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The Groton Independent

Vol. 139

No. 39 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ♦ Established in 1889

Garcia resigns as Groton Police Officer

The Groton City Council met in regular session Tuesday night where a resignation, some hirings and a pay increase were given.

The council accepted the resignation of Tony Garcia as city police officer. An offer was extended to Casey Hight but on Wednesday morning, he informed Police Chief Stacy Mayou that he would not accept the position. That means the city will be advertising for a new police officer.

Aaron Severson, seasonal employee, was given a raise to \$16 an hour. Ryan Groeblichhoff was hired as grounds keeping and Mia Crank as a ticket tacker.

In other action:

- * Approved of a Farmers Market on Main Street for one time to see how it will go.
- * Approved the installation of electricity at the airport at a cost of \$12,000. The airport is currently closed through the end of June due to flooding on the south end of the airport.
- * Approved to provide mosquito control to the City of Bristol at a rate of time and half for the employee plus mileage and cost of chemicals.
- * Appointed Andrea Eisenbeisz for a one-year term on the Library Board.
- * Approved to have painted art and activities on the sidewalk around city hall.
- * Approved Harrison's First Addition Plat.
- * It was reported that the Pantry received 700 pounds of food from the the rural mail carriers food drive.

Pool Update

The Groton City Council has been in contact with the contractor for refinishing the swimming pool, Go Get Fred. The concern from Go Get Fred was that if it rained during the installation process, the plaster could be ruined and would have to be removed.

When there is a chance of rain during a three-day stretch, they would not do the work. Councilmembers Kevin Nehls and Brian Bahr were in contact with Go Get Fred and along with Mayor Scott Hanlon. It was agreed that Go Get Fred needs to get to town and begin the work on Thursday. There are a few days with a chance of rain. The National Weather Service has said that the rain cycle is unprecedented for this time of year.

It will be a calculated risk by the city to proceed with the work. A tarp will be purchased and if it does rain during the work period, councilmen will consult with Go Get Fred on the best way to proceed. Normally, if it rains during an installation, the plaster needs to be removed and started from scratch. The city has agreed not to hold Go Get Fred liable for costs incurred due to rain.

Proposed Opening Date of the Pool: June 15th
Weather Permitting



L-R Addison Ward, Tina Zoellner, Cadence Feist, Paisley Mitchell, Turner Thompson, and Garret Jorgensen. Not pictured Isaiah Scepaniak. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)

2022 AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA ANNOUNCES ELECTION RESULTS AND AWARDS

The 177 high school boys, both juniors and seniors, who were delegates to the 79th Annual Session of The American Legion Boys State of South Dakota, held their general election for state officers on Thursday, June 2nd. After lunch, election results were announced by Boys State Director, Chris VanDelist, and are as follows.

Jason Lenning of Harrisburg, who will be a senior this year at Sioux Falls Christian, was elected as Governor. Elected as Lt. Governor was Evan Gran of Sioux Falls, who is a student at Harrisburg High School.

Jason Lenning of Sioux Falls and Dustin Hermansen of Aberdeen were selected as the two delegates to represent South Dakota at The American Legion Boys Nation in Washington, D.C. in July. Ben Lust of Rapid City and Zachary Wrightsman of Sioux Falls were selected as Alternate Delegates.

Maxwell Lightfield of Milbank was selected as the 2022 recipient of the Samsung, American Legion Scholarship award. Maxwell's application has been forwarded to the National American Legion Selection Committee. The committee will award ten, \$10,000 scholarships to the National Finalists.

Other election results were James Park of Brookings for Attorney General; Jack Hinrichs of Sioux Falls for Secretary of State; Shane Rist of Centerville as State Auditor; **Jacob Lewandowski of Groton as State Treasurer**; and Josiah Sabrowski-Johnson of Rapid City as Commissioner of School and Public Lands. Elected as members of the Public Utilities Commission were Ethan Boekelheide of Northville, Jacob Shelstad of Ortonville, MN, and Aidan Foell of Milbank.

In non-political elections, the delegates also elected four justices to serve on the Supreme Court. Elected as Supreme Court Justices were Ethan Fergel of Aberdeen, Joe Osmundson of Sioux Falls, Christopher Gaikowski of Webster, and Tice Mursu of Big Stone City. Maxell Lightfield of Milbank was elected the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

Matthew Mork of Pierpont was selected as the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Zachary Wrightsman of Sioux Falls was elected as the President Pro-Tem. Jack Hinrichs of Sioux Falls was selected as the Nationalist Party Chairman and Joel Tramp of Custer was the Nationalist Party Keynote Speaker. The Federalist Party chose Isaiah Hoekman of Hartford as their Party Chairman, and Brody Riggs of Mitchell as their Keynote Speaker. Jack Hinrichs of Sioux Falls captured the honors of Outstanding Speaker.

Preston Rosane of Martin was selected as the Outstanding Boys State Citizen and Quenton Walls of Huron received the Spirit of Boys State Award, which recognizes the Boys State Delegate who best exemplifies the purpose of American Legion Boys State of South Dakota. The Outstanding Journalist was Maxwell Kelsey of Oacoma.

American Legion Boys State of South Dakota was held on the campus of Northern State University in Aberdeen, May 30 - June 3, 2022.

Groton wins six of seven Clay Target Awards at Aberdeen Tournament

Groton High School did well in the Aberdeen High School Invitational Clay Target Tournament held last Saturday. Groton Area won six out of the seven awards. The event took place at the Aberdeen Gun Club trap range. Cadence Feist was top overall and top 9-10th grade female. Tina Zoellner top 11-12th female. Paisley Mitchell top JH female. Garret Jorgensen top 11-12th male. Turner Thompson top 9-10th male. Isaiah Scepaniak top JH male. Addison Ward won the door prize. All but Garret Jorgensen, Aberdeen, are from the Groton Area team. This group and others will compete this Saturday at the South Dakota State High School Clay Target League's 2022 State Tournament with more than 58 high school teams featuring over 900 student-athletes. This event will be at the Aberdeen Gun Club trap facility.



O'Neill hands Miss South Dakota Crown over to Widvey

Miss South Dakota 2021 Kaitlin O'Neill, Groton, crowns Miss South Dakota 2022, Hunter Widvey, Rapid City.

More advice for grads to ignore

Just about every year, I issue sage advice to graduates from this column, which is a lot like saying I beat my head against the wall annually about this time. I don't blame them, really. When I graduated, I knew everything, too, and anyway, unless I can translate this to a TikTok video, they'll have nodded off by now. Or, I could make matters even more confusing by writing this in cursive. They'd stare at it as if it were Egyptian hieroglyphics. There I go, taking passive-aggressive shots at the very audience I'm trying to reach. I get that from my mom, only she's mostly aggressive-aggressive.

I was talking with a friend of mine whose son just graduated from high school, and we agreed on one bit of advice for graduates. Save your money. Save something every paycheck and then invest it. You'll be able to retire at 50 instead of being stuck knocking off liquor stores like some of us, and I'm not naming names unless I get some kind of plea deal.

Another solid bit of financial advice I tell my kids is to develop a relationship with your banker if possible. And understand that debt can be a necessary tool or a burden. A good banker will help you navigate that terrain, and if not, you could just rob them, too.

It's important to love what you do. If you're in it only for the paycheck, you're going to get all sour, and the next thing you know, you'll be yelling at kids to stay off your lawn. This may well be the greatest market for labor in this country's history, and frankly, it's about time. Companies are begging for qualified employees. In my experience, if the situation is right, working for yourself is even better. It's not for everyone, but the personal freedom it involves can be rewarding. You'll earn it, though.

For some high school graduates, four years of college is the right launching pad. For others, military service offers great educational opportunities when you're done. And more and more I hear graduates tell me they're going to two-year technical programs which can lead to a high-paying job and less student loan debt. One thing to consider, though, is if the career is labor-intensive—carpentry can be tough—your body at 45 is not the same as it is at 25. By then, you'll want to have advanced to in-house management or even into owning your business.

Well, we've talked about work—and if you love what you do, it won't be work—but we haven't talked much about relaxation. Take that vacation. Go to that concert. Don't miss the kid's ballgame. Read a book. For God's sake, it's not like it's in cursive.

Furthermore, be a good, involved citizen, and that starts with being informed. If I had my way, I'd see to it that every school taught journalism and critical news consumption, so kids understood the difference between opinion and actual reporting. Too few adults do. Lord knows this country is in dire need of critical thinking. Get past bullet points. Challenge your beliefs as well as others. I spoke with a high school sophomore last weekend, and she told me she gets most of her information from TikTok, so I guess there's little chance of this column falling into the right hands. Well, a whole lot of adults get their news from Facebook and dubious YouTube videos.

In all seriousness, and this isn't just because I'm in the industry, the best, most in-depth and fair reporting still comes in print, in newspapers and magazines. Subscribe to a newspaper. Understand the difference between the front page and the opinion page, and if those pages are blurred, find another newspaper. There's a place for radio and television, too, but if you want to dig deep, print news reporters generally dig deeper.

Ultimately, a country and its government in a democracy is only as smart and as engaged as its citizens. I continue to be impressed with the caliber of today's graduates. What's unknown is just how engaged they are or will be. Those of us who came through the 60s and 70s and Vietnam and Watergate and a whole lot of other perils understand that engagement by a free press and an informed people is the only thing keeping us free. Pay attention.

© Tony Bender, 2022



That's Life

by Tony Bender

Weekly Vikings Recap

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

As we hit a lull in the offseason, we thought we'd take each week to look at different position groups for the Minnesota Vikings. We'll look at any competition that might occur, as well as make our predictions for who will make the final 53-man roster. This week we will look at the running backs and fullbacks currently on the Vikings.

Running backs: Dalvin Cook

The obvious star of the running back group in Minnesota is Dalvin Cook, who is coming off his third straight year of rushing for over 1100 yards. Cook will enter the 2022 season at the age of 27, an old age for running backs in the current NFL. Although Cook has been the centerpiece of the Vikings' offense for the past three seasons, I would expect his rushing attempts to decrease a little this year for many reasons. First, Justin Jefferson is already on his way to becoming one of the best wide receivers in football. Second, I believe the offense will look much more different this year with Kevin O'Connell calling plays. No longer will the Vikings run the ball on 2nd & long. Instead, I think Cook will make up for his decrease in rushing attempts with more usage in the passing game. Reports from camp indicate that we might see Cook line up at wide receiver at some points this year.

Alexander Mattison is the most intriguing story of the running backs for the Vikings this offseason. On one hand, he has been a consistent backup running back for the Vikings. With Cook's injury history, the Vikings have been able to rely on Mattison to take over the load for the games Cook is absent. On the other hand, Mattison is entering the final year of his rookie contract with the Vikings. I think the writing is on the wall that this will likely be Mattison's last year here. He will, deservedly, want a bigger role in an offense somewhere - and I do not think the Vikings' can offer him that.

Of the running backs on the Vikings' roster, Kene Nwangwu will see the biggest increase in workload this season. Last year, Nwangwu had a measly thirteen rushing attempts and five targets in the passing game. Despite that lack of production, Nwangwu was a star on special teams for the Vikings, returning two kickoffs for touchdowns. It appears that Nwangwu will never be that workhorse running back like Dalvin Cook is, but I do believe Nwangwu can add value to the Vikings offense if the new staff uses him appropriately.

The Vikings' lone rookie in the running back group is Ty Chandler out of North Carolina. Barring injuries to others, I do not expect Ty Chandler to make any sort of impact this year for the Vikings. I think he was drafted as the next backup guy for when Mattison leaves next offseason in free agency. Drafting Chandler now allows the Vikings to know what they will have at running back next year rather than having to feel forced to take one in next year's draft.

Fullbacks

Many thought that the hiring of Kevin O'Connell would mean the end of CJ Ham's tenure with the Vikings. In O'Connell's two years with the Los Angeles Rams, they never had a fullback on their roster. However, O'Connell has made it clear that his offense will not be identical to the one he ran with the Rams. One of the main differences we will see with O'Connell's offense will be his use of a fullback, allowing Ham to continue his career with the Vikings.

After going undrafted in the 2020 draft, Jake Bargas will be entering his third season with the Vikings. Unless Ham gets injured, I would expect Bargas to be subject to the Vikings' practice squad for a third straight season.

53-man roster predictions:

Running backs: Dalvin Cook, Alexander Mattison, Kene Nwangwu, and Ty Chandler

Fullbacks: CJ Ham

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**Brown County
May 31, 2022
Meeting Minutes**

MAY 31, 2022 – GENERAL MEETING

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

An opportunity for public comment was given.

LIEN RELEASE:

Commissioner Wiese offered the following Resolution:
RESOLUTION # 25-22

WHEREAS, Brown County has filed a Poor Relief Lien with a balance of \$9,340.93 and

WHEREAS, Brown County has determined it to be in the best interest of the taxpayers to release certain property from the effect of said lien, upon condition that the lien remain filed against the individual.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following real property, which is described as follows:

The East 47 feet of Lots 5 and 6, Block 14, Highland Park Addition to Aberdeen, according to the plat thereof of record, Brown County, South Dakota, is hereby released from the effect and force of said lien, and that the lien balance remain filed against the individual.

Dated this 31st day of May 2022.

Seconded by Commissioner Gage. Roll call vote: Commissioners Feickert-aye, Fjeldheim-aye, Gage-aye, Wiese-aye, Sutton-aye. Resolution adopted.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent, gave an update on road conditions after recent heavy rainfall.

2020 AUDIT CLOSING CONFERENCE:

Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to acknowledge the 2020 audit closing conference.

MINUTES:

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve the general meeting minutes of May 24th, 2022. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS:

Moved by Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims: Insurance: FINANCIAL SERVICES OF ABERDEEN, INC. \$675.00; Professional Fees: CHRISTY GRIFFIN-SERR LAW OFFICE \$8,541.67; COGLEY LAW OFFICE, PROF LLC \$8,541.67; DOHRER LAW OFFICE \$8,541.67; DREW BECKER \$200.00; JERALD M. MCNEARY \$8,541.67; KRISTI SPITZER \$1,800.00; KUCK LAW OFFICE \$8,541.67; LUMEN \$206.36; MARCO INC \$2,406.90; TALIAFERRO LAW FIRM \$8,541.67; UND Forensic Pathology \$4,760.00; US BANK \$350.26; Publishing: ABERDEEN PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY \$550.00; GateHouse Media South Dakota Holdings, Inc. \$25.16; Repairs & Maintenance: AUTO GLASS SOLUTIONS INC \$1,031.03; CRAWFORD TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT \$2,742.50; DAKOTA DOORS INC \$151.16; Ethan Westby \$1,100.00; GRAHAM TIRE INC \$100.00; HOVEN AUTO REPAIR INC \$65.74; JENSEN ROCK & SAND INC \$11,720.00; KIRBY KIESZ \$38.25; LEIDHOLT ELECTRIC LLC \$450.05; OTIS ELEVATOR \$2,875.68; POMPIS TIRE SERVICE, INC \$40.00; SANDERS'S SEW-N-VAC, INC \$271.98; Sioux Equipment \$1,900.00; US BANK \$553.18; WALTH SAFETY SERVICE INC \$472.50; Supplies: AL-COPRO, INC. \$324.45; CENTURY BUSINESS PRODUCTS \$465.40; COLE PAPERS \$1,169.23; CRAWFORD TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT \$3,768.19; CRICKET MEDIA INC. \$39.95; DAKOTA DOORS INC \$6.75; JENSEN ROCK & SAND INC \$7,391.12; KIRBY KIESZ, LLC \$132.88; LEIDHOLT ELECTRIC LLC \$52.35; MARCO INC \$18.18; MENARDS \$313.72; MIDWEST PUMP & TANK \$88.00; PERFORMANCE OIL & LUBRICANTS \$244.40; PHARMCHEM \$1,255.40; POMPIS TIRE SERVICE, INC \$255.24; QUALITY WELDING \$50.10; RUNNINGS \$320.85; Rus-

sell B. Landscaping \$393.97; Sioux Equipment \$1,684.93; US BANK \$17,402.73; VAN DIEST SUPPLY CO \$2,476.40; WALTH SAFETY SERVICE INC \$134.84; WEST PUBLISHING CORP. \$1,839.44; Travel & Conference: AARON WALBERG \$155.00; DENNIS WIEDEBUSH \$22.56; DUANE JARK \$52.17; Karla Nelson \$426.44; KATHY SCHLECHT \$14.00; US BANK \$2,000.48; Utilities: MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS \$139.17; NORTHWESTERN ENERGY & COMMUNICATIONS \$9,440.91; US BANK \$2,745.31; Others: ALAN P. OR ANGELA P. BERNARD \$13,017.63; DARWIN H. OR MARY J. BETTMANN \$1,952.65; DAVID AND JILL LEHMANN LIVING TRUST \$16,272.60; DONALD D. OR MAXINE E. FISCHER \$1,952.40; FDM REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST \$16,271.40; GREAT PLAINS BANK \$19,526.45; HERMAN SCHUMACHER \$8,136.30; JAMES D. GRESSETT \$16,271.40; JOHN KIPPLEY \$3,254.41; JOOP ANTONIUS HUBERTUS BOLLEN \$16,271.40; KENDALL OR LINDA PETERSON \$6,508.82; KENDALL PETERSON TRUSTEE PT 09 \$39,052.90; LYNETTE DURHEIM \$6,508.82; MARK & MARY VOLK \$13,017.63; PLAINS COMMERCE BANK - ABDN \$248,306.21; PYUSH RAMANLAL PATEL \$16,271.40; ROBERT M. OR LORA M. LARSON \$3,253.80.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT:

Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Feickert to approve the following Human Resource Report:

Approve return of Les Schaible as Brown County Highway full-time summer help at \$14.02 per hour, effective May 31, 2022.

Approve hiring of Terry Holder as Brown County Fairgrounds Maintenance worker, full-time; starting wage \$16.70 per hour; effective June 13, 2022.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

JDC COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH ABERDEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT:

Moved by Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve and authorize chair sign cooperative agreement with Aberdeen School District 6-1 to establish an educational program for youth placed in the juvenile detention center effective July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LEASES:

Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Gage to approve the following lease agreements:

Kylie Hawkins for lease of Club House September 24th, 2022; Aberdeen Downtown Association for lease of 1 stage June 16th, July 14th, August 26th and 27th, 2022; Horsemen's Association for lease of Akkerman Open Horse Arena June 5th, June 26th, July 17th, August 7th, 2022; Pastor Neil Hannahs (Northern Plains Baptist Church) for lease of Richmond Lake Youth Camp June 27th, July 3rd, 2022; Jark Auction Service for lease of Holum Expo Building June 25th, 2022; Nancy Schumacher for lease of Club House June 11th, 2022; South Dakota Quarter Horse Association for lease of Akkerman Open Horse Arena June 4th and August 21st, 2022; Dilon Freudenthal for lease of Club House October 1, 2022. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY CONTRACTOR AGREEMENT:

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize chair sign agreement between Brown County, SD and Robert R Schroeder Construction, Inc for work under contract BRO 8007(00)21-1; PCN 08FG Structure and Approach Grading Str, No. 07-110-057; Brown County, South Dakota.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to go into executive session to discuss legal and contracts per SDCL 1-25-2. 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 9:37a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

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**Columbia City
June 1, 2022
Meeting Minutes**

City of Columbia Council Meeting – June 1, 2022

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – 7:00 p.m.

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

Community – Jeremy Dosch, Chad Olsen, Meghan Butler, John Bisbee, Amanda Bisbee, Dwain Buntrock, Arlen Hanson, Judy Albrecht

Corey Mitchell called the meeting to order. Minutes were passed out from the May 3rd meeting. Cole Kampa made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All in favor – motion carried. Minutes were passed out from the May 16th meeting. Emily Eichler made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All in favor – motion carried.

Warrant Vouchers: Web Water – 39.58; Northwestern Energy – 664.83; JVT – 124.92; Dacotah Bank – 90.69; Cara Dennert – 1235.25; GDI –; Jeremy Dosch – 419.99; Runnings – 20.07; Menards – 21.74; NASASP – 39.00
Cole Kampa made a motion to accept the vouchers as presented. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All in favor – motion carried.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE – John Bisbee presented the board with a proposed ordinance to allow chickens within city limits. He had a petition signed by 28 residents. Mayor Corey Mitchell said that we will look into it further – it will be on the agenda again next month. Dwain wanted to know what we have planned for the old city park. He thinks that we should look into trying to get the water out. Arlen would also like a study of the water situation to be completed. The council stated that it was discussed at a city/community meeting in the spring of '21. The vote by the majority present at that meeting was to not put any further money into the park because of the water issue. Emily and Corey talked about the future plans for the old park. Someday when it is dry, it will be planted to grass. Amanda wanted to talk to the council about a city/neighborhood party being held on July 30th (sponsored by Dean Buntrock.) She stated there will be activities throughout the day, with a street dance and fireworks (barring any drought conditions) to conclude the day. She asked permission to use the lot across from the legion. She said that the vendor that they will be using for food would also like a one-day liquor license. Corey suggested that we shut down the street between the legion & house to the south for the event.

**Stratford Town
Water & Sewer
Hearing**

Notice of Public Hearing for the Town of Stratford Water & Sewer Improvements Project

The Town of Stratford is proposing to update their water & wastewater system. The proposed wastewater improvements under their wastewater collection system includes televising inspections. They are also proposing treatment facility improvements which includes access road and fencing updates. The proposed water improvements include updates to their water source which entails becoming a Class A bulk user. Updates to their water storage includes a new 20,000-gallon ground storage tank, pumping station, and a transmission line. Lastly, updates to their water distribution would include water meter installation, and a new 6" PVC Distribution system.

The Town of Stratford receives its water from WEB Rural Water. The current water rate is \$45 per 5,000 gallons. Sewer rates come in at \$36 per 5,000 gallons. The City will be submitting a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Application in the amount of \$3,498,800.00 to the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources along with a Clean Water State Revolving Fund Application in the amount of \$128,220.00. The funding may be awarded in the form of a grant, loan, or a principal forgiveness loan. Any portion of the water loan that is not forgiven will have a term of up to 30 years at a rate of up to 2.125% while wastewater will have a term limit up to 30 years at a rate up to 2.125%. The amount and source of funds will be determined by the Board of Water and Natural Resources when the application is presented at a scheduled board meeting. The purpose of the public hearing is to discuss the proposed project, the proposed financing, and the source of repayment for the loan. The public is invited to attend and comment on the project.

The public hearing will be held at the City Hall @ 7:00 pm on June 13, 2022.

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AUCTIONS

INTERSTATE AUCTION CENTER. June 18 10:00am. 3 Miles East of Sioux Falls exit 402 Brandon SD. Consignment Vehicles –tractors, trucks, trailers, livestock and farm equipment. Call 605-331-4550, auctionzip.com

EMPLOYMENT

FARM HELP WANTED: Full-time or summer time help. Must have farm and ranch experience. Duties include: cattle working, putting up hay and fencing. North Central SD. Call 605-380-8766.

SPINK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE has two Deputy openings. Starting pay for uncertified \$21.77, certified \$22.41. Call 605-472-4595 and ask for Sgt. Jenna Appel for application.

LAND

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MISCELLANEOUS

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4-Hit Day for Frey As Locke Electric Skirts Past Northville Merchants

Dylan Frey would not be denied at the plate on Sunday, picking up four hits and leading Locke Electric to a 16-5 win over Northville Merchants. Frey singled in the fourth, singled in the fourth, singled in the sixth, and singled in the eighth.

Locke Electric secured the victory thanks to nine runs in the fourth inning. Locke Electric big bats were led by Spencer Locke, Jonny Israel, Garret Knebel, Wilson Bonet, Colin Frey, and Frey, all knocking in runs in the inning.

In the first inning, Northville Merchants got their offense started when Bauer grounded out, scoring one run.

Locke Electric pulled away for good with nine runs in the fourth inning. In the fourth Locke's sac fly scored one run for Locke Electric, Israel singled on a 3-2 count, scoring one run, Knebel singled on a 0-1 count, scoring one run, Bonet singled on a 2-1 count, scoring one run, Frey drew a walk, scoring one run, Frey singled on a 1-1 count, scoring two runs, and an error scored two runs for Locke Electric.

Austin Jones was the winning pitcher for Locke Electric. The righthander surrendered three runs on five hits over four innings, striking out four. Israel threw four innings in relief out of the bullpen.

Waltman took the loss for Northville Merchants. The hurler lasted three innings, allowing four hits and eight runs while striking out five.

Locke Electric totaled 19 hits in the game. Frey, Evan Erickson, Knebel, Bonet, Frey, and Jones each collected multiple hits for Locke Electric. Frey went 4-for-6 at the plate to lead Locke Electric in hits.

Northville Merchants totaled 14 hits. Simes, McQuarie, Paulsen, Solheim, and Noah Fischbach each had multiple hits for Northville Merchants. Northville Merchants tore up the base paths, as two players stole at least two bases. Simes led the way with two.

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Groton Legion Post #39 Loses Lead Early in Defeat

Groton Legion Post #39 fell behind early and couldn't come back in a 12-1 loss to Smittys Legion 2022 on Monday. Smittys Legion 2022 took the lead on a single in the first inning.

The Groton Legion Post #39 struggled to contain the high-powered offense of Smittys Legion 2022, giving up 12 runs.

Smittys Legion 2022 got on the board in the first inning when Casey Vining singled on a 3-1 count, scoring one run.

Smittys Legion 2022 scored four runs in the fourth inning. The big inning for Smittys Legion 2022 came thanks to a single by Andrew Richardson and a double by Vining.

Brock Martin pitched Smittys Legion 2022 to victory. The pitcher surrendered zero runs on zero hits over three innings, striking out five. Jaiden Smith threw two innings in relief out of the bullpen.

Bradin Althoff took the loss for Groton Legion Post #39. The lefty allowed nine hits and eight runs over three and a third innings, striking out one.

Jackson Cogley went 1-for-1 at the plate to lead Groton Legion Post #39 in hits.

Smittys Legion 2022 tallied 13 hits in the game. Vining, Josh Steinwandt, Drew Salfrank, and Richardson each had multiple hits for Smittys Legion 2022. Vining led Smittys Legion 2022 with three hits in three at bats.

Groton Legion Post #39 Outdone by Smittys, 7-5

Brian Holmstrom got the win for Smittys Legion 2022. Holmstrom allowed one hit and one run over one and one-third innings, striking out two and walking zero. Nick Clemens threw two innings in relief out of the bullpen.

Ryan Groeblichhoff took the loss for Groton Legion Post #39. The pitcher went six and a third innings, allowing six runs on eight hits and striking out three.

Casey Vining started the game for Smittys Legion 2022. The pitcher surrendered two runs on three hits over three and two-thirds innings, striking out one.

Bradin Althoff led Groton Legion Post #39 with two hits in three at bats.

Smittys Legion 2022 scattered ten hits in the game. Holmstrom, Ethan Kjenstad, and Vining all collected multiple hits for Smittys Legion 2022. Smittys Legion 2022 didn't commit a single error in the field. Josh Steinwandt had the most chances in the field with seven.

Groton Jr. Teeners Defeats Aberdeen Despite Allowing 3-Run Inning

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U weathered a scare by Aberdeen in the third inning where Groton Jr. Teeners 14U coughed up three runs, but Groton Jr. Teeners 14U still won 19-4 on Sunday. Jarogoskie and A Williams all moved runners across the plate with RBIs in the inning.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U got things moving in the first inning. Groton Jr. Teeners 14U scored on a stolen base during Kellen Antonsen's at bat. Then Antonsen singled, driving in one.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U notched seven runs in the third inning. Tristin McGannon, Jarrett Erdmann, Karsten Flihs, Gavin Englund, Lincoln Krause, and Gavin Kroll all drove in runs in the frame.

Nicholas Morris earned the win for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. The righthander lasted four and two-thirds innings, allowing eight hits and four runs while striking out seven.

Steve Larson took the loss for Aberdeen. The pitcher allowed seven hits and seven runs over two innings, striking out two.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U collected 17 hits. McGannon, Erdmann, Flihs, Karter Moody, Englund, Kroll, and Antonsen all managed multiple hits for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. McGannon went 3-for-5 at the plate to lead Groton Jr. Teeners 14U in hits. Flihs led Groton Jr. Teeners 14U with three stolen bases, as they ran wild on the base paths with 13 stolen bases.

Aberdeen racked up eight hits. Williams, Olson, and Jarogoskie all collected multiple hits for Aberdeen. Williams led Aberdeen with three hits in three at bats. Aberdeen stole six bases during the game as two players stole more than one. Olson led the way with two. Aberdeen didn't commit a single error in the field. Olson had four chances in the field, the most on the team.

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Groton Junior Teeners

In back, left to right, are Coach Aaron Severson, Nicholas Morris, Carter Simon, Karter Moody, Tristin McGannon and Jarrett Erdmann; in front, left to right, are Gavin Kroll, Ryder Jangula, Lincoln Krause, Nick Groeblichhoff, Karsen Flihs, Gavin Englund and Kellen Antonsen. (Photo by GDI Pix)

Four RBI Day for Jarrett Erdmann Seals the Deal in Groton Jr. Teeners 14U's Victory Over Aberdeen

Jarrett Erdmann wasted no opportunities at the plate on Sunday, driving in four on two hits to lead Groton Jr. Teeners 14U past Aberdeen 13-3 on Sunday. Erdmann drove in runs on a single in the first and a double in the first.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U secured the victory thanks to nine runs in the first inning. The offensive onslaught came from a walk by Lincoln Krause, a single by Erdmann, a groundout by Karsten Flihs, a fielder's choice by Tristin McGannon, and a double by Erdmann.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U got things started in the first inning. Groton Jr. Teeners 14U scored one run when Erdmann singled.

Krause took the win for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. The fireballer surrendered three runs on two hits over five innings, striking out two.

Glover took the loss for Aberdeen. Glover surrendered nine runs on five hits over one inning, striking out one.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U racked up nine hits. Nicholas Morris, Erdmann, and Gavin Englund all managed multiple hits for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. Morris went 3-for-3 at the plate to lead Groton Jr. Teeners 14U in hits.

Groton Post 39 Jr Legion Overcomes Milbank VFW Teeners In Face Of Early 9-Run Inning

Groton Post 39 Jr Legion managed through a push by Milbank VFW Teeners in the fifth inning where Groton Post 39 Jr Legion coughed up nine runs, but Groton Post 39 Jr Legion still won 24-14 on Tuesday. The big inning for Milbank VFW Teeners came thanks to walks by Reese Rabe, Mason Meister, Joe Schulte, and Jayce Jonason, a single by Gage Anderson, a groundout by Josh Pederson, and an error on a ball put in play by Dillen Sheely.

Both offenses were strong at the plate as Groton Post 39 Jr Legion collected 11 hits and Milbank VFW Teeners three in the high-scoring affair.

Groton Post 39 Jr Legion fired up the offense in the first inning, when an error scored one run for Groton Post 39 Jr Legion.

Groton Post 39 Jr Legion notched seven runs in the fifth inning. Braxton Imrie, Caden McInerney, Ryan Groeblichhoff, Korbin Kucker, and Colby Dunker all contributed in the big inning with RBIs.

Kucker was the winning pitcher for Groton Post 39 Jr Legion. The righty lasted three innings, allowing one hit and five runs while striking out three. McInerney and Brevin Flihs entered the game out of the bullpen and helped to close out the game in relief.

Nollen Sheely took the loss for Milbank VFW Teeners. The hurler surrendered nine runs on two hits over two innings, striking out one.

Groton Post 39 Jr Legion saw the ball well today, racking up 11 hits in the game. Teylor Diegel, Imrie, and Dunker all managed multiple hits for Groton Post 39 Jr Legion. Imrie and Diegel each collected three hits to lead Groton Post 39 Jr Legion. Groton Post 39 Jr Legion tore up the base paths, as six players stole at least two bases. Imrie led the way with four.

Anderson went 2-for-2 at the plate to lead Milbank VFW Teeners in hits. Milbank VFW Teeners stole eight bases during the game as two players stole more than one. Meister led the way with two.

Groton Post 39 Jr Legion Claims Victory Over Milbank VFW Teeners in Blow-Out Fashion, 12-2

Groton Post 39 Jr Legion easily did away with Milbank VFW Teeners 12-2 on Tuesday. Groton Post 39 Jr Legion fired up the offense in the first inning. Groton Post 39 Jr Legion scored one run on a stolen base.

Groton Post 39 Jr Legion notched four runs in the fifth inning. Teylor Diegel, Korbin Kucker, Bradin Althoff, and Colby Dunker all contributed in the big inning with RBIs.

Dillon Abeln took the win for Groton Post 39 Jr Legion. The righty lasted five innings, allowing three hits and two runs while striking out ten and walking one.

Josh Pederson took the loss for Milbank VFW Teeners. The bulldog lasted four innings, allowing 13 hits and 12 runs while striking out three.

Groton Post 39 Jr Legion saw the ball well today, racking up 13 hits in the game. Diegel, Abeln, Dunker, Althoff, and Kucker each collected multiple hits for Groton Post 39 Jr Legion. Kucker, Althoff, Dunker, Abeln, and Diegel each managed two hits to lead Groton Post 39 Jr Legion. Abeln led Groton Post 39 Jr Legion with three stolen bases, as they ran wild on the base paths with 12 stolen bases.

Pederson led Milbank VFW Teeners with two hits in three at bats.

Micko's 100th Birthday!



On June 21st, 2022, Virginia Micko will be celebrating her 100th birthday. Anyone wishing to send greetings may be addressed to:

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How national political forces are shaping S.D. education legislation

Stu Whitney

South Dakota News Watch

The extent to which national political movements sway South Dakota's legislative priorities was rarely more evident than during a House Education Committee hearing in Pierre in early February 2022.

On the agenda was House Bill 1337, one of several education measures brought by Gov. Kristi Noem to keep critical race theory and "inherently divisive concepts" out of state classrooms, in this case by shielding elementary and secondary students from "political indoctrination" through race-based history, social science and civics.

After remarks by Allen Cambon, one of Noem's senior policy advisors, committee members heard remotely from Stanley Kurtz, a conservative commentator and senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington D.C. Kurtz was well-positioned to testify because much of the bill directly matched language from "The Partisanship Out of Civics Act," model legislation he drafted in early 2021 to help Republican-led statehouses fight against public schools becoming what he termed "playthings of the Left."

Kurtz's list of divisive ideas to be banned included the notion that slavery and racism "are anything other than deviations from the authentic founding principles of the United States," as well as any race-based concept that makes someone feel "discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress on account of their (race, ethnicity or religion)."

Those representing the interests of South Dakota public schools during the legislative hearing had pressing questions that were never fully answered: Why was a national political blueprint being thrust upon a state that had not documented local concerns about race-based curriculum? And why had Noem's office consulted with a national arbiter of right-wing political strategy while neglecting to speak with school officials in her own state?

Kurtz declined an interview request for this story, and Noem spokesperson Ian Fury didn't respond to a request for details about policy discussions between Kurtz and the governor's office.

For Diana Miller, a former South Dakota Education Association president who now lobbies for school districts, the lack of communication fit a pattern during Noem's tenure of making decisions regarding education without consulting local stakeholders, including teachers, principals and administrators.

"I worked with former governors Janklow, Rounds and Daugaard," Miller said. "Back then, people in the governor's office called us and asked about things. They asked for input and talked to superintendents. That isn't happening now, and I don't understand why."

HB 1337, South Dakota's political indoctrination bill, mirrored the wording in legislation banning CRT and action civics in states such as Texas, Louisiana, New Hampshire, Tennessee and Missouri. The Republican legislator who brought the bill in Texas said he conferred with Kurtz in crafting the measure, which becomes law in that state Sept. 1.

The South Dakota bill was killed in the Senate Education Committee by a vote of 4-3. Noem followed with an April 5 executive order that contained much the same prohibitions against critical race theory, stressing that students should learn "America's true, honest history" and banning divisive concepts in classroom teaching and state standards.

Education officials are not sure how that



Gov. Kristi Noem has been instrumental in bringing the national political discourse regarding critical race theory to South Dakota. Her office spearheaded legislative efforts and put forth an executive order banning CRT and "inherently divisive concepts" from state K-12 curricula. Photo: Courtesy Sioux Falls Argus Leader

order will be enforced, but they're concerned about a "chilling effect" in which teachers are hesitant to discuss important historical topics – such as the Indian Removal Act or Japanese internment camps in America during World War II – for fear of backlash from a student or parent.

"It puts teachers in a difficult place," said Sandi Hurst, who taught history at Memorial Middle School in Sioux Falls from when it opened in 1995 until her retirement last year. "The wording is so ambiguous that it could set teachers up for possible action if parents or students disagree with what's being taught."

Passing the conservative test

Critical race theory, typically taught at the university graduate school level, is an academic theory that suggests race is a social construction and that systemic racism is still part of America's laws and policies. Action civics is an alternative form of civics education in which students explore issues in their community and explore advocacy strategies.

The fact that Noem was influenced by Kurtz on these matters was not surprising. The first-term governor has worked to craft a profile as potential national candidate, courting conservative media as part of the plan. In Kurtz's view, though, she didn't always walk the walk. When the state's Department of Education supported social studies standards last year that Kurtz viewed as left-leaning, he blasted Noem for losing out to "hard-left activists" and questioned her conservative credentials in the National Review, an influential publication that boasts 25 million monthly page views.

"We desperately need alternative models for history and civics education, and Noem is well-placed to create one," Kurtz wrote. "To do so, however, she'll need to go beyond showy gestures and govern as the bold conservative she claims to be."

That essay ran Sept. 20, 2021. The same day, Noem instructed the Department of Education to delay changes to the state's social studies standards for up to one year to allow for more public input. She went on to change the complexion of the standards committee to align ideologically with anti-CRT sentiment, enlisting a retired professor Will Morrisey from Hillsdale College, a Michigan-based conservative liberal arts institution, to help screen potential members.

Noem's office also began preparing anti-indoctrination bills for the 2022 legislative session, using Kurtz's template and inviting him to testify at hearings, where he warned against "the promotion of the idea that we are to be judged first and foremost" by racial or

ethnic identity.

To education officials such as Jim Holbeck, a former Harrisburg School District superintendent who works for the Associated School Boards of South Dakota, it seemed like a coordinated attempt by partisan outsiders to control state curriculum rather than relying on local school boards, administrators and teachers.

"That's the playbook now – you change what's going on in the states and you can change the country," said Holbeck. "So what do we do? Do we change curriculum every time there's a new election? Do we write Republican curriculum and teach that and four years later write a Democratic curriculum? I mean, seriously. We're going to mess kids up."

Noem was the first governor to sign a "Save Our Schools" pledge tied to the Trump-formed 1776 Commission, chaired by Hillsdale president Larry Arnn. He later boasted during a speech that Noem had offered to "build us an entire campus in South Dakota" until Arnn reminded her that Hillsdale relies on donors to maintain its independence from state and federal funding, partly to avoid affirmative action compliance or Title IX requirements.

This was not the first time South Dakota has seen national cultural politics make its way to Pierre, where a Republican supermajority presents fertile ground for such efforts. But many of those following the hearings were struck by a disconnect between ideological bill language and educational priorities such as state funding and retention of teachers.

Asked several times by committee members which school districts were consulted in crafting the legislation, Cambon first neglected to answer the question and later said such conversations were "off the record" and the school officials couldn't be named.

"The first question we always ask is, 'Where is this happening in South Dakota schools?' And nobody ever answers us," said Miller. "That's why I'm leery of model legislation, because one size doesn't fit everyone. We're not Texas. We're not Florida. We're South Dakotans. We know our communities and we know our schools. Nobody is indoctrinating kids. If you want to know what's happening, just talk to the people involved. Nothing is a secret."

Controversy surrounds privilege test

The most prominent example of CRT-related instruction cited in Pierre was a "privilege aptitude test" handed out by an English teacher at Sioux Falls Lincoln High School in the fall of 2020. The document was designed to illustrate how some groups enjoy societal advantages that others do not. A student complained about the worksheet to his father, who later met with administrators.

Rep. Sue Peterson, a Sioux Falls Republican, noted this classroom conflict in her support of HR 1337, handing out a copy of the privilege test to committee members.

"There's no CRT textbook," Peterson, who declined to comment for this article, said at a House hearing. "You don't hear the instructor say, 'I'm going to teach critical race theory.' It's the concepts that get embedded, and we're trying to prevent the promotion of that. We don't want things like racism promoted."

The Lincoln High teacher, who was not identified, received a "verbal reprimand" after meeting with administrators, according to Sam Nelson, who lobbies for the Sioux Falls School District. "There was a discussion of what should and should not be taught and the problem was resolved," Nelson said at the hearing.

Continues on next page

"I worked with former governors Janklow, Rounds and Daugaard ... back then, people in the governor's office called us and asked about things. They asked for input and talked to superintendents. That isn't happening now, and I don't understand why."

-- Diana Miller, S.D. schools lobbyist

There was no follow-up in the state Legislature of what the privilege test was meant to teach or where it came from. Democratic House member Erin Healy of Sioux Falls noted that it's important to urge students to "think critically about our problematic past and how it shapes society today."

The worksheet in question originated from the website of the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, which is located at the former Lorraine Motel, where civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was killed in 1968. The museum's website provides educators and parents "online resources for teaching the struggle for freedom and justice to students."

The privilege test includes prompts such as: When I go to the store, people do not look at me and think I may steal something. I have not or will never be teased about my name. Using public bathrooms and going from floor to floor is not difficult for me. When I contact or look at the politicians and people who represent me in government, they will most likely look like me.

Though students are asked to keep a tally or yes and no answers, the accompanying text emphasizes that the test is "not intended to grade but to serve as an aid to understanding the topic of rights and privileges." Some of that context was missing from the handout at Lincoln High and other schools around the country, leading some students to believe they were being graded on their scores.

Noelle Trent, director of education at the National Civil Rights Museum, told News Watch that the privilege test has been removed from the museum's website because of negative backlash in some instances that overshadowed the benefits of the material.

"Whenever you do these sorts of exercises, what is critical is context," said Trent, who has helped curate historical projects for the National Park Service and Smithsonian Institution. "The (privilege tests) were never meant for someone to do without accompanying reading, videos or classroom discussion. It's meant to be part of a broader training."

Asked about the Sioux Falls teacher handing it out to students without providing background or resources on subjects such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964, she said: "That is not sound pedagogy, just handing out a test to students and saying, 'Look at how privileged you are.' That can cause harm, especially to marginalized groups. Sound pedagogy is placing it in the proper context around race and other socioeconomic and geographic factors."

Working toward understanding

Similar lessons were learned four years ago in Oconomowoc, Wis., a predominantly white community of 15,000 residents located 35 miles west of Milwaukee. In January of 2018, the high school recognized Martin Luther King Jr. Day with a school-wide assembly and homeroom activities that included the privilege aptitude test.

A series of parental complaints to the school board and a conservative radio station led the board to limit discussions about social privilege except "in classrooms where it is related to a specific course and teachers could provide appropriate context." The board also called for better communication with parents who might want to opt their child out of future activities involving sensitive topics.

"There were parents who said their kids weren't really prepared for the discussion about privilege," said Amanda Hart, a parent of children in the Oconomowoc district who

criticized the board's decision to limit diversity discussions. "[The students who complained] didn't have the baseline understanding and felt targeted as peers by students who disagreed with them."

Hart started a Change.org petition that urged community members to "stand up for the values of diversity and inclusion." Her goal was to get 100 signatures but the petition ended up with more than 2,000, sparking community conversation about the specific goals and limits of race-based curriculum.

"A lot of people associate talking about race in school with CRT, but those are not the same things," said Hart, who has two children in elementary school and one in high school. "In some respects, in order to be more open in schools, we need to educate the parents. The burden can't all be on the educators."

The debate led the school board to organize a community session to discuss topics such as social privilege and unconscious bias eight months after the MLK Day furor, headed by a college professor. More than 50 Oconomowoc residents showed up for a 2-hour meeting that included lecture slides and group activities, according to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

"One of the things we talked about tonight is having common language," Roger Rindo, the superintendent at the time, told those in attendance. "Communities don't have to have common agreement, but they need to have common understanding. Thank you for helping us work toward some of that."

'How do you measure discomfort?'

Holbeck, the former Harrisburg superintendent, was teaching a workshop for aspiring administrators last month when he decided to try something new, based on discussions that had occurred within the state Legislature.

"I told them that their assignment was to answer the question, 'What is critical race theory?'" Holbeck recalled. "The first person said, 'I don't know.' The next one said, 'I'm not sure.' I got through eight people, and none of them had the definition. I said, 'Do you see the problem here? We're hearing so much about this CRT and how we're not supposed to teach it, and we don't even know what it is.'"

Much of the language from Kurtz and others to characterize divisive classroom concepts comes from a national doctrine touting academic freedom from "woke" ideology. Supporters call it pushback to the social justice movement stemming from George Floyd's murder at the hands of Minneapolis police in 2020 and initiatives such as the New York Times "1619 Project," which according to its editors sought to "reframe the country's history by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of Black Americans at the very center of the United States' national narrative."

Rep. Peterson distributed a document to fellow legislators called "Responding to Social Justice Rhetoric: A Cheat Sheet for Policy Makers." The material came from the Oregon Association of Scholars, whose president, Portland State University professor Bruce Gilley, wrote a controversial 2019 essay entitled, "Was it Good Fortune to be Enslaved by the British Empire?" which featured the line: "To be black in America is, historically speaking, to have hit the jackpot."

The cheat sheet, to which Peterson referred in her remarks, characterizes social justice as "a denial of just rewards to those who follow the law" and systemic racism as "an attempt to dismantle freedoms and to forcibly redistribute public and private goods." Rep. Bethany Soye, a Sioux Falls Republican, added to the discussion by calling CRT a "worldview that divides everyone into the oppressor or the oppressed depending on the color of your skin."

The only classroom example presented other than the privilege test was an "MTV Decoded" video shown to a class at Sioux Falls Roosevelt that sparked a complaint from a parent, who said it made her son "feel guilty for being white." The video, first released in 2016, talks about race as a social construct and cites a



Associated School Boards of South Dakota

"What do we do? Do we change curriculum every time there's a new election? Do we write Republican curriculum and teach that and four years later write a Democratic curriculum? I mean, seriously. We're going to mess kids up."

-- Jim Holbeck,

Housing and Urban Development study showing that Black and Latino renters are shown 12 percent fewer units on average than white renters.

Nelson, representing the school district, pointed out that it was an Advanced Placement human geography course in which the students can achieve college credits. He also noted that teachers are already bound by a National Education Association code of ethics that prevents disparagement or unequal treatment of students based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or political or religious beliefs.

"I get nervous when we start talking about subjective concepts that are going to impede education," said Nelson.

Part of the problem, said Holbeck, comes from viewing education through the prism of a white, Christian frame of reference. This has been a point of contention for Native American educators who protested the last-minute removal of references to the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings from a draft of state social studies standards last fall.

In communities with significant Native populations and in school districts such as Sioux Falls, where more than a quarter of students are Black or Hispanic, banning race-based history curriculum that makes some students uncomfortable becomes a matter of perspective. Trent, from the National Civil Rights Museum, has seen this play out in various state legislatures and is concerned about the raw reality of America's racial history being softened or suppressed.

"My family's story should not be overlooked because it makes some people uncomfortable," said Trent. "Most history is hard. We want these hard stories to be told to show that all that has been overcome and what challenges are still present."

Wade Pogany, executive director at Associated School Boards of South Dakota, posed the classroom hypothetical of "To Kill a Mockingbird," Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning 1960 novel about a white lawyer who represents a Black man unjustly accused of rape in a small town in 1930s Alabama, a staple of high school literature classes across the country.

"If I'm the teacher and I come to you as an administrator, can I teach that book?" Pogany asked during a committee hearing. "It deals with racism, discrimination, bullying. What if the students are uncomfortable with that and it causes them discomfort or anguish? How do you measure discomfort? We don't know our parameters. In the final analysis, laws should give us direction, laws should be clear, and they should be put in place to solve a problem that actually exists in South Dakota."



ABOUT STU WHITNEY

Stu Whitney is an investigative reporter for South Dakota News Watch. A resident of Sioux Falls, Whitney is an award-winning reporter, editor and novelist with more than 30 years of experience in journalism.

Dear EarthTalk: What do outdated federal housing mandates from the 1930s have to do with environmental justice today?

—William. O., New York, NY

Racist policies from the 20th century have left minority communities disproportionately impacted by environmental pollution and global warming, researchers find. Through studies conducted nationwide, researchers have determined that urban neighborhoods historically “redlined” by the federal government suffer from higher levels of air pollution and tend to be several degrees warmer than nearby communities.

How did this happen? Following the Great Depression, the U.S. economy was faced with nationwide housing shortages. The federal government stepped in and designed color-coded maps to help banks determine “safe” locations to insure mortgages. Minority neighborhoods—typically African-Americans and immigrants—were redlined to indicate high risk, while privileged white communities were favored for housing opportunities. Nine decades later, these communities continue to have lower income and suffer from deteriorating infrastructure, making them more susceptible to environmental hazards.

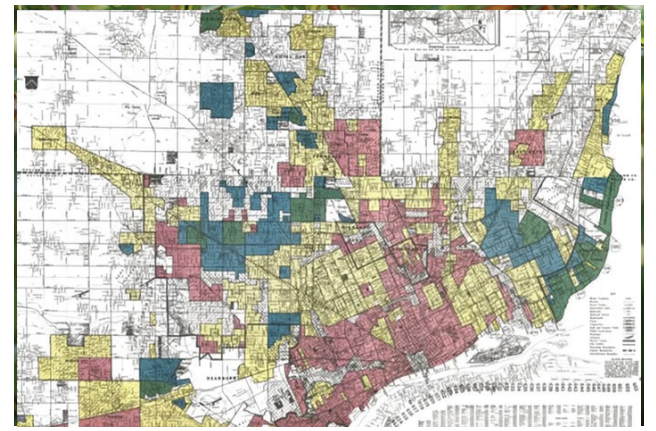
Redlined communities were also targeted—and are still—for industrial development unlike the affluent suburbs nearby. Overrun

with manufacturing facilities, highways and warehouses, they face what is known as the “urban heat island” effect and suffer from warmer temperatures due to heat-trapping structures, pavement and cement. They also lack green infrastructure like trees and cooling canopy cover.

The policies of segregation that the U.S. followed “were so powerful that they determine the racial landscape of today,” says Richard Rothstein of the Economic Policy Institute and author of *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*. “...other neighborhoods are now unaffordable to them, [so they are] restricted to neighborhoods where there are fewer trees, where there is more heat.” Urban communities are often chosen for industrial developments, like pipelines and facilities with high-pollutant discharge, causing poorer living conditions and increased health risks.

Studies find that people living in redlined neighborhoods can have lifespans up to 30 years shorter than others in nearby areas, due to conditions brought on by environmental hazards. Such communities are much more likely to suffer from poor health and lower financial health and have less ability to cope with these effects, says Vivek Shandas, a professor of urban studies and planning at Portland State University studying the link between redlined communities and warmer temperatures.

In a nation grappling with discrimination, environmental justice efforts need to priori-



This segment of a late 1930s map of Detroit, Michigan shows land “graded” based on race, with the “least desirable” neighborhoods color-coded in red. Credit: “Mapping Inequality” / National Archives and Records Administration.

tize these marginalized communities. Some Democratic candidates have made climate change impacts on urban, minority and low-income communities a focus of their platforms. Addressing these challenges will require understanding how not everyone has the same capacity to adapt to environmental burdens. In order to ensure a fair and just world for all, we need to acknowledge and address mistakes of the past.

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Here Comes the Sun

Summer is just around the corner and warm days outside in the sunshine will soon be here. This is the perfect time to remember the importance of sunscreen.

The number of sunscreens has increased over the years and the plethora of options can make it confusing when shopping for one that works best for you and your family.

There are two main categories of sunscreen: chemical and physical. Each type has its own list of pros and cons. Where you are going, how long you are going to be outside, and what you are doing may factor into which type is right for you.

Chemical sunscreens are probably more common to most consumers. They absorb UV rays and convert them into heat energy before they can damage the skin. These sunscreens are easy to find and relatively inexpensive in the form of lotion, gel sticks, and spray. Main ingredients include avobenzone, octinoxate, and oxybenzone.

Chemical sunscreens must absorb into your skin to work properly. They work best when applied 20-30 minutes before you go outside in the sun. They spread on easily and last long. You want to apply generously, but in general, less of this product is needed to get good coverage when compared to physical sunscreens.

Due to absorption into the skin, chemical sunscreens are not recommended for infants under six months. This type of sunscreen can also run the risk of causing allergic reactions, especially those with sensitive skin or conditions such as eczema or atopic dermatitis. Some ingredients in chemical sunscreens can cause damage to coral reefs and are banned in many places such as Hawaii, Key West, parts of Mexico, several Caribbean islands.

The other type of sunscreens available are physical sunscreens. These sit on top of the skin and provide a physical barrier to the UV rays, reflecting them away from the body. The main ingredients are titanium dioxide and zinc dioxide. Physical sunscreens are usually sold in the form of a white, thick paste. Some are available in fine powders than can be brushed on like makeup. Paste is more difficult to rub onto the skin compared to lotion and must be reapplied more frequently as it can be easily rubbed off especially when the skin is sweating. It may leave a film, and if you miss a spot, that area is not protected.

Whichever type of sunscreen you use, look for one that blocks both UVA and UVB rays. Remember to reapply often, even on cloudy days and limit exposure to the sun between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. when the UV rays are at their peak. Enjoy the sun and summer but do so safely. Your skin will thank you.

Jill Kruse, D.O. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices as a hospitalist 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.



By Jill Kruse, D.O.

Ken's DAIRY

Cass Clay 2% Swiss Chocolate Milk

\$2.88
 1/2 Gallon Plastic Jug

Prairie Farms Chip Dip

\$2.29
 16 Oz. Ctn.

Cass Clay Cottage Cheese

\$3.49
 22 Oz. Ctn.

Kraft Shredded or Chunk Cheese

\$2.99
 7-8 Oz. Pkg.

Bay's English Muffins

\$2.99
 6 Ct. Pkg.

Dakota White Grade A Large Eggs

\$1.99
 1 Dz. Ctn.

Ken's BAKERY

Marble Rye Bread

\$2.29
 1 Lb. Loaf

Donut Holes

\$1.99
 24 Ct.

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\$3.99
 12 Ct.

Brownies

\$4.99
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Jenny Lee Chunky Cinnamon Bread Cinnamon with Streusel Top Cinnamon Raisin

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Ken's FROZEN

Ken's Vanilla Ice Cream

\$4.99
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Blue Bunny Ice Cream Sandwiches

\$3.99
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\$18.99
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 11.7 Oz. Pkgs.

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Ken's BAKERY DAILY SPECIALS ABERDEEN ONLY

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\$1.99 1 Lb. Loaf	75¢ Each	\$1.50 Each	99¢ Each	\$3.99 6 Ct.	\$1.49 Loaf

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