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The Groton Independent

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From left to right in front: Kamryn Flihs (Tenor Saxophone), Gretchen Dinger (Flute), Carter Barse (Alto Saxophone), and Jackson Dinger (French Horn)
From left to right in back: Mrs. Desiree Yeigh (Director), Cadance Tullis (Percussion), Ellie Weismantel (Percussion), and Jacob Lewandowski (Percussion) (Courtesy Photo)

Barse interns in band department



Carter Barse, son of Chris and Pamela Barse, is working as an intern for Mrs. Desiree Yeigh, the band teacher for Groton Junior / Senior High School. "I've been helping with a variety of tasks including organizing music and getting everything back into its proper place," Barse stated.

"Since I am looking into a degree in music education, I decided to do my internship in the band room to see how that all works and falls into place," he explained.

"It is difficult and sometimes even confusing to get the correct music into the right folder for the student who needs it," Barse explained. "That is probably the hardest part of this job, especially when everyone wants it now!"

"The easiest part is the relaxed atmosphere here in the band room," he said. "I'm not under any pressure but know what to do and do it!"

"After I graduate from high school, I plan to attend either the University of South Dakota or the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities," Barse listed.

"In high school I am currently the drum major for the marching band," he said, "but I also play the alto saxophone, participate in choir and show choir, I play in both the jazz band and the flex band, and I have been a member of All State Band."

- Dorene Nelson

Groton Area Band Students selected to 31st North Area Honor Band Festival

On Saturday December 3rd, seven band students represented Groton Area at the North Area Honor Band Festival. The students presented a concert at the Johnson Fine Arts Center at NSU in Aberdeen. The students are chosen by HS All State Band Scores, 2022 MS All State Honor Band Scores, and nominations and recommendations from the student's band director.

Dr. Haley Armstrong, director of Bands and Coordinator of Musical Activities at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, was the director for this year's event.

The South Dakota North Area Honor Band was created when area band directors began expressing an interest in providing a regional opportunity for their experienced instrumental musicians. Upon nomination by their band director, students who auditioned for the 2022 South Dakota All-State Band are seated first in the ensemble, and additional students of high caliber complete the sections. It remains the goal of the directors to increase the interest in instrumental performance and to provide a top-level learning experience for the more advanced high school band students of this area.

Representing twenty-three schools, approximately one hundred students were selected to participate in the Honor Band. Participating schools and their directors are Aberdeen Central – Jeremy Schutter & John Patzlaff; Aberdeen Christian – Kimberly Steger; Aberdeen Roncalli – Kimberly Carda & Molly Royals; Bowdle – Sarah Rathert; Clark – Amy Nelson; Eureka – Dale Batie; Gettysburg – Walker Rose; Great Plains Lutheran – Eric Martens; Groton Area – Desiree Yeigh; Herried – Julie Borr; Hoven – Elizabeth Bengs; Howard – Jean Morrison; Huron – James Stueckrath; Ipswich – Becky Nierman; Langford – Kelly Wieser; Leola – Nancy Kindelspire; Milbank – Susan Karels; Northwestern – Wendy Thorson; Selby Area – Noelle Allerdings; Sully Buttes – Erica Paxton; Summit – Daniel Jimenez; and Wilmot – Ellie Helgeson.

Congratulations students on a wonderful concert and thank you for your commitment to the Groton Area Band Department.

- Desiree Yeigh

Groton Area receives CTE Innovative Equipment Grant

The Groton Area School District is excited to announce that we have been selected as a recipient of a 2022 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Innovative Equipment grant award of over \$236,000 from the South Dakota Department of Education which will fund equipment for a brand new state-of-the-art health science simulation lab at Groton Area Middle/High School.

With the South Dakota Department of Education CTE Innovative Equipment Grant, dreamed and written by Groton Area teacher, Mrs. Becky Hubsch, Groton Area High School will transform an out-of-commission science room into a state-of-the-art health science simulation laboratory. The simulation laboratory will be equipped with hand-on, realistic health science equipment, including South Dakota's first SynDaver anatomy model, made from materials that imitate live human tissue, a Nursing Anne Simulator, and a Nurse Anne Trainer for students to learn optimal patient care.

The new health science simulation laboratory will allow student to reach beyond their potential in hands-on learning and emerge with workforce skills that will elevate their learning experiences and, overall, better prepare students for any post-secondary health science education or workforce career they wish to achieve.

The health science simulation laboratory will be operational in August 2023.

Groton C&MA Christmas Pageant

The Christian & Missionary Alliance Church family will present a Christmas pageant portraying God's gift of love, on Dec. 18th at 5pm, at 706 N Main. Following the program, a ham and turkey dinner, with all the trimmings, will be served as a gift to the community. The public is invited.

Changes in St. John's Christmas Services

There will be no advent service on December 21. The pre-school Christmas program will be held on Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. The Christmas Eve service has been moved up to 4 p.m.

Gophers and golf balls

Editor's note: Tony is taking the day off. Here's one we like from 2014.

He was a steely-eyed Russian and just a look was all he needed to keep you in line. But he had a twinkle in his eyes and a soft chuckle that we got to see more in his later years. Grandpa would take a pungent puff from his pipe, lean back and grin when something tickled him. Mischief and rascals, especially, pleased him.

I don't remember when he started smoking again. My earliest memory is of a grandfather who quit rolling his own cigarettes and then—because he needed some kind of a vice—kept lemon drops all over the house. A few times each year, I buy lemon drops because they remind me of Grandpa Spilloway the same way Sen-Sen and pickled herring—though not together—remind me of Grandma Bender.

In his later years, Grandpa decided that a pipe was not going to kill him any faster than old age, so he reconstituted the habit, but he still kept lemon drops around—to keep the grandkids from smoking, I suppose.

When I was younger, each summer after baseball season ended, I would spend two or three weeks at the farm. My duties were light. I would putt-putt out to the far west pasture in a three-wheeled tractor cobbled together from an old combine to get the cows, a duty that consisted of driving up and bellowing, "C'mon, Cows!" And they would come. If they dawdled or if I was bored, I would send Shep after them to nip their heels and hang from their tails, which explained why some cows on some days produced pure butter. Back at the barn, I threw hay down from the loft for the cows, loving the dusty sweetness and ignoring the inevitable growing collection of light bloody scratches on my arms.

My main forte' was gopher extermination, and it was here that I learned about economics. The rumor was that someone somewhere, maybe at the Logan County Courthouse in Napoleon, would pay a nickel for every gopher tail. Grandpa matched that nickle, but he had

a few stipulations. He would provide the traps, but you had to stake them down well, or you could lose a gopher, a trap and a nickle in one fell swoop. And that was frowned upon.

The second rule involved a .22 single shot rifle. I could use it, but Grandpa charged me two cents a shell as a way of encouraging marksmanship and basic math skills. Not only did you have to hit a gopher on the first shot, you had to knock him away from the hole or he would roll underground and, even in death, deprive you of your nickle—a seven cent reversal. That was a pack of Black Jack gum and a two turns on the peanut machine down at the implement shop. (After you got the peanuts you would lick a finger to get all the rest of the good stuff out of there. That is why I no longer buy peanuts from those machines nor should you. I am not trying to crush the peanut vending machine industry, here, I'm just sayin'.)

With my traps were set, I pursed my lips to make gopher whistles and snared them when they popped up to investigate. I systematically cleaned out three pastures each summer. I made a pretty good living as a gopher trapper until a friend of mine in Gackle told me you could get a quarter for a golf ball at the Gackle Country Club. Fifty-cents for the really good ones!

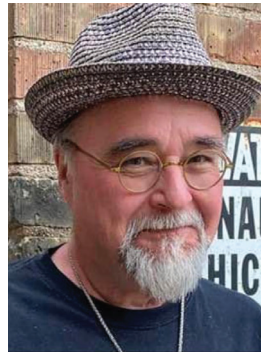
The thing was, we didn't know exactly who would buy the balls, but it was a good rumor, and we went to work, harvesting dozens of them, most of them on Hole 2 (I think) where a typical second shot would place you tantalizingly within reach of the green on the other side of a cattail-filled slough. But it would take a strong, perfect shot. Laying up is the smart thing to do, as I learned years later playing the course and after replacing all the balls I retrieved from there as a kid.

I came back to the farm, soggy, smelling like a swamp, and proudly showed Grandpa the day's catch and explained about the burgeoning used golf ball market. Grandpa decided then and there to buy them all. There weren't many 50-centers, but it was still a pretty good haul.

Those golf balls rolled around in a desk drawer for years, but it didn't dawn on me for a long time that Grandpa didn't golf. Maybe he considered it a good investment. Then again, maybe I missed the twinkle in his eye when he bought them. I may have missed it then, but I can see it now.

I can't believe we're out of lemon drops.

© Tony Bender, 2014



That's Life

by Tony Bender

Weekly Vikings Recap

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

They say a win is a win, but this is starting to become habit-forming for the Minnesota Vikings. After getting out to a convincing 20-6 halftime lead, the Vikings stalled in the third quarter and let the Jets back in the game and ultimately needing a late game turnover to seal the game. The Vikings now sit atop the NFC North division at 10-2.

The game started pretty quietly, and that was a reflection of the crowd this Sunday - a crowd that wasn't nearly as animated as they were Thanksgiving night, (but a packed house nonetheless). The Vikings and Jets exchanged field goals and made it 3-3 after one quarter.

The game heated up in the second quarter as the running game got going with both Dalvin Cook and Alexander Mattison. Kirk Cousins uncharacteristically struggled with his touch, but Cook and Mattison picked up the slack on offense. Cook scored from 4 yards out on a 14-play drive, and Mattison followed it up with a 14-yard run on an 11-play drive. It looked like this could be the game where the Vikings put in a complete team effort and run a team out of US Bank Stadium. The Vikings lead going into halftime, 20-6.

Just when you think this might be that game, the Vikings bring the 67,000 fans back to reality as they started the third quarter receiving the kick but went three and out on the first possession. The Vikings gained only 10 yards on three possessions in the quarter, while the Jets hit a pair of field goals to make it 20-12 going into the fourth quarter. The defense was doing their best impression of 'bend don't break, but like so many other games this season, they decided to let the Jets hang around until the end.

After Zuerlein kicked his 5th field goal of the day early in the 4th quarter, the Vikings got it going again with an impressive 7-play, 75-yard drive capped off by a Justin Jefferson touchdown. It looked like that might seal the deal, but the Viking defense was tired and gave up big plays on the Jet's next drive as they marched it down the field in just 1:47 and scored on a Mike White one-yard plunge. The scoring stopped there at 27-22, but the Vikings needed a goal-line stance and a late interception by Cam Bynum to get into the victory formation to end the game. 10-2 sounds good to the Viking fanbase.

So where does this leave the Vikings? With five games to play, they can wrap up the NFC North Division with a win in Detroit next week. The Lions have been playing very well as of late, winning four of five games, and now sit in second place at 5-7. The Packers beat the Bears, and the best the Packers can do is get to 9-8. It is nice not having to worry about the Packers in cold Green Bay in January.

The Vikings need to get their defense in check as they have been giving up way too many yards in the past three games and allowing each quarterback they have faced to have career games. Mike White threw for 369 yards on Sunday and seemed to have all day in the backfield to pick the secondary apart. The lack of blitzing and putting some pressure on the QB has been an issue all season, and if this team wants to make a run in January, they will need to step it up.

That said, the season has been quite impressive. Vikings have yet to lose to their division rivals, are 4-0 against the AFC East, and are 4-1 on the road. On to Detroit for their first division road game of the season. SKOL!!

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We the People

The South Dakota Humanities Council is making available a weekly column -- "We the People" -- that focuses on the U.S. Constitution. It is written by David Adler, who is president of The Alturas Institute, a non-profit organization created to promote the Constitution, gender equality, and civic education.



By David Adler

Lynch v. Donnelly: Christmas Creche and the Constitution

The public role of religion in American life, long a challenging issue for the Supreme Court in its interpretation of the Establishment Clause of the Constitution, commanded nationwide attention in 1984 when a lawsuit was brought against Pawtucket, Rhode Island, for its erection of a nativity scene in the center of the city's downtown shopping district.

Prior to the arrival of Lynch v. Donnelly, the Supreme Court had rendered decisions that prohibited public schools from orchestrating prayer, posting the Ten Commandments and organizing a moment of silence even it did not specifically authorize prayer. Those practices, with major implications for the separation of church and state, violated the First Amendment's (and the 14th Amendment's, by virtue of Incorporation Doctrine) Establishment Clause, which provided "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion."

Nativity scenes, which swell the emotions and religious beliefs of Christians, were a commonplace throughout the nation. Did public display of a Christmas Creche, a sacred Christian symbol, violate the First Amendment?

In Lynch v. Donnelly, a bitterly divided Court, in a 5-4 opinion written by Chief Justice Warren Burger, significantly lowered the wall separating church and state and upheld the public display of the creche. The Chief Justice wrote that, despite the religious nature of the nativity scene, Pawtucket had a secular purpose in displaying it, as evidenced by the fact that it was a part of a Christmas exhibit that proclaimed, "Season's Greetings" and included Santa Claus, his reindeer, a Christmas tree, and figures of carolers, a clown, an elephant and a teddy bear. In short, the display represented a hybrid presentation of religious and secular elements.

Chief Justice Burger asserted that the First Amendment did not require complete separation, as demonstrated by our national motto—"In God we trust"—paid chaplains, presidential proclamations invoking God, the pledge of allegiance, and religious art in publicly supported museums. Burger said that the Constitution mandates "accommodation," and not merely tolerance, of all religion. Some Court watchers wondered at the time whether President Ronald Reagan's rhetoric about the national need for religion and "family values" had influenced the Chief Justice's opinion.

In a vigorous dissenting opinion, Justice William Brennan contended that the Burger Court had abandoned the rulings on the contours of the Establishment Clause, which it had inherited and developed. But Brennan interpreted Burger's ruling narrowly, maintaining that the question was still open on the constitutionality of a public display of a creche alone, or the display of another sacred symbol, such as a crucifixion scene, standing by itself. In 1989, the Court answered Justice Brennan's question with the requirement that, in order to avoid an Establishment Clause violation, public displays of religious symbols must be accompanied by secular symbols.

Chief Justice Burger's assertion that the creche had a secular purpose was, for the dissenters, and many clergy throughout the country, a point of contention. Justice Brennan rebuked the suggested secular character of the nativity scene. He wrote: "For Christians the essential message of the nativity is that God became incarnate in the person of Christ." A spokesperson for the National Council of Churches complained that the Court had placed Christ "on the same level as Santa Clause and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

The Burger Court, it seemed, had succeeded in offending Christians and non-Christians alike. Some days, the Court can't win.

David Adler is president of The Alturas Institute, a non-profit organization created to promote the Constitution, gender equality and civic education. This column is made possible with the support of the South Dakota Humanities Council, South Dakota Newspaper Association and this newspaper.



New Encoder for GDILIVE.COM

The first thing that probably comes to your mind is, "What is an encoder?"

The encoder is what makes livestreaming a possibility. If the encoder does not work properly, then livestreaming becomes a challenge. Or in some situations, a flop, for lack of a better term.

An encoder takes a signal from one end, say our camera with video and audio, and converts it into a digital format that is transmitted through the internet. Then your TV, phone or computer, has to decode that signal so you can watch it.

Since we started GDILIVE.COM in the fall of 2015, we have been using a red box through Livestream. A couple of years ago, Vimeo bought out Livestream. They had said they were going to "sunset" the Livestream format, basically, shutting it down. So the search began for a replacement encoder to use. We bought one last year, but it and I did not get along very well. Many times, I had to revert back to the red box on the fly. I was still hoping that the red box would continue to work, despite their threat to shut it down. And it did.

Then this fall, I saw Brian Lundquist from Hub City Radio. He had to show me his new encoder that he was using. He said he had the entire season all pre-programmed and ready to go. When I saw it, I immediately fell in love with it. I wanted one.

I started to do some research on it and pricing. From the research I found on it, it looked like I was going to have to do a few things differently. Oh great, another learning curve! But I was up for the challenge and decided to bite the bullet and get one.

I was like a kid in a candy shop when I got it. I hooked up the camera and tried a trial run. There was no video. It was like not getting any candy in the candy shop. Are you serious! So it was back to the internet to find out why it was not working. Come to find out that my camera was not HDCP compliant.

Say what?

Apparently, there is this thing called HDCP (High-bandwidth Digital Content Protection). It happens on some cameras if they don't have this "license" to transmit data through an HDMI port. This port allows video and audio to transmit through it. It means High Definition Multimedia Interface.

Any way, here I sat with a camera that would not work with the new encoder. Come to find out there is an adapter that I could get so that it would work. So the encoder went back in the box, I ordered the adapter, and waited for it to arrive.

Once again, I like a kid in the candy shop when it arrived. This time,

I got candy! It worked. Yeah, another hurdle crossed.

Now that I got the hardware talking to each other, my next mission was to set up an experiment to see if I could actually get it to work. It appeared to work, so now it was time to take it out in the real world to try it out. I thought I would try a junior high girls game.

I got everything hooked up, and it appeared to be working. The operative word here is, "appeared." It said I was livestreaming, but I couldn't find it. Where was it? Frustration started to set in. I kept looking and looking to no avail.

THEN - I saw this little chat button at the bottom of the screen. I clicked on it and luckily, someone came on-line right away. I told them of my situation. They looked over my settings and discovered I had a button on that should have been off. Once he turned it off, it was working. Such a simple fix.

So now, everything seemed ready to go. The next step was doing a varsity game, The girls game at Sisseton was the first test. The first thing was getting wifi access.

Some schools have what they call a "Splash Screen." You also see this in motels. When you hook up to their wifi, a window opens in your browser and it asks for a password. This is where the previous encoders that I had were failures. They had no browser so there was no window or option to enter a password. Would this new encoder work with a splash screen? That was the next test.

I hooked up to their wifi and waited. Then, like magic, the splash screen popped up and asked for the password. I entered it. I was in! Yippee!!! That is going to be such a big help in some of the schools we go too.

In a matter of minutes, I had the livestream up and running and we were in business.

One thing that drew attention of several of our viewers was the little scoreboard I had at the bottom of the screen. I had several good comments about that new feature. Granted, it is something we have to do manually and we have to keep on top of it. Between Jeslyn and I, I think we did pretty good. We also have the ability to do PIP (picture in picture), meaning we could set up a second camera and have that on the scoreboard. I think I could get by with a cheap, smaller camera to do that. Good grief, you should see our set-up now - and now to add another camera and more cords! No wonder I started color coding my cables!

Something else we will be able to do is video ads. I have one from Dacotah Bank that I'm going to try at the Hamlin games.

So there is a little peak at what happens behind the scenes as you sit and watch the games from the comfort of your home. I know we get so many compliments of our service. I thank everyone for their support of GDILIVE.COM, for making this all possible.

The Groton Independent

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AUCTIONS

INTERSTATE AUCTION CENTER December 17th, weather permitting, 10am. 3 Miles East of Sioux Falls exit 402 Brandon. Consignment, tractors, trucks, trailers, livestock, farm equipment. 605-331-4550. Website auctionzip.com

EMPLOYMENT

PERKINS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE accepting applications for deputy sheriff. Contact Perkins County Sheriff's Office PO Box 234 Bison, SD 57620. 605-244-5243 EOE

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CITY OF CHAMBERLAIN, City Administrator. Responsible for supervising water, sewer, streets, parks, airport, cemetery, and recreation, managing city projects, serving as code enforcer, building and zoning official, purchasing equipment, and other duties. Position has a full benefit package along with South Dakota State Retirement. Wage is DOE. Closes January 6, 2023. Contact Nicky at 605-234-4401

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Brown County Nov. 29, 2022 Meeting Minutes

NOVEMBER 29, 2022 – GENERAL MEETING

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

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NWPS GAS FRANCHISE RENEWAL: Robert Gehm, Real Estate Agent for Northwestern Public Service met with the Commission Board requesting them to renew the Franchise Permits which allows permitting do to be done through the Highway Department for new buildings and only for natural gas pipelines. The Franchise Permits term out or expire every 20 years. Motioned by Commissioner Feickert, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the franchise renewal. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

COURT RESOURCE HOME MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU): Kelsi Vinger and Ernest Thompson met with the Commission Board to discuss the MOU for Court Resource Home. Kelis informed the Commission that they someone going through the process to be a Licensed Court Resource Home so asking them to approve and sign the MOU which identifies the roll of Lutheran Social Services and Brown County and the payment structure for this grant. Commissioner Wiese motioned to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the MOU for Court Resource Home, which was seconded by Feickert. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

TRUANCY COURT: Earnest Thompson, States Attorney wanted to ask the Commission to think about transferring the Teen Court budget to a budget for Truancy Court since we no longer have Teen Court. This will give us the opportunity to make a positive impact on a critical issue with Juveniles. Since Brown County no longer has Teen Court or receiving Grant funds for the programs, we are not asking for any more funding that what was already allocated. Commissioner Feickert asked what was in the Fund, for 2023 Budget \$26,575.00 is allocated to Teen Court. Chairman Sutton asked Auditor Heupel to look into this and will follow-up with Commission on the process.

JOINT ELECTION AGREEMENT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Joint Election Agreement with Aberdeen School District, City of Aberdeen, and Brown County. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

COMPENSATION STUDY/MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH UNION: Erica Coughlin, HR Director informed the Commission that she met with the Union, and they have agreed to Table A – Modified. Next step is to sign the MOU and then move forward with the implementation of the wage study. The employees will be shown their current wage, proposed new wage and the difference. Chairman Sutton commented that he feels the wage study was money well-spent and hopes it will improve the relations with the County Employees. Motioned by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the MOU with the Union. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve the November 22, 2022 General Meeting Minutes. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims: Professional Fees: BJ Clocksene \$50.00; Christy Griffin-Serr Law Office \$8,541.67; Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$8,541.67; Dohrer Law Office \$8,541.67; Jerald M. McNeary \$8,541.67; Kristi Brandt \$668.40; Kuck Law Office \$8,541.67; NE Mental Health Center \$1,534.00; Ross K. Den Herder \$151.50; Taliaferro Law Firm \$8,647.67; Tyler Technologies Inc \$260.00. Publishing: Groton Independent \$84.99; Gatehouse Media South Dakota Holdings, Inc. \$1,188.99. Repairs & Maintenance: Pierson-Ford-Lincoln-Mercury \$2,141.18; Steven

Lust Automotive \$328.73; Titan Machinery, Inc - Aberdeen Case Ih \$472.40. Supplies: Advance Auto Parts \$1,007.31; Avera McKennan \$173.50; Century Business Products \$245.24; Claremont Area Fire Protection District \$1,137.00; FedEx \$22.06; Fire Safety First, LLC \$88.00; Leidholdt Tool Sales, LLC \$71.60; Mac's Inc \$193.42; Menards \$31.24; Richard Marberg \$9,648.79; Runnings \$519.87; Titan Machinery, Inc - Aberdeen Case IH \$628.47; Truenorth Steel \$28,164.30. Travel & Conference: SD Assoc Of County Hwy Supt \$350.00. Utilities: Dependable Sanitation Inc \$165.00; Midcontinent Communications \$129.58; Montana Dakota Utilities Co \$30.94; Northern Valley Communication \$273.20; Northwestern Energy & Communications \$1,739.62. Others: Alan P. Or Angela P. Bernard \$13,007.53; Darwin H. or Mary J. Bettmann \$1,951.08; David and Jill Lehmann Living Trust \$16,258.70; Donald D. or Maxine E. Fischer \$1,950.95; FDM Revocable Living Trust \$16,258.55; Great Plains Bank \$19,510.80; Herman Schumacher \$8,129.35; James D. Gressett \$16,258.55; John Kippley \$3,251.80; Joop Antonius Hubertus Bollen \$16,258.55; Kendall or Linda Peterson \$6,503.27; Kendall Peterson Trustee Pt 09 \$39,021.60; Lynette Durheim \$6,503.27; Mark & Mary Volk \$6,503.27; Marlin Nilsson \$13,007.53; Plains Commerce Bank - Abdn \$248,108.74; Pyush Ramanlal Patel \$16,258.55; Robert M. or Lora M. Larson \$3,252.05.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT: Moved by Commissioner Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Human Resource Report: Acknowledge the last day of employment for Joe Kaven, Brown County Fairgrounds worker; effective October 14, 2022. Acknowledge the last day of employment for Richard Burns, Brown County Fairgrounds worker; effective November 2, 2022. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to go into executive session to discuss Personnel, Legal and Contracts per SDCL 1-25-2. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. The chair declared the executive session closed with no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:27 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published December 7, 2022, at the total approximate cost of \$63.47 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 21756

Columbia City Dec. 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes

City of Columbia Council Special Meeting– December 1, 2022
CALL MEETING TO ORDER – 5:45 p.m.

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

Mayor Corey Mitchell called the meeting to order. The council discussed plats regarding the park project.

We resolve to adopt the plat of Columbia Park First Addition to the City of Columbia, in the SE ¼ of Section 29-T125N-R62W 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.

Cole Kampa moved to adopt this plat resolution. Emily Eichler seconded the motion. All were in favor – motion carried.

We resolve to adopt the plat of Columbia Park Second Addition to the City of Columbia, in the SW ¼ of Section 28-T125N-R62W 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.

Trevor Meints moved to adopt this plat resolution. Emily Eichler seconded the motion. All were in favor – motion carried.

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

Submitted by Cara Dennert, Finance Officer
Published December 7, 2022, at the total approximate cost of \$14.07 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 21757

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Groton Area wrestlers have five that place at Clark Tourney

Groton Area kicked off the wrestling season on Saturday, participating at the Clark/Willow Lake Tournament. Groton Area grapplers had five that placed. John Bisbee placed fourth at 113 pounds, Walker Zoellner placed fourth at 120 pounds, and Gavin Englund placed fourth at 220 pounds. In the girl's division, Jaycie Leir placed second and Hollie Frost placed third at 142 pounds.

Kingsbury County won the team title with 186.0 points followed by Faulkton Area with 162.0, Pierre JV 118.0, Clark/Willow Lake 105.0, Britton/Hecla 83.0, Canton JV 69.0, Webster Area 50.0, Ortonville, MN 49.0, Groton Area 25.0, Tiospa Zina 4.0, Doland 0.0

90-98: Noah Scepaniak (0-2)

Quarterfinal - Kaden Wookey (Clark/Willow Lake) 3-0 won by fall over Noah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 1:56)

Cons. Round 1 - Noah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 0-2 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Semi - Isaac Johnson (Clark/Willow Lake) 3-1 won by fall over Noah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 0:57)

106-G: Liza Krueger (0-0)

113: John Bisbee (0-2) placed 4th and scored 4.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - John Bisbee (Groton Area) 0-2 received a bye () (Bye)
Semifinal - Tacey Miller (Webster Area) 2-0 won by fall over John Bisbee (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 1:25)

Cons. Semi - John Bisbee (Groton Area) 0-2 received a bye () (Bye)

3rd Place Match - Caden Singrey (Kingsbury County) 1-1 won by fall over John Bisbee (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 1:29)

120: Kellen Antonson (2-2)

Champ. Round 1 - Kellen Antonson (Groton Area) 2-2 won by fall over Bryce Heitkamp (Britton/Hecla) 0-2 (Fall 1:14)

Quarterfinal - Kellen Antonson (Groton Area) 2-2 won by fall over Noah Vig (Kingsbury County) 2-2 (Fall 3:28)

Semifinal - Chase Adam (Canton JV) 5-2 won by fall over Kellen Antonson (Groton Area) 2-2 (Fall 3:27)

Cons. Semi - Cody Zell (Kingsbury County) 5-1 won by fall over Kellen Antonson (Groton Area) 2-2 (Fall 4:13)

120: Walker Zoellner (2-2) placed 4th and scored 13.0 team points.

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

Quarterfinal - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 2-2 won by fall over Slayton Swenson (Canton JV) 0-2 (Fall 1:38)

Semifinal - Cody Klepel (Ortonville, MN) 3-0 won by decision over Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 2-2 (Dec 4-0)

Cons. Semi - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 2-2 won by fall over Noah Vig (Kingsbury County) 2-2 (Fall 0:26)

3rd Place Match - Cody Zell (Kingsbury County) 5-1 won by decision over Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 2-2 (Dec 8-2)

120: Quinton Bedford (0-2)

Champ. Round 1 - Quinton Bedford (Groton Area) 0-2 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Chase Adam (Canton JV) 5-2 won by fall over Quinton Bedford (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 2:00)

Cons. Round 2 - Quinton Bedford (Groton Area) 0-2 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 3 - Noah Vig (Kingsbury County) 2-2 won by injury default over Quinton Bedford (Groton Area) 0-2 (Inj. 1:38)

142-G: Hollie Frost (0-2) placed 3rd.

Round 1 - Jaycie Leir (Groton Area) 1-1 won by fall over Hollie Frost (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 3:01)

Round 3 - Brooke Grajczyk (Webster Area) 2-0 won by fall over Hollie Frost (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 0:55)

142-G: Jaycie Leir (1-1) placed 2nd.

Round 1 - Jaycie Leir (Groton Area) 1-1 won by fall over Hollie Frost (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 3:01)

Round 2 - Brooke Grajczyk (Webster Area) 2-0 won by fall over Jaycie Leir (Groton Area) 1-1 (Fall 0:47)

145: Isiah Scepaniak (0-2).

Champ. Round 1 - Isiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 0-2 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Haeden Jorgenson (Webster Area) 3-1 won by fall over Isiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 4:00)

Cons. Round 2 - Isiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 0-2 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 3 - Ethan Johnson (Kingsbury County) 3-1 won by fall over Isiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 0:13)

145: Nick Morris (0-2)

Champ. Round 1 - Haeden Jorgenson (Webster Area) 3-1 won by fall over Nick Morris (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 0:58)

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

Cons. Round 2 - Trent Eastman (Ortonville, MN) 3-2 won by decision over Nick Morris (Groton Area) 0-2 (Dec 6-3)

160: Easten Ekern (0-2)

Quarterfinal - Elliot Bratland (Clark/Willow Lake) 3-1 won by fall over Easten Ekern (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 1:47)

Cons. Round 1 - Dashel Davidson (Britton/Hecla) 1-2 won by fall over Easten Ekern (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 0:30)

220: Gavin Englund (1-2) placed 4th and scored 8.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Carson Leonhardt (Faulkton Area) 2-1 won by fall over Gavin Englund (Groton Area) 1-2 (Fall 0:45)

Cons. Round 1 - Gavin Englund (Groton Area) 1-2 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Semi - Gavin Englund (Groton Area) 1-2 won by forfeit over forfeit forfeit (Tiospa Zina) 0-2 (For.)

3rd Place Match - Carson Leonhardt (Faulkton Area) 2-1 won by fall over Gavin Englund (Groton Area) 1-2 (Fall 2:12)

Sisseton holds off Groton rally in girls hoop action

Groton Area's girls basketball team opened its season Monday night, dropping a 32-24 game to the Sisseton Redmen at Sisseton.

Sisseton took control of the game early on, jumping out to a 9-0 lead and led it at half time, 19-5. The Tigers made two of 31 field goals for just 6 percent while Sisseton was five of 17 for 29 percent.

Groton Area started to make strides into the deficit in the second half. Sisseton watched its 16-point lead a 21-5 to start the third quarter dwindle. It was 21-12 at the end of the third quarter. Groton Area closed to within two, 26-24, with less than two minutes to go in the game. Sisseton turned the ball over and the Tigers had a chance to either tie or take the lead, but was unable to capitalize and Sisseton quickly scored. The Redmen hung on to win, 32-24.

Gracie Traphagen led the Tigers with nine points (seven in the fourth quarter), nine rebounds and one assist. Jerica Locke had four points, seven rebounds, two assists and four steals; Jaedyn Penning had four points, five rebounds and one steal; Aspen Johnson had three points, five rebounds and one steal; Brooke Gengerke had two points, two rebounds and three assists; Sydney Leicht had two points, six rebounds and one steal; Kennedy Hansen had one rebound, one assist, one steal.

Groton Area made seven of 33 two-pointers for 21 percent, one of 20 three-pointers for 5 percent; had 35 rebounds, 15 turnovers, seven assists, eight steals and 14 team fouls with Penning fouling out with 2:05 left in the game.

Chloe Langager led the Redmen with 11 points followed by Emmalee Nielsen with eight, Hannah Levenson and Krista Langager each had six and Rylie Huff had one free throw. Three Redmen had 14 turnovers, made nine of 39 field goals for 23 percent, and 11 of 16 free throws for 69 percent.

The varsity game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Bierman Farm Service, Dacotah Bank, Groton Chamber of Commerce, Groton Ford, John Sieh Agency, Locke Electric, Spanier Harvesting & Trucking, Bahr Spray Foam, Thunder Seed with John Wheeting.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 31-13. Kennedy Hansen had four points, Faith Traphagen eight, Laila Roberts four, Brooklyn Hansen three, Rylee Dunker three, Jaedyn Penning five and Mia Crank four.

The JV game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Adam and Nicole Wright.

- Paul Kosel

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Canton Robotics Tournament Summary



Axel Warrington and Ethan Clark fixing their robot. (Courtesy Photo)

Groton Robotics traveled down to Canton to participate in the Sioux Metro Qualifier on Saturday, December 3rd competing against 21 other teams from 8 towns: Mitchell (5), Harrisburg (4), Groton (3), Sioux Falls (2), Brandon (1), Menno(2), Vermillion (1), Canton (2), Jefferson (1) Groton Teams included: Galaxy 9050E-Logan Clocksene, Axel Warrington, not present-Corbin Weismantel Kianna Sanders, Brayden Barrera. Gear Heads 9050B-Ethan Clark, not present Jack Dinger. Gladiators 9050F-Garrett Schultz, De Eh Tha Say, Bradyn Wienk.

Three teams braved the sub-zero temps Saturday morning and were loading their robots by 5:00 am traveling down to Canton, SD. Our 6th grade team G-Force had prior obligations and opted out of attending this tournament. The competition started off with 32 qualifying matches, each team competing 6 times. At the end of the 32 qualifying matches against 21 teams Gladiators 9050F ranked 5th, Galaxy 9050E-9th and Gear Heads 9050B-11th.

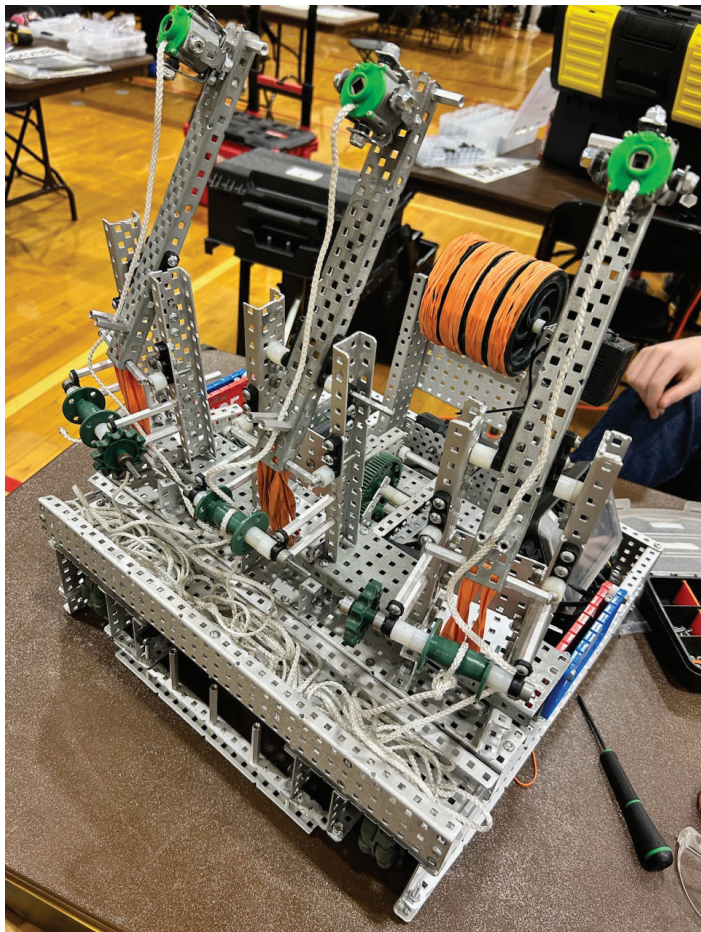
Galaxy had some tough luck and got disqualified in their first match. A part of their robot extended too tall and measured outside the size regulations. Unfortunately this was missed during inspection and not discovered until their third match (see VEX rule below). This was fixed by cutting down the metal to meet requirements. Galaxy improved their robot over the last week by adding expansion features for the End Game to cover tiles (see picture).

Source: VEX ROBOTIC SPIN-UP 2022-2023 Manual: Robots must begin each Match in a volume smaller than 18" (457.2 mm) long by 18" (457.2 mm) wide by 18" (457.2 mm) tall.

If a Robot has passed inspection, but is later confirmed to be in Violation of a Robot rule during a Match by a Head Referee, they will be Disqualified from that Match. This is the only Match that will be affected; any prior Matches that have already been completed will not be revisited. <R3d> will apply until the Violation is remedied and the Team is re-inspected.

Gear Heads did not make any changes to their robot and continued to work on defense, turning rollers and shooting disks. Gladiators made a major change to their robot 9050F by adding a 3 way catapult to shoot three strings to cover tiles in the end game. (see picture) They also worked on turning rollers and defense.

Galaxy 9050E ended their day in the Round of 16. Gear Heads 9050B and Gladiators 9050F paired up together to be alliance partners and worked their way up to the semi-finals, but was up against some tough competition and ended their day here. Great job teams!



Gladiators robot 9050F resting between matches. Note the three green wheels on top, these are attached to string and shot out across the field, trying to cover as many tiles as possible during the last 10 seconds called the END GAME. (Courtesy Photo)



Garrett Schultz, Bradyn Wienk and De Eh Tha Say working their robot in the pits. (Courtesy Photo)

Tournament champions were from Harrisburg and Jefferson. Congratulations to all the robotist who participated! Groton Robotics will be headed to Windom, MN on Saturday, December 17th.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Groton will be hosting their annual robotic tournament on Saturday, January 7th. Everyone is welcome to stop on in and see what we are all about located at Groton Area High School! **PANCAKE FEED!** Groton Robotics will be teaming up with Groton Lions Club for the Annual Pancake feed on Carnival of Silver Skates Sunday, January 29th at the Groton Community center, typically starting at 10:00am. For more information check out the vex VRC robotics

website, download the VEX via app and follow Groton Tiger Robotics on Facebook. Thanks to all who support Groton Robotics! Submitted by Groton Robotics

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Axel Warrington and Logan Clocksene working on their robot between matches. (Courtesy Photo)



(l-r) Ethan Clark, Garrett Schultz, Bradyn Wienk and De Eh Tha Say standing over the stars of the match 9050B and 9050F. (Courtesy Photo)



Gear Heads robot 9050B taking a break between matches. (Courtesy Photo)



(l-r) Logan Clocksene and Axel Warrington competing in a match. (Courtesy Photo)

December 2022 Millie E. Olson Award Recipient, Rebecca Kiesz of Avantara Groton



Rebecca Kiesz has been with Avantara Groton since February of 2021, and in that span of time has made a big impact in her role as Charge Nurse.

Rebecca takes time to build relationships with the residents, truly holding their best interest at heart. Being a nurse is not just a job to her, and she demonstrates that through the energy, charisma and cheer she brings.

Rebecca leads the team positively even on the busiest most challenging days. She is always willing to pitch in and give a helping hand, no task is too big or too small for her. She is versatile wearing many hats including laundry, dietary, cna, and nurse. You name it, she's there. Whether it is day shift, night shift, or resident appointment, she is there.

A CNA coworker had this to share: "Rebecca is very easy to work with, and a good communicator. We always know what is needed when we work with her. She is excellent, always willing to help if needed. She is great with the

residents. She is great about explaining things so that the CNA's understand."

Rebecca continues to go above and beyond day after day without hesitation. She is one of the most selfless, charismatic people you are likely to ever met, always wanting to do a good job and be a resident advocate.

The Millie E. Olson Award was created by the South Dakota Health Care Association (SDHCA) and named after its first recipient, Mildred E. Olson of Garretson, who was an exceptional caregiver. This award is open to staff of any SDHCA member center. Each month's recipient of the Millie E. Olson Award becomes Eligible for the Millie E. Olson Award of the Year, which is announced each September at an awards ceremony during SDHCA's Fall Convention.

Groton Auxiliary doing service project for DTOM Ranch

Groton ALA Unit 39 is doing a community service project from Dec. 5-12 to help support DTOM Ranch's "Operation Christmas Food Box" program. One food box will cost approximately \$60 so people can leave a donation instead of food if they prefer. Checks would go to DTOM Ranch. Families may also make/send a Christmas greeting card but it must not be sealed per their policy.

If any one in the community knows of a veteran or veteran's family that is in need, please put the information in a sealed envelop and give to Legion worker or Unit member who will deliver it to DTOM Ranch.

All gifts of food and other items will be delivered to the DTOM Ranch during the week of

December 12 who will deliver them to our veterans and veterans families.

Groton Unit 39 greatly appreciates our community in helping us take care of our veterans and veterans families.

For more information, contact Jan Seibel at 605-448-3002.

Groton Prairie Mixed Bowling League

Team Standings: Chipmunks – 14, Cheetahs – 10, Foxes – 10, Jackelopes – 9, Shihtzus – 9, Coyotes – 8

Men's High Games: Lance Frohling & Randy Stanley – 229, Mike Siegler – 224, Roger Spanier – 193, 193

Women's High Games: Vicki Walter – 190, Lori Wiley – 183, Sue Stanley – 177

Men's High Series: Mike Siegler – 557, Roger Spanier – 555, Lance Frohling – 545

Women's High Series: Vicki Walter – 503, Lori Wiley – 458, Sue Stanley – 449

Conde National League

Dec. 5, 2022 Team Standings: Tigers 27, Cubs 26, Braves 25, Pirates 23, Mets 22, Giants 21

Men's High Games: Russ Bethke 208, 192; Chad Furney 202; Ryan Bethke 189


Men's High Series: Russ Bethke 568, Chad Furney 517, Ryan Bethke 486

Women's High Games: Sam Bahr 167, 161; Vickie Kramp 165; Joyce Walter 143; Michelle Johnson 143

Women's High Series: Sam Bahr 443, Vickie Kramp 431, Joyce Walter 415


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Cities take new, more compassionate approach to addressing homelessness

Stu Whitney

South Dakota News Watch

A new frontier in South Dakota's fight against homelessness involves using "street outreach teams" to identify and interact with vulnerable individuals in the community and get them the help they need, taking some of that responsibility away from law enforcement.

The effort is an acknowledgment among public officials in Rapid City and Sioux Falls that the origins of homelessness and drug addiction are complex and often melded with mental health issues, and that getting to the root of the problem could have more lasting impact than merely providing meals or temporary shelter.

The street outreach strategy – the top recommendation of a Sioux Falls Homeless Task Force formed in the summer of 2022 – also addresses the reality that Native Americans make up a disproportionate number of the South Dakota homeless population, creating cultural and language barriers in some cases that prevent meaningful intervention, especially when police are first on the scene.

"Law enforcement can be well-equipped and well-trained, but a lot of times for the individuals that we're dealing with, it's going to start off with a position of animosity because they view (police officers) as not necessarily the one they want to hear that message from," said Sioux Falls Police Chief Jon Thum, who has worked with the task force to seek solutions. "Someone who comes from a different background or perspective and has time to build relationships can maybe be the one who steers them toward positive change."

The latest point-in-time homeless count by the South Dakota Housing for the Homeless Consortium – conducted on Jan. 25, 2022 – put the number of homeless individuals in the state at 1,389, up nearly 50% from five years ago (955 in 2017). The Rapid City count was 458 (up 53% from 2017) and Sioux Falls was 407 (up 26%). These numbers are generally considered "undercounts" because of the challenges of finding and identifying people without residence, especially in the middle of winter.

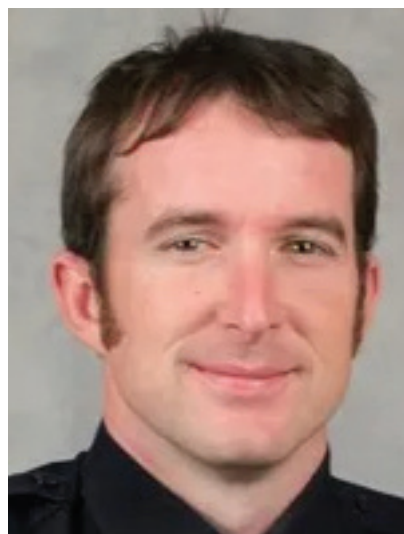
Native Americans, who make up 8.8% of the overall state population, comprised nearly 70% of the 2022 state homeless count, including 76% in Rapid City. Sioux Falls, where the homeless population is 36% Indigenous, according to the count, has used Rapid City and other communities as a model for "co-response" efforts to get at the root of people's struggles and funnel them to available services when they're ready.

The Sioux Falls task force has recommended a two-year pilot program for a street outreach team to provide "trauma-informed practices" and "peer support strategies" in coordination with city and county officials and the Sioux Falls Police Department, with an estimated price tag of \$500,000 over two years. The proposal comes after increased complaints about panhandling at interstate exit ramps and a greater focus on indigent individuals downtown due to recent development.



A panhandler sits on a sidewalk near a Safeway store in Rapid City. The city has explored new ways to address the issue of homelessness in the community by relying more on individual outreach and less on law enforcement. Photo: Courtesy Rapid City Journal

"It's no longer 'out of sight, out of mind,'" said Rich Merkouris, a first-term city councilor who chaired the task force. "Based on what the committee has seen, we're still in a position where we're not overwhelmed to the point of starting to eat away at the core of the community, but people are concerned. After seeing what was being done in other cities, we wondered about trying to engage with these individuals in a different way rather than just have law enforcement called after things became problematic."



Jon Thum

ceive cash from motorists.

Generally, though, he sees panhandling and public nuisance calls as symptoms of problems that can be addressed with boots-on-the-ground intervention by people with lived experience on the streets or training in social work and cultural outreach.

"It's easy to look at a lot of problems in society and paint it with a broad brush, but what's our best chance to make inroads?" Thum said. "People who are more culturally aware of different nuances, and don't carry the same historical baggage that law enforcement carries to these encounters, might have a better chance to make a positive impact. It's human nature to want to deal with people who we think understand us better. If there's a way that we can lighten the load for law enforce-

Thum, who became police chief in the summer of 2021, said people can't be arrested for holding up signs asking for money. It becomes more problematic when they do so on private property or step into traffic to solicit or re-

Services teams up with groups such as Safe Solutions, which provides overnight accommodation for intoxicated people who might be turned away at some homeless shelters.

Sioux Falls followed in 2021 with The Link, a community triage center designed to help people facing a non-violent behavioral health crisis or substance abuse problem by providing 24/7 access to support services through a partnership between the city and Minnehaha County along with the Sanford and Avera health systems.

As homeless numbers increase, however, finding enough trained staff to make a difference has proved difficult, putting more pressure on law enforcement. The street outreach strategy involves city governments contracting with private groups that work with displaced individuals to try to gradually integrate them into society or merely keep them safe from harm.

Journey On is a non-profit organization formed in Rapid City in 2019 to address rising friction between predominantly Native American unsheltered individuals and local businesses, which has sparked confrontations with law enforcement. Mayor Steve Allender and Police Chief Don Hedrick have said that more than 60% of police calls in Rapid City are related to homelessness, which led city leaders to try a different approach.



Rich Braunstein

ment and create a group or project that would potentially transform people's lives, we need to explore those possibilities."

Street outreach makes impact in Rapid City

There are about 580,000 homeless individuals in the United States, according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Nearly every major city deals with the problem in some capacity, including the recent phenomenon of tent cities or other encampments that provide temporary solutions to those in need.

In South Dakota, there's a growing consensus that preventative measures based on mental health and drug addiction counseling are the best way to proceed, with public-private partnerships allowing for a more specialized and targeted approach.

Rapid City opened its Care Campus in 2019, a "one-stop shop" facility that offers detox, crisis care and mental health treatment. Pennington County Health and Human

"For Sioux Falls, this might be a preventative strategy that could keep (the homeless issue) from rising to the level of a public health threat, but in Rapid City we're already there," said Rich Braunstein, outreach director for Journey On, which entered a contract with the city in January of 2022 that also

Continues on next page



Journey On team members, all of them Indigenous and many of them experienced with homelessness themselves, work the streets of Rapid City wearing signature green apparel to forge personal connections with homeless people in the interest of public safety. Photo: Courtesy of Journey On

Continued from previous page

involves Volunteers of America.

Journey On has 16 team members, all of them Indigenous and many of them experienced with homelessness themselves, who hit the streets in four vans wearing signature green apparel to forge connections in the interest of public safety. Calls to Journey On range from local businesses letting them know about an intoxicated person in an alley or a concerned citizen pointing out a mother and children who are not equipped to be out in the cold. The vans roll regardless of whether there is a situation to react to because being proactive is part of the strategy.

"We go into the community every day to identify people who are unsheltered or vulnerable," said Braunstein, a political science professor at the University of South Dakota who is also a Journey On board member. "We initiate those contacts. We're not sitting in a station waiting for a call. We try to build a relationship of trust, visiting with them again and again and again until they're willing to accept services."

Team members are on duty six days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. (noon to 9 p.m. on Saturdays) and take as many as 80 calls a day from businesses, Braunstein said. They can also be assigned to handle 911 calls for non-violent incidents. Where police officers might need to wrap up a situation quickly to get to the next call, Journey Up staff can spend several hours with vulnerable individuals, who they refer to as "relatives" while using Lakota kinship terms.

"There was recognition among law enforcement that in order for the community to heal and grow, the Native community needed to be empowered to address some of the greatest challenges that it faced," said Braunstein. "Police officers aren't social workers, although they're asked to be social workers. With our team members having a shared lived experience in vulnerable neighborhoods, they're able to de-escalate by their very presence, like a brother or a sister coming to respond to the person on the street. It's a win-win, because it allows the police to focus on violent victimization and policing at a higher level."

Finding safety and respect on the streets

Monique "Muffie" Mosseau adopts a more independent approach to helping those on the streets, preferring to stay separate from groups that partner with law enforcement. Her Rapid City-based group, Uniting Resilience, works to champion Native Two-Spirit LGBTQ rights, putting her in contact with young people on their own without shelter, often alienated from family members.

Mosseau and her wife, Felipa De Leon, interact with the homeless community to hand out jackets, gloves and hygiene products,

and her Oglala Lakota heritage brings a level of trust and understanding that can't be matched at city-sanctioned shelters.

"Most of us have gone through a reservation system that gives us a common thread of trauma," said Mosseau, who grew up in Pine Ridge. "We don't consider the 'homeless' to be homeless. Many were pushed away from families that were shaming them in accordance with the colonial way. We ask them, 'Why are you out here?' And the one word that everyone says is, 'Freedom.' That's a powerful statement. They got away from the expectations that society places on them."

That's not to say they don't need help. Many are caught in a cycle of addiction that makes it difficult for them to break away and find a different path. Mousseau said there is more of a Native American outreach effort in Rapid City than Sioux Falls, but both cities' struggles to care for displaced individuals pales in comparison to what she saw while helping deliver food and services in Salt Lake City, Utah.

"That was a real eye-opener," she said. "After about a half-hour at a homeless feed in Salt Lake, I had to pull myself away and go to the car and I completely broke down. I could not believe the difference. It's horrific. They have to do drugs to stay up just to stay safe and not be assaulted while they sleep. Some of them stay up for 10 days straight and then go far away from everybody and crash. That's how unsafe it is."

Being well-known in the Two Spirit LGBTQ community allows Mousseau and De Leon to help that segment of the homeless population, which is among the most vulnerable. She recalls meeting a young man from Ohio who was driven from his home by violence after revealing to his father that he was gay.

"Homophobia has pushed a lot of people out into the streets," Mousseau said. "This was a blond, blue-eyed kid who ran away because his dad beat him up. He was 15 at the time and we met him when he was 22 years old in Rapid City after living in a bunch of places. We helped him get his ID so he could get a job at Pizza Hut. Homeless people don't come out to each other (regarding their sexuality), but in a roundabout way they'll find us and take us aside and open up. It's all about safety and respect. They know that whatever they say is safe with us."

Sioux Falls plan could be approved in January

In Sioux Falls, the Homeless Task Force is working with Mayor Paul TenHaken and his staff on funding for the street outreach plan so it can be taken to the city council. Committee Chair Merkouris, a pastor at King of Glory Church in Sioux Falls, hopes to get a specific proposal in front of the council in January. If the funding is approved, organizations could then apply to be chosen to partner with the city for street outreach operations.

The task force plans to require that whatever group is chosen prioritizes Native American experiences and partners with the Helpline Network of Care, an infrastructure system that allows social service agencies to share information with one other.

Merkouris believes the organization selected could come from a host of local groups that do similar work in Sioux Falls, whether it's South Dakota Urban Indian Health, Southeastern Behavioral Health, Union Gospel Mission or some other agency. But they would have to

enhance and expand their mode of operations.

"None currently do street work with a Native American component," said Merkouris, adding that those services will be part of a financial commitment the contracted group will have to make. "The cost we put forward (as a city) is not estimated to cover the full cost of the street team. It's our expectation that other grants will be pursued, and this (public money) will enhance the services that the organization is able to provide."



A group of volunteers helps serve breakfast at the Banquet in downtown Sioux Falls. The Banquet serves as many as 200,000 meals annually to those in need at its two facilities. Photo: Stu Whitney, South Dakota News Watch

Dakota News Watch

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Among the details yet to be worked out is how the street outreach group will coexist with Sioux Falls law enforcement, but Merkouris has spoken with officials in Rapid City and hopes to adopt some of their model of coordinating 911 calls. Thum, the Sioux Falls police chief, admitted that there might be trial and error in the early stages, but he believes the growing pains are a necessary part of addressing the issue of homelessness before it becomes a larger problem.

"Many times, there's pressure on city government and other entities that when they roll out a program, it's going to be 100% functioning without issues from the start," Thum said. "But I think if we never try or never start, we'll just get what we've always had. This endeavor might start looking one way and then evolve into something else, but unless we get it started, we'll never know."

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

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



Stange's 99th Birthday Open House!

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Dear EarthTalk: What is the EPA's new Green Bank all about? -- Rick D., Asheville, NC

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently proposed the creation of a so-called green bank, known as the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) to help leverage the power of traditional financial markets in solving the climate crisis. Investing in carbon offset projects from lower income communities across the United States, the GGRF, at face value, has a social-ecological conscience. However, beneath the guise of green goodwill, darker forces are at play.

As a by-product of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), there are fears that the GGRF is a 'green trojan horse' created to give fossil fuels another chance and push out foreign business. "The IRA is rife with corporate giveaways and handouts aimed at allowing the fossil fuel industry to continue business as usual," says Ebony Twilly Martin, the Executive Co-Director of Greenpeace USA. Meanwhile, Frederick Erixon, the Director of the European Centre for International Political Economy adds that the

European Union (EU) has concerns about the discrimination inherent in the IRA: "Many of the IRA policies take an 'America first' attitude that will hurt European green industries and cleantech."

Furthermore, the new independent national green bank, by virtue of its association with the IRA, may struggle to convince a crucial player in the climate war, the risk-averse private sector, to invest in the development of low emissions services and products from disadvantaged communities.

Delegates to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) stressed that not enough finance is supplementing the right sectors of the economy to create green technologies and infrastructure.

In theory, championing green banks as an effective means of financing climate action and optimizing social-ecological system resilience is a good idea — especially for communities that have been left behind in the transition to cleaner energy, transport and living. However, green bank models like the GGRF can only succeed when detached from the design of coal barons, protectionist policies and political squabbling.

Global biodiversity is in the headlights of the climate crisis. With a burgeoning population of 8 billion, humans must take account of our carbon footprint and develop innovative strategies that lift nature and all walks of society to reduce our impact. Green banks can be part of 'the solution' but must first escape fossil fuel interests and discriminatory bills to coax the private sector to follow them into a brave



Massachusetts Senator Edward Markey is a leading light in Congress on sustainability issues and has worked hard championing the green bank concept. Credit: Fritz Myer, FlickrCC.

new world of green financing.

"The climate test is simple. It requires jobs, justice and restoration of the environment," says Edward Markey, U.S. Senator from Massachusetts. An independent national green bank could be the answer. Through the GGRF, funding can be leveraged to advance green initiatives and infrastructure in disadvantaged communities while creating good, local jobs."

With less than six months for EPA to distribute funds to eligible projects across the U.S., stakeholder input on the implementation, design and structure of the GGRF is currently being sought. Now is the time for the public to question the evolution and motives of the scheme, so that when a national green bank does arrive, it is truly transformational to the global economy, ecology and climate.

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"Be a hero; learn CPR"

We are familiar with the scene on television and movies: a person clutches their chest and drops to the ground, unconscious. Another character starts chest compressions and help is summoned. Although cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, or CPR, is often not accurately portrayed in such productions, it serves as a good reminder to all that CPR can save a life.

Cardiac arrest is a general term to describe any situation in which the heart stops pumping blood to other organs in the body, most urgently the brain. Cardiac arrest can have many causes, including a massive heart attack or a deadly heart arrhythmia. Regardless of the cause, the most pressing need of any person after cardiac arrest is, in short, restoring the circulation of oxygen to the brain and other critical organs.

The American Heart Association estimates that over 350,000 cardiac arrests occur outside a hospital in the US each year. These events might happen at home or in a public location. If that person is lucky enough to have a bystander educated in CPR present at the time of the cardiac arrest, their odds of surviving that event are hugely improved.

The most basic and important component of CPR is effective chest compressions. CPR can also include defibrillation, or shocking an electrically malfunctioning heart to restore a normal rhythm. Many public places now keep an automated external defibrillator, or AED, on hand. A CPR class will teach participants to perform effective CPR and how to use a defibrillator.

What can you do? If you have never done so, or if it has been a few years (as all things, the science of CPR has changed and improved), I would encourage you to find a CPR class in your community. If you own or manage a business, consider getting an AED and keep it in a visible location. I hope you will never have to use these skills, but you could be the reason a family member or complete stranger survives an otherwise-fatal event.

Cardiac arrest is a common cause of death, but bystander CPR can be life-saving. If you are able, consider learning this heroic skill. For information on where to find a CPR class, check at redcross.org or with your local hospital.

Kelly Evans-Hullinger, M.D. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices internal medicine in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org and on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show providing health information based on science, built on trust, broadcast on SDPB and streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.



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