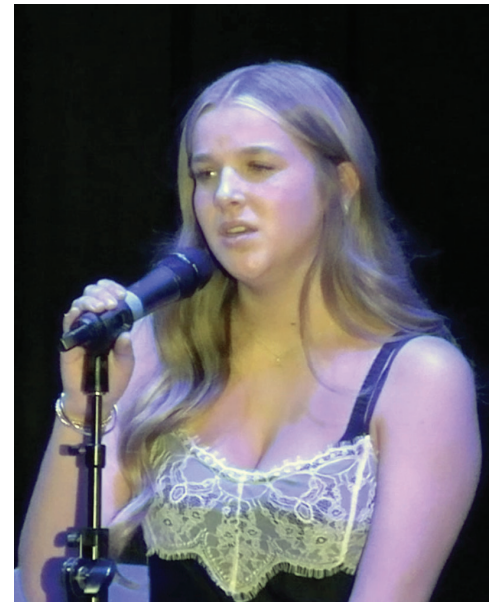




\$2

The Groton Independent

Vol. 143 No. 11 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2025 ♦ Established in 1889



Emily Sternhagen sang, "Silent Night" at the Junior Snow Queen Contest. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)

Addison Hoeft sang, "Creep" by Radio Head at the Junior Snow Queen Contest. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)

Fjeldheim named Junior Snow Queen

Abby Fjeldheim, daughter of Ryan and Susan Fjeldheim, was named the Junior Snow Queen at the Snow Queen event held Sunday afternoon. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The Junior Snow Queen Contest was held Sunday afternoon. Those helping, along with the court, are pictured above. In back, left to right, are T.C. Schuster, usher; Adeline Kotzer, Arianna Dinger, Brooklyn Spanier, Neely Althoff, Aspen Beto; Jace Johnson, usher; and McKenna Tietz, master of ceremony; in front, left to right, are Price Max Wieseler, Miss Congenialty Novalea Warrington, Junior Snow Queen Abby Fjeldheim, First Runner Up Tevan Hanson and Princesses Hadlee Ronning. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Novalea and Natalia Warrington sang a duet entitled, "Wondering" from High School Musical. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)

FINALISTS SET FOR 2025 BIG Idea Final Competition

(November 24, 2025, Aberdeen, SD) Eight high school finalists have advanced to the 2025 BIG Idea Final Competition. This high school business idea competition encourages students to consider new ideas and opportunities for creating a business in their own region. All students who submitted entries are invited to the Final Competition and Awards Ceremony held December 10, 2025. The day will feature student pitches, educational booths, and campus tours. The Award Ceremony will feature young entrepreneurs Noah Felderman, Caleb Hubert, and Samantha Wipf who will share their experiences of starting and growing a business, and of course, the awards!

In-state and out-of-state finalists will be judged in two separate competitions, with prizes awarded separately to each competition. The eight out-of-state finalists will be judged virtually on Tuesday, December 9, and the eight in-state finalists will compete in-person on Wednesday, December 10, at Northern State University.

There were 325 applications submitted from 66 different schools. First round judges include 310 volunteers and along with college business students. During the BIG Idea Final Competition, finalists will have six minutes to present their idea to a panel of judges and compete for over \$53,000 in cash prizes and scholarships.

Zander Harry of Groton Area won the EV Evolution in the Big Idea Makers Division. His advisor is Eric Swenson.

Brittany Hubbard was the Mystery Snowman. Emily Kappes was the lucky winner of \$100 in Groton Chamber Bucks. Three people guessed Brittany and the names were put in a bag with Emily's name drawn as the winner. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)



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Fall Athletic Awards



Boys Golf Awards

Jarrett Erdmann – NEC Conference Place Winner – 10th Place; Nolan Rose – Most Improved; Jace Johnson – Top Medalist, NEC Conference Place Winner – 5th Place, State Qualifier; Not Pictured: Liam Johnson – NEC Conference Place Winner – 12th Place. (Photo Courtesy Kristi Peterson)



Cross Country Awards

Riley Shellenberger – Most Improved, State Qualifier; Ryelle Gilbert – Most Valuable Runner, Conference Place Winner – 3rd place, State Place Winner - 22nd place; Kella Tracy – Leader of the Pack, Conference Place Winner – 15th place, State Qualifier; Ashlynn Warrington – Rookie of the Year; and Jayden Schwan – Leader of the Pack, Heart Award, Conference Place Winner – 2nd place, State Qualifier. (Photo Courtesy Kristi Peterson)



Cheerleading Award

Breslyn Jeschke – Friday Night Lights Spirit Award. (Photo Courtesy Kristi Peterson)



Volleyball Awards

Jerica Locke – Defensive Player of the Year, Academic All-State, NEC All Conference Team, NEC Defensive Player of the Year, Class A Honorable Mention All-State; Tevan Hanson – Rookie of the Year; Taryn Traphagen – Hitting Efficiency Award; Jaedyn Penning – ACE Award, Academic All-State; Rylee Dunker – Offensive Player of the Year, Academic All-State, NEC All Conference Team; Not Pictured: Talli Wright – Spirit of the Tiger, Academic All-State and Chesney Weber – MVP, NEC All Conference Team. (Photo Courtesy Kristi Peterson)

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

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Girls Soccer Awards

Carly Gilbert – Academic All-State; Ashlynn Warrington – Most Improved; Jerica Locke – Gamechanger, First Team All-State, Academic All-State; Mia Crank – Best Teammate, First Team All-State, Academic All-State; Taryn Traphagen – Best Defensive Player; McKenna Tietz – Best Offensive Player, Honorable Mention All-State; and Jaedyn Penning – Tiger MVP, First Team All-State, Academic All-State. (Photo Courtesy Kristi Peterson)



Boys Soccer Awards

Jace Hofer – Rising Star; JJ Muller – Best Defensive Player; Karsten Flihs – Leadership/Team Spirit Award, Academic All-State; Drake Peterson – Unsung Hero; Karson Zak – Best Offensive Player, Most Valuable Player, First Team All-State; Gage Sippel – Academic All-State, First Team All-State and Becker Bosma – Academic All-State. (Photo Courtesy Kristi Peterson)

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Cookies & Calendars

FRIDAY, DEC. 12
9:00 - 4:00 PM

7 East Hwy 12, Groton

Stop in lobby for cookies, coffee and a 2026 calendar!

MEMBER FDIC



Football Awards

Ben Hoeft - 11B Academic All-State; Ryder Johnson – NEC All-Conference Team, 11B Academic All-State; Tucker Hardy – Defensive MVP, NEC All-Conference Team; Logan Warrington – Most Improved Offensive Player, NEC All-Conference Team Honorable Mention, 11B Academic All-State; Lincoln Krause – Most Improved Defensive Player; Karter Moody – MVP Lineman, NEC All-Conference Team Honorable Mention, 11B Academic All-State; and Keegen Tracy – Offensive MVP, NEC All-Conference Team, 11B Academic All-State, 11B All- State Honorable Mention.

(Photo Courtesy Kristi Peterson)

Groton Prairie Mixed Bowling League Week #4 Results

Team Standings: Cheetahs 11, Shihtzus 10, Coyotes 9, Jackelopes 7, Foxes 6, Chipmunks 5
Men’s High Games: Brad Larson 210, Roger Spanier 191, Tony Madsen 171, 171
Women’s High Games: Vicki Jorgensen 177, Suzie Easthouse 161, Darci Spanier 159
Men’s High Series: Brad Larson 534, Roger Spanier 509, Tony Madsen 491
Women’s High Series: Darci Spanier 424, Vicki Jorgensen 421, Brenda Waage 391
Fun Game: Most 9 Counts w/out Fill – Foxes with 26!



The Minnesota Vikings sailed into Seattle, hoping to sack the Seahawks. Instead, they found themselves mired in the muck while the Seahawks were flying high after a 26-0 beatdown. For the first time since 2007, the Vikings didn’t put a single point on the scoreboard. And if you count last week’s second-half shutout, the Vikings have now gone six straight quarters without scoring, something they haven’t done since 1991. The Vikings are 4-8 this season, and have lost four straight and six of their last seven.

There were plenty of story lines to follow heading into this game, but none bigger than each team’s quarterback. Sam Darnold signed with the Seahawks this past offseason after leading the Vikings to 14 wins in 2024. The Vikings, meanwhile, had plenty of options to fill that vacancy. They could have committed to Darnold, who reportedly would’ve signed had the Vikings offered a similar contract to what Seattle offered. The Vikings could have brought back Daniel Jones, who decided to sign in Indy and helped get them to an 8-4 record. There was also the option to bring in future first-ballot Hall of Famer Aaron Rodgers. Instead, the Vikings decided to roll with J.J. McCarthy, and as a result, are closer to the first overall pick than the playoffs. And, once again, McCarthy is injured, so the Vikings were forced to start undrafted rookie Max Brosmer against a stingy Seattle defense.

Both offenses were stagnant in the first fifteen minutes. The Vikings had three drives in the first quarter, and Seattle had two, and all five drives ended in punts.

The Seahawks finally found the red zone in the second quarter, but the Vikings’ defense held them to a field goal. The Vikings punted on their next possession, but a Sam Darnold fumble gave the ball right back to Minnesota with great field position. Unfortunately, on fourth-and-one at the four-yard line, Max Brosmer threw an ugly pass that was intercepted and returned for a Seattle touchdown. With a minute left in the half, the Vikings were forced to punt again, and the Seahawks drove down to kick a field goal to make the score 13-0 heading into halftime.

If you thought things were bad in the first half, the second half somehow got worse. The Vikings had six possessions and they went: fumble, interception, interception, interception, turnover on downs, and finally two mercy-run plays to end the game.

Max Brosmer completed 19 of 30 passes for 126 yards and four interceptions. Jordan Mason, Aaron Jones, and Zavier Scott combined for 67 yards on 15 carries. T.J. Hockenson led the team with six catches for 59 yards, while Justin Jefferson was held to two catches for four yards.

Defensively, the Vikings had four sacks, seven tackles for a loss, six pass deflections, and five QB hits. I have to mention Dallas Turner, as the 2024 first-round pick is becoming a game wrecker. Despite both Andrew Van Ginkel and Jonathan Greenard playing, it was Turner who led the team in sacks (2) and QB hits (3) while also adding three tackles for a loss.

Obviously, this entire season is worrisome, but the thing I’m most worried about is superstar receiver Justin Jefferson. With Kirk Cousins, Sam Darnold, and Carson Wentz, Jefferson averaged over 90 yards per game. With J.J. McCarthy and Max Brosmer, he averaged 46 yards per game. For a player on a trajectory to be one of the greatest receivers to ever play the game, having his production cut in half is a problem. How much longer will he tolerate this level of offensive incompetence?

Looking ahead, the Vikings will try to end their four-game skid when the Washington Commanders come to U.S. Bank Stadium. Kickoff is at noon.

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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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The Shaun Johnson Big Band Experience:
The Holiday Show**

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4pm at the NSU Johnson Fine Arts Center**

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Answer

Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

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We the People

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



By David Adler

Trump Threatens Lawmakers with Execution for Defending the Law

President Donald Trump's blatant disrespect for the law was on full display, November 20 when, in a post on Truth Social, he called for the execution of Democratic lawmakers who, in a video that is on line and available to the public for review, reminded members of the military and the intelligence community that, under American law, they "can refuse illegal orders; you must refuse illegal orders. No one has to carry out orders that violate the law or the Constitution."

This video message from military veterans, at a time when Trump has been ordering the military to perform illegal acts, is firmly grounded in law and history, as we recently discussed in this space. In 1804, in *Little v. Barreme*, the Supreme Court, in an opinion written by Chief Justice John Marshall, held that a president is bound by statutory commands and may not order a soldier or sailor to violate the laws. Trump's outrageous outburst, unbecoming of a U.S. President who, like members of the military, swears an oath to defend the Constitution, and also bears the solemn responsibility as the nation's chief executive to "take care" to "faithfully" execute the laws, reflects the character of a man who has repeatedly demonstrated his disdain for governing in accordance with the law. In a Truth Social post, Trump demanded that the lawmakers "should be ARRESTED AND PUT ON TRIAL" because they are "traitors" for engaging in "SEDITIONOUS BEHAVIOR, punishable by DEATH!"

In public statements, White House aides have lied about the content of the video. Lawmakers did not, contrary to Stephen Miller, call "for insurrection." They did not, contrary to Karoline Levitt, White House press secretary, urge members of the military to disobey "lawful orders." To be crystal clear, lawmakers reminded service members that they "can refuse illegal orders; you must refuse illegal orders." This essential message, as Andrew McCarthy, a legal analyst for Fox News, and a columnist for the conservative magazine, *National Review*, rightly stated: "Disobeying an unlawful order is required."

This legal principle is clear, as the Court stated in *Barreme*. In 1806, just two years later, a Federal Circuit Court, in an opinion written by Justice William Paterson, a leading delegate to the Constitutional Convention, reaffirmed the reasoning of Chief Justice Marshall in *Barreme*. In *United States v. Smith*, the court reviewed the indictment of Col. William S. Smith for engaging in actions against Spain. Smith claimed that his military expedition "was begun, prepared and set on foot with the knowledge and approbation of the executive department of our government." Justice Paterson rejected Smith's claim that President Thomas Jefferson had authorized the expedition and, even if he had authorized it, the order would have violated the Neutrality Act of 1794, which prohibited assistance of a military expedition--by any person-- against a nation with which the United States is at peace. Paterson wrote: "Supposing then, that every syllable of Smith's affidavit is true, of what avail can it be on the present occasion? Does it speak by way of justification?"

In language that echoed *Barreme*, and speaks directly to President Trump, Paterson declared that the president "cannot control the statute, nor dispense with its execution, and still less can he authorize a person to do what the law forbids. If he could, it would render the execution of the laws dependent on his will and pleasure, which is a doctrine that has not been set up, and will not meet with any supporters in our government." Paterson added, "the law is paramount. Who has dominion over it? None but the legislature." The president, he declared,

has no authority to grant a "license" to violate the law.

The precedents in *Barreme* and *Smith*, as old as *Marbury v. Madison* (1803), the greybeard of all precedents, reflect the fact that the framers did not clothe the president with either a monarchical power to dispense with the execution of the law or authority to revise it.

Trump's invidious outburst toward lawmakers who reminded members of the military what their oath and the law require, reflects the character of a president who has no interest in either mechanism for defending the Constitution. The first step in restoring a constitutional presidency lies in fulfillment of the executive's Article II duty to "faithfully" execute the laws, the framers' principal rationale for inventing the presidency, to which we turn next week.

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King Crossword

ACROSS

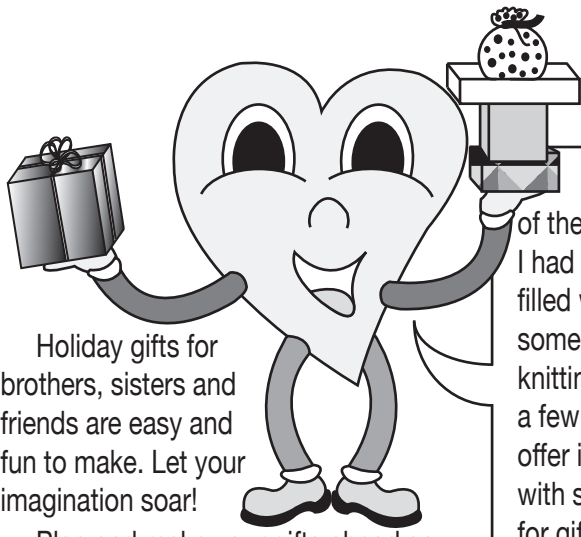
- 1 Roughly
- 5 Texter's "Wow!"
- 8 Nero's 1300
- 12 Stead
- 13 Museum-funding org.
- 14 Vicinity
- 15 In -- (miffed)
- 16 Deception
- 18 Fawcett of '70s TV
- 20 Goodies
- 21 Skater's leap
- 23 "Delicious!"
- 24 Tobago's island neighbor
- 28 Salon request
- 31 A billion years
- 32 Whiskey drinks
- 34 Fish eggs
- 35 Privation
- 37 Three-panel-artwork
- 39 "Friendly skies" co.
- 41 Chevy sub-compact
- 42 Pulpit delivery
- 45 Painter Hopper
- 49 Homages
- 51 Always
- 52 Forearm bone
- 53 Depot (Abbr.)
- 54 Sultry Horne

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- 11 Low isles
- 17 Sob
- 19 Pivot line
- 22 "Kinsey" actress Linney
- 24 -- Aviv
- 25 Aussie hopper
- 26 Making certain
- 27 Tries to convey
- 29 Sinbad's bird
- 30 "Whatever"
- 33 Raced
- 36 Brazilian dances
- 38 Hair dryers
- 40 Baseball's Gehrig
- 42 Ticket half
- 43 -- Stanley Gardner
- 44 Fed. accident investigator
- 46 Opposite of "sans"
- 47 Gambling mecca
- 48 "Phooey!"
- 50 Summer in Paris

DOWN

- 1 "Frozen" snowman
- 2 TV host Kelly
- 3 Crystal gazer
- 4 Defeated in a footrace
- 5 Promptly
- 6 Mal de --
- 7 Pace
- 8 Cosmetics
- 9 Butter producer



Gifts From The Heart

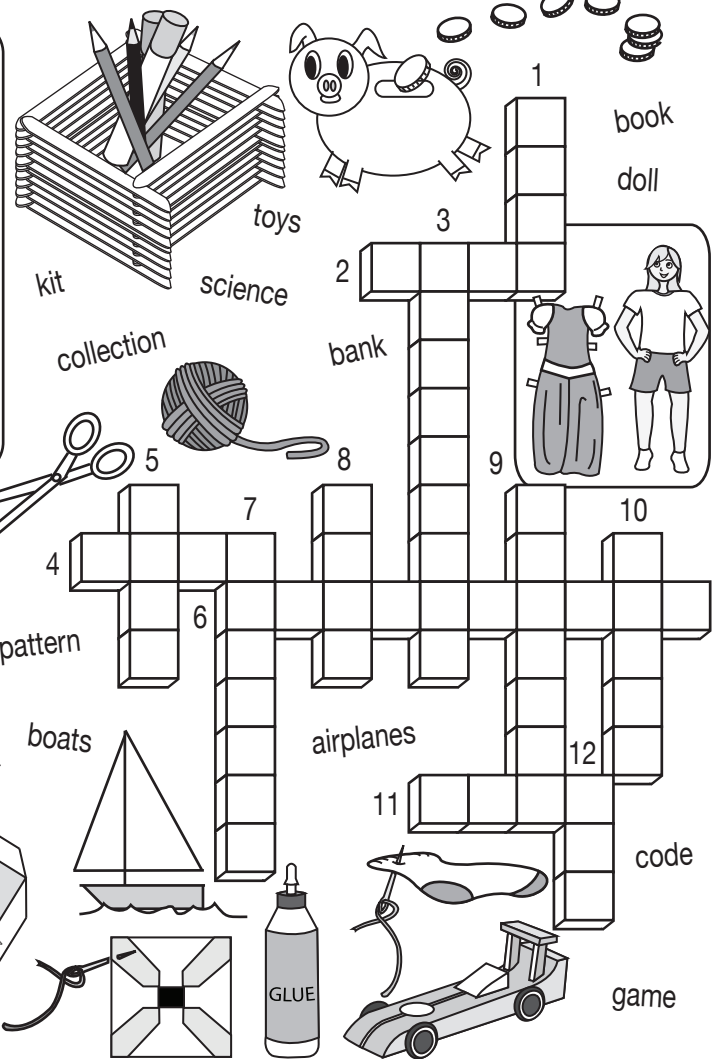
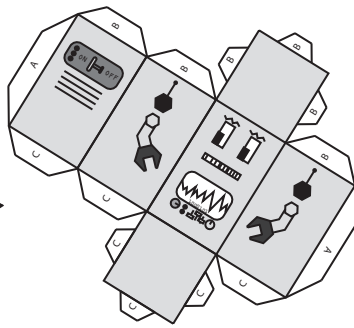
Holiday gifts for brothers, sisters and friends are easy and fun to make. Let your imagination soar!

Plan and make your gifts ahead so you won't get crushed in the holiday rush!

Wow! I went to the library and stood in front of the "do it and make it yourself" section of books. I had no idea how many books there are, each filled with ideas for making presents. You need some basic skills for some of the ideas, such as knitting, sewing or woodworking. Some gifts require a few small purchases. But, most of these books offer ideas for plenty of gifts that anyone can make with stuff around the house. So...not much money for gifts this holiday season? No excuses anymore – get to work on these gifts from the hands *and* heart!

Read the clues to fill in the crossword:

- write a mystery and create a secret _____ to solve it
- design and make a board _____
- cut, fold, decorate a set of paper _____ to fly
- put together a box or basket with small _____ in it: cars, dinosaurs, or farm animals
- cut and draw to make a flip _____ of "moving images"
- start a _____: baseball cards, miniatures, badges
- make a _____ box: a small magnifying glass, items to study – yarn, leaf, a dust ball, a rock, a flower
- draw and cut out a paper _____, make clothes with tabs to fit
- use a ruler or computer to create a simple _____ that can be folded, made into a toy
- turn milk cartons into paddle _____ that really float
- make a _____ – be a sport and put a few coins in it
- gather buttons, old jewelry, ribbons, colored string, etc., to put in a "_____ to make stuff"



Gifts For Family and Friends

Match the activities in each set to the gifts that will be made.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> printing, painting, coloring measuring, mixing, baking tying ribbons, gluing beads covering with paper, foil separating sections inside making your own pieces to play with on the board | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> tic-tac-toe, checkers decorative hangers wrapping paper box to hold change, keys, watches favorite cookies, candy |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> rubber stamping, inking, gluing glitter painting, personalizing, gluing felt to the bottom writing, promising, helping melting, coloring, scenting wax, dipping string drawing 12 seasonal pictures of times with your family, dates, days | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> brick book ends candles calendar pop-up cards, writing paper book with coupons that can be "turned in" to get extra help with chores |



You can make most of these gifts yourself. But, a few require adult supervision... so ask first!

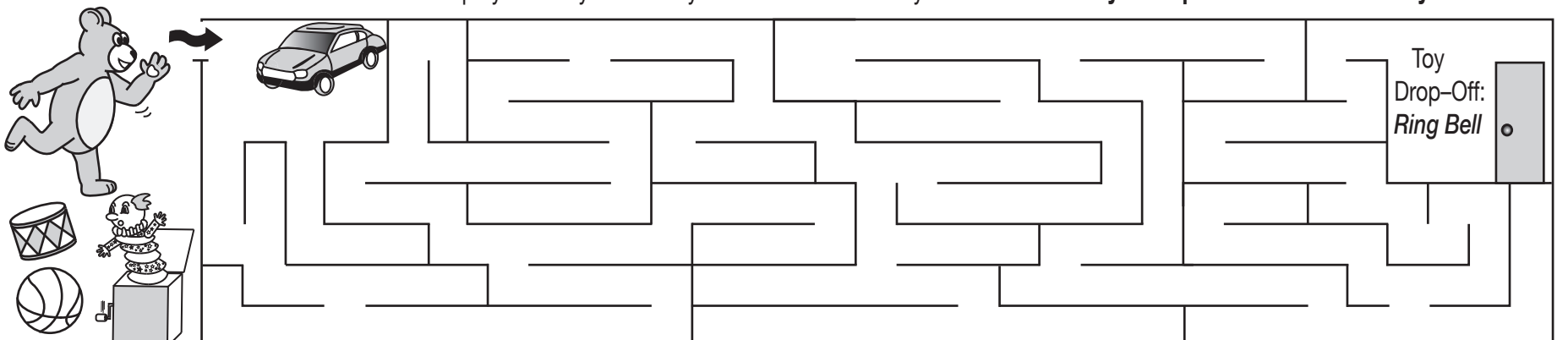


It's always fun to paint something. There are so many things that you can decorate! Fill in the list of items below with letters from the paint palette:

- b _ rdh _ use
- fo _ ts _ ool
- lu _ ch ba _ s
- gi _ t w _ ap
- s _ ir _ s
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- s _ o _ _ es
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Toys For Others

Forest and Glade went through their closets and found toys that are in very good shape, but that they do not often play with anymore. They want to donate the toys to a shelter. Can you help Glade deliver their toys?





NOVEMBER 25, 2025 – 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 Dennert to approve the agenda. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

PUBLIC HEARING FOR LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to approve transfer of Ownership for Retail (On-Sale) Liquor License from Roderick Hanson: Ferney Farmer's Bar & Grill to transfer license located at 103 Center St., Ferney (East Hanson Twp.) – Lt 4-5 Bk 5, Ferney, SW Section 31-T122-R60 of 5th P.M., Brown County, SD to Doug & Vicci Stange at 13971 399th Ave., Groton. (Gem Twp.) – S 973.5' of N 1658.25' of E 627' SE Section 23-T122-R62 (14 AC) of 5th P.M., Brown County, SD. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

GRANDSTAND CONCESSIONS CONTRACT FOR 2026-2028 BROWN COUNTY FAIR: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Contract with Boys & Girls Club to operate the Grandstand Concessions for 2026-2028 Brown County Fair. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY FOR TOP-TIER TILE/CALEB BRATLAND: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to approve the following application submitted by Caleb Bratland with Top-Tier Tile for occupancy of Brown County Highway 23, Section 32-T122N-R62W, Brown County, SD to bore under the road to install 12" drain tile lines. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve the General Meeting Minutes for November 18, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dinger to approve the following Claims: Insurance: SD Public Assurance Alliance \$603.72. Professional Fees: Colorado Occupational Medical Partners, Inc. \$120.00; Dependable Sanitation \$47,124.00; Houston Engineering, Inc. \$6,184.00; Kuck Law Office \$3,363.35; Lenling Law Office \$2,730.00; Sara Zahn \$74.45; Taliaferro Law Firm \$1,314.00; US Bank \$1,036.78. Publishing: McQuillen Creative Group \$1,003.56; US Bank \$900.00. Repairs & Maintenance: B&E Siding & Windows \$17,298.29; Chemtek \$115.65; CommTech \$18,241.48; Eco-lab Pest Elimination Division \$118.47; Graham Tire \$125.00; K&S Plumbing \$248.41; Leidholt Electric \$71.43; LTK Heating & Cooling \$145.92; Pomp's Tire Service \$35.00; Stan Houston Equipment Company \$53.45; Three Glass Doktor \$75.00; US Bank \$4,323.53. Supplies: Amazon Capital Services \$279.52; Avea LTC Pharmacy Aberdeen \$2,925.70; Brown County Sheriff's Office \$25.00; Chemtek \$434.00; CommTech \$517.81; Crescent Electric Supply Co. \$279.62; Geffdog \$367.79; Gillund Enterprises \$508.40; Graham Tire \$415.77; Jensen Rock & Sand \$33,062.40; Kuck Law Office \$27.34; Leidholdt Tool Sales, LLC \$19.29; Lien Transportation \$3,773.70; McLeod County Sheriff's Office \$11.05; Menards \$146.97; Midstates Group \$632.96; Midwest Pump & Tank \$1,052.00; Performance Oil \$322.00; Pomp's Tire Service \$35.90; SD Bureau of Admin-State Flag Account \$948.00; Sherwin Williams \$338.72; Three Glass Doktor \$44.50; US Bank \$18,945.85. Travel & Conference: Lenling Law Office \$120.00; Lynn Heupel \$324.30; Stephanie Jacobson \$304.60; US Bank \$5,844.84. Utilities: Centurylink \$572.35; City of Aberdeen Treasurer \$40.67; City of Hecla \$171.57; Dependable Sanitation \$580.00; Northwestern Energy

RESOLUTION #2025-57 Commissioner Wiese brought the following Resolution "Be it resolved by the County Commission of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing WEBB VILHAUER SECOND ADDITION in the E 1/2 of Section 20, Township 123 North, Range 65 West of the 5TH P.M., Brown County, South Dakota" having been examined is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-3, and any amendments thereof. Seconded by Gage. All members present voting aye. Resolution adopted.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to go into Executive Session per SDCL 1-25-2 for Contracts and Personnel. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Chairman Sutton declared the Executive Session closed with No Action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:45 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published December 3, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$62.77 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26279

\$2,830.49; T-Mobile \$3,490.53; US Bank 2,940.93. Other: Alan P. or Angela P. Bernard \$13,023.23; Amber L. Scriber Subtrust Created Under the Peterson Land Trust 2022 \$19,535.35; Amber Scriber \$3,256.06; Angela Bernard Subtrust Created Under the Peterson Land Trust 2022 \$19,535.35; Angela Peterson Bernard \$3,256.06; Darwin H. Or Mary J. Bettmann \$1,953.54; David and Jill Lehmann Living Trust \$16,280.40; FDM Revocable Living Trust \$16,279.30; Great Plains Bank \$19,535.35; Herman Schumacher \$8,140.20; James D. Gressett \$16,279.30; John Kippley \$3,255.89; Joop Antonius Hubertus Bollen \$16,279.30; Lynette Durheim \$6,512.12; Mark & Mary Volk \$6,512.12; Marlin Nilsson \$13,023.23; Maxine E. Fischer \$1,954.10; Plains Commerce Bank – Abdn \$248,423.28; Pyush Ramanlal Patel \$16,279.30; Robert M. or Lora M. Larson \$3,256.05. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Human Resource Report submitted by Allison Tunheim, Human Resources Director:

o Job description, title and grade for Sheriff Office Administrative Assistant to be placed in grade 12.

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.

WEBB VILHAUER SECOND ADDITION PLAT:

RESOLUTION #2025-57 Commissioner Wiese brought the following Resolution "Be it resolved by the County Commission of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing WEBB VILHAUER SECOND ADDITION in the E 1/2 of Section 20, Township 123 North, Range 65 West of the 5TH P.M., Brown County, South Dakota" having been examined is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-3, and any amendments thereof. Seconded by Gage. All members present voting aye. Resolution adopted.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to go into Executive Session per SDCL 1-25-2 for Contracts and Personnel. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Chairman Sutton declared the Executive Session closed with No Action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:45 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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include all locations and included repairs to soffit and fascia at community center. The bid from Radiant Roofing included a complete repair of the roof at city hall, so the adjusted bid amount is \$111,001.49. Moved by Shilhanek and seconded by Wambach to table the bid awarding to the next meeting. All members present voted aye. Tikka exited the meeting. Discussion took place regarding the airport. Gay and Hillestad exited the meeting. Moved by Bahr and seconded by Shilhanek to table the approval of the Kolker Second Subdivision plat. All members present voted aye. The October finance report was approved on a motion by Nehls and seconded by Babcock. All members present voted aye. The second reading of Ordinance No. 792 – 2026 Appropriations was approved on a motion by Babcock and seconded by Cutler. All members present voted aye. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Babcock and seconded by Wambach. All members present voted aye. Moved by Nehls and seconded by Bahr to authorize the following bills for payment. All members present voted aye. Payroll, \$29,988.69, Employee salaries; Administrative, \$5,153.51; ; Public Safety, \$9,206.73; ; Public Works, \$15,628.45; ; USPS, \$327.21, Utility postage; Dacotah Bank, \$6,658.27, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dacotah Bank, \$810.41, HSA contributions; Dacotah Bank, \$3,679.43, Withholding/SS/Medicare; City of Groton, \$855.31, Utility deposits applied to outstanding bills; Brian Koens, \$143.95, Utility overpayment/deposit refund - Schumack; Terry Cutler, \$163.65, Utility overpayment/deposit refund; Christopher West, \$74.69, Utility deposit refund; Payment Service Network, Inc., \$205.75, PSN Gateway and eBill fees; WEB Water, \$22,401.86, Water services - October 2025; Dacotah Bank, \$100.00, HSA contributions; Groton Senior Citizens, \$100.00, Donation from Patricia Ford ; SD State Treasurer, \$9,028.97, Sales and excise tax - October 2025; WAPA, \$25,291.40, Power services - October 2025; US Bank, \$6,734.43, DW-06 loan payment; US Bank, \$21,426.46, DW-05 loan payment; SD Supplemental Retirement, \$540.00, Employee retirement; IMEG Corp., \$15,250.00, Engineering services - Wastewater Project - 2nd invoice; A Touch Up, \$3,100.00, Painting/priming of community center - final invoice; Altec Capital Services, LLC, \$2,189.93, Digger truck lease ; Dennis "Mike" Olson, \$672.26, Code enforcement services; SD-PAA, \$84,818.01, 2026 insurance policy renewal; D&J Equipment Sales Service, LLC., \$8,030.66, New hoist for city shop; A&B Business Solutions, \$246.88, Printer/copier lease - City Hall; Heartland Waste Management, \$12,448.00, Garbage hauling; Heartland Energy, \$40,688.73, Power services - October 2025; Badger Meter, Inc., \$163.27, Water metering network fees; Matheson Tri-Gas, Inc., \$32.16, Oxygen cylinder - City Shop; SD Water & Wastewater Association, \$20.00, 2026 membership dues; MJ's Sinclair, Inc., \$1,105.25, Fuel purchases; James Valley Telecommunications, \$836.36, Telephone and internet services; Ken's Food Fair, \$496.53, Fuel, paper towels, foam cups, paper plates - Multiple Depts.; Dacotah Bank Visa, \$1,636.62, Receipt printer and paper, planners, label maker tape, transfer pump, water sample, sewer sample, fuel, bottled water, trencher rental, baseboard trim, coffee, candy, toilet paper - Multiple Depts. ; Groton Chamber of Commerce, \$250.00, 2026 membership dues; DGR Engineering, \$223.00, Consultation regarding transmission line - Electric Dept; VESTIS, \$67.26, Rug rent - City Hall; NW Energy, \$15.76, Natural gas service - water tower; April Abeln, \$120.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - Sept. to Dec., 2025; Douglas Heinrich, \$120.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - Sept. to Dec., 2025; Kellie Locke, \$120.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - Sept. to Dec., 2025; Paul Kosel, \$120.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - Sept. to Dec., 2025; Landon Johnson, \$120.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - Sept. to Dec., 2025; Branden Abeln, \$120.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - Sept. to Dec., 2025; Jesse Anderson, \$120.00, Employee

cell phone reimbursement - Sept. to Dec., 2025; Menards, \$135.86, Thermostat guards and adhesive - Community Center; J's Superior Cleaning, \$200.00, Commercial cleaning services - City Hall; The Holiday Lighting Contest will be on December 18th, 2025. \$100, \$75, and \$50 utility bill credits will be given away to the winners. Announcement: City Offices will be closed on November 27th and 28th, 2025, for Thanksgiving. Reminder: 2026 dog licenses are due by December 31st, 2025. Discussion took place regarding Mark Abeln's land issue. Kosel exited the meeting. Moved by Wambach and seconded by Shilhanek to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal matters 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 8:31pm. All members present voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 9:30pm. The first reading of Ordinance No. 793 – 2026 Salaries was tabled on a motion by Nehls and seconded by Cutler. All members present voted aye. Moved by Cutler and seconded by Nehls to adjourn the meeting at 9:31pm. All members present voted aye. Scott Hanlon, Mayor Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer

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Application has been made to the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission for a CONDITIONAL USE PETITION (CUP). A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, on December 16, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. Petitioner / Owner: Buell Consulting / McNeil Land LP

Legal description of property: The NW1/4 of Section 3-T121N-R62W, except Tract A1, of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (approx. 14236 397th Avenue, East Rondell Twp.). Reason: A Conditional Use Petition (CUP) for a new 309' tall cell tower on leased land in an Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P).

The public may attend the hearing and present comments and testimony regarding the proposed Conditional Use Petition (CUP) request.

Dated this 3rd day of December 2025.

Planning/Zoning Commission and Scott Bader – P&Z Director 25 Market Street Aberdeen, SD 57401 Office: (605) 626-7144 Published December 3, 2025 in "The Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$13.20 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26281

Application has been made to the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission for a VARIANCE PETITION. A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, on December 16, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. Petitioner / Owner: Janet Schile

Description of property: Proposed Lot 1, "Schile Second Subdivision" in the SE1/4 of Section 19-T125N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (approx. 37386 122nd Street, Carlisle Township).

Reason: Variance to Lot Size to allow Lot 1 (1.87 acres) to be smaller than 40.0 acres and stay zoned as Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) per 4.0605 of Brown County Ordinances.

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the proposed ordinance amendment.

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“Oral Caries Prevention in South Dakota: Challenges and Opportunities”



in underserved areas.

Two of the most effective, evidence-based strategies to prevent dental caries are fluoride use and dental sealants. Community water fluoridation (CWF) and topical fluoride treatments help strengthen enamel and repair early damage, while sealants protect the deep grooves of molars, where 90% of cavities occur. Sealants can prevent up to 80% of decay within two years and remain partially effective for several more years. Yet only 49% of South Dakota third graders have sealants on at least one permanent molar, falling far short of the CDC’s Healthy People 2030 goal of 60%. Studies show that children from low-income or rural areas are at higher risk for decay- yet they are less likely to receive sealants.

Although South Dakota Medicaid covers sealants for eligible children, many dental practices do not accept Medicaid primarily due to low reimbursement rates, further limiting access. Meanwhile, over 94% of South Dakotans benefit from systemic fluoride through CWF, thanks to state regulations requiring optimal fluoride levels in public water systems. However, this cornerstone of public health is under threat.

In April 2025, the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services proposed ending CDC recommendations for CWF, citing alleged health risks. Despite continued support from the ADA, CDC and WHO, this shift has fueled a wave of anti-fluoride legislation across the country. Utah and Florida have already enacted statewide bans on water fluoridation, and several other states have introduced bills to restrict or eliminate it. In South Dakota, Senate Bill 133 sought to remove the mandate for maintaining optimal fluoride levels in public water systems. Although the bill was ultimately defeated, it reflects growing skepticism among some lawmakers and constituents. Similar legislation is likely to resurface in 2026, especially as national debates around fluoridation intensify.

The consequences of reduced access to fluoride and sealants are significant. Untreated caries can lead to emergency visits, costly restorative procedures and general anesthesia for children. Dental pain and infection also contribute to missed school and work, financial hardship and diminished quality of life--impacting nutrition, sleep, emotional well-being and social participation.

Sealants and fluoride are complementary, affordable and preventive, costing far less than treating decay. Their combined use is endorsed by the ADA and exemplifies the adage: An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Sustained protection depends on consistent access to both, especially for those most vulnerable.

Carissa Regnerus, RDH, MA, FADHA, has been a licensed dental hygienist for over 25 years and a faculty member in the University of South Dakota’s Department of Dental Hygiene since 2001. She has taught courses in dental public health and sealants, and has served on several medical mission trips, reflecting her commitment to prevention and global service. For more information, contact her at Carissa.Regnerus@usd.edu. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Tik Tok. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).

Dental caries (decay) remains the most common chronic disease in the U.S. and globally, despite decades of research and proven preventive strategies. In South Dakota, 60–65% of adults and over half of children have experienced tooth decay, with higher rates among low-income, rural and tribal populations. These disparities reflect long-standing challenges in accessing preventive care, especially

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The holidays are coming! Gifts From The Heart

Holiday gifts for brothers, sisters and friends are easy and fun to make. Let your imagination soar!

With a Little Paint!

Gifts For Family and Friends

Did you match the activities to the gifts that will be made?

- printing, painting, coloring
- measuring, mixing, baking
- tying ribbons, gluing beads
- covering with paper, foil separating sections inside
- making your own pieces to play with on the board

A. tic-tac-toe, checkers
B. decorative hangers
C. wrapping paper
D. box to hold change, keys, watches
E. favorite cookies, candy

Did you match these too?

- rubber stamping, inking, gluing glitter
- painting, personalizing, gluing felt to the bottom
- writing, promising, helping
- melting, coloring, scenting wax, dipping string
- drawing 12 seasonal pictures of times with your family, dates, days

A. brick book ends
B. candles
C. calendar
D. pop-up cards, writing paper
E. book with coupons that can be turned in to get extra help with chores

1. b i r d h o u s e
2. f o o t s t o o l
3. l u n c h b a g s
4. g i f t w r a p
5. s h i r t s
6. h a t s
7. m o d e l s
8. s n e a k e r s
9. s t o n e s
10. t o t e b a g s
11. a p r o n s
12. s c h o o l b o x e s

1. G A M E
2. P R I N T
3. I N K
4. B O X
5. T O Y S
6. C O L O R
7. D A T E
8. L I T T L E
9. P A P E R
10. W R I T I N G
11. B A N K
12. S T R I N G

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ELDA STANGE'S 102nd BIRTHDAY

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A University of Wisconsin researcher studies PFAS chemicals which have caused environmental & health issues around the world. Why are they legal here? Credit: Bonnie Willison, Wisconsin Sea Grant, FlickrCC.

Dear EarthTalk: If “forever chemicals” are so bad, why are they allowed in the U.S? – J.T. via email

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, better known as PFAS and often referred to as “forever chemicals,” are synthetic chemicals found in thousands of products. Known for their durability and resistance to heat, water and oil, they have been used for decades in items like non-stick cookware, waterproof clothing, food packaging and firefighting foam. Their widespread use has led to severe environmental and health concerns, with contamination now as a global crisis affecting millions of people.

PFAS are called “forever chemicals” because they do not break down easily in the human body or environment. Research links them to a range of health issues, including cancer, liver damage, immune system suppression, and developmental issues in children. These chemicals contaminate soil and water. In fact, studies find them in the blood of nearly all Americans. “Each new study...concerns us more, not just because of what the health effects of these chemicals are, but because of how hard it is to get rid of them once they’re out there.” says Lisa Patel, MD, a clinical associate professor of pediatrics at Stanford.

Given their dangers, many people wonder why PFAS haven’t been banned nationwide. They are regulated through multiple agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), making consistent nationwide action difficult. Also, their industrial importance—particularly their ability to withstand extreme conditions—makes them hard to replace in certain sectors. As a result, the U.S. government has taken a cautious, gradual approach rather than an outright ban.

Still, the tide may be turning. In 2023, the EPA finalized enforceable limits for six types of PFAS in drinking water, marking a major step toward stricter regulation. Meanwhile, several states, such as Maine and California, have implemented their own laws to restrict PFAS in consumer products like cosmetics, textiles and food packaging. These state efforts are building momentum for a broader national policy.

Public awareness and scientific research continue to grow, putting pressure on lawmakers to act. Many believe that with ongoing studies, better alternatives and rising concern, the U.S. could soon see stronger policies to reduce PFAS exposure and hold polluters responsible. “This is an area that needs further research to truly protect public health from the complex chemical exposure we experience throughout our lives,” says Andres Cardenas, an environmental epidemiologist at Stanford. PFAS pose a serious threat to public health and the environment. Their durability once made them a scientific breakthrough, but that same trait now makes them dangerous. Stronger regulation, improved technology and increased public engagement are key to addressing the crisis and protecting future generations from long-term harm.

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Questions call (605) 397-8422

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- * America's first dentist, John Baker, trained Paul Revere to be a dentist.
- * A German word for nightmare is “alptrraum,” or “elf dream.” In German folklore, elves were dangerous figures who could control dreams and create nightmares.
- * Canadians eat more macaroni and cheese than any other nation in the world.
- * No matter how badly fingerprints are damaged, they will still grow back in their original pattern.
- * Eggnog originated from the medieval hot, milky ale-like drink known as a posset.
- * The band name Imagine Dragons is an anagram. Lead singer Dan Reynolds described it as a “phrase that meant something to all of us,” but the group has yet to confirm what that is.
- * Though dragonflies have six legs, they cannot walk.
- * Ancient pagan cultures such as the Celts believed that benevolent, helpful spirits lived in trees. Knocking on tree trunks roused a spirit for protection, which led to the saying “knock on wood.”