



Pictured are Casey Crabtree, Heartland Director of Economic Development, Hope Block, Groton City Finance Officer, and April Abeln, Groton City Deputy Finance Officer. Not pictured is Kellie Locke, Groton City Assistant Finance Officer. (Courtesy Photo)

Heartland awards grant to Groton

GROTON, S.D. - Heartland Consumers Power District recently presented the city of Groton an economic development grant for \$5,000. The funds were awarded to assist with moving city hall and the library to a new location in the building previously occupied by Wells Fargo Bank.

The new allows for residents to pay utility bills and other fees, return library books, purchase passes and more utilizing the drive through. It also allows for more visitors to the library as the previous location could only safely hold up to five at one time. City employees will also be afforded more space to work effectively.

Meeting rooms will also be available for residents to rent, and city meetings will be held at the new location.

Heartland provides wholesale power and energy to the city of Groton as well as other public power utilities throughout the Midwest. They offer economic development grants to assist with community growth and development.

"The community will benefit greatly from this move," said Heartland Director of Economic Development Casey Crabtree. "It will now truly be a community space, able to better serve the residents of Groton."

The grant will specifically be used to purchase new computers for the library as well as bookshelves as community members continue to donate books for the new library.

C&MA Christmas Program

Groton Christian and Missionary Alliance Church is excited to share "Hotel Noel" this year for their Christmas Program on December 19, 2021. The program will start at 5pm and follow with a free Turkey and Ham dinner with all the trimmings for anyone who attends.

"Hotel Noel" is a story of a family traveling to Grandma's on Christmas Eve but forced off the road by a snowstorm. They stop at a "Non-on-the-GPS-maps" Hotel Noel staffed by 4 angels. They will learn the true meaning of Christmas and what happened on the Holy Night through the staff at Hotel Noel.

The program will end with the adult choir singing a couple of Christmas songs followed by a free dinner for all as our Christmas gift to you.



From left to right: Gretchen Dinger (Flute), Rease Jandel (Bass Clarinet), Carter Barse (Alto Saxophone). (Courtesy Photo)

Three selected for North Area Honor Band

The 30th Annual South Dakota North Area Honor Band presented its concert on Saturday, December 4, 2021 at the Johnson Fine Arts Center on the campus of Northern State University. Dr. Rolf Olson, director of Bands, Professor of Trumpet, and Chair of the Music Department at Northern State University, was the director for this year's event.

Representing twenty-eight schools, approximately one hundred students have been selected to participate in the Honor Band. Participating schools are Aberdeen Central, Aberdeen Christian, Aberdeen Roncalli, Clark, Eureka, Gettysburg, Great Plains Lutheran, Groton Area, Herried, Hoven, Howard, Huron, Ipswich, Langford, Leola, Milbank, Northwestern, Selby Area, Sully Buttes, Summit, Warner, and Wilmot.

Three Groton Area students participated in this event. They were Gretchen Dinger (flute), Rease Jandel (Bass Clarinet), and Carter Barse (Alto Saxophone).

Block resigns as city finance officer

After an executive session, the Groton City Council accepted the resignation of Hope Block as the city finance officer. She plans to work through the end of December.

The city agreed to a lease purchase of a digger truck in the amount of \$182,920 in 84 monthly payments of \$2,175.

Finance Officer Hope Block said people have come to the library and have said it looks so magical for the Christmas season.

Seasonal reports were given. The pool had a loss of \$71,588.19 while the baseball lost \$26,863.74.

\$10,000 was held back from the Pay Request #11 and the work is on schedule so it was recommended to pay Maguire Iron the remainder of the \$10,000.

The budget plan that the city has offered will be discontinued in 2022. There are currently 13 people on budget pay.

The council accepted the flag donation from the Groton American Legion and to purchase a 25-ft. Commercial flag pole for \$545.

Chris Khali was reappointed to the planning and zoning board for a five year term.

The first reading of the 2021 supplemental appropriation ordinance was approved to get all accounts in the black for the end of the year. \$42,000 of the \$50,000 in contingency was used and there was a \$20,000 state grant as well.

The council approved the joint cooperative agreement with the Northeast Council of Governments for 2022. The fee is \$1,692.15.

The second plat for Northwestern Energy to add on to their substation located south of Groton was presented to the council. The Planning and Zoning Commission approved the plat and the council followed suite.

Bryson Wambach and Anna Fjeldheim were hired as warming house attendants.

## Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

The Vikings hand the Lions their first win of the season, falling 29-27 in a game that once again comes down to the last play.

What seemed to be the most winnable game of their schedule going into the 2021 season, the Vikings have now dropped two in a row on the road and are looking up at playoff teams with just five games to go.

The game started well as the Vikings moved the ball down the field but had to settle for two field goals to take an early 6-0 lead. The wheels came off in the second quarter, with the Lions getting a pair of touchdowns from their tight ends and adding two field goals to take a 20-6 lead into halftime. Depleted by injuries on the defensive side with four starters missing from the lineup, it appeared the Lions were not only going to win their first game but possibly blow out the purple.

After outscoring the Lions 21-3 for the majority of the second half, the Vikings seemed like they were going to steal another game late and come home with a 6-6 record. However, with just 1:50 remaining, Mike Zimmer put his defense in prevent mode. Prevent defense, which seems to prevent you from winning, did such as the Vikings gave up their only third-down conversions of the game to the Lions' offense. The Lions had failed to convert eight times previously during the game. Rushing just three linemen, the Vikings failed to pressure Jared Goff, as he marched the Lions down the field on 14 plays. The game ended on an

11-yard pass to St. Brown as time expired.

The Zimmer-Spielman regime may be coming to an end. Even though the Vikings were depleted with numerous starters missing, losing to the Lions can be the nail in the coffin for their tenure. For a defensive-minded coach like Zimmer, the Vikings have been awful in the final two minutes of games. In the first halves of this season, the Vikings have given up 72 points in the last two minutes to end the half. When it comes to the second half, they are 0 for 8 when attempting to get a stop to finish the game. The Vikings salvaged wins versus Carolina and Green Bay, but six games resulted in losses.

In 2001, Dennis Green was the last Vikings' coach to lose to a winless Lions team. By the end of that season, the Vikings fired Green and replaced him with Mike Tice. Could this be the fate of Mike Zimmer?

The Vikings still have time to turn this around and make a playoff run. There is absolutely no room for error the rest of the season.

The lone bright spot of the game was Justin Jefferson. He finished with 11 catches, 182 yards, and what looked like a game-winning touchdown. Ironically, this was the first game in which Jefferson caught at least seven passes, and the Vikings did not win.

Next up for the Vikings is the Pittsburgh Steelers on Thursday Night Football. Ben Roethlisberger comes into US Bank Stadium for what sounds like the last time (rumors abound that this will be his final season). Big Ben has been the starting quarterback for the Steelers for the past 18 seasons and has two Super Bowl titles. A true luxury of stability of having a franchise quarterback for more than a decade.

## Underwear for Christmas

And so this is Christmas. Almost. A time when many of us are still pondering the perfect gifts for those we love. It seems to me that each Christmas is a marker in time of our evolution. Dylan said the other day that he's at the point when there's much more satisfaction in giving than receiving. It's more about sharing the holiday with the ones he loves. The true spirit of Christmas is upon him.

Another milepost is the juncture at which your mother stops giving you underwear for Christmas. You may think you've reached adulthood when you're 18 or 21 but it's not official until your mom ceases gift-wrapping underwear and socks. I think that happened when I was 27, so I didn't have to buy underwear until I was about 35.

I spent the last two weekends catching up on laundry and that gave me some time to consider the inconsistencies in my mother's approach to the holiday. She announced regularly with great fanfare, trumpets and everything, that she'd better not receive a gift with a handle on it—a mop, broom, or a vacuum cleaner—in short, nothing utilitarian or misogynistic, even though that last word was not part of our vocabulary back then. We were relegated to "Yes, ma'am," and an occasional accusatory "Joel did it."

When it came to equality of the sexes, my mom was liberated long before Gloria Steinem had a training bra to burn. As I came to understand it, she was not only equal, she was more equal than the rest of us. We were forbidden from saying things like "What's for supper?" or "I don't have any clean socks." To the best of my knowledge, there were six of us kids but it's possible one or two had been excommunicated before my time for crossing that line. I washed my own "dirty damn baseball uniform." Unquote.

When someone instills that kind of fear in you—I still flinch if she makes a sudden movement—you don't really think about the inconsistencies. She had a very narrow window of acceptable gifts—jewelry, perfume, scarves, fine crystal collectibles—but I got underwear. Is that even fair? It's wildly hypocritical! And I used to think my mom was perfect; I had her on a pedestal but I'm taking her down this instant. For one thing, she might fall and break a hip.

As I was folding my underwear on Saturday... and I realize many of you don't... heathens... I remembered the good old days when I lived across the street from Carmel's Cleaners in Hettinger, ND. Every six weeks or so, I would drag a canvas bag that held all my soiled clothes (you could fit a Studebaker in there) across the street, and they would come back to me neatly pressed, folded, and on hangers, for not much more than I'd have paid to slug it out with other bachelors over the last open dryer at the laundromat.

When I could no longer count on Carmelo Bonomo because he refused to follow me when I moved—and if that isn't a

sad reflection on the once-vaunted American work ethic, I don't know what is—I was forced into a new approach. Conventionality would have meant doing laundry more often but I just kept buying more underwear. Which is how we got to the current situation, me folding about a hundred pairs of underwear over the course of two weekends. A hundred? "Surely, you're exaggerating, Tony," you're thinking. Not by much. If at all. And when you have a hundred pairs—give or take a hundred—they never wear out.

I don't know how this dating thing is going to go at my age but if we get to the part where she sees my Batman underwear it's going to be the true test of the relationship, a "Crossing the Rubicon" moment. It could be a dealbreaker, but I love my Batman underwear. And the utility belt comes in handy.

At this point, dear reader, you're wondering how did Tony take us from sweet Christmas thoughts to a haunting, sordid vision of him in Batman underwear? Probably pole-dancing, too. Easy. Because I'm a professional. And I've watched a lot of Hitchcock. And I have no filter. Plus, there's no one here to stop me. I'm all grown up.

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## That's Life

by Tony Bender

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# Five wrestlers place at Clark Tourney

The wrestling season began Saturday with The Groton Area wrestling squad taking part in the Clark/Willow Lake Wrestling Tourney. Five Groton Area grapplers placed in the tournament with the Tigers placing fourth as a team in the 11-team tournament. Lane Krueger placed first while Porter Johnson, Brevin Fliehs and Christian Ehresmann placed second, Cole Bisbee placed third and Pierce Ketterling placed fourth. Kingsbury County placed first with 185 points followed by Pierre JV with 145, Webster Area 119.5, Groton Area 112, Faulkton Area 96, Clark/Willow Lake 92.5, Canton JV 87, Britton-Hecla 33, Tiospa Zina 19, Iroquois/Doland 15 and Ortonville 0.

## 106: Walker Zoellner (0-2)

Champ. Round 1 - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 0-2 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Cooper Pommer (Clark/Willow Lake) 4-1 won by fall over Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 5:19)

Cons. Round 2 - Kamryn Rhodes (Faulkton Area) 1-2 won by decision over Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 0-2 (Dec 11-5)

113-G: Liza Krueger (0-2) placed 2nd.

Round 1 - Dani Batchelor (Clark/Willow Lake) 2-0 won by injury default over Liza Krueger (Groton Area) 0-2 (Inj. 0:00)

Round 2 - Dani Batchelor (Clark/Willow Lake) 2-0 won by injury default over Liza Krueger (Groton Area) 0-2 (Inj. 0:00)

## 113: Porter Johnson (2-1) placed 2nd and scored 18.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 2-1 won by fall over Bryce Heitkamp (Britton/Hecla) 0-2 (Fall 0:27)

Semifinal - Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 2-1 won by fall over Logan Foster (Clark/Willow Lake) 0-2 (Fall 1:08)

1st Place Match - Greyson Nielsen (Kingsbury County) 2-0 won by major decision over Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 2-1 (MD 14-2)

126: Isaiah Scepaniak (1-2) scored 3.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Bryce Hawkinson (Britton/Hecla) 3-0 won by fall over Isaiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 1-2 (Fall 1:26)

Cons. Round 1 - Isaiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 1-2 won by fall over Thomas Anderson III (Tiospa Zina) 0-2 (Fall 1:50)

Cons. Semi - Carter Schulte (Faulkton Area) 2-2 won by fall over Isaiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 1-2 (Fall 0:31)

## 132: Pierce Ketterling (2-2) placed 4th and scored 7.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Pierce Ketterling (Groton Area) 2-2 won by decision over Caden Wilson (Faulkton Area) 1-2 (Dec 2-1)

Semifinal - Kaleb Johnson (Kingsbury County) 3-0 won by decision over Pierce Ketterling (Groton Area) 2-2 (Dec 6-2)

Cons. Semi - Pierce Ketterling (Groton Area) 2-2 won by decision over Ben Suther (Britton/Hecla) 1-2 (Dec 7-6)

3rd Place Match - Hudson Shaffer (Pierre JV) 3-1 won by decision over Pierce Ketterling (Groton Area) 2-2 (Dec 7-3)

## 138: Brevin Fliehs (2-1) placed 2nd and scored 18.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Brevin Fliehs (Groton Area) 2-1 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Brevin Fliehs (Groton Area) 2-1 won by fall over Ethan Johnson (Kingsbury County) 5-1 (Fall 5:09)

Semifinal - Brevin Fliehs (Groton Area) 2-1 won by decision over Gage Baumgarn (Webster Area) 1-2 (Dec 13-8)

1st Place Match - Dylan Zell (Kingsbury County) 3-0 won by fall over Brevin Fliehs (Groton Area) 2-1 (Fall 0:33)

## 138: Nick Morris (0-2)

Champ. Round 1 - Kieshon Smith (Canton JV) 2-2 won by fall over Nick Morris (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 1:41)

Cons. Round 1 - Nick Morris (Groton Area) 0-2 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 2 - Ethan Johnson (Kingsbury County) 5-1 won by fall over Nick Morris (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 0:53)

## 145: Christian Ehresmann (2-1) placed 2nd and scored 20.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 2-1 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 2-1 won by fall over Jerard Satterlee (Britton/Hecla) 0-2 (Fall 2:40)

Semifinal - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 2-1 won by fall over Luke Steffensen (Kingsbury County) 1-2 (Fall 1:41)

1st Place Match - Cael Larson (Webster Area) 3-0 won by fall over Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 2-1 (Fall 4:57)

## 152: Korbin Kucker (1-2) scored 6.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 1-2 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 1-2 won by fall over Gavin Witt (Webster Area) 1-2 (Fall 3:07)

Semifinal - Garrett Cramer (Faulkton Area) 3-0 won by major decision

over Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 1-2 (MD 16-4)

Cons. Semi - Tyler Frick (Canton JV) 3-1 won by decision over Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 1-2 (Dec 6-2)

## 170: Cole Bisbee (4-1) placed 3rd and scored 20.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 4-1 won by fall over Riley Popp (Clark/Willow Lake) 0-2 (Fall 0:47)

Quarterfinal - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 4-1 won by fall over Dane Hansen (Britton/Hecla) 0-2 (Fall 0:30)

Semifinal - Connor Johnson (Kingsbury County) 4-0 won by fall over Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 4-1 (Fall 1:34)

Cons. Semi - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 4-1 won by fall over Cole Shoemaker (Webster Area) 2-2 (Fall 2:12)

3rd Place Match - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 4-1 won by fall over Tristen Baloun (Faulkton Area) 3-2 (Fall 2:04)

## 285: Lane Krueger (2-0) placed 1st and scored 20.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 2-0 received a bye () (Bye)

Semifinal - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 2-0 won by fall over Parker Bode (Faulkton Area) 3-1 (Fall 2:19)

1st Place Match - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 2-0 won by decision over Lucas Colman (Pierre JV) 2-1 (Dec 9-4)

## Lady Tigers open season with win over Flandreau Indians

The Groton Area Lady Tigers opened the girls' basketball season with a 52-6 win over the Flandreau Indians. Groton Area led at the quarter stops at 13-3, 22-4, 42-5 and 52-6.

Grace Traphagen led the Tigers with 10 points, eight rebounds and two steals. Alyssa Thaler had nine points, one rebound, two assists, two steals and one block. Kennedy Hansen had nine points, four rebounds, one assist and four steals. Sydney Leicht had seven points, four rebounds, one assist, three steals and one block. Aspen Johnson had five points, seven rebounds and one steal. Allyssa Locke had four points, two rebounds, one assist and four steals. Elizabeth Fliehs had three points, one rebound and three steals. Jaedyn Penning had two points, six rebounds, one assist and two steals. Laila Roberts had two points, one rebound and one assist. Jerica Locke had one point, three rebounds and five steals. Brooke Gengerke had one rebound and one assist. Faith Traphagen had three rebounds.

Groton Area made 18 of 54 field goals for 33 percent, three of 16 three-pointers for 19 percent and seven of 16 free throws for 44 percent. In total, the Tigers had 41 rebounds, 10 turnovers, eight assists, 26 steals, 12 fouls and two blocks. Those making three-pointers were Grace Traphagen, Thaler and Fliehs with one each.

Erika Bien led the Flandreau Indians with four points while Vivica Blacksmith and Angelique Bell each had one point.

There was on junior varsity game.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Allied Climate Professionals with Kevin Nehls, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, John Sieh Agency and Groton Ford. Kaden Kurtz was the guest commentator.

*Mr. & Mrs. Claus are coming to Groton!*

**Grand Opening!**



**of Wage Memorial Library and City Hall**

120 N Main, Groton

**Saturday, Dec. 11, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

**Mrs. Claus will be at the library and there will be Christmas cookie decorating with Kate's Confections (treats will also be for sale).**



**Across the street Santa will be at Professional Management Services from 9 a.m. to Noon.**

# The Groton Independent

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## Brown County Nov. 30, 2021 Meeting Minutes

NOVEMBER 30, 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 and Wiese. Commissioner Kippley was absent. Commissioner Wiese led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**FIRST READING, ORDINANCE 206 (FIRE SAFETY REVISION):** Moved Wiese seconded by Feickert to approve first reading of Ordinance 206, an ordinance amending Title 18 Fire Safety, Second Revision Brown County Ordinance with an open discussion. At the end of the discussion, it was moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to make the following changes: Correct all misspelled words/typo errors in the Ordinance; (Chapter 18.02) Remove the term "high" as part of the fire index categories; (Chapter 18.02) Add contained burning devices as an exemption; (Chapter 18.02) Remove the line "Open burning as provided here shall automatically be suspended during anytime the above-mentioned categories are not in effect". All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**ABERDEEN CITY LIBRARY 2022 BUDGET:** Joe Gaa (Aberdeen City Manager), Troy McQuillen (Aberdeen City Library Board of Trustees VP) and Shirley Arment (K.O. Lee Aberdeen Public Library Director) met with the Commission to discuss about their 2022 Budget Request of \$14,000. The Board of Commissioners initially approved \$12,000 in their provisional budget, same amount granted for their budget last year. The Board of Commissioners advises to take their request in consideration and will decide once all Commissioners are on-board. No actions taken.

**APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY:** Moved by Feickert, seconded by Sutton to approve from Northern Valley Communications for occupancy of Brown County Highway Number 16C/16, in Section 8, Township 121, Range 62, Brown County, South Dakota. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**DEPARTMENT UPDATES:** Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent talked about the Rural Infrastructure Access Funding and updates on the townships culvert inventory. No actions taken.

**MINUTES:** Moved by Feickert, seconded by Sutton to approve the general meeting minutes of November 23, 2021. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS:** Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims: Professional Fees: AWS (ADVANCED WEIGHING SYSTEMS INC.) \$1,900.00; BIRMINGHAM & CWACH LAW OFFICE \$437.35; BROWN COUNTY TREASURER \$21.20; CHRISTOPHER A. HAAR \$7,070.31; CHRISTY GRIFFIN-SERR LAW OFFICE \$7,070.31; COGLEY LAW OFFICE, PROF LLC \$7,656.25; DOHRER LAW OFFICE \$7,656.25; JERALD M. MCNEARY \$7,070.31; KUCK LAW OFFICE \$7,070.31; LUMEN \$127.42; MITCH VILHAUER \$1,792.19; SHI INTERNATIONAL CORP

\$1,290.00; TALIAFERRO LAW FIRM \$7,656.25; TYLER TECHNOLOGIES INC \$49,733.00. Publishing: GROTON INDEPENDENT \$367.31; MIDSTATES PRINTING \$183.00. Repairs & Maintenance: COMMTECH INC. \$1,605.28; DAKOTA PUMP INC. \$2,932.01; GRAHAM TIRE INC \$310.54; HOUSE OF GLASS \$4,617.33; MIDSTATES PRINTING \$360.00; PIERSON-FORD-LINCOLN-MERCURY \$327.98; PRO WINDMILL INC. \$440.00; SEWER DUCK INC \$95.00; Weismantel Roofing \$1,034.28; WESTERN STATES FIRE CO \$247.50. Supplies: CHARM-TEX \$2,004.63; DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP \$3.06; FEDEX \$46.78; PHARMCHEM \$1,012.05; ROLAND L. MOERKE \$1,750.00; RUSSELL METZ \$6.39; SHI INTERNATIONAL CORP \$5,602.10. Utilities: NORTHERN VALLEY COMMUNICATION \$2,876.92; NORTHWESTERN ENERGY & COMMUNICATIONS \$2,141.65; QWEST CORPORATION \$1,532.43. Others: ALAN P. OR ANGELA P. BERNARD \$13,010.10; DARWIN H. OR MARY J. BETTMANN \$1,951.56; DAVID AND JILL LEHMANN LIVING TRUST \$16,262.40; DONALD D. OR MAXINE E. FISCHER \$1,951.20; FDM REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST \$16,263.25; GREAT PLAINS BANK \$19,515.65; HERMAN SCHUMACHER \$8,131.20; JAMES D. GRESSETT \$16,263.25; JOHN KIPPLEY \$3,252.61; JOOP ANTONIUS HUBERTUS BOLLEN \$16,263.25; KENDALL OR LINDA PETERSON \$6,505.55; KENDALL PETERSON TRUSTEE PT 09 \$39,031.30; LYNETTE DURHEIM \$6,505.55; MARK & MARY VOLK \$6,505.55; MARLIN NILSSON \$13,010.10; PLAINS COMMERCE BANK - ABDN \$248,175.73; PYUSH RAMANLAL PATEL \$16,263.25; ROBERT M. OR LORA M. LARSON \$3,252.15. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**HR REPORT:** Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following HR report: Acknowledge amendment to 10-12-2021 HR Report, adjusted resignation date: Jodi Brown, Brown County Deputy State's Attorney, effective November 26, 2021. Approve amendment to 11-16-2021 HR Report, added wage: Rachel Wilson, Brown County JDC Admin Sergeant, wage @ \$20.83/hour. Approve transfer of Jacob Carrillo from Brown County Jail Correctional Officer to Brown County JDC Correctional Officer, effective November 14, 2021. Approve hiring of Brianna Haugen as Brown County Deputy State's Attorney, full-time, starting wage @ \$64,000/year effective November 29, 2021. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**SET HEARING DATE & AUTHORIZING ADVERTISING 2021 BUDGET SUPPLEMENTS:** Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to set hearing date and authorize advertising for 2021 Budget Supplements as follow: A public hearing will be held by the Brown County Commission on the 21st day of December 2021 beginning at 8:48 a.m. in the Brown County Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Aberdeen, SD to consider supplementing the 2021 fiscal year budget: Rural Infrastructure Fund revenue (295.4.33599) @ \$97,293.66 and expense (295.5.311.42200) @ \$97,293.66. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH SDSU 4H 2022:** Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize the Chairman sign Memorandum of Understanding between SDSU Extension to provide guidance and active assistance to the 4-H Advisor; and further that Brown County reimburse SDSU \$21,136.53 for cost share of 4-H Advisor 2022 salary. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**AUDITORS REPORT OF ACCOUNTS:** Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the Auditor's Report of Accounts for August 2021: Total Cash and Checks on Hand \$19,070.00; Total Checking Account Balances: \$17,639,208.51; Total Savings Account Balances: \$4,825,447.42; Total Certificates of Deposit: \$3,976,798.16; Grand Total Cash and Balances: \$26,460,524.09; General Fund Cash and Investment Balances by Funds: General Fund \$8,413,817.17; Road & Bridge Fund \$4,568,072.51; Road & Bridge Fund - restricted \$423,243.27; 911 Service \$1,343,981.90; Emergency & Disaster \$211,520.28; Domestic Abuse \$1,865.83; Teen Court \$15,115.11; Grant \$32.11; JDAI -\$12,278.06; Richmond Youth \$21,916.96; 24/7 Sobriety \$51,405.68; ROD M&P \$107,710.05; Tif Debt Service \$6,849.56; Landfill + cash change \$2,512,287.34; Landfill - restricted \$1,400,479.44; Trust and Agency Funds \$3,525,201.28; GRAND TOTAL GENERAL FUND CASH AND INVESTMENTS \$26,460,524.09. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Moved by Wiese, 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 Wiese, seconded by Sutton to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:42 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Jeannette McClain, Brown County Deputy Auditor  
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$79.93. 20674

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize the Chairman sign Memorandum of Understanding between SDSU Extension to provide guidance and active assistance to the 4-H Advisor; and further that Brown County reimburse SDSU \$21,136.53 for cost share of 4-H Advisor 2022 salary. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**AUDITORS REPORT OF ACCOUNTS:** Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the Auditor's Report of Accounts for August 2021: Total Cash and Checks on Hand \$19,070.00; Total Checking Account Balances: \$17,639,208.51; Total Savings Account Balances: \$4,825,447.42; Total Certificates of Deposit: \$3,976,798.16; Grand Total Cash and Balances: \$26,460,524.09; General Fund Cash and Investment Balances by Funds: General Fund \$8,413,817.17; Road & Bridge Fund \$4,568,072.51; Road & Bridge Fund - restricted \$423,243.27; 911 Service \$1,343,981.90; Emergency & Disaster \$211,520.28; Domestic Abuse \$1,865.83; Teen Court \$15,115.11; Grant \$32.11; JDAI -\$12,278.06; Richmond Youth \$21,916.96; 24/7 Sobriety \$51,405.68; ROD M&P \$107,710.05; Tif Debt Service \$6,849.56; Landfill + cash change \$2,512,287.34; Landfill - restricted \$1,400,479.44; Trust and Agency Funds \$3,525,201.28; GRAND TOTAL GENERAL FUND CASH AND INVESTMENTS \$26,460,524.09. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Moved by Wiese, 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 Wiese, seconded by Sutton to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:42 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Jeannette McClain, Brown County Deputy Auditor  
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$79.93. 20674

## Brown County Budget Supplement

2021 BROWN COUNTY BUDGET SUPPLEMENT

A public hearing will be held by the Brown County Commission on the 21th day of December 2021 beginning at 8:48 a.m. in the Brown County Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Aberdeen, SD to consider supplementing the 2021 fiscal year budget, as follows: Rural Infrastructure Fund revenue 295.4.33599 @ \$97,293.66 and expense 295.5.311.42200 @ \$97,293.66

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the supplements.

**ATTEST:**  
Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor  
(1208.1215)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$16.45. 20675

## Brown County Fair Concessions Proposals

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR BROWN COUNTY FAIR CLUBHOUSE (BEER GARDENS) CONCESSIONS DURING THE FAIR**

Proposals will be reached by the Brown County Commission on behalf of the Brown County Fair Board, at the Auditor's Office, 25 Market Street, Ste 1, Aberdeen, SD 57401, for the operation of the Brown County Fair Clubhouse, aka Beer Gardens during the week of the Brown County Fair. Such proposals will be received until 8:45, Tuesday, December 14, 2021. The proposal opening will be held at the Brown County Commission

Meeting on Tuesday, December 14, 2021.  
Copies of the entire request for proposal may be obtained at the Brown County Fair Auditor's Office, 25 Market Street, Ste 1 or the Brown County Fair office 400 24th Ave NW. To request an email copy, please call 626-7110 or 626-7116.  
Proposals shall be submitted to the Brown County Commission in sealed envelopes clearly marked "Proposal for the operation of the Brown County Fair Clubhouse aka Beer Gardens" "To Be Opened December 14, 2021."  
Brown County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals and to waive any irregularities therein.  
Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor  
(1201.1208)  
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$29.39. 20639

Meeting on Tuesday, December 14, 2021.

Copies of the entire request for proposal may be obtained at the Brown County Fair Auditor's Office, 25 Market Street, Ste 1 or the Brown County Fair office 400 24th Ave NW. To request an email copy, please call 626-7110 or 626-7116.

Proposals shall be submitted to the Brown County Commission in sealed envelopes clearly marked "Proposal for the operation of the Brown County Fair Clubhouse aka Beer Gardens" "To Be Opened December 14, 2021."

Brown County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals and to waive any irregularities therein.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor  
(1201.1208)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$29.39. 20639

## Frederick Town Nov. 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Town of Frederick  
November 8, 2021 Minutes

Frederick's town board meeting was held Monday, November 8, 2021 in the Frederick Community Center beginning at 8 PM. Attending the meeting were Chairman Scott Campbell, Board member Troy Millard, Finance Officer and Assistant Finance Officer Diane Bruns and Mariah Heine, and Utility Manager Rich Bakeberg. Also attending the meeting was Kevin Barton of the Frederick Area Volunteer Firefighters.

Chairman Campbell opened the meeting and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**  
MDU electric BP/Wtr/Mun Bldg/SP/Sts/Swr/EBL \$901.55; Badger Meter meter fees Wtr \$116.59; Century Bus Products lease & copies Gen'l \$94.95; D. Bruns CC \$170.38; D. Bruns wage FO \$1,383.77; Dependable Sanitation Grbg \$1,673; EFPTS taxes Gen'l/FO/CC/EBL/Sts/Wtr/Swr \$937.98; FASD Booster Club cookbook Gen'l \$12; USDA-RD loan Swr \$3,763; FDC Econ Dev \$1,200; GDI minutes Gen'l \$81.59; J. Kusters wage Gen'l \$92.35; JVT phone/svc FO/EBL/Wtr/Gen'l \$61.29; M. Cox wage EBL \$609.21; M. Heine wage FO \$1,002.85; M. Morlock mowing Gen'l \$38.79; Menard's supplies Sts \$156.98; R. Bakeberg wage St/Wtr/Swr \$615.37; R. Bakeberg veh. Allow St/Wtr/Swr \$75; R.S. Campbell wage Gen'l \$115.44; SD Dept of Rev sales tax Grbg \$71.01; SD Dept of Health samples Wtr \$346; SD Magazine subscrp Gen'l \$25; T. Millard wage Gen'l \$92.35; USDA-RD loan Wtr \$475; WEB Water Wtr \$3,312.90

**OLD BUSINESS**  
Rich Bakeberg provided a utility report. The bathrooms at the park are closed for the winter. Motion to approve second reading of Zoning Ordinance 219 to account for cannabis regulations made by Millard/Campbell; motion carried with ayes by all. Motion to approve second reading of Ordinance No.220 for medical cannabis regulations made by Campbell/Millard; motion carried with ayes by all.

**NEW BUSINESS**  
Scott Campbell was inducted into South Dakota Municipal League Hall of Fame for 35 years of service to the Town of Frederick and was presented with a certificate for his service.

The town's lead and copper samplings came back good.

Motion to adjourn made by Millard/Campbell at 8:29; motion carried.

M. Heine  
Assistant Finance Officer  
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$27.62. 20676

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## Frederick Town Ord. 21-220

### Cannabis Regulations

ORDINANCE NO. 220

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF FREDERICK, SOUTH DAKOTA, AMENDING ITS ORDINANCES BY ADOPTING MEDICAL CANNABIS REGULATIONS.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN OF FREDERICK, SOUTH DAKOTA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That a new Chapter 6-6 Medical Cannabis requiring licensing of medical cannabis establishments be added to the Revised Ordinances of the Town of Frederick, South Dakota (Ordinance #01-1) as follows:

Chapter 6-6 Medical Cannabis PART 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS. Section 1.1 Purpose.

The Governing Board enacts this section in order to ensure that medical cannabis establishments within the municipality operate in a manner which complies with state laws and regulations, protects the health, safety, and welfare of the general public, prevents potential conflicts and issues arising from ownership and employees, recognizes certain safety and security considerations, and minimizes risk of unauthorized use of or access to medical cannabis by the general public.

Section 1.2 Definitions.

(a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) "Governing Board" means the Town board of trustees.

(2) "Town" means the Town of Frederick, South Dakota.

(3) "Town-licensed" means the Town has issued a license for the particular activity referred to.

(b) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings assigned to them in South Dakota Codified Laws Chapter 34-20G, Medical Cannabis, as amended from time to time:

(1) "Cannabis" or "medical cannabis".

Town of Frederick Page 1 Medical Cannabis Ordinance

(2) "Cannabis products".

(3) "Cannabis product manufacturing facility".

(4) "Cannabis testing facility".

(5) "Cultivation facility".

(6) "Department".

(7) "Edible cannabis products".

(8) "Medical cannabis dispensary".

(9) "Medical cannabis establishment".

PART 2. LICENSE REQUIREMENTS. Section 2.1 License Required.

(a) No medical cannabis establishment may be located or operate in the Town without an appropriate valid and current cannabis establishment license issued by the Town pursuant to this article. A violation of this provision is subject to the penalties set forth in Section 2.12. Each day of the violation constitutes a separate offense.

(b) No cannabis establishment may be located or operate in the Town without an appropriate valid and current cannabis establishment registration certificate issued by the Department pursuant to rules promulgated under SDCL 34-20G. A violation of this provision is subject to the penalties set forth in Section 2.12. Each day of the violation constitutes a separate offense.

Section 2.2 License Application.

An application for a license must be on a form provided by the Town. The application must include the following:

(a) All information and certifications required by SDCL 34-20G with respect to an application to the department for a medical cannabis establishment (SDCL 34-20G- 55).

(b) Proposed hours of operation.

(c) Documentation of ability to meet separation requirements.

(d) Payment of all fees required for such permit.

(e) Any other supplemental information required by the Town to determine compliance with this ordinance.

Section 2.3 License Fees.

(a) Processing Fee. An applicant for an initial license must submit with the application a non-refundable processing fee in the amount provided in the Town fee schedule on file in the office of the finance officer.

(b) License Fee. The applicant must submit with the application a license fee in the amount provided in the Town fee schedule on file in the office of the finance officer. If the license application is denied, 50% percent of the license fee will be refunded.

(c) Renewal Fee. An applicant for license renewal must submit

with the renewal application a renewal fee in the amount provided in the Town fee schedule on file in the office of the finance officer.

Section 2.4 License Issuance.

(a) The Governing Board may conditionally approve a license if the applicant is in compliance with all state laws and regulations and the license would not violate applicable zoning provisions (such as any maximum number of licenses).

(b) Upon receipt of proof of appropriate licensing by the department, the Governing Board may grant final approval of a license.

(c) An application must be denied if any of the following are true:

(1) The applicant has made a false statement on the application or submits false records or documentation.

(2) The applicant, or an owner, principal officer, or board member thereof, is overdue in payment to the Town of taxes, fees, fines, or penalties assessed against or imposed upon the applicant in relation to any cannabis establishment, or if Town utilities to the business location are delinquent.

Section 2.5 License Expiration And Renewal.

(a) Term. A license expires one year following its issuance, unless sooner revoked, canceled, or otherwise terminated.

(b) Renewal. The Governing Board may renew a license if satisfied that the applicant has complied with all of the terms and provisions of this article, and if the application meets the requirements for the granting of an initial license.

(c) Active Use Required. A permit may not be renewed if the permit has not been actively used by the applicant during the one year preceding the date of the current application. For purposes of this requirement, the term "actively used" means that the cannabis establishment was open to the public during permitted business hours at least thirty days during the preceding year and earned revenues from cannabis-related sales or services.

Section 2.6 License Suspension.

A license may be suspended if the license holder or an employee or agent of the license holder:

(a) Violates or is otherwise not in compliance with any section of this article.

(b) Consumes or smokes, or allows any person to consume or smoke, cannabis on the premises of the medical cannabis establishment.

(c) Knowingly dispenses or provides cannabis or cannabis products to an individual or business to whom it is unlawful to provide cannabis or cannabis products.

(d) No longer holds a valid department-issued registration certificate, or if such registration certificate is suspended, revoked, or not renewed.

(e) Creates, or allows to be created, a public nuisance at the medical cannabis establishment.

Section 2.7 License Revocation.

(a) A license may be revoked if the license is suspended and the cause for the suspension is not remedied.

(b) A license may be revoked if the license is subject to suspension for a reason set forth in Section 2.6 and the license has been previously suspended in the preceding 24 months.

(c) A license is subject to revocation if a license holder or employee of a license holder:

(1) Gave false or misleading information in the material submitted during the application process.

(2) Knowingly allowed possession, use, or sale of non-cannabis controlled substances on the premises.

(3) Operated the medical cannabis establishment while the license was suspended.

(4) Had repeated violations of Section 2.6.

(5) Operated the medical cannabis establishment in a manner not authorized under the license.

(6) A license holder, or an owner, principal officer, or board member thereof, is delinquent in payment to the city, county, or state for any taxes or fees related to the cannabis establishment.

(7) A license holder, or an owner, principal officers, or board member thereof, has been convicted of, or continues to employ an employee who has been convicted of, a disqualifying felony offense as defined by

SDCL Chapter 34-20G.

(8) No longer holds a valid department-issued registration certificate, or if such registration certificate is suspended, revoked, or not renewed.

(9) Allows a public nuisance to continue after notice from the Governing Board.

Section 2.8 License Suspension And Revocation Process.

(a) The license holder will receive a notice of intent to suspend or notice of intent to revoke informing the license holder of the violation and the Governing Board's intention to suspend or revoke the license. The notice will be hand-delivered to the license holder or an employee or agent of the license holder or sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the physical address of the medical cannabis establishment. The notice must include a notice of the license holder's right to appeal and the deadline to appeal.

(b) If the license holder disputes the suspension or revocation, the license holder has ten (10) days from the postmark date on the notice or the date the notice was hand-delivered to appeal by submitting a written request for hearing to the Town finance officer. If an appeal is made, a hearing will be held before the Governing Board.

(c) A suspension will be for thirty (30) days and begins ten (10) days after the postmark date on the notice or the date the notice is hand-delivered, unless the license holder exercises its right to appeal, in which case the suspension takes effect upon the final determination of suspension.

(d) A revocation will be for one (1) year and begins ten (10) days after the postmark date on the notice or the date the notice is hand-delivered, unless the license holder exercises its right to appeal, in which case the revocation takes effect upon the final determination of revocation.

(e) A license holder who has had its license revoked may not be issued any medical cannabis establishment license for one year from the date the revocation became effective.

Section 2.9 Appeals.

An appeal of a decision of the Governing Board approving or denying an application shall be to a court of competent jurisdiction in the manner and time required by law.

Section 2.10 License Non-Transferable.

No medical cannabis establishment license holder may transfer the license to any other person or entity either with or without consideration, nor may a license holder operate a medical cannabis establishment at any place other than the address designated in the application.

Section 2.11 Liability For Violations.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, for the purposes of this article, an act by an employee or agent of a medical cannabis establishment that constitutes grounds for suspension or revocation will be imputed to the cannabis establishment license holder for purposes of finding a violation of this article, or for purposes of license denial, suspension, or revocation:

(a) If an officer, director, or general partner or a person who managed, supervised, or controlled the operation of the medical cannabis establishment, knowingly allowed such act to occur on the premises.

(b) If there are repeated violations by employees or agents (it being presumed that repeated violations evidence the license holder's failure to properly supervise its agents and employees).

Section 2.12 Penalties.

Any person who operates or causes to be operated a medical cannabis establishment without a valid license or in violation of this article is subject to a suit for injunction as well as prosecution for ordinance violations. Such violations are punishable by a maximum fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00). Each day a cannabis establishment so operates is a separate offense or violation.

Section 2. Severability. The provisions of this ordinance are severable. If any provision of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

Section 2. Repeal Conflicting Ordinances. Any and all ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 3. Effective Date.

Upon approval by the Governing Board, the Town Finance Officer shall cause this ordinance to be published in the official newspaper. This ordinance shall become effective twenty (20) days after the completed publication, unless the referendum is invoked.

ATTEST:

Diane Bruns, Finance Officer  
Town of Frederick  
By: Scott Campbell, Its Board President

1st Reading: 10/27/2021  
2nd Reading: 11/08/2021  
Date Adopted: 11/08/2021  
Date Published: 12/08/2021  
Effective Date: 12/29/2021  
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$142.35. 20671

## Frederick Town Ord. 21-219

### Cannabis Ord. Section

ORDINANCE NO. 21-219 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF FREDERICK, SOUTH DAKOTA, AMENDING ITS ORDINANCES BY ADOPTING MEDICAL CANNABIS REGULATIONS.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN OF FREDERICK, SOUTH DAKOTA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That a new Section 705 regulating medical cannabis establishments be added to the Comprehensive Plan Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Frederick as follows:

PART 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS. Section 1.1 Purpose.

The Governing Board enacts this section in order to ensure that medical cannabis establishments within the municipality operate in a manner which complies with state laws and regulations, protects the health, safety, and welfare of the general public, prevents potential conflicts and issues arising from ownership and employees, recognizes certain safety and security considerations, and minimizes risk of unauthorized use of or access to medical cannabis by the general public.

Section 1.2 Definitions.

(a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) "Governing Board" means the Town board of trustees.

(2) "Town" means the Town of Frederick, South Dakota.

(3) "Town-licensed" means the Town has issued a license for the particular activity referred to.

(b) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings assigned to them in South Dakota Codified Laws Chapter 34-20G, Medical Cannabis, as amended from time to time:

(1) "Cannabis" or "medical cannabis".

(2) "Cannabis products".

(3) "Cannabis product manufacturing facility".

(4) "Cannabis testing facility".

(5) "Cultivation facility".

(6) "Department".

(7) "Edible cannabis products".

(8) "Medical cannabis dispensary".

(9) "Medical cannabis establishment".

PART 2. ZONING RESTRICTIONS. Section 2.1 State License Required.

No cannabis establishment may acquire, possess, store, deliver, transfer, transport, supply, or dispense cannabis, cannabis products, or paraphernalia within the corporate limits of the Town without providing documentation of:

(a) A valid license, such as a registration certificate, issued by the State of South Dakota.

(b) A valid license issued by the Town.

Section 2.2 Maximum Number Of Cannabis Dispensaries.

No more than one (1) cannabis dispensary shall be allowed to operate in the City at any time.

Section 2.3 Hours Of Operation.

Cannabis dispensaries may be open for business only between the hours of 7 A.M. and 10 P.M. Mondays through Sunday.

Section 2.4 Cannabis Establishments Limited To Certain Districts.

(a) Medical cannabis establishments are permitted uses only in the following zoning districts or classifications:

(1) [M - I] - Industrial District.

(b) Medical cannabis establishments are prohibited in all other zoning districts or classifications. Variances may not be granted to allow medical cannabis in any other zoning district or classification.

Section 2.5 Required Separation Distances.

(a) 1,000 Foot Separation. A cannabis dispensary may not be located within 1,000 feet of the following:

(1) A public or private school existing before the date of the cannabis dispensary application.

(2) The public school football field.

(b) 300-Foot Separation. A cannabis dispensary may not be located within 300-feet of the following:

(1) Public park existing before the date of the cannabis dispensary application.

(c) Separation Measured From Lot Lines. Required separation distances from existing uses are to be measured from the lot line of the property where the dispensary is proposed to the lot line of the existing use.

(d) Waiver. Separation distance requirements may be waived in writing by the legal title holder (and equitable title holder where there is a recorded contract for deed) of the lot(s) benefitting from the separation requirement. An applicant must provide proof of such waiver.

Section 2.6 Controlled Access. No cannabis dispensary may share premises with, or permit access directly from, another medical cannabis establishment or any business that sells alcohol or tobacco.

Section 2. Severability. The provisions of this ordinance are severable. If any provision of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

Section 2. Repeal Conflicting Ordinances. Any and all ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 3. Effective Date. Upon approval by the Governing Board, the Town Finance Officer shall cause this ordinance to be published in the official newspaper. This ordinance shall become effective twenty (20) days after the completed publication, unless the referendum is invoked.

ATTEST:

Diane Bruns, Finance Officer  
Town of Frederick  
By: Scott Campbell, Its Board President

1st Reading: 10/27/2021  
2nd Reading: 11/08/2021  
Date Adopted: 11/08/2021  
Date Published: 12/08/2021  
Effective Date: 12/29/2021  
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## Brown County Ord. 207

### Haar Rezoning

NOTICE

Application has been made by Paul & Jody Haar to the Brown County Board of Commissioners for a change of zoning. Hearing to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota on December 14 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, "Svarstad Outlot 1" in the SW ¼ of Section 8-T122N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (13756 389th Ave)

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the amendment to Second Revision Brown County Ordinances pertaining to rezoning of the described property. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt first reading of Ordinance No. 207.

ATTEST:

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor  
(1201.1208)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$22.92. 20637

## Brown County Ord. 208

### Tennille Rezoning

NOTICE

Application has been made by Richard & Tennille Taylor to the Brown County Board of Commissioners for a change of zoning. Hearing to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota on December 14 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, "Swenson Outlot 1" in the NE ¼ of Section 12-T121N-

R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. (39989 143rd St)

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the amendment to Second Revision Brown County Ordinances pertaining to rezoning of the described property. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt first reading of Ordinance No. 208.

ATTEST:

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor  
(1201.1208)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$23.51. 20638

R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. (39989 143rd St)

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the amendment to Second Revision Brown County Ordinances pertaining to rezoning of the described property. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt first reading of Ordinance No. 208.

ATTEST:

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor  
(1201.1208)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$23.51. 20638

## Columbia City Dec. 1, 2021

### Meeting Minutes

City of Columbia Council Meeting – December 1, 2021

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL – Cara Dennert, Ellen Harr, Trevor Meints, Corey Mitchell, Emily Eichler

Community –

Corey Mitchell called the meeting to order. Minutes were passed out from the November 10th meeting. Trevor Meints made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Ellen Harr seconded the motion. All in favor – motion carried. Minutes were also passed out from the November 28th Special Meeting. Emily Eichler made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All in favor – motion carried.

Warrant Vouchers: JVT – 125.58; Jeremy Dosch – 419.99; Kelsie Ehresmann – 321.99; Cara Dennert – 823.50; US Treasury – 779.30; SDML – 185.53; South Dakota Governmental Finance Officers' Association – 40.00; Ken Frohling Trucking LLC – 346.41; Runnings – 42.05; DANR – 150.00

Ellen Harr made a motion to accept the vouchers as presented. Emily Eichler seconded the motion. All in favor – motion carried.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS / CORESPONDENCE – e-mails with Torian Mitchell regarding 2022 Budget form for Rural Development Loan, grant information from Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program Funding – sending on to Emily to look into possibly getting a grant to cover some of our tree/street overhang costs,

e-mails from lawyer – giving her a copy of our city ordinances

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – There were no changes to the current suspended Columbia Covid19 ordinance.; nothing new on the baseball field.

Nuisances - A resident will receive a letter regarding an unlicensed vehicle (that has already been tagged.)

Streets – Trevor has someone accessing the trees over the streets to see what needs to be cut back. Trevor and Corey have been looking over the culverts in town that are in need of repair before our street paving starts. There are at least 9 culverts to work on. Corey met with Lien's and some of the culverts will be changed to allow for better drainage.

Parks - no report

Lagoon/sewer – The lagoons are looking good.

Rubble Site – The power will be hooked up on December 7th.

NEW BUSINESS – nothing to report

FINANCIAL REPORT – An adjustment was needed for the 2nd quarter 941 forms. Cara presented bank balances. Ellen Harr made a motion to accept the financial reports as given. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All were in favor – motion carried.

November 30, 2021 balances: SF - \$ 167,113.71; GF - \$ 162,809.67; FIT - \$13,978.76

Cash on hand - \$150

Emily Eichler made a motion to adjourn. Ellen Harr seconded the motion. All were in favor – meeting adjourned.

Next City Council Meeting - January 5, 2022 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Cara Dennert, Finance Officer

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$30.27. 20673

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

Groton Independent ♦ Wed., Dec. 8, 2021 ♦ 5

## NSU recognizes scholarship recipients for 2021

ABERDEEN, S.D. – Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D., recognizes scholarship winners for 2021, including the WolfPACT Scholarship and Dual Credit Scholarship.

The WolfPACT is the largest guaranteed, four-year scholarship in South Dakota. Students entering their freshman year at NSU are eligible for various funding amounts based on their ACT scores and GPA.

Northern started offering the NSU Dual Credit Scholarship in fall 2021 to any new freshman taking dual credit courses through a South Dakota high school. This scholarship can be awarded on top of the WolfPACT.

Scholarship recipients who requested their information be sent to the media are listed below, grouped by hometown and/or state. Students who received both the WolfPACT and HSDC are listed under both scholarships.

### WolfPACT Scholarship South Dakota

Morgan Dannen, Aberdeen  
Megan Fastenau, Aberdeen  
Payton Gross, Aberdeen  
Kayleen Hermans, Aberdeen  
Jordan Hermansen, Aberdeen  
Lane Malsom, Aberdeen  
Grace Nelson, Aberdeen  
Julia Orr, Aberdeen  
Skylar Pike, Aberdeen  
Tia Swiontek, Aberdeen  
Lily Tobin, Aberdeen  
Cora Wager, Aberdeen  
Ashley Wandry, Aberdeen  
Benjamin Wirth, Aberdeen  
Emma Woehl, Aberdeen  
Bryce Peterson, Bristol  
Brynlee Lokkeberg, Colton  
Ally Cunningham, Faulkton  
Peyton Melius, Faulkton

**Braden Freeman, Groton**  
**Logan Hinman, Groton**  
**Regan Leicht, Groton**  
**Grace Wiedrick, Groton**

Kielee Otten, Hudson  
Tyson Lien, Huron  
Hailey Bierman, Ipswich  
Angeline Rye, Ipswich  
Emily Palmer, Langford  
Avery Wolff, Leola  
Abigail Brooks, Madison  
Estella Bullis, Mitchell  
Tyler Kjetland, Mitchell  
Faith Ragels, Mitchell  
Hayden Bohl, Northville  
Jonathan Burkhalter, Prairie City



**Braden  
Freeman**



**Logan  
Hinman**



**Grace  
Wiedrick**



**Regan  
Leicht**

Nick Preble, Rapid City  
Arin Wagner, Rapid City  
Vanessa Klein, Rosholt  
Randi Schuster, Roslyn  
Ava Pickard, Sioux Falls  
Alexandra Zwaschka, Spearfish  
Landon Leidholt, Warner  
Abby Hartman, Watertown  
Delanie Tschakert, Watertown  
Josie Mehling, Wessington  
Cassidy Slykhuis, Woonsocket

South Dakota  
Dual Credit Scholarship  
Morgan Dannen, Aberdeen  
Megan Fastenau, Aberdeen  
Payton Gross, Aberdeen  
Kayleen Hermans, Aberdeen  
Jordan Hermansen, Aberdeen  
Lane Malsom, Aberdeen  
Grace Nelson, Aberdeen  
Julia Orr, Aberdeen  
Tia Swiontek, Aberdeen  
Lily Tobin, Aberdeen  
Austin Wagemann, Aberdeen  
Cora Wager, Aberdeen

Ashley Wandry, Aberdeen  
Benjamin Wirth, Aberdeen  
Ayden Murray, Brandon  
Tanner Nifong, Brandon  
Brynlee Lokkeberg, Colton  
Peyton Melius, Faulkton  
**Kaylin Achen, Frederick**  
**Regan Leicht, Groton**  
Jaida Klanchnik, Huron  
Hailey Bierman, Ipswich  
Angeline Rye, Ipswich  
Emily Palmer, Langford  
Avery Wolff, Leola  
Abigail Brooks, Madison  
Lane Hedglin, Pierre  
Lydia Boock, Rapid City  
Charity Lee, Roscoe  
Karina Ramirez, Roscoe  
Vanessa Klein, Rosholt  
Randi Schuster, Roslyn  
Alexandra Zwaschka, Spearfish  
Landon Leidholt, Warner  
Summer Scepaniak, Warner  
Dawson Schmidt, Watertown  
Delanie Tschakert, Watertown  
Josie Mehling, Wessington  
Cassidy Slykhuis, Woonsocket

## Groton Prairie Mixed

**Dec. 2 Team Standings:**  
Cheetahs 13, Shih Tzus 11,  
Coyotes 11, Chipmunks 10,  
Jackelopes 8, Foxes 7

**Men's High Games:** Brad  
Larson 230, Randy Stanley  
211, Ron Belden 190

**Women's High Games:**  
Vicki Walter 197, Nicole Kas-  
sube 176, Sue Stanley 175

**Men's High Series:** Brad  
Larson 569, Ron Belden 544,  
Roger Spanier 533

**Women's High Series:**  
Nicole Kassube 487, Vicki  
Walter 476, Michelle Johnson  
473

## Conde National League

Dec. 6 Team Standings  
Mets 34 (winner of first  
half), Pirates 28, Cubs 27, Ti-  
gers 27, Braves 22, Giants 18

**Men's High Games:** Ryan  
Bethke 224, 223, 205; Butch  
Farmen 201; Wes Graff 179.

**Men's High Series:** Ryan  
Bethke 652, Butch Farmen  
479, Brody Somke 475

**Women's High Games:**  
Sam Bahr 182, Cheryl Reyalts  
175, Nancy Radke 171

**Women's High Series:**  
Sam Bahr 486, Vickie Kramp  
466, Nancy Radke 431

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## NSU Winter Commencement set for Sat., Dec. 11

ABERDEEN, S.D. – On Saturday, Dec. 11, 94 students will graduate from Northern State University at its 2021 winter commencement.

The ceremony begins at 10:30 a.m. in the NSU Johnson Fine Arts Center. Delivering the commencement address will be Dr. Kristi Bockorny, associate professor of management and marketing, the 2021 NSU Foundation Faculty Excellence Award. Student speaker will be Jacob Swanson, 2021-22 president of the Student Government Association.

The ceremony will be live streamed through the Northern State University Facebook page, the NSU Graduation and Commencement page, and locally through cable channel 12.

Local graduates are listed below:

Alyssa Sippel, Groton (M.S. Accounting Analytics)

Audrey Wanner, Groton (B.S.Ed. Special Education)

Chance Olson, Langford (B.S. Business Administration) (Candidate for Magna Cum Laude)

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- Swallowing disorders
- Tinnitus
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- Voice disorders
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**A little over an inch of snow fell Tuesday morning prompting snow removal for the winter season.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

# G-Force advances to Semifinals at Douglas Robotics Tournament

Groton participated in the Douglas High School robotic tournament on Saturday, November 20th in Box Elder, SD. Groton teams participating in this tournament were: G-Force 9050A (Travis Townsend, Jace Kroll) Gear Heads 9050B (Jack Dinger, Ethan Clark, Axel Warrington), Galaxy 9050E (River Pardick, Corbin Weismantel, Kiana Sander-not present Dustin Pardick) Gladiators 9050F (Garrett Schultz, Bradyn Wienk)

22 teams were signed up for this tournament which included: Mitchell-4, Groton-4, Lead-3, Gillette, WY-7, Box Elder-3. After 44 qualifying matches Groton's rankings: Gear Heads-4th, G-Force-13th, Galaxy-16th, Gladiators-17th.

G-Force advanced to the semi-finals, but unfortunately was up against some tough competition and wasn't able to advance. Gear Heads day ended in the quarterfinals. Galaxy and Gladiators were not able to push past the Round of 16. New ideas and concepts are obtained from each tournament for building ideas.

Tournament champions were teams from Mitchell and Gillette. Congratulations to all the robotists who participated! On Saturday, December 11th Groton Robotics will travel down to Harrisburg.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Groton will be hosting one tournament this year on Saturday, January 8th doors are open to anyone if your child is interested in robotics or to all those who just want to check it out! For more information check out the vex VRC robotics website, download the VEX via app and follow Groton Tiger Robotics on Facebook. Thanks to all who support Groton Robotics!



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**Groton Independent ♦ Wed., Dec. 8, 2021 ♦ 7**



**Garrett Schultz and Bradyn Wienk from Gladiators as Garret tries to get mobile goals pulled over to his side for points.** (Photo Credit-Laura Clark)

The Vex Robotics game this year includes a lot of defense. The main objective at the end of the one-minute thirty-second match is to have as many mobile goals on your side as possible, points double if your robot can get goals on their platform and balance. The field consists of two sides, red and blue with two teams on each side.

Purple rings are placed on the field as well that robots can pick-up and stack on their goal, BUT these are only worth 1 point each, most teams only focus on the mobile goals as these acquire the most points in the least amount of time. TIME, SPEED and PRECISE DRIVING IS A FACTOR!

Robots are constantly driving from side to side accruing as many mobile goals as they can. BUT the opponents want the mobile goals too, as fast as they are snatched and placed on your side the opponent can steal and drag back. Each robot is built to either push, pull, drag or lift the mobile goals (the red, yellow, and blue hexagon shaped objects) to their side.



**Kiana Sanders, Corbin Weismantel and River Pardick strategizing before the match.** (Photo Credit-Laura Clark)



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**Ethan Clark, Jack Dinger and Axel Warrington from Gear Heads waiting for scores to be tallied.** (Photo Credit-Laura Clark)

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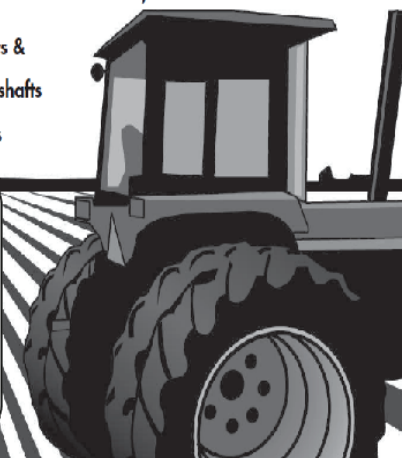
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# USDA Invests \$633 Million in Climate-Smart and Resilient Infrastructure for People in Rural Communities, Including \$423,000 for South Dakota

Investments Will Make South Dakota Rural Communities More Energy Independent and Resilient

Huron, S.D. – Dec. 3, 2021 – United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the Department is investing \$633 million to reduce the impacts of climate change on rural communities. As part of the Build Back Better agenda, the Biden-Harris Administration has made investing in rural communities, creating good-paying jobs and combatting the climate crisis top priorities.

"Rural America is on the front lines of climate change, and our communities deserve investments that will strengthen all of our resilience," Vilsack said. "President Biden has created a roadmap for how we can tackle the climate crisis and expand access to renewable energy infrastructure, all while creating good-paying jobs and saving people money on their energy costs. With the Build Back Better agenda, USDA will be able to fund more and more critical projects like those announced today in the coming months and years."

## Background:

Vilsack highlighted 793 investments that USDA is making in five programs specifically designed to help people and businesses in rural areas. These programs include Community Facilities Disaster Grants, Electric Loan Program, Rural Energy for America Program, Rural Energy Savings Program, and the Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program.

The funding will help people in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. It reflects the many ways USDA Rural Development helps rural residents, businesses and communities address economic development, infrastructure and social service needs.

These investments will help build and improve rural electric infrastructure and connect residents to affordable and dependable power. They will help agricultural producers and rural small businesses purchase and install renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements. They will also help transportation fueling and biodiesel distribution facilities offer higher ethanol and biodiesel blends to customers by sharing the costs to install fuel pumps, equipment and infrastructure.

Secretary Vilsack made the announcement from Saubel's Markets in Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania, which will receive a \$103,413 USDA

Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) grant. With this funding, the small business will install solar panels on the roof of their family-owned grocery store that has been in business since the 1960s. This project is expected to save \$30,852 per year and will replace 395,539 kilowatt hours (kWh) per year, which is enough energy to power 36 homes annually. As part of today's announcement, Pennsylvania will receive more than \$1 million for 22 projects across the state.

South Dakota projects receiving Rural Energy for America Program funds include:

LDI, LTD is receiving a \$46,693 grant to make energy efficiency improvements with the purchase and installation of a more efficient grain dryer at a farm located near Sisseton. This project will save \$3207 per year in energy costs and will save 217,895 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity per year (41.72 percent) which is enough electricity to power 20 homes.

Amy Piotter is receiving a \$103,779 grant to make energy efficiency improvements, with the purchase and installation of more efficient grain handling equipment, at a farm located near New Effington. This project will save \$884.45 per year in energy costs and will save 21,832 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity per year (89.32 percent) which is enough electricity to power two homes.

Craig Dunker is receiving a \$18,597 grant to make energy efficiency improvements with the purchase and installation of a more efficient grain dryer at a farm located near Conde. This project will save \$6,087.14 per year in energy costs and will save 225,406 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity per year (55.23 percent) which is enough electricity to power 20 homes.

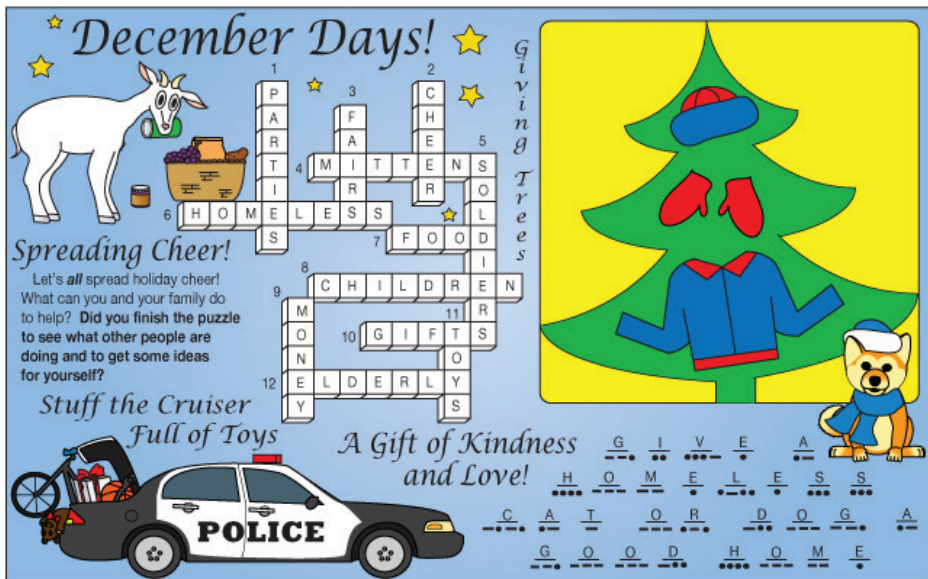
Holler Farms Partnership is receiving a \$49,939 grant to make energy efficiency improvements with the purchase and installation of a more efficient grain dryer at a farm located near Pierpont. This project will save \$34,567.20 per year in energy costs and will save 876,095 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity per year (75.14 percent) which is enough electricity to power 80 homes.

KC Dairies, LLP is receiving a \$29,019 grant to make energy efficiency improvements with the purchase and installation of a more efficient chiller system at a dairy located near Elkton. This project will save \$16,782.07 per year in energy costs and will save 282,890 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity per year (68.35 percent) which is enough electricity to power 26 homes.

Midstates, Inc. is receiving a \$125,000 grant for the purchase and installation of an energy efficient printing press system (1000BE). This project will realize \$95,538.00 per year in savings and is estimated to replace 1,817,542 kilowatt hours (kWh) per year (51.18 percent), which is enough electricity to power 167 homes.

Joshua Metz is receiving a \$49,973 grant to make energy efficiency improvements, with the purchase and installation of a more efficient grain dryer at a farm located near Peever. This project will save \$23,760.18 per year in energy costs and will save 771,528 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity per year (49.78 percent) which is enough electricity to power 71 homes.

Under the Biden-Harris Administration, Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities, create jobs and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural, Tribal and high-poverty areas. For more information, visit [www.rd.usda.gov](http://www.rd.usda.gov). If you'd like to subscribe to USDA Rural Development updates, visit our GovDelivery subscriber page.



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This publication was supported by the grant NU50CK000512 Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It's contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the Department of Health and Human Services. 100% of the project will be financed by federal grant dollars.



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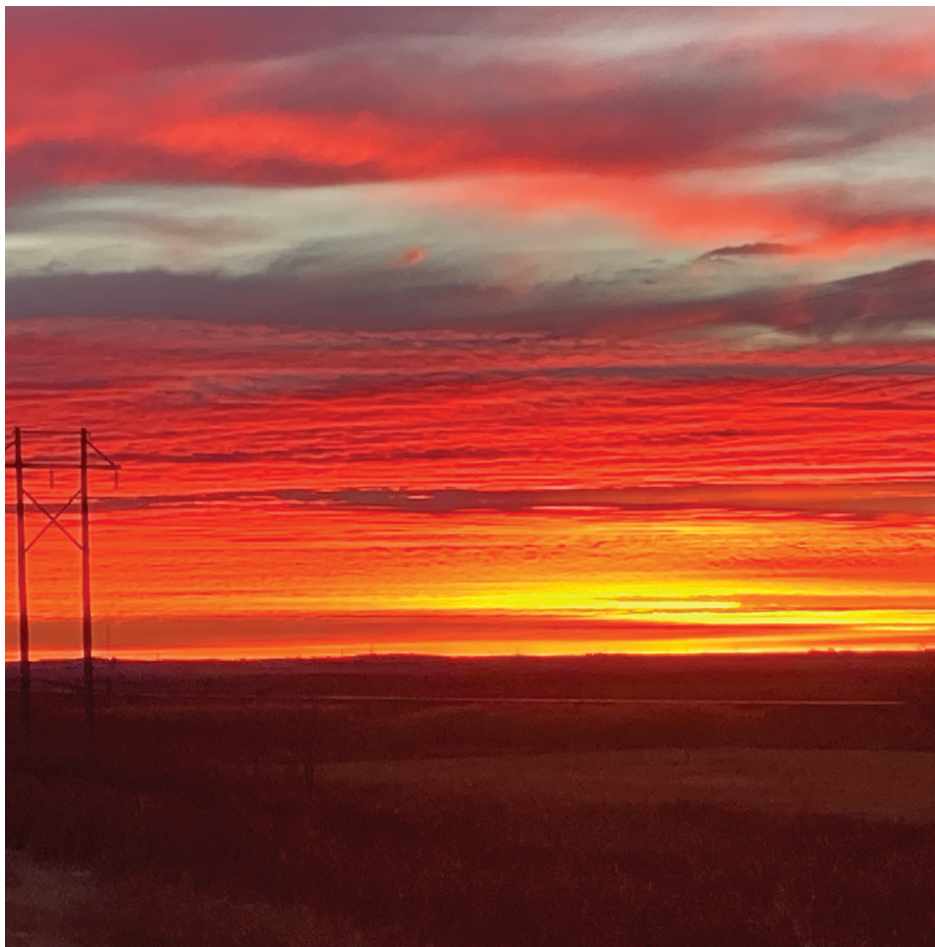
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**The sunrise was very vibrant last Wednesday morning.**

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Jack knifed Semi**

Icy roads led to a semi that slid off of US12 Saturday evening and into the Dollar General parking lot.

**Groton School  
Dec. 6, 2021**

**Meeting Minutes**  
UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
OF BOARD OF EDUCATION  
GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6  
SPECIAL MEETING  
December 6, 2021  
President Gengerke called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm in the High School Conference Room. Members present: Fliehs, Gengerke, Harder, Pharis, Rix, and Weismantel. Absent: Smith. Others present were Superin-

tendent Schwan and Business Manager Weber.  
Moved by Rix, second Fliehs to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.  
No potential conflicts of interest were reported pursuant to SDCL 23-3.  
Members of the public are allowed five minutes to address the board on any topic of their choice. With no public members requesting to speak, the board proceeded with their agenda items.  
The board met with ASBSD representative Jim Holbeck for a training session on School Board

Governance until 6:48 pm.  
After a short supper break the board resumed their meeting with a goal setting work session.  
Moved by Weismantel, second Harder to adjourn at 9:12pm. Motion carried.  
M. J. Weber, Business Manager  
Deborah Gengerke, President  
The addition of signatures to this page verifies these minutes as official.  
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$13.81. 20677



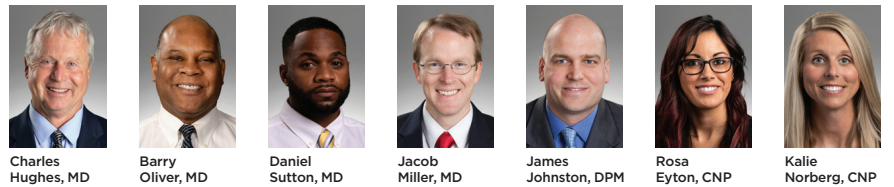
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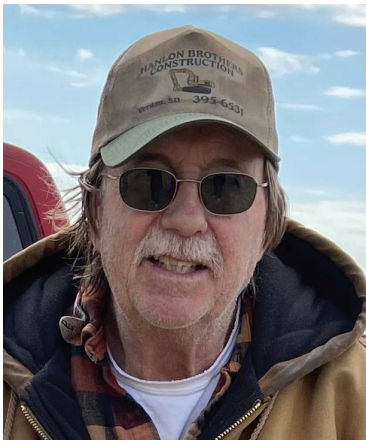
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# The Life of Guy Hanlon



The funeral service for Guy Hanlon, 65, of Verdon, SD, was held Saturday, December 4, 2021, at Spitzer-Miller Funeral Home with Pastor Mark Galbraith officiating. Burial followed at Sunset Memorial Gardens, Aberdeen. Guy passed away Saturday, November 27, at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls surrounded by loved ones.

Guy Lee Hanlon was born on June 13, 1956, to Elmer and Viola Hanlon in Ellendale, ND. He graduated from Conde High School in 1974. Guy attended Lake Area Tech & graduated

with a degree in diesel mechanics in 1976. He returned to Verdon to help his mother with the gravel business as his dad passed away when Guy was only 13 years old. His brother Scott joined the family business in 1982 & they changed the name to Hanlon Brothers. They expanded the gravel hauling business to include custom feed lot cleaning & excavator work.

Guy married the love of his life, Renee Wendt, on July 3, 1982. They were members of the Conde United Methodist Church. Guy's family will remember him as a loving, hardworking man. He always put everyone else first. Guy had a love for animals & enjoyed collecting and working on classic Mopars. Guy could never go anywhere without bumping into a friend to talk to. He was extremely generous and no one was a stranger to Guy which is a great tribute to how he lived his life. His selflessness will be remembered & missed.

Grateful for sharing his life are his wife of 39 years, Renee Hanlon; his children: Krystal (Brent) Ripperda, Kevin (Julianne) Hanlon, and Keith Hanlon; grandchildren: Grady & Gabby Ripperda, Lucas, Logan, & Leah Hanlon, Hunter Kaup-Hanlon and Felicity Hanlon; his siblings: Jerome 'Butch'(Joan) Weiszhaar, Don Weiszhaar and Scott Hanlon (Laurie Muscha); his many nieces & nephews, and countless friends.

Preceding Guy in death are his parents: Viola and Elmer Hanlon; his sisters: Luci Weiszhaar and Joell Snider; and two brothers: Lyle Weiszhaar and Darrell Weiszhaar.

Guy will be greatly missed & remembered by the countless ways he touched each of our hearts.



**Tour of Homes**  
The Groton Tour of Homes was held Saturday evening. In the top photo, Bruce Babcock, a retired US Airforce Pilot, was a train engineer for the evening. The left photo features Karyn Babcock pointing out interesting tidbits about the Cassels house that they have been working on.

## AUCTIONS

**INTERSTATE AUCTION CENTER:** December 18, 2021. 3 Miles East of Sioux Falls exit 402 Brandon, SD. Consignment! Vehicles – tractors, trucks, trailers, livestock, farm equipment 605-331-4550 Website: [auctionzip.com](http://auctionzip.com)

## EDUCATION

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## EMPLOYMENT

**MOBRIDGE-POLLOCK SCHOOL DISTRICT Immediate Opening:** MS English Language Arts Teacher. For more information contact Tim Frederick, Superintendent at 605-845-9204. Send resume and Certified Application to Tim Frederick at 1107 1st Avenue East, Mobridge, SD 57601. EOE. Open until filled. Certified Application can be found at [mobridge-pollock.k12.sd.us](http://mobridge-pollock.k12.sd.us)

THE CITY OF MCLAUGHLIN is accepting applications for Assistant Finance officer. The Assistant Finance officer will assist the City Finance officer with the operation of all the duties of the office applicant should have knowledge of the operation of office equipment and accounting principles, High School diploma or GED is required with some additional education and or experience. Contact the City of McLaughlin at 605-823-4428 for an application or email at [mclughsd@heartlandpower.org](mailto:mclughsd@heartlandpower.org)

CITY OF MCLAUGHLIN is accepting applications for Utility Manager; duties include administering all phases of public works for the city utilities including electric, water, sewer, garbage, streets, airport and parks. Duties involve organizing, assigning, and reviewing the operation and maintenance of all the utilities including office and administrative details and supervision of employees. For more information and an application contact the City of McLaughlin at 605-823-4428 or email [mclughsd@heartlandpower.org](mailto:mclughsd@heartlandpower.org)

## HUNTING

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## MISCELLANEOUS

**BATH & SHOWER UPDATES** in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & profes-



Emily and Weston Dinger had their home opened for the Tour of Homes held Saturday night.



Julie Schaller was a little camera shy, so Tina Kosel joined in the photo during the Tour of Homes. Schaller opened up her home and the Olde Bank building downtown for the Olive Grove Tour of Homes.

sional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 855-577-0313

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Women's Business Center



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DEC. 15 | 10:30 A.M.



DEC. 15 | 10:30 A.M.

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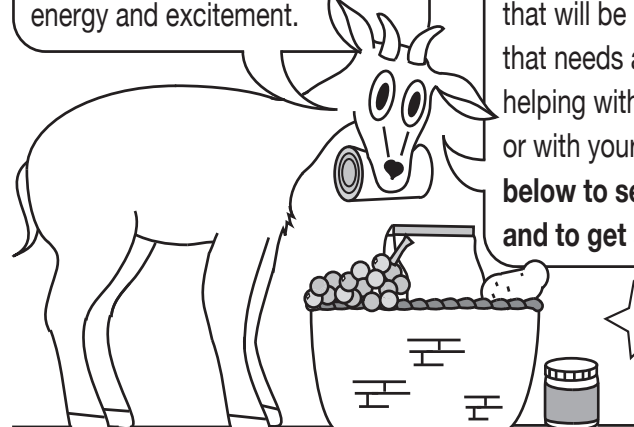


Kids: color stuff in!



## ★ ☆ December Days - Spreading Cheer! ★ ☆

December days are packed with extra work and fun activities! Our communities buzz with extra energy and excitement.



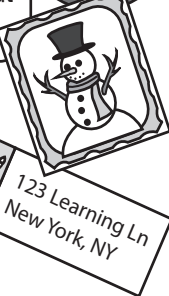
Let's **all** spread seasonal and holiday cheer! I'm gathering a basketful of food that will be a holiday dinner for a family that needs a helping hand. Are you helping with a special project in school or with your family? **Read the clues below to see what people are doing and to get some ideas for yourself.**

After my homework is done, I like to give this much of myself to make things better for others!

1. hosting Christmas \_\_\_\_\_ to celebrate and give out toys
2. lighting outdoor trees and singing carols to spread \_\_\_\_\_
3. going to holiday \_\_\_\_\_ and craft shows to join in fun with their neighbors
4. kids and their families are collecting coats, \_\_\_\_\_ and hats to keep others warm
5. boxing treats, letters, cards, personal items for \_\_\_\_\_ serving in other countries
6. may be adopting a \_\_\_\_\_ cat or dog (if conditions are good for this)
7. filling and delivering baskets and bags with \_\_\_\_\_ for a Christmas dinner
8. gathering small toys, books, pens, etc., to put in shoeboxes to send to needy \_\_\_\_\_ across the world
9. selling "photos with Santa" at a special breakfast to raise \_\_\_\_\_
10. wrapping toys and other \_\_\_\_\_
11. shopping to help police officers "fill their cruisers" with \_\_\_\_\_ to bring joy
12. visiting the \_\_\_\_\_ to bring plants or treats



Hi! My name is Snowy. This year I'm donating to the American Lung Association. They will send me a set of Christmas Seals® to thank me and I'll use them on my holiday cards. Other nonprofits give out address labels to help raise funds for their causes.



### Giving Trees

Use this color key to finish the color-in puzzle to see what kinds of items people are collecting to keep others warm.

Y = yellow B = blue  
G = green R = red



Connect the dots to see Snowy.

### A Gift of Kindness and Love!



If you have a cozy, quiet home and wish to care for a companion, visit an animal shelter and...

What is Yoshi talking about? To find out, use the Morse Code Alphabet below to fill in the letters on the blanks.

A	· -	J	· - - -	S	· · ·
B	- · · ·	K	· - · -	T	-
C	- · - ·	L	· - · ·	U	· · -
D	- · · -	M	- -	V	· · · -
E	·	N	· -	W	· - -
F	· · - ·	O	- - -	X	· - · -
G	- · - -	P	- · - ·	Y	· - - -
H	· · · ·	Q	- · · -	Z	- - · ·
I	· ·	R	· - ·		

# Poll shows strong statewide support for Gov. Noem, except on marijuana legalization

**Bart Pfankuch**  
South Dakota News Watch

With nearly three years as governor complete, and as she kicks off a reelection campaign, South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem is enjoying strong statewide support for her performance, according to a new poll.

The poll of 500 registered voters conducted in late October showed that a majority of South Dakotans support the governor's performance, with an average of 61.2% of respondents strongly or somewhat in approval of her performance across five topic areas. About 37% of overall respondents somewhat or strongly disapproved of Noem's performance on the five topics.

Noem, 50, is a former state lawmaker and member of Congress who was elected South Dakota governor in 2018. Noem has announced she is running for reelection in 2022, and will face a GOP primary challenge from state Rep. Steve Haugaard, a Sioux Falls attorney and former speaker of the state House of Representatives.

David Wiltse, a political science professor at South Dakota State University, said the poll results bode well for Noem as she seeks another term.

"This is, for the most part, pretty good news for her," said Wiltse, who reviewed the poll results. "If I were her and I was looking at this, I would be really happy; it's just that simple."

The random telephone poll was conducted Oct. 20-23, 2021, by Mason Dixon and was sponsored by South Dakota News Watch and the Chiesman Center for Democracy at the University of South Dakota. The poll is the latest effort in the South Dakota Matters series of polls and community conversations sponsored by News Watch. The margin of error is plus or minus 4.5%.

Noem has positioned herself as a conservative Republican and has garnered national attention for her relatively hands-off approach to the COVID-19 pandemic, in which she pushed to keep businesses open, encouraged visitors to come to the state and railed against vaccine mandates.

Republicans were the most supportive of Noem, a first-term GOP governor, with 74.5% of Republicans strongly or somewhat in approval of her performance on five topics. Independents were less supportive, with 66.4% strongly or somewhat supportive. Among Democrats, who showed strong disapproval of Noem's performance, 24.7% were strongly or somewhat in approval of her performance, with just over 65% of Democrats somewhat or strongly disapproving.

Noem's performance ratings in the October 2021 poll rose in comparison with a similar News Watch/Chiesman Center poll conducted in October 2020, near the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in South Dakota. At that time, 53.8% of respondents overall were strongly or somewhat approving of Noem's performance, while 40.9% were strongly or somewhat disapproving.

On her handling of the economy, 69.4% of respondents in the 2021 poll strongly or somewhat approved of her performance; 65.6% strongly or somewhat approved of her performance on managing the pandemic; 72.0% strongly or somewhat approved of her focus on problems specific to South Dakota; and 61.6% strongly or somewhat approved of her upholding of the integrity of the office.

Noem did not fare as well on her handling of marijuana legalization, with only 39.2% of respondents strongly or somewhat in approval, and 17.8% somewhat disapproving and 33.4% strongly disapproving of her performance.

Emily Wanless, a political science professor at Augustana University in Sioux Falls, said Noem may appear increasingly strong among her supporters due to her higher national profile, which has brought attention to South Dakota. Noem has also had more time in office to show supporters she is willing to lead, Wanless said.



**South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem.** (Photo by Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch)

flag effect."

Wanless said Noem also benefits from being a Republican in a state with supermajority GOP control in the Legislature and all statewide offices being held by Republicans.

That level of support, Wanless said, has likely made Noem feel comfortable attacking or mocking people or groups that disagree with her, such as in a recent Tweet where she encouraged vegans to eat meat on World Vegan Day and posted a photo of herself with a gun and a dead pheasant.

"You can do that in a state like South Dakota, where you have a supermajority

of party support," said Wanless, who reviewed the poll results. "She doesn't have to rely on appeasing the vegans, not even a handful; she doesn't need any of them."

Yet Wanless said divisive or mocking statements by the governor only add to the binary polarization sweeping politics in America and South Dakota.

"It's not just that people are disagreeing on issues," she said. "Polarization is taking shots at somebody's morals, values and integrity, and for some reason, that resonates with her crowd to make these politicized statements and stances."

Julia Hellwege, a political science professor at USD who also reviewed the poll results, said Noem's dismissive nature toward those who disagree with her or question her actions may strengthen her hold on her conservative electoral base, but ultimately is not helpful in making South Dakota better and more welcoming to all residents. Operating on the far conservative edge of politics is essentially dismissing the desires and views of the 26% of voters in South Dakota who are registered Democrats, Hellwege said.

"Is the job of elected officials to continue to get re-elected and only speak to their partisans, or is it the job of elected officials to represent all people in the state?" Hellwege asked. "Looking at these poll numbers, there's nothing more that she can do to make Democrats more disappointed in her."

Hellwege said she hopes Noem can soften some of her rhetoric in order to reduce political polarization in the state.

"I think she's perfectly comfortable to continue to push along her agenda, which most Republicans approve of, even [to] the detriment of the minority parties of the state. Polarization in the electorate is not very healthy for civic engagement, so if you would like to see more civic engagement and more civil discourse and compromise, then yes, I would like her to speak more toward the minority parties."

#### Impact of 'micro-scandals'

Meanwhile, Wiltse also said that Noem is unlikely to lose any major support within the Republican Party due to any perceived missteps or controversies. During her first term, Noem has faced scrutiny on a number of issues, such as her frequent out-of-state political travel, sparring with Native American tribes, questions surrounding potential favoritism shown to her daughter in obtaining an appraiser's license, and most recently, reporting that showed she spent \$8,000 in taxpayer money on a sauna and thousands more on rugs, chandeliers and other upgrades to the governor's mansion.

Wiltse said most Republicans and conservative Independents in South Dakota are likely to overlook the negative press and continue to support Noem at election time.

"When it comes to the what I would call 'micro scandals,' these are fairly tame accusations relative to other political scandals across the country," he said. "When it comes to these kinds of critiques, they typically don't resonate all that much within that person's own party. You're more likely to forgive people or yourself for certain behaviors then you would be for someone from an outside group."

Wiltse said the apparent effort by Haugaard to label Noem as not conservative enough is unlikely to help him prevail in the GOP primary.

"Taking her out from within the Republican Party is going to be a really hard climb," he said. "You'd have to find some really narrow wedge issues to split people off from the right at this point."

Wiltse said that despite the generally positive poll results on the governor's performance, Noem has won some elections with narrow margins and has not been as popular in previous polls as other statewide politicians and members of Congress from South Dakota.

"One thing we've always been curious about, and this poll doesn't really answer it, is why she has softer support than other statewide Republicans when it comes to overall approval," Wiltse said. "That's



#### ABOUT BART PFANKUCH

Bart Pfankuch, Rapid City, S.D., is the content director for South Dakota News Watch. A Wisconsin native,

he is a former editor of the Rapid City Journal and also worked at newspapers in Florida. Bart has spent more than 30 years as a reporter, editor and writing coach.

"I think she's established herself as an executive in the state," Wanless said. "If you're more comfortable with someone as the decision maker, and she's made it clear she is going to be the decision maker, there's a rallying-around-the-

always been a signal to us that there's some weaknesses here, but we haven't been able to identify those yet."

Wanless said Noem should pay attention to how voters who self-identified as Independent in the poll responded, as those voters can play a big role in statewide elections in South Dakota. As of Dec. 1, 2021, 48.5% of South Dakota voters were registered as Republicans, 26.6% were registered as Democrats and 24.2% were registered as Independent or No Party Affiliation.

Wanless noted that even in GOP-dominated South Dakota, Noem defeated Democrat Billy Sutton in the 2018 gubernatorial election by only 51.0% to 47.6%, a difference of about 11,000 votes.

"Especially when you think about how close the governor's race was, it doesn't matter where Republicans or Democrats stand, because we know where they will fall on Election Day," she said. "What really matters is where Independents stand, because they are going to make or break whether a Democrat can win or not."

In the News Watch/Chiesman 2021 poll, Independents across the board were not as supportive of Noem as Republicans, with a margin as high as 10 points in disapproval rating on two of the five topics.

Hellwege said she was not surprised to see that Noem's support has risen among women, who were far less supportive of the governor in the News Watch/Chiesman poll conducted in November 2020.

"There were certainly more caretaker type of issues at that time, and women tend to be the primary caretaker in many families," she said.

Wiltse said the softer support for Noem's handling of marijuana legalization is likely because South Dakota voters approved both medical and recreational marijuana in separate referenda and may have been disappointed to see Noem successfully challenge recreational legalization in court.

Overall, 51.2% of poll respondents either somewhat or strongly disapproved of Noem's handling of marijuana legalization, including a third who strongly disapproved. Of the five topics on which Noem was rated in the poll, she fared by far the worst in regard to marijuana.

"The people did weigh in on it, and it's very easy to see what she is doing as far as working to counter what 53 percent of the voters said they wanted in regard to recreational marijuana," Wiltse said.

As the 2022 elections approach, Wiltse said Noem may move even more to the political right to ensure her base of GOP supporters is motivated.

"I really don't think she has too much to worry about, but she is going to be guarded" and may work even harder to satisfy her conservative base, Wiltse said. "She may stake out positions more to the right than she has."

Noem's communications director, Ian Fury, said in an email to News Watch that the poll results show that voters have a high trust level in the governor.

"Governor Noem trusted the people of South Dakota to exercise their freedoms, and it's clear they continue to trust her in return. The governor will continue to focus on South Dakota priorities," Fury wrote.

## PUBLIC TRUST IN OVERSIGHT OF POLITICAL REDISTRICTING

The poll asked the following question regarding the redistricting process that was recently undertaken during a special session of the state Legislature in South Dakota.

**How much trust do you have in the following groups to draw fair, common-sense political boundaries during redistricting?**

### Small group of elected officials

Overall 14.8% great deal of trust  
Overall 49.0% fair amount of trust  
Overall 21.8% not much trust  
Overall 11.4% no trust at all  
Overall 3.0% not sure

### Independent non-partisan commission

Overall 18.4% great deal of trust  
Overall 46.4% fair amount of trust  
Overall 18.6% not much trust  
Overall 11.2% no trust at all  
Overall 5.4% not sure

### South Dakota Legislature

Overall 11.6% great deal of trust  
Overall 46.6% fair amount of trust  
Overall 23.8% not much trust  
Overall 13.8% no trust at all  
Overall 4.2% not sure

### South Dakota governor

Overall 40.8% great deal of trust  
Overall 18.2% fair amount of trust  
Overall 10.4% not much trust  
Overall 28.2% no trust at all  
Overall 2.4% not sure

### South Dakota Supreme Court

Overall 30.4% great deal of trust  
Overall 42.8% fair amount of trust  
Overall 14.8% not much trust  
Overall 9.4% no trust at all  
Overall 2.6% not sure

### Computer generated formula

Overall 8.4% great deal of trust  
Overall 25.8% fair amount of trust  
Overall 23.8% not much trust  
Overall 34.2% no trust at all  
Overall 7.8% not sure

Mason Dixon telephone poll of 500 random registered South Dakota voters on Oct. 20-23, 2021; margin of error is +/- 4.5%.

## GOV. KRISTI NOEM PERFORMANCE POLL

The poll of 500 registered South Dakota voters asked respondents in late October 2021 to rate Gov. Noem's performance on several topics. Chart shows overall response followed by results broken out by party affiliation, including Republicans, Democrats and Independents.

### MANAGING THE ECONOMY

Overall 43.8% strongly approve — Rep 63.0%; Dem 5.1%; Ind 49.6%  
Overall 25.6% somewhat approve — Rep 19.8%; Dem 32.9%; Ind 28.8%  
Overall 11.6% somewhat disapprove — Rep 10.9%; Dem 16.1%; Ind 8.0%  
Overall 16.2% strongly disapprove — Rep 3.8%; Dem 41.6%; Ind 12.0%  
Overall 2.8% no opinion — Rep 2.5%; Dem 4.4%; Ind 1.6%

### MANAGING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Overall 48.8% strongly approve — Rep 67.2%; Dem 13.8%; Ind 52.0%  
Overall 6.8% somewhat approve — Rep 16.4%; Dem 14.6%; Ind 20.0%  
Overall 9.8% somewhat disapprove — Rep 7.6%; Dem 12.4%; Ind 11.2%  
Overall 23.2% strongly disapprove — Rep 7.1%; Dem 57.7%; Ind 16.0%  
Overall 1.4% no opinion — Rep 1.4%; Dem 1.5%; Ind 0.8%

### FOCUSING ON PROBLEMS SPECIFIC TO SOUTH DAKOTA

Overall 38.6% strongly approve — Rep 52.5%; Dem 10.2%; Ind 43.2%  
Overall 22.2% somewhat approve — Rep 23.5%; Dem 13.9%; Ind 28.8%  
Overall 10.2% somewhat disapprove — Rep 8.4%; Dem 16.8%; Ind 6.4%  
Overall 24.6% strongly disapprove — Rep 12.2%; Dem 53.3%; Ind 16.8%  
Overall 4.4% no opinion — Rep 3.4%; Dem 5.8%; Ind 4.8%

### LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA

Overall 25.8% strongly approve — Rep 32.4%; Dem 16.1%; Ind 24.0%  
Overall 17.8% somewhat approve — Rep 18.9%; Dem 18.3%; Ind 15.2%  
Overall 17.8% somewhat disapprove — Rep 15.6%; Dem 22.6%; Ind 16.8%  
Overall 33.4% strongly disapprove — Rep 27.7%; Dem 38.0%; Ind 39.2%  
Overall 5.2% no opinion — Rep 5.4%; Dem 5.1%; Ind 4.8%

### UPHOLDING INTEGRITY OF THE OFFICE

Overall 43.0% strongly approve — Rep 60.9%; Dem 8.8%; Ind 46.4%  
Overall 18.6% somewhat approve — Rep 18.1%; Dem 13.9%; Ind 24.8%  
Overall 10.4% somewhat disapprove — Rep 7.1%; Dem 22.6%; Ind 3.2%  
Overall 26.4% strongly disapprove — Rep 12.6%; Dem 54.0%; Ind 22.4%  
Overall 1.6% no opinion — Rep 1.2%; Dem 1.0%; Ind 3.2%

Mason Dixon telephone poll of 500 random registered South Dakota voters on Oct. 20-23, 2021; margin of error is +/- 4.5%.

## TRUST IN SOUTH DAKOTA LEGISLATURE LACKING

The News Watch/Chiesman Center poll showed that respondents are not as trusting of the Legislature as they are of other government or legal institutions, and that a fair number of people do not believe the Legislature uses its time on the biggest issues facing the state.

When it comes to less-than-stellar poll results regarding the state Legislature, Hellwege said she is not surprised that some South Dakotans, including some Republicans, do not give high marks in trust or in what lawmakers spend their time on.

The poll showed that in regard to trust to do a good job on redistricting, the Legislature has the lowest percentage of respondents indicating "a great deal" or "fair amount" (58.2%) of trust as opposed to a computer-generation model (34.2%).

Meanwhile, only 9.8% of respondents said the Legislature spends "a great deal of its time" on the most pressing issues facing South Dakota, and roughly a third reported that the Legislature spends "not very much time" or "almost none of its time" on the most pressing issues.

Hellwege said that in recent years the Legislature, whose only requirement is to pass an annual state budget, may appear to some voters to have veered away from issues that affect a large number of people and instead spent time legislating on transgender issues, abortion and higher education.

"It seems like people are not wanting them to spend their time on that," Hellwege said. "There's a set of legislators who focus on one issue being the main thing they're concerned about, and it seems the people might be saying, 'Please spend more time on the things we really care about.'"

Hellwege said the Legislature meets for such a short time each year that it can be difficult to pass a budget and address complicated issues, especially with virtually no support staff in place in South Dakota.

Wiltse said state legislatures, like Congress, may be disliked or distrusted as institutions by the electorate even as individual lawmakers continue to have voter support.

"Broadly speaking, these are not terribly surprising," he said. "When it comes to people's approval of our major institutions, Congress or legislatures, they don't do as well as governors, presidents or the courts."

Wiltse said poll results critical of the Legislature are unlikely to change the way the institution or individual members operate.

"We don't like legislatures in the aggregate ... though we may love our individual members," he said. "It's like with Congress ... people hate Congress as an institution, but then members get reelected 90% of the time."

# EARTHTALK™

Dear EarthTalk: How are bird populations faring in the U.S. and around the world? What are some ways to help them?  
-- Mark Johnson, Butte, MT



**Blackbirds are among the avian species experiencing the greatest amount of population loss across North America as their preferred wetland habitat dries up and is filled in and paved over.** Credit: Skyler Ewing, Pexels.

Not surprisingly, given the myriad environmental threats they are facing, bird numbers continue to decline rapidly today across North America and beyond. Researchers at Cornell's Lab of Ornithology and Canada's National Wildlife Research Centre found in a 2019 analysis that wild bird populations in the continental U.S. and Canada have declined by 29 percent—or a total net loss of around three billion birds—since 1970. Their landmark study is the first ever to perform a comprehensive assessment of wild bird net population changes across the continent.

The study found that population decline was not limited to a few species but a wide range of species across every biome (a large naturally occurring community of flora and fauna occupying a major habitat). Population loss in each biome ranged from Grassland bird populations suffering the greatest loss at 53 percent to eastern forest birds with the lowest loss at 17 percent. Researchers also found that common birds from just 12 families, such as blackbirds, sparrows and finches, account for over 90 percent—or over 2.5 billion birds—of total population decline. Experts believe that habitat loss due to agricultural development and intensification is most likely the driving factor.

Amid this concerning data, hope remains for the birds of our world. Over the past few years, organizations such as Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, the National Audubon Society, and the California Waterfowl Association have collaborated to conserve waterfowl habitat (though critics point out that in some cases it is motivated by the self-fulfilling desire to provide more targets for their hunter members). Under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, these organizations have raised billions of dollars in funds to restore and preserve waterfowl habitat, especially wetlands.

Readers can also help protect birds by taking a few simple actions. An easy one is to install window screens or eliminate window reflections with film or paint. (A 2014 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Smithsonian study found that between 365 million and one billion birds die each year across the U.S. as a result of window strikes.) If you're a cat owner, another way to cut down on bird kills is to keep Fluffy from roaming freely outside. The U.S. North American Bird Conservation Initiative estimates that our pet felines kill some 2.6 billion birds annually in the U.S. alone.

Yet another way to help our avian friends is to provide shelter and nesting areas in your backyard. Planting native plants (instead of grass) will give both local and migratory birds a reason to hang out. Likewise, avoid synthetic pesticides and fertilizers on your land: They not only indirectly harm birds and the insects they like to eat, but can also poison wildlife directly. Shopping organic at the grocery store is another way to reduce the overall load of pesticides and synthetic fertilizer that birds encounter.

One additional way to be part of the solution is to join the Audubon's Christmas Bird Count, whether you're a beginner birder or expert. From December 14 through January 5, the initiative promotes counting instead of hunting birds, a fun and simple way to get outdoors while also helping to protect your favorite backyard birds. Audubon has been running the count for 122 years, and collates the data collected by its "citizen scientists" into an annual report on the state of the birds across the U.S.

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](mailto:question@earthtalk.org).

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Tombstone Pizzas 19.3-21.1 Oz. **2/\$9**

**Liquor**  
Rum Chata Peppermint Bark. 750 ML. **\$19.99**

**Household**  
Dawn Dish Liquid 16.2 Oz. Bottles **2/\$5**

**Bakery** White Party Buns 12 Ct. **\$1.99**  
**Deli** Wilson Black Forest Ham Per Lb. **\$5.99**

**USDA Choice Dorkota Boneless Bottom Round Roast \$4.59** Per Lb.  
**California New Crop Navel Oranges \$3.88** 4 Lb. Bag

**Chicken Split Breast \$1.49** Per Lb.  
**Swanson Broth 4/\$3** 14-14.5 Oz. Cans

**Best Choice Almond Bark \$1.99** 20 Oz. Pkg.  
**Best Choice All Purpose Flour \$1.49** 5 Lb. Bag

**General Mills Honey Nut Cheerios 10.8 oz Cinnamon Toast Crunch 12 oz Cheerios 8.9 oz or Trix 10.7 oz \$1.99**  
**Flora Bath Tissue 12 Roll or Paper Towels 6 Roll Bundle \$6.99**

**Ken's Gourmet Coffee** Coffee • Gourmet Drinks • Wind and Willow • Flavor of the week! \$1 off

## The Palm of Your Hand

As a family physician living on the upper Great Plains, I have many patients of Norwegian and German descent. Thus, I am familiar with some diseases that are prone to affect people of northern European ancestry. One such example is Dupuytren's contracture.

Dupuytren's contracture is a gradual thickening of the connective tissue of the palm of the hand. It may begin innocently as a nodule in the palm or joint stiffness, which are common for anyone. However, with Dupuytren's contracture, over time the fingers curl inwards and cannot be straightened. Cords can become visible in the palm of the hand. This is often a slow progression over several years and may or may not become painful. It can make it harder to grasp objects and use the hand in general.

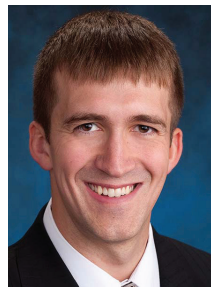
Sometimes called the "Viking Disease," Dupuytren's contracture most often affects men of northern European descent over the age of 50. Other risk factors making a person susceptible to this disease can include smoking, alcohol, manual labor, and being thinner. It would seem being a fan of the Minnesota Vikings may be a risk factor, but that is probably just coincidence.

The condition is named after Guillaume Dupuytren, a French military surgeon who was skilled in anatomy. He described the condition well and was the first to perform a successful operation for it in 1831. Interestingly, Dupuytren gained prominence from treating Napoleon Bonaparte's hemorrhoids.

Although a steroid injection or physical therapy may be helpful, in general, Dupuytren's contracture cannot be cured, only treated. For a long time, surgery was the mainstay treatment, especially for more advanced cases. Surgery can involve cutting the fascia, the affected layer of connective tissue. A less invasive procedure involves using needles to weaken the thickened cords of fascia.

In the last decade a new treatment became available. Injecting the enzyme collagenase weakens the bonds in the collagen of the fascia, releasing the contractures. Extracted from the bacteria *Clostridium histolyticum*, the collagenase offers an effective nonsurgical option for treatment.

I am not sure what my Norwegian and German ancestors would have thought about injecting an enzyme from a bacterium into their hands. However, patients today appreciate regaining the use of their hands for daily activities and to clap and cheer for their favorite football team.



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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.prairedoc.org](http://www.prairedoc.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.