



The Groton Independent

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83rd Annual Carnival of Silver Skates



Ron Anderson fastens the snowflakes to the new Silver Skates background. Katie Anderson put in many hours cutting out the snowflakes and painting the background. (Courtesy Photo)



Alexis Hanten, daughter of Cody and Sarah Hanten, was chosen as this year's Carnival of Silver Skates Queen.

(Photo by Sarah Hanten)



Senior Alexis Hanten sang the National Anthem while seniors Tessa Erdmann, Grace Wiedrick, Hailey Monson and Erin Unzen presented the flags. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



The Finale featuring 93 skaters.

(Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Two Friends of the Silver Skates were recognized during the afternoon performance. Karyn Babcock painted the skate that is north of the building and Katie Anderson for your work on redoing the scenery. Pictured left to right are Silver Skates Chairman Lindsey Tietz, Karyn Babcock, Dawn Imrie, Deb Schuelke, Co-ralee Wolter, Tina Kosel, Amanda Sperry, Katie Anderson and Sarah Hanten. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



The 2021 Silver Skates Queen Alexis Hanten is given a ride around the rink in the sleigh pulled by the Silver Skates Queen candidates. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



The 2021 Silver Skates Queen Alexis Hanten. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Junior Snow Queen Lydia Meier and Senior Snow Queen Tiera DeHoet were recognized with Silver Skates 2020 Queen Nicole Marzahn. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



2020 Silver Skates Queen Nicole Marzahn made her final trip around the skating rink. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Snowflakes/Kindergarten "We're All in this Together"
Kinzee Burro, Zoe Burro, Brielle Dunbar, Maci Dunbar, Kinsey Frost, Sophia Gilchrist, Ellie Lasse, Jorie Locken, Presley Olson, Ava Strom, Sunny Washenberger, and Nova Washenberger
Instructors: Ashlyn Sperry and Anna Fjeldheim (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



11th grade "Hold My Hand"
Kennedy Anderson, Brooklyn Imrie, Julianna Kosel, and Tina Zoellner
Instructor: Aubray Harry (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)

The afternoon performance of the Carnival of Silver Skates was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by the Silver Skates Committee.



4th grade "Falling for Ya"
Aubrey Craig, Sam Crank, Abby Fjeldheim, Tenley Frost, Luke Gauer, Tevan Hanson, Adeline Kotzer, Peyton Schuring, Aurora Washenberger, and Kyrie Yeigh. Instructor: Alexis Hanten (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



2nd grade "Shake it Off"
Brynlee Dunker, Ambrielle Feist, Danielle Franken, Caelynn Pullan, Maycee Moody, Mya Moody, Zoe Olson, Victoria Schuster, and Taylynn Traphagen
Instructors: KayLynn Overacker and Marlee Tollifson (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



3rd grade "Love Gets Me Every Time"
Emilee Burro, Rachel Dobbins, Sophia Flihs, Andi Gauer, and Rowan Patterson
Instructor: Carter Barse and Hailey Monson (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Boys group (Snowflake-1st grade) "When I Am Older"
Boe Burro, Colton Pullan, Stetson Foertsch, Saylor Gilchrist, and Jack Schuelke. Instructor: Tessa Erdmann and Erin Unzen (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



1st grade "Faith"
Shealee Gilchrist, Rowan Hanson, Ryan Hanson, Devan Locke, Avery Roettele, Harper Schuring, and Kaylee Sippel
Instructors: Brooklyn Imrie and Kennedy Anderson (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)

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Specialty Act "Rise Up"
Brenna Imrie and Claire Schuelke (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Specialty Act "Sisters"
Alexis Hanten and Teagan Hanten (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



7th and 8th grade "I Want to Break Free"
Mia Crank, Emma Davies, Rylee Dunker, and Emily Overacker
Instructor: Shonna Harry (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Specialty Act "The Night We Met"
Hailey Monson (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Specialty Act "House of the Rising Sun"
Guest Skater, Katherine Pfaff, Watertown Figure Skate Club
She also performed at the second half in the photo below. (Photos lifted from GDILIVE.COM)

We are excited to welcome Katherine Pfaff as our guest skater again this year.

Katherine Pfaff is 16 years old and a sophomore at Watertown High School. She is a member of the Watertown Figure skate club and has been skating for 12 years.

She recently tested and passed the Novice Moves in the Field and Intermediate Free Solo Dance levels. She is also Intermediate Free skate. Katherine's goals are to reach Senior level in all three disciplines before graduating high school.

In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her friends and in the summer swimming and tubing at Lake Kampeska. She is on the golf team at school.

Katherine is the daughter of Scott and Ann Pfaff.



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- **Building Soil Health while Stacking Enterprises and Improving Profitability for The Next Generation.** Jerry Doan, Black Leg Ranch, McKenzie, ND.
- **Building Soil Health into a Corn-Soybean and CornSoybean-Wheat Crop Rotation.** Dr. Abbey Wick, NDSU Extension Soil Health Specialist, Fargo, ND.
- **Building Grassland Soil Health.** Stan Boltz, Regional Soil Health Specialist, USDA-N RC S-SD.
- **Native Soil Nutrient Supply and Carbon Basics.** Anthony Bly, SDSU Soils Field Specialist.
- **The Benefits of Crop Rotation.** Dr. Dwayne Beck, SDSU Dakota Lakes Research Farm.

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10th grade **"I Will Follow Him"**
 Carter Barse, Brenna Carda, Shallyn Foertsch, KayLynn Overacker, and Marlee Tollifson
 Instructors: Katie Anderson and Coralea Wolter (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



9th grade **"Faithfully"**
 Cadence Feist, Anna Fjeldheim, Carly Guthmiller, Sara Menzia, Hannah Monson, Emma Schinkel, and Ashlyn Sperry.
 Instructors: Jasmine Schinkel (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



6th grade **"Symphony"**
 Caroline Bahr, Avery Crank, Teagan Hanten, Addison Hoffman, Brenna Imrie, Emerlee Jones, Claire Schuelke, McKenna Tietz, and Taryn Traphagen
 Instructor: Lindsey Tietz (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



12th grade **"Footloose"**
 Tessa Erdmann, Alexis Hanten, Hailey Monson, Erin Unzen, and Grace Wiedrick (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)
 Instructor: Julie Erdmann

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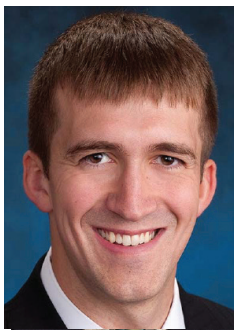
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Just Blow with the Flow

The feeling of pressure and pain in the front of the face around the eyes is all too familiar for millions of Americans.



By Andrew Ellsworth, MD ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

Dakota Outdoors
Erik Dean
402 N Main St
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605.229.0123
dakoutdoors@midconetwork.com

Our sinuses include four pairs of air-filled cavities above and below the eyes and behind the nose. They are helpful for humidifying the air we breathe, resonating our voices, and lightening the weight of our heads. However, the sinuses can be prone to inflammation and infection.

The mucous lining of the sinuses serves as an antimicrobial barrier to infection, and little hairs called cilia help to sweep out unwanted bacteria and viruses. Disruptions to this system commonly come from allergies and viruses. If the passageways get blocked, then bacteria can grow and flourish in the moist, warm, mucous.

Sinusitis is inflammation of the sinuses which can cause the full feeling behind the eyes, pressure, and pain. If left untreated, it can cause fevers and a systemic response from the body. Chronic sinusitis, lasting more than three months, can be caused by allergies, nasal polyps, ongoing infection, a deviated nasal septum, pollutants, or other conditions.

One of the keys to treatment and prevention of sinusitis is keeping the sinuses open and draining. Nasal saline, a saltwater mixture, can be used to help rinse out and open the sinuses and can be just as effective as antibiotics. If allergies are at fault, a steroid nasal spray or steroid pills can be used to decrease inflammation and swelling. A nasal steroid spray can also help treat a nasal polyp, helping to shrink the polyp to aid in the circulation of air and mucous. For some people with chronic and recurring sinusitis, surgery is their best option and can provide welcome relief.

Try this. Hold one nostril shut as you breathe in and out of the other. Now switch to the other nostril and breathe in and out. Chances are you can breathe more freely on one side compared to the other. Wait a few hours, try it again and chances are the opposite side is more open. Congestion in our nose naturally changes sides every four to six hours. If you find that one side is always blocked, then you may want to see your primary doctor or an ear, nose, and throat specialist.

Our bodies are designed for flow. The flow of air, food, blood, waste, and even mucous keeps us healthy. Next time you blow your nose, remember you are helping the natural movement of mucous, so just "blow with the flow."

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 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.

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Lana's Annals

Greetings once again. This week went really quickly as there were more bills being drafted, passed in committee, and presented on the floor for debate.

Our education committee had a lengthy discussion on HB1044, in which the Legislative Tribal Relations Committee asked for Indian education to be moved to the Department of Education. A contentious issue, we discussed the topic for two hours. Tribal Secretary Flute has only been working with native education for two years, and one of these was during covid. As he has two programs in place for advancing learning in reservation schools, we decided to leave things as they currently are. The proponent side favoring the move offered no instructional methods that they would use to enhance the children's learning. Thus HB1044 was sent to the 41st day.

In local government we heard HB1058, which would enable voters to recall a county commissioner. The formula put to us was to have 15 per cent of the voters in the commissioner's district sign the petition for recall. If the members are at large, 5 per cent of the voters in the county could petition for recall. I expressed my opposition for this bill as

a group of people who promoted an area industry or project (Café or dairy, for example) could oppose a commissioner for voting against it, charging him with being "unfairly partial" or "oppressive" and get that person recalled. This bill was brought forth as a result of a dispute occurring in the southern part of the state and in one county. I do not think that as a legislature, we can take a broad brush, based on one local issue, and make a law. As the majority of our committee shared my views, we sent it to the 41st day, which killed the bill.

On the floor we debated HB1015, which opens up the opportunity for more appraisers in our state. As was explained, those who want to get into the profession begin by taking classes and then taking a national test. If they pass, they must find a seasoned appraiser under whom to apprentice. The problem is that many times no one is willing to take on the apprentice. Perhaps they just do not want to end up having more competition in this field.. The bill would open up an apprentice experience training program to combat the problem. Hopefully with the passage of HB1015, home and commercial buyers will be able to close on purchases in a quicker, more efficient manner instead of having to wait about seven weeks for property appraisals.

HB1011, which raises the rates for boiler inspections by 10 dollars, was passed on the House floor. Even though it was a reasonable increase, perhaps, no one said why it was completely necessary. I did not vote for this fee increase.

Also in the House was HB1037 which called for the biennial renewal of licenses for electrical contractors, journeymen, and those in a related profession. That means that they must pay for two years everytime they renew. The fees were not just double but extra cost was added as well. For example, a person who paid 40 dollars for his for one year now must pay 200 dollars total for two years. When asked why so much, the response was the new online software was expensive and the contractors actually wanted to use this online method. I found it hard to believe that people would want to pay that much more. I asked the question what would happen if the contractor only completed one of the two years and either quit or died. Would there then be a refund for the other year? When I found out that no provisions had been made for that, I voted "no." The bill did pass, however, and will go to the Senate commerce committee next.

I have received a lot of correspondence lately on HJR5001. Each year lobbyists come to Pierre to promote this issue because that is what they get paid to do. A few of our legislators are COS (Convention of States) members; most are not. I can only tell you my thoughts. If we had enough states to support the idea, (we do not), we could all decide on one issue we would discuss and then decide on a meeting place. That does not mean that all states who decide on the topic would stand by their word. Once the Constitution is opened, anything is fair game. Those of you who have been involved in contract negotiations will easily perceive this problem. There is nothing in Article V or in any part of the Constitution that authorizes the limiting of the agenda of an Article V Convention. The Supreme Court will not be a part of the amending process. Then what?? On the surface while we look to solve a problem, we could end up with even worse ones such as eliminating of the electoral college (look at how many big states would like that), getting rid of term limits (i.e. Presidential), just to name two. I will listen to the arguments once again, but I am inclined to think a COS would not be beneficial. even though I wish it were.

This next week will even be more chaotic than last week. I will keep you updated as to what transpires! Stay tuned.

Rep. Lana Greenfield
lana.greenfield@sdlegislature.gov

Glimpses From Greenfield

Through three weeks of Session, our Appropriations Committee has continued to be hard at work listening to the Governor's recommendations for funding of the various departments and bureaus of the state government. We also have had a number of subcommittee meetings to drill down on specific issues. There is a real desire to try to provide more resources for those who care for people who cannot care for themselves. This is not to suggest we do not have other key priorities, but I'm gaining a sense there will be a strong focus on long-term healthcare, adjustment training center, mental health institution, and chemical dependency counseling funding. I will keep you apprised of progress we make as we work through the process.

With the passage of IM 26 and Constitutional Amendment A, the voters placed the onus on the legislature to provide a regulatory structure for medicinal marijuana and recreational or adult-use marijuana. While I have not personally been an advocate for the marijuana industry, largely because the drug remains federally prohibited, I do believe we need to provide a legal framework given the public vote. Of course, with Constitutional Amendment A currently the subject of a legal challenge, the courts will weigh in on the legality of adult-use marijuana, but it is still important that we proceed as though that will be the law beginning on July 1. If we choose to wait until subsequent sessions to address these matters, we face the potential of having an entirely unregulated drug industry in South Dakota. As such, I spent several hours last week working with people on both sides of the issue to try to hammer out some language that would be specific to the recreational side of the equation. Also, a small contingent of Senators has been charged with looking at the medical side, and they will report back with their recommendations in the near future. I bring this up because of the MANY questions I have already fielded about what is going on regarding all-things-cannabis. In fact, it was the very first topic of discussion brought up by a constituent at our first cracker barrel of the year.

Most of the bills we have taken up on the Senate floor to-date have been "clean-up" in nature, thus there has not been a lot of controversy. This week on the Senate side, however, we will be starting to get into some bills that have been generating more buzz. One measure that we heard on the floor was SCR 601, which would urge the members of South Dakota's federal Congressional delegation to vote against any bill seeking to make Washington, D.C. a state. Senator Bolin pitched the bill and gave a very strong argument and historical perspective as to why D.C. should not be eligible for statehood, including relative size and why D.C. was established as a non-state in the first place. This was one of the rare measures that was decided on strict party lines with the 32 Republicans voting in favor of the resolution and 3 Democrats voting against it.

Looking ahead, I anticipate legislation addressing the bill that passed last year regarding driver's licenses for young drivers, a revision to the school funding formula as it relates to redistributing wind energy tax dollars that were "equalized" under the 2016 formula re-write, and a host of pro-life measures and pro-gun ownership bills. Also, I will continue working on a bill regarding ensuring the integrity of grain moisture- and protein-measuring devices. I brought a bill three years ago surrounding this issue, and I was told by lobbyists representing the industry that IF we allowed that bill to be killed, they would come back the following year with a proposal everybody could live with. They did not live up to their end of the bargain. Last year, once again, they told a House sponsor a similar message. Since they brought nothing forward, I have asked for a bill identical to last year's draft. I am hopeful that as the conversation evolves we will be able to come up with language that will ensure our producers can have the utmost confidence in the system. We ensure that gas pumps are properly metered and produce scales at the grocery stores are likewise properly calibrated. When it comes to hundreds of thousands bushels of crops, I would think we should be certain that those measuring devices are also tested and certified as accurate. I am also bringing a bill that will seek to clarify a matter relative to media coverage of high school activities. We passed a law several years ago that spoke to this, but the SD High School Activities Association feels they have found a loophole to get around the requirement that ALL media outlets have equal access to our publicly-funded schools' extracurricular activities. I will provide more narrative on this next week.

Until next time, be well, be blessed, and stay safe!
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Three Groton wrestlers take first at Groton Invite

There were 12 teams that came to the Groton Invitational Wrestling Tournament held Saturday with Groton placing fourth overall and four wrestlers placings.

Dragr Monson, who was also the tournament's MVW, took first at 113 pounds, Christian Ehresmann placed first at 126 pounds, Cole Bisbee at 152 pounds placed fourth and Lane Krueger placed first at 195 pounds.

113: Dragr Monson (28-0) placed 1st and scored 21.0 team points.

Dragr Monson won by major decision over Braden Le (Watertown JV) 5-9 (MD 11-0) and in the championship match, he pinned Kayden Carter (Wessington Springs/Woonsocket/Wolsey-Wessington) 22-7 (Fall 2:16)

126: Easten Ekern (8-8)

Easten Ekern was pinned by Nollen Sheeley (Milbank JV) 1-2 (Fall 3:18); he decisioned Braedyn Halvorson (Watertown JV) 0-3 (Dec 7-0); and he was pinned by Mason Krause (Watertown JV) 5-15 (Fall 1:34)

126: Christian Ehresmann (22-3) placed 1st and scored 24.0 team points.

Christian Ehresmann pinned Braedyn Halvorson (Watertown JV) 0-3 (Fall 1:02); he pinned Nollen Sheeley (Milbank JV) 1-2 (Fall 1:52); and in the championship match, he pinned Elliot Bratland (Clark/Willow Lake) 11-8 (Fall 2:12)

132: Nick Morris (0-1)

Nick Morris was pinned by Cole Dowling (Watertown JV) 3-10.

138: Korbin Kucker (14-13) scored 4.0 team points.

Korbin Kucker pinned Aden Roth (Watertown JV) 1-3 (Fall 1:27); he was decisioned by Ethan McElhone (Clark/Willow Lake) 9-6, (Dec 9-3); and he was decisioned by Tyson Eddy (Wessington Springs/Woonsocket/Wolsey-Wessington) 15-11 (Dec 7-3)

152: Cole Bisbee (14-14) placed 4th and scored 10.0 team points.

Cole Bisbee pinned Owen Tesch (Milbank JV) 1-2 (Fall 0:47); he was decisioned by Alex Pudwill (Warner/Northwestern) 19-7 (Dec 6-3); he won by major decision over Carter Luikens (Potter County) 13-14 (MD 12-3) and in the third place match, he was pinned by Jax Kettwig (Watertown JV) 4-3 (Fall 0:45)

195: Lane Krueger (18-5) placed 1st and scored 24.0 team points.

Lane Krueger pinned Quincy Kuhlman (Watertown JV) 2-9 (Fall 0:51); he pinned Kasey Michalski (Clark/Willow Lake) 8-10 (Fall 2:11); and in the championship match, he pinned Preston Cavalier (Warner/Northwestern) 15-10 (Fall 3:37)

285: Adrian Knutson (10-16)

Adrian Knutson was pinned by Lucas Rowland (Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle) 20-7 (Fall 1:09); and he was decisioned by Ben Griffin (Watertown JV) 3-15 (Dec 10-3).

Dragr, Ehresmann are NEC Champions

The Northeast Conference wrestling tournament was held Thursday in Redfield with Dragr Monson and Christian Ehresmann each taking first place in the tournament. Also placing were Cole Bisbee in third place, and in fourth place were Korbin Kucker, Lane Krueger and Adrian Knutson.

113: Dragr Monson (26-0) placed 1st and scored 21.5 team points.

Quarterfinal - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 26-0 won by fall over Trey Atkinson (Britton/Hecla) 6-8 (Fall 1:42)

Semifinal - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 26-0 won by tech fall over Jacob Johnson (Milbank) 9-7 (TF-1.5 2:42 (16-1))

1st Place Match - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 26-0 won by decision over Mason Whitley (Redfield Area) 29-4 (Dec 9-2)

126: Christian Ehresmann (19-3) placed 1st and scored 21.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 19-3 received a bye () (Bye)

Semifinal - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 19-3 won by fall over Elliot Bratland (Clark/Willow Lake) 11-9 (Fall 1:29)

1st Place Match - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 19-3 won by major decision over Keaton Rohlf (Redfield Area) 25-8 (MD 15-4)

132: Easten Ekern (7-8)

Quarterfinal - Caleb Clark (Kingsbury County) 11-7 won by fall over Easten Ekern (Groton Area) 7-8 (Fall 0:17)

Cons. Round 1 - Easten Ekern (Groton Area) 7-8 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Semi - Brock Gisselbeck (Hamlin) 10-7 won by fall over Easten Ekern (Groton Area) 7-8 (Fall 3:41)

138: Korbin Kucker (13-11) placed 4th and scored 10.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Bradyn Robbins (Redfield Area) 29-1 won by fall over Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 13-11 (Fall 0:49)

Cons. Round 1 - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 13-11 won by fall over Josh Long (Sisseton) 7-7 (Fall 3:31)

Cons. Semi - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 13-11 won by fall over Luke Steffensen (Kingsbury County) 8-9 (Fall 2:02)

3rd Place Match - Kaden Krause (Milbank) 7-2 won by major decision over Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 13-11 (MD 15-2)

152: Cole Bisbee (12-12) placed 3rd and scored 15.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 12-12 won by fall over Brian Blachford (Deuel) 0-16 (Fall 1:08)

Semifinal - Chase McGillivary (Redfield Area) 11-17 won by decision over Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 12-12 (Dec 12-6)

Cons. Semi - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 12-12 won by fall over Braeden Johnson (Clark/Willow Lake) 1-12 (Fall 2:45)

3rd Place Match - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 12-12 won by major decision over Kaden St.Pierre (Hamlin) 11-7 (MD 9-1)



Dragr Monson
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Korbin Kucker
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Cole Bisbee
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Christian Ehresmann
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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COVID antibody treatment available and effective but delivery slower than desired in S.D.

By: Bart Pfankuch

A relatively new medical treatment that can reduce symptoms, speed recovery and even prevent death due to COVID-19 in some patients is widely available across the U.S. and South Dakota but is not being used as much as health officials and medical providers would like.



Amy Thiesse

Only about 30% to 40% of the nation's available supply of therapeutic treatments known as monoclonal antibodies had been administered as of late January, nearly three months after the drugs received emergency authorization for use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Monoclonal antibody treatments are lab-made proteins delivered to patients through infusions. The proteins heighten the immune system's ability to fight the coronavirus by blocking the passage of the virus into human cells.

The treatment is being made available mostly to people who recently tested positive with COVID-19 and are age 65 or older or who have severe obesity, kidney disease or diabetes. Those who test positive and are 55 or over with an underlying medical condition can also qualify.

Two types of antibody treatments received emergency FDA authorization in November: bamlanivimab, developed by Eli Lilly and commonly known as "BAM"; and casirivimab/imdevimab, developed by Regeneron and commonly known by the company name.

The South Dakota medical community has generally embraced the treatments and has taken significant steps to develop an effective system of administering the drugs, including creating safe settings to give infusions, making doses of the drugs available in both urban and rural areas, and by implementing processes to notify new COVID-19 patients of their options for treatment.

Sanford Health, the Sioux Falls-based health system that is among the nation's largest, has taken a lead role in South Dakota and beyond in setting up infusion centers and developing computer systems to identify and contact patients who may qualify for the treatments.

So far, medical providers have reported very positive results in regard to the treatment's ability to reduce symptoms of COVID-19 and prevent hospital stays among those infected with the virus.

Officials with Sanford estimate the treatments have prevented a year's worth of cumulative in-patient hospital stays by COVID-19 patients among the network's medical system in South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa.

"We've been able to provide this intervention and keep people out of the hospital and recover more quickly at home without that high level of care they might need otherwise," said Amy Thiesse, vice president of nursing and clinical services at Sanford. "We find it very beneficial in delaying or stopping the progress of the disease."

The drugs are provided by the federal government at no charge to states and typically are provided at no charge to patients. Treatments are covered by Medicaid and Medicare and most private insurance providers, though co-pay or deductible charges are likely. The

"We've been able to provide this intervention and keep people out of the hospital and recover more quickly at home without that high level of care they might need otherwise; we find it very beneficial in delaying or stopping the progress of the disease."

-- Amy Thiesse, vice president of nursing and clinical services at Sanford Health

cost of the infusion for an uninsured patient would be \$1,000, according to Monument Health spokesman Dan Daly, though he added that Monument has internal programs that can lower or spread out that cost for uninsured patients.

Rollout slower than desired

The treatments began in the U.S. with infusions given to a handful of high-profile patients, including former President Donald Trump, who received the Regeneron infusion as part of his treatment for COVID-19 and touted its effectiveness.

The drugs were authorized for use in people over age 12 and over 88 pounds in weight, but are almost exclusively targeted now at those at highest risk of complications or death from COVID-19, including older patients with underlying medical conditions.

One hurdle to wider use of the treatments is that they typically must be prescribed and administered within 10 days of a positive COVID-19 test and before any serious symptoms take hold, or before patients are hospitalized or in need of oxygen therapy. The drugs are far less effective after that time frame and are unlikely to be prescribed at that point.

Some medical providers and potential patients are not fully convinced of the safety or effectiveness of the drugs because they were approved quickly by the FDA under emergency conditions. Many urban hospitals in the U.S. that are battling high COVID-19 case counts have also had difficulty allocating resources to provide antibody treatments.

The infusion is a procedure that can scare off some patients. Infusions take up to three hours and must be done at a medical office or hospital, and only with a referral from a doctor. Because they are known to be infected, patients seeking the treatment must be isolated as much as possible from the rest of the hospital in order to prevent further spread of the virus.

Furthermore, awareness of the availability of the drug has come on somewhat slowly in the medical community and especially among members of the public.

"It's a combination of factors" that have slowed use of the drug, said Elleen Kane, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Health and Human Services Department. "Some of it is a lack of public awareness, some is that it's kind of a different kind of treatment than people are used to, and you have to find patients who tested positive and then give them an infusion very quickly, so it takes some thinking through."

HHS has been aggressive in purchasing doses of the drugs and has quickly delivered them to states and U.S. territories. As of Jan. 19, HHS had purchased about 785,000 doses of the two drugs and had delivered more than 580,000 to states and territories, according to the department's data tracker. As of that date, South Dakota had received 3,550 doses of

BAM and 590 doses of Regeneron, according to the website.

The federal agency in mid-January launched a new web-based locator for medical providers and the public to quickly identify hospitals and clinics where doses of the drug had been delivered by the federal government. At that time, HHS also announced it had made agreements to purchase about 300,000 more doses of Regeneron's drug and about 3 million more doses of BAM from Eli Lilly.

Some states have seen a very slow rollout of antibody treatments. Massachusetts, for example, had received about 5,600 doses of the drugs but administered only 133 infusions as of early January. In Minnesota, medical providers had received about 12,450 doses of the treatments by early January and had administered only 1,650 infusions.

South Dakota taking proactive approach

South Dakota has taken a much more proactive approach to informing the medical community and the public about the treatments and creating a system to deliver the drugs to patients.

After several requests by News Watch for information from the state Department of Health regarding number of doses received and infusions delivered statewide, the department did not respond.

Gov. Kristi Noem shone a spotlight on the use and effectiveness of the drugs in her Jan. 12 State of the State Address by mentioning how the Good Samaritan Society nursing home in Wagner, S.D., had teamed with Wagner Community Memorial Hospital to successfully treat dozens of nursing home residents with BAM during a COVID-19 outbreak in December.

Even with strong systems of delivery in place, medical providers in South Dakota say they would like to make the treatments even more accessible and raise the rate of infusions given to newly diagnosed COVID-19 patients.

South Dakota health systems are continuing to look for ways to educate people about the availability and effectiveness of the treatments in the hope of improving the health of COVID-19 patients and reducing the need for hospital stays.

Monument Health, which serves much of West River, is providing infusions at hospitals in Rapid City, Sturgis, Lead-Deadwood, Spearfish and Custer, according to Brandi Tackett, director of clinical innovations at Monument.



Monument Health is administering infusions of antibody treatments for COVID-19 patients at its main campus in Rapid City, shown here, but also at hospitals in Sturgis, Spearfish, Lead-Deadwood and Custer. Photo: Courtesy Monument Health

Continues next page

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In an email to News Watch, Tackett said Monument is making new COVID-19 patients aware of the treatment options through calls from its Covid Nurse Triage Center and by staying in contact with medical providers, emergency rooms and urgent-care centers across the region.

Monument has seen "lower than expected hospitalizations" among high-risk COVID-19 patients who have undergone the treatment, Tackett wrote.

The federal government, the state of South Dakota and individual providers have made it a priority to get doses of the antibody treatments to hospitals and clinics in rural areas to make the treatments accessible to rural residents.

"It is available where the patient lives, and the best advantage is that we can give it within their community or within a short drive and not have them drive to Sioux Falls," Thiesse said. "Even if you're not a Sanford patient, if you've had a positive COVID test in the past 10 days, reach out to us and we will get you set up with the treatment."

The Faulkton Area Medical Center in north-central South Dakota received about three dozen doses of BAM in November and December and has since delivered about two dozen infusions, said Lindsey Poeppel, director of nursing at the 12-bed hospital.

Poeppel said she believes the treatments have saved lives and could have saved more COVID-19 patients if the drug had arrived earlier or its effectiveness had been better understood when Faulk County had a surge in cases in early November.

"We have not had to admit anyone who has taken BAM to our hospital," she said. "If the word had been out, and if the drug had been given to us during our surge, we questioned if we could have saved a few more lives."

Dr. Christopher Robbins, a practitioner with the Fall River Health Services in Hot Springs, said the rural provider received about 10 doses of the treatments and had administered about a half dozen as of mid-January.



Christopher Robbins

The pace of infusions has been slowed somewhat by the fact that patients must be notified quickly after testing positive for COVID-19 and also need a referral from a physician, Robbins said. Educating the medical community and the public about the availability and effectiveness of anti-

body treatments or any other new therapeutics that are developed to treat COVID-19 will be an important and ongoing process, Robbins said.

"This is a very young virus that we're still learning about, and all these treatments are still in that same window where we are still learning about them," Robbins said. "Educating people on these processes at all levels is only good for everyone in terms of what's available and when it's available, from individuals to providers and everyone in between."

Positive results shown so far

Administering the drug is done on an outpatient basis in a COVID-safe setting where all involved wear protective equipment and the patient sits in a recliner. The two- to three-hour process includes preparation of the dose, consultation between the patient and a nurse, insertion of an IV, an hourlong delivery of the drug and a final hour of observation before the patient is released.

"The numbers are showing that the infusions are proven effective in reducing hospitalization rates and even mortality in the high-risk population," said Andrea Baker, nursing inpatient



John G. Murphy of Rapid City and his wife both received infusions of monoclonal antibody drugs after testing positive for COVID-19 in January and said the drugs helped them recover faster. Photo: Courtesy John G. Murphy

manager for Sanford Health. "Even when some are admitted to the hospital their level of service has been consistently lower compared to other patients who are admitted with COVID."

Baker said Sanford has worked hard to connect with medical providers inside and outside the system as well as with individual patients to let them know the treatments are available, but that some people who test positive for COVID-19 still may not be aware of all their treatment options. The health system has provided about 400 infusions at its main hospital in Sioux Falls since Nov. 19, a spokeswoman said.

"There's obviously people who do not know that this exists, but we do have quite a few people who call and say they had a positive test and heard that Sanford is offering these infusions, and is there any way [they] can receive this treatment," Baker said.

Baker said patients who receive the treatments are contacted by phone by a medical professional within 48 hours of the infusions to check on their condition and progress.

"We are seeing that a lot of patients are feeling better about 36 hours after receiving the infusion," Baker said.

Sanford Health determined who was eligible for the treatment by creating a computer program to automatically check the health records of people who test positive for COVID-19.

If those who test positive meet the age criteria or have known co-morbidities, a call-center employee from Sanford contacts them and informs them that the antibody treatments are available.

Word of mouth among the public has steadily increased, and now more people are calling Sanford or their local doctors to inquire about the treatments upon testing positive, she said.

John G. Murphy of Rapid City and his wife both tested positive for COVID-19 on Jan. 18, about two weeks after John had a medical procedure at Monument Health and a few days after their 5-year-old grandson who spends time with them had run a high fever. The couple got tested after their grandson tested positive for COVID-19.

While being informed of the positive test results by phone, John, 68, and his wife, 66, were told they both qualified for the antibody treatments due to age and underlying medical conditions. They asked their primary doctor

to refer them for the treatment, and over the next two days, they both underwent hourlong infusions of the Regeneron drugs at the Monument hospital in Rapid City.

Murphy said he had minor side effects, such as tingling in his fingers and toes and mild chills that went away on the second day, "I feel these were indications of a good thing happening," he wrote in an email to News Watch.

Soon after the infusions, Murphy said he and his wife began to recover and saw a reduction in earlier COVID-19 symptoms that had included lack of appetite, major fatigue and a sore throat.

About a week after the infusions, John said they received a call from the state health department and were told they could end their isolation. "It is effective and helped us recover," Murphy wrote of the antibody treatment. The Murphys have health insurance and have yet to receive a bill for the treatment, Murphy wrote on Jan. 26.

ABOUT BART PFANKUCH
 Bart Pfankuch, Rapid City, S.D., is the content director for South Dakota News Watch. A Wisconsin native, he is a former editor of the Rapid City Journal and also worked at newspapers in Florida. Bart has spent more than 30 years as a reporter, editor and writing coach.

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Westport Town Resolution 13 Revenue Bond

RESOLUTION NO. 13
RESOLUTION GIVING APPROVAL TO CERTAIN CLEAN WATER FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS; GIVING APPROVAL TO THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A REVENUE BOND TO FINANCE, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, THE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE FACILITIES; APPROVING THE FORM OF THE LOAN AGREEMENT AND THE REVENUE BOND AND PLEDGING PROJECT REVENUES AND COLLATERAL TO SECURE THE PAYMENT OF THE REVENUE BOND; AND CREATING SPECIAL FUNDS AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS FOR OPERATION OF THE SYSTEM AND RETIREMENT OF THE REVENUE BOND AND PROVIDING FOR A SEGREGATED SPECIAL CHARGE OR SURCHARGE FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BONDS.

WHEREAS, one of the purposes of SDCL Chapter 9-40 (the "Act") as found and determined by the Legislature is to provide for financing the acquisition, maintenance, operation, extension or improvement of any system or part of any system for the collection, treatment and disposal of sewage and other domestic, commercial and industrial wastes; or any system for the control of floods and drainage; or any combination thereof, together with extensions, additions, and necessary appurtenances; and,

WHEREAS, a municipality is authorized by Section 6 of the Act to issue revenue bonds to defray the cost of extensions, additions and improvements to any utility previously owned without pledging its credit and is authorized to pledge the net income or revenues from the Project in accordance with Section 15 of the Act; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Westport (the "Town") currently operates a sewer system for the collection, treatment and disposal of sewage and other domestic, commercial and industrial wastes; and for the control of floods and drainage and has determined that improvements to the sewer facilities are necessary for the conduct of its governmental programs and qualifies as an improvement, extension or addition to its sewer system; and,

WHEREAS, the Town has determined to issue its revenue bonds to finance the improvements to its sewer system for the purpose of collecting, treating and disposing of sewage and other domestic, commercial and industrial wastes (the "System") and has applied to the South Dakota Conservancy District (the "District") for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan to finance the improvements;

WHEREAS, the Town shall adopt special rates or surcharges for the improvements to be pledged, segregated, and used for the payment of the Bonds.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town as follows:

SECTION 1. Definitions. The terms when used in this Resolution shall have the following meanings set forth in this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise. All terms used in this Resolution which are not defined herein shall have the meanings assigned to them in the Loan Agreement unless the context clearly otherwise requires.

"Act" means South Dakota Codified Laws Chapter 9-40.

"Loan" means the Loan made by the South Dakota Conservancy District to the Town pursuant to the terms of the Loan Agreement and as evidenced by the Revenue Bond.

"Project" means the Town of Westport Wastewater Improvement Project.

"Revenue Bond" means the revenue bond or bonds issued the date of the Loan Agreement by the Town to the South Dakota Conservancy District to evidence the Town's obligation to repay the principal of and pay interest and Administrative Expense Surcharge on the Loan.

"System" means the Town's system of collecting, treating, and disposing of sewage and other domestic, commercial, and industrial wastes.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Necessity and Findings.

2.1.1. Declaration of Necessity. The Town hereby declares and determines it is necessary to construct and finance improvements to its System described

as the Project.

2.2. Findings. The Town does hereby find as follows:

2.2.1. The Town hereby expressly finds that if the Project is not undertaken, the System will pose a health hazard to the Town and its inhabitants and will make the Town unable to comply with state and federal law.

2.2.2. Because of the functional interdependence of the various portions of the System, the fact that the System may not lawfully operate unless it complies with State and federal laws, including SDCL Chapter 34A-2, and the federal Clean Water Act, and the nature of the improvements financed, the Town hereby finds and determines that the Project will substantially benefit the entire System and all of its users within the meaning of Sections 15 and 17 of the Act.

2.2.3. The Town hereby determines and finds that for the purposes of the Act, including, in particular, Sections 15 and 17 of the Act, that only the net income from the Project financed by the Revenue Bond be pledged for its payment.

SECTION 3. Authorization of Loan, Pledge of Revenue and Security.

3.1. Authorization of Loan. The Town hereby determines and declares it necessary to finance up to \$352,000 of the costs of the Project through the issuance of bonds payable from the revenue of the Project and other funds secured by the Town. The Town hereby determines that because the Revenue Bond is issued in connection with a financing agreement described in SDCL 46A-1-49, pursuant to Section 15 of the Act no election is required to issue the Revenue Bond.

3.2. Approval of Loan Agreement. The execution and delivery of the Revenue Obligation Loan Agreement (the "Loan Agreement"), the form of which is on file with the Finance Officer (the "Finance Officer") and open to public inspection, between the Town as Borrower and the District, is hereby in all respects authorized, approved and confirmed, and the President and Finance Officer are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver the Loan Agreement in the form and content attached hereto, with such changes as the Attorney for the Town deems appropriate and approves, for and on behalf of the Town. The President and Finance Officer are hereby further authorized and directed to implement and perform the covenants and obligations of the Town set forth in or required by the Loan Agreement. The Loan Agreement herein referred to and made a part of this Resolution is on file in the office of the Finance Officer and is available for inspection by any interested party.

3.3. Approval of Revenue Bond. The issuance of a revenue bond in a principal amount not to exceed \$352,000 as determined according to the Loan Agreement in the form and content set forth in Appendix B attached to the form of Loan Agreement (the "Revenue Bond") shall be and the same is, in all respects, hereby authorized, approved, and confirmed and the President, Finance Officer, and other appropriate officials shall be and are hereby authorized and directed to execute and seal the Revenue Bond and deliver the Revenue Bond to the District, for and on behalf of the Town, upon receipt of the purchase price, and to use the proceeds thereof in the manner set forth in the Loan Agreement. The President and Finance Officer are hereby authorized to approve the final terms of the Revenue Bond and their execution and delivery thereof shall evidence that approval. The Revenue Bond shall be issued under the authority of SDCL Chapter 9-40 and SDCL Chapter 6-8B, and the provisions of the Act are hereby expressly incorporated herein as provided in Section 19 of the Act.

3.4. Pledge of Revenues. The Revenue Bond together with the interest thereon, shall not constitute a charge against the Town's general credit or taxing power, but shall be a limited obligation of the Town payable solely out of the Project Debt Service Account, which payments, revenues and receipts are hereby and in the Loan Agreement pledged and assigned for the equal and ratable payments of the Revenue Bond and shall be used for no other purpose than to pay the principal of, interest and Administrative Surcharge on the Revenue Bond, except as

may be otherwise expressly authorized in the Loan Agreement (including the purpose of securing Additional Bonds issued as permitted by the terms thereof). The Town covenants and agrees to charge rates for all services from the Project or establish special charges or surcharges which will be sufficient to provide for the payments upon the Revenue Bond issued hereunder as and when the same become due, and as may be necessary to provide for the operation and maintenance and repairs of the Project, and depreciation, and the Rate Resolution shall be revised from time to time so as to produce these amounts. The Town hereby reserves the right to determine on a periodic basis the appropriate allocation of operation and maintenance expenses, depreciation, repair and reserves associated with the facilities financed with the Revenue Bond, provided that such determination of allocable operation and maintenance expenses shall in no event abrogate, abridge or otherwise contravene the covenant of the Town set forth in this Section 3 or any other covenant or agreement in the Loan Agreement.

SECTION 4. Special Charge or Surcharge for Revenue Bond.

4.1. The Town does hereby create the Revenue Bond Special-Charge District (the "Surcharge District") which shall include all users which benefit from the Project. There shall be charged a special charge or surcharge pursuant to Section 15 of the Act for the services provided by Project financed by the Revenue Bond. The special charge or surcharge shall be segregated from other revenues of the System and shall be used for the payment of the Revenue Bond. The special charge or surcharge shall create net income, remaining from time to time after first paying all reasonable and current expenses of maintenance, repairs, replacements and operation, sufficient to fund interest, reserve and debt service fund annual requirements and shall be 110% of the debt service requirements on the Revenue Bond.

4.2. Rates and collection. The rate herein specific will be collected as a special charge or surcharge for the Project. This special charge or surcharge shall remain in effect until such time as the Revenue Bond is defeased or paid in full.

4.3. Initial Surcharge. The initial special charge or surcharge shall be set by resolution and collected at the same time as other charges of the utility. All users within the Surcharge District which benefit from the Project, current and future, shall be charged the special charge or surcharge. The special charge or surcharge is found to be equitable for the services provided by the Project. The special charge or surcharge shall begin at such time as will produce sufficient revenue to pay principal of, interest and Administrative Surcharge on the Revenue Bond when due.

4.4. Segregation. The Finance Officer shall set up book-keeping accounts in accordance with South Dakota Legislative Audit guidelines for the segregation of the revenue, special charges, and surcharges.

4.5. Periodic review. The amount of the surcharge shall be reviewed from time to time, not less than yearly, and shall be modified in order to produce such funds as are necessary and required to comply with the Loan Agreement's rate covenant and to pay principal of, interest and Administrative Surcharge on the Revenue Bond when due. The surcharge may be set by resolution in accordance with this Section. The rate resolution shall be necessary for the support of government and shall be effective upon passage.

SECTION 5. Additional Bonds. As permitted by Sections 8 and 9 of the Act, Additional Bonds payable from revenues and income of the System or Project may be issued, as permitted in the Loan Agreement, and no provision of this Resolution shall have the effect of restricting the issuance of, or impairing the lien of, such additional parity bonds with respect to the net revenues or income from the extensions, additions or improvements. The Town shall have the right to issue additional bonds secured by a lien subordinate to the lien from the Revenue Bond pursuant to the Loan Agreement.

SECTION 6. Project Fund Accounts. For the purpose of application and proper allocation of the income of the Project and to secure the payment of principal, Administrative Surcharge and

interest on the Revenue Bond, the following mandatory asset segregations shall be included in the sewer system account of the Town and shall be used solely for the following respective purposes until payment in full of the principal of and interest on the Revenue Bond:

6.1. Project Revenue Account. There shall be deposited periodically into the Project Revenue Account the net revenues as defined in Section 17 of the Act derived from the operation of the Project collected pursuant to the resolutions and ordinances of the Town of Westport, South Dakota (collectively the "Rate Resolution"). Moneys from the Project Revenue Account shall be transferred periodically into separate funds and accounts as provided below.

6.2. Project Debt Service Account. Out of the revenues in the Project Revenue Account, there shall be set aside no later than the 25th day of each month into the account designated Project Debt Service Account, a sum sufficient to provide for the payment as the same become due of the next maturing principal of, interest and Administrative Surcharge on the Revenue Bonds and any reserve determined by the Town's governing body to be necessary. The amount set aside monthly shall be not less than one-third of the total principal, interest, and Administrative Surcharge payable on the following February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15 and if there shall be any deficiency in the amount previously set aside, then the amount of such deficiency shall be added to the current requirement.

6.3. Depreciation Account. There shall be established a General Depreciation Account. Out of the revenues of the Project Revenue Account there shall be set aside each month into the General Depreciation Account an amount determined by the Board of Trustees to be a proper and adequate amount for repair and depreciation of the Project.

6.4. Project Surplus Account. There shall be established the Project Surplus Account. Revenues remaining in the Project Revenue Account at the end of any fiscal year after all periodic transfers have been made therefrom as above required, shall be deemed to be surplus and shall be transferred to the Project Surplus Account. If at any time there shall exist any default in making any periodic transfer to the Project Debt Service Account, the Board of Trustees shall authorize the Finance Officer to rectify such default so far as possible by the transfer of money from the Project Surplus Account. If any such default shall exist as to more than one account or fund at any time, then such transfer shall be made in the order such funds and accounts are listed above.

When not required to restore a current deficiency in the Project Debt Service Account, moneys in the Project Surplus Account from time to time may be used for any of the following purposes and not otherwise:

(a) To redeem and prepay the Revenue Bond when and as such Revenue Bond becomes prepayable according to its terms;

(b) To pay for repairs of or for the construction and installation of improvements or additions to the System; and, if the balances in the Project Debt Service Account and the Project Depreciation Account are sufficient to meet all payments required or reasonably anticipated to be made there from prior to the end of the then current fiscal year, then:

(c) To be held as a reserve for redemption and prepayment of any bonds of the System which are not then but will later be prepayable according to their terms; or

(d) To be used for any other authorized municipal purpose designated by the Board of Trustees.

(e) No moneys shall at any time be transferred from the Project Surplus Account or any other account of the Fund to any other fund of the Town, nor shall such moneys at any time be loaned to other municipal funds or invested in warrants, special improvements bonds or other obligations payable from other funds, except as provided in this Section.

SECTION 7. Approval of Paying Agent/Registrar. The Revenue Bond shall be payable at the office of U.S. Bank National Association, St. Paul, Minnesota, hereby designated as paying agent and registrar.

SECTION 8. Approval of Bond Counsel. Meierhenry Sargent

LLP is hereby retained as Bond Counsel with respect to the Revenue Bond.

SECTION 9. Tax Matters. The Interest on the Revenue Bond shall be excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended ("the Code") and applicable Treasury Regulations (the "Regulations").

SECTION 10. Covenants. The Town hereby covenants and agrees with the District and other owners of the Revenue Bond as follows:

10.1. The Town will punctually perform all duties with reference to the Project, the System and the Revenue Bond required by the constitution and laws of the State of South Dakota and by this Resolution.

10.2. The Town agrees and covenants that it will promptly construct the improvements included in the Project.

10.3. The Town covenants and agrees that pursuant to Sections 25 through 27 of the Act, the lawful holders of the Revenue Bond shall have a statutory mortgage lien upon the Project and the extensions, additions and improvements thereto acquired pursuant to the Act, until the payment in full of the principal and interest on the Revenue Bond, and the Town agrees not to sell or otherwise dispose of the System, the Project, or any substantial part thereof, except as provided in the Loan Agreement and shall not establish, authorize or grant a franchise for the operation of any other utility supplying like products or services in competition therewith, or permit any person, firm or corporation to compete with it in the distribution of water for municipal, industrial, and domestic purposes within the Town.

10.4. The Town covenants and agrees with the District and other owners of the Revenue Bond that it will maintain the System in good condition and operate the same in an efficient manner and at a reasonable cost, so long as any portion of the Revenue Bond remains outstanding; that it will maintain insurance on the System for the benefit of the holders of the Revenue Bond in an amount which usually would be carried by private companies in a similar type of business; that it will prepare, keep and file records, statements and accounts as provided for in this Resolution and the Loan Agreement. The Revenue Bond shall refer expressly to this Resolution and the Act and shall state that it is subject to all provisions and limitations thereof pursuant to Section 19 of the Act.

SECTION 11. Depositories. The Finance Officer shall cause all moneys pertaining to the Funds and Accounts to be deposited as received with one or more banks which are duly qualified public depositories under the provisions of SDCL Ch. 4-6A, in a deposit account or accounts, which shall be maintained separate and apart from all other accounts of the Town, so long as any of the Bonds and the interest thereon shall remain unpaid. Any of such moneys not necessary for immediate use may be deposited with such depository banks in savings or time deposits. No money shall

at any time be withdrawn from such deposit accounts except for the purposes of the Funds and Accounts as authorized in this Resolution; except that moneys from time to time on hand in the Funds and Accounts may at any time, in the discretion of the Town's governing body, be invested in securities permitted by the provisions of SDCL 4-5-6; provided, however, that the Depreciation Fund may be invested in such securities maturing not later than ten years from the date of the investment. Income received from the deposit or investment of moneys shall be credited to the Fund or Account from whose moneys the deposit was made or the investment was purchased and handled and accounted for in the same manner as other moneys therein.

SECTION 12. Consent to Appointment. In the event of mismanagement of the Project, a default in the payment of the principal or interest of the Revenue Bond, or in any other condition thereof materially affecting the lawful holder of the Revenue Bond, or if the revenues of the Project are dissipated, wasted or diverted from their proper application as set forth in the Loan Agreement, Revenue Bond, or herein, the Town hereby consents to the appointment of a receiver pursuant to Section 33 of the Act, and agrees that the receiver will have the powers set forth therein, and in Sections 34 and 35 of the Act to operate and administer the Project, and charge and collect rates as described therein.

SECTION 13. Severability. If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this Resolution, the Loan Agreement, the Revenue Bond, or any other Loan Document shall be held invalid, the invalidity of such section, paragraph, clause or provision shall not affect any of the other provisions of this Resolution or said Loan Agreement, Revenue Bond, or any other Loan Document.

SECTION 14. Repeal of Resolution. At such time as the Revenue Bond is defeased or paid in full, this Resolution and the special charge or surcharge shall automatically be repealed without any further action of the Town.

SECTION 15. Authorization of Town Officials. The President, Finance Officer, Town Attorney and Town officials shall be and they are hereby authorized to execute and deliver for and on behalf of the Town any and all other certificates, documents or other papers and to perform such other acts as they may deem necessary or appropriate in order to implement and carry out the actions authorized herein.


SECTION 16. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect on the 20th day following its publication, unless suspended by a referendum.

Adopted at Westport, South Dakota, this 1st day of February 2021.

APPROVED:
Mitchell Wilson
President

Attest: Doreen Hertel
Finance Officer

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Happy Valentine's Day!



O.K., O.K. so I'll be your pal.

I'll jump through hoops...er, hearts, if you'll be my Valentine!

"Read" the picture and letter clues to fill in my puzzle. Use the sounds of the pictures to help. What is my secret message to you?



M + _____

B + _____

M + _____

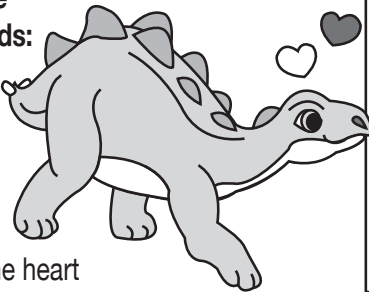


Hearty Puzzle!

Read the clues to fill in the crossword with "hearty" words:

- sweetheart
- central land area
- full of sorrow
- floor of fireplace
- deeply felt; sincere

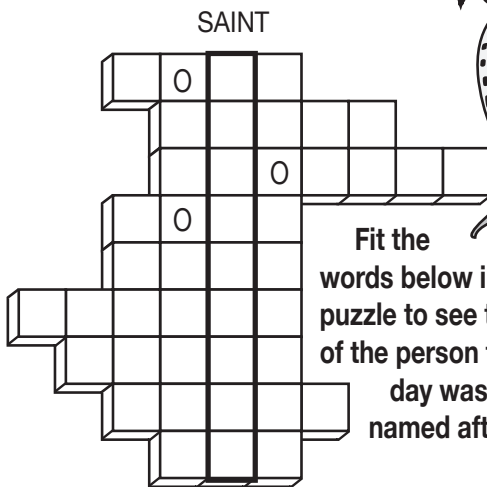
- body's most important muscle; pumps blood
- has no feelings; cruel
- cheering
- strong; in good health
- a single pumping of the heart



Parties, poems, cards, flowers, candy and kind words are all part of this fun day. It is a day to share feelings of friendship or love. It is a day named for a person who was very kind to others.

Through Wind, Snow or Rain!

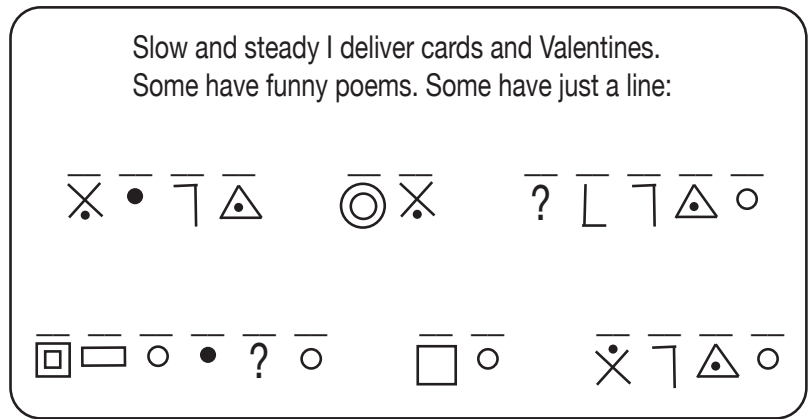
Mr. Turtle is the mail carrier in his neighborhood. He delivers the mail through all kinds of weather!



Fit the words below into the puzzle to see the name of the person this fun day was named after!

- HEARTS PINK CANDY FLOWERS
RED CUPID PARTY LOVE POEM

Can you fill the blanks with letters that match the code? Then you will know what some cards say!



- | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I |
| • | □ | △ | × | ○ | ▽ | □ | L | └ |
| J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R |
| ⊙ | ⊘ | ▭ | × | △ | ⊙ | □ | ⊗ | × |
| S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | |
| ? | ○ | ! | ∩ | × | ○ | ∩ | | |

The heart is the organ that pumps blood throughout the body. It is so important to our lives that we use the word "heart" to talk about feelings or warmth.

By 'snail mail', email or video chat – get your Valentine message to friends or family.

heartfelt
heartbroken
heartless
heartwarming
heartland

It'll bug us if you won't be our Valentine.

Have a big heart!

'Hearty' Fun Fact
Did you know that: Blue whales have the largest hearts of any living things on Earth. Some hearts could weigh up to 400 pounds!

A Sweetheart of a Flower!

This is a very popular flower. Its scent is used in soaps and perfumes. It comes in many colors: yellow, white, pink and red. Gardeners grow this flower and enter it into contests. It is a symbol of friendship and love.



I'm stuck on you!



Finish the dot-to-dot puzzle to see this flower. Next, unscramble the letters to spell its name.

O S R E



By Jordan Wright

Normally I would be writing about the Pro Bowl this week, highlighting any plays that featured a Vikings player. Unfortunately, this year has been anything but normal. This season, the NFL decided they would cancel the Pro Bowl game and replace it with a virtual event in which six players (three representing each conference) and two celebrities play a game of "Madden NFL 21." So instead of re-capping a video game, we'll take a look back at this past season to determine who was the Vikings' offensive and defensive MVPs.

Offensive MVP

It should come as no surprise that this year's offensive MVP is Dalvin Cook. He finished second in the league in rushing yards (1,557), rushing touchdowns (16), yards per game (111.2), carries (312), and carries that gained a first down (91). Dalvin is one of the best running backs in the NFL and the Vikings' offense runs through him – whether it's handoffs, play-action passes, or screens. The front office gave Cook a five-year con-

tract extension last offseason, locking him in through the 2025 season.

Biggest Surprise

Wide receiver is one of the most difficult positions to play in the NFL, which is why most receivers don't usually contribute much until they've been in the league for a year or two. Justin Jefferson isn't like most receivers. After sitting on the bench the first two games of the season, Jefferson was named a starter in week three. He finished the season with 88 receptions for 1400 yards (third in the NFL and a rookie record).

Defensive MVP

The Vikings didn't have a wonderful season, and the injuries on defense were the main culprit. Danielle Hunter, Anthony Barr, Michael Pierce, Eric Kendricks, Mike Hughes, Cameron Dantzler, and Holton Hill all missed significant time last season. With so many injuries, it was difficult picking a defensive MVP. However, after digging through the stats, it was clear Eric Wilson had the most impactful season. Wilson led the Vikings in tackles (122), tackles for a loss (8), and fumble recoveries (2). He was also the runner up in interceptions (3), pass deflections (8), and QB hits. Wilson had some issues in stopping the run, but his coverage skills were huge for a defense starting multiple rookies in the secondary.

Biggest Surprise

Cameron Dantzler was forced into action sooner than anyone anticipated because of the injury to Mike Hughes. The first half of the season was a roller coaster for the rookie cornerback, but he started to turn it on in the second half of the season and was looking like the best corner on the roster by the end. D.J. Wonnum was another candidate for the biggest surprise on defense. Like Dantzler, Wonnum turned it on in the second half of the season and was making big plays every game, looking like a true diamond in the rough.

Looking Ahead

This weekend is the Super Bowl, featuring Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers versus Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs. The Chiefs are three and a half point favorites, and ESPN agrees, giving them a 52% chance to win. The two teams are incredibly similar, with both teams featuring legendary quarterbacks on offenses that are overflowing with playmakers. Both teams average 30 points per game, while both defenses allow 366 yards per game. The two teams battled earlier this season, with the Chiefs coming out on top 27-24. I expect another close game on Sunday, and hopefully, the commercials don't disappoint. Skol!

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Helmets were optional

I don't know if you've been following the news, but enough is happening in the North Dakota legislature to make your head spin and make you spew pea soup like Linda Blair. District 28 Rep. Jeff Magrum has introduced a bill to pretty much do away with seatbelt laws in North Dakota. Now, I don't know if Magrum played high school football but if he did I'm pretty sure helmets were optional, too.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, between 1975 and 2017, increased seatbelt use saved 374,000 lives and another 386,000 deaths could have been prevented had usage been at 100%. To be fair, if you get your information from Parler, no one dies in traffic wrecks, anymore—they're all COVID-related.

One presumes that Magrum has never done a weekend ride-a-long with an ambulance crew or spent time in the E.R. as doctors try to stitch hamburger back together again. He's part of the Bastiat Caucus which believes in less government intrusiveness into personal decisions, except of course, when it pertains to women.

Smoke 'em if you got 'em

Another surprising bill from a North Dakota Republican comes from Rep. Jason Dockter of Bismarck who wants to legalize recreational marijuana. I should clarify. He's personally against it—he just sees the writing on the wall. Eleven states have already approved it, and in South Dakota, 54% of the people voted to legalize the devil's lettuce. They were convinced, I think, that drugs are harmless based on the likelihood that their governor has been on hallucinogenics for years, and she seems intermittently rational. Forget about Trump, in a few years, South Dakotans will put Cheech and Chong on Mt. Rushmore.

Dockter's bill makes sense. Might as well keep the marijuana tax dollars in the state and keep seatbelt-less North Dakotans from floating across the border to buy weed the way they used to when South Dakota's drinking age for 3.2 beer was 18.

It's still under the rug

Meanwhile, in South Dakota, the investigation into Attorney General Jason Ravensborg is suspiciously quiet. Suspicious being the operative word. In September, he mowed down a pedestrian near Highmore, S.D., who was walking at night with a light in his hand on the shoulder of the road. Ravensborg led the sheriff to believe that it might have been a deer. Somehow, neither one of them discovered the body in eight inches of grass by the side of the road that night. The sheriff lent Ravensborg his personal car to get back to Pierre that night. In the morning, Ravensborg "discovered" the body when he returned the vehicle. All we know is that Ravensborg was "distracted" when he struck the man. Now, do you believe for a moment that an average citizen behind the wheel wouldn't be doing time behind bars by now? Me neither.

Shouldn't you be able to see your checkbook?

As a publisher, I hate legislative sessions because there's always a bill or two to close down open records or limit government accountability. House Bill 1108 would remove the requirement that counties publish the bills as part of the monthly minutes. Really? Shouldn't you have easy access to your checkbook? After all, it's taxpayer money, and the cost is a tiny fraction of what the annual budget is. Those hugely discounted rates are set by the state and not by the newspapers themselves. The cost to you is pocket change. Oversight, however, is invaluable.

The reality is, especially in a state with an older population, the newspaper, not the internet, is where people go for information about their local government. A third of seniors don't use the internet and 22% of rural citizens don't have access to the web. A 2020 independent study showed 86% of North Dakota adults read newspapers, and 88% say that's where they read public notices. Call your representative and let them know you support getting all the information about local government, especially expenditures.



**That's Life
by Tony Bender**

Upcoming Schedule

To sponsor or C or JV game, Call/Text Paul at 605/397-7460.

Thursday, Feb. 4

Doubleheader Basketball hosting Faulkton. Girls JV (Agtegra) at 4 p.m., Boys JV (Marilyn and Jerry Hearnen) at 5 p.m., Girls Varsity at 6:30 p.m. followed by Boys Varsity.

Friday, Feb. 5

Wrestling at Lyman High School, 5 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 6

Girls Basketball at DAK12-NEC Clash in Madison.

Boys Basketball at Tiospa Zina (C game (Charla Imrie) at 1 p.m., JV (Jim and Shirley VanDenHemel) at 2:30 p.m. followed by varsity.

Monday, Feb. 8

Junior High Basketball hosts Webster. 5:30 p.m.

School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 9

Girls Basketball hosts Tiospa Zina. JV game at 6 p.m. followed by varsity.

Wednesday, Feb. 10

LifeTouch Pictures in GHS Gym, 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Thursday, Feb. 11

Parent-Teacher Conference, 1:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Basketball Doubleheader with Milbank in Groton. JV girls (Trent and Heather Traphagen) at 4 p.m. followed by JV boys, Varsity Girls and Varsity Boys.

Saturday, Feb. 12

Basketball Doubleheader at Mobridge. JV girls (Rich and Tami Zimney) at 1 p.m., JV boys at 2 p.m., Varsity Girls at 3 p.m. followed by Varsity Boys.

Monday, Feb. 15

Junior High Basketball at Aberdeen Roncalli Elementary School (7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m.)

Boys Basketball at Aberdeen Roncalli (C game at 5 p.m., JV at 6:15 and Varsity at 7:30).

Thursday, Feb. 18

Junior High Basketball hosts Mobridge-Pollock in the Arena. 7th at 6 p.m., 8th at 7 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 19

Basketball Doubleheader with Deuel in Groton. JV girls at 4 p.m., JV boys at 5 p.m. followed by Varsity Girls and Varsity Boys.

Saturday, Feb. 20

Regional Wrestling Tournament in Groton, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 23: GBB Region

Thursday, Feb. 25: GBB Region

Friday, Feb. 26

Boys Basketball hosts Aberdeen Christian. JV at 6 p.m. followed by Varsity.

Tuesday, March 2: BBB Region

Thursday, March 4: GBB SoDAK 16

Friday, March 5: BBB Region

Tuesday, March 9: BBB SoDAK 16

March 11-13: State Girls Basketball Tournament in Watertown

March 18-20: State Boys Basketball Tournament in Sioux Falls

Groton Area boys sweep Langford Area, but varsity team rallied in the last 90 seconds to win

Groton Area boys basketball teams had a clean sweep of the Langford Area teams on Tuesday by winning the eighth grade game, the junior varsity and the varsity game.

Groton Area jumped out to an 11-0 lead in the eighth grade game en route to a 58-16 win. The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Bob and Vicki Walter.

Taylor Diegel led the Tigers with 14 points which included two three-pointers. Turner Thompson had 13 points followed by Keegan Tracy with 10 (2 three-pointers), Carter Simon eight, Logan Pearson six, Blake Pauli had a three-pointer and adding two points each were Kaden McInerney and Ryder Johnson. Everyone scored on the Groton team.

Scoring for Langford Area were Daniel Person, Ryder Smith, Kasen Keogh and Ben Suther with four points apiece.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 40-30. Langford Area scored first with a three-pointer but Groton Area came back to take a 10-5 lead at the end of the first period. Groton went up, 15-7, but the Lions came back and tied the game at half time at 15. The Tigers kept the upper hand and led, 26-20 at the end of the third period and went on to win. The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Jim and Shirley VanDenHemel of Woonsocket, grandparents of Cade and Tate Larson.

Cole Simon led the Tigers with 14 points while Wyatt Hearnen had 12, Logan Ringgenberg had four, Teylor Diegel and Jackson Cogley each made a three-pointer and Fanian Sanchez and Colby Dunker each had two points. Groton Area made six of 11 free throws for 55 percent, was 16 of 31 in field goals shooting for 52 percent, had 13 turnovers and 18 team fouls.

Langford Area was led by Brayden Peterson with 11 followed by Jesse Keough and Braven Hanse (2 3-pointers) with six each, Ben Gustafson had four points and Aden Godel made a three-pointer. The Lions were seven of nine from the line for 78 percent, 10 of 26 in field goal shooting for 38 percent, had seven turnovers and 13 team fouls.

Langford led for nearly the whole game in the varsity match-up, taking 12-3 lead after the first quarter and a 17-12 lead at half time. Groton closed to within one, 21-20, but was unable to get over the hump as the Lions led it, 30-25, at the end of the third period. The Tigers tied the game twice in the fourth quarter at 34 and 36 before taking their first lead with 1:33 left in the game, 38-36. Tate Larson made five of six free throws and Jayden Zak was two for two in the fourth fourth quarter to help push the Tigers over the top. Larson led the Tigers with 18 points followed by Lane Tietz with 13 (1 3-pointer), Jayden Zak had 10 (2 3-pointers) and Jacob Zak had four points (1 3-pointer). Colin Frey led the Lions with 21 points while Bryce Peterson had eight, Benton West three, Zander Widener and Kade Larson each had two points and Jesse Keough added a free throw.

After shooting 17 percent in the first half, the Tigers warmed up in the second half and finished the game making 13 of 42 field goals for 31 percent and was 16 of 26 from the line for 62 percent off of Langford Area's 18 team fouls and had 13 turnovers. Langford was 13 of 40 from the field for 33 percent, was 11 of 20 from the line for 55 percent off of Groton Area's 16 team fouls, and had 10 turnovers.

The varsity game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Bierman Farm Service, Jark Real Estate, Harr Motors - Bary Keith, Bahr Spray Foam, Allied Climate Professionals- Kevin Nehls, S.D. Army National Guard, John Sieh Agency, Groton Vet Clinic, Blocker Construction, Thunder Seed with John Wheeting, Milbrandt Enterprises Inc, Groton Ford and S & S Lumber & Hardware Hank.

- Paul Kosel



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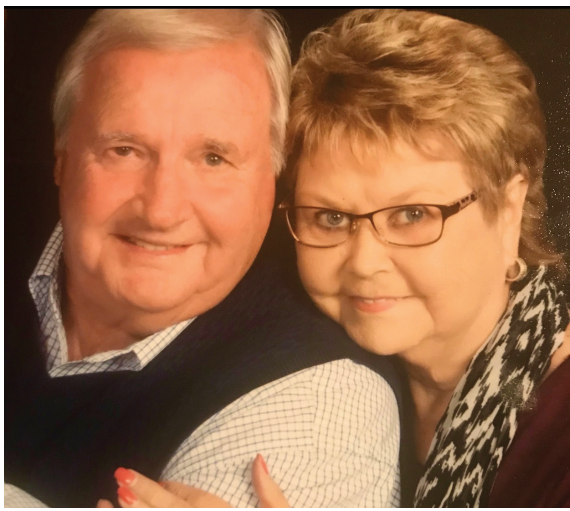
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Lady Cavaliers escape Tigers 3-point arsenal

Aberdeen Roncalli escaped with a four-point win over the Groton Area Lady Tigers in basketball action played Tuesday in Groton. It was raining three-pointers for the Tigers and it had the Cavaliers on the run. The Tigers made 10 of 25 three-pointers for 40 percent with Gracie Traphagen making five of nine, Kenzie McInerney was two of seven and Sydney Leicht was three of five. The Tigers were only five of 14 in two-pointers for 36 percent and was one of three from the line.

Aspen Johnson had six of the team's 20 rebounds, Allyssa Locke had three of the team's 10 assists and two of the team's four steals.

Roncalli held an 11-3 lead after the first quarter and 24-20 at half time. The game was tied at 31 at the end of the third quarter and the Tigers had the lead up to five minutes left in the game.

Roncalli won the junior varsity game, 29-18, and the Tigers won the C game, 27-14.

Traphagen and Leicht each had 15 points while McInerney had 10 and Brooke Gengerke had one point.

Madelyn Bragg led the Cavaliers with 19 points, scoring 14 of them in the first half. Morgan Fiedler had 11 points, making two 3-pointers in the fourth quarter. Elissa Hammrich had seven points while Olivia Hansen had four and Jeci Ewart and Allie Morgan each had two points.

- Paul Kosel

Council votes to purchase Wells Fargo building

The Groton City Council voted Tuesday night to purchase the soon to be vacant Wells Fargo Building in downtown Groton.

The Groton branch of Wells Fargo is scheduled to close in March. The purchase price was \$215,000.

The city has received \$296,008 from the COVID Relief Fund with those funds being used for the building purchase.

City Hall will be moved over to the Wells Fargo building.

Groton's Farrell signs to play football at Northern State

Aberdeen, S.D. – Northern State University head football coach, Mike Schmidt announced the addition of 44 student-athletes to the 2021 Wolves football roster today. Schmidt's second signing class hails from 12 different states, spanning ten position groups.

The 2021 signing class includes Tristan Abbott (Lacrosse, Wis.), Andrew Aguilar (Chino, Calif.), Brock Baker (Aberdeen, S.D.), Andrew Blazeovich (Sioux Falls, S.D.), Wyatt Block (Mankato, Minn.), Michael Bonds (La Cañada, Calif.), Kiefer Chmielewski (Kaukauna, Wis.), Blake Clay (Whittier, Calif.), Bobby Cleary (Slinger, Wis.), Madden Connelly (Sparta, Wis.), Tavy Crump (Kenosha, Wis.), Steven Cuadra (Norco, Calif.), Aidan Enneking (Sussex, Wis.), Jaimen Farrell (Groton, S.D.), Brandon Fodness (Lennox, S.D.), Luke Gunderson (Buffalo, Minn.), Justin Hernandez (Whittier, Calif.), Carter Hogg (Aberdeen, S.D.), Payton Hughes (Sioux Falls, S.D.), Wade James (Bismarck, N.D.), Anthony Kasper (Bolingbrook, Ill.), Tyler Kjetland (Emery, S.D.), Jack Klussendorf (Waukesha, Wis.), Charlie Larson (Rapid City, S.D.), Latavion 'Tay' Lispcomb (Jackson, Miss.), Donnie Lucas (Milwaukee, Wis.), Ja'arie Mack (Joliet, Ill.), Jackson McNeil (Warner, S.D.), Esteban Mendoza (Whittier, Calif.), Ben Moore (Kaukauna, Wis.), Mason Osborn (Phoenix, Ariz.), Victor Owens (Denver, Colo.), Tanner Reddan (Castle Rock, Colo.), Jaden Reed (Minneapolis, Minn.), Sam Sather (Grand Forks, N.D.), Dawson Schmidt (Watertown, S.D.), Luke Schroeder (Green Bay, Wis.), Daniel Sedlacek Jr. (Custer, S.D.), Kaleb Skelly (Spring Lake Park, Minn.), Levi Sleezer (Aurelia, Iowa), Colt Smith (Gretna, Neb.), Jacob Van Landingham (Franklin, Tenn.), Ryan Wojcik (Rapid City, S.D.), and Josh Zaccanti (Geneva, Ill.).

In addition, Northern State Athletics will host a Signing Day Special airing at 5:30 p.m. on YouTube, Facebook, and the NSIC Network. Viewers will hear about the 2021 class from the Northern State staff and get a glimpse at the progress on Dacotah Bank Stadium.

The Groton Independent

21 N Main, Groton 605/397-NEWS (6397)

Paul Irvin Kosel, Publisher paperaul@grotonsd.net ~ 605-397-7460

Tina Kosel, Office Manager office@grotonsd.net ~ 605-397-7285

Notices: legals@grotonsd.net

News Items: news@grotonsd.net

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