs., Jan. 14</b>	Roncalli	JV at 6:00 followed by Varsity
<b>Fri., Jan. 15</b>	at Roncalli	JV at 6:00 followed by Varsity
<b>Mon., Jan. 18</b>	at Langford	JV at 6:30 followed by Varsity
<b>Tues., Jan. 19</b>	at Ipswich - Girls JV at 4 p.m., Boys JV at 5:15 p.m., Girls Varsity at 6:30 p.m., Boys Varsity at 8 p.m.	
<b>Thurs., Jan. 21</b>	Clark/Willow Lake	JV at 6:00 followed by Varsity
<b>Fri., Jan. 22</b>	at Clark/Willow Lake	JV at 6:00 followed by Varsity
<b>Mon., Jan. 25</b>	Northwestern	JV at 6:00 followed by Varsity
<b>Thurs., Jan. 28</b>	Northwestern	JV at 6:00 followed by Varsity
<b>Sat., Jan. 30</b>	at Madison Classic	
<b>Tues., Feb. 2</b>	Roncalli	JV at 6:00 followed by Varsity
<b>Tues., Feb. 2</b>	at Langford	JV at 6:30 followed by Varsity
<b>Thurs., Feb. 4</b>	Faulton - Girls JV at 4 p.m., Boys JV at 5:15 p.m., Girls Varsity at 6:30 p.m., Boys Varsity at 8 p.m.	
<b>Sat., Feb. 6</b>	at Madison Classic	
<b>Sat., Feb. 6</b>	at Tiospa Zina	C at 1 p.m., JV at 2:30 p.m. followed by Varsity
<b>Tues., Feb. 9</b>	Tiospa Zina	JV at 6:00 followed by Varsity
<b>Thurs., Feb. 11</b>	Milbank - Girls JV at 4 p.m., Boys JV at 5:15 p.m., Girls Varsity at 6:30 p.m., Boys Varsity at 8 p.m.	
<b>Sat., Feb. 13</b>	at Moberidge-Pollock - Girls JV at 1 p.m., Boys JV at 2 p.m., Girls Varsity at 3:15 p.m. followed by Boys Varsity	
<b>Mon., Feb. 15</b>	at Roncalli	C at 5:00, JV at 6:15 followed by Varsity
<b>Fri., Feb. 19</b>	Deuel - Girls JV at 4 p.m., Boys JV at 5:15 p.m., Girls Varsity at 6:30 p.m., Boys Varsity at 8 p.m.	
<b>Tues., Feb. 23</b>	Region at highest seed	
<b>Thurs., Feb. 25</b>	Region at highest seed	
<b>Fri. Feb. 26</b>	Aberdeen Christian	JV at 6:00 followed by Varsity
<b>Tues., Mar. 2</b>	Region at highest seed	
<b>Thurs., Mar. 4</b>	SoDak 16	
<b>Fri., Mar. 5</b>	Region at highest seed	
<b>Tues., Mar. 9</b>	SoDak 16	
<b>March 11-13</b>	State at Watertown	
<b>March 18-20</b>	State at Sioux Falls	

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## School Calendar

Dec. 8	Middle School Christmas Concert (7:00)
Dec. 10	High School Christmas Concert (7:00)
Dec. 22	Elementary Christmas Concert (1:00) - <b>LIVESTREAM ONLY</b>
Dec. 22	Early Dismissal (2:00)
Dec. 22	End of First Semester
Dec. 23-Jan. 1	Christmas Vacation
Jan. 4	School Resumes
Jan. 15	NCSEC Faculty Inservice - <b>NO SCHOOL</b>
Feb. 10	LifeTouch Pictures at GHS Gym
Feb. 11	P-T Conferences (1:30-8:30)
Feb. 12	Faculty Inservice - <b>NO SCHOOL</b>
Mar. 4	End of Third Quarter
Mar. 11	Middle School Talent Show - 7:00
Mar. 19	Spring Break - <b>NO SCHOOL</b>
Apr. 2	Good Friday - <b>NO SCHOOL</b>
Apr. 11	POPS Concert (2:00 & 5:00)
Apr. 17	ACT testing at Groton Area
Apr. 24	PROM - Grand March at 8:00
Apr. 29	MS Spring Concert (7:00)
May 4	Elementary Spring Concert (7:00)
May 7	End of 2nd Semester
May 6	HS Concert/Awards Night (7:00)
May. 16	Graduation (2:00)

\*All make-up days will be added to the end of the school calendar.

## JH GBB

Sat., Dec. 5	Webster	7th at 10:00, 8th at 11:00
Thurs., Dec. 10	at Langford	7th at 5:30, 8th at 6:30
Mon., Dec. 14	at Warner	7th at 4:30, 8th at 5:30
Tues., Dec. 15	at Waubay	7th at 5:00, 8th at 6:00
Thurs., Dec. 17	at Hamlin	7th at 4:00, 8th at 5:00
Fri., Dec. 18	Redfield	7th at 5:00, 8th at 6:00
Sat., Dec. 19	Moberidge-Pollock	7th at 1:00, 8th at 2:00

Many Events will be broadcast live on **GDILIVE.COM**

## Robotics

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

## Forensics

**Oral Interp**  
October 5: Milbank Invitational  
October 17: Florence Invitational  
October 24: NSU Invite, Aberdeen  
October 26: Brookings Invitational  
October 31: Pumpkinstakes, Watertown  
November 17: Regions, Virtual  
December 4-5: State Oral Interp, Virtual

**Debate**  
December 1: Sippel Novice, Groton  
Dec. 8: Milbank Novice PF/Congress  
December 18-19: Brookings Bell  
January TBA: Big Question Debate  
January 15-16: Silver Bowl, Sioux Falls  
January 22-23: Speech Fiesta, Watertown  
February 12-13: Rushmore Challenge, Harrisburg

February 19-20: National Qualifier, Watertown  
March 5-6: State Debate, Aberdeen  
March TBA: Big Question National Qualifier, Aberdeen  
**Congressional Debate (Student Congress) only**  
December 8: Milbank Congress  
January 12: UDFL Student Congress, Groton  
March TBA: State Student Congress, TBA

## Wrestling

Date	Time	Opponent	Location
Dec. 10	5:30 p.m.	Madison Quad	Madison
Dec 17	5:00 PM CT	Groton Quad (B-H, W-NW, Ips)	Groton
Dec 19	10:00 PM CT	Sioux Valley Invite	Volga, SD
Jan 02	9:30 PM CT	Webster Area Invitational	Webster, SD
Jan 07	6:00 PM CT	(Redfield, Webster Tri)	Webster, SD
Jan 09	10:00 AM CT	Wolsey-Wessington Quad	Wolsey-Wessington
Jan. 16	10:00 AM CT	Potter County Invite	Gettysburg
Jan 19	2:00 PM CT	Hamlin, Clark Triangular	Groton
Jan 23	10:00 PM CT	Kingsbury County Tournament	Arlington, SD
Jan 28	4:00 PM CT	NEC Tournament	Redfield, SD
Jan 30	10:00 PM CT	Groton Invite	Groton
Feb 05	5:00 PM CT	Lyman, Bennett Co., Marion Quad	Presho
Feb. 25-27		State at Rapid City	

All schedules are subject to change

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