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Vol. 134 No. 41 ♦ Groton, Brown County, South Dakota ♦ Wednesday, June 7, 2017 ♦ Established in 1889

Block to be the new finance officer



HOPE BLOCK

Hope Block took her oath of office on Monday as Groton's new finance officer. She will officially begin her duties on July 1, 2017. She was previously employed at Wells Fargo Bank of Groton. She will be going to Pierre with Finance Officer Anita Lowary for the next four days where Lowary will introduce her to other finance officers around the state. Block will then attend a debt/credit workshop in Pierre on June 29 and a budget training school in either Pierre or Sioux Falls in July.



Police Chief Stacy Mayou said that people need to use extra caution at the uncontrolled intersections around town, especially with the extra traffic with the US12 and SD 37 project this year. He also noted that he will be patrolling Second Avenue West and Fifth Avenue West more often. He said that people think that just because the road is block off on both sides does not mean they do not

have to stop for the stop signs. He said the Groton Police will be making sure that people stop at those stop signs. The council was also notified that the city will get another electronic speed sign from a grant. Later in the meeting, the council will have the Groton Police Department hand out notices to people who have not followed through with their clean-up letters.

There was discussion on the jail house. The council had decided last year that instead of repairing it, the building should be torn down as it is in bad shape. The jail is still standing and Lowary asked if the council wanted to revisit fixing it up. Councilman Burt Glover said that the council had decided to tear it down, so down it must come. The council agreed that it should be down before winter.



The old jail house on First Ave. East, east of Third Street.

The council gave the okay to do dust-proofing of Fifth Avenue. Dust proofing should last most of the summer as long as a grader is not used. The area affected will be Fifth Avenue West from Garfield Street out past State Street to the city limit, and on Fifth Avenue East from Sixth Street to just past the club house. The estimated cost is around \$600 a block.

One piece of playground equipment in the city park is looking very faded. Lowary said she put in for a \$500 grant to have it repainted and will fund raise for the other \$500 to match it. The playground equipment has been in the park for 11 years and is still in good shape; however, the paint has faded and needs to be freshened up.

A quote from Shirley Briggs to powerwash, scrape and paint the community center for \$1,000 was accepted. The roof at city hall needs new shingles. It will cost around \$5,000 to get it redone. The council directed Finance Officer Lowary to check on the price of a metal roof.

The city will no longer be getting funds from the county for responding to police calls outside the city limit, under the new Joint Powers Agreement with Brown County.

According to the finance report, the city has \$1.6 million cash available in its checking account, including \$610,664 in electrical, \$391,260 in debt service to be used for payment, \$121,064 in water and \$115,841 in waste water. The general fund has \$171,482. Currently, the city has \$3.1 million in debt.

The city will ask the county for \$1,000 for the library so that new books can be purchased.

There was discussion on the water rate study. WEB will be raising its rates in October. The council is grappling with how to adjust the rates, especially since the city is trying to save money for a new water tower.

There was a lengthy discussion on equipment needs and future capitol improvement projects. The water tower was at the top of the list, which is 97 years old and the life expectancy of a water tower is 50 years. A new street sweeper was discussed as well as future street projects including Lincoln Street and Meadowbrook Lane.

A request from Glenn Cooper to replat the Veteran's Circle at the cemetery. The plats are about full; however, it is proposed to cut the lots in half as there is plenty of room to do so and a sidewalk could be installed as well. The Legion would pay for the sidewalk. The council decided to move forward with the project once the Legion and City Superintendent Terry Herron all give the okay.

Wanner breaks 19-year old long jump school record at state



It was something that Audrey was striving for all year. She was close a few times, but always short of the goal. Finally, at her last meet of her high school career, at state, she broke the school record in the long jump that has held for 19 years. Traci Ehresmann had the previous record in 1998 at 17'0.25". At state, she placed second with a school record of 17'3.5". She is pictured above doing the long jump at the state track meet. (Photo by Lynn Wanner)

Colestock at State Golf Meet

Payton Colestock is representing Groton Area at the state golf meet being held on the Central Valley Golf Course in Hartford. Payton shot a 47 in the front nine and a 52 in the back nine for a total score of 99 on the first day. The tournament concludes Tuesday. She is tied for 40th place in a field of 98 players.

On the second day, Tuesday, she shot a 51 in the front nine and a 54 in the back nine. Overall, she was tied for 54th at state.

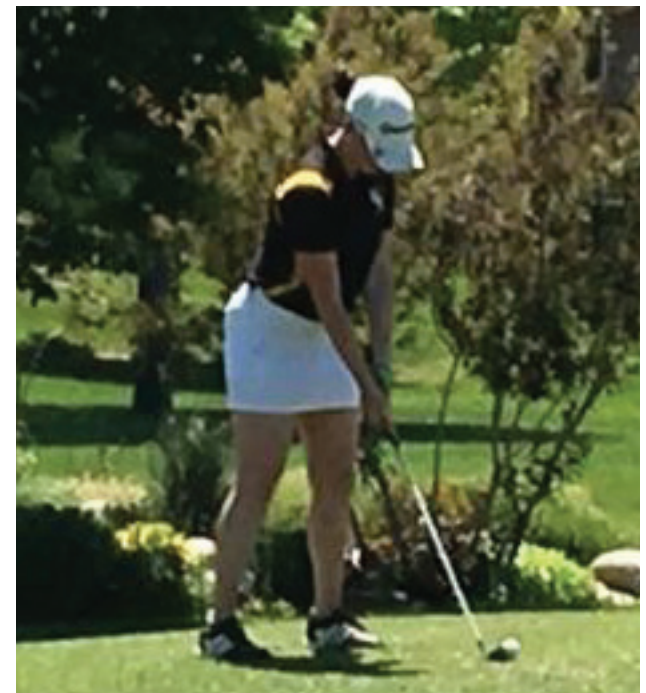


Photo by Craig Muilenburg

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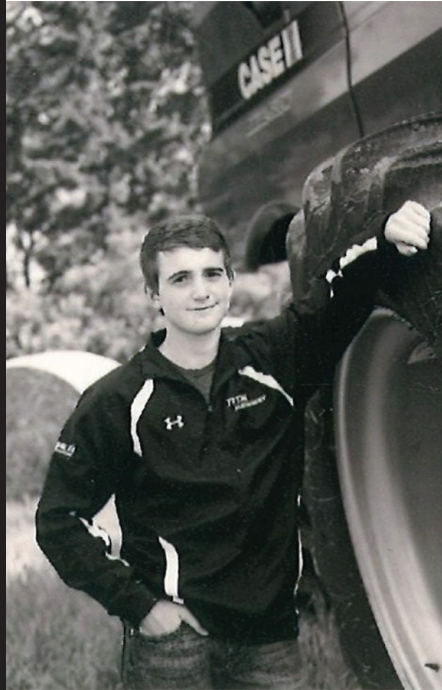
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104 N. Main, Groton

These two senior profiles were accidently left out of our special section. They were in the GDI, but the cross-over into the weekly did not happen and we do apologize for it. We will be modifying the special section to include these profiles, so anyone who bought one can bring it down to the office and exchange it for an updated one. The updated version will be available June 12th.

Mark Wesley Leonhardt



Parents: Terry and Cindy Leonhardt

Hometown: Groton

Sisters: Taylor and Cheyenne 22 and Tyra 21

Hobbies: hunting, fishing, and trapping

School/community activities: high school rodeo, and 4H

Favorite high school memory: watching the football team beat Roncalli twice.

Future plans: attend Lake Area Tech for Ag business then coming back to Groton to farm along side my dad

Congratulations from Cheri's on Main and best wishes in the next step. !!!



Cheri's on Main

Men & Women Haircuts ~ Perms ~ Color

7 N Main, Groton ~ 605/397-2491

Peyton Keith Jondahl



Parents: Kevin and Sharolyn Jondahl

Hometown: Groton

Sister: Sashia- 32

Hobbies: hunting, fishing, and riding motorcycle

Future plans: going to Mitchell Tech for the Power sports program

Congratulations! Best wishes. from Mark and Kelly



Local Classified and Card of Thanks Rates

The following rates are for Classifieds published in both the Groton Daily Independent and the Groton Independent, and posted online at www.grotonsd.net. Cut rate in half if you just want it in the GDI or just the weekly.

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FINANCE OFFICER The City of Beresford, SD is accepting applications for the position of Finance Officer. Deadline to apply is June 23, 2017. Full job advertisement, job description and application are available at www.beresfordsd.com. For additional information call Jerry Zeimetz, City Administrator at 605-763-2008.

HVAC HELP WANTED: Heating and cooling company with 40+ years in business seeks HVAC service technician and installer. Call Iron Wheel, Salem, SD, 605-421-1103.

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The Groton Independent

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Groton, SD 57445



The work on the new addition to the Groton Area Elementary School continues to move along. Meanwhile inside the main building, the demolition crew has been very busy removing the ceiling and walls. Check out the video we recently did on the inside of the elementary school at GDILIVE.COM.

**90th Birthday
Open House for
Bev Dorfschmidt**
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Featured Speakers

Brian Leyland-Jones, MB BS, PhD
Avera Cancer Institute Center for Precision Oncology
Dr. Leyland-Jones specializes in genomic medicine.

Megan Jacobson, MS, LN, RDN
South Dakota State University Extension
Nutrition Field Specialist

Andrew Russell, PhD
Assistant Professor of Biology, Northern State University



17-ACAI-6740

Jr. Teeners beat Clark in 2 games

Groton's Junior Teener team handed the Clark Junior Teeners a 2-0 loss on June 4 in games played in Groton.

Groton won the first game, 18-8, in six innings. Kaden Kurtz had a triple, Jayden Zak and Jordan Bjerke each had a double, Alex Morris and Jordan Bjerke each had two singles and Lucas Simon and Jayden Zak each had a single.

Lucas Simon was the winning pitcher with four runs, eight walks and four strike-outs. He pitched the first two innings. Pitching the next three innings was Jayden Zak with four runs, three walks and five strike-outs. Pitching the last inning was Jordan Bjerke with three walks and three strike-outs. Kurtz was the catcher.

Groton won the second game, 11-5, in a five-inning game. Trevor Harry had two singles, Evin Nehls, Adrian Knutson and Alex Morris each had one single and Kaden Kurtz had two doubles.

Kurtz pitched the first three innings with four hits, five runs, five walks and five strike-outs. Alex Morris pitched the last two innings with one hit and three strike-outs. Lane Krueger was the catcher.

Jr. Teeners beat Sisseton

Alex Morris had a good game win Groton's Junior Teener win over Sisseton on June 1, 16-1. Morris was the winning pitcher with four

hits, six strike-outs and one walk. At the plate, Morris had a home run, a double and a single. Also getting hits were Chandler Larson, Lucas Simon and Taylor Zak with a single each. Kaden Kurtz was the catcher.

Groton won the second game, 15-3. Chandler Larson was the winning pitcher with six walks, two hits and six strike-outs. Alex Morris was the catcher. Getting hits were Larson with two singles and getting one single each were Evin Nehls, Lane Krueger and Adrian Knutson.

Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

In this week's edition of the Weekly Vikings Roundup, I wanted to discuss what we should expect from the Vikings' second year players.

Last year's rookies didn't see the field much. In fact, the Vikings' rookies played the least amount of snaps in the league. According to Bill Barnwell at ESPN, the Vikings' rookies only played 287 combined snaps last season, just 6.5 percent when compared to the Browns, who led the league in rookie snaps at 4,390.

It's no surprise when rookies who were drafted later in the draft don't contribute right away, so for the sake of this article we'll exclude the players drafted in the fifth round or later. The Vikings also didn't have a third-round pick last year because they sent it to Miami in exchange for a 2016 sixth rounder, a 2017 third rounder, and a conditional 2017 fourth rounder.

That leaves us with three players who should have been able to contribute in some form or fashion: Laquon Treadwell, Mackensie Alexander, and Willie Beavers.

Willie Beavers was considered a reach in the fourth round, and even with all the injuries along the offensive line last season, he only saw the field for 11 snaps. It is certainly too early to proclaim him a bust, but it wouldn't surprise me to see him wash out of the league within a year or two.

Mackensie Alexander was a great pick in the second round, but he was a luxury pick. The Vikings already had Captain Munnerlyn manning the nickel cornerback spot, which allowed the team to bring Alexander along slowly. He ended up playing only 67 snaps in 2016.

Laquon Treadwell was the Vikings' first round pick, and everyone expected him to play a significant amount of the time right out of the gate. There were a few speed bumps that slowed Treadwell down, however, including injuries to his ankle and the rise of Adam Thielen. Treadwell only played 79 total snaps his rookie season.

So, what should we expect from the Vikings' 2016 rookies?

Willie Beavers will have a hard time making the Vikings' roster this season. The team added talent along the offensive line in both the draft and free agency, so unless Beavers shows significant improvement in year two, he might find himself on the practice squad or just flat out released.

Mackensie Alexander has the easiest road to more playing time since Captain Munnerlyn departed in free agency. The Vikings still have Xavier Rhodes, Terence Newman, and Trae Waynes on the roster ahead of Alexander, but none of those players are suited to play the nickel cornerback position. Munnerlyn played 636 snaps last season, even though he wasn't an official starter. Those snaps will need to go to other players, and all signs are pointing to Alexander getting the bulk of them.

Laquon Treadwell may find it difficult to see the field much in 2017, especially after the Vikings signed Michael Floyd, a wide receiver who appears to fill the role the Vikings envisioned for Treadwell. However, if you follow the Vikings' social media accounts, there has been plenty of highlights of Treadwell. It's possible he has stepped his game up this offseason, which means he doesn't intend to give up his role on the team without a fight. I'm sure the Vikings would prefer to play Treadwell over Floyd, since he is a recent first-round pick who will only be 22 years old when the season starts. If he can prove to be Floyd's equal, the Vikings will give him every opportunity to see significant snaps in 2017.

What are your thoughts? Do you think the Vikings' second-year players have what it takes to see the field more in 2017? Or do you think they were wasted picks and won't contribute in any meaningful manner? Let me know by reaching out on Facebook (facebook.com/SkolJWright) or on Twitter (@SkolJWright)



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GROTON KIWANIS CLUB

Tom Mahan was program leader for Wednesday's Kiwanis Club dinner meeting. Tom introduced Al Soulek, of Schwan Financial, in Aberdeen. Al spoke on financial planning. President Tom Paepke appointed Reed Litch, Mike Ehresman and Lee Schinkel to the nominating committee for next year's officers. Twelve members and guest attended the meeting.

Groton American Legion Auxiliary (Unit 39) is hosting a
Salad Buffet
Tuesday, June 13
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Groton Legion, 12 N Main
Enjoy a variety of salads, dinner roll or crackers, coffee and water
\$8 per person
Tickets may be purchased at the door