



The scenery is all set for the Carnival of Silver Skates for Sunday at 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The background was designed, painted and constructed last year by Katie Anderson and her dad, Ron.



The scenery for the Carnival of Silver Skates was put up Tuesday morning. The Groton City Public Works Dept. of Todd Gay, Terry Herron, Branden Abeln, Landon Johnson and Dwight Zerr assembled and erected the scenery. This is what it looks like on the back side to make it stand and withstand the wind.

UpComing Events

- Thursday, Jan. 27 Basketball Doubleheader at Northwestern: Rolling schedule: Boys C starts at 3:30 followed by Girls JV, Boys JV, Girls Varsity and Boys Varsity.
Saturday, Jan. 29 Groton Area Wrestling Tournament, 10 a.m. 5 p.m.: Boys Basketball vs. Lennox at Madison
Sunday, Jan. 30 Groton Robotics Pancake Feed at Groton Community Center, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Carnival of Silver Skates, 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 31 Junior High Boys Basketball with Redfield at Groton. 7th at 4 p.m. followed by 8th grade game
Tuesday, Feb. 1 Boys Basketball hosts Langford Area with JV at 6 p.m. followed by varsity City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 3 Basketball Doubleheader at Faulkton
Friday, Feb. 4 Wrestling triangular at Preshop
Saturday, Feb. 5 Girls basketball at Madison 10 a.m.: Wrestling at Stanley County Boys Basketball with Clark/Willow Lake at Groton (7th grade at 4 p.m. followed by 8th grade, JV and Varsity).
Sunday, Feb. 6 A Show choir parent/community preview will be held Sunday, Feb. 6th at 3 p.m. in the GHS gym.
Monday, Feb. 7 Junior High Boys Basketball at Aberdeen Christian. 7th grade at 6 p.m. followed by 8th grade. School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

January Students of the Month



Madison Bjerke (12th)



Jackson Dinger (11th)



Hannah Monson (10th)



Elizabeth Flihs (9th)



Olivia Stiegelmeier (8th)



Ashlynn Warrington (7th)



Addison Hoeft (6th)

These students have been chosen as "Student of the Month" for the month of January. Groton Area School works to ensure that all levels of academic instruction also include the necessary life skills teaching, practicing, and modeling that encourages essential personal life habits that are universally understood to facilitate helping our students become good human beings and citizens. It is learning with our heads, hearts, and hands to be caring and civil, to make healthy decisions, to effectively problem solve, to be respectful and responsible, to be good citizens, and to be empathetic and ethical individuals. Students are selected based on individual student growth in the areas of: positive behavior, citizenship, good attendance, a thirst for knowledge, and high academic standards.

Weekly Vikings Roundup Divisional Playoff Recap

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

Never in NFL history have three playoff games in the same weekend ended on last-second field goals. That is exactly what happened to the top-seeded Packers and Titans, as well as the defending champion Buccaneers. To top it off, the Chiefs need a last-second field goal to take their game into overtime.

It started on Saturday afternoon in Nashville. Despite being sacked nine times, Bengal quarterback Joe Burrow showed why he was the #1 pick in the 2020 draft. Burrow hung in there all day long, throwing for 348 yards. After a Titan turnover at mid-field late in the fourth quarter, Burrow hit his former college teammate JaMarr Chase on a 19-yard completion to set up the winning field goal. The comment of the day came from the Bengal rookie kicker Evan McPherson just before going out to hit the game-winning 52-yard field goal: he looked at Joe Burrow and said, "looks like we are going to the AFC Championship game". Final score: 19-16.

The late game on Saturday pitted the Green Bay Packers against the San Francisco 49ers. The Packers were the biggest favorite for the weekend and after marching the opening kickoff for a quick touchdown, it appeared the rout was on.

The Niners had to step up on defense to keep the game close and the game came down to special teams. While leading 7-0, Aaron Rodgers engineers a typical two-minute drive to end the half but the Niner's special teams blocked a field goal attempt as the half ended.

Late in the fourth quarter with the Packers punting from deep in their end, the Niner's unit comes through again to block a punt and run it in for the score to tie the game with just four minutes remaining. That was plenty of time for another ARodg late-game comeback but not this time. The Packers were forced to punt and the Niners needed to go 80-yards to try to win the game. Deebo Samuel leads the Niners down inside the 30-yard line and set up a Robbie Gould game-winning 44-yard field goal as time expired. Lambeau Field was silenced but the Skol chant could be heard at the Minnesota Wild game as the crowd learned of the outcome. Final score: 13-10.

Moving onto Sunday, the LA Rams go to Tampa Bay and end what may be Tom Brady's final game. The Rams led for most of the game only to let the Buccaneers tie it late. Matthew Stafford hits Cooper Kupp on two passes for 65-yards in the

final seconds to allow the Rams to escape with a 30-27 victory.

The marquee match-up of the weekend came on Sunday night between the Chiefs and Bills. For three quarters, it was a pretty mundane game for two offensive powerhouses with arguably the two best young QB's in the game, Josh Allen and Pat Mahomes. The Chiefs led by two points going into the fourth quarter. It was a proverbial chess match most of the way, but then all heck broke loose in the fourth.

What looked like the final dagger by the Bills with a touchdown and three-point lead with just thirteen seconds to go, Pat Mahomes marches the Chiefs down the field in just two plays to set up another game-ending playoff field goal but this time to take the game into overtime. The Chiefs win the coin toss in overtime and Mahomes hits Travis Kelce with a game-winning touchdown, spoiling the Bills' attempt to get back to the AFC championship game. Instead, the Chiefs will be the first team to host it for the fourth year in a row. Final score, 42-36.

Change is in the air for a few players.

Tom Brady is hinting at retirement and if he goes, so will his tight end Gronkowski, ending what many say is one of the most prolific QB-TE duos in football.

Aaron Rodgers suggested he played his last game as a Green Bay Packer, and Davante Adams may be too expensive for the Packers to resign in 2022. If they are gone, we'll all get to see just how good of a coach LaFleur is when you don't have future Hall-of-Famers running your offense.

Losing a good teacher

The Red Wing School District is losing a great teacher, someone I respect immensely—my brother. If you're lucky, you get someone in your life that inspires you, teaches you to think for yourself, challenges you, and helps steer you to a successful path. In Red Wing, MN, Scott Bender is one of those guys, so respected, one graduating class demanded that he, not some spit-polished corporate executive, give the commencement address.

As a kid, his nose was always buried in a book. He was a pretty good football player, too. There were six kids, so the money wasn't there to put us through college. Scott joined the U.S. Army and was assigned to an intelligence outfit in West Germany before the wall fell. He had to learn Russian to do it. Two hitches. In return, Uncle Sam provided him an education that he could pass on. Nothing makes him happier than when a former student tells him how much he's impacted their life. It's happened many times. It will happen many more.

Finding a good fit wasn't easy at first because Scott taught Social Studies, and often that's considered a sluff class taught by coaches, but Scott didn't want to coach. He wanted to teach. Really teach. His class wasn't an automatic "A," and he caught all kinds of heat when he failed students who didn't do the work. He caught heat for teaching real history, real current events.

Each summer, his vacations centered around visits to historical sites where he could see the lay of the land and learn things that weren't in the textbooks, things he passed on to his students, things that didn't necessarily come with the rah-rah gloss of textbooks.

If I had to choose a word to describe him, it would be integrity, a lesson he absorbed at home. You do things honestly, ethically, and you stick to your guns. That's what drove him, not some agenda. Facts. Reality.

I've never known him to be a political animal, just an honest broker of the facts. When Donald Trump was elected, his class started a list of his crimes including his propensity to inflate his wealth to get loans and then deflating it to avoid taxes. He and his class called it long before the investigations began. Some parents refused to let their kids do the homework. I'm sure their report cards reflected that. It wasn't political for Scott, it was about reality. Facts.

He also got blowback for discussing the impact of religion on world history and current events, but how can you teach history without mentioning institutions that were often at the root of wars?

This year, the principal, his antagonist, took away his politics class, leading one mother to lament to Scott how disappointed she was that her younger kids wouldn't be able to take his class. It may have been the last straw.

There are many reasons the nation is experiencing a teacher shortage. Stress is a big one. Compensation is another. Scott once helped lead a teacher's strike over an impasse on health insurance. He certainly didn't need to. His army service qualified him for veterans benefits, but this was about supporting other teachers.

He was also a catalyst in an effort to change the name of Columbus Day to Chief Red Wing Day because the unvarnished truth is that Columbus was a cruel occupier, a mass murderer. Scott became the liaison between the City of Red Wing and the tribe, a high honor. Last summer, I visited the educational monument in Red Wing that celebrated Native American history, a monument that emerged from his efforts. He didn't do it alone, but I wonder if it would have happened without him.

He was in a local watering hole one day when a former student he didn't recognize at first bought him a beer. "Mr. Bender, when I was in seventh grade you said you were going to get rid of Columbus Day, and you did. Congratulations."

His superintendent was dumbfounded when Scott told him he was retiring at 59. "But we can't replace you," he said. "Mr. Bender is an institution in these halls." There's no changing his mind, though. "I'm a dinosaur," he told the superintendent, "and the meteor is streaking down."

I mourn the loss of dinosaurs. You done good, Scott.
© Tony Bender, 2022



That's Life

by Tony Bender

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Groton City Phase II Water System Bid Notice

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WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE II
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GROTON, SD

Sealed Bids will be received by the City of Groton, 120 N Main Street, PO Box 587, Groton, SD 57445, until 2 PM local time on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, for the above referenced project. Bids shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the Bidding Documents. The City of Groton reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all Bids as set forth in the Bidding Documents.

At or shortly after the time named above and within the office of the City of Groton, Groton, SD such Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids will be reviewed by the City of Groton at a subsequent meeting of the Groton City Council.

The Project includes the following Work:

- Rehabilitate and paint 480,000-gallon Ground Storage Reservoir.

As per the Contract Documents, the date for Substantial Completion on this project is June 17, 2022.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Documents. The Successful Bidder will be required to provide Payment and Performance Bonds as described in the Bidding Documents.

Bidding Documents may be viewed and obtained at www.questcdn.com by entering Quest project number 8111294. Please contact QuestCDN Customer Support at 952-233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance. Upon request, one copy of Plans and Specifications shall be furnished, without charge, to each Contractor resident in South Dakota who intends, in good faith, to bid upon the project.

Bidders shall comply with the Equal Opportunity Clause published at 41 CFR Part 60 and Executive Orders 11246, 11518, and 11625, as amended. This requires Bidders will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Requirements are explained further in the specifications.

Bidders on this work shall be required to comply with Title 40 CFR 33 and Executive Order 12138. The requirements for Bidders and Contractors under this regulation which concerns utilization of Disadvantaged/Minority Business Enterprises (DBE/MBE) and Women's Business Enterprises (WBE) are explained in the specifications. The DBE/MBE and WBE goals for participation in this contract in terms of percentage of contract value are as follows:

Disadvantaged/Minority Business Enterprises..... 1%
Women's Business Enterprises..... 4%

Davis-Bacon and Related Acts wages apply to this project in its entirety. All provisions relative to those acts must be met.

The low responsive bidder will be required to certify to compliance with the American Iron and Steel provision of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014. This certification form may be found on page AIS-21 and 22 of the State Revolving Fund (SRF) General Conditions and must be included in the bid proposal.

Please be advised that waivers or exemptions from the American Iron and Steel provision that cite International Trade Agreements DO NOT comply with the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 as it applies to the SRF programs. Claims from suppliers that the American Iron and Steel provision does not apply to certain products based on the International Trade Agreement exemptions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 will not be accepted.

The successful bidder, including any contractors and their subcontractors on the project, must be registered in SAM.gov (System for Award Management).

The low responsive bidder must assure compliance with the requirements of Public Law 115-232, Section 889, Prohibition on Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment.

BY: April Abeln, Interim Finance Officer

PUBLISHING DATES: January 19, 2022
January 26, 2022

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$78.37. 20813

Brown County Jan. 18, 2022

Meeting Minutes JANUARY 18, 2022 – GENERAL MEETING

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

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

RFP OPENING – FAIR SOUND, LIGHTS, STAGE EQUIPMENT: Time and place as advertised to open, read and consider sealed bids for Brown County Fair, sound, lights, and stage equipment. Bids received from Perfect Wave and TMS, Inc. Moved by Wiese, seconded by Gage to defer bids to fair manager to review and award at a later county commission meeting. All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

FIRST READING – ORDINANCE 209-211 (MINI AG REZONES): Moved by Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve first reading of proposed ordinance 209: Applicant Steve and Deborah Munger requesting to rezone 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. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve first reading of proposed ordinance 210: Applicant Alex Droog requesting to rezone 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., All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve first reading of proposed ordinance 211: Applicant Eretta Dargatz requesting to rezone 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. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

SD DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BI-ANNUAL REPORT: Deanna Harber with SD Department of Health presented a bi-annual report about services provided in Brown County, SD.

GPS PROGRAM: Dave Lunzmann (Chief Deputy Sheriff) requested an additional correctional officer position to conduct the home monitoring GPS program. Moved by Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve additional correctional officer full-time position at the jail. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Moved by Fjeldheim seconded by Wiese to approve the general meeting minutes of January 11, 2022. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL: Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Gage to approve the following claims and payroll: Payroll: Commission \$4,503.96; Auditor \$8,137.93; Treasurer \$12,821.53; SA \$25,995.65; SVAWA \$0.00; Maintenance \$6,625.36; Assessor \$15,248.57; Register of Deeds \$8,028.80; VSO \$4,143.28; GIS \$2,483.72; IT \$7,375.02; HR \$4,061.37; Sheriff \$45,364.41; Jail \$57,911.99; Coroner (Voucher) \$0.00; Court Security \$5,671.43; JDC \$28,123.03; Welfare \$2,161.43; Museum \$8,877.70; Parks/Fairgrounds \$3,492.64; Fair Board \$4,410.00; 4-H \$310.00; Weed \$1,255.68; Planning & Zoning \$5,681.44; Highway \$39,613.86; Dispatch \$36,110.61; Emergency \$4,285.81; Teen Court \$501.60; JDAI \$1,846.15; 24/7 Sobriety \$1,337.16; Landfill \$15,691.94; MATCHING BENEFITS: FICA @ \$21,634.87; Medicare @ \$5,059.72. **CLAIMS:** Insurance: FINANCIAL SERVICES OF ABERDEEN, INC. \$2,741.42 Professional Fees: AVERA ST. LUKE'S \$1,782.64; BROWN COUNTY TREASURER \$21.20; CERTIFIED LANGUAGES INTERNATIONAL LLC \$853.05; COGLEY LAW OFFICE, PROF LLC \$81.00; DEPENDABLE SANITA-

TION INC \$28,095.20; DREW BECKER \$200.00; KENNEDY PIER LOFTUS, LLP \$341.55; LEWIS & CLARK BHS \$184.00; MICHELLE GAIKOWSKI \$254.20; SDSU EXTENSION \$21,146.53; STATE BAR OF SOUTH DAKOTA \$203.50; WEX HEALTH INC. \$177.60; Woods County Clerk of Courts \$3.00; ZYLSTRA INVESTIGATIONS \$3,801.00 Repairs & Maintenance: DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP \$1,290.29; DIESEL MACHINERY \$14,500.00; ECOLAB PEST ELIMINATION \$235.87; HAAR PLUMBING & HEATING INC \$372.10; LIEN TRANSPORTATION COMPANY \$375.00; MB LLC \$20.00; POMS TIRE SERVICE, INC \$266.66; PRO WINDMILL INC. \$345.00 Supplies: ADVANCE AUTO PARTS \$148.48; COLE PAPERS \$373.66; J.D. POWER & ASSOCIATES \$268.00; KIRBY KIESZ \$181.13; MIDSTATES PRINTING \$81.25; NORTHERN VALLEY COMMUNICATION \$26.76; PITNEY BOWES INC. \$15,000.00; RUNNINGS \$371.88; SHERWIN WILLIAMS \$399.30; US FOODS \$8,488.26; WEB WATER BOTTLING COMPANY \$22.50 Utilities: CITY OF ABERDEEN \$306.36; CITY OF HECLA \$194.49; DEPENDABLE SANITATION INC \$348.00; NORTHERN ELECTRIC COOP, INC \$772.93; NORTHERN VALLEY COMMUNICATION \$1,582.53; NORTHWESTERN ENERGY & COMMUNICATIONS \$43.96; VERIZON WIRELESS SERVICES LLC \$200.05 Rentals: ARAMARK UNIFORM & CAREER APPAREL GROUP, INC \$247.71; Linde Gas & Equipment Inc. \$47.11; ROLAND L. MOERKE \$42.50 Others: GLACIAL LAKES & PRAIRIE TOURISM ASSOC. \$750.00 All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve the following HR report: Approve hiring of Stacy Ramsdell, Brown County Communications Dispatcher, full-time at \$21.16 per hour, effective January 18, 2022. Approve hiring of Stephanie Jacobson as Brown County Senior Office Deputy-County Election Coordinator Auditor, full-time; starting wage \$18.75 per hour; effective January 14, 2022. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CELL PHONE STIPEND: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve cell phone stipend for IT Department employee at \$50 per month. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

BROWN COUNTY LOBBYIST: Discussion of having a lobbyist to represent Brown County, SD at the 2022 legislative session. No action taken.

EXPENSE POLICY – TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT: Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to amend the Brown County Expense Policy for Travel to include reimbursement for use of personal vehicle while towing a trailer, camper, boat, or similar towed item at a rate of 63 cents per mile with county commission approval. County employees or board members are eligible for trailer reimbursement as approved in advance by county commission. All member present voting aye. Motion carried.

FAIRBOARD APPRECIATION STIPEND: Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Gage to approve the following stipend for fair board members: Appointed members of the Brown County Fair Board who serve over six months are entitled to the following appreciation benefits: 2 General Admission Grandstand passes; 2 Weeklong Carnival passes; 1 Camping spot. Any fair board member who resigns or is asked to step down by commission prior to fair week shall not receive any of these benefits. Only current fair board members are entitled to these benefits. Once their terms have expired, former fair board members will not retain camping spot. However, if the board member had the camping spot prior to their time on the board, they may choose to retain it.

FAIR CONTRACTS: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve to following fair contracts: The Best of Motown and More (entertainment) @ \$8,000; Freddie Prez (entertainment) @ \$6,200; Farmers Market Music LLC (entertainment) @ \$7,500. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

TAX DEED PROPERTY: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Gage to authorize Patty VanMeter, County Treasurer, to submit all qualifying parcels to the States Attorney for completion of the tax deed process. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

BID SET HEARING AND AUTHORITY ADVERTISING – MICRO-SURFACING: Moved by Wiese

seconded by Gage authorize advertising public hearing to open, read and consider bids for Microsurfacing on 8:46 a.m., on February 8th, 2022 in the Commissioner's Chambers, Court-house Annex, Brown County, SD. Specifications are on file in the Brown County Auditor's Office and the Brown County Landfill Office and may be obtained at no charge. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese 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 \$85.27. 20839

Groton City Jan. 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2022

The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00pm at 120 N Main Street for their second monthly meeting with the following members present: Blackmun, Bahr, Wells, Flihs, Cutler, Babcock and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Also present were: Kenneth Hier, Paul Kosel, Terry Herron and Deputy Finance Officer April Abeln.

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

The minutes from the January 4, 2022 meeting were approved on a motion by Flihs and seconded by Wells. All members voted aye.

The minutes from the January 12, 2022 meeting were amended to state that the Council reconvened into regular session at 7:28pm. Minutes were then approved on a motion by Blackmun and seconded by Babcock with an. All members voted aye.

Moved by Bahr and seconded by Cutler to authorize the following bills for payment. All members voted aye.

Payroll, \$23754.36, Employee salaries; Administrative, \$4,990.43; Public Safety, \$8,138.91; Public Works, \$10,625.02; Dacotah Bank, \$8,065.51, SS and WH; Dacotah Bank, \$408.32, HSA contributions; Dakotaland FCU, \$730.00, Employee savings; Accounts Management Inc, \$412.74, Payroll Garnishment; BC Treasurer, \$21.20, Title & licensing- 2020 digger trk; City of Groton, \$111.57, Family crisis-utility bill paid; USPS, \$250.07, Utility billing postage; A&B Business Solutions, \$371.57, Copier rent; Aberdeen FOP Lodge #4, \$75.00, 2022 dues- SM, JC, TG; Aramark, \$30.41, Rug rent; Banyon Data Systems, \$2,520.00, Annual accounting software support; Chase Visa, \$40.01, Rubble site internet; City of Groton, \$11.66, Util dep to UB-Sharai Montiel; City of Groton, \$250.00, Util dep to UB- Michelle Maunu; Dakota Pump & Control, \$1,966.84, Rings, seals, oil, VVW repairs; Djamel & Kristen Khali, \$264.61, Util dep, util overpmt; Eaton, \$4,500.00, Annual electric software support; Groton Chamber, \$102.12, FO Facebook job ad reimbursement; Groton Daily Independent, \$150.00, FO classified job ad; Groton Independent, \$125.55, Publishing; Heartland Consumers Power, \$66,281.44, Power 12/21; Heartland Waste Management, \$8,184.40, Garbage hauling 12/21; Irby, \$1,168.00, Bolts, splice kits, brackets; James Valley Tele, \$887.27, Utilities; John Deere Financial, \$716.38, Cutting edge, bolt, grommet; Ken's Food Fair, \$525.54, Gas, library wreath making supplies, paper products; MJ's Sinclair, \$1,037.12, Gas, 2005 Tahoe tires; MOCIC, \$100.00, 2022 annual membership dues; RDO Equipment Co., \$104.95, headlight, grommet; Runnings, \$32.58, Drill bit set; SD 811, \$404.25, Message fees; SD Supplemental Retirement, \$215.00, Employee supplemental retirement; SDPAA, \$342.81, 2021 Chevy Tahoe insurance addition; SDPAA, \$1,732.07, 2020 Electric digger trk insurance addition; Sharai Montiel, \$238.34, Util dep; Web Water, \$14,482.03, Water; Western Area Power, \$23,109.02, Power 12/21;

The December finance report was approved on a motion by

Cutler and seconded by Wells. All members voted aye.

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Flihs to approve IMEG's Pay Request #4. All members voted aye.

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Wells to approve authorization to bid Phase II of the Water System Improvement, Water Storage Tank Painting "Sch B". All members voted aye. Hier discussed engineering fees.

Terry Herron and Kenneth Hier exited the meeting at 7:40pm.

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Flihs to approve authorization to bid Pool Resurfacing. All members voted aye.

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Wells to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal items 1- 25-2 (1) & (3) at 7:41pm. All members voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 8:21pm.

Moved by Cutler and seconded by Blackmun to accept Assistant Police Chief, Jerry Bjerke's resignation. All members voted aye. Jerry Bjerke's Retirement Party will be on January 29, 2022 at 4pm at Olive Grove Golf Course.

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Babcock to adjourn the meeting at 8:23pm. All members voted aye.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor
April Abeln, Deputy Finance Officer

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$40.29. 20840

Groton School Notice of Vacancy

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

The following school board positions will become vacant July 1, 2022, due to the expiration of the present terms of office of the following school board members:

Tigh Flihs, 3-year term
Deborah Gengerke, 3-year term

Travis J. Harder, 3-year term

Circulation of nominating petitions may begin on January 28, 2022, and petitions may be filed in the office of the business manager located at Groton Area High School between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., central standard time not later than February 25, 2022, at 5:00 p.m., or mailed by registered mail not later than February 25, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

Michael J. Weber, Business Official

Groton Area School District
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$18.76. 20817

(2t. Jan 17 & Jan 24, 2022)

Brown County Nominating Petitions

NOTICE OF DEADLINE FOR FILING NOMINATING PETITIONS FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION AND FOR FILING INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE PETITIONS The deadline for filing nominating petitions for the primary election is March 29, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. central time. If a petition is mailed by registered mail by March 29, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. central time, it is considered filed. The deadline for filing nominating petitions to run as an independent candidate in the general election is April 26, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. central time. If a petition is mailed by registered mail by April 26, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. central time it is considered filed. For the offices of Brown County Commissioner, Brown County Auditor, Brown County Register of Deeds, Brown County Sheriff, and Brown County Commissioner 2 Year Term, nominating petitions must be filed in the office of the Brown County Auditor 25 Market St, Aberdeen, SD. The nominating petitions for the offices of United States Senator, United States Representative, Governor/Lt. Governor, State Senate Districts 1,3,23, State Representative Districts 1,3,23, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Auditor, State Treasurer, Commissioner of School and Public Lands, Public Utilities Commissioner, Fifth Circuit Court Judges A-D, Heartland Consumer Power District Director No. 3 and 10 must be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State, State Capitol Building, Pierre, SD 57501, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. central time.

Attest: Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor
(0119.0126)

Published Twice At the total Approximate cost of \$46.35. 20816

Attest: Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor
(0119.0126)

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Republican Party At Large Delegates must be filed in the office of the Brown County Auditor during regular business hours. Nominating petitions for the offices of United States Senator, United States Representative, Governor/Lt. Governor, State Senate Districts 1,3,23, State Representative Districts 1,3,23, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Auditor, State Treasurer, Commissioner of School and Public Lands, Public Utilities Commissioner, Fifth Circuit Court Judges A-D, Heartland Consumer Power District Director No. 3 and 10 must be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State, State Capitol Building, Pierre, SD 57501, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. central time.

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The Groton Independent

21 N Main, Groton 605/397-NEWS (6397)
Paul Irvin Kosel, Publisher paperpaul@grotonsd.net ~ 605-397-7460

Tina Kosel, Office Manager office@grotonsd.net ~ 605-397-7285

Notices: legals@grotonsd.net

News Items: news@grotonsd.net

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Marty Weismantel
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Brown County Gravel Bid Notice

NOTICE TO GRAVEL PRODUCTION CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS

Sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Court House Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota until the hour of 8:48 A.M. on February 1, 2022, at said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read and considered for furnishing and delivery of ONE (1) YEARS SUPPLY OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GRAVEL MATERIALS.

Proposal Guaranty: No deposit or bid bond will be required at time of the bid opening.

Performance Bond: Brown County will give notice to the successful bidder that his proposal has been accepted, and said bidder shall within ten (10) days thereafter enter into a contract with Brown County and furnish a performance bond in accordance with the bid as accepted or as required by the Brown County Highway Department Superintendent.

Envelopes containing bids shall be addressed and delivered to the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401, and to be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope: "BIDS ON GRAVEL AGGREGATE MATERIALS" to be opened February 1, 2022 at 8:48 A.M. The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County.

Bids shall include all applicable taxes and fees for materials furnished and/or installed by the Contractor and all applicable taxes and fees for materials supplied by the County. Brown County is exempt from all Federal Excise Tax and State Sales Tax.

Contract for GRAVEL MATERIALS shall be firm and will be in effect for a period of one (1) year from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023.

(0119.0126)
Attest: Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$36.97. 20820

Brown County Hot Mix Bid Notice

NOTICE TO ASPHALT CONCRETE PLANT MIX SUPPLIERS

Sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Court House Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota, until the hour of 8:48 A.M., February 1, 2022. At said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read and considered for producing, furnishing all materials and delivery of Asphalt Concrete Plant Mix Materials for road maintenance and construction on Brown County System of Roads, F.O.B. Brown County, South Dakota.

Proposal Guaranty: No deposit or bid bond will be required at time of bid opening.

Contract Notice: Brown County will give notice to the successful bidder that his proposal has been accepted, and said bidder shall within ten (10) days thereafter enter into a contract with Brown County.

SDCL 58-6-62: POLICY TO BE WRITTEN THROUGH LICENSED RESIDENT OR NON-RESIDENT AGENT-COUNTERSIGNATURE OF RESIDENT AGENT - VIOLATION AS MISDEMEANOR. No authorized insurer may make, write, issue or place any policy, contract or insurance, or general or floating policy upon persons or property, or covering a subject of insurance or bonding to be performed in South Dakota unless the policy is written through a licensed resident agent, or a non-resident agent when countersigned by a resident agent.

Contract for Asphalt Plant Mix Materials shall be firm and will be in effect for a period of one (1) year from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023.

Envelopes containing bids shall be addressed and delivered to the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 57401 and to be clearly marked on the outside of the

envelope: "BIDS ON ASPHALT CONCRETE PLANT MIX MATERIALS" to be opened on February 1, 2022 at 8:48 A.M. The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County.

Bids shall include all applicable taxes and fees for materials furnished and/or installed by the Contractor and all applicable taxes and fees for materials supplied by the County. Brown County is exempt from all Federal Excise Tax and State Sales Tax.

Section 320.5 - Basis of Payment: "A" - Asphalt Concrete Plant Mix Materials for Maintenance and Construction. The accepted quantities of Asphalt Plant Mix will be paid for at the contract unit price per ton.

(0119.0126)
Attest: Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$52.98. 20821

Brown County Equipment Rental Bid Notice

NOTICE TO ASPHALT CONTRACTORS AND MACHINERY DEALERS

Sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Court House Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota, until the hour of 8:48am on February 1, 2022. At said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read and considered for furnishing Full Operation Rental Services of Paving, Patching & Crushing Equipment for construction and maintenance repairs on Brown County Road Projects for the year 2022. Successful bidders will be working along with Brown County Highway Department Forces, Brown County Landfill Forces and the Brown County Fairground Forces to complete the projects.

Proposal Guaranty: No deposit or bond will be required at time of bid opening.

Performance Bond: Brown County will give notice to the successful bidder that his proposal has been accepted, and said bidder shall within ten (10) days thereafter enter into a contract with Brown County and said bidders shall then be required to furnish the following: Certificates of Insurance as per Bid Specifications or Requested from Brown County. Brown County must be listed as additional insured on all Certificates of Insurance.

Contract for Rental Equipment shall be firm and will be in effect for a period of one year from March 1, 2022 to February 28, 2023.

Envelopes containing bids shall be addressed and delivered to the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401, and to be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope: "BIDS FOR RENTAL OF EQUIPMENT" to be opened February 1, 2022 at 8:48am. The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County.

Bids shall include all applicable taxes and fees for materials furnished and/or installed by the Contractor and all applicable taxes and fees for materials supplied by the County. Brown County is exempt from all Federal Excise Tax and State Sales Tax.

(0119.0126)
Attest: Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$43.60. 20822

Brown County Road Oil Bid Notice

NOTICE TO ROAD OIL SUPPLIERS

Sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Court House Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota, until the hour of 8:48am, February 1, 2022. At said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read and considered for producing, furnishing and delivery of Road Oil to the Brown County System of Roads, F.O.B. Brown County, South Dakota.

(0119.0126)
Attest: Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$13.25. 20823

Brown County 4.5 Yard Loader Bid Notice

Notice to Equipment Dealers

Sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Court House Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401, until 8:48 A.M. on February 1, 2022. At that time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read, and considered by the Brown County Board of Commissioners for furnishing and delivery of ONE (1) Used 4.5 Yard Loader F.O.B., Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401.

Envelopes containing bids shall be addressed to the Brown County Auditor, Brown County Court House Annex, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 57401. The bids are to be clearly marked on outside of the envelope: "Bid on ONE (1) Used 4.5 Yard Loader" to be opened on February 1, 2022 at 8:48 A.M.

Proposal Guaranty: The proposal guaranty required, and that must accompany each bid, is a certified check, a cashier's check, or bank draft certified by a national or state bank and payable at sight to Brown County, South Dakota in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total amount of the bid, or in lieu thereof, bidder may furnish a bid bond of ten percent (10%) of the bid, such bond to be issued by a surety company authorized to do business in South Dakota and payable to Brown County, South Dakota.

The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, which they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County.

Brown County is EXEMPT from all Federal Excise Tax and State Sales Tax.

Specifications are on file in the Brown County Auditor's Office, and the Brown County Highway Department Office and may be obtained at no charge.

(0119.0126)
Attest: Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$35.87. 20824

Brown County Land Lease Bid Notice

NOTICE OF COUNTY LAND LEASE BROWN COUNTY LANDFILL

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Court House Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 57401, until 8:46 A.M. on February 1, 2022, at said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read, and considered by the Brown County Board of Commissioners for "COUNTY LAND LEASE/ BROWN COUNTY LANDFILL". DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY TO LEASE: Northwest Quarter of Section 13 Township 123 North, Range 65 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, Brown County South Dakota (129 ACRES).

This quarter is directly EAST of the Brown County Landfill. Minimum lease amount per acre: \$100.00. Envelopes containing bids shall be addressed to the Brown County Auditor, Brown County Courthouse Annex, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 57401, and are to be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope: "COUNTY LAND LEASE / BROWN COUNTY LANDFILL", to be opened on February 1, 2022, at 8:46 A.M. The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids that they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County, and to waive any informalities or irregularities therein. Brown County is exempt from all Federal Excise Tax and State Sales Tax. Copies of the specifications are on file at the Brown County Auditor's Office and the Brown County Solid Waste Department Office and may be obtained at no charge.

(0119.0126)
Attest: Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$33.56. 20825

Groton City Pool Resurfacing Bid Notice

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
Sealed bids will be received by the Groton, SD, City Council, for the following project: POOL RESURFACING GROTON MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOL, 228 E. 11th Ave. It is the intent of the City of Groton to receive Base Bids for the project listed above. Sealed bids will be received until 1:00 pm, Tuesday, February 15, 2022 Central Time, at Groton City Hall, 120 N Main St., Groton, SD.

The City of Groton reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive technical deficiencies, informalities or irregularities or rebid any project.

CITY OF GROTON
BY: April Abeln, Interim Finance Officer

(0119.0126)
Published twice at the approximate cost of \$15.45. 20829

Claremont Town Notice of Vacancy

NOTICE OF VACANCY
MUNICIPALITY OF CLAREMONT

THE following offices will become vacant/or up for renewal due to the expiration of the present term of office:

CLAREMONT TOWN COUNCIL
Shane Johnson, 3 year trustee term

Circulation of nominating petitions may begin on January 28, 2022. If you need a petition, please call the city office and one will be mailed to you. Petitions may be filed with the finance officer at 606 6th Ave. in Claremont SD 57432. Final day for turning in petition is 5 p.m., February 25, 2022.

Charla Rye
Finance Officer
Town of Claremont
(0119.0126)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$16.00. 20830

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ESTATE PLANNING & FARM/RANCH TRANSITIONS
SUSTAINING THE LEGACY

Sustaining the Legacy 2022
Feb. 7-8
Yankton
Best Western Kelly Inn

Register at:
extension.sdstate.edu/events
(Search: Sustaining the Legacy)

For more information, contact:
Heather Gessner
SDSU Extension Livestock Business Management Field Specialist
605-782-3290
heather.gessner@sdstate.edu

SDSU Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer in accordance with the nondiscrimination policies of South Dakota State University, the South Dakota Board of Regents and the United States Department of Agriculture. Learn more at extension.sdstate.edu.

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, 20¢/word thereafter
 2 Wks: \$17 for first 30 words, 38¢/word thereafter
 3 Wks: \$24 for first 30 words, 54¢/word thereafter
 4th consecutive week is free
605/397-NEWS (6397)
 PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

EMPLOYMENT

HELP WANTED FULL-TIME: The Haakon County Highway Department is now accepting applications for a full-time highway superintendent. A complete job description and applications are available at the Highway Department, 22260 Lake Waggoner Road, Philip SD. Please call 605-859-2472. Haakon County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS MULTI-DISTRICT/EDUCATION COOPERATIVE in Isabel, South Dakota is seeking applications for the 2022-2023 school year for the following position/s: open until filled. Early Childhood Special Education Instructor, CTE CADD Instructor: Intro. to Drafting and Design/Architectural Drafting and Design. South Dakota licensure is required and work-related experience may count toward certification. NWAS offers competitive salary, benefits, transportation and SD Retirement. Contact Quinn Lenk, Director, at 605-466-2206, or email quinn.lenk@k12.sd.us. Northwest Area Schools Multi-District/Education Cooperative does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

EDITOR/REPORTER SOUGHT. Take your reporting skills to new heights as the editor of the Central McLean News-Journal in Underwood, North Dakota. Enjoy flexible hours, competitive pay and a challenging, rewarding role overseeing the publication from start to finish. Work from home four days a week in the heartland of North Dakota near Lake Sakakawea. Make your mark on an award-winning publication today. Contact Alyssa at 701-463-2201 or news@bhgnews.com for details.

POSITION AVAILABLE FOR FULL-TIME Police Officer in Groton, SD. Application and job description may be found at: <https://www.city.grotonsd.gov/jobs.html>. For more information, call 605-397-8422 EOE

GUN SHOW

GUN SHOW: Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Association ABERDEEN Show, Saturday, Feb. 5, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 6, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at THE DAKOTA EVENT CENTER. Laura Ennen 701-214-3388.

MISCELLANEOUS

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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

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Groton City Jan. 19

Special Meeting

January 19, 2022
 The Groton City Council met on the above date at 6:00pm at 120 N Main Street for a special meeting. The following members present were: Bahr, Babcock, Flihs, Blackmun, Wells and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Also present were: Deputy Finance Officer April Abeln and Attorney Johnson.

At 6:00pm the Council adjourned into executive session on a motion by Babcock and seconded by Flihs to discuss personnel matters under SDCL 1-25-2 (1) & (3). All members present voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 7:20pm.

Moved by Bahr and seconded by Wells to approve authorization to bid Phase II of the Water System Improvement, Water Main Extension "Sch A". All members voted aye.

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Babcock to adjourn the meeting at 7:23pm. All members voted aye.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor
 April Abeln, Deputy Finance Officer

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$10.49. 20843

Frederick Town Jan. 12, 2022

Meeting Minutes

Town of Frederick
 January 12, 2022 Minutes
 Frederick's town board meeting was held Wednesday, January 12, 2022 in the Frederick Community Center beginning at 7 PM. Attending the meeting were Chairman Scott Campbell, Board member Jeff Kusters, and Assistant Finance Officer Mariah Heine.

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

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

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
 MDU electric BP/Wtr/Mun Bldg/SP/Sts/Swr/EBL \$1,181.01; USPS stamps Grbg/Swr/Wtr \$174; American Bus Solutions envelopes Grbg/Swr/Wtr \$350.26; Badger Meter meter fees Wtr \$116.59; Century Bus Products lease & copies Gen'l \$87.48; Community Store supplies EBL \$9.59; D. Bruns CC \$146.14; D. Bruns wage FO \$1,484.95; DANR drinking water fee Wtr \$150; Dependable Sanitation Grbg \$1,690; EFPTS taxes Gen'l/FO/CC/EBL/Sts/Wtr/Swr \$1,031.02; USDA-RD loan Swr \$3,763; FDC Econ Dev \$1,200; FU Oil propane EBL \$383.08; JC Campbell bond FO \$525; GDI minutes Gen'l \$239.85; J. Kusters wage Gen'l \$138.52; JVT phone/svc FO/EBL/Wtr/Gen'l \$344.33; M. Cox wage EBL \$583.29; M. Heine wage FO \$1,009.85; R. Bakeberg sexton wage Cmtry \$253.96; R. Bakeberg wage St/Wtr/Swr \$1,194.40; R. Bakeberg veh. Allow St/Wtr/Swr \$75; R.S. Campbell wage Gen'l \$161.61; R.S. Campbell reimburse parts Sts \$54.86; SD Dept of Health coliform test Wtr \$30; SD Dept of Rev sales tax Grbg \$77.61; SD Gov't FO Assoc dues FO \$70; SDML membership Gen'l \$386.99; SDML Worker's Comp fees Gen'l \$617; T. Millard wage Gen'l \$138.52; USDA-RD loan Wtr \$475; WEB Water Wtr \$3,626.55; USPS stamps Grbg/Swr/Wtr \$177; Dahme Construction bill Swr \$1,431.11

OLD BUSINESS
 The technology that reads

water meters went out on December 20th and there was discussion about how to resolve the issue of reading water meters.

NEW BUSINESS
 The board will contact the lawyer to determine if further action needs to be taken regarding the contract with Brown County Sheriff's Department. Motion to include a bill from Dahme Construction that was billed in November in this month's AP made by Kusters/Campbell; motion carried. There was no additional equipment to be added to the list held by Brown County Emergency Management. The Finance Officer's request for a COLA wage increase was tabled.

Motion to adjourn made by Kusters/Campbell at 7:42 PM; motion carried.

M. Heine
 Assistant Finance Officer
 Published once at the total approximate cost of \$27.59. 20844

Groton City Water Main Bid Notice

ADVERTISEMENT WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE II WATER MAIN EXTENSION "SCHEDULE A" GROTON, SD

Sealed Bids will be received by the City of Groton, 120 N Main Street, PO Box 587, Groton, SD 57445, until 2:30 PM local time on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, for the above referenced project. Bids shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the Bidding Documents. The City of Groton reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all Bids as set forth in the Bidding Documents.

At or shortly after the time named above and within the office of the City of Groton, Groton, SD such Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids will be reviewed by the City of Groton at a subsequent meeting of the Groton City Council.

The Project includes the following Work:

- Installation of approximately 3215 LF of 8" PVC water main.
- Installation of 547 LF of 8" PVC water main by Horizontal Directional Drilling.
- Boring & Jacking 320' of 16" steel casing for 8" PVC water main crossing BNSF RR.
- Installation of 144 LF of 6" PVC water main by Horizontal Directional Drilling.
- Installation of 1260' of 6" PVC water main
- Installation of 3880 Ton Gravel Surfacing.

As per the Contract Documents, the date for Substantial Completion on this project is September 30, 2022.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Documents. The Successful Bidder will be required to provide Payment and Performance Bonds as described in the Bidding Documents.

Bidding Documents may be viewed and obtained at www.questcdn.com by entering Quest project number 7958512. Please contact QuestCDN Customer Support at 952-233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance. Upon request, one copy of Plans and Specifications shall be furnished, without charge, to each Contractor resident in South Dakota who intends, in good faith, to bid upon the project.

Bidders shall comply with the Equal Opportunity Clause published at 41 CFR Part 60 and Executive Orders 11246, 11518, and 11625, as amended. This requires Bidders will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Requirements are explained further in the specifications.

Bidders on this work shall be required to comply with Title

40 CFR 33 and Executive Order 12138. The requirements for Bidders and Contractors under this regulation which concerns utilization of Disadvantaged/Minority Business Enterprises (DBE/MBE) and Women's Business Enterprises (WBE) are explained in the specifications. The DBE/MBE and WBE goals for participation in this contract in terms of percentage of contract value are as follows:

Disadvantaged/Minority Business Enterprises: 1%
 Women's Business Enterprises: 4%

Davis-Bacon and Related Acts wages apply to this project in its entirety. All provisions relative to those acts must be met.

The low responsive bidder will be required to certify to compliance with the American Iron and Steel provision of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014. This certification form may be found on page AIS-21 and 22 of the State Revolving Fund (SRF) General Conditions and must be included in the bid proposal.

Please be advised that waivers or exemptions from the American Iron and Steel provision that cite International Trade Agreements DO NOT comply with the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 as it applies to the SRF programs. Claims from suppliers that the American Iron and Steel provision does not apply to certain products based on the International Trade Agreement exemptions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 will not be accepted.

The successful bidder, including any contractors and their subcontractors on the project, must be registered in SAM.gov (System for Award Management).

The low responsive bidder must assure compliance with the requirements of Public Law 115-232, Section 889, Prohibition on Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment.

BY: April Abeln, Interim Finance Officer
 PUBLISHING DATES: January 26, 2022
 February 2, 2022
 Published twice at the approximate cost of \$84.44. 20841

Brown County Microsurfacing Bid Notice

ADVERTISEMENT
 2022 Brown County Microsurfacing Project

Sealed Bids will be received by the Commissioners of Brown County, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 57401, (605) 626-7110, until 8:46 AM local time on Tuesday, the 8th day of February 2022 for the above referenced project. Bids shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the Bidding Documents. Brown County reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all Bids as set forth in the Bidding Documents.

At or shortly after the time named above and within the meeting of the County Commission, such bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at or shortly after the time named above.

The Project includes the following Work:

- Microsurfacing for approximately 28 miles including: rut fill, scratch course, and surface course.
- Additional items as set forth in the Contract Documents.

The Work to be performed under this contract shall be substantially completed by September 2, 2022.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Documents. The Successful Bidder will be required to provide Payment and Performance Bonds as described in the Bidding Documents.

Bidding documents may be viewed and obtained at www.questcdn.com by entering QuestCDN project number 8106901. If you need assistance with the website, please contact QuestCDN Customer Support at 952-233-1632 or info@questcdn.com.

ATTEST: Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor (0126.0202)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$33.12. 20842

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Lana's Annals by Lana Greenfield

Greetings to you all! We have just finished legislative week 2. Session has begun rather slowly, but committees are starting to hear bills and will ramp up from now on.

As chair of the education committee, I invited Dr. Maher, executive director of the Board of Regents, as an informational guest. He gave us an overview of the status of our universities, and we now have a total enrollment of 35,542 enrolled (university students both full and part time). The help centers, called opportunity centers, have replaced diversity offices. This may not seem to be a gripping idea to the average reader, but it creates an avenue for all students who have questions about needs they have, not just critical care offices used by small groups of students who want to promote their own causes. I really am pleased as has been what I have promoted for about 2 years now.

Our committee also heard from SDSU President Dunn, who informed us about a new degree in concrete construction, which many businesses think is needed for our state. BHSU President Nichols also told us about a new forestry degree being offered at her university. I think these two programs may be great to add. I did ask them, though, if programs are added, are they also studying ones that are losing enrollment and should be eliminated. I was assured that this is mandated in SB55 and is being carefully researched.

I also invited Secretary of Education, Tiffany Sanderson, to our committee, and she gave us an overview of the findings of the 5 year teacher compensation review that met this summer and of which I was a member. It is no secret that there is a teacher shortage in every state in the nation. We did find that those who are education majors in SD is growing so that is encouraging. Statistics show that our average teacher salaries in South Dakota have increased by 22 per cent in the past five years and has made us second in the nations for rate of increase. We have an actual parity ranking of 45th in the nation even though we listed as 50th in pay. She also stated that the current average SD teacher salary plus benefits is 71,000 dollars. Now that said, we have many teachers at retirement age, so that average will inevitably drop as beginning, inexperienced teachers will come in at a lower base rate.

The bill of the week in our education committee was known as the "Moment of Silence," HB1015. At the start, I thought it sounded like a good idea as it would give children a time of quiet and reflection to start the day, a time to take a breath. However, we committees are in place to listen to testimony. During that time, the chief testifier was asked what would happen if the teacher/school did not observe the moment of silence. We were told that if passed and enacted into a law, the school could be in jeopardy of accreditation status for violating that law. This became a great deal breaker for me. Would this be a good reason to close certain schools? I then began thinking about teachers. What about an instructor? If he/she was only observing this for 10 seconds rather than one minute (the bill said up to one minute) or forgot to do it a few mornings, could this become a part of a poor evaluation? Would the teacher possibly be fired for insubordination (this term is on teaching contracts)? Some readers may look at this as "a stretch of the bill." I look at it as "unintended consequences." Therefore, I honored the vote to send the bill to the 41st day, which killed the bill in committee.

In local government we listened to HB1076 which would allow certain communities to elect aldermen at large. Again, at first glance, I thought this may be a decent bill. After all, we small town people have a hard time getting people to run for aldermen, let alone confine that to a specific area. I did, however, find it questionable that the size of the town was set at less than 2000.. One would think a town of 1500, for example, would be able to at least one person from a designated ward to run for office or at least be compelled to step up. In committee an amendment, brought by the sponsor, now called for the magic number to be a town less than 3000. This told me that someone from some town in South Dakota looked at the bill ahead of time and wanted their town to be included. Possible red flag. I started thinking about towns, projects, fights over projects, etc. This bill could essentially create a monopoly where a group from one city block of town could get elected to the board to push some agenda for their area. It also could mean that 5 people from the same household could run! Again, a stretch? Well, it could happen. I think there should be a person from each area providing a cross section of each part of a city. If we are able to do this in my town of 180, a town of 2500 should be able to. I was one of the 4 "no" votes so now it will go to the floor for debate. Stay tuned.

I would encourage everyone to get online and listen to our committee meetings. Just go to South Dakota State Legislature and find the committee you wish to hear. I also invite you to come to Pierre to our capitol to testify on a bill or just to visit. We are no longer doing testimony by phone but our IRC or I can direct you how to get on zoom.

I can best be reached by messaging me at lane.greenfield@sdlegislature.gov.

Until next week, stay safe and well.

Rep. Lana Greenfield, Dist. 2

Groton Prairie Mixed

Team Standings: Cheetahs 15 ½, Chipmunks 15, Shih Tzus 8 ½, Jackelopes 8, Foxes 8, Coyotes 5

Men's High Games: Brad Waage 213, 189, Lance Frohling 212, Brad Larson 181

Women's High Games: Nancy Radke 184, Cindy Frohling 181, Brenda Waage 169

Men's High Series: Brad Waage 577, Lance Frohling 548, Mike Siegler 505

Women's High Series: Michelle Johnson 453, Nancy Radke 448, Lori Wiley 429

Glimpses From Greenfield 2022–Week 2

The second week of the 2022 Session found a number of legislators taking to meeting from remote locations because of COVID afflictions. Last Monday night, I swabbed my nose, and when the test yielded my results a few minutes later, I was greeted by bright pink and vivid blue lines. Immediately, I began planning to return to Clark where I quarantined the remainder of the week. On Tuesday, there were three of us in "COVID jail". On Wednesday, one of the Senators returned from his Week 1 quarantine, so only two of us "dialed it in" by meeting remotely. However, Thursday, we were back up to three, and by Friday, there were five Senators in COVID quarantine. Upon speaking with Representative Greenfield, I learned that a significant number of House members were also meeting from remote locations. Meeting remotely is only an option for those who are dealing with COVID, as we want to protect each other from being exposed to the virus, while not allowing people to abuse the remote option for other reasons. We maintain the outlook that if at all possible, people need to be at the Capitol in-person to meet with constituents who travel to Pierre to participate in the process. For any of you who I missed last week, please know that I would have been there if I could have been there. Also, to my 99- and 97-year-old grandparents who are learning for the first time that I had COVID last week, I didn't want to worry you so I asked people not to tell you!

Although I was away, I was EXTREMELY BUSY via electronics. Appropriations met, both as a House/Senate Joint Committee, and in sub-groups appointed to deal with specific issues. One such group that I am the chairman of has been discussing options for addressing the sales tax rate. In 2016, when the additional one-half percent was imposed, there was an amendment put on the bill stating that we would systematically roll the tax rate back to 4% if-and-when we were allowed to impose sales tax on sales that took place through "remote" internet sellers. As you know, South Dakota argued successfully before the Supreme Court that all sales, whether on Main Street or through cyberspace should and could be treated the same. Now that the taxes are being equally applied, there is a focus on attempting to make good on that statute. In future weeks, I will apprise you of progress being made on the issue.

Another sub-committee I am chairing is looking at the processes we follow regarding allocating and expending the unprecedented amounts of federal tax dollars that continue to flow into SD due to COVID legislation passed by Congress. That group's work is in its infancy, as we have only had about an hour-and-a-half preliminary meeting. More to come on that front, as well.

Some of the issues we deal with in Pierre take on a much higher profile than others. Still other bills seek to "clean-up" problems and oversights that exist in current law. One such bill is SB 29 which seeks to delineate between regular motor vehicles and highway maintenance vehicles. It is not a glamorous issue, but it is a good example of how we attempt to clarify ambiguities that exist within the law whether they are brought up by bureaucrats or constituents. In this case, current law says that all motorists must abide by minimum speed limits on interstate highways. However, it does not provide for an exception for highway equipment operated by personnel performing maintenance duties. This is so common sense that it is surprising it ever came up. However, as they say, "Words have meaning." When a law sweeps EVERYBODY into the same category, it sometimes overlooks things. I say this as a reminder that if you have an issue that just "doesn't seem right", you should bring it up and see whether it is covered somewhere else, or if it needs to be addressed via legislation.

Another such issue that will be discussed in a future article was brought to my attention by Randy Angermeier who heads up the Clark Ambulance Service, as it relates to processes they follow and costs they incur because of our law. According to Randy, we are the only state in the Union who hasn't changed their law as new medical technologies allow for cost-savings, while not jeopardizing the safety of those they serve. Stay tuned in future weeks as that issue works its way through the process.

The most notable bill of the second week was SB 46, which the Governor brought forward to deal with the "women in sports" issue. This has gotten all kinds of attention over the past few years, so I will not go on at-length about it. I look at it from a safety and fairness perspective. Regarding safety, we acknowledge that certain individuals have physical attributes that would serve to put them at an advantage or disadvantage over others. One argument that had never crossed my mind until this weekend is that in SD for decades, the SDHSAA has required wrestlers to participate within certain weight groups. From time-to-time, you will hear of a youngster who doesn't meet the minimum weight for wrestling in the 106-pound division. On the flip-side, I remember when I was in school, one of my friends actually had to cut weight so he didn't exceed 285 pounds in order to wrestle Heavyweight. The policies are objective—dare I say, agnostic—as to what the muscular attributes are of any of the kids participating. They simply assume it is reasonable to confine people to certain weight classifications, without allowing for somebody deemed too light or too heavy to participate until they achieve the minimum or maximum allowable weight. Again, the focus is on safety. On the fairness front, although not all boys or all girls are built the same, it stands to reason that biology dictates boys have increased heart, lung, and muscular capacities that will allow them certain advantages. If even one biological boy takes away opportunities from one biological girl, not to mention scholarship opportunities at the next level, the spirit of Title IX is being subverted. I commend the Governor for her leadership on this issue. It cannot go unnoticed that because of what we have seen taking place as biological males have begun taking opportunities and accolades from biological females across the country, as well as the Governor taking a very active lead on this issue, last year's legislation passed the Senate 20-15, while this year's legislation passed the same body comprised of the same membership, 27-6, with 2 excused.

Until next time, please pray for continued health and wisdom for ALL those you care about. As a legislator, I covet the prayers of those who lift us up. Thank you. God's blessing to each of you.

Brock

Lady Tigers take wind out of Cyclones

Groton Area's girls basketball team had a 14-point rally to overcome a seven point deficit and post a 50-44 win over Clark-Willow Lake. The game was played Thursday in Clark.

The Cyclones took a 13-11 first quarter lead and the Tigers had a nine-point rally followed by a 14-point rally to take the lead for good in the third quarter. Groton Area led, 26-22, at halftime and 40-27 after three quarters of play. Clark/Willow Lake closed to within three, 42-39, with three minutes left in the game but the Tigers made six of eight free throws down the stretch to secure the win.

Gracie Traphagen led the Tigers with 16 points and nine rebounds while Allyssa Locke had 12, Brooke Gengerke eight, Alyssa Thaler six, Jaedyn Penning had two points and Kennedy Hansen and Aspen Johnson each had one point.

Groton Area made 16 of 48 field goals for 33 percent, 13 of 23 free throws for 56 percent, had 14 team fouls and eight turnovers.

The Cyclones made 15 of 39 field goals for 38 percent, nine of 16 free throws for 56 percent, had 21 team fouls and 11 turnovers.

Groton Area is now 6-5 on the season while Clark/Willow Lake goes to 2-7.

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

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 32-8. Jaedyn Penning led Groton Area with 11 points while Mia Crank and Brooklyn Hansen each had five, Faith Traphagen four, Kennedy Hansen, Talli Wright and Elizabeth Flihs each had two points and Jerica Locke added a free throw.

The junior varsity game was also broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM with an anonymous sponsor.

- Paul Kosel

Six wrestlers place at Kingsbury County Invitational

Six Groton Area grapplers placed at the Kingsbury County Invitational held Saturday in Arlington. Liza Krueger and Lane Krueger placed second, Christian Ehresmann placed third, Pierce Kettering and Korbin Kucker placed fourth and Brevin Flihs placed sixth.

106: Walker Zoellner (8-12)

Champ. Round 1 - Blake Steiner (Sisseton) 9-7 won by decision over Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 8-12 (Dec 9-3)

Cons. Round 1 - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 8-12 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 2 - Lane Albrecht (Kingsbury County) 11-9 won by fall over Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 8-12 (Fall 2:00)

113: Porter Johnson (12-17) scored 4.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 12-17 won by forfeit over Forfeit Forfeit (Hamlin) 13-8 (For.)

Quarterfinal - Holden Hawkins (Sisseton) 18-3 won by fall over Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 12-17 (Fall 1:52)

Cons. Round 2 - Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 12-17 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 3 - Conner Zens (Redfield Area) 18-8 won by major decision over Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 12-17 (MD 9-0)

113-G: Liza Krueger (3-3) placed 2nd.

Round 1 - Ava Stanley (Brookings) 6-1 won by fall over Liza Krueger (Groton Area) 3-3 (Fall 1:08)

Round 2 - Ava Stanley (Brookings) 6-1 won by fall over Liza Krueger (Groton Area) 3-3 (Fall 0:39)

120: Isaiah Scepaniak (3-17)

Champ. Round 1 - Carter Schulte (Faulkton Area) 11-17 won by fall over Isaiah Scepaniak

(Groton Area) 3-17 (Fall 0:30)

Cons. Round 1 - Isaiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 3-17 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 2 - Blake Jennings (Kingsbury County) 5-8 won by fall over Isaiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 3-17 (Fall 0:09)

132: Pierce Kettering (24-14) placed 4th and scored 16.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Pierce Kettering (Groton Area) 24-14 won by forfeit over Forfeit Forfeit (Sioux Falls Washington) 5-15 (For.)

Quarterfinal - Tanner Frickson (Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle) 22-6 won by major decision over Pierce Kettering (Groton Area) 24-14 (MD 15-6)

Cons. Round 2 - Pierce Kettering (Groton Area) 24-14 won by forfeit over Forfeit Forfeit (Faulkton Area) 9-16 (For.)

Cons. Round 3 - Pierce Kettering (Groton Area) 24-14 won by decision over Brodyrck Gravdal (Canby) 4-10 (Dec 5-0)

Cons. Semi - Pierce Kettering (Groton Area) 24-14 won by decision over Boe Iverson (Sisseton) 17-8 (Dec 7-2)

3rd Place Match - Tanner Frickson (Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle) 22-6 won by decision over Pierce Kettering (Groton Area) 24-14 (Dec 5-2)

132: Cameron Johnson (0-5)

Champ. Round 1 - Mason Mathis (Brookings) 5-11 won by fall over Cameron Johnson (Groton Area) 0-5 (Fall 1:09)

Cons. Round 1 - Cameron Johnson (Groton Area) 0-5 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 2 - Brodyrck Gravdal (Canby) 4-10 won by decision over Cameron Johnson (Groton Area) 0-5 (Dec 2-0)

138: Nick Morris (1-7)

Champ. Round 1 - Luke Steffensen (Kingsbury County) 13-11 won by fall over Nick Morris (Groton Area) 1-7 (Fall 2:47)

Cons. Round 1 - Nick Morris (Groton Area) 1-7 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 2 - Brevin Flihs (Groton Area) 18-12 won by fall over Nick Morris (Groton Area) 1-7 (Fall 1:55)

138: Brevin Flihs (18-12) placed 6th and scored 11.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Brevin Flihs (Groton Area) 18-12 won by fall over Justin Klein (Flan-dreau) 11-17 (Fall 4:27)

Quarterfinal - Clayton Dulany (Warner/Northwestern) 20-10 won by decision over Brevin Flihs (Groton Area) 18-12 (Dec 7-1)

Cons. Round 2 - Brevin Flihs (Groton Area) 18-12 won by fall over Nick Morris (Groton Area) 1-7 (Fall 1:55)

Cons. Round 3 - Brevin Flihs (Groton Area) 18-12 won by decision over Brock Gisselbeck (Hamlin) 15-11 (Dec 9-8)

Cons. Semi - Blessing Taniah (Sioux Falls Washington) 20-7 won by major decision over

Brevin Flihs (Groton Area) 18-12 (MD 14-4)
5th Place Match - Clayton Dulany (Warner/Northwestern) 20-10 won by fall over Brevin Flihs (Groton Area) 18-12 (Fall 4:23)

145: Christian Ehresmann (23-6) placed 3rd and scored 19.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 23-6 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 23-6 won by fall over Tristan Penny (Lyman County) 26-15 (Fall 5:33)

Semifinal - Mason Whitley (Redfield Area) 22-7 won by decision over Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 23-6 (Dec 3-0)

Cons. Semi - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 23-6 won by fall over Garrett Cramer (Faulkton Area) 23-14 (Fall 0:23)

3rd Place Match - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 23-6 won by major decision over Chase Chambers (Hamlin) 22-9 (MD 11-0)

152: Korbin Kucker (18-16) placed 4th and scored 18.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 18-16 won by fall over Braydon Pueppke (Sioux Falls Washington) 1-4 (Fall 1:29)

Quarterfinal - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 18-16 won by fall over Lincoln Fortin (Warner/Northwestern) 14-8 (Fall 5:33)

Semifinal - Tance Wagner (Lyman County) 36-3 won by fall over Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 18-16 (Fall 1:38)

Cons. Semi - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 18-16 won by fall over Dylan Murray (Redfield Area) 15-12 (Fall 4:43)

3rd Place Match - Joey Firzpatrick (Brookings) 13-8 won by fall over Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 18-16 (Fall 3:54)

220: Lane Krueger (19-7) placed 2nd and scored 20.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 19-7 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 19-7 won by decision over Gavin Noyes (Canby) 15-14 (Dec 8-7)

Semifinal - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 19-7 won by fall over Preston Cavalier (Warner/Northwestern) 16-9 (Fall 5:36)

1st Place Match - Luke Rasmussen (Brookings) 22-0 won by fall over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 19-7 (Fall 3:02)

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Dear EarthTalk: What's up with all the debate lately as to the flow allowed in new showerheads?

—Bill G., New York, NY

EARTHTALK

use 7.5 GPM.

The shower is a place of rejuvenation and relaxation for many of us, but it is also a big water hog, accounting for roughly 17 percent of the average U.S. household's water usage. Of course, we use a lot less water in our showers nowadays thanks to a Clinton-era law mandating that new showerheads sold in the U.S. could not top a flow rate of 2.5 gallons per minute (GPM). While some showerhead manufacturers attempted to circumvent these new restrictions by utilizing multiple nozzles, the federal government eventually revised the legislation (in 2013) to limit entire fixtures to 2.5 GPM.

During his term in the White House, Donald Trump often complained about his dissatisfaction with the water pressure in his showers. In December 2020 Trump reversed the Obama-era amendment; this restored the federal limit of 2.5 GPM to be applied to individual nozzles instead of the entire fixture. This meant that a shower head with three nozzles would be permitted to

Although Trump's law did not have a significant impact on the market demand for luxury shower heads, the loophole posed detrimental environmental impacts. Americans take about 200 million showers every day. The Alliance of Water Efficiency estimates that under Trump's rule the country's water usage would increase by 161 billion gallons per year. An increase in water usage also results in more energy use to heat that water, which in turn increases greenhouse gas emissions.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), homes that have switched out older less efficient showerheads with newer models have realized savings of some 2,700 gallons of water per year. This equates to a savings of 330 kilowatt hours of electricity annually, which is enough to power an entire house for 11 days. The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) estimates that the average American household stands to save \$500 per year on utility bills after switching to low-flow shower heads. The group estimates that the nationwide transition to lower flow showerheads now underway can generate annual savings of \$2.9 billion in water utilities and \$2.5 billion in energy costs.

Saving water by using a low-flow shower head is a great start, but if you're looking for more ways to maximize your impact, the EPA has a few suggestions. When it comes to appliances, making sure to fix leaks is one easy way to save water. Additionally, whenever you need to run your dishwasher or washing machine, make sure you are optimizing for water- and energy-efficiency by only running it with a full load. Lastly, landscaping is always a talking point when it comes to reducing residential water use. If you have a lawn, it is recommended to save water by replacing it with native plants that don't require additional watering. If you're not ready to part with your lawn, the EPA suggests keeping the grass two to three inches high to ensure the soil retains water, reducing the need for frequent watering.

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The Biden administration recently restored a Clinton-era rule mandating all new showerheads sold in the U.S. adhere to water-saving "low-flow" standards.

Credit: pexels.com.

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The Physician-Patient

Last spring, I was at home washing my hands, and as I glanced up into the mirror, I noticed something unusual. My bathroom light hit my neck just right as I swallowed and there it was: a prominent lump. I diagnosed myself with a thyroid nodule and wondered how I, a physician, had failed to notice this large protuberance before that moment.

Thyroid nodules are quite common. In some cases, they are noticed by the patient (like me) or are found on exam. In many cases they are found on accident when someone has an imaging test like a CT scan, MRI, or ultrasound, done for some other reason. The vast majority of thyroid nodules are benign, only five percent or less representing thyroid cancer.

Typically, if a thyroid nodule is found, thyroid labs and a formal thyroid ultrasound will be recommended. The size and characteristics of the nodule on the ultrasound helps to guide whether a fine needle aspiration (a type of biopsy) should be performed. Many nodules are fluid filled and small, which we know conveys almost no risk of being cancerous, so those can be watched without biopsy.

In my case the nodule was medium sized, two centimeters in diameter, and had slight irregularity such that it was "mildly suspicious" and did warrant biopsy. As a physician-patient awaiting my procedure, I knew that the data said my nodule was still very low risk of being cancerous, but I still had some anxiety about the worst-case scenario.

My colleague, a surgeon, performed my fine needle aspiration expertly the next month. The procedure was easy, done in the office with minimal discomfort. She drained out enough fluid that I no longer had a visible neck lump afterward. My results returned benign, a huge relief.

My thyroid nodule story is a typical one and leaves me with the following advice for others. If a nodule is characterized as benign on ultrasound, rest assured, as these guidelines are sound and based in excellent data. If your doctor recommends a biopsy, try not to lose too much sleep; the procedure is very tolerable, and still most nodules are benign.

I had the good fortune of knowing that even if my mass turned out to be cancer, most thyroid cancers have excellent cure rates. However, I am oddly grateful to have had a small taste of the health stress my patients deal with daily. I hope it improves my doctoring.

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