



From a Facebook Page



Cindy Haskell of Conde took this cool photo Monday morning.

From a Facebook Page



This Groton Area boys sixth grade team took first place Saturday at a tournament played in Langford. Pictured left to right are Logan Pearson, Caden McInerney, Blake Pauli, Payton Mitchell, Tuner Thompson, Carter Simon and Teylor Diegel. (Photo by Corey Mitchell)

From a Facebook Page



The main blizzard hit Sunday evening, but with all of this snow, a little wind can create issues. Lindsey Tietz said on her Facebook Page about this photo, "Holy ground blizzard and blinding sun....this wind picks up so fast!"

From a Facebook Page



Tylan Glover accepted to AMDA:

Angela Glover posted this on her Facebook Page: The answer we have been waiting for is officially in...as hard as it will be to move him to the big city I am so extremely proud of him and excited for him to follow his dream..Tylan's accepted to AMDA (The American Musical and Dramatic Academy)!

Sippel Farm featured on American Pickers

The Bruce and Vickie Sippel farm, rural Groton, was featured Monday on on American Pickers. This is a show on the History Channel. Bruce and his son, Adam, were featured on the show.



Adam is pushing a door open so the American Pickers could get a prized item out of the shed. (Photos taken from the History Channel Show)



The middle photo features Adam (wearing the white shirt) and Bruce (wearing the red hat) as they were introduced to the hosts of the show. (Photos taken from the History Channel Show)

Record Low Temps January 30, 2019

Location	Temperature	Previous Record	Year
Britton	-40°F	-36°F	1996
Summit	-38°F	-32°F	1996
Aberdeen	-37°F	-32°F	1916
Eureka	-37°F	-36°F	1916
Watertown	-33°F	-28°F	1918
Webster	-31°F	-30°F	1893
Roscoe	-29°F	-26°F	1996

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DeHoet has double-double night against Vermillion

Brodyn DeHoet had 19 points and 20 rebounds, far exceeding anyone else on either team, in Groton Area's 58-45 loss to Vermillion. It was part of the Dak12 vs. NEC games played in Madison.

Webster, Redfield-Doland and Deuel were victorious for the NEC. Game scores were:

Dakota Valley 64, Hamlin 60
 Dell Rapids 65, Sisseton 54
 Deuel 60, Canton 40
 Lennox 70, Britton-Hecla 32
 Madison 59, Worthington, Minn. 45
 Redfield/Doland 53, Tri-Valley 45
 Sioux Falls Christian 72, Aberdeen Roncalli 41
 Tea Area 69, Clark/Willow Lake 51
 Vermillion 58, Groton Area 45
 Webster 93, Elk Point-Jefferson 90, 2OT
 West Central 45, Milbank 34

Groton Area jumped out to a 5-0 lead before Vermillion rallied to tie the game at eight and took an 11-8 lead. Groton Area tied the game at 11, but then the Tanagers scored nine straight points to take a 20-11 lead. Later in the second quarter, Vermillion had a seven point run and held a 13-point lead at 32-19. The half time score was 32-21. Dillon Gestring, who was chosen as the Player of the Game, scored all eight of Vermillion's points in the third quarter as Groton Area chipped away at the lead to make it a 40-35 Vermillion lead at the break. (The athletic directors have 2 AD's assigned to each game, 1 NEC and 1 Dak12, and they choose the player of the game)

The Tigers rallied to within one at 41-40 and 43-42, and had opportunities to retake the lead, but the ball refused to drop in the hoop and Vermillion went on to win. In the fourth quarter, the Tanagers were 10 of 13 from the free throw line.

In the first quarter, Groton Area was four of 13 from the field for 31 percent while Vermillion was eight of 20 for 40 percent. Tommy Nikkel came off the bench to score nine points for Vermillion while DeHoet had seven points and Diegel had a three-pointer.

In the second quarter, the Tigers were three of 14 for 21 percent and Vermillion was six of 18 for 33 percent. Groton Area was three of eight from the free throw line, Cade Guthmiller had six points for Groton Area and Vermillion's Max Mayer had seven points.

The Tigers were five of 16 in shooting in the third quarter for 31 percent and Vermillion was four of 14 for 29 percent. Treyton Diegel made two three-pointers and Kaden Kurtz made one three-pointer. Dillon Gestring had all eight of Vermillion's points.

In the fourth quarter, the Tigers were four of 12 for 33 percent while Vermillion was four of nine for 44 percent. DeHoet had seven points and Diegel had a three-pointer. Vermillion was 10 of 13 from the line.

Others scoring for Groton Area were Treyton Diegel with 12 points (four three-pointers), Cade Guthmiller with eight, Kaden Kurtz five and Austin Jones one. For Vermillion, Dillon Gestring and Max Mayer with 11 each, Tommy Nikkel had nine, Jakob Dobney, Noah Gilbertson and Connor Saunders with seven each, and Cael Mockler and Sam Ward with three points each.

Groton Area was even of 27 in three-pointers for 26 percent while Vermillion did not make any three-pointers in their 10 attempts. The Tigers shot 28 percent for the game, making 16 of 57 shots while Vermillion shot 32 percent for the game, making 22 of 67 shots. Groton Area was six of 14 from the line for 43 percent off of Vermillion's 13 team fouls. Vermillion was 14 of 18 for 78 percent off of Groton Area's 19 team fouls. Vermillion had the edge on offensive rebounds, 17-12, and Groton had the edge on defensive rebounds, 28-27. Kurtz had six rebounds and Guthmiller had five. Groton Area had twice as many assists than Vermillion, 12-6, with Guthmiller having three and DeHoet, Diegel, Jones and Kurtz each having two. Groton Area had 17 turnovers with eight of them being steals as Dobney and Nikkel each had three. Vermillion had 12 turnovers with seven of them being steals as Guthmiller had four.

Groton Area, now 4-8 on the season, will be at Langford Area on Tuesday.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by the Aberdeen Chrysler Center.

Lazy Farmers 4-H

The January 6th meeting place was changed to Northern Electric and the time changed to 4:30. Cassandra and Travis Townsend were the hosts. Porter Jones lead us in the US pledge and Kayla Leir lead us in the 4-H pledge. Logan Peterson did a demonstration on how to make Monster Cookies, Travis Townsend did a talk about 3-D printing, Cassandra Townsend did a demonstration on how to make a Mason Jar Recipe, Faith Flihs did a talk on The Parts of a Bow, Jayla Jones did a talk on How a herd can benefit a Horses Health, Lexi Osterman did a demonstration on How to Make Ice Cream Cubes, and she also did a talk about Water usage, Alica Davis did a demonstration on Creating Faux Finishes, Journey Zieroth did a demonstration on how to make a paper snowflake, Delayne Jones did a talk about Coon Coon Pigs, Devan Howard did a talk about Driving Tips in the Winter, Tessa Erdmann did a talk on 4-H ambassador. The next meeting will tentatively be held Febuary 10th at Jameson Stanges starting with crafts at 1:00pm and meeting at 2:30

Respectfully, Faith Flihs reporter

Clark/Willow Lake girls win

Clark/Willow Lake came to town Tuesday evening where the Cyclones posted a 53-40 win over the Lady Tigers. Clark/Willow Lake led at the quarterstops at 12-11, 25-13 and 40-25.

Gracie Traphagen led the Tigers with eight points followed by Eliza Wanner and Jennie Doeden with six each, Miranda Hanson had five, Kaycie Hawkins four, Tadyn Glover, Kenzie McInerney and Allyssa Locke with three each and Maddie Bjerke added two points. Doeden and Wanner each had nine rebounds.

Janae Kolden led the Cyclones with 18 points followed by Abbie Bratland with 16, Charity Kabwe six, Saylor Burke five, Jaycie Forbes three, Olivia Sass two and Chayla Vig and Allison Kanngieter with one apiece.

Groton made 40 percent of its field goals and was one of two from the line off of the Cyclone's 10 team fouls. Clark/Willow Lake made 12 of 19 free throws off of Groton Area's 14 team fouls. The Tigers had 16 turnovers while the Cyclones had eight.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Allied Climate Professionals, Bahr Spray Foam, Blocker Construction, Doug Abeln Seed Company, James Valley Seed - Doug Jorgensen, John Sieh Agency, Locke Electric, Milbrandt Enterprises, Inc.; Northeast Chiropractic Clinic, Professional Management Services, Inc.; Sanford Health, Tyson DeHoet Trucking and Weber Landscaping. Make sure you tell them thank you and patronize them as well.

Groton Area won the JV game, 24-17. Caitlynn Barse led the Tigers w with six points followed by Gracie Traphagen with five, Allyssa Locke had four, Maddie Bjerke three and Trista Keith, Kenzie McInerney and Brooke Gengerke each had two points.

Cyclones score 18 straight to beat Groton Area boys team

Cyclones remain undefeated with win over Groton Area Clark-Willow Lake scored 18 straight points to take the thunder out of Groton Area and control of the game to post a 72-49 win. The Cyclones remain undefeated at 10-0. The Tigers drop to 4-8 on the season.

Brodyn DeHoet scored 13 points in the first quarter which included three three-pointers as he led the Tigers with 19 points. Kaden Kurtz made two three-pointers in the second half and finished with eight points. Treyton Diegel also made two three-pointers and finished with eight points. Jayden Zak had one three-pointer and five points. Cyruss DeHoet made a three-pointer in the fourth quarter for three points. Cade Guthmiller, Austin Jones and Tristan Traphagen each had two points.

Grayson Florey led the Cyclones with 23 points while Micah Burke had 18, Stone Burke had a doubledouble night with 15 points and 11 rebounds and Jacob Prouty had 13 points.

Groton Area made 19 of 51 field goals for 46 percent, was two of two from the line, had 14 assists with B. DeHoet and Kurtz each having four. Groton Area had nine fouls for the game and Clark-Willow Lake had six. The The Tigers had 14 turnovers with seven of them being steals. The Cyclones had 15 turnovers with five of them being steals as Diegel and Kurtz each had two. Clark-Willow Lake had the edge on the boards, 33-26. B. DeHoet had six rebounds.

Groton Area started out strong, taking a 6-0 lead and led it, 10-5. The Cyclones came back to tie the game at 10 and then there were three lead changes before Clark-Willow Lake took a 21-18 lead after the first quarter. Groton Area closed to within one, 21-20, to start the second quarter before the Cyclones made 18 straight points to take a 39-20 lead, leading 37-30 at half time and 56-39 after three quarters.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by the Aberdeen Chrysler Center.

Clark-Willow Lake won the junior varsity game, 42-31. Jayden Zak led the Tigers with 12 points while Cole Simon had five, Tristan Traphagen four, Lane Tietz and Chandler Larson each had three and Wyatt Hearnen and Isaac Smith each had two points.



**Vermillion 58
Groton Area 45**



**Clark/WL 53
Groton Area 40**



**Clark/WL 72
Groton Area 49**

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Governor to address nursing home funding crisis in S.D.

By: Bart Pfankuch

This story was produced by South Dakota News Watch, a non-profit news organization. Find more in-depth reporting at www.sdnews-watch.org.

In her first budget address on Wednesday, Gov. Kristi Noem will discuss the under-funding of South Dakota nursing homes that has led to a recent wave of closures.

The governor's speech is part of a growing momentum toward reform of nursing home funding during the ongoing legislative session in Pierre.

Three nursing homes closed over the past three years and two more are slated for closure next month, causing a loss of jobs and putting a hardship on displaced elderly and disabled residents and their families.

Another 17 former Golden Living Centers in South Dakota are facing financial challenges and are being operated by a state-approved receivership created after the New Jersey firm running the homes went bankrupt last year.

Industry officials say more closures are likely unless South Dakota improves its payment rate under Medicaid, which pays for the care of about 55 percent of the patients in the state's roughly 110 nursing homes.

South Dakota has the lowest Medicaid reimbursement rate in the country, causing homes to lose \$35 a day for each Medicaid patient and resulting in a \$42 million overall annual funding shortfall for long-term care facilities across the state.

Randy Bury, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society, which runs 32 senior care facilities in South Dakota including several nursing homes, said more homes are sure to close if state funding doesn't increase soon.

"It's not a risk of more closures, it's a certainty," said Bury, who became president of the society after its recent merger with Sanford Health. "It's simple math. If you're running a business and with over half of that business you're losing money every day, you can Band Aid and cost cut and everything, but over time you're going to end up in the red."

Kristin Wileman, a spokeswoman for the governor, confirmed in an email to News Watch on Tuesday that Noem "intends to address nursing home funding and larger model of care issues in her budget address."

Wileman did not provide specific details about what Noem will say or ideas she may put forward.

In a recent interview, however, Noem expressed a strong interest in helping nursing homes stay afloat. Noem said she was sad to see the recent closure of the nursing home in Bryant, S.D., the hometown of her husband, Bryon, where they have a strong family connections.

"People want their families to be cared for and cared for in their communities close to them so they can be with them," Noem said in an interview last month on WNAX Radio 570.

In that interview, Noem said the low Medicaid reimbursement rate is putting nursing homes at risk and that low pay is negatively affecting the ability of nursing homes to recruit qualified employees.

"If a big population in those nursing homes is on Medicaid, they're losing money every day their doors are open," Noem said. "They can't recruit nurses and aides and doctors and professionals into those communities and pay them enough to be competitive."

Noem, who will give her first budget address at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, hinted that she would support legislation to improve the financial

stability of nursing homes both in small towns and urban areas.

"It is a concern," Noem told the radio station. "It's something I'm seriously looking at what we can do to continue to keep those services in our smaller communities. But ... it's not unique to a certain size of town or community in our state."



Nursing home costs have risen as home health care options have grown. Those care options have kept elderly residents at home longer. Now those entering nursing homes have more serious medical conditions requiring constant care, industry officials say.

Patient care costs have risen

The recent nursing home closures in Bryant, Rosholt and Tripp and the pending home closures in Madison and Mobridge have shone a light on the financial vulnerability of long-term care facilities in South Dakota.

Bury acknowledged that to some people the \$181 per-day cost of care for a nursing home patient might seem high, and that he thought so, too, until he visited long-term care facilities.

Bury said that years ago nursing homes were more like clubhouses with mostly able-bodied residents. Now, he said, with greater patient access to health care and home care prior to arriving at a nursing home, residents come with more frequent and intensive medical needs that raise the cost far beyond providing room and board.

"The same facility that my parents went into looked very different," he said. "Now, you see lots of people bed-bound, limited to a wheel chair and with serious medical conditions that take constant care."

The Certified Nursing Assistants who do much of the basic patient care in nursing homes are generally underpaid, leading to extremely high position turnover and difficulty in attracting qualified employees, said Mark Deak, executive director of the South Dakota Health Care Association.

The average wage for CNAs in South Dakota is \$12.47 an hour, or about \$26,000 a year, the 46th lowest in the nation.

"We think the world of the CNAs; they're really angels," Deak said. "They do the heavy lifting and they're there emotionally for the residents."

Meanwhile, the thin margin at many nursing homes has reduced the ability of ownership to improve facilities. Most nursing homes in South Dakota are 40 years old, while the average in the Midwest is only 12 years old.

Deak has been meeting with lawmakers and other officials in Pierre to convince them to support meaningful and immediate funding reform for long-term care facilities across the state.

"This is a crisis that could turn into a state-wide disaster if something isn't done," said Deak, who was scheduled to meet with Gov. Noem to discuss the topic on Tuesday.

Deak said awareness of the nursing home funding problems has heightened across the state recently, in part due to the closure of several homes and due to reporting by South

Dakota News Watch and other media.

Deak said that he has been encouraged by recent discussions with lawmakers and state officials that some form of legislation or a funding source to boost Medicaid reimbursements will be found this session.

"There's a lot of rumblings and it's on folks' minds and I'm very encouraged by appropriators I've spoken to," said Deak. "My hope is that they will muster the will and identify the resources to do that so they can to help the folks who care for our elderly or disabled residents."

South Dakota lowest in Medicaid funding

Nursing homes are essentially funded by two groups of patients, those who can pay full price on their own and lower-income patients whose care is paid for through the federal Medicaid and Medicare programs. Medicaid funding, which pays for more than half the nursing home residents in South Dakota, comes from both federal and state governments. South Dakota funds the program at the lowest per-patient rate in the nation, according to the South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations.

Here is how the state compares in per-day funding to neighboring states and to the daily cost of patient care.

State.....	Per-day pay rate
North Dakota.....	\$270.71
Minnesota	\$246.24
Wyoming.....	\$186.89
Daily care cost.....	\$181.46
Nebraska.....	\$180.78
Montana	\$175.09
Iowa	\$174.37
South Dakota	\$146.38

Source: South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations

Several funding options available

Deak said early projections of a revenue surplus in state coffers in the coming fiscal year could provide an opportunity to raise the Medicaid pay rate. He also mentioned the possibility that the new revenues from sales taxes collected on online retail sales could be a source of funding for nursing homes.

Nursing homes and agencies that provide community services to people on Medicaid did receive a funding bump of about 2 percent over the past couple sessions, according to state Rep. Sue Peterson, R-Sioux Falls.

Peterson, who sits on the Joint Committee on Appropriations, said she is hopeful lawmakers can find a more permanent solution either by increasing funding for Medicaid providers or reducing regulations that remove flexibility from operators.

"We need to make sure we're doing it in a magnitude so it makes a difference," Peterson said. "It's a matter of not only doing something about it, but also doing the right thing with reimbursement rates and regulations or a combination of both."

Peterson said that when former Gov. Dennis Daugaard implemented a 10 percent funding reduction for all state departments shortly after taking office, Medicaid funding never rose back to pre-cut levels.

Peterson said money could be allocated by the Legislature in one of three basic ways.

A standalone bill to increase funding could be filed by a lawmaker prior to the Jan. 30 individual bill filing deadline or through a committee by Jan. 31.

A funding amendment could also be added

Continues on next page

Continued from previous page

to an existing bill throughout the session. Peterson said a funding mechanism could also be inserted to the general spending bill that will be crafted by the Joint Appropriations Committee that then requires the approval of both chambers. Any increase in state Medicaid funding likely would be matched at some level by the federal government, she said. Peterson said she has studied Medicaid funding during her legislative career and supports funding reform for Medicaid service providers. "I am keenly in tune to the problem, and very

much focused on doing something about it," she said. "I will use my position on the appropriations committee to try to right what is not right." If Gov. Noem indicates her support for increased funding for nursing homes and community service providers, it increases the chance money will be found, Peterson said. "If the case is made and she supports it, we know it's more likely to be signed when it gets to her desk," she said. Bury said he senses that lawmakers are beginning to understand the depth of the nursing care crisis in South Dakota and he remains optimistic funding reform will take

place this session to provide more financial stability for homes well into the future. "Nobody is asking the government to come in and provide the profit margin or flip the scenario," Bury said. "We're simply asking the government to pay its fair share."

About Bart Pfankuch

Bart Pfankuch, Rapid City, S.D., is an investigative reporter for South Dakota News Watch. A Wisconsin native, he is a former editor of the Rapid City Journal. Bart has spent almost 30 years as a reporter and editor.

Three grapplers take first at Groton Tourney

Three Groton Area wrestlers took first place at the Groton Wrestling Tournament held Saturday. Dragr Monson took first at 113 pounds, Garret Schroeder took first at 152 pounds and Wyatt Locke took first at 285 pounds.

Also placing were Adrian Knutson, second at 285 pounds, Thomas Cranford, second, at 182 pounds, and Grady O'Neill fourth at 195 pounds.

Groton Area placed fourth in the tournament.

106: Porter Johnson (12-6)

Champ. Round 1 - Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 12-6 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Ethan Opitz (Webster Area JV) 5-9 won by fall over Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 12-6 (Fall 1:35)

Cons. Round 2 - Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 12-6 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 3 - Jacob Johnson (Milbank JV) 5-3 won by fall over Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 12-6 (Fall 1:10)

113: Dragr Monson (29-8) placed 1st and scored 28.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 29-8 won by fall over Josh Roth (Viborg/Hurley) 2-6 (Fall 0:23)

Quarterfinal - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 29-8 won by fall over Troy Fastnacht (Wessington Springs/Woonsocket/Wolsey-Wessingtonjv) 1-5 (Fall 0:15)

Semifinal - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 29-8 won by fall over Jackson Maag (Watertown JV) 13-7 (Fall 1:05)

1st Place Match - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 29-8 won by fall over Cody Larson (Warner/Northwestern) 15-11 (Fall 4:55)

152: Garret Schroeder (9-12) placed 1st and scored 26.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Garret Schroeder (Groton Area) 9-12 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Garret Schroeder (Groton Area) 9-12 won by fall over Cole Wilkie (Warner/Northwestern) 3-12 (Fall 0:18)

Semifinal - Garret Schroeder (Groton Area) 9-12 won by fall over Beau Williams (Canton JV) 16-6 (Fall 3:08)

1st Place Match - Garret Schroeder (Groton Area) 9-12 won by fall over Dillon Schneck (Milbank JV) 13-19 (Fall 0:44)

160: Lane Krueger (11-13) scored 8.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 11-13 won by decision over Jehova Ortega (Britton/Hecla) 1-11 (Dec 7-4)

Quarterfinal - Chase Mundt (Britton/Hecla) 10-8 won by major decision over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 11-13 (MD 11-0)

Cons. Round 2 - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 11-13 won by fall over Josh Green (Viborg/Hurley) 1-7 (Fall 2:07)

Cons. Round 3 - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 11-13 won by fall over Levi Weidebusch (Warner/Northwestern) 7-18 (Fall 3:35)

Cons. Semi - Jayden Cordell (Watertown JV) 14-2 won by fall over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 11-13 (Fall 4:16)

170: Evin Nehls (4-4)

Quarterfinal - Tyler Rudebusch (Watertown JV) 12-2 won by fall over Evin Nehls (Groton Area) 4-4 (Fall 0:23)

Cons. Round 1 - Berent Tarabelsi (Sioux Falls

O`Gorman JV) 5-11 won by decision over Evin Nehls (Groton Area) 4-4 (Dec 7-0)

182: Thomas Cranford (9-13) placed 2nd and scored 16.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 9-13 received a bye () (Bye)

Semifinal - Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 9-13 won by fall over Isaac Suter (Canton JV) 22-2 (Fall 1:32)

1st Place Match - Brodie Holtquist (Milbank JV) 7-8 won by fall over Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 9-13 (Fall 1:10)

195: Grady O'Neill (10-18) placed 4th and scored 11.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) 10-18 won by fall over Conner Kessler (Viborg/Hurley) 1-6 (Fall 4:28)

Semifinal - Elijah Isais (Canton JV) 16-6 won by decision over Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) 10-18 (Dec 12-9)

Cons. Semi - Grady Oneill (Groton Area) 10-18 won by fall over Avery Nichols (Clark/Willow Lake JV) 9-10 (Fall 2:33)

3rd Place Match - Sam Loecker (Sioux Falls

O`Gorman JV) 8-16 won by fall over Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) 10-18 (Fall 2:43)

285: Adrian Knutson (14-14) placed 2nd.

Quarterfinal - Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) 14-14 won by fall over Hunter Shoemaker (Huron JV) 5-7 (Fall 2:39)

Semifinal - Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) 14-14 won by injury default over Jake Scheafer (Sioux Falls O`Gorman JV) 10-16 (Inj. 2:26)

1st Place Match - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 20-2 won by fall over Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) 14-14 (Fall 1:41)

285: Wyatt Locke (20-2) placed 1st and scored 24.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 20-2 won by fall over Lucas Rowland (Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle) 2-9 (Fall 0:12)

Semifinal - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 20-2 won by fall over Ethan Engen (Viborg/Hurley) 7-3 (Fall 2:36)

1st Place Match - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 20-2 won by fall over Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) 14-14 (Fall 1:41)

G.A.T. Wrenches and G-Force are champions of Groton Robotics Tournament

Groton Robotics' G-Force team (Travis Townsend, Tannor McGannon, Dan Feist, Corbin Reich) and their alliance partner G.A.T. Wrenches (Noah Tullis, Thomas Cranford, Adrian Knutson) were victorious over an alliance of Groton Robotics' Gear Heads (Ethan Clark, Jackson Dinger, Axel Warrington, Kamryn Flihs) and a Britton-Hecla team in the championship robotics match Saturday, January 19 in Groton.

The fast moving, cap flipping robot of Gear Heads added a defensive cap-descoring arm for this tournament. This added another dimension to their game strategy, making them more competitive and helping them advance to tournament finals for the first time this year. The teams' efforts are paying off.

Teams came from Eureka, Britton-Hecla and Sioux Falls to compete with Groton. Due to the weather, Box Elder, Mitchell, Harrisburg and Menno were not able make it to the tournament. In South Dakota right now there are 43 teams registered from 15 different communities competing in VEX middle/high school robotics. Other communities are Canton, Rapid City, Lead/Deadwood, North Sioux City, Spearfish, Jefferson and Vermillion

If you want to know more about Vex Robotics, here are a couple of websites to check out: www.robotevents.com and www.roboticseducation.org . You also may talk to any GT Robotics member or their coach, Jim Lane.

The Kiwanis club has asked the GT Robotics club to partner with them at their annual pancake brunch. Please come to the community center January 27 for pancakes. Tickets are on sale now from either Kiwanis or GT Robotics members or available at the door.

Results from the Groton competition for all five of GT Robotics' teams are below, along with results for this year's prior tournaments. Not to brag, but Groton has had a team in the championship match in every tournament so far this year! Please pat these young robotists on the back for their work all year long.

Rankings of GT Robotics teams at the end of qualifying rounds for the tournaments:

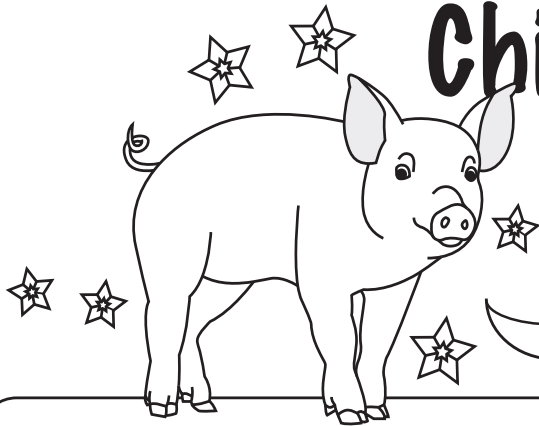
Tournament	Groton	Mitchell	Harrisburg	Rapid City	Canton	Groton
Number of teams in Tourney	11	23	24	20	16	13
9050A G-Force	2	22	7	3	2	3
9050B Gear Heads	10	19	6	9	16	4
9050C G.A.T. Wrenches	11	16	2	n/a	3	1
9050D Geek Squad	7	18	15	17	15	9
9050E Galaxy	5	3	19	13	12	11

How far did GT Robotics team get in elimination rounds (playoffs)?

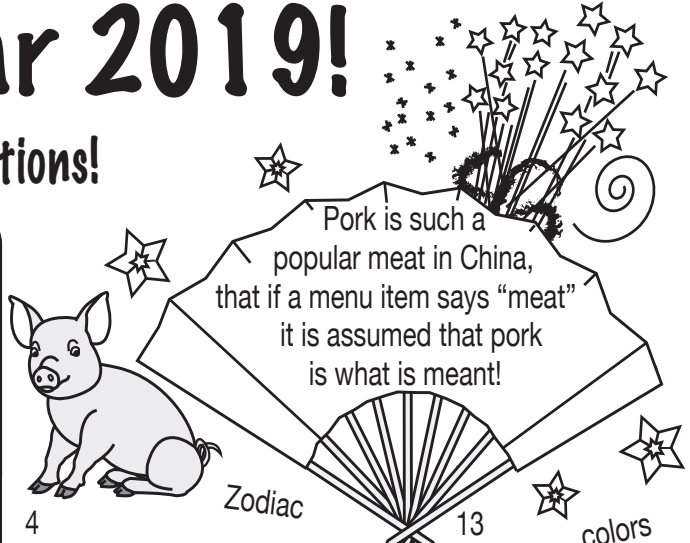
Tournament	Groton	Mitchell	Harrisburg	Rapid City	Canton	Groton
9050A G-Force	Champion		Champion	Finals	Finals	Champion
9050B Gear Heads		Quarter	Quarter	Semi	Semi	Finals
9050C G.A.T. Wrenches	Finals	Semi	Finals	n/a	Finals	Champion
9050D Geek Squad	Semi	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter
9050E Galaxy	Semi	Finals	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter	Semi

Chinese New Year 2019!

Best Wishes and Congratulations!

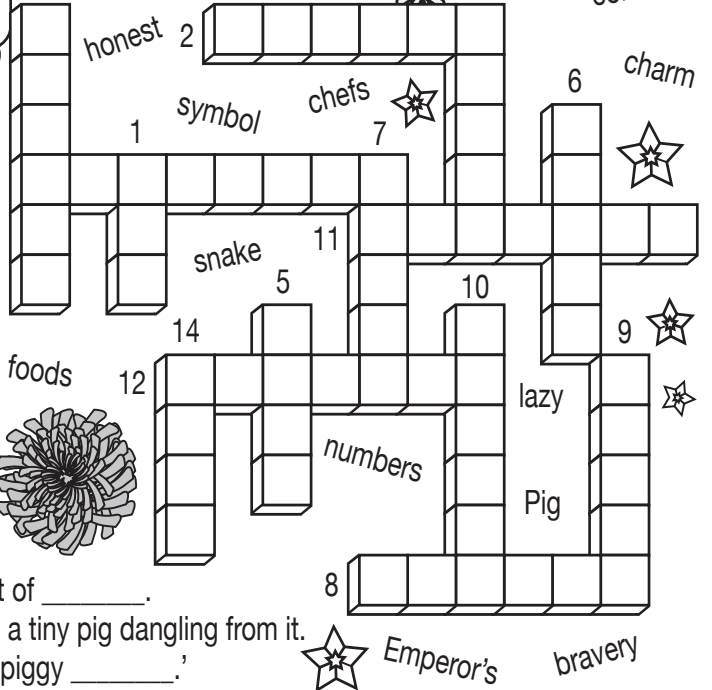


In 2019, the Chinese New Year celebration starts on Tuesday, February 5th, and ends with the Lantern Festival on Tuesday, February 19th. The Chinese Calendar has a 12-year cycle with each year represented by an animal. 2019 is the **Year of the Pig**, a lucky creature, but one that can be easily led to believe anything others tell it. People born in an animal's year are said to have some of its characteristics. The Chinese New Year is a time of **family**. In many large cities worldwide there are lots of fun events: dinners, parades, concerts, races, zoo visits and fireworks.



Read the clues to fill in the puzzle about the Year of the Pig:

- This year, 2019, is the Year of the _____.
- The pig is the twelfth animal in the Chinese _____.
- The pig was the last to arrive at the Jade _____ important meeting, so it is last in the Zodiac.
- Pigs are said to be popular, _____ and gentle.
- People born in the Year of the Pig may be a bit _____ and sluggish.
- Luckily, these people are also thought to make great _____ and interior decorators.
- The pig gets along very well with the tiger and rabbit, but not with the slithering _____.
- Lucky _____ for the Year of the Pig are orange, white, pink and red.
- Pork is one of the most popular _____ in Chinese homes.
- The pig is a _____ of the yin, the dark half of a Chinese yin-yang. It stands for passion, growth and femininity.
- Lucky _____ for the Year of the pig are 2, 5, and 8. But, stay away from numbers 1, 3, and 9.
- In ancient times, men were expected to catch a pig (or wild boar) with their bare hands as a test of _____.
- People wear red _____ necklaces and bracelets for good luck; people born in 2019 will have a tiny pig dangling from it.
- The pig is a symbol of wealth in China, and elsewhere too! People worldwide store money in a 'piggy _____.'

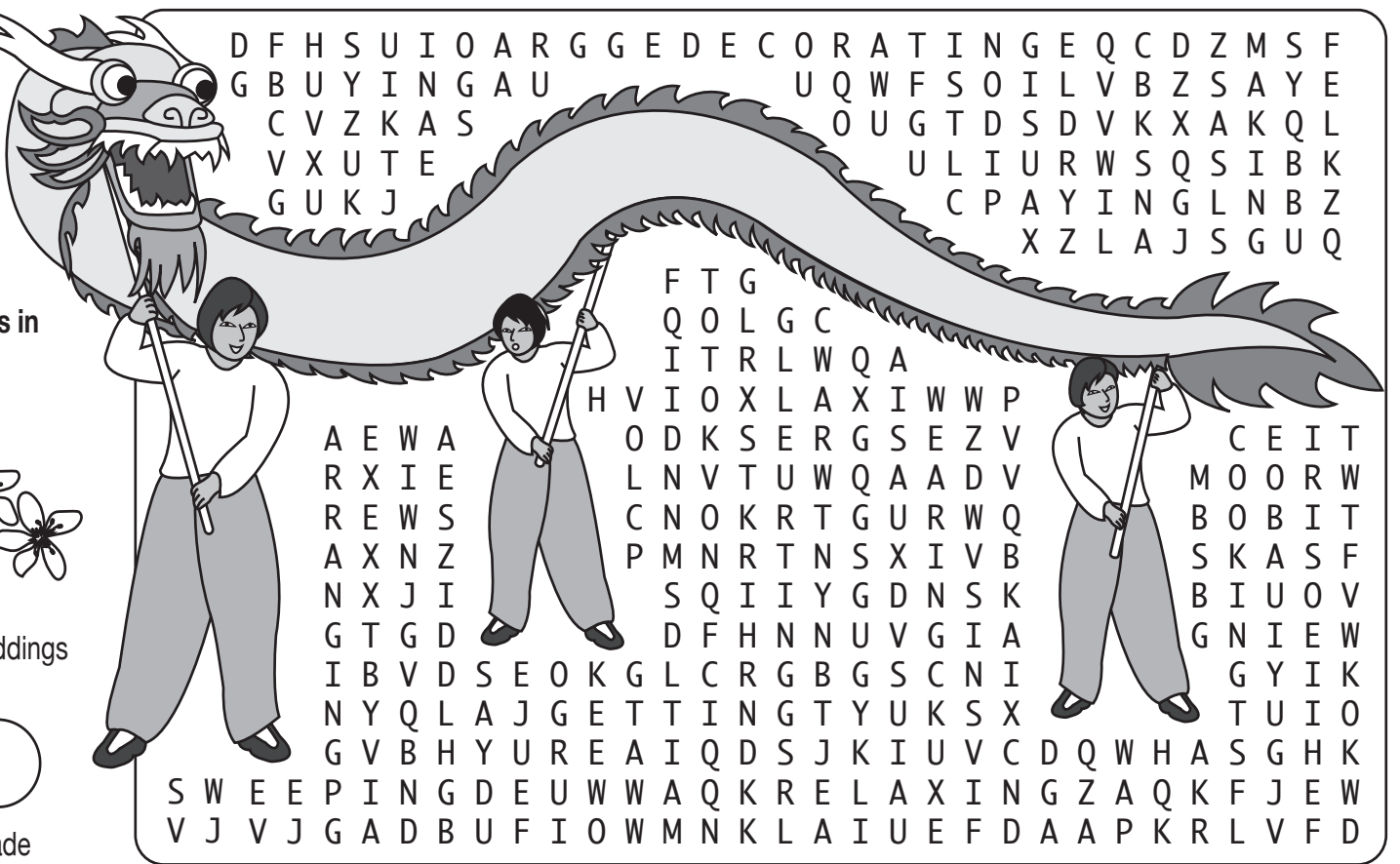


Spring Festival

Many families work hard to prepare themselves and their homes for the New Year. Listed below are some of their activities during the 15-day celebration.

Can you find and circle the words in bold in the puzzle?

- sweeping** away the old, the dust
- getting** a new haircut
- paying** back debts
- arranging** flower blossoms
- buying** tangerines and oranges
- decorating** houses
- cooking** long noodles and rice puddings
- relaxing** with family and friends
- wearing** new clothes
- honoring** ancestors
- making** lanterns
- watching** dragons dance in a parade

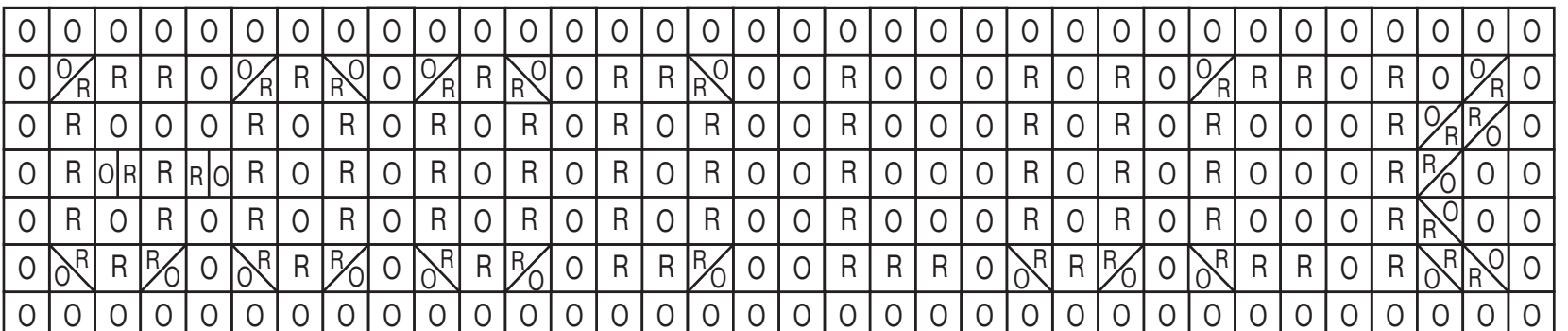
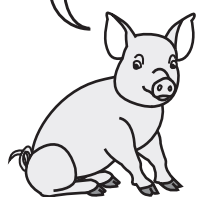


Success and Happiness

When you finish the puzzle below you will see the reason behind the "dragon's" dance in New Year's parades. You also will see the wish behind the money given in little red packets (called Hongbao or Lai See). Red is a color of joy and this generous wish. Follow the color key to fill in the puzzle and see what everyone is wishing for...

R = Red O = Orange

2019...it's my year to shine!



CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	
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59						60				61		
62						63				64		

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THEME: CIVIL RIGHTS

- ACROSS**
- Forever and a day
 - Lena Dunham or Allison Williams, 2012-2017
 - Organ of balance
 - Red carpet purse
 - What Jack Sprat couldn't eat
 - The Brady Bunch children, e.g.
 - Quinceanera or bat mitzvah
 - Wagon part
 - You can count on these
 - Permission for absence from a college
 - Heart of the matter
 - Smart _____, pl
 - Perceive by touch
 - Be dependent
 - Fedora part, pl.
 - * _____ Housing Act
 - *Voter test, now illegal
 - Climber's destination
 - Ireland's other name
 - " _____ the season ..."
 - Written corrections
 - *Mandela presided over its southernmost country
 - Kind of acid
 - Perpendicular to the keel
 - *Segregation laws
 - French bun
 - *Stop segregation, e.g.
 - Authoritative proclamation
 - 40 winks
 - Not to be given to those in authority
 - Zeus' wife
 - Manhattan Project invention
 - Nadya Suleman's children, e.g.
 - Chocolate tree
 - Subject of "Philadelphia" movie
 - "Dear Diary..." note
 - Kind of southern pie
 - Cup of joe
 - Chico or Groucho
 - Happen again
 - Cured sausage
 - Do like Demosthenes
 - Member of Shoshonean people
 - What moon did
 - *Montgomery Bus _____
 - Produced by inbreeding
 - Brown league
 - Kind of ray
 - Flying toy
 - *He challenged nonviolence
 - Juice alternative
 38. '70s Ford model
 - Craving
 40. Farm pen
 - Evening in Italy
 41. Meat grinder, e.g.
 - Dead to the world
 44. For all to see
 - Harry Potter's mark
 46. Model-builder's wood of choice, pl.
 - Wet nurse
 48. * _____ on Washington
 - Ottoman officer title
 49. Blue-Green scum
 - CafE alternative
 50. *Nobel Peace Prize winner
 - Kind of bean
 51. Light bulb
 52. Necessary thing
 53. Office dispatch
 54. Roentgen's machine
 55. Langley, VA org.
 58. "Eureka!"
- DOWN**
- *"The _____ of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice"

Groton Prairie Mixed

Team Standings:
Chipmunks 52, Cheetahs 47 1/2, Foxes 42, Jackelopes 37 1/2, Shih Tzus 34, Coyotes 27

Men's High Games: Brad Waage 233, 204, Mike Siegler 225, Chris Kassube 220, Roger Spanier 200

Women's High Games: Lori Giedt 190, Nicole Kassube 154, Karen Spanier 151

Men's High Series: Brad Waage 617, Mike Siegler 589, Brad Larson 518

Women's High Series: Lori Giedt 458, Karen Spanier 439, Nicole Kassube 415

NOTICES

GUN SHOW: Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Association 17th Annual ABERDEEN Gun Show. New location. Saturday, February 2, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, February 3, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dakota Event Center on LaMont East. Laura Ennen 701-214-3388. (0109.0130)

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Friday, March 22

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Chinese New Year 2019!

The Year of the Pig

Best Wishes and Congratulations!
Spring Festival

People born in the year of the pig:

Success and Happiness

Everyone is hoping for:

GOOD LUCK

Groton Area Schedule of Events

Thursday, January 31, 2019

4:00pm: Basketball: Boys 7th/8th Game vs. Webster Area High School @ Webster Armory (7th grade at 4 p.m., 8th grade at 5 p.m.)

6:30pm: Basketball: Girls Varsity Game vs. Tiospa Zina @ Groton Area High School

Friday, February 1, 2019

Boys Basketball at Tiospa Zina. (C game at 5:15 p.m. followed by junior varsity and varsity games)

Saturday, February 2, 2019

10:00am: Basketball: Groton Area girls vs. Dakota Valley @ Madison High School main gym. (DAK 12 vs NEC Conference Clash)

10:00am: Wrestling: Boys Varsity Tournament @ Stanley County High School

Monday, February 4, 2019

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

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Girls' Basketball hosts Aberdeen Roncalli. (JV at 6:30 p.m. followed by varsity game.)

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

Small Group Music Contest at Northern State University

10:15am- 3:10pm: MathCounts at Northern State University (North-eastern South Dakota Chapter Competition)

Thursday, February 7, 2019

1:30pm- 8:30pm: Parent/Teacher Conferences at GHS Gymnasium and Groton Area Elementary School

Friday, February 8, 2019

Rushmore Challenge Debate at Harrisburg High School
Faculty Inservice - No School

Doubleheader Basketball with Warner in Groton. (Girls JV at 4 p.m., Boys JV at 5 p.m., Varsity girls at 6:30 p.m. followed by Varsity boys game.)

The Life of Denny Davies



Services for Dennis "Denny" Davies, 63, of Groton was held Saturday, January 26, 2019 at the United Methodist Church, Groton. Pastor Brandon Dunham officiated. Burial will take place at a later date in Wilmot.

Denny passed away January 22, 2019 at his home.

Dennis Wayne was born on November 30, 1955 in Minneapolis, MN to Evan and Maxine (Caldwell) Davies. His early years were spent in Minneapolis. They later moved to Waubay where Denny attended school. He graduated from Sisseton High School and enlisted in the US Navy in November of 1973. Following his honorable discharge in 1977, he returned to South Dakota. On September 29, 1979 he was

united in marriage with Teresa McFarlane in Wilmot. That same year, Denny enlisted in the Army National Guard and served for the next 18 years. In 1980, they moved to Groton where Denny was employed at Darrel's Sinclair. Years later he began a 23 year career at the Groton Area School District as a custodian.

Dennis loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. He enjoyed the outdoors and could often be found fishing or hunting. He was an avid Notre Dame football fan, along with a Garth Brooks fan. His dog, Bo also held a very special place in his heart.

Celebrating his life is his wife, Teresa, children, Jessica (Allen) Ekern of Watertown, Traci (Dale) Kramer of Groton, Andrew (Amanda) Davies of Sioux Falls, grandchildren; Abby and Evan Ekern, Emma Davies, Gabbie, Ava and Skyler Kramer, his siblings, Gary Davies of Fayetteville, NC, Darrell Davies (Sharon Wattier) of Webster, Linda (Virgil) Lewandowski of Waubay, Tammy Red Wing of Choctaw, OK, Grace (Jim) Brian of Meriden, KS.

Preceding him in death were his parents, one brother, Evan and a brother-in-law, Tim.

Honorary Casketbearers were Staff at Groton Area High School, Merle Harder, Tom Pigors, Butch Farmen, Groton Transit Employees,

Avera St. Lukes Dialysis Team and Former Employees of Darrel's Sinclair.

Casketbearers were Mike Davies, J.R. Lewandowski, Jim Gerdes, Alan McFarlane, Dana McFarlane and Mike Nehls.

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Presentation College Fall Lists

Presentation College has announced the President and Dean Lists for the Fall 2018 semester. To qualify for the President's List, students must earn a 4.0 grade point average for the semester. Students maintaining a 3.5 grade point average or greater are included on the Dean's List.

Groton Area Students:

President's list: Jamie Krueger

Dean's List: Sean Schuring

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