# The Groton South Dakota & Wednesday, Dec. 09, 2020 & Established in 1889





# **Groton Tower** is erected on **Tuesday**

The pieces of the new water tower were assembled Tuesday. The big crane was brought to town Monday night, was assembled and they started raising the pieces right away Tuesday morning. By midday Tuesday, the crane was packed up and ready to leave town.

That will be basically the extent of the work for this year. A new pump house will be erected next year. The entire new system should become active late next year.

Top left photo features the tank being lifted in the air.

Top right features the two towers side by side.

Bottom left is the main tube being erected.

Bottom middle - if you look

closely, you can see a welder just under the thank doing his work.

Bottom right features more supplies that arrived on Wednesday.

(Photos by Paul Kosel)







# **Spotlight on Groton Area Staff** Name: Susan Fjeldheim

Susan

**Fjeldheim** 

**Occupation:** 4th Grade Teacher **Length of Employment:** 2012-Pres-Susan Fjeldheim has been working

in Groton Area Elementary School for eight consecutive years. Before the beginning of her tenure at Groton Elementary, she worked at the Langford Kindergarten for ten years. However, Susan Fjeldheim has lived in the town of Groton for fifteen years. Susan studied to acquire her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education at Northern State University before working in Langford.

While Mrs. Fjeldheim has lived in South Dakota for much of her life, she was technically born in North Dakota!

Mrs. Fjeldheim enjoys teaching her students about the solar system, chemistry, and the sciences with hands-on activities. She believes that students generally learn best when seeing the effects of the principles they are studying. When she is not teaching, Susan Fjeldheim can be found playing the piano for her local church or strolling the streets of Groton!

### **Elementary (Grades JK-5)** Tuesday, December 22, 2020

**High School (Grades 9-12)** 

Groton Area High School Gym

Thursday, December 10, 2020, 7:00 PM

In-Person and Live Stream on GDILive.com

10:00 AM

programs is listed below:

Live Stream Only on GDILive.com

The public is welcome to attend the Middle and High School concerts. Individuals at risk for developing complications from COVID-19 should stay home and view the live stream on GDILive.com. We ask those in attendance to please follow the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and South Dakota Department of Health:

GROTON AREA CHRISTMAS

**PROGRAMS** 

The modified schedule for the Groton Area School District Christmas

Stay home if you're ill or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or any other infectious illness.

Please wear a mask.

Physically distance from others not in your household. Wash your hands/use hand sanitizer regularly.

- Benjamin Higgins

# **Columbia City** Nov. 4, 2020

Meeting Minutes
Rescheduled City of Columbia
Council Meeting – November

4, 2020 CALL MEETING TO ORDER -

7:30 p.m. ROLL CALL – Cara Dennert, Corey Mitchell, Ellen Harr. Cole Kampa & Trevor Meints – joined the meeting via zoom & phone Community – Jeremy Dosch, Jan Gilchrist, Drew Johnson

Corey Mitchell called the meeting to order. Minutes were passed out from the October 7th meeting. Trevor Meints made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Ellen Harr seconded the motion. All in favor – motion carried.

Warrant Vouchers: Northwestern Energy – 434.63; JVT – 125.28; Great Western Bank – 57.63; Brown County Treasurer 341.40; Drew Johnson – 150.00; Productivity Plus – 125.36; Vosika Fencing — 96.00; SDPAA — 203.52; Runnings — 213.08; Menards — 17.11; Jeremy Dosch 419.99; Kelsie Ehresmann 307.99: Ćara Dennert - 823.50

Ellen Harr made a motion to accept the vouchers as presented. Cole Kampa seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried.
COMMUNITY COMMENTS /

CORESPONDENCE - none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS -No changes to the current suspended Columbia Covid19 ordinance.

Nuisances – Ellen asked about checking vehicles on properties. Corey told her that since she is our code enforcer – she can go on property and check license

Streets – Jeremy filled in some pot holes. Stella St. may have to be closed if the snow gets bad this winter. We are putting a new culvert on 4th St. NE. The plow is ready to be installed on the pickup. Drew presented the council with an e-mail regarding a culvert in town. Jan was present to voice his concerns. Parks – no report Lagoon/sewer – Jeremy sent

in a sample for Cole. There could be a discharge coming up. The south lagoon could go down to We need to order a ph kit cost about \$100. Rubble Site – Site will be

burned after the first snow.

NEW BUSINESS – There might be a possible board member at the December meeting. Decision will be made then FINANCIAL REPORT -Cara presented bank balances. Ellen

Harr made a motion to accept the financial report as given. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All were in favor carried.

October 31, 2020 balances: SF - \$160,311.65; GF - 159,858.72; FIT - \$13,978.75

Ellen Harr made a motion to adjourn. Cole Kampa seconded the motion. All were in favor meeting adjourned.

City Meeting December 2nd, 2020 7:30 p.m. (note – this is the first Wednesday of the because of scheduling conflicts – the rest of 2020 council meeting will be on the first Wednesday of the month. In December, we will revisit the scheduled date for monthly

Submitted by Cara Dennert, Finance Officer

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$29.39. 19498

### **Columbia City** Oct. 7, 2020 **Meeting Minutes**

Rescheduled City of Columbia Council Meeting – October 7, 2020

CALL MEETING TO ORDER -

ROLL CALL – Cara Dennert, Corey Mitchell, Ellen Harr, Cole Kampa, Trevor Meints

Community Corey Mitchell called the meeting to order. Minutes were assed out from the September 9th meeting. Ellen Harr made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Cole Kampa seconded the motion. All in favor motion carried. Minutes were also passed out from our special 2021 budget ordinance meeting – September 16th . Trevor Meints made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Ellen

favor – motion carried. Warrant Vouchers: JVT – 125.47; GDI – 84.80; Web Water - 63.27; Runnings - 105.97; Jeremy Dosch - 419.99; Kelsie Ehresmann - 293.99; Cara Dennert - 823.50; Corey Mitchell 348.05; Dana Mohr -131.76 Ellen Harr - 288.22; Trevor Meints -288.22 ; Cole Kampa 255.28; SD Unemployment Insurance- 1.14;

Harr seconded the motion. All in

# The Groton Independent

21 N Main, Groton 605/397-NEWS (6397) Paul Irvin Kosel, Publisher <a href="mailto:paperpaul@gro-paperpaul@grotonsd.net ~ 605-397-7460

Tina Kosel, Office Manager office@grotonsd. net ~ 605-397-7285

Notices: <a href="mailto:legals@grotonsd.net">legals@grotonsd.net</a> News Items: <a href="mailto:news@grotonsd.net">news@grotonsd.net</a>

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# Groton Chiropractic Clinic

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



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

Doors – 150.97; US Treasury – 2022.20

Ellen Harr made a motion to accept the vouchers as pre-sented. Cole Kampa seconded the motion. All in favor – motion

COMMUNITY COMMENTS / CORESPONDENCE - information from Northern Border Pipeline Company – emergency infor-

UNFINISHED BUSINESS -The council will send out a letter regarding the updated dog ordinance passed in August. Residents are limited to 3 dogs. (Those with more than 3 are grandfathered in – but after the dog(s) pass away - rule of 3 ap-All dogs in town need to have proof of vaccination/rabies shots. There will be a \$15/year license fee per dog. Every city resident will be receiving a letter with the updated ordinance. All licenses must be purchased by January 31st. There will be a fine of \$20/month for those who have not purchased a dog license by January 31st. Residents may come to city hall on any meeting date (1st Wednesdays of the month for the rest of 2020 – after 5pm to pick up license application/drop off vaccination proof. November 4th, December 2nd, or January 6th .) No changes to the current suspended Columbia Covid19 ordinance.

Nuisances - A city resident will be receiving notice about illegal parking. If non-compliant, vehicles may be towed or parking on that side of the street will be prohibited.

Streets - Trevor Meints made a motion to purchase a plow from Safety Service to use on our city truck. Cole seconded the motion. All were in favor – motion carried.

Parks - Corey will be contacting someone to come in and remove the trees from the ballpark's dike.

Lagoon/sewer - Cole has contacted DENR – ordered a kit for testing. He will test this month. Trevor and Jeremy were down inspecting lagoon. Some concrete has shifted a bit.

Rubble Site - Site will be burned after the first snow - too dry to burn before then.

NEW BUSINESS - Trevor and Jeremy are looking into the purchase of a generator for the city. They are looking at Harbor Freight's generators

FĬNANČIAL REPORT - Cara presented bank balances. Ellen Harr made a motion to accept the financial report as given. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion

September 30, 2020 balances: SF - \$159,128.05; GF -162,308.06; FIT - \$13,978.75 Cash on hand: \$35.90

Cole Kampa made a motion to adjourn. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All were in favor meeting adjourned.

Next Regular City Meeting -November 4th, 2020 7:30 p.m. (note – this is the first Wednesday of the month - because of scheduling conflicts - the rest of 2020 council meeting will be on the first Wednesday of the month. In December, we will revisit the scheduled date for monthly meetings.)

Submitted by Cara Dennert, Finance Officer

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$40.85. 19497

### **Brown County Landfill Cell** Construction

SECTION 00 11 13 - ADVER-TISEMENT FOR BIDS

BROWN COUNTY LANDFILL BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH

DAKOTA CELL #4 CONSTRUCTION, A-7653

The Brown County Board of Commissioners will receive sealed bids for their Landfill Cell #4 Construction project until Tuesday, December 22, 2020 until 8:47 AM in the Commissioner's Chambers at the Brown County Court House located at 25 Market Street in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Sealed bids may be sent to the Brown County Auditor at 25 Market Street. Aberdeen, SD 57401 prior to the letting, or hand delivered at the address stated above immediately preceding the bid opening. Received sealed bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Brown County Commissioner's Chamber at the

above-mentioned time. Bids are invited upon the items and approximate quanti-

ties of work as follows: Base Bid – Cell 4 Construction Approximately: 1 L.S. Mobi-

Elan City - 5799.00; Dakota sified Excavation, 10,000 CuYd Unsuitable Material Undercut, 24,000 CuYd 24" Compacted Clay Liner, 1400 CuYd 12" Side

Slope Cover Material, 1,000 CuYd ORDINANCE NO. 738 Topsoil from Stockpiles, 16,000 Tons 12" Granular Drainage RIATION ORDINANCE Material, 800 Tons Coarse Aggregate, 3,500 SqYd Geotextile

Drainage Fabric, 900Ft 8" HDPE Perforated Leachate Piping, 170 Ft 8" HDPE Leachate Piping, 3 each 8" HDPE 45° Bend, 900 Ft Post Construction Leachate Pipe Televising, 1 L.S. 36" X 20' CMP Cleanout Extension w/ Piping, 1 Each Side Slope/Leachate Cleanout, 1 L.S. Salvage & Re-Install Storm Sewer Lift station and Controls, 3,000 Tons Gravel Surfacing, 11 Acres of Fertilize, Seed, and Mulch, 6 Each Rip Rap Check Dam, 262 SqYd Rip Rap Drainage Trench, 6,400 SqYd Erosion Control Blanket, 4,800 Ft Erosion Control Wattle, 130 Ft High Flow Silt Fence, 7 Each Inlet Protection, 350 Ft Install Salvaged 10' Chain Link Fence. 1 L.S. Landfill Dewatering, and Miscellaneous items.

Alternate Bid 1 - Access Road 2,700 Tons Asphalt Surfacing Type 1 Class G (PG-64-28), 9540 Sq.Yd. Scarify, Reshape, Compact Road Bed (6"), 1,000 Tons Base Course, 430 Sq.Yd. Remove and Dispose of Existing Asphalt and Miscellaneous items. Alternate Bid 2 – Pallet Area

4,600 CuYd Place Borrow Sand Material from Cell Unclassified, 8,900 SqYd 6" Scarify and Re-compact Pallet Area, 3,000 Tons Gravel Surfacing, 866 Ft 6" Underdrain Piping w/ Sock, and Miscellaneous items.

The approximate quantities mentioned above are subject to increase or decrease. It will be agreed by bidders that all quantities of work will be performed in accordance with the provisions of the plans and specifications and at the unit price bid. Bidders agree to furnish all labor, material, and equipment necessary to complete all the work as shown in the plans and specifications. The complete set of Contract

Documents, including 11" x 17" paper drawings and specificaions, is on file with the Brown County Auditor and/or at the office of Helms and Associates. 221 Brown County Highway 19, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401. Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained from the office of Helms and Associates, PO Box 111, Aberdeen, SD 57402. Plans and specifications may be obtained upon payment to Helms and Associates in the amount of \$100.00 for shipping and handling. Please state quantity documents requested. Plans and specifications may also be downloaded from the Helms and Associates web site upon a one-time payment of \$20.00. The web site is located at http:// www.helmsengineering.com/ biddocs.html. All payments are non refundable. Additionally, upon request, in accordance with South Dakota Codified Law 5-18B-1, one copy of Plans and Specifications shall be furnished. without charge, to each Contractor resident in South Dakota who intends, in good faith, to bid

upon the project. In addition to all of the above listed Federal requirements for work on this project, compliance with the contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, Executive Order 11375, Copeland Act, the Clean Air Act, and Water Pollution Control Act, and subsequent amendments to all of the above will be required of contractors and/or subcontractors

performing work on this project. Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check or bank draft payable to the order of Brown County, South Dakota in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid. A bid bond in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the total bid will be accepted in lieu of a certified check or bank draft. Surety for bid bond must be authorized to do business in the State of South

Dakota. Bids may be held by Brown County Commissioners, for a period of not more than thirty (30) days from the date of opening of bids for the purpose of reviewing the bids, investigating the qualifications of the bidders and completing financial arrangements prior to awarding the Work. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informality in the bidding.

Cathy McNickle, Auditor (1209.1216)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$101.67. 19499

### **Groton City** Ord. 738 Appropriation Ord.

2020 SUPPLEMENTAL APPRO-

SECTION I:BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Groton, South Dakota that the following sums are supplementally appropriated to meet the obligations of the City of Groton and shall be effective immediately following passage.

101-41470 General Financial Admin: \$18,000

101-42130 Traffic Control: 101-45124 Swimming Pool . :

\$23,690 101-45130 General Baseball: \$36,000

101-45240 Forestry: \$4,500 742-44000 Family Crisis: \$250 TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS:

SOURCE OF FUNDING 101-41470 2021 Budget: \$18,000

101-42900 Other Public Safety: \$250 101-45124 Swimming Pool:

\$23,690 101-36721 Baseball dona-

tions: \$28,671 101-45139 Baseball concessions: \$12,079

TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCE:

Dated at Groton, South Dakota this 17th day of November

Scott Hanlon, Mayor Hope Block, Finance Officer 1st Reading: 11/17/20 2nd Reading: 12/1/20 Published: 12/9/20 Published once at the total ap-

proximate cost of \$15.67. 19500

# **Brown County** Dec. 1, 2020 Meeting Minutes DECEMBER 1, 2020 – GEN-

**ERAL 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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to approve the agenda with the postponement of abatements to the next meeting. All member present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to approve the general meeting minutes of December 1. 2020. All members present votng aye. Motion carried. CLÁMS:

Moved by Feickert seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims and payroll:

Professional Fees: Haar Law Firm \$37.00; Kuck Law Office \$13.00; SD DOT \$1,778.21; Taliaferro Law Firm \$3,084.40; UND – Pathology \$900.00

Repairs & Maintenance: House of Glass \$433.04; Woodman Refrigeration \$502.65.

Supplies: House of Glass \$105.41; Leidholdt Tool Sales \$169.00; Marco \$22.83; Menards \$13.26; Network Center Inc. \$29,669.36; Steven Lust Automotive \$131.42; Violet Dinger Estate \$12,938.43; West Payment Center \$1,768.18.

Other: Kristie Erickson \$160.00; Greg Markley \$200.00; Suzanne Moen \$160.00; Rick Pigors \$200.00: Mike Russell \$160.00: Clint Sombke

Bond Payments: Alan or Angela Bernard \$13,018.87; Darwin or Mary Bettmann \$1,952.78; Joop Bollen \$16,273.75; Bruce or Lynette Durheim \$6,508.93; FDM Revocable Living Trust \$16,273.75; Donald and Maxine Fischer \$1,952.60; Great Plains Bank \$19,527.80; James Gressett \$16,273.75; Kendall Peterson Trustee PT 09 \$39,055.60; John Kippley \$3,254.64; Robert & Lora Larson \$3,254.85; David & Jill Lehmann Living Trust \$16,273.90; Marlin Nilsson \$13,018.87; Pyush Patel \$16,273.75; Kendall or Linda Peterson \$6,508.93; Plains Commerce Bank \$248,333.15; Herman Schumacher \$8,136.95; Mark & Mary Volk \$6,508.93. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. HR REPORT:

Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve the

following HR Report:

Acknowledge resignation of Brown County 24/7 sobriety testing, part-time effective November 9, 2020 for the following: Mandy Bahr, Shanda Bragg, Grace Gasperich, Abby Jung, Jen Kamin, Amber Olson, Donna Olson, Anne Weig, Carol Wolf, Kaylee Moench; Acknowledge res-

ignation of Lynn Heupel, Brown County Chief Deputy Auditor, full-time effective December 11 2020 and approve request to fill vacancy. All members present voting aye. Motion carried

ASSET TRANSFER - VEHICLE: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to authorize the transfer of 2014 Ford Explorer (5525) from Sheriff to Planning and Zoning Department. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FAIR BOARD APPOINTMENTS: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve the following fair board appointments: 3 year terms- Nancy Radke, Dwight Guthmiller, Jeff Kippley and for 1 year terms -Don Ganje, Mike Russell, Jayson Tollefson. Roll call vote: Commissioner Feickert – aye, Sutton Aye, Wiese – Aye, Fjeldheim Aye, Kippley –Abstain. Motion carries

ALCOHOL USE PERMISSION: Moved by Fjeldheim, sec-onded by Wiese to approve alcohol use permission form for the Aberdeen Curling Club for use in the Expo Building. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

SD DOT AGREEMENT:

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Sutton to authorize chair sign agreement between State of South Dakota department of Transportation for federal funds for bridge replacement. Qualified bridges include structure numbers 07-019-020, project number BRO 8007(212) PCN 084J. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. SHERIFF VEHICLE PURCHASE

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve purchase of 2021 Chevy Pickup in the amount of \$45,642.62 plus option for trade in off State of Iowa contract RFB 1120005004. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LOTTERY PERMIT:

Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Sutton to approve permit for lottery held by Aberdeen Hockey Association to be held at the Odde Ice Center. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Move by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve the fol-lowing lease agreements: Child Evangelism Fellowship for lease of Richmond Lake Youth Camp Lodge July 13-17, 2020 and Dream Reacher's 4H Club for lease of Club House December 14-16, 2020. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LEGAL ASSIGNMENT: Authorize the Auditor to sign agreement to assign claims against individuals to Credit Collections Bureau for the purpose of collecting liens. All members present voting aye. Motion

DRAINAGE PROJECT:

Dusty Schley met to discuss his drainage project. Area landowners and Kari Bartling, attorney representing Mud Creek Watershed District, met to give opposition to the dam being built. Dusty Schley was directed to go through the permitting process via planning and zoning department. Public comment was heard regarding the dam.

No action taken.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE — CHRISTMAS EVE:

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Fjeldheim to offer Christmas ve as a full day holiday instead of half day for employees. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** 

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Feickert to adjourn the rown County Commission at 10:14a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. Cathy McNickle, Brown County

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$62.30. 19501

### Doeden **Death Notice**

Douglas Doeden, 76, of Groton passed away Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at his home. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

2 ♦ Groton Independent ♦ Wed., Dec. 09, 2020 lization, 538,000 CuYd Unclas-

# **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 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

ATTEST: Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

(1202.1209)Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$23.51. 19482

### **Groton City Water Improvement Project Hearing Notice**

Notice of Public Hearing for the City of Groton Water Improvement Project

The City of Groton is proposing to make improvements to their water system. These improvements include looping water lines in two separate areas of the city and painting the interior and exterior of the ground storage tank. The City of Groton will be submitting a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Application in an amount up to \$1,266,000 to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The funding may be awarded in the form of a grant, loan, or a principal forgiveness loan; any portion of the loan that is not forgiven will have a term of up to 30 years at a rate of up to 2.75%. The amount and source of funds will be determined by the Board of Water and Natural Resources when the application is presented at a scheduled board meeting. The purpose of the public hearing is to discuss the proposed project, the proposed financing, and the source of repayment for the loan. The public is invited to attend and comment on the project.

The public hearing will be held at the Groton Community Center @ 7:00pm on December 2020.

(1209)Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$14.69. 19503

# Classifieds and Card of Thanks

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

1 Week: \$9 for first 30 words, 20¢/word thereafter 2 Wks: \$17 for first 30 words, 38¢/word thereafter 3 Wks: \$24 for first 30 words, 54¢/word thereafter 4th consecutive week is free

605/397-NEWS (6397)

PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

### **AUCTIONS**

INTERSTATE AUCTION CENTER, December 19 10 am, 3 miles east of Sioux Falls exit 402. We consign tractors, skid loaders, farm ranch construction equipment 605-331-4550 auctionzip.com

### **BIDS**

THE BENNETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS will receive bids for the Courthouse and Law Department Roof Replacement. Contact the County Auditor at 605-685-6931 for bid specs and more information.

### **EMPLOYMENT**

FULL-TIME DEPUTY SHERIFF, Hyde County, Highmore, SD. Must be certified in law enforcement or willing to be trained and certified within one year of hire date. Experience preferred. Request application at hydeaud@ venturecomm.net or 605-852-2519 and submit completed application to Hyde County Auditor's Office, 412 Commercial Ave. SE, Highmore, SD 57345. Open until filled. EOE.

### FOR SALE

MATURE ROOSTER PHEASANTS for sale. \$13 plus delivery. Please call 605-680-0071 for more information.

SIBERIAN HUSKY PUPPIES \$400. Puppies are up to date on immunization and worming health guarantee. Contact at 605-222-0129 leave message or email jmj0001@gwtc.net.

# **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.

### **NOTICES**

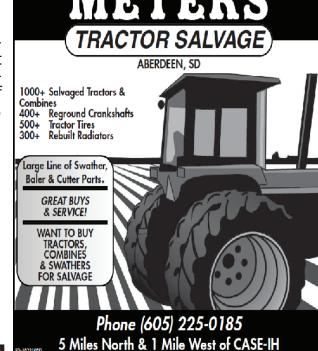
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### REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE BY OWNER: 4 bedroom/4 bath. Four floors of living space. Hardwood floors, huge eat-in kitchen, with radiant heat, granite counter tops, island. Chamberlain SD. 2 blocks from river, shops, & restaurants. \$289k. 605-730-7435

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Inform. Enlighten. Illuminate.

# **SDCUC Seeks Farmers** for Open Districts



The South Dakota Corn Utilization Council

SDCUC) is a progressive organization which

has visionary and influential producer leadership throughout the state. The 9-member board manages and invests South Dakota's 1-cent per bushel corn checkoff fund.

The SDCUC is announcing director positions that are open in Districts 3. 5 and 7. A SDCUC director's position consists of a three-year term beginning on March 1, 2021. Each director can serve a maximum of two terms, resulting in a six-year director's position.

If interested in seeking a board seat in one of the open districts, you must obtain and file with the corn office a nominating petition. All nominating petitions must contain at least 15 "participating" corn producer signatures from your district. (A "participating" corn producer has not requested a refund of his/her corn assessment since January of 2020). Eligible candidates who wish to seek a director's position cannot have requested a checkoff refund from the SDCUC since January of 2016. Nominating petitions must be returned back to the SDCUC office by 5 p.m. on January 4, 2021.

To request a petition, please contact the SDCUC office by calling 605-334-0100.

If more than one nominating petition is received by the SDCUC office for any district, a special election will be conducted for that district. The elections will be held February 1-5, 2021 at the local extension offices in those counties.

The counties assigned to the districts accepting nominations for director positions are detailed below:

• District 3 - Brookings, Codington, Deuel, Hamlin, Kingsbury • District 5 – Brown, Campbell, Corson, Harding, McPherson,

Perkins, Walworth

• District 7 – Aurora, Beadle, Buffalo, Hand, Hyde, Jerauld, Sanborn

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### **Groton City December 1, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

December 1, 2020 The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00 pm at the Community Center for their first monthly meeting with the following members present: Wells, Blackmun, Cutler, Fliehs, Babcock, and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Also present were: Attorney Drew Johnson, Finance Officer Hope Block, Paul Kosel, Midco representatives: Aaron Kietzmann, Brian McFadden, Stever Mohr, and Andrew Curley

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

Midco representatives took turns explaining what Midco has to offer the Groton community and explaining what the construction designs would look like. The board thanked them for their presentation.

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

Moved by Fliehs and seconded by Cutler to authorize the following bills for payment. All members voted ave

Payroll, \$22,449.41, Employee salaries; Executive, \$577.19, Administrative, \$2,586.49, ; Public Safety, \$10,814.81, ; Public Works, \$8,470.92, ; First State Bank, \$7,498.20, SS and WH; First State Bank, \$466.66, HSA contributions; Dakotaland FCU, \$850.00, Employee savings; Employers Mutual In-

insurance; Aflac, \$338.26, Émployee insurance; Colonial Life, \$340.78, Employee insurance; Guardian, \$118.03, Employee insurance; Allied, \$8,977.81, Employee insurance; Chase Visa, \$315.70, Funeral flowers, deposit stamp, battery backups, postage, library book, internet; AB Contracting, \$15,736.57, Payment request #1; Maguire Iron, \$527,096.70, Payment request #3 & #4; SD State Treasurer, \$7,673.52, Sales tax 10/20; SD Supplemental Retirement, \$610.00, Employee retirement; SD Municipal League, \$1,475.51, 2020 Dues; SD Mu nicipal Electric Assn, \$1,151.00, 2020 Dues; SD Police Chiefs Assn, \$388.16, 2020 Dues; Heartland Waste, \$8,050.11, Garbage Hauling 10/20; Dan Sunne, \$182.40, Mileage to Heartland winter conference; Drew Johnson, \$1,550.00, Legal fees; Harry Implement, \$21.87, Sweeper chain; Railroad Management Company, \$284.85, Crossing rent; Railroad Management Company, \$950.08, Crossing rent; Dollar General, \$95.70, Cleaners, paper products, batteries: Auto Zone, \$195.63. Filters, oil; Central Square Technologies, \$1,126.77, Annual PD tech support; Colonial Research, \$233.74, Community center wax; Running's, \$102.12, Oil, chain saw chain; Ralph Merkel, \$950.00, Tree removal; Nelson Sales and Service, \$74.00, Chain sharpening; Cole Papers, \$105.40, Paper towels; S&S Lumber, \$130.56, Propane tank, gloves, spray paint, black jack,

surance, \$77.30, Employee

cable ties, conduit, hose clamps; NW Energy, \$12.97, Natural gas; Cannon, \$4,500.00, Annual tech support for load management and meters

Department reports were reviewed

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Cutler to approve the first reading of Ordinance #740 - Amending Liquor Laws. All members voted ave.

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Fliehs to approve second reading of Ordinance #738 - 2020 Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance, All members voted aye.

Moved by Cutler and seconded by Wells to hold a Holiday Lighting Contest December 17th with 100, 75 and 50-dollar utility bill credits for the prizes. All members voted ave.

Moved by Fliehs and seconded by Wells to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal items 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 7:58pm. All members voted ave. Council reconvened into regular session at 8:46pm.

Moved by Fliehs and seconded by Wells to set the skating rink manager wage at \$10.05 per hour (2021 minimum wage + .60) plus 250 dollars a month and attendants' wages at \$9.45 per hour. All members voted aye.

Moved by Cutler and seconded by Blackmun to approve the second reading of Ordinance #739 – 2021 Salary Ordinance implementing a 2.5% wage increase for full-time employees. All members voted aye.

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Fliehs to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 pm. All members voted aye.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor Hope Block, Finance Officer Published once at the total approximate cost of \$42.90. 19504

**Groton City** Ord. 739 2021 Salaries

ORDINANCE NO. 739 An Ordinance entitled "The 2021 Salary Ordinance" amend Ordinance No. 732, being an ordinance regulating the salaries of the elective and appointive officers and employees

of the City of Groton. BE IT ORDAINED BY The City Council of the City of Groton that the 2021 salaries and time of payment are as follows for the elected and appointed officers and employees

Mayor: \$625.00, Monthly Council Members: \$3,000.00, rearly; \$125.00, Per special City

Council Meeting
Board of Equalization:

\$200.00, Yearly Planning & Zoning Commision: \$35.00, Per meeting

Planning & Zoning Commis-ion: \$70.00, Per special meeting Elected Officials: \$300.00, Per full day of additional authorized

Elected Officials: \$100.00, Per half day of additional authorized meetings

Finance Officer: \$24.45, Hourly

Deputy Finance Officer: 23.68, Hourly

Public Works Coordinator, St Water Supt.: \$30.61, Hourly Wastewater Supt.: \$27.22,

Asst Street Supt.: \$25.19, Technology Specialist :

\$26.61, Hourly Electric Supt.: \$36.96, Hourly Electric Lineman: \$22.61,

Police Chief: \$29.99, Hourly Police Officer & Assistant Chief: \$27.09, Hourly

Police Officer Level 1: \$26.13, Police Officer Level 2: \$25.24, Hourly

Full time permanent employee individual health insurance premium will be covered by the City of Groton, along with \$260 per month toward a dependant's insurance coverage provided by the City.:

The city will contribute to a med flex account at a 2 to 1 city/ employee match, with a maximum city contribution of \$400.::

The city will contribute \$2 for every \$1 the employee contributes up to \$1000 to their health savings account under the HSA health insurance option only. First Reading: 11/17/20

Second Reading: 12/1/20 Published: 12/9/20 Scott Hanlon, Mayor Hope Block, Finance Officer Published once at the total approximate cost of \$25.47. 19505

### Groeblinghoff **Death Notice**

Robert Groeblinghoff, 87, of Groton passed away Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at Avera St. Lukes Hospital, Aberdeen. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

**Groton City** Ord. 738 Supple. Approp. ORDINANCE NO. 738

2020 SUPPLEMENTAL APPRO-

RIATION ORDINANCE SECTION I:BE IT ORDAINED y the City of Groton, South Daota that the following sums are supplementally appropriated to meet the obligations of the City of Groton and shall be effective immediately following passage.

101-41470 General Financial Admin, \$18,000 101-42130 Traffic Control,

101-45124 Swimming Pool,

\$23,690 101-45130 General Baseball,

\$36,000 101-45240 Forestry, \$4,500 742-44000 Family Crisis, \$250 TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS,

SOURCE OF FUNDING

101-41470 2021 Budget, \$18,000

101-42900 Other Public Safe-

101-45124 Swimming Pool, \$23,690

101-36721 Baseball donations, \$28,671 101-45139 Baseball conces-

sions, \$12,079 TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCE,

\$82,690 Dated at Groton, South Dakota this 17th day of November

2020. Scott Hanlon, Mayor Hope Block, Finance Officer 1st Reading: 11/17/20 2nd Reading: 12/1/20 Published: 12/9/20

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$15.67. 19506

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That's Life by Tony Bender

# COVID: the good, the bad and the ugly

There are signs that mask mandates and renewed personal responsibility have slowed the number of COVID-19 cases in North Dakota.

What mandates do is offer businesses an even playing field rather than pitting them against each other as customers decide whether they'll shop at a store that has a mask policy, the unfortunate politization of a strict public health issue by the highest office in the land with no little to no pushback from the president's party. It paralyzed action on the state level as politicians quaked with fear over a reaction from a vindictive president.

Well, the election is over and guess what, COVID is still with us. It's not a hoax. It's serious business and just about everyone has lost someone they know and love. Many lives and jobs have been lost just because of politics. The ONLY

way to restore the economy is to knock this pandemic down. We can't possibly be the smartest species on the planet.

Am I salty about all this? You bet. It cost lives and livelihoods and continues to do so. It stoked division when we should have been coming together. The president had the power to do so much good and he squandered it. Instead of handling the problem, he pretended it wasn't one, and when that didn't work, he blamed others.

Okay, now that I've got that off my chest, let's deal with the reality that exists. The good news is science works and several companies have produced very promising vaccines that will roll out soon to protect the most vulnerable Americans and front-line health care workers, the true heroes in all of this.

In months, the trajectory of this pandemic will shift. Next year at this time, things will be much more normal. But we can expect a Thanksgiving bump that will overwhelm some hospitals. We've got to do better for Christmas. The impact of isolation and loneliness are welldocumented, but we can't achieve normalcy without some sacrifice now. Or just extra effort. If you insist on a family gathering, insist then too, on having everyone tested before and after.

There are plenty of free testing events in your area. Contact your District Health Unit. Insurance often covers such tests. My kids get tested before they visit me. It's not that hard, and hugs are great when they're safe.

The largest number of cases in our region are in the 17-44-year-old category—the most active and the most able to survive an infection, although anyone watching the death toll knows, there are 30-year-olds dying, too. There's an overconfidence among the youngest among us because they're not seeing the big picture. Or perhaps they just don't care. They see a low mortality rate as the be-all, end-all, but the reality is, the long-term effects to organs is shortening lifespans and limiting quality of life among survivors.

But perhaps even more devastating to the national mortality rate is that these avoidable COVID cases are overwhelming the health care system meaning that other preventable deaths from heart disease, strokes and cancer are not being prevented. There are only so many hours doctors can work, and critical health care that could save lives is being put on the back burner. It's triage, and in some places, people that could have been saved won't be.

Remember all the scare tactics about "death panels" when the Affordable Care Act was being debated? Well, here we are through our own national irresponsibility.

The next few months may well be the darkest days in this pandemic. It will take time for vaccinations to take hold, for things to turn around. In the meantime, please remember that just because you can't see the danger, it's real. You could be a victim or a spreader. Be smart. Be a good neighbor and a good friend.

We've always risen to the challenge in America, and certainly nowhere more than we have on the sometimes inhospitable Northern Plains. We endure, we tough it out. And when we're smart, we survive.

© Tony Bender, 2020

They needed overtime to do it, but the Minnesota Vikings defeated the Jacksonville Jaguars 27-24 on Sunday. The Vikings are still in the playoff hunt with a 6-6 record, but they have some tough games coming up and will need to play much better than they have been if they want to make it to the postseason. The Good

Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

The best thing you can say about the game is at least they won. Kirk Cousins had an up-and-down

game but threw for 305 yards and three touchdowns. Dalvin Cook ran for 120 yards while also catching six passes for 59 yards. Justin Jefferson caught nine passes for 121 yards and a touchdown and is now over 1,000 yards this season. He is the second rookie in Vikings' history to surpass that mark (Randy Moss), and he trails only Odell Beckham Jr. in receiving yards in a player's first 12 games in NFL history. Adam Thielen also had a solid performance after sitting out last week due to Covid-19, as he caught eight passes for 75 yards and a touchdown.

On defense, Harrison Smith filled up the stat sheet, finishing with six tackles, two pass deflections, a half-sack, and one timely interception in overtime. Eric Kendricks was a surprise scratch in this game, so rookie Troy Dye was called upon – and while he didn't have any splash plays, it was still a good day all things considered. Cameron Dantzler is another rookie who stepped up on Sunday. He had an interception and a forced fumble (which he recovered), and per Next Gen Stats, he was targeted eight times but only gave up two catches for 24 yards.

The Bad

The Vikings might have gotten a win, but it never should have been as close as it was. The Jaguars have one of the worst secondaries in the NFL, but the Vikings refused to exploit the obvious mismatch until the second half of the game. Cousins was sloppy with the ball again, turning it over twice, including a pick-six on the first play of the second half. The offensive line was bad in both pass protection and run blocking – Cousins was under pressure nearly every time he dropped back to pass, and Cook had 120 yards but it took him 32 carries to get there (3.75 yards per carry).

The Unknown

Is this Vikings team better than their record would indicate, or have they simply been lucky? Is this team the one who beat Green Bay then whooped Detroit the following week? Or is this the team who lost to the Dallas Cowboys before barely escaping with wins over Carolina and Jacksonville? The regular season is now 75 percent done, yet we still don't know what to make of this Vikings team.

Looking ahead

The Vikings will face off against former divisional foes when they travel to Tampa Bay to take on the Buccaneers. The biggest storyline this past offseason was Tom Brady leaving New England and going to Tampa Bay, and while the Bucs started the season 6-2, they have gone 1-3 over their last four games and are fighting for a playoff spot. Not only will the Vikings have to contend with an angry Tom Brady, but they'll also have to try and manufacture points against one of the better defenses in the league. This game will tell us who the Minnesota Vikings are — contenders or pretenders. Skol!

# **Find Purpose and Meaning in Retirement**

Success in life and all its phases can be measured in many ways. Some reminisce of their glory days in high school. Maybe they were captain of the football team or homecoming queen or won the state chess championship. Others excelled in college, graduated summa cum laude, were invited to all the parties, or landed the dream job. Some worked their way up the corporate ladder or took on a big loan and built a successful business over years of



hard work or taught multiple generations of students. Hopefully, most have worked and saved enough through the years to finally retire.

After accomplishing the prior phases of one's life, what does a successful retirement look like? Sure, we plan and save for retirement all the time, but when it finally comes, are we ready for the next phase of our lives?

There are many ways to thrive and enjoy retirement. Some savor time on hobbies, travel, play cards, sew, enjoy gardening, get involved in a church, or volunteer. Some make things or fix things or find a part time job and have some enjoyment while also earning a wage. Some surround themselves with family, helping to connect the generations.

Unfortunately, some do not enjoy retirement. Health issues, financial troubles, and relationship problems are just some of the ways that can make it difficult. Some people, despite the best ways of planning and saving for retirement, may have lost identity and have no idea what to do next. As in any situation, to be successful, one must find meaning and purpose.

It must be extremely hard to dedicate one's life to a calling and purpose, only to one day be told to move on. It must also be particularly challenging to have a plan for retirement, only to have those dreams set aside due to changes in health or financial hardships.

Covid-19 has certainly put a wrench in many people's plans for retirement, as well as most everyone else's plans. Certainly, with many things postponed, changed, or cancelled this last year, we have all had a chance to reconsider what we spend our time on and what things may be worth a risk.

As we enter a new year and changes ahead, whether that be retirement, a new job, a new relationship, or a new normal, I would encourage you to find purpose and meaning in what you do. When you get up for the day, set a goal or find some way to make it meaningful. That is how we will all excel in this new chapter of our lives.

Andrew Ellsworth, M.D. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices family medicine in Brookings, South Dakota. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit www.prairiedoc.org 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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### THINKING ABOUT HEALTH

### Misleading Sales Pitches for Medicare Advantage **Plans Are Everywhere**

### By Trudy Lieberman, Community Health News Service

It seems that nothing ever changes when it comes to hawking insurance to fill the gaps in Medicare coverage for seniors. The fervent sales pitches, the misinformation, and the incomplete and deceptive information continue to proliferate.

For the last several weeks I've heard ad after ad, particularly on the TV news shows, urging older viewers to call 800 numbers to learn about the latest and greatest Medicare Advantage (MA) plans. Retired football star Joe Namath says you need to "get everything you're entitled to." Namath rattles off a bunch of extra benefits MA plans offer – dental, vision, hearing, prescription drug coverage – "all at no extra cost." He urges viewers to "call the number on your screen now. It's free."

These are new benefits the government has allowed private insurers to sell in the hope of getting more seniors to leave traditional Medicare in favor of a privatized system. By transferring more costs to seniors, the government saves money.

Another commercial promises "free eyeglasses and free rides," presumably to doctors' offices. Yet another tells viewers they "may qualify" to get \$144 added back to their Social Security benefits. The Medicare Part B premium for 2021 is \$148.50, which is, presumably, what the commercial promises to save those who choose the privatized system.

I suspected those ads were misleading and deceptive come-ons, designed to persuade listeners to make the call. So I made some calls. The 800 numbers lead to an insurance brokerage firm or agency that for a Medigap policy. I've met many people over the years who bought apparently has a network of licensed agents located around the country. Callers are asked to give their zip code and then are transferred to an agent who can give the "free benefits" review.

I have heard close to 100 Medicare sales pitches over the years and know that those free consultations are meant to result in a sale whether or not the senior needs the insurance or is really getting a better plan.

Seldom is there any talk about making sure people are covered for the huge amounts doctors and hospitals sometimes charge that Medicare doesn't cover. What are the trade-offs, for example, between buying an MA plan, which pays those charges after you satisfy a large annual out of pocket maximum – next year \$6,700 per person – or buying a traditional Medigap insurance supplement Plan G, which covers those charges right away? A couple with Medicare Advantage could pay as much as \$13,400 a year before their plan would pay for anything.

Happy 60th Birthday to our family's rock! We love you very much! From your family! Birthday greetings can be sent to **Bonnie VanderVorst** 12330 411 Ave , Claremont, SD 57432

With so many choices, what's a consumer to do? I rang up Bonnie Burns, one of the best Medicare consumer advocates in the country, for advice.

"It's just too complicated," she said. "No wonder people throw up their hands. That's why people sign up for an Advantage plan with little or no premium and find out what the costs really are as they use benefits through the year." She added, "It would be so much easier if Medicare Advantage plans and drug plans were standardized so people could figure this out."

Congress' decision not to standardize Advantage plans or drug plans has resulted in today's chaotic marketplace. Congress wanted to allow every insurer in the universe to throw something out there so the companies could make money and could (https://harpers.org/ archive/2016/11/dont-touch-my-medicare/2/) entice more people to leave the traditional Medicare program. The goal was to reduce the costs to the program, all the while side-stepping any action to control run-away medical costs.

Note that Congress did standardize Medicare supplement policies – known as Medigap policies – in the early 1990s because that market was as chaotic and misleading then as the MA market is today. I like to think of that action as the high-water mark of consumer protection, and I have no illusions that anything like it will happen again anytime

One final bit of crucial advice is missing in today's ads. Even after you enroll in an MA plan, perhaps enticed by a few dollars in savings for a pair of glasses, you can return to traditional Medicare in the future. But in all but four states – New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Maine – state laws prohibit you from buying a Medigap supplement without an insurer scrutinizing your health status.

If you have developed a preexisting condition, you may be ineligible an Advantage plan, got sick, and needed to go to out of network for treatment. They learned the hard way they were shut out of the Medigap market for good.

What choices have you made for covering Medicare's gaps? Write to Trudy at trudy.lieberman@gmail.com.

# Council meeting date change

The Groton City Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 15, has been moved to Tuesday, Dec. 29, at the Groton Community Center.

### GDILIVE.COM

The following events are planned to be livestreamed on GDILIVE. COM:

Thursday, Dec. 10: Lucille Von Wald Service at 10:30 a.m., HS Christmas Concert at 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 11: GBB at Britton-Hecla, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 12: BBB hosts Britton-Hecla, 3 p.m.

BBB-GBB Double Header at Hamlin on Dec. 17

GBB hosts Redfield on Dec. 21

Elementary Christmas Concert, Dec. 22 at 10 a.m.

BBB at Redfield on Dec. 22

BBB-GBB double header at Sioux Valley (Volga) on Dec. 29



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# **Middle School Christmas Concert**



Groton Area Middle School held its Christmas Concert Tuesday evening in the GHS Gym. The junior high band, under the direction of Desiree Yeigh, performed, "Holiday Chips and Salsa," "Untitled," and "Bell Carol Rock." (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The sixth grade band, under the direction of Desiree Yeigh, performed, "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree, "Cool as a Cucumber," and "Ancient Hunters." (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The junior high choir, under the direction of Kayla Duncan, performed, "In Winter," and "Deck the Halls and Swing it." (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The sixth grade choir, under the direction of Kayla Duncan, performed, "Born, Born in Bethlehem," and "My Favorite Things." (Photo by Paul Kosel)

# The Life of Lucille Von Wald

A private family Mass of Christian Burial for Lucille Von Wald, 96, of Aberdeen, formerly of Groton, will be 10:30 A.M., on Thursday, December 10, 2020, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Groton. Concelebrating will be Father Tom Hartman and Father David Janes. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton, SD. The Mass will be broadcast live on GDILIVE. COM and will also be broadcast on GDIRADIO at 89.3FM within one mile of Groton.

Lucille passed away peacefully on December

6th with family at her side at Avera St. Luke's Hospital in Aberdeen. Lucille was born January 4, 1924 to John and Ina (Klapperich) Bertsch. She graduated from Conde High School in 1942 and was united in marriage to Lyle Von Wald on December 1, 1942. Lyle died on September 8, 2012 after almost 70 years of marriage.

Lucille was extremely outgoing and took a genuine interest in everyone she met. She had a soft spot in her heart for anyone in need. Lucille enjoyed dancing immensely. One of the high points of her life was when she and other audience members, tap danced on a Broadway theater stage in New York City. Lucille's faith in God was very strong. It was her wish to be buried in a simple wooden casket that she designed and her husband, Lyle, made by hand. She was quite proud of that as it represented the distillation of her view about the relative importance of the material vs the spiritual in life, which was one of her tantamount concerns. She was an inspiration to her entire family whom she loved dearly. She will be sorely missed.

Surviving her are her sons, Jack (Diann) Von Wald of Aberdeen, Dave (Sheila) Von Wald of Hoven, Greg (Nancy) Von Wald of Rapid

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City, and Jeff Von Wald and Michael Levy of Mt. Kisco, New York. She is also survived by her grandchildren John (Lisa) Von Wald of Selby, Monica (Scott) Kuck of Aberdeen, Tiffany Von Wald (Jason Knudtson) of Sioux Falls, TJ (Jane) Von Wald of Sioux Falls, Jacqueline (Joe) Beadle of Mobridge, Amy (Bill) Hohenecker of Plymouth, Minnesota, Stephanie (Pete) Schwartzbauer of Edina, Minnesota, Heather (Zach) Baymiller of Sioux Falls, Sarah Von Wald of Aberdeen, and Ryan Von Wald of Rapid City, along with 29 great grandchildren. Also surviving her are her brothers, Jerry (Mavis) Bertsch, Tom (Edith) Bertsch, and brother-in-law Jim Rentz.

Preceding her in death was her husband, her parents, her brothers, Leo, Floyd, Lyle, and Jim Bertsch and her sisters, Genevieve Hoops, Dorothy Schley, Alice Rentz and Veronica Bertsch.

The Life of Mary Walter

Services for Mary Walter, 65, of Groton and formerly of Pierre was held Friday, December 4, 2020 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton. The Rev. Andrew Wolfgram officiated. Burial followed in Union Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Services were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM and was also broadcasted on GDIRADIO at 89.3 FM, available within 1 mile of Groton.

Visitation was held for one hour prior to services at the church.

Mary Jane Erdmann was born to Gerhardt & Orlean Erdmann on April 2, 1955. She was their fourth daughter. She grew up at the family farm located on the Brown County line near

Verdon, SD. She was baptized May 15, 1955 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ferney, SD. Her childhood Sunday mornings were spent with her family of 7 heading to church in a car that seated 5. She was confirmed in the Lutheran faith on April 17, 1969 at St. Paul's. Her confirmation verse was John 3:16.Her schooling started at the Garden Prairie Verdon school, continued at Groton until graduating from GHS in 1973, and she attended USD, Vermillion for one year.

On August 22, 1974, she married Terry Walter. To this union, two sons were born: Tate Austin Walter and Paul Vernon Walter.

Mary started her employment with South Dakota Highway Patrol in Pierre in February 1976, as a data encoder. She had many promotions with responsibilities added until she became their Business Manager in 1993. She worked under 8 Superintendents. There is no one that loved the SDHP more than Mary. She retired on 6/30/2020 after 44 years of service. Her final message to the South Dakota Highway Patrol upon her retirement was "Be Smart—Be Safe—Be Somebody". They were her family.

She battled esophageal cancer for 3 years spending her last 1-1/2 years at the home of Bill & Eileen Schuelke. Mary passed on November 30, 2020

Survivors are: sons, Tate (Olivia) Walter, and granddaughters, Emma, and Sophie, Peoria, AZ; Paul (Nichole Galbavy) Walter & Chantalle Galbavy, Groton, SD; sisters, Eileen (Bill) Schuelke, Groton, SD; Charlotte Erdmann, West Lafayette, IN; Barbara Whicker, West Lafayette, IN; and Helen (David) Gerhard, Green Bay, WI; special friend, Jean Walter, Groton, SD and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and brother, Jan Gary Erdmann.

Pallbearers were Members of the South Dakota Highway Patrol. Sincere thankfulness goes to Avera Hospice who provided loving care for Mary so faithfully two separate times. Her family and she

appreciated their listening ear to her needs, as well as their devotion and kindness.



Members of the South Dakota HIghway Patrol were present Friday to serve as pallbearers and to pay their final respect to Mary Walter. Walter's funeral was held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Groton. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)