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The Groton Independent

Vol. 142 No. 19 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025 ♦ Established in 1889

South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems Presents Les Hinds with the 2024 Carroll Anderson Memorial Award

The South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems is proud to announce Les Hinds with WEB Water Development Association as the recipient of the prestigious 2024 Carroll Anderson Memorial Award. This award, the association's highest honor, recognizes individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to their member systems and to the advancement of rural water systems in South Dakota.

The Carroll Anderson Memorial Award is the highest tribute the association can bestow on an individual for their outstanding voluntary contributions to the advancement of rural community water systems. It pays homage to Carroll Anderson, who, at the time of his death in December 1977, served as Vice-Chairman of both Kingbrook RWS and the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems.

Since joining the WEB Water Development Association Board of Directors in 2015, Les Hinds has passionately advocated for rural water. As Board Treasurer since 2017, Les has provided exceptional leadership and financial oversight, ensuring the system's ongoing success and growth. His service extends beyond governance, as he has also been a key member of the WEB Water Scholarship Committee for nine years, helping to create opportunities for future generations.

Les's dedication goes far beyond the boardroom. Known for his larger-than-life personality and hands-on approach, he consistently supports WEB initiatives, embodying the spirit of service and commitment that this award represents. Whether sharing his expertise during meetings or volunteering his time for community projects, Les is a true example of leadership in action.

Drawing on his background as a coach, Les fosters a collaborative and encouraging environment, offering guidance and wisdom to his fellow board members and staff. His ability to inspire teamwork and his unwavering passion for giving back has made him a vital asset to the WEB Water Development Association and a respected figure in the rural water community.

The South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems is proud to recognize Les Hinds for his exceptional contributions and unwavering dedication to advancing rural water systems in South Dakota.

About the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS): The SDARWS is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to enhancing South Dakota's water and wastewater industries. Through training, on-site technical assistance, and the Annual Technical Conference, SDARWS supports rural and municipal water and wastewater systems in operations, management, boardsmanship, and governance. The organization is financially supported by its membership dues and grant programs, embodying a member-driven approach.



Les Hinds

Johnson selected for MS All-State Jazz Band

Congratulations to Liam Johnson for being selected the 2025 South Dakota Middle School All-State Jazz Band for the second year in a row. Liam will be the first chair alto saxophone in the top Mahon Ensemble. This year 80 students auditioned from 22 different schools in South Dakota. Out of the 22 schools, 16 will be represented at this event. Liam's MS Band Director is Mrs. Desiree Yeigh.

"If you have a dream, chase it, and if you want to accomplish this dream you must work hard at it. Nothing comes easy and nothing is impossible," says Johnson.

The South Dakota Music Education Association will present the Middle School All-State Jazz Band, taking place at the Performing Arts Center in Mitchell, South Dakota on January 31st and February 1st, and featuring two big bands directed by Dr. Erik Mahon and Mr. Ryan Stahle.

The final concert is open to the public on Saturday February 1st at 3:00 pm. Tickets for the event will be \$5 at the door. Students 18 and under will be free of charge.

The mission of the National Association for Music Education is to advance music education by promoting the understanding and making of music by all. SDMEA is a state affiliate of the National Association for Music Education. With over 400 members, SDMEA is the largest association of instructional musicians in the state catering to the needs of band, choral, general music and orchestral teachers.



CONGRATULATIONS 🎵

MS All State Jazz

Liam Johnson
1st Chair Alto Sax!
2nd year member

More Carnival of Silver Skates pictures on pages 8-10



Queen candidates Emily Overacker, Mia Crank and Emma Davies pull newly crowned Queen Rylee Dunker during the afternoon performance of the Carnival of Silver Skates. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Overacker places first
Huntley Overacker placed first this past weekend at the Deuel and the Ipswich youth wrestling tournaments.

(Courtesy Photo)

Weekly Vikings Roundup
By Jordan Wright

Sunday afternoon the Philadelphia Eagles and the Washington Commanders played for the right to represent the NFC in the Super Bowl. The Eagles have been an upper-echelon team since they won a championship in 2017 and were in the Super Bowl again just two years ago. The Commanders have been a bottom dweller for decades, with only eight winning seasons since 1993 – but new owners and a phenomenal rookie QB have our nation’s capital finally feeling hopeful for the future.

The Commanders received the opening kickoff and had an 18-play drive that ended with three points on the board. The Eagles’ offense then took the field and only needed one play to find the endzone, thanks to a 60-yard

run by Saquon Barkley. Washington fumbled the ball on their next possession, followed by another Philly TD, and with 3:43 left in the first quarter, it was clear the Commanders were outclassed. When the final whistle blew, the Eagles were flying high with a 55-23 win and a ticket to the championship game.

Sunday evening the Buffalo Bills stampeded into Kansas City, hoping to finally get past the juggernaut that is the Chiefs. These two teams have met in the playoffs four times since January 2021, and Kansas City is now 4-0 in these matchups after a 32-29 win Sunday. Patrick Mahomes will now try to do something that has never been done in the NFL, winning three straight Super Bowls.

Unlike the game earlier in the day, this game was a nail-biter that came down to the last couple of minutes. The Bills went three-and-out on their first drive, and the Chiefs responded with a TD. The Bills did better on their second possession, scoring three points, and a Chiefs’ fumble led to a Bills TD, giving Buffalo a 10-7 lead. Kansas City scored two more TDs in the first half, Buffalo added one of their own, and the score was 21-16 Chiefs heading into halftime.

KC punted on their opening possession of the second half, then a Buffalo TD gave the Bills a 22-21 lead, which was the score heading into the fourth quarter. KC scored five plays later, and a successful two-point conversion gave them a 7-point lead. Josh Allen then led the Bills on a long TD drive, tying the game 29-29 with six minutes left. Mahomes responded with a long drive of his own, but a sack on 1st and goal from the 10-yard line, followed by two incomplete passes, forced the Chiefs to kick a field goal. Down by three points, and with 3:33 left on the clock, Josh Allen had a chance to exercise his demons. Five plays later the Bills were facing 4th&5 near midfield, and to the horror of everyone watching in Buffalo, tight end Dalton Kincaid dropped the pass. Game over.

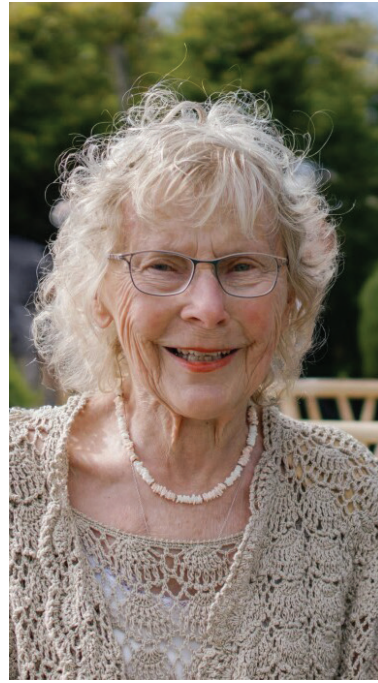
Looking ahead, the NFL Pro Bowl games begin this week. The Skills Showdown will be on Thursday evening on ESPN, and the actual Pro Bowl game will be on Sunday afternoon. Six Vikings were selected to the Pro Bowl: QB Sam Darnold, WR Justin Jefferson, CB Byron Murphy Jr., OLB Jonathan Greenard, OLB Andrew Van Ginkel, and long snapper Andrew DePaola. Seven other Vikings players were selected as alternates, so we may see even more Vikings players, depending on who opts out because of injury or other reasons. Skoll!

Death Notice:

Jerry and Janet Stoffers

Jerry Lee Stoffers, 83, of Hecla passed away January 25, 2025 in Groton. Janet Rae Stoffers, 83, of Hecla passed away January 27, 2025 at Avantara Groton. Services are planned through Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel for the spring with inurnment in Detroit Cemetery.

The Life of Sandra Oliver



Sandra Jeanne Oliver, 83 of Sioux Falls, SD (formerly of Groton, SD) passed away on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at the Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls, SD.

A Mass of Christian Burial and celebration will be held at 1:00 p.m., on Saturday, February 22nd at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Groton, SD. Father Gregory Tschakert will officiate. A time of sharing and fellowship will be held in the church hall after the service. Inurnment will follow in the spring under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel of Groton, SD.

Sandy was born on June 10, 1941 to Zenos and Jeanne (Cope) Hanson in Watertown, SD. She attended school in Watertown, SD and Colorado Springs, SD. She graduated in 1959. Sandy then attended Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD for her teaching degree. On April 18, 1961, Sandy and Richard 'Dick' Oliver were united in Holy Matrimony. To this union three daughters were born; Becky, Lynn and Cindy. Sandy spent 33 years teaching for the Groton, SD School District. Dick and Sandy Oliver were proud farmers in Brown County, SD for all of their married life.

Sandy loved her family deeply and had great concern for all of them. She enjoyed attending all of the family’s activities. Sandy is survived by her three daughters: Rebecca and Berk Hong of Huntington Beach, CA Lynn Lutter-Tabbert and Mike Tabbert of Sioux Falls, SD Cindy and Carl Teer of Harrisburg, SD; Six grandchildren: Jared Hong, Julia and Jake Carnegie, John Dylan and Sonya Lutter, Joseph Roy and Sarah Lutter, Jesse and Lauren Miller, Isaiah Teer; and nine great-grandchildren. Sandy is also survived by two sisters: Judy Carpenter, Pam Kirschman; two sisters-in-law: Maggie Oliver, Bette Cochran; two brothers-in-law: Kory Kirschman, John Cochran along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Sandy is preceded in death by her husband of 49 years, Dick, her parents: Zenos and Jeanne Hanson, Robert and Imo Jeanne Oliver, brothers-in-Law: Ron Carpenter, Robert J (Jack) Oliver and an infant grandson, Ross Joseph Lutter.

Memorials may be directed to the charity of your choice.

2025 GROTON AREA HOMECOMING
 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH, 2025

Card Shower
Dorene Nelson will be celebrating her 80th birthday on January 29, 2025.

80th BIRTHDAY

Greetings may be sent to
PO Box 675
Groton, SD 57445

This beloved mother, grandmother, and teacher is requesting a card shower.

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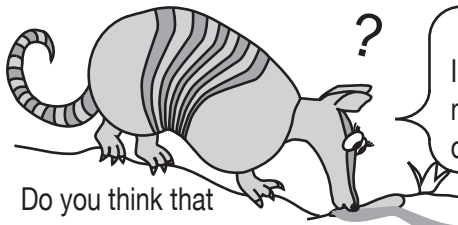
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Are you awake, Mr. Groundhog? I don't mean to hound you, but maybe you can predict the winner of the Super Bowl, too? Hello!

Do you think that a groundhog can predict the weather? On February 2, some people will get up very early to watch the groundhog come out of its home. They will stand around the groundhog's hole in the ground and study the sky. As soon as they see the groundhog poke out of its hole they will snap pictures. Who do you think will see the funnier sight...the people or the groundhog?

Read the clues to fill in the crossword puzzle:

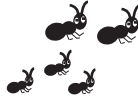
- a long winter's nap
- a warm-blooded creature
- another name for the groundhog
- curls into this to sleep
- something people believe in or think will happen without facts or proof
- the groundhog's _____ pumps more slowly when it hibernates
- the groundhog is part of this family
- young are born in this month
- males are about two feet long and weigh about twelve pounds; females are _____
- to tell about an event before it happens

Time to Rhyme!

Find and circle the ten words that rhyme with "ground."

- Zzzz
- count
mound
frowned
wound
pound
crowned
groaned
hound
crouch
sound
browned
found
crowd
pounce
round

Our whole family doesn't weigh a pound!



Groundhog Weather Forecaster?

Hey, let me shine!

1. _____
2. squirrel
3. _____
4. _____
5. underground
6. forecast
7. _____
8. mammal
9. hibernation
10. ball
11. April
12. superstition
13. heart
14. spring
15. Ahhhh...I'm ready for springtime weather!
16. What's that sound? Do I hear cheering?
17. smaller
18. woodchuck
19. Look at the mound of dirt!
20. 11. it is said that when the groundhog pokes out of his hole and sees the sun there will be six more weeks of winter, but when he sees clouds, _____ is near
21. 12. where the groundhog lives

Football Fever

Find and circle these football terms:

- touchdown tackle
offense referee
defense kickoff
teams field goal
huddle quarterback

Look at him bound off to watch the game!



Off to watch the Super Bowl...chicken wings, potato chips, veggies and dips...yay!



Is Winter Almost Over?

Why did the groundhogs cheer when they came out of their burrows and saw only clouds? Use the alphabet code to fill in the blanks and find out:

^ o #) [{ # *

^ o + ^ (|| } ? { &

* + ({ # + }

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
+	!	@	*	#	◇	&	○	?
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
\$	□	<	●	{	●		~	}
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
(^	*	*	*	>)	%	

Yay! It's cloudy.

Weather Superstitions and Forecasts?



Grrrr... Who woke me?

Don't look at me!



Fill in the blanks to spell weather words!

- __ ain __ ow
- cl __ ud __
- met __ oro __ ogis __
- __ liz __ ard
- o __ erca __ t
- cli __ at __
- tem __ era __ ure
- dr __ zzl __

r y e b o \ m p b e z s i v t o t

Match these weather superstitions and forecasts:

(More than 1 superstition can have the same forecast...you'll see!)

- If squirrels store large numbers of acorns
 - When frogs croak louder and faster
 - If March comes in like a lion
 - When tree leaves flip over
 - "Red sky at night, sailor's delight
Red sky in morning,..."
 - If animals grow heavy fur
 - If a groundhog awakens from hibernation and sees sunshine and his shadow
 - When your bones ache
- it is going to rain.
 - it will go out like a lamb.
 - it is going to rain.
 - sailors take warning.
 - it will be a long, cold winter.
 - spring is far away!
 - it will be a long, hard winter.
 - rain is coming.

3	4	6	8	7	2	9	5	1
9	5	8	1	6	4	3	2	7
2	7	1	5	9	3	8	4	6
8	3	4	7	2	9	1	6	5
1	6	2	4	5	8	7	9	3
7	9	5	6	3	1	2	8	4
6	8	3	2	4	7	5	1	9
4	2	7	9	1	5	6	3	8
5	1	9	3	8	6	4	7	2

Solution time: 26 mins.

F	D	R		D	R	A	T		G	R	U	B
L	O	U		E	I	N	E		R	E	N	E
A	T	T	I	C	F	A	N		O	V	I	D
		A	C	R	E				R	U	S	T
A	B	B	E	Y		O	R	E	S			
C	O	A	T		C	R	E	P	E	P	A	N
C	O	G		S	O	C	I	O		L	O	O
T	R	A	S	H	C	A	N		T	A	U	T
		T	A	O	S				C	A	C	T
D	A	T	E	D		S	O	R	E			
I	H	O	P		M	A	C	H	O	M	A	N
L	O	O	P		C	H	O	O		A	M	O
L	Y	L	E		S	A	W	S		T	A	G

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Groton Community February Calendar of Events

Saturday, Feb. 1
Groton Invitational Wrestling Tournament, 10 a.m., boys and girls
Boys Basketball at DAK XII/NEC Clash at Madison: Groton Area vs. Dell Rapids, 5 p.m., auxiliary gym
Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 209 N Main

p.m., JV at 6 p.m., varsity to follow
Junior High Boys Basketball at Sisseton: 7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m.
Pantry, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Groton Community Center
City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Sunday, Feb. 2
GROUNDHOG DAY
St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion at St. John's, 9 a.m.; at Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir, 6 p.m.
United Methodist worship with communion: Conde, 8:15 a.m.; Groton, 9:30 a.m.; Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.
Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.;
Open Gym, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Pancake Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Groton Community Center

Tuesday, Feb. 4
Senior Menu: Cheese tortellini alfredo with diced chicken, green beans, Mandarin oranges, breadstick.
Boys basketball at Aberdeen Roncalli: C game at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m., varsity to follow. At Elementary school, 8th at 4 p.m., 7th at 5 p.m.
JH wrestling at Britton-Hecla, 5 p.m.
Common Cents Thrift Store, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 209 N Main.
Pantry, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Groton Community Center
Groton United Methodist Bible Study, 10 a.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Ladies Aid LWML, 1:30 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 3
Senior Menu: Sloppy joe on bun, oven roasted potatoes, winter blend, ice cream, fruit.
Girls Basketball at Florence: C game at 5

Wednesday, Feb. 5
Senior Menu: Swiss steak, mashed potato with gravy, peas and carrots, apricots, whole wheat bread.
Groton Chamber Board Meeting, 6 p.m., at City Hall
Groton United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.
Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.; Sarah Circle, 5 p.m.; League, 6:30 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.

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
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PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

Thursday, Feb. 6
Senior Menu: BBQ Chicken, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, pineapple, whole wheat bread.
Basketball doubleheader hosts Deuel. Girls JV at 4 p.m., boys JV at 5 p.m., girls varsity and boys varsity to follow.
Groton United Methodist: Caring Team Meeting, 5 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 7
Senior Menu: Scalloped potato with ham, beets, fruited Jell-O, whole wheat bread.
Girls Wrestling at Yankton, 9 a.m.
Boys Basketball at Vermillion: C game at 4 p.m., JV at 5 p.m., varsity to follow.
JH Boys Basketball at Waubay, 7th grade only, 4:30 p.m.
Boys Wrestling at Lyman, 6 p.m.

EMPLOYMENT
SEEKING OT, SCHOOL PSYCH, and SLP in NE South Dakota for 2025-2026 school year. Individuals moving into our area get signing bonus. For more info visit nesc.k12.sd.us or call (605)783-3607. EOE.

POLICE OFFICER: The City of Murdo is seeking a full-time police officer, certified officer preferred but not required. Call (605) 669-2272 for application and information.

SPECIAL ED TEACHERS NEEDED in Custer School District starting immediately. Apply online CSD.K12.SD.US 605-673-3154 CSD 527 Montgomery St., Custer, SD 57730 EOE Open until filled.

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Monday, Feb. 10

Senior Menu: Hamburger gravy, mashed potato, green beans, tropical fruit, whole wheat bread.

Junior High Boys Basketball at Britton-Hecla, 7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m.

Girls Basketball at Great Plains Lutheran: C at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m., varsity to follow.

School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Pantry, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Groton Community Center

Groton United Methodist: PEO Meeting, 7 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Tuesday, February. 11

Senior Menu: Ham, au gratin, broccoli, pineapple, whole wheat bread.

Boys Basketball hosts Leola-Frederick: JV at 6 p.m., varsity to follow.

Common Cents Thrift Store, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 209 N Main.

Pantry, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Groton Community Center

Groton United Methodist Bible Sutdown, 10 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: council, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 12

Senior Menu: Chicken tetrazzine, mixed vegetables, accini depepi salad, whole wheat bread.

Groton United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 13

Senior Menu: Lemon baked fish, rice, California blend, peach crisps, whole wheat bread.

Parent-Teacher Conferences, 1:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Early dismissal of school.

Groton Lions Club meeting, 6 p.m., 104 N Main

Emmanuel Lutheran: Nigeria Circle, 2 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 14

VALENTINE'S DAY

Senior Menu: Baked pork chop, wild rice, glazed carrots, cheesecake with frost glaze, dinner roll.

No School, Faculty In-service

Community Blood Drive, 8:45 a.m. to noon, Groton Community Center

Saturday, Feb. 15

Basketball Double-Header at Moberidge-Pollock. Boys 8th at 11 a.m., boys 7th at noon, girls C at 11 a.m., boys C at noon, girls varsity and boys varsity to follow.

Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 209 N Main

Sunday, Feb. 16

Open gym, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Junior High State Wrestling at Pierre.

St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion at St. John's, 9 a.m.; at Zion, 11 a.m.; No Sunday School.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; No Sunday School; Choir, 6 p.m.

United Methodist: Conde, 8:15 a.m.; Groton, 9:30 a.m.; Britton, 11:15 a.m.; No Sunday School; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.

Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.

Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.;

Monday, Feb. 17

PRESIDENT'S DAY - No School

National FFA Week

Boys Basketball hosts Florence-Henry: C

game at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m., varsity to follow; in gym: boys 8th at 4 p.m., boys 7th at 5 p.m.

Pantry, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Groton Community Center

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Christian Literature Circle, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 18

Senior Menu: Ranch chicken, sweet potato, monterey blend, oranges, whole wheat bread.

Common Cents Thrift Store, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 209 N Main.

Pantry, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Groton Community Center

Groton United Methodist Bible Sutdown, 10 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Quilting, 9 a.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 19

Senior Menu: Chesseburger casserole, brussel sprouts, fruit, bread stick.

Groton United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Groton United Methodist: Groton Ad Council, 7 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.; League, 6:30 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 20

Senior Menu: Turkey, mashed potato with gravy, carrots, mixed furit, dinner roll.

Junior High Boys Basketball at Warner: 7th at 6 p.m., 8th at 7 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 21

Senior Menu: Taco salad, Mexican rice with beans, breadstick, fruit.

Basketball Double Header at. Britton-Hecla: Girls C/Boys C at 4 p.m.; Girls JV/Boys JV at 5 p.m., followed by girls varsity and boys varsity.

Saturday, Feb. 22

Girls Region Wrestling at Clark.

Boys Region Wrestling at Hamlin, 10 a.m.

Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 209 N Main

Sunday, Feb. 23

Open Gym, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m.; at Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir, 6 p.m.

United Methodist: Conde, 8:15 a.m.; Groton, 9:30 a.m.; Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.

Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.

Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.;

Monday, Feb. 24

Senior Menu: Hot pork sandwich, scalloped potato, corn,

fruit cocktail.

Pantry, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Groton Community Center

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 25

Senior Menu: Meatballs, mashed potato with gravy, Italian blend, peaches, whole wheat bread.

Region 1A Girls B basketball tournament

Common Cents Thrift Store, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 209 N Main.

Pantry, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Groton Community Center

Groton United Methodist Bible Sutdown, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 26

Senior Menu: Beef noodle strofanoff, capri blend, apple sauce, cookie, whole wheat bread.

Groton United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 27

Senior Menu: Potato soup, chicken salad sandwich, mixed vegetables, fruit, whole wheat bread.

Girls and boys state wrestling at Rapid City Region 1A Girls B basketball tournament

Friday, Feb. 28

Senior Menu: Spanish rice with hamburger, green beans, vanilla pudding with oranges, whole wheat bread.

Groton FFA CDE

Girls and boys state wrestling at Rapid City Boys Basketball vs. Aberdeen Christian at the Aberdeen Civic Arena: 7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m., varsity to follow.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Dime portrait
- 4 "Phooey!"
- 8 Chow
- 12 Singer Reed
- 13 Aachen article
- 14 Russo of "The Intern"
- 15 Top floor cooler
- 17 Roman poet
- 18 Farm fraction
- 19 Corrodes
- 20 Monk's home
- 22 Raw minerals
- 24 Paint layer
- 25 Skillet with low sides
- 29 Gearwheel tooth
- 30 Prefix with "logical"

- 49 Singer Lovett
- 50 Tools with teeth
- 32 Refuse holder
- 34 Lacking slack
- 35 New Mexico resort
- 36 Desert flora
- 37 Passe
- 40 Achy
- 41 Breakfast chain
- 42 Village People classic
- 46 Air-show stunt
- 47 Sneeze syllable
- 48 Latin 101 word

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46					47			48		
49					50				51	

- 10 One
- 11 Hotel furniture
- 16 "Cold As Ever" rapper
- 19 Seized vehicle
- 20 Bank statement no.
- 21 Rude dude
- 22 Killer whales
- 23 Check
- 25 Designer Chanel
- 26 Table protector
- 27 Summer month in Paris
- 28 Terse denial
- 30 Roe provider
- 33 Treeless tract
- 34 Poi base
- 36 Some Pacific salmon
- 37 Pickling herb
- 38 "Hi, sailor!"
- 39 Implement
- 40 Garbage barge
- 42 Roast VIPs
- 43 "Caught ya!"
- 44 "I — Rock"
- 45 Eggy quaff

DOWN

- 1 Ga. neighbor
- 2 Speck
- 3 Yellow turnip
- 4 Belittle
- 5 Teeming
- 6 Political strategist Navarro
- 7 Hamilton bill
- 8 Complain
- 9 Guns the engine

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JANUARY 21, 2024 – 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, Dinger, Gage, Sutton and Wiese. Commissioner Wiese led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ORDINANCE #286 – FIRST READING: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dinger to approve the First Reading of Proposed Ordinance #286. Applicant Lorin & Julie Flihs to rezone from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring these parcels into compliance for their future use: Description of property: Proposed Lot 1, "L and J Flihs First Addition" in the NE1/4 of the NE1/4 of Section 22-T125N-R60W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (12105 410th Avenue, Claremont Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #287 – FIRST READING: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Gage to approve the First Reading of Proposed Ordinance #287. Applicant Jarod & Sarah Bierman to rezone from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring these parcels into compliance for their current use: Description of property: "Elsing's Outlot 1" in the SW1/4 of Section 28-T121N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (37640 147th Street, New Hope Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #288 – FIRST READING: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the First Reading of Proposed Ordinance #288. Application made by Petitioner, James Smith/Owner, Thomas Johnson to rezone from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring these parcels into compliance for their current use: Description of property: Lots 1, 2 & 3, "North Warner Homestead Addition" in the NW1/4 of Section 35-T124N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (38615, 38623 & 38645 141st Street, Warner Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

VACATE A PLAT: OLE CROW ADDITION: This hearing was previously postponed at the December 31, 2024 meeting. Stacy Gossman, petitioner to vacate a plat pursuant to SDCL 11-3. The legal description of the plat: Proposed Former Lot 1, "Ole Crow Addition" in the NW 1/4 of Section 17-T123N-R63W of the 5TH P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (765 Ole Crow Lane, Aberdeen Twp.). Aberdeen City Manager, Robin Bobzien informed the Commission that in 1993 there was an easement

put into place for storm sewer and there was an agreement between Aberdeen Development Corp. and Twin City Fan for back road access for deliveries, there was a requirement that the city build the road and maintain it. Robin suggested there is a process to allow the vacation of the plat without taking the Right-of-Way (R-O-W) out of it. Scott Bader, Planning & Zoning Director informed the Commission that when the easement was created there was a plan for a Norwood Street to come through from 6th Ave. to 8th Ave., when they installed Milwaukee Ave. there was no curb cut to have a future apron or drive way there, when Sanford Hospital was built, they build it through that street, same with Mutual of Omaha, in the easement it states they did not have permission from the Railroad for access to cross the railroad, so the street won't line up and isn't going to happen. When put in storm sewer for drainage, there was originally an easement, platted storm sewer 30' wide as an H plat, which then took away the easement off the storm sewer. Robin then shared there is an agreement for easement reading recital the agreement will allow the city to place storm sewer across Cutler's property within a 66" R-O-W with an extension of Norwood if it were to extend North, after installation of the storm sewer the city will grade and compact the soil in at least 30' width roadway within the 66" R-O-W for road running South from 8th Ave. to the Railroad tracks. Scott says his interpretation is that there was no easement, also there was no easement with Twin City Fan filed and/or record anything with the Register of Deeds, so they didn't follow through. Chairman Sutton asked when you replatted it, the R-O-W came off the tax roll and that was correct. Stacy shared that he replatted it because he had investors lined up, but he lost those investors because of the city not granting them utilities for water and sewer so now he wants it to go back to the way it was. After further discussion, Commissioner Wiese made a motion to deny the vacation of the plat, seconded by Dinger. Motion carried 4 to 1 with Commissioner Gage voting "No". Stacy then gave notice of appeal.

VETERAN'S SERVICE OFFICE LEGISLATIVE/DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Aaron Walberg, Brown County Veteran's Service Officer (VSO) met with the Commission to share what legislation is being proposed that are troublesome and would affect his office. First one being, they are wanting to remove the salary supplement for VSO's from the State Statute. Brown County received \$4,812.50 in 2024 for this supplement – if this goes through and passes the County would no longer receive these funds. Secondly, is they are wanting to remove the Headstone Setting Fee Reimbursement, which was raised to \$200 in 2023. Aaron shared this may not seem like a lot, but when you have families that are struggling it makes a huge difference, he mentioned there was more than one example of where if the headstone wasn't covered by the government and the \$200.00 wasn't there, it would have been next to impossible for that family to put a monument down & memorialize that loved one. This covers about half of the setting

fee, and this was something that Aaron was involved in getting the fee raised. Aaron then shared he received a phone call over the weekend from a Legislator is and got a heads up on another potential issue that may come up: Senator Diebert is trying to change statue on SDCL 33A-1-22 from saying ... each county in this state 'shall' employ a county veteran's service officer, proposing to strike "shall" and change it to "may" employ a county veteran's service officer. Then counties would not have to have VSO's, some counties are sharing VSO's, in some counties VSOs have split duties such as Emergency Management and VSO. Even though Brown County is not a regional VSO office, we are helping Veteran's from surrounding counties including North Dakota. Aaron shared they have Veteran's Coffee the first Wednesday of every month at 9am at the Senior Center.

PURCHASE CORONER VAN: Brian Koens, Brown County Coroner met with the Commission to get approval to purchase a 2021 Chrysler Pacifica Limited Van for the Coroner Van due to the shape of the current van not being reliable and in poor condition. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the purchase of the 2021 Chrysler Pacifica Limited Van to be used as the Coroner Van. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

2025 ASSESSMENT PLAN: Gene Loeschke, Director of Equalization presented his 2025 Assessment Plan to the Commissioners.

BID DATE SET FOR HIGHWAY DEPT.: GRAVEL/ROAD OIL/HOT MIX/RENTAL EQUIPMENT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to authorize advertising public hearing to open, read and consider bids for Gravel, Road Oil, Hot Mix and Rental Equipment Materials to be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the General Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the following claims: Insurance: Insurance Plus \$2,823.56. Professional Fees: Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce \$800.00; Aberdeen Area Human Resources Assoc. \$100.00; Christy Griffin-Serr Law Office \$9,523.81; Cogley Law Office \$9,523.81; Dependable Sanitation Inc \$29,008.40; Dohrer Law Office \$9,523.81; Jerald M. McNeary \$9,655.81; John Noyes – Bantz, Gosch & Cremer \$9,523.81; Kuck Law Office \$9,671.94; Lisa H. Hutchison, MD \$2,375.00; Sanford Health Occupational Medicine \$413.00; Taliaferro Law Firm, PC \$9,523.81. Publishing: Groton Daily Independent \$79.72; McQuillen Creative Group, Inc \$64.12. Rentals: Northern Electric \$1,200.00. Repairs & Maintenance: Climate Control \$199.95; Dakota Doors Inc \$726.47; Diesel Machinery Inc. \$67,701.20; EcoLab Pest Elimination Division \$291.91; Graham Tire Inc. \$679.20; House of Glass \$66.67; Leidholt Electric, LLC \$244.90; Lien Transportation Company \$770.00; Pierson Ford Lincoln, Inc \$291.40; Pump's Tire Service, Inc \$273.16. Supplies: Advanced Auto Parts \$249.62; Amazon Capital Services Inc \$837.92; Applied Concepts, Inc \$447.00; Avera LTC Pharmacy Aberdeen \$4.90; Bob Barker Company Inc \$1,468.07; Century Business Products \$447.85; Cole Paper Inc \$1,381.12; Dakota Doors Inc \$100.00; Dependable Sanitation Inc \$290.40; Diesel Machinery Inc. \$5,198.35; Graham Tire Inc. \$5.05; Kessler's \$327.46; LabSource Inc. \$2,372.52; NVC \$28.57; Performance Oil \$1,207.87; Pierson Ford Lincoln, Inc \$79.85; Safety Service \$381.35; Taylor Harman \$57.31; Titan Machinery \$205.80. Travel & Conference: Dave Lunzman \$98.00. Utilities: CenturyLink \$9.90; City of Aberdeen Treasurer \$411.26; Dependable Sanitation Inc \$105.60; House of Glass \$33.33; James Valley Telecommunications \$209.10; Northwestern Energy \$3,803.08; NVC \$2,716.49; T-Mobile USA Inc \$99.78 Verizon Wireless \$1,522.26. Other: NESDCAP \$2,500.00. Machinery & Equipment: Aberdeen Chrysler Center \$35,174.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT: Moved by Com-

missioner Dinger, seconded by Dennert to approve the following Human Resource Report submitted by Human Resources Director, Allison Tunheim:

o Resignation of Joshua Eddy, Brown County Jail Detention Officer, FT; effective January 21, 2025. Request to fill.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIM ASSIGNMENTS: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Auditor Heupel to sign the Claim Assignments against individuals to Credit Collections Bureau for the purpose of collecting liens. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

2024 SHERIFF REPORTS: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve all of 2024 Sheriff Reports: Incidents and offenses, Prisoner Care, JDC, and money deposited with the County Treasurer. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

TRAVEL REQUESTS: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to approve the following Travel Requests: Dan Bray and Linn Kamin with Sheriff's Department to attend Criminal Interdiction Training in Sioux Falls, SD on March 25-27, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to go into executive session to discuss Personnel, Legal and Contracts per SDCL 1-25-2. 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 at 11:31 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published January 29, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$109.00 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25206

Concrete Plant Mix Materials for road maintenance and construction on Brown County System of Roads, F.O.B. Brown County, South Dakota.

Proposal Guaranty: No deposit or bid bond will be required at time of bid opening.

Contract Notice: 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.

Contract for Asphalt Plant Mix Materials shall be firm and will be in effect for a period of one (1) year from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026.

Envelopes containing bids shall be addressed and delivered to the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 57401 and to be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope: "BIDS ON ASPHALT CONCRETE PLANT MIX MATERIALS" to be opened on February 11, 2025. The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County.

Bids shall include all applicable taxes and fees for materials furnished and/or installed by the Contractor and all applicable taxes and fees for materials supplied by the County. Brown County is exempt from all Federal Excise Tax and State Sales Tax.

Section 320.5 – Basis of Payment: "A" – Asphalt Concrete Plant Mix Materials for Maintenance and Construction. The accepted quantities of Asphalt Plant Mix will be paid for at the contract unit price per ton.

Attest: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published January 29 and Feb. 5, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$38.63 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25208

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Published January 29, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$109.00 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25206



NOTICE TO GRAVEL PRODUCTION CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS

Sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Court House Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota until the hour of 8:45 A.M. on February 11, 2025 at said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read and considered for furnishing and delivery of ONE (1) YEARS SUPPLY OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GRAVEL MATERIALS.

Proposal Guaranty: No deposit or bid bond will be required at time of the bid opening.

Performance Bond: 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 and furnish a performance bond in accordance with the bid as accepted or as required by the Brown County Highway Department Superintendent. Brown County must be listed as additional insured on all Certificates of Insurance.

Envelopes containing bids shall be addressed and delivered to the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401, and to be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope: "BIDS ON GRAVEL AGGREGATE MATERIALS" to be opened February 11, 2025. The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County.

Bids shall include all applicable taxes and fees for materials furnished and/or installed by the Contractor and all applicable taxes and fees for materials supplied by the County. Brown County is exempt from all Federal Excise Tax and State Sales Tax.

Contract for GRAVEL MATERIALS shall be firm and will be in effect for a period of one (1) year from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026.

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published January 29 and Feb. 5, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$38.08 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25207



CITY OF STRATFORD TRUSTEE VACANCY NOTICE

Notice of Vacancy City of Stratford

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 may begin on January 30th, 2025 and petitions may be filed with the Finance Officer, 293 E Rondell Ave, Stratford, SD 57474, no later than the 26th day of Feb 2025, at 5 P.M.

Submitted by: Anna Kwak, Finance Officer, 605-622-0166

Published January 22 and 29, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$14.90 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 24236

Queen of Hearts
Week number 14 of the Groton Queen of Hearts was held Thursday night. The jackpot was \$11,761. Ticket sales for the week was \$960. The name of Brian Bahr was drawn and he picked Card #54 which was the 2 of Clubs. Kolker won the consolation prize of \$96.

2025 MITCHELL NO TILL EVENT

Thursday, February 6, 2025

10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CST

Highland Convention Center

2000 Highland Way, Mitchell, SD

AGENDA INCLUDES:

No Till, Cover Crops, Reintroduction of Grazing Ruminants and fresh water advocacy – *Blake Vince, Merlin, Ontario*

Pluses and Minuses of Raising Cereal Rye – *Dr. Pete Sexton, SDSU SE Research Farm*

Giving Clarity to the Estate Planning and Generational Transition Process – *Alan Hojer, SD Ag Foundation*

For more details visit SDNoTill.com

Pre-registration is requested by Jan. 31.

Please email heidi.rients@usda.gov;

or call 605-996-1564 ext. 3; or text 605-530-5390.

Seating is limited. CCA credits will be available.



NOTICE TO ROAD OIL SUPPLIERS

Sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Court House Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota, until the hour of 8:45 A.M. on February 11, 2025 at said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read and considered for producing, furnishing and delivery of Road Oil to the Brown County System of Roads, F.O.B. Brown County, South Dakota.

Item (A) Cutback Asphalt Road Oil – MC-70

Item (B) Cutback Asphalt Road Oil – MC-3000

Item (C) Emulsion Asphalt Road Oil- CSS1H

Envelopes containing bids shall be addressed and delivered to the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 57401 and to be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope: "BIDS ON ROAD OIL" to be opened on February 11, 2025. The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County.

Attest: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published January 29 and Feb. 5, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$23.18 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25210



NOTICE TO ASPHALT CONCRETE PLANT MIX SUPPLIERS

Sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Court House Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota, until the hour of 8:45 A.M., February 11, 2025. At said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read, and considered for producing, furnishing all materials and delivery of Asphalt

Northern State University Alumni, including Kristen Gonsoir, Recognized for Teaching Excellence

ABERDEEN, S.D. – Three graduates of the Millicent Atkins School of Education at Northern State University recently received national recognition for their outstanding contributions to education and their ability to make a difference in students' lives.

This recognition reflects Northern's legacy of preparing exceptional educators, a tradition that has led to the university being named the #1 education program in South Dakota for the past two years.

Allison Schmitz and Kristen Gonsoir were honored with the 2023 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. This prestigious award highlights their dedication to advancing STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education in their classrooms.

Schmitz, a math teacher in the Northwestern Area School District, has spent the past nine years teaching middle and high school students. Her courses range from sixth-grade math to Algebra II.

"Being nominated for the award was a great honor," Schmitz said. "The application process was rigorous and taught me a lot about myself and my teaching. Being selected as a state finalist and finally a national awardee has shown me that my hard work is noticed and appreciated."

She plans to continue her work as a mathematics educator, advocating for the field and inspiring students. "Right now, I plan on continuing what I have been doing," Schmitz said. "I will teach, I will learn, and I will advocate for mathematics educators and mathematics education."

Gonsoir, who has taught at Groton Area High School for 33 years, specializes in anatomy and physiology, organic chemistry, general chemistry, and physics. She is also passionate about incorporating global learning into her classroom, stemming from her participation in the 2022 Global Learning Fellowship program.

"I am honored to be recognized," Gonsoir said. "Knowing all the amazing things fellow state finalists are doing in their classrooms, I am very surprised to receive this award."

Gonsoir credits her master's degree in Teaching and Learning from Northern State University for helping her reflect on and refine her teaching practices. "Many of the pedagogies I was using in my classroom were soundly supported in research," she said. "The students in my classroom are constantly changing, and what they bring to the classroom changes, therefore how I teach must change."

The Presidential Award recognizes teachers for exemplary mentoring sustained over a minimum of five years. Schmitz and Gonsoir are among thousands of educators nationwide who have received this recognition. Each honoree is awarded \$10,000 from the National Science Foundation, along with a certificate signed by the president and an invitation to a celebration in Washington, D.C.

In addition, Kristyanna Brandriet, principal of James Knoll Elementary School in the Ortonville School District, received the 2024 Terrel H. Bell Award for Outstanding School Leadership. She was one of only nine principals in the country to earn this recognition. Brandriet's school was also awarded the National Blue Ribbon Schools Award from the U.S. Department of Education in September 2024, solidifying its reputation for educational excellence.

Northern State University is proud to celebrate the remarkable achievements of these alumni, whose dedication and leadership exemplify the university's commitment to fostering outstanding educators who make a lasting impact in their communities.

Groton Chiropractic Clinic

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

Weekly SUDOKU

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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South Dakota leaderships changes

South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem was approved as the Secretary of Homeland Security under the President Donald Trump administration. As a result, Noem submitted her resignation as governor. Lt. Governor Larry Rhoden took over as South Dakota's 34th governor. That then left a vacancy for the Lt. Governor.

On Wednesday, Rhoden announced that Tony Venhuizen as his selection for the 40th Lieutenant Governor of South Dakota.

Tony Venhuizen served since 2023 as a state representative from District 13. Venhuizen has resigned his seat and now Rhonden is looking for a replacement for that legislative seat.

15 N Main St. - Ste. 101
Downtown Groton

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Call/Text Tina: 605-397-7285

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GDI

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

Large Line of Swather, Baler & Cutter Parts.

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5 Miles North & 1 Mile West of CASE-IH

Groundhog Weather Forecaster?

Are you awake, Mr. Groundhog? I don't mean to hound you, but maybe you can predict the winner of the Super Bowl, too? Hello!

Hey, let me shine!

Why did the groundhogs cheer when they came out of their burrows and saw only clouds? Use the alphabet code to fill in the blanks and find out.

What's that sound? Do I hear cheering?

Ahhhh...I'm ready for springtime weather!

Yay! It's cloudy.

Has Arid found the groundhog?

Weather Superstitions and Forecasts?
1. E, 2. A or C, 3. B, 4. A or C, 5. D, 6. G, 7. F, 8. H

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T H A T
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N E A R
{ # + }

Ten words that rhyme with "ground":
sound, pound, found, mound, crowned, frownd, wound, round and browned and hound.

INDEPENDENCE STARTS HERE

YOUR PATHWAY TO HOME

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Eighth and ninth graders Libby Cole, Tenley Frost, Tevan Hanson, Suri Jetto, and Aurora Washenberger perform to the song "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" during the evening performance of the 87th Carnival of Silver Skates. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Senior Emily Overacker and juniors Mia Crank, Emma Davies, and Rylee Dunker perform to the song "Material Girl" during the afternoon performance of the Carnival of Silver Skates. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Fifth graders Taylor Flihs, Shealee Gilchrist, Ryan Hanson, Avery Huber, Devan Locke, Colton Pullan, Avery Roettele, and Jack Schuelke perform to the song "One Less Lonely Girl" during the afternoon performance of the Carnival of Silver Skates. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



More than 85 skaters end the afternoon performance by gathering together for a group skate. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



First graders Maya Anderson, Kylie Borg, Ivy Cole, Layla Feist, Emme Flihs, Emersyn Giedt, Kaylee Hofer, Kayleigh Raba, Molly Swisher, Aubrie Traphagen, Collins Traphagen, Sunny Washenberger, and Nova Washenberger perform to the song "Can't Stop The Feeling" during the afternoon performance of the Carnival of Silver Skates. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Guest skater Savannah Sovell performs to the song "Toxic" during the evening performance of the Carnival of Silver Skates. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Guest skater Elin Gossen performs to the song "Wings" during the afternoon performance of the Carnival of Silver Skates. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Emcee Tom Woods announces the beginning of the 87th Carnival of Silver Skates afternoon performance. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Guest skater Savannah Sovell performs to the song "Toxic" during the afternoon performance of the Carnival of Silver Skates. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



2024 Carnival of Silver Skates Queen Emma Schinkel crowns 2025 queen Rylee Dunker during the afternoon performance of the Carnival of Silver Skates. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Specialty act performers Avery Crank and Emerlee Jones perform to the song "You're the One That I Want" during the Carnival of Silver Skates. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Specialty act performers Tevan and Ryan Hanson perform to the song "Set Fire to the Rain" during the Carnival of Silver Skates. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Specialty act performers Aurora, Nova and Sunny Washenberger performs to the song "Rock with You" during the Carnival of Silver Skates. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Kindergarten students Huntley Frost, Hazel Giedt, and Graham Locken perform to the song "Firework" with their instructors Claire Schuelke, Tevan Hanson and Ryan Hanson during the evening performance of the Carnival of Silver Skates. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Second graders Brielle Dunbar, Mya Flihs, Kinsey Frost, Amara Graff, Laker Hanson, Kodi Hinman, Liv Huber, Avril Jetto, Ellie Lassle, Jorie Locken, and River Wipf perform to the song "Party in the USA" during the evening performance of the Carnival of Silver Skates. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Seventh graders Rachel Dobbins, Andi Gauer, GraceLynn Hubbs, and Chloe Witchey perform to the song "Bloody Mary" during the afternoon performance of the Carnival of Silver Skates. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Sixth graders Gracie Borg, Brynlee Dunker, Ambrielle Feist, Kierea Jetto, Libby Johnson, Mya Moody, Maycee Moody, Caelynn Pullan, Kinley Sandness, Tori Schuster, and Taylynn Traphagen perform to the song "Up" during the Carnival of Silver Skates. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Groton High School juniors Natalia Warrington and Gentry Pigors perform the National Anthem while Amy Warrington holds their music up. The National Anthem kicked off the 87th Carnival of Silver Skates afternoon performance. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Snowflakes River Anderson, Elowen Cutler, Collyns Dunbar, Alandra Graff, Faith Johnson, Blake Locke, Makenna Sternhagen, and Beau Traphagen perform to the song "Three Little Birds" during the Carnival of Silver Skates. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Tenth graders Avery Crank, Teagan Hanten, Addison Hoffman, Emerlee Jones, Claire Schuelke, and McKenna Tietz perform to the song "9 to 5" during the Carnival of Silver Skates. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Third and fourth graders Haley Erickson, Preslee Giedt, Reagen Harry, Madison Harry, Hazel Hill, Nori Hinman, Raziah Jetto, Railey Mulder, Presley Olson, and Calli Wilkinson perform to the song "Shake It Off" during the Carnival of Silver Skates. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



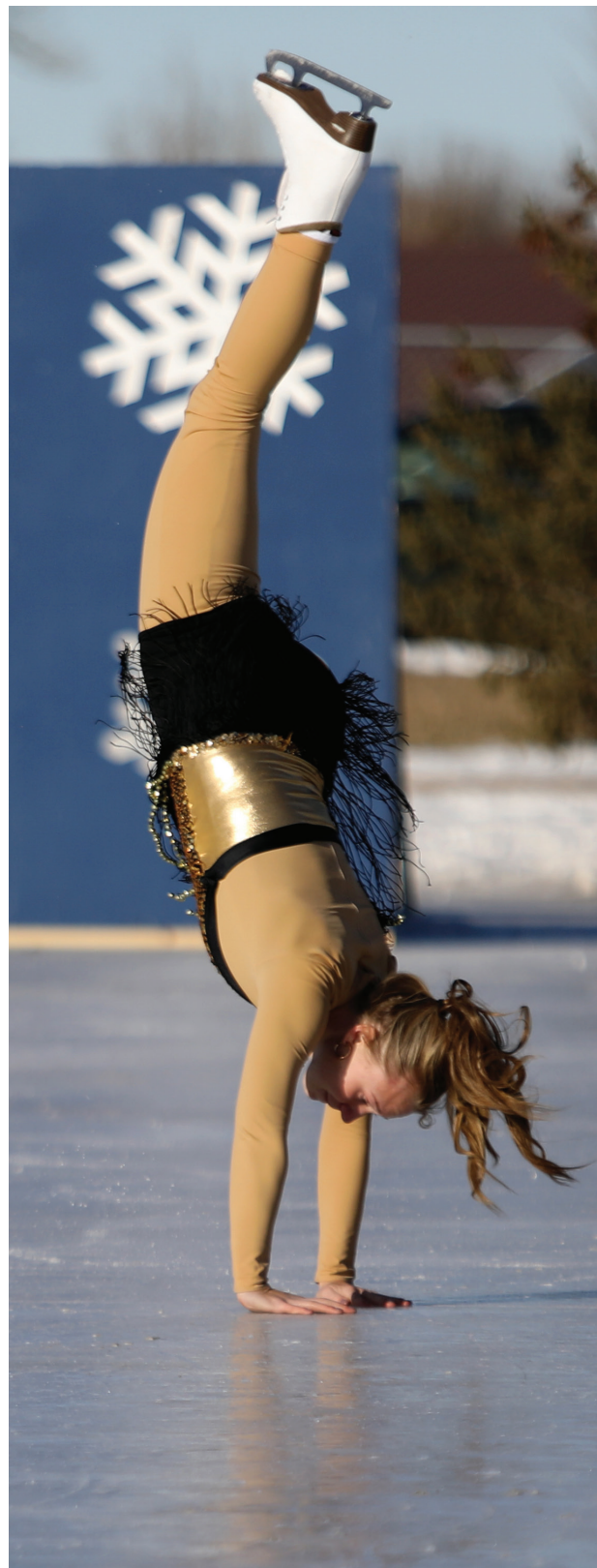
The Carnival of Silver Skates board recognizes an individual, business or organization that has been an important part to the event. This year, they recognized Jessie Overacker who has run a spotlight in the night session for many years. Pictured are Lindsey Tietz, Katie Anderson, Coralea Wolter, Sarah Hanten, Carrie Feser, Jessie Overacker, Aubray Miller, Shonna Harry and Elizabeth Varin. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)

Groton Prairie Mixed Bowling League Week #10 Results

Team Standings: Chipmunks 9, Shihtzus 8, Cheetahs 6, Coyotes 5, Jackelopes 4, Foxes 4
Men's High Games: Butch Farmen 200, Brad Larson 195, Vern Meyers 191
Women's High Games: Sue Stanley 175, Nancy Radke 173, Brenda Waage 168
Men's High Series: Brad Larson 543, Vern Meyers 494, Larry Frohling 491
Women's High Series: Hayley Johnson 472, Nancy Radke 430, Brenda Madsen 414
Week 10 Fun Game – Most Picked up Splits – Chipmunks with 3!



Specialty act performer Teagan Hanten performs to the song "Thriller" during the Carnival of Silver Skates. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Specialty act performers Avery Crank and Emerlee Jones perform to the song "You're the One That I Want" during the Carnival of Silver Skates. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

Ten wrestlers place at Arlington

Ten Groton wrestlers placed at the Kingsbury County Invitational held Saturday in Arlington. Groton Area placed fifth in a field of 14 teams. Christian Ehresmann and Krobin Kucker both placed second, Lincoln Krause and Chris Schwab both placed third, placing fourth were Donavon Block, Walker Zoellner and Gavin Englund, Noah Scepaniak placed fifth and in sixth place were Kyson Kucker and Layne Johnson.

Team Scores: 1. Kingsbury County 238.5, 2. Canby 173.5, 3. Sioux Falls Washington 167.5, 4. Redfield Area 162.5, 5. Groton Area 153.5, 6. Brookings 126.0, 7. Britton-Hecla 118.0, 8. Flandreau 114.5, 9. Sioux Valley 88.0, 10. Lyman 50.5, 11. Hamlin/Castlewood 30.0, 11. Warner/Northwestern 30.0, 13. Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle 19.5, 14. Viborg-Hurley/Irene-Wakonda 0.0.

157: Christian Ehresmann (18-3) placed 2nd and scored 21.5 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 18-3 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 18-3 won by tech fall over Kahne Hanson (Kingsbury County) 8-15 (TF-1.5 3:23 (15-0))

Semifinal - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 18-3 won by fall over Dashed Davidson (Britton-Hecla) 10-13 (Fall 0:43)

1st Place Match - Sam Drietz (Canby) 27-3 won by fall over Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 18-3 (Fall 3:41)

175: Korbin Kucker (23-4) placed 2nd, scored 21.0 points.

Champ. Round 1 - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 23-4 won by fall over Aja Middlelent (Lyman) 7-14 (Fall 0:57)

Quarterfinal - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 23-4 won by major decision over Justin Rohrbach (Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle) 14-9 (MD 14-1)

Semifinal - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 23-4 won by decision over Zander Eidem (Sioux Falls Washington) 23-10 (Dec 7-2)

1st Place Match - Gabriel Stern (Brookings) 22-3 won by major decision over Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 23-4 (MD 10-2)

126: Lincoln Krause (12-11) placed 3rd, scored 16.0 points.

Champ. Round 1 - Lincoln Krause (Groton Area) 12-11 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Lincoln Krause (Groton Area) 12-11 won by decision over Haiden Baxter (Brookings) 6-10 (Dec 19-17)

Semifinal - zach pederson (Flandreau) 30-11 won by fall over Lincoln Krause (Groton Area) 12-11 (Fall 1:00)

Cons. Semi - Lincoln Krause (Groton Area) 12-11 won by fall over emisael bonilla (Flandreau) 7-5 (Fall 1:42)

3rd Place Match - Lincoln Krause (Groton Area) 12-11 won by decision over Haiden Baxter (Brookings) 6-10 (Dec 12-7)

144: Chris Schwab (12-16) placed 3rd, scored 18.0 points.

Champ. Round 1 - Chris Schwab (Groton Area) 12-16 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Chris Schwab (Groton Area) 12-16 won by decision over Micah Eidem (Sioux Falls Washington) 18-25 (Dec 14-7)

Semifinal - Bryce Hawkinson (Britton-Hecla) 20-2 won by fall over Chris Schwab (Groton Area) 12-16 (Fall 3:05)

Cons. Semi - Chris Schwab (Groton Area) 12-16 won by fall over Lane Olivier (Lyman) 15-20 (Fall 2:23)

3rd Place Match - Chris Schwab (Groton Area) 12-16 won by fall over Micah Eidem (Sioux Falls Washington) 18-25 (Fall 2:45)

132: Donavon Block (19-11) placed 4th, scored 17.0 points.

Champ. Round 1 - Donavon Block (Groton Area) 19-11 won by fall over matthew field (Sioux Valley) 5-15 (Fall 2:35)

Quarterfinal - Donavon Block (Groton Area) 19-11 won by major decision over Ty Delbridge (Brookings) 8-4 (MD 14-2)

Semifinal - Gannon Gilligan (Kingsbury County) 31-4 won by tech fall over Donavon Block (Groton Area) 19-11 (TF-1.5 2:52 (18-1))

Cons. Semi - Donavon Block (Groton Area) 19-11 won by fall over gabriel frias (Flandreau) 21-17 (Fall 1:52)

3rd Place Match - Lane Albrecht (Kingsbury County) 14-9 won by fall over Donavon Block (Groton Area) 19-11 (Fall 3:22)

150: Walker Zoellner (16-6) placed 4th, scored 16.0 points.

Champ. Round 1 - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 16-6 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 16-6 won by fall over Skyler Langenbau (Lyman) 9-19 (Fall 0:57)

Semifinal - Tate Everson (Hamlin/Castlewood) 18-11 won by fall over Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 16-6 (Fall 3:58)

Cons. Semi - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 16-6 won by fall over Steven Antillon (Sioux Falls Washington) 8-18 (Fall 2:08)

3rd Place Match - Blake Jennings (Kingsbury County) 24-7 won by medical forfeit over Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 16-6 (M. For.)

285: Gavin Englund (20-6) placed 4th, scored 16.0 points.

Champ. Round 1 - Gavin Englund (Groton Area) 20-6 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Gavin Englund (Groton Area) 20-6 won by fall over Desmerius McGhee (Lyman) 27-10 (Fall 3:26)

Semifinal - Myles Yitagesu (Sioux Falls Washington) 21-7 won in the ultimate tie breaker over Gavin Englund (Groton Area) 20-6 (UTB 3-2)

Cons. Semi - Gavin Englund (Groton Area) 20-6 won by fall over Dalton Rathjen (Redfield Area) 21-14 (Fall 4:10)

3rd Place Match - Owen Vandeweerd (Sioux Valley) 28-4 won in tie breaker - 1 over Gavin Englund (Groton Area) 20-6 (TB-1 3-1)

126: Noah Scepaniak (11-12) placed 5th.

Champ. Round 1 - Noah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 11-12 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Noah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 11-12 won by fall over emisael bonilla (Flandreau) 7-5 (Fall 2:46)

Semifinal - Cody Zell (Kingsbury County) 23-7 won by fall over Noah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 11-12 (Fall 0:57)

Cons. Semi - Haiden Baxter (Brookings) 6-10 won by major decision over Noah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 11-12 (MD 17-5)

5th Place Match - Noah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 11-12 won by fall over emisael bonilla (Flandreau) 7-5 (Fall 2:23)

120: Kyson Kucker (20-11) placed 6th, scored 13.0 points.

Champ. Round 1 - Kyson Kucker (Groton Area) 20-11 won by fall over Callen Gran (Lyman) 6-13 (Fall 0:54)

Quarterfinal - Rogan Albrecht (Kingsbury County) 18-8 won by tech fall over Kyson Kucker (Groton Area) 20-11 (TF-1.5 4:00 (21-1))

Cons. Round 2 - Kyson Kucker (Groton Area) 20-11 won by medical forfeit over Lane Coleman (Lyman) 6-10 (M. For.)

Cons. Round 3 - Kyson Kucker (Groton Area) 20-11 won by fall over Carter Grobe (Britton-Hecla) 6-13 (Fall 3:16)

Cons. Semi - Micah Stern (Brookings) 14-12 won by fall over Kyson Kucker (Groton Area) 20-11 (Fall 1:46)

5th Place Match - Karsten Lerwick (Kingsbury County) 21-17 won by decision over Kyson Kucker (Groton Area) 20-11 (Dec 6-0)

190: Layne Johnson (7-18) placed 6th, scored 8.0 points.

Champ. Round 1 - Bryant Hansen (Canby) 12-10 won by fall over Layne Johnson (Groton Area) 7-18 (Fall 3:02)

Cons. Round 1 - Layne Johnson (Groton Area) 7-18 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 2 - Layne Johnson (Groton Area) 7-18 won by decision over Harvey Hardt (Sioux Valley) 15-16 (Dec 3-2)

Cons. Round 3 - Layne Johnson (Groton Area) 7-18 won by fall over Wyatt Larson (Lyman) 1-2 (Fall 2:14)

Cons. Semi - Bryant Hansen (Canby) 12-10 won by decision over Layne Johnson (Groton Area) 7-18 (Dec 10-3)

5th Place Match - Rhyder Behnke (Flandreau) 6-15 won by major decision over Layne Johnson (Groton Area) 7-18 (MD 12-3)

132: Xavior Ellenbecker (0-5).

Champ. Round 1 - Jacob Milliron (Brookings) 18-12 won by fall over Xavior Ellenbecker (Groton Area) 0-5 (Fall 0:35)

Cons. Round 1 - Xavior Ellenbecker (Groton Area) 0-5 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 2 - Michael Nissen (Sioux Falls Washington) 6-8 won by fall over Xavior Ellenbecker (Groton Area) 0-5 (Fall 1:41)

132: Grayson Flores (2-10).

Champ. Round 1 - gabriel frias (Flandreau) 21-17 won by fall over Grayson Flores (Groton Area) 2-10 (Fall 1:36)

Cons. Round 1 - Grayson Flores (Groton Area) 2-10 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 2 - Ty Delbridge (Brookings) 8-4 won by tech fall over Grayson Flores (Groton Area) 2-10 (TF-1.5 2:12 (15-0))

138: Kason Oswald (8-14) scored 3.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Sutton Murphy (Kingsbury County) 15-10 won by fall over Kason Oswald (Groton Area) 8-14 (Fall 1:57)

Cons. Round 1 - Kason Oswald (Groton Area) 8-14 won by fall over Morgan Chritiansen (Sioux Valley) 0-11 (Fall 0:58)

Cons. Round 2 - Caden Singrey (Kingsbury County) 13-10 won by fall over Kason Oswald (Groton Area) 8-14 (Fall 2:00)

165: Ben Hoeft (13-16).

Champ. Round 1 - Ben Hoeft (Groton Area) 13-16 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Colten Walsh (Brookings) 11-8 won by decision over Ben Hoeft (Groton Area) 13-16 (Dec 13-7)

Cons. Round 2 - Colton Chapin (Britton-Hecla) 3-4 won by decision over Ben Hoeft (Groton Area) 13-16 (Dec 9-3)

190: Isiah Scepaniak (1-7).

Champ. Round 1 - Dylan Murray (Redfield Area) 18-6 won by fall over Isiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 1-7 (Fall 1:08)

Cons. Round 1 - Isiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 1-7 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 2 - Liam Paxton (Britton-Hecla) 3-12 won by fall over Isiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 1-7 (Fall 0:19)

215: Charlie Frost (14-14) scored 4.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Tucker Hardy (Britton-Hecla) 19-8 won by fall over Charlie Frost (Groton Area) 14-14 (Fall 0:45)

Cons. Round 1 - Charlie Frost (Groton Area) 14-14 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 2 - Charlie Frost (Groton Area) 14-14 won by fall over Rogan Haider (Brookings) 2-7 (Fall 1:27)

Cons. Round 3 - Breyten Johnson (Kingsbury County) 26-8 won by fall over Charlie Frost (Groton Area) 14-14 (Fall 4:27)

285: Karter Moody (10-7).

Champ. Round 1 - Titor Peters (Flandreau) 6-7 won by fall over Karter Moody (Groton Area) 10-7 (Fall 5:46)

Cons. Round 1 - Karter Moody (Groton Area) 10-7 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 2 - Desmerius McGhee (Lyman) 27-10 won by fall over Karter Moody (Groton Area) 10-7 (Fall 3:54)

Lady Tigers Edge Bulldogs in Hard-Fought Victory

The Groton Area Lady Tigers improved to 9-3 on the season after a hard-fought 42-34 victory over the Milbank Bulldogs, who dropped to 7-4. The game showcased strong defensive efforts from both teams and key offensive performances that made the difference.

Milbank opened the scoring and battled through a back-and-forth first quarter, with two lead changes before Groton settled into an 8-5 advantage. The second quarter was a nail-biter, with the game tied four times before heading into halftime deadlocked at 16.

The third quarter proved pivotal. Groton capitalized on their shooting opportunities, hitting 4 of 11 shots (36%) compared to Milbank's cold 2 of 11 performance (17%). The Lady Tigers took a 26-21 lead into the final frame.

Milbank continued to struggle offensively in the fourth quarter, connecting on just 2 of 9 field goal attempts. Groton maintained their composure, shooting 5 of 10 in the final period to secure the 42-34 win.

Stat Breakdown:

* Groton Area: The Tigers shot 37% from the field, making 15 of 41 attempts. They dominated the boards with 39 rebounds, including 14 offensive boards, and shared the ball well with 10 assists. However, turnovers were an issue, with 24 on the night.

* Milbank: The Bulldogs struggled offensively, shooting just 26% (10 of 39). Despite the tough night, they were able to capitalize on free throws, making 10 of 18 for 56%.

Key Players:

* Groton Area:

* Rylee Dunker: A standout performance with a double-double, scoring 12 points and grabbing 12 rebounds. She also added 3 steals.

* Taryn Traphagen: Contributed 9 points and 5 rebounds.

* Faith Traphagen: Stepped up with 10 points.

* Kennedy Hansen: Added 6 points.

* Jerrica Locke: Dished out 3 assists, recorded 1 block, and scored 1 point.

* Layla Roberts and Chesney Weber: Combined for 4 points.

* Milbank:

* Isabella Anderson: Led the Bulldogs with 13 points, which included four of six free throws and a clutch three-pointer in the fourth quarter.

* Tyra Berry: Added 11 points in a solid offensive showing.

* Anna Neugebauer: Contributed 7 points and was a force on the boards with 6 rebounds.

Milbank had solid contributions from their key players, particularly Anderson, who stepped up in the fourth quarter. However, their shooting struggles throughout the game made it difficult to keep pace with Groton.

The win reflects Groton's resilience and ability to execute under pressure, solidifying their strong start to the season. Meanwhile, Milbank will look to regroup as they continue their competitive campaign.

- Story compiled by ChatGPT

Groton Area:

Rylee Dunker: 12 points, 12 rebounds, 3 steals, 2 fols.

Faith Traphagen: 10 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal, 2 fouls.

Taryn Traphagen: 9 points, 5 rebounds, 2 assists, 3 fouls.

Kennedy Hansen: 6 points, 2 rebounds, 4 fouls.

Chesney Weber: 3 points, 9 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal, 1 foul.

Jerica Locke: 1 point, 2 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 fouls, 1 block.

Laila Roberts: 1 point, 2 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal, 3 fouls.

Jayedyn Penning: 2 rebounds, 1 steal, 2 fouls.

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Brooklyn Hansen: 1 rebound.

2-Pointers: 10-27 37%, 3-Pointers: 5-15 33%, Free Throws: 7-18 39%, 39 rebounds, 24 turnovers, 10 assists, 7 steals, 19 fouls, 1 block.

Milbank: Isabella Anderson 13, Tyra Berry 11, Anna Neugebauer 7, Siera Wenzl 2, Avery Schuneman 1.

Field Goals: 10-39 26%, Free Thwos: 10-18 56%, 26 rebounds, 20 fouls, 6 assists, 17 turnovers, 1 block, 14 steals.

Milbank led at the quarterstops at 15-7, 26-14 and 36-22 en route to a 51-31 win in the junior varsity game:

Groton Scoring: Kella Tracy 9, Talli Wright 5, Mia Crank 4, Sydney Locke 3, Ashlynn Warrington 3, Chesney Weber 3, McKenna Tietz 2, Makenna Krause 2.

Milbank: Anna Neugebauer 13, Avery Schuneman 10, Belle Pauli 10, Susie Schuneman 6, Adison Pauli 5, Bree Townsend 4, Zayda Townsend 3.

Groton Area won the C game, 33-32. Groton led after the first quarter, 15-10, and led 24-22 at halftime. Milbank took a 28-26 lead in the third quarter and led going into the fourth quarter, 32-28. Milbank went scoreless in the fourth quarter as Sydney Locke and Addison Hoffman each made a basket to lift the Tigers to the win.

Groton Area: Ashlynn Warrington 7, Sydney Locke 5, Addison Hoffman 4, Emerlee Jones 4, Teagan Hanten 3, Kinsley Rowen 2, Makenna Kruase 2, Brenna Imrie 1, Avery Crank 1.

Milbank: Bailee Hendricks 11, Violet Johnson 6, Ella Koplun 5, Kylynn Schwandt 2, Keira Untalan 2, Lauren Lester 2, Avigail Howard 2.

All five games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM. The varsity games were sponsored by Agtegra, Avantara Groton, Bierman Farm Service, BK Custom T's & More, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Ferney Farmers Union, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, Groton Subway, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Lounge, Locke Electric, Krueger Brothers, R&M Farms/Rix Farms and The Meathouse in Andover. Larry and Val Flihs sponsored the girls C game and Dave and Tammy Dohman sponsored both of the junior varsity games. Shane Clark was on hand for play-by-play. Jeslyn Kosel ran the camera and Paul Kosel was in charge of technology.

Tigers Pull Away from Bulldogs in Key Basketball Matchup

The Groton Area Tigers continued their strong season with a commanding 58-43 victory over the Milbank Bulldogs in boys basketball action. The win improves the Tigers to 7-4 on the season, while the Bulldogs fall to 3-6.

Groton set the tone early, storming out to an 8-0 lead before holding a 17-9 advantage after the first quarter. However, Milbank responded with determination in the second quarter, scoring the first seven points to tie the game at 17. After briefly tying the game again at 18, the Tigers found their rhythm, launching an 18-3 run that spanned the second and third quarters. This decisive stretch pushed Groton's lead to 41-23, leaving Milbank struggling to close the gap.

The Tigers led 30-20 at halftime and 41-25 after three quarters. Milbank mounted a spirited fourth-quarter rally, cutting the deficit to 10 points at 48-38. But Groton regained control, closing the game on a strong run to secure the 58-43 victory.

Ryder Johnson led the way for the Tigers with a game-high 19 points, showcasing his scoring ability both inside and out. Gage Sippel added 13 points, while Keegen Tracy contributed 10. Becker Bosma chipped in nine points, Carson Zac had six, and Jayden Schwan rounded out the scoring with one point.

Defensively, Groton was active, with Johnson and Bosma collecting three steals apiece as part of the teams nine steals. The Tigers also tallied seven blocks, including two each

from Johnson, Bosma, and Zach. Groton shot efficiently, hitting 45% of their field goals (14-for-31), 40% of their three-pointers (6-for-15), and 75% of their free throws (12-for-16).

Milbank's offense was led by Lincoln Holscher, who scored 12 points, seven of which came in the fourth quarter during the Bulldogs' late push. Brian Meyer added 10 points, with Sam Rick scoring eight, Graham Lightfield seven, Ryan Keaton three, Emmett Hansen two, and Jack Howard one.

The Bulldogs struggled with their shooting, finishing 33% from the field (15-for-46) and 29% from beyond the arc (7-for-24). However, they matched Groton's free-throw efficiency, hitting 75% (6-for-8). Milbank won the rebounding battle, pulling down 32 boards compared to Groton's 24.

While both teams were evenly matched in turnovers Groton had 10 to Milbank's 12.

The Tigers will look to keep their momentum going as they move deeper into the season, while the Bulldogs aim to regroup and bounce back in their next contest.

- Story compiled by ChatGPT

Ryder Johnson: 19 points, 7 rebounds, 2 assists, 3 steals, 2 blocks

Gage Sippel: 13 points, 8 rebounds, 1 steal, 2 fouls, 1 block.

Keegen Tracy: 10 points, 2 rebounds, 4 assists, 2 steals, 2 fouls.

Becker Bosma: 9 points, 4 rebounds, 4 assists, 2 steals, 2 fouls, 2 blocks.

Karson Zak: 6 points, 1 rebound, 2 assists, 2 blocks.

Jayden Schwan: 1 point, 1 rebound, 1 foul.

Blake Pauli: 1 rebound, 1 foul.

Turner Thompson: 1 assist.

Totals: 2-pointers: 14-31 45%, 3-pointers: 6-15 40%, Free Throws: 12-16 75 percent, 24 rebounds, 10 turnovers, 13 assists, 9 steals, 9 fouls, 7 blocks.

Milbank: Lincoln Holscher 12, Bryan Meyer 10, Sam Rick 8, Graham Lightfield 7, Ryan Keaton 3, Emmett Hanson 2, Jack Howard 1. 2-Pointers: 15-46 33%, 3-Pointers: 7-24 29%, Free Throws: 8-10 80%, 16 fouls, 9 assists, 12 turnovers, 2 blocks, 7 steals.

Groton won the junior varsity game, 40-36. Asher Johnson 10, Ryder Schelle 9, Jayden Schwan 5, Jace Johnson 5, Ethan Kroll 3, Jordan Schwan 2, Anthony Tracy 1, Teylor Diegel 1. Milbank: Jeter Scoular 12, Ryan Keaton 7, Layten Osowski 7, Lincoln Holscher 7, Braylen Bowsher 4, Esteban Abrego 3.

Groton Area 52, Deuel 26

A dual wrestling match was held Friday in Groton with Groton Area beating Deuel, 52-26.

106: Wyatt Hagen (Groton Area) over Unknown (For.)

113: Kyson Kucker (Groton Area) over Bentley Fokken (Deuel/Deubrook Area) (Fall 2:55)

120: Noah Scepaniak (Groton Area) over Aidan Warren (Deuel/Deubrook Area) (MD 12-3)

126: Lincoln Krause (Groton Area) over Erich Fokken (Deuel/Deubrook Area) (Fall 0:45)

132: Donavon Block (Groton Area) over Unknown (For.)

138: Dominic Kluckman (Deuel/Deubrook Area) over Kason Oswald (Groton Area) (Fall 2:00)

144: Chris Schwab (Groton Area) over Unknown (For.)

150: Zane Miller (Deuel/Deubrook Area) over Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) (MD 8-0)

157: Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) over Unknown (For.)

165: Hayden Landmark (Deuel/Deubrook Area) over Ben Hoelt (Groton Area) (MD 14-6)

175: Korbin Whiteley (Deuel/Deubrook Area) over Unknown (For.)

190: Sam Leen (Deuel/Deubrook Area) over Layne Johnson (Groton Area) (Fall 3:07)

215: Charlie Frost (Groton Area) over Unknown (For.)

285: Gavin Englund (Groton Area) over Tytian Lauseng (Deuel/Deubrook Area) (Fall 2:35)

Highway 12 Showdown: Roncalli Triumphs Over Groton in Defensive Battle

GROTON - The battle of Brown County teams along U.S. Highway 12 turned into a defensive slugfest Tuesday night, with the Aberdeen Roncalli Cavaliers using a dominant first quarter to claim a 38-26 road victory over the Groton Area Tigers.

A Fast Start for Roncalli

Groton started strong, taking an early 2-0 lead. However, Roncalli responded with a relentless 19-0 run that silenced the home crowd and set the tone for the game. By the end of the first quarter, the Cavaliers had built a commanding 19-4 advantage.

Roncalli continued their defensive pressure in the second quarter, limiting Groton's offensive opportunities and extending their lead to 27-9 by halftime. Ava Hanson led the Cavaliers' attack with 12 points, while Riley Boulder added 11 to keep Roncalli firmly in control.

A Defensive Third Quarter

Coming out of halftime, both teams struggled to find the basket. The defenses tightened, and nearly five minutes passed before either team scored in the third quarter. Roncalli maintained a 34-13 lead going into the final period.

Despite the deficit, the Tigers refused to back down. Hanson continued to lead Groton, finishing with three three-pointers and a game-high 13 points. Rylee Dunker battled hard inside, contributing six points and pulling down six rebounds.

Too Little, Too Late for Groton

Groton showed signs of life in the fourth quarter, outscoring Roncalli 13-4 in a late push, but the early hole proved too deep to escape. Roncalli's efficiency at the free-throw line (8-of-11 for 73%) helped them maintain their lead, while Groton's struggles from beyond the arc (3-of-22 for 14%) made a comeback difficult.

Defensively, Taryn Traphagen made her presence known with two blocks, while Dunker added another. The Tigers also recorded eight steals, showing their defensive effort never wavered.

Moving Forward

With the win, Roncalli improved to 9-2 on the season, while Groton fell to 9-4. Both teams remain strong contenders in the region, and if Tuesday's game was any indication, a potential rematch would be another intense battle.

As the season progresses, both teams will look to build off this game in their pursuit of postseason success. But for now, the latest Highway 12 clash belongs to the Cavaliers. Groton Area hosts Webster on Friday with a C game starting at 5 p.m.

- Story compiled by ChatGPT

Groton Area
Kennedy Hansen: 13 points, 3 rebounds, 3 fouls.

Rylee Dunker: 6 points, 6 rebounds, 4 steals, 2 fouls, 1 blok.

Laila Roberts: 4 points, 3 rebounds, 2 steals, 2 fouls.

Chesney Weber: 2 points, 1 assist, 1 steal.
Taryn Traphagen: 1 point, 2 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 blocks.

Jerica Locke: 6 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 foul.
Jaedyn Penning: 5 rebounds, 1 steal, 4 fouls.
Brooklyn Hansen: 1 rebound.

Faith Traphagen: 2 rebounds, 1 assist, 3 fouls.

2-pointers: 7-19 37%, 3-pointers: 3-22 14%,
Free Throws: 3-7 43%, 28 rebounds, 16 turnovers,
4 assists, 8 steals, 15 fouls, 3 blocks.

Roncalli: Ava Hanson 12, Rylee Voeller 11,
Gabby Thomas 6, Maddie Huber 3, Claire Crawford 3,
McKenna O'Keefe 2, Morgan Helms 2. Field Goals: 12-40 30%,
Free Throes: 8-11 73%, 12 fouls and 8 turnovers.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Agtegra, Avantara Gro-

ton, Bierman Farm Service, BK Custom T's & More, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Dan Richardt from Groton Ford, Farmers Union Co-op of Ferney and Conde, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Lounge, Locke Electric, Krueger Brothers, R&M Farms/Rix Farms, The Meathouse in Andover. Shane Clark provided the play-by-play while Jeslyn Kosel ran the camera and Paul Kosel did technology and stats.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 28-17. David and Tammy Dohman sponsored the broadcast on GDILIVE.COM. Kela Tracy led Groton Area with 11 points followed by Chesney Weber with 9, Talli Wright 4, and McKenna Tietz and Makenna Krause each had two points.

Roncalli was led by Karsyn Davis and Olivia Dix with six points apiece while Grace Cogley had 3 and Gabby Thomas 2.

Girls NEC Standings

Roncalli	5-0	10-2
Hamlin	4-0	10-2
Groton Area	5-2	9-4
Clark/Willow Lake	3-2	8-4
Milbank	3-2	7-4
Webster Area	3-4	6-6
Britton-Hecla	2-2	3-9
Deuel	2-2	3-9
Sisseton	2-2	7-4
Redfield	1-7	1-11
Tiospa Zina	0-6	4-7

Not much changed in the girl's division, but something could be shaking on Tuesday as Groton and Roncalli will clash in Groton.

Groton 50, Tiospa Zina 21
Hamlin 68, Webster 28
Milbank 57, Redfield 15
Clark-Willow Lake 62, Deuel 19
Tiospa Zina at Roncalli PP to Feb. 3
Groton 42, Milbank 34
Hamlin 61, Redfield 11
Aberdeen Roncalli 49, Clark-Willow Lake 43
Sisseton 70, Webster 45
Deuel 59, Tiospa Zina 39
Sisseton 61, Redfield 25
Roncalli 38, Groton ARea 26

Jan. 30
Webster Area at Groton Area
Deuel at Milbank
Clark/Willow Lake at Redfield
Sisseton at Hamlin

Jan. 31
Britton-Hecla at Roncalli

Feb. 3
Tiospa Zina at Roncalli

Feb. 4
Britton-Hecla at Sisseton
Hamlin at Milbank

Feb. 6
Deuel at Groton Area
Milbank at Roncalli
Redfield at Webster Area
Clark/Willow Lake at Sisseton

Feb. 11
Hamlin at Roncalli
Clark/Willow Lake at. Britton-Hecla
Sisseton at Milbank

Feb. 13
Sisseton at Tiospa Zina
Hamlin at Deuel

Feb. 18
Hamlin at Britton-Hecla
Sisseton at Deuel
Tiospa Zina vs. Clark/Willow Lake at Clark

Feb. 20
Deuel at Roncalli
Milbank at Webster Area
Clark/Willow Lake at Hamlin

Feb. 21
Groton Area at Britton-Hecla
Tiospa Zina at Redfield

Boys NEC Standings

Hamlin	4-0	10-2
Groton Area	6-1	7-4
Clark/Willow Lake	4-1	11-2
Roncalli	3-1	5-6
Deuel	3-1	9-3
Britton-Hecla	3-2	7-4
Milbank	2-2	4-7
Webster Area	2-6	4-9
Sisseton	1-3	3-7
Redfield	0-5	0-11
Tiospa Zina	0-5	0-11

Roncalli lost its first conference game to the hands of Clark/Willow Lake.

Aberdeen Roncalli 70, Sisseton 37
Groton 87, Tiospa Zina 32
Hamlin 71, Webster 22
Milbank 63, Redfield 24
Clark-Willow Lake 59, Deuel 34
Tiospa Zina at Roncalli PP to Feb. 17
Groton 58, Milbank 43
Hamlin 87, Redfield 24
Clark-Willow Lake 60, Aberdeen Roncalli 29
Webster 55, Sisseton 49
Deuel 89, Tiospa Zina 30
Sisseton 56, Redfield 45

Jan. 30
Roncalli at Britton-Hecla
Deuel at Milbank
Sisseton at Hamlin

Jan. 31
Redfield vs. Clark/Willow Lake at Clark

Feb. 4
Groton Area at Roncalli
Britton-Hecla at Sisseton
Hamlin at Milbank

Feb. 6
Deuel at Groton Area
Redfield at Webster Area

Feb. 7
Roncalli at Milbank
Sisseton vs. Clark/Willow Lake at Clark

Feb. 11
Hamlin at Roncalli
Clark/Willow Lake at Britton-Hecla
Sisseton at Milbank

Feb. 13
Hamlin at Deuel

Feb. 14
Tiospa Zina at Sisseton

Feb. 17
Tiospa Zina at Roncalli

Feb. 18
Hamlin at Britton-Hecla
Sisseton at Deuel
Tiospa Zina vs. Clark/Willow Lake at Clark

Feb. 20
Deuel at Roncalli
Clark/Willow Lake at Hamlin

Feb. 21
Groton Area at Britton-Hecla
Webster Area at Milbank
Tiospa Zina at Redfield

Feb. 28
Milbank at Tiospa Zina

Dear EarthTalk: What are some ways music gear makers are going green? – Peter B., Groton, CT

Together these changes have led to a plethora of significant positive outcomes. Increased use of alternative wood sources has caused a notable decrease in pressure on certain wood species commonly used for instruments like mahogany, rosewood and spruce. Moreover, changes made in packaging and material collection have reduced the vast amounts of plastic and metal waste from entering landfills or oceans. Exemplified by the color-coded guitar strings, unique innovations have also made an impact, with the director of product management at music instrument company D'Addario, Brian Vance, commenting that color-coding has eliminated total packaging mass by 70 percent.



Music gear makers are increasingly incorporating sustainable woods and other green materials into their products these days. Credit: Ian Mackenzie, FlickrCC.

Music gear production, from collecting materials, producing gear and packaging with excessive plastic, has numerous negative environmental effects. Collecting wood has led to overharvesting at an unsustainable rate, an increasingly urgent issue for forests and woodlands. Plastic and metal waste have risen, too. These issues have led many music gear makers to implement sustainable changes.

The good news is that some instrument producers have begun harvesting wood from dead or dying trees to prevent the overharvesting of rich woodlands, while others have shifted toward less-used "alternative tonewoods" like basswood and kaya. To decrease metal waste in sourcing for strings, makers are beginning to purchase strings in the form of rods.

Small changes are also happening in the production area. Manufacturers have replaced traditional materials with eco-friendly options when producing the picks, straps and other accessories. It is now commonplace to find bioplastic or even shell for guitar picks and vegan leather for straps. String company Stringjoy now has a recycling program, encouraging players to mail back old strings to repurpose the material.

When packaging manufactured goods, music gear makers have begun using paper tape, boxes and envelopes over the traditionally used plastic. Unique innovations have also made packaging greener, such as color-coding each guitar string and its packaging to avoid the environmentally harmful practice of purchasing an entirely new set of guitar strings when only one needs a replacement.

More can still be done. Companies advocate for government policies cementing environmentally friendly decisions made by manufacturers, or work toward simpler changes by implementing more recycling programs for their customers. Ultimately, strategic efforts have significantly boosted the sustainability of music gear production, proving that these efforts must be continued and expanded.

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“What can we learn from the dying?”

For the last five years, I have had the great privilege of serving my local health system as Medical Director for Home Hospice. Every week I sit in a



Kelly Evans-Hullinger, MD

meeting with the multidisciplinary caretakers on this team – the nurses who provide the great majority of the hands-on care, social worker, pharmacist, dietician, and pastor. We discuss all the patients currently under our care and discuss how we can improve each patient’s suffering and maximize their quality of life.

The patients we care for on home hospice are those we believe to be at the end of life. Some are actively in the dying process; others are stable, still going about their lives, but have a terminal disease with a high likelihood of death in the next six months. On home hospice, most patients either stay in their own home with help from a caretaker, often a family member; or they might choose to reside in a care facility where they can get more extensive needs met.

Our nurses and other staff get to know these patients and their families extremely well, and I truly enjoy hearing our patients’ stories relayed. I don’t always get to meet the patients cared for by our team, as most continue to stay under the care of their primary care providers while on hospice. But even when I am hearing their stories second hand, a theme stands out as a common sentiment of our patients - the desire to reflect on their lives.

Patients facing their own deaths want to talk about their lives. Our staff frequently tries to facilitate what they call a “life review” in which a patient can openly talk about their childhood, family, career, service, and sometimes their regrets. This is therapeutic for the dying patient and their loved ones. Even some patients with dementia, with no memory of recent years, can delight in recalling a story from their childhood, looking through old photographs, or listening to music they once loved.

I have recently thought about this particular human need – to reflect and remember one’s life. I take this as a reminder to both seek those stories from my own loved ones (gosh, I wish I had asked my grandmother more questions about her life) and, perhaps, to tell and write about the things in my own life I would want to be remembered after I am gone. For if there is another thing I’ve learned serving patients on hospice, it is that my death is also inevitable; but, I think, life’s finality is what gives it beauty and meaning.

Kelly Evans-Hullinger, MD, is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices Internal Medicine at Avera Medical Group in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairedoc.org, and on social media. Watch On Call with the Prairie Doc, most Thursday’s at 7PM on SDPB and streaming on Facebook and listen to Prairie Doc Radio Sunday’s at 6am and 1pm.