



2022 SD Jr Snow Queen Court

1st Runner Up: Jr Miss Langford, Jordis Jenner 2nd runner up: Jr Miss Wolsey-Wessington, Tatum Luce 2022 SD Jr Snow Queen: Jr Miss Faulkton, Amelia Currington 3rd runner up: Jr Miss Groton, Gretchen Dinger 4th runner up: Jr Miss Clark, Samantha Brenden Miss Congeniality: Jr Miss Watertown, Katie Leadabrand 2022 SD Snow Prince: Ramsey Skinner 2022 SD Snow Princess: Madelyn Crossley (Photo from Official South Dakota Snow Queen Festival Facebook Page)



Bisbee takes second at state Junior Talent Show

Anna Bisbee took second place in the Jr talent at the SD Junior Snow Queen contest. (Courtesy Photo)



Groton Dynamics Dance Team

The Groton Dynamics Dance Team performed at halftime of the boys basketball game with Webster. This photo is lifted from the GDILIVE.COM video.

UpComing Events Thursday, Jan. 13

Boys' Basketball at Aberdeen Roncalli. at Elementary Gym: 7th grade game at 4 p.m., 8th grade game at 5 p.m. at Roncalli High School: C game at 5 p.m. followed by junior varsity and varsity.

Friday, Jan. 14

Silver Bowl Debate at Sioux Falls

No School - Faculty In-Service at Warner School

6 p.m.: Girls' Basketball hosts Aberdeen Roncalli. JV at 6 p.m. followed by varsity.

Saturday, Jan. 15

Silver Bowl Debate at Sioux Falls Boys Basketball Classic at Redfield. Groton Area vs. Deubrook at 7:30 10 a.m.: Junior High boys basketball jamboree in Groton with Aberdeen Christian, Britton-Hecla and Webster Area.

10 a.m.: Wrestling at Potter County (Gettysburg) Invitational.

Monday, Jan. 17

Junior High Wrestling Invitational at Redfield Girls basketball hosting Langford Area (JV at 6 p.m. followed by varsity)

Tuesday, Jan. 18

Wrestling Tournament at Hamlin

Junior High Boys Basketball at Mobridge. 7th at 4 p.m. followed by 8th grade game.

Junior High Wrestling Invitational at the Aberdeen Civic Arena, 4 p.m.

The Junior High boys basketball game in Groton scheduled for Jan. 18th is cancelled. City Council Meeting at 7 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 20

Girls Basketball at Clark/Willow Lake. JV at 6 p.m. followed by varsity.

Friday, Jan. 21

Debate Speech Fiesta at Watertown High School

Boys Basketball hosting Clark/Willow Lake. 7th grade at 4 p.m., 8th grade at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m. followed by varsity game.

Wrestling Dual at Deuel High School, 6 p.m. **Saturday, Jan. 22**

Debate Speech Fiesta at Watertown High School

Wrestling Tournament at Arlington, 10 a.m. **Monday, Jan. 24**

Boys Basketball at Northwestern. 7th at 3:30, 8th at 4:30, C at 5:15, then JV and Varsity to follow.; Wrestling at Ipswich, 6 p.m.

Weekly Vikings Roundup By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

This roller coaster of a Vikings' season finally came to an end today as the team faced off against the lowly Chicago Bears. With both teams already eliminated from the playoffs, today's game was more about records, contract incentives, and draft position, than it was about the 60-year-old rivalry between the two teams.

First Half

The first half for the Vikings was by far their worst half of football all season. The Vikings' defense was unable to force the Bears to punt at any point as the Bears' offense crossed into Vikings' territory on every one of their drives. Nonetheless, thanks to a couple of DJ Wonnum sacks, the Vikings' defense was able to hold the Bears to only two field goals. However, per usual, the Vikings' defense struggled in the final 2:00 of the half, giving up a late touchdown to extend the Bears' lead to 14-0. For the 2021 season, the Vikings have given up a total 128 points in the final 2:00 of either half, an NFL record.

The offense did absolutely nothing for most of the half as Kirk Cousins faced endless pressure from a Bears defensive line missing two of its starters: Khalil Mack and Akiem Hicks. It was only until their final drive of the half that the Vikings' offense came alive. Cousins was able to complete a 25-yard pass to Justin Jefferson, and a 40-yard pass to Ihmir Smith-Marsette on back-to-back plays, which gave the Vikings the ball on the Bears 11-yard line with 0:13 remaining. However, the chance for the Vikings to get a much-needed touchdown was quickly negated by a holding call on Oli Udoh. The Vikings would settle for a field goal and send the team into halftime down 14-3.

Second Half

The second half was a lot more exciting to watch for Vikings fans. Kirk Cousins, in what may be his last game as the Vikings' quarterback, completed three touchdown passes to three different wide receivers: a 44-yarder to Ihmir Smith-Marsette, a 45-yarder to Justin Jefferson, and a 21-yarder to KJ Osborn.

The Viking's defense also showed up big in the second half, intercepting Bears' quarterback Andy Dalton twice and even getting the Bears to finally punt. Patrick Peterson finally got his first interception as a Minnesota Viking and even put an exclamation point on it by returning it for a touchdown. After being down 14-3 at halftime, the Vikings suddenly saw themselves with a 31-17 lead with 4:54 remaining in the game.



The final minutes of the game for Vikings fans at US Bank Stadium was spent yelling at the team to get Justin Jefferson the ball one more time. Jefferson came into today's game needing 123 receiving yards to break Randy Moss' franchise record of 1,632 receiving yards in a season. Sadly, Jefferson was unable to break the record as he fell just 17 yards short, finishing the season at 1,616 receiving yards. It is important to note that Jefferson now is the only wide receiver in NFL history to have eclipsed 3,000 total receiving yards through his first two seasons.

Final Score: Vikings 31 – Bears 17. Vikings finish the season 8-9.

Final Thoughts

Rumors around the NFL indicate that Mike Zimmer will likely not be the Vikings' head coach next year. If these rumors turn out to be true, the Vikings will be starting fresh with a new head coach for the first time in nearly eight years. Although Zimmer never led the Vikings to a Super Bowl, Zimmer's success during his tenure as the Vikings' head coach cannot be understated. When he became the Vikings' head coach in 2014, the team had the lowestranked defense in the NFL. That quickly changed under Zimmer and by 2017, the Vikings became the best defense in the NFL. However, lately, the defense has struggled, and it is probably time for the Vikings to find a new head coach. Furthermore, this may be the last game for several Vikings players as well. Anthony Barr, Danielle Hunter, Kirk Cousins, and Patrick Peterson all have contracts that will give the Vikings organization tough decisions on what to do with them.

Post traumatic radio syndrome

Ask any old disc jockey if they ever have the "dead air dream" and they'll all tell you they do. Or used to. In those frenetic studios, especially if you were doing mornings, you were ripping the AP news wire, prerecording programs, and answering the phone (because for the first couple of hours, you were the only one in the building) while trying to keep records cued up and sounding chipper. It was weird. For years, the first words I spoke each day were into a microphone.



That's Life by Tony Bender

Invariably, with all the distractions, the record would begin to fade, and you'd scramble to the microphone while dropping the needle on the next 45. Sometimes, you were too late and even a second or two of radio silence was the greatest sin one could commit. And I was the king of dead air.

Thus, the dream.

You'd be sleeping and it would be too quiet, so you would instinctively jerk awake. I used to have them all the time, even years after I quit the business. Posttraumatic radio syndrome. I haven't had one for a long time, but that's what startled me into consciousness in the wee hours this morning. And I haven't been in radio for 31 years. It's kinda Pavlovian.

Snowy days were the worst because the phone rang incessantly. Every hopeful kid in the region would call: "Is there school today?" One after the other after the other after the other... You'd want to scream, "Listen to the radio!" My buddy Bob Booker once recorded three minutes of the calls and played them back to illustrate the stupidity of the KQDJ listening audience. Radio has a way of making you crazy, and when he quit, I got his old job.

I did terrible things, for instance, during a swap and shop segment, I fielded a call from a sweet old lady with a thick German accent announcing her "crotch sale." Oh, I asked, was it a big crotch? And did she have a lot of stuff in her crotch? So we spent about five minutes discussing her crotch much to the horror of the weasel salesman who sold sponsorships on the program. In my defense, the woman was quite proud of her crotch. She insisted there were no mice in there.

We churned through four general managers in my three years in Jamestown, ND, and each time, Tim Ost, my roommate and program director, and I would hold up new management for a raise. This blackmail went on until they hit the bottom of the barrel and made The Weasel the new GM. He said no to the raise. Putz.

To make matters worse, he devised a holiday promotion that was the dumbest thing ever. We were supposed to call people indiscriminately out of the phone book and if they answered, "Merry Christmas!" they'd win—get this—a two-liter bottle of Coke. Of course, this would be hugely embarrassing because no one's gonna do that, I argued vociferously, but the greasy comb-over genius insisted. Embarrassingly, we did a big advertising build up. God, it was lame.

As the morning man, I was to launch the contest at about 7:15 and get egg on my face. As the time approached, I watched through the windows of the studios as the whole staff scrambled to their desks to listen to see what I'd do. I made a huge insincere deal about it, extolling the virtues of Coca-Cola and the greatness of any radio station that would give such a fine Christmas gift away. Ring. Ring. A meek, shaky, female voice answered. "Hello?"

JOHNSON AGENCY Real Estate & Insurance Jay Johnson, Broker www.johnsonagencygroton.com 102 N Main St. Groton, SD 57445 Office: 605/397-2424

"YOU LOSE!" I screamed into the microphone. When he fired me, The Weasel said, "Tony, we're going to have to let you go..."

"I suppose a raise is out of the question."

My favorite radio gig was in Juneau, Alaska, where management embraced my obnoxiousness because it was good for ratings. We also did a lot of community service which is how I got roped into doing a show with the Alaska Highway Patrol to illustrate the perils

> of drinking and driving. I was supposed to steadily drink a bottle of Wild Turkey at the mall and they would test my reaction time every 20 minutes or so on a mock car set-up. The thing is, I kept getting faster. And faster. And faster, still. Because I'm a gamer. By the time the show was over, I'd set all kinds of records. Pretty good show, too.

© Tony Bender, 2022

Groton School Jan. 10, 2022

Meeting Minutes UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF EDUCATION

GROTON AREA SCHOOL DIS-TRICT NO. 06-6

REGULAR MEETING January 10, 2022

President Gengerke called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the GHS Library Conference Room. Members present: Fliehs, Gengerke, Pharis, Rix, and Weismantel. Absent: Harder and Smith. Others present were Supt. J. Schwan, Principal B. Schwan and Business Manager

Weber. Moved by Rix, second Weismantel to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

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

Moved by Weismantel, second Pharis to approve consent agenda item: December 13, 2021, minutes. Motion carried.

Mémbers 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.

GENERAL FUND: Net Salary 199,684.12; FIT - 17,525.28; Medicare – 7,500.68; FICA 32,072.16; American Funds – 547.60; SDRS – 30,786.40;
 Health Savings Account – 100.00; Waddell & Reed – 1,515.00; Horace Mann – 857.61; Thrivent – 250.00; AFLAC – 2,914.02; Delta Dental - 3,979.47; SD Supplemental Retirement - 1,840.83; Division of Child Support 951.06; Groton School Lunch - 92.35; Wellmark – 60,080.34; Standard - 682.83; Wage Works 1,137.46; Avesis - 294.03; Aberdeen Chrysler Center - repairs, 1,123.00; Advanced Auto – parts, 161.07; Allen's Electric services, 364.53; Allied Climate Professionals - repairs, 4,188.78; Amazon - supplies, 144.69; AS-BSD – registration fee. 580.22: Avera - services, 759.69; Boston Fern – plant, 70.00; Capitol One – supplies, 89.81; Cintas – rugs, 627.41; Cole Papers - supplies, 1,397.65; Custodial Fund - advanced pays, 21,377.84; Dakota Brush - supplies, 72.00; Dependable Sanitation - garbage, ,238.00; Eide Bailly - services, 10,000.00; Farm Tire Service

tires, 5,940.00; Geffdog Designs – clothing, 932.00; Groton Area – bank fee, 66.80; Hanlon Brothers - services/gravel, 2,220.00; Hillyard - supplies, 189.00; House of Glass - repairs, 108.58; JW Pepper – music, 684.46; Matheson – supplies, 57.62; McLeod's Printing – checks, 159.58; Menards – blinds, 13.57; Mid-American Research - supplies, 1,521.20; Mitchell Music Boosters – registration, 300.00; Northside Implement – repairs, 3,029.32; Northwestern Energy - electricity, 70.46; RDO Equipment - repairs, 196.06; Safety Service - alignments, 304.50; SD Federal Property – supplies, 407.00; Taylor Music – repairs, 246.01; Universal Athletics – BBB pants, 1,420.21. Total General Fund – \$422,872.30

CAPITAL OUTLAY: Colliers Securities – service fee, 400.00; Custodial Fund – advanced pays, 3,269.33; Stan Houston - tool, 542.99; West music – recorder, 270.85. Total Capital Outlay -\$4,483.17. SPECIAL ED: Net Salary -

33,647.17; FIT - 2,808.84; Medicare – 1,237.62; FICA – 5,291.92; SDRS – 4,894.84;

MONTHLY DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT FOR GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 06-6 For the reporting period beginning July 1, 2021, and ending December 31, 2021

		General	Assigned	Capital	Special	Bond	Enterprise	Custodial	Total for	
- 6	Description	Fund	Gen Funds	Outlay	Education	Redemption	Fund	Fund	District	
1	1. Beginning Balance 1,55	2,676.37	149,575.03	1,624,948.69	314,149.50	0.00	73,605.96	142,940.60	3,857,896.15	
	a. checking 1,55		149,575.03	1,624,948.69	314,149.50	0.00	73,605.96	142,940.60	3,857,896.15	
	b. petty cash		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
5	2. Transfers in									
	3. Revenue to date 2,52	7.243.91	9,455.38	806,924,27	418,186.23	1.053.77	165,916.68	452.901.98	4,381,682.22	
	4. Total accounted for 4,07		159,030.41	2,431,872.96	732,335.73		239,522.64		8,239,578.37	
	5. Transfers out	-,		_,,		_,		,	-,,	
	6. Expenditures to date	2.214.91	16,829,28	1,221,422.30	329,707.30	0.00	143,789.36	534.999.77	4,458,962.92	
	a. encumbrances		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
	b. disbursements 2,21		16,829.28	1,221,422.30	329,707.30			534,999.77		
-	7. Ending Balance 1,86		142,201.13	1,210,450.66	402,628.43	1,053.77	-		3,780,615.45	
	a. checking 1,86		142,201.13	1,210,450.66	402,628.43	1,053.77			3,780,615.45	
	b. petty cash	·	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	(0.00)	
	December Receipts 80		1,978.17	249,528.75	134,118.62	665.59			1,322,618.59	
				'					, ,	
	December Expenses 47		2,282.23	266,237.66	60,884.30	0.00	30,085.46	71,449.65	910,446.14	
	Custodial Checking		60,842.81							
	District Checking		3,719,772.64							
	Certificate of Deposit		0.00							
1	Fotal all Funds		3,780,615.45							

CUSTODIAL FUND: Total -\$71,449.65

RECEIPTS: Local Sources Taxes – 877,670.98; Other Local Sources - 128,857.00; County Sources - 2,624.17; State Sources - 450.00; Federal Sources 63,016.44; Other Sources 250,000.00. Total Receipts -\$1,322,618.59.

Moved by Fliehs, second Pharis to approve district bills. Motion carried.

Moved by Pharis, second Weismantel to approve financial report, custodial accounts, and investments. Motion carried.

Moved by Pharis, second Fliehs to approve school lunch report. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, second Pharis to approve transportation report. Motion carried.

The board continued discussion and necessary action on District response to COVID-19 issues including local case update and shortened isolation period for COVID positive individuals, data reporting of positive cases and COVID testing.

Moved by Weismantel, second Pharis to change school policy on the isolation period for COVID positive individuals from 10 days to five to coincide with new CDC guidelines. Motion carried.

The following items were discussed in administrative reports: state minimum wag increase to \$9.95/hour, ARP Esser III Grant allocations, faculty in-service, legislative session, 3rd grade teacher opening advertisement, Doney Field renovation recommendations, meeting date for Doland Athletic Coop discussion, MAPS testing and tax levies.

Moved by Rix, second Pharis to hire Barb Hoops as Special Ed Paraprofessional at \$12.10/ hour for 7 hours/day, beginning January 3, 2022. Motion carried.

Superintendent Schwan pre sented a proposal from JLG Architects for a roofing project on the 1968 portion of the elementary school. No action was taken.

A preliminary 2022-23 school calendar was reviewed. No action was taken.

Moved by Weismantel, second Fliehs to set April 12, 2022, as Annual School Board Election Day and authorize Weber to designate election officials and voting precincts at Andover, Bristol, Columbia, and Groton. Motion carried. Three-year terms are expiring July 1, 2022, for Tigh Fliehs, Deborah Gengerke, and Travis J. Harder.

Moved by Fliehs, second Rix to adjourn at 8:30 pm. Motion carried.

M. J. Weber, Business Manager

Deborah Gengerke, President

Ordinances pertaining to rezoning the described property. At the conclusion of the hearing. the Brown County Commission may adopt first reading of Ordinance No. 210. ATTEST

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor (0105.0112)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$20.42.

Groton City Ord. 757

Ordinance Revision

2022 REVISED ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GROTON CITY COUNCIL Scott Hanlon, Mayor David Blackmun Shirley Wells Jon Cutler Brian Bahr Kristie Fliehs Karyn Babcock Drew Johnson City Attorney Hope Block Finance Officer ORDINANCE NO. 757 An Ordinance entitled "An

Ordinance in Revision of the General Code and Zoning Ordinances of the City of Groton, South Dakota.

The full document of Ordinance #757 - Updated Ordinances as of 2022 is available at City Hall or online at https://city. grotonsd.gov/ordinances.html

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE City of Groton that this Ordinance in Revision of the Ordinances of the City of Groton, South Dakota, is hereby read, approved, and adopted as follows: First Reading: November

16, 2021

Second Reading: December 7, 2021

Approved & Adopted: December 7, 2021

Published: January 12 & 19, 2022

Effective: February 7, 2022 Scott Hanlon, Mayor

Attest: Hope Block, Finance Officer (0112.0119)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$25.94. 20802

Claremont Town Dec. 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes The Board of Trustees for the

Town of Claremont met at 7 p.m. 12-13-21 at city hall.

President Johnson called the meeting to order with trustees Rasmussen present. Spencer

2021 LATC Fall President's List

WATERTOWN, SD... Lake Area Technical College President, Michael Cartney announces the current President's List. The President's List is a directory of outstanding students who, through their initiative and ability, have indicated a seriousness of purpose in their educational program. The President's List is limited to full-time students who have achieved a semester grade point average of 3.5 to 4.0. Students with a 4.0 have been noted by an *.

Local and area students so honored include: Austin Anderson, Tiara DeHoet* and Kale Pharis.

Charla Rye, wage, 350.00. WSSW:

B & B Contracting, pay Esti-mate 10, 231,349.49; BDM, water purchased, 1062.80; NWE, sewer power, 131.92; NWE water power, 89.02; Helms & Assoc., sewer/grant, 23,935.20; Rural Development, water loan, 576.00.

The board members reveiwed and on a motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Johnson, it was agreed to a storm water drainage study. With no further business

before the board, a motion was made by Rasmussen to adjourn, seconded by Johnson. Motion carried.

/s/ CRye, FO Published once at the total approximate cost of \$15.45 20804

Surplus Van for Sale

School District is accepting sealed bids for the sale of a 1994 Chevy Beauville Van with liftgate. For more information or to see the vehicle, contact Transportation Director, Damian Bahr, at 605-397-8117 or Damian.Bahr@k12. sd.us. Bids can be dropped off at the high school office (502 N 2nd Street, Groton, SD) or mailed to Groton Area School District PO Box 410,

mussen, 9 meetings, 623.37; USD Announces Fall 2021 **Dean's List**

VERMILLION, S.D. -- More than 2,200 students at the University of South Dakota are being honored for their high achievement during the fall 2021 semester with the release of the Dean's List.

Full-time, undergraduate students are named to the Dean's List if they received a 3.5 GPA for courses they took in the fall 2021 semester, and they had no incomplete or failing grades.

Locals on the Dean's List are: Ashley Rose Gustafson, Claremont; Kaylin Marie Kucker and Madison Rose Sippel, Groton; Madilyn Elizabeth Wright, Houghton; Moira Faith Duncan, Mellette; Benjamin Thomas Fischbach and Bess Coral Hogue Seaman, Warner.

NOW HIRING

BILLING SPECIALIST: Responsible for all functions related to billing, accounts receivable, and customer service.

SR. ACCOUNTANT: Responsible for patronage accounts, payroll, administration of benefits, accounts payable, and month-end reporting and reconciliations.

BOTH POSITIONS LOCATED AT BATH, SD OFFICE.

Find job descriptions and applications at: northernelectric.coop/employment

605-225-0310



The Groton Area

Waddell & Reed - 200.00; AFLAC 412.15; Delta Dental - 775.92; SD

Supplemental Retirement -100.00; Wellmark - 9,917.67; Standard - 128.48; Wage Works – 58.33; Avesis – 55.87; Avera PT/OT, 11,138.40; Custodial Fund – advanced pays, 8,740.50; Judy/Gene Williamson – mileage, 493.92. Total Special Ed – \$79,901.63.

ENTERPRISE: Food Service Net Salary - 6,870.54; FIT -494.65; Medicare – 245.88; FICA – 1,051.50; SDRS – 931.94; AFLAC – 218.49; Wellmark – 1,542.00; Standard - 3.84; Avesis - 19.63; BIMBO - buns, 138.30; Cintas - services, 130.90; Custodial Fund – ad-vanced pays, 671.28; East Side Dairy – milk, 1,066.56; Hillyard – supplies, 232.48; Nardini – services, 401.50; Reinhart – food, 1,237.49; US Foods – food, 2,105.24. Total Food Service - \$17,362.22. OST Net Salary
 - 2,088.49; FIT – 143.12; Medicare - 73.90; FICA - 315.76; SD Retirement - 197.16; AFLAC - 163.93; Wellmark – 678.00; Standard – 23.28. Total Food Service - \$3,683.64. Total Enterprise Funds – \$15,062.11.

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

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$112.53. 20803

Brown County Ord. 210 Droog Rezoning NOTICE

Application has been made by Alex Droog to the Brown County Board of Commissioners for a change of zoning. Hearing to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota on January 18 at 8:48 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, "Alex's First Addition" in the S1/2 of the SE1/4 of Section 36-T124N-R65W of the 5th P.M., The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the amendment to Second Revision Brown County

The minutes of the November meeting were approved on a motion by Johnson and seconded by Rasmussen.

On a motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Johnson the following warrants were allowed: General:

SD Municipal St Main, 2022 dues, 35.00; SD. Gov. Finance Officers Assoc., 2022 dues, 40.00; SD Municipal League, 2022 dues, 166.20; NWE, street lights, city hall, 742.59; Full Circle Ag, parts for gas pump, 1053.06; Dacotah Bank, city hall loan, 573.55; GDI, publication, 16.16; Shane Johnson, 9 meet-ings, 623.37; Jason Spencer, 9 meetings, 623.37; Frank Ras-

Envelopes should be marked "Van Bid." Bids will be opened on Friday, January 28 at 2:00 PM. (0112.0119) Α subscription to the Groton Independent makes a great gift!



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



Groton Independent \diamond Wed., Jan. 12, 2022 \diamond 3

The Groton Independent

21 N Main, Groton 605/397-NEWS (6397) Paul Irvin Kosel, Publisher <u>paperpaul@gro-</u> tonsd.net ~ 605-397-7460

Tina Kosel, Office Manager <u>office@gro-</u> tonsd.net ~ 605-397-7285

Notices: legals@grotonsd.net

News Items: <u>news@grotonsd.net</u>

Deadline to submit items: Noon Monday] Yearly Subscription Rates are listed below. The Groton Independent (USPS# 230-440) is published weekly with its periodicals postage paid at Groton, SD.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Groton Independent, PO Box 34, Groton, SD 57445

© 2021 The Groton Independent



The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition
Subscription Form
All prices listed include 6.5% Sales Tax
 Black & White
Colored\$42.60/6 months
E-Weekly* \$21.30/year
* The E-Weekly is a PDF file emailed to you each week. It does not grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.
Name:
Mailing Addres:
City
State, Zip Code
E-mail
Phone Number
Groton Daily Independent

www.397news.com Subscription Form

This option will grant you access to the GDI/Video Archiv	es.
□ 1 Month\$15.98	8
□ 3 Months \$21.30	0
G Months \$26.6	3
9 Months\$31.9	5
□ 12 Months \$42.60	0
Name:	-
Mailing Addres:	-
City	-
State, Zip Code	_

Classifieds and Card of Thanks

The following rates are for Classifieds published in both the Groton Daily Independent and the Groton Independent. Cut rate in half if you just want it in the GDI or just the weekly.

1 Week: \$9 for first 30 words, 20c/word thereafter 2 Wks: \$17 for first 30 words, 38c/word thereafter 3 Wks: \$24 for first 30 words, 54c/word thereafter 4th consecutive week is free

605/397-NEWS (6397) PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

FOR SALE: FAULKTON INN, Located on Hwy 212 Faulkton, SD. Profitable, 20 bed, 3 Star Motel. Call 605-460-0131, 605-216-1899, or 605-280-6285.

EDUCATION:

TRAIN ONLINE TO DO MEDICAL BILLING! Become a Medical Office Professional online at CTI! Get Trained, Certified & ready to work in months! Call 877-891-0187. (M-F 8am-6pm ET) The Mission, Program Information and Tuition is located at CareerTechnical.edu/ consumer-information.

EMPLOYMENT

DENTAL HYGIENISTS: Are you a dental hygienist looking for a change? Delta Dental of South Dakota's Mobile Program has opportunities for dental hygienists. These opportunities include both full time and/or part-time flexible schedules, including working specific weeks and/or months out of the year. The dental hygienists will work under collaborative supervision in southwest South Dakota, primarily on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The dental hygienists will join a team providing preventive services and oral health education in schools, Head Starts, etc. Extensive travel is required. Excellent salary and benefits including health, dental, vision, life/long term disability insurance, paid holidays, vacation/sick leave, 401k, and more. For more information visit www. deltadentalsd.com. Submit a cover letter and resume to: summer.sporrer@deltadentalsd. com. Questions? Contact Summer Sporrer at 605-494-2569.

SERVICE TECHNICIAN: Payscale: \$32 to \$40. Sign-on bonus | benefits. Full-time agriculture technician with hydraulic and electrical training. Kesteloot Enterprises, Marshall, MN 507.532.0100. kestelootenterprises.com/ careers

MISCELLANEOUS

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 855-577-0313

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Inogen One G4 is capable of full 24/7 oxygen delivery. Only 2.8 pounds. FREE information

Sisseton girls edge Groton Area in overtime

Sisseton pulled out a 57-52 overtime win over Groton Area in girls basketball action played Friday in the Groton Area Arena.

Sisseton held a 16-8 lead after the first quarter and a 27-21 lead at half time. The Tigers rallied to take a 28-27 lead and the lead changed hands three more times before the Redmen would settle in with a 40-38 lead after the third quarter. Groton Area held a 49-47 with 1:26 left in the fourth quarter. Hannah Leverson would make an inside shot with 15 seconds left to tie the game at 49, sending the game into overtime.

Sisseton would score first in the overtime and the Tigers tied the game at 51, but Sisseton would take advantage of four Groton Area turnovers in the overtime and went on for the win.

Gracie Traphagen had another double-double night with 21 points, 16 rebounds, one assist and two steals. Jerica Locke had seven points, one rebound and one assist. Sydney Leicht had six points, three rebounds, one assist and one steal. Allyssa Locke had five points, two rebounds, three assists and one steal. Aspen Johnson had four points, four rebounds, two assists and four steals. Kennedy Hansen had four points and one rebound. Alyssa Thaler had two points, three rebounds, two assists, one block and one steal. Brooke Gengerke had two points and two assists. Jaedyn Penning had one point and two rebounds.

Groton Area made 10 of 23 field goals for 43 percent, five of 18 in three-pointers for 28 percent, made 17 of 27 free throws for 63 percent, had 32 rebounds, 23 turnovers, 12 assists, nine steals, one block shot and 12 team fouls with Allyssa Locke fouling out.

Hannah Leversen led the Redmen with 21 points followed by Emmalee Nielsen with 12, Hailey Nelson 10, Tara Nelson eight, and adding two points apiece were Veronica Rice, Ruby Rice and Krista Langager. Sisseton made 20 of 51 field goals for 39 percent, six of eight free throws for 75 percent, had 11 turnovers and 20 team fouls.

Sisseton made nine three-pointers while Groton Area made five.

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

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 26-25. Sisseton held a 9-2 lead after the first quarter, a 14-7 lead at half time, and a 23-16 lead at the end of the third quarter. The Tigers chipped away at the lead in the fourth quarter and took its first lead with 3:34 left in the game at 24-23. Kennedy Hansen propelled the Tigers with six fourth quarter points and the Tigers were four of five from the line in the final period.

Brooklyn Hansen led the Tigers with seven points while Kennedy Hansen and Jerica Locke each had six, Elizabeth Fliehs had five and Jaedyn Penning had two points.

Krista Langager led Sisseton with 13 points

Phone Number

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

E-mail

Password

PayPal

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

paypal.me/paperpaul

Mail Completed Form to: Groton Independent P.O. Box 34 Groton, SD 57445-0034 or scan and email to paperpaul@grotonsd.net

kit. Call 888-820-2384.

I

NOTICES

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

SALE

DOUBLE J FARMS 48th Annual Simmental & SimAngus Bull & Female Sale, Live on DVAuction Friday Jan. 28, 2022 Garretson, SD. Complete information @ doublejsimmentals.com or Kipp Julson 605-351-9088

A subscription to the Groton Independent makes a great gift!

while Ruby Rice had five, Rylie Huff had three and Jourdes Chance and Linnea Silk each had two points.

The game was broadcast on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Tami and Rich Zimney.

The Tigers took command of the second half and won the C game, 37-19. The game was tied at nine after the first period and the Tigers held a 15-13 lead at half time. Groton Area outscored Sisseton, 13-3, in the third period to take a 28-16 lead at the break.

Faith Traphagen and Brooklyn Hansen each had nine points, Laila Roberts eight, Talli Wright and Mia Crank each had three, Kayla Lehr and Emily Clark each had two points and Elizabeth Fliehs added a free throw.

Bella Donnel led Sisswotn with four points while Kennedy Hanson, Harley Richards and Isabelle Herrick each had three points and Lauryn Wegener, Andra Hanson and Elliot Hortness each had two points.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE. COM, sponsored by Kent and Darcy Muller. - Paul Kosel

Aberdeen Christian girls use a 3-2-1 approach to beat Groton Area

Three-pointers, two-pointers and free throws all made for lethal weapons for Aberdeen Christian as the Knights defeated Groton Area in girls basketball action Tuesday in Groton, 55-38.

Free throws propelled the Knights in the first quarter as they made nine of 10 free shots to take a 16-7 lead at the end of the first quarter. Aberdeen Christian then upped its lead to 36-15 by half time and 43-23 by the end of the third quarter. The Knights made six three-pointers. The Tigers actually made more three-pointers than two-pointers.

Allyssa Locke led the Tigers, making four of seven three-pointers and having 12 points, three rebounds, one assist and three steals. Kennedy Hansen had eight points, one rebound and one assist. Gracie Traphagen had five points, nine rebounds and two assists. Alyssa Thaler had four points, four rebounds and one steal. Jaedyn Penning had four points and three rebounds. Brooklyn Hansen had three points. Jerica Locke had two points, one assist and one steal. Brooke Gengerke had two rebounds, two assist and one steal. Sydney Leicht had four rebounds and one assist. Aspen Johnson had three rebounds. Faith Traphagen had one rebound and one assist.

Groton Area made six of 22 field goals for 27 percent, seven of 26 three-pointers for 27 percent, made five of six free throws for 83 percent, had 30 rebounds, 13 turnovers, nine assists, six steals and 12 team fouls.

Aberdeen Christian was led by Mallory Miller with 18 points (scoring 16 of them in the first half), Kaylee Block had 11 points while Joy Rohrbach had seven, and Hanna Miller, Chloe Holt and Grace Kaiser each had six points.

The Knights made 18 of 42 field goals for 43 percent, 11 of 16 free throws for 68 percent, had 11 team fouls and nine turnovers.

Aberdeen Christian is now 7-0 on the season while the Tigers go to 4-5.

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

Groton Area's junior varsity team kept Aberdeen Christian scoreless in the second half as the Tigers won, 48-13. Groton Area held a 10-5 lead at the end of the first guarter, a 21-13 lead at half time and a 35-13 lead at the end of the third quarter.

Brooklyn Hansen led the Tigers with 13 points followed by Jerica Locke with seven, Faith Traphagen had six, Elizabeth Fliehs and Mia Crank each had five, Kennedy Hansen and Riley Dunker each had four and Jaedyn Penning and Talli Wright each had two points.

Chloe Bosma led the Knights with six points while Sophia Fogarty had four, Bailey Englund two and Chloe Holt added one.

The junior varsity game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Ken & Teresa Roberts of Tonganoxie, KS.

- Paul Kosel

Platte-Geddes defeats Groton Area in girls hoop action

A 12-point run in the third quarter spelled trouble for the Lady Tigers as Platte-Geddes defeated Groton Area, 43-27.

The Black Panthers of Platte-Geddes never allowed the Tigers to lead, but it was close in the first half. Platte-Geddes jumped out to a 6-0 lead and held an 11-5 lead at the end of the first quarter. Groton Area rallied with seven straight points in the second quarter and closed to within one, 13-12. Groton Area had chances to take the lead but could not covert and Platte-Geddes held a 15-14 lead at half time.

The Black Panthers scored 12 unanswered points in the third quarter as cold shooting by the Tigers put them in a 31-20 deficit by the end of the third quarter.

Gracie Traphagen had yet another double-double game for the Tigers. With the held of seven of 10 free throws, Traphaghen finished with 15 points and grabbed 12 rebounds. Traphagen had 10 points and nine rebounds in the first half when the Tigers were keeping up with Platte-Geddes.

Groton Area boys have clean sweep over Webster Area

Groton Area had a 17 point rally in the second guarter to put down Webster Area in boys basketball action, 64-38. The game was played Monday in Groton.

Groton Area held a 10 point lead early in the game and led 15-12 at the end of the first guarter. The Bearcats closed to within one, 17-16, before Groton Area rattled off 17 straight points and led at half time, 36-18. It was a 50-33 lead at the end of the third guarter.

Lane Tietz led the Tigers with 25 points, three rebounds, two assist and one steal. Tate Larson had 12 points, five rebounds, one assist and one steal. Jacob Zak had 11 points, four rebounds, three assists and three steals. Cole Simon had six points, two rebounds and two steals. Jayden Zak had two points, two rebounds, one assist and five steals. Kaden Kurtz had two points, five rebounds, one assist and four steals. Wyatt Hearnen had two points, one rebound, one steal and one block. Colby Dunker and Logan Ringgenberg each had two points and Cade Larson and Braxton Imrie each had one assist.

Groton Area made 25 of 49 in field goals for 51 percent, two of eight three-pointers for 25 percent, made eight of 11 in free throws for 78 percent, had 22 rebounds, seven turnovers, 10 assists, 17 steals, seven team fouls and one block shot.

Jaydon Keller led the Bearcats with 16 points while Jaiden McCreary and Jacob Pereboom each had seven points, Gavin Sannes had four, Caron Mount two and Tommy Vergeldt and Tayne Dunse each had one point.

Webster Area made 15 of 40 field goals for 38 percent, five of 11 from the line for 45 percent, had 17 turnovers and 15 team fouls.

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

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 45-20. The Tigers led at the quarterstops at 15-6, 30-8 and 43-12. Teylor Diegel led the Tigers with 13 points while Cole Simon had 10, Logan Ringgenberg and Holden Sippel each had eight points and Braxton Imrie and Colby Dunker each had three points.

Tommy Vergelat led Webster Area with 12 points while Martin Dorsett had four and Ian Lesnar two.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Molly and Mike Ringgenberg.

Groton Area made it a clean sweep with a 33-18 win of the C game. Blake Pauli led Groton Area with nine points while Turner Thompson and Keagan Tracy each had six, Ryder Johnson and Caden McInerney each had three points and adding two each were JD Schwan, Karter Moody and Logan Warrington.

- Paul Kosel

Kucker wins both matches at Groton Triangular

Korbin Kucker wrestled two matches and won both with a pin at the Groton triangular held Thursday night. Pierce Kettering and Brevin Fliehs each won a match via forfeit in the Redfield match and both pinned their opponents during the Webster match. Liza Kruger wrestled one match in the girls division and she won via a pin.

In Redfield match, Porter Johnson, 113, was pinned by Conner Zens with 24 seconds left in the match, Isiah Schaeponiack was pinned by Jacob Fehlman in 21 seconds, Pierce Kettering at 132 and Brevin Fliehs at 138 both won by forfeit, Christian Ehresmann, 145, was decisioned by Mason Whitley, 7-5; Korbin Kucker, 145, pinned Collin Dean in 20 seconds, Cole Bisbee, 160, was pinned by Mason Fey in 52 seconds; Lane Krueger, 220, pinned Gavin Nichols in 3:16, and Walker Zoellner, 106, was pinned by Brady Risetter in 1:49.

In the Webster match, Liza Krueger won her match by pin with one minute left in the match, Pierce Kettering, 132, pinned Blaise McGregor in seven seconds, Brevin Fliehs, 138, pinned Gage Baumgarn in 3:49, Cameron Johnson was pinned by Cael Larson in 1:07, Christian Ehresmann, 152, pinned Gavin Witt in 1:02, Korbin Kucker, 160, pinned Cole Shoemacker in 55 seconds, Porter Johnson at 113, Cole Bisbee at 170 and Noah Voeller at 195 both won by forfeit, Lane Krueger, 220, was pinned by Caleb McGregor in 2:36, and Walker Zoellner, 106, was pinned by Tacey Miller in 3:31.

Brooke Gengerke had four points in the fourth guarter and had one rebound and one assist. Alyssa Thaler made a three-pointer in the first guarter and had four rebounds and two steals. Jerica Locke had three points, one rebound and one assist. Sydney Leicht had two points, three rebounds and one assist.

The Tigers made eight of 32 field goals for 25 percent, made one of 14 three-pointers for 7 percent, eight of 16 free throws for 50 percent off of the Black Panther's 11 team fouls, had 12 turnovers, six assists, three steals and 14 team fouls.

Karly VanDerWerff led the Black Panthers with 13 points while Baleigh Nachtigal and Regan Hoffman each had nine, Hadley Hanson had eight and Cadence Van Zee added four points. Platte-Geddes made 15 of 43 total field goals for 35 percent, was 12 of 17 from the line for 71 percent, had 11 turnovers and 11 team fouls.

Groton Area is now 4-4 on the season while Platte-Geddes goes to 4-3.

The game was played as part of the Redfield Holiday classic and was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Dacotah Bank, John Sieh Agency, Groton Ford, Allied Climate Professionals with Kevin Nehls and Bary Keith from Harr Motors.

- Paul Kosel

Team scores had Redfield beating Webster, 54-27, Redfield beating Groton Area, 57-24, and Groton Area beating Webster Area, 42-24.

The matches were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Dacotah Bank, Groton Ford, Mike-N-Jo's Body-N-Glass, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, the John Sieh Agency and Allied Climate Professionals with Kevin Nehls.

Groton Prairie Mixed

Jan. 5 Team Standings: Cheetahs 9 1/2, Chipmunks 9, Jackelopes 6, Shih Tzus 4 1/2, Foxes 4, Covotes 3

Men's High Games: Lance Frohling 211, 201, Roger Spanier 196, Mike Siegler 195

Women's High Games: Lori Wiley 190, Vicki Walter 172, 166, Sue Stanley 165

Men's High Series: Lance Frohling 577, Mike Siegler 507, Roger Spanier 507

Women's High Series: Lori Wiley 478, Vicki Walter 474, Sue Stanley 442

Groton Independent \diamond Wed., Jan. 12, 2022 \diamond 5

Frederick Area School District Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, Cash Balances and Payroll Ending November 30, 2021General Drivers Custodial **Ovid Stevens** Fidicuary Food Governmental Capital Special Scholarship Totals Fund Outlay Education Service & Enterprise Fund Fund Funds Account Ed Fund Fund Act Totals Beginning checking Balance\$344,667.35 Fund Fund Fund \$96,714.14 \$120,655.86 \$564,299.38 \$1,386.41 \$875.62 \$7,556.14 \$0.85 \$5,344.41
 Receipts:
 \$5,438.68

 Local Sources
 \$201,010.09

 State Sources
 \$65,512.00

 Federal Sources
 \$1,687.30

 Interest
 \$25,60

 Total Receipts
 \$273,673.67
 \$70.00 \$1,488.04 \$1,745.75 \$129,705.88 \$60,134.90 \$8,604.77 \$0.45 \$129,775.88 \$60,134.90 \$10,350.52 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$1,488.49 \$0.00 \$0.00 Disbursements Bills \$53,480.51 \$22,784.11 \$2,875.27 \$6,167.13 \$22,323.63 \$25,198.90 \$155,591.86 \$5,112.59 \$11,279.72 Payroll \$22,784.11 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$242,787.55 \$0.00\$0.00 \$795,446.80 \$9,045.48 \$203,705.91 \$457.21 \$875.62 \$9,044.63 \$0.85 \$1,933,634.20 \$1,446,175.05 \$3,651,494.44 \$27,400.02 \$27,400.02 \$19.13 \$27,419.15 \$1,446,175.05 \$1,601,766.91 \$3,651,500.74 \$4,446,947.54 \$1,933,634.20 \$27,419.15 \$875.62 \$2,137,340.11 \$457.21 \$9,044.63 \$27,420.00 \$36,464.63

Frederick School Dec. 13, 2021

Meeting Minutes UNOFFICIAL BOARD PRO-CEEDINGS

FREDERICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #6-2 DECEMBER 13, 2021

The meeting was called to order on December 13, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. by President Rich Schlosser. Members present were Richard Achen, Jon Ellwein, Alex Hart and Eric Sumption. Others present were Superintendent/9-12 Principal/Athletic Director Jeff Kosters, K-8 Principal Jessica Ringgenberg and Business Manager Janel Hettich.

The meeting began with all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Members of the public are allowed three minutes to address the board on any topic of their choice. With no public members wishing to speak, the board moved on with their remaining agenda items.

Action 22-048 Motion by Ellwein, second by Achen to approve the agenda as presented. All aye, carried.

Action 22-049 Motion by Hart, second by Sumption to approve consent agenda which included the following items as presented: minutes of meeting held November 10, 2021; November 2021 financial report, district bills and November 2021 payroll. All aye, carried.

Claims approved: November 2021 Payroll – General Fund salaries 74,248.89; Special Education salaries 14,883.89; Food Service salaries 3,195.09



EFTPS, federal income tax/Social nance 235.00; Foreman Sales & Security/Medicare 24,563.54; Service Inc, repairs 163.95; GDI AFLAC, supplemental insurance News, publishing 293.52; Green 1,105.29; American Funds, re-Iron Equipment, repairs 499.59; tirement 1,466.70; Delta Den-tal, insurance 1,768.08; The Ken's Super Fair Foods, concessions supplies 152.98; Kessler's, Standard, life insurance 278.83; supplies 338.56; Leola School District 44-2, 1/2 football field stencil 617.92; Menards, supplies Security Benefits, retirement 1,238.48; Optilegra, vision insur-ance 422.18; Wellmark, health insurance 19,696.00; SD Retire-90.20; Merchant Services, online lunch payment fees 16.85: Midment 14,120.08; SD Retirement American Research Chemical, Supplemental, 493.48. General supplies 558.24; Midwest Pest Fund: Agtegra Bath Fertilizer, Control, pest control 75.00; fuel 3,486.69; Amazon Capital Montana-Dakota Utilities Co, Services, supplies 251.80; Ar-rowwood Resort & Conference electric 3,095.00; Pantorium Cleaners Inc, supplies 133.70; Podoll, Caitlin, education re-Center, hotel 203.90; Arthurs, imbursement 90.00; Running Crystal, fuel reimbursement 20.00; Bledsoe Chiropractic, Supply Inc, supplies 38.97; DOT physicals 90.00; Blum-Sam's Club, concessions supplies hardt Chevrolet Inc, repairs 437.69: South Dakota Medicaid. administration fee 42.99; Sta-131.00: Brown County Landfill, landfill 51.62; BSN Sports, LLC, ples, supplies 33.50; Sumption, equipment 404.50; Casey's, fuel Alex, reimbursement 411.59; 58.16; Cash-Wa Distributing Co Sumption, Warren, coach train of Fargo, LLC, FFVP/concessions supplies 1,897.41; Cash-Wa ing 35.00; Town of Frederick, utilities 621.14; United States Postal Service, postage 39.38; Ware, Leesa, bus driving 15.00; Distributing of Kearney Inc, concessions supplies 161.07; CENEX, fuel 83.50; Churchill, Woodman Refrigeration, Inc, repairs 625.26 Total 22,322.17. Manolis, Freeman, Kludt & Burns Imprest checks: Beck, Bo, ref 120.00; Clark, Dixie, wreath refund 25.00; Donat, Eric, ref/ LLP, legal fees 2,141.97; Cole Papers Inc, supplies 675.17; Community Store, concessions supplies 120.66; Crawford Trucks mileage 143.52; First National & Equipment Inc, repairs 987.36; Bank, state oral interp meals/ Custodial Account-FASD, Imstartup cash 1,028.00; Frericks Kris, ref/mileage 143.52; Gotprest reimbursement 2,245.56; Daktronics, scoreboard light tlob, Shayne, ref 120.00; Lorenz 80.00; Dittys, fuel 79.49; Du-mire, James, repairs 435.00; Daren, ref 120.00; Rozell, Paul, ref 263.52; Sumption, Helen, wreath refund 25.00; Warner School District, HASBO meeting Dunham's Sports, fitness center equipment 49.99; Farnam's Genuine Parts Inc, repairs 6.29; 17.00; Witlock, Scott, ref 240.00 Total 2,245.56. Capital Outlay Fire Safety First LLC, mainte-Fund: A&B Busines's Solutions, managed print contract 693.96; Hauff Mid America Sports, tap ing table 392.00; Johnson Controls Inc; HVAC controls update 8,530.38; Lenovo, staff laptops 3,674.50 Total 13,290.84. Special Education Fund: Geffre, Wendy, mileage reimbursement 42.00 Total 42.00. Food Service

Fund: Cash-Wa Distributing Co of Fargo, LLC, food/supplies 4,591.56; Cash-Wa Distributing of Kearney Inc, food 30.32; Child & Adult Nutrition, food 436.92; Community Store, food 5.37; Pantorium Cleaners Inc, supplies 36.47 Total 5,100.64 Custodial Fund: Pizza Ranch, LRC meeting

95.98 Total 95.98. Mr. Kosters, Mrs. Ringgenberg and Ms. Hettich presented reports.

Discussion was held regarding adding a preschool program administered by the district. No action taken.

Action 22-050 Motion by Sumption, second by Achen to approve the amendment of Policy GBEC: Use of Alcohol, Drugs, and Controlled Substances. All aye, carried.

Achen, second by Ellwein to set deen, SD 57401 or the Brown

for June 7, 2022. All aye, carried. Action 22-052 Motion by Hart, second by Sumption to approve items presented as surplus and

approve items to be discarded. All aye, carried. Action 22-053 Motion by Sumption, second by Ellwein Assistant Track Coach for Spring 2022. All aye, carried.

Sumption, second by Hart to accept the resignation of Caitlin 18, 2022. Podoll, Oral Interpretation Advisor. All aye, carried.

The school board would like to congratulate the following students: Katelyn Mehlhaff for earning a Superior rating at the state Oral Interp competition; Jocelyn Ellwein was selected for the 2nd Team All Lake Region Conference Volleyball team; Titus Kippley – 1st place at the Roncalli MathCounts competi-tion; Region FCCLA Silver award winning teams: Malona Cox; Kalyce Achen/Alivia Little/Ella Kemph; and Christopher Voeller/ Domenick Pool.

Action 22-055 Motion by Ellwein, second by Sumption to adjourn at 8:26 p.m. All aye, carried.

Rich Schlosser, President Janel Hettich, Business Man-

ager Published once at the total approximate cost of \$139.41.

20800 **Brown County**

Stage Equipment

Proposal REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR BROWN COUNTY FAIR Grandstand Entertainment

Sound, Lights, and Stage Equipment

Proposals will be accepted by the Brown County Commission on behalf of the Brown County Fair Board, at the Auditor's Office, 25 Market Street, Ste , Aberdeen, SD 57401, for the sounds, lights, and stage equipment during the week of the Brown County Fair. This is a five-year contract for 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026. Proposals should include pricing for 4-nights of concerts only, as well as, for 6-nights of both rodeo (2 nights) and concerts (4 nights). The proposals will be received until 8:45a.m., Tuesday, January 18, 2022. The proposal opening will be held at the Brown County Commission Meeting on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 8:45 a.m.

Copies of the entire request for proposal may be obtained online at Brown.SD.US, the Brown County Auditor's Office, Action 22-051 Motion by 25 Market Street, Ste 1 Aber-

the 2022 school board election County Fair office 400 24th Ave NW Aberdeen, SD 57401.

> Proposals shall be submitted to the Brown County Commission marked "Proposal for the Brown County Fair Sound, Lights, and Stage Equipment" "To Be and Stage Équipment"

Opened January 18, 2022." Return your proposal to the to approve advertisement for Brown County Auditor's Office Assistant Track Coach for Spring at 25 Market St Ste 1, Aberdeen, 22. All aye, carried. SD 57401, or you can email it to Action 22-054 Motion by Cathy.McNickle@browncounty. sd.gov by 8:45 AM on January

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

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

(0105.0112)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$33.66. 20781

Groton City Ord. 758 Supplemental Ord.

ORDINANCE NO. 758 2021 SUPPLEMENTAL AP-**PROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO 3** SECTION I:BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Groton, South Dakota that the following sums are supplementally appropriated to meet the obligations of the City of Groton and shall be effective immediately following passage.

Legal	\$5,000
Shop	\$3,000
Pool	
Baseball	\$16,000
Legion	\$100
PeeWee	\$400
T-Ball	
BB Concessions	\$12,000
Library	\$20,000
Community Center.	
Family Crisis	\$400
TOTAL	
APPROPRIATIONS	
SOURCE OF FUNDIN	
State Grant	
Contingency	\$42,600
TOTAL MEANS	
OF FINANCE	

Dated at Groton, South Dakota this 7th day of December, 2021.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor Hope Block, Finance Officer 1st Reading: 12/7/21 2nd Reading: 12/21/21 Published: 1/12/22 Effective: 1/31/22 Published once at the total approximate cost of \$15.18.20801

Columbia City Jan. 5, 2022 **Meeting Minutes**

City of Columbia Council Meeting – January 5, 2022

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Harr – 288.23; Runnings – 66.08 Ellen Harr made a motion to accept the vouches as presented. Cole Kampa seconded the motion. All in favor – motion carried.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS / CORESPONDENCE – Dacotah Bank - Zelle update; Dept. of Ag & Natural Resources – lagoon inspection notebook; SDPAA revised Intergovernmental Contract; Patti Woods – Brown Co. mergency Management

UNFINISHED BUSINESS -There were no changes to the current suspended Columbia Covid19 ordinance.; Emily reported the baseball committee is meeting Thursday the 6th.

Nuisances - We are going to be working with our lawyer to develop a plan of steps to follow city nuisances. Emily is looking into the landscaping around the post office.

Streets – good Parks - no report

Lagoon/sewer – no report Rubble Site – The LED lights are up at the site. Cameras will be installed in the future.

NEW BUSINESS - Paula Jensen from Dakota Resources - a nonprofit CDI - presented the board with a proposal for getting city input for future town improvements. The council discussed her proposal at length. Corey will be consulting with her to tailor a proposal to aid the city projects to include input from the city.

Emily Eichler and Trevor Meints were given petitions as they are up for reelection this year. Anyone who would like to run for council may request a petition. Salaries for the comng year were discussed. Ellen Harr made a motion to increase board member's pay to \$40 per meeting, \$50 for attending. She also added a motion to increase our mayor's pay to \$50 per meeting, \$60 for attending. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried. Emily Eichler made a motion designating Dacotah Bank as our financial institute for the year. Ellen Harr seconded the motion. All in favor motion carried. Cole Kampa made a motion designating GDI News as our publication source for the year. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All were in favor – motion carried. Next month, we will discuss some

surplus equipment. FINANCIAL REPORT – Cara found her mistake on 941 Quarter 2; 4th quarter taxes were finished; she is working on 1099s; W2s were finished and handed out; annual report meeting on the 13th., new W4 forms were given to council; Cara presented bank balances. There was discussion on the ball park account. Trevor Meints made a motion to accept the financial reports as given. Cole Kampa seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried. December 31, 2021 balances: SF - \$ 168,873.00; GF - \$ 174,656.85; FIT - \$13,978.76 Cash on hand - \$0 Ellen Harr made a motion to adjourn. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All were in favor meeting adjourned. Next City Council Meeting February 2, 2022 7:00 p.m. Submitted by Cara Dennert, nance Officer Published once at the total approximate cost of \$39.46. 20799



3RD ANNUAL INTERMOUNTAIN ONLINE ONLY CLASSIC CAR AUCTION SATURDAY MARCH 12, 2022



www.ClassicCarAuction.us + (406) 698-7930 Local Auction Service + National Auction Presence! Consign your car or collection now! + Register to bid!



7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL - Cara Dennert, Ellen Harr, Cole Kampa, Trevor Meints, Corey Mitchell, Emily Eichler

Community - Jeremy Dosch, Paula Jensen

Corey Mitchell called the meeting to order. Minutes were passed out from the December 1st 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 December 13th Special Meeting. Ellen Harr made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Cole Kampa seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried.

Warrant Vouchers: Web Water - 39.67; GDI - 78.75; North-western Energy - 618.65; JVT -125.37; Jeremy Dosch - 419.99; Cara Dennert - 823.50; US Treasury -1870.68; Smart Choice Solutions – 2250.00; South Dakota Underground – 2500.00; SD Unemployment Insur- 6.86; Dacotah Bank (ACH)-106.87; Swanson Electric - 2141.60; GDI – 31.15; Corey Mitchell – 348.08; Cole Kampa – 255.28; Emily Eichler – 255.28; Trevor Meints - 255.28; Ellen

Cheer

someone up! Send a balloon

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

Brown County Jan. 4, 2022

Meeting Minutes JANUARY 4, 2022 -REORGA-NIZATION MEETING: This being the reorganization meeting of the Brown County Commission for year 2022, said Board convened at 8:45 A.M. in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota. Present were Commissioners Dennis Feickert, Doug Fjeldheim, Mike Gage, Duane Sutton and Mike Wiese. Commissioner Sutton led the

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

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor called for nominations for Brown County Commission Chair for year 2022, pursuant to SDCL 7-8-15. Commissioner Wiese nominated Duane Sutton for Chair. Moved by Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Duane Sutton 2022 Chair of the Brown County Commission. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. Commissioner Feickert nominated Mike Wiese for Vice Chair. Moved by Feickert seconded by Gage that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Mike Wiese Vice Chair 2022 of the Brown County Commission. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve the General Meeting minutes of December 28, 2021. All members present voting aye. Motion carried

CLAIMS/PAYROLL: Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims and payroll: Professional Fees: BMI MUSIC LICENSE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES \$368.00; HOUSTON ENGINEERING, INC. \$11,287.39; KRISTI SPITZER \$200.00; LU-MEN \$189.46; Mullen Coughlin, LLC \$1,698.50; NE MENTAL HEALTH CENTER \$4,944.00; Ross K. Den Herder \$366.30; SD ASSOC OF COUNTY COM-MISSIONERS \$6,976.00; SD ASSOC. OF COUNTY OFFICIALS \$3,212.37; SD SHERIFF'S AS-SOC \$1,595.93; SD STATE'S ATTORNEY ASSOC. \$1,799.00; SD TEEN COURT ASSN \$750.00 STATE BAR OF SOUTH DAKOTA \$2,035.00; TYLER TECHNOLO-GIES INC \$1,144.22; US BANK \$497.99; ZYLSTRA INVESTI-GATIONS \$875.00 Publishing: KING MIDAS, INC. \$850.00; US BANK \$296.62 Repairs & Maintenance: GAW/EOD M (Maintenance: CRAWFORD M S & F INC \$987.00; CRAWFORD TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT \$598.16; DAKOTA PUMP INC. \$4,545.00; DOUGLAS E. GROTE \$2,425.00; HONEYWELL INTERNATIONAL INC. \$25,783.65; KIRBY KIESZ \$280.50; LEIDHOLT ELEC-TRIC LLC \$673.04; NICK A. FINNESAND \$500.00; STEVEN LUST AUTOMOTIVE \$64.74; TITAN MACHINERY - ABERDEEN NH \$6,969.99; TITAN MACHIN-ERY, INC - ABERDEEN CASE IH \$729.60; US BANK \$224.94 Supplies: ABERDEEN MEDICAL CENTER PHARMACY \$933.85; ABERDEEN PIT STOP \$769.95; BAKKEN BUILD MAINTENANCE 500.00; CENTURY BUSINESS PRODUCTS \$82.75; CRAWFORD M S & F INC \$85.50; CRAWFORD TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT \$2 DAKOTA MAĬLING & SHIPPINĠ EQUIPMENT INC \$940.00; FE-DEX \$21.36; HOUSE OF GLASS \$43.79; KIRBY KIESZ \$331.60; MARCO INC \$53.42; MENARDS \$184.03; PITNEY BOWES INC. \$126.00; RUNNINGS \$79.61; TITAN MACHINERY - ABÉRDEEŃ ERY, INC - ABERDEEN CASE IH \$1,609.72; US BANK \$10,765.92 Travel & Conference: CITY OF GROTON \$327.24; IAFE (IN-TERNATIONAL ASSOC. OF FAIRS & EXPOSITIONS) \$825.00; MARK MILBRANDT \$200.00; US BANK \$833.43 Utilities: AT&T MOBILITY \$250.39; MIDCON-TINENT COMMUNICATIONS \$343.61; NORTHWESTERN EN-**ERGY & COMMUNICATIONS** \$5,804.00; QWEST CORPORA-TION \$297.64; RICHMOND LAKE SANITARY DIST \$3,780.00; US BANK \$2,172.16 Rentals: NORTHERN ELECTRIC COOP, INC \$1,200.00; ROLAND L. MOERKE \$63.75 Others: LAMB CHEVROLET & IMP \$41,600.00; ED DEDIT OF ACTIVITIES SD DEPT OF AGRICULTURE & NATURALRESOURCES \$600.00; US BANK \$1,563.50. Payroll 26: Commission \$4,327.95; Auditor \$7,544.14; Treasurer \$12,420.54; SA \$24,740.11; SVAWA \$0.00; Maintenance SVAWA \$0.00; Maintenance \$7,822.30; Assessor \$14,793.77; Register of Deeds \$7,969.60; VSO \$4,022.49; GIS \$2,411.38; IT \$7,258.55; HR \$3,833.83; Sheriff \$44,410.83; Jail \$57,417.65; Coroner (Voucher) \$4,650.00; Court Security \$4,488.67; JDC \$31,021.44; Welfare \$2,982.62; Museum \$8,591.78; Parks/Fair-grounds \$3,429.18; Fair Board

\$4,160.00; Weed \$884.14; Planning & Zoning \$5,332.71; Highway \$41,874.47; Dis-patch \$32,951.63; Emergency \$4,160.96; Teen Court \$531.30; JDAI \$1,846.15; 24/7 Sobriety \$1,376.75; Landfill \$14,987.20; MATCHING Benefits: FICA \$22,480.04; Medicare \$5,257.44; Health Insurance_Wellmark BCBS \$ 111,696.82; Dental Insurance Delta Denta; \$7,384.85, Dearborn Life Insurnace \$1,013.87, Retirmenet_SDRS \$65,836.74. All members present voting aye. Motoin carried. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve the HR Office Report, which includes the following Acknowledge resignation of Brenda Reich, Brown County HD Correctional Officer, part-time; effective December 19, 2021. Request to fill. Approve hiring of Macy_Mikkelson as Brown County Building Maintenance Custodian, part-time; starting wage \$11.96/hour; effective January 3, 2022. Approve hir-ing of JorDenne DuCheny as Brown County Communications Dispatcher, full-time; starting wage \$21.16/hour; effective January 17, 2022. Approve hiring of Aaron Walberg Jr. as Brown County Jail Correctional Officer, full-time; starting wage \$18.87/ hour; effective January 11, 2022. Approve hiring of Paige Smit as Brown County Jail Correctional Officer, part-time; starting wage \$14.76/hour; effective Decem-ber 29, 2021. Approve hiring of Candace Rohrbach as Brown County Jail Correctional Officer, part-time; starting wage \$14.76/ hour; effective December 29/ 2021. Approve amendment to wage on 12.21.21 HR report: Promotion of Austin Ball from Brown County Jail CO to Brown County Jail Sergeant; starting wage \$21.20/hour; effective December 27, 2021. Approve amendment to 12-28-2021 HR Report, step schedule: Mariann Malsom was \$26.36 s/b \$25.36; Leanne Shutt was \$14.14 s/b \$15.03; Jennifer Hopkins was \$15.44 s/b \$14.42; Samuel Hoppock was \$22.63 s/b \$20.66; Joseph Embury listed twice s/b Jennifer White listed twice s/b PT. All members present vot-

ing aye. Motion carried. D O E C L O T H CLOTHING POLICY: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve request submitted by Gene Loeschke, DOE, for 2022 clothing allowance @ \$150.00 for each employee in the Equalization Office, per Employee Policy C-12. All members present voting aye.

Motion carried. S H E R I F F UNTFORM ALLOWANCE: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Gage to acknowledge the sheriff uniform request as budgeted for in the 2022 budget. All members present voting āye. Motion carried.

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS: Moved by Feickert seconded by Wiese to designate the following as the official Brown County newspapers for year 2022 (SDCL 7-18-3): Aberdeen Amèrican News, Aberdeen, SD; The Gro-ton Independent, Groton, SD. These are the only two officials newspapers in Brown County for 2022. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

DFPOSITORIES: Moved by Fjeldheim seconded by Feickert to designate the following as official depositories for Brown County public funds for year 2022 (SDCL 7-2-13), with funds deposited in the name of Patty VanMeter, Brown County Trea-surer: Dacotah Bank; US Bank; First Savings of Beresford, First Savings of Hecla; Bank North of Warner; Bank North of Warner, Aberdeen Branch; First National Bank of Frederick; Plains Commerce Bank; Great Western Bank; Great Plains Bank; Cor-Trust. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. DESIGNATION OF DEPUTIES: Commissioner Fjeldheim offered the following Resolution: RESO-LUTION #1-22; WHEREAS, SDCL Chapter 7-7-20 mandates the designation of the number of deputies and clerks for various offices by the Board of County Commissioners, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following deputies and clerks are authorized at the discretion of the County Officials for County offices: Auditor - 2 Chief Deputy, 2 Senior Office Deputies; Treasurer - 2 Chief Deputies, 5 Depu-ties, 1 part-time Clerk; Register of Deeds - 1 Chief Deputy, 4 Deputies. All extra help hired by County Officials must first be approved by the County Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Wiese. Roll call vote: Commissioners Feickert-aye, Sutton-aye, Wiese-aye, Gage-aye, Fjeldheim-aye. Resolution adopted. INVESTMENT POLICY: Commissioner Wiese offered the following Resolution: RESOLUTION #2-22 WHEREAS, the nature of tax collections and other revenue is such that cash on deposit

in the County's depositories at times exceeds the requirement for current expenditures; and WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the County to invest these monies not required for immediate expenditure. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Brown County Treasurer is hereby directed to invest Brown County public funds at the highest rate of interest possible at said time on available monies at financial institutions as designated by the Brown County Commission, and FURTHER, to furnish quarterly reports detail-ing same, as authorized by SDCL 4-5-8. Seconded by Commis-sioner Fjeldheim. Roll call vote: Commissioners Feickert-aye, Sutton-aye, Wiese-aye, Gageaye, Fjeldheim-aye. Resolution adopted.

INTEREST POLICY: Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Policy in regard to interest earned from deposits and investments: State law allows income from deposits and investments to be credited to either the General Fund or the fund making the investment. The County's policy is to credit all income from deposits and investments to the General Fund during the year, except for interest earned on specific certificates of deposits for the Solid Waste Fund. USGAAP requires income from deposits and investments to be reported in the fund whose assets generated that income. Where the governing board has discretion to credit investment income to a fund other than the fund that provided the resources for investment, a transfer to the designated fund is reported when authorized by the Commission. Fund transfers of investment earnings to the General Fund shall not occur in 2022, all funds shall receive the income generated from the assets of the fund. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

EXPENSE POLICY: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to set the following expense rates for Brown County employees for vear 2022: Meal reimbursement made only for out of County travel Breakfast In-State \$ 6.00 Out-of-State\$10.00 Lunch In-State \$14.00 Out-of-State \$18.00 Dinner In-State \$20.00 Out-of-State \$28.00 Total In-State \$40.00 Total Out-of-State \$56.00 Qualifying time for meal allowances: Breakfast - leave before 5:31 a.m. - return after 7:59 a.m. Lunch - leave before 11:30 a.m. - return after 12:59 p.m. Dinner - leave before 5:31 .m. - return after 7:59 p.m. Lodging reimbursed at actual cost, receipt required (if possible have direct billing, as County tax exempt). Reimbursement for use of personal vehicle for County business, as follows: All county employees and officials shall be paid for traveling expenses for each mile traveled in the discharge of their official duties at 47 cents per mile. Miles to be determined by the assistance of Map Quest or similar web site; Odometer readings required for all destinations not available on web site: Odometer reading only required once to establish routine destination routes, i.e. per diem for board members. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

EXPENSE POLICY - ELECTION OFFICIALS: Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to set \$250.00 as the one-day fee for vote center officials working on Election Day, \$15.00 per hour for absentee vote center officials working on Election Day, \$20.00 for vote center officials attending Election School, and to set minimum mileage at five miles when claimed by vote center/absentee ballot official. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. T A X D E E D NOTICES:Commissioner Wiese, offered the following Resolution:RESOLUTION #3-22 WHEREAS, Brown County has acquired tax certificates on property with delinquent real estate taxes for which tax deeds and notices can be served. THERE-FORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Brown County Commission authorizes the County. Treasurer, Patty VanMeter to request States Attorney Ernest Thompson and States Attorney Office personnel to act as agents to process said tax deeds and notices. Seconded by Commissioner Fjeldheim. Roll call vote: Commissioners Feickert-aye, Sutton-aye, Wiese-aye, Gage-aye, Fjeldheim-aye. Resolution adopted. COUNTY RENTAL RATE AND FEE SCHEDULE: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Gage to establish rental rates and fee schedule for 2022: County wide rental and fee schedule is on file at the Auditor's office. All members pres-ent voting aye. Motion carried. VOLUNTEERS/WORKER COM-PENSATION: Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve the following list of volunteers for work comp purposes: (CERT, Citizens Corp, Dive Team, Chaplans, Fair, Museum, 4-H Promotion/Expansion). List is on file in the Board Book with the Brown County Auditor. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL 2022: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Gage to assign Chair Sutton, and Vice Chair Wiese as representative to Communica tion Council per agreement. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FSA APPOINTMENT: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to appoint Doug Fjeldheim as Farm Service Agency representative. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

BOARD BOOK INCLUDING COMMISSION COMMITTEE AS-SIGNMENTS 2022: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve the Board Book for 2025 including board appointments and commission committee assignments. Commission Committee assignements are as follows for 2022: Duane Sutton - Aberdeen Development Corporation, Communication Council, Fair Board, SD Public Assurance Alliance, Dacotah Prairie Museum Board, Alternate liaison 4-H Leaders Association/ Promotion & Expansion Committee, Edwards Preserve Na ture Area, SDACC Catastrophic Legal Board, Centennial Village Liaison; Doug Fjeldheim - Air-port Board, NECOG, Sick Leave Bank, Aberdeen/Brown County Regional Railroad Authority, FSA respresentative; Mike Gage Risk Management Committee, Legislative Contact, Planning & Zoning Board, JDAI (Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative) Senior Citizens Board, 4-H Lead ers Association/ Promotion & Expansion; Mike Wiese - Range Fire Suppression, Union Negotia tions, Liaison to Welfare, LEPC, Alternate to Aberdeen /Brown County Regional RR Authority, Glacial Lakes, Communication Council; Dennis Feickert - Weed & Pest Control Board, alternate legislative contact, County Buildings, Union Negotiations, Grow SD (NESDCAP), Fair Board, NE Mental Health Center. Full board book is on file for public inspection at the Brown County Audtior's Office. All members present voting aye. Motion carried

OUT OF STATE TRAVEL RE-QUEST: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve out of state travel for Brown County Fair emloyees Rachel Kippley and McKenzie Bierman to attend 2022 IFM Summit in Denver Colorado January 21-24, 2022. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ABATEMENTS: Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Weise to approve the following abatement: Mark Hanse (assessed excess land) @ \$259.72; Brown County (tax exempt) @ \$113.64 \$76.47, \$9.23, \$349.89, \$72.01 \$461.01; Aberdeen Downtown Apartments (Historical Tax Freeze) @ \$14,729.61; Aberdeen School District (Tax exempt) @ \$355.23, \$137.85; Jeff Voeller (Owner Occupied) @ \$87.97. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC AS-SURANCE ALLIANCE CONTRACT: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize chair sign revised contract with South Dakota Public Assurnace Alliance. All members present

voting aye. Motion carried. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to go into executive session to discuss personnel, contracts, and security per SDCL 1-25-2(1,4,6). All members present voting ave. Motion carried. The chair declared the executive session closed with no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by

regarding the amendment to Second Revision Brown County Ordinances pertaining to rezoning the described property. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt first reading of Ordinańce No. 211. ATTEST:

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor (0105.0112)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$21.53. 20779

Brown County Ord. 209 Munger Rezoning

Application has been made by Steve and Deborah Munger to the Brown County Board of Commissioners for a change of zoning. Hearing to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown Coun-South Dakota on January 18 at 8:48 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 2, "Munger Second Addition" in the SE1/4 of Section 17-T121N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota

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 rézoning the described property. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt first reading of Ordinance No. 209. ATTEST:

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

(0105.0112)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$21.53. 20777

Groton City Jan. 4, 2022 Meeting Minutes January 4, 2022

The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00pm at 120 N Main Street for their first monthly meeting with the following members present: Blackmun, Bahr, Wells, Fliehs, Cutler, Babcock and Hanlon presiding. Also present were: Paul Kosel, Assistant Finance Officer Kellie Locke and Deputy Finance Officer April Abeln.

Public comments were welcomed pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1, but none were received.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Bahr and seconded by Cutler. All members voted aye. Moved by Cutler and seconded by Wells to authorize the following bills for payment. All

following bills for payment. All members voted aye. Payroll, \$23,334.95, Employee salaries; Executive, \$549.00, ; Administrative, \$3,819.57, ; Public Safety, \$8,587.66, ; Public Works, \$10,378.72, ; Dacotah Bank, \$7,829.78, SS and WH Dakotaland ECU ; Dakotaland FCU, \$690.00, Employee savings; Dacotah Bank, \$545.82, HSA Contri-butions; Aflac, \$385.66, Em-ployee insurance; Colonial Life, \$90.16, Employee insurance; Guardian Insurance, \$108.91, Employee insurance; Allied Benefits, \$9,374.84, Employee insurance; Employer's Mutual, \$85.20, Employee insurance; AB Contracting, \$24,947.06, Pay request final; Maguire Iron, \$10,000.00, Pay request final; Chevrolet, \$48,950.58, 2021 Tahoe with weapon mount; NECOG, \$1,692.15, 2022 dues; S&S Lumber, \$126.38, Shovel, bulb, oil, spray foam, history room supplies; Uline, \$152.62, History room supplies; SD Retailers Assoc, \$150.00, 2022 dues; Irby, \$2,425.00, Tamper assembly, couplers, cable grip; Global Rental Co., Inc., \$500.00, Delivery for 2021 Ford F550; SD Govt Finance Officers' Assoc, \$70.00, 2022 dues; SD Govt Human Resource Assoc, \$25.00, 2022 dues; Clubhouse Hotel & Suites- Pierre, \$295.60, Hotel rental, Safety Conference- PK/ HB; AutoZone, \$450.42, Starter, oil filters, oil; SD Retirement, \$9,110.48, Employee retire-ment 12/21; Drew Johnson, \$1,500.00, Legal fees 12/21; April Abeln, \$20.00, Personal phone use 12/21; Hope Block, \$20.00, Personal phone use 12/21; Kellie Locke, \$20.00, Personal phone use 12/21; Paul Kosel, \$20.00, Personal phone use 12/21; Landon Johnson, \$20.00, Pérsonal phone usé 12/21; Branden Abeln, \$20.00, Personal phone use 12/21; Elan Cardmember Service, \$750.83, Postage, office supplies, fu-neral flowers, mtg lunch, gas, pd uniform; Colliers Securities LLC, \$400.00, Continuing dis-closure services; Dollar General,

\$240.85, Cleaning supplies, office supplies; Groton Daily Inde-pendent, \$40.00, Subscription; Dakota Electronics, \$1,825.00, Portable radios, radio repair, Northwestern Energy, \$30.73 Natural gas; Bell Lumber and Pole Co. , \$18,892.00, Poles; Riteway, \$797.89, Utility bill forms; Badger Meter, \$26.70, Cellular service; Ferguson Wa-terworks, \$633.08, Valve box tops; Farmers Union, \$1,586.27, Diesel; Paul Kosel, \$217.25, Med flex; Gappa Electric LLC,

\$527.67, Wire Moved by Fliehs and seconded by Babcock to approve 2022 Employee Salaries and Volunteer List. All members voted aye. Mayor Scott Hanlon- \$625 monthly plus \$125/special mtg, \$300/full day mtg, \$100/half day mtg. Board of Equalization \$200 annually. Council Members: David Blackmun, Shirley Wells, Jon Cutler, Brian Bahr, Kristie Fliehs and Kayrn Babcock- \$3,000 annually plus \$125/special mtg, \$300/full day mtg, \$100/half day mtg. Board of Equalization \$200 Annually. Planning and Zoning Commission- \$35/mtg, \$70/ special mtg. Deputy Finance Officer, April Abeln- \$24.39/hr. Assistant Finance Officer, Kellie Locke-\$20.60/hr. Public Works Coordinator, Street/Water Super-intendent, Terry Herron- \$31.53/ hr. Wastewater Superintendent, Dwight Zerr-\$28.04/hr. Assistant Street Superintendent, Branden Abeln-\$25.95/hr. Technology Specialist, Paul Kosel-\$27.41/hr. Electric Superintendent, Todd Gay- \$50.00/hr. Electric Lineman, Landon Johnson-\$28.32/hr. Po-lice Chief, Stacy Mayou-\$30.89/ hr. Police Officer & Assistant Chief, Jerry Bjerke-\$27.90/hr. Po-lice Officer Level 1, Justin Cleveland-\$26.91/hr. Police Officer Level 2, Anthony Garcia-\$26.00/ hr. A complete list of volunteers

will be kept at City Hall. Department Reports were re-viewed, and it was made aware that the ramp, bleachers and benches at the ice rink are in need of repair. Discussion was made that the roof at the soccer building will need to be replaced. Moved by Blackmun and sec-

onded by Fliehs to set the 2022 Election Date to April 12, 2022. All members voted aye. Scott Hanlon, David Blackmun, Brian Bahr and Kristi Fliehs have terms ending.

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Bahr to approve the Resolution to adopt the Brown County Hazard Mitigation Plan as follows (all members voted aye): WHEREAS the City of Groton

has experienced severe damage from strong winds, flooding, hail, heavy snow, heavy rain, and tornadoes on many occasions in the past century, resulting in property loss, loss of life, economic hardship, and threats to

public health and safety; WHEREAS a Hazard Mitigation Plan has been developed after more than one year of research and work by the City of Groton, Brown County Emergency Man-agement, NECOG, and the Natu-ral Hazard Mitigation Committee;

WHEREAS the Plan recommends hazard mitigation actions that will protect the people and property affected by the natural hazards that face the City; WHEREAS a public meeting

was held to review the Plan as required by law; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RE-

SLOVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Groton: 1., The Hazard Mitigation Plan

is hereby adopted as an official plan of the City of Groton, 2., The respective City of-

ficial identified in the strategy of the Plan is herby directed to implement the recommended action assigned to them. These officials will report annually on the activities, accomplishments,

Fjeldheim, seconded by Feickert to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:50 A.M. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$154.80. 20797

Brown County Ord. 211 Dargatz Rezoning NOTICE

Application has been made by Eretta Dargatz to the Brown County Board of Commissioners for a change of zoning. Hearing to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex. Brown County, South Dakota on January 18 at 8:48 A.M. for the purpose of rezoning the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG):

Proposed Lot 1, "Dargatz Addition" in Section 14-T123N-R60W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony and progress to Brown County Emergency Management, 3., The City of Groton planner

will provide annual progress reports on the status of implementation of the plan to the Mayor and City Council. This report shall be submitted to the Mayor and City Council by November 1st of each year. Adopted at Groton, South Dakota, this 4th day of January 2022.

Moved by Fliehs and seconded by Cutler to sign the SDPAA Intergovernmental Contract. All members voted ave.

Moved by Wells and seconded by Blackmun to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal items 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 7:23pm. All members voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 8:50pm.

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Cutler to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm. All members voted aye.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor

Kellie Locke, Assistant Finance Officer

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$62.91. 20798

Groton Independent ♦ Wed., Jan. 12, 2022 ♦ 7

South Dakota returns millions in unused housing assistance funds to federal government

By: Bart Pfankuch, SD Newswatch

South Dakota has sent millions of dollars of unused COVID-19 housing assistance funds allocated to help low-income renters — back to the federal government, mainly because not enough people applied for help.

SOUTH DAKOTA NEWS WATCH

As of early January 2022, the state had received about \$271 million in federal funding to pay rent and utilities of low-income residents who fell behind during the pandemic. But so far, the state has distributed only about \$24.9 million to needy residents, or about 9.2% of the total available funding.

In September, South Dakota and other states that did not spend the money fast enough were required to return some of the money to the federal Treasury. That month, South Dakota returned about \$22 million in unused housing assistance funds to the federal government, which is reallocating the excess money to states that are using it faster.

Several other states, especially those in rural areas or with smaller populations, have had to return unused housing-assistance funds. Overall, the federal government said disbursing the money to low-income renters has gone more slowly than expected across the country. The program will continue to offer assistance at least until 2025.

Lorraine Polak, ex-

ecutive director of

Housing Develop-

ment Authority, which

is administering the

housing assistance

program for the state,

said the state had

to return funds for

several reasons. One

was that Congress

gave too much as-



Lorraine Polak

sistance money to the state; another that less rental assistance was needed because South Dakota did not shut down its economy as some other states did early in the pandemic.

"South Dakota has been successful in getting ERA funding to the residents in need," Polak wrote to News Watch in an email, referring to the federal Emergency Rental Assistance program. "Because our state didn't shut down or require businesses to close, we had fewer requests for assistance than other states that took away people's ability to provide for themselves. In addition, many of our residents are homeowners, and this program only applies to renters." Polak pointed out that with a population of under 1 million, and the assistance program limited to renters who qualify as low-income, there was no way the state could spend all \$271 million from the program, part of which extends into 2025. "We had more funds than necessary to meet the needs in our state," Polak wrote. "It was best to return those taxpayer dollars to the Treasury." To help implement the program in a fast and functional way, the housing authority enlisted local agencies across the state to aid in the application process and allocation of funds that were ultimately paid directly to landlords and owners of rental properties. Officials with two of those agencies said that while the program could have been run better, and likely could have helped more people, they said Polak did a good job managing the program and that the state continues to help



South Dakota received \$271 million in federal funding to help renters remain in housing and keep landlords viable, but has given out only \$25 million so far. Renters in Minnehaha County and Pennington County, where this home is located, have applied in high numbers for help. Photo: News Watch file

renters and landlords who are being hurt by the pandemic.

"The state and all

the partners have

been wonderful to

work with, and we've

all gone to great

lengths to help a lot

of people," said Pe-

ter Smith, executive

director of the Rural

Office of Communi-

ty Services in Wag-

ner, which provides

a variety of aid to

residents throughout

eastern South Dakota.



Peter Smith

"There's a lot of stuff going on here that is beautiful, things that you don't see."

Smith said his team has sometimes driven long distances to hand-deliver assistance checks to landlords so renters could avoid eviction. He said the partnerships among local aid agencies and with the state housing authority have been strengthened as a result of the collaborative effort to run the housing program.

While those involved in administering the program see room for improvement — mostly by encouraging more people to apply and potentially expanding it to homeowners · IIIdI Iy state housing officials view the program as largely successful in helping people maintain housing. Polak said the state program has provided aid to about 4,000 households statewide, and Smith said his agency has aided about 1,350 families in 22 South Dakota counties.

authority assistance applications have been filed, mostly in rural or reservation counties. The most populous counties, Minnehaha and Pennington, led the way in overall applications filed.

"At the end of the day, hopefully everyone that needs assistance is able to get that, and I think \$25 million is a lot of money," Polak said in an interview with News Watch. "It has been quite a process, but it's been a great opportunity to provide the assistance to households that need it, and it's been a great opportunity with our partner agencies to work on this with each other in a statewide effort."

Federal funds form basis of programs

South Dakota has used three separate federal funding programs to assist with housing costs for low-income residents during the pandemic. Legislators in 2020 used a special session to approve using \$10 million in federal Cares Act funds to provide money for rent, mortgage payments and utility bills to renters and homeowners affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

Congress then approved two rounds of funding in 2020 and 2021 through the Emergency Rental Assistance program that set aside almost \$47 billion to aid renters in states, large cities, U.S. territories and on reservations. Homeowners were not included in the ERA program and tribes were excluded from the second round of ERA funding.

The money was given to states to distribute to landlords and owners of rental properties to support low-income residents with rent and utility payments. The goal was to help renters stay housed and assist landlords who operated under a federal eviction moratorium from September 2020 to August 2021.

In January 2021, the federal government estimated that U.S. renters overall were in arrears by at least \$20 billion and as much as \$57 billion, potentially putting millions of American renters—particularly in minority communities-at risk of eviction. The eviction moratorium and economic slowdown during the pandemic caused many landlords and building owners to suffer significant financial losses as renters struggled.

South Dakota received \$200 million in ERA-1 funds and \$61 million in ERA-2 funding. When added to the \$10 million appropriated by the Legislature in 2020, the state has received a total of \$271 million in Cares Act funding in housing assistance, the large bulk targeted at renters. Six months into the ERA-1 program, the U.S. Treasury reported that only \$1.5 billion of the \$25 billion allocated, or about 5.8%, had been provided as rental and utility assistance across the country. Two months later, the amount had jumped to \$7.5 billion, or 30% of the total, still far below what Congress had intended. In a report in May 2021, the Treasury noted that "while some state and local programs are increasingly reaching households in need, others lag far behind." In an October 2021 report, the Congressional Research Service noted that the low rate of expenditure of ERA-1 funds "has caused some to raise concerns about the effectiveness of the program in preventing evictions as eviction moratoriums end, and in addressing the backlog of rent and utility debt."

"I would say the efficacy of the program has been excellent," Smith said.

Some housing advocates and members of Congress have expressed concerns that some renters in the U.S. who need help due to the pandemic are not getting it, and that states need to do more to allocate the aid where needed.

The program's challenges underscore the difficulty that federal, state and local governments have faced in distributing pandemicassistance funds to those who need help in a timely, well-managed way that limits fraud and abuse.

State data show that in 21 of the 66 counMembers of Congress have watched the

Continues on next page

Continued from previous page

program progress and some have expressed concern that the assistance is not being distributed in a timely fashion.

"There's no question that the funds aren't reaching landlords and renters quickly enough," U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., said during a House committee meeting on the ERA program in September 2021.

Some states were slow to implement systems to distribute the assistance, and some renters complained the paperwork requirements were too extensive or required computers and online proficiency. The Treasury reduced some paperwork requirements in ERA-2 compared with the first round of funding. ERA-1 assistance will end in 2022 but ERA-2 funds can be allocated through 2025.

However, as some states continued to lag in allocating assistance money, the Treasury in September 2021 enacted a "recapture and reallocation" process that required states that were not providing assistance fast enough to return money to the federal government, which likely will go to states with greater need or more efficient delivery systems.

For South Dakota, that resulted in the return of \$22 million in housing assistance funds in September 2021, and more could be returned this spring, Polak said.

North Dakota, where about \$15 million in assistance has been provided so far, officials have said the state expects to return \$149 million of the \$200 million it received in ERA-1 funding.

According to a South Dakota Housing Authority report in January 2022, about 3,800 households statewide had received some federal housing assistance, while about 1,850 applications were abandoned after being started.

Polak said it is impossible to identify why some people dropped out of the application process, as applicants perhaps returned to work, moved out of state or found the process too burdensome.

South Dakota housing officials twice asked the federal government for flexibility to spend unused rental assistance funds on programs such as those to build new affordable housing, but were rejected both times, Polak said.

U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson, R-S.D., said in an email to News Watch that he supports letting states use ERA funding in other areas if they aren't able to spend it all on rental assistance.

"The Biden Administration flooded states with cash and they can't spend this money fast enough," Johnson wrote. "I'd like flexibility for states to spend unused dollars on things like roads and bridges before [C]ongress considers even more inflationary deficit spending."

Improvements suggested as program goes on

Some states hired private contractors to administer the program, but South Dakota handled allocation of funds through the South Dakota Housing Development Authority, an arm of state government. The authority, which typically works with developers and other established housing partners, was immediately tasked with developing a complex new system to provide direct financial assistance to landlords, Polak said. The housing authority enlisted the help of several local aid agencies across the state to let low-income residents know about the program and to administer the first steps in applying. Local agencies also played a key role in getting approved funding directly to landlords. The housing authority was aggressive in trying to get the word out about the availability of assistance, Polak said, posting information on the agency website, working with local aid agencies to inform their clients of the opportunity for help, and providing notification through utility companies, daycare providers



Renters and landlords facing financial challenges can still get federal funding to help them. Photo: News Watch file

and churches.

The authority and its local partners also spend significant time with applicants, assigning case workers to aid each renter and conducting extensive follow-up through the application and aid allocation processes, Polak said.

"In essence, we're talking with every applicant; some of them have my direct number," she said.

Mike Walker, executive director of NeighborWorks Dakota Home Resources, said his agency participated in the first round of housing-assistance funding but declined to partner with the state in the second and third rounds. His agency, based in Deadwood, serves people western South Dakota.

Walker said the initial housing-assistance program allowed agencies to provide aid to households in both low-income and mediumincome categories and to those who owned their homes. In the first round of funding, homeowners and renters who earned up to 115% of the median area income could qualify for help, whereas the second two rounds of federal funding were restricted to renters who make up to 80% of the median area income, Walker said.

"When they [the federal government] did that, that they eliminated over half their customers," Walker said. "By limiting that and giving a lot larger dollar amount, they overallocated."

For instance, Walker said many working families in western South Dakota make enough to gualify for help at the 115% median income level, which is about \$86,700 a year for a family of four in Lawrence County. But those families, many who lost work hours and faced financial hardships during the pandemic, did not qualify for help at the 80% median income threshold, which is about \$60,300 a year in Lawrence County. "When they put those limits on there, they eliminated some of the people who really needed the help," Walker said. "That's the main reason the money didn't go out." The different rules came about because the first round of funding was approved by the state Legislature, and the two subsequent rounds are subject to rules set by the U.S. Treasury. Smith said he would like to see the assistance program help more homeowners with back mortgage payments; those residents qualified only for the initial \$10 million funding effort authorized by the state Legislature in 2020.

opportunities to use funding to help even more people are not available right now.

"On the ERA program, our caseworkers are doing a bang-up job. Has it been helpful, have we seen the impact on people's lives? Yes, we have," Smith said. "Have we seen people go forward with their lives, and getting their jobs and lives going forward? Yes, we have."

Polak said the rental and utility assistance programs are ongoing, and she urged any tenants or landlords who are struggling to visit the housing authority website or their local aid agency to learn how to apply for funding. She also noted that other programs coming soon to South

Dakota will be aimed at providing help to homeowners as well as renters.

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.

HOW TO APPLY FOR RENTAL ASSISTANCE

The rental assistance program is still offering help for renters and landlords who are facing financial challenges. Here are some resources to learn more about the program or apply.

Contact the South Dakota Housing Development Authority by phone at 605-773-31812 or go online to https://www.sdhda.org and click on SD Cares Housing Assistance.

These local agencies can also help potential applicants:

Helpline Center, Statewide – https://www. helplinecenter.org

Codington County Welfare, Watertown – https://www.codington.org/welfare/

GROW SD, Sisseton – https://www.growsd. org

Interlakes Community Action Program, Madison – https://www.interlakescap.com

Lakota Funds, Kyle – https://lakotafunds.org

But Smith said he sees the housing-assistance program as a great success, even if Lutheran Social Services – https://lakotalunds.org Mazaska Owecaso Otipi Financial, Pine Ridge

http://mazaskacdfi.org

NeighborWorks Dakota Home Resources, Deadwood – https://www.neighborworksdhr.

org

Pennington County Health and Human Services, Rapid City – https://www.pennco. org/hhs

Rural Office of Community Services, Wagner

https://www.rocsinc.org

Western South Dakota Community Action, Rapid City – https://www.wsdca.org



Groton Independent \diamond Wed., Jan. 12, 2022 \diamond 9

Dear EarthTalk: Is the recent lifting of quota restrictions on wolf hunting in Montana north of Yellowstone National Park a threat to the reintroduced wolf population there?

—J. W., Bend, OR

When the last gray wolf in Yellowstone National Park was gunned down in 1926, park managers and ranchers on neighboring lands alike rejoiced together that the dark predator of the range would no longer torment them. Wolves were blamed for poaching livestock as well as wreaking havoc on populations of traditional "game" animals like elk and deer. But a funny thing happened once the wolves were gone. Elk numbers started to skyrocket. In essence, without the wolf around to keep its population numbers in check, the elk were eating everything in sight, including the new young shoots of willow, aspen and other trees key to keeping Yellowstone's ecosystems in balance.

By the 1990s biologists managed to convince the federal government that these predators are essential to the health of the ecosystem, and grav wolves were famously reintroduced back into Yellowstone. The results have



been nothing short of amazing with regard to ecosystem recovery and the return of various species of wildlife that used to be common there a century ago.

But ranchers on the periphery of the park (Wyoming, Idaho and Montana all border Yellowstone) have maintained their antipathy toward wolves given the primal canids' predilection for killing domesticated cows outside of the park for a quick and easy meal. Such situations are rare given that there is plenty of wild game for the wolves to hunt within their home base inside of Yellowstone's borders. Nevertheless, anti-environmentalists and otherwise conservative pundits have joined forces with ranchers to politicize the wolf reintroduction issue. No doubt, there is a lot of political pressure from those who make



Yellowstone's gray wolves, reintroduced to the region in the 1990s, are now at risk from hunting outside of park borders. Credit: Patrice Schoefolt, Pexels.com.

their living outside of the national park to lift all hunting restrictions on wolves that stray onto state lands. So, it comes as no surprise that Montana would lift quotas limiting hunters and trappers to just two gray wolf kills each in regions bordering Yellowstone. A similar move in Idaho months earlier means Yel-

lowstone's wolves are now getting it from all angles. And, indeed, with more than 15 wolf kills in the Montana borderlands alone so far this winter, it remains to be seen whether or not the easing of the state's wolf hunting restrictions is such a good idea after all. Back in 1995-1997, 42 gray wolves were relocated from Western Canada and northwestern Montana to Yellowstone; today 123 gray wolves spread themselves across nine different packs free-roaming within the national park. While the population has grown nicely and remained stable for the last decade or so, increased hunting could send these packs into dangerous territory when it comes to their ability to reproduce themselves.

Sadly, for the wolves (and for us), a false dichotomy persists that we can't have successful livestock agriculture and preserve the ecological integrity of the world's first national park at the same time. But the fact remains that we can, especially with programs to reimburse ranchers for their rarely occurring losses to wolf predation. In the meantime, the states are likely to make it easier and easier to shoot or trap wolves that unwittingly cross over into state lands, and politics will continue to be behind it all.

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.



A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing Imagine a condition

with symptoms that present differently in each person who has it and no currently approved lab test can



By Jill Kruse, D.O.

definitively confirm the diagnosis. Imagine that the symptoms can flare up and then mysteriously disappear, including fatigue, low grade fevers, joint pain, and mouth sores. All these symptoms overlap with multiple other conditions further complicating a diagnosis. Imagine that the best available method for diagnosing this ailment is a manual checklist of eleven criteria and if the patient suffers from at least four, they receive a diagnosis on a scale of definite, probable, or possible.

What if I told you this condition is caused by an attack on the body by its own immune system and the main way to treat this is by suppressing the immune system we each depend upon to help protect our bodies from infection. The course of this illness can range from mild to rapidly progressing to organ failure and death. This condition is real and has a most appropriate name which means "the wolf" in Latin. The condition is systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), a condition which evades diagnosis and is difficult to treat.

Lupus mainly affects women between the ages of 15 and 40, particularly women of color. For many busy young women with lupus, symptoms are often brushed off by family, friends, and unfortunately sometimes by health care providers who may view the patient as being "tired" or "over worked." Routine wellness lab tests, which serve as an alert system for other illnesses, provide no indication of lupus. Patients who persist and find someone to further investigate their symptoms may be misdiagnosed with a myriad of other conditions sometimes resulting in unnecessary medications, treatments, and further suffering. Work is underway to better understand lupus. The trigger that causes the immune system to start attacking itself is not known, but scientists suspect it involves a combination of genetic and environmental factors. Research and awareness are making a difference. In the 1950s, the 5-year and 10-year survival of SLE patients was less than 50 percent. Since then, that number has improved to over 90 percent. This increase in survival rate stems from improvements in our ability to diagnosis lupus earlier and to provide better treatments once diagnosed. But we must do better. Early diagnosis of lupus requires patients and health care providers working together to persist in finding this "wolf in sheep's clothing." If you or a loved one has a concern about lupus or other autoimmune conditions, talk with your doctor and see if a consultation with a rheumatologist would be beneficial. Jill Kruse, D.O. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices family medi-cine in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org and on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show celebrating its twentieth season of truthful, tested, and timely medical information, broadcast on SDPB and streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

10 ♦ Groton Independent ♦ Wed., Jan. 12, 2022