



# The Groton Independent

Vol. 138 No. 18 ♦ Groton, South Dakota ♦ Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2020 ♦ Established in 1889

## Groton Area Robotics 2020 Summary

Our 2020-2021 Groton Robotics season has not been without a few bumps, which is something we've all become accustomed to this past year. The first tournament on our schedule was right here in Groton. We unfortunately had to cancel due to members and coaching staff being close-contacts or testing positive themselves.

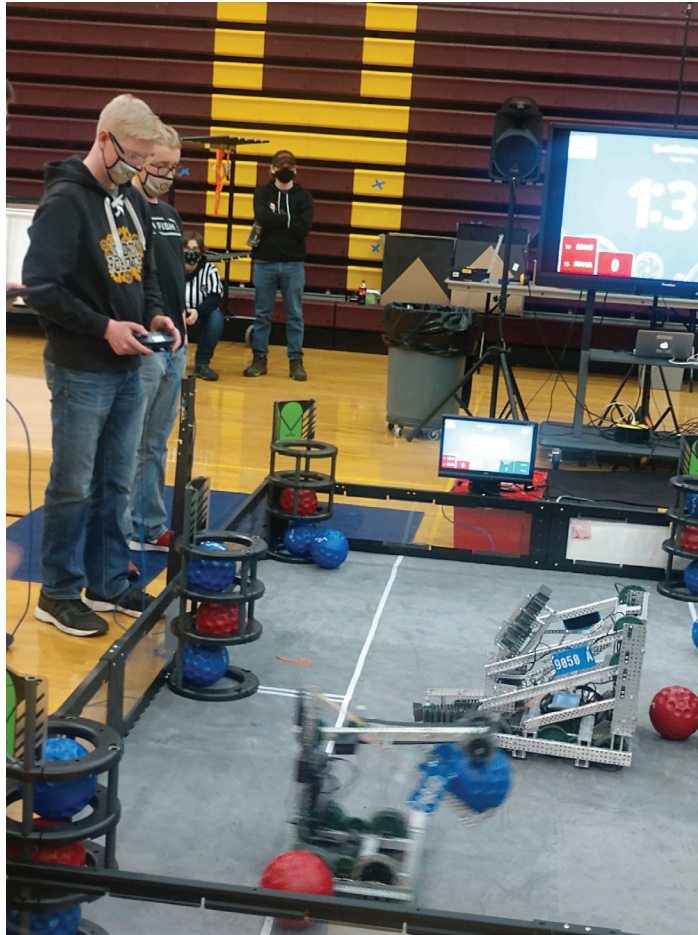
The next tournament went on as scheduled in Mitchell, on November 7th. It ended up being the infamous "first tournament" for all of the young robotists from around the state, in which robots tend to leave the match in more pieces than they started out in. We sent four teams to Mitchell. All did well, although none of our teams made it to the championship match. Galaxy won their first match in the finals, but lost in the quarter finals. GAT Wrenches, G-Force, and the Gear Heads all lost in the first round of the finals.

The November 21st tournament at Douglas in Box Elder was also cancelled due to COVID related issues at their school.

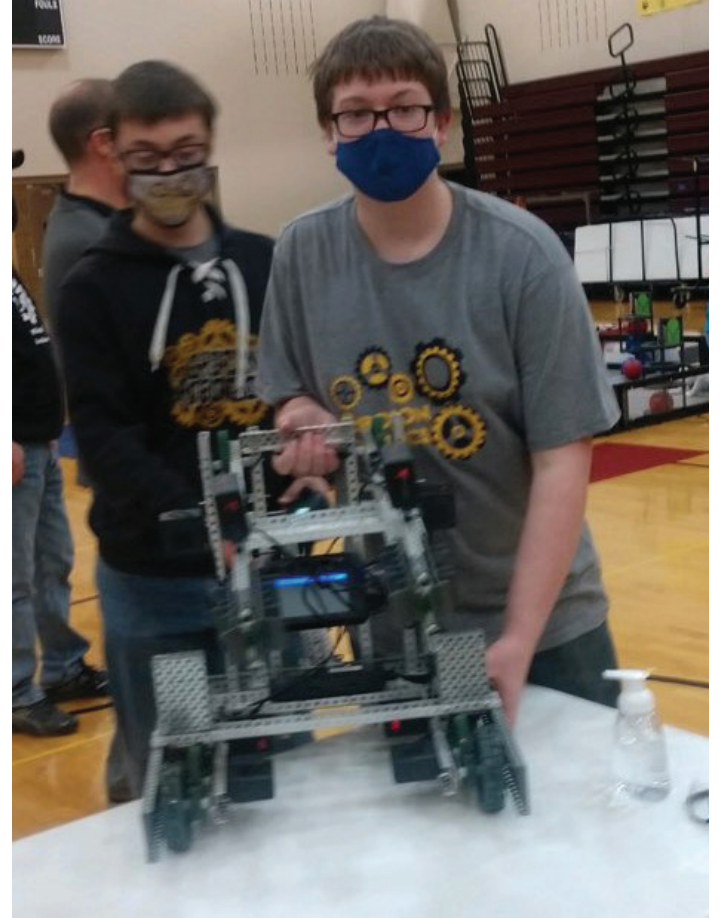
The robotists finally got their robots out on the field again in Harrisburg on Saturday, December 12. We sent four teams again as part of twenty-one total teams from around the state. Going into the finals, G-Force moved up into the 2nd seed because of a formed alliance with a higher ranked Box Elder team. Gear Heads and Galaxy formed an alliance together and were in the 4th seed going into the finals. Geek Squad was selected for an alliance and was in the 10th seed for the tournament. Geek Squad won their first match in the round of 16 and lost in the quarter finals to the number 1 seed. Gear Heads and Galaxy lost their first match in the quarter finals. G-Force won their quarter final match. They had difficulty due to problems with an intake malfunction. They had 7 minutes to make repairs going into the championship match! Unfortunately they lost, but win or lose, it's always great to see Groton in the final match. Congratulations, G-Force!!

Teams attending this tournament were: Galaxy (Jack Dinger, Axel Warrington, and James Brooks), G-Force (Travis Townsend, Garret Schultz, Jace

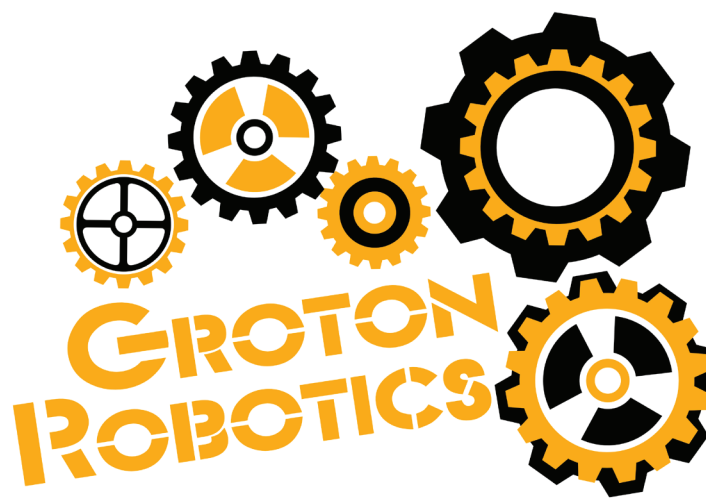
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Travis Townsend and Garret Schultz running their robot on the G-Force team. (Photo by Neil Warrington)



Jackson Dinger and Axel Warrington getting ready to compete on the Galaxy Team. (Photo by Neil Warrington)



Ethan Clark and River Pardnick making some adjustments to their robot. (Photo by Neil Warrington)



Axel Warrington and James Brooks competing in a match. (Photo by Neil Warrington)



Charlie Frost waiting to compete in a match. (Photo by Neil Warrington)

# 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**

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

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**GRADES 5-8 MATH TEACHER** needed immediately in Hermosa, SD, and **HS Science Teacher** needed Aug. 2021. Custer School District, Custer, SD. Apply online [csd.k12.sd.us](http://csd.k12.sd.us). 605-673-3154.

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**Groton Angel Tree Thanks You!**  
I would like to thank everyone that helped make the Angel tree in Groton a big success again this year. Thanks

## Robotics

Continued from front page

Kroll), Gear Heads (Ethan Clark, River Pardick, Isaac Higgins), Geek Squad (Charlie Frost, Blake Lord, Brody Lord, and Ashton Brooks). Not all members were able to attend. GAT Wrenches was represented in Mitchell by Tannor McGannon and Dylan McGannon, with Charlie Frost assisting from the Geek Squad.

Great job to all the teams! Upcoming tournaments: January 9th in Canton, February 6th Groton will be hosting, and February 27th, the State Tournament will be in Harrisburg.

## What do their robots do?

VEX Robotics Competition 2020 'Change Up' is played on a 12'x12' square field configured as seen below. Two (2) Alliances - one (1) "red" and one (1) "blue" - composed of two (2) Teams each, compete in Matches consisting of a fifteen second (0:15) Autonomous Period, followed by a one minute and forty-five second (1:45) Driver Controlled Period. The object of the game is to attain a higher score than the opposing Alliance by Scoring Balls and Connecting Rows.

There are thirty-two (32) Balls on a VRC Change Up Field. Sixteen (16) Red and sixteen (16) Blue. There are also nine (9) Goals placed around the field.

Balls are to be Scored in Goals. Each scored Ball is worth 1 point for the corresponding Alliance color. The highest scored Ball in a Goal will be owned by the corresponding Alliance color.

If an Alliance owns three goals in any direction (vertical, horizontal or diagonal), they will receive a 6 point bonus for a Connected Row. But be careful, Balls can be descored by the opposing Alliance at any time during the Driver-Control period!

The alliance that scores more points in the Autonomous period is awarded with (6) bonus points, added to the final score at the end of the match. Each Alliance also has the opportunity to earn an additional Win Point by completing their Home Row during the Autonomous Period. This Bonus can be earned by both Alliances, regardless of who wins the Autonomous Bonus. **FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:** <https://www.vexrobotics.com/v5/competition/vrc>

## Groton Prairie Mixed

**Team Standings:** Shih Tzus 7, Jackelopes 4, Cheetahs 3, Chipmunks 2

**Men's High Games:** Doug Jorgesen 244, Brad Waage 205, Roger Spanier 192

**Women's High Games:** Nancy Radke 178, Michelle Johnson 177, Brenda Waage 170

**Men's High Series:** Brad Waage 579, Doug Jorgensen 553, Roger Spanier 518

**Women's High Series:** Michelle Johnson 503, Nancy Radke 449, Darci Spanier 441

## Conde National League

**Team Standings:** Cubs 7, Mets 5, Giants 5, Braves 4, Pirates 2, Tigers 1

**Men's High Games:** Collin Cady 195, 182; Ryan Bethke 182; Tim Olson 179

**Men's High Series:** Collin Cady 537, Ryan Bethke 528, Lance Frohling 492

**Women's High Games:** Michelle Johnson 212, Sam Bahr 192, Mayme Baker 175

**Women's High Series:** Joyce Walter 484, Tanah Messenou 469, Michelle Johnson 465

## Conde National League

**Dec. 28 Team Standings:** Cubs 10, Mets 8, Pirates 6, Giants 6, Braves 5, Tigers 1.

**Men's High Games:** Butch Farmen 225, Lance Frohling 199, Collin Cady 191.

**Men's High Series:** Butch Farmen 568, Collin Cady 532, Jeremy Reyalts 476.

**Women's High Games:** Mary Larson 177, 171, 164; Tanah Messevou 169; Vickie Kramp 161.

**Women's High Series:** Mary Larson 512, Tanah Messevou 476, Vickie Kramp 445.

**The Groton Independent**  
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News Items: [news@grotonsd.net](mailto:news@grotonsd.net)  
Deadline to submit items: Noon Monday  
Yearly Subscription Rates are listed below. The Groton Independent (USPS# 230-440) is published weekly with its periodicals postage paid at Groton, SD.  
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| Jan. 26-29: Wheat                               | Feb. 23-26: Forages                       |
| <b>MARCH 2021</b>                               |   |
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# Students cross hurdles while learning during a pandemic

By: Bart Pfankuch

As part of its in-depth look at the state of higher education in the state, South Dakota News Watch made contact with students who experienced learning during a pandemic close up. Here are three of their stories.

## Making frugal financial choices



**Student Sydney Becker of Sioux Falls switched up her plans to attend the University of South Dakota in Vermillion and is instead taking accounting classes at the USD satellite campus near her home.**

Photo: Submitted

Sydney Becker, 19, is a graduate of Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls who has placed practicality and financial stability high on her list of priorities in obtaining a college degree.

Becker graduated a semester ahead of her high school senior class and used the spring months of 2019 to work and save up for her freshman year.

She toured the University of South Dakota campus in Vermillion and “instantly fell in love,” but decided to create options by also touring the university center community college campus in Sioux Falls. She was impressed with the smaller footprint of the USD satellite campus and what she learned would be fewer students in each class compared with the main campus.

Enrolling at the center would also allow her to live at home and keep earning money while working at the St. Francis House homeless shelter in Sioux Falls.

Nearly two years later, the savings have been significant. Instead of paying about \$26,000 a year to attend USD full-time and live on campus, Becker pays about \$9,000 a year for the same credit load at the university center. She receives about \$5,000 a year in federal student aid and is able to pay the remaining \$1,900 per semester in cash.

“That had a big impact on me,” Becker said. “Thinking about \$26,000 a year times four — I don’t want to get out of college and worry about all that debt.”

Becker also learned from her older brother, who attended in person at St. Cloud University in Minnesota and has graduated with a radiology degree but also a hefty monthly student-loan payment.

Becker, who is studying business administration and sociology, has taken a mix of in-person and online courses at the university center and has had success in both formats.

She has made valuable connections with instructors both in person and online, and said the value of online courses rises as professors and students gain more experience in using the technology to teach remotely in an effective way.

“It just really depends on the teacher,” she said. “Some in-class teachers do the bare minimum, while some online teachers go above

and beyond because they know it is an online course.”

When the pandemic hit, Becker enrolled solely in online courses for safety reasons.

“I don’t want to put my parents at risk, who are at higher risk in the pandemic, and to possibly affect the people I work for and with,” she said.

Online discussion groups allow her to engage with her peers if she has questions about lesson plans or assignments. Online courses also allow more flexibility as to when assignments are due, often allowing her to turn them in on weekends — which is useful to Becker, who continues to hold down a job during her studies.

After seeing the financial rewards of staying in Sioux Falls, and becoming more comfortable with online learning, she now intends to complete her degree at the satellite campus and buy a house during her junior year.

Becker, who described herself as a highly determined student who kept mostly to herself in high school, said she has not longed for the social aspects of living and taking classes on a busy campus with thousands of students her own age. Online learning has allowed her to focus on her coursework and avoid distractions that might arise on a big campus, she said.

Smaller class sizes at the university center have allowed her to establish relationships with professors even though she is learning online. One example, she said, is that her sociology professor encouraged her to sign up for a student honors program once she qualified, and to see the \$65 registration fee as money well spent to add that honor to her resume.

“I am very happy with the decisions I made,” Becker said. “I love the teachers here [in Sioux Falls]. They’re so nice and they actually know you by your name, and they’ll email you directly if something comes up that you need to know.”

## Seeing the good in a bad situation



**Augustana University student Jenifer Fjelstad said the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic gave her a new appreciation for the value of living and learning on campus.** Photo: Submitted

Augustana University junior Jenifer Fjelstad has looked at the pandemic and its impacts on the fall semester at the Sioux Falls private college as a challenge but also an opportunity to deepen her appreciation for campus life before COVID-19.

Fjelstad, a journalism and French double

major from Groton, S.D., said she was surprised at how well the university community adapted to COVID-19 and the new normal it necessitated. She said that after a month or so, wearing masks stopped bothering her, and watching some classes over the Zoom platform also took on a level of normalcy.

Fjelstad said she was also impressed to see how students banded together to keep one another safe.

Attending some classes via computer was somewhat less satisfying, Fjelstad said in an email to News Watch.

“On Zoom, it’s easy, almost too tempting, to be on your phone, zone out, or be multitasking,” Fjelstad wrote. “Being in person invites students to pay more attention and remember the material more.”

Too great a shift toward online learning in the future could reduce the value of higher education, Fjelstad said. But she added that the pandemic has set the stage for an effective hybrid style of learning that includes both online interaction and technology but also in-class experiential learning.

“I think the new way of learning has opened a door to more inclusive learning in the hybrid-flex model, but this time has also shown that face-to-face classes are still as important as ever,” Fjelstad wrote.

If anything, enduring the challenges of a pandemic-infused semester has made Fjelstad even more appreciative of the intangible benefits of college life and learning.

“I feel that when I am seeing my professors, connecting with my classmates, using workout facilities, studying in academic buildings, and participating in clubs and events, that’s when I’m actually getting the most of my education,” she wrote. “Once bits of that start getting taken out, the value starts to decline.”

Fjelstad said she is eager to return to the full on-campus experience without the threat of the coronavirus as soon as vaccinations become widespread and effective.

“I think everyone’s social lives suffered from the pandemic,” Fjelstad wrote. “Students are conscious of limiting their ‘bubble,’ which means we aren’t having as many spontaneous, large-group, or acquaintance connections. Being back on campus this fall reminded me just how much value socializing adds to college.”

## Surviving COVID-19 and an unusual semester

Andrew Ward saw his fall semester at the School of Mines in Rapid City upended for a time when he battled a COVID-19 infection. Ward, 20, a Wisconsin native, had a fever and cough for a few days and then quarantined for two weeks after that to avoid spreading the virus.

Ward said he was not put off by the shift in how teaching in the mechanical engineering program was delivered at Mines during the pandemic. Most of his classes this fall were presented in a hybrid fashion, with a mix of a few in-person meetings in classrooms and lessons delivered by videos or through the Zoom online format.

Ward, who moved to South Dakota and enrolled at Mines because family members had attended in the past, said the video compo-

**Continues on next page**

# SD News Watch

Continued from previous page

nents in his courses allowed him to rewatch lessons to strengthen his understanding.

"I think it definitely gives you a good impression of what online classes can be," he said.

He said he felt professors were generally committed to using the online format as best they could.

"I think the hybrid classes are still a lot of work for the professors to make all the videos and hold the Zoom classes," he said. "They might not be in person, but some classes that don't require labs don't really need to be in person."

However, Ward said he and other students were pleased to hear that the Board of Regents had frozen tuition for the 2020-21 academic year, not just to avoid paying more but because he felt the overall value of his education was slightly diminished amid the pandemic.

"Some of us were really relieved because we didn't see the logic in raising tuition if we were going all online," Ward said. "I could actually see a point to reduced tuition if most classes go online."



**School of Mines student Andrew Ward overcame a COVID-19 infection and a shift to some online classes during his fall semester, but is happy with how things are going on the path to an engineering degree.** Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota

News Watch

# Locke Hired

Kellie Locke was hired Tuesday evening by the Groton City Council as the new deputy finance officer at city hall. She will begin her position on Monday. Locke will take the place of Peggy Locke, who recently retired from that position.

# Upcoming Schedule

Saturday, Jan. 2: Webster Invitational Wrestling Tournament, 9 a.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 5: Basketball doubleheader with Warner. Girls JV at 4 p.m., Boys JV at 5:15 p.m., Girls Varsity at 6:30 p.m., Boys Varsity at 8 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 7: Wrestling triangular in Groton starting at 6 p.m. with Redfield and Webster.

Friday, Jan. 8: Girls Basketball at Sisseton with JV starting at 6 p.m. followed by varsity game.

Saturday, Jan. 9: Quad Wrestling at Wolsey-Wessington High School starting at 10 a.m.

# Forecast

Editor's note: Here's one of our favorites from 2011.

The big news around here is that Paul Smokov of rural Steele, who predicts the weather by reading pig spleens, says it is going to be a cold, snowy winter. I thought it was a nice touch that the Steele newspaper included a full color front-page picture of the actual pig spleens just in case we doubted Paul's word.

They look like Christmas stockings made of liver. As a matter of fact, pig spleens taste like liver, too, according to survivors. Now you might be thinking, "Great. Just what the world needs—a liver substitute," but I have a hunch. Pig spleens could be the next chicken gizzards. I would advise you to invest heavily in the promising fast-food pig spleens industry. You could get a spokesman like Ronald McPigSpleen



**That's Life**  
by Tony Bender

and sell kids' meals with free broken toys inside.

Or you could just start a new holiday tradition. Do you know what you will get if you hang pig spleens from your fireplace mantel at Christmas? Singed cats. Also, Paul Smokov and Flaming Pig Spleens would be a great name for a rock band. I wonder if Paul is a punk rocker.

I do know that Paul may be the last pig spleen weatherman in America. After all, few colleges north of the Mason-Dixon line offer a Doctorate in Spleenology, which is only slightly less valuable than a liberal arts degree in this job market. In fact, if the art of pig spleen weather forecasting is to be given equal respect alongside meteorologists and their suspect methods like jet stream analysis and Doppler radar, the Texas Board of Education may be our only hope. Not only have they brought intelligent design into the classroom, now they are considering replacing sex education with live storks and cabbage leaves.

I decided it would be a good idea to talk to the legend Paul Smokov himself, so I dialed the Duck Inn. "Hold it," you, the intrepid reader might say, "Isn't the Duck Inn located in Venturia, ND?" True enough, but you'd be surprised whom you might find at the Duck Inn on any given day. I once saw Elvis in a booth with Scooby Doo. But there were mitigating circumstances. I think someone spiked my 19 drinks. Anyway, Steele is a long distance call, and I have a limited editorial budget.

Turns out, Paul Smokov wasn't there, but I don't give up that easy when it comes to researching breaking stories. They handed the phone to Zippy Stankmeyer, who sold me my last pig and therefore, for the purposes of this story, qualifies as an expert.

"Hey Zippy," I asked from my lounge chair, "How can you tell from a pig spleen if it's going to be a hard winter?"

"The pig dies," Zippy replied.

I could hear pool balls clacking in the background.

"And if the pig lives?"

"The Vikings win a Super Bowl."

I don't care; if I ever see a spleen-less pig, I am going straight to Las Vegas to bet the mortgage on the Vikings even if they bring back Les Steckel to coach.

Zippy went on to tell me that his grandpappy used to predict the weather with caterpillars. Perfect! My mailbox has been filled with them this fall, which near as I can figure means a bitterly cold winter.

I didn't mind the caterpillars nesting in my mailbox but it got me in trouble with the post office, so we compromised. The caterpillars could stay if they had postage. I can tell you from experience that Pitney-Bowes should not be involved in a project like this.

"How'd you come out with that caterpillar deal?" Ziggy asked a few days later.

"Not so good," I said. "Do you know how hard it is to find a caterpillar spleen?"

It turns out that most accredited meteorologists agree it will be cold and snowy, citing the La Nina effect, the evil twin of El Nino, which is characterized by warm weather. And of course there is the little-known La-Dee-Dah effect, which is characterized by indifferent weather.

I don't mind telling you I am pretty bummed out about the forecast. I don't care if I ever see another pig spleen. However, there is one faction that is always delighted with the prediction of an apocalyptic winter, or as we call it in North Dakota, "the usual." I speak of smug snowbirds. Snowbirds love to get the newspaper, read last week's weather statistics, and gloat. Sometimes our snowbirds have a case of schadenfreude so bad they can't wait for the bad news, so they call from Arizona to find out how the weather is. It's like phone sex for old people.

The phone rings.

"Yeah."

"What are you wearing?"

"A parka..."

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The Minnesota Vikings are officially eliminated from the playoffs after a 52-33 Christmas Day beatdown by the New Orleans Saints. After the Vikings knocked the Saints out of the playoffs two out of the last three seasons, I'm sure there was a small feeling of vindication for New Orleans. For the Vikings, it was the most points they've given up since 1963. The offense was able to move the ball well, but the defense was simply atrocious. After the game, head coach Mike Zimmer was quoted as saying the defense was "the worst I've ever had" at any point in his coaching career.



By Jordan Wright

Kirk Cousins connected on 27 of 41 throws for 291 yards and three touchdowns. It was a good effort in yet another game when he was under constant pressure - he was sacked twice and hit another nine times. Dalvin Cook averaged 4.9 yards per carry, but with the Vikings being down the whole game, Cook only carried the ball 15 times. Adam Thielen caught eight passes for 97 yards and a touchdown, Justin Jefferson caught six passes for 85 yards, and Irv Smith Jr., who was filling in for the injured Kyle Rudolph, caught six passes for 53 yards and two touchdowns.

The Vikings' defense was unable to do anything right on Christmas Day, and it all started up front. Drew Brees was only pressured on one drop back, and the Vikings' defense failed to get a single sack or tackle for a loss, while only accumulating one QB hit. It's no surprise that the Vikings' defensive line isn't playing well after losing 75 percent of the starters from 2019, but at some point someone needs to step up and that hasn't happened all season. Blake Lynch, an undrafted rookie linebacker, led the team with 10 total tackles, while Shamar Stephen had the team's only QB hit. On a positive note, Hardy Nickerson, a fourth year player who was recently added to the Vikings' roster, and rookie cornerback Harrison Hand both had an interception in the game.

**Player of the game**

The player of the game is Blake Lynch. After being forced into action because of all the injuries on the Vikings' defense, the undrafted rookie played well all things considered.

Looking ahead, the Vikings (6-9) travel to Detroit to take on the Lions (5-10). This will be the final game of the season for the purple and gold, and while it would be nice to get a win against a hapless Lions team, the best thing that could happen would be a Vikings loss and a better draft pick this spring. The Lions were just embarrassed by the Buccaneers on Saturday, losing 47-7. Hopefully the Vikings sit most of the starters in an effort to get some of the younger players some game time. ESPN is giving the Vikings a 68 percent chance to win. Let's hope they're wrong!

On a positive note, I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and are having a happy and healthy holiday season. Skol!

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**A Diagnosis of Cancer**

When I teach medical students, I always remind them that we will see people on the very best days of their lives and the very worst days of their lives. As a result, we will see every range of emotion in our patients and feel every range of emotion ourselves. This is especially true when giving someone a diagnosis of cancer.



By Jill Kruse, DO ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

Telling someone they have cancer is a daunting mission. Often, the patient suspects something serious when they are asked to come into the clinic to review results in person instead of getting a letter or phone call.

I always make a point to ensure my patients are accompanied by a family member or friend. Having another person in the room to support them is important, because often the person diagnosed with cancer does not always hear or remember much after the "C word" is spoken. The word can land a visceral reaction. And, while most of us know someone who has been affected by cancer, it is difficult to imagine what it feels like to have those words directed at you, until it happens.

After a diagnosis of cancer is given, the next steps can happen quickly. There may be referrals to a specialist. Sometimes follow up exams and tests are done as soon as they can be scheduled, even on the day of the diagnosis. Having someone else in the room to help keep track of the information and offer support is helpful.

When the diagnosis of cancer is first spoken, there is usually one of the five emotions of grief that Elizabeth Kubler-Ross described. Most often, I see denial and anger. Later there is bargaining and depression, but on occasion there is acceptance. I have told people they have cancer only to see them smile, nod their head, and tell me that they already knew, and I confirmed their suspicions. Each person has an individual journey, and they will cycle through all these emotions, often more than once.

My hope as a primary care physician, is to never let my patients be alone in this journey. After a diagnosis of cancer, I refer my patients to specialists, but I am not done caring for the person. I let the oncologists take over in the fight against this disease. But I, and most primary care physicians, will always be there as a trusted advisor and friend who can help coordinate care and answer questions.

Jill Kruse, D.O. 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.

## Brown County Dec. 22, 2020

### Meeting Minutes

DECEMBER 22, 2020 – GENERAL MEETING

Meeting called to order by Commission Chair Kippley at 8:45 A.M. in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. Present were Commissioners Feickert, Wiese, Fjeldheim, and Sutton. Commissioner Kippley 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 15, 2020. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS/PAYROLL:**  
Moved by Fjeldheim seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims and payroll:

Payroll: Commission \$4,285.10; Elections (Voucher) \$0.00; Auditor \$11,631.16; Treasurer \$13,495.35; SA \$22,946.15; SVAWA \$1,730.76; Maintenance \$7,908.92; Assessor \$14,402.14; Register of Deeds \$8,983.39; VSO \$4,472.62; GIS \$2,387.50; IT \$7,259.53; HR \$2,173.85; Sheriff \$40,324.49; Jail \$50,736.97; Court Security \$6,537.21; JDC \$22,773.11; Welfare \$2,077.70; Museum \$7,829.28; Parks/Fairgrounds \$3,379.36; Fair Board \$4,058.29; 4-H \$642.78; Weed \$825.02; Planning & Zoning \$4,483.80; Highway \$38,249.94; Dispatch \$23,316.78; Emergency \$4,119.58; Teen Court \$315.54; JDAI \$1,769.23; 24/7 Sobriety \$1,370.68; Landfill \$12,906.99; Matching Benefits: FICA \$19,402.10, Medicare \$4,537.559, Discovery\_HSA \$300.00. Claims: Professional Fees: Avera St. Lukes \$12,431.32; City of Aberdeen \$263.81; Drew Becker \$200.00; Bytespeed, LLC \$5,555.00; Childs Voice \$350.00; Dependable Sanitation \$33,532.40; Gellhaus & Gellhaus \$160.00; Kuck Law Office \$69.40; Sanford Clinic \$1,601.01; Sanford Health \$4,171.39; SD Department of Health \$2,085.00; SD Department of Legislative Audit \$21,232.50; SD Department of Revenue & Regulation \$240.00; Tammy Stolle Court Reporting \$98.55; US Bank \$929.99; Mitch Vilhauer \$343.48; Yellow Robe Consulting Inc \$1,500.00; Sara Zahn \$271.00. Publishing: Aberdeen American News \$1,174.91; All-American Publishing Limited \$199.00; Argus Leader \$33.79; Groton Independent \$823.39. Rental: Praxair Distribution Inc \$45.37; Advantage Self Storage \$95.00. Repairs & Maintenance: Roland L. Moerke \$1,501.00; Graham Tire Inc \$80.00; Hoven Auto Repair Inc \$794.19; Leidholt Electric LLC \$198.98; Nelson Sales & Service \$101.00; Newman Signs Inc \$7.34; Pierson Ford Lincoln Mercury \$333.43; US Bank \$127.49. Supplies: Praxair Distribution Inc \$365.20; Advance Stores Company \$1,553.46; Blasé Media LLC \$164.97; Century Business Products \$813.27; Cole Papers \$1,320.55; Court Street Lighting \$330.00; Dakota Structured Cabling \$141.70; Dakota Supply Group \$32.17; DPM Mercantile \$17.90; Farm & Home Publishing LTD \$1,820.00; Floor to Ceiling \$2,857.90; Hall Sand & Gravel Inc \$1,438.40; House of Glass \$2,238.00; Jason's Electric Inc \$2,743.40; Marco Inc \$36.31; Menards \$389.54; Midstates Printing \$751.47; Nelson Sales & Service \$53.65; Newman Signs Inc \$494.08; Pierson Ford Lincoln Mercury \$526.32; Premier Biotech, Inc \$678.52; Runnings \$59.96; Russ Bassett Corp \$1,358.60; Share Corp \$192.00; Sherwin Williams \$215.28; Karen Swank \$148.00; Tyler Business Products \$672.37; US Bank \$11,851.78; West Publishing Corp \$1,843.20. Travel & Conference: US Bank \$93.45; Kelsi Thilmony-Vinger \$188.40. Utilities: Qwest Corporation \$2,625.30; Dependable Sanitation \$513.00; Midcontinent Communications \$260.00; Northern Electric \$714.00; Northwestern Energy \$2,497.40; Northern Valley Communication \$2,901.56; US Bank \$344.45; Kelsi Thilmony-Vinger \$40.00; Verizon Wireless \$3,286.90. Other: Alleyville Entertainment \$501.72; SD Department of Revenue & Regulation \$3,020.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**HR REPORT:**  
Moved by Feickert, seconded

by Wiese to approve the following HR Report: Acknowledge resignation of Kayla Reinert, Brown County Communications Dispatcher, full-time; effective December 18, 2020. Request to fill. Approve hiring of Erin Spencer as Brown County Communications Dispatcher, full-time; starting wage \$17.13/hour; effective December 28, 2020. Approve hiring of Stacy Ramsdell as Brown County Communications Dispatcher, full-time; starting wage \$17.13/hour; effective December 28, 2020. Approve hiring of Austin Ball as Brown County Jail Correctional Officer, full-time; starting wage \$16.82/hour; effective December 28, 2020. Approve reclassification of Sam Mouna from interim Supervisor of Home Detention to Supervisor of Home Detention effective December 22, 2020. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**LOTTERY PERMIT:**  
Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Sutton to approve lottery permit submitted by Stratford American Legion Post #207 for raffle to be held on January 10, 2021. All member s present voting aye. Motion carried.

**PLATS: RESOLUTION 77-20 LOT RR1**

Commissioner Feickert brought the following resolution: Be it resolved by the board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota in the Regular Meeting Assembled that the plat of LOT RR1 in the NW1/4 of Section 2, T125N, R60W of the 5th P.M., in the Town of Claremont, Brown County, South Dakota be approved on this 22nd Day of December, 2020 in accordance with the provision of SDCL 11-3 and all acts amendatory thereto. Seconded by Wiese: Roll call vote Commissioner Feickert – aye, Sutton – aye, Wiese- aye, Fjeldheim – aye, Kippley – aye. Resolution adopted.

**RESOLUTION 78-20 FLIEHS RAILROAD ADDITION:** Commissioner Feickert brought the following resolution: Be it resolved by the County Commission of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "FLIEHS RAILROAD ADDITION IN THE N1/2 OF SECTION 30, TOWNSHIP 125 NORTH, RANGE 60 WEST OF THE 5TH P.M., BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA" having been examined is hereby approved in accordance with the provision of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-3, and any amendments thereof. Seconded by Wiese: Roll call vote Commissioner Feickert – aye, Sutton – aye, Wiese- aye, Fjeldheim – aye, Kippley – aye. Resolution adopted.

**RESOLUTION 79-20 DON MEYER CONSOLIDATION SUBDIVISION:** Commissioner Feickert brought the following resolution: The plat as shown hereon and as described on the accompanying plat of "DON MEYER CONSOLIDATION SUBDIVISION IN PRAIRIEWOOD VILLAGE" in the Northeast Quarter of Section 33, Township 124 North, Range 63 West of the 5th P.M., in Brown County, South Dakota, be approved and accepted and the County Auditor is hereby instructed to endorse such plat a copy of this resolution and to certify the same. Seconded by Wiese: Roll call vote Commissioner Feickert – aye, Sutton – aye, Wiese- aye, Fjeldheim – aye, Kippley – aye. Resolution adopted.

**RESOLUTION 80-20 B. GREEN ADDITION:** Commissioner Feickert brought the following resolution: Be it resolved by the County Commission of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "B. GREEN ADDITION IN THE NW1/4 OF SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 121 NORTH, RANGE 64 WEST OF THE 5TH P.M., BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA" having been examined is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-3, and any amendments thereof. Seconded by Wiese: Roll call vote Commissioner Feickert – aye, Sutton – aye, Wiese- aye, Fjeldheim – aye, Kippley – aye. Resolution adopted.

**RESOLUTION 81-20 CARLSON-ALLBEE SUBDIVISION:** Commissioner Feickert brought the following resolution: Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing Carlson-Allbee subdivision in the SW1/4 of section 14-T124N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota, having been examined, is hereby approved in accordance with the

provision of SDCL 11-3, and any amendments thereof. Seconded by Wiese: Roll call vote Commissioner Feickert – aye, Sutton – aye, Wiese- aye, Fjeldheim – aye, Kippley – aye. Resolution adopted.

**SET HEARING DATE:**  
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to set hearing date on the following rezone ordinances for January 12th, 2021 at 8:46a.m. at the Brown County Courthouse, Commission Chambers: Applicant John Koehler requesting to rezone the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG): Lots 1-4, "John Koehler Subdivision" in the SE1/4 of section 6-T123N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (3000 N Baird St) Applicant Marcie Weigel requesting to rezone the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG): Lot 1, "Weigel and Locken Subdivision" in the NE1/4 of Section 7-T122N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (38855137th St) Applicant Marjorie Dosch requesting to rezone the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG): Lot 1, Dosch Subdivision in the NW1/4 NW1/4 of Section 8-T127N-R63W of the 5th, P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (38905 107th Street) Applicant Troy Malsam requesting to rezone the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG): Jones Outlot 1 in the

N1/2 of Section 32-T124N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (39551 129th St) All member s present voting aye. Motion carried.

## Frederick School Dec. 14, 2020 Meeting Minutes

OFFICIAL BOARD PROCEEDINGS

FREDERICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #6-2  
DECEMBER 14, 2020

The meeting was called to order on December 14, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. by President Rich Schlosser. Members present were Dan Nickelson, Jon Ellwein, Richard Achen and Alex Hart. Others present were Superintendent/9-12 Principal/Athletic Director Jeff Kusters, K-8 Principal Jessica Ringgenberg and Business Manager Janel Wagner.

The meeting began with all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members of the public are allowed three minutes to address the board on any topic of their choice. With no public members wishing to speak, the board moved on with their remaining agenda items.

Action 20-072 Motion by Nickelson, second by Ellwein to approve the agenda as amended: add "and December 2, 2020 minutes" to 5a. All aye, carried.

Action 20-073 Motion by Ellwein, second by Achen to approve consent agenda which included the following items as presented: minutes of meetings held November 9, 2020 and December 2, 2020; November 2020 financial report, district bills and November 2020 payroll. All aye, carried.

| Ending November 30, 2020     | General Fund   | Capital Outlay Fund | Special Education Fund | Food Service Fund | Drivers Ed Fund | Governmental & Enterprise Fund | Custodial Fund |
|------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Beginning checking Balance   | \$383,914.99   | \$185,642.87        | \$253,986.48           | \$3,305.64        | \$912.92        | \$827,762.90                   | \$3,572.47     |
| Revenue:                     |                |                     |                        |                   |                 |                                |                |
| Taxes                        | \$236,662.13   | \$246,827.88        | \$118,329.98           |                   |                 |                                |                |
| Local Sources                | \$2,960.59     |                     |                        | \$5,197.20        |                 |                                | \$1,461.32     |
| Intermediate Sources         | \$502.91       |                     |                        |                   |                 |                                | \$0.19         |
| Interest                     | \$38.69        |                     |                        |                   |                 |                                |                |
| Federal & State              | \$72,620.79    | \$17,637.00         |                        | \$3,663.68        |                 |                                |                |
| Total Revenue                | \$312,785.11   | \$264,464.88        | \$118,329.98           | \$8,860.88        | \$0.00          | \$704,440.85                   | \$1,461.51     |
| Disbursements                |                |                     |                        |                   |                 |                                |                |
| Bills                        | \$32,127.29    | \$129,201.84        | \$1,247.82             | \$3,703.64        |                 |                                | \$800.00       |
| Payroll                      | \$124,425.10   |                     | \$14,138.10            | \$4,960.48        |                 |                                |                |
| Total Disbursements          | \$156,552.39   | \$129,201.84        | \$15,385.92            | \$8,664.12        | \$0.00          | \$309,804.27                   | \$800.00       |
| Transfers                    |                |                     |                        |                   |                 |                                |                |
| Transfer to investments      | (\$250,000.00) | (\$150,000.00)      | (\$200,000.00)         |                   |                 |                                |                |
| Total Net Transfers          | (\$250,000.00) | (\$150,000.00)      | (\$200,000.00)         | \$0.00            | \$0.00          | (\$600,000.00)                 |                |
| Total checking balance       | \$290,147.71   | \$170,905.91        | \$156,930.54           | \$3,502.40        | \$912.92        | \$622,399.48                   | \$4,233.98     |
| Beginning investment balance | \$265,594.23   | \$1,783,634.20      | \$1,246,175.05         |                   |                 | \$3,295,403.48                 |                |
| Interest                     | \$14.92        |                     |                        |                   |                 |                                |                |
| Transfer from checking       | \$250,000.00   | \$150,000.00        | \$200,000.00           |                   |                 | \$600,000.00                   |                |
| Total investment balance     | \$515,609.15   | \$1,933,634.20      | \$1,446,175.05         |                   |                 | \$3,895,418.40                 |                |
| Ending Balance               | \$805,756.86   | \$2,104,540.11      | \$1,603,105.59         | \$3,502.40        | \$912.92        | \$4,517,817.88                 |                |

Claims approved: November 2020 Payroll – General Fund salaries 73,479.52; Special Education salaries 9,490.05, Food Service 3,188.02. EFTPS, federal income tax/Social Security/Medicare 22,696.79; AFLAC, supplemental insurance 1,082.75; American Funds, retirement 1,115.02; Delta Dental, insurance 1,693.50; The Standard, life insurance 269.79; Security Benefits, retirement 1,100.26; VSP, vision insurance 308.82; Wellmark, health insurance 15,686.00; SD Retirement 12,947.90; SD Retirement Supplemental, 465.26. General Fund: Agtegra,

board People, classroom supplies 84.90; Menards, repairs 66.45; Merchant Services, online lunch fees 80.69; Mid-American Research Chemical, touchless soap dispensers 136.73; Midwest Pest Control, pest control 67.00; Montana-Dakota Utilities Co, electricity 3,192.47; Northwestern Area School District, VB region cost share 233.91; O'Reilly Auto Parts, repairs 39.36; Pantorium Cleaners Inc, supplies 249.20; Parkview Nursery Inc, football field maintenance 4,554.92; Pomp's Tire Service Inc, repairs 628.64; Quality Inn & Suites, travel 314.00; Ramkota Hotel,

travel 294.00; Safety Service, repairs 152.25; School Specialty, supplies 95.86; SD High School Activities Association, oral interp fees 107.66; Shop NEMC, supplies (13.61); South Dakota Medicaid, Medicaid admin fee 33.78; Taylor Music Inc, repairs 25.00; Town of Frederick, utilities 574.64; United States Postal Service, postage 31.90; WalMart, supplies 19.98; Webstraunt-Store, supplies 65.36. Imprest checks: Losure, Sofi, 3 of 3 ref for BB league 100.00; Sumption, Laura, 3 of 3 ref for BB league 100.00; Wolff, Avery, 3 of 3 ref for BB league 100.00. Capital Outlay Fund: A&B Business Solutions, managed print contract 670.70; Aberdeen Asphalt, Inc, playground upgrade 1,727.50; HP Inc, staff laptop 994.59; Price Plumbing, water heater 689.00. Special Education Fund: Avera St Luke's, occupational/physical therapy 2,644.19. Food Service Fund: Cash-Wa Distributing Co of Fargo, LLC, food/supplies 3,605.08; Child & Adult Nutrition, food 571.33; Pantorium Cleaners Inc, supplies 73.61. Custodial Account: Kusters, Jeffrey, 2021 LRC Chairman stipend 250.00; Pizza Ranch, 11.18.20 LRC meeting 89.96; Wagner, Janel, 2021 LRC Treasurer stipend 250.00.

The following reports were presented:  
A. Jeff Kusters - Superintendent/9-12 Principal/Athletic Director  
B. Jessica Ringgenberg – K-8 Principal  
C. Janel Wagner – Business Manager

Action 20-074 Motion by Ellwein, second by Achen to amend the Back to School Plan as follows: change Distance Learning weekly assignment deadline from Friday at 4:00 p.m. to Thursday at 3:00 p.m.; extend staff Emergency Paid Sick Leave as written in federal law until end of school year; and addition of the COVID-19 Test Result Policy. All aye, carried.

Action 20-075 Motion by Hart, second by Nickelson to set the 2021 School Board election date as Tuesday, April 13, 2021. All aye, carried

values and health concerns. The opposition is regarding Planning and Zoning Commission as Zoning Board of Adjustment items 3 and 4 from December 15, 2020 meeting allowing for a Utility Substation building over switching station and a fenced in area. Per South Dakota Codified law appeals should be brought before the Circuit Court. No action taken.

**Brown County  
Ord. 182  
Rainford/Crawford**

ORDINANCE #182  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED TO REZONE CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY

BE IT ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota, that the Petition to Amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended, to rezone the following described property filed by Darnell Rainford and Bryan Crawford is hereby granted and Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances is hereby amended to change the zoning on the following described property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation

District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG): Lot 1, "B Crawford Addition" in the SW1/4 of Section 2-T127N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (39206 107th St)

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

Notice of Hearing: December 2nd and 9th, 2020  
Passed First Reading: December 15th, 2020  
Passed Second Reading: December 22th, 2020  
Adopted: December 22th, 2020  
Published: December 30th, 2021  
Effective Date: January 19th, 2021

Rachel Kippley, Chair  
Brown County Commission  
ATTEST:  
Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor  
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$18.94. 19595

BE IT ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota, that the Petition to Amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended, to rezone the following described property filed by Darnell Rainford and Bryan Crawford is hereby granted and Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances is hereby amended to change the zoning on the following described property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation

travel 294.00; Safety Service, repairs 152.25; School Specialty, supplies 95.86; SD High School Activities Association, oral interp fees 107.66; Shop NEMC, supplies (13.61); South Dakota Medicaid, Medicaid admin fee 33.78; Taylor Music Inc, repairs 25.00; Town of Frederick, utilities 574.64; United States Postal Service, postage 31.90; WalMart, supplies 19.98; Webstraunt-Store, supplies 65.36. Imprest checks: Losure, Sofi, 3 of 3 ref for BB league 100.00; Sumption, Laura, 3 of 3 ref for BB league 100.00; Wolff, Avery, 3 of 3 ref for BB league 100.00. Capital Outlay Fund: A&B Business Solutions, managed print contract 670.70; Aberdeen Asphalt, Inc, playground upgrade 1,727.50; HP Inc, staff laptop 994.59; Price Plumbing, water heater 689.00. Special Education Fund: Avera St Luke's, occupational/physical therapy 2,644.19. Food Service Fund: Cash-Wa Distributing Co of Fargo, LLC, food/supplies 3,605.08; Child & Adult Nutrition, food 571.33; Pantorium Cleaners Inc, supplies 73.61. Custodial Account: Kusters, Jeffrey, 2021 LRC Chairman stipend 250.00; Pizza Ranch, 11.18.20 LRC meeting 89.96; Wagner, Janel, 2021 LRC Treasurer stipend 250.00.

The following reports were presented:  
A. Jeff Kusters - Superintendent/9-12 Principal/Athletic Director  
B. Jessica Ringgenberg – K-8 Principal  
C. Janel Wagner – Business Manager

Action 20-076 Motion by Ellwein, second by Achen to approve items presented as surplus and approve items to be destroyed. No value on any items. All aye, carried.  
Action 20-077 Motion by Nickelson, second by Hart to accept Open Enrollment application #21-23. All aye, carried.  
Discussion was held regarding the Head Football Coaching contract. This item will be tabled until the January 2021 meeting.  
Action 20-078 Motion by Nickelson, second by Ellwein to approve Employment Agreement for Taylor Achterberg as a long-term SPED substitute at \$100.00/day beginning January 4, 2021; when SD teaching certificate is issued, this agreement will revert to a teaching contract All aye, carried.  
Discussion was held regarding the addition of an Assistant Track Coach. This item will be tabled until the January 2021 meeting.  
Action 20-079 Motion by Nickelson, second by Ellwein to approve an amendment to the 2020-2021 School Calendar that will close school on December 21 and 22, 2020. All aye, carried.  
The school board would like to congratulate Katelyn Mehlhaff in qualifying for the State Oral Interp event. Also congratulations to the following football players for their season awards: All Lake Region Conference First Team – Isaac Sumption and Mason Hinz; Lake Region Conference Co Offensive MVP, Academic All State and 9A All State Athlete

honors to Isaac Sumption. The board would also like to thank Mr. Doug Braa for his donation to the playground project.  
The regular January 2021 board meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 13, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. due to a scheduling conflict with basketball games.  
Action 20-080 Motion by Achen, second by Hart to adjourn at 8:24 p.m. All aye, carried.  
Rich Schlosser, President  
Janel Wagner, Business Manager  
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$142.61. 19596

# Pandemic deaths place logistical and emotional burdens on S.D. funeral directors

By: Megan Raposa

Funeral director Mitch Steinhoff's alarm goes off at 4 a.m. most days so he can get in a few hours of work before the phones start ringing at 8.

One call can change the whole day in the funeral business, and for Steinhoff, owner of Eidsness Funeral Home in Brookings, the phone rings more often in recent months as more South Dakotans die amid the coronavirus pandemic.

"We ended up serving 25 families in some capacity in November," he said. "Typically, we would serve seven or eight."

Many funeral home directors across the state say they have seen double or triple the usual number of deaths in the past few months as the COVID-19 pandemic has dragged on. Materials such as personal protective equipment, caskets, body bags and gloves are in short supply, and wait times are increasing for cremation services.

Some funeral directors are working 12 to 16 hours a day to keep up with demand for their services. As of Dec. 30, 2020, about 1,450 people had died due to COVID-19 in the state.

Meanwhile, they're working with families who aren't able to grieve as they normally would before the pandemic. Families may not have had a chance to visit loved ones before they died, may have been exposed to the coronavirus themselves or may have to wait until the virus is under control before holding a more traditional funeral service or remembrance ceremony.

The roughly 340 licensed funeral directors and embalmers in South Dakota are playing a small but essential role in the response to the pandemic and like many others, they have faced a new normal that has been challenging and at times, heartbreaking and lonely.

In Redfield, for example, the local nursing home and its residents were hit hard by COVID-19, resulting in several elderly deaths.

"It's been just horrendous," said Kelly Hyke, owner of Hyke Funeral Home in Redfield. "I think we are the forgotten people of covid."

In South Dakota, nursing homes and long-term care facilities have been hit particularly hard by the pandemic, and a majority of the 1,450 deaths reported have been people over the age of 80, according to data from the state health department.

Funeral directors have been taking additional precautions in transporting and embalming bodies since the start of the pandemic, regardless of the cause of death.

"I treat every body now like it may be infected," said Wade Wilson, a funeral director at Behrens-Wilson Funeral Home in Rapid City.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends the following personal protective equipment for funeral directors during embalming: N95 masks, disposable gown, face shield and two pairs of gloves.

In the past, human remains may sometimes be moved by someone wearing only protective gloves, but with the airborne transmission of COVID-19, the times when the body is moved are most dangerous. When a body is moved, there is a chance that air is expelled through the mouth or nose, according to Jack Mitchell, spokesman and board member for the National Funeral Directors Association.

Overall, however, the risk of contracting COVID-19 postmortem is very low, Mitchell said.

The risk to funeral directors is higher, though, when the deceased person must be removed

Andrea Eisenbeisz of Paetznick-Garner Funeral Chapel in Groton is one of many funeral chapels seeing an increase in the need of their services. The COVID-19 pandemic has made some modifications in services. One of them is the use of Livestreaming services. People sometimes feel uneasy scrolling through Facebook and then all of a sudden they come across a funeral service. Eisenbeisz uses the services of GDILIVE.COM that offers an independent site for Livestreaming. In addition, the camera operator does more scanning around the room than what a stationary camera would do. "I like that service and it's something I don't have to add to my work load," she said. "The people like the clear quality and sound that GDILIVE.COM offers."



South Dakota has no mandatory face covering order and Paetznick-Garner allows families to decide on face covering options and social distancing. "What I am seeing are smaller services geared to immediate family members," Eisenbeisz said. "I'm also seeing less of a need for food at these more personal services."

And what happens after COVID-19? Eisenbeisz said, "It's hard to say what the new normal is going to be. We could see the continuation of the smaller, more personal services that are live-streamed and no meals after COVID-19."

- Paul Kosel



**Funeral directors across South Dakota are taking additional preventative measures to stay safe from the COVID-19 virus, including using protective equipment such as masks, gloves, footies and plastic sheeting while handling bodies.**

Photo: Megan Raposa, South Dakota News Watch

from a nursing home where an outbreak has taken place, and the protocol now is to wear a gown and other personal protective equipment before going inside.

For some funeral home workers, the extra precautions and protective equipment have forced a renewed commitment to safety and hygiene.

"If I'm taking anything good out of it, it's helped us refresh on things we've maybe gotten complacent with over the years," said Justin Nelson, funeral director at Mason Funeral Home in Winner.

## Some homes hit harder than others

The impact of the pandemic on funeral homes has varied depending on a few factors, including the size of the funeral home. Larger funeral homes are more capable of handling an increase in cases, both because they have more storage for remains and because they have more staff to help.

In Sioux Falls, George Boom Funeral Home has been busier than usual but not overwhelmed, said manager Phil Schmitz.

Continues on next page

### Brown County Ord. 183 Koehler Rezoning NOTICE

Application has been made by John Koehler 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 January 12th, 2021 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):

Lots 1-4, "John Koehler Subdivision" in the SE1/4 of section 6-T123N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (3000 N Baird 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. 183

ATTEST: Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor (1230.0106) Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$22.92. 19597

### Brown County Ord. 184 Weigel Rezoning NOTICE

Application has been made by Marcie Weigel 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 January 12th, 2021 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, "Weigel and Locken Subdivision" in the NE1/4 of Section 7-T122N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (38855137th 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. 184

ATTEST: Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor (1230.0106) Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$22.92. 19598

### Brown County Ord. 185 Dosch Rezoning NOTICE

Application has been made by Marjorie Dosch 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 January 12th, 2021 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, Dosch Subdivision in the NW1/4 NW1/4 of Section 8-T127N-R63W of the 5th, P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (38905 107th Street)

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. 185

ATTEST: Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor (1230.0106) Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$22.92. 19599

### Brown County Ord. 186 Malsam Rezoning NOTICE

Application has been made by Troy Malsam 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 January 12th, 2021 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):

Jones Outlot 1 in the N1/2 of Section 32-T124N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (39551 129th 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. 186

ATTEST: Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor (1230.0106) Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$22.34. 19600



**Mitch Steinhoff**

The funeral home opened a new facility in east-central Sioux Falls in 2017, and with that came about three times more space than its previous location. The business is also looking to add a second crematory in the coming months to keep up with current and projected future demand.

In Brookings, Steinhoff took a proactive approach as soon as he saw what the coronavirus was doing to overwhelm funeral facilities in New York earlier in the year.



**Phil Schmitz of George Boom Funeral Home in Sioux Falls prepares protective equipment used in handling the bodies of people who die during the COVID-19 pandemic.** Photo: Megan Raposa, South Dakota News Watch

He added a storage and cooling facility that can hold six to 10 bodies, which is several times more storage than most small- to mid-sized funeral homes. The storage space has been full since October.

In smaller areas, a spike in deaths is felt more intensely. Hyke is the only funeral director in Spink County, so when a local nursing home saw an outbreak in cases and deaths, he was the only one available to handle the cases. As is the nature of small towns, those calls rarely came from strangers.

"We see these people every single day in the grocery store, at the post office, here at the funeral home, so it makes it tough because you have that connection," Hyke said. "But it's also a good thing because, I think, knowing the families, we give them excellent service."



**Kelly Hyke**

**"We see these people every single day in the grocery store, at the post office, here at the funeral home, so it makes it tough because you have that connection ... but it's also a good thing because, I think, knowing the families, we give them excellent service." -- Kelly Hyke, funeral director in Redfield**

Because the surge in deaths hit South Dakota several months into the pandemic, funeral homes had time to stock up on personal protective equipment, embalming chemicals, caskets, cremation materials and other needed supplies. But when it comes to reordering,

directors need to order early and often.

"Our regular suppliers, their cupboards were bare pretty quickly when the pandemic hit," said Mitchell, the national trade group official.

That means orders are taking longer to arrive. It also means fewer options are available, so directors have to take what they can get.

"There's a certain body bag that I like," said Wilson of Rapid City. "There's a certain glove that I like, but I don't have that luxury to get what I like anymore." Funeral homes have also absorbed many of the increased costs related to their work during the pandemic, the high costs of PPE supplies among them.

Those are small complaints, Wilson admits, but the limited choices also affect grieving families. They may have a certain casket they like, but it may be on backorder. Funeral homes have been sharing and exchanging these types of supplies as needed, especially in rural parts of the state, but occasionally a director has to go back to a family with bad news.

In Sioux Falls, George Boom funeral assistant Bob Logan, who handles merchandising, said he usually orders cremation supplies once every three months. He's now ordering about every six weeks to keep up with the additional demand and to ensure they always have materials on hand.

## Concern for families, concern for health

Even though Winner didn't see a bunch of deaths all at once like some areas, the way some COVID-19 deaths are happening in isolation is emotionally trying for loved ones trying to grieve.

Nelson recalled a family he worked with early on in the pandemic



**Funeral homes across South Dakota, including the Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel in Groton, have been busier than usual during the coronavirus pandemic and adapting to new ways that loved-ones are trying to grieve and do so safely.**

Photo: Courtesy photo

who couldn't see their ailing father in person before he died. "It just makes a bad situation even worse," he said.

At a time when some families are unable to be physically close to each other when a relative dies, funeral directors also have to navigate new normals in interactions with those who are grieving.

"You don't have the closeness with the families," Hyke said. "We used to go in and give them hugs and shake their hands, and now it's getting drilled into us: 'No personal contact; keep six feet away.'"

Hyke, like others across the state, is concerned for the families, but he's also working to take care of his own health. He doesn't know if someone he plans to meet may have been exposed to the coronavirus. His small part-time staff hasn't been working in the office since February. All of them are either over 70 or in the high-risk category, and they cannot risk infection at work. Hyke, himself, worries what would happen if he got sick.

"I'm the only funeral director in the whole county," he said. "If I would come down with covid, it would shut my business down."

He's also one of the directors putting in long days. At the worst of it, he saw five deaths in a 24-hour period in November. Typically that's how many deaths he'd see in an entire month.

Even in the best of times, funeral directors can be susceptible to "compassion fatigue," or getting emotionally run down after seeing grief day after day, Mitchell said, and one of his big concerns amid the pandemic is the mental health of funeral directors, especially those in covid hot spots.

Still, there is optimism on the horizon as the rate of new cases slows statewide. Vaccines are also already being distributed to medical workers and those in nursing homes.

But when it comes to grieving, some fear it may take years before the full impact of the pandemic is known. Even in a state like South Dakota where most places have no restrictions on gatherings, attendance at funerals has been consistently low.

Some families got creative and help drive-up visitations, where mourners could greet family members one at a time from their vehicles

at a safe distance. Others held luncheon services outside when it was warm enough to do so. A few chose to hold only an intimate graveside service with plans to do a larger celebration down the line.

Statewide, there's

consensus that live-streaming funeral services online is a trend that will stick around long after the pandemic ends.

The pandemic has led to an increased awareness of the essential service funeral directors provide and the importance of funerals in the grieving process, Mitchell said. Pre-pandemic, he saw an increasing number of people treating funerals and visitations almost as an inconvenience.

"Everybody's become so busy," he said. "We're kind of hoping that people who do value a more traditional type of service who have been denied that because of the pandemic, that they're going to share the message that those gatherings are important."

## Sioux Valley has clean sweep of Groton Area's basketball teams

Sioux Valley won five games on Tuesday in basketball games played at Volga.

Sioux Valley won the C game game, 40-28. The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by the White House Inn.

The Cossacks won the girls junior varsity game, 63-26. Sydney Leicht led the Tigers with six points while Anna Fjeldheim and Lydia Meier each had four, Laila Roberts three, Sara Menzia, Brooklyn Hansen and Kennedy Hansen each had two points and Elizabeth Flihs added one.

The Groton Area junior varsity boys team lost, 56-49. Groton Area held a 16-11 lead, but then Sioux Valley scored 20 unanswered points to take a 31-16 lead. Sioux Valley led at the end of the third quarter, 46-31. The team then got a lecture from Coach Kyle Gerlach at the quarter break going into the fourth period. Groton Area closed to within seven, 49-42, and had a chance to close to within five, but the final margin was only seven, 56-49. Wyatt

**Continues on Page 9**

**ABOUT MEGAN RAPOSA**  
Megan Raposa is a freelance journalist and entrepreneur in Sioux Falls, S.D. She previously worked as an editor for the Sioux Falls Argus Leader.





# Groton Area Junior Kindergarten 2020

## I am thankful for...

Editor's Note: These were to run for Thanksgiving, but the COVID-19 pandemic caused some issues in putting this all together. So we are running them in our New Year's edition.



Saylor Gilchrist, son of Grant and Jennifer Gilchrist – my dog because he plays with me.



Taige Sombke, daughter of Rikki Clifford and Chris Sombke – my mom because she helps make me cookies and milk.



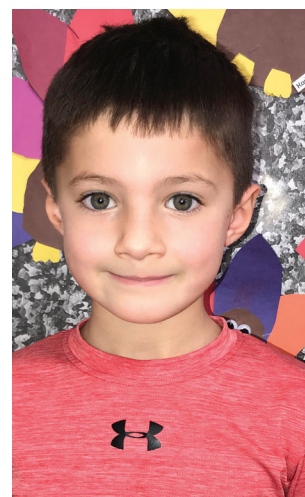
Maryn Sombke, daughter of Bryan and Whitney Sombke – my sister because she plays with me.



Gauge Johnson, son of Samantha Johnson – my mimi and papa because they come to my house.



Bennett Iverson, son of Jeremy and Jackie Iverson – my mom because she always plays Nintendo with me.



Braxten Sombke, son of Brett and Stephanie Sombke – my family because I like them.



Paxton Eichler, son of Collin and Emily Eichler – my mom and dad because they read me a book at night.



Stetson Foertsch, son of Joe and Teri Foertsch – my family and friends because I love them so much.



Madison Harry, daughter of Jeff and Betsy Harry – my family, friends, and Miss Schuring because they love me.



Ella Clocksene, daughter of Brandon and Alicia Clocksene – my mom because she works at Dollar General, so she can buy Cheetos.



Carter Zoellner, son of Darin and Anne Zoellner – my dog and my cat because they are my pets, and my mom and my dad.



Conrad Rix, son of Grant and Tracy Rix – daddy because I love him.



Sophia Gilchrist, daughter of Grant and Jennifer Gilchrist – my mom because she is nice.



Laken Kurth, daughter of Travis and Debbie Kurth – my mom because she lets me play with my friends.



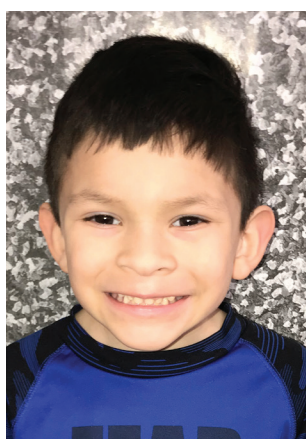
Jagger Penning, son of Brad and Janel Penning – my grandpa because he lets me go in the tractors and drive with him.



Kamden Gackle, son of Chad and Melissa Gackle – my mom and dad because they buy me toys.



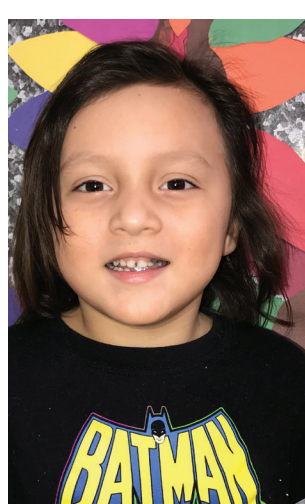
Nolan Rose, son of Ian and Karen Rose – my family because we get to go to grandma and grandpas.



Michael Garcia, son of Tony and Melissa Garcia – Miss Schuring because she is my teacher.



KayLynn Furman, daughter of Sam Furman and Jessica Kjenstad – my mom and dad because they let me buy sweets when I don't have any sweets.



Deyner Rodriguez, son of Deyner Rodriguez and Sandra Briones – Miss Schuring, and my friends Matias and Diego because they come to my house.

## Sioux Valley Games

Continued from previous page

Hearnen led all scorers with 22 points while Favian Sanchez had 10, Jayden Zak seven, Cade Larson four, and Colby Dunker, Jackson Cogley and Logan Ringgenberg each had two points.

Both junior varsity games were broadcast live on GDLIVE.COM, sponsored by ThunderSeed with John Wheeting.

In the girls varsity game, Groton Area had a 9-7 lead, but then fell behind, 15-9, before Sioux Valley scored 20 straight points to take a 35-10 lead en route to a 53-31 win.

Groton Area was plagued with 20 turnovers and made 24 percent of its field goals. Sioux Valley had 12 turnovers and made 32 percent of its field goals. Gracie Traphagen led the Tigers with 14 points followed by Brooke Gengerke with 10, Allyssa Locke had five and Alyssa Thaler added two points.

Sioux Valley finished off the night with a 63-44 win in the varsity boys game. Early in the game, there were five lead changes and the game was tied four times before the Cossacks started to pull away, unleashing six three-pointers. Tate Larson and Lane Tietz each had one three-pointer for the Tigers.

Tietz led the Tigers with 14 points followed by Larson with 13, Jacob Zak had six, Lucas Simon five, and Cole Simon, Favian Sanchez and Isaac Smith each had two points.

Groton Area had 14 turnovers and made 35 percent of its field goals. Sioux Valley had 10 turnovers and made 51 percent of its field goals.

Both varsity games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Joel Bierman Farm Service, John Sieh Agency, Milbrandt Enterprises, Mary Johnson - Still Massage Therapy & Yoga Studio of Webster, Harr Motors with Bary Keith, Blocker Construction, Groton Vet Clinic and Allied Climate Professionals with Kevin Nehls.

# Carry Nation's Drinking Problem

Deadwood was the wickedest city in America and Aberdeen had fewer righteous people in it than Sodom and Gomorrah.

Such were the beliefs that South Dakota newspapers attributed to prohibition activist Carry Amelia Nation. Nation, 1846-1911, was already famous for her hatchet-wielding, saloon-smashing activities when she came to South Dakota, first presenting her lecture "For God and Country" in Madison on Jan. 1, 1910. She went on to speak at several other locations throughout the state that year.

"Speaking forth a strong denunciation of the saloon, of republicans, tobacco users, democrats, members of the Masonic order and of all forms of vice, Mrs. Carrie Nation delivered an address Wednesday evening in the opera house before an audience of about two hundred," stated an article attributed to the Huronite that appeared in the Jan. 6, 1910, Philip Weekly Review. "Mrs. Nation spoke mostly of her experience as a 'saloon smasher' and of the course and reasons which impelled her to follow such a course in attacking that institution. At no time during her discourse did she display any hesitancy in speaking out her opinion, and she spared neither 'saint nor sinner' from her onslaughts."

Nation's efforts to get alcohol banned may have stemmed from quickly realizing after her marriage in 1867 to Charles Gloyd that he was an alcoholic.

Gloyd died in 1869 and Carry married David Nation, a journalist, lawyer and preacher 19 years her senior in 1874. David Nation divorced

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• Ken's Super Fair Foods & Shell Shop Aberdeen will be open until 11pm New Year's Eve  
• Ken's Food Fair in Britton, Clark & Eureka will be open until 6pm

**HOLIDAY STORE HOURS for New Year's Day, January 1\***  
• Ken's Food Fair & Shell Express in Groton & Ipswich will be open 8am - 1pm New Year's Day  
• Ken's Super Fair Foods & Shell Shop Aberdeen will be open until 11pm New Year's Day  
• Ken's Food Fair in Britton, Clark & Eureka will be open 8am to 1pm New Year's Day

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## SOUTH DAKOTA HISTORY & HERITAGE



The photograph is from the Gustav Johnson Collection of the State Archives. It was taken when she spoke in Philip in February 1910. Nation is third from the left, In the background are men standing in front of a saloon. (South Dakota State Historical Society - State Archives photo)

her in 1901 on the grounds of desertion. After the Nations moved to Medicine Lodge, Kan., in 1889, Carry began her temperance work by organizing a chapter of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, the most active group favoring the prohibition of alcohol.

Nation wrote in her autobiography that she "told the Lord to use me any way to suppress the dreadful curse of liquor." That "way" resulted in Nation going to Kiowa, Kan., in 1900, walking into saloons and smashing bottles of liquor, mirrors and other bar fixtures.

She continued her destructive tactics, attracting attention to herself and her cause. A hatchet became her preferred instrument of destruction, and she came to call her bar smashings "hatchetations."

By the time Nation arrived in South Dakota, newspapers reported she had decided that the spoken word was mightier than the hatchet. She had given up smashing saloons in favor of lecture tours.

To raise money, Nation sold copies of her autobiography, pictures of herself and miniature souvenir hatchets.

While most newspaper accounts spelled Nation's first name as "Carrie," the spelling "Carry" was used by her father in the family Bible. Nation told an audience in Centerville that "her name was not an accident, but the divine plan of God pointing out her life work to 'Carry A Nation's' burdens on her mind and heart, and use her talents for the world's betterment."

Standing 6-feet tall, Nation must have presented a formidable presence when she lectured. The Lead Pioneer-Times described her as "Attired in a dress of dark material, and a little old-fashioned cap to match, with a touch of white lace at the throat in contrast ... Her eyes flash fire from behind the steel-bowed spectacles as she gives an audience the benefit of her observations."

While at Lemmon, Nation was a guest at a wedding. Nation fastened a "hatchet" on the bride and groom when congratulating the couple, "accompanying the act with appropriate remarks, urging them to 'carry a nation' for righteousness," reported the State-Line Herald.

Nation was often greeted with large crowds, curious to hear what the famous speaker had to say. While lecturing in Huron, she called President William Howard Taft "that rotten piece of meat at Washington."

She had her detractors, though. "Carrie has a habit of consigning every one to h-ll but herself, and she must be anticipating a lonesome career through the eternal ages," noted the Citizen Republican in Scotland, S.D.

In Yankton, college boys sang drinking songs as the curtain went up at the opera house in which she spoke.

The Union County Courier in Elk Point noted, "She is worth seeing and hearing, but converts and convinces no one. She is an extremist, makes bold and unsupported assertions and is rightly regarded as a freak."

Nation spoke out against many things, but she was an advocate for woman suffrage and the rights of the poor and homeless.

She died a year after her lecture tour in South Dakota, on June 9, 1911.

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

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