



# The Groton Independent

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**Katie Kesterson is busy mixing up a batch of cupcakes in the kitchen of Kate's Confections.** (Photo by Dorene Nelson)

## Kate's Confections puts smiles on people

by Dorene Nelson

Kate's Confections, owned by Katie Kesterson, is one of the newest additions to Groton's Main Street.

Katie Kesterson, originally from Texas, is especially glad to be in South Dakota during this winter. "I don't really mind the cold," Kesterson admitted, "and it's better than having all of the weather-related issues now happening in Texas!"

"I lived in Groton before and worked for about nine months as the Director of Nursing at the nursing home," she explained. "I moved back to Texas for a while and then came back here, deciding to attend grad school to become a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)."

"I'm taking my classes online from Minneapolis," Kesterson stated. "I receive my assignments and the accompanying readings as well as have the opportunity to talk with my professors and classmates, all while here in Groton."

"I should finish my degree in November," she said. "When I've graduated, I hope to set up telehealth care for clients. This can be done in 36 states who have a compact licensure rule that makes this possible."

"Being able to offer my services online is especially important now during COVID and at other times of crisis in people's lives," Kesterson explained. "Mental health services, in great need and demand, are not in abundance in the Midwest."

"In order for me to finish my graduate classes and run a business as well as being a mother to my three children does keep me very busy," she chuckled. "I have two boys, ages 11 and 8, and a 6 year-old daughter."

"Krystina McCollum, my best friend for over 20 years, is my baker and helps to keep me sane when the orders come in faster than I can count!" Kesterson admitted.

"I love to bake and cook and enjoy making people happy with my creations," she smiled. "I learned the skill of cake decorating by watching

Continues on back page

## Pappas qualifies for National Debate, again

GHS Senior, Samantha Pappas, has qualified for the 2021 National Speech and Debate National Contest to be held in June 2021. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the national competition will be held virtually. Sam earned this bid to the national competition by rising to the top of a field of 20 domestic extemporaneous speakers at the Northern South Dakota district contest.

Each school in the district was allowed up to four entries per event in this virtual national qualifying contest. Schools that make up the Northern South Dakota District include Aberdeen Central, Brookings, Watertown, Milbank, Madison, Lennox, Huron, Mitchell, and Tea. Determining the four students to qualify for the national event required five preliminary rounds and a final round.

Final placings were determined by a combination of all preliminary round scores and the final round. Each round had three judges. Pappas placed third in the event overall. Students from Aberdeen Central and Brookings placed first and second, respectively.

Pappas is the first student from GHS to earn a spot in national competition for two consecutive years. Last year Pappas represented GHS and the Northern South Dakota District in Congressional Debate at the virtual national contest.

Past national speech and debate GHS national competitors include Stephanie Herseth Sandlin, Rachel Lewis Kemig, Travis Kiefer and Michaela Oleson.



**Samantha Pappas  
National Debate Tournament  
Qualifier**

(Photo from Kristen Gonsoirs FB Page)

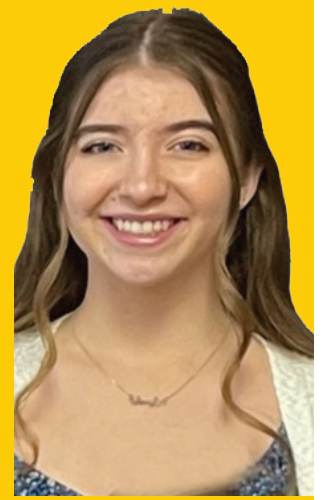
## Groton Area February Students of the Month



**Isaac Smith  
Senior**



**Madisen Bjerke  
Junior**



**Shaylee Peterson  
Sophomore**



**Emily Clark  
Freshman**



**Emma Kutter  
Eighth Grade**



**Talli Wright  
Seventh Grade**



**Carlee Johnson  
Sixth Grade**

**Groton Area School works to ensure that all levels of academic instruction also include the necessary life skills teaching, practicing, and modeling that encourages essential personal life habits that are universally understood to facilitate helping our students become good human beings and citizens.**

**It is learning with our heads, hearts, and hands to be caring and civil, to make healthy decisions, to effectively problem solve, to be respectful and responsible, to be good citizens, and to be empathetic and ethical individuals.**

**Students are selected based on individual student growth in the areas of: positive behavior, citizenship, good attendance, a thirst for knowledge, and high academic standards.**



# Four Groton grapplers advance to state

Groton Area will send four wrestlers to the state wrestling tournament to be held Thursday through Saturday at Rapid City. The Region 1B tournament was held Saturday at the Groton Area Arena.

Dragr Monson, who is rated number one in the state, remains undefeated as he won the 113 pound weight class. He was also designated as the winner for "Gene Benthin" Sportsmanship Award for Region 1B.

Lane Krueger placed second at 195 pounds, Christian Ehresmann placed third at 126 pounds and Cole Bisbee placed fourth at 160 pounds.

Redfield won the team title with 263 points followed by Kingsbury County with 136, Clark/Willow Lake 127.5, Sisseton 78, Groton Area 77, Sioux Valley 74.5, Faulkton Area 72.5, Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle 71, Warner/Northwestern 68, Webster Area 61.5, Potter County 44.5, Deuel 34, Hamlin/Castlewood 24, Britton-Hecla 16, Sully Buttes 16, Tiospa Zina 16 and Iroquois/Doland 0.



**Dragr Monson earned the Region 1B "Gene Benthin" Sportsmanship Award.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

**113: Dragr Monson (36-0) placed 1st and scored 20.0 team points.**

Dragr Monson decisioned Ian Metz (Sisseton) 25-14 (Dec 4-3); and in the championship match, he decisioned Mason Whitley (Redfield Area) 37-9 (Dec 5-0).

**126: Christian Ehresmann (33-6) placed 3rd and scored 16.0 team points.**

Christian Ehresmann pinned Aaron Neugebauer (Webster Area) 4-9 (Fall 0:40); he was decisioned by Keaton Rohlf (Redfield Area) 36-10 (Dec 5-1); he decisioned Boe Iverson (Sisseton) 18-16 (Dec 2-0); and he won the third place match by pinning Lincoln Stuwe (Potter Co) 10-7 (Fall 4:18)

**138: Korbin Kucker (18-17) scored 5.0 team points.**

Korbin Kucker decisioned Matt Mork (Webster Area) 3-23 (Dec 7-1); he was pinned by Chase Yellowhawk (Sully Buttes) 14-8 (Fall 3:20); he pinned Tucker Adkins (Deuel) 1-27 (Fall 1:47); and lost by a major decision to Josh Long (Sisseton) 16-15 (MD 9-1).

**160: Cole Bisbee (19-19) placed 4th and scored 10.0 team points.**

Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 19-19 decisioned Connor Johnson (Kingsbury Co) 15-16 (Dec 9-2); he was pinned by Dylan Whitley (Redfield Area) 30-3 (Fall 1:30); he decisioned Mason Shultz (Sisseton) 10-20 (Dec 3-1); and in the third place match, he was decisioned by Easton Steinbach (Warner/Northwestern) 26-9 (Dec 2-0).

**195: Lane Krueger (23-7) placed 2nd and scored 20.0 team points.**

Lane Krueger pinned Tyler Tran (Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle) 7-15 (Fall 2:22); he decisioned Michael Stevenson (Hamlin/Castlewood) 26-12 (Dec 8-2); and in the championship match, he was pinned by Sean Domke (Redfield Area) 25-7 (Fall 1:01)

**285: Adrian Knutson (13-21) placed 6th and scored 6.0 team points.**

Adrian Knutson was pinned by Avery Nichols (Clark/Willow Lake) 26-16 (Fall 5:24); he pinned Lane Stern (Webster Area) 3-9 (Fall 0:56); he was decisioned by Connor Logan (Sioux Valley) 17-14 (Dec 8-1); and in the fifth place match, he was decisioned by Parker Bode (Faulkton Area) 13-21 (Dec 6-0).



**Cole Bisbee decisioned Connor Johnson of Kingsbury County in the first round, 9-2.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Dragr Monson decisioned Mason Whitley of Redfield Area in the championship match, 5-0.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Lane Krueger pinned Tyler Tran of Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle, 2:22.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Christian Ehresmann pinned Aaron Neugebauer of Webster Area in 40 seconds.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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By Jordan Wright

Before we look forward to how the Vikings can improve in 2021, we need to look back at the 2020 season to see how they fared. Last week we took a look at the offense, so this week we move to the defensive side of the ball.

With Mike Zimmer at the helm, the Vikings are accustomed to having one of the best defenses in the league. However, with a lot of turnover at key positions, along with injuries to some of the biggest stars, the Vikings' defense was one of the worst in the league. The Vikings lost their top three corners from 2019 and replaced them with rookies who didn't have the benefit of a traditional off-season. Starting inexperienced cornerbacks wouldn't be the end of the world if the team had a productive pass rush, but injuries to star defensive end Danielle Hunter, linebacker Anthony Barr, and Everson Griffen leaving in free agency left the Vikings with zero pass rush. Add it all up, and it was a recipe for disaster for the Vikings in 2020.

The number one goal of a defense is to limit the points opposing offenses score. From 2014 to 2019, the Vikings have allowed:

- 21.4ppg (11th in NFL)
- 18.9ppg (5th)
- 19.2ppg (6th)
- 15.8ppg (1st)
- 21.3ppg (9th)
- 18.9ppg (5th)

As you can see, aside from Zimmer's first year, the Vikings have finished with a top 10 defense every season. In 2020, however, the Vikings allowed 29.7 points per game, which was 29th in the league. It was not ideal, to say the least.

The Vikings also allowed a ton of yards to opposing offenses in 2020. They finished 27th in the NFL, allowing 393.3 yards per game. Breaking that down further, the Vikings allowed 258.8 yards per game through the air (25th) and 134.4 yards per game on the ground (27th). As you can see, the Vikings' defense is the main reason the team failed to reach the playoffs last season.

To explain just how bad the Vikings' pass rush was without Danielle Hunter, Yannick Ngakoue was the team leader in sacks with five. Ngakoue was only with the Vikings for five games before being traded to Baltimore. The Vikings finished 28th in the league with only

23 sacks last season, far below their usual defensive line dominance. One area the Vikings did well in was interceptions, as they were tied for seventh with 15 – although those 15 INTs were produced by just six players, three of which were linebackers.

The defensive MVP for the Vikings in 2020 was Eric Kendricks. With Anthony Barr out for the season because of injury, Kendricks stepped his game up and was a one-man wrecking crew for most of the season. Although he missed five games due to injury, Kendricks still finished the season second on the team with 107 tackles, fifth in tackles for a loss (4.5), fourth in pass deflections (6), and second in interceptions (3). With Kendricks out of the lineup, the Vikings' defense was noticeably worse in nearly every category.

In a year of uncertainty, two rookies stood out on the Vikings' defense. The first was cornerback Cameron Dantzler, who vastly improved as the season progressed. Dantzler was named to Pro Football Focus' All-Rookie team for his performance in 2020. The other player who stood out was defensive end D.J. Wonnum, who was third on the team with three sacks. Wonnum had many excellent plays throughout the season, and he will be competing for a starting role in 2021. Skol!

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## One of the lucky ones

Cancer. There's a word that'll get your attention. It got mine last fall when I was diagnosed with esophageal cancer.

I suppose a cancer diagnosis shouldn't shock anyone. It's almost the norm in America. Statistically, 1 in 3 men and 1 in 2 women will develop cancer, and if you check the statistics on esophageal cancer, it's intimidating. But I'm not a statistic, and if you have cancer, neither are you.

I consider myself lucky. As you read this, I'm either in surgery or recovery at Mayo Clinic. "You're fortunate," my Bismarck oncologist told me. The cancer hadn't spread. "You have options. Not everybody does." He's one of five doctors who've independently volunteered the word "cure" in my case.

I'm a typical North Dakota stoic. I was inclined to keep this to myself but a friend advised me to tell my story and I realized he was right. For one thing, people might wonder why they hadn't seen a new column in a while.

More importantly, though, was awareness. Did you know acid-reflux can cause cancer? "Nobody knows!" my surgeon said during my consultation last week at Mayo. She's a proponent of a national awareness campaign because if treated early and monitored, acid reflux doesn't have to turn into cancer. If you've had acid reflux for five years, she told me, get an endoscopy. Make that call today, and if the solution is an esophagectomy have it done where they handle a high volume of cases.

The procedure involves removing some or all of the esophagus and rebuilding it with a portion of the stomach. My long-term prognosis is encouraging. I expect to live a long, productive life. Short-term, well, there's the recovery. "The hardest thing you'll ever do," my oncologist said. If it's not, I'm going to be ticked. But I'm one of the lucky ones.

I didn't want to tell my family and friends about the diagnosis until I knew what the treatment plan was. Why subject them to the interminable waiting game as you undergo scans and tests and wait for results? However, each time the results indicated that the cancer was localized I felt like I'd cleared another hurdle. Then doctors started using the word "cure." I've always had angels on my shoulders and enough close calls in this life to believe that if I'm reincarnated, it should be as a cat—nine lives and all.

As I went through a (successful) chemotherapy and radiation regimen, I saw people I knew and people who recognized me. So much for keeping it to myself. "Are you going to write about this," my neighbor in the chemo chair asked one day. I guess so. It's funny how some people understood the importance of doing so now better than I did. You see, I wanted this story to have a tidy happy ending, and I think we'll get there, however, I understand now that you need your friends and family and all those prayers and positive vibrations throughout the journey.

I've got the support of my kids, my mother, and siblings, especially my sister, an RN who'll steer me through my recovery, and I've got many of you. I'm one of the lucky ones.



**That's Life**  
by Tony Bender

## Frederick Town Feb. 17, 2021 Special Meeting

Special Meeting  
February 17, 2021  
Frederick City special meeting was held Wednesday, February 17, 2021 in the Frederick Community Center beginning at 12:00 PM. Attending the meeting were Chairman R. Scott Campbell, Board member Jeff Kosters, and Finance Officer and Assistant Finance Officer Diane Bruns and Mariah Heine.  
The board discussed the amount due to Dahme's Construction. Motion to approve payment to Dahme's Construction for \$233,266.79 made by Kosters/Campbell; motion carried.  
Motion to adjourn made by Kosters/Campbell at 12:12, motion carried.  
M. Heine  
Assistant Finance Officer  
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$8.52. 19781

## COVID-19 Vaccine Now Offered to Residents Age 65 and Over

PIERRE, S.D. – Secretary of Health Kim Malsam-Rysdon released the following statement to remind state residents that the COVID-19 vaccination age statewide has been dropped to those 65 and over in age:

"The vaccination age will drop to 65 and over as we continue delivering on the promise of an orderly and efficient vaccine distribution effort statewide," said Kim Malsam-Rysdon, Secretary of Health. "The progress being made by our phase I vaccinators is making a difference in people's lives and in the fight against COVID-19 in South Dakota."

Over the past few weeks, South Dakota has been making considerable progress on its vaccination priority groups in part due to an increase in vaccine allocation from the federal government and continued coordinated efforts.

## Glimpses From Greenfield -Week 6

Week 6 was a whole new experience for me! I learned from the Department of Health that I had been listed as a closet contact with another legislator who had tested positive for COVID. Therefore, I was told I should quarantine for 10 days. Thankfully, our workweek was an unprecedented 3-day'er, so I only had to work from home and attend all my meetings via Microsoft Teams for a relatively short time. After all was said-and-done, I can honestly say I hope to never have to do that again! It was really weird having bills up in certain committees during the appropriations time-slot and to have to text back-and-forth. "I'm in Approps. When my bill is getting close, let me know."..."Oh, no! I don't have an invitation to join your committee yet."..."OK, staff has sent you one."..."Are you ready? We're just finishing up the bill before yours."...45 minutes later..."Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee..." I guess in many regards, working from home is not terribly dissimilar from being there in person. It's a lot of rolling with the punches and hurrying up and waiting.

In addition to Appropriations meetings beginning at 7:30, 7:00, and 6:45 this week, I had to appear before committees three different times to pitch two bills. I have covered them quite a bit in previous articles, but the moisture- and protein-meter bill went down in committee 4-2. In 2018, the industry's lobbyists brought a hoghouse amendment to me they said they would support, and the bill passed 35-0 on the Senate floor. Then, they went to the House prime sponsor and told him THEIR language was not workable and they got him to agree to try to kill the bill. In the end, this year I have had some very good conversations with people on both sides. As I said in committee, I am not accusing anybody of anything. I do not have a dog in the fight, but several of my constituents do. My ultimate question is what is the appropriate role of the Department of Public Safety's Division of Weights and Measures? They worry whether the scales at grocery stores read accurately when fractions of a cent on a bag of grapes or a bunch of bananas are at stake, and they worry about gas pumps being metered properly when a thousandth or two of a gallon of gas is a stake. Yet, when it comes to things of a grand scale, they say they do not have a role in ensuring accuracy or integrity for all those concerned. I would note that I absolutely believe a grain buyer from within the district when he tells me they are very serious about making sure their devices are accurate and they are tested regularly. But I've also seen invoices showing differences that cause producers to ask questions. And our Division of Weights and Measures sits idly by and TESTIFIES AGAINST THIS TYPE OF BILL citing concerns over costs they would incur. Of course, as with all bureaucrats, they heard my pitch and my plea for helping to find a better road forward, and they said, "Would you consider making it a summer study? Last year, we agreed to do a summer study that never got funded, but we were willing to work on it." And four sessions ago? At least one of their employees acknowledged privately that they "should be doing this" even if their official position was one of neutrality. I'm thinking it's time to maybe consider privatizing that whole operation. If it works when potentially hundreds of thousands-to-millions of dollars are at risk one way or the other, grapes and apples and bananas could be treated similarly.

On a happier note, SB 128 started out as a retread of a bill Rep. Spencer Gosch and I brought last year. And I am here to tell you Dr. Dan Swartos from the SD High School Activities Association (SDHSAA) proved himself to be a man of honor as I worked with him. He listened. He heard. He contemplated. And he provided feedback. He began as an opponent of SB 128. As I had worked on the bill prior to the first hearing, I brought some new language forth for the first committee hearing. The committee, likewise, heard the plea from those who testified. I was very appreciative of their willingness to listen with open minds. At this point, SB 128 has been amended twice at my request. The most recent iteration of the bill was the result of my give-and-take with Dr. Swartos. He was nothing but a gentleman as he provided me with feedback after the first committee hearing. The Education Committee amended the bill as we had asked and they passed it out unanimously. Very simply, as I have mentioned before, this bill seeks to ensure that all South Dakota journalism enterprises have free and equal access to all activities at our public schools prior to the state tournaments, at which time, the SDHSAA and SDPB (or whoever has the bid) have an exclusive contract and may establish the parameters for secondary broadcasts.

A few brief mentions of bills that were up for debate on the Senate floor:

SB 111 seeks to reduce the fee for an enhanced permits to carry concealed weapons. The fee is \$100, but this would reduce it to \$60. Currently, it is a \$50/\$50 split between the state and county. This would reduce the state's share to \$10, while maintaining the county's \$50 share. The bill prevailed, 35-0.

SB 177 would change elements regarding homeschooling. It would not longer require parents to state once a year that they intend to homeschool, rather it assumes they will continue doing so. It removes the periodic testing requirement because, as we have learned, it costs \$40,000 to administer the tests to homeschoolers, but there is no follow-up from either the school district or the state. It is just a hoop to jump through at this point. And finally, it allows home-schooled students to participate in athletics, fine arts and other extra- or co-curricular activities within a school district. This has been hotly debated. I rather expect it to be amended on the House side, but I will tell you that the SDHSAA voiced their concerns about the bill as drafted, and they have since stood down in their opposition, as they worked out several tweaks that satisfied many of their issues. The bill passed, 21-14.

SB 106 dealt with an effort to repeal an exemption regarding perpetual care cemeteries. While 99% of the public does not know what this is getting at, it was a powerful example of the South Dakota Funeral Directors' Assn. and other constituents coming together to defeat a bill. Near as I can tell, this would have affected only a minuscule handful of cemeteries, but those who would've been affected would have really felt the pinch. The bill failed on a vote of 13-22.

SB 117 said that if the Governor, OR THE LEGISLATURE, were to declare a housing emergency exists, then the South Dakota Housing Development Authority (SDHDA) SHALL administer no-interest loans to those who were affected. This goes to the sinkhole in the Black Hills. I sympathize with the people who were affected by that mine collapse. However, disasters have never been declared by the legislature, and if this bill had passed, it would have obligated funds of the SDHDA, which would have immediately jeopardized their AAA-bond rating. That could've meant millions of dollars in increased bond-repayments to public entities all across the state. It was a really, really well-intentioned bill that had broad and dire ramifications. The bill was killed, 11-24.

As you can see from the votes above, issues are becoming more contentious. This week marks cross-over week, so we will be working extra-long-and-hard to get through all our business and get bills out of their house of origin, whether that means they are killed or they move on in the process.

Thank you for reading, and I wish you and yours abundant blessings!  
Brock

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## Lana's Annals: Week 6, South Dakota House of Representatives

Hello to all. This week was really a new experience; in lieu of several House members testing positive for Covid and because I was in direct contact with some of them in committee, I remained quarantined at home and did my work by remote. Several others also did the same. While a relatively simple procedure, it just was not as effective as being present. And yes, I was wearing a mask.

Our local government committee heard SB81. This bill allowed for the flying of not only an American flag but also an additional patriotic flag on private property. This may seem like a no brainer but came up based on a homeowners covenant that was in place in southeastern South Dakota. We had to make a choice: put forth a bill to override the covenant or keep the status quo. We decided to pass the bill in favor of displaying the patriotic flag. I want to mention that this should be a careful lesson: always when buying property, especially in a housing development. One should read about existing covenants, such as no flags, no sheds, a limit on trees, etc. Also if covenants do exist, how many years are they in force or are they in perpetuity. It would save a lot of trouble.

Also in the aforementioned meeting, we heard HB1238, which would allow y multi-jurisdictional totalizer hubs to operate in our state and conduct peri-mutuel horse and dog racing. Now I want to mention that I am not against people enjoying this type of entertainment; however, I had questions. Could these "hubs" operate from outside the country? The answer was affirmative. What would be in place to help regulate them, more specifically, did we have assurance of them being bonded. The answer was we would have no jurisdiction (obviously not). Those were red flags and must have been for others as well. We sent the bill to the 41st day, which means it is defeated.

Our education committee took up HB1241, to provide participation in a parent program upon filing for divorce. This was a mandate that before a divorce is granted, a four hour class has to be taken which would teach parents how to relate to their children to make the divorce transition easier for them. We were told that a couple of circuits in the state already has this in place. When asked about funding of it, I was told it runs from 5.00 to 25.00 per person and that Catholic Services in two circuits was one benevolent organization that helped defray the costs if needed. It then became unclear where the funding would come from in the other areas. At one point, it was stated that the state would probably receive a request for this funding.. No! We as a state do not have to get into the middle of divorce counseling costs. When people divorce, they have lawyers who help them work out details, of which this should be one. How many other people have to have a "finger in the pie?" Along with that, if the state was providing funds, the charges may increase. I asked a remote testifier (lawyer) what would happen if people refused to do this program. She said that they would not then be able to get a divorce. Wrong answer. The bill did pass, but I voted against it for reasons stated.

HB1254 prohibits preferential treatment in higher education employment. Simply put, no college employee can be given unequal treatment, either positive or negative, with respect to ideological, political, sectarian opinions, perspectives, or activities. All in all, departments of higher education systems should not have a predisposed agenda telling other employees how to think or what to believe. No employee should be incentivized or punished due to bias within departments.. I thought this is a good bill as we do not need this type of conflict to continue on our campuses. Others must have agreed and passed out of committee unanimously. I could have used the option to put it on consent; however, this would have been foolish as someone would have pulled the bill for further discussion on the House floor.

On the floor HB1140 proved to be controversial. It was to restrict conservation officers from entering private land without permission. I received mega e-mails..vote for this bill; it promotes property rights, which is very important. Then.. Do not vote for this; allow the officers to do their jobs. Allow them to conduct compliance checks. Back and forth ... When all was said and done, I voted against it. One of the letters that compelled me to cast a nay vote was from a former west river law enforcement officer who said he worked on joint operations with conservation officers and sometimes the land was owned by people who did not reside in the vicinity. Therefore to contact owners and maybe not be able to do so would have ruined the entire operation (hunting, drugs, other illegal activities). The bill did pass 41-28 so now it goes to a Senate committee for review. It is always interesting how there many times are 2 powerful sides to a bill and a lot to consider. Sometimes we get it right, sometimes not. It does prompt research, and with that, we acquire more knowledge on a subject for "next time.."

With that, I want to thank all of you who braved the cold weather to attend one of two Cracker Barrels (Clark and Refield) on President's Day. We have another one coming up on March 6 at NSU, Johnson Fine Arts Center in Aberdeen at 10 A.M. This has been an uncommon year for organization of and attendance at these functions, and we understand. Until next week, stay in the loop as to what we are doing by getting on to our South Dakota Legislative Irc site. Also a big thank you to Emily Hervi, Willow Lake, who served as a House Page. Great job!

Respectfully, Rep. Lana Greenfield  
 lana.greenfield@sdlegislature.gov

## Helping Counties And Relieving Property Tax Pressure



Rep. Drew Dennert

County government is required by state law to provide for critical local government needs, including law enforcement, court-houses, jails, and infrastructure like roads & bridges.

Today, however, they have only one funding source with which to meet these obligations: Property taxes. On top of this, property taxes are also required to cover a large portion of their local school district's budget.

With the increasing costs for schools, roads, and law enforcement, it is easy to see why property owners feel squeezed from every direction. I have introduced HB 1230 as one potential solution. This bill would dedicate a small portion of the state sales tax revenue from each county to a fund that could be utilized by counties solely for infrastructure projects, and reduce the need

for them to add additional levies on property owners to repair roads, buildings, or build a jail.

Not all the expenses incurred by county government are related to the residents actually living in the county, especially when it comes to law enforcement and roads. My proposal seeks to recognize that by taking a very small portion of the sales tax revenue and dedicating it to a fund that can be used by the counties to meet their infrastructure and law enforcement obligations.

It would divert 0.05% of state sales tax revenue to the fund, and grow to 0.25% over a five-year period. This would reduce the state government's overall tax revenue slightly, instead dedicating it to infrastructure projects at a local level. The county would then have the option, by a majority vote of the commission, to access these funds for an infrastructure project. That decision would be referable by the voters in the county if they did not feel the project was appropriate. If a county did not currently have a need for projects, they could leave the money in the fund for it to be invested and grow until a future date.

Revenues are a little higher than expected this year, so I felt this was a good year to consider an out-of-the-box solution that would reduce pressure on property tax payers and help counties meet their obligations. Ultimately the Legislature will have to consider all the competing uses of sales tax revenues and decide their priorities. The bill had a hearing last week in the Taxation Committee, and sent by unanimous vote to the Appropriations Committee to be considered alongside other revenue and spending bills.

I would like to hear your thoughts on this bill or any other solutions you have for local property tax. Please contact me on my website, [www.drewdennert.com](http://www.drewdennert.com)

Rep. Drew Dennert  
 Drew.Dennert@sdlegislature.gov

### Brown County Microsurfacing Project Bid

ADVERTISEMENT  
 2021 Brown County Microsurfacing Project

Sealed Bids will be received by the Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota until 8:46 AM local time on Tuesday, the 2nd day of March, 2021 for the above referenced project. Bids shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the Bidding Documents. Brown County reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all Bids as set forth in the Bidding Documents.

At or shortly after the time named above and within the meeting of the County Commission, such Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The Project includes the following Work:

Microsurfacing for approx. 17.5 miles including: Rut Fill, Scratch Course, and Surface Course.

Additional items as set forth in the Contract Documents.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Documents. The Successful Bidder will be required to provide Payment and Performance Bonds as described in the Bidding Documents.

Bidding Documents may be examined at the locations listed:

Brown County Highway Department  
 3133 8th Ave NE  
 Aberdeen, SD 57401  
 Ph: 605-626-7118  
 IMEG Corp  
 3314 Milwaukee Ave NE, Ste 2  
 Aberdeen, SD 57401  
 Ph: 605-225-3494

The Bidding Documents may also be examined at the following locations: SD Builders Exchange, Aberdeen, SD; SD

Builders Exchange, Sioux Falls, SD; Plains Builders Exchange, Sioux Falls, SD; Dodge Data & Analytics, Hot Springs, AR; Construction Plans Exchange of Bismarck-Mandan, Bismarck, ND; or Construction Plans Exchange of Fargo-Moorhead, Fargo, ND.

An electronic copy of the Plans and Specifications on a compact disc may be obtained from the Aberdeen office of IMEG upon payment of \$40.00 to IMEG for shipping and handling or Plans and Specifications may be downloaded from the <http://www.clark-docs.com> web site upon a payment of \$20.00. A printed set of Plans and Specifications may be obtained from the Aberdeen office of IMEG upon payment of \$100.00 to IMEG for shipping and handling. All payments are non-refundable. Upon request, one copy of Plans and Specifications shall be furnished, without charge, to each Contractor resident in South Dakota who intends, in good faith, to bid upon the project.

BY:  
 Cathy McNickle  
 Brown County Auditor  
 (0217.0224)  
 Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$52.31.  
 19759

### Groton City Firemen Special Event License

Notice of Hearing upon Application for a Special Event Alcoholic Beverage License

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT The Groton City Council on the 16th day of March, 2021 at 7:00pm at the Groton Community Center, 109 N 3rd Street, Groton, South Dakota will meet in regular session to consider a special event retail on-sale liquor license for the Groton Fire Men to operate within the City of Groton, South Dakota on April 24th, 2021.

Any person interested in the approval or rejection of any such application may appear and be heard.

Dated at Groton, South Dakota this 24th day of February, 2021.

Hope Block, Groton City Finance Officer  
 Published once at the total approximate cost of \$9.47.  
 19778

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# NEC Champions take down LRC Champions

It was the battle of the conference champions at the Groton Area Arena Monday night as the Lake Region Conference champions, the Warner Monarchs, came to town to take on the Northeast Conference Champions, the Groton Area Tigers.

Fans were not disappointed in the anticipated, high intense game, but it was the stunning Tiger defence that kept Warner at arm's length late in the game. These two teams battled into overtime the past two years.

The game was tied once in the first quarter before the Tigers took a 13-9 lead at the break. Warner came back and thanks to a nine-point rally, Warner took a 20-15 lead with 2:03 left in the half. Groton Area then rallied to tie the game at 20, but Warner led at half time, 22-20.

Warner took charge early in the third quarter and opened up a 26-20 lead. Groton then had a nine-point rally of its own and took a 29-26 lead with 3:55 left in the third quarter. Groton Area scored the last seven points of the third quarter and took a 38-29 lead into the fourth quarter. Free throws down the stretch for the Tigers iced the game for the Tigers as Groton Area made five of six free throws.

Lane Tietz led the Tigers with 18 points, two rebounds, three assists and four steals. Tate Larson had 12 points, eight rebounds, one assist and three steals. Jayden Zak had 10 points, four rebounds and two steals. Jacob Zak had four points, four rebounds, two assists and two steals. Tristan Traphagen had two points, five rebounds and two blocked shots. Cole Simon had two points, one rebound and one steal. Isaac Smith had one point and one rebound.

Groton Area made 11 of 29 two-pointers for 38 percent, five of 19 three-pointers for 26 percent (Tietz-2, Jayden Zak-2, Larson-1), had 25 rebounds, 11 turnovers, six assists, 17 fouls and two blocked shots.

Warner made 18 of 36 field goals for 50 percent, made six of 18

free throws for 33 percent, had 14 team fouls and 18 turnovers with 12 of them being steals.

Landon Leidholt led the Monarchs with 25 points followed by Hunter Cramer with seven, Alex Braun and Peyton Jung each had four and Chase Braun added three points.

The 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 Area won the junior varsity game, 37-21. Ken and Darcy Muller were the sponsors on GDILIVE.COM. Wyatt Hearnen led the Tigers with 12 points while Cole Simon had eight, Favian Sanchez seven, Tyson Parrow and Jackson Cogley each had three and Colby Dunker and Cade Larson each had two points.

Isaac Hoeft led the Monarchs with five points.

Groton Area made it a clean sweep on the night with a 32-22 C game win, sponsored by Bob and Vicki Walter on GDILIVE.COM.

Colby Dunker led Groton Area with 14 points followed by Taylor Diegel with six, Cade Larson and Braxton Imrie each had four points, Tyson Parrow had three and Dillon Abeln added one free throw.

Zane Baum led Warner with five points.

- Paul Kosel

## Frederick Town Feb. 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Town of Frederick  
February 10, 2021 Minutes  
Frederick's town board meeting was held Wednesday, February 10, 2021 in the Frederick Community Center beginning at 7:00 PM. Attending the meeting were Chairman R. Scott Campbell, Board members Troy Millard and Jeff Koters, Finance Officer and Assistant Finance Officer Diane Bruns and Mariah Heine, Utility Manager Rich Bakeberg, and Frederick Ambulance volunteer David Losure.

Chairman Campbell opened the meeting and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the December meetings were read and approved with a motion by Koters/Millard; motion carried. The financial statements were reviewed and accepted with a motion by Campbell/Millard; motion carried. The January accounts payable was approved with a motion by Millard/Koters; motion carried.

### ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

MDU electric BP/Wtr/Mun Bldg/SP/Sts/Swr/EBL \$1,302.14; Badger Meter meter fees Wtr \$115.70; Century Bus Products lease & copies Gen'l \$115.44; Community Store supplies Gen'l \$13.39; Dependable Sanitation Gbg \$1,877; D. Bruns CC \$134.83; D. Bruns wage FO \$1,902.75; FU Oil propane EBL \$1,548.54; EFPTS taxes Gen'l/FO/CC/EBL/Sts/Wtr/Swr/Cmty \$1,080.64; FDC Econ Dev \$1,200; Frohling Law Office

WWP \$1,878.75; FYI Gen'l \$30; GDI minutes Gen'l \$77.58; JC Campbell Inc bond FO \$525; J. Koters wage Gen'l \$138.52; JVT phone/svc FO/EBL/Wtr/Gen'l \$348.40; M. Cox wage EBL \$551.13; M. Heine wage FO \$1,002.85; Menard's supplies Mun Bldg \$145.05; Prairie Builders firehall repair Mun Bldg \$865; Public Health Lab test Wtr \$15; R. Bakeberg wage St/Wtr/Swr \$625.70; R. Bakeberg veh. Allow St/Wtr/Swr \$75; R.S. Campbell wage Gen'l \$161.61; SD Assn of Twn&Twnshps dues Gen'l \$214.75; SD Dept of Rev sales tax Grbg \$90.98; SDML ins Gen'l \$656; T. Millard wage Gen'l \$92.35; True Value supplies CC \$53.24; USDA-RD loan Wtr \$475; USPS stamps Wtr/Swr/Gbg \$165; WEB Water Wtr \$2,767.50

### OLD BUSINESS

Rich Bakeberg provided a utility report. The city will move forward with police protection from Brown County Police Department by getting a contract drawn up to be approved in the next meeting. The propane tank leaks, and was refilled recently. We will need to wait until the summer to fix it.

### NEW BUSINESS

The Northeast Council of Government sent a map to note the boundaries of the city. The board will reach out to pursue renewing our contract with Midco. The board moved to approve a resolution related to the wastewater project with a motion by Koters/Millard; all aye, motion carried. The interim note for the wastewater project was set to come due in February. Motion to extend note agreement through

August 1st through the First National Bank of Frederick along with an additional \$20,000 in funding made by Millard/Koters; motion carried. Dave Losure approached the board about wanting to charge for runs the ambulance service makes, but needing an organization to go through. The board suggested approaching the Frederick Fire Department organization to bill through. The wastewater project accounts payable will be put on hold until next Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 12pm.

Motion to adjourn made by Koters/Millard at 8:03, motion carried

M. Heine

Assistant Finance Officer

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Seeking SLP or SLPA in Northeast South Dakota. Must have or be able to get board licensure. Signing bonus available. Applications due February 26, 2021. More info at nesc.k12.sd.us or call (605) 783-3607. EOE

SEEKING K-12 PRINCIPAL for Bison, Competitive salary and benefits. Must be SD certified. Contact Superintendent Azevedo, marilyn.azevedo@k12.sd.us. Applications close April 1 or until filled.

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## MISCELLANEOUS:

GASTRIC BYPASS SURGERY FOR WEIGHT LOSS? If you or a loved one had this surgery and suffered serious injury or death? You may be entitled to compensation. Attorney Charles Johnson 1-800-535-5727

## NOTICES

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# Are you guilty of using the toilet as a trashcan?

By Nick Jackson

## South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems

While traveling across the state making visits, I had stopped into several towns and facilities asking this same question: What are the most troublesome issues you have experience within your wastewater collection or treatment system? Surprisingly the answer wasn't what I thought – you know, aging infrastructure or treatment facilities. No, it was what goes down the toilet and into the wastewater collection system.

Although the things that you may flush down the toilet may escape your home's plumbing, the sewage blockages that occur in the larger pipes affect many more people than just your family. If what you do flush down the toilet does not make it out of your home's plumbing, the damage it can cause can be costly.

Backed-up drains and sewers often mean that the sanitary systems require rodding or jetting. What's usually the culprit? Everything that isn't supposed to go down the toilet! These backups can also affect other sanitary equipment such as lift stations, bar screens, grinders, pumps, etc. which can become worn out prematurely because of what goes down the toilet.

We know it is tempting to flush nearly anything down the toilet. It's like a black hole; just dump, flush, and it's gone – out of sight out of mind. To do this, however, is to risk damaging septic tanks, wastewater collection system, and wastewater treatment centers, as well as causing toxic environmental pollution and the embarrassment that comes if you are found to be the cause of the problem. People don't think about this until one day they have a huge clog or septic tank problem and must spend lots of money to fix it.

### What Not to Flush

To help you save embarrassment, thousands of dollars in repairs, and avoid polluting the environment, pay attention to this list of things that you must never, EVER, flush down the toilet:

#### "Flushable" Wipes

- Baby Wipes •
- Cleaning Wipes •
- Paper Towels •
- Tissues

These so-called "flushable wipes" are becoming increasingly popular nowadays. They are also frequently causing clogs and backups in sewage collection pipes and wastewater treatment equipment. Although some of these brands might say they are flushable on the box, DO NOT FLUSH them down your toilet. If you use these products, dispose of them in a trash can.

The other paper products (paper towels and tissues) are designed to stay together when wet and absorb moisture and don't dissolve quickly in water.

#### Disposable Diapers • Feminine Hygiene Products

Just because there is human waste inside does not mean that they are ok to flush. Baby and adult diapers, as well as feminine hygiene products, are made to absorb and expand when they come in contact with liquids – not break apart in it. Dispose of all these items in the trash, not the toilet.

#### Fats • Oils • Cooking Grease

Grease should never be poured down any drain, period. It may

look like a liquid that can easily be dumped down a drain, but when it cools, it will solidify and clog up your pipes within the collection system. Collect your grease in a container and throw it in the trash.

#### Hair • Dental Floss • Rubber Bands • String

Most of these items are not biodegradable and can cause severe clogs and environmental damage. Hair, for one, will never dissolve in water – it floats and easily gets caught on its way out into the collection system, snagging whatever comes its way.

#### Medications

Unused drugs, pills or pharmaceuticals, medical salves, and ointments, should never be flushed! Although some believe this to be a safe way to dispose of these things, it is not. Toilet water cannot destroy the active ingredients in medicines. The wastewater treatment facilities are not designed to remove various chemicals found in drugs, and that means they are not removed and get pumped back into creeks, rivers or groundwater aquifers. These chemicals are dangerous to people, animals, aquatic life and the environment.

#### Food

When disposing of leftover food, never flush it down the toilet. Some may argue that food is biodegradable, and it is, but it can lodge in plumbing and create one powerful clog.

#### Cleansers • Stains

#### • Solvents • Thinners • Pesticides • Fertilizers • Automotive Products

If it is not meant to clean the toilet, don't flush it down. Combinations of these can be acidic, caustic, poisonous fumes or even cause explosions.

#### Animal Excrement • Cat Litter

Some product say their cat litter is flushable, but with newer water saving toilets, there is just not enough water to keep the litter moving within the collection system which can cause blockage. Dried animal feces gets dehydrated and becomes hard as a rock and may not dissolve – which can get caught somewhere in the collection system.

The list can go on and on, and it's time to take responsibility for using toilets as they were originally intended. What does that leave? Not much! Human excrement and regular toilet paper are the only things you should flush down your toilet.

Even the very thick and plush toilet paper can sometimes be tough to break down. A courtesy flush is occasionally necessary to avoid clogging the drain. We love Charmin Ultra too, but be conservative with your toilet paper use.

Please think twice about flushing these everyday items down the toilet, not only will it save you from causing blockages, but will also keep your community's wastewater system in good working order.



**Thank You!**

**A special Thank you to all who remember our 60th Anniversary with cards, letters, gifts and calls. It was greatly appreciated!**

*Over and Darlene Finnesand*

## Upcoming Schedule

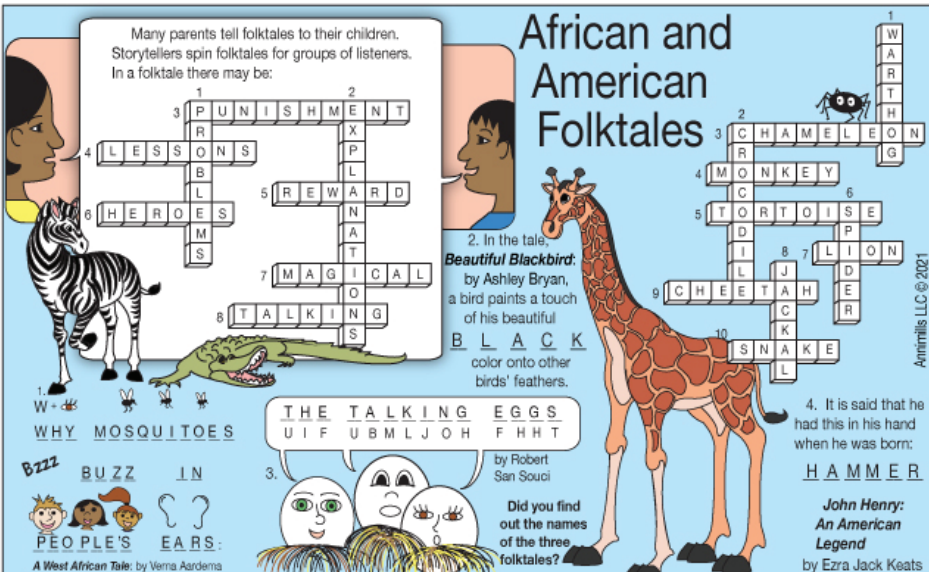
Friday, Feb. 26

Boys Basketball hosts Aberdeen Christian. JV (Gordon & Dorene Nelson) at 6 p.m. followed by Varsity.

Tuesday, March 2: BBB Region

Friday, March 5: BBB Region

## Answers to last week's Fun Page



Many parents tell folktales to their children. Storytellers spin folktales for groups of listeners. In a folktale there may be:

1. PUNISHMENT  
2. LESSONS  
3. REWARD  
4. HEROES  
5. MAGICAL  
6. TALKING  
7. MOSQUITOES  
8. BUZZ  
9. PEOPLE'S EARS  
10. THE TALKING EGGS  
11. HAMMER

2. In the tale, *Beautiful Blackbird*, by Ashley Bryan, a bird paints a touch of his beautiful color onto other birds' feathers.

3. Did you find out the names of the three folktales?

4. It is said that he had this in his hand when he was born:

John Henry: An American Legend by Ezra Jack Keats



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We're going to a sugarhouse... ...to have pancakes with maple syrup. Kids: color stuff in!

# Newspaper Fun!

www.readingclubfun.com Annimills LLC © 2021 V17-9

## Maple-Sugaring Time

When winter is ending and snow is disappearing; when spring is coming, before buds are appearing; When the temperatures rise to warm the day; when later they fall to freeze the night; When the sap starts to flow from the maple trees; when farmers tap the trees to collect it in buckets; When the sap is poured into tanks on sleds; when a horse team pulls it to the sugarhouse; When the sugarhouse is opened and roaring fires are built; when the sap is boiled, skimmed filtered and canned; When the first syrup is poured sweet and warm over pancakes... **It's maple-sugaring time!**

Oh, look at the sap dripping into the bucket.

Large farms today may use plastic tubing to deliver the sap from the trees directly to the sugarhouse.

Now! (Farmers – traditional)

Read the clues to fill in the puzzle with how a farm may do its maple sugaring.

- \_\_\_\_\_ are built in groves for storing equipment and boiling sap
- teams of \_\_\_\_\_ are harnessed to pull sleds to gather the sap
- holes drilled in trees, spouts placed, tin \_\_\_\_\_ catch sap
- sap gathered into a \_\_\_\_\_ on horse-drawn sled, pulled to camp
- sap boiled in shallow, rectangular stainless \_\_\_\_\_ pans
- a roaring \_\_\_\_\_ fire is kept going in firebox under pans
- sap filtered, temperature checked, amount of sugar in sap measured, \_\_\_\_\_ carrying dirt skimmed off the top
- sap flows through pans as it thickens, temperature checked, filtered, \_\_\_\_\_ "A" or "B" and canned
- \_\_\_\_\_ used on pancakes, in beans, on meats
- family uses, sells on farms, trucks deliver around the \_\_\_\_\_

### First People To Develop the Process For Maple-Sugaring

Native Americans were the first to discover and process the sweet gift of the trees. They used small birch bark parts to catch the maple tree sap. **To learn more about what they did to make this wonderful syrup, read the clues and fill in the puzzle:**

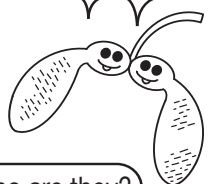
- the people \_\_\_\_\_ in maple groves
- held ceremonies and \_\_\_\_\_ to celebrate the sap harvest and coming of spring
- peeled loose birch \_\_\_\_\_ to make pans; sliced trees and placed pans to catch sap
- gathered sap in containers, \_\_\_\_\_ it to sugar camp
- boiled it in hollowed-out \_\_\_\_\_
- dropped hot \_\_\_\_\_ into sap to boil it
- skimmed scum and \_\_\_\_\_ from the top
- kept boiling until almost \_\_\_\_\_ or grainy so it would keep a long time
- ate dried yellow \_\_\_\_\_ + corn meal + beans
- used to sweeten, satisfy \_\_\_\_\_; sometimes sold to local markets or to fur-trapping companies

#### Back Then!

1 (Native Americans) 2 dances hunger 3 Maple syrup, Dude? dirt 4 logs 5 stones 6 Not yet! 7 carried 8 sugar 9 dry 10 camped

Can you find and circle at least 8 words that end with the suffix "-ing"? Notice that some are action words showing "action that was happening and is still happening" and that others describe things: "roaring fire".

We are the "keys" to the future of the maple trees. We ripen in late summer. We twirl through the air on a soft breeze!



Who are they?

They are winged seeds. They will land and grow into new maple trees.

#### Spring Math

cider + doughnuts + maple syrup on clean snow =

**Sugar-On-Snow Party!**

### Sweet Maple Treats!

There are only two countries in the world that produce maple syrup. Canada produces the most maple syrup in the world...about 80%! States in the northeastern part of the United States are famous for their delicious maple syrup. **Unscramble the letters to name four delicious maple sugar products.**

N  
Y  
A  
C  
D  
M A P L E

T  
E R  
T U B  
M A P L E

E  
F U  
G  
D  
M A P L E

U  
R  
S  
Y  
M A P L E

Answers next week

# Groton boys claim share of NEC title; Lady Tigers lock up third seed



**Cade Larson**  
(Photo by Benjamin Higgins)

The Groton Area boys have at least a share of the Northeast Conference title with a 67-56 win over Deuel on Friday. The last time Groton won the NEC title was back in 1995. Groton could get the title outright if Tiospa Zina would beat Clark/Willow Lake and then Sisseton would beat Tiospa Zina. As of right now, there is a three-way tie, all with two losses.

Groton Area never trailed and the Cardinals never threatened as the Tigers led at the quarterstops at 22-12, 33-24 and 53-37.

Groton Area made 24 of 42 two-pointers for 59 percent, three of 12 three-pointers for 25 percent (all three by one Lane Tietz), 10 of 10 free throws for 100 percent, had 27 rebounds, 15 turnovers, 17 assists, 10 steals and 15 fouls.

Tietz led the Tigers with 17 points, three rebounds, eight assists and four steals. Jacob Zak had 16 points, six rebounds, four assists and two steals. Jayden Zak had 10 points, three rebounds, one assist and one steal. Tristan Traphagen had eight points, two rebounds, two assists and one steal. Tate Larson had eight points, 10 rebounds, one assist and one steal. Cole Simon had six points and one rebound. Wyatt Hearnen had two points and one steal. Isaac Smith had one rebound and one assist and Lucas Simon had one rebound.

Deuel made 19 of 40 field goals for 48 percent, 11 of 16 free throws for 69 percent, had 13 team fouls and 18 turnovers. Tanner Preheim led the Cardinals with 10 points followed by Nathan Love with nine, Cooper Schiernbeck, Trey Maaland and Zane Bingham each had eight points, Layton Eide had six and Braydon Simon added two points.

Meanwhile the Lady Tigers keep their number three position in the region and will host Milbank in the first round on Tuesday as Groton Area defeated Deuel, 55-30. Groton Area led at the quarter stops at 18-4, 26-14 and 43-21.

Groton Area made 18 of 36 two-pointers for 50 percent, six of 19 three-pointers for 32 percent (2 by Gracie Traphagen, 2 by Alyssa Thayler, one by Kenzie McInerney and one by Anna Fjeldheim), and made one of three free throws for 33 percent. The Tigers had 37 rebounds, five turnovers, 16 assists, eight steals and eight team fouls.

Deuel made 12 of 47 field goals for 26 percent, three of five in free throws for 60 percent, had eight fouls and eight turnovers.

Thaler led the Tigers with 21 points and five rebounds. Traphagen had a double-double night with 12 points, 11 rebounds and two assists. Sydney Leicht had six points, two rebounds, one assist and two steals. McInerney had five points, one rebound, two assists and three steals. Brooke Gengerke had four points, seven rebounds and three assists. Allyssa Locke had four points, five rebounds, seven assists and one steal. Anna Fjeldheim had three points. Aspen Johnson had two rebounds. Jaedyn Penning had three rebounds. Emma Schinkel had one rebound and Jerica Locke had one assist and two steals.

Deuel was led by Haley Winter with 11 points while Josie Andersen had 10, Harley Hennings six, Taylor Bauman two and Jalyn Bury added one point.

Both varsity games were 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. Greg Kjellsen was a guest commentator.

The boys junior varsity team won, 50-41. Deuel had a 19-17 lead after the first quarter and Groton Area had a 21-19 lead at half time and a 40-29 lead after three quarters. Craig and Tasha Dunker sponsored the livestream on GDILIVE.COM.

Wyatt Hearnen had 14 points, Teylor Diegel 11, Cole Simon eight, Logan Ringgenberg seven, Colby Dunker three and Favian Sanchez and Jackson Cogley each had two.

The Lady Tigers won the junior varsity game, 33-11. Bob and Genni Neisen of Mahnomon, Minn, grandparents of Emily Clark, sponsored the broadcast on GDILIVE.COM. Laila Roberts had four points, Jerica Locke and Sydney Leicht each had three while adding two points apiece were Elizabeth Fliesh, Faith Traphagen, Brooklyn Hansen, Kennedy Hansen, Sara Menzia, Emily Clark and Jaedyn Penning.

Charlie Frost did the play-by-play action of both junior varsity games.

- Paul Kosel



**Brooke Gengerke**  
(Photo by Benjamin Higgins)



**Lane Tietz**  
(Photo by Benjamin Higgins)



**Allyssa Locke**  
(Photo by Benjamin Higgins)



**Wyatt Hearnen**  
(Photo by Benjamin Higgins)



**Jacob Zak**  
(Photo by Benjamin Higgins)



**Sara Menzia**  
(Photo by Benjamin Higgins)



**Sydney Leicht**  
(Photo by Benjamin Higgins)



**Cole Simon**  
(Photo by Benjamin Higgins)



**Jerica Locke**  
(Photo by Benjamin Higgins)



**Teylor Diegel**  
(Photo by Benjamin Higgins)



**Jayden Zak  
Tristan Traphagen setting  
screen**

(Photo by Benjamin Higgins)

**Boys NEC Standings**

Groton .....	8-2
Clark/Willow Lake ....	8-2
Tiospa Zina .....	6-3
Sisseton .....	6-3
Milbank .....	5-4
Roncalli .....	5-4
Hamlin.....	7-3
Redfield .....	5-5
Deuel .....	2-8
Webster.....	1-9
Britton-Hecla.....	0-10

**Girls NEC Standings**

Hamlin.....	10-0
Roncalli .....	9-1
Redfield .....	8-2
Sisseton .....	6-4
Groton .....	6-4
Webster.....	5-5
Milbank .....	4-6
Clark/Willow Lake ....	4-6
Deuel .....	1-9
Tiospa Zina .....	1-9
Britton-Hecla.....	1-9

*Bridal Shower*

**You're Invited!  
Bridal Shower for  
Alyson Hageman,  
bride-to-be of  
Jared Anderson  
Sat., Feb. 27, 1 p.m.  
Emmanuel Lutheran  
Church  
1006 N. 2nd St. Groton**

**Groton Prairie Mixed**

**Team Standings:** Jackelopes 10, Shih Tzus 9, Cheetahs 7, Chipmunks 6  
**Men's High Games:** Roger Spanier 204, 197, Brad Waage 195, 186, 183, Doug Jorgensen 178  
**Women's High Games:** Sue Stanley 179, Dar Larson 152, Nicole Kassube 150, Darci Spanier 150  
**Men's High Series:** Roger Spanier 575, Brad Waage 564, Tony Madsen 491

**A Vaccine Story for the Ages**

Last summer we heard the prediction that by the end of 2020, we would have a safe, effective vaccine to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which had only been discovered, of course, in December 2019, before causing countless deaths and mayhem in the world as we knew it. I must admit, I was skeptical.



**By Dr. Kelly Evans-Hullinger ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives**

Early in the pandemic, I learned that the fastest a vaccine had ever been developed was for the mumps virus, an effort which took four years. Even with all possible resources devoted to a COVID-19 vaccine, how could we ever do this in one year? Before I could even ponder this, however, my curiosity took me down the rabbit hole of the mumps vaccine.

Maurice Hilleman, to whom the mumps vaccine is credited, is something of a superhero in the world of virology and vaccine development. Over the course of his career, he was involved in the development of 40 vaccines, including an influenza vaccine in 1957 estimated to have prevented hundreds of thousands of deaths.

One night in 1963, Hilleman's young daughter Jeryl Lynn awoke him from sleep. She was feeling sick. Hilleman saw the telltale swelling of her salivary glands and knew she had the mumps. Mumps was a common childhood ailment, and while most children got mild illness including the classic swollen cheeks, it also caused aseptic meningitis, deafness, and infertility in males. Hilleman put Jeryl Lynn back to bed, then drove to his lab to retrieve a swab and culture media. He returned and awoke young Jeryl from her slumber to swab her mouth.

Over the next four years Hilleman cultured and tested the Jeryl Lynn strain of the mumps virus until it was safe enough to administer without the risk of illness but still effective in generating an immune response against a normal mumps virus. Jeryl Lynn was present when her younger sister Kirsten was publicly immunized with the new mumps vaccine as a small child. As a result of Hilleman's vaccine, the United States now has only about 200 cases of mumps per year, compared to 200,000 per year before the vaccine.

Back to that COVID-19 vaccine. Well, my timeline skepticism was unwarranted. In December 2020, data published on two separate vaccines using mRNA technology showed without ambiguity that we did have safe, effective vaccines just one year from the start of this pandemic. How so quickly? We can give credit to a modern technology being ready for this problem and the intellectual weight of thousands of scientists around the world. I think even Maurice Hilleman, the father of modern vaccines himself, would be impressed.

Kelly Evans-Hullinger, M.D. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices internal 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.



2021 Groton Area Elementary Kindergarten Roundup (Screening) for children turning 5 on or before September 1, 2021

**Friday, March 12, 2021**

If your child is currently attending Junior Kindergarten at Groton Area Elementary school, please DISREGARD this notice. Your teacher will be sending information if necessary.

Packets are being sent home this week with information regarding KG Roundup. These would apply to families who have children eligible for KG and JK this coming 2021-2022 school year who are not currently enrolled in our school. Please contact the school if you do not receive a packet by the end of this week.



42<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
**POLLED PRODUCTION SALE**  
**Saturday, March 6, 2021**  
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**A Valentine cookie and a collection of cupcakes are featured above made by Kate's Confections.** (Photos by Dorene Nelson)

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**Blue Bunny Premium Ice Cream**  
\$3.99 46 Oz. Scrouds

**Liquor**

**Canadian Club**  
1.75 Ltr.  
\$18.99

**Household**

**Dawn Ultra Dishwashing Liquid**  
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**Bakery**

**Cracked Wheat Bread**  
\$2.99 1 Lb. Loaf

**Deli**

**Ken's Famous Fried Chicken Buckets**  
\$8.99 8 Pk.



**Katie Kesterson is busy frosting an order of cupcakes.** (Photo by Dorene Nelson)

### Kate's Confections - Continued from front

youtube and practicing, practicing, practicing!"

"A lot of what I did at first was the result of trial and error," Kesterson stated. "When my first customers came to pick up their orders, I always reassured them by saying: 'If nothing else, it tastes great!'"

"I have a large oven that allows me to bake at least 28 cakes at once," she explained. "Even with the oven full, the baking time for each item is not affected."

"When the cakes are baked and cooled, I freeze them in order to try to accommodate everyone," Kesterson said. "My favorite thing to do is decorating the cakes, cookies, and other creations, and my goal is to accommodate every request for baked goods and make people smile!"

## Conde National League

**Team Standings:** Giants 29, Mets 27, Cubs 24, Braves 23 1/2, Pirates 21 1/2, Tigers 7

**Men's High Games:** Collin Cady 198, 191; Austin Schulke 188; John Lowery 187

**Men's High Series:** John Lowery 526, Collin Cady 503, Austin Schulke 487

**Women's High Games:** Sam Bahr 199, Tanah Messevou 192, Vickie Kramp 177

**Women's High Series:** Tanah Messevou 523 Vickie Kramp 479, Mary Larson 448

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