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# The Groton Independent

Vol. 139 No. 47 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2022 ♦ Established in 1889



## Groeblichhoff earns Big Stick Award

Ryan Groeblichhoff received the Big Stick Award during the SD American Legion State Class "B" Jr. Baseball Tournament held in Clark, SD August 5-7. Recipients must have at least 8 at bats during the tournament and Ryan batted 6 for 10 with a .600 average. This award is sponsored by the SD Umpires Association and recipients are given a plaque and will also receive an engraved bat with their name and batting average. Ryan is pictured with Commissioner and Region 2A Sr. Athletic Officer John Kirchner. The Groton team took second place at the state tournament. (Photo courtesy of Dan Sudbeck, Chairman State Athletic Commission)



## Kettering participates in All-Star Game

Pierce Kettering participated in the SD Baseball Coaches Association American Legion All-Star game held in Parkston, SD on Monday, August 8. Players are nominated by their coaches to participate in the game and selected to play. These players must have finished their last year of American Legion baseball eligibility or have graduated from high school. Pierce played on the Black team and is pictured with Groton Coaches Seth Erickson and Dalton Locke.

(Photos courtesy of Kara Pharis. Information provided by Joni Groeblichhoff)



## New goal posts installed at Groton Doney Field

New goal posts were installed at Doney Field at Groton Sports Complex. Top left features Joe Foertsch (right) making sure it's level as he is assisted by Bill Ogden. The right photo features Foertsch in the skidsteer as Superintendent Joe Schwan lends a hand to Bill Ogden. (Photos by Tigh Flihs)

# Thrift Store coming to Downtown Groton

A thrift store is in the works for Groton. Nancy Larsen came before the Groton City Council Tuesday night to talk about the proposed Enrich Groton SoDak.

Larsen said, "After considerable thought we need to have some funding for the pantry and a steady stream of revenue. We can't expect our citizens and churches to be constantly donating to the pantry. Our cupboards are bare right now. We have a critical need. It is amazing. We have been limiting the food going out quite extensively."

Larsen said that the thrift stores in Aberdeen and Webster fund their respective pantries. In addition, she said that there is a need for used clothes and the current location of the pantry does not have room for them.

"People are excited about the idea of a thrift store," Larsen said. "I can't believe it." The pantry has seen an uptick in its usage. She said

Continues on Page 3

## A little more americana, please

There was a spot between the bullpen and the concession stand at the 17th Annual Ashley PRCA Rodeo last weekend where the wafting odors of manure and seared burgers competed, and somehow, strangely, to the olfactory of this child of the prairie, it was heaven.

We pause, here in Ashley, the first weekend in August to just be, unabashedly, American. Cowboys, rodeo queens, invocations of a higher power, flags and veterans. Taps on trumpet. The national anthem. Rodeo clowns, an announcer with the right amount of Oklahoma drawl and the cadence of a brisk trot. Spirited bucking stock, hokey clown entertainment. Close calls in the arena. Pick-up men and bull-fighter saviors. Riderless horses and moments of silence paid tribute to fallen cowboys. We honor the departed. Celebrate life. And for a few hours, watch slices of self-induced cowboy heroism. That's gonna leave a mark.

It's easy to become cynical in these fractious times, but how can you spend but a moment among all of this, the good-natured camaraderie, neighbors suspending baling and a bountiful wheat harvest to commune, again, with one another, with the past, the Cowboy Way, and not have faith that somehow, as long as we have our friends, that someday, we'll get back on track. And maybe we are more than we know. This is reality, not cable TV talking heads who wouldn't know a steer from a heifer from a saddle bronc from a fox from a coyote from a hole in the ground.

That's okay. Perhaps there's no place more American than another. Bunker Hill. Broadway. Rushmore. Philadelphia freedom. Greasy Grass. Gettysburg. But, somehow, this cowboy coteau feels just a little more special. Maybe just a skosh. Maybe that's just partiality. Maybe it's pride, but that's okay, too, because for all the missteps we've made as a nation, we sure have tried, and we ain't done yet, and pride in this place—in that place, or the other—well, I get it. I'll cut you some slack.

Babies. Tanned beauties in short shorts, shades, and cowboy boots. Lipstick. A cool beer. Wide-eyed kids. Mutton busting, by God, in flip-flops, even. Cuz it ain't about the look, straw hats, pearl buttons, or none of that, it's about heart. One year, a kid went down hard, and everyone gasped. "Just remember," Tim Fuller, the announcer, said, "Chicks dig scars. Jest sayin'."

In the Ranch Rodeo event, one of the broncs slammed the rider into the gates, they both went down with the horse kicking furiously on its side, inches from the kid's head. In unison,

we stopped breathing. Then, after that close view of Boot Hill, the kid took a re-ride. I'd have tried to slap some sense into him but he was so wobbly he mighta gone down. If there's no crying in baseball, there sure as heck isn't in rodeo. Rub some dirt on it.

It's possible we're not the most American of Americans, but who's tougher?

Jim Mosbrucker woulda loved it. The rodeo's longtime stock contractor died last year after the Ashley Rodeo. I met him 30 years ago, and stood beside him every year in Ashley while I photographed the action. I told his son Wally, "He taught me what little I know about rodeo." Wally smiled knowingly, shook my hand, and accepted the framed photo I shot of Jim one year. Black hat. Big white grin. Aviators. Black leather jacket. It don't get more cowboy than that.

I'm no cowboy. But I rode my grandfather's horses each summer, about the most romantic thing a guy can do alone. Grandpa Spilloway, a Russian cowboy, rode in a rodeo when I was young, and he was too old to do it, but he did, anyway.

"Did you ever ride the bulls," I asked him once. "There's easier ways to die," he smiled.

I own his 30-30 lever action saddle gun with the square bolt that held a cracked stock together for so many years, the edges of the bolt were worn smooth. Leather vs. Steel.

People. It takes so many people, so many hours, so much money, to make it all happen, and it wouldn't without the Ashley Community Rodeo Club. It's a year's work for two days of rodeo.

And it's worth it.

If you can't get sentimental about all of this and appreciate where you are, well, friend, we need to talk. Over a beer. Where the grass is stirrup-high. And if we've timed it right, close to that gangly newborn buckskin.

Chaps. Spurs. Chaw. A glorious sunset, a photographers delight, casting a glow upon the mayhem. Here, today, for a moment, we celebrate life.

Shake my hand, friend. I haven't seen you for a coon's age.

© Tony Bender, 2022



## That's Life

by Tony Bender

## Weekly Vikings Recap

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

With one week remaining until the Vikings' preseason begins, there are still a couple remaining questions regarding the starting lineup that the Vikings will need to answer before the regular season starts on September 11 against the Green Bay Packers.

Will Garrett Bradbury be the starting center?

For most of the offseason, all indications have pointed to Garrett Bradbury maintaining his role as the starting center for the Vikings' offense. Many believed that the new Vikings' regime was attempting to provide little-to-no competition at the center position as a way of building Bradbury's confidence. However, everything changed this week when head coach, Kevin O'Connell, stated that he cannot confirm that Bradbury will be the starting center at the regular season opener.

Now entering his fourth season with the Vikings, Bradbury seems to have the same issue that he has always had in his career: pass-blocking. Reports out of training camp are that Bradbury has been struggling to maintain his blocks in pass protection against bigger defensive linemen such as Harrison Phillips and Dalvin Tomlinson. Although Bradbury has been a great run-blocker throughout his career, his mistakes in pass protection have seemed to outweigh any of his run-blocking success.

The Vikings appear to now be working in Chris Reed at center, despite playing mostly at the guard position throughout his career. In my opinion, I don't think the Vikings would make a drastic change at the center position when Week 1 of the regular season rolls around. However, there is a chance that if Bradbury's pass-blocking failures continue, the Vikings might be looking to one of the other offensive linemen to fill in. The two likely candidates to take Bradbury's spot will be either Chris Reed, who we mentioned above, or former Denver Broncos' backup center Austin Schlottmann.

Which rookies will be in the starting lineup?

It appears that three Vikings rookies have asserted themselves into the competition to be in the starting lineup come week 1 of the regular season: Lewis Cine, Andrew Booth, and Ed Ingram. This should not come as a surprise as these three players were the Vikings' first three picks in the 2022 NFL draft. With the Vikings' previous draft class not having a single player take a snap in week 1 last season, it will be a great start to the new Vikings' regime if they can have at least 3 players from their first draft class contribute right away.

Reports are that Cine and Ingram have begun taking some of the first-team snaps in practice. And for Booth, it seems that he might force his way into the starting lineup purely by his confidence alone. Booth has talked trash to every single wide receiver on the Vikings that he has gone up against in practice, even stars like Justin Jefferson and Adam Thielen. For the past 3 seasons, the Vikings have seemed to be lacking that cocky, confident cornerback that can get in the heads of opposing wide receivers and quarterbacks. If Booth can live up to the hype, he may quickly become a fan favorite.

As for the other rookies on the Vikings, their best chance to enter the starting lineup will be by performing extremely well during the preseason. Since most of them are stuck with second and third-team snaps now, any great things they do in practice do not carry the same weight as they will if they are done during the pressure of preseason. Therefore, it will be fun to watch every rookie next week when the Vikings take on the Las Vegas Raiders to see who takes advantage of the opportunity.

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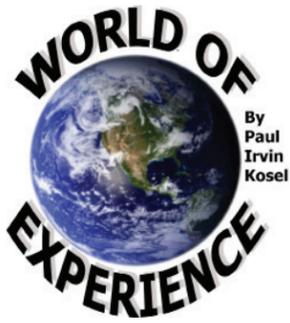
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Sometimes the things I learn with continuing education makes my head spin. I am in Plymouth, Minn., attending the Summer Institute of Theology at Free Lutheran Bible College. One of the classes talks about how to learn and how to teach. Then out of the clear blue sky, the instructor says that people will comprehend more by reading a book than by reading it on a digital device. The thought then crossed my mind - but the schools are pushing for digital learning over books. I hate to say

it, but I was also one of those in favor of digital reading. Until now.

According to an article in the Los Angeles Times written by Naomi S. Baron, a professor emerita of linguistics at American University and author of "How We Read Now: Strategic Choices for Print, Screen, and Audio.", she said, "People tend to put more effort into reading print than reading digitally."

Educational psychologist Patricia Alexander, a literacy scholar at the University of Maryland said in The Hechinger Report, "If I'm only trying to learn something that's going to be covered on a test and the test is shallow in nature, then [digital] is just fine." If, on the other hand, you hope to dive in deeply and gather imperishable pearls, spring for the book."

Now I'm not going to get into the firing line as both sides will have their case. However, there are a few things to consider.

Part of learning is repetition, repetition, repetition. And that means studying, reading and comprehending. One of the classes I'm taking is Adult Catechesis by Dr. Jason Gudim. Catechesis, in Greek, means to sound back and forth - to echo. A teacher teaches. A student answers. To go further, a teacher teaches a subject, and then goes back and reviews, and then continues, and then reviews. That's how we best learn the material. No - it's best how we comprehend and retain the material.

When I used to preach at the nursing home, there was always something that amazed me. Not everyone was comprehending what I was saying. Not everyone was really listening. But I tell you what, as soon as I started with the Lord's Prayer, EVERYONE chimed in. It was something that was learned and learned and learned.

So what does that have to do with print vs. digital? Dr. Gudim said when you read a book, you touch it, you see it, you can smell it - the senses are all at play. When you read it digitally, he said your eyes are looking at the light more so than the words.

When you are reading a book or a newspaper, chances are you are looking at the whole thing. When you read something on-line, chances are you are skimming and not really taking it all in.

Now this may seem odd coming from someone who was pushing the digital world, but I'm thinking of taking a step backwards (or forwards, depending on how you look at it), and start to get the feel, sense and visual of a real book.

I had a PDF that I had to read. There was just one chapter. I read it. But to be honest, I'm not sure what I read. I know when I put my sermons together, I will assemble it on the computer, but when it comes time to review it, I have to print it off and read it from the paper. Reading it from the iPad just doesn't cut it. I always thought that doing a sermon from an iPad would be easier. It's not. On paper, I can make notations on the side, highlight things, draw arrows, cross things out, and whatever else needs to be done.

Let's take another example. I have been printing the readings in the bulletin. I'm guessing that many churches have inserts with the readings. I go to Biblegateway.com, enter the reading I want and then copy it into the bulletin. We reading from the bulletin the readings.

Now let's try the real Bible. You open the page to the reading - oh - where is that book in the Bible? I know it's in this area somewhere. So you're (okay, so I'm) fumbling around just trying to find where the book is at in the Bible. Then you finally find it. You open it up to the reading and what do you see? On the computer, all you see is what you typed in. In the actual book, you not only see what you're suppose to read, but your eyes will gleam over the extra parts. You might even go to the very beginning of that book to get more information about the author and when it was written. You might glance a few scriptures before and after your reading. You're taking in more information. As a reader in the church, you might actually have more information to provide. But maybe, you might Google something to help SUPPLEMENT your learning. As members of the congregation, you should bring your own Bible to church and follow along - you might even make a notation in YOUR Bible to help you remember something. I know at Buffalo Lake, many bring their own Bibles and boy, some of them are really worn. That's amazing.

Then some might say, "well, my version is different than their version." So. That's a good thing. Some versions have different perspective on the readings.

Now I'm going to even go further. Go the library and find a book to read. The Wage Memorial Library in Groton has many good and interesting books. (And don't forget to get one of their neat bookmarks) And yes, if you have not read a book for a while, it will take some time to get back into the rhythm of reading. Our professor said he could read and comprehend books better today than he could five years ago.

So for the readers in the church, bring your Bible and read from it. For those of you sitting in the pews, bring your Bible to follow along. Encourage your children to do the same thing. Make reading the Bible a world of experience. God will love it!

## Pantry

Continued from front

that people from Groton, rural Groton, Claremont, Andover and Ferney have used the facility. There were a couple from Aberdeen as well, but Larsen said they encouraged them to use the Aberdeen store. About 150 families have been served during the month of July.

Larsen sited a story about an elderly lady to game to The Pantry. "She saw that we had toilet paper and she started to cry. People on food stamps cannot get paper products."

A new nonprofit corporation was formed to create Enrich Groton SoDak and to oversee the Pantry. Board members are Karen Babcock, Kari Bartling, April Abeln, Jason Hill, Lance Larsen, Topper Tastad and Nancy Larsen. The Groton Lions Club started The Pantry.

Mayor Scott Hanlon said, "It would be a great deal for the community." The council voted to allow Enrich Groton SoDak to use the available space at the old city hall at 209 N Main.

Darrell Hillestad came to talk during the public comments part of the meeting. He said that the airport has dried up and that packers would be coming out to do some work on the airport. He was also hoping that the survey work for the removal of water project would be done soon so work can proceed.

There was discussion on the \$150 deposit for the keys at the community center. There are a lot of keys that are lost at the baseball complex and so it was questioned if there is an issue of the community center key missing, which is much more rare. It was decided to keep the \$150 check deposit which will be returned when the keys are returned. There was also discussion on installing touch keypad locks at the ball field.

The intersection of N. Washington Street and West Fifth Avenue will become a four-way stop. In the past, east-west traffic had a stop sign, but then recently, it was converted to north-south traffic. The council approved putting the stop signs back up on the east-west route. It will be enforceable 20 days after the resolution is published. Tickets can be issued for not stopping on August 30th.

The council approved entering into an agreement with the South Dakota Department of Agriculture to receive an American Rescue Plan Act grant for water improvements. This will allow the Northeast Council of Governments the authority to apply for the grant on behalf of the City of Groton.

It was announced that the City of Groton has received the Secretary's Award for Drinking Water Excellence 2021 for the 21st consecutive year.

It was also announced that WEB Water will be increasing its rates starting in October. An adjustment in the city rates will be forthcoming.

The council authorized City Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich to attend the 2022 SD Municipal League Annual Conference October 4-7 in Watertown.

- Paul Kosel



**60th Anniversary  
Open House  
Sunday August 21, 2-4 p.m.  
to honor 60 years of marriage for  
Richard and Wava Seurer  
SEAS Catholic Church in Groton  
(please no gifts)**

## Moving Auction

**Saturday, August 13, 2022 • 10:30 am**

**Location: 412 North James Street Columbia, SD**

**Owner: Mark & Ellen Harr**

**This Sale Includes: Furniture, Household, Antique/Collectible Items, Garage, Tools, Outdoor Items, 150+ Prints, Framing & matting supplies, 40+ Guns, Sporting, UTV, Lawnmower, Snow blower, & More!!**

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**Auctioneers Note:** Mark & Ellen are moving out of state & will be offering many items at public auction. Items have been well cared for - You will not want to miss this Saturday auction. For questions feel free to call Derek at (605) 949-2170.

**www.midwestauctions.com/ostby**

# The Groton Independent

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## Brown County July 26 2022 Meeting Minutes

July 26, 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 Feickert, Fjeldheim, and Gage. Commissioner Wiese was absent. Commissioner Feickert led the pledge of allegiance.

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

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Trevor Jones with Carbon Summit Solutions introduced himself as a contact for questions.

**ORDINANCES 219- REZONE-SECOND READING AND ADOPTION:**

Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Gage to approve second reading and adoption of Proposed Ordinance 219, Applicants Clarence and Lori Habeck requesting to rezone from Chapter 4.06 Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.14 Highway Commercial (H-C) : Proposed Lot 1, "Bim and Lori's Venture Addition" in the NW 1/4 of Section 9-T123N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE 220 – REZONE – SECOND READING AND ADOPTION:**

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve second reading and adoption of Proposed Ordinance 220, applicants Don and Christine Brunnes requesting to go from Chapter 4.06 Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini Ag District (M-AG): "Brunnes' Outlot 1" in the SE1/4 of Section 28-T122N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

**ORDINANCE 221 – REZONE – SECOND READING AND ADOPTION:**

Moved by Gage, seconded by Feickert to approve second reading and adoption of Proposed ordinance 221, applicants Jeremy and Lindsey Lesnar requesting to rezone from Chapter 4.06 Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini Ag District (M-AG): Lot 2, "Hagemann First Subdivision" in the SE1/4 of Section 26-T124N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**RECONVEYANCE OF REAL PROPERTY:**

Commissioner Feickert Offered the following Resolution: **RESOLUTION #34-22**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RECONVEYANCE OF REAL PROPERTY TO THE OWNER OF RECORD

WHEREAS, On June 27, 2022 Brown County accepted a Tax Deed for real property located at:  
Lot 6 and the North 25 Feet of Lot 7, Block 18, Simmon's First Addition to Aberdeen, According to the Plat Thereof Record, Brown County, South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, Joy M. Ino, record owner, wishes to enter into an agreement for reconveyance of said property from Brown County; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota Codified Law 10-25-41 to 44 permits county commissioners to authorize a reconveyance by quitclaim deed to the record owner on payment in cash of the price fixed by the resolution of the county commissioners, which amount shall not be less than the total principal, interest, and costs of all taxed represented in the tax deed and any other taxes and interest which are unpaid on the real property; and

WHEREAS, the total amount due and owing Brown County calculated through August 2022 is \$15,531.83.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in consideration for the amount due and owing of \$15,531.83 the Board of Brown County Commissioners does hereby authorize the reconveyance by quitclaim deed to Joy M. Ino:

Lot 6 and the North 25 Feet of Lot 7, Block 18, Simmon's First Addition to Aberdeen, According to the Plat Thereof Record, Brown County, South Dakota

Dated at Aberdeen, South Dakota, this 26th day of July, 2022.  
Seconded by Commissioner Gage. Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Fjeldheim-aye; Gage-aye; Sutton-aye; Wiese absent.

Resolution adopted.

**RISK POOL REIMBURSEMENT & SHERIFF VEHICLE SURPLUS:**

Dave Lonzman, Chief Deputy Sheriff, met to discuss Risk Pool Reimbursement for claim on vehicle damage. Add to August 2, 2022 agenda to Rescind July 5, 2022 surplus of 2014 police interceptor police package vehicle, VINXX85526, as trade in and approve surplus of vehicle to the Brown County Assessor's Office.

**MINUTES:**

Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Gage to approve the general meeting minutes of July 19, 2022. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS:**

Professional Fees: ACE REFRIGERATION LLC \$418.20; CERTIFIED LANGUAGES INTERNATIONAL LLC \$744.15; Child's Voice Route #6361 \$435.48; CHRISTY GRIFFIN-SERR LAW OFFICE \$8,541.67; CITY OF ABERDEEN \$500.00; COGLEY LAW OFFICE, PROF LLC \$8,588.88; DEAN SCHAEFFER COURT REPORTING \$354.00; DEPENDABLE SANITATION INC \$35,843.00; DOHRER LAW OFFICE \$8,541.67; FIRE SAFETY FIRST, LLC \$183.00; JERALD M. MCNEARY \$8,541.67; KRISTI BRANDT \$80.00; KUCK LAW OFFICE \$8,541.67; MICHELLE GAIKOWSKI \$121.80; NE MENTAL HEALTH CENTER \$2,262.00; PRCA \$5,000.00; Saber Shred Solutions, Inc. \$12,524.15; SANFORD HEALTH \$2,100.00; SANFORD HEALTH OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE ABERDEEN \$378.00; SD DEPT OF HEALTH \$620.00; SD NETWORK AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT \$200.00; SHI INTERNATIONAL CORP \$1,266.40; TALIAFERRO LAW FIRM \$8,541.67; TYLER TECHNOLOGIES INC \$390.00; WEST PUBLISHING CORP. \$1,417.08; YANKTON COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE \$150.00

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Supplies: ADVANCE AUTO PARTS \$717.57; AGTEGRA COOPERATIVE \$11,052.87; APH STORES, INC \$31.91; ARTZ EQUIPMENT \$613.13; ASHLEY FARRAND DUNHAM \$40.00; Avera LTC Pharmacy Aberdeen \$21.80; Boyer Trucks \$83.70; BRANDON BLACK \$48.95; CENTURY BUSINESS PRODUCTS \$2,121.18; CHARM-TEX \$136.02; COLE PAPERS \$327.08; CREATIVE PRODUCT SOURCING, INC. \$1,094.88; Dykman Merchandise LLC \$175.00; EARTHGRAINS BAKING CO. INC. \$948.76; ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE LLC \$127.00; Elie Weinmeister \$42.17; FIRE SAFETY FIRST, LLC \$451.00; JGROSS EQUIPMENT \$6,858.24; JENSEN ROCK & SAND INC \$92,800.44; KAREN SWANK \$108.00; KESSLERS \$145.52; KIESLER'S POLICE SUPPLY, INC. \$690.00; LEIDHOLDT TOOL SALES, LLC \$195.61; LIEN TRANSPORTATION COMPANY \$143,846.89; Linde Gas & Equipment Inc. \$334.71; MAC'S INC \$509.82; MARCO INC \$27.28; MENARDS \$767.43; MEYERS TRACTOR SALVAGE \$750.00; MIDSTATES PRINTING \$91.45; MIDWEST ALARM \$279.26; MIDWEST PUMP & TANK \$83.00; NETWORK CENTER INC. \$4,101.67; NORTHERN VALLEY COMMUNICATION \$26.76; PHARMICHEM \$826.35; PIERSON-FORD-LINCOLN-MERCURY \$166.98; PLUMBING & HEATING WHOLESALE, INC. \$92.23; POMPS TIRE SERVICE, INC \$1,022.35; PRO AG SUPPLY, INC \$115.83; RIXSTINE TROPHY COMPANY \$1,956.60; RUNNINGS \$1,216.85; SCHWAN WELDING \$1,429.10; SHARE CORP \$303.00; STAN HOUS-

TON EQUIPMENT CO. \$222.95; TITAN MACHINERY - ABERDEEN NH \$79.46; TRI STATE WATER \$35.00; US POSTMASTER \$15.12; WEST PUBLISHING CORP. \$2,397.11  
Travel & Conference: CITY OF GROTON \$50.22; PATTI WOODS \$103.40; REGENCY MIDWEST VENTURES LIMITED PARTNERSHIP \$390.64; SDSU EXTENSION \$64.68; UND \$125.00  
Utilities: CITY OF ABERDEEN \$3,378.98; CITY OF HECLA \$122.61; DEPENDABLE SANITATION INC \$348.00; JAMES VALLEY TELECOMMUNICATIONS \$218.30; MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS \$127.52; MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES CO \$26.13; NORTHERN ELECTRIC COOP, INC \$495.73; NORTHERN VALLEY COMMUNICATION \$5,275.28; NORTHWESTERN ENERGY & COMMUNICATIONS \$1,140.30; QWEST CORPORATION \$1,207.86; STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA \$140.61; VERIZON WIRELESS SERVICES LLC \$3,566.50; WEB WATER DEVELOPMENT ASSOC. INC. \$85.53  
Rentals: Linde Gas & Equipment Inc. \$47.62; PAN-TORIUM CLEANERS INC. \$207.36  
Others: SD ASSOC. OF COUNTY OFFICIALS \$1,052.00; SD DEPT OF AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES \$4,887.59

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**HR REPORT:**

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

Approve hiring of Kari Harmon as Brown County Communications Dispatcher, Full Time; effective August 1, 2022, starting wage \$21.16/hr.

**Plats:**

**RESOLUTION #35-22 CREEK-SIDE ADDITION**

Commissioner Fjeldheim brought the following resolution. "Be it resolved by the County Commission of Brown County South Dakota, that the plat showing "Moccasin Creek Substation Second Addition in the NE1/4 of Section 27, Township 124 North, Range 64 West of the 5th P.M., Brown County South Dakota" Having been examined is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-3, and any amendments thereof". Seconded by Commissioner Feickert. Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Feickert-aye, Fjeldheim-aye, Gage-aye, Wiese-absent, Sutton-aye. Resolution adopted.

**RESOLUTION #36-22 CHRIS & WENDY MEHLHAFF FIRST SUBDIVISION**

Commissioner Fjeldheim brought the following resolution. "Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing Chris & Wendy Mehlhaff First Subdivision in the SW1/4 of section 19-T125N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota having been examined, is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL 11-3, and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Commissioner Feickert. Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Feickert-aye, Fjeldheim-aye, Gage-aye, Wiese-absent, Sutton-aye. Resolution adopted.

**RESOLUTION #37-22 WIEK-KEMPF ADDITION**

Commissioner Fjeldheim brought the following resolution: "Be it resolved by the County Commission of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing: "Wiek-Kemp addition in the SE1/4 of section 8, Township 128 North, Range 65 West of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota" having been examined is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-3, and any amendments thereof". Seconded by Commissioner Feickert. Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Feickert-aye, Fjeldheim-aye, Gage-aye, Wiese-absent, Sutton-aye. Resolution adopted.

**RESOLUTION #38-22 ALBERTS-ANDERSON ADDITION**

Commissioner Fjeldheim brought the following resolution: "Be it resolved by the County Commission of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing: Alberts-Anderson Addition in the NW1/4 of Section 10, Township 124 North, Range 61 West of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota" having been examined is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-3, and any amendments thereof". Seconded by Commissioner Feickert. Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Feickert-aye, Fjeldheim-aye, Gage-aye, Wiese-absent, Sutton-aye. Resolution adopted.

**RESOLUTION #39-22 BAUER'S FOURTH ADDITION**

Commissioner Fjeldheim

brought the following resolution: "Be it resolved by the County Commission of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing: "Bauer's Fourth Addition in the S1/2 of Section 7, Township 123 North, Range 65 West of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota" having been examined is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-3, and any amendments thereof". Seconded by Commissioner Gage. Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Feickert-aye, Fjeldheim-aye, Gage-aye, Wiese-absent, Sutton-aye. Resolution adopted.

**RESOLUTION #40-22 MOCCASIN CREEK SUBSTATION SECOND ADDITION**

Commissioner Fjeldheim brought the following resolution: "Be it resolved by the County Commission of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "Moccasin Creek Substation Second Addition in the NE1/4 of Section 27, Township 124 North, Range 64 West of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota" having been examined is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-3, and any amendments thereof". Seconded by Commissioner Feickert. Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Feickert-aye, Fjeldheim-aye, Gage-aye, Wiese-absent, Sutton-aye. Resolution adopted.

**LEASES:**

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Gage to approve leases with Mike Traxinger & SDFU for area south of beef barn July 26th, 2022; NSU Focus Group for lease of Richmond Youth Camp August 18 – 19th, 2022. All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

**LEGAL ASSIGNMENT:**

Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Feickert to approve, and authorize auditor to assign the claim against an individual to Credit Collections Bureau for the purpose of collecting liens. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**SHERIFF'S REPORT:**

Moved by Gage, seconded by Sutton to approve the June 2022 Sheriff Reports: Incidents and offenses, Prisoner care, JDC, and Money deposited with the County Treasurer. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Fjeldheim discussed phone calls received about the road at Elm Lake Dam, Commissioner Gage advised of opportunities for volunteering at the Brown County Fair. No Action Taken.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Moved by Gage, seconded by Fjeldheim to go into executive session to discuss personnel and legal 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 Feickert, seconded by Gage to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:45 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Brown County Auditor  
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## Brown County Aug. 2, 2022 Meeting Minutes

AUGUST 2, 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 Feickert, Sutton, and Gage. Commissioner Wiese and Fjeldheim was absent. Commissioner Gage led the pledge of allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Trevor Jones with Carbon Summit Solutions was present for any questions.

**BID OPENING INDIGENT DEFENSE CONTRACT:**

Moved by Gage, seconded by Feickert to cancel the RFP for Indigent Defense Contract All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**Continues on next page**

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## Continued from previous page

### RFP INDIGENT DEFENSE CONTRACT:

Moved by Feickert, Seconded by Gage to readvertise for Indigent Defense Contract with a deadline date of September 30, 2022. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BI-ANNUAL REPORT:

Kari Stickelmyer gave the commission updates and the bi-annual report.

### MINUTES:

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Gage to approve the general meeting minutes of July 26, 2022. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

### CLAIMS:

Moved by Gage, seconded by Feickert to approve the following claims

Insurance: SD PUBLIC ASSURANCE ALLIANCE \$312.19

Professional Fees: Aberdeen Cardiology \$178.10; Acute Care Aberdeen \$177.96; AG-TERRA TECHNOLOGIES, INC. \$140.00; AVERA ST. LUKE'S \$3,721.66; BRICK'S TV & APPLIANCE \$1,653.75; CARLSEN FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY \$1,800.00; CARRELS & BAIN FAMILY DENTAL CENTER, LLC \$163.84; DARCY LOCKWOOD \$36.00; GELLHAUS & GELLHAUS, PC \$80.00; KENNEDY PIER LOFTUS, LLP \$151.50; Koch's Repair Shop \$78.00; LEWIS & CLARK BHS \$1,104.00; LINCOLN COUNTY TREASURER \$437.70; LUCY LEWNO \$450.00; LUMEN \$185.22; MICHELLE GAIKOWSKI \$53.20; Orange County Sheriff \$65.00; Sanford Clinic \$2,694.47; SANFORD CLINIC ABERDEEN \$439.24; Sanford Health Network \$4,877.97; TSCHETTER & ADAMS LAW OFFICE PC \$559.73; Valerie J. Larson \$36.00; Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office \$75.00

Publishing: MIDSTATES PRINTING \$116.00

Repairs & Maintenance: CENTURY BUSINESS PRODUCTS \$5.57; DAKOTA FLUID POWER INC \$242.73; DAKOTA PUMP & CONTROL \$450.00; JENSEN ROCK & SAND INC \$5,341.25; LANG'S AUDIO TV & APPLIANCE \$193.00; LAWSON PRODUCTS, INC \$25.88; MYERS TIRE SUPPLY - SALT LAKE CITY #20 \$40.19; PARKVIEW NURSERY \$3,593.02; PAUER SOUND & MUSIC INC \$1,700.00; PIERSON-FORD-LINCOLN-MERCURY \$97.30; POMPS TIRE SERVICE, INC \$255.69; STEVEN LUST AUTOMOTIVE \$123.51

Supplies: AGTEGRA CO-OPERATIVE \$3,512.46; APH STORES, INC \$247.91; CENTURY BUSINESS PRODUCTS \$790.06; COLE PAPERS \$1,365.30; Ellie Weinmeister \$40.46; FASTENAL CO \$30.95; JENSEN ROCK & SAND INC \$5,328.74; LAWSON PRODUCTS, INC \$306.59; LUCY LEWNO \$19.63; MB LLC \$154.18; MENARDS \$460.86; MIDSTATES PRINTING \$313.25; MYERS TIRE SUPPLY - SALT LAKE CITY #20 \$1,110.22; PAN-TORIUM CLEANERS INC. \$28.00; PIERSON-FORD-LINCOLN-MERCURY \$95.30; PITNEY BOWES INC. \$15,000.00; REGALIA MANUFACTURING COMPANY \$50.29; RUNNINGS \$477.20; STAN HOUSTON EQUIPMENT CO. \$2,489.00; WEB WATER BOTTLING COMPANY \$22.50

Travel & Conference: DEADWOOD RESORTS, LLC \$1,116.00; MARK MILBRANDT \$24.00

Utilities: AT&T MOBILITY \$187.09; DEPENDABLE SANITATION INC \$165.00; MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS \$139.17; NORTHWESTERN ENERGY & COMMUNICATIONS \$22,713.08; QWEST CORPORATION \$303.36; SD STATE 4-H OFFICE \$55.00; VERIZON WIRELESS SERVICES LLC \$53.42

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

### HR REPORT:

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

- Acknowledge Retirement of Kurt Smith, Brown County Fairgrounds Manager, full time; effective August 29, 2022.

- Acknowledge Rescind acceptance (7-19-2022) HR Report, Heather Kulwicki as Brown County JDC Correctional Officer, Full time.

- Acknowledge No Show, Heather Brothers as Brown County Jail Correctional Officer, full time; was supposed to start July 26, 2022.

- Acknowledge Resignation of Bryan Owens, Brown County Highway labor grade 5, full time; effective July 28, 2022. Request to fill.

- Approve hiring of Theresa Hedges as Brown County Com-

munication Dispatcher, full time; effective July 28, 2022.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

### TEMPORARY ALCOHOL PERMIT:

Moved by Gage, seconded by Feickert to approve a temporary alcohol permit for the Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce for an event on September 9, 2022. All members present voting aye. Motion carried

### OUT OF STATE TRAVEL REQUEST:

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Gage to approve out of state travel request from the Sheriff's Office for two employees to attend a conference in Nebraska. All members present voting aye. Motion carried

### VEHICLE SURPLUS REQUEST:

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Gage to approve surplus request for a 2006 Chevy transport van, VIN# 9898, to be sold by bids, following current accepted procedure. All members present voting aye. Motion carried

### RECIND SHERIFF'S SURPLUS REQUEST:

Moved by Gage, seconded by Feickert to rescind the Sheriff's surplus request for a 2014 Interceptor from the July 5, 2022 meeting. All members present voting aye. Motion carried

### VEHICLE SURPLUS REQUEST:

Moved by Gage, seconded by Feickert to surplus 2014 Interceptor, VIN# 5526, from Sheriff's Department to Director of Equalization Department. All members present voting aye. Motion carried

### OTHER BUSINESS:

None

### EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Gage, seconded by Feickert to go into executive session to discuss personnel and legal 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 Feickert, seconded by Gage to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:50 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Brown County Auditor  
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## Stratford Town June 2022 Meeting Minutes

Jordan NECoG - Brandon Helm & Associates

Read information as printed Wastewater

The need for the project: The Town of Stratford recently completed a Small Community Planning Grant in the spring of 2022 along with being placed on the State Water Plan. Based off of the study, Stratford wants to take the proper steps to ensure their wastewater system is in the correct working order. Stratford has reviewed the study with Helms Engineering and have chosen the alternatives they feel best address the problems associated with their system. These alternatives include televising the Town's sewer system to identify any critical structural deficiencies in their system. Secondly, it has been identified that there needs to be general improvements to their existing treatment facility. Included in this alternative would be the addition of perimeter fencing and an access road. By making these improvements, the Town and its operator would be able to continue to properly operate and maintain the treatment facility.

Alternatives: The Town has considered several alternatives as outlined in the facilities plan. Doing nothing was considered as an alternative however doing nothing will not address the issues and is not considered a viable option.

Project: The proposed wastewater project includes televising and general improvements to the existing treatment facility. Televising allows Stratford and their engineer to identify any critical structural deficiencies in their system. Secondly, perimeter fencing, and an updated access road allow for Stratford to properly operate and maintain the treatment facility.

Proposed Financing: The Town of Stratford is applying to the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources for grant, loan, principal forgiveness loan or a combination of each.

The maximum amount of SRF loan to be borrowed; Clean

Water SRF: \$128,220.00

The revenue source pledged for repayment, Project Surcharge Revenue Bond. Discussion of general obligation bond, sales tax bond, and water revenue bond were also explained.

Interest Rate and Term: The sewer project note will be for up to 2.125% at a term of 30 years

The effect of the proposed financing on user rates. If the funding is entirely loan the City would need to incorporate a surcharge for its wastewater of \$9.30 per user per month. The surcharge rates will be determined after the funding package has been put in place. The project surcharge will be lower if DANR awards grant or principal forgiveness.

Bonds - 5% (general) sales tax, water revenue bond above what is collected, surcharge bond (above current charges) \$9.30 if all loan

Resolution read, move forward with the application for financial assistance, motion by Jark, 2nd Bourassa

RESOLUTION NO. AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND SUBMITTAL OF THE APPLICATION, AND DESIGNATING AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE TO CERTIFY AND SIGN PAYMENT REQUESTS.

WHEREAS, the Town of Stratford (the "Town") has determined it is necessary to proceed with improvements to its Wastewater System, including but not limited to televising the Town's sewer system along with general improvements to their existing treatment facility such as perimeter fencing and an access road. (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Town has determined that financial assistance will be necessary to undertake the Project and an application for financial assistance to the South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources (the "Board") will be prepared; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to designate an authorized representative to execute and submit the Application on behalf of the Town and to certify and sign payment requests in the event financial assistance is awarded for the Project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Town hereby approves the submission of an Application for financial assistance in an amount not to exceed \$128,220.00 to the South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources for the Project.

2. The President is hereby authorized to execute the Application and submit it to the South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources, and to execute and deliver such other documents and perform all acts necessary to effectuate the Application for financial assistance.

3. The President is hereby designated as the authorized representative of the Town to do all things on its behalf to certify and sign payment requests in the event financial assistance is awarded for the Project.

Adopted at Stratford, South Dakota, this \_\_\_ day of June 2022.

APPROVED:  
President  
Town of Stratford  
(Seal)  
Attest:  
Town Finance Officer

Water - read information as printed project surcharge bond (\$253.81) \$55-65 rates prior to grant. Will likely ask to scale down project.

The need for the project: Due to the Town of Stratford experiencing an outdated water system the Town wants to take the proper steps to ensure their water system is in the correct working order. Stratford has reviewed the Study with Helms Engineering and have chosen the alternatives they feel best address the problems associated with their system. The proposed water improvements include updates to their water source which entails becoming a Class A bulk user while updates to their water storage include 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.

Alternatives: The city has considered several alternatives as outlined in the facilities plan. Doing nothing was considered as an alternative however doing nothing will not address the issues and is not considered a viable option.

Project: The proposed water project includes updates to their water source which entails becoming a Class A bulk user while 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.

Proposed Financing: The Town of Stratford is applying to the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources for grant, loan, principal forgiveness loan or a combination of each.

The maximum amount of SRF loan to be borrowed; Drinking Water SRF: \$3,498,800.00

The revenue source pledged for repayment, Project Surcharge Revenue Bond. Discussion of general obligation bond, sales tax bond, and water revenue bond were also explained.

Interest Rate and Term: The water project note will be for up to 2.125% at a term of 30 years

The effect of the proposed financing on user rates. If the funding is entirely loan the Town would need to incorporate a surcharge for its water of \$253.81 per user per month. The surcharge rates will be determined after the funding package has been put in place. The project surcharge will be lower if DANR awards grant or principal forgiveness.

### RESOLUTION NO.

AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND SUBMITTAL OF THE APPLICATION, AND DESIGNATING AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE TO CERTIFY AND SIGN PAYMENT REQUESTS.

WHEREAS, the Town of Stratford (the "Town") has determined it is necessary to proceed with improvements to its Water System, including but not limited to becoming a Class A bulk User, updates to their water storage including a new 20,000-gallon ground storage tank, pumping station, a transmission line, water meter installation and a new 6" PVC distribution system. (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Town has determined that financial assistance will be necessary to undertake the Project and an application for financial assistance to the South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources (the "Board") will be prepared; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to designate an authorized representative to execute and submit the Application on behalf of the Town and to certify and sign payment requests in the event financial assistance is awarded for the Project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Town hereby approves the submission of an Application for financial assistance in an amount not to exceed \$3,498,800.00 to the South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources for the Project.

2. The President is hereby authorized to execute the Application and submit it to the South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources, and to execute and deliver such other documents and perform all acts necessary to effectuate the Application for financial assistance.

3. The President is hereby designated as the authorized representative of the Town to do all things on its behalf to certify and sign payment requests in the event financial assistance is awarded for the Project.

Adopted at Stratford, South Dakota, this \_\_\_ day of June 2022.

APPROVED:  
President  
Town of Stratford  
(Seal)  
Attest:  
Town Finance Officer

Resolution read, move forward with the application for financial assistance, motion by Jark, 2nd Bourassa

July 1st submission/review (letters from the state when applications are received. Zoom meeting date TBD, meeting after awards—community) October funding, 2024 construction likely

Attendees - Kroemers, Jark, Bourassa, Prickett, Moen

Discussed how to meter for hydrant.

Jark called NW Energy - pole in the alley by Wiedmeier (street light paid by Jark)

Price/Crouch - fixed

Motion to approve minutes, Vern, 2nd Jark

Johnson properties - several liens, Jark to follow up with com-

missioners

Finance report - motion to pay bills by Prickett, 2nd

Accounts Receivable reviewed.

Request for \$2500 gravel - Jark Motion Prickett, 2nd

Bourassa

Open House - Stratford School, Parade 4:30, supper (dish to pass/lawn chairs) 6, games fireworks at dusk. Clean up - encouraged

Water in women's bathroom

Adjourn at 8:50 pm

Next meeting July 11th @ 7:00 PM

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## Groton City Aug. 2, 2022 Meeting Minutes

August 2, 2022

The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00 p.m. at 120 N Main Street for their first monthly meeting with the following members present: Bahr, Wambach, Cutler, Nehls, Wells, and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Also present were: Attorney Drew Johnson, Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich, Paul Kosel via telephone, Darrell Hillestad, Nancy Larsen, and Lori Westby.

Public comments were welcomed pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1. Darrell Hillestad addressed the council regarding the upcoming plans for the Groton Municipal Airport. Darrell mentioned that the runway has dried up substantially and IMEG should now be able to efficiently perform a topographical survey. No other comments were received.

Hillestad was thanked for updating the council and exited the meeting.

Nancy Larsen and Lori Westby updated the council on the progress at The Pantry and expressed a need for space to start a thrift store to assist in funding The Pantry's supplies. Moved by Nehls and seconded by Cutler to approve the use of the extra space at 209 N Main Street for a thrift store to help fund The Pantry. All members voted aye.

Nancy Larsen and Lori Westby exited the meeting.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Bahr and seconded by Wambach. All members voted aye.

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

Aflac, \$246.54, Employee Insurance - June Coverage - Garcia; Dacotah Bank, \$7,978.62, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dakotahland FCU, \$730.00, Employee Savings; Dacotah Bank, \$576.24, HSA contributions; US Bank, \$11,320.52, RR Sewer & West Sewer Debt Payment; Stacy Mayou, \$174.90, Med Flex; James Valley Telecommunications, \$69.89, Family Crisis - Internet Bill; Colonial Life, \$69.40, Employee Insurance; Employers Mutual Insurance, \$77.30, Employee Insurance; Guardian Insurance, \$26.75, Employee Insurance; Aflac, \$275.52, Employee Insurance; Allied Benefit Systems, \$9,396.18, Employee Insurance; Dacotah Bank, \$2,885.72, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dacotah Bank, \$50.00, HSA contributions; Dairy Queen, \$48.00, Ice Cream for Resale - Baseball; Arley Fadness, \$21.50, Book for Library from Local Author; SD Dept of Health, \$90.00, Water & Swimming Pool Testing; Lien Transportation Co., \$6,606.67, Hot mix; April Abeln, \$40.00, Employee Cell Phone Reimbursement - July/Aug; Kellie Locke, \$40.00, Employee Cell Phone Reimbursement - July/Aug; Mileage Reimbursement - Heartland Summer Conference in Madison, SD; Douglas Heinrich, \$40.00, Employee Cell Phone Reimbursement - July/Aug; Brandon Abeln, \$40.00, Employee Cell Phone Reimbursement - July/Aug; Landon Johnson, \$40.00, Employee Cell Phone Reimbursement - July/Aug; SD Supplemental

Retirement, \$240.00, Employee Supplemental Retirement; NW Energy, \$1,876.04, Natural Gas Service - Swimming Pool & PD; Verizon Wireless, \$40.01, Wireless Router; Flihs Sales & Service, \$20.00, Oil Filters for Lawnmowers; Greg's Repair, \$30.00, Tire Repair - PD Tahoe; Groton Daily Independent, \$198.01, Publishing Fees; Aaron Severson, \$214.65, Mileage Reimbursement - Jr. Teeners; SD Public Assurance Alliance, \$217.00, Special Event Insurance - Family Fun Fest; Topkote Inc., \$127,296.70, Bituminous Seal Coat - Street Resurfacing; S&S Lumber, \$407.59, 2 mailboxes, 2 screw pins, insecticide, landscape fabric, various bolts and washers, spray marking paint, treated lumber, field marker, pump sprayer, female cord end, male 3-prong end, gorilla glue, gloves, trimmer line, appliance bulb; Nelson Sales & Service, LLC, \$27.72, Starter Assembly for Water Truck; Runnings Supply Co, \$95.68, Sawzall blade, socket and adapters, screwdrivers, driver bit set; Darrel's Sinclair, \$2,920.52, New rims & tires for dump truck; Harry Implement, Inc., \$4.84, 2 shoulder screws for Cub Cadet mower; Drew Johnson, \$1,500.00, Legal Services - July of 2022; Dollar General, \$496.05, Drinking water, coolant, tissues, sharpies, flash drive, Clorox cleaner, ArmorAll protectant, baking soda, coffee, candy, plastic cups, Febreze, bandages, trash cans, paper towels, bath tissue, napkins, 3 box fans, glass cleaner; Irby, Inc., \$1,586.50, Overhead material, meter socket material, knife w/ ergonomic handle, canvas bucket, 1"x10' gray u-guards, box wrench, utility auger, 2in wide polymer hook, 12' HV pole for bucket, fiberglass tool apron; Aramark, \$43.84, Rug Rent;

Department reports were reviewed and discussed.

Discussion took place regarding the updated Community Center fees.

April Abeln and Kellie Locke entered the meeting.

Moved by Cutler and seconded by Nehls to approve changing the intersection of West 5th Avenue and North Washington Street into a 4-way stop. All members voted aye.

Moved by Wambach and seconded by Bahr to authorize the Agreement for DANR ARPA Administrative Assistance with NECOG. All members voted aye.

An announcement was made that Groton received the Secretary's Award for Drinking Water Excellence 2021 for 21 consecutive years of safe drinking water to the City of Groton.

An announcement was made that Web Water increased water rates effective October of 2022.

Moved by Wells and seconded by Nehls to approve Douglas Heinrich to attend the 2022 Annual SD Municipal League Annual Conference on October 4-7 in Watertown, SD. All members voted aye.

Moved by Wambach and seconded by Wells to close a portion of Main Street for Family Fun Fest on August 11, 2022, from 5:30pm - 7:30pm. All members voted aye.

Moved by Nehls and seconded by Wells to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal items 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 8:03 PM. All members voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 9:00 PM.

Moved by Bahr and seconded by Cutler to reschedule the next monthly council meeting to August 23, 2022, at 7:00 PM. All members voted aye.

Moved by Bahr and seconded by Wambach to add the approval of a 6% cost of living wage increase for all full-time city employees, excluding the Electric Superintendent, to the agenda for the next council meeting. All members voted aye.

Moved by Cutler and seconded by Nehls to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 PM. All members voted aye.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor  
Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer

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# S.D. schools get heat stress trackers

By Dana Hess

## For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE — Members of the board of directors of the South Dakota High School Activities Association served as delivery drivers Thursday, taking back to their schools new instruments that will help student-athletes stay safe when practicing in hot conditions outdoors.

Thanks to two grants, the association will be able to provide each of its 181 member schools with Kestrel 5400 Wet Bulb Globe Temperature Heat Stress Trackers.

The association received 135 of the trackers through a grant from the National Federation of State High School Associations. Another 46 trackers came to the association through a \$14,000 grant from the South Dakota High School Activities Foundation.

SDHSAA Executive Director Dan Swartos said coaches whose teams practice outside usually rely on just the heat index to tell them if the weather conditions are conducive to causing heat stroke. The Kestrel model tracks 15 separate weather measurements and, through its app, can be set to send its readings to a coach's or activities director's phone.

Each school will get a tracker as well as a tripod to hold it. Schools with football teams will be among the first to get the trackers.

Swartos said last year there were 15 or 16 fatalities of high school athletes nationwide. "Heat played a part in some of them," said Swartos, who noted that the trackers will be "a really good tool for our schools."

The SDHSAA Foundation is separate from the association, though some of the associa-

tion's board members serve on the foundation committee that awards grants. Information Swartos shared with the board said that the foundation has a fund balance of \$842,476 and made grants totaling \$34,500.28 in July.

In addition to the association's heat stress trackers, the foundation awarded two grants for programs to train officials, one at the University of South Dakota and another in the Black Hills.

The foundation also awarded a grant for a wrestling officials' observation program. SDHSAA has observation programs for football and basketball officials. The programs help in determining which officials will be chosen to work championship games.

—30—

# Increased sportsmanship among SDHSAA board goals for school year

By Dana Hess

## For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE — After discussing the need for better sportsmanship in high school athletics at its past meetings, on Thursday the South Dakota High School Activities Association board of directors made increased sportsmanship one of its goals for the coming school year.

According to SDHSAA Executive Director Dan Swartos, the yearlong study will include looking at fan, coach and player behavior and try to formalize consequences for poor sportsmanship.

Guidance from the association could help local school administrators when they try to deal with unruly fans or undisciplined coaches and players, said board chairman Mark Murphy of Aberdeen.

Trying to figure out when to step in and ask a rowdy fan to leave is a tough call for administrators, said Jeff Danielsen of Watertown. "What's the threshold for unruly behavior?" he asked.

"If we make a concerted effort, it's going to make a big difference," said board member Tom Culver of Avon.

Swartos said he sat at the scorer's table at a basketball game and couldn't believe some of the comments coming from the stands. Fans weren't hesitant about screaming "out something about the official's mother."

Another goal is setting up a calendar committee that will study when state events are held. The last calendar committee did its work in the 2015-16 school year.

There will also be a committee established to look at the association's system for classifying schools. Currently the membership numbers that determine classifications may change from sport to sport. The committee will study the feasibility of aligning the membership numbers across sports.

Some of the board's goals were held over from the last school year. One is to continue to study management fees and revenue sources for member schools. Swartos said the board had considered studying a bid system that communities would use if they wanted to host state tournaments. Instead of a bid system, in the coming year the board will conduct an economic impact statement that will tally the funds that state events bring into communities.

Swartos said the study may entice communities to offer better hotel rates or restaurant discounts.

The board will study the implementation of new sports. The study of E-sports will continue. Swartos noted that a resolution in the Legislature called on the associa-

tion to consider sanctioning baseball. A formal procedure for studying a new sport will be considered.

The recruiting of officials will be a goal again in the new school year. Swartos said the board would study placing curriculum in high schools so that students could be trained to officiate lower level games.

Two goals from last year were accomplished. The hardship appeals process was changed and a free and reduced lunch count will be used to modify school membership totals when it comes to deciding classifications starting in the 2024 classification cycle.

—30—

# Aberdeen to host inaugural SDHSAA girls' softball tournament

By Dana Hess

## For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE — The first-ever girls' softball tournament sanctioned by the South Dakota High School Activities Association will take place June 1-3 next year in Aberdeen.

At the SDHSAA board meeting on Thursday, assistant executive director Jo Auch said the tournament would be held at Northern State University. She told the board that the first tournament would include all three classes at the same site.

"They've got a beautiful facility," Auch said of the softball fields at Northern. She noted that the only drawback is a lack of lights which may limit the number of championship games that can be played at the main field. There are 55 schools signed up to offer the newly sanctioned sport with teams to be split into AA, A and B classifications.

SDHSAA Executive Director Dan Swartos said that the staff will analyze how the tournament plays out using just one site. Subsequent tournaments could be held at three sites in three communities, he said.

Each classification will offer an eight-team field for the tournament.

"Having everybody in the same city is going to be pretty special," Auch said.

Choosing a site for a state tournament is usually the responsibility of the association's site selection committee. Because girls' softball is a new sport, Auch vetted facilities in Vermillion, Brookings and Rapid City before settling on Aberdeen.

At Thursday's meeting SDHSAA Board Chairman Mark Murphy of Aberdeen appointed new members to the site selection committee for the 2022-23 school year. The committee will be chaired by board member Kelly Messmer of Harding County. Other board members on the committee are Jeff Danielsen of Watertown and Barry Mann of Wakpala.

The committee also includes five activities directors: Casey Meile of Sioux Falls Public Schools, Jared Vasquez of Rapid City Area Schools, Dawn Seiler of Aberdeen Central, Terry Rotert of Huron and Mike Jewett of Brookings.

—30—

# Columbia City Aug. 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes

City of Columbia Council Meeting – August 3, 2022

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL – Cara Dennert, Corey Mitchell, Cole Kampa, Meghan Butler, Emily Eichler

Community – John Bisbee, Amanda Bisbee, Tony Bisbee, Jeremy Dosch, Don Schutte, Julie Voeller

Corey Mitchell called the meeting to order. Minutes were passed out from the June 29th (July) meeting. Cole Kampa made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Emily Eichler seconded the motion. All in favor – motion carried.

Warrant Vouchers: United States Treasury – 3142.19; SD Unemployment Insurance – 57.89; Web Water – 39.81; Northwestern Energy – 430.55; JVT – 266.26; Dacotah Bank – 152.59; Agtegra – 1266.45; Maxwell Electric LLC – 8993.00; Cara Dennert – 1235.25; Jeremy Dosch – 419.99; GDI – 39.46; Payton Mitchell – 49.41; Ken Frohling – 1769.59; Brown County Weed & Pest – 355.94; Runnings – 61.37; Climate Control – 1435.62;

Kolker Law Office – 53.25; Artz Equip. – 197.48

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

COMMUNITY COMMENTS /CORESPONDENCE –

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – John Bisbee presented letters from politicians concerning his chicken ordinance. He had a new proposal regarding the chicken ordinance. Cole discussed code enforcement. Corey had talked to Groton's mayor about problems with rodents. Emily wondered if a trial period would work for the council to see if this would work in our town. Corey said that we should consult with our lawyer, because there might be problems if we had to revoke an ordinance created for chickens. Brent Raba was present to find out what steps needed to be followed for adding a building/sewer hook ups for a motel and laundry mat to his residence on Broadway. He also had questions concerning the right of way on another property in town. Don Schutte was present asking the council for permission to move a building and construct another building for a new residence. The council asked him to bring plans to the next meeting showing this construction would be completed following code. Emily gave an update on a meeting held last week with the baseball committee, legion members, and foundation members. This group discussed naming the new baseball field Wahl Memorial Field – everyone at that meeting agreeing upon that name (19 people). Corey mentioned that the baseball committee should get a 503C to get a tax exemption under their own name.

Nuisances - A list of city residents violating ordinances was reviewed. The council discussed the option of having a sheriff serve notice papers of those violations and then giving them 30 days to take care of the items.

Streets – Climate Control has been spraying the roads to help ease construction dust.

Parks - nothing.

Lagoon/sewer - Cole told the council about a new option to get samples to Pierre.

Rubble Site – nothing

NEW BUSINESS - Emily brought up the issue of mosquitos – wondering if the spray driver is going slow enough to do a complete job. Corey will check into that with the county. Emily also showed the council pictures taken at summer rec in July. Bills for supervision and supplies will be turned in and reimbursed.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Cara presented bank balances. Cole Kampa made a motion to accept the financial reports as given. Meghan Butler seconded the motion. All were in favor – motion carried.

July 31, 2022 balances: SF - \$ 185,037.33; GF - \$ 199,861.26; FIT - \$14,001.70

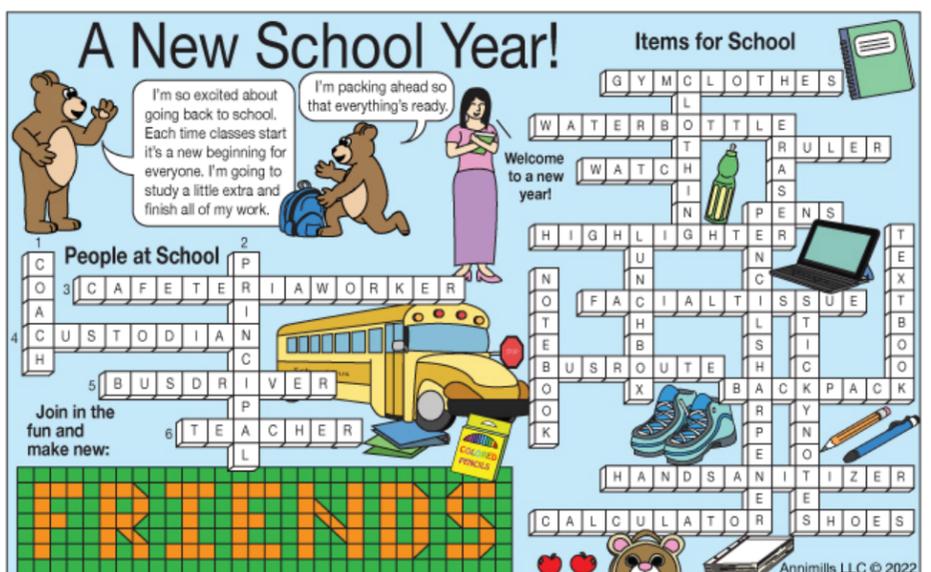
Cash on hand - \$0

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

Next City Council Meeting - September 7, 2022 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by Cara Dennert, Finance Officer

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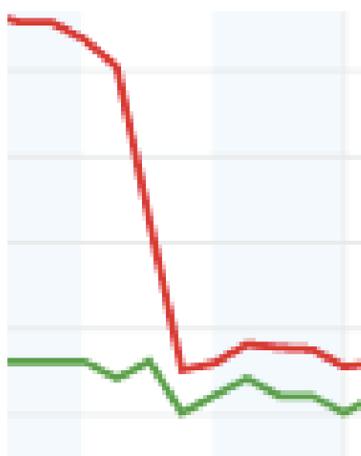




## Storms roll through the area Friday



Several storms rolled through the area last night with the initial line of the cold front doing most of the damage. Marble size hail fell and a wind gust of 44 mph was recorded. The temperature dropped 20 degrees in 30 minutes (see graph below). The top left photo by Paul Kosel shows a tree broken near the base from the wind gust at the B.J. Clocksene home. The top right photo by Tina Kosel shows a branch lying on the street near the tennis court. The bottom left photo by Julianna Kosel shows a double rainbow.



## The Life of Arlene Anderson



Arlene Anderson, 95, of Aberdeen and formerly of Andover passed away December 6, 2021 at Bethesda Home of Aberdeen surrounded by her family. Memorial services were held Monday, August 1st at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Inurnment followed in Sunset Memorial Gardens under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Arlene P. was born on December 11, 1925 in Webster to Helmer and Irene (Cavanaugh) Torguson. She attended rural grade school and graduated from Pierpont High School in 1943. She worked at the Peabody Clinic in Webster.

Deciding to further her education, Arlene went to Minneapolis, MN. And after graduation, was employed by radiologists Hanson, Iverson and Nord. On September 20, 1952, she was united in marriage with Robert Anderson of Andover. Their family became complete with the addition of a son, Kevin, and daughter, Karma.

In line with her view on education, Arlene served on the Andover and Groton Boards of Education; worked on the development of the Day County Museum and helped negotiate the service of the Brown County Bookmobile into rural areas of Day County.

Arlene continued her own education at Northern State College, receiving a BS in English and Business and later adding a MS in English. She taught at Langford High School and retired from Webster High School. Arlene and Bob traveled extensively and eventually purchased a home in Yuma, Arizona. Arlene substituted in various Yuma schools.

When Bob's health began to deteriorate, the couple returned to Andover. In 2003, Arlene moved to Groton and her "bridge" life began. In 2013, she moved to Arbor Springs, Aberdeen.

Arlene is survived by her son, Kevin (Donna) Anderson of Andover, daughter, Karma (LeRoy) Smith of Loveland, CO, grandchildren; Amber (Mark) Surls, of Denver, CO, Kory Anderson (Ali Fisher) of Andover, Scott (Jady) Anderson of Turton, Chance Smith of Loveland, CO, great-grandchildren; Drake Anderson, Sofia Surls, Wolfgang and Serena Anderson.

Honorary Urn Bearers will be Arlene's Grandchildren-Amber Surls, Kory Anderson, Scott Anderson and Chance Smith.

Memorials may be directed to St. John's Lutheran Preschool, Groton, James Valley Threshing Association, Andover, Prairie Heart Guest House (Attention Jessica, 4500 West 69th St., Sioux Falls, SD 57108) or Hearts and Horses Therapeutic Riding Center (163 North Co. Road 29, Loveland, CO 80537).

## The Life of LaVonne Raap



Memorial services for LaVonne Raap, 87, of Groton were held Saturday, August 6, 2022, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton. Pastor Kari Foss will officiate. Inurnment followed in Groton Union Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral

Chapel, Groton.

LaVonne passed away July 30, 2022 at Sun Dial Manor in Bristol.

LaVonne Cleo Kirschman was born on January 11, 1935 in Bristol, SD, the eldest daughter to Vern and Edna (Langager) Kirschman. LaVonne was raised in Pierpont and graduated from Pierpont High School in 1953. Following graduation, she attended the Aberdeen School of Commerce and worked for Aberdeen Monument. LaVonne married Chuck Raap of Andover on November 7, 1954 and together they raised four children. They farmed in the Andover area until moving to Aberdeen in 1960 where LaVonne was a homemaker. LaVonne and Chuck moved to Groton in 1967 where they operated the Circle Pines Motel together for five years. LaVonne later did home daycare, was an Avon representative for over 20 years and also was a Groton School 'lunch lady' for many years until retiring in 2019. She will be remembered for her Kumla dinners, homemade lefse, holiday gatherings for family and friends, and shopping for her granddaughters and great-grandchildren.

LaVonne was a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church. She was an active bowler nearly her entire life and won state championships several times. LaVonne was inducted into the South Dakota Women's Bowling Association Hall of Fame in 2000. She also enjoyed snowmobiling, golfing and camping with her family, along with good rummage sales and spending time with her six granddaughters.

Grateful for sharing her life are her children: Kim (Dee Dee) Raap, Sioux Falls, Kris (Bob) Schneider, Pierre, Kevin (Marcia Hiles) Raap, Andover, and Koni (Seth) Sims, Sioux Falls; grandchildren: Jessica (Aaron) Johnson, Kelsey (Dave) Halpern, Sara (Matt) Odden, Kacie (Phil) Greenwood, Brittany (Ryan) Tennant, Melissa (Brandon) Spanier, Misty (Brandon) Heck, Chelsea (Bubba) Hildebrandt, and Taylor (Tracy) Johnson and 21 great-grandchildren. LaVonne is also survived by siblings: Karleen Holler, Yankton, Ruth Rademacher, Watertown, and Judy (Gary) McKiver, Shakopee, MN; sisters-in-law, Kay (Lyle) Kranzler, Sioux Falls, Laurel (Bob) Kost, Ft. Collins, CO, Allana Novotny, Wisner, NE; and brothers-in-law Jerry (Carol) Raap, Andover, and Tom Raap, Sioux Falls; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her husband, Chuck, in 2020; her parents; brothers-in-law Bert Raap, Steven Raap, John Van Dyke, Wayne Holler, Burton Rademacher and Frank Novotny; sisters-in-law Darlene Raap, Patricia Jeter Lackey and Joan Van Dyke; and grandson-in-law Dale Olson.

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**Call/Text Tina at 605/397-7285**  
**for details**

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Try new challenges and make new friends.



# Newspaper Fun!

www.readingclubfun.com

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Kids: color stuff in!

## A New School Year!



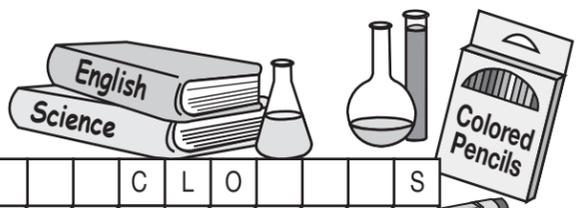
I'm so excited about going back to school. Each time classes start it's a new beginning for everyone. I'm going to study a little extra and finish all of my work.



I'm packing ahead to make sure that I have everything ready. I'm going to try something new this year - maybe join the swim team.

### Items for School

Fill in this puzzle with items you may need!



Items for School crossword puzzle grid with clues:

- 1. ruler
- 2. lunch box
- 3. pencil sharpener
- 4. shoes
- 5. clothing
- 6. sticky notes
- 7. highlighter
- 8. bus route
- 9. notebook
- 10. calculator
- 11. facial tissue
- 12. gym clothes
- 13. hand sanitizer
- 14. eraser
- 15. pens
- 16. water bottle
- 17. watch
- 18. backpack
- 19. textbook

### People at School

People at School crossword puzzle grid with clues:

- 1. cafeteria worker
- 2. bus driver
- 3. custodian
- 4. coach
- 5. teacher
- 6. principal



Welcome to a new year!

Read the clues to fill in this puzzle with 6 people who help to keep a school running smoothly:

- challenges us to play our very best as a team
- keeps the whole school running smoothly
- serves us nutritious meals
- keeps everything sparkling and in working condition
- gets us to school on time
- challenges us to learn more and more

Uh-oh!

Start

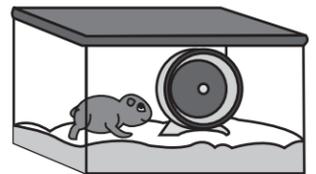
Maze with 'Start' and 'End' points. In the center is a drum set with two drumsticks. A bear character is at the start.

Help Forest find his drumsticks in time for his drum lesson!

### The Missing Drumsticks

### Classroom Jobs

There are a lot of jobs to be done to make the classroom run smoothly. Can you organize these jobs into alphabetical order?



- \_\_\_\_\_
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- librarian
- recycler
- gardener
- line leader
- door holder
- pet caregiver
- chair stacker
- recess helper
- teacher's assistant
- calendar attendant
- homework collector
- computer technician

### Join in for New Challenges and Fun!

- Scouting
- Theater
- Soccer

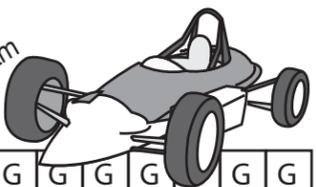


Look for new things to do or try. Join a club, sport or organization. Volunteer to help or start something new.

Color in the puzzle using this key: G = Green, O = Orange

Color-by puzzle grid with letters G and O. A bear character is at the top left.

### Join in the fun and make new:



Newspaper Fun! Created by Annimills LLC © 2022

# CLASSIFIEDS

## Classifieds

### and Card of Thanks

The following rates are for Classifieds published in both the Groton Daily Independent and the Groton Independent, and posted online at [www.grotonsd.net](http://www.grotonsd.net). 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

### CARD OF THANKS

**I WOULD LIKE to say a big thank you to everyone who called, sent cards, gave gifts or visited me for my 80th birthday. I would also like to thank my daughter, Deb, for putting on a wonderful supper for me. It was a very special time. Blessings to all of you!**

Sharon Busch

### AUCTIONS

INTERSTATE AUCTION CENTER: August 13 10:00am. 3 miles east of Sioux Falls exit 402 Brandon SD. Consignment vehicles, tractors, trucks, trailers, livestock, farm equipment. Call 605-331-4550, [auctionzip.com](http://auctionzip.com)

### BIDS

STANEK CONSTRUCTORS IS SOLICITING BIDS from MBE and WBE Subcontractors & Suppliers for: Brookings, SD Municipal Utilities New Water Treatment Plant. Bid Date: 9/1/22 - 2:00PM Email: [estimating@staneconstructors.com](mailto:estimating@staneconstructors.com) for more info.

### EMPLOYMENT

**Now hiring full or part-time positions. Tire handler, responsible for assisting in unloading tires from semi trailers, feeding the tire shredder and general cleanup tasks. Must be able to lift 50 lbs. Starting pay \$16/hr. Contact Robert Wegner at 605-397-7579. Saber Shred Solutions (formerly New Deal Tire Groton, SD)**

**SATURDAY CLEANER NEEDED IN FERNEY, SD, 830 am to 130 pm. \$15 an hour. Must be dependable and be willing to work around customers coming into the family owned business. Please call Stephanie at 605-381-1758.**

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IMMEDIATE OPENING: Northwest Area Schools Multi-District/Education Cooperative in Isabel, South Dakota is seeking applications for the 2022-2023 school year for the following position: open until filled. Culinary Arts Instructor. 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](mailto: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.

**NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATOR:** Strasburg Care Center has an open position for Administrator in a 44-bed, skilled nursing facility, in Strasburg, ND. The ideal candidate will have a four-year degree and the ability to be licensed as a Nursing Home Administrator in the state of ND. This individual is responsible for the overall leadership and management of the organization including planning, organizing, staffing, and directing the facility to ensure quality care for the residents; to be knowledgeable of and implement federal, state, and local laws and regulations applicable to the facility, residents, personnel, and physical plant. SCC offers a competitive compensation and benefit package. For consideration, please forward resume to: Strasburg Care Center, ATTN: Brian Schumacher, 409 S 3rd Street, Strasburg, ND 58573. 701-336-4643 (fax). [scadmin@bektel.com](mailto:scadmin@bektel.com)

**FULL-TIME DEPUTY SHERIFF,** Hyde County Sheriff's Office, Highmore, SD. Applicants must be certified in law enforcement or willing to be trained and certified within one year of hire date. Experience preferred. Request applications from Hyde County Auditor's Office, 605-852-2519 or [hydeaud@venturecomm.net](mailto:hydeaud@venturecomm.net). Submit completed application to Hyde County Auditor's Office, 412 Commercial Ave. SE, Highmore, SD 57345. Open until position filled. Hyde County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

### LAND

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### East Hanson

#### Notice to Vacate Alley

Resolution of the Township Board of Supervisors of the township of East Hanson, County of Brown, State of South Dakota; vacating 25.02 feet of alley in the Town of Ferney, South Dakota.

#### RESOLUTION

The petition to vacate has been presented before this public body this 18th day of July, 2022. Petitioning for the vacation of a portion of an alley more specifically described as follows:

Commencing at the NE property corner of "Harry Implement Second Addition to the Town of Ferney" in the SW ¼ of Section 31-T122N-R60W on the 5th PM, Brown County, South Dakota 139.95" S 01°10'06" E, then 25.02' S 88°37'15"W, then 20.0' N 01°09'54" W, then 25.02' N 88°37'15" E back to point of beginning to close.

And further said Petition being in proper form and executed by Steve Harry the authorized signer for Harry Implement Company, and owner of adjacent land to the roadway and alleyways being vacated; and further it having been determined that vacating said existing public right-of-ways, which includes the dedicated right-of-ways, alleyways and any right-of-way acquired by deed(s) will better serve the public convenience; and that no one appearing in opposition; and said township members having considered said matter and being fully advised in the premises and considering it advisable to do so.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AND IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

That the petition to vacate a portion of the alley hereinabove described be hereby affirmed and approved and that title to said property be hereby assigned and vested in Harry Implement Company, Steve Harry authorized signer. It is further ORDERED that said resolution shall be published in the official /legal newspaper of the respective Township of East Hanson once per week for two consecutive weeks; and that after such publication, such right-of-ways shall be, after a lapse of thirty days after the last publication thereof, vacated without further proceedings unless appealed as provided by law; and that the Township Chairperson herein is further ordered and directed to cause to be recorded a true and correct copy of this Resolution and Order in the office of the Register of Deeds in and for Brown County, South Dakota.

Dated this 18th day of July, 2022

Jeff Harry, Chairman  
Lynn Miller, Clerk  
Damien Krueger  
Nicholas Munson  
Justin Harry

Published July 27 and August 10, 2022, at the total approximate cost of \$49.12 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 21411

### Brown County Ord. 220

#### Brunes Rezoning

ORDINANCE#220  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED

TO REZONE CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY

BE IT ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota, that the Petition to Amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended, to rezone the following described property filed by Don and Christine Brunes is hereby granted and Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances is hereby amended to change the zoning on the following described property from Chapter 4.06 Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini Ag District (M-AG):

"Brunes' Outlot I" in the SE1/4 of Section 2S-T122N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota that the zoning official for the County of Brown is hereby authorized to change the official zoning map for Brown County to reflect this Ordinance.

Notice of Hearing: July 6th and 13th, 2022

Passed First Reading: July 19th, 2022

Passed Second Reading: July 26th, 2022

Adopted: July 26, 2022

Published: August 3rd, 2022

Effective Date: August 23rd, 2022

/s/ Duane Sutton  
Duane Sutton - Chair, Brown County Commission

Attest: /s/ Brock J. Hoyle

Brock Hoyle, Brown County Chief Deputy Officer

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$122.52 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 21409

# GROTON



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# GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 06-6

## 2022-2023 Groton Area School District Back to School Information

### Groton Area School District 06-6 – “Mission Statement”

Each school will foster a school climate conducive to learning by encouraging good behavior and citizenship, good attendance, a thirst for knowledge, and high academic standards. Teachers will employ strategies and approaches to instruction to meet the needs of all children assigned to them. With proper motivation and instruction, all children can learn!

### Teacher Qualifications

All teachers of core academic subjects must hold at least a bachelor's degree, have full state certification, and demonstrate knowledge in the core academic subject they teach. For information regarding the qualifications of your child's teachers, you may contact the superintendent's office at 397-2351.

### Registration and Schedule Changes

Anyone new to the District should contact the respective building principal(s) as soon as possible. Middle School and High School Schedule changes can be made on Thursday, August 18, 2022 from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

### School Supply Lists

Students' school supply lists for the elementary school (preschool – grade 5) are posted on the District's web site at [www.grotonarea.com](http://www.grotonarea.com) under the District Info Heading. Students in the middle school (grades 6-8) will be required to have the same color notebook, folder, and book cover for each class. Math will be green; English, blue; reading, red; science, purple; and social studies, black. The students can choose their own colors for PE, art, health, and computer classes.

### 6th Grade Welcome Walk – Friday, August 19, 2022

Groton Area Middle School is hosting a 6th Grade Welcome Walk on Friday, August 19, 2022 from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM. Students and their parents are invited to come get a class schedule and other important information from the school office, find the student locker and classrooms, and begin to learn the new building.

### Tablet PCs or Ipads Issued to All Students

Prior to being issued their tablet PC, students and their parents must sign and return the following documents: Laptop Computer Protection Agreement, the Student Pledge, E-mail Acceptable Use Agreement, the Groton Area School District Network/Internet agreement, and the Parental Consent to Publish Student Photos/Work. Required forms can be picked up in the School Office or will be sent home with students on the first day of classes.

### First Day of School – Wednesday, August 24

The first day of school is on Wednesday, August 24. Buses will run and school lunch will be served. Each route driver will contact parents to confirm bus arrival times. Other bus route questions may be referred to Transportation Director, Damian Bahr, at (605) 397-8117. The GRASP (OST) program at the elementary school will be available on the first day of school.

### Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten

The District offers all-day, every day kindergarten classes. Children may enter kindergarten if they are 5 years of age on or before September 1 of the year in which they are to enter school. The District offers a junior kindergarten program each day from 12:15PM – 3:22 PM for students that are eligible to attend kindergarten, but are not quite ready for kindergarten. Students enrolling in first grade must be 6 years of age on or before September 1 of that school year.

### Non-Resident Enrollment

For out-of-district students, applications to open enroll may be accepted throughout the school year. Applications are available from any school district administrative office. All open enrollment requests and related questions should be referred to school superintendent, Joe Schwan, at (605) 397-2351.

### 2022-2023 School Hours

Groton Area Elementary  
8:15 AM Arrival Time (Supervision)  
8:21 AM – 3:22 PM Classes in Session  
Groton Area MS/HS  
8:25 AM First Bell  
8:30 AM – 3:30 PM Classes in Session

### GRASP (OST) Program

The GRASP program services children in junior kindergarten through grade five with before and after-school homework help, supervised learning activities, and snacks. The GRASP program will be held in the Groton Area Elementary School from 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM and 3:22 PM – 6:00 PM each day that school is in session. Rates are \$2.75 per hour, per child. Any OST questions or registrations may be directed to Elementary Principal, Mr. Brett Schwan, at (605) 397-2317.

### K-12 Breakfast and Lunch Program

For the past two years the federal government has provided school meals at no cost to all students regardless of income eligibility. Congress has declined to extend that program into the 2022-2023 school year. As a result, only those families who qualify for free and reduced priced meal benefits will receive them. Guidelines for 2022-2023 applications for free and reduced priced meals were mailed out the week

of August 1st. Parents are encouraged to apply for free and reduced priced meals if there is a possibility they may qualify.

The school provides breakfast and lunch for all students each day school is in session. All meals are on a cash basis (i.e. pay as you go), while recognizing the provisions for free and reduced price meals. Prices are as follows:

Groton Area Elementary:

Daily Breakfast	\$2.50
Daily Lunch	\$3.00

Prices for second servings at the elementary are \$1.00.

Groton Area Middle School/High School:

Daily Breakfast	\$3.00
Daily Lunch	\$3.75

Prices for second servings at the middle/high school are \$1.25.

### Activity Tickets

Activity tickets are intended to admit all students to regularly scheduled home activities or events, with about the only exceptions being tournaments and the Pops Concert. Students in grades 1-5 may purchase an activity ticket, if they wish. All students who participate in activities for which an activity stipend is paid are required to purchase an activity ticket as a condition of participation since they are the primary beneficiaries of the activity programs. For example, staff activity stipends include: all sports, marching band, forensics, cheerleading, drama, oral interp, DI, FFA, FCCLA, FBLA etc.

Activity Ticket prices for 2022-2023 are as follows:

Grades 1-5	\$25.00
Grades 6-12	\$30.00
Adults	\$45 (10 events)
Adults – All Events	\$75.00

Admission Prices:

Adults = \$5.00; \$6.00 for double headers

Students, Grades 1-12 = \$4.00

### School Cancellations

All school cancellations or early dismissals due to inclement weather or emergencies will be sent out via the Apptegy Messenger System. Within minutes, Apptegy automatically sends a pre-recorded message to every recipient on a selected list. Parents will be asked to provide phone numbers and e-mail addresses (when available) to the school so that a selected calling list can be created. Emergency cancellations will be broadcast over TV stations KSFY, KDLT, and KELO as well as the District Facebook page and website, [www.grotonarea.com](http://www.grotonarea.com), and by push notifications on the District app (Groton Area Tigers, SD).

### Groton Area Tigers, SD Mobile App

The Groton Area School District has a mobile application available for both Apple and Android devices. Search "Groton Area Tigers, SD" in your app store and download the free app. Be sure to set up the app to allow push notifications to receive timely and important updates from your child's school. The app includes event calendars, athletics schedules, staff contacts, school menus, access to up-to-date news and information and access to archived documents.

### Immunization Requirements (SDCL 13-28-7.1)

State law requires that any pupil entering school or an early childhood program in the state shall, prior to admission, be required to present the appropriate school authorities certification from a licensed physician that the new child has received or is in the process of receiving adequate immunization against poliomyelitis, diphtheria, pertussis, rubeola, rubella, mumps, tetanus, and varicella, according to recommendations provided by the Department of Health. The Department of Health may modify or delete any of the required immunizations. As an alternative to the requirement for a physician's certification, the pupil may present:

1) Certificate from a licensed physician stating the physical condition of the child would be such that immunization would endanger the child's life or health; or

2) A written statement signed by one parent or guardian that the child is adherent to a religious doctrine whose teachings are opposed to such immunization; or

3) A written statement signed by one parent or guardian requesting that the local health department give the immunization because the parents or guardians lack the means to pay for such immunization.

Students enrolling in 6th grade are required to get one dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap) vaccine and one dose of Meningococcal vaccine on or after their 11th birthday.

### Harassment and Bullying Policies

The district has harassment & bullying policies in place in both buildings. Bullying among students can be defined as intentional, repeated hurtful acts, words or other behavior, such as name-calling, threatening and/or shunning committed by one or more students against another. This definition also includes "cyber-bullying" which is the sending or posting of cruel or harmful texts or images using the Internet or other digital media such as cell phones, etc. For a complete copy of the district's harassment or bullying policy, please contact the building principal.

### Grievance Procedure

In an effort to maintain effective communications, if you have a particular concern about your child's progress or about what is happening on the bus, at school, in a class or activity, first discuss it with the driver, teacher, or director of the activity. If your concern or grievance remains unresolved at that level, or if there is a need to share your concern, contact the principal in charge of the school in which your child attends. If the concern/grievance remains unresolved at that level, contact the superintendent. If school policy is at issue or if the concern grievance remains unresolved, you may request that the superintendent include the subject on the school board meeting agenda. To maintain confidentiality, student matters may be confined to an "executive session" with the Board and administration.

### Complaint Policy for Federal Programs and Homelessness Policy

A parent, student, employee, or district stakeholder who has a complaint regarding the use of federal funds and is unable to solve the issue, may address the complaint in writing to the district's superintendent. Disputes addressing the enrollment, transportation, and other barriers to the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness are also addressed under this procedure. For a copy of the complete policy, contact the school superintendent or refer to the District web site.

### Child Find

Parents or guardians are to be informed that the Groton Area School District 06-6 continuously conducts a "Child Find" search to identify and evaluate District children ages 0-21, with special education needs. Persons who know of a child with un-served education needs may refer the child, by name, to the appropriate building principal. With the parent or guardian's consent, an evaluation will be made. After the evaluation has been completed, a placement committee will meet with the parent or guardian to determine if special assistance is needed.

### Title I

The federal government provides funding to states each year for Title I services. The goal of Title I is to provide extra help in math and reading for eligible students. Students are selected for the program based on information provided by classroom teachers, parents, and achievement test results. Title I services in our district are provided to students in grades K-5, with a strong emphasis on students in grades K-3.

### Title I Right to Know – Teacher Certification

As a parent or guardian of a student attending a school that is receiving Federal Title I dollars (Groton Area Elementary), you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the teacher(s) and instructional paraprofessionals who instruct your child. We are happy to provide this information to you. At any time, you may ask:

1. Whether the teacher met state qualifications and certification requirements for the grade level and subject he/she is teaching;
2. Whether the teacher received an emergency or conditional certificate through which state qualifications were waived, and;
3. What undergraduate or graduate degrees the teacher holds, including graduate certificates and additional degrees, and major(s) or area(s) of concentration.

You may also ask whether your child receives help from a paraprofessional. If your child receives this assistance, we can provide you with information about the paraprofessional's qualifications.

### Federal Compliance Notice

Students, their parents, and employees of the Groton Area School District #06-6 are hereby notified that this school district does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, national origin, color, age, disability or religion in employment practices and educational activities. To ensure compliance with Section 427 of GEPA, effective steps shall be taken to remove potential barriers so as to ensure equity of access and participation in grant programs and to achieve high standards. Any person having inquiries concerning compliance or application of Title VI, Affirmative Action, Title IX, Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act is directed to contact Federal Program compliance coordinator, Joe Schwan, Superintendent, Groton Area School District 06-6, Phone 397-2351 or, Department of Education, Civil Rights Office, 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, MO 64114; Phone: (816) 268-0550; TTD (800) 4370-0833; FAX: (816) 823-1404; Web link: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html?src=mr>

### FERPA Notification of Rights

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day the Groton Area School District receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights

under FERPA.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the Groton Area School District to amend a record should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the school board. A school official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of the school who performs an institutional service of function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the Groton Area School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

### Student Directory Information

The Groton Area School District routinely discloses names, addresses, and telephone numbers to the South Dakota Board of Regents, South Dakota Technical Institutions, and upon request, to military recruiters, subject to a parent's or eligible student's request not to disclose such information without written consent. Parents or eligible students who wish to opt-out of the disclosure of this information may contact the school office for the appropriate document or may obtain it here: <https://bit.ly/3fFyC58>

### Notice of Nondiscrimination

Applicants for admission and employment, students, parents, employees, and all professional organizations holding negotiated agreements or professional agreements with the school district are hereby notified that this district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, age, gender, disability, national origin, or ancestry in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities.

### Section 504

Section 504 is the part of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that applies to persons with disabilities. Section 504 is a civil rights act that protects the civil and constitutional rights of persons with disabilities. It states that no person with a disability can be excluded from or denied benefits of any program receiving federal financial assistance. Section 504 and special education are two separate services.

### Notification of Asbestos in School Building(s)

In compliance with the Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools Rule, the Groton Area School District had its school buildings inspected on 3/19/2019 by an asbestos inspector, accredited by the state of South Dakota. During that inspection, areas of suspected asbestos (ACBM) were identified and inspected. The Groton Area School District has an Asbestos Management Plan which provides information on the periodic monitoring of the condition of asbestos (ACBM) remaining in the school buildings. Anyone that would like to see the Asbestos Management Plan can contact a building principal or superintendent.

### Class Change Day- August 18th 9:00-3:00

Class Change Day: August 18th from 9:00-12:00 and 12:30-3:00  
2022-2023 Student Class Change Day Information

Student schedules will be available for viewing online beginning on August 15th. Please review your schedule or your child's schedule to determine if a class needs to be dropped or added.

Students interested in adding or dropping a class can stop in the school office to collect a pink ADD/DROP request form and meet with Mrs. Schwan in room #216 to review academic offerings.

Students will drop off the completed ADD/DROP request form in the High School Office for final approval.

Burn pit legislation passed by Congress, but challenges await veterans needing care

Stu Whitney

South Dakota News Watch

Combat veterans in South Dakota are encouraged by new legislation in Congress to expand treatment and benefits for soldiers exposed to toxic burn pits during deployment overseas, but questions remain about the federal government's ability to effectively provide the needed health care.

Those questions partly explain why Republican senators John Thune and Mike Rounds of South Dakota opposed the PACT Act initially, voting against it twice before public pressure and an agreement to consider GOP amendments swayed their votes to the yes column on Aug. 2. The measure passed the Senate by a vote of 86-11, clearing the way for President Joe Biden, who was expected to sign it into law Aug. 10.

"We want to make promises that we can actually keep," Rounds told News Watch, referring to backlogs in Department of Veterans Affairs processing that have delayed healthcare claims and referrals, sparking recent controversy and a change of VA leadership in Sioux Falls. "The VA has made it very clear that it can't handle the influx of additional veterans that are going to be coming forward."

The Honoring our Promises to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act expands healthcare eligibility to about 3.5 million veterans exposed to toxic smoke from burn pits used to dispose of chemicals, munitions and other hazardous materials, mostly in Iraq and Afghanistan, while also extending coverage for illnesses linked to the Agent Orange herbicide in Vietnam.

With an estimated cost of \$280 billion over 10 years, the measure also directs more funding toward VA healthcare centers and claims processing, though Rounds and Thune say such efforts will fall short of meeting the increased demand in South Dakota, which has nearly 56,000 veterans, comprising 8.5% of the state's total population, higher than the national average of 7.1%, according to the 2020 U.S. Census.

U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson cited the similar logistical concerns while voting against the PACT Act in the House of Representatives, where it passed by a margin of 342-88 in July.

Tom Hafner, state commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars in South Dakota, admitted that procedural issues exist but said those concerns should not have caused South Dakota's congressional delegation to oppose the groundbreaking veterans aid package.

"I was disappointed," said Hafner, 73, who served as command sergeant major of his Army National Guard unit during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004-05. "They talk about taking care of veterans, and this was one area where that could happen. Whether the VA can adapt or handle more cases shouldn't have been their concern at the congressional level. Their concern should have been what was good for the veterans of South Dakota."

Hafner recalled burn pits being a "common, everyday occurrence" during his time in Iraq with the 153rd Engineer Battalion out of Huron. He is one of nearly 24,000 veterans in South Dakota who served in either the Persian Gulf War or post-9/11 operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I would venture to say that nearly every veteran who was deployed to Iraq was exposed to some sort of toxic fumes," said Hafner, who lives in Parkston. "You'd go by burning oil pits that were smoldering constantly, and there was no way to get away from it. But I don't think anybody thought anything of it, except



**Connie Johnson received a Purple Heart for injuries suffered when her 101st Military Police Company convoy was struck by a roadside bomb in northern Iraq. She now serves as president of the South Dakota Veterans Council.** Photo: Courtesy of Connie Johnson

Courtesy of Connie Johnson

in hindsight."

Hafner suffers from rhinitis, a respiratory condition that causes congestion and makes it difficult to breathe at night. The VA last year added rhinitis and chronic asthma to its list of presumptive conditions, meaning Gulf War era and post-9/11 veterans diagnosed with the ailment are presumed to have gotten it from military service and are covered for treatment through the VA.

The PACT Act adds 23 illnesses to the list of presumptive conditions, including brain cancer, pancreatic cancer and lymphoma. Before this legislation, many veterans have faced situations where they had to prove that their ailments were linked to military service, using VA clinic visits and an appeal process.

This comes at a time of greater recognition of mental illness in the military, with suicide rates of military service members and veterans spiking in recent years, according to U.S. Department of Defense data.

"When you're that young, it's all about the mission," said Connie Johnson, who served in the Army as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003-04. "You do what you're told and serve your country and you're not thinking about your health. Then 10 or 15 years later your body is like, 'Now you're going to pay for it,' whether that's physically or mentally. And we're paying for it now. That's OK, because we did volunteer our time. We just want people to recognize that we served our country and put ourselves in harm's way, and now some of us are sick and want to be taken care of. That's not a selfish thing. It's OK to want to be taken care of."

Greater awareness about burn pits and broader access to care is important, Connie Johnson added. But expanding the number of veterans who are eligible for care without addressing flaws in the system has her worried about more procedural bottlenecks and more pain and frustration.

"The VA can't handle us already," said Johnson, a 38-year-old Elkton native who serves as president of the South Dakota Veterans Council. "I'm worried that it's just going to cause more heartache."

**Bureaucratic bottlenecks for veterans**

Johnson received the Army Commendation Medal and a Purple Heart for injuries suffered when her 101st Military Police Company convoy was struck by a roadside bomb in northern Iraq. She was able to return to duty but dealt with nerve damage and post-traumatic stress disorder after returning to South Dakota, with scars on her neck as a remnant of war.

Because of her documented injuries and medals, Johnson's experience with continuing care through the VA was mostly positive. But as she became more active in advocating for veterans throughout the state, she realized that her situation was not necessarily the norm.

"I had access that many veterans didn't have," said Johnson, a South Dakota State University alum who serves as the school's coordinator of veteran affairs. "There are people, some of whom went through more than I experienced, who have had to scratch and claw their way into the system. That's a serious flaw in the process."

Many of these issues stem from implementation of the VA Mission Act of 2018, which established a Community Care program with the aim of integrating VA medical facilities with private doctors and clinics. This partial privatization was meant to allow more veterans, especially those in rural or remote areas, to receive care without having to physically travel to a VA facility.

But Rounds, one of just five senators to vote against the Mission Act in the Senate, points out that the process creates bureaucratic hurdles. Appointments and claims still must be processed and approved through Veterans Affairs, which in many cases lacks the staff and infrastructure to meet the demand, Rounds said.

"They put gatekeepers in place to keep veterans away from local doctors," said Rounds, who attended a forum in Sioux Falls in February 2022 to hear veterans air grievances about Community Care in the Sioux Falls VA Health Care System, which serves about 30,000 enrollees. "We wanted to open it up so vets could go to the doctor of their choice and the VA would pick up the bill. The reason the VA is fighting it is that it takes business away from their own facilities, and they also can't save money by slowing down the services being provided. That's what the PACT Act will do in its current form. It will delay services for veterans because they don't have enough resources right now to provide those services."

In September 2020, the U.S. Government Accountability Office released a review of the Community Care program nationally, noting that the VA had not established a "timeliness goal" for veteran care and that the program was understaffed in many locations. It also pointed out that few community providers were using the VA's software system to exchange information electronically, leading to backlogs and extended wait times for claims or appointments.

Earlier this year, Lisa Simoneau was reassigned as director of the Sioux Falls VA Health Care System amid concerns about the program, including reports that some vets were placed on hold for nearly an hour as they tried to make appointments. The acting director is Dr. Timothy Pendergrass, who was not made available for an interview with News Watch.

Pendergrass said in a statement that the longest wait time for the week of July 25-29 was four minutes and the average time a scheduler was on the phone was 3:39, according to Sioux Falls VA data.

"We continue to make improvements to provide the best care for our veterans," Pendergrass wrote in the statement. "Reducing call times was one of our main priorities since this issue was identified and over the last six months, we have made significant changes and improved processes to make scheduling care in the community easier for veterans."

Greg Whitlock, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, said that while claims decisions and treatment occur through

**Continues on next page**

the federal VA system, his department works to help veterans prepare their paperwork and navigate the process with county and tribal service officers throughout the state.

"As veterans grow older, they might not have a smartphone or computer at home to file that claim," said Whitlock, who has served in the South Dakota Army National Guard since 1975. "Will we see an influx [with the passage of the PACT Act]? Probably. But I think we have the staff to take care of everything in a timely manner, and then it's up to the VA to process that."

Connie Johnson has heard much of this talk before. She prefers to take matters into her own hands, advocating for fellow veterans through the Wounded Warrior Project and her work with the Veterans Council and SDSU. She's married to a former Marine and has three children in addition to running a flower business on her property north of Brandt, 35 miles northwest of Brookings, making her sensitive to the plight of those who have not been as fortunate since returning home.

"There might be more legislation on the way, but as a human being and a veteran, at the cost of what?" Johnson said. "How many hopeless nights do veterans have to go through as they wait for the VA to get its [act] together based on budget numbers and legislative concerns? Because none of that stuff moves fast, and that makes me really sad."

### Political pressure plays a role

Thune and Rounds raised eyebrows among veterans' groups by standing against the PACT Act in the initial vote June 16, when it passed the Senate 84-14. The burn pits legislation had bipartisan support after being pushed by Biden in his State of the Union speech in March, and both South Dakota senators have forged a political reputation as supporters of veterans' causes, though neither served in the armed forces.

Controversy flared more than a month later, when the bill had to be voted on again due to a technical issue that originated in the House of Representatives. This time, the bill failed 55-42 in a procedural vote in the Senate, with 25 Republican senators withdrawing their support and Thune and Rounds remaining against it.

Democrats accused their GOP counterparts of lashing out in retaliation for legislative maneuvers that same day that made it possible to pass the Inflation Reduction Act, a victory for the Biden administration. Republicans responded by accusing Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of preventing their amendments on the PACT Act from reaching the floor.

With the burn pits legislation in limbo during this standoff, comedian Jon Stewart, a longtime advocate for veterans and 9/11 first responders, railed against Republican holdouts as their withdrawal of support for the bill in the Senate became national news.

"It is despicable to continue to use Americans, men and women who are fighting for this country, as a political cause for anger you have about separate issues," Stewart told reporters outside the Capitol. "I'm used to the hypocrisy. I'm used to all of it, but I am not used to the cruelty."

Rounds, who serves on the Senate Committee on Armed Services, declined to directly respond to Stewart but pointed to a lack of general understanding about the complexities of the VA process and implementation of the Mission Act.

"We'll take all the help we can get in fighting for veterans," Rounds told News Watch. "But people really should have accurate information, or it comes back to bite them later on. It's one thing to make a promise that you're going to provide all these benefits, but if you don't have a system that can actually provide them, you haven't helped the veterans anyway."

The fact that Rounds and Thune ultimately voted for the PACT Act sheds light on the liability of being on the wrong side of an emotional issue that gains political momentum and



**Jerry Somsen of Webster, S.D., believes his Parkinson's disease is related to his exposure to toxic burn pits while serving in the National Guard in Iraq. Despite passage of legislation to provide VA healthcare benefits to burn pit victims, Somsen's illness is still not covered under the new law.** Photo: Stu Whitney, South Dakota

News Watch

which relates to veterans care. No lawmaker, especially from a conservative state with a rich history of military service, wants to be seen as not supporting veterans, regardless of the complexities involved.

Rounds earlier co-sponsored a Senate bill with a much more modest price tag that would have extended the eligibility deadline for combat veterans from five years after their discharge to 10 years while also providing a one-year application window for those who already missed the deadline.

The \$1 billion measure, which Rounds called the first phase of a three-phase process, would also have mandated education and training for VA personnel on toxic exposures and expanded federal research in the field.

But the more sweeping PACT Act is the one that came back to the House, though Rep. Johnson voted against it and cast doubt on whether the White House-favored measure could pass the Senate due to the substantial budget numbers involved.

Part of the GOP opposition stemmed from Pennsylvania Sen. Pat Toomey's claim that the bill "allowed \$400 billion of current spending to be moved from the discretionary to the mandatory spending category," which he said would free up space under spending caps elsewhere that could be used on items not related to veteran care.

"Most of us think [the Democrats] did that on purpose so they can spend that in other areas," said Rounds. "Now that we've drawn attention to it, it will be more difficult for them to get away with it."

Toomey's amendment to address that issue failed in the Senate on Aug. 2, as did an amendment from Sen. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., to allow veterans to see a doctor in their community for a primary care appointment that would be reimbursed but not processed by the VA.

When the amendments failed and voting on the PACT Act started, Thune and Rounds joined 84 other senators in voting yes, though Thune expressed reservations in a statement to News Watch.

"Though I continue to have some concerns that this new expansion could overwhelm the VA's limited staffing capacity and claims-processing apparatus, I ultimately supported the legislation following the consideration of multiple amendments offered by my Republican colleagues after weeks of unnecessary delays by [Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer]," Thune said. "But at the end of the day veterans deserve our support and we will do what we need to do to make sure veterans get the care they deserve."

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Kentucky, drew some backlash for claiming that the bill expands presumptive conditions too broadly, noting that the CDC estimates that 116 million Americans have hypertension, which is one of the conditions presumed to be linked to military service under the PACT Act.

Rep. Johnson made a similar comment during an interview with News Watch earlier this year, saying that determining whether illnesses

are linked to burn pits or other elements of military service "needs to be an evidence-based process." Rounds, however, said the expansion of presumptive conditions wasn't a factor in his opposition to the legislation.

"I don't have a problem with that," he said. "I think that's the cost of having a war in the first place. If somebody does come up with a cancer or condition that's unusual and they've been in these areas, I don't have a problem with starting out with the assumption that it's combat- or job-related. These individuals are going to need to get that care one way or another anyway."

### Finding hope for the future

For Jerry Somsen, the passing of burn pits legislation in Congress is not a time of celebration but cause for further reflection. The 54-year-old Webster native, who helped command an Army National Guard battalion during Operation Desert Storm from 2003-05, started experiencing tremors in his hands after returning home from Iraq, where he and other soldiers regularly encountered smoke on the compound from burning waste and munitions.

When the shaking spread to both sides of his body and down his legs, Somsen was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, a progressive nervous system disorder, though he has no family history with the disease.

"I didn't have this when I went over there, and I came out knowing something was wrong," the insurance executive said in an interview with News Watch earlier this year. "I guess you could say we signed up for it, but we didn't sign up to not be protected once we got back."

Somsen receives medication for his condition through the VA but has been denied disability benefits because the VA does not recognize Parkinson's as being connected to burn pit exposure, citing research from the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. The illness is not listed among the presumptive conditions added by the passage of the PACT Act, so Somsen's disability status has not changed.

"Parkinson's is basically falling through the cracks," he said the day after the bill passed the Senate.

But Somsen, who retired in 2009 after 23 years of National Guard service, sees a lot of positives from recent attention paid to the burn pits issue. He said he heard from veterans across the county after his story was featured by News Watch, and many of those service members will be getting help now that the legislation has passed.

"Anything we can do to help veterans out is what I'm after," he said. "It's amazing how many people have reached out to me to talk about what they're going through, whether it's neck cancer or respiratory illness or melanoma. I'm glad that people are going to get help, but it's unnerving to hear about all the stuff that's out there and wonder if something couldn't have been done earlier."

Somsen said there are good days and bad days with his condition. The tremors come and go without warning, but medication sometimes helps. He worries about his ability to continue to support his family and be active in the community, not to mention spending quality time with his wife, Kari, and their four daughters.

But he holds out hope, especially since the term "burn pits" has become part of the American vernacular – much like Agent Orange became associated with Vietnam – and public pressure has been brought to bear on leaders entrusted with overseeing the welfare of those who serve their country, even long after that service is done.

"It's good to see more awareness, but it's sad that these service members were exposed in the first place and there weren't protections put in place at the time," said Kari Somsen. "But hindsight is 20/20, and at least now there appears to be a recognition from the government that, 'Yes, this is something harmful that service members were exposed to, and they should be compensated for it. I would say that's a good thing.'"

— This article was produced by South Dakota News Watch, a non-profit journalism organization located online at SDNewsWatch.org.

Dear EarthTalk: What on Earth is a "macrogrid" and how do proponents of the concept think it will improve energy efficiency?

-- T. McGraw, Houston, TX

The term macrogrid simply refers to a power distribution network that spans many regions and connects smaller producers together to maximize efficiencies of scale. Macrogrids transmitting power produced cheaply in remote rural areas to electricity-hungry users in population centers enhances grid reliability and can save billions in energy costs while creating "green" jobs and helping to reduce carbon emissions.

According to the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE), which works to accelerate the transition to a renewable energy economy, looping neighboring electricity suppliers together in a macrogrid increases resilience and threat mitigation, decreases energy supply/demand variability and improves system performance. Five macrogrids are in use now across North America, connecting power lines from coast-to-coast. Texas, Alaska and Quebec each have their own macrogrids, while larger grids cross multiple state/provincial lines.

Despite their cost and environmental efficiencies, macrogrids aren't always the best choice. When Puerto Rico's island-wide macrogrid failed in September 2017 due to Hurricane Maria's 15-20 inches of rain and wind gusts topping 133 miles per hour, power was

out across the entire island for weeks on end. Electricity wasn't fully restored there for 11 months. Meanwhile, a deep freeze across Texas in February 2021 cut off power for some 10 million Texans reliant on that state's macrogrid.

Some scientists say these kinds climate-change-driven severe weather events don't help the case for developing ever larger and larger macrogrids, but instead encourage a return to microgrids that, while still able to connect to the larger grid, can also disconnect and operate independently in so-called "island mode" if the overall system is compromised. As such, microgrids can optimize for supplying power locally no matter what's happening miles and miles away.

Microgrids can also be more efficient depending on their design. Larger macrogrid systems convert the electricity they transmit to alternating current (AC) to go long distances and change direction quickly across hundreds of miles of transmission lines. But there's an efficiency loss in the conversion from the direct current (DC) of the power source. "Some microgrids are designed to use the direct current power directly from the generation source, which has the potential for an additional seven to 30 percent energy savings," Jean Redfield, CEO of NextEnergy, tells Microgrid Knowledge. Microgrids utilize alternative methods for receiving energy such as through wind turbines and hydropumps allowing for the direct conversion of power from these sources. In fact, programs to encourage the development of microgrids are



**The debate rages on among environmentalists and other about whether macrogrids or microgrids are a better bet in a climate-compromised world.**

Credit: Pexels.com.

already in the works in several states including California, Connecticut, New York and Massachusetts.

But we don't have to wait for our communities to convert themselves to microgrids to start doing something to save energy. We can all contribute energy conservation by refining our day-to-day behaviors, whether by turning off appliances when they aren't needed or limiting our time in the shower. The future will certainly contain macrogrids and microgrids, but it's how each and every one of us uses the energy coming in that will determine whether we can conserve our way out of the climate crisis.

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## Myths associated with urinary incontinence

As a practicing urologist who is double board certified in urology and female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery, I see a lot of patients with urinary incontinence. And while it is extremely common, many myths surround the topic. Sadly, even though more patients in the U.S. suffer from overactive bladder than diabetes, there is very little education surrounding incontinence and other pelvic floor disorders.

One common misconception I hear is "you have to drink eight glasses of water." Says who? Was it your doctor? Maybe. There are a few medical conditions where you need to drink extra water, kidney stones being one of them. However, the more you drink, the more you urinate. So, if you are having urinary issues, the first step is likely to cut back on fluids and simply drink when you are thirsty.

It is also important to note that some bladder medications can be dangerous. Anticholinergics are the most prescribed group of medications for urinary leakage with urgency and overactive bladder. Recent studies have shown an association between these drugs and dementia. If you take these drugs, you may be up to 50 percent more likely to get dementia. The risk increases with age and with longer medication use. The good news is there are newer, safer medications available, which are often covered by your insurance. Be sure to review your medication list with your doctor and confirm if the medications you are taking are right for you.

Additionally, not all bladder leakage is the same. There are several types, and they are treated differently. If you leak with activity, like coughing, laughing, sneezing or exercise, a simple office procedure or same day surgery may be appropriate. On the other hand, if you are making constant trips to the bathroom or having leakage with a strong urge to urinate, a medication, Botox injection or implantable bladder pacemaker may be the answer. Keeping a bladder diary of how much you drink, when you urinate, and what you are doing at the time of leakage can be a tool to help determine which type of leakage you have. Bladder diaries are free and available online or may be provided by your doctor.

Lastly, I wish more people knew that incontinence is not normal. It is not a part of aging that must be accepted, or a consequence of childbirth that cannot be helped. If you or someone you know suffers from urinary incontinence or other pelvic floor disorders, please talk to your urologist. There are many treatments available to help you improve your quality of life.

Lauren Wood Thum, M.D. is a contributing Prairie Doc® columnist. She is double board certified in urology and female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery with a practice based in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at [www.prairiedoc.org](http://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.



**Lauren Wood Thum, M.D.**