



## October Students of the Month

The student council is sponsoring Student of the Month. Each month the faculty select students who show outstanding academic achievement. These students receive certificates and have an end of the year lunch with the principal. Students of the month of October are Kyleigh Englund, sixth grade; Andrew Marzahn, seventh grade; Alyssa Locke, eighth grade; Erin Unzen, freshman; Nicole Marzahn, sophomore; Emily Thompson, junior; and Hannah Lewandowski, senior.



**Kyleigh Englund**, sixth grader from Groton, is the daughter of Brenda Englund and Brandon and Tara Englund. Siblings are Gavin, Bailey and Kegan. Kyleigh's activities are basketball, softball, dance and band. Her accomplishments are good grades and being able to play her instrument in band well. She is interested in friends, family, going to the lake, drawing, sewing, hanging out and swimming. Math is her favorite subject. She plans to become an orthodontist or an interior designer. Her mom and dad are her role models.



**Andrew Marzahn**, seventh grader, is the son of Wade and Renee Marzahn, Groton. Siblings are Breanna, Landon and Nicole. Andrew's activities include football, baseball, basketball, 4-H and robotics. He has been named to the honor roll, selected for Northwestern Middle School Music Festival, Excellence award at Rapid City's Robotic's Tournament, and is interested in football. Science is his favorite subject and he plans to become a veterinarian. Landon Marzahn is his role model.



**Alyssa Locke**, eighth grader, is the daughter of Matt and Tammy Locke, Groton. Siblings are Jerica, Sydney and Mason Locke. Her activities include basketball, volleyball, soccer, track, piano, youth group and babysitting. She earned the Spirit of Okoboji Award, been named to the 4.0 honor roll and is a varsity soccer letterwinner. Alyssa is interested in sports, Netflix, music and hanging with friends and family. English is her favorite subject and she plans to become an X-Ray tech, a physical therapist or a teacher. Her mom and her aunt, Jacque, are her role models.



**Erin Unzen**, freshman, is the daughter of Jake and Tiffany Unzen, Groton. Her siblings are Haley, Megan and Nathan. Erin's activities include volleyball, basketball, band, FBLA and ice skating. She has been named to the 4.0 Honor Roll and as Student of the Month. She is interested in hanging out with friends, watching movies, playing sports and baking. English is her favorite subject and she plans to become a middle school teacher. Her mom is her role model.



**Nicole Marzahn**, sophomore, is the daughter of Wade and Renee Marzahn, Groton. Her siblings are Breanna, Landon and Andrew. Nicole's activities include volleyball, basketball, FCCLA, 4-H, ice skating, track and field and being involved at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. Her accomplishments include 4-H Fashion Revue top model, Rookie of the Year award in volleyball, starting varsity in volleyball and being on the honor roll. She is interested in volleyball, ice skating, crafts, baking, Netflix, and hanging out with friends and family. Science and FACS are her favorite subjects. Her future plans include nursing, dental hygiene or chiropractic. Her role model is Breanna Marzahn.



**Emily Thompson**, junior, is the daughter of Lee and Jennifer Thompson, Groton. Her brother is James. Emily's activities include cross country, track, FBLA, Jazz band and band. She was named to the High School All State Band, 4-0 Honor Roll, First Chair in North Area Honor Band for the last three years, and ran in the state cross country meet two years in a row. She is interested in cooking, piano and running. Math is her favorite subject. Her future plans include attending a university and to become a registered dietetic nutritionist. Her grandmother, Viv, is her role model.



**Hannah Lewandowski**, senior, is the daughter of Brad and Becky Lewandowski, Groton. Her siblings are Sarah, Nicole and Jacob. Hannah's activities include cross country, cheer, track, FCCLA and show choir. Her accomplishments include FCCLA vice president, cross country most improved and lettered in cross country and cheerleading. She is interested in baking, sewing and skating. FACS is her favorite subject. She plans to attend Lake Area for nursing and while there, she will get her LPN and RN and then go on to get her Bachelor's degree. Brooklyn Rasmussen is her role model.



The Groton Daily Independent sponsored its second annual GDI Festival Lighting Contest. These were the tree ornaments that were presented to the winners. Next year's ornaments have already been ordered. Julianna and Jeslyn Kosel did the judging again this year. The winners are pictured on page 2.



Payton Colestock and Indigo Rogers placed second at the Brookings Bell Invitational Debate Tournament.

## Debaters at Brookings

The GHS debate team competed at the Brookings Bell Invitational Debate tournament December 15-16. Schools from across the state participated in this event. The GHS team placed 3rd in the A school division sweepstakes. Leading GHS to this team placing was the novice public forum debate team of Payton Colestock and Indigo Rogers. Colestock and Rogers placed 2nd overall and were undefeated. Placing first in this division, and also undefeated but with a few more speaker points, was a team from Yankton High School. Samantha Pappas also just missed a berth into the final of Novice Extemporaneous Speaking. Also helping to earn team points were the following GHS competitors: novice public forum debate-- S. Pappas, KaSandra Pappas, Rily Rosenau, and Kayla Jensen; novice Lincoln Douglas debate-- James Cranford; drama-- Cranford; informative-- Rogers and Rosenau; novice oratory-- K. Pappas and Jensen.



## Koehler receives first place in GDI Lighting Contest



The Rick and Sherry Koehler home at 801 N 3rd St. in Groton took first place in the second annual GDI Lighting Contest sponsored by the Groton Daily Independent. The Koehler's received a tree ornament reflecting the first place and also a \$25 gift certificate from the Groton Dairy Queen and Subway of Groton. Julianna (left) and Jeslyn (right) presented the award to Sherry Koehler.



## Kenny receives second place in GDI Lighting Contest



The Terry and Kristin Kenny home at 610 N Main St. in Groton took second place in the second annual GDI Lighting Contest sponsored by the Groton Daily Independent. The Kenny's received a tree ornament reflecting the second place and also a \$20 gift certificate from the Groton Dairy Queen and Subway of Groton. Jeslyn (left) and Julianna (right) presented the award to Terry Kenny.



# 9¢

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8.5x11 copies at the  
Groton Independent,  
21 N Main  
Groton

## Strom receives third place in GDI Lighting Contest



The Alan Strom home at 402 E 16th Ave. in Groton took third place in the second annual GDI Lighting Contest sponsored by the Groton Daily Independent. Strom received a tree ornament reflecting the third place and also a \$15 gift certificate from the Groton Dairy Queen and Subway of Groton. Pictured left to right are Julianna Kosel, Alan Strom, granddaughter from Tripp, Addiyn Albertson, Shelly Lerew and Jeslyn Kosel.



## POINSETT'S LEGACY LIVES ON IN CHRISTMAS FLOWER

19th-Century American Diplomat is Namesake of Poinsettia

By Tom Emery

Some say it just isn't Christmas without the poinsettia, a colorful addition to the holiday season. Outside of his native state, the flower's namesake has been lost to history.

The plant is named for Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first American ambassador to Mexico, who distributed cuttings of the flower he found during a diplomatic excursion. Botany was one of many interests for Poinsett, a renaissance man ahead of his time.

Born on March 2, 1779 in Charleston, S.C., Poinsett was educated in England and spoke six languages. One scholar described him as "socially skilled, well-connected, and...a gracious host."

Extensive travel in Europe as a young man brought him in contact with many European dignitaries. Poinsett then spent 1810-1815 in South America upon appointment of President Madison, who sent him to determine which nations in rebellion with Spain were interested in treaties with America.

After a stint in the South Carolina legislature, Poinsett was elected to three terms in the U.S. House as a Democrat. He resigned during his third term in 1825 to accept an appointment by President Monroe as the first U.S. Minister to Mexico.

He held the position until 1829 and was often at the center of controversy, particularly over Texas annexation. Poinsett unsuccessfully attempted to broker a \$5 million deal to acquire Texas, and his relations with the Mexican government were strained.

While in Mexico, Poinsett became fascinated with a red flower called Flor de Noche Buena, or the Christmas Eve Flower. In 1828, he shipped cuttings of the flower to friends, and one made its way to the Royal Botanic Garden in Scotland.

Despite the turmoil surrounding his time in Mexico, Poinsett had scattered support as a Presidential candidate. Elected to another term in the South Carolina house in 1830, he earned a spot in President Van Buren's Cabinet as Secretary of War in 1837.

During his term, Poinsett advocated exploration of the American West and played a key role in the creation of the National Institution for the Promotion of Science, now the Smithsonian Institution. He also hired Robert Mills, another South Carolina resident, to create what became the National Mall in Washington.

For much of the 1830s and 1840s, Poinsett spent time at his fine home near Greenville, S.C., which featured a scenic garden that he designed. He remained politically active after leaving the Cabinet in 1841 and opposed both the Mexican War and his state's secession movement.

Poinsett died near Statesburg, S.C. on Dec. 12, 1851 and is buried in the Episcopal Cemetery there.

The day of his death has been designated National Poinsettia Day in the United States, a holiday that, like Poinsett himself, is largely obscure.

However, he remains a stalwart of South Carolina history. A state park and electronic combat range for military training south of Sumter both bear his name, while in Greenville, a bridge, highway, and hotel all are named for him. A statue of Poinsett is also a Greenville attraction.

The poinsettia has become a \$250 million industry in the United States, largely due to the efforts of Albert Ecke, a German immigrant in southern California at the turn of the century who shared Poinsett's fascination with the flower. His son, Paul Sr., created a grafting technique to aid production, while his grandson, Paul Jr., helped launch the poinsettia into an American holiday fixture.

Today, the Paul Ecke Ranch near Encinitas, Calif. accounts for 70 percent of all American poinsettia purchases and half of worldwide sales. The best-selling potted plant in both the U.S. and Canada, poinsettias are usually bought by women, resulting in eighty percent of sales.

Some 100 varieties of poinsettias are available today, though 74 percent of Americans still prefer red poinsettias, followed by eight percent white and six percent pink.

Tom Emery is a freelance writer and historical researcher from Carlinville, Illinois. He may be reached at 217-710-8392 or ilcivilwar@yahoo.com.



**Brown County  
Dec. 19, 2017**

**Meeting Minutes  
DECEMBER 19, 2017 – GENERAL MEETING**

Meeting called to order by Commission Chair Kippley at 8:45 A.M. in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. Present were Commissioners Hansen, Sutton, Fischbach and Fjeldheim. Commissioner Sutton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES:** Moved by Hansen, seconded by Fischbach to approve the General Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2017, with the following amendments to the 2018 Salary Schedule: Andrew Janusz \$17.17 per hour, Communications Director/Sheriff Deputy John McQuillen \$61,947.27. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS:** Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Sutton to approve the following claims:

Insurance: SDACC \$3,177.31.  
Professional Fees: Avera St. Luke's \$161.00; Bantz, Gosch & Cremer \$9,076.74; Compass Counseling \$1,800.00; Ryan Dell \$2,509.80; William Gerdes \$8,785.50; Haar Law Office \$846.94; Mark Katterhagen \$27.00; Kuck Law Office \$8,344.60; Lewis & Clark BHS \$800.00; Lucy Lewno \$342.00; Lincoln Co. Treasurer \$192.43; Darcy Lockwood \$27.00; LTR Intermediate Holdings \$23,603.82; NEMHC \$2,600.00; NECOG \$4,500.00; Richardson, Wyly, Wise & Sauck \$5,247.53; Safe Harbor \$3,917.26; Sanford Health Occupational Medicine \$96.00; SD Dept. of Revenue & Regulation \$1501.00; Tammy Stolle Court Reporting \$156.80; Taliaferro Law Firm \$2,105.60; US Bank \$1,209.40; Yankton Co. Sheriff Office \$250.00; Yankton Co. Treasurer \$456.20.  
Publishing: Aberdeen American News \$1,144.93; Groton Independent \$767.29.  
Rentals: 446-Praxair \$23.28.

**Repairs & Maintenance:** Aberdeen Plumbing & Heating \$2,142.14; E&R Industrial Sales \$21.57; G & K Services \$353.05; GCR Tires & Services \$65.00; Geffdog \$362.00; Graham Tire \$14.98; HDR Engineering \$1,717.25; House of Glass \$4,718.00; Hoven Auto Repair \$327.50; Leidholdt Electric \$173.05; Sander's Sew 'n' Vac \$144.73; Service Signs \$3,999.83; Steven Lust Automotive \$48.04; These Glass Doktor \$292.50; US Bank \$238.29; Walth Safety Service \$774.50; Wooden Mallet \$6,440.00; Woodman Refrigeration \$151.02.

**Supplies:** 446-Praxair \$235.54; A&B Business \$386.55; Century Business Products \$671.86; Crescent Electric \$35.55; Dakota Electronics \$87.30; DSG \$1,343.41; DT Pharmacy \$772.27; E&R Industrial Sales \$81.20; Galls \$412.32; GovConnection \$2,273.19; GCR Tires & Service \$274.84; Geffdog \$27.00; Heartland Paper \$701.48; House of Glass \$263.00; InTab \$121.79; Patricia Kendall \$40.26; Kessler's \$8.18; Leidholdt Tool Sales \$19.50; Lucy Lewno \$12.96; Teresa Mann \$137.56; Marco \$38.63; Menards \$439.22; Midstates Printing \$372.13; NCFE-Warner \$2,119.55; Pantorium Cleaners \$14.00; PharmChem \$75.00; Sherri Rawstern \$53.18; Schwan Welding \$69.00; These Glass Doktor \$409.29; TrueNorth Steel \$174.00; US Bank \$11,402.90; Walth Safety Service \$127.80; West Payment Center \$258.32.

**Travel & Conference:** Best Western Ramkota - Aberdeen \$1,039.87; Sherri Rawstern \$144.76; US Bank \$2,327.99.

**Utilities:** Aberdeen City Treasurer \$287.99; CenturyLink \$607.28; City of Hecla \$215.71; Dependable Sanitation \$451.00; Exec. Mgmt. \$116.11; Northern Electric \$1,990.93; NWPS \$2,502.73; NVC \$3,236.16; Verizon \$4,830.01; US Bank \$1,086.01.

**Other:** Safe Harbor \$639.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**HR REPORT:** Moved by Sutton, seconded by Hansen to approve the following Commission Assistant/HR Office Report, which includes the following personnel changes:

- Acknowledge resignation of Clifford Rhodes, Welfare Director, effective December 22, 2017; and further approve request to fill vacancy.
- Acknowledge resignation of Bethany Gilroy, effective December 18, 2017; and further approve request to fill vacancy.
- Amend start date for Sally Ness, full-time Correctional Officer to December 18, 2017.
- Approve moving Sandy Woy-

tassek, Sheriff Clerical from Step 4 to Step 5, effective December 17, 2017.

- Authorize payment of retirement award per policy D-3 Retirement to John McQuillen in amount of \$150.00 before taxes as requirements have been met.

- Acknowledge the following miles driven and amount to be taxed for personal use of County vehicles during the month of November: Kendell Titze- 102 @ \$54.57, Dirk Rogers- 608 @ \$325.28, Mike Scott- 150 @ \$80.25, Gary Vetter- 105 @ \$56.18.

- Approve and authorize the Chair and Commissioners sign Agreement between Brown County, a political subdivision of the State of South Dakota and Local 162, Council 59 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employee, AFL-CIO, effective January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.
- Approve the following Policy Manual changes, effective December 19, 2017:

1. Addition to Policy Manual under E-7 Sick Leave Bank as follows:

**NOTE:** Donation hours will no longer be accepted as of January 1, 2018 date until such time that it is determined more hours are needed and a 500 hour maximum carryover will be maintained. The exception will be for new employees wanting to donate one day of Sick Leave Hours to join the Sick Leave Bank.

2. Addition to Policy Manual under E-2 Vacation as follows:

If hired or re-hired after January 1, 2018 these rates will apply: Service Requirement: Vacation Benefit:

0 to 5 years: 3.5 hours per pay period-- 91 hours per year, Maximum 180 hours

6 to 10 years: 5 hours per pay period--130 hours per year, Maximum 220 hours

11 to 19 years: 6.5 hours per pay period-- 169 hours per year, Maximum 260 hours

After 20 years: 8 hours per pay period--208 hours per year, Maximum of 300 hours

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**SHERIFF REPORTS:** Moved by Fischbach, seconded by Sutton to approve the following November 2017 Sheriff Reports: Incidents and offenses, Prisoner care, JDC, and Money deposited with the County Treasurer. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**RFP CLUBHOUSE CONCESSIONS:** Moved by Sutton, seconded by Hansen to present the Aberdeen Hockey Association a counter offer, effective until January 15, 2018 in regard to the RFP for the Clubhouse Concessions Contract. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**LEASE:** Moved by Hansen, seconded by Fischbach to approve and authorize the Chair sign Agreement with Shirley A Jacobs Irrevocable Trust for lease of a portion of Dixon's Outlot 3 of Dixon Outlots 3-6 in the NE ¼ of Sec 26-T123N-R64W of the 5th P.M., described as: 40' wide by 375' long driveway extending West of 5th Ave to an area in the rear of the lot that is 200' x 200' (1.25 acres) in amount of \$550.00, effective October 18, 2017 to October 18, 2018. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**ORD 112 FIRST READING:** Moved by Sutton, seconded by Fischbach to approve First Reading of Ordinance #112, An Ordinance to amend Title 4 - Zoning, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, to rezone the following described property from its present zoning designation of Chapter 4.06 (AG-P) Agricultural Preservation District to Chapter 4.07 (M-AG) Mini-Agricultural District: Lots A & B, Wollman-Jones 1st Subdivision in the SW ¼ of Sec 29-T124N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, SD (12874 & 12860 395th Ave). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**FAIRGROUNDS REPORT:** Kurt Smith, Fairgrounds Manager discussed amending the horse racing contract if the decision is made to not have Pari-Mutual Horse Racing in Pierre in 2018; and discussed garbage removal during the Fair.

**CENTENNIAL VILLAGE:** Marcus Selzler, Centennial Village Inc President announced plan to do concrete work in phases at the Village and will submit an amended annual report when Commission requests are complete.

**EMPLOYEE LEAVE:** Gary Vetter, Commission Assistant/HR Director clarified that the Deputy

States Attorney vacation and sick leave earnings will be based on original hire date; and further stated the newest employee would contribute to the sick leave bank if he chooses to be a member.

**CLERP:** Commissioner Sutton distributed statistics supporting the additional assessment needed to finance the County Legal Expense Reimbursement Program (CLERP).

**COURTROOM SECURITY:** Further discussion was held on the options for addressing Courtroom Security. No action was taken at this time.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Moved by Sutton, seconded by Fjeldheim to go into executive session to consult with attorney, per SDCL 1-25-2(3) and to discuss personnel, per SDCL 1-25-2(1) with Larry Lovrien, Chris White and Gary Vetter in attendance. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

The Chair declared the executive session closed, with no action taken as a result of the discussion.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Moved by Sutton, seconded by Fjeldheim to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:35 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Maxine Fischer, Brown County Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$83.80. 15216

**Brown County  
Ord. 112**

**Wollman/Jones**

ORDINANCE #112

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED TO REZONE CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY

BE IT ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota, that the Petition to Amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended, to rezone the following described property filed by Anthony Wollman and Dennis Jones is hereby granted and Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances is hereby amended to change the zoning on the following described property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Agricultural District (M-AG), said property described as follows:

Lots A & B Wollman-Jones 1st Subdivision in the SW ¼ of Sec 29-T124N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, SD (12874 & 12860 395th Ave)

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota that the zoning official for the County of Brown is hereby authorized to change the official zoning map for Brown County to reflect this Ordinance.

Notice of Hearing: December 6 & 13, 2017

Passed First Reading: December 19, 2017

Passed Second Reading: December 27, 2017

Adopted: December 27, 2017  
Published: January 3, 2018  
Effective Date: January 23, 2018

Rachel Kippley, Chair  
Brown County Commission

ATTEST:  
Maxine Fischer, Brown County Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$16.93. 15217

**JVT  
Notice  
of rates**

JVT Public Notice  
JVT is a telecommunications provider who provides basic and enhanced services within its service territory. JVT is an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier and as such, receives support from the Federal Universal Service Fund. Local service charges are as follows:

Monthly Rates  
Andover/Bristol/Claremont/Columbia/Conde/Doland/Ferney/Groton/Hecla/Houghton/Turton Single Party Residence Service \$20.00

State Mandated Emergency 911 Services  
Each Telephone Number \$ 1.25

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

Frederick/Mellette Single Party Residence Service \$21.45

State Mandated Emergency 911 Services  
Each Telephone Number \$ 1.25

Federal Mandated Subscriber Line Charge  
Each Single Line Residence \$ 7.15

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

Broadband internet access service is available at the following speeds and rates:

Up to 25 MBPS - \$43.95  
Up to 50 MBPS - \$53.95  
Up to 100 MBPS - \$69.95  
Up to 250 MBPS - \$85.00

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$18.10. 15218

**JVT  
Lifeline  
Notice**

JAMES VALLEY TELECOMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC NOTICE

Lifeline service is a government program designed to make monthly residential telecommunication services more affordable to eligible low-income customers. Customers who are eligible for the Lifeline program are also eligible for toll blocking at no additional charge.

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

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

Basic services are offered to all customers in James Valley Telecommunication's service territories at the rates, terms, and conditions specified in James Valley Telecommunication's tariff. If you have any questions regarding Lifeline service or would like to apply for Lifeline service, please call us at 605-397-2323, toll free at 1-800-556-6525, or visit our business office at 235 E 1st Ave, Groton, SD.

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$17.81. 15219

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**12/30 Closed - Happy New Year**  
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Many Groton Area activities are Livestreamed by the  
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605/397-NEWS (6397)



# Classifieds and Card of Thanks

The following rates are for Classifieds published in both the Groton Daily Independent and the Groton Independent, and posted online at [www.grotonsd.net](http://www.grotonsd.net). 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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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

WIN A \$3,000 GRAND PRIZE or one of ten \$100 prizes! Take our survey at [www.pulsepoll.com](http://www.pulsepoll.com) and tell us about your media usage and shopping plans. Your input will help this paper help local businesses. Thank you!

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES, you choose bar/restaurant Northville, SD \$65,000 or bar/restaurant Hitchcock, SD \$74,900. Contact Eric Vetter Century 21 Investment Realtors Aberdeen, SD 605-380-0031.

## EMPLOYMENT

TROUT HATCHERY EMPLOYEE- We are looking for someone who is interested in a career in aquaculture. Applicant must have a valid driver's license and a good driving record. CDL desirable, but willing to train. Must be able to pass drug test and lift up to 75 pounds. Will be trained in all phases of raising trout. Non-smoking environment. On site housing. Starting wages \$15.00/hour, DOE. Opportunity for advancement. Located in Southern Black Hills of South Dakota. Send resume to [simpson@gwtc.net](mailto:simpson@gwtc.net) 605-833-2345

HELP WANTED: PIC GENETIC NUCLEUS Swine Technicians, Mound City SD. No experience necessary but preferred. Excellent compensation and benefits package. Contact [Susan.peterson@genusplc.com](mailto:Susan.peterson@genusplc.com) or 605-955-3502 ext 4213

FULL TIME TRAVELING OPPORTUNITY. Includes meal allowance, paid lodging, health/dental, 401(k) & Paid Time Off. 60-80 hours/week, \$13-\$15/hour starting wages. Railroad Vegetation Control. Position starts January 2018. RAW, Inc. in Cooperstown, ND - 888.700.0292. [www.rawapplicators.com](http://www.rawapplicators.com). [info@rawapplicators.com](mailto:info@rawapplicators.com).

STORE MANAGER NEEDED for John Deere dealership in Yankton, SD. Competitive pay and benefits. Call Scott 605-281-6000, e-mail [KulesaS@deereequipment.com](mailto:KulesaS@deereequipment.com). Apply online [www.deereequipment.com](http://www.deereequipment.com), click on employment.

THERE IS AN IMMEDIATE OPENING for the City of Lemmon City Finance Officer position. The successful candidate will be responsible to the Mayor and Council for administration of city operations. Salary is dependent on qualifications and experience. Excellent benefits. The position will close December 29, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. Send a resume to Mayor Neal Pinnow, 303 1st Ave West, Lemmon, SD 57638. For more information and for job description call 605-374-5681. The City of Lemmon is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## FOR SALE

LYMAN FITNESS CENTER and 4 bedroom house, both in Presho, SD. Contact Christensen Real Estate. Robert Christensen, Broker: 1-605-929-6276 or Rob Christensen, Broker: 1-605-840-2204.

FOR SALE: 20' x 12' walk-in cooler with compressor and scissors jack for loading trucks, lifts over a ton in Lemmon, SD 605-374-3802

## NOTICES

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**Women's High Games:** Karen Spanier 188, Nicole Kassube 166, Sue Stanley 155  
**Men's High Series:** Brad Waage 584, Doug Jorgensen 533, Roger Spanier 524  
**Women's High Series:** Nicole Kassube 454, Karen Spanier 434, Sue Stanley 430

## Service Notice: Fern Westby

Services for Fern Westby, 87, of Groton will be 10:30 a.m., Saturday, December 30th at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton. Pastor Young Chung will officiate. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held at the chapel on Friday from 5-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m.

Fern passed away Wednesday, December 27, 2017 at Bethesda Home of Aberdeen.

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## A Christmas to remember

Merry Christmas everyone! Oh yes, it is indeed a Merry Christmas. We thank God for the many blessings he has given us in 2017 as we prepare now for 2018. It's been an awesome year in so many ways.

We acquired the fitness center, the laundromat, the building that now houses the fitness center and laundromat and moved our paper office down to the building.

In addition, I have been filling in as pulpit supply at Buffalo Lake Lutheran Church, rural Eden, for about two months. I've been serving the church in Pierpont now for about 14 years. We had successful Christmas services at both churches,

One of the big drawbacks going into 2018 is the insurance premiums. To make matters more challenging, is that we have over \$1,000 in our medflex account that we have to spend or we end up losing it. Well, I think I found a way to spend it on Christmas Eve. Our Christmas tree in the living room had some strings of lights that quit working, so I was going to go up in the loft to see if I had lights up there. I wanted to get to the next level and since I had no ladder available, I thought I would hoist myself up. Great plan - not so great of idea.

The best way to describe what happened is if you have watched the Home Alone series, the second show, there is a perfect scene that depicts what happened to me. The scene is one of the villains who wants to jump up and grab the bottom rung of the ladder that is greased up. He jumps up, grabs the rung, only to slip off and fall to the ground. I tried to jump up to the next level, lost my balance, went down, swung under the loft, lost my grip and forgot by Superman cape. I dropped about 10 feet to the steps and bounced a couple of times to the floor.

My immediate reaction was to check to see if anything was broken. It had appeared not. Then I thought, "Boy, am I going to be stiff tomorrow." Strange thing to think about after the nasty tumble. Fearing I might pass out, I crawled up the steps and took deep breaths to keep me from passing out. I got up the steps and walked into the house. My side hurt, my ankle hurt and my arm hurt. As I entered the kitchen, I wasn't saying much except I was breathing heavily. At first, the girls thought I was faking it, but then they suddenly discovered that I was not faking it.

High levels of concern took over and after Tina examined me, I was heading into the emergency room. I was against the idea, but my side was bleeding and Tina said it had opened up.

So into the emergency room we went. Three hours later, they had done a CT scan on my back and that was okay. The ended up putting three stitches in my side. They took an X-ray of my ankle and discovered that the fibula bone in my ankle was clearly broken, but still pretty much in line. They put a temporary cast on and I have to see a specialist tomorrow where they will decide the fate of my ankle.

When we got home last night, I had the girls help me with the paper routes. We will have to figure out what to do, especially if I will be laid up for several weeks - they say 8-12 weeks, which is how long it will take to heal a bone.

It is the first time I have ever broken anything in my body and the first time I've ever had a major hospital visit. I even discovered later that my ring is no longer circular, but a little oval. Tina had crutches that I'm using. But when I first got home, it was easier for me to crawl up the steps on my knees than it was to try and use crutches. I am getting the hang of crutches, but still not sure if I will resort to crawling up and scooting down the steps.

I can only thank God that my injuries were not any worse than what they are. I even woke up this morning not stiff and feeling pretty good. So I'm happy with that.

I had Tina bring the computer home this morning. We were hosting Christmas so I've been working on the paper in spurts.

The staff at Avera St. Luke's in Aberdeen was very friendly and fun to be around. That makes the battle much more easier to fight.

It's going to be more of a challenge doing the Livestreaming events going up and down the steps. It's a good thing I have good help with the girls and Justin. And by then, I should be able to maneuver around a little easier once I have mastered the crutches

It will be a Christmas to be remembered!

## Getting ready for next year

The Christmas season is a wonderful time of the year. In years past, we have usually overextended our spending limit. I have often talked about in church that Christmas is not about presents and we shouldn't go in debt to try and fill the Christmas tree with a ton of presents. After all, for most of the presents, the children will play with them for a couple of weeks, and then the next time they are touched is when they are placed on the rummage sale. This year, we kept our spending under control. That makes for a great start to 2018.

I know we have gotten a lot of comments this year about our lack of outdoor Christmas lights. We had a number of issues this year. We were busy with the downtown businesses in making the move. In ad-

dition, we have had some very windy days that would have raised havoc with the ornaments.

This summer, we are going to go through all of our holiday stuff (yes, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas) and get them organized for 2018. So yes, we are planning a big lighting year next year. We're also trying to come up an image of Jesus riding a white horse to reflect the second Advent. I have been unable to come up with anything yet. I may have to come up with an alternate plan. I am actually looking forward to next year already.

As I'm watching a Charlie Brown Christmas, I think about the Angel Tree that my wife runs. She puts her whole heart and soul into the project and tries to make Christmas a little better for those who don't have much. I also know that people are home alone for the Christmas season and I hope that people invite those who are home alone to their Christmas dinner or supper. We always make it a point to invite people who we know are home alone to our dinner when we host it. Even with a whole house of company, we always make room for extra people. Nothing like practicing what I preach.

## Plates and screws

Life has been interesting since I've suffered my broken ankle. I'm still trying to do a somewhat of a normal route, only to find out that's why my ankle is swelling up.

I went in for surgery on Dec. 26. Got to the office at 10:30 a.m. and was expecting an exam and a later appointment, if needed. I ended up having the surgery done and was basically the last one of the day. We go out of there around 7:30 p.m. That was a looong day! They put a plate and screws in, then they put some kind of a cast on.

Most of the morning I had my leg not elevated and by noon, it was starting to hurt. About that time the doctor's office called to find out how everything was going. I asked about the pain pills if that was suppose to reduce swelling. Nope. Keeping my foot elevated and ice on it will help keep the swelling down.

You would think being laid up would give me plenty of time to get some stuff done. I find myself dozing off in mid sentence. Even watching a movie is tough - started watching one, then saw the ending. Now I'm having to run the keypad from my lap and the mouse from the arm of the chair. It's not exactly what you call efficient. My girls have been helping with the paper route in the morning - it's actually working out quite well. We get the routes done in just a little over an hour. I drive them around and they get out and do the homes on their side.

I heard the skidsteer drive by earlier today so I'm guessing they are working on the skating rink. I had a nice major flood on it last week and was hoping to do some more over the weekend. We have perfect weather right now for making ice and I'm sure the city guys will get the skating rink up and operating soon.

It's already Wednesday and I have not even started on the weekly paper yet. I might have to exercise my option to not to publish this week. I do have that option twice a year. We'll see how the tonight and tomorrow goes.

I think I just discovered what I need - reading glasses. I need something to magnify my screen a little bit so I can see better. My glasses are for looking far. Julianna just gave me her glasses to try out and it more than doubled my what I can see.

My ankle deal was quiet on Facebook, until Anita posted something. Now I'm seeing how many times I can say Thanks to the responses!

The fitness center of my watch is sure taking a beating. It keeps telling me that it's time to stand and it's time to move. My times are all way down from what they normally are. I may have to get into the fitness center to at least get an upper body workout to burn a few calories or I may become the New Year Blimp!

It's hard to believe, but we got the car in the garage! Tina shuffled a bunch of stuff around to make room for the car. That will make it easier for me to get into the car in the morning for the paper route and we will save on gas as we won't have to warm it up for half an hour.

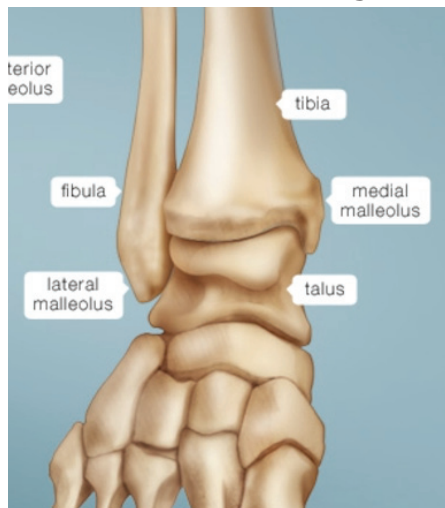
One of my paper route subscribers gave us a basket of fruit for Christmas. That will really come in handy now as that is suppose to be part of my diet with the medication that I'm taking.

I just got a message that my ornaments for next year's GDI Lighting Festival awards are being shipped out tomorrow. Which reminds me that I have a couple of more awards that need to be presented. As soon as we can get ahold of them, we'll have to get their pictures taken with their awards.

One of my favorite movies is the "Battle of the Bulbs." It's one of the 111 movies I have on the Apple TV. I wish I had half of their decorations. I'm almost thinking about putting up a fence in the back yard, just to have a place to put up more lights. A fence would be easier than trying to put them on the trees. I know one thing is for sure, I'm getting a new ladder for getting on top of the house. The ladder I have is not exactly safe and I always have visions of it falling apart in half.



**Tina Kosel getting things finalized for the Angel Tree presents.**





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**Food, Glorious Food . . . Just Not so Much of It.**



By **Richard P. Holm M.D.**

Food. So much of our lives rotate around it. Think of food channels and commercials, cookbooks, the grocery store, tailgating parties, the holiday season, breaks at work, lunch meetings, and fast-food on every corner . . . there are super-sized meals at every turn. We are people who like to eat; but why are we so hungry?

For purposes of survival, Mother Nature has set our appetites to want about 40% more food than we need. We are made to be able to store energy in fat so that during times of starvation we can stay alive. Now, however, in this country and in this century, it's not a time of starvation. In fact, it's a time of too much convenience and too much calorie-laden food. And thus, there is truly an epidemic of obesity bearing the consequences of sleep apnea, hypertension, diabetes is all running rampant with a subsequent increase in strokes and heart attacks. We are dying from a success of food marketing.

How can we curb our inborn genetically set appetites, especially with all this food around? Part of the solution is with exercise, but that's another story. I predict that science and the pharmaceutical industry will one day come up with a safe appetite suppressant, which will replace gastric bypass surgery for the morbidly obese and will then also be our primary treatment for all those illnesses which come from an overweight condition.

Until then, we need to train our free will to say "yes" to exercise and "no" to so much food. We simply shouldn't eat all that we want.

**Weekly Vikings Roundup**

By **Jordan Wright**

On Saturday, December 23, the Minnesota Vikings were in Green Bay, Wisconsin – braving the brutally cold temperatures and rival fans – attempting to sweep the Packers this season and win their 12th game of 2017. Not only did the Vikings leave the land of lactose with a victory, but they also held the Packers scoreless, the first shutout by Minnesota since 1993. The Vikings are now 12-3 this season, and if the season ended today they would hold the second seed in the NFC which comes with a very important bye in the first round in the playoffs.



Case Keenum had one of the worst games of his Vikings career, but he has an excuse because of the horrible weather and even worse field conditions. Keenum only completed 14 of 25 passes for 139 yards, but he did have a touchdown and zero interceptions. For the most part neither team could get much going through the air, which was to be expected because cold weather can severely impact a receiver's timing and makes the football much more difficult to catch.

Latavius Murray got the majority of the carries in the run game (21 carries, 69 yards, 3.3 yards per carry), but Jerick McKinnon was by far the most effective running back when he had his chances (7 carries, 42 yards, 6.0 ypc). Stefon Diggs led the receivers in targets (8), catches (5) and receiving yards (60), and he also caught the game's only touchdown. Adam Thielen and Kyle Rudolph were non-factors in this game – catching only two passes for 24 yards and one pass for 6 yards respectively. After reviewing the film, there were plenty of opportunities for the Vikings to move the ball through the air, but Keenum was unable to hit the deep shot – both because of the weather and the offensive line not affording him as much time to throw as he has become accustomed to.

Harrison Smith led the Vikings defense and was the main reason they held the shutout. Smith finished the game with 8 tackles, 1 tackle for a loss, 2 pass deflections, and 2 interceptions. He was playing like a man possessed, which was likely due to him being snubbed from the Pro Bowl. The Packers were without Aaron Rodgers, who was placed on the Injured reserve list again after coming back for only one game, so their offense surely didn't pose much of a threat to Minnesota's excellent defense. However, it was nice to see the Vikings tighten up and not give up a single point – especially against the rival Green Bay Packers.

Mentioned earlier, the Pro Bowl rosters were announced this past week and four Minnesota Vikings made the list. Adam Thielen was the only Viking to make it on offense, but there were a few others who could have made it. Kyle Rudolph is second in the NFL with 8 touchdown catches for a tight end, while any of the Vikings' offensive linemen could have made it, considering only three quarterbacks (with at least 300 pass attempts) have taken less sacks than Keenum's 20. On defense, three Vikings made the Pro Bowl list: Xavier Rhodes, Anthony Barr, and Everson Griffen. Harrison Smith is clearly the biggest snub from the Vikings' defense (he is the highest rated safety in the NFL according to Pro Football Focus), but Linval Joseph is also more than deserving and is criminally underrated across the nation. At the end of the day, however, it shouldn't be an issue, as I fully expect zero Vikings to be playing in the Pro Bowl because they'll be too busy getting ready for another game – the Super Bowl.

Looking ahead, the Vikings will close out their season with a week 17 matchup against the Chicago Bears. The game will be at U.S. Bank Stadium on New Year's Eve, and it will start at noon on Fox. The Bears are 5-10 and will just be praying to make it out of the contest without any lasting injuries. The Vikings will be unable to move up to the #1 seed in the NFC because Philadelphia has already secured it, but the Vikings will still be able to lock up the #2 seed and a bye week with a win on Sunday. I would expect the starters to play some, but once the game is firmly in hand the backups should come in and get some valuable playing time. ESPN gives the Vikings an 88% chance to win, and unless something crazy happens (knock on wood), the Vikings should finish the season 13-3 and firing on all cylinders entering the playoffs. Skoll!

Have any questions or comments? Reach out to me on Facebook (facebook.com/SkolJWright) or on Twitter (@SkolJWright)

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# Build Dakota Scholarship Presentation

Groton Area School will host a Build Dakota Seminar for students in grades 11-12 on January 9, 2018 from 11:30 – 12:14 in the GHS Arena. Any interested business/industry professionals and industry partners, human resource officers, economic development personnel, parents, and interested community members are welcome to attend the presentation.

The focus of the presentation will be to explain the Build Dakota Scholarship and industry partnership programs. Participants will learn about the program and the benefits for businesses and the community. The presentation will also connect students with local businesses and give information about the high-need workforce areas.

## The Groton Independent

21 N Main, Groton 605/397-NEWS (6397)  
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More information is included in the attached flyer. The Build Dakota is a wonderful program for SD students – hope to see you on January 9th!

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- Contact:  
Jodi Sternhagen, Counselor  
(605) 397-8381 or [Jodi.Sternhagen@k12.sd.us](mailto:Jodi.Sternhagen@k12.sd.us)

### SPEAKERS: (May change based on availability)

- Deni Amundson, Program Manager, Build Dakota Scholarship
- Julie Stevenson, Business Partner Specialist, Lake Area Technical Institute
- Clayton Deuter, Director of Admissions, Mitchell Technical Institute
- Chellee Unruh, Institutional Advancement Officer, Southeast Technical Institute
- Aaron Jacobs, Foundation Director, Western Dakota Technical Institute
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SUN. 9am-5pm  
605-532-3434

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK  
SUN. 9am-4pm  
605-254-5245

C-STORE & GROCERY STORE  
OPEN 6am-10pm  
SUN. 7am-9pm  
605-397-6540

C-STORE & GROCERY STORE  
OPEN 7am-9pm  
SUN. 7am-7pm  
605-426-0531

PRICES GOOD AT ALL MEN'S LOCATIONS  
December 24<sup>th</sup> THRU December 30<sup>th</sup>

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
24	25	26	27	28	29	31

## NEW SIGN-ON BONUSES!

- ★ ★ ★ **\$1,500 for CNAs** ★ ★ ★
- ★ ★ ★ **\$3,000 for LPNs** ★ ★ ★
- ★ ★ ★ **\$4,500 for RNs** ★ ★ ★

## Alzheimer's Care Unit Director Medication Aid

Contact Brynn Pickrel or Nellie Hatfield at 605-397-2365 or apply in person.



1106 N. 2nd Street, Groton

## GDI News/Clean/Fit Downtown Groton

### NEWS

**PAPER**  
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Large Washers: \$4.  
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20 oz. bottles of Coke, Diet Coke, Dr. Pepper and Water only \$1.75; 20 oz. Blue Powerade is \$2. 16 oz. Monster Drink is \$2.75.

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Single: \$31.95  
Couple: \$53.25  
Family: \$63.85  
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**Main Office: 21 N Main 605/397-NEWS (6397) office@grotonsd.net**

**M-F: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat: 10 a.m. to Noon**