



\$2

The Groton Independent

Vol. 140 No. 27 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, March 22, 2023 ♦ Established in 1889



2023 National Honor Society Inductees

Back - left to right: Lane Tietz, Lexi Osterman, Colby Dunker, Logan Ringgenberg, Ethan Clark, Holden Sippel and Jackson Dinger.

Middle- left to right: Faith Flihs, Emma Schinkel, Anna Fjeldheim, Hannah Monson, Emily Clark and Lydia Meier.

Front- left to right: Cadence Feist, Camryn Kurtz, Claire Heinrich, Ashlyn Sperry and Ava Wienk. (Courtesy Photo)



Miss Rodeo South Dakota, Morgan Erickson, poses with Emery Blackwood of Groton at the North Dakota Winter Show this past weekend. Miss Erickson is from Hot Springs South Dakota. She will compete for Miss Rodeo America at the National Finals Rodeo in December. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



2022 National Honor Society Members that performed the ceremony

Left to right: Andrew Marzahn, Ellie Weismantel, Cadance Tullis, Brooke Gengerke, Jacob Lewandowski, Aspen Johnson and Caleb Hanten. (Courtesy Photo)



Aspen Johnson leading the pledge welcoming the new members. (Courtesy Photo)

Groton Senior Citizens

Groton Seniors met February 13 with 11 members present. President had the flag pledge and minutes and treasures report were read and accepted. Beverly Sombke took pictures of each member for the Aberdeen Senior Center and meeting was adjourned. Cards were played and the winners of each game was as followed: Pinochle- Sarge Likness, Whist-Dick Donovan, Canasta- Pat Larson. Door prizes- Darlene Fischer, Eunice McColister and Elda Stange. Lunch was served by Eunice McColister.

Seniors met February 20th with 12 members attended. President led flag pledge. A short meeting was held for the players. Cards were played and the winners were Pinochle- Beverly Sombke, Whist- Dick Donovan, Canasta- Marilyn Thorson and Eunice McColister. Door prizes were Tony Goldade, Dick Donovan and Darlene Fischer. Lunch was served by Beverly Sombke .

Groton Seniors met February 27th for their potluck dinner and 12 members were present. President led the flag pledge and table prayer. The group received \$20 from Lee Raines books. Bingo was played after dinner. David Kliensassor won black out. Cards were played after Bingo. Door prizes went to David Kleinsassor, Ruby Donovan and Elda Stange. Lunch was celebrated with cake and ice cream for Tony Goldade's birthday. Cake was made by Beverly Sombke.

- Elda Stange

City to apply for grant for new baseball concession building

by Elizabeth Varin

Options for the baseball complex's concession stand, street resurfacing and an upcoming economic development meeting took the stage at the Groton City Council meeting Wednesday evening.

The council approved going to bid to resurface 62,000 square yards of roadway in the city.

The city will send the bid proposal request to six or seven construction companies, said Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich. Usually the city only gets two or three bids back.

Last year the city had about 82,000 square yards resurfaced, Heinrich said. It was not clear at Wednesday's meeting which streets will be resurfaced.

The council also discussed what to do with the old concession stand at the baseball fields.

The Groton Baseball/Softball Foundation hopes to replace the building with a slightly larger but more usable building after the last baseball game this summer. Funding for the project could come from a grant the city plans to apply for at the end of April.

At its March 7 meeting, the council asked for an idea on what it would cost to move the old concession stand to a new location. Milbank House Movers, Inc. sent an estimate to the city that includes \$9,000 to pick up, move and set down the building on blocks near the baseball fields, and \$5,500 for a return trip if the building needs to be moved to another location.

Council members discussed uses for the old building, including possible repurposing it for the Common Cents Community Thrift Store or



Ben Smith was sworn in as the new Groton Police Officer by Mayor Scott Hanlon at the city council meeting held Wednesday. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

Continues on back page

Things have changed

Years ago, a friend gave me a vintage class photo. The Ashley second grade class was so large back then we had two teachers—mine and the unforgettable Jane Haas. She wore cat-eye glasses. Sitting cross-legged in the front row was the kid that was me. A crewcut in a buttoned-up plaid shirt.

I met Jane again in 1998, returning as the new owner of the Ashley Tribune. When I learned that she was retiring after decades as an English teacher and librarian, I sent the fledgling editor I'd inherited out to get the story. She came back with her tail between her legs. Jane had refused.

Any reporter that's worked for me knows that's unacceptable. You don't come back without the story. I marched up to the school myself. We'd see about this.

No, Jane told me firmly, because the paper hadn't seen fit to profile other worthy past retirees.

Ah, so this was a protest.

"Well, Jane, there's a new sheriff in town," I said, vowing to do better than my predecessors. Under that coerced contract, I got the interview.

"So what are you going to after you retire?" I asked when we were done.

"I'm going to work for you as a proofreader."

"I don't need a proofreader."

"Oh, yes you do."

That's where it began.

I've been blessed with two inspirational English teachers in my life. In high school it was Bernice Rollo, 100 years old now and still going strong, and Jane Haas, who sat beside me for years and schooled me on rules of grammar that Mrs. Rollo hadn't gotten through my thick skull. Four years wasn't enough.

When we bought the building next door and moved the office, the cost was dear; we couldn't afford new desks, so we painted those army surplus monstrosities in gaudy colors—red, blue, purple, and lime green. "I'll take any one except the green one," she said.

I parked her in that green desk beside mine.

That desk was just the beginning of the demands I put upon her. I wanted her to write,

but for all her accomplishments, she wasn't confident in her writing. Real writing requires soul and heart, and she had that, but to lower the shield, to expose yourself, ah, that's the trick.

We edited each other mercilessly. We both got better. I got better, anyway; she blossomed.

She was a natural newspaperwoman who knew what needed to be done and did it. The curse of that was that I demanded more because she could do more. One day, I rattled off an impossible list of assignments as she stared at her screen. As the list grew, her jaw clenched, a fearsome thing.

I reached into my desk and pulled out that class photo. She glanced over. Glared, really, that steely Jane Haas gaze. "Things sure have changed, haven't they," I said. "Look who's in charge now."

Truthfully, it wasn't me. It was Jane and my bookkeeper, Frances Lehr, who'd known me since I was in diapers. For a boss, I sure got bossed around a lot. Verbally by Frances, in the undertow by Jane.

Any publisher worth a damn knows that a great newspaper needs a diversity of voices, different perspectives, people who recognize stories where others don't. For all the bossing that goes on in a newspaper, it's the most democratic business in town.

Jane profiled long-ignored organizations, women's groups that were a mystery to me. Story after story of the underserved and underappreciated rolled in. Stories I wouldn't have written because I didn't see them.

She may have thought she was getting away with something. After editing yet another one of her features, I said, "You know, Jane, I know what you're doing." Steering.

She didn't crack a smile but inside she was smirking. We had an understanding. An extraordinary friendship. We balanced each other. She came in too-buttoned up and I needed buttoning.

Mike Carlson, the funeral director, came to me when Jane was fading in the hospital. Lung cancer. "Jane wants you to do her eulogy." I went silent. We both wondered if I could.

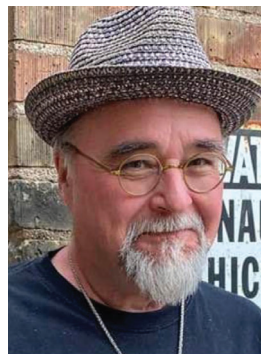
I paced for hours before the funeral. I couldn't let her down but feared I would, that'd I'd freeze or become a blubbing mess. And that wasn't Jane's style.

I did good. I mean well.

You see, she recognized in me as I did in her, strengths we didn't recognize in ourselves. Today, my grammar's better, still wanting, sure, but she made a dent. I see more stories now. I see more of the world around me.

No one sits beside me at that lime-green desk anymore, but I refrain from junking it up like I do my own. She'd hate that. Sometimes it feels like she's still there.

© Tony Bender, 2023



That's Life

by Tony Bender

Weekly Vikings Recap

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

It was a busy start to free agency for the Vikings this year as the team added four new players to the roster and made a few key re-signings as well. Although none of the players were considered splash signings, all indications by experts were that the signings were very smart moves by the Vikings.

The Vikings kicked off free agency by signing former Baltimore Ravens tight end, Josh Oliver. The first free agent signing came as a shock to a lot of people given the team just traded for TJ Hockenson during this past season. However, now that it has been reported that the Vikings are not planning on re-signing Irv Smith Jr, the signing of Oliver makes a lot of sense. It also makes a lot of sense given that Oliver is the number one-ranked blocking tight end in the NFL. So, although he is not a big name, he does come to the Vikings with an elite skillset.

Next, the Vikings wisely moved to the defensive side of the ball for their next three free-agent signings. The team first signed Marcus Davenport, the former New Orleans Saints edge rusher who has a ton of talent but struggled last year by getting only 0.5 sacks for the entire season.

Next, the Vikings signed the former Arizona Cardinals' cornerback, Byron Murphy. Murphy was a huge signing for the Vikings whose cornerback room has gotten super young the past couple of weeks with the departure of Patrick Peterson and Cam Dantzler.

And then the Vikings finished out their defensive "rebuild" by signing former Green Bay Packers defensive lineman, Dean Lowry. Lowry will likely fill a similar role for the Vikings as he did for the Packers, which is being an average defensive end who has the occasional big play.

The Vikings also made some key re-signings of their current free-agent players over the week. The big one was that the Vikings re-signed starting center, Garrett Bradbury. Although Bradbury has had his ups and downs over his career, his re-signing to the Vikings is big in that it ensures the Vikings will have the same starting five players on the offensive line this upcoming season. That is something this team has not been able to have coming into a season in a long time.

The other big re-signing was of running back, Alexander Mattison. Mattison who was rumored to possibly be traded last year had a great season backing up Dalvin Cook. Now with his re-signing, the question of whether the Vikings will keep Dalvin Cook has gotten even more intense.

Sadly, the Vikings also lost some of their players to other teams in free agency. Patrick Peterson left for the Pittsburgh Steelers and Dalvin Tomlinson left for the Cleveland Browns. Although their departures will surely hurt the team, losing players from a defense that played so horrendously for a lot of the season is surely not the worst thing that could happen to this Vikings team.

Looking ahead, the question of what the Vikings are going to do with Dalvin Cook and Za'Darius Smith is going to keep getting asked until a final decision is made. I believe that the Vikings will pull the plug on both players as their current talent does not outweigh their cap hit. However, if the team feels that they can keep both Cook and Smith by maneuvering the salary cap in some way, the team might just do that instead.

Groton Chiropractic Clinic

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.
1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204

JOHNSON AGENCY

Real Estate & Insurance

Jay Johnson, Broker

www.johnsonagencygroton.com

102 N Main St. Office: 605/397-2424
Groton, SD 57445 Home: 605/397-8565



MEYERS TRACTOR SALVAGE

ABERDEEN, SD

1000+ Salvaged Tractors & Combines
400+ Reground Crankshafts
500+ Tractor Tires
300+ Rebuilt Radiators

Large Line of Swather, Baler & Cutter Parts.

GREAT BUYS & SERVICE!

WANT TO BUY TRACTORS, COMBINES & SWATHERS FOR SALVAGE



Phone (605) 225-0185

5 Miles North & 1 Mile West of CASE-IH

Harry Implement

"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"



(605) 395-6421

Ferney

"From minor scratches to a complete rebuild... we can do it all!"

NOW OPEN **Harris** Auto Body

225 Brown County Hwy 19 South
Aberdeen: 605/725-4900

GROTON Ford

605/397-2311

www.grotonford.com

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

Court Declares a Right to Contraceptives for Unmarried Individuals

In 1965, in the landmark case of *Griswold v. Connecticut*, the U.S. Supreme Court, for the first time in our nation's history, invoked the right to privacy for the purpose of upholding the right of married couples to access contraceptives. *Griswold* was hailed by women, who had been fighting for the right to use contraceptives for well over a century. It granted women control over their own reproductive organs and provided

married couples with the liberty to decide whether to procreate, plan families and make decisions associated with parenthood.

Griswold v. Connecticut, rendered at the height of America's sexual revolution, recently prompted a curious reader of this column to ask about the establishment of the constitutional right of unmarried couples' access to contraceptives. The answer to her delightful question is to be found in the Court's landmark ruling in *Eisenstadt v. Baird* in 1972—seven years after *Griswold*.

Eisenstadt v. Baird, in a 6-1 decision written by Justice William Brennan, extended the protection of the right of privacy to unmarried individuals by overturning a Massachusetts law that permitted only physicians to prescribe means of birth control and then only to married couples.

The protagonist in this story was a young man, William Baird, who had made something of a short career out of protesting—and violating—similar state laws. In the spring of 1965, Baird violated a New York law by handing out contraceptives in a Long Island community. A few months later, he protested the Catholic Church's opposition to birth control on the steps of New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral. He was subsequently arrested in New Jersey for publicly displaying contraceptives in violation of a state law.

On April 6, 1967, Baird, by now a veteran protester, delivered a lecture in Boston about overpopulation and contraception. Following his remarks, Baird displayed various contraceptives and personally handed to a woman a jar of vaginal foam. Police officers arrested Baird and he was convicted on two counts: exhibiting contraceptives and disseminating contraceptives to an unmarried person. The high court of Massachusetts dismissed the first count on grounds that it violated Baird's First Amendment right of free speech but upheld the second conviction. Contending that the law under which he was convicted was unconstitutional, Baird appealed to federal district court, which dismissed his action. However, the federal appellate court set aside the dismissal and the sheriff of Suffolk County, Eisenstadt, appealed the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Justice Brennan's opinion for the Court struck down the Massachusetts law, vindicating Baird's right to distribute contraceptives. Brennan built upon the Court's ruling in *Griswold* that upheld a married couple's right to contraceptives and declared that the Massachusetts law violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment. Brennan rejected the state's rationale for banning contraceptive use among the unmarried—detering premarital sex—as an unreasonable justification. The statute failed the rational basis test. The logical effect of a law prohibiting the sale or gift of contraceptives to unmarried women, he explained, was to "prescribe pregnancy and the birth of an unwanted child as punishment for fornication."

While the Court struck down the Massachusetts law as a violation of the Equal Protection Clause, Justice Brennan expanded the right to privacy as set forth in *Griswold*. "It is true," Justice Brennan wrote, "that in *Griswold*, the right of privacy in question inhered in the marital relationship. Yet the marital couple is not an independent entity with a mind and heart of its own, but an association of two individuals with a separate intellectual and emotional makeup. If the right to privacy means anything, it is the right of an individual, married or single, to be free from unwanted governmental intrusion into matters so fundamentally affecting a person as the decision whether to bear or beget a child."

Justice Brennan's declaration that the right to privacy is an individual right carved a path for subsequent assertions of privacy rights in various areas of the law, including the identification by the Court in *Roe v. Wade* of abortion rights.

Of immediate importance, of course, was the fact that the right of married couples to access contraceptives required, under the principle of equal protection, an equal right of access for unmarried individuals. There was no rational basis for distinguishing between two classes of people, married and unmarried. In subsequent years, the logic of this reasoning proved compelling in protecting other intimate activities and associations, including, for example, same-sex marriage.

The right to privacy, an unenumerated right, was described by commentators shortly after *Griswold* was delivered, as a "fixed star in our

constitutional firmament." This star, however, might not be as "fixed" as most citizens hope it to be. The right to contraceptives, to the extent that it is grounded in the right to privacy, is under threat. No less a figure than Justice Clarence Thomas has questioned the constitutional status of unenumerated liberties, including the right to privacy.

Edward Jones

> [edwardjones.com](https://www.edwardjones.com) | Member SIPC

CDs can be part of your investment strategy



Travis Schuring
Financial Advisor

224 S Main Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
605-330-0090

In the financial world, stocks and stock-based mutual funds often get a lot of attention. And deservedly so, because they often form the core of a portfolio. But to help achieve your goals, you may also want to consider a broader array of investments – one

of which may be a certificate of deposit (CD).

As you may know, a CD earns interest on a lump sum for a designated period. You can purchase CDs whose maturities range from a few months to 10 or more years. Generally, the longer-term the CD, the higher the interest rate, although this isn't always the case.

In recent years, CD rates have been pretty low, reflecting the overall interest-rate environment. But now, as the Federal Reserve has repeatedly raised interest rates to combat inflation, CD rates are rising, too. In fact, one-year CDs can currently be found paying in the 5% range – a rate that hasn't been seen in more than 15 years. Later in 2023, though, if the Fed eases up on rate hikes, or perhaps even starts reversing them, CD rates could fall again.

You can purchase a CD from a bank or buy a "brokered" CD from a financial services provider. The income you receive from a CD may be its main attraction, especially if the rates remain elevated for a while. But there's another key advantage to owning CDs: They can help diversify a portfolio of stocks and stock mutual funds that are generally more susceptible to movements in the financial markets. A portfolio that contains CDs, as well as bonds and government securities, can help reduce the effects of market volatility. Keep in mind, though, that diversification can't guarantee profits or prevent losses in a declining market.

While adding individual CDs can be valuable, you might get a greater benefit from a more strategic approach known as laddering. You can build a CD ladder by buying a series of CDs that mature at different dates in the future – perhaps one month, three months, six months, nine months and 12 months out, or an even longer-term ladder of one to five years. In either case, as one CD matures, you can use the money if you need it or reinvest it to another "rung" on your ladder. If interest rates are up, the reinvestment option might be appealing, but if the available CD rates are lower than your maturing CDs, you could find better uses for your money. And you'd still have your longer-term CDs, possibly paying higher rates, working for you. You must evaluate whether a CD ladder and the securities held within it are consistent with your investment objectives, risk tolerance and financial circumstances.

The amount of space occupied by CDs in your portfolio should depend somewhat on your stage of life. If you're a long way from retirement, you may want to own a larger percentage of growth-oriented investments. But once you're retired and getting more income from your portfolio becomes more important, you might find a greater need for CDs.

In any case, CDs may prove useful to your overall financial strategy – so give them some thought.

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, or www.edwardjones.com/travis-schuring.
Edward Jones, Member SIPC

15 N Main - Ste. 101

GDI Living Fitness

Open 24/7

Call/Text Paul at 605/397-7460
Call/Text Tina at 605/397-7285
for details

The Groton Independent
 21 N Main, Groton 605/397-NEWS (6397)
 Paul Irvin Kosel, Publisher paperpaul@grotonsd.net ~ 605-397-7460
 Tina Kosel, Office Manager office@grotonsd.net ~ 605-397-7285
 Notices: legals@grotonsd.net
 News Items: news@grotonsd.net
 Deadline to submit items: Noon Monday
 Yearly Subscription Rates are listed below.
 The Groton Independent (USPS# 230-440) is published weekly with its periodicals postage paid at Groton, SD.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Groton Independent, PO Box 34, Groton, SD 57445
 © 2023 The Groton Independent

Weismantel Agency
 Marty Weismantel
 605/396-7341
weisag@nvc.net

PROGRESSIVE SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC LIABILITY & PROPERTY POLICE GREEN VALLEY NORTH STAR NORTHWEST GF SFM
 ACCESS TO MANY MORE COMPANIES!

The Groton Independent
Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition
Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.5% Sales Tax
 Black & White \$48.99/year
 Colored \$79.88/year
 Colored \$42.60/6 months
 E-Weekly* \$31.95/year

* The E-Weekly is a PDF file emailed to you each week. It does not grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

Name: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City _____
 State, Zip Code _____
 E-mail _____
 Phone Number _____

Groton Daily Independent
www.397news.com
Subscription Form

This option will grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

1 Month \$15.98
 3 Months \$26.63
 6 Months \$31.95
 9 Months \$42.60
 12 Months \$53.25

Name: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City _____
 State, Zip Code _____
 Phone Number _____

Pay with Paypal. Type the following into your browser window:
paypal.me/paperpaul

Mail Completed Form to:
 Groton Independent
 P.O. Box 34
 Groton, SD 57445-0034
 or scan and email to paperpaul@grotonsd.net

Frederick School
March 13, 2023
Meeting Minutes
 FREDERICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #6-2

Regular Board of Education Meeting
 March 13, 2023
 A regular meeting of the Frederick Area Board of Education was called to order on March 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. by President Rich Schlosser. Other members present were Rich Achen, Jon Ellwein, Alex Hart and Eric Sumption. Also present were Superintendent/9-12 Principal/Athletic Director Jeff Kosters, K-8 Principal Jessica Ringgenberg and Business Manager Shauna Severson. Tonya Zinter was also in attendance.
 The meeting began with all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
 No public comment.
 Motion 2023-083 Motion by Ellwein, second by Sumption to approve the agenda with the addition of a discussion item: Health Insurance Carrier and the addition of an action item: Approve Contract Addendum. All aye, carried.
 No conflict of interest disclosures.
 Motion 2023-084 Motion by Hart, second by Achen to approve the following consent agenda items. All voted Aye. Motion carried.
 February 13, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
 February 27, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes
 February 2023 Financial Report, Custodial Accounts and Investments
 February 2023 Payroll
 March 2023 Bills
 Financial Report:
 General Fund- Checking: Bal 2-1-23: \$382,864.38; Receipts: \$109,281.73; Disbursements: \$202,664.34; Bal 2-28-23 \$289,481.77. Investments: Bal 2-1-23: \$288,890.96; Interest: \$5.11; Bal 2-28-23: \$288,896.07. Ending Fund Balance: \$578,377.84.
 Imprest Fund: Bal 2-1-23: \$3,812.90; Receipts: \$1,187.10; Disbursements: \$1,032.48; Bal 2-28-23 \$3,967.52.
 Capital Outlay Fund- Checking: Bal 2-1-23: \$645,050.55; Receipts: \$2,732.83; Disbursements: \$10,523.36; Bal 2-28-23 \$637,260.02. Investments: Bal 2-1-23: \$1,933,634.20. Ending Fund Balance: \$2,570,894.22.
 Special Education Fund- Checking: Bal 2-1-23: \$93,962.92; Receipts: \$1,342.73; Disbursements: \$31,507.22; Bal 2-28-23 \$63,798.43. Investments: Bal 2-1-23: \$1,446,175.05. Ending Fund Balance: \$1,509,973.48.
 Food Service Fund: Bal 2-1-23: \$9,788.89; Receipts: \$11,395.20; Disbursements: \$11,852.29; Bal 2-28-23 \$9,331.80.
 Drivers Ed Fund: Bal 2-1-23: 66.35; Receipts: \$0; Disbursements: \$0; Bal 2-28-23 \$66.35.
 Custodial Fund: Bal 2-1-23: \$22,449.77; Receipts: \$1,512.33; Disbursements: \$3,233.09; Bal 2-28-23 \$20,729.01.
 Ovid J Stevens Scholarship: Bal 2-1-23: \$.85; Receipts: \$0; Disbursements: \$0; Bal 2-28-23 \$.85. Investments: Bal 2-1-23: \$26,471.58; Ending Fund Balance: \$26,472.43.
 Claims approved: February 2023 Payroll – General Fund salaries 99,467.99, Special Education salaries 18,660.59, Food Service salaries 4,516.16, EFTPS, federal income tax/Social Security/Medicare 32,494.82; AFLAC, supplemental insurance 1,530.49; American Funds, retirement 1,536.18; Delta Dental, insurance 1,923.06; The Standard, life insurance 254.84; Security Benefits, retirement 1,333.22; Optilegra, vision insurance 422.72; Wellmark, health insurance 18,059.00; SD Retirement 17,647.18; SD Retirement Supplemental, 4,478.22. Total: \$202,324.47.
 Bills approved: General Fund: Agtegra-fuel, 12,602.84; Amazon-tech & maintenance supplies, 134.98; Avera St. Lukes-athletic trainer, 518.43; Barondeau, Derek-bb official, 825.00; Barondeau, Janelle-education reimbursement, 80.00; Bledsoe Chiropractic-DOT physical, 90.00; Cash-Wa Direct-concessions, 246.84; CWD-concessions/FFVP, 1,284.26; Century Business Products-copier overage, 316.61; Coca-Cola Bottling Co High Country-concessions, 142.00; Cole Papers-supplies, 1,681.16; Comm Tech-annual desktop subscription, 149.99; Community Store-concessions, 2.10; Eide Bailly-final FY22 audit, 4,060.31; Farmers Union Oil-bus maintenance, 563.00; FASD Clearing Account-Region 1B BBB cost share, 49.90; FASD Imprest Fund-misc, 1,032.48; Frost, Chris-bb official, 120.00; GDI News-publishing, 82.78; Goehring, Troy-bb official, 180.00; Green Iron Equipment-snow blower parts, 37.75; Hoffman, Andrew-bb official, 265.00; JVT-telephone, 242.75; Jensen, Nevan-liveticket, 255.00; Jensen, Nolan, 240.00; Johnson Controls Fire Protection-fire maintenance, 779.17; Jostens-yearbook deposit/graduation, 1,460.29; Kens-concessions, 37.49; Kesslers-build your base/FACS, 128.07; Kosters, Jeff-bb official/clock, 95.00; Menards-maintenance supplies, 160.84; Merchant Services-lunch processing fees, 211.55; Mid-American Research Chemical-maintenance supplies, 464.26; MDU-utilities, 5,108.75; Morlock, Marty-bb clock, 315.00; Mueller Jeff-fb clock, 12.50; NAPA-bus parts, 23.20; NCSEC-SPED coop cost share, 5,500.00; Pantorium Cleaners-supplies, 81.15; Pashen, Brock-bb official, 125.00; Peterson, Clayton-tech reimbursement, 10.00; Prorate Services-Initial DOT drug testing, 590.50; Push-Pedal-Pull, Inc-weightroom supplies, 164.52; Runnings-bus supplies, 116.89; Schlosser, Rich-bb clock, 345.00; School Specialty-supplies 457.54; SDB-CA-membership, 27.81; SD DOL-wage report penalty, 25.00; SD FCCLA-state FCCLA registration, 1,425.00; SDIAAAA-conference registration, 230.00; Sumption, Austin-bb official, 620.00; Town of Frederick-utilities, 633.70; Wal-Mart-supplies, 25.33; Zinter, Tonya-bb book, 315.00; Capital Outlay Fund: Amazon-library books, 32.69; Century Business Products-copier lease, 306.66; EduTrak, LLC-lunch software, 1,830.40; Johnson Controls-building efficiency, 17,034.00; Special Education Fund: ABAC-ARE-consultations, 1,147.50; Amazon-tech supplies, 50.63; Avera-OT/PT, 4,003.04; Geffre, Wendy-mileage, 49.20; Mardian, Jessica-Praxis reimbursement, 71.67; NCSEC- SPED coop cost share, 10,332.19; Food Service Fund: Blue Ribbon Maintenance Supplies-supplies, 99.21; Cash-Wa Direct-food, 286.35; CWD-food/supplies, 3,939.19; Child and Adult Nutrition-commodities processing, 142.50; Community Store-food, 20.73; Kens-food, 21.98; Pantorium Cleaners-supplies, 187.45; Custodial Fund: Amazon-powerlifting club, 217.96; CostCo-powerlifting club, 178.10; DeSpiegler, Gregg-region 1B bb official, 224.88; Deutsch, Scott-region 1B bb official, 303.42; Frericks, Kris-region 1B bb official, 271.80; Gaikowski, Bryan-region 1B bb official, 90.00; Holt, Adam-region 1B bb official, 100.20; Hutson, Betty Pat-region 1B bb game worker, 25.00; Kosters,

Christine-region 1B bb game worker, 25.00; Kosters-Jeff-region 1B bb game worker, 50.00; Kosters, Kennedy-region 1B bb game worker, 25.00; Kosters, Zach-region 1B bb game worker, 50.00; Kurth, Travis-region 1B bb official, 221.82; Maag, Josh-region 1B bb official, 90.00; Mitchell Powerlifting-powerlifting club, 100.00; Morlock, Marty-region 1B bb game worker, 25.00; Osterman, Sandy-teacher slush fund, 45.00; Paulson, Matt-region 1B bb official, 272.82; Ruesink, Doug-region 1B bb official, 290.16; Schlosser, Rich-region 1B bb official, 272.82; Steinwandt, Tim-region 1B bb official, 180.00; Ty-cross country, 25.28; Veflin, Wade-region 1B bb official, 180.00; Waage, Tom-region 1B bb game official, 180.00; Wal-Mart-FCCLA, 296.34; Waverly-South Shore School District-Region 1B admission, 393.00; Imprest Fund: Donat, Eric-bb official/mileage, 147.54; Northern State University-science fair registration, 150.00; Pitz, Dustin-bb official, 120.00; Steinwandt, Josh-bb official/mileage, 267.54; Steinwandt, Tim-bb official, 240.00; USPS-postage, 107.40
 The following reports were presented:
 Jeff Kosters: Superintendent/9-12 Principal/Athletic Director
 Jessica Ringgenberg: K-8 Principal
 Shauna Severson: Business Manager
 There will be a school board election on April 11, 2023 with the following candidates: Jonathan Ellwein, Eric Sumption and Derik Bretsch
 Sumption: NCSEC
 A draft of the Pre-School Policy was presented to the board and discussed.
 Motion 2023-085 Motion by Sumption, second by Ellwein to leave ASBPT's South Dakota School District Benefits Fund and join Northern Plains Insurance Pool for health insurance effective July 1, 2023. All voted Aye. Motion carried.
 Motion 2023-086 Motion by Hart, second by Ellwein to set the hourly election worker rate at \$14.00/hour and appoint the following election workers: Frederick Precinct – Diane Bruns, Mavis Cox and Deb Gustafson; Westport Precinct – Laura Adema, Amy Podoll and Cathy Schaanaman. All voted Aye. Motion carried.
 Motion 2023-087 Motion by Hart, second by Achen to open negotiations. All voted Aye. Motion carried.
 Motion 2023-088 Motion by Sumption, second by Ellwein to approve the E-Learning Policy. All voted Aye. Motion carried.
 Motion 2023-089 Motion by Sumption, second by Achen to amend the 2022/2023 school calendar to change Friday, April 21 from an enhancement day to a school-in-session day. All voted Aye. Motion carried.
 Motion 2023-090 Motion by Ellwein, second by Hart to approve an addendum to Rich Bakeberg's contract to include a bus route at \$45.07 per route. beginning March 15, 2023. All voted Aye. Motion carried.
 The board would like to congratulate the girls' and boys' basketball teams on a successful season as well as recognize the following LRC All Conference players: Girls 1st Team - Sofia Losure and Laura Sumption; Girls 2nd Team - Chloe Arneson; Girls Co-MVP – Laura Sumption; Boys 2nd Team – Noah Kippley
 Motion 2023-091 Motion by Sumption, second by Achen to go into executive session at 7:09 p.m. for SDCL 1-25-2 (1) Personnel. All voted Aye. Motion carried.
 Schlosser declared the board out of executive session at 7:22 p.m.
 Action 2023-092 Motion by Sumption, second by Ellwein to not renew the contract of Taylor Achterberg. All voted Aye. Motion carried.
 Motion 2023-093 Motion by Hart, second by Sumption to go into executive session at 7:23 p.m. for SDCL 1-25-2 (4) Negotiations. All voted Aye. Motion carried.
 Schlosser declared the board out of executive session at 7:41 p.m.
 Motion 2023-094 Motion by Ellwein, second by Achen to

adjourn at 7:42 p.m. All voted Aye. Motion carried.
 Rich Schlosser, President
 Shauna Severson, Business Manager
 Published March 22, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$99.06 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 22053

Groton City
Street Resurfacing
Bid Notice

INVITATION TO BID
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT The Groton City Council of the City of Groton, South Dakota, will open bids for the 2023 resurfacing of City Streets April 4, 2023 at 7:00pm (local time) at City Hall, 120 N Main Street, Groton, SD. Received sealed bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.
 The work on this project includes the following:
 * Approximately 62,000 square yards of bituminous seal coat.
 All work areas are located within the City limits of Groton, SD.
 The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:
 City Hall, 120 N Main Street, Groton, SD 57445
 The approximate quantities mentioned above are subject to increase or decrease. Questions or requests for further information should be directed to the City Finance Office, 605-397-8422, PO Box 587, Groton, SD 57445.
 The City reserves the right to refuse any or all bids, to waive any informalities in the bidding and to award the contract in the best interests of the City of Groton, SD.
 March 8, 2023
 Published March 22 and 29, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$25.38 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 22054

Brown County
Chemical Dealer
Bid Notice

NOTICE TO CHEMICAL DEALERS
 Sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners, Brown County Courthouse Annex at Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401 until 8:45 A.M. on Tuesday, April 04, 2023, at said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read, and considered for furnishing of chemical for the Brown County Weed and Pest Board for 2023.
 Proposal Guaranty: No deposit or bond will be required at time of bid opening.
 Contract: Brown County will give notice to the successful bidder that his proposal has been accepted and said bidder shall within ten (10) days thereafter enter into a contract with Brown County in accordance with the bid as accepted. Successful bidder shall furnish proper certificates of insurance as required by Brown County. Contract for the chemicals shall be firm and will be in effect for a period of eight months from April 1 to November 30, 2023.
 Sealed envelopes containing bids shall be addressed to Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Ste 1, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401, and be marked "Chemical Bid for Brown County Weed and Pest Board" and to be opened at 8:45 A.M. on April 04, 2023.
 The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County. Brown County is exempt from Federal Excise Tax and State Sales Tax. Specifications are on file and may be obtained at no charge at the office of the Brown County Auditor and the Brown County Weed and Pest Office.
 ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor
 Published March 22 and 29, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$34.77 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 22055

When you need assistance, we have you covered.

Dakota at Home is the one resource for older adults and people with disabilities. Don't scurry around. Call today.

SD's Aging and Disability Resource Center
 1-833-663-9673

Dakota at Home
 One Call
 Countless Resources
DakotaAtHome.org

Hanlon Brothers
Gravel Hauling
 New & Cleaning of Stockdams with our 60' reach trackhoe
605/395-6531

Stratford Town Notice of Vacancy

CITY OF STRATFORD TRUSTEE VACANCY NOTICE

The following office will become vacant due to the expiration of the present term of office of the elective officer:

TRUSTEE (THREE-YEAR TERM)

Circulation of nominating petitions

Please notify Suzanne Moen if you are interested. Petitions will be made available at the Community Center on APRIL 10th.

First day to begin petition circulation is APRIL 11, 2023. Deadline is MAY 12, 2023 at 5:00 PM.

Submitted by:
Suzanne Moen Finance Officer
Published March 22 and 29, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$16.46 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 22056

Brown County March 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes

MARCH 14, 2023 – 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 Dennert, Fjeldheim, Wiese, Gage, and Sutton. Commissioner Fjeldheim 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

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the General Meeting minutes of March 7, 2023. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL: Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims: Professional Fees: Adamsoft LLC \$1,750.00; AgTerra Technologies, Inc \$300.00; Aspire, Inc \$10,000.00; Avera Medical Group Radiology \$174.77; Avera medical Group University Psychiatry Associates \$4,875.00; Barnett Vision Center LLP \$127.35; Certified Languages International LLC \$1,027.95; Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$3,879.90; Dependable Sanitation, Inc \$23,318.00; Horizon Health Care, Inc \$419.30; IMEG Corp \$12,009.11; Language Line Services, Inc \$119.95; Lewis & Clark BHS \$552.00; LexisNexis Risk Data Mgt, LLC \$200.00; Live, Inc \$720.00; Minnehaha County, SD \$11,133.07; Sanford Aberdeen Cardiology \$8.08; Sanford Aberdeen ED \$166.64; Sanford Acute Care Aberdeen \$90.08; Sanford Clinic Aberdeen \$183.40; Sanford Clinic Radiology-North Center 350.06; Sanford Health Occupational Medicine \$361.00; Sara J. Zahn \$62.70; Satellite Tracking of People, LLC \$1,257.75; Schriver's Memorial Mortuary, Inc \$1,995.00; SD Dept of Health \$1,540.00; SD Dept of Labor and Regulation \$25.00; SD Dept of Public Safety \$6,150.00; SD Dept of Revenue \$2,780.02; SD Dept of Transportation \$12,115.36; SDACES \$15.00; Thomson Reuters-West Payment Center \$283.30; Thurman Law Office \$257.75; Yankton County Sheriff's Office \$50.00; Yankton County Treasurer \$826.05. Publishing: Groton Daily Independent \$276.28; Production Monkeys \$900.00. Rentals: Aramark \$225.20; Linde Gas & Equipment Inc \$49.70. Repairs & Maintenance: Century Business Products \$156.65; Custom Installation Solutions \$25.00; Diesel Machinery, Inc \$7,690.95; Jasper Weller LLC \$123.33; K & S Plumbing, Inc \$3,116.68; Kirk's Auto Repair \$304.23; Kramp Enterprise and Investment \$39,947.55; Leidholt Electric, LLC \$1.43; Lien Transportation Company \$846.25; Pantorium Cleaners Inc \$235.96; Pheasantland Industries, Garment Division \$14.55; Pierson Ford Lincoln, Inc \$233.52; Pomp's Tire Service, Inc \$415.82; RDO Equipment Co \$5,900.00; Schroeder Construction Inc \$389,460.35; Sewer Duck, Inc \$500.00; Transource Truck & Equipment, Inc \$9,869.79; Woodman Refrigeration, Inc \$1,505.22. Supplies: Auto Value Aberdeen \$211.24; Cartney Bearing \$210.92; Century Business Products \$5,142.02; Cole Paper Inc \$3,611.83; Dakota Oil \$898.10; Dakota Supply Group \$866.67; Diesel Machinery, Inc

\$1,706.46; Jasper Weller LLC \$2,652.23; Karen Swank \$63.00; Kessler's \$11.96; Leidholt Electric, LLC \$70.00; Linde Gas & Equipment Inc \$111.94; Menards \$104.75; Midstates Group \$477.80; PharmChem, Inc \$255.60; Pheasantland Industries, Garment Division \$147.00; Plumbing & Heating Wholesale, Inc \$1,042.71; Runnings \$1,369.85; Sander's Sew-N-Vac \$329.90; Transource Truck & Equipment, Inc \$2,233.68; WEB Water Bottling Company \$37.50. Travel & Conference: Bill Donaldson \$6.12; City of Winner \$151.40; Dave Lunzman \$468.00; Duane Jark \$18.87; Karpel Solutions \$325.00. Utilities: CenturyLink \$1,436.77; City of Aberdeen \$415.26; Economy Propane, LLC \$3,159.00; James Valley Telecommunications \$209.10; Midcontinent Communications \$85.39; Northern Electric \$1,139.46; Northwestern Energy \$4,497.81; NVC \$250.00; State of South Dakota \$126.87; Verizon Wireless \$160.04; WEB Water Development Association, Inc \$116.34. Others: Safe Harbor \$370.00; SD Dept of Revenue \$786,744.44.

Payroll: Commission \$4,615.41; Auditor \$11,144.00; Treasurer \$16,849.09; SA \$30,476.14; Maintenance \$10,133.04; Assessor \$16,796.81; ROD \$9,932.80; VSO \$4,254.09; GIS \$2,643.52; IT \$6,051.42; HR \$5,001.68; Sheriff \$45,531.84; Jail \$69,215.43; Court Security \$7,608.29; JDC/HD \$36,036.74; Welfare \$2,336.49; Museum \$10,928.74; Parks/Fairgrounds \$5,135.01; Fair \$4,107.20; 4-H \$786.80; Weed \$1,240.93; P&Z \$7,278.67; Highway \$57,304.50; Dispatch \$34,493.92; EM \$4,933.61; 24/7 \$1,508.79; Landfill \$13,664.01; Mileage Benefits \$210.91; SDRS Pay-out \$767.34; FICA \$24,998.68; Medicare \$5,846.42; Discovery HSA \$1,421.17. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Gage to approve the following Human Resource Report submitted by Human Resources Director, Erica Coughlin: Acknowledge resignation of Ernest Thompson, Brown County States Attorney, effective May 12, 2023. Acknowledge retirement of Kristal Koens, Brown County JDC Detention Officer, full-time; effective April 9, 2023. Request to fill. Approve hiring of Denica Walker as Brown County Jail Detention Officer, full-time; starting wage \$20.67/hour; effective March 6, 2023. Approve hiring of Logan Flack as Brown County 911 Communications Officer, full-time; starting wage \$20.67/hour; effective March 13, 2023. Approve hiring of Mark Milbrandt as Brown County Landfill Grounds Worker, part-time; starting wage \$18.55/hour; effective March 20, 2023. Approve hiring of Hosea Kleinsasser as Brown County Landfill Heavy Equipment Operator, full-time; starting wage \$22.82/hour; effective March 14, 2023. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ZONING ORDINANCES - SET HEARING DATE/AUTHORIZE ADVERTISING: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to set hearing date and authorize advertising for first reading of the following zoning ordinance to be held March 28, 2023, in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. Proposed Ordinance 243, amending portions of Title 4 Zoning, Chapters 4.01 Definitions, 4.06 Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P), Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG), 4.15 Light Industrial District (L-I), and Chapter 4.16 Heavy Industrial District (H-I). The proposed ordinance will be made available for public inspection at the Brown County Auditor's Office or Brown County Planning and Zoning Office during regular business hours. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LEASE AGREEMENTS: Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Dennert to approve and authorize the Chairman sign the following lease agreement: Aberdeen Area Humane Society for lease of Holum Expo Building on April 29-30, 2023 for Second Paw Spring Sale. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CHEMICAL BID: Moved by Dennert, seconded by Wiese to authorize advertising public hearing to open, read and consider bids for weed and pest chemical at 8:45 a.m., on April 4, 2023, in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. Specifications are online brown.sd.us and on

file in the Brown County Auditor's Office. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FAIR CONTRACTS: Moved by Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign agreement with Darrin Olson to provide sanitation services for Grandstand and Racetrack Area during the County Fair as recommended by the Brown County Fair Board in the amount of \$5,600.00, and an entertainment contract for the 2023 Brown County Fair (names confidential until official press release). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LIQUOR LICENSE HEARING: Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Dennert to authorize advertising a public hearing to be held in the Commissioners Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD on March 28, 2023, to consider the following application for Retail (on-off sale) Malt Beverage & SD Farm Wine License, submitted by Tonya & Shane Reich DBA: Richmond Pavilion LLC at 12805 S. Shore Dr., Aberdeen, SD – Richmond Resort Outlot 2, NE ¼ of Section 25-T124N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, SD. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: Stacy Gossman and Janine Rathert inquired about liquor license availability for the remainder of 2023, and the application process and timelines for 2024. No action taken.

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

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission meeting at 9:19 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Janel Hettich, Brown County Chief Deputy Auditor
Published March 22, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$86.65 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 22057

Putney Township Notice to Vacate Road

PUBLIC NOTICE OF ROAD VACATION PUTNEY TOWNSHIP, BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as provided by statute that the Board of Supervisors of Putney Township, Brown County, South Dakota are giving notice of petition to vacate township road and right-of-way as described:

Second Ave, Campbell & Butler Addition of Putney, Brown County, South Dakota running southwest to northeast between 5th st and 6th st.

Said right-of-way being approximately 66 feet wide and 300 feet in length.

This platted road right-of-way were never developed as usable right-of-ways, so it would be in the best interest of the public that this roadway be vacated for the development of residential structure.

Published March 15 and March 22, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$19.98 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 22039

Claremont Town March 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes

The board of trustees for the town of Claremont met on 3-14-2023 at 7:00 pm in city hall. President Johnson called the meeting to order with trustees Rasmussen and Spencer present. On a motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Spencer the minutes of the February meeting were approved.

On a motion by Spencer and seconded by Rasmussen the following warrants were approved:
General:

Claremont Park Rec/Baseball, Langford Area foundation, 2000.00; NWE, electricity street lights, 341.31; NWE, electric-

ity city hall,92.05; Claremont township, 1/2 upkeep Huffton Cemetery, 1650.00;Star portable welding, repair maintainer,292.60; James Valley telecom, city phone/ internet,93.96;GDI, publishing, 17.66; DMI, repairs/parts824.27; Full Circle Ag, propane (LP) government, 981.18; Jason Johnson, 48 hrs, snow removal, 709.24; Shane Johnson , 18 hrs snow removal, 265.96; Charla Rye, wage, 350.00; WSSW:

James Valley, left phone, 48.46; NWE, water/pump house, 211.92; NWE, sewer, 43.72; SD Public Health Lab, sampling water,15.00; BDM, water purchased 168,000, 861.10; BDM, sampling, 60.00; BDM, postage, 2.40; B & B contracting, final payment sewer project, 41,485.17; Rural Development , water loan, 576.00.

On a motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Spencer the resolution authorizing application for financial assistance authorizing execution and submittal of the application and designating an authorized Representative to certify and sign payment requests was approved. Board of Equalization will be held at city hall at 7 pm March 20th through the 24th.

With only one person filing for the 3yr. Term held by Jason Spencer in the town of Claremont there will be no election in Claremont.

With no further business before the motion to adjourn was made Spencer and seconded by Rasmussen. Motion carried.

Published March 22, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$19.87 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 22058

Claremont Town Sewer System Financing

Resolution No. 130

Resolution authorizing an application for financial assistance, authorizing the execution and submittal of the application, and designating an authorized representative to certify and payment requests.

Whereas, the city of Claremont (the city) has determined it is necessary to proceed with improvements to its wastewater system, including but not limited to replacing a portion of the storm sewer line and a lift station in the city (the project) and Whereas, the city has determined that financial assistance will be necessary to undertake the project and an application for financial assistance to the South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources(the board) will be prepared: and Whereas, it is necessary to designate an authorized representative to execute and submit the application on behalf of the city and to certify and sign payment requests in the event financial assistance is awarded for the project, Now therefore be it resolved by the city as follows:

1. The city hereby approves the submission of an application for financial assistance in an amount not to exceed \$600,00 to the South Dakota board of Water and Natural Resources for the project.

2. The town president is hereby authorized to execute the application and submit it to the South Dakota Board of Water and natural resources, and to execute and deliver such other documents and perform all acts necessary to effectuate the application for financial assistance.

3. The town presidents hereby designed as the authorized representative of the city to do all things on its behalf to certify and sign payment requests in the event financial assistance is awarded for the project.

Adopted at Claremont, South Dakota, this 14 day of March 2023

Approved:
Shane Johnson
Town President
City of Claremont
Attest: Charla Rye F.O.
City Finance Officer

Published March 22, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$22.38 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 22059

Classifieds and Card of Thanks

The following rates are for Classifieds published in both the Groton Daily Independent and the Groton Independent. Cut rate in half if you just want it in the GDI or just the weekly.

1 Week: \$9 for first 30 words, 20¢/word thereafter
2 Wks: \$17 for first 30 words, 38¢/word thereafter
3 Wks: \$24 for first 30 words, 54¢/word thereafter
4th consecutive week is free
605/397-NEWS (6397)

EMPLOYMENT

LICENSED SOCIAL WORKER – Horizon Health Care Horizon Health Care seeks a licensed social worker to work remotely. Horizon offers competitive wage and benefits packages and student loan repayment. EOE. <https://www.horizonhealthcare.org/employment-opportunities/>

TEACHERS NEEDED IN CUSTER School District in Custer, SD: Gr 6-8 Special Ed and HS English; Coaches needed. See www.csd.k12.sd.us for more info and to apply. Open until filled. 605-673-3154. EOE

FULLTIME DEPUTY SHERIFF POSITION in Harding County, SD. Certified or Noncertified. Must be 21 or older. Excellent Benefits. Equal Opportunity Employer. Contact us at 605-375-3414

LAND

FARMLAND rents are strong. Do you need representation or a Farmland Manager? Contact Tim Peters at 605.270.9410 or tpeters@pifers.com. Pifer's Land Management, www.pifers.com

MISCELLANEOUS

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.

DirecTV Satellite TV Service Starting at \$64.99/mo For 24 mos, Free Installation! 165+ Channels Available. Call Now For The Most Sports & Entertainment On TV! 833-708-0006

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.



All of the public notices now appearing in the Groton Independent are posted on-line at

sdpublicnotices.com

There are a number of search options available To see the notices published in the Groton Independent, select **THE GROTON INDEPENDENT** and then search



www.harrmotors.com

605-225-3078 ~ 1-800-658-3463

SECRET SHIPMENTS:

11 billion pounds of chemicals carried by rail in South Dakota each year

Bart Pfankuch

South Dakota News Watch

Each year, trains carry nearly 11 billion pounds of chemicals through South Dakota's cities and countryside, much of it on century-old tracks, a South Dakota News Watch analysis has revealed.

Finding out which specific compounds are in those potentially toxic payloads is extremely difficult or even impossible for the public due to national security concerns and secrecy within railroad companies.

In many cases, state and local officials are kept largely in the dark about what materials are being carried through communities and rural areas. Oftentimes, the nature of materials transported becomes known only after an accident.

State and local governments can ask railroad companies for lists of hazardous materials transported through their jurisdictions only if the information would be used to help them prepare for emergencies, but not to inform the public, according to an email from the public affairs department at the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).

"Neither FRA nor any government agency can provide information that lists specific rail lines that hazardous material shipments traverse, as railroads consider such information to be proprietary, and doing so raises safety and security issues," the office said. "In addition, as a federal safety regulator, FRA does not monitor train movements or types of cargo transported by private rail companies in real time."

Concerns over the stability, security and safety of the U.S. railroad system took on greater significance after a catastrophic derailment and fire on Feb. 3 in East Palestine, Ohio.

The accident was caused by a worn-out wheel bearing on a tanker car, the same condition that prompted 17 freight cars to derail at 40 mph near Wessington, South Dakota, on Feb. 2, 2019, according to federal records.

The toxic chemical burned in the Ohio accident, vinyl chloride, which is used to make plastics, is part of the larger category of chemicals that can be carried by trains in South Dakota but which is not reported to the public.

Chemicals are 4th in South Dakota behind coal, ag, food

Some Great Plains states, such as Minnesota and Wyoming, report on the total tonnage of hazardous materials carried by rail in their states, but South Dakota does not.

The South Dakota State Rail Plan, a 182-page overview of the state railroad system, includes information on 15 categories of materials carried by rail but not on hazardous materials.

The report includes a final category listed as



Lesterville, South Dakota 2015

At 6:18 a.m. on Sept. 19, 2015, a defective railroad line built in the early 1900s failed, leading to the derailment of seven tanker cars carrying ethanol near Lesterville, S.D. Two tankers ruptured, spilling nearly 50,000 gallons of ethanol that ignited. No one was injured, but ethanol leaked into a nearby creek and the accident caused \$1.1 million in damage.

Photo: Courtesy NTSB

"all other commodities" that shows about 160 million pounds of materials carried, without providing specific or general product details.

In South Dakota, "chemicals or allied products" are the fourth most-carried product by railroads based on tonnage after coal, farm products and food products, according to the 2022 State Rail Plan, which was updated in December for the first time since 2014.

The rail plan shows data on the tonnage of products carried in 2019 and is based on federal Surface Transportation Board "waybill reports." In South Dakota that year, the payload category of "crude petroleum, natural gas or gasoline" was next in tonnage after chemicals, totaling 7.3 billion pounds carried annually.

Payloads may be radioactive or used in chemical warfare

According to federal documents, the general payload category of "chemicals and allied products" can also include chemicals and products such as anhydrous ammonia, chlorine, human and animal medicines, pesticides, inks and dyes, and even radioactive compounds or those used in chemical warfare.

In an email response to questions, Jack Dokken, the air, rail and transit program manager for the South Dakota Department of Transportation, said the federal government is responsible for regulating rail shipments in South Dakota, but the state can respond to a release of hazardous materials. Dokken and other DOT officials did not respond to News Watch requests for an interview.

"The Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources can become involved if a hazmat release has occurred," Dokken wrote. "DANR has authority to require the responsible party to perform cleanup and DANR reviews cleanup activity to ensure compliance with state laws and rules."

Transportation officials from North Dakota and Wyoming told News Watch they have little knowledge about what chemicals and hazardous materials private railroad companies are carrying through their states.

"At a guess, petroleum, natural gas, and anhydrous ammonia are probably in our top three for hazmat, but after that it's anyone's guess – and I have no idea on volumes or routes being used," said Stewart Milakovic, North Dakota DOT transportation planner.

The FRA said that in response to the Ohio accident, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg called on railroad companies to be more proactive in letting states know when toxic materials are being transported in their area. Across the U.S., hazardous materials were the

second-most commonly transported material by rail from 2019-21 based on tonnage, with 218 million tons carried in 2021 alone, according to the federal Surface Transportation Board.

"Secretary Buttigieg called on U.S. railroads to provide proactive advance notification to state emergency response teams when they are transporting hazardous gas tank cars through their states instead of expecting first responders to look up this information after an incident occurs," the department wrote.

South Dakota News Watch has filed formal Freedom of Information Act requests to the South Dakota Department of Transportation and the Federal Railroad Administration seeking data on chemicals and hazardous materials carried in the state, but had not received a response as of March 21, 2023.



Workers from the Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern Railroad replaced a large bolt on a railroad line in downtown Rapid City in mid-March.

Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

Band-Aid on a broken bone

South Dakota has 1,935 miles of railway operated by 11 private companies, with BNSF Railway, Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern Railroad (RCPE) and Ringneck & Western Railroad (RWRR) the top three operators. The state does not have any passenger trains in operation other than the historic limited-route tourist train in Hill City.

The rail plan includes estimates showing that tonnage of materials transported by rail in South Dakota could increase by 34% from 2019 to 2045, including an expected 31% rise in the amount of chemicals transported.

While U.S. per-mile safety data show that rail generally remains a relatively safe method of transportation of goods, rural states like South Dakota tend to have aged rail systems, with materials sometimes built in the late 1800s or early 1900s, said Russell Quimby, an Omaha, Nebraska-based railroad expert and industry consultant.

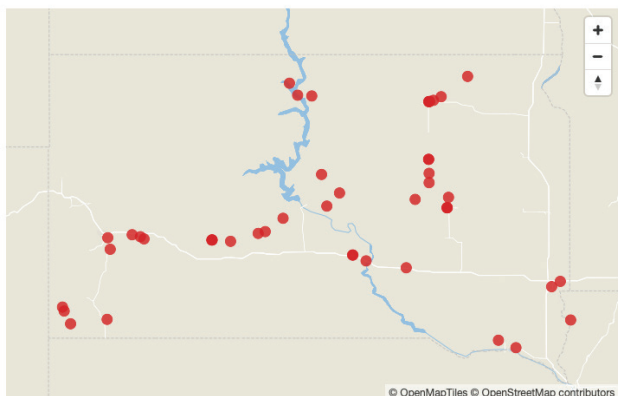
Some rail lines, especially shorter branch lines that are common in South Dakota, are not well-equipped to handle modern rail cars that weigh up to 286,000 pounds each and are part of increasingly longer trains, he said.

Additionally, some older rail lines have not had adequate reinvestment by railroad companies as they endured thinning profit margins in recent decades.

"They're barely able to do things safely in some cases," Quimby said. "Even if you identified all these defects in the track, does the company have enough money to fix things properly? They may put a Band-Aid on it when they really should be treating a broken bone."

The increased focus on rail safety in the U.S. also comes at a time when the railroad industry is staffed in some cases by employees who are vastly overworked, he said.

A nationwide railroad worker strike was narrowly avoided in February after employees



Source: Federation Railroad Administration of Safety Analysis • Graphic: Michael Klinski / SD News Watch

There have been 47 train derailments in the state since 2017, causing an estimated \$14 million in damage.



A train engine operated by the Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern Railroad trudges slowly through a major intersection in downtown Rapid City in March. Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

Continued from previous page

complained, in part, that they were underpaid but also were prevented from taking any days off or receiving paid sick time.

Quimby said the railroad industry cut 9% of its workforce in the five years before the COVID-19 pandemic, and now, "the people they have are working to death. They're cutting all kinds of corners, and after a while, you get employees who are burned out, and that indirectly affects safety, morale and all that."

More than 110 accidents in South Dakota since 2012

The railroad system in South Dakota is much smaller than in more industrialized states like Ohio or Pennsylvania. Yet it has shown a propensity for accidents of a wide variety of causes and outcomes, including derailments.

State data show that South Dakota had 105 "incidents and accidents" reported to the FRA from 2012 to 2021, according to the state rail plan. Federal records reviewed by News Watch showed that the state saw another nine accident reports filed in 2022. All told, those accidents resulted in two deaths and 83 injuries among railroad workers, the data show.

Derailments and other railroad incidents have taken place in South Dakota at the rate of roughly one every five weeks over the past six years, according to individual FRA accident reports reviewed by News Watch.

In 60 South Dakota accident reports from 2017-2022, mechanical problems and railroad wear played a role in a number of derailments and accidents:

- On June 26, 2017, six rail cars derailed due to a broken segment of track near Gayville in Yankton County.
- On June 5, 2020, train workers could see the track ahead was misaligned near Harrold in Hughes County, causing eight cars to derail at 24 mph due to soft ground believed to be caused by a muskrat den.
- On Sept. 18, 2022, nine rail cars derailed while traveling at 23 mph near Utica in Yankton County due to missing joint bolts on the rail line.

Those state rail accident reports don't include accidents that happened at highway rail crossings. South Dakota had 110 railroad crossing accidents over the past decade that resulted in six fatalities, 35 injuries and 69 incidents of property damage, according to state records.

Ethanol explosion in southeast South Dakota

In the state's most destructive rail accident in recent years, a derailment and explosion of several ethanol cars occurred on Sept. 19, 2015, in a rural area near Lesterville, about 20 miles northwest of Yankton.

Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board later found that rail heads that support train wheels were worn beyond safe levels, tracks were out of alignment and safety problems noted by railroad operator BNSF were not repaired but instead allowed to remain when the railroad simply downgraded the technical classification of the rail line.

Records show the section of railroad was built in 1908 and installed in 1929. The wooden railroad bridge where the accident took place was built in 1954.

Even at just 10 mph, seven tanker cars flipped off the rails, and two breached at impact. Nearly 50,000 gallons of ethanol leaked onto the ground and into the bed of Prairie Creek, where it ignited in a wall of flame. No one was injured, but the accident caused \$1.1 million in damage.

Local farmer Mike Neth told News Watch in 2018 that he had noticed train cars wobbling on trains that passed through his property prior to the accident.

"It looked like a disaster area, like someone had blown up a town," Neth recalled. "If it would have happened in a town like Yankton, it would have been a lot worse."

'The scary factor ... is overland flooding'

South Dakota rail carriers are preparing for trouble this year because of the potential for flooding and soft ground.

"We're starting to plan and get some assets put in place with all the snow coming and the



A significant gap can be seen between two sections of a rail line that runs east-west through downtown Rapid City. Many rail lines in South Dakota have been in operation for a century or more and require frequent maintenance. Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

extremely cold temperatures for this time of year," Mark Trotter, a representative of the Dakota Missouri Valley Western Railroad, told the South Dakota Railroad Board during a March 15 meeting.

"The scary factor of that is we get into April and temperatures start to rise too fast and we get some overland flooding, and so we're prepping and preparing for any unforeseen issues. We'll be dealing with some soft spot issues down there and we'll do everything we can to minimize any issues or problems."

The DMVW railroad leases part of a state-owned rail line in South Dakota and expects to spend about \$65,000 this year to keep its leased lines up to date on railroad ties, a required bridge inspection and weed control.

States have little oversight of rail

In general, states have little regulatory authority over rail lines, which are maintained by privately run railroad companies under FRA oversight.

Dan Kline, the supervisor of systems planning in the Wyoming Department of Transportation, oversees administration of the state's railroad rail section as well as other functions in the Wyoming DOT. The entire state freight department has one employee who works to ensure safety at Wyoming's roughly 400 railroad crossings, Kline said.

"We're pretty lean here," he said.

The state does not own any railroad track, so the six railroad companies that operate in the state are wholly responsible for oversight, inspection and maintenance of the 1,900 miles of track in Wyoming, Kline said.

Continues on next page



Six box cars carrying grain derailed under the 10th Street Bridge in downtown Sioux Falls in March 2018, an accident caused when the rail lines were found to be too far apart, according to federal reports. Photo: Courtesy Argus Leader

Edward Jones

edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Compare our CD Rates

Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

3-month	6-month	1-year
5.10 % APY*	5.20 % APY*	5.35 % APY*

Call or visit your local financial advisor today.

Travis Schuring
Financial Advisor
224 S Main Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
605-330-0090

* Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 03/20/2023. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit www.fdic.gov or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).



This image shows excessive wear on the rail head of the line where the 2015 ethanol tanker derailment took place, with the white outline showing where a proper rail head should be. The NTSB ruled that "BNSF continue to operate high-hazard flammable unit trains on a track with significant defects," though the rail company technically remained within federal guidelines by lowering the classification of the track prior to the accident. Photo: Courtesy NTSB

Continued from previous page

Kline said the DOT has no knowledge of what is carried in freight cars and tankers on its railroads beyond what is reported in the 2021 State Rail Plan, a comprehensive report on the state railroad system that is similar in content to the South Dakota State Rail Plan.

Kline said Wyoming hires an independent firm to compile and report federal railroad data, including what commodities, chemicals and hazardous wastes are carried by rail in the state.

State officials never see the original federal data and rely only on what is reported by the contracted consultant, HDR of Denver, he said. The state's main goal with data in the rail report is to ensure it meets federal government guidelines on what must be reported.

"I would have no idea what any of that is," Kline said in regard to what specific chemicals or hazmat products are carried on Wyoming rail lines. "Where the highway intersects the railroads is where we get involved."

Kline said a member of the media or public who wanted to know what products are traveling by rail in Wyoming "could ask the actual railroads, read the placards on the trains or ask the federal government."

But railroad companies are private entities and are not required by law to provide the public with details on what is carried, when and where, said Tom Ciuba, a spokesman for the Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern railroad.

"For security reasons and to uphold shipper confidentiality, RCPE does not release specifics on our traffic," Ciuba said in an email to News Watch.

Derailment prevention efforts

The RCPE railroad mainly carries agricultural products, minerals and stone on its 679 miles of track in South Dakota, Ciuba said.

He noted, however, that all U.S. rail lines are subject to so-called common carrier obligations in which the federal government can require them to carry hazardous materials if needed.

RCPE performs safety checks on its rail lines and equipment as required by federal law and its own internal standards. It considers "derailment prevention critical to that safety focus," Ciuba said.

The company performs regular maintenance to stay in compliance. And it has a comprehen-

sive emergency response plan that addresses a potential catastrophic incident and reviews the plan regularly, Ciuba said.

RCPE also has contracts in place with companies that are trained in environmental response and incident mitigation, he said.

"Safety is a core value at RCPE, with many employees living directly in the communities we serve," Ciuba said.

Despite challenges, rail is still safe and cheap

Quimby, the railroad expert, said that despite recent accidents and a few historic catastrophes, rail remains the safest and most economical way to ship goods, especially when compared to high-risk roadway trucking and cost-intensive pipeline construction.

"They move relatively safely, and compared to any other mode of transportation, you're probably not going to get a safer way to do it," he said. "The materials they carry are necessary to our lifestyle and our jobs and our economy, and it's being moved as safely as humanly possible."

And yet, Quimby also believes that safety must remain a top concern because accidents can and will happen in anything involving humans and machines.

"Now, does that mean a one out of a million thing couldn't happen and affect you? he asked. "No, but you're much more likely to get killed on the highway driving."

Materials carried by railroads in South Dakota

Here is a look at the 10 most common types of materials carried into, out of, within or through South Dakota in calendar year 2019 by tonnage. Weights are shown in tons.

Category	Tons
Coal	80,444,000
Farm products	11,137,000
Food/Kindred	6,993,000
Chemicals/Allied	5,492,000
Crude petro/gas	3,323,000
Petro/coal prod.	2,226,000
Clay/concrete/glass	2,021,000
Logs/lumber/wood	1,100,000
Non-metal minerals	933,000
Trans equip	408,000
Total	15,197,000

Source: South Dakota State Rail Plan 2022 from 2019 Surface Transportation Board reports



Freight cars that can hold liquids bring up the rear of a train that moved through downtown Rapid City in March. Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

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



ABOUT BART PFANKUCH

Bart Pfankuch, Rapid City, S.D., is the content director for South Dakota News Watch. A Wisconsin native,

he is a former editor of the Rapid City Journal and also worked at newspapers in Florida. Bart has spent more than 30 years as a reporter, editor and writing coach.

Stratford Town Water System Financing

Stratford, South Dakota C462394-01

DATE: March 20, 2023

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT WITHIN THE TOWN OF STRATFORD, SOUTH DAKOTA

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) conducted a review of a proposal from the town of Stratford for a Drinking Water Improvements project.

The town of Stratford is proposing to construct a 20,000-gallon ground storage tank with associated pump station and transmission line. The town also proposes to install a new 6-inch PVC water distribution system along with new water meters.

The town of Stratford was awarded a \$1,846,000 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan with 100 percent principal forgiveness. The town of Stratford was also awarded a \$326,000 Consolidated Water Facilities Construction Program (CWFCP) loan. The CWFCP loan has a rate of 1.875 percent and a term of 30 years. Current residential water rates are \$50.00 per month for 5,000 gallons usage. Stratford has pledged a project surcharge to repay the loan. This surcharge will be \$21.60 per user per month.

Listed below are the reasons for granting a categorical exclusion:

1. The project involves new distribution lines or storage facilities within the developed portion of the community.

2. No comments requiring mitigative action were received from the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, United States Department of Interior, United States Army Corps of Engineers,

Natural Resource Conservation Service, or through the public participation process.

The proposed action does not involve any serious local objections, nor does it meet any of the criteria for not granting a categorical exclusion as specified in [Section 6.505(c) (i) through (iii)] of 40 CFR Part 6, Subpart E1.

The Stratford Drinking Water Improvements project will not affect any historical or archaeological resources. The project should have no direct or indirect adverse effects on plant life or wildlife. No other environmentally sensitive issues have been identified in the planning of this project.

The review process did not indicate that significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed project. Consequently, a preliminary decision not to prepare an EIS has been made.

The review process did not indicate that significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed project. Consequently, a preliminary decision not to prepare an EIS has been made. This action is taken on the basis of a careful review of the engineering report, environmental information documents, correspondence with responsible governmental agencies and other supporting data which are on file at the Division of Financial and Technical Assistance, Environmental Funding Program, DANR, Pierre, South Dakota, and are available for public scrutiny at the Stratford town office in Stratford, South Dakota.

Comments supporting or disagreeing with this decision may be submitted for consideration by DANR after publication of the Categorical Exclusion Determination. After evaluating the comments received, DANR will make a final decision.

Michael A. Perkovich Administrator

Published March 22, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$36.49 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 22060

BDM System Wide Improvements

BDM Rural Water System C462444-02

DATE: March 22, 2023

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

TO ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS

As required by guidelines for the preparation of environmental impact statements, an environmental review has been performed on the proposed Drinking Water State Revolving Fund action below:

PROJECT: System-wide Improvements

LOCATION: Brown, Day, Marshall, and Roberts Counties, South Dakota

PROJECT NUMBER: C462444-02

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: \$11,537,000

BDM Rural Water System proposes system improvements including constructing a new 1.44-million gallon per day water treatment plant, making improvements to the existing treatment plant equipment, installing five new wells, installing 18 miles of distribution pipe to expand the water system, looping lines for added redundancy, and replacing 382 water meters. The proposed projects are planned to meet the growing demand on the BDM Rural Water system and allow for the system to continue providing safe and reliable water service to current and future customers. The project will address water quality and capacity issues and other distribution issues within the system.

BDM Rural Water System was awarded a \$8,006,917 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan with 6.4 percent principal forgiveness not to exceed \$507,867 on April 13, 2022, for this project. The loan has a rate of 1.875 percent with a term of 30 years. Repayment of the SRF loan will be with system revenues. In addition to the SRF loan, BDM Rural Water System was awarded a \$3,530,083 American Rescue Plan Act grant. BDM Rural Water System has current rates of \$76.90 per month based on 7,000 gallons of water usage. These rates will generate the revenue to provide the necessary loan coverage.

The project will not affect any historical or archaeological resources. In the event of an archaeological or historical resource being unearthed during construction, work will be stopped, and the State Historic Preservation Office will be notified. The project should have no direct or indirect adverse effects on plant life or wildlife. The improvements, if necessary, will be flood proofed to above the 100-year base flood elevation. The proposed project will not adversely affect wetlands. The United States Department of Agriculture determined that there will be no significant impact on farmland of statewide importance, and that no further alternatives need be considered.

The review process did not indicate that significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed action. Consequently, a preliminary decision not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement has been made. This action is taken on the basis of a review of the engineering report, environmental information documents, and other supporting data which are on file at the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR), Division of Financial and Technical Assistance, Pierre, South Dakota, and are available for public scrutiny at the BDM Rural Water System office, 705 7th Street, Britton, South Dakota.

Comments supporting or disagreeing with this decision may be submitted to DANREmail@state.sd.us for consideration by DANR. After evaluating the comments received, the Department will make a final decision; however, no final administrative action will be taken on the project for at least 30 calendar days after release of the Finding of No Significant Impact.

Michael A. Perkovich, Program Administrator

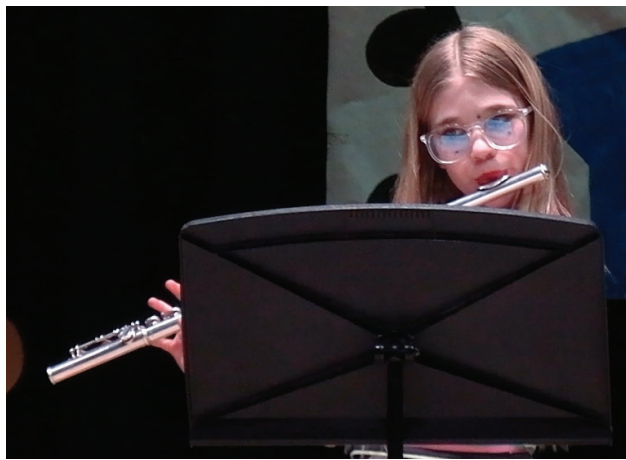
Environmental Funding Program

Published March 22, 2023 at a total approximate cost of \$43.10 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 22061

A subscription to the Groton Independent makes a great gift!



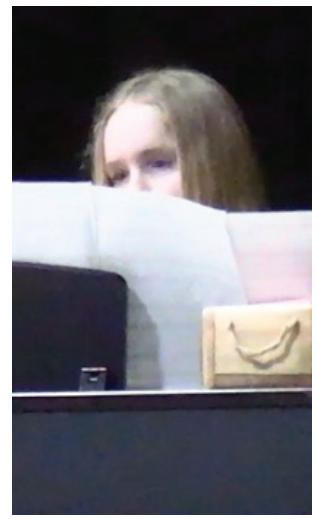
Addison Hoeft sang, "You Say."



Flute solo by Aurora Washenberger to the tune of "Jessie's Girl."



Drumline battle with Sam Crank and Connor Kroll, "The Invader."



Teagan Hanten did a piano solo, "Ain't No Mountain High Enough."

Middle School Talent Show

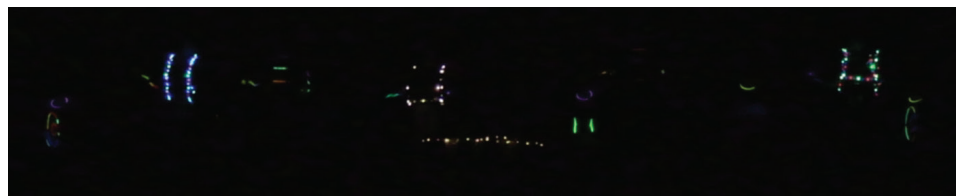
Photos lifted from the GDILIVE.COM video



Emcees Libby Cole and Mya Feser.



Sharp Dressed Man by the Choir Guys.



The Junior Drumline did a performance in the dark.



A President's Childhood by Addison Hoeft, Ryelle Gilbert, Makenna Krause, Kyleigh Kroll, Libby Cole, Rylie Rose and Journey Zieroth.



Emcees were Jace Johnson, Layne Johnson and TC Schuster.



"We Will Rock You" performed by the 6-7 Choir Guys.



"I Love Rock 'n Roll" performed by the 6-7 Choir Girls.



Dr. ROCKenstein performed by the 6-7 Band.



Flute Quartet of Desiree Yeigh, Arianna Dinger, Tenley Frost and Novalea Warrington to the tune of "Let Her Go."

A community bank with decisions made close to the people we serve — both rural and urban.

DACOTAH BANK

BANKING ♦ INSURANCE ♦ MORTGAGE ♦ TRUST

Thank You!

AG APPRECIATION WEEK
MARCH 21-27

dacotahbank.com

MEMBER FDIC Insurance and Trust not FDIC Insured.

Dear EarthTalk: How are wild tiger populations faring today around the world? – P.K. via email

Wild tigers have been roaming the planet for upwards of a million years—about 600,000 years longer than humans. Tigers can be found across East and South Asia, with most of them lurking in the rainforests of India, Thailand and Nepal. But don't expect to see one anytime soon, as their numbers plummeted during the 20th century from 100,000 worldwide to just 4,500. Hunting has been the main cause of their demise, but threats like habitat loss and global warming could push them to extinction if we don't act fast.

Also, demand across Asia for tiger parts—traditional medicine practitioners make use of tiger bones, eyes, whiskers and teeth to treat a wide range of ailments regardless of medical effectiveness—has led to an uptick in recent years of so-called "tiger farming" whereby wildlife poachers capture wild tigers and imprison them to breed. The non-profit WWF reports that over 8,000 tigers (almost double the number living in the wild) are imprisoned in tiger "farms" across East and Southeast Asia.

sea levels are threatening the mangrove forests where the Bengal tigers of the Sundarban regions of India and Bangladesh reside. WWF projects that habitat loss could completely decimate the Sundarbans given the sea level rise predicted for the region by 2070.

But it's not all doom and gloom. According to ShareAmerica, tigers have begun to rebound slightly in recent years. The increase can be attributed to the reduction of conflicts over space between humans and tigers and education on the fragile status of these precious creatures (Indonesia's Ministry of Environment and Forestry has trained over 1,200 community members in reducing conflicts between humans and tigers). The 2021 END Wildlife Trafficking Strategic Review states that since 2015, no tigers have been killed over landscape conflicts. Additionally, Nepal, a natural habitat for tigers, saw their 121 tigers back in 2009 skyrocket to around 355. In nearby India, new research has laid the blueprint for conservation and human development to co-exist. Dr. Stotra Chakrabarti with Macalester College emphasized "land-sharing," in which humans and nature both occupy shared areas. Chakrabarti offers a solution to government officials that finds the Goldilocks zone when considering biodiversity and human growth.

Just because you don't live near wild tigers doesn't mean you can't help in their revival. Refuse to purchase illegally harvested tiger products. And if you do reside in an area with



Don't expect to see a tiger in the wild anytime soon, as their numbers plummeted during the 20th C. from 100,000 worldwide to just 4,500.

Credit: Pexels..

wild tigers, support their protection by voting for legislation prioritizing the safety and increase of their population. Tigers have been decimated by human activity over the years, but we can take actions now to assist in their miraculous upswing. Let's all do our part to save our endangered friends.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

Climate change is also a big threat. Rising



Ken's SUPER FAIR FOODS
FOOD FAIR & SHELL EXPRESS
www.kenssuperfair.com
• ABERDEEN • GROTON • CLARK • IPSWICH • EUREKA • BRITTON •

March FROZEN FOOD MONTH

Check Ken's Chalkboard on Page 6
For Our **FREEZER GIVEAWAY DETAILS!**

<p>Ken's Vanilla Ice Cream 4 Qt. Pail \$4.99</p>	<p>Pizza Corner Pizza 13" 2/\$13</p>
<p>Banquet Boneless Chicken 24-30 Oz. Bag \$4.99</p>	<p>Birds Eye Vegetables 9.5-14.4 Oz. Bags 2/\$5</p>
<p>USDA Choice Demkota Boneless Bread & Butter Roast \$3.99 Per Lb.</p>	<p>Ken's Fresh 80% Lean Ground Beef Family Pack \$2.99 Per Lb.</p>
<p>Heinz Squeeze Ketchup 20 Oz. Bottle \$2.99</p>	<p>Betty Crocker Hamburger, Chicken or Tuna Helpers 4.7-8.7 Oz. Box 4/\$4</p>

APP DEAL OF THE WEEK

Best Choice Shredded Hashbrowns
30 Oz. Bag **99¢** w/\$10 purchase & Ken's App
Requires \$10 additional purchase and use of Ken's App

Stop by Ken's Deli in Aberdeen!
Family Fresh SUSHI Made Fresh Daily

Meat
Fresh Chicken Drumsticks or Thighs
99¢ Per Lb.

Dairy
Cass Clay Swiss Chocolate Milk
\$3.99 97 Oz. Jug

Produce
Red or Green Seedless Grapes
\$1.69 Per Lb.

Liquor
Stella Rosa Black 1.5 LITER
\$19.99

Household
Bounce Fabric Softener Sheets
60-120 Ct. **\$5.99**

<p style="text-align: center;">Bakery Ken's Bakery Fresh White Brat Buns \$2.99 6 Count</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Deli Ken's Famous Fried Chicken \$9.99 8 Piece Bucket</p>
--	---

Flavor of the Week!
Chocolate Covered Almond
\$3.49, \$4.49

PRICES GOOD AT ALL KEN'S LOCATIONS: **March 19th THRU March 25th**

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
19	20	21	22	23	24	25

Dakota Outdoors

Erik Dean
402 N Main St
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605.229.0123
dakoutdoors@midconetwork.com

What do you say?

Before my junior year in high school, I returned from a Boy Scout canoeing trip to discover my sister had been killed in a car crash. I will never forget the sadness of the moment when I walked into the house that was filled with what seemed like half the caring and wonderful town of De Smet to find my mom and dad there grieving. It was near the end of that summer, but the beginning of a long period of mourning for my family and me.

There were lessons that came to me after my sister's death. I realized how important support from a community could be. Consolation came from our friends, neighbors, church community, as well as people we barely knew. It seemed more about their presence and not their words. I noticed there were people who had trouble themselves dealing with such loss, and they sort of disappeared.

Also, I realized that a funeral is not exactly a time of closure for a family, but really just the beginning of a time to accept reality and forge ahead with the difficult changes that life can and does deal out. It took me years to think about my sister and relish in her memory rather than cringe from the pain of the loss. In that sense, I know I will never have closure and that's good.

Some 14 years after her death, while I was on the faculty of a medical school in Georgia, I found myself having to advise medical students how to talk to patients or family about sad news. I reviewed the medical literature on the subject at the time and concluded that there is no right way to do it except to be 100 percent honest and to say whatever is needed with compassion.

Through the years those guidelines have sustained me while I have had the burden of sharing awful news.

Bottom line, it is being there, more than words that consoles. Never worry about what to say, just show up, be honest, and care.

Richard P. Holm, MD, passed away in March of 2020 after a battle with pancreatic cancer. He was founder of The Prairie Doc® and author of "Life's Final Season, A Guide for Aging and Dying with Grace" available on Amazon. Dr. Holm's legacy lives on through his Prairie Doc® organization. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit www.prairiedoc.org and follow Prairie Doc® on Facebook, featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show streaming on SDPB and Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. Central.



Based on Science, Built on Trust

the late Richard P. Holm, MD

We're starting our spring sports...



Newspaper Fun!

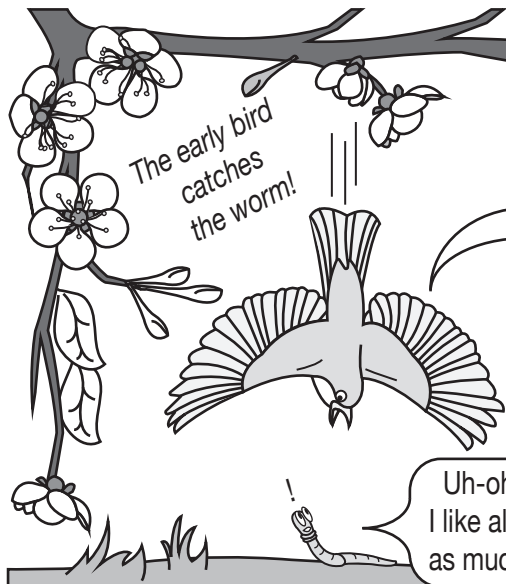
www.readingclubfun.com

Annimills LLC © 2023 V10

...like tennis, baseball, and frisbee.



Kids: color stuff in!



The early bird catches the worm!

Spring is spectacular! My bird friends are singing and building nests. The frogs are peeping and jumping in swamps. People are shouting and running, playing games. Everyone is outside enjoying the fresh air and bright, warm sunshine. I love watching it all!

Uh-oh! I'm not sure that I like all the birds around as much as he does!

You may see more bunnies bounding about in the springtime!



Even the flowers on a prickly pear cactus in the desert may blossom in the springtime.



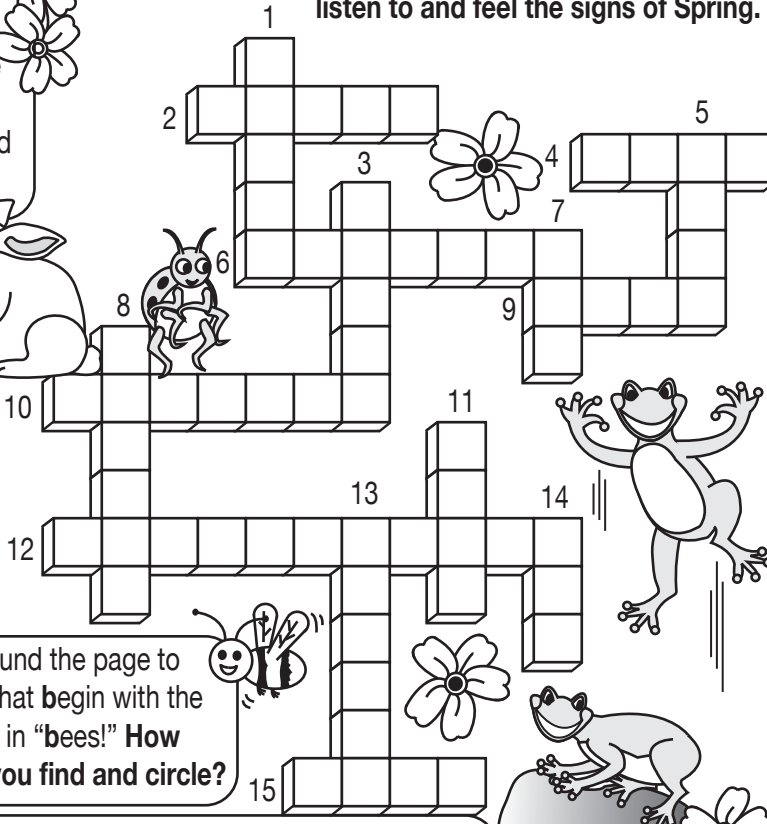
Buzz around the page to find words that begin with the letter "b" as in "bees!" How many can you find and circle?

1. _____ blowing and blustering
2. _____ singing and building nests
3. _____ peeping and leaping
4. _____ unwrapping on bushes and trees
5. _____ shedding winter coats
6. _____ swelling and overflowing
7. _____ flowing in trees to carry water and food
8. _____ flowers blooming in the desert
9. _____ pushing up dirt mounds
10. _____ shearing wool from sheep
11. _____ mixing with dirt to make mud
12. _____ floating in fields of flowers
13. _____ shoots showing
14. _____ warming the land and water
15. _____ pollen floating and coating parked cars

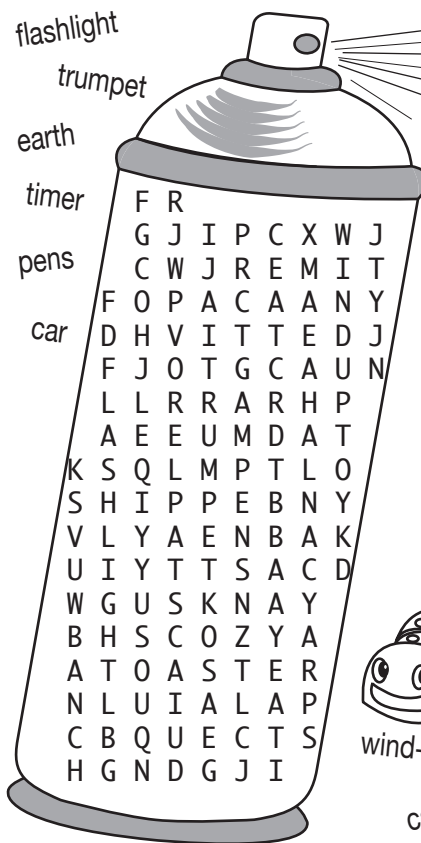
- | | | | | |
|-------------|-------|---------|------|-------|
| cactus | buds | flower | ants | winds |
| farmers | tree | streams | sun | birds |
| butterflies | frogs | rain | sap | dogs |

Spring Is Spectacular!

Signs of Spring are all around us. Read the clues to fill in this puzzle, and then go outside to look at, listen to and feel the signs of Spring.

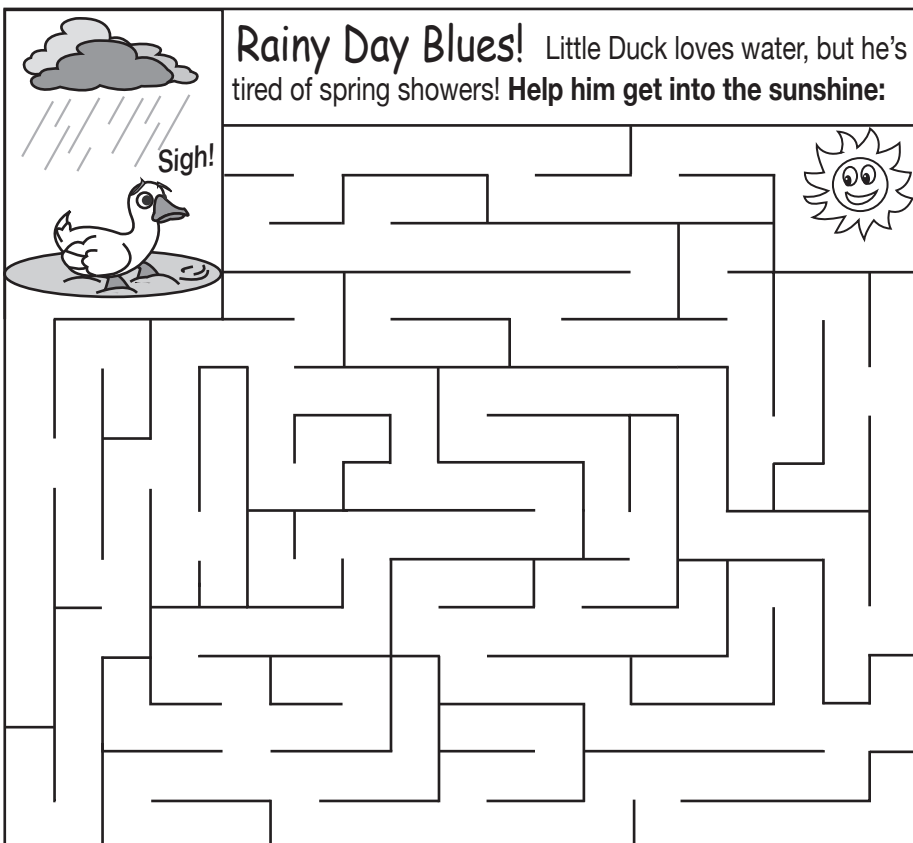
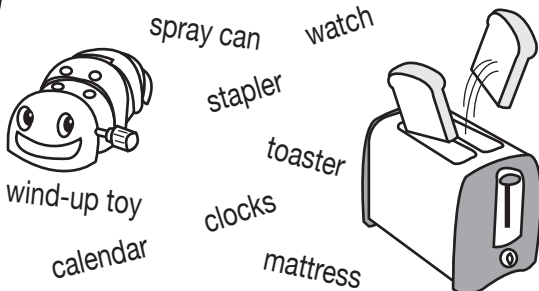


- flashlight
- trumpet
- earth
- timer
- pens
- car



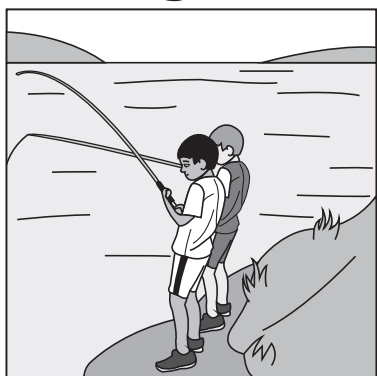
SPRINGS in Things!

Springs are here and there and everywhere. There are metal and plastic springs in many things to make them work. Find and circle these things that have springs in them. (P.S. Two of these are little jokes – different kinds of things that have "a spring" – they are not in the puzzle... cross them off the clue list.)



Things in Spring!

Spring is a time of great activity. People, animals and birds are outside working, exercising and playing. Match up this list of things people do in the spring...then ask to go outside and play!

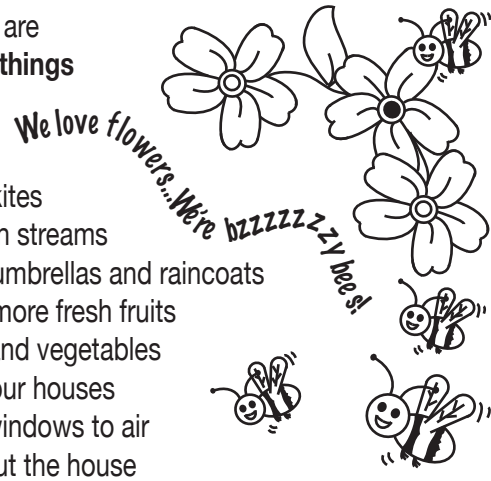


- | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 1. cook | A. in puddles |
| 2. splash | B. fences |
| 3. paint | C. out garages, attics |
| 4. plant | D. tree sap into maple syrup |
| 5. wash | E. cars |
| 6. clean | F. flowers, trees and gardens |



1. clean
2. carry
3. open
4. fly
5. fish
6. buy

- | |
|-------------------------------------|
| A. kites |
| B. in streams |
| C. umbrellas and raincoats |
| D. more fresh fruits and vegetables |
| E. our houses |
| F. windows to air out the house |



City Council

Continued from front

as a building in the park.

"Some people don't think it would be good at the park," Mayor Scott Hanlon said. "We need to discuss this."

Councilwoman Shirley Wells asked if it would be large enough for the thrift store in town.

Hanlon said he had visited with the non-profit organization that runs the thrift store to see if it would work, and they said they didn't need more room.

Councilwoman Karyn Babcock added there isn't enough room on the lot the current thrift store, located at 209 North Main Street, sits on. And if the city moved the concession stand to a different location, the thrift store would have to pay rent, which isn't feasible right now.

Topper Tastad with Enrich Groton SoDak Inc. also told Babcock that the concession stand area of the building is close to what the thrift store currently has, she said.

"It sounds like it would take more to do the work and make it nice than to just build new," Babcock said.

Councilman Kevin Nehls said he has heard the Groton Clay Target League has been looking for land, and the building may make a good addition.

"It would be perfect," he said. "It would be a nice building for them, but I don't know if it's something they see in their future."

Mayor Hanlon added it would be nice for the trap team to have a range located within a few miles of town and around the highway. He asked, though, that the council keep their eyes open for options.

"I guess just keep talking you guys," he told the council.

The Groton Baseball/Softball Foundation plans to have project designs and projected costs for the concession stand building available to the council before the next meeting.

A special council meeting will be scheduled for 9 a.m. Friday as representatives from the Governor's Office of Economic Development will be visiting Groton City Hall. Some council members are planning to visit with the state representatives, and it is not yet clear how many members will be there. If there are four council members, there would be a quorum and the city would have to hold a special meeting or ask some city council members to leave.

Some council members were not sure if they could make it, so a special meeting agenda will be posted just in case.

"If we don't have enough people as a quorum, we won't have a meeting," Hanlon said.

Councilwoman Babcock told the council they could pass along questions or concerns to Finance Officer Heinrich or herself.

Hanlon added the biggest issues he sees are housing and day care.

Members of the business community were also invited to speak with the Governor's Office of Economic Development official.

The council held both the twice-a-month council meeting and the annual equalization meeting Wednesday evening.

The equalization board reviewed 2023 property assessments, including one appeal submitted by Bruce Babcock.

Babcock's property at 311 North Third Street was set to increase from \$44,810 to \$57,100.

Babcock appealed as he wrote replacing the west exterior door and south sliding glass door does not justify a 27.43% increase in total assessed value. He countered with an almost 12% increase to \$50,000.

Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich said he received a call from the county's Equalization Office, and they agree with Bruce's recommendation.

"I guess if the county agrees with it, I'm OK with it," said Councilman Brian Bahr.

- New Groton police officer Ben Smith took his oath of office, which was given by Mayor Scott Hanlon.

- The council met a day later than usual because some council members needed to attend the South Dakota Municipal League District 6 Annual Meeting in Hecla, which was

scheduled for Tuesday (and then was postponed due to the weather)

- A quote for gravel was opened. The bid from Krueger Brothers Construction of Groton was for \$19.85 per yard. The council approved the bid.

- The council approved hiring three more lifeguards: Hannah Sandness, Carly Gilbert and Mia Crank. Rebecca Padfield was also hired as a concessions stand employee. The four hires are in addition to 23 other swimming pool, ten baseball and two public works seasonal employees hired at the March 7 meeting.



**DAKOTA
RESOURCES**



**Guest Column
By Paula Jensen,
The Community
Coach**

Can a Leader's Decision Making be Both Intuitive and Data-Driven?

My short answer is a resounding, Yes!

Intuitive decision making is based on gut feelings, past experiences, and personal judgment. It involves using our instincts and emotions to decide, without relying heavily on data and analysis. On the other hand, data-driven decision making involves using objective data and analysis to inform decisions. It involves collecting and analyzing relevant data to identify patterns, trends, and insights, which are then used to make informed decisions.

Let me share a small-town leadership story.

About three years ago, I was in a board meeting with an economic development organization discussing their need to attract workforce for about 90 local job openings. The economic development director shared a couple recent stories about how limited housing stock was a big barrier for attracting more workforce. After a short discussion, one of the board members stated firmly, "I'm a realtor. We do NOT have a housing problem! There are currently twelve homes for sale and multiple apartment vacancies." At that point, the conversation stopped. Both people were accurate in their reports, yet in hindsight what was missing from the conversation was some quality secondary data available from their local housing study. The Housing Study, completed by a third-party, stated, "The community has a stock of older, lower valued homes, of which 59% need minor or major repairs and another 3% are dilapidated. Our analysis of sales activity indicates that approximately 50% of the homes are valued less than \$75,750. As some lower valued homes come up for sale, they may not be attractive options for potential home buyers because of the amount of repair work that is required." In addition, the housing study recommended, "approximately 10 to 15 additional rental units will be needed over the next five years to replace lost units. This replacement is appropriate due to the deteriorating condition of older, substandard rental housing that should be removed from the occupied stock."

In the story above, the economic development director's intuition was indicating that housing was a strong barrier to workforce attraction. But imagine if that intuition had been backed up with the data from the housing study? That data could have opened the conversation about quality housing being the issue, not the number available units. I am happy to report, three years after this initial conversation the economic development or-

ganization is using intuition (knowing their community) and data (their updated housing study) to move toward solutions that will ultimately address the housing quality issue and attract workforce.

Combining the two approaches of intuitive and data-driven decision making can be very powerful. Intuition can provide a valuable starting point, helping decision makers to identify potential options and narrow down choices. Data analysis can then be used to validate and support these options, providing objective evidence to back up intuitive decisions. By uncovering the story told by the data, it can also help us see patterns, understand the meaning behind the data, and become more proactive rather than being reactionary to issues as they pop up.

Ultimately, the best approach will depend on the specific situation and the decision being made. In some cases, intuition may be more important, while in others, data may be the key factor. The most effective decision makers can balance both approaches, using intuition to guide them, and data to validate and support their decisions.

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.

Local arts councils energize their communities

By Jim Speirs

Executive Director, Arts South Dakota

Every South Dakota community is unique, with a fascinating combination of people and talent—and that is the recipe for a successful local arts council. An arts council in your town can spark entertainment, arts opportunities and community spirit, just as local groups have done in 37 South Dakota communities.

Recently I visited one of our state's newest groups, the Grand River Arts Council, based in Lemmon. With its location in the northwest corner of our state near the North Dakota border, Lemmon seized the opportunity to be the center point of a two-state collection of artists and arts advocates with a regional arts council. I was impressed by the enthusiasm and energy of the people I met in Lemmon.

Across the state in Sisseton, one of the state's oldest local arts councils keeps creating new and compelling activities to draw the community together. For the recent 1st Ever Pop-Up Art Exhibition, the Sisseton Arts Council partnered with the South Dakota Arts Council and Arts Midwest to display the work of 40 local artists during an evening of food, fun and networking.

In another example of fresh ideas, the Campbell County Arts Council is working with regional students to create a "Selfie Wall" display this summer. A competition for images rewarded students for their contributions and several communities really got into the spirit of the event.

The best thing about local arts councils is the way people leap into action with new concepts, hands-on participation and a genuine excitement about bringing creative activities to life in each community. From our larger cities to the countywide groups linking small towns, arts councils are driving forces enriching life across South Dakota.

If your community doesn't have a local arts council, let us put you in touch with folks who can tell you how easy it is to start. If you do have an arts council, get involved—you'll love what it does for you and your community!

Please visit www.ArtsSouthDakota.org to learn more about South Dakota's community arts councils.