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# The Groton Independent

Vol. 140 No. 14 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2022 ♦ Established in 1889

## Christmas Food Bags organized

Many came together in the Groton SD Community Sunday afternoon to pack Christmas food bags to be delivered to families in need this week!

Enrich Groton SoDak Inc. volunteers organized food bags with items received from the GHS and GES Can & Coin Drive that was held this month. With the help of our local Girl Scout Troop and a Thrivent Action Team, we were able to provide food bags to 41 families.

We are so grateful for the continued support of The Pantry - Groton, SD! If you or someone you know would like to sign up to receive future boxes, please be sure to contact an Enrich member or City Hall.



**Girl Scout Troop 40249 members that were able to volunteer include Emery Blackwood, Rosalyn Block and Hallie Perkins.** (Photo Courtesy April Abeln)

## Dinger interned at Lori's Pharmacy



Jackson Dinger, son of Weston Dinger and Elizabeth Bahr, was an intern at Lori's Pharmacy.

"I chose to do my internship at the drug store because I plan to go into Pharmacy after high school," Dinger explained. "I do a variety of jobs, such as counting pills and putting the medication back in the correct place."

"The medication is all arranged alphabetically," he said, "so it is very important that the correct order is kept. Everything is double checked and very organized."

"Even though counting pills seems like an easy job, it is actually the most difficult responsibility that I have," Dinger admitted. "These medications are vital for our customers' health and well-being, so too many or too few can become a serious issue!"

"I enjoy working at the drugstore since it is interesting and not very stressful," he smiled. "The other people working here are very helpful and patient with me as I learn how to do my job."

"I am on the Robotics team and have been since the sixth grade," Dinger said. "I also play in the French horn in the flex band for the pops concert."

"After I graduate from high school, I plan to attend SDSU and major in Pharmacy," Jackson explained. "Admission into the program is limited and requires six years of higher education."

- Dorene Nelson



**A number of people helped to assemble the Christmas bags.** (Photo Courtesy April Abeln)



**The snow texture was perfect for making snow people. Pictured above are Ryan Hanson, Abby Fjeldheim, Laker Hanson, Rowan Hanson and Tevan Hanson with their finished snow people. It took all of them to lift and roll the balls of snow as featured in the left photo.** (Photos by Chelsea Hanson)



## Groton gets hit with 14 inches of snow

The four-day winter storm that hit the area last week dumped a total of 14 inches of snow on Groton. The first batch of real heavy snow was about four inches resulting in 1" of moisture. After that, an additional 10 inches of snow fell resulting in 0.86" of moisture. School was called off Tuesday through Friday of last week.

Then another storm system hit the area on Wednesday, Dec. 22 resulting in school and all activities scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 23, being called off. By Thursday afternoon, the state issued No Travel Advised for the entire state.

## The Christmas gift of memories

When I was a kid, I could count on my Uncle Allen to give me something stupendous for Christmas. He was a single young man and he knew what boys liked—a model 1932 Ford roadster with working lights one year, a Tonka crane another. It's no surprise he spent a career operating massive heavy equipment at a Washington coal mine. He loves machines.

That crane was special, but I didn't get to play with it right away. I remember fondly Allen and my father lifting full, open cans of beer with it. They were having so much fun I didn't have the heart to break it up. Of all the toys I received over the years, I wish I still had that one, rust, dents and all.

My Aunt Wanda was my godmother and although she was in California and we never saw her on the holidays, her gifts were always special, too—so special, that one year I couldn't resist. I had to peek. I was raised Lutheran but the act gave me good-old fashioned Catholic guilt.

It was a beautiful gold I.D. bracelet. They were in fashion, then. I had to feign surprise when I opened it the second time. I never felt good about wearing it, though, since somehow I'd tainted it. I'd sinned against ... Santa, I guess. It's tucked away in a cigar box somewhere. I suppose I should let it go, content in the knowledge that I'd go on to perpetrate worse crimes.

I know, I know, it's better to give than receive. You know who said that, don't you? Some insincere rich guy with a lot of toys.

My Grandma Bender was a classic case of being impossible to buy for. She was an amazing German cook, and she made everything the old-fashioned way. No shortcuts. Everything in her kitchen was well-worn. Her butcher knives had been sharpened so many times they'd lost half their weight.

But each Christmas, Grandma received another well-intentioned labor-saving miracle kitchen device. At no small expense. She'd

nod politely and then declare that she would "save it for nice" which was code for "it's going to be stored in the attic forever."

I wonder if she'd ever have come around to using a microwave even if only to zap a cold cup of coffee. Perish the thought. She was a four-speed manual transmission in an automatic world.

There was some suffering involved in perhaps the most meaningful gift I ever gave—a framed photo and program from one of Virgil Hill's championship bouts in Bismarck. It was 1991, two years before my father would pass away from colon cancer. He loved sports—inexplicably the perennially hapless Detroit Tigers and Detroit Lions—and he was pleased when I managed ringside seats through the radio station I was working for then.

I got a classic one-of-a-kind photo from a newspaper photographer friend of mine and then prevailed upon my dad to "borrow" his program. This was months before Christmas, so he nagged and badgered me every time I came home. "Where's my program?" He got a little testy about it. He loved his memorabilia, and I think he may have been scarred when four mansions, two yachts, and a Lamborghini's worth of baseball cards got tossed during a move.

To be fair, I once gave him an autographed Mickey Mantle baseball and never once asked to borrow it.

Mercifully, Christmas arrived before the complete dissolution of our father-son relationship. I still remember the tan sweater he was wearing as he patiently opened the large, flat package. He never shredded the wrapping. It could have been reused when he was done. Of course, it never was. Maybe he was saving it for nice.

It's hard to describe the look on his face. Maybe a little remorse when he realized the intent of my subterfuge. More than that, though, he seemed overwhelmed in a good way. Pleased. Drinking in life. I still have a snapshot of the moment, but I don't need it. It's indelible in my mind. I see the picture quite often. It hangs above my desk at the office.

No matter what the insincere rich guys with all the toys say, it's not about things, is it? It's not about gifts. It's about the memories.

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## That's Life

by Tony Bender

## Weekly Vikings Recap

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

In a season filled with some of the craziest Minnesota Vikings games we have ever seen, Saturday's game against the Indianapolis Colts might take the cake. After trailing 33-0 at half-time, the Vikings completed the largest comeback in NFL history, defeating the Colts 39-36 in overtime and clinching the NFC North title.

It was a rough start, to say the least, for the Vikings on Saturday. In the first half, the Vikings managed to have a punt blocked for a touchdown, throw an interception for a touchdown, and to put salt in the wound, have a defensive touchdown of their own taken away by the referees on a quick whistle because of bad forward progress call on a Michael Pittman fumble. After having a season filled with lucky moments throughout, it felt like the luck had finally run out on the Vikings. As the boos started to ring throughout US Bank Stadium, it felt like Saturday was just not the Vikings' day.

However, the unbelievable happened as the Vikings outscored the Colts 39-3 from halftime. The hero of the game was KJ Osborn, who despite having a surprisingly quiet season, put together by far the best game of his career. Not only did he finish the game with 157 receiving yards on 10 catches, but he also had a huge 63-yard catch early in the 3rd quarter to jump-start the Vikings. At the time of the catch, the Vikings were still down 33-0 and time was ticking away. Osborn's catch not only ignited the offense, it also ignited the defense as they gave up only three points the rest of the game.

Throughout the second half, it felt like the doors were going to completely shut on a Vikings' comeback. First, Kirk Cousins threw an untimely interception down 36-21 and only 8:09 remaining in the game. And later, the Vikings turned it over on downs later in the 4th quarter when only 2:57 remained in the game. Nonetheless, this Vikings' team just never quit as they quickly forced a Colts turnover on downs and got the ball back to the Vikings' offense.

With the Vikings down 36-28 and only 2:28 remaining in the game, the Vikings were going to need to put together a 64-yard drive to tie the game. Thankfully, it only took one play as Dalvin Cook took a halfback screen to the endzone, breaking what felt like all 11 Colts' defenders' attempts at tackling him. Needing a two-point conversion to still tie, Kirk Cousins found TJ Hockenson in the endzone to somehow force this insane game into overtime. Thanks to a Greg Joseph 40-yard field goal in overtime, the Vikings managed to win the craziest game not only in Vikings' history but maybe in NFL history.

There has been a lot of talk from the national media that this Vikings' team is not as good as their now 11-3 record says. While the first half might have proven these people right, it would be hard for anyone to not look at the performance of the Vikings in the second half as commendable. This team all year has managed to find ways to win and never quit. Perhaps it is an indication that everything will come crashing down in the playoffs, or perhaps it means this team is tough enough to deal with any challenge come playoff time. Whatever, it is the Vikings' comeback today must give Vikings' fans hope that this team is never going to be out of a game.

Looking forward, the Vikings will likely need to win the rest of their games this season to ensure a 2-seed in the NFC playoffs. The 49ers currently sit a game behind the Vikings in the standings and are showing no signs of slowing down for the rest of the season. A 2-seed versus a 3-seed means a lot for not only the Vikings themselves but their fans. A 2-seed will guarantee that this team will get not only one home playoff game, but two home playoff games should the Vikings win their game in the wild-card round.

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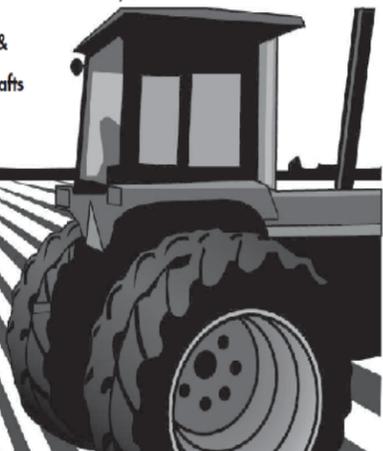
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# We the People

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

## Law and History Reject Unlimited Legislative Power

For the generation that framed and adopted the Constitution, legislative despotism was not merely theoretical, but real. The Founders' fears were drawn from their experience under Parliament, which saddled an aspiring Republic with laws that violated their rights and liberties and denied their goal of independence. Henry Adams, the preeminent historian of the founding period, observed, "a great majority of the American people shared the same fears of des-

potic government."

Suspicion of legislative power was exacerbated in the years following the Declaration of Independence by the fact that early state constitutions vested virtually unchecked powers in the state legislatures. The untested confidence of Americans that "their" legislators, elected by the "people," unlike English representatives, would not betray fundamental values, principles and freedoms, was soon shaken.

Thomas Jefferson, writing in 1781, blamed Americans' inexperience and naivete in "the science of government" for writing state constitutions that concentrated power in the legislative branch which, he noted, represented "precisely the definition of despotic government." He added, "an elective despotism was not the government we fought for," in undertaking the revolution.

The corruption of early state legislatures, it was widely acknowledged at the time, constituted a primary reason for convening the Constitutional Convention. James Madison noted that there had been a tendency to "throw all power into the legislative vortex. If no effective checks be devised for restraining the instability and encroachments of the latter, a revolution would be inevitable." In a letter to Jefferson, written on October 24, 1787, Madison stated that the "injustice" of state laws represented a "frequent and flagrant alarm to the most steadfast friends of Republicanism."

Among the "effective checks" on what delegates to the Convention variously described as legislative usurpation, tyranny and despotism, was the power of judicial review. This pillar of constitutionalism and the rule of law countered the lingering but significant influence in the United States of Sir William Blackstone's emphasis on the "legislative absolutism" of Parliament in England. The availability of judicial review, the Framers believed, would check both the theory and practice of legislative supremacy.

There is, in our time, irony in the fact that delegates to the Philadelphia Convention and the North Carolina State Ratifying Convention were among the most passionate champions of curbing legislative power. Their enthusiasm and advocacy resonate today, as the nation closely watches the U.S. Supreme Court in its handling of a North Carolina case, *Moore v. Harper*, in which the Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives, on behalf of the state legislature, claims that North Carolina courts and, indeed, the North Carolina Constitution, are disabled by the Independent State Legislature theory from limiting the legislature's exercise in flagrant gerrymandering.

*Moore v. Harper* is a case layered with various legal issues. The North Carolina Supreme Court held the legislature's redistricting map as an exercise in extreme, partisan gerrymandering, "egregious, flagrant and unconstitutional." The legislature is appealing the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Our immediate interest is with the question of whether state legislatures, in this case, North Carolina, may create congressional redistricting maps and, more broadly, pass laws governing the time, place and manner of elections that are unconstrained by the state constitution and state courts. North Carolina's theory—Blackstone's theory of legislative supremacy—was demonstrably rejected by the Framers of the Constitution, yet it is in full sprint in North Carolina.

The implications for American Constitutionalism are grave. If the Supreme Court decides, probably in June of 2023, to uphold the legislature's assertions, then the legislature's preferences on matters of federal elections will be unimpeded by judicial review, as well as the text, structure and history of the Constitution. Consequently, state courts, state governors and redistricting commissions could be deprived of their respective roles in the election process, including their participation in invalidating, vetoing and drawing congressional maps. Once a political party obtained a majority, it would be extremely difficult to dislodge it from power, essentially ending competitive races.

If the U.S. Supreme Court were to overrule the state supreme court decision, it would mark a historic break from the principles and traditions of federalism which, among other practices, reflects a 200-year-old understanding that the High Tribunal will defer to state court interpretations of state law. Given that state authority is at its highest pitch when a state's highest court contemplates and rules on its own constitution and state laws, it would be extremely awkward for the

U.S. Supreme Court to say to the high court in North Carolina: You are wrong about your constitution.

There is a better authority on the meaning of the North Carolina Constitution than the current state legislature. In 1786, James Iredell, one of the nation's most acute legal theorists, a leading member of the state's ratifying convention and one of the first Justices on the U.S. Supreme Court, remarked on the formation of the state constitution: We "considered how to impose restrictions on the legislature, to guard against the abuse of unlimited legislative power. We should have been guilty of the grossest folly, if in the same moment when we spurned at the insolent despotism of Great Britain, we established a despotic power among ourselves."

*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.*

Edward Jones

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## Add layers of protection to financial strategy



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To achieve your financial security, and that of your family, you will need to create a comprehensive strategy. But for this strategy to succeed, you'll need to guard it from various challenges – and that means you'll need to build in different layers of protection.

What are these challenges – and what types of protection can be used to defend against them? Consider the following:

- Challenge #1: Protecting your ability to reach your goals – To achieve your long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement, you'll need to build adequate financial resources. And that means you'll need to create an investment portfolio that's suitable for your objectives, risk tolerance and time horizon. And you'll need to keep your long-term goals in mind when adjusting your portfolio during times of volatility.

- Challenge #2: Protecting your family's future if you're not around – Hopefully, you will live a long life and always be around to support your family. But the future is not ours to see – and if something were to happen to you, how would your family cope? Their chances could be much better if you have adequate life insurance. Proper coverage could help pay off your mortgage, pay for your children's higher education and allow your family to continue its lifestyle.

- Challenge #3: Protecting your income should you become temporarily disabled – If you were to become ill or temporarily disabled and could not work for a while, the disruption in your income could jeopardize your family's living situation, or, at the least, lead to an inability to pay bills in a timely fashion. To protect against this threat, you may want to consider adding disability insurance. Your employer may offer a short-term disability policy as an employee benefit, but it may be insufficient, either in duration or in amount of coverage, so you might want to look at a private policy.

- Challenge #4: Protecting your long-term investments from short-term needs – Life is full of unexpected expenses – a major car repair, a new furnace, a large bill from the dentist, and so on. If you did not have the money available to deal with these costs, you might be forced to dip into your long-term investments, such as your IRA or 401(k). Taking money from these accounts earlier than you intended could incur taxes and penalties, and, even more importantly, could reduce the amount of money you have available for retirement. To help protect these investments from short-term needs for cash, try to build an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in cash or a liquid account.

- Challenge #5: Protecting your financial independence – You would probably do all you could to avoid ever becoming a burden to your grown children – which is why it's so important to maintain your financial independence throughout your life. One potential threat to this independence is the need for some type of long-term care, such as an extended nursing home stay, which can be extremely expensive. A financial professional can suggest protection strategies to help you prepare for these types of costs.

It can be challenging to keep your financial strategy intact – so do whatever it takes to protect it.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Travis Schuring can be reached at 605-330-0090, [travis.schuring@edwardjones.com](mailto:travis.schuring@edwardjones.com), or [www.edwardjones.com/travis-schuring](http://www.edwardjones.com/travis-schuring).  
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# The Groton Independent

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## Fill Your Cup

A friend called me a few weeks ago in tears. She serves as a community leader in a progressive small town, yet the local negative narrative had her feeling down and out. Unfortunately, it had been building for a while. She was feeling alone and struggling to find any reason to celebrate her community's successes this year.

The old adage states, "Fill your cup, because you can't pour from an empty cup." The phrase, to fill your cup, means to replenish your stores of mental, emotional, and physical energy which are required to be a great community leader. My friend's cup was near empty.

Too often, this scenario is the reality for many leaders who carry the heavy day-to-day burden of creating a thriving community. Being a community leader requires energy to vision for the future, make hard decisions, analyze risk, clearly communicate, deal with local naysayers, complete projects, and most importantly, thoughtfully reflect.

In its simplest form, reflection is about wise consideration. But the kind of reflection that is valuable to community leaders is more nuanced than that. The most useful reflection involves making meaning -- naming what's happening, seeing patterns, identifying structures, weighing actions, and analyzing outcomes. This kind of reflection by community leaders becomes crucial to the ongoing development of the community, yet few leaders make time for it. Why? For one, it requires leaders to do several things they typically don't like to do: slow down, adopt a mindset of not knowing and curiosity, tolerate messiness and inefficiency, and take personal responsibility.

At her lowest, my friend took the time for reflection and meaning-making. She helped her community celebrate the highs of their success by engaging a group of community leaders to "Name the W.O.W." This group took 30 minutes to brainstorm a list of the key community projects and milestones in the past 12 months. Their list contained 20+ big successes to celebrate and learn from as they think toward 2023.

As we move toward a new year, how might we stop, reflect, and recharge as community leaders? My challenge for you is to do what my friend did -- Name the W.O.W. I've provided some brief instructions below.

### Name the WOW (Wall of Wonder) Source: ToP (Technology of Participation)

This is a group reflection tool, that enables a group to review their history and progress. Through the process, they identify events that have taken place and place them on a visual timeline or write them on a flip chart. This process enables the group to slow down for a reflection of their journey over a specific period, remember what projects have shaped their journey, reconnect to what brought them to their current position, and recharge through celebration.

**Start Here** with a Reflection Question - What are the key events and milestones our community or organization accomplished in 2022 that are moving us toward a thriving [insert your town]? (capture your list on a whiteboard or flip chart)

### Next, make meaning through group conversation (below are sample questions)

- What catches your attention on the W.O.W. list?
- What was easy? What was hard?
- What do you see as a turning point during this time period?
- Thinking back over what we did, where were key insights for you?
- What happened to us as a group as we completed this work?
- What new issues or questions have emerged for you?
- What is the significance of the work we accomplished this year?
- What bold steps could we take together in the upcoming year?

**Lastly**, share your W.O.W. with the community. Taking a few minutes to create your Wall of Wonder will have a lasting impact and help you clearly communicate the story of your success to the community.

The Community Coach. Having a passion for community leadership and development is what drives Paula Jensen's personal and professional life. Paula lives in her hometown of Langford, South Dakota, population 318+. She serves as a Strategic Doing practitioner, grant writer and community coach with Dakota Resources based in Renner, South Dakota. Dakota Resources is a mission-driven 501c3 Community Development Financial Institution working to connect capital and capacity to empower rural communities. Contact her at [paula@dakotaresources.org](mailto:paula@dakotaresources.org).

## Lady Tigers hand Cavaliers first loss

Groton Area captured its first win of the season Tuesday night in Groton with a 41-24 win over the previously undefeated Aberdeen Roncalli Cavaliers.

The Tiger defense had 19 steals as the Cavaliers had 29 turnovers in the game to dominate the game. A 16-point rally in the second and third quarter put the Tigers on top, 30-12.

The first quarter was close with three lead changes and the game was tied twice resulting in a nine-all score after the first quarter. Groton Area then took a 26-12 lead at half time and a 32-17 lead into the fourth quarter.

Brooke Gengerke powered in three three-pointers and led the Tigers with 15 points, four rebounds, two assists and five steals. Sydney Leicht had one three-pointer and added nine points, had three rebounds, two assists and two steals. Jerica Locke was a defensive menace for the as she had seven steal and one block in addition to seven points, eight rebounds and four assists. Jaedyn Penning had four points, two rebounds and one steal. Faith Traphagen had four points, one rebound and one steal. Kennedy Hansen had two points, two rebounds, two assists and two steals. Aspen Johnson had five rebounds, one assist and three steals.

Groton Area made 11 of 30 two-pointers for 37 percent, five of 20 three-pointers for 25 percent, four of four free throws, had 2 rebounds, 22 turnovers, 10 assists, 19 steals, 12 fouls and one block.

McKenna O'Keefe led the Cavaliers with 11 points which included three three-pointers, Camryn Bain and two three-pointers for six points, Claire Crawford had a three-pointer and Maddie Huber and Ava Hanson each had two points.

The Cavaliers made nine of 34 field goals for 26 percent, missed all three free throw attempts and had eight fouls.

Groton Area is now 1-2 on the season and the Cavaliers go to 2-1.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 32-1. Kennedy Hansen and Faith Traphagen each had six points, Laila Roberts, Elizabeth Flihs and Rylee Dunker each had five points, Brooklyn Hansen had three points and Talli Wright added two points. The Tigers made 13 of 43 field goals for 30 percent, made two of five free throws and had 13 turnovers.

Reese Heinrich led the single point for the Cavaliers. Roncalli put up 23 shots, was one of two from the line and had 18 turnovers.

Ryan Tracy did the play-by-play of both games on GDILIVE.COM. Adam and Nicole Wright were the junior varsity sponsors. Varsity game sponsors were Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Bierman Farm Service, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Groton Chamber of Commerce, Groton Ford, John Sieh Agency, Locke Electric, Spanier Harvesting & Trucking, Bahr Spray Foam, Thunder Seed with John Wheeting,

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THE CITY OF KIMBALL is hiring a chief of police, full-time city maintenance and full-time city administrator. All three positions offer benefits and wages depending on experience. For details and application, e-mail [kimballcitysd@midstatesd.net](mailto:kimballcitysd@midstatesd.net) or phone 605-778-6277.

## LAND

FARMLAND rents are strong. Do you need representation or a Farmland Manager? Contact Tim Peters at 605.270.9410 or [tpeters@pifers.com](mailto:tpeters@pifers.com). Pifer's Land Management, [www.pifers.com](http://www.pifers.com)

## MISCELLANEOUS

TRAIN ONLINE TO DO MEDICAL BILLING! Become a Medical Office Professional online at CTI! Get Trained, Certified & ready to work in months! Call 833-508-1957. (M-F 8am-6pm ET). Computer with internet is required.

BEAUTIFUL BATH UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Superior quality bath and shower systems at AFFORDABLE PRICES! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Call Now! 855-799-3330

Over \$10K in debt? Be debt free in 24-48 months. Pay nothing to enroll. Call National Debt Relief at 888-448-0987.

## NOTICES

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

## PETS

Use Happy Jack® Seal N Heal® on dogs, cats & horses to close wounds with a bitter taste. Allow healing. At Tractor Supply® ([www.fleabeacon.com](http://www.fleabeacon.com))

**A subscription to the Groton Independent makes a great gift!**  
Call/Text Paul  
605-397-7460

## Frederick School

Dec. 12, 2022

## Meeting Minutes

FREDERICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #6-2

Regular Board of Education Meeting

December 12, 2022

A regular meeting of the Frederick Area Board of Education was called to order on December 12, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. by President Rich Schlosser. Members present were Rich Achen, Jon Ellwein, Alex Hart and Eric Sumption. Others present were Superintendent/9-12 Principal/Athletic Director Jeff Kosters and Business Manager Shauna Severson.

The meeting began with all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion 2023-052 Motion by Sumption, second by Achen to approve the agenda as presented. All aye, carried.

No one was present for public comment.

No conflict of interest disclosures.

Motion 2023-053 Motion by Hart, second by Ellwein to approve the following consent agenda items. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

- November 14, 2022 Minutes
- November 2022 Financial Report, Custodial Accounts and Investments

- November 2022 Payroll
- Transfer \$15,000 from General Fund to Food Service Fund
- December 2022 Bills Financial Report:

General Fund- Checking:

Bal 11-1-22: \$217,007.63; Receipts: \$363,489.49; Disbursements: \$182,594.47; Transfers: \$4,704.36; Bal 11-30-22 \$393,198.29. Investments: Bal 11-1-22: \$288,876.55; Interest: \$4.15; Bal 11-30-22: \$288,880.70. Ending Fund Balance: \$682,078.99.

Imprest Fund: Bal 11-1-22: \$0; Receipts: \$5,000.00; Disbursements: \$0; Bal 11-30-22 \$5,000.00.

Capital Outlay Fund- Checking: Bal 11-1-22: \$451,657.15; Receipts: \$177,791.28; Disbursements: \$45,621.90; Bal 11-30-22 \$583,826.53. Investments: Bal 11-1-22: \$1,933,634.20; Interest: \$0; Bal 11-30-22: \$1,933,634.20. Ending Fund Balance: \$2,517,460.73.

Special Education Fund- Checking: Bal 11-1-22: \$63,482.14; Receipts: \$78,450.64; Disbursements: \$29,810.43; Bal 11-30-22 \$112,122.35. Investments: Bal 11-1-22: \$1,446,175.05; Interest: \$0; Bal 11-30-22: \$1,446,175.05. Ending Fund Balance: \$1,558,297.40.

Food Service Fund: Bal 11-1-22: \$5,871.53; Receipts: \$7,764.26; Disbursements: \$12,994.67 Bal 11-30-22 \$641.12.

Drivers Ed Fund: Bal 11-1-22: 66.35; Receipts: \$0; Disbursements: \$0; Bal 11-30-22 \$66.35.

Custodial Fund: Bal 11-1-22: \$7,881.00; Receipts: \$12,313.44; Disbursements: \$5,000.00; Bal 11-30-22 \$15,194.44.

Ovid J Stevens Scholarship: Bal 11-1-22: \$.85; Receipts: \$0; Disbursements: \$0; Bal 11-30-22 \$.85. Investments: Bal 11-1-22: \$26,442.95; Interest: \$19.17; Bal 11-30-22: \$26,462.12.

Claims approved: November 2022 Payroll - General Fund salaries 76,862.72; Special Education salaries 15,900.42; Food Service salaries 3,658.46. EFTPS, federal income tax/Social Security/Medicare 26,401.04; AFLAC, supplemental insurance 1,564.29; American Funds, retirement 1,536.18; Delta Dental, insurance 1,856.52; The Standard, life insurance 254.84; Security Benefits, retirement 1,333.22; Optilegra, vision insurance 415.28; Wellmark, health insurance 18,059.00; SD Retirement 15,239.16; SD Retirement Supplemental, 4,478.22. Total: \$167,559.35.

Bills approved: General Fund: Agtegra-fuel, 3,945.59; Amazon-supplies, 43.51; Best Western Ramkota-state fb travel, 191.99; CWD-concessions/FFVP, 946.32; Church, Manolis, Freeman, Ludt & Burns LLP-legal correspondence, 1732.72; Century Business Products-copier overage, 431.51; Cole Papers-supplies, 1,088.47; CommTech-intercom services, 240.40; Farmers Union Oil-bus maintenance, 1207.67; FCCLA-national/state dues, 374.00; Foreman Sales & Service-bus supplies, 26.48; GDI News-publishing, 80.81; Graves IT Solutions-remote IT support, 125.00; Green Iron Equipment-maintenance parts, 27.13; Hauff Mid America-scorebooks, 26.53; JVT-telephone, 241.79; JM Electric-install bus cameras, 1632.06; Jostens-diplomas, 126.45; Men-

ards-maintenance supplies, \$15.99; Midstates Group-track banner, 270.20; MDU-utilities, 3,701.58; Merchant Services-lunch processing fees, 113.18; Pantorium Cleaners-supplies, 92.43; Runnings-bus supplies, 64.52; SASD-Title IX training, 150.00; Sewer Duck-toilet rentals, 1067.50; Taylor Music-instrument repairs, 60.00; Town of Frederick-utilities, 637.53; Wal-Mart-supplies, 16.73; Capital Outlay Fund: A&B Business-copier lease, \$719.54 Century Business Products-copier lease, 306.66; Schemmer-building structural analysis, 5975.00; Special Education Fund: Amazon-supplies, 36.54; Geffre, Wendy-mileage, 142.80; USD Center for Disabilities-meeting registration, 90.00; Food Service Fund: CWD-food/supplies, \$4895.98; Community Store-food, 39.43; Pantorium Cleaners-supplies, 203.70; SD DOE Child & Adult Nutrition-commodities processing, \$142.50; Imprest Fund: none; Custodial Fund: Cenex-music trip, 82.02; Pizza Ranch-LRC, 103.89; Speedway-music trip, 67.56; Watering Can-teacher slush, 47.87.

The following reports were presented:

Jeff Kosters: Superintendent/9-12 Principal/Athletic Director

Motion 2023-054 Motion by Sumption, second by Ellwein to contract with Pro Rate (Stratford, SD) for the district's substance abuse testing. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

Motion 2023-055 Motion by Sumption, second by Achen to set the Driver's Education class rate at \$175.00. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

Motion 2023-056 Motion by Ellwein, second by Hart to set a Special Meeting on January 4, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

Motion 2023-057 Motion by Hart, second by Achen to set the 2023 School Board Election for April 11, 2023. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

Motion 2023-058 Motion by Sumption, second by Achen to approve the 2022/2023 contract for Chandler Cox-Strength and Conditioning \$18.72/hour. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

Motion 2023-059 Motion by Hart, second by Ellwein to approve the 2022/2023 contract for Gamiella Becker-Knebel-Interim Strength and Conditioning \$18.72/hour. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

Motion 2023-060 Motion by Sumption, second by Hart to approve the following additions to the Custodial Fund: FCCLA, Music Trip, Teacher Slush, Powerlifting Club, 5k Cross Country, Cross Country, Viking Club, Football, Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball, Track. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

A School Board Resolution related to the proposed Social Studies Standards was discussed; no action taken.

The district's ARP ESSER Safe Return Plan was discussed; no changes made.

The school board would like to congratulate these FCCLA members on their achievement at Regions: Jill Ellwein and Arabella Clark - Gold; Jayden Ellwein and Jace Thorpe - Gold; Autumn Hebl - Silver.

Motion by Sumption, second by Ellwein to go into executive session at 6:21 p.m. for SDCL 1-25-2 (1) Personnel. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

Schlosser declared the board out of executive session at 7:30 p.m.

Motion 2023-061 Motion by Achen, second by Ellwein to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. All voted aye, carried.

Rich Schlosser, President Shauna Severson, Business Manager

Published December 21, 2022, at the total approximate cost of \$75.81 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 21789

## Request for Proposals: Lease Properties

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL: LEASE OF PROPERTY

Brown County, South Dakota is soliciting proposals for lease of all or a portion of property located at: Lot2,ADC2022-2AdditiontotheCityofAberdeen,intheNortheastQuarterofSection17, Township 123 North, Range 63 West of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota, according to the recorded plat thereof. The property contains approximately 169,000 square feet of multipurpose space. PRE-SUBMITTAL INQUIRES:

Pre-submittal procedural questions or other inquiries may be directed to the designated RFP representative:

Duane Sutton  
Brown County, South Dakota  
Phone: 1 (605) 216-0804  
Email: [Duane.Sutton@brown-county.sd.gov](mailto:Duane.Sutton@brown-county.sd.gov)

Brown County requires that other Brown County management and employees not be contacted by applicants during the evaluation process. Failure to comply with this requirement may disqualify those proposals from further consideration. Contact is limited to the Brown County RFP Representatives for inquiries unless otherwise approved by a designated RFP representative.

BACKGROUND:  
Brown County owns the property described above and intends to use said property for the construction of a regional jail. Brown County would like to see this property put to use in a manner that benefits the residents of Brown in the interim as well as long term should jail construction not be feasible.

REQUIREMENTS:  
1. Responses submitted should be concise and address the objectives requested by the County.

2. Responses shall be limited to a maximum of 25 pages.

3. All respondents to the request for qualifications shall address the following, as a minimum, and should conform to the numbering system used below:

1. Letter of transmittal, identifying contact person.

3. Company background and history.

4. A brief history of the firm.

5. Resumes of principals.

6. Identify your proposed principal-in-charge and/or manager, if different from the applicant.

7. Identify your proposed use.

8. Provide a proposed square footage rate and approximate area desired.

9. Provide a proposed term for the lease.

10. Describe your anticipated workload and traffic.

11. Describe previous litigation or arbitration in which your firm has been involved and the outcome during the past five (5) years.

12. State any history or present condition that would put the County in a conflict of interest with the applicant.

13. Attach any other supporting material to your response.

EVALUATION AND SELECTION CRITERIA

The selection of Applicants will be conducted in two phases:

(1) Qualification: The County will receive and review Proposals on Tuesday,

December 27th and select a finalist or list of finalists; and

(2) Selection Phase: The County may schedule interviews with the finalists, perform verification of qualifications and background, and select the preferred Applicant or

Applicants for contract negotiation.

The following criteria will be used in evaluating and selecting the prospective Proposals:

A. Clarity of submittal and responsiveness to RFP.

B. Team or Individual Qualifications - Relevant qualifications, education, and experience of the individual or individuals and firms.

C. Applicant Experience and Ability.

D. Comparison of proposed rates.

E. Benefit to Residents of Brown County. Including but not limited to job creation and potential economic impact.

F. Fit with other proposals submitted for apportioning square footage.

G. Any other criteria the Brown County Commission may deem relevant to selection.

Brown County reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

IF AWARDED BID:

1. INSURANCE REQUIRED: Each applicant shall also file a certificate of insurance indicating that the applicant

is carrying public liability insurance in effect for the duration of the lease covering

the applicant and all agents and employees as requested with Brown County named as

additional insured. Lessee shall also agree to indemnify Brown County for all claims arising out of Lessee's use of the Leased Premises.

2. Successful applicants will be invited to enter into lease negotiations with Brown County. Brown County's intention to construct a jail in the leased premises necessitate that any lease entered into

shall contain the following or similar provisions:

a. Brown County shall have the unconditional right to terminate any lease entered into upon 60 days written notice to tenant.

b. Brown County or its authorized agents shall be permitted access to the premises for the purpose of inspecting the premises and making repairs or relating to the planning for jail construction on the premises. County shall provide 24 hours' notice pursuant to SDCL 43-32-32 unless otherwise agreed.

3. USE OF PREMISES

a. Brown County makes no warranty as to suitability or fitness of the premises for any particular purpose. Lessee shall not use the Leased Premises or fail to maintain them in any manner constituting a violation of any ordinance, statute, regulations, or order of any governmental authority. Lessee covenants and agrees that Lessee will use, maintain, and occupy the Leased Premises in a careful, safe, and proper manner and will not commit waste thereon.

b. Lessee shall, at his own cost and expense, provide for all services and equipment necessary for operations on the Leased Premises, including but not limited to electrical systems, heating and air conditioning systems, fire suppression systems, and waste disposal.

c. Lessor shall provide for maintenance and repair of roof, exterior walls, foundation, and structural frame of the Leased Premises.

4. Any other terms Brown County deems appropriate.

Published December 14 and 21, 2022, at the total approximate cost of \$115.90 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 21772

## Brown County '22 Supplemental Budget

2022 BUDGET SUPPLEMENT HEARING NOTICE

A public hearing to be held on Tuesday, December 27th in the Brown County Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Aberdeen, SD to consider supplementing the 2022 fiscal year budget as follows:

General Fund - Maintenance 101-5-161 at \$4,518,272.23 to be funded by undesignated surplus cash in the General Fund # 101.5.101.99.

Published December 14 and 21, 2022, at the total approximate cost of \$12.15 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 21773

## Frederick Town '22 Supplemental Budget

Ordinance No. 223  
Supplemental Appropriations Ordinance

For the Year 2022

Be it ordained by the Town of Frederick that the following sum is supplementally appropriated to meet the obligations of the municipality.

411.10 Board, Council, or Commission: \$22,906.93

414.20 Finance Officer: 6,663.84

431.00 Highways and Streets: 81,335.87

432.00 Sanitation: 3,778.46

437.00 Cemetery: 2,752.42

452.00 Parks - Ball: 634.92

455.00 Library: 1,630.08

Total General Fund: 119,692.52

Total Appropriations: 119,692.52

Source of Funding

Undesignated Funds: \$6,565.05

Contingency Fund: 15,000.00

Water Fund: 91,258.63

Sewer Fund: 2,718.59

Demand Deposit: 4,150.25

Total Source of Funding: \$119,692.52

Signed and Dated by the Board of Trustees of the Town of Frederick;

R. Scott Campbell, Chairman

Troy Millard, Board Member

Jeff Kosters, Board Member

Passed First Reading: December 7, 2022

Passed Second Reading: December 21, 2022

Published: December 21, 2022

Effective Immediately

Published December 21, 2022, at the total approximate cost of \$16.25 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 21791

*Groton Angel Tree Thanks You All*

I would really really like to thank everybody very much this year. It has just warmed my heart with the donations and lots of gifts for the children to have a great Christmas. I have never been called the Angel lady for the children before, but that just melts my heart. I am so overwhelmed with my heart so full of love for these children that will have the best Christmas that they will have. This is my 17th year.

Thanks to those who generously gave to the Angel Tree project.

Also, thanks to Lori's Pharmacy and Groton City Hall for hosting the trees again this year.

I love living in a little community like this.

Thanks a lot!

The Angel lady with a big heart for Children  
Tina Kosel



**GROTON  
KINDERGARTEN**



Asher Sander is the child of Jason and Kayla Sander, Groton. Christmas means: "I get to play outside."



Bodhi Aldinger is the child of Brooke Aldinger, Groton. Christmas means: "You get presents, candy and drinks. We put up the Christmas tree and make cookies for Santa."



Brielle Dunbar, child of Michael and Kassie Dunbar, Groton. Christmas means: "Hanging out with your family and building a snow angel."

**Spray Foam.**  
The gift that keeps on giving and saving you money!

**Bahr Spray Foam**  
605/380-2931  
www.bahrsprayfoam.net

Bahr Spray Foam

**We also can raise concrete with foam.**  
100% warranty



Christopher Wipf, child of Breen Menzia and Chris Wipf, Groton. Christmas means: "I like Christmas and presents, Santa and elves."



Karter Hofer, child of Jennifer and Mark Hofer, Columbia. Christmas means: "It's a holiday and Jesus' birthday."



Kinsey Frost, child of Chris and Samantha Frost, Groton. Christmas means: "I think of Christmas Eve and Santa comes."

**Merry Christmas from your home away from home!**

**Base Kamp Lodge**  
Your Premier Destination Lodge in Groton  
www.basekamlodgeSD.com

Est. 2015 Groton, SD



Kodi Hinman, child of Charity and Scotty Hinman, Groton. Christmas means: "I like Christmas because you get presents."



Laker Hanson, child of Justin and Chelsea Hanson, Groton. Christmas means: "Presents and being with my family."



Landon Locke, child of Mitchell and Heidi Locke, Groton. Christmas means: "Opening presents with my family, grandpa and grandma and cousins."

**Believe**  
in the magic of  
**Christmas**

*Merry Christmas!*

**BDM**  
RURAL WATER SYSTEM

705 7th Street, Britton  
605/448-5417 ~ 800-448-9236

**There may be beauty in the season, but the reason reaches deep into our hearts!**

*Merry Christmas!*

**BFS** Seed Chemical Fertilizer

Joel Bierman Dylan Vogel  
Jordan Steen Kent Webb

**PIONEER**



Liam Gibson, child of Laurie and Kevin Gibson, Groton. Christmas means: "Having fun with your family and friends, too."



Liv Huber, child of Logan and Lindsey Huber, Groton. Christmas means: "You get to spend time with your family, and it snows."



Lukas Severson, child of Andrea Stiegelmeier and Adam Trudel, Groton. Christmas means: "I get to be with my family and get presents. It makes me feel like two thumbs up."



Madilyn Stahl, child of Ally and Kris Tunby and Dustin Stahl. Christmas means: "It snows and it's time to play."



Mayte Matias Garcia, child of Esmeralda Garcia and Luis Matias, Groton. Christmas means: "A big pony toy. I want everything Elsa."



Mya Fliehs, child of Trey and Becah Fliehs, Groton. Christmas means: "Jesus birthday."



Owen Kunze, child of Tim and Jen Kunze, Groton. Christmas means: "I like to play with my family and have fun."



River Wipf, child of Keith Wipf and Elizabeth Varin. Christmas means: "Seeing friends."



Sage Hofman, child of Luke and Lindsey Hofman, Bath. Christmas means: "Happy. Awesome. I like presents."

We're building a solid foundation so we can wish you a *Merry Christmas!*

**Residential ~ Ag & Commercial ~ General Contractor**  
New Construction and Remodeling ~ Concrete Basements ~ Flatwork & Foundations  
**Greg Johnson Construction, Inc.**  
Greg Johnson, Owner  
Business: 605/492-3143 ~ Cell: 605/216-3143 ~ Bristol, SD

*Silent Night  
Holy Night*

With exceeding great joy, we bid all of our friends and neighbors a most joyous and harmonious season.

For your belief in us, we feel truly blessed.

Closed December 26 **FULL CIRCLE AG** Closed January 2  
*Tomorrow's Vision Today*  
AGRONOMY • ENERGY • FEED • GRAIN • CONSULTING

**Doug Abeln Seed Company**

Silent Night, Holy Night  
Christ the Saviour was born for us  
*Merry Christmas!*

Doug Abeln ~ 605/380-0200

THIS SEASON,  
LET HIM BE  
BORN INSIDE  
YOUR HEART

*Merry Christmas from BK Custom T's & More*  
[bkcustomsd.com](http://bkcustomsd.com)

For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*

Warm wishes from

New Construction Remodeling Hoop Barns Shops  
13379 Sperry Ln, Bath  
605/216-2677  
Perry Blocker prblocker@hotmail.com



To our patients, associates and friends, our best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season, trimmed with the blessings of peace, love and joy.

We value your trust in us, and are proud to serve you all year long.

With Well Wishes from the

## Groton Chiropractic Clinic

1205 North 1st Street, Groton 605/397-8204



Tavin Clifford, child of Chris Sombke and Rikki Clifford, Groton. Christmas means: "Spend time with family and decorate your whole house."



Zayden Bedford, child of Shana and Tylor Bedford, Groton. Christmas means: "Christmas trees and decorations."



Amara Graff, child of Michelle Barrow and Wes Graff, Groton. Christmas means: "Getting presents and sleeping until Santa Claus comes."

God bless you during this wonderful season when we remember the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. As the Word says, "He is Lord."



**DQ**  
**Grill & Chill**

Merry Christmas from Dale, Joyce and the rest of the crew at the Groton Dairy Queen!



Artem Filipchenko, child of Andrii and Victorii Filipchenko, Andover. Christmas means: "Get Paw Patrol presents."



Asher Heilman, child of Greg and Danielle Heilman, Groton. Christmas means: "I get to see Santa."



Aspen Cowan, child of Josh and Malerlie Cowan, Groton. Christmas means: "I get to open presents and I can play in the snow and I can buy my parents presents."

The American Legion wishes you and your family a very Merry Christmas!

Groton American Legion  
Post #39  
Legion Lounge



Briggs Sperry, child of Tyler and Carla Sperry, Groton. Christmas means: "I go see Santa and the elf comes."

No photo available

Carson Zeck, child of Trevor and Jessie Zeck, Groton. Christmas means: "To give presents and Santa and you get toys."



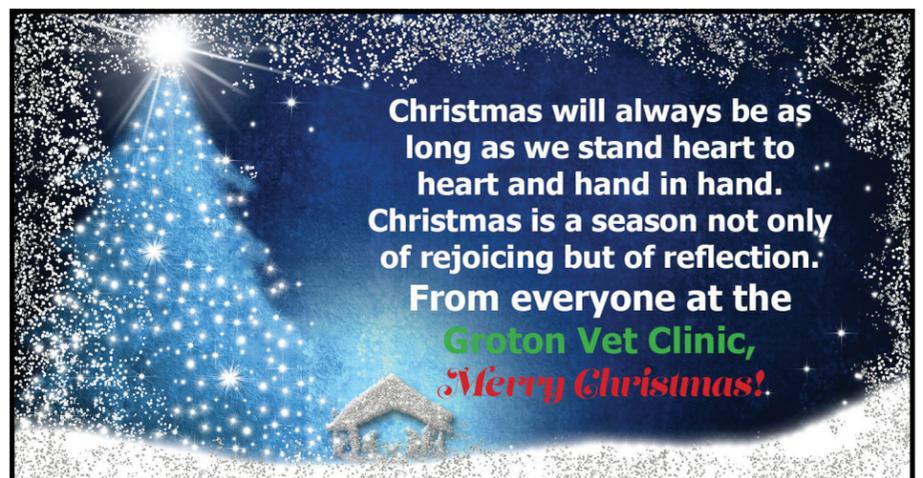
Destry Neigel, child of Tyler and Autumn Neigel, Conde. Christmas means: "We open presents and celebrate Christmas."

## Sending Our Best At The Holidays

Hope the holiday delivers a bundle of glad tidings to your home.

WITH OUR THANKS for your business all year long.

Groton SD 57445  
Mindy Vander Vorst  
Postmaster



Christmas will always be as long as we stand heart to heart and hand in hand. Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection. From everyone at the

**Groton Vet Clinic,**  
*Merry Christmas!*



1503 N Broadway, Groton, 605/397-8145



Ellie Lasse, child of Jacob and Nicole Lasse, Groton. Christmas means: "It is my dad's birthday and Santa comes to my grandma and grandpa's house to celebrate with us."



Emmett Morehouse, child of Jesse and Julie Morehouse, Andover. Christmas means: "Getting presents."



Grace Scepaniak, child of Ryan and Kristy Scepaniak, Bristol. Christmas means: "My mom makes cookies."

*It was a Holy Night*  
So special -  
So calm -  
So bright

**Merry Christmas from**  
**Krueger Brothers Road Maintenance, Dirt & Gravel**  
Dave: 397-8387 ~ Roger & Dan: 397-2618



Jade Ball, child of Brock and Rosalie Ball, Bath. Christmas means: "You decorate a Christmas tree."



Jorie Locken, child of Chad and Britt Locken, Groton. Christmas means: "It means family that gets to be together."



Knox Schuring, child of Cory and Nik Schuring, Andover. Christmas means: "We get presents and toys."

We're rolling to wish you a  
*Merry Christmas!*  
**KR BODY SHOP**  
Andover, SD  
Kevin Raap  
380-8539



Kory Khali, child of Chris and Tammy Khali, Groton. Christmas means: "Jesus' birthday."



Laycen Weig, child of Jade Weig and Julie Weig. Christmas means: "We get presents and go to my grandma's."



Miakoda Neigel, child of Tyler and Autumn Neigel, Conde. Christmas means: "We get presents and look in our stockings and we can eat candy."

There is no better time for friends and family to come together such as Christmas. May the true meaning of this season fill our hearts, and that is, to appreciate the love given to us by not taking it for granted.

*Merry Christmas!*

**Kolker Law Office**  
120 N Main, Groton  
605/397-8464 ~ tdlaw@nvc.net  
Kari A. Bartling, Attorney at Law

**Wishing You A Picture-Perfect Season!**

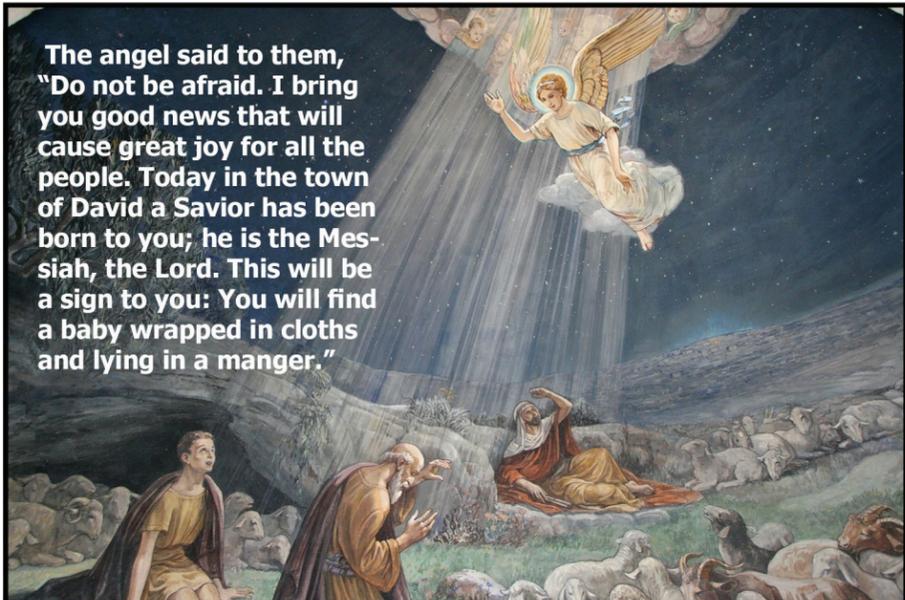
Here's hoping your holiday is all you've dreamed of and more. We thank you for your friendship and support.

**Hanlon's Gravel & Manure Hauling**  
605/395-6531

*Ho! Ho! Ho!*  
*Merry Christmas!*

**Harry Implement**  
"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"  
(605) 395-6421 ~ Ferney

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."



*From all of us at Lori's Pharmacy in Groton, we wish you a very blessed Christmas!*



Paisley Johnson, child of Matt and Casey Johnson, Groton. Christmas means: "We open presents."



Roman Bahr, child of Brian and Elizabeth Bahr, Groton. Christmas means: "Presents and Santa."



Zelda Whiteaker, child of Troy and Ashley Zimmermann, Groton. Christmas means: "It is special because everyone gets presents and Santa gets holidays."

Even Santa uses Love to Travel!

*Merry Christmas!*



**Love to Travel**  
Where can we take you?  
Bechah Flihs: (605) 380-1711

We are blessed to live in a state with a strong agriculture community!

*Merry Christmas!*



**SOUTH DAKOTA Farmers Union**

Doug Sombke  
President



Here's to teeing off for Christmas from the

*Merry Christmas!*

**Olive Grove Golf Course**



397-GOLF  
Groton, South Dakota

**S & S Lumber**

**HARDWARE HANK**

Peace on Earth will come to stay when we live Christmas every day!

- Helen Steiner Rice

*Have a Merry Christmas!*



201 East Hwy 12 • 605/397-2361

*Star of Wonder  
Star of Night*  
Guide us to that perfect light!



Merry Christmas from  
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Joe Foertsch  
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**JVT  
Lifeline Service  
Notice**

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MUNICATIONS PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Lifeline service is a govern-  
ment program designed to make  
monthly residential telecom-  
munication services more af-  
fordable to eligible low-income  
customers. Customers who are  
eligible for the Lifeline program  
are also eligible for toll blocking  
at no additional charge.

The Federal Lifeline discount  
can be applied to qualifying voice  
or broadband services. In order  
to be eligible for the Federal Life-  
line discount, a customer's an-  
nual household income must be  
at or below 135% of the Federal  
Poverty Guidelines or a customer  
must participate in one of the fol-  
lowing programs: Supplemental  
Nutrition Assistance Program  
(SNAP); Medicaid; Supplemental  
Security Income (SSI); Federal  
Public Housing Assistance; Veter-  
ans Pension & Survivors Pension;  
or qualifying Tribal Programs.

Lifeline is a non-transferable  
service and eligible subscribers  
may receive assistance from only  
one wireline or wireless telecom-  
munications provider per house-  
hold. Only eligible customers may  
enroll in the program. Custom-  
ers are required to submit a  
Lifeline application form and will  
be required to certify continued  
eligibility annually. Customers  
who willfully make false state-  
ments in order to obtain Lifeline  
benefits can be punished by  
fine or imprisonment or can be  
barred from the program.

Basic services are offered to  
all customers in James Valley  
Telecommunication's service ter-  
ritories at the rates, terms, and  
conditions specified in James Val-  
ley Telecommunication's tariff. If  
you have any questions regard-  
ing Lifeline service, please call  
us at 605-397-2323, toll-free at  
1-800-556-6525, or visit our of-  
fice at 234 E 1st Ave, Groton, SD.

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at the total approximate cost of  
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**JVT  
Notice of  
Monthly Rates**

**JVT Public Notice**  
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provider that provides basic and  
enhanced services within its ser-  
vice territory. JVT is an Eligible  
Telecommunications Carrier and  
as such, receives support from  
the Federal Universal Service  
Fund. Local service charges as of  
1/1/2023 are as follows:

Monthly Rates Andover/Bris-  
tol/Claremont/Columbia/Conde/  
Doland/Ferney/Groton/Hecla/  
Houghton/Turton Landline

Single Party Residence Service  
- \$ 20.00

State-Mandated Emergency  
911 Services Each Single Line  
Residence - \$ 1.25

Federal Mandated Subscriber  
Line Charge Each Single Line  
Residence - \$ 8.60

Federal Mandated Communi-  
cations Impaired  
Each Single Line Residence \$  
.15

Frederick/Mellette Landline  
Single Party Residence Ser-  
vice: \$ 20.00

State-Mandated Emergency  
911 Services Each Single Line  
Residence- \$ 1.25

Federal Mandated Subscriber  
Line Charge Each Single Line

Residence- \$ 8.15  
Federal Mandated Communi-  
cations Impaired  
Each Single Line Residence \$  
.15

Customers of basic ser-  
vice have access to the public  
switched network, minutes of  
use for local service provided  
at no additional charge and  
access to emergency 911 ser-  
vices. Toll limitation services  
are also available for qualifying  
low-income customers. Lifeline  
service is available for qualify-  
ing low-income customers. The  
federal Lifeline benefit may  
be applied to either qualifying  
voice services (\$5.25/month) or  
qualifying broadband services  
(\$9.25/month).

Broadband Internet access  
service is available at the follow-  
ing monthly rates:

- 50 MBPS x 5 MBPS - \$55
  - 100 MBPS x 20 MBPS - \$65
  - 250 MBPS x 250 MBPS - \$75
  - 500 MBPS x 500 MBPS - \$85
  - 1 GBPS x 1 GBPS - \$95
- Speeds are not available in  
all areas.

Cell Phone Data Plans are  
available at the following month-  
ly rates:

- Unlimited 1 phone - \$50
  - Unlimited 2 phones - \$75
  - Unlimited 3-10 phones -  
\$100
  - 10 GB Cap - \$40
  - 3 GB Cap - \$30
  - \$10 per GB overage cost
- Unlimited Talk & Text per  
phone - \$25

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**Conde National League**

December 19 Team Standings: Tigers 31  
winners of the first half, Braves 28, Pirates  
27, Cubs 27,

Mets 22, Giants 21

Men's High Games: Butch Farmen 219, Ryan  
Bethke 213, Russ Bethke 200

Men's High Series: Ryan Bethke 574, Butch  
Farmen 528, Russ Bethke 511 Women's High  
Games: Joyce Walter 161, Michelle Johnson  
154, Vickie Kramp 148 Women's High Series:  
Joyce Walter 417, Vickie Kramp 404, Michelle  
Johnson 378

**Groton Prairie Mixed**

Team Standings: Chipmunks - 20, Cheetahs  
- 15, Jackelopes - 15, Foxes - 13, Coyotes  
- 11, Shiht-  
zus - 10

Men's High Games: Lance Frohling - 212,  
Brad Waage - 194, Randy Stanley - 179  
Women's High Games: Nicole Kassube - 225,  
Darci Spanier - 180, Vicki Walter - 174 Men's  
High Series: Lance Frohling - 518, Mike Siegler  
- 501, Randy Stanley - 491 Women's High  
Series: Nicole Kassube - 519, Darci Spanier -  
436, Vicki Walter - 419

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\*\*Actual retail prices are set by dealer and may vary. Taxes are additional and vary by location. Freight and PDI charges may be additional and vary by dealer.  
Models subject to limited availability. Images may not reflect dealer inventory and/or unit specifications.  
\*\*\*See owner's manual for warranty details and information. Certain restrictions apply.  
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Marty Weismantel ~ 605/396-7341 ~ [weisag@nvc.net](mailto:weisag@nvc.net)

Merry Christmas.

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LAUGHTER AND GOODWILL,  
AND MAY THE YEAR AHEAD BE FULL  
OF CONTENTMENT AND JOY.

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Groton

Hurdles to Homeownership: Part 2

## Why buying a home is out of reach for many South Dakota residents

**Bart Pfankuch**  
**South Dakota News**

A growing imbalance between the incomes of South Dakota residents and the rising price of homes on the market has created new challenges to buying a home for many families in the state.

Here are stories of three families who are navigating the current real estate market or were lucky enough to find an affordable home before prices skyrocketed.

Over many months, Summer Schooler and her fiancé Adam Wolfcale were building their family and their future in a place they both love dearly — the town of Wessington Springs, a Jerauld County hamlet located 50 miles northwest of Mitchell, S.D.

But recently, a horrific house fire and a tight real estate market put their dreams on hold and their lives in limbo.

On Nov. 12, 2022, Schooler was asleep in bed with her two children ages 2 and 4 — who had rousted their dad and sent him to get some shut-eye on the sofa because they wanted to sleep with mom — when she awoke to the sound of a smoke alarm and the acrid smell of smoke.

She grabbed the children, awoke Wolfcale and they all rushed outside to safety. Schooler suffered lung damage when she returned to save her pets, ultimately losing one cat to the fire.

As they slowly recover, the couple is realizing that not only did they lose their rental home and all their belongings to smoke damage, but they may have also lost their ability to remain in Wessington Springs.

“We do love this small town,” Schooler said. “Everyone knows everyone and helps each other out, and it’s very safe.”

As is common in many rural towns across South Dakota, housing options are limited in Wessington Springs, and decent affordable homes are even harder to come by.

While living with a relative, the couple has begun to search for a home to purchase in Wessington Springs. Their first look at the market was stunning, as only three single-family properties were for sale, and only two in their price range of under \$100,000.

One affordable property was already under contract, and the other, at \$89,000, was too small to house a family of four and had no basement, Schooler said.

“I definitely feel like with inflation and the housing market and everything else going up, and wages not going up, it makes it much harder to find something that accommodates families,” she said.

A 2021 housing study made note of the town’s aging housing stock and concluded it needed development of at least a dozen new homes to meet the immediate need. The study suggested that to afford those homes, most residents under 44 in Wessington Springs would need some form of financial assistance to achieve homeownership.

“You look at a town like Springs, and a lot of businesses can’t afford to pay people more than 14 or 16 bucks an hour,” said Loree Gaikowski, a board member with the local economic development authority. “Even with two incomes at those levels, how could you buy a house for \$250,000? You can’t really get anything for under \$100,000 anymore, and if you can, it probably needs another \$100,000 to fix it up.”

Wessington Springs has an opportunity to strengthen its economy and future by building

on its reputation as a safe, welcoming community for young families and retirees, but it cannot due to a lack of available homes, Gaikowski said.

If the couple cannot find an affordable home soon, they will likely have to pull up roots and move to Sioux Falls, Schooler said.

Just a few years ago, being pre-qualified for a home loan of \$300,000 might have put someone in Rapid City in the market for a newish home with a basement, garage, several bedrooms and possibly some land in a good neighborhood.

But now, with home prices rising fast in recent years, couples like Brad Speas and Shaylynn Hurd are having to manage their expectations for what a \$300,000 purchase price might get them.

Hurd, 35, and Speas, 51, want to move away from renting and into homeownership to build financial equity and a solid financial future for their blended family.

Hurd runs a home-cleaning service and is a full-time technical school student, while Speas is a route sales driver for a bread company. The couple is pre-qualified for about a \$300,000 purchase price, Speas said.

The couple recently showed up at an open house at a property for sale on Galaxy Drive in an area tucked into the southeast intersection of Interstates 90 and 190 in north Rapid City. The four-bed, two-bath split-level home was built in 1985 and is listed at \$289,000.

“There’s some properties out there that are more affordable, but you’re going to spend a lot of time and effort to bring it up to speed and make it decent,” Hurd said.

Like many potential homeowners in the current South Dakota market, the couple is resigned to the fact that they may not get exactly what they want in a home they can afford, especially not the land ownership they hoped for.

“I feel pretty comfortable with \$300,000, but it’s not what it used to be, that’s for sure,” Speas said.

The imbalance between stagnant or slightly rising wages and the rapidly rising cost of homes has put homeownership in jeopardy for adults looking for homes now, but also for young people who may pursue homeownership in the coming years, said Hurd, who has an 8-year-old daughter.

“You expect a 21-year-old to want to buy a home when they’re only making \$15 an hour — how in the heck are they supposed to do that?” Hurd said.

A lingering effect of the migration to South Dakota during the pandemic may be that prices remain higher than they would have been otherwise, Martin said.

“It definitely increased the value of homes, and I don’t believe we’re seeing drastic price reductions in sellers now,” he said.

The homeownership journey for Jeff and Stacy Jochim of Herreid provides a pair of meaningful messages — one promising, the other ominous — about the real estate market in South Dakota.

On the plus side, their path shows how a middle-income family, with the help of a determined local housing official and a supportive community, can use government programs and keen knowledge of the local housing market to buy a home, improve their lifestyle and strengthen their financial future.

But their story also sheds light on how difficult it is to buy a home in South Dakota now

compared with just a few years ago, and how families on the market for a home in 2022 might get stuck renting and not building long-term equity.

Four years ago, as they scouted homes to purchase in Herreid, they faced with low housing inventory and limited ability to secure a mortgage. Stacy, 44, works as a bookkeeper and Jeff, 43, runs a home-based business building custom motorcycle parts.

At some point, the couple connected with a man named Dick Werner, a former South Dakota legislator and banking officer who retired and now works in a volunteer position as head of the Herreid Area Housing Development Corporation.

With Werner’s help, the couple was able to find an affordable home that met their unique needs, and they benefited from Werner’s expertise in utilizing local, regional and state housing-assistance programs. The Jochims received three forms of down-payment assistance that lowered their mortgage significantly. In all, they received \$24,500 in assistance from GROW SD, the Herreid housing agency and Homes Are Possible, Inc., an Aberdeen-based community finance and housing-development organization.

“We probably could have done it on our own, but it made the move a little bit easier and it brought the mortgage down a little bit,” Jeff Jochim said. “We really lucked out, and we dodged a bullet by buying then. Looking at the market now, we wouldn’t be able to be purchasing because everything is so inflated.”

## Experts: More affordable housing is biggest need in state housing market

**Stu Whitney**
**South Dakota News Watch**

A greater focus on increasing availability of affordable housing in South Dakota is needed to enable more young people to reach their dream of owning a home, according to a panel of experts on the state real estate and mortgage industries.

Steve Ennis, a senior mortgage officer at CU Mortgage Direct in Sioux Falls, noted that the goal of keeping college graduates from moving away from South Dakota is tied to giving them opportunities to invest in their future by being able to afford a house.

That challenge is present in the existing market, where the statewide median home sales price rose by 54% from 2018 to 2022, according to the South Dakota Realtors Association. Meanwhile, median household incomes in South Dakota rose by only 17% during that time.

“It’s difficult for anyone on a single income to make it work and have enough disposable income to afford a house payment,” said Ennis, who spoke as part of an online panel discussion hosted by South Dakota News Watch on Dec. 15. “In Sioux Falls, we could use a hundred units where we could have a monthly payment of \$1,200 or less. That’s a big need here, to have rent-equivalent ownership opportunities.”

The discussion was the latest segment in the ongoing “South Dakota Matters” series of polls and panel discussions hosted by News Watch.

Brandon Martens, a Sioux Falls real estate agent and former president of the South Dakota Realtors Association, noted that changes to design and infrastructure ordinances in

Continues on next page

## Continued from Previous Page

municipalities could lead to more affordable houses by using a smaller footprint and less square footage.

"When it comes to new construction, we've got to look at ways to increase density," said Martens. "We've got to be able to build homes on smaller lots and work with the city on how we can do that. It's about getting back to a smaller footprint. When you look back at the 1950s and 60s, there were homes that were built in that 600- to 700-square-foot range, with a couple bedrooms and a bathroom. That's what people want and what people need. Give them a basement and let them finish it later."

Such changes will take time, he admitted, which means more potential frustration for first-time home buyers. The median home sales price in the Sioux Falls metro area, which includes Lincoln and Minnehaha counties, was \$265,000 in 2021 and has risen by 17% over the past year to \$310,000 in 2022, according to the Realtors Association of the Sioux Empire.

Dick Werner, a former lawmaker and now president of Herreid Area Housing Development Inc., said rural communities present their own housing challenges. When the Herreid native moved back to his hometown in 2016, the school's enrollment was just over 100 and was trending to fall below 90. Lack of housing opportunities was a problem for existing residents and new immigrant families who worked at several of the county's largest employers, including area wind farms and the Pig Improvement Co. in Mound City.

Werner, who helped form a non-profit housing group, started with one "spec" house and kept building and branching out, helping families find homes that fit their needs and incomes while helping the town and school district prosper.

"Our population has gone from right at 400 to now we're at 477," said Werner, a former banking officer. "The school enrollment with the fall census was 140. Housing is critical to saving our rural communities. People want to live in those places, and they want to work there."

Keeping college-educated young people from leaving South Dakota for brighter horizons, the so-called "brain drain," has been a goal for decades, and Ennis said the answers can be found in better-paying jobs and more realistic housing options.

"Our state has to figure out how to pay living wages," he said. "This isn't a 10-year trend. This has been happening for a long time, where people leave this place and flood up to Minneapolis to go to college and stick in the Twin Cities. We've got to have jobs that pay more money, and we need to be able to manufacture more housing and have those opportunities. A lot of people who move to Minneapolis or Omaha or Fargo end up wanting to come back to South Dakota when they're ready to raise a family, so how do we skip that medium step and keep them right here all along? That's what we need to figure out."

Also on the panel was Shaylynn Hurd, a 35-year-old Rapid City resident who shared her struggle to afford a home. Hurd said she and her boyfriend recently secured a contract on a property with land and a home but very little infrastructure and few amenities south of Rapid City, Hurd said she expects their hard work in developing the property will pay financial dividends now and well into the future.

Hurd also said she hopes the housing market can be managed to allow her 8-year-old daughter to aspire to homeownership in South Dakota when she becomes an adult.

Viewers can watch the one-hour panel discussion, hosted by News Watch Content Director Bart Pfankuch, by clicking here.

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

## Frederick Town Dec. 7, 2022 Meeting Minutes

City of Frederick  
December 7, 2022 Minutes  
Frederick's town board meeting was held Wednesday, December 7, 2022 in the Frederick Community Center beginning at 7:00 PM. Attending the meeting were Chairman Scott Campbell, Board members Troy Millard and Jeff Koters, and Finance Officer and Assistant Finance Officer Jennifer Morlock and Mariah Heine.

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

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

### ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

MDU electric BP/Wtr/Mun Bldg/SP/Sts/Swr/EBL \$1,108.95; Alpha Circle Cmty \$1,072.36; Badger Meter fees Swr \$378.25; Badger Meter fees Swr \$116.59; Black Mountain annual support Wtr/Swr/Grb \$2,008; Bower Tree Service trim branches Sts \$1,000; BC Sheriff's Dept deputy services Gen'l \$1,041.67; Century Bus Products printer Gen'l \$76.41; Dahme Construction blade roads Sts \$219.39; Dennis Durheim gravel Sts \$797.12 Dependable Sanitation Grbg \$1,679; EFPTS taxes Gen'l/FO/CC/EBL/Sts/Wtr/Swr/Cmty \$769.09; First National Bank security box Gen'l \$8; USDA-RD loan Swr \$3,763; Frederick Area Volunteer Firefighters Fire \$14,384.14; FDC Econ, Dev \$1,200; Frohling Law Office Atny \$590; FU Oil propane EBL \$346.37; GDI minutes Gen'l \$65.61; Hach Company fees Wtr \$32.84; J. Koters wage Gen'l \$46.17; J. Morlock wage FO \$1,423.78; Jensen Rock & Sand Sts \$60,091.20; JM Electric outlets Mun Bldg \$663.57; M. Cox wage EBL \$593.13; M. Heine wage FO \$1,126.38; Menards supplies Swr \$45.53; Olivia Morlock CC clean CC \$15.93; S. Campbell wage Gen'l \$69.26; R. Bakeberg wage Sts/Wtr/Swr \$188.39; R. Bakeberg veh. allow. St/Wtr/Swr \$75; SD Dept of Rev sales tax Grbg \$71.50; SD Dept of Rev samples Wtr \$30; SD Govt FO Assoc dues FO \$70; T. Millard wage Gen'l \$46.17; USDA-RD loan Wtr \$475; VISA stamps Gen'l \$159.39; WEB Water sept usage Wtr \$7,061.70

### OLD BUSINESS

The house at 303 2nd Ave has been deeded to the city, and will be torn down. A resident has asked about salvaging items from the house, but it is a safety hazard to allow anyone to enter the residence. Motion to pass the first reading of Ordinance No. 223, the Supplemental Appropriations Ordinance for the year 2022 made by Koters/Millard, roll call vote had ayes by all; motion carried.

### NEW BUSINESS

Motion to accept Alpha Circle Wayside Cemetery 2022 end of year report made by Koters/Campbell; motion carried. The board discussed creating an application for utility users to have information on file.

Motion to adjourn made by Millard/Koters at 7:44 PM; motion carried.

### M. Heine

Assistant Finance Officer  
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## Brown County Dec. 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes

DECEMBER 13, 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. Commissioner Wiese led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: None

INDIGENT COUNSEL CONTRACT: Ross Aldentaler, Deputy State's Attorney met with the Commissioners to discuss the Indigent Counsel 2-year Contract. First year is \$750,000.00 and second year is \$800,000.00 to be split between 8 attorneys.

Moved by Commissioner Gage and seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Indigent Counsel Contract. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)/LEASE OF PROPERTY: An RFP was presented to the Commissioners to solicit proposals for lease of all or part of property located at Lot 2, ADC 2022-2 Addition to the City of Aberdeen, in the Northeast Quarter of Section 17, Township 123 North, Range 63 West of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota, according to the recorded plat thereof. The property contains approximately 169,000 square feet of multi-purpose space. RFP's will be opened on Tuesday, December 27th. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve and authorize the publication of the RFP on Lease of Property. Roll call: Commission Fjeldheim – aye; Commissioner – Feickert – nay; Commissioner Wiese – aye; Commissioner Gage – nay; Commissioner Sutton – aye. Motion approved.

ORDINANCE #235 – SECOND READING/ADOPTION: Moved by Commissioner Feickert, seconded by Gage to approve the Second Reading and Adopt Ordinance #235. Applicants Lyle Biegler, Diane Bindenagel and Travis Bindenagel requesting to rezone from Chapter 4.06 Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) and Chapter 4.08 Residential District (R-3): Lot 1 and Lot 2, "Bindenagel Richmond Lake Subdivision", Lot 1, "Bindenagel Third Richmond Lake Subdivision" and Lot 1A, "BNB Second Richmond Lake Subdivision" all in the NW ¼ or Section 25-T124N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #236 – SECOND READING/ADOPTION: Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve the Second Reading and Adopt Ordinance #236. Applicants Rory Haar, Estate of Roland W. Haar and Walter Schott to rezone from Chapter 4.08 Residential District (R-1) and Chapter 4.06 Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG): "Schott Outlot" and Lot 1, "Haar Addition" both in the SE ¼ of Section 6-T123N-R63W. Proposed Lots 1 thru 4, "Haar's Second Addition" in the E ½ of Section 6-T123N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #237 – SECOND READING/ADOPTION: Moved by Commissioner Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve the Second Reading and Adopt Ordinance #237. Applicant Lon Gellhaus for Derrill J. Mahan Family Trust to rezone from Chapter 4.06 Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG): Proposed Lot 1, "Mahan Addition" in the NW ¼ of Section 5-T123N-R60W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #238 – SECOND READING/ADOPTION: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve Second Reading and Adopt Ordinance #238. Applicants Marian Metter/Rick Metter, P.O.A to rezone from Chapter 4.11 Rural Urban District (RU) and Multi Zone District (MZ) to Rural Urban (RU) Proposed Lot 1 & Proposed Lot 2 and then Proposed Lot 3 to Chapter 4.06 Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P): Proposed Lot 1, Proposed Lot 2 & Proposed Lot 3, "Mettler Second Subdivision" in the NE ¼ of Section 6-T126N-R61W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Gage to approve the December 6, 2022 General Meeting Minutes. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the following Claims: Professional Fees: Avera St. Luke's \$44.52; Certified Languages International \$1,187.90; Dakota's Finest Investigations \$2,258.28; Darcy Lockwood \$42.00; Day County \$935.00; First Interstate Bank \$67.50; Helms & Associates \$5,986.70; Horizon Health Care Inc \$20.00; Jeanie Schmidt \$100.00; Kristi Brandt \$126.50; Language Line Services \$448.87; Lucy Lewno \$479.71; Michelle Galkowski \$23.80; Saber Shred Solutions \$3,975.35; Satellite Tracking of People \$1,280.50; SD Department of Health \$1,275.00; SD Department of Revenue &

Regulations \$2,681.37; State of South Dakota \$24,777.79; Valerie J. Larson \$42.00; West Publishing \$283.30. Publishing: King Midas Inc \$325.00; Moody County Enterprise \$27.93; Sis-seton courier \$37.69. Rentals: Aramark \$310.25; Dakota Electronics \$159.25. Repairs & Maintenance: Aberdeen Auto Center \$90.00; Dacotah Prairie Museum \$4,000.00; Diesel Machinery \$11,152.05; Ecolab Pest Elimination \$117.60; Gillund Enterprises \$10.00; Graham Tire \$100.00; HF Jacobs & Son Construction \$4,574.29; Hoven Auto \$69.00; House of Glass \$184.05; Hub City Roofing \$13,010.00; J Gross Electric \$825.00; Leidholdt Electric \$583.65; Lien Transportation Company \$131.25; Pantorium Cleaners \$224.30; RD Offutt Company \$6,452.97; Dakota Electronics \$90.00; Schwan Welding \$407.50; Steven Lust Automotive \$69.99; Transource Truck & Equipment \$4,666.35; Vosika Fencing \$100.00; Walth Safety Service \$431.70. Supplies: Aberdeen Auto Center \$736.00; Agtegra \$76,665.74; Alondra Caraballo \$45.96; Brown County Sheriff \$950.00; Cartney Bearing \$30.76; Century Business Products \$171.69; Cole papers \$398.04; Dakota Broadcasting \$980.00; Diesel Machinery \$43,018.20; Earthgrains Baking Co. \$1,207.10; East Side Jersey Dairy \$1,028.76; Floor to Ceiling \$254.48; Galls \$504.60; Gillund Enterprises \$317.40; House of Glass \$207.50; JD Power & Associates \$301.00; Ken's SuperFair Foods \$58.97; Leidholdt Tool Sales \$243.65; Matthew Bender & Co \$226.78; MB LLC \$588.64; Menards \$52.56; Mid-states Printing \$35.35; Napa Central \$187.85; Nelson Sales & Service \$222.71; Pantorium Cleaners \$56.00; Performance Oil & Lubricants \$371.45; Pharmchem \$471.75; Plumbing & Heating Wholesale \$192.49; Pumps Tire Service \$1,149.40; RD Offutt Company \$2,131.91; Dakota Electronics \$105.00; Runnings \$32.97; Transource Truck & Equipment \$580.17; Tri State Water \$45.00; US Foods \$8,585.67; US Postmaster \$38.30; Web Water Bottling Co \$18.00. Travel & Conference: McKenzie Bierman \$250.00; Mike Wiese \$109.88; Rachel Kippley \$292.49. Utilities: City of Aberdeen \$475.68; Northern Electric Coop \$1,951.58; Northwestern Energy & Communications \$8,210.58; Town of Frederick \$76.00; Verizon Wireless \$42.10; Web Water Development Association \$99.29. Other: Andax \$3879.60; SD Association of County Officials \$776.00; SD Dept of Agriculture & Natural Resources \$4,426.14; SD Department of Revenue & Regulations \$748,923.00; South Brown Conservation District \$718.00; WEX Health Inc \$4,000.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT: Moved by Commissioner Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Human Resource Report: Acknowledge employment ending for Terry Holder as Brown County Fairgrounds Maintenance worker, full-time; effective December 8, 2022. Request to fill. Acknowledge of resignation of Theresa Hedges as Brown County Communications Dispatcher, full-time; effective December 5, 2022. Request to fill. Approve employment for Joe Kaven, Brown County Fairgrounds worker; as needed for snow removal effective December 12, 2022. Request to fill the part-time Dacotah Prairie Museum Guest Services Coordinator. Approve personal miles driven for October 2022 at .585 per mile as follows: Kendall Titze 114 miles at \$66.69; John Florey 114 miles at \$66.69; Mike Scott 170 miles at \$99.45. Approve personal miles driven for November 2022

at .585 per mile as follows: Kendall Titze 90 miles at \$52.65; John Florey 90 miles at \$52.65; Mike Scott 120 miles at \$70.20. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

TRAVEL REQUESTS: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve the following Travel Requests: Rachel Kippley, Fair Manager to travel to Washington, D.C. on February 24-25, 2023 for IAFE Summit. Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent to travel to Milbank, SD for Lake Region District Meeting on Wednesday, November 30, 2022. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ABATEMENT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Feickert to approve the following abatements on Tax Deed Properties: Parcel #14196 @ \$8,324.05; Parcel #24370 @ \$540.00; Parcel #12510 @ \$8,006.66; Parcel #28298 @ \$1,696.77. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

AUDITORS REPORT OF ACCOUNT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve the auditor report of accounts for October 2022 as follows: October total cash and checks on hand \$7,700.00; Total Checking Account Balances: \$35,501,200.92; Total Savings Account Balances: \$2,450,447.42; Total Certificates of Deposit: \$3,978,174.09; Grand Total Cash and Balances: \$41,937,522.43; General fund cash and investment balances by funds: General Fund \$8,536,937.67 Road & Bridge Fund \$3,905,172.45; Road & Bridge Fund - restricted \$423,243.27; 911 Service \$1,133,514.72; Emergency & Disaster \$262,728.65; Domestic Abuse \$1,084.87; Teen Court \$414.19; Grant \$32.11; JDAI \$13,574.29; Richmond Youth \$0.00; 24/7 Sobriety \$25,839.79; ROD M&P \$114,269.98; American Rescue Plan Federal Grant \$7,545,865.45; Rural Access Infrastructure \$295,338.93; TIF Debt Service \$453,075.80; Landfill + cash change \$3,837,032.05; Landfill - restricted \$1,400,479.44; Trust and Agency Funds \$13,988,918.77. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FAIR CONTRACTS: Moved by Commissioner Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign an entertainment contract for the 2023 Brown County Fair (names confidential until official press release). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

SPECIAL EVENT MALT BEVERAGE/WINE LICENSE: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the application for Special Event Malt Beverage/Wine License for Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce on January 12, 2023 for Business After Hours at Budget Furniture. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to go into executive session to discuss Personnel, Legal and Contracts per SDCL 1-25-2 and SDCL 1-25-3. 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 Feickert to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:37 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor  
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Dear EarthTalk: Do houseplants really improve indoor air quality? Which ones are the most effective as such?

-- Kay Hamm, Los Angeles, CA

In recent years, more and more people have developed an interest in keeping houseplants. There are many potential reasons why there has been such a resurgence in indoor gardening. Many people took up tending to houseplants during the pandemic as a quarantine hobby. As the years have progressed, people's interest in keeping houseplants has continued to thrive and it's easy to understand why. They liven up any living space, and provide people with something to care for—both which provide many mental health benefits. However, there has been speculation as to whether or not keeping houseplants provides environmental and health benefits through purifying the air in our homes.

The short answer is that houseplants do have the potential to purify the air in our homes. When plants perform photosynthesis, they take carbon dioxide out of the air and

emit oxygen as a byproduct. Since plants output oxygen into the surroundings, by scientific definition they have the potential to increase the oxygen concentration in your living space. However, the degree to which they can detoxify the air and measurably make a difference to the air quality in a person's living space is another matter.

"There is currently no evidence...that a reasonable number of houseplants remove significant quantities of pollutants in homes and offices," reports the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Indeed, in order to make a considerable difference in the air quality of your home, you'd have to keep a large number of houseplants under specific climatic conditions, requiring a large amount of effort, time and money that isn't realistic for most of us. Having houseplants can even worsen indoor air quality if you are overwatering them, as overly damp soil may promote the growth of microorganisms which can affect allergic individuals.

However, if you are interested in keeping houseplants that have the potential to clean the air in your home, there are a variety to choose from. There are two major air pollutants found in homes: particulates—dust, mold, etc.—and volatile organic compounds (VOC)—gases that are released from materials such as fabric, paint and cleaning products. Spider plants, philodendrons, ZZ plants, dumb canes, pygmy date palms and ivies are among the plants suited to indoor living that are especially good at filtering out particulates. Other plants especially good at removing volatile organic compounds (VOCs) out of your indoor air in-



**Some plants are better than others when it comes to filtering pollutants out of your indoor air, so choose carefully.**

Credit: David B. Gleason, FlickrCC..

clude pathos, bamboo, Areca palms, rubber plants and peace lilies. You can usually find a wide assortment of indoor plants — and get more advice — at a local nursery or garden center.

Of course, there are also many other ways to improve the air quality of your home. Keeping a clean home reduces the amount of particulate matter in the air. Investing in air purifiers and home air filters can help reduce both the concentration of VOCs and particulate matter that could be impairing your indoor air quality. Simple tasks like opening your windows and airing out your home in the warmer months increases air circulation and benefits your home's indoor environment. .

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## Advances in surgery

My son is one of the many Americans with cleft lip and palate. The specifics of each affected individual's situation vary, but one thing they have in common is that they will be having surgery. Lots of surgery. Although most individuals with orofacial clefts, including my son, are otherwise healthy and lead normal lives, the process of restoring a normal smile, normal speech, normal chewing, involves many steps from birth into adulthood.

Most of his surgeries have blurred together in my mind, however, his first bone graft remains starkly vivid.

In this surgery, bone is removed from the hip for implantation in the ridge under the nose, where your front teeth are anchored. The pain where the bone was removed was excruciating. He was hospitalized for four days, and once home we struggled to keep him comfortable despite acetaminophen, ibuprofen, and two different opioids.

We were understandably dismayed ten years later to learn he would have to undergo this procedure again. Not enough bone had grown from the earlier graft to support the next stage of the repair.

It was with great trepidation that we checked into the hospital for surgery earlier this summer. Despite the reassurances of our surgeon, we both expected the same gauntlet we had faced last time.

We were wrong.

In the intervening years, a new delivery system for an injectable anesthetic had been developed, and then approved for use in young people. His surgeon used this medication at the graft harvest site. The difference was almost inconceivable. He needed minimal supplemental pain medication during our single night in the hospital, and once discharged took only the occasional dose of Tylenol or Motrin. I suspect those doses were prompted mostly by the fear that it might start to hurt more, and not by pain itself.

Like all of medicine, surgery has experienced change at an ever-accelerating pace, but the apparent "revolutions" are built on a foundation of step-by-step science. In medical school, I watched the first laparoscopic nephrectomy performed at the University of Iowa, a major tertiary care center. This amazing "new" technology could trace its history back nearly 200 years, to a German doctor who invented a primitive precursor. Advancements in both medicine and technology have brought us to today, when endoscopic, laparoscopic, and robotic surgeries have become commonplace.

The path to developing new techniques and technologies may not be smooth, but we are the beneficiaries of pioneers and scientists who move medicine forward. I am grateful for them all, as a doctor, and as a parent.

Debra Johnston, M.D. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices family medicine in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® based on science, built on trust, at [www.prairiedoc.org](http://www.prairiedoc.org) and on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show, broadcast on SDPB and streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.



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