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# The Groton Independent

Vol. 138 No. 10 ♦ Groton, South Dakota ♦ Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2020 ♦ Established in 1889



There is a lot of equipment being used as the scaffolding is attached to the tower while the welders weld the new water tower together. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



You can see the ball of fire as welding work is being done on the new water tower. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Welding and grinding. And more welding and grinding and work continued a week ago on Sunday on the new Groton water tower. (Photos by Paul Kosel)

## Water Tower Construction moving along



The bowl to the water tower was assembled on Wednesday. As work continues to progress, the crew is working seven days a week and as soon as the bowl is fully assembled, the big crane will arrive in Groton as the sections to the tower will then be assembled. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Three sections make up the base of the new water tower. All three sections were put in place on Wednesday with the first section featured on the left, the second section featured on the right and the third section featured in the above photo.







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**That's Life**  
by Tony Bender

of authoritarian regimes of the past, I could not in good conscience stay silent. "Be careful what you say," we were told. "Either you're with us or against us," the president warned the world. In the name of freedom, we tortured prisoners.

Those were not popular columns in conservative circles. People tend to lose the ability to think critically amidst the fevers of war and politics, so some of my editors received phone calls and letters, and some of them folded under the pressure and pulled my column, forever losing my respect. Censored for unpopular political speech.

But I was right then, just as I was decades earlier as a teenager watching the nightly news about Vietnam and the lottery that might have called me into the battle when I turned 18. I was right about Vietnam as were the protesters who took to the streets after seeing their friends leave on military transports never to return. I was one of the lucky ones. The war ended when I was still in high school.

Some of you may be aware that these days, along with this column, I also write one for daily newspapers owned by Forum Communications, the focus of which is usually political commentary. I decided that with that outlet, I had an opportunity to refocus here on the human interest stories I love so much, stories about friends, here and gone, about my perspective from this spot on the prairie. And I further resolved that if I was going to write about politics, I'd look for the humor and absurdity in it, because in retrospect, I realized that after 9/11, I sometimes got preachy and strident, and no one wants to hear sermons from know-it-all writers.

But sometimes you simply cannot ignore what's in front of you, and sometimes I struggle to see the humor in it. A couple of weeks ago, I took people to task for reckless behavior during this pandemic, and because responsible behavior is often scorned as simpering liberalism, I was taken to task a few times. After all, my home base is in McIntosh County, where 74% voted for Donald Trump in 2016, about 11 points higher than the rest of the state, which is the second-most conservative in the country.

Well, I'm right about the irresponsible, unneighborly behavior during this pandemic, too. We can't just wish it away. Our actions and inaction have consequences. People are dying, familiar faces, and others have been so wrecked by the disease, they'll never be the same. That's not a liberal speaking. That's an American speaking, someone who loves his country and wants us to do better. Viruses are apolitical. History shows that we've been better than we are now.

I don't know what the next three months or the next four years will bring. That will depend upon our better angels and our ability to stop demonizing people for their politics while remembering that they're fathers, sons, mothers, daughters, and neighbors—a community. We can debate. We can disagree. It's a process. Sometimes half a loaf is enough.

It's up to us. Our leaders only have as much power as we allow them to have, so we ought not follow them into dark places. Our differences shouldn't stop us from reaching out and helping those in need, pulling together because we're stronger that way, and most importantly, reaching deep inside to examine the values instilled by generations past, examining whether we're living up to our potential as people, as a community, and as a nation. Ask yourself, would your great-great grandparents be proud of you now? More importantly, what will your great-great-grandchildren think about the world you've left them?

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**Choose Respect Not Fear**

My son is a cub scout, and I am den leader. Recently our den met outside and practiced putting up tents and learned how to build a fire. With efforts to stay distanced, every scout made his own s'more, and we had such a fun time.

One highlight of the evening was letting each scout try to light the fire. We went through a series of mistakes with the matches and thankfully no one got hurt. They were so proud to learn how to light a match and start a fire. However, it was also daunting for them. One scout specifically commented on how excited he was and how scared he was. I tried to teach safe techniques and explained how you do not need to fear fire, but you do need to respect it.

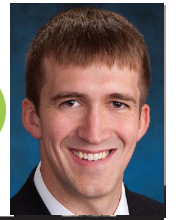
Approaching something with respect rather than fear is helpful in so many things in life. Whether it be a wild animal, fire, or a weapon, cautious respect is usually more helpful than fear. Education and experience, without losing that caution and respect, may be lifesaving.

Those principles could be helpful as we cope with COVID-19. Depending on your situation, you may not be afraid, or you could be overcome with fear. On the one hand, fear could paralyze us and cripple our response. On the other hand, a complete disregard for measures to help decrease the spread of the virus is like being careless with fire. We all want to return to a normalcy and way of life that is healthy physically, mentally, socially, and economically. However, cases are on the rise and denial of reality and a disregard for others is fuel for the fire.

The efforts of so many people to decrease the spread such as social distancing, wearing masks, washing hands, and being careful is helping to give scientists more time to research treatments and vaccinations. Progress is being made, and so many people are united in the same goal of getting through this pandemic, safely, together.

Recently I was visiting with a 98-year-old man. I asked him about this pandemic and what he experienced in the Great Depression and World War II. He was confident we would get through this. We will succeed if we do not let ourselves become divided, but work together, treating the virus with caution, and supporting those around us.

Andrew Ellsworth, M.D. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices family medicine in Brookings, South Dakota. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit [www.prairiedoc.org](http://www.prairiedoc.org) and follow Prairie Doc® on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show streaming on Facebook and broadcast on SDPB most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.



By Andrew Ellsworth, MD ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

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The Minnesota Vikings (2-5) faced a tough test coming out of their bye week, traveling to Green Bay to battle the red-hot Packers (5-2). This game was supposed to be an easy victory by the Packers, who had only lost one game all season and were looking like one of the best teams in the league. The Vikings, on the other hand, were off to one of the worst starts in franchise history and had just traded their starting defensive end in a move that many assumed meant the team was waving the white flag on the season. While many fans were hoping the Vikings would lose this game and thereby giving them a better shot at the top draft pick, the players were all too happy to disappoint fans on Sunday after the 28-22 win.

The game started with both teams doing whatever they wanted on offense. Green Bay got the ball first and drove 75 yards on 13 plays to take a 7-0 lead. The Vikings answered with a 10-play, 73-yard drive of their own to tie the score. Green Bay found the end zone on the following drive (15 plays, 72 yards). Not to be out-done, Minnesota went 67-yards on 12 plays to tie the game 14-14, and suddenly it was halftime.

The Vikings got the ball to start the second half and picked up right where they left off, with a 10-play, 85-yard drive to take a 21-14 lead. Green Bay's luck ran out on their next drive and they turned the ball over on downs. The Vikings took advantage of the opportunity quickly, moving the ball 63 yards on only four plays and taking a 28-14 lead. From there, the Vikings' offense would fail to put up any more points, but the defense was ready and was able to hold Aaron Rodgers and the Packers offense to only one more touchdown and preserving the win. To make it even more impressive, the Vikings were down to only two healthy cornerbacks in the second half of the game after Cameron Dantzler went down with a scary injury and had to be taken off the field on a stretcher, and Kris Boyd went down holding his knee with a non-contact injury.

**Player of the game**

This one is easy. Dalvin Cook made history on Sunday, accounting for 226 yards and all four touchdowns for the Vikings. He is the first player in NFL history to score a touchdown on his team's first four possessions, he is the third player in Vikings history to have over 200 yards and four touchdowns in a game (Chuck Foreman, Ahmad Rashad), and he is the first player with over 200 yards and four touchdowns against Green Bay in Lambeau Field. It was a fantastic day for the fourth-year running back, and reaffirms why the Vikings elected to give him a contract extension this season.

Looking ahead, the Vikings will return home and prepare to welcome the Detroit Lions to U.S. Bank Stadium. The Lions are 3-4 this season, most recently losing 41-21 to the Indianapolis Colts. The Lions will bring many familiar faces with them, most notably Adrian Peterson and Everson Griffen (who was recently traded from Dallas to Detroit). The Vikings have a good chance to win this game, which I'm sure will make many fans upset. But like Herm Edwards famously said, "You play to win the game!" Skol!



By Jordan Wright



**Billy Butcherson (Tom) and Winifred Sanderson (Patti Woods) were having a blast on Halloween.**

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**Jerry Peltier was one of the election day workers on Tuesday at the Groton Community Center. He said he had seen a notice where they were looking for election workers and he said that instead of staying a home and watching TV, he would help out. He baked cookies for those who brought children to the election. "I figured they would be bored so I gave them a cookie," he said. The election workers also enjoyed his cookies.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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# The Life of Alan Townsend

Funeral services for Alan Townsend, 58 of Conde, SD were held November 2nd at the United Methodist Church, Groton, SD with Pastor Brandon Dunham officiating. Burial followed at the Scotland Cemetery, just north of his farm, under the direction of Paetznick-Garnes Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Alan passed away unexpectedly, October 28, 2020 at his Conde farm mending fences, preparing to move cattle home from the pasture.

Alan James Townsend was born December 17, 1961 in Webster, SD to Russell and Marjory (Murray) Townsend. He was the 6th of 8 children. He attended Groton School, with Sandi Oliver as his first teacher. Alan graduated from Groton High School in 1980 where he was part of the Wrestling team, wrestling at a weight of 145lbs. Alan fondly reminded his grandchildren, that he rode the school bus every day from kindergarten through his senior year.

Alan's favorite part of school, each year, was when the farm children could go home for 7 to 10 days in the spring to help their parents plant the crops and again in the fall for harvesting. He knew then, that farming would be his lifelong passion.

His love of farming began at an early age, creating a farm by utilizing rocks as his cattle herd and various gadgets pretending to be his equipment playing from dawn to dusk. He rode horses bareback and practiced his preaching to all that would listen while baptizing his sisters many, many times. Through Sunday School, he learned to love the Lord and shared this blessing with his family.

Alan farmed and raised Black Angus cattle alongside his father, Russell, for 30 years in the Andover and Conde areas. This was referred



to as on-the-job training, and he loved going to this job every day. Each day was a new adventure on the farm. Alan and Zach, shared a special bond, tilling the soil, picking rocks, planting beans and corn, putting up hay, planting trees, expanding and making improvements to the farms, and raising and tending to the cattle. We will remember the sparkle in his eyes, as his efforts were rewarded with the harvesting of the crops and the birth of the new baby calves. Our hearts will be filled with these memories as each season passes.

Farmers always pray for sunshine and rain; Alan was no different. Rain brought Alan and the love of his life, Jolene (Olson) Barton, together when they met on a rainy weekend. This treasure of sunshine and rain united the two in marriage on February 10, 1996 at the Groton United Methodist Church.

Alan will be remembered for his strong faith, his love for his mother, wife, family and his many friends in the community, his humble beginning, his love for the land, and most for his sense of humor.

In his free time, if he had any, but always finding it for his grandchildren, would travel to watch them play ice hockey and softball. Family and friends would gather at their home on Lake Kampeska, Watertown, SD where they would relax on or in the water, where many stories and memories were made.

Celebrating his life is his wife, Jolene of Conde, his mother, Marjory of Andover, his family, Zachary, Stephanie and Henry Townsend of Conde; Chad, Tashia, and Madison, Trey, CJ Barton, Gage Weeks (Maci Bradly), Dustin, Chantel Engel and great-grandchildren, Aubrie, Easton and Laikyn Engel all of Watertown. Alan is also survived by his 7 siblings, David (Judy) Townsend of Denver, CO; Gary (Julie) Townsend of Sioux Falls, SD; Janell (Larry) Little of Madison, SD; Bonnie Townsend of Santa Fe, NM; Janet Deuel of Aberdeen, SD; Dona (John) Schulte of Derby, KS; Laura (Gene) Soukup of Wagner, SD, and many nieces and nephews. Special friends Robert Pigors and Alex Doran.

Preceding him in death was his father, Russell and his brother-in-law, Dean Deuel.

Pallbearers were Dan Krueger, Travis McGannon, Dan Schinkel, Ron Kroll, Dennis Marske and Roni Dobberpuhl. Honorary Pallbearers, who he loved dearly, were his grandchildren, great-children, nieces and nephews. Ushers are Lon Gellhaus, Brad Morehouse and Lars Hanson.

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COUNTY COMMISSIONER AT LARGE - BROWN		
<input type="checkbox"/> FOLLOW THIS CONTEST	VOTE CENTERS FULLY: 12 / 12   PARTIALLY: 0 / 12	EXPORT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RACHEL KIPPLEY Republican	38%	10,220
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DUANE SUTTON Republican	34%	9,227
MICHAEL E. NEHLS Democratic	28%	7,379
		<b>TOTAL VOTES 26,826</b>
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT A: AN AMENDMENT TO THE SOUTH DAKOTA CONSTITUTION TO LEGALIZE, REGULATE, AND TAX MARIJUANA; AND TO REQUIRE THE LEGISLATURE TO PASS LAWS REGARDING HEMP AS WELL AS LAWS ENSURING ACCESS TO MARIJUANA FOR MEDICAL USE.		
<input type="checkbox"/> FOLLOW THIS CONTEST	PRECINCTS FULLY: 622 / 693   PARTIALLY: 71 / 693	
YES	53%	200,554
NO	47%	174,919
		<b>TOTAL VOTES 375,473</b>
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT B: AN AMENDMENT TO THE SOUTH DAKOTA CONSTITUTION AUTHORIZING THE LEGISLATURE TO ALLOW SPORTS WAGERING IN DEADWOOD.		
<input type="checkbox"/> FOLLOW THIS CONTEST	PRECINCTS FULLY: 622 / 693   PARTIALLY: 71 / 693	
YES	59%	216,673
NO	41%	153,611
		<b>TOTAL VOTES 370,284</b>
INITIATED MEASURE 26: AN INITIATED MEASURE TO LEGALIZE MARIJUANA FOR MEDICAL USE.		
<input type="checkbox"/> FOLLOW THIS CONTEST	PRECINCTS FULLY: 622 / 693   PARTIALLY: 71 / 693	
YES	69%	260,769
NO	31%	116,041
		<b>TOTAL VOTES 376,810</b>
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS		
<input type="checkbox"/> FOLLOW THIS CONTEST	PRECINCTS FULLY: 622 / 693   PARTIALLY: 71 / 693	
DONALD J. TRUMP AND MICHAEL R. PENCE Republican	64%	244,635
JO JORGENSEN AND JEREMY "SPIKE" COHEN Libertarian	3%	10,254
JOSEPH R. BIDEN AND KAMALA HARRIS Democratic	33%	126,662
		<b>TOTAL VOTES 381,551</b>
UNITED STATES SENATOR		
<input type="checkbox"/> FOLLOW THIS CONTEST	PRECINCTS FULLY: 622 / 693   PARTIALLY: 71 / 693	
MIKE ROUNDS Republican	68%	257,828
DAN AHLERS Democratic	32%	121,589
		<b>TOTAL VOTES 379,417</b>
UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE		
<input type="checkbox"/> FOLLOW THIS CONTEST	PRECINCTS FULLY: 622 / 693   PARTIALLY: 71 / 693	
DUSTY JOHNSON Republican	82%	296,281
RANDY "URIAH" LUALLIN Libertarian	18%	64,971
		<b>TOTAL VOTES 361,252</b>