



Abeln honored with Distinguished Service Award

Story courtesy of Heartland

April Abeln's job is centered around doing what's best for her community.

As deputy finance officer for Groton, South Dakota, she helps manage city operations and ensure reliable utility service to residents.

Serving in this capacity, it was an easy decision to find more ways to help others and give back. Her mantra is simple: if you're working for the city, you might as well WORK for the city.

"When you live and work here, it makes sense to do extra," she said. "It comes with the job, but it's also my personality—I try to give one hundred percent."

In recognition of her outstanding service, selfless attitude and commitment to her community, Abeln is the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from Heartland Consumers Power District.

Community focused

Abeln's adoration for Groton is something that has grown over the past two decades. She's considered herself a member of the community since 2003 and has enjoyed raising her two sons here.

She dubs herself an "honorary member of anything." Although not always formally affiliated with a project, she's not afraid to step up when needed.

"If I'm asked and it works out, I'll definitely help out where I can," she said.

She plays a key role in organizing two of the community's largest annual events: Summer Fest and Pumpkin Fest.

Summer Fest is spearheaded by the local Lions Club. Each year Abeln lines up vendors prior to the event and helps with setup and other tasks during.

She is the main planner for Pumpkin Fest and heads up a team of volunteer "pumpkiners." Now in its sixth year, the event has become a passion project for Abeln.

"It's my baby," she says, laughing. "Some people call me the pumpkin queen."

Held at the city park, the one-day, family-friendly festival draws hundreds of people from the region. It features a lunch plus inflatables, hay rides, face painting, pumpkin decorating and more.

The event is free to the public—a source of pride for organizers. Abeln and her team line up dozens of sponsors to help with expenses. Guests may offer free will donations for the meal.

Money raised is typically used to help cover costs of future events. This year, however, the group plans to raise funds for new bathroom facilities at the park.

"Any time a public event is held there, we have to rent handicap-accessible facilities," Abeln said. "We desperately need an update, and the entire community could benefit."

When she's not planning events, Abeln teaches Sunday School at St. John's Lutheran Church and serves as secretary of Groton's Chamber of Commerce.

City role

Abeln grew up in Mansfield, South Dakota, and attended grade school in Warner. She later studied accounting at Northern State University in Aberdeen.

Shortly before graduating she started working part time in the Groton finance office. In May of 2008 she joined the office full time as assistant finance officer.

She's since moved into the deputy role, where she's mainly responsible for payroll for thirteen full-time employees. But, she admits,

she enjoys helping with other tasks. Her attention to detail and proficiency with numbers proves beneficial for many aspects of the finance office.

Although managing a city can be hectic at times, Abeln relishes her work.

"I don't think there's ever a dull moment. We are busy all year long," she said.

She also appreciates the flexibility and convenience it offers to pursue community projects.

"I don't think many jobs would let you be this community-oriented," she said. "We can have meetings here at city hall or use the space to collect and sort items for city rummage and other projects. The mayor and council are very supportive. They understand these events are valuable to the community."

Distinguished service

Heartland provides wholesale power to municipal electric utilities throughout the region, including Groton. Each year one employee from a customer community is chosen for the Distinguished Service Award, to recognize the exceptional people working behind the power.

Abeln was nominated separately by co-workers Hope Block and Kellie Locke. Both commended her expertise and willingness to help.

"I can ask April any question about anything, and she knows it," Locke said.

Block agrees, saying that if Abeln doesn't know an answer, she will find it.

"She's resourceful and will figure it out," she said. "April's also reliable, dependable and always eager to help. She's the most wonderful person I've ever worked with."

Abeln received her award in conjunction with Public Power Week. The annual event celebrates the distinct advantages public power utilities offer, including local control, community-focus, public input and dedicated employees.

"People like April make public power exceptional," said Heartland Chief Communications Officer Ann Hyland. "She tirelessly and selflessly serves her community in many ways, both on and off the clock."

April is a shining example of the people behind public power: individuals committed to moving communities forward."



April Abeln with her Distinguished Service Award; Heartland Customer Relations Manager Kelly Dybdahl, far left, joins Groton Finance Officer Hope Block and Assistant FO Kellie Locke, far right, in presenting the award to Abeln. (Courtesy Photo)



April Abeln with her Distinguished Service Award. (Courtesy Photo)

Lake Region Marching Band Festival is Friday in Groton

On Friday, October 8th twelve area school bands and the Aberdeen Central High School Golden Eagle Marching Band will converge in Groton for the annual Lake Region Marching Band Festival. The parade of bands will travel from South to North on Groton's Main Street from Railroad Avenue to 9th Avenue, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Following the parade, the Aberdeen Central High School Band will present a "Phantom of the Opera" field marching show for all bands in attendance.

This festival originated in Milbank, moved to Waubay for 11 years, and has been held in Groton for the past 9 years. Each band will be evaluated on their performance by a panel of judges from Aberdeen Central High School. Awards will be given to the top two high school and top two middle school bands. Awards will be given to the top three bands in the combined band division. Other awards that will be given out are Best Percussion, Best Winds, and Best Color Guard. An overall Top Band Award will be given to the band with the overall highest score.

The festival has become a premier marching event in Northeast South Dakota, attracting bands and spectators from towns across the region. The public is invited to watch the parade of bands on Main Street as well as Aberdeen Central's field marching show and awards at the football field. The festival will be livestreamed at gdilive.com free of charge. Concessions will be available at the football field following the parade.

Attending the festival are bands from Aberdeen Roncalli, Warner, Leola, Langford, Milbank MS, Ipswich, Castlewood, Wilmot, Frederick, Sully Buttes, Groton, Aberdeen Simmons and Holgate MS, and Northwestern.

Primary sponsors of the festival are Groton Dairy Queen and the Groton Daily Independent. The lineup and schedule is printed on Page 3.

Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

The Minnesota Vikings fall to 1-3 as they struggle to contain the athletic and powerful Cleveland Browns pass rush, ultimately only doing enough offensively to put up a total of 7 points for the whole game.

First Half:

After losing the coin toss, the Vikings received the ball to start the game. It appeared early that the Viking offense was going to put on a show yet again as they marched down the field on their first drive easily using a total of 14 plays, none of which resulted in negative yardage. Thanks to a Justin Jefferson touchdown, the Vikings got off to an early 7-0 lead over the Browns. Amazingly, that would be the only points scored for a Minnesota Vikings team that came into the game averaging 29 points a game.

The Browns also came into this game with an explosive offense, averaging 28.6 points a game. However, unlike Minnesota's balanced offensive attack, the Cleveland offense relies much more heavily on the running game than on their quarterback, Baker Mayfield. It was

never more evident than it was today, as the Browns' rushing attack ran for 184 yards while Baker Mayfield only passed for 155 yards.

Using a run-heavy approach, the Browns dominated the time of possession in the first half, controlling the ball for more than 7:10 than the Vikings. All that time on the field seemed to wear down the defense. On their lone touchdown drive, the Browns were able to run a total of 6 plays inside the red zone—thanks in part to a Vikings defensive holding call on a 4th down stop. Then at the goal line, the drive concluded with an easy Kareem Hunt 1-yard touchdown run.

After a successful 2-point conversion, the Vikings were down 8-7 with just 1:16 left in the first half.

The Vikings would go three and out, allowing Cleveland to drive back down the field to set up field-goal to end the half. Browns lead 11-7.

Second Half:

If you enjoy the punting game, the second half of this game was for you. The second half saw the Browns and the Vikings end eight consecutive drives with a punt. Not until the 6:21 mark of the 4th quarter did the punting streak end. A 53-yard field goal by Chase McLaughlin gave the Browns a 14-7 lead.

The Viking offense, which struggled mightily since their first drive, now saw themselves needing a touchdown to tie the game. That hope quickly evaporated as Kirk Cousins threw an interception on the first play of the drive. It was on a deep pass intended for Adam Thielen, his first interception of the season. The Vikings did get the ball back one more time but could not complete a hail mary pass as time expired.

The final score of the game: Browns 14 - Vikings 7.

Statistical Leaders:

Kirk Cousins 20 for 38, 203 yards, 1 TD

Dalvin Cook 9 carries for 34 yards rushing, 0 TDs

Justin Jefferson 6 catches for 84 yards, 1 TD

The highlight of the day:

The Viking defensive backs might have had their best game of the season, holding Baker Mayfield to a 45% completion percentage and 155 passing yards.

The irony of the day:

A week ago, it was a ball-controlled balanced attack by the Vikings that helped beat the Seahawks. Former offensive coordinator and now Cleveland head coach, Kevin Stefanski knew that was a recipe for success against his former mentor, Mike Zimmer.

Next game:

The Vikings now look to get back on track next week as they face the lowly 0-4 Detroit Lions. The Vikings have not lost to the Lions since 2017. For a Vikings team that on paper has talent, this Week 5 game against Detroit could be the perfect game that gives the team the confidence it needs moving forward.

A dog's life

Editor's note: Tony took a few vacation days this week. Until his return, here's one of our favorites from 2011.



That's Life

by Tony Bender

She didn't come to great me when I pulled into the driveway, a fairly rare occurrence, but even the best dogs are not perfect. Karma, our Springer Spaniel, just turned 12, but she's a high-mileage dog. There was a time when her relentless circling around the house wore a path right down to the dirt, but the grass has proven more determined than she.

She's slowed down dramatically the last two years, and this winter was particularly hard on her. She's always been an outside dog, but stubbornly refused shelter in a dog house or the garage, instead planting herself, in hell or high water (except thunderstorms) on the mat at the front door. One tough girl. But, last winter she made a concession, and agreed to sleep on a sleeping bag in the garage.

When I went to check on her, she was shivering, although winter has given us her best, and it wasn't that cold. I didn't like the look in Karma's eyes; she refused to get up, and when I carried her inside, it hurt her. She was favoring a hind leg, and her back was tender. The road was filling up with a late snowstorm, so we decided to call Dean Christianson at the Ashley Vet Clinic lest we get snowed in with an ailing dog. Dean, a couple weeks in to calving season and already run ragged, met us at the clinic.

By this time, India, 10, was in tears. Dylan, 14, was away on an FBLA trip, or it would have been hard on him, too. We carried Karma in. Presented with all the new smells, Karma perked up at the vet clinic, embarrassing us with her newfound energy, and giving us hope at the same time. After a careful examination, Dean did some blood work and prescribed some arthritis medicine. "We may just have to treat her a couple of years," he said. A couple of years. Only I picked up on that.

Gosh, she's been a good dog. Almost psychic. Intuitively, she always did what I asked, although her hearing has become a little more selective over time. It happens in a marriage, too. So, sometimes, I would have to ask twice.

She spent years riding in the tractor with Melvin Blumhardt when he fed cattle across the road. He'd stop, and with one mighty leap she was in the cab. Melvin bragged down at the Duck Inn about how smart she was and how she saved him from an enraged cow by leaping 50 yards in a single bound, grabbing the cow by its neck and rolling it into Lemar Haas's pasture just before it crushed Melvin. That's how Melvin told it, anyway, and Karma never disputed a word.

I got talked into a St. Bernard puppy six months ago. Really, the words "St. Bernard" and "Puppy" ought not appear in the same sentence. They come in three sizes: "behemoth", "gianormous", and "is that a T-Rex?" So, Karma, in her advanced years, has had her paws full teaching Pike the ropes. Things like Spaniels eat first. But his incessant playfulness and has 100 pounds to her 80, has taken its toll. At least until summer is here, Karma will be warming her bones inside and the incorrigible Pike will remain an outside dog in order to provide a strong defense against package deliveries. Bob, our UPS guy is still getting through, though. "Me and Cujo have an understanding," he said.

Meanwhile, Karma sleeps most of the day, and when it is time to do her business outside, she lets you know. She was never formally trained. Just a smart dog. She did throw up on the bottom bunk in India's room the other night, which met with some disapproval, but with some notable exceptions, she has been reasonably well-mannered.

The other night, though, I was almost crowded out of bed. When I threw back the covers I found Karma staring at me.

Summer may be here quicker than she thinks.

Addendum: Karma nearly made it to her 15th birthday. She's missed.

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Saturday
 9 a.m. Groton Area vs. Warner
 9:45 a.m.: Groton Area vs. Belle Fourche
 Then the teams are re-pooled with action resuming at noon.

Hamlin beats Groton Area in four sets

Hamlin took charge of the fourth set to claim the third win in volleyball action Thursday in Groton.

Hamlin won the first set, 25-19. That set was tied five times and the lead changed hands four times. Groton Area won the second set, 25-19. That set was tied four times with just one lead change early in the set as Groton Area took charge and never looked back. The third set was tied 10 times with the last tie at 20 and there were three lead changes as Hamlin won that one, 25-22. Hamlin quickly took charge of the fourth set, jumping out to a 3-0 lead, then 7-2. The Chargers won the set, 25-12.

Madeline Flihs led the Tigers with 15 kills, two blocks and an ace serve. Aspen Johnson had 10 kills and a block. Sydney Liecht had seven kills and an ace serve. Anna Fjeldheim had five kills and two ace serves, Elizabeth Flihs had four kills and two ace serves. Trista Keith and Megan Flihs each had one kill. Alyssa Thaler had 26 digs while Leicht had 17 and Keith 13.

Ally Abraham led the Chargers with 19 kills and two blocks. Gracelyn Leiseth had nine kills and a block. Kami Wadsworth had six kills and two ace serves. Grace Everson had two ace serves and a kill. Addison Neuendorf had two kills and an ace serve. Ava Prouty had two kills and Alyssa West and Payton Welborg each had an ace serve.

The varsity match was broadcast live on GDLIVE.COM, sponsored by Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Milbrandt Enterprises Inc., Allied Climate Professionals with Kevin Nehls and the John Sieh Agency. The junior varsity match was also broadcast live on GDLIVE.COM, sponsored by an anonymous sponsor.

Hamlin won the junior varsity match, 25-21 and 25-17. Faith Traphagen and Lydia Meier each had three kills and an ace serve, Laila Roberts had two kills and an ace serve, Marlee Tollifson had three kills, Aspen Johnson had two kills and Hollie Frost had a block and a kill. Emily Everson led Hamlin with five kills and an ace serve and Ellyana Prouty had three kills and two ace serves.

Groton Area won the C match, 25-20 and 25-15.

2021 Lake Region Marching Festival Lineup and Schedule

- 10:00- Groton Area High School Marching Band
- 10:05- Groton Area Junior High Marching Band
- 10:10- Simmons Holgate Middle School
- 10:15- Milbank Middle School
- 10:20- Northwestern
- 10:25- Castlewood
- 10:30- Warner
- 10:35- Leola
- 10:40- Roncalli
- 10:45- Wilmot
- 10:50- Ipswich
- 10:55- Frederick
- 11:00- Langford
- 11:05- Sully Buttes
- 11:15- Aberdeen Central
- BANDS PROCEED TO FOOTBALL FIELD
- 11:50- "Phantom of the Opera" field performance by Aberdeen Central
- 12:05- Awards

Groton Area boys beat Freeman Academy in regular season finale

Groton Area boys had its regular season finale on Saturday, hosting Freeman Academy in soccer action. Keegen Tracy scored two goals in the first half as Groton Area took a 2-0 lead at half time. The Bobcats came back and scored three goals within six minutes, one by Chris Cardona and two by Jonathan Lopez, as Freeman Academy then took the lead, 3-2. Senior Jayden Zak scored with 22:01 left in the game to tie the game at three, and scored the game winning goal with 16:57 left as the Tigers won, 4-3.

Groton Area finishes the regular season with three wins, five loses and two ties. Freeman Academy finishes with two wins, four loses and one tie. The first round of the soccer playoffs is Tuesday.

The soccer parents sponsored the broadcast on GDILIVE.COM.



Braxton Imrie
 (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Jayden Zak
 (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Evin Nehls
 (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Seniors at Gypsy Day Parade

From left to right (Back Row): Cassandra Schultz, Rease Jandel, Alyssa Thaler, and Christina Zoellner

From left to right (Front Row): Julianna Kosel, Trinity Smith, and Megan Fliehs

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Junior High Band

Groton Area's football team posted a 35-0 win over Dakota Hills Friday in Waubay

Groton Area scored two touchdowns in the first quarter, two in the second quarter and one in the third quarter, each for seven points for the 35 point spread that allowed for a continuous clock with 5:22 left in the third quarter to get the win.

Groton Area	Dakota Hills
First Downs: 14	5
Rushing 24-112	34-51
Pierce Kettering 4-36	J. Gubraa 12-45
Kaden Kurtz 8-29	
Andrew Marzahn 4-13	
Jacob Lewandowski 3-16	
Favian Sanchez 1-8	
Taylor Diegel 1-12	
Colby Dunker 1-5	
Christian Ehresmann 1-(-4)	
Korbin Kucker 1-(-3)	
Passing	
Kaden Kurtz 11-18-152-2 TD	Trey Jurgens 2-7-16
Korbin Kucker 0-2-0	
Receivers	
Jordan Bjerke 3-56	Darius Small 1-13
Favian Sanchez 2-55	Ben Kosucke 1-3
Jackson Cogley 2-30	
Andrew Marzahn 2-23	
Ethan Gengerke 1-8	
Pierce Kettering 1-1	
Fumbles Had 2, lost 1	Had none
Penalties: 4-40	2-10
Tackles	
Pierce Kettering 12	Trey Jergens 11
Christian Ehresmann 7	Caleb Wehy 6
Kaden Kurtz 6	Ben Kauske 6
Andrew Marzahn 6	
Evan Nehls 5	

Scoring
First Quarter
 9:20: Pierce Kettering 3 yard run. Jackson Cogley kicked the PAT
 0:23: Jordan Bjerke 34 yard pass from Kaden Kurtz. Jackson Cogley kicked the PAT
Second Quarter
 9:02: Pierce Kettering 1 yard pass from Kaden Kurtz. Jackson Cogley kicked the PAT
 1:35: Andrew Marzahn 1 yard run. Jackson Cogley kicked the PAT
Third Quarter
 5:22: Kaden Kurtz 6 yard run. Jackson Cogley kicked the PAT

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As we celebrate Public Power Week October 3-9, we recognize the people behind the power, the hard-working and dedicated employees of Groton ensuring you have reliable electricity day in and day out.

We tip our hats to those who keep your community running and thank them for their tireless efforts to keep the lights on, no matter the circumstances.

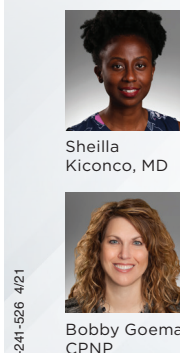
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Despite sales tax hike, average teacher pay in South Dakota returns to near bottom in nation

By: Megan Raposa

In 2016, South Dakota set a goal to put more money into the K-12 public school system after years of ranking last in the nation for teacher pay.

The plan included a sales tax hike with new revenues directed to school districts to raise teacher salaries and be competitive with other states, and initially it was successful.

But five years later, progress has slowed and the state has not kept up with other states, putting South Dakota once again near the bottom nationwide in teacher pay, according to the National Education Association. Average teacher pay in South Dakota rose by 17% over five years, from \$42,025 in 2016 to about \$49,000 in 2020. Only Mississippi has a lower average annual teacher salary than South Dakota.

More importantly, education officials say, the state has the lowest-paid teachers in the Great Plains region, which can lead some teachers to begin or extend their careers in neighboring states to make more money. School districts in the state already face difficulty in hiring new teachers, a situation that has worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the 2019-20 school year, Wyoming, the top-paying Great Plains state, paid an average teacher salary of \$59,786, almost \$11,000 a year more than the South Dakota average of \$48,984. Minnesota averages about \$10,000 a year higher than South Dakota.

Now, some education officials and experts are seeking a revisit to the education funding conversation and are calling on lawmakers to re-address the funding formula or find ways to close the teacher pay gap with other states.

Those who have been part of the process say the initial salary bump created by the sales tax hike and the subsequent increases were not big enough to keep South Dakota competitive with other states that have also continued to increase teacher pay since then.

"Five years is a long time," said Melody Schopp, who served as secretary of education under Daugaard and now works in education consulting. "We couldn't have anticipated what things were going to be like today. Had we not done what we had done, we'd be even further behind."

In the 2013-14 school year, average pay for a teacher in South Dakota was \$40,023 and ranked 51st among all states and the District of Columbia. After the funding infusion from the sales tax increase, the state rose to 47th in average pay in 2017-18, but has since fallen behind other states again, with an average salary of \$48,894 that is ranked 50th. Mississippi is the lowest in average teacher pay with an annual salary of \$46,843; New York is the top-paying state in the nation with an average of \$87,069.

On Sept. 27, the Teacher Compensation Review Board that produced an annual report on teacher pay, submitted its final 2021 report to Gov. Kristi Noem and the state Legislature, and the conclusion, largely, is that there's no one way to solve teacher pay challenges.

"Continued progress on teacher salaries requires action on multiple fronts," the report reads. "No single policy or effort will result in an all-inclusive solution to maintain a great educator workforce in South Dakota."

The report goes on to detail the need to continue to make teacher salaries competitive, the likelihood that the teacher shortage will continue to increase, and that the state may face uncertain future impacts of inflation resulting from the pandemic.

The report points out that despite falling in national rankings, teacher pay in South Dakota has risen and the pay gap between the Rushmore State and other states has been reduced. In 2015, the gap between South Dakota and the 32nd state in terms of average teacher pay was \$9,516 per year; in 2020, that gap had fallen to about \$5,300.

Also, the report notes, South Dakota raised average teacher pay by 22.4% from 2014-2020 while the national average increase was only 13.3%, though other states clearly raised salaries from a higher rate to begin with.

The report shows that strong progress has made in what South Dakota pays new teachers. According to NEA data, the average starting pay for new teachers in South Dakota rose by almost 22% from \$32,546 in 2016 to \$39,594 in 2020; the state now ranks 26th in the nation for starting teacher pay. Still, Wyoming has the 11th highest average salary for new teachers at \$46,558 a year.

Ultimately, officials said it will come down to the Legislature to decide if and how to modify the way and level at which it funds public schools.

"My future look would be to (ask) current leaders to say, 'Do we have the courage to continue to fight this good fight for teacher salaries and for schools,'" said Wade Pogany, director of the Associated School Boards of South Dakota. "Is this still a priority for South Dakota?"



Some education experts worry that if South Dakota does not keep up with neighboring states on teacher pay, that more qualified teachers will leave the state for better pay elsewhere at a time teachers are already in high demand. Photo: News Watch file

A hopeful start to reform teacher pay

In July 2015, about two dozen people gathered in the Capitol in Pierre to work out an answer to one big question: "What possibilities are there to meaningfully fund education for our kids and our communities?"

Four months later, they had a plan on then-Gov. Dennis Daugaard's desk to increase the state's sales tax by half a percent as a way to funnel money into schools and raise the state's longstanding position as last-in-the-nation on teacher pay.

Another four months after that, the initial plan — morphed into three separate bills, altered in a tense legislative session and narrowly passed — were signed into law.



Deb Sohlt

The average teacher salary in South Dakota went from about \$42,000 before the Blue Ribbon Task Force bills passed to nearly \$50,000 today.

Meanwhile, the Department of Education altered its funding formula to prioritize teachers, and more people have opted to enter the profession. The state also rewarded districts who tried innovative ways to share services.

Within a couple years, the state went from 51st in the nation in teacher pay to 48th, as other states took steps to remain competitive and South Dakota increases ebbed, it only took a couple more years to drop back to 50th.

Conversations about the need to address school funding started a full year before the Blue Ribbon Task Force convened, according to co-chair and former legislator Deb Sohlt.

"That was part of building the political policy and the political relationships to start even getting the task force together," Sohlt said. When the statewide task force convened, it had a foundation of research, buy-in from lawmakers and a commitment to keeping community feedback at the core, she added.

All told, the task force held two dozen meetings between stakeholder groups and the public.

In its final report, the Blue Ribbon Task Force recommended an increase in state sales tax to raise the average teacher salary to a target of \$48,000.

Ultimately, what passed the legislature was a half-cent sales tax increase that funneled nearly \$70 million into schools.

Daugaard signed three separate bills — one establishing the sales tax, one determining how the money generated would be divided and one creating incentives for districts that share services.

Teacher salaries went up about 11 percent in the first year after the sales tax was implemented, bumping the state up to 48th out of 51 in the annual rankings from the National Education Association.

Even with that increase, the average salary still fell short of the \$48,500 goal set by the state. The goal both from the task force and the resulting legislation was

Continued from previous page

to keep salaries increasing at a steady rate of either 3 percent or inflation annually, whichever was lower. That means by the 2020-21 school year, the state's target average teacher salary was more than \$51,300, according to data from the state's teacher compensation review board.

The actual average salary, though, fell short of that target. Between the 2016-17 school year — the year with the initial boost from the half-cent sales tax — and the 2020-21 school year, salaries increased just over 6.5 percent.

The actual average salary has fallen short of the state's target each of the last five years, topping out at just shy of \$50,000 for the 2020-21 school year.

Meanwhile, as South Dakota's teacher pay increased, so did that of neighboring states.

"Certainly those around us saw what we were doing," said Brian Maher, Blue Ribbon Task Force member, former Sioux Falls superintendent and current executive director of the state Board of Regents.

That meant by the 2019-2020 school year, South Dakota was back in 50th place when it comes to teacher compensation.

Much of the legacy of the Blue Ribbon Task Force centers on passage of the half-cent sales tax increase. But one of the big goals of the group was to address the teacher shortage statewide.

Over the past five years, the number of educator certificates processed by the South Dakota Educator Certification System has increased every single year, and overall has seen a more than 30 percent increase in that time.

However, South Dakota has also seen an increase in open teacher positions, exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic.

"Anecdotally, we know that teachers either retired or left the profession in a significant number because of COVID," said Pogany. "That, I think, we can document. Then the question is, who replaces them? Do we have folks in the pipeline?"

The number of teacher openings in the state peaked at 551 in April, 2021, more than 100 more openings than the most recent peak in 2017, according to data kept by ASBSD.

Meanwhile, the number of college students who pursue teaching degrees has held steady, but only about half of students who graduate in the state with a teaching degree go on to get a teaching certification.

That is largely because students who come to South Dakota schools from other states often return to their home states to teach, according to an analysis from a state teacher compensation review board set up to analyze the effects of the Blue Ribbon Task Force

The overall number of people getting a teacher certification in the state has increased in recent years, but student enrollment is projected to rise at a faster rate than the teacher workforce in the state, the board stated.

"If the current teacher workforce and student population trends hold true, the student-to-teacher ratio could rise to 20:1 by 2025, above the target ratio of 14:1 in South Dakota," the board's final report reads.

What are the challenges to raising teacher pay further?

School districts across the state have a few things working against them when it comes to recruiting teachers.

Fewer people are applying for teaching jobs. The teacher compensation review board noted that regardless of the size of the district, open positions were seeing fewer applicants.

Also, teachers aren't the only employees school districts need to pay. Resources are being increasingly redirected to support staff positions due to a competitive labor market where hourly wages are ticking upward.

Another trend statewide is that school districts are raising administrator salaries at a faster rate than teacher salaries.

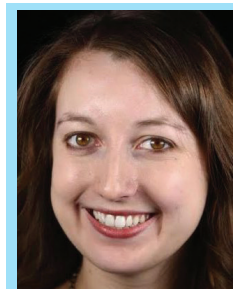
Superintendents saw a 10 percent salary increase between 2016 and 2020, followed by an 8 percent and 7 percent increase for high school and elementary school principals respectively during that same period, according to data from the South Dakota Department of Educa-

tion and the National Education Association. Middle school principals saw a more modest increase at 4.8 percent.

And, finally, there's the challenge of legislative efforts to undo the work of the Blue

Ribbon Task Force, Soholt said. She encouraged lawmakers to "continually hold firm" on maintaining the funding obligation established by the 2016 legislation, and, even then, she said more will need to be done.

"We're dropping behind, which we knew we would," Soholt said. "We knew the minute we did the legislation, we're already just kind of level. And everyone around us is going to move again, and we're also going to have to move."



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.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, Oct. 7

- 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.: Flu Shot Clinic at Groton Area
- 1 p.m.: NEC Cross Country Meet at Webster
- 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 5 p.m.: Junior High Football hosting Webster

Friday, Oct. 8 - NO SCHOOL

- 8 a.m. to Noon: Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 10 a.m.: Lake Region Marching Festival in Groton
- Noon to 3:30 p.m: Faculty Inservice

Saturday, Oct. 9

- Soccer Second Round Playoffs
- Volleyball at Redfield Tourney
- Pumpkin Fest in Groton

Monday, Oct. 11

- No School - Native American Day

Tuesday, Oct. 12

- 12:43 p.m. to 2:43 p.m.: PSAT Pre-Administration
- Volleyball at Tiospa Zina (7th/C match at 5 p.m., 8th/JV at 6 p.m., varsity to follow)

- 7 p.m.: School Board Meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 13

- Elementary School LifeTouch Pictures, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- PSAT Testing for sophomores and juniors during first hour

Thursday, Oct. 14

- High School LifeTouch Pictures, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- 3:30 p.m.: Region 1A Cross Country Meet in Webster
- 4:00 p.m.: Junior High Football Jamboree in Groton
- Volleyball hosts Milbank (7th/C match at 6 p.m., 8th/JV at 6 p.m., with varsity to follow)

- Friday, Oct. 15:** 7 p.m.: Football at Sisseton

Saturday, Oct. 16

- Oral Interp at Florence
- State Soccer in Sioux Falls
- JV Volleyball Tourney in Milbank

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AVERAGE TEACHER PAY IN THE GREAT PLAINS

South Dakota has once again fallen to near the bottom of the nation in average teacher pay after rising slightly in the ratings in recent years. Here is a look at how the state average pay ranks among Great Plains states and the highest and lowest ranking states in the country in the 2019-20 school year.

State	Average Annual Salary	National Ranking
New York	\$87,069	1st
Wyoming	\$59,786	20th
Minnesota	\$58,663	23rd
Iowa	\$58,184	24th
Nebraska	\$55,267	30th
North Dakota	\$53,525	37th
Montana	\$52,135	40th
South Dakota	\$48,984	50th
Mississippi	\$46,843	51st

Source: National Education Association

AVERAGE PAY RISING FOR NEW TEACHERS IN SOUTH DAKOTA

The recent Teacher Compensation Review Board noted that average salaries for new teachers in South Dakota have risen by almost 22% over the past five years, though the rate of increase has slowed in the years since the sales tax hike was implemented. The higher starting pay is noted in the report as a hopeful sign toward maintaining a stable teaching workforce in public education.

School year	Average new teacher salary
2016	\$32,546
2017	\$37,520
2018	\$38,187
2019	\$38,838
2020	\$39,594

Source: South Dakota Department of Education

**Brown County
Sept. 28, 2021
Meeting Minutes**
SEPTEMBER 28, 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 Sutton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

2022 PROVISIONAL BUDGET AMENDMENT-TAX REVENUE: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to amend the 2022 Provisional Budget as presented by County Auditor, Cathy McNickle to be adopted in the 2022 Annual Budget: line items, as follows: Governmental Funds: Total Means of Finance: 311 Current Property Tax Levy from 15,695,695.00 to 15,640,252.00; Cash Balance Applied from \$1,951,214.96 to 2,006,657.96. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

2022 ANNUAL BUDGET: Commissioner Sutton offered the following Resolution:

ANNUAL BUDGET FOR BROWN COUNTY, SD For the Year January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 **RESOLUTION #48-21 ADOPTION OF ANNUAL BUDGET FOR BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA** Whereas, (7-21-5 thru 13), SDCL provides that the Board of County Commissioners shall each year prepare a Provisional Budget of all contemplated expenditures and revenues of the County and all its institutions and agencies for such fiscal year and, Whereas, the Board of County Commissioners did prepare a Provisional Budget and cause same to be published by law, and Whereas, due and legal notice has been given to the meeting of the Board of County Commissioners for the consideration of such Provisional Budget and all changes, elimination's and additions have been made thereto. NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That such provisional budget as amended and

all its purposes, schedules, appropriations, amounts, estimates and all matters therein set forth, SHALL BE APPROVED AND ADOPTED AS THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURES FOR BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA and all its institutions and agencies for calendar year beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2022 and the same is hereby approved and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota, this 28th day of September, 2021. The Annual Budget so adopted is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the office of the County Auditor, Brown County, South Dakota. The accompanying taxes are levied by Brown County for the year January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. COUNTY TAX LEVIES WITHIN LIMITED LEVY Dollars \$/S/1,000 *General County Purposes (10-12-9) \$15,640,252 levy 3.639 TOTAL TAXES LEVIED BY COUNTY \$15,640,252 levy 3.639 *These amounts include the 25% to be distributed to cities. Seconded by Commissioner Feickert, roll call vote: Commissioner Feickert- aye, Sutton- aye, Wiese- aye, Fjeldheim- aye, Kippley- aye. All members present voting aye. Resolution adopted.

2nd READING AND ADOPTION- ORDINANCE 202: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Sutton to adopt ordinance 202. Applicants Tom Barber and Seth Anderson request rezoning the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG): Lots 1 & 2, "Barber's Subdivision of Lot 2 in Barber's Second Subdivision" and Lot 1, "Barber's Second Subdivision" in the SW ¼ of Section 31-T124N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (38216 130th St., 38220 130th St. & 38232 130th St.). Roll call vote: Commissioner Feickert-aye, Sutton- aye, Wiese- aye, Fjeldheim- aye, Kippley- aye. All members present voting aye. Ordinance adopted.

BID OPENING – INDUSTRIAL AMPHIBIOUS UTV RESCUE RIG: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Kippley to award sole from Fat Truck Midwest for a Basic Vehicle Fat Truck 2.8C in the amount

of \$171,568.00. Roll call vote: Commissioner Feickert- aye, Sutton- aye, Wiese- aye, Fjeldheim- aye, Kippley- nay. Motion carried.

APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY: Discussion on request from Dakota Valley Electric. No action taken. Request will be reviewed again at a future meeting.

HIGHWAY UPDATE: Highway Superintendent, Dirk Rogers gave an update on highway projects.

FAIR MANAGER VACANCY: Discussion on vacant Director of Fair and Parks. Job will be reposted.

MINUTES: Moved by Kippley, seconded by Sutton to approve the general meeting minutes of September 21, 2021. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims and payroll:

Payroll: Commission \$4,327.95; Auditor \$8,946.97; Treasurer \$14,506.07; SA \$23,620.96; SVAWA \$1,575.00; Maintenance \$7,954.78; Assessor \$14,167.67; Register of Deeds \$9,124.94; VSO \$4,047.12; GIS \$2,411.38; IT \$8,974.88; HR \$4,227.96; Sheriff \$41,539.01; Jail \$53,442.53; Court Security \$6,125.41; JDC \$26,763.14; Welfare \$2,982.62; Museum \$8,081.77; Parks/Fairgrounds \$5,214.09; Fair Board \$2,519.76; 4-H \$641.47; Weed \$5,113.38; Planning & Zoning \$5,332.71; Highway \$40,931.54; Dispatch \$36,735.69; Emergency \$4,160.96; Teen Court \$823.52; JDAI \$1,846.15; 24/7 Sobriety \$1,282.88; Landfill \$17,537.34; Matching Benefits FICA \$22,125.35; Medicare \$5,174.49; Discovery HSA \$1,017.60. CLAIMS: Professional Fees: TYLER TECHNOLOGIES INC \$780.00; AGTERRA TECHNOLOGIES, INC. \$70.00; AVERA ST. LUKE'S \$2,643.23; CHRISTOPHER A. HAAR \$7,096.91; CHRISTY GRIFFIN-SERR LAW OFFICE \$7,070.31; COGLEY LAW OFFICE, PROF LLC \$7,656.25; DEPENDABLE SANITATION INC \$30,208.80; DOHRER LAW OFFICE \$7,656.25; Eric Kobernusz \$300.00; IMEG Corp \$5,623.15; JERALD M. MCNEARY \$7,070.31; KUCK LAW OFFICE \$7,070.31; LEWIS & CLARK BHS \$1,704.00; MICHELLE GAIKOWSKI \$23.80; NE MENTAL HEALTH CENTER \$300.00; SANFORD CLINIC \$335.14; SANFORD HEALTH OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE ABERDEEN \$500.00; SD DEPT OF HEALTH \$40.00; TALIAFERRO LAW FIRM \$7,656.25; WEST PUBLISHING CORP. \$169.40; WEX HEALTH INC. \$3,000.00 Publishing: DAKOTA COMMUNICATIONS, LTD \$1,500.00; GateHouse Media South Dakota Holdings, Inc. \$4,678.84; GLACIAL LAKES & PRAIRIE TOURISM ASSOC. \$125.00 Repairs & Maintenance: ARTZ EQUIPMENT \$183.40; ASTECH Corp. \$769,164.78; DAKOTA DOORS INC \$150.97; DAKOTA FLUID POWER INC \$963.37; ECOLAB PEST ELIMINATION \$117.60; Fastcase Inc. \$480.00; GRAHAM TIRE INC \$123.00; JALENE M. PALMER \$436.56; JEFFREY K. VILHAUER \$408.16; JENSEN ROCK & SAND INC \$1,720.00; MARK NELSON \$625.16; MB LLC \$98.00; POMPS TIRE SERVICE, INC \$284.86; RDO EQUIPMENT CO. - AG \$1,173.20; WALTH SAFETY SERVICE INC \$1,253.10; WOODMAN REFRIGERATION, INC \$4,472.84 Supplies: ADVANCE AUTO PARTS \$3.07; AGTEGRA COOPERATIVE \$20,453.51; ARTZ EQUIPMENT \$1,060.96; CENTURY BUSINESS PRODUCTS \$3,463.76; COLE PAPERS \$4,372.02; DAKOTA FLUID POWER INC \$5,672.47; DAKOTA OIL \$315.90; DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP \$500.00; FULL CIRCLE AG \$1,866.21; GOVCONNECTION INC \$1,611.76; GRAHAM TIRE INC \$731.77; JEBRO INC. \$105,000.82; JENSEN ROCK & SAND INC \$32,706.02; KAREN SWANK \$8.00; LABSOURCE, INC. \$2,857.92; MARCO INC \$17.02; MB LLC \$92.94; McDonald's \$658.20; MCKESSON MEDICAL-SURGICAL GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS \$6.52; MENARDS \$7.98; NELSON SALES & SERVICE, LLC \$45.00; RDO EQUIPMENT CO. - AG \$15,756.83; ROBERTA NICHOLS \$2,996.00; RUNNINGS \$27.07; SHI INTERNATIONAL CORP \$28,698.71; TITAN MACHINERY - ABERDEEN NH \$463.04; VAN DIEST SUPPLY CO \$1,998.00; WALTH SAFETY SERVICE INC \$191.90 Travel & Conference: MICHAEL WIESE \$364.20; Eric Kobernusz \$124.08; MIKE ROHRBACH \$40.00; CHRIS HEMEN \$48.00; JERRY LEHRKAMP \$40.00; SCOTT MEINTS \$80.00; PATTI WOODS \$80.00 Utilities: DEPENDABLE SANITATION INC \$165.00; JAMES VALLEY TELECOMMUNICATIONS \$233.50; MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES CO \$8.14; NORTH-WESTERN ENERGY & COMMUNICATIONS \$79.85; WEST CORPORATION \$124.34; VERIZON WIRELESS SERVICES LLC \$3,063.57 Rentals: SEWER DUCK INC \$150.00 Others (Fair Premiums & Awards): Hayes Burggraff \$17.33; Tate Burggraff \$34.65; Tate Burggraff \$25.99; Ty Burggraff \$34.65; Madelyn Caulfield \$512.83; Ethan Andresen \$121.30; Halee Harder \$51.98; Mackenzie Atherton \$77.97; Lilly Solemsass \$288.02; Hayes Burggraff \$25.99; Justin Dikoff \$609.51; Caleb Bratland \$486.64; Ty Burggraff \$51.98; Alayna Caulfield \$319.02; Hudson Eichler \$359.51; Pat Fritz-Bruckner \$257.21; Ty Fuller \$154.75; Wyatt Burggraff \$25.99; Kirsten Gemar \$160.00; Cayson Bratland \$464.26; Brantley Belden \$8.66; Damian Larson \$11.48; Josie Boldt \$17.33; SOPHIA FOGARTY \$403.59; BRUCE HOFFMAN \$238.18; MERRICK GEMAR \$120.00; RAYMOND THORPE \$120.00; SAM HOVDE \$570.30; DYLAN SCHAUNAMAN \$109.51; JANET WRIGHT \$123.84; WALKER ZOELLNER \$88.97; JACOB JUNG \$109.31; RILEY LARSON \$109.33; GLENN TREFTZ \$360.00; TEAGAN MASON \$109.51; TREYSON ZEIGLER \$204.60; AVERY MILES \$86.64; TIGH HARDIE \$109.51; Trevor Bergh \$163.02; BRADY BEITELSPACHER \$631.41; HAILEY HEINJE \$38.02; William Kriech \$43.31; Liza Krueger \$118.17; Halee Harder \$109.51; Brooklyn Marshall \$175.22; Natalie Marshall \$219.02; Trey Smith \$197.12; CORA SCHAUNAMAN \$197.12; HUDSON HANSEN \$121.29; LYDIA REIDBURN \$50.46; ADDIE SCHNABEL \$121.29; JOCELYN WAGNER \$121.28; HARMONY DORSETS \$123.18; WILL BRUCKNER \$72.38; SIERRA KERVIN \$45.63; TRAVIS TOWNSEND \$25.23; Miranda Hanson \$109.51; Emma Caulfield \$153.31; Remi Hansen \$17.33; JESSEMY SHARP \$50.46; BLAKE PAULI \$113.60; LOGAN RINGGENBERG \$34.66; HALEIGH HOLT \$697.12; ADA SHARP \$42.05; COLIN FREY \$69.89; GARRET ZEIGLER \$103.96; RICHARD HABERMAN \$480.00; ART NELSON \$294.16; RICKY LARSON \$17.22; JAMES DRAGT \$281.64; ANNA JOHNSON \$67.28; CODY FORKEL \$109.51; STETSON STEARNS \$245.23; TRISTAN GOSCH \$87.61; RON WOLFF \$353.50; MALLORY MILLER \$175.22; CASSIDY HARDIE \$159.51; CREIGHTON HOOTS \$77.97; Gage Hansen \$135.65; RHYLEN ROACH \$19.01; LEXI OSTERMAN \$8.66; BRYCE BEITELSPACHER \$303.31; NORMAN JOHNSON \$16.82; TYLER HEINJE \$100.92; CHARLES HOLT \$38.02; HANNA MILLER \$253.68; HAILEY PAULI \$34.65; SUTTON STEARNS \$30.42; CHARLIE RAWDEN \$109.51; REGANNE MILES \$34.65; JOSIE BUNTROCK \$87.61; SCHNABEL RANCH \$459.94; HARLEE HEIM \$58.87; LINCOLN REIDBURN \$8.41; ELYANA ROACH \$49.43; MAGGIE HOLT \$325.22; HUNTER KERN \$269.55; TUCKER MILLER \$219.02; RACHEL GEMAR \$200.00; SCOTT KILBER \$203.34; CUTLER SCHAUNAMAN \$87.61; Calissa Scheel \$42.05; Maddie Sumption \$54.98; Kierra Stuck \$25.00; Parker Zoellner \$1,228.12; Aurora Tschappat \$42.05; Vicci Stange \$70.38; Brayden Kroll \$153.31; Wesley Kriech \$43.32; David Juntunen \$149.66; Landon Wager \$25.99; Kanin Wasland \$40.00; Bailey Heinrich \$109.51; Preston Hinkelman \$25.99; Tamrin Rathert \$15.64; Len Hofer \$50.00; Sydney Holmes \$118.03; Kaleb Holsing \$35.00; Emma Rodine \$17.22; Gracen Gill \$8.66; Grady Wasland \$200.00; Carley Crist \$159.79; LANE KRUEGER \$364.31; Ryan Crist \$92.51; KAYLEE WHITE \$328.53; Steven Munger \$19.55; Coy Petersen \$42.05; Emma Pierce \$50.46; Owen Pierce \$33.64; Ashley Rathert \$23.46; Abigail Johnson \$25.23; Maisy Petersen \$50.46; Brittany Heinje \$33.64; CALLI SCHAUNAMAN \$209.51; HENRY PAULSON \$37.62; Jacie Fogarty \$392.50; Lauren Griese \$248.74; LINCOLN DIKOFF \$117.74; Justin Klootwyk \$109.51; CRYSTAL BOHLE \$40.00; Trevor Berndt \$30.00; LeAnn Conn \$15.00; Leann Frederickson \$15.00; Kylie Herman \$25.00; Kathy Peck \$40.00; Ruth Nelson \$25.00; JOY BRAUN \$50.00; Gina Malsam \$10.00; Judy Schwab \$15.00; CONNIE HOWARD \$15.00; Rylee Stoltenburg \$15.00; Vanessa Barondeau \$25.00; CAROL HEIN \$25.00; PEGGY HALLSTROM \$10.00; CHRISTINA ZOELLNER \$15.00; PAT JAMES \$15.00; BARB CRAWFORD \$10.00; NANCY RINGGENBERG \$30.00;

Rebecca Mattern \$10.00; Jessica Sylte \$15.00; JENELLE SIEBERT \$40.00; Donna Wester \$25.00; JEAN LARSON \$35.00; TRUDY SCHAUNAMAN \$15.00; RON LYREN \$25.00; LOGAN RIES \$45.00; LEVI RIES \$15.00; Dennis Volzke \$15.00 All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT: Moved by Kippley, seconded by Sutton to approve the HR Report as follows:

Acknowledge: Employment end date of Trevor Marquart, Brown County Jail Correctional Officer, full-time; effective September 17, 2021 and approve request to fill vacancy. Resignation of Skylar Michael-John Burchardi, Brown County Jail Correctional Officer, full-time; effective September 22, 2021 and approve request to fill vacancy. Approve: Hiring of Joseph Embury and Brown County Jail Cook, part-time; starting wage \$16.00 per hour; effective September 21, 2021. Request to hire part-time legal secretary for State's Attorney's Office. Hiring of Sierra Kamin, Brown County Communications Dispatcher, full-time; starting wage \$20.54/hour; effective October 4, 2021. Hiring of Joshua Moore as Brown County Jail Correctional Officer, full-time; starting wage \$16.82 per hour; effective September 20, 2021. Request to replace 1 part-time JDC correctional officer with 1 full-time JDC correctional officer. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LANDFILL RESTRICTED FUNDS: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Kippley to adjust the restricted funds for the landfill closure/post closure requirement from \$1,400,479.44 to \$1,421,179.03. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FLU SHOTS: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Kippley to approve covering the cost of part-time employees for the Flu Shot, as the shot is covered through insurance for the full-time employees. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

AUDITOR'S REPORT OF ACCOUNTS: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the Auditor's Report of Account for June 2021: Total Cash and Checks on Hand 7700 Total Checking Account Balances: 21874664.94 Total Savings Account Balances: 4825447.42 Total Certificates of Deposit: 3976798.16 Grand Total Cash and Balances: 30684610.52 General Fund Cash and Investment Balances by Funds: General Fund 10745778.54 Road & Bridge Fund 5709339.97 Road & Bridge Fund - restricted 423243.27 911 Service 1640491.15 Emergency & Disaster 216438.4 Domestic Abuse 1636.5 Teen Court 19510.21 Grant 32.11 JDAI -7489.94 Richmond Youth 21916.96 24/7 Sobriety 64361.54 ROD M&P 105553.26 Tif Debt Service 6849.56 Landfill + cash change 3785717.49 Landfill - restricted 1400479.44 Trust and Agency Funds 2778742.06 GRAND TOTAL GENERAL FUND CASH AND INVESTMENTS 30684610.52. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

SHERIFF'S REPORT-JULY 2021: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve July 2021 Sheriff's Report. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

PLATS: Commissioner Sutton offered the following resolution: **RESOLUTION 49-21: GARDNER FIRST ADDITION TO THE CITY OF COLUMBIA** "Be it resolved by the County Commission of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing GARDNER FIRST ADDITION TO TE CITY OF COLUMBIA, SOUTH DAKOTA" having been examined, is hereby approved in accordance with the provision of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-6, and any amendments thereof. Seconded by Commissioner Sutton, roll call vote: Commissioner Feickert-aye, Sutton- aye, Wiese- aye, Fjeldheim- aye, Kippley- aye. All members present voting aye. Resolution adopted. Commissioner Sutton offered the following resolution: **RESOLUTION 50-21: GARDNER FIRST ADDITION TO THE CITY OF COLUMBIA** "Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing RIVER HORSE NORTH FIRST SUBDIVISION IN THE NE1/4 OF SECTION 4-T123N-R123N-R63W OF THE 5TH P.M." having been examined, is hereby approved in accordance with the provision of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-2-2, and any amendments thereof. Seconded by Commissioner Sutton, roll call vote: Commissioner Feickert-

aye, Sutton- aye, Wiese- aye, Fjeldheim- aye, Kippley- aye. All members present voting aye. Resolution adopted.

ORDINANCE 203 AND 204 (MINI AG REZONES) – SET HEARING DATE: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to set hearing date and authorize advertising for the following Mini Ag Rezone Requests: Application has been made by Tyler Kampa 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 October 19 at 8:46 A.M. for the purpose of rezoning the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG): Lot 1, "Holum 1st Subdivision" in the SE1/4 of Section 12-T123N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (13191 400th ave). Application has been made by Ryan Rivett 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 October 19 at 8:46 A.M. for the purpose of rezoning the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG): Proposed Lots 1-17, "Rover Horse North First Subdivision" in the NE1/4 of Section 4-T123N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. (3261 North 391st Ave approximate). The public is invited to attend the hearings 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. 203 and 204. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Sutton to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:37 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$184.54. 20448.

**Groton City
Bonn Variance
Notice**

NOTICE OF VARIANCE HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT The Groton Planning & Zoning Commission will be holding a public hearing on October 25, 2021 at 6:00pm CDT at City Hall, 120 N Main St., Groton, SD for a variance of Chapter 9, Section 9.0106 of the Groton Zoning Ordinance. This application was made by Paityn Bonn for a salon within 7 feet of the front lot line in a Residential (R-1) District at 301 N Broadway, Groton, SD, legally described as Lots 9-10 & S 74' Lot 11 Bk 45 3rd Addition.

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

Hope Block
Zoning Administrator
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$9.37. 20449

Cheer someone up! Send a balloon

Groton Daily Independent

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HELP WANTED

Applications will be accepted for skating rink manager and attendants for the City of Groton. Contact City Hall 397-8422 for an application or print one online at <http://city.grotonsd.gov/>. EOE.

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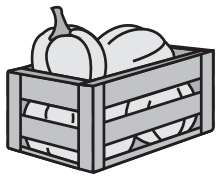
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Kids: color stuff in!

Pumpkin Festival!



animals

rolling



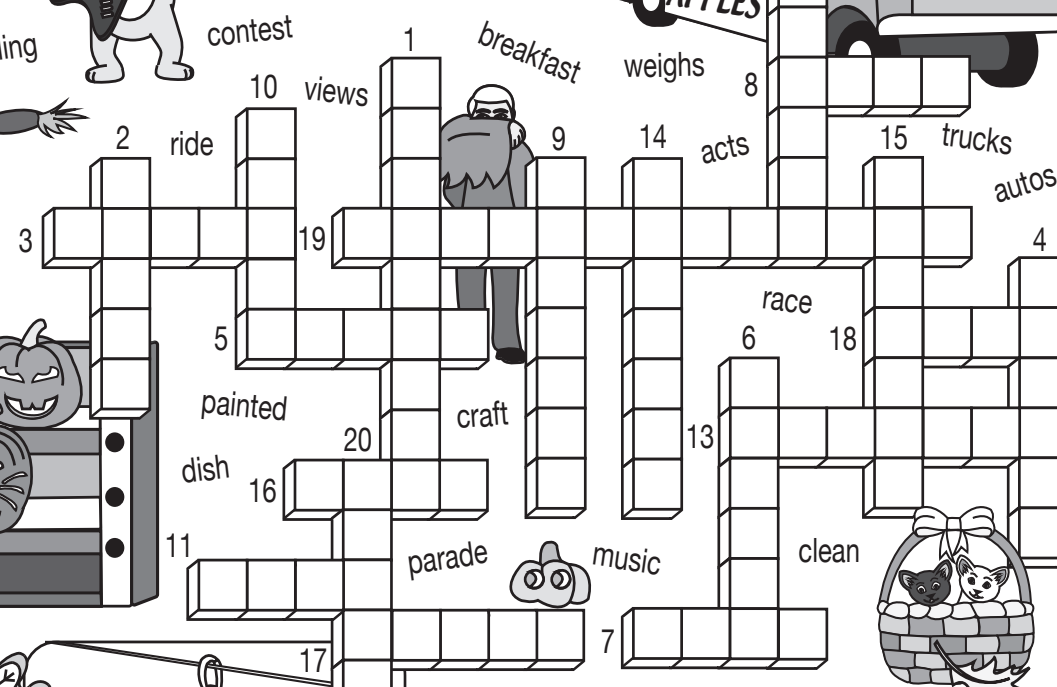
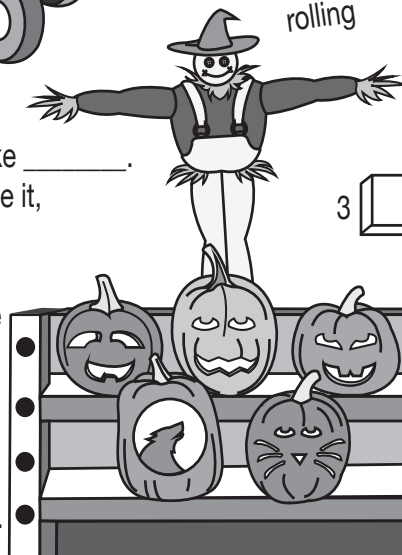
Jack-O'-Lanterns

light



Read the clues below to fill in the puzzle with what a day at a Pumpkin Festival might include!

1. Start the day at the pumpkin pancake _____.
2. Choose a pumpkin from a bin – carve it, pop in a _____ and find a special place for it on the bleachers.
3. Bounce around on a hayride or glide on a train to take in the _____.
4. Look at the giant pumpkins and guess which _____ the most!
5. Wander by _____ booths to get ideas and buy a handmade item.
6. Walk past the food _____ to choose a treat that looks and smells delicious.
7. Join in the great pumpkin cook-off by preparing a recipe or tasting a new _____.
8. What _____ will you climb onto in the amusements section?
9. Cheer for a favorite entrant in the pie-eating _____.
10. Rest for a bit and listen to the live _____ on the stage.
11. Choose a number for your rubber bird in the duck _____.
12. Join the crowd in the zombie walk or costume _____.
13. Find the "bowling alley" and score by _____ pumpkins to knock down bowling pins.
14. Think of a character or design to have _____ on your face at the face-decorating table.

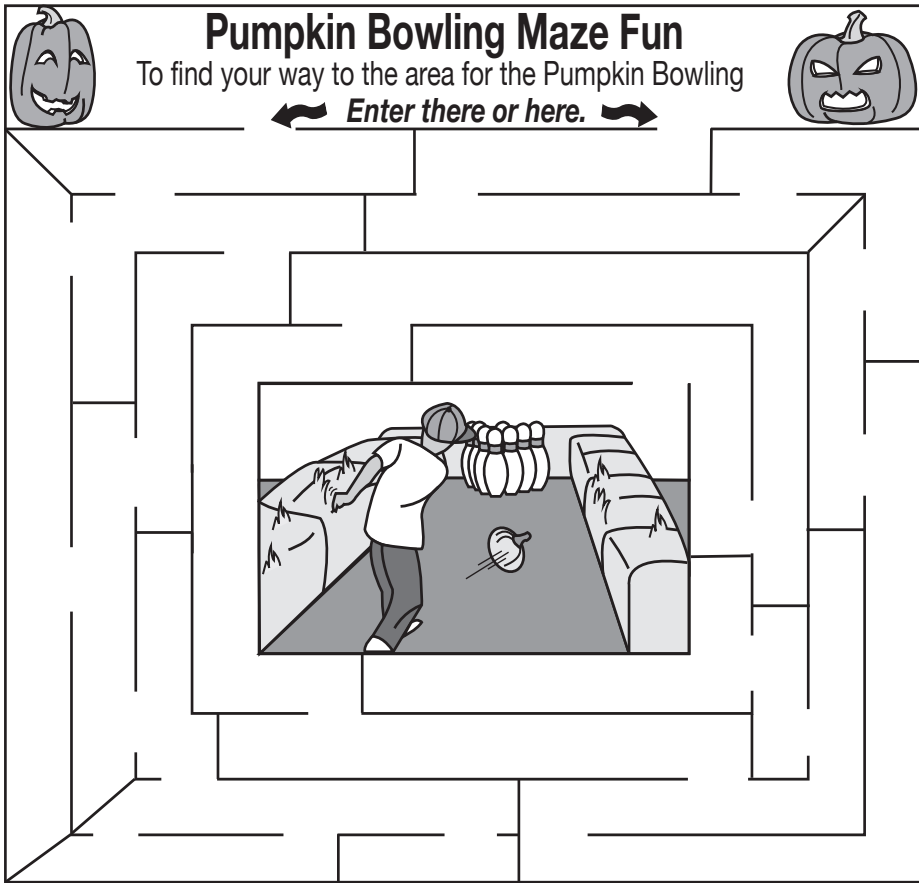


15. Pet and feed various _____ in the petting zoo.
16. Watch _____ like fire dancing or stilt walking.
17. Admire antique or fancy _____ at the car show.
18. Find your way through the corn or obstacle _____.
19. When it's dark, wander along the stands and enjoy the lighted, grinning _____.
20. Join in the pumpkin derby dump, where people race to _____ up at the end of the pumpkin fest.

Pumpkin Bowling Maze Fun

To find your way to the area for the Pumpkin Bowling

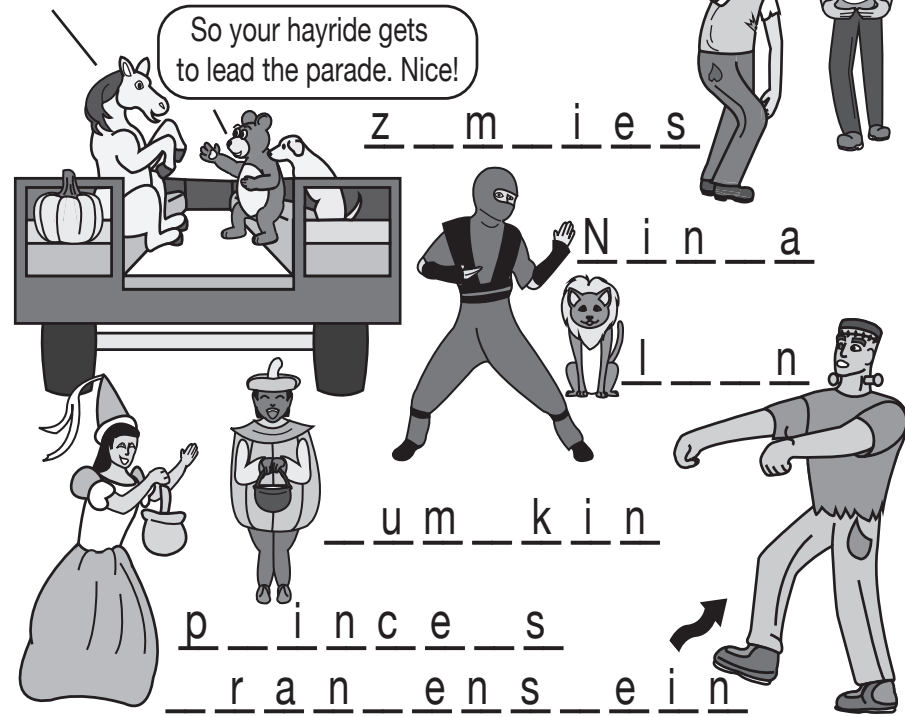
Enter there or here.



Zombie Walk & Costume Parade

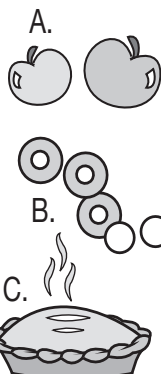
People are arriving for the zombie walk & parade.

Fill in the blanks to name each character:

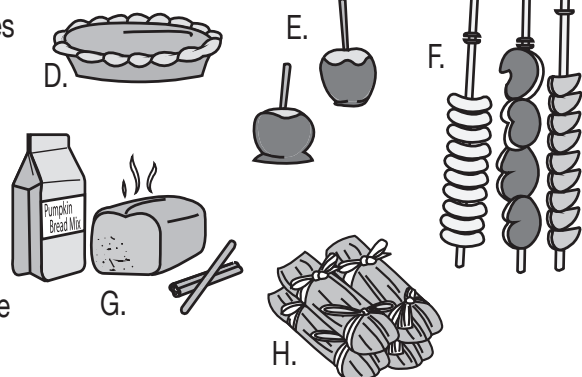


Treats and Eats at the Pumpkin Festival!

What's what? Draw a line from each description to the food or treat.



1. creamy pumpkin pie tamales
2. BBQ meat skewers
3. sweet candy apples
4. pumpkin doughnuts
5. fresh apples
6. award-winning pumpkin bread and mixes
7. Grandma's perfect apple pie
8. famous spicy pumpkin pie



EARTHTALK™



Dark-eyed juncos have evolved bigger bills in response to the larger temperature extremes they are experiencing throughout their range across North America thanks to human-induced climate change. Credit: DaPuglet, FlickrCC.

Dear EarthTalk: Is it true that some wildlife species are evolving much more rapidly in response to the warming climate?
-- D. Gould, Hendersonville, NC

It's amazing to think that climate change is causing animals to evolve faster than they would otherwise, but the science speaks for itself. Researchers from Australia's Deakin University found evidence of so-called "shapeshifting" in recent years in direct response to warming temperatures across habitat ranges.

Indeed, several species of Australian parrots have four-to-10 percent bigger bills than their ancestors before the industrial revolution, correlating directly with rising temperatures due to human-induced global warming. Dark-eyed juncos in North America also evolved bigger bills as temperature extremes ramped up across their range. Mammalian shapeshifting also includes longer tails in wood mice and increased leg and tail sizes in masked shrews over the 150 years—all likely adaptations to warming habitats.

Another study found that climate change has sped up the rate of natural selection for mosquitoes that lay their eggs inside carnivorous pitcher plants. Mosquito larvae that hatch in the spring have adapted to an earlier spring by opening sooner than they did a quarter-century ago to feed on more dead insects.

While these types of adaptations may benefit the species under study, climate change is likely negatively affecting many more which cannot adapt fast enough to keep up. For example, Scotland's feral sheep have become smaller due to warmer weather in the winter that no longer necessitates larger, thicker coats. And polar bears, which have evolved thick fur coats and layers and layers of fat to keep them warm out on the Arctic tundra and swimming between ice floes, are likely another evolutionary loser in the age of climate change. As ice caps melt and ice floes become fewer and farther between, these majestic white guardians of the Arctic are unlikely to adapt quickly enough to keep up with the fast-moving changes to their environment and are thus likely headed for extinction unless we can turn things around ASAP.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a quarter of all species may face extinction as a result of global warming, an estimate based on studies on the range of species and whether a species has adapted to new conditions of temperature, rainfall and more. Researchers then projected future ranges of to determine whether the range will shift faster than a species can move and adapt. Species that fail to adapt quickly enough will be trapped in degrading habitat and as such are much more likely to go extinct.

While warming temperatures increased gene flow and evolution among some species during the Pleistocene era, the current reality of climate change paints a different picture. "The present human-caused climate change will not lead to similar extensive mixing and adaptation of populations," says Eeva Furman of the Finnish Environment Institute. "Partly because movements of most species are greatly hindered in human dominated landscapes, and partly because the present climate warming is extremely rapid in comparison with Pleistocene climate fluctuations."

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Reach Out for That Lifeline

Imagine yourself in a blizzard so thick and cold and blinding that you could not see your hands right in front of you. Such blizzards were common 150 years ago on the upper great plains. Without much for houses and trees, the wind blew the snow with such force that the little ice crystals were more like little knives making it hard to keep one's eyes open even if there was something to see. Thus, to get safely from the house to the barn, farmers often hung a rope between the two, to not get lost. It was literally a lifeline. Otherwise, one wrong turn and perhaps nothing would stop you from wandering across the frozen prairie.

As a sixth generation South Dakotan, I cannot imagine some of the hardships my forefathers had to endure to survive. How did they feed themselves when the rains did not come, or when the fires did? How did they heat the house when the wood or coal had run out? How did they fight the boredom of months in a single room, not to mention the isolation?

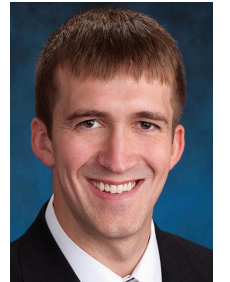
There are many who still face those questions. Farming still carries great risks with drought, floods, or financial stress. There is the chance of failure, of losing the family farm, of choosing the wrong crops or the wrong time to plant in unpredictable markets with trade wars, changing weather patterns, and other factors. One little mistake may ruin a million-dollar piece of equipment or result in a lifetime disabling accident.

Given these pressures, it may not come as any surprise that farming has one of the highest suicide rates in the nation, which has been rising over the last decade. Of course, you do not have to be a farmer to face financial, physical, or mental pressures that may contribute to feelings of helplessness, failure, loss of hope, and depression. You may be easily irritated and feel like sleeping all day, lack energy, and no longer enjoy what you once did.

If you or someone you know needs help, please reach out. Hotlines available for those in crisis or for those looking to help someone else are the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-TALK (8255) and the Avera Farm and Rural Stress Hotline at 1-800-691-4336.

Just as that rope was a lifeline from the barn back to the farmhouse years ago, a simple phone call can be a lifeline for those in need of help today. No matter your occupation or stage of life, please reach out if you need help. Even if it feels like you are in a blinding blizzard with nowhere to go, reach out and take hold of that rope, that lifeline, and make that phone call.

Andrew Ellsworth, M.D. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices family medicine in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org and on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show celebrating its twentieth season of truthful, tested, and timely medical information, broadcast on SDPB and streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.



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\$7.99 Per Lb.

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\$1.99 16 Oz. Box

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5/\$3

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Assorted Flavors
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PRICES GOOD AT ALL KEN'S LOCATIONS: October 3rd THRU October 9th