



The Groton Independent

Vol. 138 No. 30 ♦ Groton, South Dakota ♦ Wednesday, March 31, 2021 ♦ Established in 1889

Freeman Selected to 2021 SD HS All State Band Ensemble

On Friday March 26th, Braden Freeman proudly represented Groton Area in South Dakota's 71st Annual High School All State Band. The event was located at the Mitchell Performing Arts Center in Mitchell, SD.

Due to COVID-19, All State Band was cancelled in 2020. This year, the All-State Band was divided into four different ensembles with each ensemble having its own conductor. On Friday March 26th, the guest conductors were Dr. Rolf Olson and Dr. Jacob Wallace. On Saturday March 27th, the guest conductors were Dr. Haley Armstrong and Dr. John LaCognata. Braden was selected to play in Dr. Olson's ensemble.

The members of the 2021 South Dakota All-State Band were selected through statewide competitive auditions. The auditions were held virtually during the month of January with four All-State adjudicators, judging each online submission to select the top high school musicians in the state for the All-State Band.

Freeman rehearsed for only one day in large group and sectionals. Each group performed a concert the that same evening. Freeman was grateful to have the opportunity to be apart of a prestigious ensemble.

Congratulations Braden! You made Groton Area extremely proud!



Pictured are Desiree Yeigh, Braden Freeman and Austin Fordham.

Spotlight on Groton Area Staff

Name: Adam Franken

Occupation: Agricultural Education Instructor

Length of Employment: 2004-Present

As a largely agricultural state, South Dakota is a chief producer of corn and soybeans. To maintain the growth of crops, and subsequently the economy, there is a need for trained farmers and agricultural experts. In the Groton Area, the person who is most likely to teach students about crops and livestock is Adam Franken, the resident Agriculture Education Instructor.



As the Agricultural Education Instructor, Mr. Franken teaches students about subjects like Plant Science, Animal Science, Wildlife and Fishery, Ag Processing, and Horticulture. In total, he teaches a combined total of 90-100 students in his classes, ranging from Freshmen to Seniors. Mr. Franken enjoys teaching through open discussions and hands-on activities, as he believes that is the best way to ascertain what a student already knows and what they need to learn. Franken is also well known for his sense of humor amongst students and staff, making it a point to lighten the atmosphere in the classroom with a joke or sarcastic remark.

Adam Franken graduated from Chester Area High School while he was living in the southeast area of South Dakota. He graduated from South Dakota State University in 2004 with a major in Ag Education. Soon after obtaining his Ag Education degree, Mr. Franken began to search for schools that required an Agriculture teacher. However, in the year after his graduation, he only found four open positions in South Dakota. Soon after his first interview for the position at Groton Area High School, he was offered a position as the Agriculture teacher. He leapt at the opportunity and began working at Groton Area High School.

In addition to his work as a teacher, Adam Franken also works as a FFA Advisor and Cross-Country coach. He participates as a youth group leader at his church. He plays the guitar and will sometimes compose songs as teaching aids for his classes, much to the chagrin of his students. Despite the occasional mid-lesson guitar solo, or perhaps because of it, Adam Franken is a well-respected teacher and source of knowledge on all things Agriculture.

Editor's Note: This is a continuing series compiled by Benjamin Higgins. Higgins who is working for the Groton Independent through the Project Skills program.

Spotlight on Groton Area Staff

Name: Jan Hoffman

Occupation: Special Education Paraeducator

Length of Employment: 1990-Present

Depending on the location and population of a school, there may be an abundance of students who require extra help with certain materials from a class. For students with special needs, certain subjects prove more difficult to comprehend. At Groton Area High School, there are staff members who work with students to help them understand the material in these classes. These staff are referred to as Paraeducators or Paraprofessionals.

Jan Hoffman graduated with a degree in Accounting from Aakers School of Business and Accounting in 1964. Prior to that point, Mrs. Hoffman had attended Jamestown College and had wanted to be an English and P.E. teacher, but her experience working at the accounting office in her college changed her mind. After graduating, Jan worked at Polar Telephone Communications in Park River, North Dakota as an Accountant. Her career in accounting lasted for 12 years in total and ended after moving to Brookings, SD with her husband and family.



After her work as an accountant, Mrs. Hoffman began her career as a stay-at-home mother for her four daughters. Jan started working as a Paraeducator at the Groton Area Elementary school after her husband passed away as it matched with her kid's schedule. She worked there for 10 years until the year 2000, at which point she began working at the Groton Area High School.

Jan Hoffman is still working to help students understand knowledge from a variety of classes, from Science to World History and Math. Mrs. Hoffman is well-versed in the fields of Chemistry and Physical Science. As a paraeducator who mainly works with special needs students, Jan thinks that knowing how to live independently is essential for life after high school.

Editor's Note: This is a continuing series compiled by Benjamin Higgins. Higgins who is working for the Groton Independent through the Project Skills program.

Election in Ward 1 is cancelled

It is important to make sure you change your voter registration when you move, even within a town. One of the candidates had moved only a few blocks and as a result, they were living in a different ward. Since the voter registration was not updated, the candidate could not run for office. As a result, incumbent Jon Cutler will retain his office for the two-year term in Ward 1.

Groton School Notice of Election

NOTICE OF SCHOOL BOARD
ELECTION
GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
NO. 06-6

A School District Election will be held on April 13, 2021, in all the voting precincts in Groton Area School District No. 06-6. If the polls cannot be opened because of bad weather, the election may be postponed one week.

The election polls will be open from seven a.m. to seven p.m. central standard time on the day of the election.

At the election, the following offices will be voted upon:

Two, 3-year terms for school board member between:

Anna Schwan
Martin D. Weismantel
Ryan Tracy
Kara M. Pharis

The polling place in each precinct of this district is as follows:

Andover Area Precinct #1, (which includes Andover Town, Andover Township and Farmington Township) – Andover Other Place.

Bristol Area Precinct #2, (which includes Bristol Town, Butler Town, Lily Town, Bristol Township, Butler Township, Kidder Township, Lynn Township, Oak Gulch Township, Scotland Township, Troy Township, Union Township, Valley Township and York Township as well as Clark County residents in Warren Township) – Bristol Community Center.

Columbia Area Precinct #3, (which includes the City of Columbia, Brainerd Township #7, Shelby Township #8, Cambria Township #15, and Garland Township #46,) – Columbia Legion.

Groton Area Precinct #4, (which includes the City of Groton, Wards 1, 2, & 3, and Claremont Township #10, Riverside Township #16, Groton Township #17, Henry Township #18, Bath Township #19, Gem Township #24, East Hanson Township #25, Garden Prairie Township #26 East Rondell Township #27, Bates Township #44, Putney Township #48, and West Hanson Township #49 as well as Spink County residents in Beotia Township, Conde Township and Olean Township) – Groton Community Center.

Voters with disabilities may contact the business official for information and special assistance in absentee voting or polling place accessibility.

Michael J. Weber, Business Official

Groton Area School District
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$47.61. 19882

(2t. March 29 & April 5, 2021)

Frederick Town March 22, 2021 Special Meeting

Special Meeting
March 22, 2021

Frederick City special meeting was held Monday, March 22, 2021 in the Frederick Community Center beginning at 8:00 PM. Attending the meeting were Chairman R. Scott Campbell, Board member Troy Millard, Assistant Finance Officer Mariah

Heine, and Frederick Fire Chief Kevin Barton.

Chairman Campbell led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The board discussed the new fire hall building and the costs associated with the new building. The Frederick Volunteer Firefighters have secured a lot on the corner of 3rd Ave and Main Street for their new building. With this new building, the city will have room in the old fire hall to store equipment and other parts used for utility and street maintenance. The Frederick Volunteer Firefighters are asking for the City to contribute funds to the new building in collaboration with the Frederick Fire District. Motion to show support for the fire fighters fire hall project and commit a debt service payment of up to \$15,000 on a loan of no more than \$400,000 for the construction of a new fire hall building made by Campbell/Millard; motion carried. There will be further discussion on ownership of the building and management of the project and project's funds at a later date.

Motion to adjourn made by Campbell/Millard at 8:26, motion carried.

M. Heine

Assistant Finance Officer
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$15.28. 19885

Frederick Town Feb. 25, 2021 Special Meeting

Special Meeting
February 25, 2021

Frederick City special meeting was held Thursday, February 25, 2021 in the Frederick Community Center beginning at 12:15 PM. Attending the meeting were Chairman R. Scott Campbell, and Board members Jeff Kusters and Troy Millard.

Chairman Campbell led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel made by Kusters/Millard at 12:16 PM; motion carried. Chairman Campbell declared the meeting out of executive session at 1:30 PM.

Motion to adjourn made by Kusters/Millard at 1:31 PM; motion carried.

M. Heine

Assistant Finance Officer
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$8.23. 19884

Brown County Notice to Chemical Dealers

NOTICE TO CHEMICAL DEALERS

Sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners, Brown County Courthouse Annex at Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401 until 8:46 A.M. on April 13, 2021, at said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read and considered for furnishing of chemical for the Brown County Weed and Pest Board for 2021. Proposal Guaranty: No deposit or bond will be required at time of bid opening. Contract: Brown County will give notice to the successful bidder that his proposal has been accepted, and said bidder shall within ten (10) days thereafter enter into a contract with Brown County in accordance with the bid as accepted. Successful bidder shall furnish

proper certificates of insurance as required by Brown County. Contract for the chemicals shall be firm and will be in effect for a period of eight months from April 1 to November 30, 2021. Sealed envelopes containing bids shall be addressed to Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Ste 1, Aberdeen, South Dakota and be marked "Chemical Bid for Brown County Weed and Pest Board" and to be opened at 8:46 A.M. on April 13, 2021. The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County. Brown County is exempt from Federal Excise Tax and State Sales Tax. Specifications are on file and may be obtained at no charge at the office of the Brown County Auditor and the Brown County Weed and Pest Office.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor
(0331.0407)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$34.67. 19879

Groton City Election is Cancelled

PUBLIC NOTICE OF MUNICIPAL ELECTION CANCELLATION

Due to an invalid submission of one candidate's nominating petition, the Municipal Election for Ward 1 scheduled for April 13, 2021 must be cancelled. The Groton Area School District School Board election will still be held as scheduled. Questions are directed to the Groton City Hall at 605-397-8422.
(0331.0407)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$11.16. 19883

Groton School March 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes

UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
NO. 06-6
REGULAR MEETING
March 22, 2021

President Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Elementary Commons Area. Members present: Flihs, Gengerke, Harder, Pharis, Rix, Smith and Weismantel. Others present were Supt. J. Schwan, Principals B. Schwan and Sombke, and Business Manager Weber.

Moved by Weismantel, second Pharis to approve the agenda with the following changes: under New Business #2, #3, and #4 – change effective from 2020-21 to 2021-22 and add New Business Item #5 – approve hiring Emily VanGerpen. Motion carried.

Pursuant to SDCL 23-3, there was no potential conflict disclosure reported.

Members of the public are allowed five minutes to address the board on any topic of their choice. Four patrons spoke about the merits of maintaining a 5-day school week.

Moved by Weismantel, second Rix to adapt a 169-day calendar with no school on October 11, 2021 (Columbus Day) and an in-session school day on December 22, 2021. School would begin August 25, 2021 and tentatively end on May 18, 2022. Motion carried 6-1 with Flihs voting no.

The following topics were addressed in administrative reports: school district COVID case update, 173 Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid Tests conducted with 41 positives, state vaccination plan, collective bargaining training, Langford Cooperative committee meeting on April 13th, ESSER II grant funding, ASBPT renewal meeting, website update, JK and KG enrollment projections, playground update, state testing, Track and Field Day on May 6, Dual Credit registration, Spring testing schedule and worker's compensation insurance update.

Discussion was held regarding reduction in force of 1.0 FTE instrumental music position for 2021-22. Eighteen patrons made statements on the issue as did six board members. No action was taken.

Moved by Weismantel, second Flihs to hire Joie Spier as MS Language Arts/Social Studies Teacher and JH Volleyball Coach for the 2021-22 school year. Motion carried.

Moved by Harder, second Rix to hire Kyle Gerlach as PE/Health Teacher and Assistant Boys Basketball Coach for the 2021-22 school year. Motion carried.

Moved by Gengerke, second Pharis to hire Jordyn Bortnem as MS/HS Special Education Teacher for the 2021-22 school year. Motion carried.

Moved by Gengerke, second Flihs to hire Emily VanGerpen as K-12 Guidance Counselor for the 2021-22 school year. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, second Flihs to adjourn at 9:48 pm. Motion carried.

M. J. Weber, Business Manager
Steven R. Smith, President

The addition of signatures to this page verifies these minutes as official.

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$29.97. 19881



By Jordan Wright

The first wave of free agency is done, and most of the big-name free agents have been signed. The Vikings have continued to plug holes in the roster by signing players who will, at the very least, compete for a starting spot this season. Last week we broke down the Dalvin Tomlinson and Patrick Peterson signings, so if you missed it make sure to grab last week's paper. One more note on the Peterson signing, however. Most free agents sit back and let interested teams call the player's agent before choosing the best offer, but not Peterson. He told his agent to reach out to the Vikings, which should make fans happy – it's not often a star player prefers playing in Minnesota.

The Vikings have made six signings since last week, plus a trade. Two of those players were on the roster last year and figure to have the same role going into 2021. Ameer Abdullah and Mike Boone battled it out last season for the third RB spot, and both players were on the last year of their contract. With Boone signing in Denver, Abdullah was brought back to add depth to the running back room and to be a reliable presence on special teams. His signing won't prevent the Vikings from drafting a RB in the later rounds, however.

The Vikings also re-signed wide receiver Chad Beebe, who has shown glimpses of potential since signing as an undrafted rookie. He has never been able to put it all together, and at this point, it's fair to wonder if he ever will. Beebe will be battling it out with Olabisi Johnson for the third WR spot, but don't be surprised if the Vikings bring in more competition before training camp opens.

Besides re-signing two players, the Vikings also brought back two players who played for the team just two seasons ago. Stephen Weatherly will be coming back after spending a year in Carolina, and he will compete for the only open starting spot on the defensive line. The team has four defensive ends on the roster (Danielle Hunter, DJ Wonnum, Kenny Willekes, and Weatherly), so the position is in fine shape.

Mackensie Alexander, who spent the 2020 season with the Bengals, was brought back to provide depth at cornerback. It's looking like the plan at cornerback is for Patrick Peterson and Cameron Dantzler to start on the outside, with Jeff Gladney playing the slot. Alexander, Mike Hughes, Harrison Hand, and Kris Boyd are penciled in as backups. Peterson and Alexander bring some vital veteran experience, while Dantzler, Gladney, and Hughes are high-upside youngsters.

The Vikings had a hole at safety after Anthony Harris signed with the Eagles, which led to the team bringing in Xavier Woods. Drafted by the Cowboys in the sixth round of the 2017 draft, Woods has developed into a solid safety. Woods is good in coverage, and he's even better when he's operating in towards the line of scrimmage. He can also play the slot, giving the 25-year-old a diverse skill set.

The Vikings also signed linebacker Nick Vigil. The Vikings now have nine linebackers on the roster and with Anthony Barr and Eric Kendricks holding two starting spots, that leaves seven players fighting snaps.

Besides the eight free agents the Vikings signed this offseason, the team also traded for an offensive lineman. The Vikings sent a sixth-round pick to the Arizona Cardinals for center/guard Mason Cole. The former third-round pick in 2018 has started 32 games for the Cardinals. He has primarily played center but has shown the ability to move over and play guard. Unless he takes a dramatic step forward, it's highly unlikely Cole will be a starter for the Vikings, but his position flexibility makes him a solid backup. Skoll!



Cheer

someone up!
Send a balloon

for just \$6!
(includes delivery in Groton & Tax)

Groton Daily
Independent
21 N Main

Call/Text Tina at
397-7285
or Paul at
397-7460
Delivery in the
Groton area

MEYERS

TRACTOR SALVAGE

ABERDEEN, SD

- 1000+ Salvaged Tractors & Combines
- 400+ Reground Crankshafts
- 500+ Tractor Tires
- 300+ Rebuilt Radiators

Large Line of Swather, Baler & Cutter Parts.

GREAT BUYS & SERVICE!

WANT TO BUY TRACTORS, COMBINES & SWATHERS FOR SALVAGE

Phone (605) 225-0185

5 Miles North & 1 Mile West of CASE-IH

WE WANT YOU! EARN \$50!

DIABETES

RECENT STROKE

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

HEART DISEASE

If you or someone you know has any of the above conditions or is taking medications for the above conditions and would like to participate in a research study.

Call 605-274-9549 for more information.

**Brown County
March 23, 2021
Meeting Minutes**
MARCH 23, 2021 –GENERAL MEETING

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

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

MINUTES: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Kippley to approve the general meeting minutes of March 16, 2021. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS: Moved by Kippley, seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims: Other: SD Association of County Officials \$1,200.00. Professional Fees: Avera St. Luke's \$5,962.96; Drew Becker \$200.00; Carlsen Funeral Home \$1,990.00; Dependable Sanitation \$25,697.60; Kuck Law Office \$15.20; Sanford Health \$344.00; State of South Dakota \$5,650.00; US Bank \$245.98; Yankton County Sheriff Office \$150.00. Publishing: Groton Independent \$733.87; US Bank \$250.27. Repairs & Maintenance: Dakota Pump \$857.14; Graham Tire \$14.98; Haar Plumbing & Heating \$1,394.19; Jalene Palmer \$1,539.26; Laursen Asphalt Repair \$41.57; Lien Transportation \$600.00; Pro Windmill \$95.00; Schwan Welding \$341.70; Stan Houston Equipment \$235.00; US Bank \$1,020.79. Supplies: Praxair Distribution \$318.98; Advance Auto Parts \$791.77; Auto Zone \$24.99; Carlsen Funeral Home \$475.00; Cole Papers \$668.85; Correct RX Pharmacy \$4.19; MB LLC \$1,242.60; GovConnection \$268.53; Great Western States Supply \$927.00; Herc-U-Lift \$52.17; Jensen Rock & Sand \$3,768.34; Laursen Asphalt Repair \$1,063.00; Lewis Drug Store \$14.69; Matthew Bender & Co \$68.08; Menards \$1,013.96; Midwest Pump & Tank \$144.00; Northern Valley Communication \$26.76; Pantorium Cleaners \$84.00; Pitney Bowes \$126.00; Plumbing & Heating \$1,491.43; Precision Kiosk \$350.00; Quill Corporation \$264.85; Sander's Sew-N-Vac \$3.00; US Bank \$11,610.11. Travel & Conference: Stan Beckler \$24.44; Darwin Bettmann \$20.32; James Meyers \$28.50; Patrick Keatts \$34.11; Dale Kurth \$150.04; David North \$140.64; Jerome Streckfuss \$11.66; US Bank \$2,273.17; Patricia Vanmeter \$156.04. Utilities: Qwest Corporation \$2,151.65; Dependable Sanitation \$513.00; James Valley Telecommunication \$221.10; Northwestern Energy \$1,067.84; Northern Valley Communications \$1,784.27; US Bank \$2,961.53; Verizon Wireless \$6,452.43. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Sutton to approve the HR Office Report, which includes the following: Acknowledge resignation of Joseph Dulik, full-time Brown County Jail Correctional Officer effective April 18, 2021. Approve hiring of Nathan Campton as part-time Brown County Building Maintenance Custodian at Museum; starting wage @ \$11.61/hour effective March 15, 2021. Approve hiring of Joanacani Manaea as full-time Brown County Jail Correctional Officer effective March 22, 2021; starting wage @ \$16.82/hour. Approve hiring of Alexander Engel as full-time Brown County Jail Correctional Officer effective April 5, 2021; starting wage @ \$16.82/hour. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FAIR CONTRACTS: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Brown County Fair Agreement and Contracts: Brown County Old Time Tractor Pullers Association @ \$1,200; Brown County 4-H Leaders Association (4-H premium awards) @ \$5,350; Keith Raymond (entertainer) @ \$4,000; Piles of Smiles Entertainment @ \$1,700; Fire Safety First @ 325.00 (fire protection services); Dakota Kids Pedal Pull @ \$752.50. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FAIR BOARD APPOINTMENT: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Kippley to approve the following Fair Board appointment: Karen Treeby for 1st of 2, 3-year terms (2021-2023 & 2024-2026). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

BID DATES SET: WEED CHEMICALS: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Sutton to authorize advertising public hearing to open, read and consider bids for the following items: Chemical Bid for Brown County Weed and Pest Board at 8:46 a.m., on April 13, 2021 in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

PLATS: RESOLUTION 15-21 DURHEIM SUBDIVISION Commissioner Kippley brought the following resolution: "Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing Durheim Subdivision in the SE ¼ of Section 3-T128N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota having been examined, is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL 11-3, and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Sutton. Roll call vote Commissioner Feickert – aye, Sutton – aye, Wiese- aye, Kippley – aye, Fjeldheim – aye. Resolution adopted. **RESOLUTION 16-21 J&J SCHAUNAMAN 3RD SUBDIVISION** Commissioner Kippley brought the following resolution: "Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing J&J SCHAUNAMAN 3RD SUBDIVISION IN THE NE ¼ OF SECTION 28, TOWNSHIP 125 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 Sutton. Roll call vote Commissioner Feickert – aye, Sutton – aye, Wiese- aye, Kippley – aye, Fjeldheim – aye. Resolution adopted. **RESOLUTION 17-21 NELSON-KIESZ FIRST ADDITION** Commissioner Kippley brought the following resolution: "Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing Nelson-Kiesz First Addition in the SE ¼ of Section 15-T124N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota, having been examined, is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL 11-3, and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Sutton. Roll call vote Commissioner Feickert – aye, Sutton – aye, Wiese- aye, Kippley – aye, Fjeldheim – aye. Resolution adopted.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the following February 2021 Sheriff Reports: Incidents and offenses, Prisoner care, JDC, and Money deposited with the County Treasurer. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

AUDITOR REPORT OF ACCOUNTS: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Sutton to approve the following Auditor's report of account for February 2021: Total Cash and Checks on Hand \$7,700.00; Total Checking Account Balances: \$13,687,640.16; Total Savings Account Balances: \$3,525,447.42; Total Certificates of Deposit: \$4,451,798.16; Grand Total Cash and Balances: \$21,672,585.74; General Fund Cash and Investment Balances by Funds: General Fund \$10,791,178.95; Road & Bridge Fund \$1,416,250.67; Road & Bridge Fund - restricted \$423,243.27; 911 Service \$964,640.03; Emergency & Disaster \$123,599.78; Domestic Abuse \$410.00; Teen Court \$26,414.31; Grant \$32.11; JDAI -\$1,879.46; Richmond Youth \$21,916.96; 24/7 Sobriety \$14,780.75; ROD M&P \$105,806.97; Tif Debt Service \$12,797.82; Landfill + cash change \$3,603,595.30; Landfill - restricted \$1,400,479.44; Trust and Agency Funds \$2,769,318.84; GRAND TOTAL GENERAL FUND CASH AND INVESTMENTS \$21,672,585.74. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ABATEMENTS: Moved by Kippley, seconded by Wiese to approve the following abatement: Arlan McNeill (double-charged on SW) @ \$86.83. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LEASES: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Sutton to approve lease agreement with Roncalli School for lease of Richmond Lake Youth Camp on March 28-29, 2021. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

SECOND READING AND ADOPTION – REZONE ORDINANCE 190: Moved by Kippley, seconded by Feickert to adopt ordinance 190: Applicant Dave Schumaker requesting to rezone the following property from

Chapter 4.14 Highway Commercial District (HC) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG) Lot 1, "Dave Schumaker Addition" in the NW ¼ of section 22T123N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (1220 392nd Ave S). Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Feickert-aye, Sutton-aye, Wiese-aye, Kippley-aye, Fjeldheim-aye. Ordinance adopted.

SECOND READING AND ADOPTION – ORDINANCE 189, FAIR BOARD EXPENSE AUTHORITY REVISION:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to adopt ordinance 189: Amending Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, Title 16 Brown County Fair, by amending Chapter 16.02.05 Specific Responsibilities: 6. Approves all contracts that do not require a formal bid or quote per Brown County Policy Manual under Purchasing Policy and Replacement Procedures for signature by Fair Manager. Contracts that do require a formal bid or quote will be sent to Brown County Commission for final approval. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Feickert-aye, Sutton-aye, Wiese-aye, Kippley-aye, Fjeldheim-aye. Ordinance adopted.

APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the following application for occupancy submitted by Northern Electric for primary electrical services: occupancy of Brown County Highway Number 14, in Section 15, Township 123N, Range 63W, Brown County, South Dakota; occupancy of Brown County Highway Number 21, in Section 10, Township 122N, Range 60W, Brown County, South Dakota; occupancy of Brown County Highway Number 21, in Section 17, Township 122N, Range 60W, Brown County, South Dakota; occupancy of Brown County Highway Number 13, in NE ¼ Section 22, Township 124N, Range 61W, Brown County, South Dakota. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES (HIGHWAY): Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent, discussed with the commission the road conditions and department projects. No actions taken.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES: Carl Perry, District 3 State Representative met with the commission to talk about legislative updates. No actions taken.

HAULING ORDINANCE: Commissioner Feickert gave an update on his research for a potential hauling ordinance. No action taken.

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

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Kippley to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:38a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Jeannette McClain, Brown County Deputy Auditor
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$109.61. 19875

**State of S.D.
School Land
Lease Auction**

SCHOOL LAND LEASE AUCTION
A school land lease auction will be held at the Brown County Courthouse Annex (Community Room) in Aberdeen, SD on April 7, 2021 at 10:00AM (CT).

A list of tracts available for lease may be obtained at the Brown County Auditor's Office or by contacting the Office of School & Public Lands, 500 E Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501-5070 or phone (605)773-3303. You may also visit the SPL website at www.sdpubliclands.com. Phone bidding will be allowed on a recorded conference line at 1-848-777-1212 with access code 18892020#. Disabled individuals needing assistance should contact the Office of School and Public Lands at least 48 hours in advance of the auction to make any necessary arrangements.

(0310.17.24.31)
Published four times at the total approximate cost of \$35.53. 19823

**Brown County
Ord. 189
Fair Mgr. Respon.**

ORDINANCE #189
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 16, CHAPTER 16.02.05 SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES, SECOND REVISION BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota, that the Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, shall be amended as follows:

Along with the Fair Manager, the Brown County Fair Board:

1. Works to plan, coordinate and produce the annual Brown County Fair, including:
 - a. Youth and adult competitive exhibiting,
 - b. commercial exhibit opportunities,
 - c. 4-H competition,
 - d. FFA shows,
 - e. Special events,
 - f. Livestock, agricultural, educational and Home Arts exhibits
 - g. Providing quality entertainment and food concessions for the enjoyment of area residents and visitors.
2. Is responsible for long range planning for both future fairs and for future fairground needs.
3. Supervises its various fair committees.
4. Assists the Fair Manager with the various activities and programs held both during Fair Week and during the Fair Off-season,
5. Works with the Fair Manager concerning Fair contract and budget issues,
6. Approves all contracts that do not require a formal bid or quote per Brown County Policy Manual under Purchasing Policy and Replacement Procedures for signature by Fair Manager. Contracts that do require a formal bid or quote will be sent to the Brown County Commission for final approval.
7. Approves Fair Board Treasurer's monthly report.
8. Meets at least monthly to conduct its business.
9. Helps find, recruit and organize volunteers to work during Fair Week.

Notice of Hearing: March 3rd and 10th, 2021

Passed First Reading: March 16th, 2021

Passed Second Reading: March 23rd, 2021

Adopted: March 23rd, 2021

Published: March 31st, 2021

Effective Date: April 20th, 2021

Doug Fjeldheim, Chair
Brown County Commission

ATTEST:
Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$26.77. 19876.

**Brown County
Ord. 190
Schumaker Rezone**

ORDINANCE #190
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 Dave Schumaker 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 4.14 Highway Commercial District (HC) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG):

Lot 1 "Dave Schumaker Addition" in the NW1/4 of section 22T123N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County South Dakota (1220 392nd, Ave S)

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: March 3rd and 10th, 2021

Passed First Reading: March 16th, 2021

Passed Second Reading: March 23rd, 2021

Adopted: March 23rd, 2021

Published: March 31st, 2021

Effective Date: April 20th, 2021

Doug Fjeldheim, Chair
Brown County Commission

ATTEST:
Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$17.96. 19877.

**Brown County
Weeds and Pest
Notice**

NOTICE OF RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTROL NOXIOUS WEEDS AND DECLARED PESTS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN this 30th day of March, 2021 pursuant to SDCL 38-22 as amended to all owners, occupants, agents and public officials in charge of lands in Brown County, South Dakota, that they are responsible for the suppression, control, and eradication of noxious weed and declared pest infestations that my exist on such lands. Chemical, biological and/or cultural control methods used for the suppression, control and eradication of noxious weed and declared pest infestations shall be those approved for such purposes by the Brown County Weed and Pest Supervisor, Regional Extension Educator or the South Dakota Department of Ag. Upon failure to observe this notice, the county weed and pest board is required to proceed pursuant to the law and have the noxious weeds or declared pests destroyed by such methods as they may find necessary, the expense of which shall constitute a lien and

be entered as a tax against the land, and be collected as other real estate taxes are collected, or by other means as provided by law. Plants and animals designated as being noxious weeds and declared pests in the state of South Dakota are Leafy Spurge, Salt Cedar, Perennial Sow Thistle, Russian Knapweed, Hoary Cress, Canada Thistle, Purple Loosestrife, Absinth Wormwood, and Gypsy Moth. In addition, Musk and Plumeless Thistle, Yellow Toadflax and Bull Thistle have been approved by the South Dakota Weed and Pest Control Commission and are subject to the same suppression, control and eradication requirements as the before mentioned plants and animals.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that upon establishing probable cause to believe a noxious weed or declared pest infestation exists upon any property in Brown County a representative of the Brown County Weed and Pest Board will enter upon said property for the purpose of inspecting and confirming that such infestation actually exists.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$23.83. 19878

FREE COVID-19 AT HOME TESTING

ORDER YOUR AT-HOME SALIVA TEST TODAY!

You DO NOT need to have symptoms to get a test delivered to your door.

Use it now or keep it on hand for when you need it.

covid.sd.gov/testing.aspx




Groton Chiropractic Clinic

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.

1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204

Harry Implement

"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"

(605) 395-6421

Ferney



BLOCKER CONSTRUCTION

NEW CONSTRUCTION
REMODELING
HOOP BARN

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

MIDWEST MASONRY &

New or Replaced Sidewalk
Block Walls ~ Egress Windows
Driveway ~ Garage Floors ~ Basement Floors
Stone and Brick Work

Call for a free quote **605/397-8383**

JOHNSON AGENCY

Real Estate & Insurance

Jay Johnson, Broker

www.johnsonagencygroton.com

102 N Main St. Office: 605/397-2424
Groton, SD 57445 Home: 605/397-8565



Dakota Outdoors

Erik Dean

402 N Main St
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605.229.0123

dakoutdoors@midconetwork.com



United Methodist Church

Groton and Conde

Thursday, April 1, 2021

7 a.m.: Daily Devotions on Facebook

Friday, April 2, 2021

7 a.m.: Daily Devotions on Facebook

Sunday, April 4, 2021 (Easter Sunday)

Worship, 11 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Groton

Thursday, April 1

7 p.m.: Maundy Thursday Worship

Friday, April 2

7 p.m.: Good Friday Worship

Sunday, April 4 (Easter Sunday)

7 a.m.: Sunrise service w/ Communion

9 a.m. & 11 a.m. Service W / Communion

W
Weismantel
AGENCY

Marty Weismantel
605/396-7341
weisag@nvc.net

PROGRESSIVE SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC ASSURANCE ALLIANCE GREAT AMERICAN NORTH STAR NORTHWEST GF SFM

ACCESS TO MANY MORE COMPANIES!

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton & St. Joseph Catholic

Groton and Turton

Thursday, April 1, 2021

7 p.m.: Holy Thursday Mass

8 p.m. to 10 p.m.: Adoration

Friday, April 2, 2021

3 p.m.: Traditional Good Friday Service in Groton

7 p.m.: Stations/Cross veneration in Turton

Saturday, April 3, 2021

8:15 p.m.: Easter Vigil in Groton

Sunday, April 4, 2021 (Easter Sunday)

8:30 a.m.: Mass at SEAS, Groton

11 a.m.: Mass at St. Joseph, Turton

St. John's Lutheran Church

Groton

Thursday, April 1, 2021

7 p.m.: Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 2, 2021

7 p.m.: Good Friday Worship

Saturday, April 3, 2021

4 p.m.: Circuit Easter Vigil Service

Sunday, April 4, 2021 (Easter Sunday)

7:30 a.m.: Worship at Zion Lutheran, Andover

9 a.m.: Worship at St. John's Lutheran, Groton

Heaven Bound Ministries

Pierpont

Buffalo Lake Lutheran

Rural Eden

Saturday, April 3: Worship at Pierpont,

5:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 4: Worship at Buffalo Lake

10:30 a.m.

Listen to Your Gut

The patient knew something was wrong. After appointments with several specialists, multiple scans, and tests, she was given a diagnosis. Still, she felt certain something was not right. I sat down with her and listened. We repeated a test she had a year prior, and this time the test garnered a different result. There was a tumor growing. She listened to her gut, she persisted and with an accurate diagnosis she got the medical care she needed.



By Andrew Ellsworth, MD ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

Usually, it does not help to repeat a medical test. Nine times out of ten the result is the same. However, if as a patient, you get that feeling that something is amiss, seek out answers and find someone who will listen. That does not mean you need every possible test. Tests are costly. They are only a tool and using the wrong tool can cause more harm than good.

Physicians are adeptly trained in the application of the tools of medicine. Throughout college, four years of medical school and another three or more years of residency training, an M.D. or D.O. invests over 10,000 to 15,000 clinical hours while learning the art of medicine. Ideally, as physicians gain experience and confidence, we learn to discern when a test is needed, and how to avoid an unnecessary test.

Most importantly, a well-trained physician learns that listening to the patient history is a more powerful tool than any test. The history is the story of the patient's current and past symptoms as told by the patient. It does not come from the chart, is not in a textbook, and cannot be determined by a blood test or CT scan. To obtain it, a physician must listen.

Unfortunately, physicians often interrupt a patient within the first 10 to 15 seconds of the visit. Pressures from time, from documentation, from insurance companies, and from the next patient that is waiting can contribute to the detriment of the interview. However, with careful listening and guidance from the physician, the patient will frequently provide all that is needed to reach an accurate diagnosis.

We can all learn more by listening. Whether listening to our bodies, our family, our friends, or even our adversaries, it is time well spent. When we take the time to listen, we are one step closer to the truth. You'll feel it in your gut.

Andrew Ellsworth, M.D. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices family medicine in Brookings, South Dakota. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit www.prairiedoc.org and follow Prairie Doc® on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show streaming on Facebook and broadcast on SDPB most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

DENR Announces \$1,326,000 Loan for City of Groton Drinking Water Improvements

PIERRE, S.D. – Today, the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) announced the Board of Water and Natural Resources has approved a \$1,326,000 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan for Phase 2 of Groton's drinking water improvements.

The loan will be administered through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Loan terms are 2.125 percent for 30 years.

Groton plans to replace the remaining asbestos cement pipe in the distribution system, loop several waterlines, and paint the ground storage tank. These improvements will ensure the drinking water provided to its residents is safe and reliable. The Board previously approved a \$1,798,000 loan for Phase 1 of the project.

The loan will cover the estimated project cost.

The State of South Dakota and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency fund the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program, which provides low-interest loans for public drinking water system projects.

The board met yesterday via remote video connection.

The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.5% Sales Tax

Black & White.....\$41.54/year

Colored.....\$74.55/year

Colored.....\$42.60/6 months

E-Weekly*.....\$21.30/year

* The E-Weekly is a PDF file emailed to you each week. It does not grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Phone Number _____

Groton Daily Independent www.397news.com Subscription Form

This option will grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

1 Month.....\$15.98

3 Months.....\$21.30

6 Months.....\$26.63

9 Months.....\$31.95

12 Months.....\$42.60

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

The following will be used for your log-in information.

E-mail _____

Password _____



Pay with Paypal. Type the following into your browser window:

paypal.me/paperpaul

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent
P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034
or scan and email to paperpaul@grotonsd.net



Living Stations presented at Groton SEAS Church

The youth of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church of Groton and St. Joseph Catholic Church of Turton put on the Living Stations performance Wednesday at the Groton church. The event was livestreamed on GDILIVE.COM and is now archived at the 397news.com web site where GDI subscribers will have access to the video.



Left to right are Jacob Traunfeld, VP of Business Development - Dan Harber, Director of Business Development- Lydia Nelson, Regional Director of Operations- Shana Bedford, Avantara Groton Administrator- Chamber Members Lori Westby, Becky Kotzer, Hope Block, Kelli Locke, April Abeln and Stacy Oliver; and Courtney Erickson, Remedy Rehab Director. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Outpatient Therapy Launching at Groton and Milbank Avantara Facilities

Two community facilities, Avantara Milbank and Avantara Groton, will begin offering outpatient therapy services in collaboration with Remedy Therapy on April 1, 2021. Using a personalized approach to care, licensed professionals will design regimens to achieve individuals' rehabilitation goals. A range of services aimed at optimizing patient recovery, including physical, occupational, and speech therapy, will be offered.

Avantara takes pride in offering guests quality, state-of-the-art medical care with a definitively personal touch. Building on its reputation of providing exceptional care and personalized services to guests in quality, state-of-the-art facilities; Avantara is excited to partner with Remedy Therapy to offer outpatient therapy services at its Milbank and Groton facilities. Remedy Therapy is an accomplished provider of rehab therapy services and a recognized leader in the care community. Following this initial launch, Avantara and Remedy Therapy will expand the program statewide in the coming weeks.

"We are honored to be a part of the community," said Shana Bedford, Healthcare Administrator for Avantara. "We look forward to continuing to provide high-quality care and exploring new ways to ensure guests meet and exceed their rehabilitation goals."

"Our team is thrilled to work together with the Avantara staff," said Danielle Box, Chief Executive Officer of Remedy Therapy. "Their patient-focused approach completely aligns with our philosophy, and we look forward to providing impactful therapy programs that ensure patients meet their health goals."

Medical marijuana in Oklahoma: 'A mess' or a potential model for South Dakota?

Bart Pfankuch

South Dakota News Watch

As South Dakota moves forward on creating a regulatory system for medical marijuana by the end of 2021, some people have looked to Oklahoma for guidance on how — or how not to — develop a functioning framework.

Oklahoma voters approved the legal sale, possession and use of medical marijuana on a statewide ballot measure in June 2018. The measure required rapid implementation of a regulatory framework, providing only about 10 weeks to prepare for legal sales compared with an average of more than a year in most states.

Since then, the state has taken a free-market approach to certification of marijuana-related businesses and has one of the least restrictive physician-certification processes for patients who want to obtain medical pot.

At a press conference in mid-March, South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem said Oklahoma was the only state to put a medical marijuana program in place faster than required by South Dakota Initiated Measure 26, which takes effect July 1 and has deadlines for creation of a regulatory framework by the Department of Health by Oct. 29, 2021, and issuance of medical marijuana cards to patients by Nov. 18, 2021.

Noem, who opposes legal marijuana in any form, said the resulting program in Oklahoma is "a mess." Noem pushed for a one-year delay in implementation of the South Dakota medical program but was rebuffed by the state Legislature.

Noem spokesman Ian Fury responded to an email from South Dakota News Watch seeking clarification of the governor's views by providing only a link to a June 2020 news report by Oklahoma Watch, a nonprofit news organization. That article begins, "Welcome to the Wild West of weed," and goes on to examine how fast Oklahoma started and has since expanded its medical marijuana program. Asked for further specifics of Noem's concerns about Oklahoma's program, Fury failed to respond.

Some experts in Oklahoma say the program there has been a great success because it has embraced the wishes of voters by making medical marijuana widely available to those who need it and obtain a physician's approval to get it.

"The main goal was to legalize access for medical marijuana patients and provide them an abundant source of medicine, and 1,000 percent that has been a success," said Chip Paul, a business owner who played a lead role in writing the state's regulatory framework for medical pot.

Most states that have approved medical marijuana, including South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota and Montana, have a list of medical conditions that a patient must be diagnosed with before becoming certified to obtain medical marijuana. In Oklahoma, patients must only get a doctor's certification that the marijuana will help them in some way.

Oklahoma has also seen the rise of a cottage industry of physicians who make themselves readily available to approve medical marijuana cards for patients, including through virtual visits that can be arranged online.

As of March 5, 2021, Oklahoma had more than 381,000 patients or caregivers who are legally able to obtain and use medical marijuana, making up about 9.5% of the state's overall population of 4 million people. The state had about 2,150 medical marijuana dispensaries on that date.

North Dakota has eight dispensaries and about 5,000 certified patients in its medical marijuana program, and Minnesota has 13 dispensaries and about 45,000 patients. Both states have certified less than 1% of their populations to obtain medical marijuana; Montana has 355 dispensaries and about 42,000 certified patients, a patient rate of about 4% of its overall population.

South Dakota state Rep. Mike Derby, a leader of the legislative Cannabis Caucus, said he appreciates that Oklahoma has provided a level of "social equity" to its program by creating business opportunities for entrepreneurs and small-business owners across the state.

"The sales and licensing and distribution are not controlled by just a few big companies; instead they provide entrepreneurs a chance to participate in this industry," said Derby, R-Rapid City. However, Derby added that South Dakota should not use too much of Oklahoma's medical marijuana program as a model for its own.

Oklahoma has almost 11,000 businesses licensed to operate in the medical pot market, and the industry generated a total of \$831 million in sales in 2020, up from \$345 million in 2019. With a 7% excise tax and sales tax of 5%, medical marijuana sales generated \$127.8 million in combined taxes in 2020, an increase of 133% over the \$54.8 million generated in 2019.

States tax medical marijuana differently, with most charging only sales taxes; South Dakota's medical marijuana sales as proposed would not be subject to sales or excise taxes.

Terri Watkins, spokeswoman for the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority within the state Department of Health, said the state was forced to rush to implement its medical marijuana program but has done its best to accommodate the needs of medical patients and businesses and individuals in the industry.

"I would certainly not say we're a mess," Watkins said. "We had some challenges implementing a program in about two months, and that made it difficult, but now there are a lot of things coming into play two and half years later that we're looking to improve on."

Dr. Jean Hausheer, an ophthalmologist in Lawton, Okla., was president of the Oklahoma Medical Association when medical marijuana passed.

Hausheer called the Oklahoma program a "free-for-all" that has made it too easy for patients to get medical marijuana.

Hausheer, who helped form a statewide group called "Keep the Medical in Medical Marijuana," says she is troubled by how quickly and widely medical marijuana has been made available in the state, including across rural Oklahoma.

"Your worst fear is that it's going to show up in every inch of your state, and it has really, it has overtaken things," she said.

South Dakota's proposed medical marijuana legislation allows an adult 21 or over, or a younger person with parental permission, to qualify for a medical marijuana card if a doctor diagnoses them with a "debilitating medical condition, a chronic or debilitating disease or medical condition or its treatment."

EARTHTALK

EarthTalk®

From the Editors of E - The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: Besides generating seasonal allergens, do any plants actually reduce air quality or cause air pollution?

-- Mike T., San Juan, PR

While many of us thought Ronald Reagan sounded crazy back in 1981 when he told America that "trees cause more pollution than automobiles do," the then-President may have been on to something.

Researchers from the University of California at Berkeley recently unveiled the results of a study in which they determined that certain trees and plants common in Southern California off-gas natural yet nevertheless harmful volatile organic compounds (VOCs)—to attract pollinators, protect against environmental stressors, and repel herbivores—especially during the hottest months of the year. This so-called particulate matter pollution is not only dangerous in and of itself to breathe in as the tiny molecules can get lodged in the lungs, but it also leads to the formation of ground-level ozone and smog.

While Reagan's comment may have been an utter falsehood back then, who knew it would take the electrification of the transport sector to make it actually ring true today? The only way researchers could have any way of knowing that these plants are a significant contributor to air pollution would be by the elimination of the vast majority of fossil-fuel-derived "background noise" that we are no longer subject to as we breathe in the air around the streets of California—where the nation's strictest automotive fuel efficiency standards have driven many to Teslas, Bolts, Volts, Leafs, Polestars, e-Trons, Priuses and other green rides—and elsewhere.

The researchers found that over the past two decades, concentrations of these VOCs fell by 50 percent between 1999 and 2012, and then to undetectable levels during the cooler months thereafter. But when the mercury rose, even without additional automotive emissions, so did concentrations of airborne VOCs. Four out of five excessive heat days (with air temps topping 100°F) led to unsafe VOC levels outside.

With transportation emissions off the hook as the culprit, researchers looked to the plant community for answers. One of the worst offenders is the iconic and ubiquitous fan palm, but sycamores, poplars, willows and many oaks and pines also off-gas their fair share of VOCs when the weather heats up — which will be happening more frequently as we warm the atmosphere with greenhouse gases. Backyard planners and landscape designers concerned about air quality and the environment might want to steer clear of these species when choosing plants.

"I am not suggesting that we get rid of plants, but I want people who are thinking about large-scale planting to pick the right trees," says Ronald Cohen, the Berkeley atmospheric chemist who led the research effort. "They should pick low-emitting trees instead of high-emitting trees." If you have the luxury of choosing which trees to plant and/or replace, and you care about your community's air quality, some good choices include alders, magnolias, manzanitas, birches, hazelnuts, gingkos, apples and elms.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.



Palms are among several tree species that off-gas natural but potentially harmful air pollution when the weather heats up. Credit: Pixabay.

Gonna Have to Paint That

The painting I gave Grandpa for Christmas that year tells a tale that runs deeper than the canvas and the oils.

The painting depicts the first confrontation, out on the dusty prairies, of horses, horsemen and a smoke-belching, popping Model A in the early part of the century. The horses rear and snort wildly, nostrils flared, as riders struggle to control them.

Grandpa was the last of the cowboys, and this was a scene he had lived. He hung the painting crookedly in a place of honor in his living room. But it would look straight from his position sprawled out on the couch, he explained when I protested.

I did not tell him where I got the painting.

I didn't know the old man painted when I sought him out in the Badlands of North Dakota, but I knew he was an artist. He had been inducted into an old time fiddlers hall of fame, and I came to hear him play.

It was presumptuous of me to travel the back roads to that shotgun shack expecting a concert, but I was welcomed warmly with coffee in a sunlit kitchen with prehistoric appliances.

The fiddler was 82, yet he still was in demand at local summer festivals. He had picked up the bow when he was eight, and his playing had improved like fine wine.

He played a melancholy waltz and I was struck by his passion. His breathing became ragged and he struggled to hold back the tears. When he was done, my smile had to serve as the standing ovation I felt inside.

He sat and we talked and I asked about the paintings that hung on walls throughout the house.

They were like his children. Each with their own strengths and weaknesses. Flowers posed in vases and Vikings rowed and grimaced fiercely beneath shaggy beards. Cowboys rode the range. I thought about my grandfather and asked if the fiddler would sell one.

I didn't understand his hesitation.

He could surely paint more, I thought.

But the awful truth was he could not. He would sit in front of the canvas with brush in hand, but his muse had slipped away.

Dementia. The thief had stolen his visions.

It was his wife who told me that, while the old man rummaged through the attic for a painting to sell.

Knowing what I knew, I didn't choose his best. But they were all good.

His only condition was that I photograph the painting so he would have something to remember it by. I assured him that the cowboys, horses and ancient motorist would have a good home. And my grandfather would relive his youth through another old man's hands.

I tucked the painting safely into my car, and we stood together in the warm autumn sun. A faded, unsteady grey fence separated the yard from a stoop coulee where songbirds perched in dying branches.

The fiddler had his fiddle so I asked for an encore. He obliged and the music drifted from the strings across the plain.

The birds halted their song out of respect as the stiff, gnarled fingers worked the gut. I listened, enraptured, as the old man struggled to play as flawlessly as the birds had sung.

When he was done, he looked down at the birds, at the trees and at the rugged land below.

"I'm gonna have to paint that one of these days," he said. What could I say?

I knew the scene would never be captured on canvas.

So I drank the picture in .

I memorized the deafening silence of the birds.

I listened to the wind in the dry grass, and I filed the old man's song in my memory.

And this morning I got up and I did what he could not do. I painted that scene on the canvas of a computer screen.

A gift subscription to the Groton Independent makes a great birthday gift!



That's Life
by Tony Bender

BIDS

NOTICE OF BIDS: Notice is hereby given that the Lyman County Board of Commissioners will call for bids for crushing 50,000 ton of gravel; to be stockpiled at the site known as the Burtz Pit. For information please contact the Lyman County Highway Office at 605-869-2261.

THE CITY OF WILMOT is seeking an Operator/Rental Lease for Lancers Bar. Bid opening date is 05/10/21. For Bid Packet details call 605-938-4811.

EMPLOYMENT

MJ's Sinclair of Groton is looking for someone to work weekends and nights. Stop out and see Jeff for an application. (0324.0414)

CDL CLASS A TANKER Truck Driver. Annual Compensation Exceeds \$80,000.00, Home Weekends, and Benefits like no other. We haul our own products! Contact Tony 608-935-0915 Ext 16

GREAT PAYING JOBS! Statewide construction jobs, \$17.00 - \$23.00 hourly + benefits. Summer or permanent. No experience necessary, great career opportunities. Apply Online www.sdwork.org.

THE CITY OF FAITH is accepting applications for Chief of Police. Contact us at 605-967-2261 or faith@faithsd.com for applications. Experience preferred. DOE

CUSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT in the beautiful southern Black Hills has vacancies: teachers, 7-12 counselor, custodians and paraprofessionals. See csd.k12.sd.us. 605-673-3154, 527 Montgomery St., Custer, SD 57730

FARM EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Accepting applications for farm employee. Employee will operate and maintain farm machinery. Duties may include planting, fertilizer application, and harvesting. Semi-truck driving experience is preferred. Kjerstad Farm Partnership Quinn, SD Call: 605-685-5852.

FULLTIME DEPUTY SHERIFF position is open in Harding County, SD. Certified or Noncertified. Must be 21 or older. Health insurance & SDRS member. Equal Opportunity Employer. Contact us at 605-375-3414

LIVESTOCK

SELLING 120 PAIRS - 60 F1 & 60 Black. Black Angus Calves at side. Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at Philip (SD) Livestock. Herber Ranch 605-488-0079 or 605-488-0360

NOTICES

ADVERTISE IN NEWSPAPERS statewide for only \$150. Put the South Dakota Statewide Classifieds Network to work for you today! (25 words for \$150. Each additional word \$5.) Statewide Full Digital Ad is \$300 for 1 week. Call the Groton Independent at 397-7460 for details.

Hanlon Brothers
Gravel Hauling
New & Cleaning of Stockdams with our 60' reach trackhoe
605/395-6531

HARR
Motors
www.harrmotors.com
605-225-3078 ~ 1-800-658-3463

CARPENTRY • CONCRETE
SCHULTZ
CONSTRUCTION LLC
• BATH, SD •
Check out our portfolio on Facebook at **Schultz-Construction-LLC**
~ New Construction and Remodeling- renovations, additions, and carpentry work
~ Concrete- foundations, flatwork, decorative concrete surfaces.
605-380-1717
www.shawnschultzconstruction.com



Ear, Nose & Throat Care

Here in Aberdeen

If you or your child are struggling with snoring, sinus infections, hearing loss, frequent ear infections, or any other ear, nose or throat conditions, Sanford Health can help. Mat Weekly, MD, and Shantel C. Schumack, PA-C/MPAS, are here in Aberdeen to care for all your ENT needs.

Call (605) 226-5500 to schedule an appointment today.



SANFORD ABERDEEN CLINIC
3015 3rd Ave SE

SANFORD
HEALTH



Cracker Barrel held

Scott Thorson goes over the final details for the Cracker Barrel held Tuesday night at the GHS Arena. Throson is the government teacher and the senior government class helped to put this event on. It was livestreamed on GDILIVE.COM and is now archived at 397news.com. The school board candidates are Kara M. Pharis, Anna Schwan, Ryan Tracy and Martin D. Weismantel. The seniors who ran the program were Hailey Monson, Samantha Pappas, Paxton Bonn, Sage Mortenson and Nevaeh Pardick. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

The Life of Lonnie McKittrick



Lonnie Ray McKittrick, age 56, passed away peacefully in Rapid City on March 26, 2021, surrounded by loved ones. He was a beloved husband, father, son, brother, and friend to many. Lonnie was born in Webster, SD, to Roger and Luetta (Gooding) McKittrick on August 28, 1964. He graduated from Groton High School in 1982. Lonnie's passion for athletics began on the baseball fields of the Schliebe League and quickly expanded to the football fields, basketball courts, and tracks of the North East Conference, where he earned All-Conference and All-State Awards. He attended Northern State College in Aberdeen, SD, on a football scholarship and was a 4-year starter on the defensive line for the Wolves.

After college, Lonnie embarked on a career in insurance. He worked directly for Blue Cross Blue Shield of SD in Aberdeen and in Pierre. In 1999, Lonnie went to work for Fischer Rounds and Associates as a health agent. He excelled in his career because of his hard work, determination, time spent on the roads of SD, and a true love of talking to people. Lonnie acted as a General Wholesaler to agents across the state and received numerous awards from Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield for sales. At the time of his death, he was the Vice-President of Fischer Rounds and Associates.

Lonnie was a member of the Pierre Exchange Club, National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, National Association of Health Underwriters, Life Underwriter Training Council and Arrowhead Country Club. Over the years he served on several committees for the SD Division of Insurance.

Lonnie was someone who lit up a room, loved to tell a story or joke, and made people smile. He had countless friends who knew they could count on him in times of need or just for fun. His spirit and easy-going nature were infectious. He enjoyed spending time with his family, friends, clients, agents and co-workers. In his spare time, he played and watched sports, traveled, and rearranged the refrigerator. His family believes he is currently teaching his twin grandsons to play catch in heaven.

He is survived by his wife, soulmate and partner in crime, Kristin McKittrick, sons Austin (Dom), Parker (Maddy), stepson Nick Evans, his mother Luetta, his father Roger, brothers Randy (Lisa), Rory (Sue Stone), and Wade (Cindy), sister-in-law Tricia (Rob) Egan, brother-in-law Steve (Crystal) VanderKolb, and nieces and nephews Brandi, Megan, Deres, Chase, Connor, Kayla, Hayden, Morgan, Sunny, and Arthur, and best friend Brad Krueger.

He was preceded in death by paternal grandparents, Glen and Mildred (Sigdestad) McKittrick, maternal grandparents William Harold and Geraldine (Smith) Gooding, twin grandsons Charles and James McKittrick, and stepmother Dorothy McKittrick.

Funeral service will be at 11am on April 2nd at Crossroads Wesleyan Church. The family welcomes friends to attend an open house celebration of life at Arrowhead Country Club on April 2nd from 4 pm to 6:30 pm.

The family has established a memorial in his name at Club for Boys in Rapid City.

Behrens-Wilson Funeral Home.

Ken's SUPER FAIR FOODS.
FOOD FAIR & SHELL EXPRESS
www.kenssuperfair.com
• ABERDEEN • GROTON • CLARK • IPSWICH • EUREKA • BRITTON •

HAPPY EASTER
Ken's Shell Express of Aberdeen, Groton & Ipswich will be OPEN the following hours on Easter Sunday:
ABERDEEN Shell Express: 8AM-8PM
GROTON Shell Express: 8AM-NOON
IPSWICH Shell Express: 8AM-NOON
BRITTON, CLARK & EUREKA STORES WILL BE CLOSED EASTER DAY

USDA Choice Demkota Whole Boneless Ribeye
\$9.99
Per Lb.

Fresh Red Ripe Strawberries
\$1.99
1 Lb. Pkg.

Kretschmar Boneless Whole or Half Ham
\$2.99
Per Lb.

Festive Bone-in Turkey Breast
\$1.49
Per Lb.

Best Choice Corn, Green Beans or Mixed Vegetables
2/\$1
14.5-15.25 Oz. Cans

Betty Crocker Angel Food Cake Mix
Sale Price **\$2.49**
-\$0.50 Digital Coupon
16 Oz. Box
Net Price \$1.99

Kraft Mayonnaise
\$2.99
22-30 Oz. Bottle or Jar

Kraft Pourable Salad Dressings
14-16 Oz. Bottles
3/\$5

Family Fresh SUSHI
NOW OPEN in Ken's Deli in Aberdeen!
MADE FROM DAIRY
SPECIAL ORDERS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

APP DEAL OF THE WEEK
Betty Crocker Fudge Brownie Mix
18.3 Oz. Box
FREE
W/\$10 PURCHASE & KEN'S APP
Limit 1 per customer, requires \$10 additional purchase and use of Ken's App

Meat
USDA Choice Demkota Boneless Sirloin Tip Steak
\$3.99
Per Lb.

Dairy
Cass Clay Butter
1 Lb. Quarters
\$2.39

Dairy
Dakota White Grade A Large Eggs
Dozen Ct.
97¢

Frozen
Red Baron 12" Pizza
Sale Price **\$2.99**
-\$1.00 Digital Coupon
Net Price **\$1.99**
Coupon May Be Used On Up To 5 Pizzas

Liquor
Captain Morgan OSR
\$26.99
1.75 L
Buy 6, Get \$30 Mail in Rebate
Final Cost **\$21.99** Each

Bakery
Dinner Rolls
12 Ct. Pkg.
\$1.99

Deli
Heat & Serve Individual Ham Dinners
Includes Ham, Dressing, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Veggies
\$6.99 Each

Ken's Gourmet Coffee
Coffee • Gourmet Drinks
Gourmet Foods
Monday-Friday 7 AM - 6 PM
Saturday 7 AM - 4 PM
Sunday 9 AM - 1 PM
Call 605-725-6511

Drink Mixes
Chubby Bunny Hot or Cold
\$2.00 OFF

Coffee Drink of the Week
50¢ OFF

Find us on Facebook
Follow us on Twitter

PRICES GOOD AT ALL KEN'S LOCATIONS: March 28TH THRU April 3RD

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

"From minor scratches to a complete rebuild... we can do it all!"
NOW OPEN
Farris Auto Body
225 Brown County Hwy 19 South
Aberdeen: 605/725-4900

Put our experienced team to work for you!
GROTON Ford
GROTONFORD.COM 605-397-2311

Cheer someone up! Send a balloon

Groton Daily Independent
21 N Main
605-397-NEWS (6397)
Delivery in the Groton area

The Groton Independent
21 N Main, Groton 605/397-NEWS (6397)
Paul Irvin Kosel, Publisher paperpaul@grotonsd.net ~ 605-397-7460
Tina Kosel, Office Manager office@grotonsd.net ~ 605-397-7285
Notices: legals@grotonsd.net
News Items: 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.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Groton Independent, PO Box 34, Groton, SD 57445