



# The Groton Independent

Vol. 138 No. 17 ♦ Groton, South Dakota ♦ Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2020 ♦ Established in 1889



## Show Choir Video Archived

Last Sunday the Groton Show Choir had a rehearsal for the parents at the GHS Gym. We recorded the event and the video is posted the archived videos under "Other Events." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)



## Deacon Jeff leaving local parish

Deacon Jeffrey James Schulte has left the St. Elizabeth Seton & St. Joseph Parish Family this past weekend. Father Tom Hartman said on the parish Facebook Page, "We hate to lose Deacon Jeff but it's time to say goodbye. Deacon Jeff will leave after this weekend to go home for Christmas. From there back to St Louis to finish his last semester. God willing he will be ordained a priest in May. Thanks Deacon Jeffrey James Schulte for serving our parish families!"

Deacon Jeffrey James Schulte is pictured with his yard sign as he leaves Groton. On his facebook page, he said, "Thank you all for making my time in Groton/Turton so wonderful! I will miss you all." (Photo from Deacon Jeff's FB Page)

## Spotlight on Groton Area Staff

**Name:** Kyle Gerlach

**Occupation:** Special Education Paraprofessional

**Length of Employment:** 2018-2020

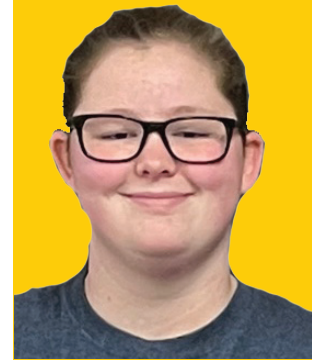


Kyle Gerlach is a relatively new staff member at Groton Area High School. He has been working as both a Paraprofessional in the Learning Lab and an Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach. Kyle Gerlach has only lived in Brown County for about 3 years. Before coming to Brown County, he attended Mount Vernon High School and graduated in 2003. After graduating from high school, he obtained his degree in Physical Education from Oklahoma Wesleyan University in 2008.

As part of his work as a resident Assistant Coach for the Boys' Basketball team of Groton, Kyle often has to coordinate with his students and learn about their personal dynamics. Mr. Gerlach has always had a love for sports and enjoys teaching students and decided to combine his passions when he started working towards completing his college education. His favorite sport is Basketball, coinciding with the sport he trains students to compete in as a coach. Mr. Gerlach is looking forward to hopefully seeing his team succeed in the upcoming season!

- Benjamin Higgins

## December Groton Area Students of the Month



**Samantha Pappas**  
Senior



**Kennedy Anderson**  
Junior



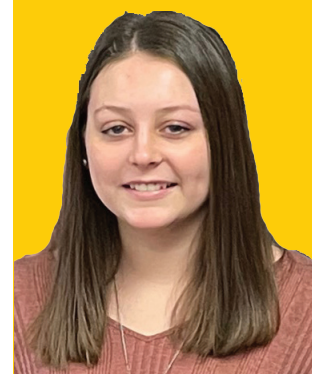
**Faith Traphagen**  
Eighth Grade



**Jackson Dinger**  
Sophomore



**Jaedyn Penning**  
Seventh Grade



**Shae Jendel**  
Freshman



**Liby Althoff**  
Sixth Grade



# Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday!



**The children of Ivan Morehouse are requesting a card shower in honor of his 90th birthday on January 8th. Cards may be sent to Ivan Morehouse PO Box 337 Bristol, SD 57219**

## The Groton Independent

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## Junior high girls teams beat Redfield

Groton Area's junior high girls' basketball teams hosted Redfield on Friday and both teams won their games.

The seventh graders won, 43-3. Jerica Locke led the Tigers with 12 points followed by Rylee Dunker with eight, Mia Crank had six, Carly Gilbert five, Jaedyn Penning and Olivia Steigelmeier with four each and Talli Wright and Cali Tollifson each had two points

The eighth graders won, 44-2. Laila Roberts led Groton Area with 20 points followed by Elizabeth Flihs with seven, Emma Kutter had five, Faith Traphagen and Kennedy Hansen each had four and Ashley Johnson and Brooklyn Hansen each added two points.

Both games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM. The seventh grade game was sponsored by Locke Electric and the eighth grade game was sponsored by Ed and Connie Stauch.

The girls finish the season today by hosting Mobridge-Pollock starting at 1 p.m. The games will also be broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, with the seventh grade sponsored by Bob and Vicki Walter and the eighth grade game by the eighth grade parents.

## JH teams drop close games to Mobridge-Pollock

The Groton Area seventh and eighth grade teams hosted Mobridge-Pollock on Saturday and both teams lost in a close battle. Mobridge-Pollock won the seventh grade game, 26-22. The lead changed hands five times and the game was tied twice before Mobridge-Pollock pulled ahead in the third quarter. Groton Area led, 8-7, after the first quarter, it was tied at 14 at half time and Mobridge-Pollock led, 20-18, after the third quarter.

Ryliee Dunker led Groton Area with eight points while Jerica Locke and Mia Crank each had six and Cali Tollifson added two points. Groton Area was two of nine from the line. Mobridge-Pollock was three of five from the line. The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Bob and Vicki Walter.

Groton Area led for most of the game in the eighth grade contest, leading by as much as six at 21-15. But then a drought set up and Groton Area would not score for the rest of the game while Mobridge-Pollock kept pecking away at the lead until it was tied at 21 at the end of regulation. The game went into overtime and Mobridge-Pollock scored the lone goal to post a 23-21 win.

Laila Roberts led Groton Area with eight points while Faith Traphagen had six, Brooklyn Hansen, Kennedy Hansen and Emma Kutter each had two points and Elizabeth Flihs had one.

Groton Area was three of 15 from the line and Mobridge-Pollock was one of seven.

The eighth grade was also broadcast on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by the eighth grade parents.

This was the season finale for Groton Area's junior high program.

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## Groton Area's boys basketball teams posted a triple win Tuesday in Redfield

The afternoon started with a 38-23 win in the C game. Colby Dunker and Logan Ringgenberg each had 10 points, Teylor Diegel eight, Cade Larson six, Holden Sippel three and Kaleb Hoover added a free throw. Kyle Woodring led Redfield with seven points.

Then the junior varsity team won, 37-29. Jayden Zak led the Tigers with 17 points while Wyatt Hearnen had 12, Favian Sanchez seven, Cade Larson six and Colby Dunker five. Zak made three three-pointers while Sanchez made two and Larson one.

Both of those games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM sponsored by the White House Inn of Aberdeen. The games are now archived at 397news.com where GDI subscribers will have access to the videos.

Then in the varsity game, Groton Area held off a last minute rally to hand the Pheasants their first loss, 61-59. Redfield never led in the contest, but it was tied twice early in the game at three and five. Groton Area took a 17-10 lead at the end of the first quarter and a 29-20 lead at halftime. The Tigers rallied to a 50-35 lead going into the fourth quarter. Redfield staged a rally late in the game as three players made a three-pointer down the stretch. Redfield closed to within two, 59-57, with 11 seconds left. Jayden Zak made two free throws to make it 61-57. The Pheasants scored in six seconds and fouled. Groton Area missed two free throws with five seconds left. A last second shot was partially blocked and the Tigers hung on for the win.

Tate Larson led Groton Area with 16 points while Lane Tietz and Jacob Zak each had 10, Cole Simon, Jayden Zak and Tristan Traphagen each had seven and Isaac Smith came in during the fourth quarter to score four insurance baskets.

Jaxson Frankenstein led the Pheasants with 20 points followed by Paul Juarez with nine, Isaac Suchor eight, Jerron Haider, Peyton Osborn and Ivan Blume each had six and Thomas Shantz added five.

Groton Area made 20 of 34 two-pointers for 59 percent, six of 20 three-pointers for 30 percent, was three of nine from the line for 33 percent off of Redfield's 15 team fouls, had 14 rebounds with Traphagen having nine, 11 assists with Tietz having four and Jacob Zak three, and Traphagen and Cole Simon each had a block.

Redfield had 15 turnovers, six of which were steals with Simon having two. The Pheasants were 24 of 50 in field goals shooting for 48 percent and were four of six from the line for 67 percent off of Groton Area's 11 team fouls.

The varsity game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM sponsored by Bierman Farm Sales, John Sieh Agency, Milbrandt Enterprises, Still Massage Therapy & Yoga Studio (Mary Johnson), Harr Motors (Bary Keith), Blocker Construction, Groton Vet Clinic, Allied Climate Professionals (Kevin Nehls).

Groton Area's basketball teams will travel to Sioux Valley (Volga) next Tuesday. The games will begin at 1 p.m. with the Boys C game, followed by the JV girls, JV boys, varsity girls and varsity boys.

- Paul Kose

## Girls JV wins, Varsity loses to Redfield

The Lady Tigers hosted Redfield on Monday where the Tigers split a pair of games with the Pheasants.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 31-28. Groton Area scored 17 unanswered points in the second half to overcome a 20-14 deficit and then took a 31-20 lead en route to a 31-28 win. Sydney Leich led Groton Area with 11 points while Carly Guthmiller and Emma Schinkel each had five, Laila Roberts and Kennedy Hanson and Sara Menzia each had two points. Gracie Fast led Redfield with 18 points.

Redfield won the varsity game, 50-28. The Pheasants led at the quarter stops at 11-7, 22-14 and 35-22. Kenzie McInerney had nine points, Alyssa Thaler and Sydney Leicht each had six, Emma Schinkel three and Aspen Johnson and Gracie Traphagen each had two points.

Groton Area made five of 32 two-pointers, six of 25 three-pointers, did not attempt any free throws, had 23 rebounds with Gracie Traphagen and Aspen Johnson each having seven, 10 turnovers, eight assists with Traphagen having four, six steals with Traphagen and Sydney Leicht each having two, 13 team fouls and Alyssa Thaler and Kenzie McInerney each had a blocked shot.

Redfield made 17 of 45 field goals, 11 of 13 free throws and had six team fouls and 12 turnovers.

Both games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM. The junior varsity game was sponsored by Dan and Marjae Schinkel while the varsity game was sponsored by Bierman Farm Sales, John Sieh Agency, Milbrandt Enterprises, Still Massage Therapy & Yoga Studio (Mary Johnson), Harr Motors (Bary Keith), Blocker Construction, Groton Vet Clinic, Allied Climate Professionals (Kevin Nehls).

- Paul Kose

## Larson propels Tigers in win over Hamlin

It was a full slate of games at Hamlin High School Thursday night with six of the seven games broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM.

The junior high teams won their games. The seventh graders won their game, 44-5, with Locke Electric being the sponsor of that game. The eighth graders won their game, 33-13, with the White House Inn sponsoring that game. The boys C team lost their game, 51-31.

The girls junior varsity team lost, 44-13. That game was sponsored by BK Custom T's and More (through Shane and Laura Clark). Sydney Leight and Carly Guthmiller each had four points while Anna Fjeldheim had three and Lydia Meier two.

The junior varsity boys lost their game, 35-24. That game was sponsored by Weber Landscaping. Hamlin scored the last nine points to pull away for the win. The game was tied four times and there were four lead changes. Jayden Zak led the Tigers with eight points followed by Wyatt Hearnen with six, Logan Ringgenberg four, Cade Larson and Colby Dunker each had two points and Jordan Bjerke had one.

Both varsity games were sponsored by Bierman Farm Service; John Sieh Agency; Milbrandt Enterprises Inc.; Still Massage Therapy & Yoga Studio, Webster, with Mary Johnson; Harr Motors with Bary Keith; Blocker Construction; Groton Vet Clinic; Allied Climate Professionals with Kevin Nehls; Northeast Chiropractic with Taylor Anderson.

The Lady Tigers took on third rated Hamlin and nearly pulled off an upset win. The lead changed hands three times in the first quarter before the Chargers took a 9-7 lead at the end of the first quarter. Hamlin charged ahead in the second quarter and led it at half time, 21-10. Hamlin opened up a 14-point lead at the end of the third quarter, 32-19. Hamlin only scored four points in the fourth quarter as Groton Area lit the nets on fire as Brooke Gengerke scored seven points in the fourth quarter followed by Allyssa Locke with four and Alyssa Thaler with three. Groton Area closed to within one, 34-33, with 1:33 left in the game, but could not quite get over the hump as the Chargers hung on to win, 36-33.

Gengerke led the Tigers in scoring with 13 points followed by Thaler with 11, Locke four, Sydney Leight three and Kenzie McInerney two. Thaler and Gengerke each made three three-pointers and Leicht made one.

Kami Wadsworth led Hamlin with 15 points.

Groton Area made six of 12 two-pointers for 50 percent, seven of 27 three-pointers for 26 percent, had only one free throw opportunity and missed that shot, Gracie Traphagen had nine of the team's 23 rebounds, Groton Area had 14 turnovers, Gengerke had one steal and Thaler, Gengerke and McInerney each had two of the team's nine assists. Hamlin made 14 of 37 field goals, three of nine free throws and had five turnovers.

The finale was a Groton Area 58-53 win in the boys varsity game. Hamlin jumped out to a 14-4 first quarter lead. Trailing by as much as 12 points in the second quarter, 24-12, Groton Area would score the next 13 points to take a 25-24 lead at half time. There were three lead changes in the third quarter and the game was tied three times before Hamlin took a 40-34 lead into the fourth quarter. The Tigers made 10 of 14 free throws in the fourth quarter to help them regain the lead. The game was tied at 51 with 1:25 left in the game. The Tigers secured a four-point lead at 55-51 and then hung on to win, 58-53.

Tate Larson was eight of 10 under the basket and scored 11 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter to lead the Tigers. Jayden Zak and Lane Tietz each had 12 points, Tristan Traphagen had eight and Jacob Zak and Wyatt Hearnen each had two points.

Groton Area made 18 of 34 field goals for 53 percent, one of nine three-pointers for 11 percent, was 19 of 30 from the line off of Hamlin's 27 team fouls, Traphagen had nine of the team's 32 rebounds, Tietz and Jacob Zak each had three of the team's nine assists, Jacob Zak, Larson and Hearnen each had two of the team's nine steals and Traphagen, Larson and Hearnen each had one block shot.

Hamlin made 31 of 52 shots, six of 11 three throws off of Groton Area's 12 team fouls, and had 12 turnovers.

- Paul Kose



### Groton Wells Fargo Branch to close

Customers who have used the Groton Branch of Wells Fargo received a letter this week indicating that the branch is set to permanently close. The letter states that the bank will close at noon on March 24, 2021.





## Challenges and Opportunities: A Look Back on 2020

2020 has been a year to remember, seemingly for all the wrong reasons. COVID-19 devastated families across our country. In other states, violent riots and looting tore communities apart. And it seems like political divisions are only increasing. But as I look back on 2020, I want to focus on South Dakota's opportunities. I want to highlight some of the tremendous things that we accomplished together this year.

South Dakota experienced a truly incredible year. Despite the pandemic forcing businesses to adjust their practices, we're wrapping up this year in perhaps the strongest economic position in the country. Our unemployment rate is back down to 3.5%. Our businesses cut the fewest hours and the fewest wages of any state in America, and they also had the lowest decrease in demand for their products and services. South Dakota's economy took a hit when COVID came, just like every state, but we've come roaring back stronger than ever before.

Unlike much of the country, South Dakota is seeing increasing tax revenues. In fact, we ended the 2020 fiscal year with a budget surplus and are able to look ahead to 2021 from a position of strength, which allows us to find ways to strengthen our state even further.

Much of this is a result of the unique approach that South Dakota took to this virus. We didn't order businesses to close. I didn't demand

that you all shelter-in-place. I didn't even define what an essential business was; I don't have the authority to do that. Instead, I gave you the science, facts, and data, and the people of our great state overwhelmingly responded. Thank you for validating my trust in you.

In 2020, we strengthened families in South Dakota. We implemented paid family leave for all state employees so that they can invest in their families by taking the necessary time to develop stronger bonds with newborn and adopted children. When there were doubts about returning to classrooms in the fall, we worked together to make sure that we could get our students back to school in as safe a manner as possible so that they can be in the very best learning environment. And we'll continue working to strengthen South Dakota families in 2021.

2020 was a great year for South Dakota's outdoors. We had a record number of visitors to our state parks. In fact, Custer State Park eclipsed 2 million visitations for the first time in its history. Hunting and fishing participation increased, reversing a long trend. Both resident and non-resident hunting licenses went up, and I'm particularly excited that we had a record number of licenses sold for youth mentored hunting.

South Dakota had a tremendous opportunity to showcase its outdoor beauty in 2020 when we brought fireworks back to Mount Rushmore for the first time in more than a decade. We welcomed President Trump to our shrine to democracy. It was a celebration our country sorely needed, and it was a terrific reminder of the freedoms that make America the most special country the world has ever seen.

In retrospect, 2020 was a great year because of its challenges. Challenges give us the opportunity to adapt; to become stronger; to learn and grow as individuals and as a state. 2020 challenged me as a leader, but I'm grateful for that. In South Dakota, we emerged from challenges stronger than ever before. I'm so excited for what we'll do together in 2021.

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### That's Life by Tony Bender

and India were weeping. I knew.

The first was the old Finn who I met at the river on summer days to catch fish. He spoke not a word of English, not to me, anyway, but our conversations were rich with sign language, smiles, and frowns of exasperation. They found him hanging from a tree not far from the river. Cancer, they said, and he feared doctors more than the end. I didn't judge. Couldn't. But I missed him.

There have been others; coworkers, schoolmates. Famous people, the Twilight of the Idols. Closer to home was Paul, my stepfather Jim's grandson, and I'm not sure the pain ever left Jim's eyes. Then, Dylan's best friend Quinn, who some years after he moved away, ended his life. We both think about him a lot. His goodness. The way he encouraged Dylan, a marginal wrestler at best, while Quinn won them all. "You're getting better, Dylan," he said with a hug after every match for my downcast son who didn't quite believe it. And I'm sure he was there when Dylan finally won one. Oh, Quinn, if only you knew how much joy you brought us and how much sadness you left behind. There's a hole in the universe so massive and perverse it swallows black holes. I know.

I have known once, just once, the darkness that causes us to lose sight of all else, the light, hope, a billion reasons for trusting that things can get better. Somehow, by that noisy Rocky Mountain stream, surrounded by clouds and snowcapped mountains, an orange orb floating above, I'd lost sight of the light. Miserable in my marriage, in such dark place, for a moment as I ignored the beauty around me, I glanced at the case with the 9mm automatic inside. It could be over in a moment, I thought for just a moment—the smallest increment in which time can be measured. But then came a vision of a tow-headed son back home, that look of worshipful adoration in his eyes, undeserved and yet so welcome. Necessary even. He needed me and I needed him. Maybe we saved each other.

So I know.  
I know because I know how both sides think, even if was just a glimpse from the dark side. The other side is even darker. For now. For now. But there is the promise of light and life and the certainty that all the good memories will eclipse this one.

I already miss the times I would have spent with Grant. Maybe at my dinner table. That vibe. That wry sense of humor. Even the mystery. India will miss him, too, even though they were on the periphery of each other's lives. They both could sing the birds down from the trees.

I know.  
Even if it's just a glimpse, I know.  
But I won't judge.

© Tony Bender, 2020

### I won't judge

The sidewalk was so broken I couldn't help but step on some of the cracks. Sorry, Mom. The wind reminded me it's December or a harsh spring. And I was thinking. Walking. Walking and thinking. Mourning, really.

I didn't know Grant well. Well enough to know the aura of kindness and vulnerability he gave off, the wink hidden in his smile and the deep thoughtfulness in his eyes. His dad, Rolf, I know, and as a father, I understand the loss. Or at least I can glimpse it from here.

One time. One time, as an angry teen (and we all are) Dylan threatened suicide, and it nearly killed me. I held him by the collar, lost in an emotion somewhere between anger and fear and understanding. "Do you know what that would do to us?" I said, pointing up the stairs where his mother

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The Minnesota Vikings' playoff hopes were dealt a serious blow on Sunday after the team lost 33-27 to the Chicago Bears. Technically, the Vikings have a four percent chance of reaching the postseason, but let's be real... the Vikings don't belong anywhere near the playoffs this season. And that's ok. Hopefully, with an offseason to make some roster improvements and injured players returning, the Vikings can get back into the playoff picture next season.



By Jordan Wright

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**Offense**

The Chicago Bears' defensive backfield was heavily depleted, yet the Vikings rarely if ever took advantage through the first three-quarters of the game. The offensive line is the main reason the Vikings were gun shy on Sunday, as Cousins was under pressure on 40 percent of his dropbacks. For context, the Vikings are 5-1 this season when Cousins is pressured less than 40% of the time. With a porous offensive line, Cousins has been trying to speed up his decision making to compensate, which has had mixed results so far. The coaching staff also has some blame for the loss – they've known all year the o-line (particularly the interior) has been bad and should have called better plays.

Kirk Cousins: 24/35, 271 yards, 2 TD, 1 INT, 1 fumble

Dalvin Cook: 24 carries, 132 yards, 1 TD

Justin Jefferson: 8 receptions, 104 yards

**Defense**

It's hard to place too much blame on the Vikings' defense, even after a poor performance like what we saw against the Chicago Bears. After losing Danielle Hunter, Eric Kendricks, and Anthony Barr to injury, the Vikings have no one who can consistently put pressure on the passer. To make matters worse, the Vikings are extremely young at cornerback (a position that is notoriously difficult to grasp in Mike Zimmer's defense). Usually, you can overcome poor play at one of those positions; if you have inexperienced corners, put some pressure on the quarterback – if you can't generate a pass rush, have lockdown corners. Unfortunately for the Vikings, they can do neither of those things, making it way too easy for opposing offenses.

With that being said, many young defensive players have begun to show some promise. Both Jeff Gladney and Cameron Dantzler have had some good moments at corner this season, and rookie defensive end D.J. Wonnum is making plays every week.

**Players of the game**

Linebacker Todd Davis, who was filling in for the injured Eric Kendricks, really stuffed the stat sheet on Sunday. Davis finished the game with eight tackles, the team's only sack, a QB hit, a tackle for a loss, and a pass deflection.

Cameron Dantzler, who had the play of the game, is another player who deserves some recognition. With three minutes left in the fourth quarter, the Bears had marched down the field and had third-and-goal at the Vikings' six-yard-line. The Vikings were down three points and needed someone to make a play, which is where Dantzler comes in. Mitch Trubisky threw a pass into the corner of the endzone, but Dantzler was ready for it, reaching up and snagging the interception. The Vikings suddenly had hope, needing a touchdown to win or a field goal to tie the game and go to overtime with the momentum. In true Vikings fashion, the offense failed to pick up a first down and the game was over.

Looking ahead, the Vikings sail to New Orleans and will try to sack the Saints. This game will be on Christmas Day and will air on Fox starting at 3:30 PM (CT). The Vikings have played well against the Saints over the past few years, but ESPN is giving New Orleans a 71.9% chance to win this matchup. Vikings will be hoping for a Christmas Day miracle. Skol!

**Look for the Light**

Depending on where you live, it looks like we may not have a "picture perfect" white Christmas this year. It seems fitting given the many things about 2020 which were not what we imagined, let alone "perfect."

While the holidays can be a season of happiness and joy, for many they are accompanied by anger and sorrow. Missing loved ones from the past, remembering relationships that soured, thinking of hopes and dreams that never materialized can make customarily joyous Christmas carols sound like fingernails on a chalkboard.

It can be hard to appear festive when inside we feel down. It may be tempting to hold our fears, failures, and bad thoughts to ourselves. Indeed, we may not want to broadcast our problems to the world, however, hiding and suppressing our feelings is not what the doctor recommends. Letting things build up and fester is not a good idea whether it be a boil on our skin or a strong emotion.

If you are feeling low, talk to someone. Call a family member or a friend. If you do not have a particular person in mind, talk to a counselor, your doctor, your pastor, or call 1-800-273-TALK. It can also help to put your thoughts on paper. The point here is to let it out, identify it, talk, or write about it, and disarm it. Do not let dark thoughts overwhelm you and control you.

Exercise can help, too. Moving your body triggers your brain to release endorphins, the brain chemicals that facilitate feeling good. Activity gets your mind off things that cause you to worry and on to a brighter, healthier cycle of thoughts.

Meditation, prayer, or yoga may be helpful. If you are not sure how to meditate, consider watching a how-to video on YouTube. Reach out to a church leader for guidance on prayer. If you've never done yoga, contact a local yoga studio or sign up for a class online.

People do care about you. I know there are many caring people in our communities. We see them unselfishly serve others time and time again. But they may need someone to talk to as well. If we all strive to open up to the people around us, we may find that we are all feeling a mix of emotions during the holidays.

Yes, the days are short, and the darkness is long, but it will not last. December 21 marks the first day of winter and the shortest day of the year, after which the days get longer, and light extends the day. This year, on this same day, something called a "Great Conjunction" will occur. The planets Jupiter and Saturn will appear the closest they have been in almost 400 years. To the naked eye, they will look like one, bright star, thus earning the nickname the "Christmas Star." Years ago, a star guided wise men toward a new hope. We too, can look for the light in and around us, bringing hope to our days ahead.

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](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.



By Andrew Ellsworth, MD ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

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# Groton Area Elementary Christmas Program



The elementary Christmas program was held Tuesday at the Groton Area Elementary Gym. The event was livestreamed on GDILIVE.COM as no members of the public were allowed due to COVID-19. The fifth graders sang, "That's Christmas to me" and "Rockin around the Christmas Tree." (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The fourth graders sang, "It's the most wonderful time of the year" and "Christmas comes this time each year." (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The third graders sang, "Beautiful Christmas" and "Sleigh Ride." (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The second graders sang, "Let it snow" and "Regifted." (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The first graders sang, "All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth" and "Reindeer fly." (Photo by Paul Kosel)





The junior kindergarten and kindergarten students sang, "All I want is a hippopotamus," and "Rudolph the red nose reindeer." The elementary program was directed by Kayla Duncan. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Addison Hoeft, Ryder Schelle and Jonah Theisen were the masters for ceremony for the Groton Area Elementary Christmas Program. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



*Merry Christmas from our house to yours!*

Paul, Tina, Julianna and Jeslyn Kosel

The Groton Independent / GDILIVE.COM



## Brown County Dec. 15, 2020

### Meeting Minutes

DECEMBER 15, 2020 – GENERAL MEETING

Meeting called to order by Commission Vice Chair Fjeldheim at 8:45 A.M. in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. Present were Commissioners Feickert, Wiese and Sutton. Commissioner Kippley was absent. Commissioner Wiese led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**  
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert 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 December 8, 2020. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

Machinery/Equipment: Karl Chevrolet \$41,303.41; Professional Fees: Avera St. Lukes \$1,386.61; Brown County Treasurer \$300.00; Certified Languages International \$645.15; Computer Forensic Resources \$1,350.00; Marv Ekeren \$18.00; Michelle Gaikowski \$20.40; GBR Interpreting & Translation \$120.00; Gellhaus & Gellhaus \$80.00; Christopher A. Haar \$34.00; Helms & Associates Inc \$71,494.40; Mark Katterhagen \$60.00; Kuck Law Office \$7.40; Language Line Services Inc \$2,805.19; Lewis & Clark BHS \$184.00; Lucy Lewno \$640.00; Lincoln County Treasurer \$230.65; Darcy Lockwood \$42.00; Microfilm Imaging Systems Inc \$1,360.00; Minnehaha County Treasurer \$589.84; NE Mental Health Center \$1,912.00; Christy Griffin-Serr Law Office \$9,507.62; University of North Dakota \$2,380.00; Yankton County Sheriff Office \$50.00; Yankton County Treasurer \$122.50. Publishing: Aberdeen American News \$601.47; Groton Independent \$85.81; King Midas Inc \$14,490.00. Repairs & Maintenance: Aberdeen Plumbing & Heating \$743.50; Dakota Doors \$62.14; Double D Body Shop \$83.39; MB LLC \$491.00; Hoven Auto Repair \$36.00; J Gross Equipment \$1,696.25; Midwest Pump & Tank \$97.50; Pumps Tire Service Inc \$96.50; Steven Lust Chevrolet \$126.43; Titan Machinery \$620.46; Woodman Refrigeration Inc \$113.27. Supplies: Agetra Agtegra Co-operative \$7,975.12; Century Business Products \$54.34; Cole Papers \$347.89; Crescent Electric Supply \$622.35; Dakota Doors \$45.00; Dakota Electronics \$352.00; Dakota Oil \$184.80; Aberdeen Medical Center Pharmacy \$5,498.13; East Side Jersey Dairy Inc \$485.75; Fedex \$46.32; House of Glass \$199.48; Hoven Auto Repair \$630.08; J Gross Equipment \$1,941.75; Ken's Superfair Foods \$43.09; Lang's Audio TV & Appliance \$119.99; Lucy Lewno \$26.00; Menards \$55.72; Midwest Pump & Tank \$281.21; Northern Valley Communication \$26.76; Pauer Sound & Music Inc \$220.00; Pharmchem \$171.30; Precision Kiosk Technologies \$360.00; Quality Welding \$120.32; Runnings \$729.66; Russ Bassett Corp \$69,734.90; Sander's Sew-N-Vac \$380.95; Satellite Tracking of People \$991.25; Web Water Bottling Company \$26.00. Travel & Conference: City of Groton \$111.24. Utilities: City of Aberdeen \$372.51; Qwest Corporation \$132.99; City of Hecla \$203.41; Economy Propane LLC \$585.20; James Valley Telecommunication \$222.30; Midcontinent Communications \$115.00; Northern Electric Coop \$86.00; Northwestern Energy & Communication \$226.13; Northern Valley Communication \$1,236.50; Web Water Development Assoc. \$90.17. Other: Deanna Castillo \$80.00; James River Account \$31,872.86; Safe Harbor \$741.50; SD Association of County Officials \$1,398.00; SD Dept of Revenue & Regulation \$647,089.51. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**HR REPORT:**

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to approve the following HR Report: Acknowledge resignation of Tremell Anderson, Brown County Jail Correctional Officer, full-time; effective December 2nd, 2020 and approve request to fill vacancy. Acknowledge resignation of Joseph Kretschman, Brown County Jail Correctional Officer, full-time; effective December 21,

2020. Approve hiring of Kristin Boeshans, as Brown County Museum Curatorial Assistant for Education, part-time; starting at \$14.00 per hour January 4, 2020. Approve request to hire part-time Human Resource Assistant. Approve request to transfer Josh Goetzl, Brown County JDC Correctional Officer, from part-time to full-time effective December 14, 2020 at \$16.65 per hour. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**SHERIFF REPORTS:**  
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the following November 2020 Sheriff Reports: Incidents and offenses, Prisoner care, JDC, and Money deposited with the County Treasurer. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**FIRST READING – ORDINANCE 182:**

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve first reading of the following propose ordinance 182: Application has been made by Darnell Rainford and Bryan Crawford to the Brown County Board of Commissioners for a change of zoning 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). All member present voting aye. Motion carried.

**CLOSING AUDIT CONFERENCE – FY 2019:**

Toby Qualm, with Department of Legislative Audits, met with the Commission for closing conference for audit of fiscal year 2019. An unqualified audit opinion with no written findings was presented.

**BIG GRANT APPLICATION:**

**RESOLUTION #76 - 20BRIDGE IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS WHEREAS, Brown County wishes to submit an application for consideration of award for the Bridge Improvement Grant Program: Structure Number 07-110-057 1.8N and 0.7E of Frederick, SD and WHEREAS, Brown County certifies that the project is listed in the county's Five-Year County Highway and Bridge Improvement Plan; and WHEREAS, Brown County agrees to pay 20% match on the Bridge Improvement Grant funds; and WHEREAS, Brown County hereby authorizes the Bridge Improvement Grant application and any required funding commitments. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the South Dakota Department of Transportation be and hereby is requested to accept the attached Bridge Improvement Grant application. Roll call vote Commissioner Feickert – aye, Sutton – aye, Wiese – aye, Fjeldheim – aye, Kippley – absent. Resolution adopted.**

**CULVERT BID:**  
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve purchase of culverts off Beadle County Bid awarded to True North Steel. Bid documents are available for public inspection at the Brown County Auditor's Office. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION BID:**  
Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve purchase of crane work, laborers, and driven piling off Yankton County bid awarded to Holloway Bridge and Culvert, Inc. Bid documents are available for public inspection at the Brown County Auditor's Office. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**EMPLOYEE LEAVE POLICY:**  
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve switching the county from a vacation and sick paid leave policy to a paid time off policy. Employees with twenty plus years of service that are over the maximum accrual will have the choice to get the difference paid out or use the leave before July 1, 2021. The adopted policy is available for public inspection at the Brown County Auditor's Office. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**LANDFILL SOUTH DUMPSITE-PROJECT UPDATE:**  
Mike Scott (landfill manager) met to present an update on the south dumpsite move. Proposed project consists of building a new 1.4 acre containment site to replace the existing site at the Aberdeen Rural Fire Station with an estimated cost of \$675,521.00. Area landowners were present and voiced support of the new dumpsite. No action taken.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**  
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to go into executive session to discuss personnel, contracts, and legal per SDCL 1-25-2(1,3,4). All members present voting aye. Motion carried. The Chair declared executive session closed with no action taken.

**ADJOURNMENT:**  
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:17a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor  
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$86.10. 19574

## Frederick Town Dec. 21, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Town of Frederick  
App Ordinance #215 2nd Reading

The 2nd Reading of Appropriations Ordinance #215 was held Monday Noon in the Frederick Community Center. Chairman R.S. Campbell, Board Members Troy Millard and Jeff Kosters, Assistant Finance Officer Mariah Heine and Finance Officer Diane Bruns attended. The meeting was opened by Chairman Campbell leading in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Kosters, seconded by Millard to pass the 2nd reading of App Ord #215. Roll call voting; Campbell: Aye, Kosters: Aye, Millard: Aye. Motion Carried.

A motion to rescind approval of Change Order #3 passed at the regular city meeting on December 9, 2020, and was made by Millard/Kosters. The motion also included approval to submit the change order for payment. Motion Carried.

A motion to adjourn meeting was made by Millard/Kosters. Motion Carried.

Diane Bruns  
Frederick Finance Officer  
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$11.46. 19575

## Frederick Town Ord. 215 Supple. Approp.

Ordinance No. 215  
Supplemental Appropriations Ordinance

For the Year 2020  
Be it ordained by the Town of Frederick that the following sum is supplementally appropriated to meet the obligations of the municipality.

414.20 Finance Officer, \$2,308.12; 419.20 General Government Buildings, \$3,842.07; 432.00 Sanitation, \$5,210.28; 432.90 Landfill, \$83.95; 437.00 Cemetery, \$629.84; 452.00 Parks - Simmons, \$1,896.33; 455.00 Library, \$224.41; Total Appropriations, \$14,195.00.

Source of Funding:  
Undesignated Funds: \$14,195.00

Total Source of Funding: \$14,195.00.

Signed and dated by the Board of Trustees of the Town of Frederick.

R. Scott Campbell, Chairman  
/s/ R Scott Campbell  
12-21-2020

Troy Millard, Board Member  
/s/ Troy Millard  
12-21-2020

Jeff Kosters, Board Member  
/s/ Jeff Kosters  
12-21-2020

Passed First Reading: Dec. 10, 2020

Passed Second Reading: Dec. 21, 2020

Published: Dec. 23, 2020  
Effective Immediately

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$15.02. 19576

## Frederick Town Dec. 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Town of Frederick  
December 9, 2020 Minutes

Frederick's town board meeting was held Wednesday December 9, 2020 in the Frederick Community Center beginning at 7:00 PM. Attending the meeting were Chairman R. Scott Campbell, Board members Jeff Kosters and Troy Millard, Finance Officer and Assistant Finance Officer Diane Bruns and Mariah Heine, Utility Manager Rich Bakeberg, Brandon Smid of Helm's and Associates, Hugh Dahme of Dahme Construction, and Kevin Barton. Chairman Campbell opened the meeting and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made to go into executive session to consult with the engineering counsel, Brandon Smid, and invited Rich

Bakeberg to join the consultation made by TM/JK at 7:02; motion carried. The board ended executive session at 7:39. Hugh Dahme had addressed the board with a letter requesting an 11-week extension on the wastewater project, due to additional work that was added after the contract. The board had discussed the letter in executive session. The board addressed Hugh stating that they would approve 26 days of extension on the project. This extension included days the crew was unable to work on the wastewater project due to weather or additional work the city requested that was outside of the original contract.

The minutes of the November meeting were read and approved with a motion by Kosters/Millard; motion carried. The financial statements were reviewed and accepted with a motion by Millard/Kosters; motion carried. The December accounts payable was approved with a motion by Campbell/Millard; motion carried.

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**  
MDU electric BP/Wtr/Mun Bldg/SP/Sts/Swr/EBL \$1,037.88; Alpha Circle Cmty \$1,582; Ashley Gunther EBL \$257.65; Badger Meter meter fees Wtr \$115.70; Black Mountain utility support Wtr/Swr/Gbg \$1,703; Century Bus Products printer lease & copies Gen'l \$103.30; Community Store supplies Mun Bldg \$22.56; Dependable Sanitation Gbg \$1,896; D. Bruns CC \$144.99; D. Bruns wage FO \$1,562.50; DSG Sts \$437.39; EF-PTS taxes Gen'l/FO/CC/EBL/Sts/Wtr/Swr \$1,162.16; FDC Econ Dev \$1,200; FU Oil Co. propane EBL \$239.10; GDI minutes Gen'l \$23.21; J. Kosters wage Gen'l \$115.44; James King flagpole Mun Bldg \$30; JVT phone/svc/int FO/EBL/Wtr/Gen'l \$290.90; M. Cox wage EBL \$356.63; M. Heine wage FO \$922.50; Menard's supplies Cem \$31.98; R. Bakeberg exp Wtr \$7.50; R. Bakeberg wage St/Wtr/Swr \$1,581.76; R. Bakeberg veh. Allow St/Wtr/Swr \$75; R.S. Campbell wage Gen'l \$161; SD Dept of Rev sales tax Grbg \$67.27; SD Wtr & WW Assoc dues Wtr \$10; SD Gov't FO Assoc dues FO \$10; SDML dues Gen'l \$70; T. Millard wage Gen'l \$138.52; USDA-RD loan Wtr \$475; WEB Water Wtr \$2,818.93; Frederick Forward FYI Prmt Cty \$1,000; Prairie Builders firehall door Mun Bldg \$7,000;

**WASTEWATER PROJECT ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**  
Dahme Construction pay order #5 \$133,966.87; Helm's & Assoc. \$23,531.80  
**OLD BUSINESS**  
Rich Bakeberg provided a utility report. Frederick Forward requested money to help in paying for the FYI. The matters of a contract with Brown County Sheriff's Department and the Frederick Safety Manual will be reviewed next month.

**NEW BUSINESS**  
The second reading for a sewer rate increase resulted in a motion for a sewer rate increase from \$33 to \$40 made by Millard/Kosters and a roll call vote with ayes by all; motion carried. The sewer rate increase will take effect January 1. The 2020 Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance was read and approved with a motion by Kosters/Millard and a roll call vote with ayes by all; Second reading will be Monday, December 21st and 12PM. The propane gauge in the firehall leaks, but according to Farmer's Union Oil, it can't be fixed until the tank is empty.

A motion was made to go into executive session to discuss salaries made by Millard/Kosters at 8:58; motion carried. The board ended executive session at 9:20. The changes to salaries will be as follows: Mowing wage will increase to \$12/hr. Utility manager wage will increase to \$15/hr. Finance Officer wage will increase to \$1600/mo. Assistant Finance Officer wage will increase to \$1150/hr. Assistant Librarian wage will increase to \$9.55/hr. The water fund is in a negative balance and money must be moved to the sewer fund. Motion to move \$60,000 from the sewer fund to the water fund made by Millard/Campbell; motion carried.

Motion to adjourn made by Millard/Kosters at 9:41 PM.  
M. Heine  
Assistant Finance Officer  
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$47.02. 19577

## Frederick Town Dec. 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Town of Frederick  
Construction Meeting  
December 10, 2020

The monthly Wastewater Project construction meeting was held in the Frederick Community Center Thursday Noon, December 10, 2020. Attending the meeting were Board member Troy Millard, Utility Manager Rich Bakeberg, Helms & Associates Engineer Brandon Smid, Project Planner from NECOG Ted Dickey, Dahme Construction Co., Inc CEO Hugh Dahme and Finance Officer Diane Bruns. The meeting was opened by BM Millard.

Issues covered in the meeting included Safety, Public Com-

ments, Review of the Project Schedule, work currently in progress and proposed for the next 2 weeks, shop drawings and submittals, the project budget, any problem areas or concerns by city, by the contractor or by the engineers.

Miscellaneous discussion was held on sledge work to be done at the lagoon, chip sealing and/or asphalt roads once the project is completed, curb and gutters, and viable options for the grant from NECOG.

The next construction meeting will be January 14, 2020, in the Frederick Community Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 PM.

Diane Bruns  
Frederick Finance Officer  
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$13.52. 19578

## Groton Area Kindergaren "What Christmas Means to Me!"



**Kylie Hedges**  
Parent: Tamara Hedges, Groton: Christmas Joy!



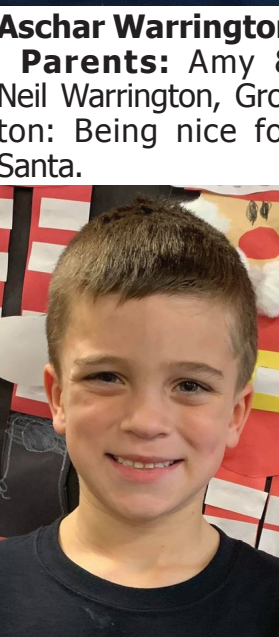
**Anniston Harry**  
Parents: Alison & Kris Harry, Groton: It just feels SO WONDERFUL!



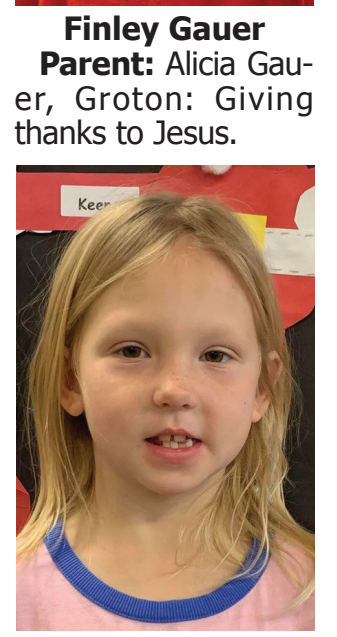
**Aschar Warrington**  
Parents: Amy & Neil Warrington, Groton: Being nice for Santa.



**Finley Gauer**  
Parent: Alicia Gauer, Groton: Giving thanks to Jesus.



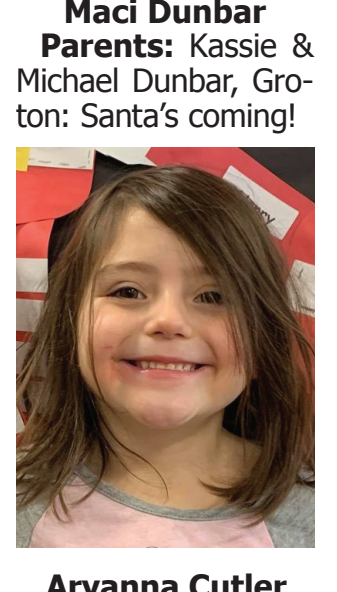
**Henry Pharis**  
Parents: Kara & Kevin Pharis, Groton: Eating yummy food with my family.



**Maci Dunbar**  
Parents: Kassie & Michael Dunbar, Groton: Santa's coming!



**Anna Oswald**  
Parents: Samantha & Matthew Oswald, Groton: The gifts and the tree.



**Aryanna Cutler**  
Parents: Gabriella Cutler & Greyson Cutler, Groton: Spending time and having fun with my family.





**Hazel Neu**  
**Parents:** Nicole Barton & Chris Seepney and Cody Neu, Conde: I like having cool snowball fight, making snowmen and angels.



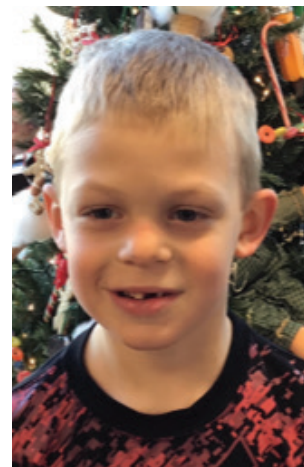
**Presley Olson**  
**Parents:** Carrie & Ryan Olson, Groton: Presents!



**Diego DeLoera**  
**Parents:** Joel DeLoera and Marilo Frias Coro, Andover: toys, snow and family



**Rae Flihs**  
**Parents:** Tigh and Adrienne Flihs, Claremont: Santa comes and it snows.



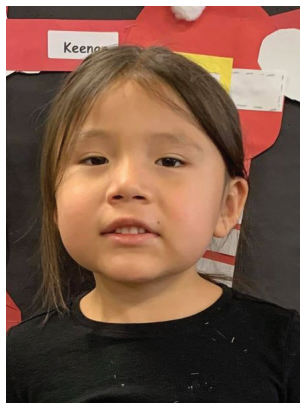
**Kaleb Hofer**  
**Parents:** Ricky and Sarah Hofer, Groton: We open presents and we can build a snowman.



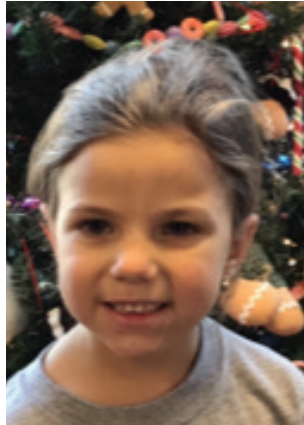
**Cora Kotzer**  
**Parents:** Kevin and Becky Kotzer, Groton: getting presents and making snowmen with your family and sledding outside.



**Calliope Herrick**  
**Parents:** Angela & Randy Herrick, Bristol: It means you get presents.



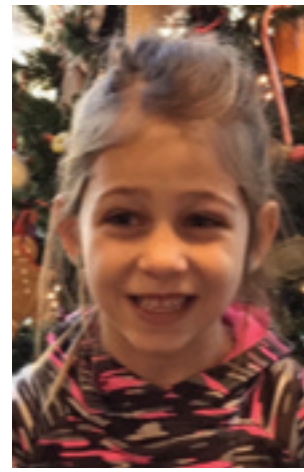
**Jacinda Old Horse**  
**Parent:** Joanne Hairy Shirt, Groton: Being nice.



**Ava Freeland**  
**Parent:** Sara Freeland, Houghton: When you can unwrap presents.



**Haley Erickson**  
**Parents:** Seth and Megan Erickson, Groton: opening presents and got to Grandma's and open more presents on Christmas Eve.



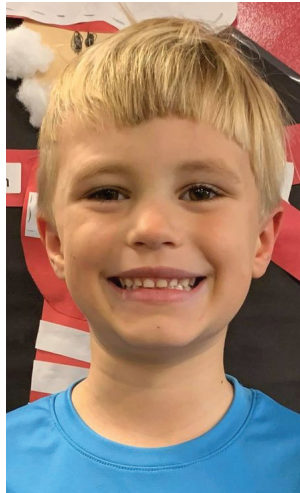
**Skyler Jacobsen**  
**Parents:** Matt and Nicole Jacobsen, Conde: Holidays and gifts and snow.



**Jozie Lord**  
**Parents:** Randy and Alyssa Lord, Groton: decorating the tree and wrap presents.



**Emery Blackwood**  
**Parent:** Katie Kesterson, Groton: Being good.



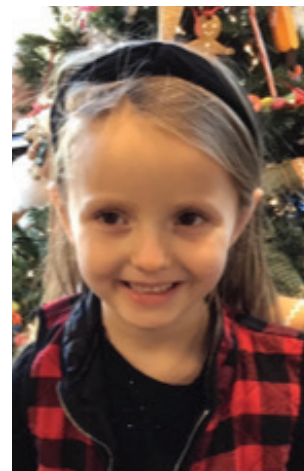
**Keenan Moody**  
**Parents:** Darcie & Eric Moody, Groton: Getting new toys.



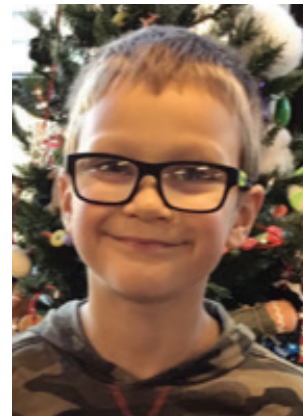
**Bless Shee Moo**  
**Parents:** EhMoo and PawShee, Groton: presents, snowman, Christmas trees.



**Elsy Hagen**  
**Parents:** Lenny and Theresa Hagen, Columbia: loving and having fun in snow.



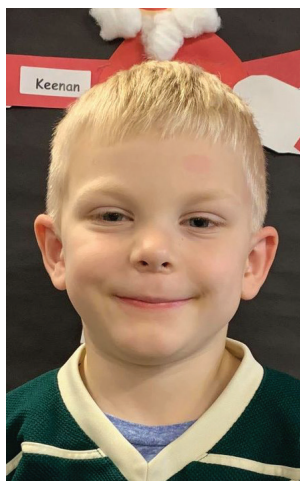
**Presley Giedt**  
**Parents:** Heath and Katelyn Giedt, Aberdeen: spending time together with my family, opening gifts with my family and make gingerbread houses and going to my Grandma Loris to open presents



**Jacob Morehouse**  
**Parents:** Jesse and Julie Morehouse, Andover: presents and snow and Santa.



**Jase Bahr**  
**Parents:** Samantha & Dion Bahr, Groton: I really like snow!



**Mac Merkel**  
**Parents:** Hayley Merkel & Brett Merkel, Groton: I am so thankful for Christmas.



**Reagen Harry**  
**Parents:** Jeff and Besty Harry, Groton: holidays and going to my grandmas and getting toys.



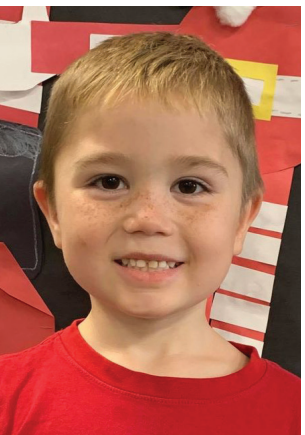
**Jack Henderson**  
**Parents:** son of Brad and Michelle Henderson, Groton: Santa comes and leaves presents under our Christmas tree.



**Railey Mulder**  
**Parents:** Tony and Jackie Mulder, Bath: getting presents and decorating the tree and it is Jesus Birthday.



**Logan Osterman**  
**Parents:** Jason and Bridget Osterman, Andover: we get presents, Jesus birthday



**Chase Cleveland**  
**Parents:** Gretchen & Justin Cleveland, Groton: Getting candy!



**Nori Hinman**  
**Parents:** Charity & Scotty Hinman, Groton: There is snow, presents, and Santa.



**Hazel Hill**  
**Parents:** Jason and Tara Hill, Groton: Snow and presents and we celebrate Jesus' birthday.



**Jeremiah Yeigh**  
**Parents:** Caleb and Desiree Yeigh, Aberdeen: it is Jesus birthday.



**Henry Paulson**  
**Parents:** Andy and Kara Paulson, Andover: wrapping presents, putting a Christmas tree, and Jesus birthday



## Four wrestlers place at Cossack Avalanche

Two Groton Area wrestlers placed first and two placed second at the Sioux Valley Cossack Avalanche Tournament held Saturday in Volga. Dragr Monson at 120 pounds and Christian Ehresmann at 126 pounds both placed first while Cole Bisbee at 160 pounds and Adrian Knutson at 285 pounds both placed second.

**120: Dragr Monson (5-0) placed 1st and scored 22.0 team points:** received a first round bye; he pinned Parker Graveman, Spearfish; 0:56; and in the championship match, he pinned Dylan Sloan, Yankton, in 0:47.

**126: Christian Ehresmann (5-0) placed 1st and scored 21.0 team points:** received a first round bye; he pinned Carter Dahl, Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 3:14; and in the championship match, he scored a major decision over Aiden Kracht, Spearfish, 12-1.

**138: Korbin Kucker (4-2) scored 4.0 team points:** he pinned Christopher Hoang, Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 1:33; he was pinned by Evan Nelson, Yankton, 5:23; and he was pinned by Zach Powell, Tri-Valley, 0:47.

**160: Cole Bisbee (3-2) placed 2nd and scored 16.0 team points:** he received a first round bye; he pinned Dylan Iron, Spearfish, 3:38; and in the championship match, he was pinned by Seth Heidenreich, Sioux Valley, 1:32.

**285: Adrian Knutson (3-2) placed 2nd and scored 4.0 team points:** he pinned Chase Dyson, Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 0:13; and in the championship match he was pinned by Collin Graves, Viborg-Hurley, 6:00.

## The Life of Martha Farmen

Services for Martha Farmen, 80, of Groton, was held Monday, December 21st at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton. Pastor Kari Foss officiated. Burial followed in Union Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Services were live streamed on GDILIVE.COM..

Martha passed away Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at Sun Dial Manor in Bristol.

Martha Lou was born on June 17, 1940 in Webster to Kenneth and Lillian (Langager) Mortenson. She attended school in Pierpont, graduating in 1958. On June 19, 1960, Martha was united in marriage with Clayton Farmen in Pierpont. The couple lived in Sisseton, Aberdeen and Winner before settling in Groton in 1969. Martha worked in several capacities during her lifetime. She and Clayton were part owners in the Red Owl store in Groton. She worked part time in the Groton Area School and later was the bookkeeper for the Senior Citizens Meals program. She worked alongside her husband, Clayton when they ran Clayton's Meat and Processing. Martha was also a caregiver to many in the community, especially caring for young children and visiting with many in the nursing home.

Martha was a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton. In early years, she enjoyed riding horse, dancing, family car rides, and was an avid bowler. She was an excellent baker and will be fondly remembered for her many Norwegian dishes.

Celebrating her life are her children: Lilly Deters of Pierre, Lola (Larry) Bartels of Clark, Clayton "Butch" Farmen of Groton, and LeRoy Farmen of Moberge. She is also survived by her three grandchildren, Amanda Morehouse, Malory (Kyle) McIntire, Jamie Werner; and their children, Kaelee, Jaeden and Clayton Morehouse; Riley and Hadley McIntire; her siblings, Marj (Jeff) Klebsch of Frankfort, Carlyle Mortenson (Marion) of Rapid City, sister-in-law, Judy Schaanaman, brothers-in-law, Errol Farmen and Keith Farmen, special friend, Gene Prunty and many nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her parents, her husband Clayton in 2003, one brother, Ervin, sisters-in-law, Betty Mortenson, Maureen Holler and Alice Morehouse and brothers-in-law, David Farmen and Calvin Farmen.

Pallbearers were Shawn Wik, Tyrel Wik, Larry Bartels, Kyle McIntire, Rich Fliehs, Mike Mortenson, and Jim Mortenson.



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USDA Choice Demkota Whole Boneless Ribeye **\$13.99** Per Lb.  
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**Hormel Cure 81 Spiral Cut Half Ham** **\$2.29** Per Lb.

**Hormel Whole Boneless Pork Loin** **\$1.99** Per Lb.

**Olsen Party Pail Herring** 32 Oz. Pail **\$6.59** Ea.

**Aqua Star Breaded Butterfly or Coconut Shrimp** 34 Oz. Bag **\$8.99** Ea.

**John Morrell Cocktail Smokies** 12 Oz. Pkg. **2/\$5**

**Armour Meatballs** 14 Oz. Pkg. **2/\$5**

**John Morrell Sliced Bacon** 12 Oz. Pkg. **\$3.99** Ea.

**Tiger Meat** **\$6.99** Per Lb.

**Fresh Salmon Filets** **\$9.99** Per Lb.

**Cass Clay 2% Swiss Chocolate Milk** **\$1.99** 1/2 Gallon Plastic Jug

**Pepsi, Diet Pepsi or Mt Dew** **4/\$10** 6 PK. 5 LTR. BOTTLES

**Coke, Diet Coke or Coke Zero** **3/\$12** 12 PK. 12 Oz. Cans or 8 PK. 12 Oz. Bottles

**Windsor** **\$15.99** 1.75 L.

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

**General Mills Chex Cereal** **2/\$5** 12-14 Oz. Boxes

**Kraft Mayonnaise** **2/\$5** 12-18 Oz. Bottles or Jars

**Ritz or Snack Crackers** **2/\$4** 3.75-11.7 Oz. Boxes

**Folgers Coffee** **\$5.99** 24.3-38.5 Oz. Cans

**Best Choice Sugar** **\$1.88** 4 Lb. Bag

**Bota Box Wines** **\$16.99** 3 L.

**Stella Rosa Wines** **\$10.99** 750 ML All Varietals

**Maker's Mark** **\$49.99** 1.75 L.

**Mic Ultra** **\$20.99** 24 pk. 11 Oz. 3th. 8 Can

**Miller Lite, MGD, 64** **\$18.99** 24 Pk. 12 oz. Cans

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**Dairy**

**Best Choice Cream Cheese** Reg. or Lite **99¢** 8 Oz. Pkg.

**Cass Clay Half & Half** **99¢** Pt. Ctn.

**Frozen**

**Cool Whip** **99¢** 8 Oz. Tub

**Prarie Farms Ice Cream** **\$5.69** 4 Qt. Pail

**Bakery**

**Finger Rolls** White or Wheat **\$1.99** 12 Ck.

**Jessie Lord Pecan Pie** **\$6.99** 32 Oz. Pkg.

**Hormel Grab & Go Party Trays** **\$9.99** 1.75 Lb. Tray

**Health & Beauty**

**Crest Pro-Health Toothpaste** **\$2.99** 12-14 Oz. Pkg.

**Duracell AA or AAA Batteries** **\$6.99** 6-4 Ck. Pkg.

**Household**

**Era 2X Liquid Laundry Detergent** **\$2.49** 48 Oz. Jug

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WED 23 THUR 24 FRI 25 SAT 26

## Blue Lights Being Added to Snowplow Fleet

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Transportation is improving safety for motorists and snowplow drivers by adding flashing blue lights to the snowplow fleet across the state.



The pilot program will include 25 trucks equipped with the flashing blue lights spread out across the state.

"Snowplow drivers provide an essential service to our communities," says Interim Transportation Secretary Joel Jundt. "The blue lights will add more visibility to our snowplow fleet to ensure they can continue to clear roads and keep drivers safe."

Studies have shown people have become desensitized to the flashing amber lights. The blue lights have greater visibility in certain situations and because they have a higher frequency and shorter wavelength of light, they appear to be moving closer rather than farther away giving drivers a chance to react more quickly.

The most common crash statistic for snowplows is being hit from behind. Snowplows, when the blades are down, are travelling at 25 mph or less. Motorists are asked to slow down and stay eight car lengths behind the plow and to never pass one in a snow cloud. Remember, the snowplow driver is clearing the road ahead, so the safest place is behind the plow.

When a snowplow is involved in a crash that disables the snowplow, the plow and the driver are removed from service and the road he was working on is no longer getting cleared for possibly several more hours.

"Keeping drivers, workers, and emergency personnel safe is the department's number one priority," says Jundt. "We appreciate Gov. Kristi Noem and the state's Legislature for working with us and adding new safety provisions to strengthen the current law and keep us on the road."

Remember to check <https://sd511.org>, download the SDDOT 511 app, or call 5-1-1 before travelling, buckle up, have your winter emergency kit, and stay where you are if we are advising no travel.

The mission of the South Dakota Department of Transportation is to efficiently provide a safe and effective public transportation system. Read more about the innovative work of the SDDOT at <https://dot.sd.gov>.