

The Groton Independent

Vol. 138 No. 26 ♦ Groton, South Dakota ♦ Wednesday, March 3, 2021 ♦ Established in 1889



St. Elizabeth holds Hunger Banquet

The Hunger Banquet was held last Wednesday at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Groton. There were three groups of people and each person coming in had to draw their designated area. The largest group were those from developing countries. Those individuals had to sit on the floor and eat their rice with their fingers. The next largest group had a bowl of stew and they sat on chairs and got to use utensils. They were in the back of the room. The smallest group had a steak supper and were waited on and could have all they wanted. They are pictured on the left side of the room on tables with table clothes.

Father Tom Hartman said that the Hunger Banquet was started by a Presentation Sister, Sister Pegge Boehm PBVM, and it was started in Milbank. When she no longer did it, Father Tom took over the project. He did it in Milbank for a couple of years, then did it at seminary and now for two years in the time he has been in Groton. The Hunger Banquet is part of the Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl Program. According to Father Tom, there were about 80 people in attendance. "This event is to broaden our vision of mission and expand our understanding of "Who is my neighbor?" The take away is how will we respond? May these programs help us to see Church as so much bigger than our parish family."

Oxfam is the organization that spearheads the Hunger Banquet. OXFAM (Oxford Committee for Famine Relief) is a confederation of 20 independent charitable organizations focusing on the alleviation of global poverty, founded in 1942 and led by Oxfam International. It is a major nonprofit group with an extensive collection of operations.

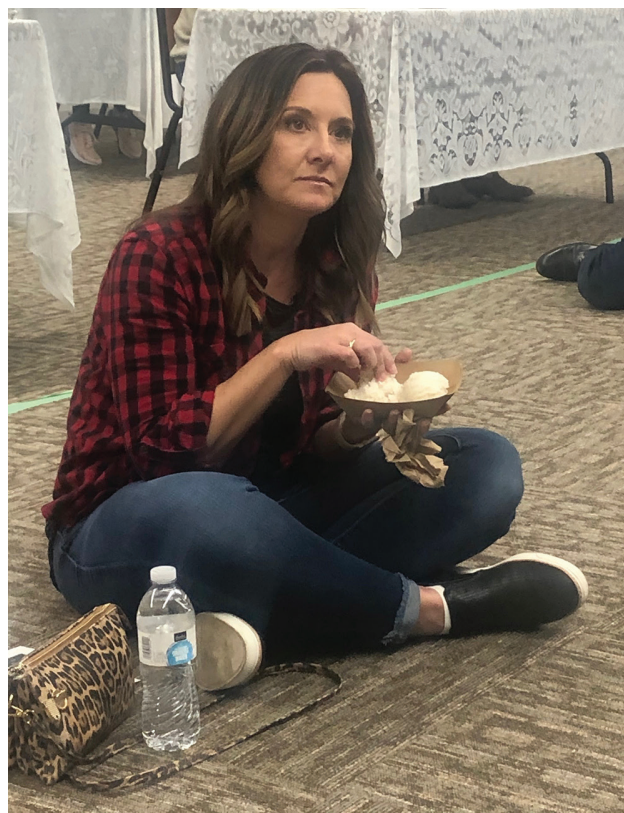


Father Tom Hartman holds up one of the rice bowls that people could take home and fill up with coins for the project. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

- Paul Kosel



David Hunter was one of those that got the luck draw and had a steak supper. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Jamie Simon got rice for supper, which had to be eaten by your fingers. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Blakely Stiegelmeier got a bowl of stew for supper. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

**Brown County
February 23, 2021
Meeting Minutes**

FEBRUARY 23, 2021 –GENERAL MEETING

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
Moved by Kippley, seconded by Feickert to approve the agenda. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES:
Moved by Kippley, seconded by Feickert to approve the general meeting minutes of February 16, 2021. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

Machinery & Equipment: Butler Machinery \$319,525.00. Professional Fees: City of Aberdeen \$223.12; Kristi Brandt \$51.00; Cogley Law Office \$7,656.25; Credit Collections Bureau \$15.65; Dohrer Law \$7,656.25; Michelle Gaikowski \$108.80; Christopher Haar \$7,132.71; Mark Katterhagen \$30.00; Kuck Law Office \$7,105.31; Darcy Lockwood \$30.00; Jerald McNeary \$7,070.31; Minnehaha County \$138.00; Sanford Clinic \$373.90; Sanford Health \$489.37; Christy Griffin-Serr Law \$7,070.31; Kristi Spitzer \$600.00; Taliaferro Law Firm \$7,656.25; US Bank \$1,981.81. Publishing: Groton Independent \$246.83; King Midas \$562.50; US Bank \$65.00. Rentals: Derek Ricci \$200.00. Repairs & Maintenance: Aberdeen Plumbing & Heating \$1,085.03; Ecolab Pest \$252.61; Timothy Gardner \$64.00; Leidholt Electric \$482.41; Lucy Lewno \$320.00; Minn-Kota Communications \$97.95; Pantorium Cleaners \$222.90; US Bank \$141.61. Supplies: Advance Auto Parts \$596.12; Aberdeen Medical Center \$1,319.32; MB LLC \$614.00; GovConnection \$422.96; Lucy Lewno \$11.50; Marco Inc. \$51.42; US Bank \$10,285.21. Travel & Conference: SDACC \$330.00; SD-ACO \$165.00; SDSU Extension \$48.80; US Bank \$667.87. Utilities: City of Aberdeen \$306.30; Qwest Corporation \$2,151.65; Dependable Sanitation \$513.00; James Valley Telecommunication \$219.90; Northwestern Energy \$401.46; US Bank \$4,432.53. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LEASES:
Moved by Kippley, seconded by Feickert to approve lease agreement with Northern Plains Baptist Church for lease of Richmond Lake Youth Camp Lodge June 21-27, 2021. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIM ASSIGNMENTS:
Moved by Feickert, seconded by Kippley to assign claim against an individual to Credit Collection Bureau for the purpose of collecting liens. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ABATEMENT:
Moved by Feickert, seconded by Kippley to approve the following abatement: Kimberly and David Meservey (changed classification to Owner-Occupied)

\$795.60. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FAIR CONTRACTS:
Moved by Kippley, seconded by Feickert to approve the following 2021 Brown County Fair contracts: Robert Kramer (4-H Judge) @ \$150 and \$0.47 per mile if lives outside Brown County, Mary Odland (4-H Judge) @ \$150 and \$0.47 per mile if lives outside Brown County, Lew's Fireworks @ \$5,000, Best Western Ramkota @ \$89.99 for guestrooms per room per night; JaCee Engelhart (photography service) @ \$1,400, Dayna Jones Music (entertainment) @ \$1,000, Gerald Mark Flora (entertainment) @ \$4,500, Swampsong LLC (entertainment) @ \$5,000, Randy Buker (entertainment) @ \$5,000, Marty Davis (entertainment) @ \$3,800, Mogen's Heroes(entertainment)@ \$1,000, Apollos Beacon LLC (entertainment(@ 3,000, NB Golf Cars LLC (club car rental) @ \$17,700, Street Smart Rental (4 trailers) @ \$5,600, Pauer Sound & Music (sound equipment rental) @ \$12,500. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

PLATS:
RESOLUTION 9-21 ABERNATHY ADDITION Commissioner Feickert brought the following resolution: "Be it resolved by the County Commission of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "ABERNATHY ADDITION IN THE NE1/4 OF SECTION 26, TOWNSHIP 123 NORTH, RANGE 60 WEST OF THE 5TH P.M., BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA" having been examined is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-3, and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Kippley. Roll call vote Commissioner Feickert – aye, Wiese- aye, Fjeldheim – aye, Kippley – aye, Sutton – absent. Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION 10-21 WIPF FIRST RICHMOND LAKE SUBDIVISION Commissioner Feickert brought the following resolution: "Be it resolved by the County Commission of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "WIPF FIRST RICHMOND LAKE SUBDIVISION IN THE SE 1/4 OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 124 NORTH, RANGE 65 WEST OF THE 5TH P.M., BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA" having been examined and approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-3, and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Kippley. Roll call vote Commissioner Feickert – aye, Wiese- aye, Fjeldheim – aye, Kippley – aye, Sutton – absent. Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION 11-21 LAMEE OUTLOT1 Commissioner Feickert brought the following resolution: "Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "LAMEE OUTLOT 1, IN THE SW 1/4 OF SECTION 29-T124N-R61W OF THE 5TH P.M., BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA" having been examined, is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL 11-3, and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Kippley. Roll call vote Commissioner Feickert – aye, Wiese- aye, Fjeldheim – aye, Kippley – aye, Sutton – absent. Resolution adopted.

SET HEARING DATE FOR COUNTY FAIR ORDINANCE – ORDINANCE 189:
Moved by Feickert, seconded by Kippley to set hearing date

and authorize publishing the following request to revise County Fair Ordinance, Title 16. A public hearing will be held by the Brown County Commission on the 16th day of March, 2021 beginning at 8:48 a.m. in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, to consider an ordinance amending Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, Title 16 Brown County Fair, by amending Chapter 16.02.05 Specific Responsibilities. The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the amendment to Title 16 Brown County Fair, Chapter 16.02.05. – At the conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt first reading of Brown County Ordinance No. 189. All member present voting aye. Motion carried.

SET HEARING DATE FOR REZONE ORDINANCE (MINI AG) – ORDINANCE 190:

Moved by Kippley, seconded by Feickert to set hearing date and authorize publishing the following request to rezone property: Application has been made by Dave Schumaker to the Brown County Board of Commissioners for a change of zoning. Hearing to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota on March 16, 2021 at 8:46 A.M. for the purpose of rezoning the following property from Chapter 4.14 Highway Commercial District (HC) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG): Lot 1 "Dave Schumaker Addition" in the NW1/4 of section 22T123N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County South Dakota (1220 392nd, Ave S).The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the amendment to Second Revision Brown County Ordinances pertaining to rezoning the described property. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt first reading of Ordinance No. 190. All member present voting aye. Motion carried.

LANDFILL USE REQUEST:
Moved by Kippley, seconded by Feickert to approve use of Brown County Landfill as requested by City of Ashley, North Dakota. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

MULTIPLE INTERMENT REQUEST:
Moved by Kippley seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Chair to sign Burial Permission Form submitted for burial at Riverside Memorial Cemetery to use Block 48, Lot 1, Grave Space J for multiple interment. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 187 MINI AG REZONE - SECOND READING & ADAPTION:

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to adopt ordinance 187: Applicant Kerry Konda requesting to rezone the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG): Lot 1, Richmond Sunsets Addition in the NW1/4 of Section 14-T124N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (37807 126th St). Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Feickert –aye, Wiese – aye, Kippley – aye, Fjeldheim – aye, Sutton - absent. Ordinance Adopted.

ORDINANCE 188 MINI AG REZONE – SECOND READING & ADAPTION:
Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to adopt ordinance 188: Applicant Earl Seppanen requesting to rezone the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG) Lot 1, "Reich Subdivision" in the NW1/4 of Section 8-T126N, R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (11338 389th Ave). Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Feickert – aye, Wiese – aye, Kippley – aye, Fjeldheim – aye, Sutton - absent. Ordinance Adopted.

JAIL VEHICLE PURCHASE/ SURPLUS REQUEST:
Brown County Chief Deputy Sheriff Dave Lunzman & Brown County Jail Supervisor Linn Kamin met to discuss with the commission the need to purchase a vehicle for the Jail. Moved by Wiese, seconded by Kippley to

approve purchase of 2016 Ford Transit 350 Van in the amount of \$17,599 and approve surplus of 2004 Pontiac Montana Van VIN...5775 for trade in value of \$2,000. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:
Moved by Kippley, seconded by Feickert to adjourn the Brown County Commission. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
Jeannette McClain, Brown County Deputy Auditor
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$101.38. 19802.

**Brown County
Adopted Ord. 187
Konda Rezoning**

ORDINANCE #187
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED TO REZONE CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY

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

Lot 1, Richmond Sunsets Addition in the NW1/4 of Section 14-T124N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (37807 126th St)

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

Notice of Hearing: February 3rd and 10th, 2021
Passed First Reading: February 16th, 2021
Passed Second Reading: February 23rd, 2021
Adopted: February 23rd, 2021
Published: March 3rd, 2021
Effective Date: March 23rd, 2021

**Brown County
Adopted Ord. 188
Seppanen Rezoning**

ORDINANCE #188
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED TO REZONE CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY

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

Lot 1, "Reich Subdivision" in the NW1/4 of Section 8-T126N, R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (11338 389th Ave)
BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota that the zoning official for the County of Brown is hereby authorized to change the official zoning map for Brown County to reflect this Ordinance.
Notice of Hearing: February 3rd and 10th, 2021
Passed First Reading: February 16th, 2021
Passed Second Reading: February 23rd, 2021

Adopted: February 23rd, 2021
Published: March 3rd, 2021
Effective Date: March 23rd, 2021
Doug Fjeldheim, Chair
Brown County Commission
ATTEST:
Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$18.28. 19804.

**Brown County
B.C. Fair
Responsibilities**

NOTICE OF HEARING OF THE BROWN COUNTY COMMISSION REGARDING AN AMENDMENT TO SECOND REVISION BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCE, TITLE 16
A public hearing will be held by the Brown County Commission on the 16th day of March, 2021 beginning at 8:48 a.m. in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, to consider an ordinance amending Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, Title 16 Brown County Fair, by amending Chapter 16.02.05 Specific Responsibilities, as follows:

- Along with the Fair Manager, the Brown County Fair Board:
 - Works to plan, coordinate and produce the annual Brown County Fair, including:
 - Youth and adult competitive exhibiting,
 - commercial exhibit opportunities,
 - 4-H competition,
 - FFA shows,
 - Special events,
 - Livestock, agricultural, educational and Home Arts exhibits
 - Providing quality entertainment and food concessions for the enjoyment of area residents and visitors.
 - Is responsible for long range planning for both future fairs and for future fairground needs.
 - Supervises its various fair committees.
 - Assists the Fair Manager with the various activities and programs held both during Fair Week and during the Fair Off-season,
 - Works with the Fair Manager concerning Fair contract and budget issues,
 - Approves all contracts before they are sent to the Brown County Commission for final approval.

Approves all contracts that do not require a formal bid or quote per Brown County Policy Manual under Purchasing Policy and Replacement Procedures for signature by Fair Manager. Contracts that do require a formal bid or quote will be sent to the Brown County Commission for final approval.

- Approves Fair Board Treasurer's monthly report.
 - Meets at least monthly to conduct its business.
 - Helps find, recruit and organize volunteers to work during Fair Week.
- The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the amendment to Title 16 Brown County Fair, Chapter 16.02.05. – At the conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt first reading of Brown County Ordinance No. 189
Dated this 23rd day of February, 2021
ATTEST:
Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor (0303.0310)
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$54.65. 19805.

**Brown County
Schumaker
Rezoning Notice**

NOTICE
Application has been made by Dave Schumaker to the Brown County Board of Commissioners for a change of zoning. Hearing to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota on March 16, 2021 at 8:46 A.M. for the purpose of rezoning the following property from Chapter 4.14 Highway Commercial District (HC) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG):
Lot 1, "Dave Schumaker Addition" in the NW1/4 of section 22T123N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (1220 392nd Ave S)
The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the amendment to Second Revision Brown County Ordinances pertaining to rezoning the described property. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt first reading of Ordinance No. 190
ATTEST:
Cathy McNickle, Brown County

Auditor (0303.0310)
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$23.51. 19806

**East Hanson
Equalization
Meeting Notice**

East Hanson Township Equalization Meeting Notice
The East Hanson Township Board of Equalization will meet at the St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ferney, SD., on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 7 p.m. All persons disputing their assessments are requested to notify the clerk no later than March 15th, 2021.
Betty Schinkel
East Hanson Township Clerk (0303.0310)
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$10.58. 19807

**Groton Township
Equalization
Meeting Notice**

NOTICE OF MEETING OF GROTON TOWNSHIP EQUALIZATION BOARD
Notice is hereby given that the Board of Supervisors of Groton Township, sitting as a Board of Equalization of Groton Township in Brown County, SD will meet in the office of "Love To Travel" between Ken's and the Avera Clinic in Groton, SD on March 15, 2021 (being the third Monday of March) at 7 PM for the purpose of reviewing, correcting and equalizing the assessment of said Township for year 2021.
All persons considering themselves aggrieved by said assessment are required to submit written notice to Jeff Howard, 40829 131st St, Groton, SD no later than March 10, 2021.
Jeff Howard, Cleric, Groton Township, Brown County, SD
Dated this 3rd day of March, 2021 (0303.0310)
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$18.81. 19808

**Olean Township
Gravel, Blading &
Mowing Bid Notice**

Olean Township is accepting bids for screened and crushed gravel, blading and mowing. Bids must be received by March 15, 2021.
Send bids to:
Sherry Hanson
Olean Township, Clerk
15477 409th Ave
Conde, SD 57434
Successful bidders must name township on insurance certificate. The board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.
(0303.0310)
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$12.35. 19809

**Putney Township
Equalization
Meeting Notice**

Putney Township Equalization Meeting Notice
The Putney Township Board of Equalization will meet at Mark Thompson's shop, on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 5 p.m. Prior notification to the clerk is required.
Mark Thompson
Putney Township Clerk (0303.0310)
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$9.40. 19810

**Groton City
Equalization
Meeting Notice**

PUBLIC NOTICE TO GROTON PROPERTY OWNERS
Notice is hereby given that City Council, sitting as the Local Board of Equalization, will meet at The Groton Community Center for the purpose of reviewing, correcting and equalizing the assessment of property on March 16, 2021 at 7:30 pm.
Appeals must be submitted in writing with supporting documentation by 5:00pm Thursday, March 11th at City Hall or mail appeals to the Finance Officer, PO Box 587 Groton, South Dakota. Those appealing will be notified of their scheduled time to meet with the Board. Contact City Hall for more information at 605-397-8422.
Hope Block, Groton City Finance Officer (0303.0310)
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$17.04. 19811

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Ward 2 to have an election

Voters in Ward 2 will have a choice between two candidates for the city council. Incumbent Jon Cutler will be challenged by Mitchell Locke for the two-year term.

Meanwhile in the other wards, Brian Bahr will fill out the one-year term of incumbent Emily Kappes who chose not to run.

Incumbent Shirley Wells took out a petition and will fill the two-year spot in Ward 2 and Incumbent Karyn Babcock took out a petition and will fill the spot in Ward 2 for a two-year term.

The Groton City Council met in regular session Tuesday night and voted to rescind a motion made at the last meeting to award the gravel bid to Krueger Brothers. Jensen Rock and Sand had submitted the low bid, but the council opted to go with the next lower bid with Krueger Brothers. City Attorney Drew Johnson was not at the last meeting and he informed the council Tuesday night that its bad circumstances to now award the bid to the lowest bidder. He recommended to the council to rescind the motion and to award to the gravel bid to the low bidder, which the council did do.

Spring garbage routes will go into effect next Tuesday. With the warm temperatures, the roads will soon become soft and garbage pickup will be done only along a designated route.

The logo for the new water tower was approved. The Groton American Legion Post #39 will inform the city at its March 9th meeting whether the Legion wants to pay to have a flag painted on the tower as well. A simple flag is \$5,000 but a flag the same as what is up there now is \$7,000.

The council authorized the addition of an assistant Junior Legion Coach at a wage of \$1,000. It was mentioned that money from the COVID Relief Grant will be used for this non-budgeted item. Speaking of the COVID Relief Grant, the council approved transferring \$250,000 from that grant to the Building and Structures line item in the budget to pay for the purchase of the Wells Fargo Bank building which will be the new city hall.

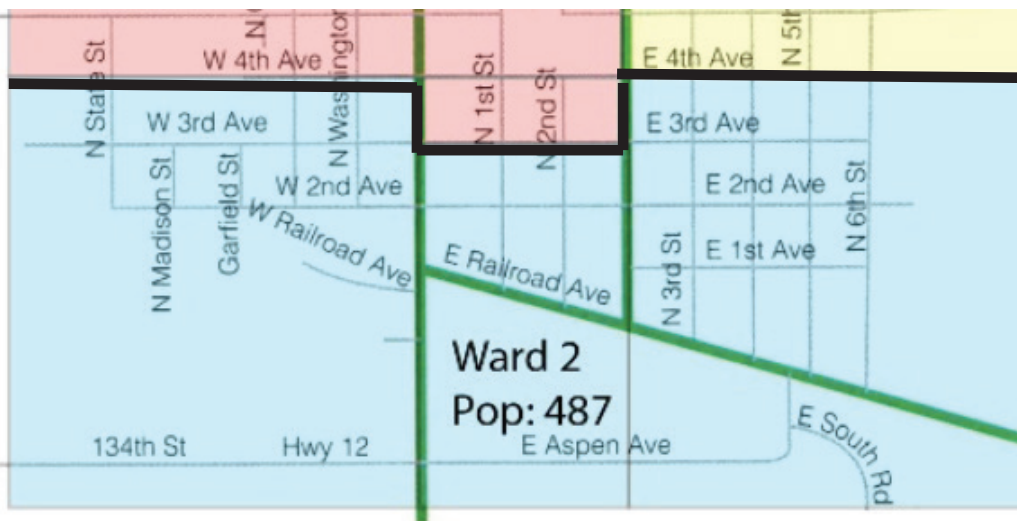
Four adult season baseball tickets were authorized to be given as a prize for the Baseball/Softball Foundation annual spring fundraiser.

The state law was changed last year and the city is catching up on the change made in the liquor revenue percentage. The city is getting 10 percent of above the cost for liquor and malt beverage and the state has set the maximum rate to 5 percent. The council adopted an ordinance to reflect the change.

The council approved for the city offices to be closed April 2 and April 5 for Easter. March 16th is the date set for equalization. The second reading of the summer salary ordinance was also approved.

- Paul Kosel

A subscription to the Groton Independent makes a great gift!



The area shown in blue (south of the black line) is the ward that will have the election this year. (Photo from city website)

Attention: Groton Area School District Patrons

An election for Groton Area Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, April 13, 2021. Four candidates running for two open positions are Anna Schwan, Martin D. Weismantel (I), Ryan Tracy and Kara M. Pharis (I). To vote in this election, you must be a registered voter of the Groton Area School District. If you are in doubt about your registration status, contact your local county auditor. Voter registration ends March 29, 2021.

On election day, the school district will operate polling sites from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM at Andover Other Place, Bristol Community Center, Columbia Legion and Groton Community Center. With respect to COVID-19 issues, please make good health related decisions when voting on election day.

In-person absentee voting will be available beginning March 15, 2021 at the High School Business Office located in Groton at 502 North 2nd Street from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday. Voters may vote in-person up until 5:00 PM the day before the election.

Voters may also vote absentee by mail or absentee by messenger, in the event of confinement due to sickness or disability. To receive a South Dakota Absentee Ballot Application Form call Mike Weber, at 605-397-2351 extension 1008, or email mike.weber@k12.sd.us. Forms are also available on-line at www.grotonarea.com and www.sdsos.gov.

Mike Weber
Election Superintendent
Groton Area Schools

Groton Chiropractic Clinic

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.
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Mar. 23-26: Regulatory Info/Pesticide Education

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PANDEMIC DILEMMA
By Gert Erickson

COVID Pandemic of twenty twenty Has changed our lives a plenty. Working from home and electronic school Wearing mask is the rule.

Social distancing --- washing hands, Curtailed visits to other lands. Loss of jobs and lack of money, These conditions are not funny.

Elderly persons home alone Family contact just by phone. No dining out or bar hopping, Items purchased by online shopping.

We can survive these trying days Simply adjust to life's new ways. God has a plan for His creation, Trusting in Him is our salvation.



By Jordan Wright

The 2020 NFL season saw a ton of changes to how the game was played because of the global pandemic. With most stadiums having little to no fans in the stands, the NFL took a financial hit, and teams around the league are feeling the effects this

Danielle Hunter comes in second with \$17.75 million. The Vikings would save \$5.75 million if they cut Hunter, but after seeing how atrocious the pass rush was without him, it's safe to assume he will also be back next season.

Riley Reiff's \$17.45MM cap hit is third on the roster. With only \$3.7MM in guaranteed money left on his contract, the Vikings could save nearly \$14 million if they choose to cut Reiff. He was solid last season and was easily the second-best lineman on the team, so cutting him would save money but open a giant hole at left tackle that will need to be filled. Maybe Ezra Cleveland will be ready to kick out to tackle, or maybe the Vikings will be able to draft an offensive tackle with their first-round pick, but either way, the team needs to have a plan in place if they want to replace Reiff.

Anthony Barr is another player who could be cut, although it's hard to see Zimmer cutting the first player he drafted after becoming the head coach. At the end of the day, however, the NFL is a business, and the \$7MM in cap relief could be incredibly attractive.

Some other players the team could cut to save cap space:

- Harrison Smith - \$10.25MM savings
- Kyle Rudolph - \$5.1MM savings
- Shamar Stephen - \$3.75MM savings
- Britton Colquitt - \$1.78MM savings
- Dan Bailey - \$1.7MM savings

This will be a remarkably interesting offseason, as teams struggle to get under the cap while also adding pieces in their quest for the Lombardi trophy. Don't miss next week's article, where I'll break down some free agents that could help the Vikings' offense in 2021. Skol!

offseason. The salary cap (how much money a team can spend on players) varies from year to year and is directly tied to league revenue. Instead of going up like it does every offseason, the cap for 2021 went down. Now, NFL teams are left scrambling, trying to find any way to get under the cap. As of right now, the cap hasn't been officially set – however, most believe it will be close to \$185 million (a decrease of \$13MM).

Factoring in the projected cap, the team's dead money, and any carryover from 2020, the Minnesota Vikings are currently \$7MM over the cap. Not only do the Vikings have to cut \$7 million from the roster, but they'll also need additional space so they can sign their rookie class and veteran free agents to fill out the roster. Let's take a look at the roster to determine which players are likely to be cut or asked to restructure their contract.

Kirk Cousins is taking up the most cap room with \$31 million (16.36%), but if the Vikings cut him they'll have to pay Cousins the remaining guaranteed money in his contract (\$41MM). So it will cost an additional \$10MM to cut Cousins – it's safe to assume he'll be back next season (unless the Vikings trade him, but we won't get into that now).

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A New Tacklebox

The gleaming tan and green tacklebox beckoned. It was on sale. I'd never actually bought a tacklebox before. The two tackleboxes I'd owned before had been hand-me-downs from my father.

The first was a small, steel box, spray painted green to hide the scars. I used it for years. But somewhere along the miles of my life, it was discarded.

The tacklebox I'd been using until this year was my father's last one. It rested, dusty and spotted by oil, in the garage after his death, so I took it home with me.

It was bursting with tackle. Hooks and rigs for every type of freshwater fish in the Midwest. The irony of this impressive collection did not escape me. I smiled. I chuckled. You see, my father, the man with this intimidating tangle of spinners, dare-devils, bobbers and lead weights, rarely fished.

I think we fished together—maybe a half dozen times. There just never seemed to be enough time.

But the tacklebox spoke volumes about Dad's optimism. One day he would fish for weeks on end. He would snag dozens of hooks on sunken logs, Lunkers would snap leaders. And he would be prepared.

I took that tacklebox with me every year on my annual fishin' trip with The Boys up on the Continental Divide of Colorado. But when I added my trout gear to the box, it began to bulge. A search for a #10 snelled hook could last minutes. Like my father, I could not pass by the aisles of fishing gear without purchasing some new wonder bait or guaranteed spinner. So I bought the gigantic new tacklebox. It boasted drawers and compartments enough for two fishermen.

I waited till the last day before I was to leave on this menonly trip to transfer the gear from Dad's old tacklebox to my new one. I didn't expect it to become a ritual, but it did as I lovingly stored all of my father's paraphernalia.

The Redhead urged me to finish the task. It was her last chance to get some work out of me for a week. But the ritual had become religion and each hook safely stored, a prayer.

I tucked the old, empty tacklebox into the closet. The Redhead plans to use it to decorate Dylan's room. And when he is older, it will go back into service.

The Boys found a new lake this year. Surrounded by fragrant pines and crumbling granite mountains, the waters gleamed as flawless as a mirror in the orangish early morning light. As we sat on the shore in dawn's radiant silence, two moose emerged from the shadowed forest and splashed noisily across the lake to graze choice rushes. As we watched, Bob spoke inspired words. "This is good for the soul." Fishing is a religion.

Fishing was fair—better than last year—and I was the leading fisherman. On the last day, when our luck had runout, I reeled in my line. Then I felt a tug. Surprised, I didn't set the hook well, I reeled the 10 inch trout closer to shore, and he darted bravely between the rocks, fighting for his life. Then, as Tom lowered the net, the fish slipped off the hook. Tom strained to find the fish, hoping to net him before he reached deeper water. Silently, curiously, I cheered for the trout. With a sassy swish of his tail and a last sparkling gleam of rainbow scales, he disappeared.

I packed my gear. I felt a few pangs of guilt as I glanced at the new tacklebox, as if leaving that old tacklebox behind had been a betrayal. But I silenced the guilt with my rationalizations. The many remaining empty drawers are a testament to my optimism. I will fill them. And I will fish.

Dad, your tacklebox didn't make the trip this year. But you did.



That's Life
by Tony Bender

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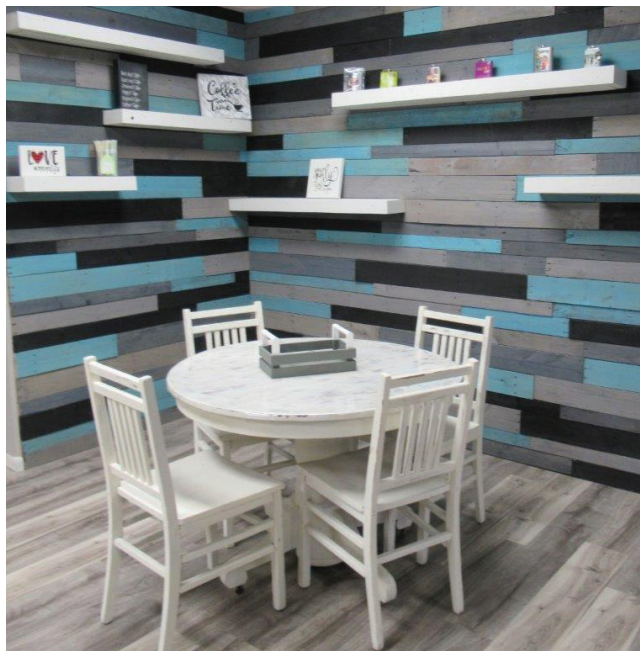
Beauty Brew Coffee & Boutique bring variety to Downtown Groton

by Dorene Nelson

The Beauty Brew Coffee & Boutique, planning to open on Groton's Main Street around the first part of March with a Grand Opening in the middle of March, is the perfect combination for favorite coffee drinks, gifts, Groton Tiger gear, along with many great choices of ladies' tops, dresses, pants, and more!

Carla Tracy and Kassie Dunbar are the co-owners and creative minds behind this new store.

"I ran a daycare out of this building for seven years," Tracy explained, "and now I want to use it for something new and exciting! We wanted to contribute to the community and have some fun along the way."



There will be some unique settings in the store. (Photo by Dorene Nelson)



There will be some untraditional display of clothing and items. (Photo by Dorene Nelson)

"Kassie mentioned to me that she would like to start an on-line clothing boutique, and I had considered starting a boutique a couple years back" she said. "What better way to use this space than to combine a coffee shop, home decor, and Groton Gear along with some great selections of women's clothes!"

"Due to my other job, I'll be working here on evenings and weekends," Dunbar explained. She currently runs a daycare.

"We have partnered up with the local vendor, Front Porch 605, for some home décor and gift items. The clothes that we will be selling include tops, dresses, jeans, athletic wear, shoes, and jewelry from many new vendors. We also will be supplying the latest styles on graphic tees and Groton apparel from another local vendor, AMA Design. We are excited to bring so many great local items into our store and work with some very talented local ladies," commented Tracy and Dunbar.

"We've been busy remodeling the building to suit our business," Tracy continued. "Our husbands have been working very hard and have done all of the work themselves."

"There is all new flooring, two dressing rooms, a kitchen, and various shelving and unique displays throughout the store," Tracy smiled. "Our hard working, clever husbands have helped make our dream into a reality!"

"We've decided to use refurbished or repurposed material and supplies," Dunbar stated. "The counter, for example, is made from stained pallets with a custom-designed counter top. The walls have old barn wood, tin, doors, and windows. We are excited to show it all off to the community."

"The coffee shop is located in the rear of the building where the existing kitchen for my daycare had been," Tracy explained. "The coffee nook has a table with four chairs and two additional smaller tables, made from wooden wire spools, that can seat two on each table for a total of 8-10 customers at once, along with a full couch."

"The kitchen has been remodeled with large stainless-steel sinks and counters to meet the health inspector's requirements," Dunbar said. "We eventually plan to offer some homemade snacks in addition to the coffee."

"In order for us to open the coffee shop and serve any food and drinks, we both had to take and pass the ServSafe Certification course," she added.

"We are very eagerly looking forward to our grand opening and welcoming our customers," Dunbar added. Their grand opening is slated for March 19-20. "Be sure to check us out; there will be plenty of give-a-ways and fun!"



Kassie Dunbar and Carla Tracy are opening up Beauty Brew Coffee & Boutique in downtown Groton. (Photo by Dorene Nelson)

Activities association weathers legislative session

By Dana Hess

For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE — Four bills in the current legislative session impacted the South Dakota High School Activities Association.

"We might be all done for the year on legislation," said executive director Dan Swartos during a SDHSAA board meeting on Wednesday. "It's been an interesting year."

The association ended up neutral on SB177, Gov. Kristi Noem's legislation that overhauls the rules governing home-schooling. One aspect of the legislation, approved by both the House and Senate, will allow home-schooled students to take part in extracurricular activities. SDHSAA oversees many of those activities.

"That bill's been an adventure," Swartos said.

Originally an opponent of the bill, the association became neutral on the subject when an amendment was added that made home-schooled students subject to the association's eligibility rules and local training regulations.

Wednesday morning, prior to and during the board meeting, Swartos was in the Capitol testifying on two bills.

SB128 sought to clarify the state law that doesn't allow the assignment of broadcast rights for high school athletic events. SDHSAA has an agreement with the National Federation of High School Associations that allows the NFHS to put broadcast equipment in schools. At times there was some confusion about who held the broadcast rights to athletic events broadcast by the NFHS.

Swartos said the bill, which has been approved earlier by the Senate and Wednesday morning by the House Education Committee,

"reflects, accurately, what we're doing with our broadcasting."

Wednesday Swartos also testified on HB1217, a bill that would override the association's rules regarding how transgender students qualify to play sports. After being approved by the House, that bill was killed in the Senate Education Committee on a vote of 6-3.

Another bill, SB170, required parental consent for nonemergency physical exams in schools. That bill died in committee.

All-State Chorus canceled due to COVID

By Dana Hess

For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE — Heeding the advice of its music advisory committee and its COVID task force, on Wednesday the South Dakota High School Activities Association Board of Directors voted to cancel this year's All-State Chorus concert. All-State Orchestra will take place with safety protocols in place.

SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director Brooks Bowman explained to the board that the music advisory board looked at six different options that ranged from having both events with varying degrees of safety protocols to canceling both of them.

"We have medical experts agreeing with our music experts," Bowman said. "This risk is just too great."

The risk of spreading the virus through singing was spelled out for the association in an aerosol study by the National Federation of High School Associations that found an increased chance of spreading the virus through singing.

Board member Tom Culver of Avon resisted the idea of canceling the event.

"We've taken enough things taken away from our kids," Culver said. "If schools don't want to come, they don't have to come."

Board member Randy Soma of Brookings noted that two groups—music teachers and a task force of educators and doctors—"said we should not have the choir."

SDHSAA Executive Director Dan Swartos said he didn't know of any states in the region that we having large-scale singing events. About 1,200 students take part in All-State Chorus.

Any plan to hold the chorus event would have included no audience and chorus members spread throughout the Premier Center in Sioux Falls. Bowman said singers would face a half second delay as the sound from one side of the building reached the other side.

"There are major concerns about how those kids will be able to stay together," Bowman said. "That messes with a musician's mind."

Board member Jerry Rasmussen of Dakota Valley said it was difficult to accept canceling the singing event when the association was just coming off a successful state wrestling tournament.

"Kids can wrestle but we can't sing," Rasmussen said. "It's not an apples to apples comparison."

Swartos said the NFHS aerosol study was specific to the dangers posed by singing. "We don't have that for when two teams play basketball," Swartos said.

A motion by Culver to hold both events failed by a vote of 3-5. A vote to cancel All-State Chorus but hold All-State Orchestra was approved 8-0.

At All-State Orchestra, all musicians will wear masks and wind instruments will have bell covers. Musicians will be spaced three feet apart.

Swartos said there would be some attendance allowed with student musicians receiving tickets they can give to family members.

Glimpses From Greenfield 2021-Week 7

As I glanced at my article from last week, I noticed a typo that probably did not get corrected in most newspapers. For the record, during Week 6 of the session, I was in quarantine due to being notified that I was a "close" contact with a legislator who had tested positive for COVID. In my unedited draft that I submitted for publication, it said I had been a "closet" contact. Hopefully everybody figured out what I meant. If so, you probably got a chuckle at the typo. If not, you were probably scratching your head wondering what in the heck I meant!

Week 7 of Session was very eventful for me. As crossover week was upon us, I had two Senate bills that remained on the Senate side that I was working on passing over to the House. I also took upon myself the responsibility of trying to work on an amendment for another bill that was causing great consternation for several people. I have mentioned SB 187 and SB 128 in previous articles. The other one was SB 183. Although I was not the prime sponsor on SB 183, I understood what the aim of the proponents' was, while also being sensitive to the concerns and frustrations of the opponents. In summary, the proponents had been made aware that in some surrogacy contracts previously drafted in SD, the contracts contains provisions that if the intended parents determined for some reason they did not want the surrogate to carry the child to term, the intended parents could demand their surrogate mother had to undergo an abortion. Certainly, this is problematic, as nobody should be contractually bound to subject him or herself to a medical procedure against his/her will. Last year, there was a bill that ultimately sought to ban surrogacy in SD. Because of that, the opponents of this year's legislation were extremely leery of the aim of the sponsors of this year's bill. In the end, I offered clarifying language to ensure that no pregnant woman could be compelled by anybody to have an abortion, while also making sure that any lawyer who is putting such terms in a contract would be subject to investigation and penalty. A highly contentious, hotly contested issue as it was introduced, I managed to find the sweet spot through a series of discussions, and I offered an amendment that resulted in a 35-0 vote. As it heads to the House, I remain in conversations with parties on both sides to figure out whether further clarifying language is necessary, but we are very close to having a happy resolution. More importantly, there is an increasing level of empathy between people on either side of the issue, and that, my friends, is a good thing!

SB 187 was originally introduced as a vehicle bill to accommodate adult-use marijuana legislation. This was essentially a companion bill to HB 1225. Both bills had only Representative Derby and me as prime sponsors. HB 1225 included 72 sections that covered 22 pages. That bill was killed on the House side last week. However, through hard work on the part of many, SB 187 was amended with major components of 1225 but was pared back to 27 sections that spanned 8 pages. Section 1 of the amended bill establishes that even though a number of legislators do not necessarily agree with the vote on Amendment A that sought to legalize recreational marijuana because it is still federally prohibited and because some have a fundamental disagreement with the broader issue, we feel it is our responsibility to try to establish a process that recognizes the will of the voters, while still respecting the fact that the issue continues to play out in the courts. The next 25 sections establish the skeletal framework of what an adult-use marijuana program would look like in SD. We recognized that we already have a process in place for selling other products intended for those over 21 years of age. With

that in mind, we focused in on how our malt beverage statutes are structured and largely did a copy-and-paste of those sections of code. 187 sets up a process that would require an applicant to submit a request to the SD Dept of Revenue and go through a background check and await word on whether that person or entity is deemed eligible for licensure. However, that is only the beginning of the process. Every applicant would also have to go through the same process with the local jurisdiction, whether city or county, as current malt-beverage license holders go through. Any local jurisdiction would ultimately be charged with publishing notice of and then holding a public hearing, at which time a decision would be made as to whether or not a permit would be granted to conduct business. The ultimate decision rests with the locals. The final section of the bill puts three triggers in place that would make the bill, if passed, operative. First, if Constitutional Amendment A is determined by the SD Supreme Court to be constitutional; or, second, if the federal government legalizes or decriminalizes marijuana; or, third, if the voters subsequently pass another measure that is deemed to be constitutional or is unchallenged, this would be in full force and effect. The Senate recognized this conversation needs to continue, as we try to navigate what to do in order that we do not have an unregulated industry in the state, and the bill passed, 19-15. A number of people who voted against the bill expressed that they feel we need to do something, and they said they are open to voting for the measure if it is amended and comes back to the Senate for concurrence or if it gets vetoed. And that remains the crux of the matter. Anything we do has to meet with the support of both bodies of the legislature and with the Governor. I have tried to work with other people to figure out what the best way is to proceed, being wholly respectful of the will of the electorate, the pending

litigation, the uncertainty as to whether the federal government will lift the federal ban on marijuana, and the concerns of the Governor and a number of legislators. Personally, I did not vote for either marijuana measure that was on the ballot last November, but I heard the voice of the people, and I'm putting forth my best effort at anticipating the future and trying to figure out the best way to put a program in place.

Finally, SB 128 speaks to the issue of exclusive media contracts as they pertain to covering public high school activities. I have discussed this issue in two previous articles, so let me just point out that Dr. Dan Swartos of the SD High School Activities Association appeared as an opponent to the bill as it was introduced, but he has been very receptive to hearing the concerns of the proponents of the bill. We have worked together to satisfy concerns on both sides, and after I amended the bill twice in committee, the bill sailed out of committee and off the Senate floor with unanimous votes. I truly appreciate Dr. Swartos' openness to hearing us and working with us. I will also point out that the state level competitions remain subject to exclusive contracts between the SDHSAA and the entity (in recent years, SD Public Broadcasting) with whom they enter into exclusive contracts. Any secondary media broadcasts of state events remain subject to the conditions of SDPB and the SDHSAA. Every other activity that involves media access to covering public school events, though, if this bill passes, will not be restricted to any of our media outlets.

With two weeks to go, we have reached crunch time for all remaining policy and fiscal debates. There will be long days ahead. Next week, I will try to provide shorter snapshots of a lot more bills and any updates on where we stand with respect to funding decisions. Until then, be well and be blessed.

Brock

Influenza Rare This Season

Do you know anyone who had influenza this past year? Chances are you do not. Sure, plenty of people had the "stomach flu" with vomiting and diarrhea, otherwise known as gastroenteritis. Some people had colds and others had COVID-19. But cases of influenza this season have been exceptionally low.

Starting a year ago, when someone came to my clinic with symptoms of influenza, including fevers, chills, muscle aches, or respiratory symptoms, we tested for both COVID-19 and for influenza. At first, every COVID-19 test was negative while many influenza tests were positive. However, with social distancing, mask wearing, washing hands, and people staying home when they were sick, influenza cases in South Dakota plummeted faster than I have ever seen.

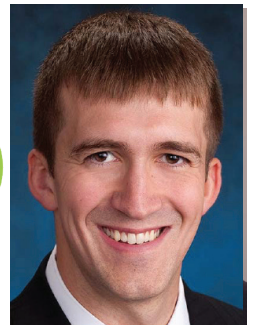
The charts put out by the South Dakota Department of Health speak for themselves. Every week they send out the latest influenza statistics and compare them to past years. The number of influenza cases forms something like a bell curve or mountain which peaks in South Dakota typically during the third week of February and then tapers down again. This year that line of cases for 2020-2021 is essentially flat, and this week we saw a slight increase in cases which will hopefully only form a small bump on the chart as opposed to a mountain.

Usually there are well over 2,000 confirmed cases of influenza in South Dakota each year, with almost 15,000 confirmed in last year's season. In a normal year, many more people have influenza but go unrecorded because they are not tested. For this current influenza season, many people are being tested for COVID-19 and influenza at the same time. Despite thousands of tests, there have been only 55 confirmed cases of influenza in the state through the third week of February.

Over the last decade, influenza claimed an average of 32 lives each year in South Dakota. The worst season was 2017-2018 when 73 people died, and the fewest deaths occurred in 2015-2016 when 9 people died. We know that this past year, COVID-19 claimed the lives of more than 1,850 people in South Dakota. COVID-19 still managed to thrive even while influenza withered. The biggest reason is because COVID-19 is more contagious than influenza. Vaccinations and past immunity to influenza also help reduce its occurrence.

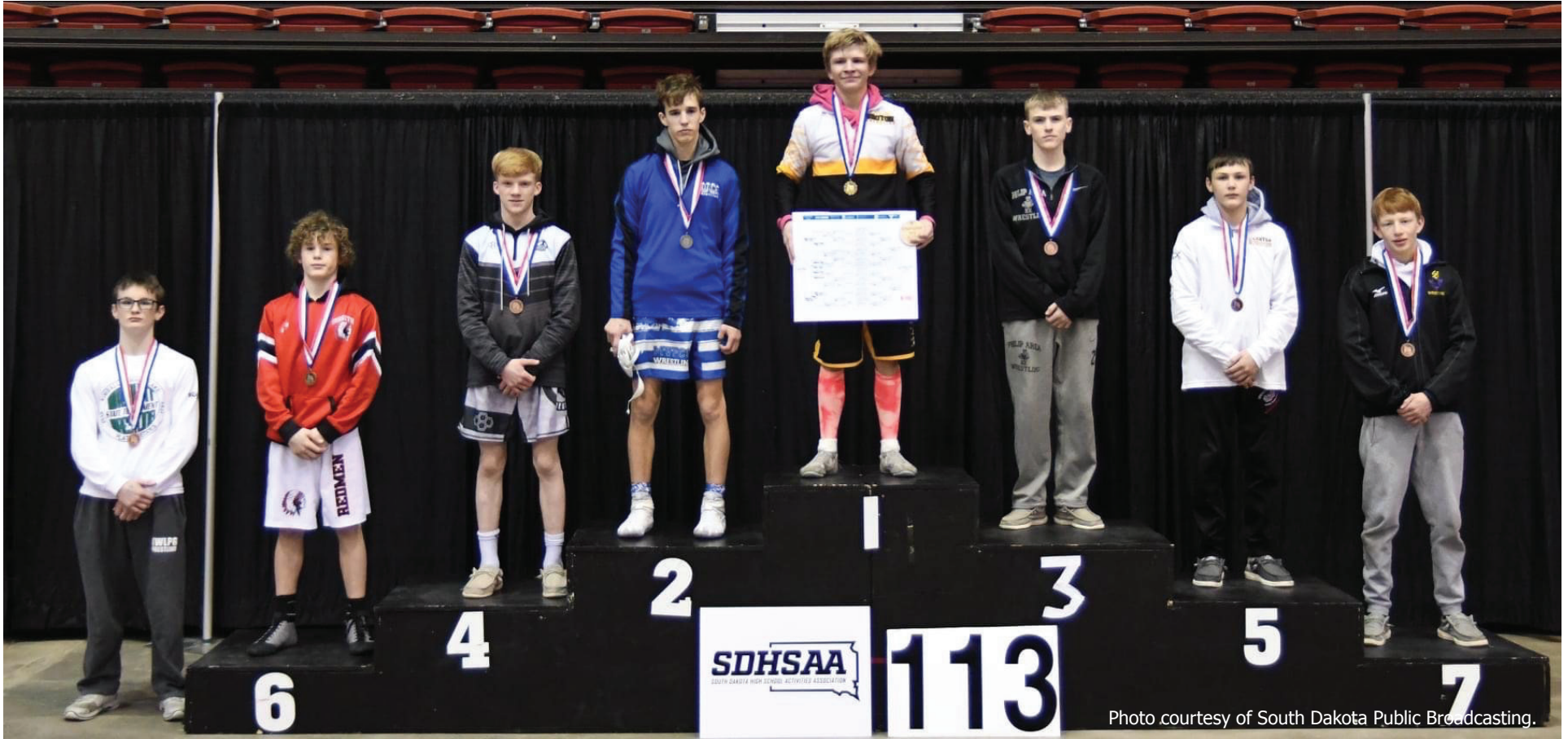
We cannot stress how important and helpful everyone's efforts over this last year have been toward keeping the numbers of COVID-19 down as much as we could to "flatten the curve" and avoid a catastrophe with everyone getting sick at once. We are not out of the woods yet, but we are getting closer. As far as influenza goes, it would appear that washing our hands, staying home when sick, social distancing, and wearing masks have drastically helped to minimize the spread.

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.



By Andrew Ellsworth, MD ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

Dragr Monson wins state title, goes 40-0



1st Place - Dragr Monson of Groton Area
 2nd Place - Hadley Tobin of Mt. Vernon/Plankinton/Corsica-Stickney
 3rd Place - Jace Blasius of Philip Area
 4th Place - Kellan Hurd of Miller/Highmore-Harrold

5th Place - Teague Granum of Canton
 6th Place - Ian Metz of Sisseton
 7th Place - Chase Hanson of Stanley County
 8th Place - Iden Myers of Kimball/White Lake/Platte-Geddes

Groton Area's Senior Dragr Monson has gone through his senior year undefeated and a state champion as he decisioned Hadley Tobin (Mt. Vernon/Plankinton/Corsica-Stickney), 5-3, in the the final match. Monson scored a major decision and a decision win on Friday and a first round pin on Thursday.

Champ. Round 1 - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 39-0 won by fall over Brady Unser (Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle) 21-14 (Fall 2:41)

Monson joins other state champions: Marc Johnson, 185, 1976; Randy Locke, 132, 1976; Randy Locke, 132, 1977; Curt Solaas, 126, 1977; Toby Erickson, 119, 1979; Marc Rossow, 185, 1985; Troy Bahr, 119, 1989; Austin Luecke, 215, 208 (went undefeated); and Dalton Locke, 285, 2013.

Quarterfinal - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 39-0 won by major decision over Iden Myers (Kimball/White Lake/Platte-Geddes) 22-12 (MD 12-2)

Semifinal - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 39-0 won by decision over Teague Granum (Canton) 34-6 (Dec 7-3)

1st Place Match - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 40-0 won by decision over Hadley Tobin (Mt. Vernon/Plankinton/Corsica-Stickney) 22-3 (Dec 5-3)

B-113: Dragr Monson (40-0) placed 1st and scored 25.0 team points.

Congratulations!

The following businesses congratulate Dragr on a fantastic finish to his senior year of wrestling at Groton Area High School.

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Lana's Annals- week 7 House of Representatives

Greetings to all. This week was by far the busiest one we have encountered-many early mornings and some late nights at the capitol.

In local government we heard HB1138, a bill regarding the issuing of camping permits. We were told that getting summer camping sites sometimes is very difficult so this bill is trying to give preference to our residents when it comes to making reservations. The first two weeks of reservations would be taken from only South Dakota residents. Two things convinced me to vote in favor: we do give residents a week to pheasant hunt before non-residents are allowed to do so. Also, we residents pay for the facilities and roads to campgrounds with our tax dollars. Therefore it seemed like a reasonable bill. It passed our committee and also the House floor. Now, it's on to a Senate committee.

House Education passed HB1146, which states that the Board of Regents would no longer have the majority party have 6 members and three others from the other party affiliations. Instead, the bill would make the appointments non-political, and would be appointed on qualifications. The language of having only one member coming from a particular county remains in tact. I thought this was good as members then cannot over-represent a certain area or a certain party. Others may see it different as it moves its way along.

On Thursday we were all supposed to wear black for crossover day, the day when the bills must be voted on by their respective Chambers. Black symbolizes bills that have been voted down, and there have been many.

Crossover day found us debating HB1100H a bill that set up the framework for medical marijuana. We decided to have a summer work group that would finish the implementation of the plans, and medical

cards would be available for issue by January 1, 2022. Although some wanted this to be a reality sooner, we had a good debate and ended up passing the bill. Many agreed as long as we were putting this into legislation, it would be good to do it right the first time.

Another talker on the floor this week was HB1154, which would prohibit contracts with no compete clauses. In some areas healthcare people, when they are hired for a position, have to sign a no compete clause, which essentially locks them into one healthcare organization. The argument in favor of this is that if the worker is trained extensively by one healthcare group, he/she should be obligated to stay. On the flip side is the fact that not all people want to remain in the same position with the same group forever. Thus if they have signed a contract with a no compete clause, nothing may be available in a town where they live, so they may have to work several miles out of town in order to have a job. As most thought this was unfair, the bill was passed to reflect worker favor.

The House this week also HB1112. This bill would have increased safety zone distance for gun discharge. The current bill defines the area of safety as 660 ft. and the proposal was to moved it to 300 yards. A couple of legislators who are avid hunters felt this bill was against hunters and road hunting. While I was not certain if this was the bill's intent or if it was merely trying to protect property and dwellings, it just seemed a little unreasonable. Therefore, I voted against it. The bill lost 27-40 with 3 absent.

HB1210, to make an appropriation for a new bioproducts facility at the Brookings research park, passed by exactly a 2/3 vote. This will provide a place to be used by SDSU and SM&T to do research to develop new industries within our state. That could be hemp, timber, and soy products, just to name a few. I am not one to spend a lot of money, but I felt this would be a 20 million dollar investment in continuing to promote our economy and new opportunities for our college students and eventually jobs for them after graduation. We got some matching money from big industries and well as equipment commitments to be used in conjunction with research.

We also voted in the 900,000 dollar Governor's request to continue implementing materials and teacher training for teaching South Dakota civics and history. Many of us spoke favorably, and it handily passed.

Keep in mind, that all of the bills mentioned are House bills and still have to meet up with Senate approval.

All in all, we have much work to do in the next 2 weeks. I am certain there will be more 16 hour days before we conclude. With that said, I will conclude for this week. If you are a "night owl." you can continue to watch the House and Senate proceedings at midnite or on SD.Net in the afternoons daily.

Rep. Lana Greenfield
lana.greenfield@sdlegislature.gov

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K-12 VOCAL MUSIC TEACHER: The Mount Vernon School District is seeking applications for a K-12 Vocal Music Teacher for the 21-22 school year. Please send a letter of application, resumé and teaching credentials to: Superintendent/PK-5 Principal, Patrick Mikkonen, PO Box 46 or pat.mikkonen@k12.sd.us, Mount Vernon, SD 57363.

MISCELLANEOUS

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Answers to last week's Fun Page

Maple-Sugaring Time

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

Wow, yummy!

Now! and Then!

Words Ending in "-ing": ending, disappearing, coming, appearing, roaring, sugaring, boiling, reading.

Answers to last week's Fun Page:

- 1. SUGARHOUSE
- 2. CARRIED
- 3. HUNGERS
- 4. DIRET
- 5. SYRUP
- 6. BUTTER
- 7. CANDY
- 8. FUDGE
- 9. SUGAR

Knights hand Tigers first home loss of the season

Aberdeen Christian outshot the Tigers, 39 percent to 29 percent, and handed Groton Area its first home loss of the season in the regular season finale, 44-32.

Aberdeen Christian jumped out to a 6-0 lead and the Tigers never tied or led in the game. Aberdeen Christian took an 11-5 lead after the first period, a 22-18 lead at half time and a 37-26 lead after three quarters.

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 and Farmers Union Insurance - JR Johnson.

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

Groton Area made 10 of 29 two-pointers for 34 percent, three of 15 in three-pointers for 20 percent, was three of seven from the line for 43 percent off of the Knight's 12 team fouls, had 19 rebounds, nine turnovers, 10 assists and 12 team fouls. The Knights had nine turnovers with eight of them being steals.

Aberdeen Christian made 17 of 44 field goals for 39 percent and was six of 12 from the line for 50 percent.

Jett Becker led the Knights with 14 points followed by Brent Ekanger with 10, Jackson Isakson seven, Ethan Russell six, Malek Wieker five and Kaden Clark two.

Making three-pointers were Hearnen-1, Smith-1, Jacob Zak-1, Isakson-2 and Becker -2.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 47-19. The Tigers led at the quarter stops at 9-2, 28-4 and 39-9.

Wyatt Hearnen led Groton Area with 16 points which included 13 alone in the second quarter. After that it was Colby Dunker with eight, Favian Sanchez and Tyson Parrow each had six, Jackson Cogley five, Cole Simon four and Dillon Abeln two.

Joey Johnson led Aberdeen Christian with nine points.

The junior varsity game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Gordon and Dorene Nelson of Groton and Skip and Diane Larson of Woonsocket, grandparents of Cade and Tate Larson.

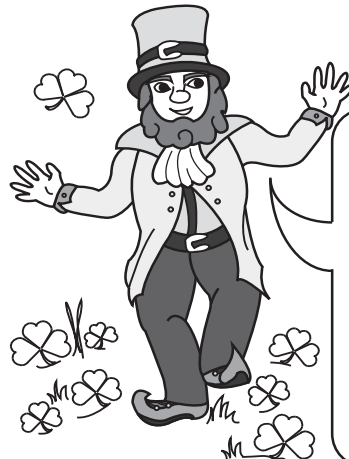
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We don't have to be Irish to join... ...in fun and festivities with friends.
Newspaper Fun!
 www.readingclubfun.com Annimills LLC © 2021 V17-10 Kids: color stuff in!

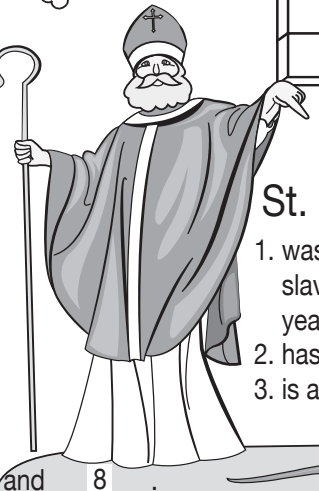


Celebrating St. Patrick's Day

You won't see me, but I'll be part of all the fun and festivities for St. Patrick's Day. I love the Irish dancers and music of the harpists, bagpipers, fiddlers and drummers. I follow the floats and bands in the parades. I even pop into a few homes to taste the family's special treats and meals like corned beef and cabbage. You can look for me if you want...I'm the knee-high guy wearing green and holding a 4-leaf shamrock. **Meanwhile, fill in my puzzle about Ireland and celebrating St. Patrick's Day.**

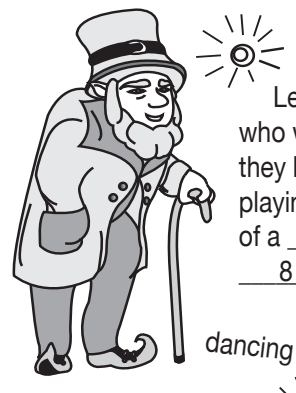
- 12 is a beautiful "Emerald" 9 in the Atlantic Ocean. It is west of England, separated by the Irish Sea.
- The capital and largest city in Ireland is called 15.
- In the mid-1800s, an important crop suffered terrible blight, causing what is now called the "Great 3 Famine."
- To escape 6, about one and a half 13 people left Ireland, sailing in 11 to get to America.
- Most arrived in large cities and took jobs in 7.
- Today in America, the Irish people share their joy of 1 and 2, like the Irish jig, with everyone else on St. Patrick's Day.
- People like to wear something that is 4.
- You might hear a story about how lucky it is to find a four-leaf 5 or to catch a 14.
- Some cities dye a river or the water in a fountain green and people line the streets to watch 10.
- Everyone can enjoy an Irish-American dinner of corned beef and 8.

True or False?



St. Patrick ...

- was brought to Ireland as a slave; he escaped and went back years later to teach about Christianity 1. T F
- has many Irish boys named after him 2. T F
- is a symbol of the Irish "spirit" 3. T F



Upon Catching a Leprechaun!

Leprechauns are found in Irish 2 and legends. They are wee folk who wear 10 and work hard at making 7. That may be because they love 4. The fiddle and harp are 1 to their ears! They like playing 5. It is said that they store their 9 in a pot at the end of a 3. If a person catches a leprechaun, he or she may have a few 8 granted. If they take their eye off the leprechaun, he will 6.

Springing Clocks Ahead!

Use the code below to see my timely message!



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
•	□	△	×	○	▽	▭	L	7	⊙	∅	□	×
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
△	⊙	▭	⊗	×	?	○	!	↻	⊗	○	∩	∪

St. Patrick's feat

According to legend, what did St. Patrick drive out of Ireland? Use the color key to find out: G = Green Y = Yellow

Newspaper Fun! Created by Annimills LLC © 2021

Answers next week



Dear EarthTalk: How are bee population numbers doing these days?
— B. Turner, via e-mail

Whether you've noticed it or not, there are far fewer bees around nowadays. One-quarter of the world's 20,000 bee species are in precipitous decline or have already gone extinct since 1990. A range of causes are to blame, including indiscriminate overuse of pesticides, loss of plants, and habitat destruction from human encroachment. But the latest and greatest threat is now climate change, which is warping the bees' environments (blooming seasons, plant diversity, etc.) at a faster rate than they are able to adapt.

Today in the U.S. only eight bee species are afforded protection under the Endangered Species Act. Seven are found only in Hawaii while the other, the Rusty patched bumble bee, occupies the tallgrass prairie of the Upper Midwest, most of which has been lost to farmland, strip malls and housing developments. Rusty patched bee populations have fallen off by 87 percent as a result.

In February 2021, conservation groups petitioned the Biden administration to grant the American bumblebee endangered species protection as well. Once the most common type of bee from coast-to-coast, this iconic bee has declined by some 89 percent in just the last two decades alone. Conservationists are worried about the implications for bee-pollinated plants and the animals (like us) that depend on them.

While the bees' decline worldwide is unquestionably due to human activity, the silver lining is that human activity can also help bring them back. A new map of global bee distribution and density created by researchers from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the University of Georgia aims to help conservationists track the health of various bee populations across the U.S. and around the globe.

As for what readers can do to help bees, plant some native plants that attract them to your backyard. Regardless, if you happen to see bees nearby, snap some photos of them with your phone and upload them to iNaturalist so researchers can use your sighting to help track population dynamics. For more ideas on how you can help bees rebound locally, check out the website of the Bee Conservancy, a U.S.-based non-profit that is coordinating efforts to save bee populations around the world.

The good news is that bee populations in the U.S. and globally have seen a slight increase during the course of the COVID pandemic, due to reduced human activity. But the problem is hardly solved—especially as we all get back to business as usual.

They may be small, but if we do not care for bees, we lose natural pollinators for the vast majority of cultivated crops and wild plants. If we can't save bees now, fresh fruits and vegetables could be scarce worldwide, which could in turn lead to massive social upheaval, even wars. It seems well worth our time, money and effort at this point to protect bees now, if not for their own sake, then for ours.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

American bumblebee numbers have fallen by 89% over the last two decades across the U.S., and conservationists want the Biden administration to add this little flying stinger to the Endangered Species List. Credit: James Johnston, FlickrCC.

Final Northeast Conference Standings

Boys NEC Standings

Groton	8-2
Clark/Willow Lake	8-2
Sisseton	7-3
Hamlin.....	7-3
Tiospa Zina	6-4
Roncalli	6-4
Milbank	5-5
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

Friendly Fellows and Daisies 4-H Club

February 2021

The Friendly Fellows and Daisies 4-H Club met on February 7, 2021, at the Claremont Methodist Church. American Pledge was led by Blake Pauli. The 4-H Pledge was led by Colin Frey. Roll call topic was favorite candy. There were few communications. The treasurer's report was approved by Hailey Pauli and 2nd by Ashlynn Warrington. There were no additions or improvements. The Secretaries report was approved by Colin Frey and 2nd by Kennedy Anderson. There was no old business. Old business was closed by Ashlynn Warrington and 2nd by Logan Warrington. For new business the club read the newshound, talked about the ski trip, and fundraisers. New business was closed by Hailey Pauli and 2nd by Ashlynn Warrington. The meeting was adjourned by Braden Boe and 2nd by Ashlynn Warrington. Lunch was served by Braden Boe and family.

Submitted by Logan Warrington, Club Reporter

WEDNESDAYS | 8AM - 8PM

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Photos by Scott Thorson of the championship match.

Monson wins state title

Groton Area's Senior Dragr Monson has gone through his senior year undefeated and a state champion as he decisioned Hadley Tobin (Mt. Vernon/Plankinton/Corsica-Stickney), 5-3, in the the final match. Monson scored a major decision and a decision win on Friday and a first round pin on Thursday.

Christian Ehresmann and Lane Krueger each lost a first round match, but then both came back for a second round pin and both lost in the third round. Cole Bisbee lost both of his matches via a pin.

B-113: Dragr Monson (40-0) placed 1st and scored 25.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 39-0 won by fall over Brady Unser (Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle) 21-14 (Fall 2:41)

Quarterfinal - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 39-0 won by major decision over Iden Myers (Kimball/White Lake/Platte-Geddes) 22-12 (MD 12-2)

Semifinal - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 39-0 won by decision over Teague Granum (Canton) 34-6 (Dec 7-3)

1st Place Match - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 40-0 won by decision over Hadley Tobin (Mt. Vernon/Plankinton/Corsica-Stickney) 22-3 (Dec 5-3)

B-126: Christian Ehresmann (34-8) scored 3.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Porter Neugebauer (Parkston) 31-11 won by decision over Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 34-8 (Dec 9-2)

Cons. Round 1 - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 34-8 won by fall over Jude Sargent (Winner Area) 18-20 (Fall 0:21)

Cons. Round 2 - Brady Bierema (Bon Homme/Scotland/Avon) 20-9 won by decision over Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 34-8 (Dec 8-6)

B-160: Cole Bisbee (19-21)

Champ. Round 1 - Dylan Whitley (Redfield Area) 32-4 won by fall over Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 19-21 (Fall 0:37)

Cons. Round 1 - Gunnar Stephens (Burke/Gregory) 27-20 won by fall over Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 19-21 (Fall 0:58)

B-195: Lane Krueger (24-9) scored 3.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Charlie Patten (Parker) 42-6 won by fall over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 24-9 (Fall 1:43)

Cons. Round 1 - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 24-9 won by fall over Cole Wellner (Mobridge-Pollock) 19-10 (Fall 1:44)

Cons. Round 2 - Josh Merkle (Canton) 37-7 won by fall over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 24-9 (Fall 3:27)

Tigers share NEC title, retain #1 seed in region

Groton Area and Clark/Willow Lake will share the Northeast Conference title this year. Two conference games were played last Tuesday night with Sisseton beating Tiospa Zina, 62-42, and Roncalli beating Milbank, 58-53. Sisseton outscored Tiospa Zina, 21-6, in the third quarter to pull away from a 26-tie at half time.

Since both Groton Area and Tiospa Zina both lost, Groton Area was able to maintain the number one seed in the region.

Milbank defeated Redfield, 54-31, so Groton Area will host Milbank at a 7 p.m. game on Friday. The winner will advance to the SoDak16 next week.

In the other half of the bracket, Sisseton defeated Roncalli, 65-39; and Tiospa Zina defeated Webster, 50-41. Tiospa Zina will host Sisseton on Friday.

A subscription to the Groton Independent makes a great birthday gift!



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

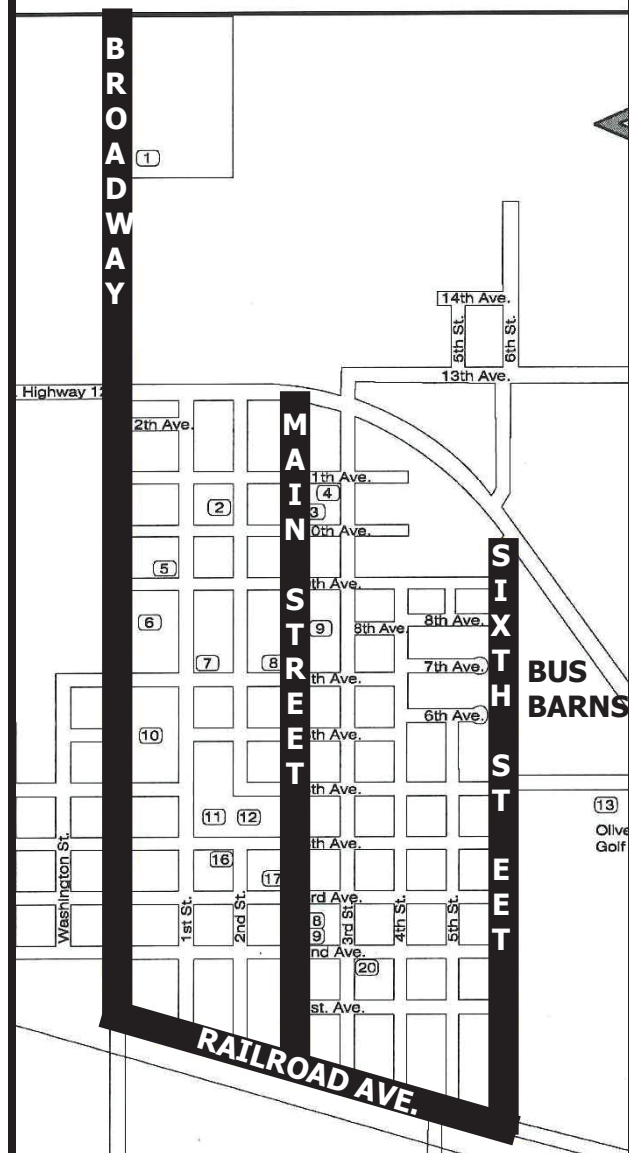
Friday, March 12, 2021

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.



Notice of Garbage Pickup Effective March 9th



Groton residents are asked to bring their garbage to the following locations until further notice:

Railroad Avenue, Main Street, Sixth Street & Broadway (Highway 37)

Residents of the Broadway Mobile Home Park need to take their garbage to Hwy 37.

Residents north of 13th Avenue (Olson and Jacobson Developments) need to bring their garbage to the bus barns.

Please bring your garbage bags and cans to these streets for Tuesday pickup.



Dance teams perform

A dance showcase was presented Monday night in the Groton Area Arena, which was also livestreamed on GDILIVE.COM. The Sugar Babes, Sweet Sensations and Spice Girlz put on a 45-minute presentation, doing their stretches and performances as the parents watched. DVDs of the showcase can be ordered by texting Paul at 605-397-7460 or emailing papaul@grotonsd.net. They are \$10 each and if you want them mailed out, it is \$3 extra. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)

Groton Area Staff Spotlight!

Name: Beth Gustafson

Occupation: Elementary and High School Nurse

Length of Employment: 2003-Present



With the current state of affairs during the COVID-19 epidemic, proper sanitation and health precautions are necessary to prevent the spread of the virulent virus. It is no easy task to ensure that those attending school in person stay healthy, but Beth Gustafson has continued to do her best to make sure the students of Groton remain healthy.

Mrs. Gustafson graduated with a degree in Medical Secretary in 1984. She later obtained her second degree in Nursing ten years later, in 1994. She has worked at Groton Area as a school nurse for seventeen years. She was the first medical staff member to be hired by the district and has continued her tenure for almost two decades. Before she began working at the Groton School District, Mrs. Gustafson worked at McKennan Labor and Delivery in Sioux Falls for a total of eleven years. As the resident medical professional for the school district, Beth's responsibilities include treating minor injuries such as scrapes and bruises, contacting parents to give and receive medical information when necessary, and assisting in treating occasional head lice.

Alongside her duties at the elementary and high schools, Mrs. Gustafson administers COVID-19 testing at the high school! To be tested for COVID-19, patients must be symptomatic. After getting tested at their appointed time, patients can expect to have their results within a span of 15 minutes. While she was initially skeptical, Beth Gustafson can personally testify to the accuracy of the COVID tests she administers, as the test identifies proteins associated with the COVID-19 virus. Mrs. Gustafson has said that positive results have decreased recently.

However, the people of Groton should still follow health precautions and follow sanitation protocols to prevent possible transmission. To avoid spreading or becoming infected, we should keep a distance of six feet from each other at most time, wash our hands with soap and water often, and clean surfaces we touch with disinfectant.

Outside of her duties at work, Beth enjoys summer camping with her husband and three daughters, two of which have graduated from Groton. Her third daughter will be graduating high school next year.

Editor's Note: This is a continuing series compiled by Benjamin Higgins. Higgins who is working for the Groton Independent through the Project Skills program.

The Groton Independent

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

Paul Irvin Kosel, Publisher papaul@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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