



The Groton Independent

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Region IV Choral Festival held in Aberdeen

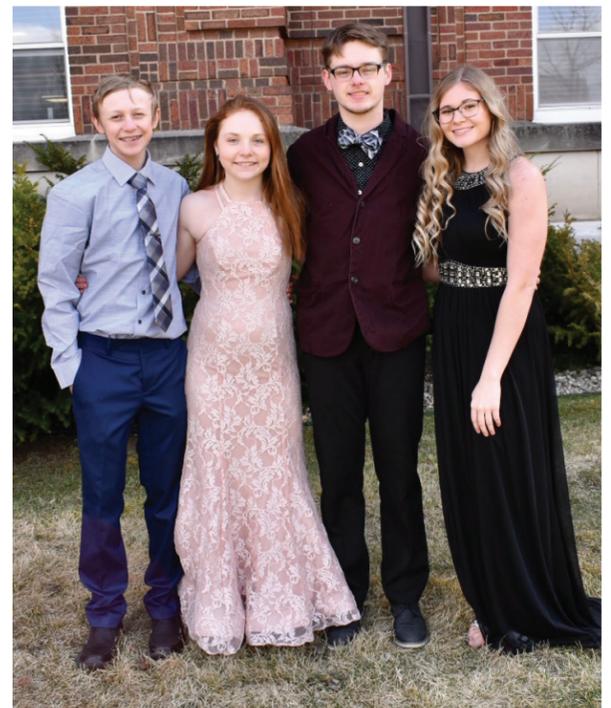
The Region IV South Dakota Choral Festival was held Monday at the Aberdeen Civic Center. Students from Aberdeen Christian, Faulkton, Huron, Groton Area, James Valley Christian, Redfield, Sunshine Bible Academy, Warner and Wolsey-Wessington participated. The day was spent at the Civic Center rehearsing with the performance at 5:30 p.m. They sang the Star Spangled Banner followed by "Why We Sing", "ullaby (from Three Nocturnes)", "There Shall A Star," "In Remembrance" and "Praise His Holy Name." The event was livestreamed at GDILIVE.COM and is now archived at 397news.com where GDI Subscribers will have access to it under "Other Events." The Choral Festival was held in lieu of there not being an All State Choir Event this year due to COVID-19. Dr. Timothy Woods, an associated professor of music and director of choral activities at Northern State University, was the director. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)



This group features Cadance Tullis, Eliana Weismantel, Trinity Smith and Braden Freeman. (Photo by Kristi Peterson)



This group features Anna Bisbee, Carter Barse, Shaylee Peterson and Isaac Smith. (Photo by Kristi Peterson)



This group features Porter Johnson, Camryn Kurtz, Steven Paulson and Julianna Kosel. (Photo by Kristi Peterson)

Rescheduled Track Meets

The HS track meet scheduled for Tuesday at Deuel, 4/20/21 has been postponed to Thursday, 4/22/21. As a result the JH track meet scheduled for 4/22/21 in Groton has been rescheduled to Friday, 5/14/21.



Samantha Pappas gets the computer ready to go for the play. See Page 6 for more play photos. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, April 24**
7 p.m. Prom Grand March
- Sunday, April 25**
4:30 p.m.: Princess Prom
- Monday, April 26, 2021**
3:30pm: JH Track Meet at Redfield
7:00pm: School Board Meeting
- Tuesday, April 27, 2021**
11:30 a.m.: Track Meet in Groton



By Jordan Wright

With free agency wrapping up and the NFL draft starting next week, now is the perfect time to examine the roster to see which positions the Minnesota Vikings need to target. Last week we went over the offense, so this week we turn to the defense.

The Vikings' defense last season was horrendous. Mike Zimmer even commented about how this was the worst defense he's ever coached. Luckily for the Vikings' defense, two of the main reasons they played so poorly last season should correct themselves. Danielle Hunter, Anthony Barr, Eric Kendricks, and Michael Pierce all missed time due to injury or opting out due to the covid pandemic, and their presence alone makes the defense exponentially better. The younger players, who were thrust into a starting role after the Vikings released many long-time starters last offseason, should also improve with a year under their belt and an actual offseason program to attend.

Even with the defense poised to improve, there are still starting spots that will need to be sorted out and depth to be added. Let's take a look at which positions the Vikings will likely spend draft capital.

Defensive tackle – After signing Dalvin Tomlinson in free agency and with Pierce coming back from opting out of last season, defensive tackle is the lowest priority in the draft. However, because Tomlinson and Pierce are run-stuffing DTs, don't be surprised if the Vikings take a gamble on a pass-rushing big man in the later rounds. Some names to keep an eye on are Milton Williams from Louisiana Tech, Levi Onwuzurike from Washington, and Daviyon Nixon from Iowa.

Linebacker – Anthony Barr and Eric Kendricks will be back to man the middle, and with the Vikings playing a lot of two-linebacker sets, linebacker isn't high on the list of priorities. Barr's restructured contract means he can become a free agent after this season though, so it would be a good idea for the Vikings to grab one in the later rounds. Players like Dylan Moses from Alabama, Nick Bolton from Missouri, or Jamin Davis from Kentucky.

Safety – The Vikings watched Anthony Harris walk this offseason, opening a hole at safety. Xavier Woods was brought in to fill that void, but he is on a one-year deal and there is no guarantee he will progress in Zimmer's defense like he's hoping. So, just like defensive tackle and linebacker, the safety spot isn't a big need but could use some depth. Jamar Johnson from Indiana, Andre Cisco from Syracuse, and Christian Uphoff from Illinois State would fit nicely in the Vikings' defense.

Cornerback – Up until a few weeks ago, cornerback wasn't a need for the Vikings. The position had plenty of young, ascending players, and the Vikings brought in Patrick

Peterson to provide a veteran presence. However, last year's first-round pick Jeff Gladney was recently charged with domestic abuse, a charge that will effectively end his career if true. At this point, it's unclear which direction the Vikings are going to go. If they are worried, they could grab one of the top corners in the draft like Patrick Surtain II from Alabama. If the team is confident in the players already on the roster, they could wait until the later rounds to grab someone like Jevon Holland from Oregon or Tay Gowan from UCF.

Defensive end – Defensive end has been mocked to the Vikings in the first round more than any position other than offensive linemen. However, most analysts simply look

at the Vikings' poor sack totals last season without realizing they lost two of their biggest pass rushers to injury. With Hunter and Barr coming back, the Vikings' pass rush is already improved, but that won't stop the team from drafting a defensive end if the right player falls to them. Kwity Paye from Michigan and Jayson Oweh from Penn State are two physical freaks but will likely be drafted in the first round. If the Vikings want to wait until the middle to late rounds to draft a DE, keep an eye on Ronnie Perkins from Oklahoma and Rashad Weaver from Pitt.

Next week we'll do a mock draft to get you ready for the actual draft that will air live on April 29-May 1. Skol!

Spotlight on Groton Area Staff



Name: Joel Guthmiller

Occupation: 4th Grade Teacher and Golf Coach

Length of Employment: 1995-Present

When teaching younger students, a teacher must both educate the students about the basics of a subject while also ensuring that students do not become distracted or disruptive. While students in high school are more independent and attentive of their own volition, the same cannot be said for the children attending elementary school. It takes a teacher with a familiarity in the subject they are teaching and the ability to keep

students interested in what they are saying to teach the younger students. In Groton Area, the teacher in charge of educating the 4th Grade students is Joel Guthmiller.

Over the course of his twenty-one year tenure at Groton Area Elementary School, Mr. Guthmiller has taught many subjects, including but not limited to Social Studies, Math, and Spelling. However, he does not simply provide information to students in an organized form, as more formal high school teachers do. To ensure his young audience can retain information and apply in it the real world, Mr. Guthmiller must make his information interesting and applicable to the kids he teaches. This may involve videos, interactive activities, or providing fun ways for students to remember what he taught. Starting this year, Mr. Guthmiller has been teaching students using the remote learning platform Brightspace.

Before teaching at Groton Area Elementary School, Mr. Guthmiller taught 7th and 8th grade students for a year at Pine Ridge Middle School. After that, he taught students in grades 5, 6, 7, and 8 the principles of mathematics for four years. During his time at Enemy Swim, he was the Physical Education coach for the entire school. After teaching at other schools for five years, Joel Guthmiller began teaching at Groton Area Elementary School, where he is still teaching to this day. In addition to his teaching duties, Mr. Guthmiller is the resident golf coach of Groton Area.

In addition to his duties as a teacher, Mr. Guthmiller also provides transport for students as part of his day and night school bus route. When he is not ferrying students between their homes and school or taking care of his three kids, Joel engages in various outdoors activities such as hiking, fishing, and hunting.

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.

Spotlight on Groton Area Staff



Name: Janene Harry

Occupation: Art Teacher

Length of Employment: 1983-Present

In the Groton Area School District, Art is an elective class loved by many students. Not only does it function as an outlet for the creativity of students, but it also teaches them the principles of creating art and the ideas behind the masterpieces of old. The teacher who oversees the Art classes at Groton High School is Janene Harry, a staff member whose tenure has lasted for over 38 years.

Mrs. Harry graduated from Groton Area High School in 1977. She graduated from Northern State University with a major in Art Education for K-12 students. She began working as the resident Art Teacher at Groton Area High School in 1983, having taught Art for a year in Aberdeen before that.

In the first semester of the school year, Mrs. Harry teaches 6th Graders in two groups split between two nine-week periods. In the second semester, she teaches a singular group of 8th graders. For high schoolers, Mrs. Harry teaches the students for either a single semester or the whole year. The art classes for high schoolers are divided into four stages, with each stage teaching more advanced principles and techniques than the last while building upon the lessons taught in the previous classes.

In Art I, Mrs. Harry teaches students about the basic elements and principles of art. The elements of design Mrs. Harry teaches about in Art I are Lines, Colors, Shapes, Forms, Values, Space, and Textures. On the other hand, seniors take Art IV as a semester-long class that allows them to refine the techniques they have been taught over the course of previous classes.

Mrs. Harry was inspired to pursue a career in Art Education through her experiences with Mrs. Newman, the art teacher who held the position before her. Outside of teaching, Mrs. Harry frequents local garage sales and thrift stores to search for materials that can be made into art, whether by herself or her students. She has 4 children and 11 grandchildren.

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.

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Erdmann elected State FFA President

To wrap up the 93rd South Dakota State FFA Convention, six members were elected to serve as the 2020-2021 South Dakota State FFA officer team and two members were elected to serve as the 2020-2021 South Dakota State FFA ambassadors.

Candidates vied for the six South Dakota leadership roles and went through extensive interviews. The individuals elected to the South Dakota State FFA officer team will travel across the state throughout the next year presenting speeches, facilitating workshops, hosting camps, holding conferences and conducting business for the South Dakota FFA Association. They will also represent the state of South Dakota at the National FFA Convention.

2021-2022 State FFA Officers (pictured right to left)

- President - Tessa Erdmann, Groton
- Vice President - John Petersen, Piedmont
- Secretary - Hadley Stiefvater, Salem
- Treasurer - Paige Lehrkamp, Hermosa
- Reporter - Alexis Hughes, Rapid City
- Sentinel - Trinity Peterson, Vienna



Agriscience Fair - Plant Science Division
Second Place
Samantha Pappas and Steven Paulson



Dairy Cattle Team
5th place team
The Groton Dairy Cattle Team placed fifth in the state. Team members are Porter Johnson, Samantha Pappas (placed seventh as an individual), Candence Feist and Ava Wienk.



State FFA Degree Winners

The State FFA Convention was held last weekend and several Groton Area FFA members received their awards. These are the State FFA Degree recipients. In back, left to right, are Kannon Coats, Caleb Furney, Chandler Larson and Trey Gengerke; in front, left to right, are Samantha Pappas, Sage Mortenson and Tessa Erdmann; not pictured are Kale Pharis and Steven Paulson.

State FFA Convention Winners

Ag Business Management Team - 7th place: Trey Gengerke - 16th Individual, Chandler Larson, Lucas Simon

Agronomy Team - 10th place: Kaleb Antonsen - 10th place individual, Cole Bisbee, Caleb Hanten, Ethan Gengerke

Horse Evaluation - 11 place team: Dylan Krueger - 4th place individual, Jayla Jones, Faith Flihs

Meats Team - 6th place team: Lane Krueger - 13th place individual, Kansas Kroll - 14th place individual, Kennedy Anderson, Tina Zoellner

Milk Products Evaluation - 15th place team: Steven Paulson, Isaac Smith, Braden Freeman, Lee Iverson

Natural Resources - 17th Place team: Travis Townsend, Evin Nehls, Jace Kroll, Landon Kokales

Nursery Landscape - 21st Place team: Tiara DeHoet, Caleb Furney, Tristan Traphagen, Jace Craig

Vet Science - 27th Place Team: Sage Mortenson, Kannon Coats, Cassie Schultz

Dairy Production Proficiency: Steven Paulson - 2nd Place

Goat Production Proficiency: Tessa Erdmann - 1st Place



STAR FINALIST

Tessa Erdmann earned the STAR 2021 SD FFA Convention Farmer Finalist Award.

Scholarship Winners

Wosje Agricultural Business Scholarship The Wosje Agricultural Business Scholarships are sponsored by Chad and Rhonda Wosje, South Dakota State University graduates and Sioux Valley FFA Alumni members sponsor these \$750 scholarships. Tessa Erdmann was a recipient of this award.

Blue & Gold Scholarships The South Dakota FFA offers Blue and Gold Scholarships to any graduating senior who is planning to enroll in an agriculture-related field in one of South Dakota's institutions. This year's recipients of the \$750 scholarships included Sage Mortenson.

Westport Town Notice to Vacate Public Roadway

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR VACATION OF PUBLIC ROADWAY

Notice is hereby given that a Petition requesting that a certain public roadway be vacated in City of Westport, Brown County, South Dakota, pursuant to SDCL 31-3-6, as hereinafter specifically described has been received by the Westport Town Board of City of Westport; that the Petition may be examined by contacting the Westport Finance Officer at the address indicated below; that the specific description of the property being requested to be vacated is:

That the existing public right-of-way which includes the statutory right-of-way and any right-of-way acquired by deed(s) lying as follows:

Running Northwest and Southeast commonly known as the alley in Block 9, Westport and Hinz 2nd addition to Westport.

Bordered by Lot 1, Hinz 2nd Addition to Westport on the Northeast and Lot 2, Hinz 2nd Addition to Westport on the Southwest.

Located in the Southwest Quarter of Section 12, Township 125, Range 64, Brown County, South Dakota.

That said public right of way being approximately 16 feet wide and 75 feet in length.

Additional location information: The alley runs between 25 N Railway Avenue and 29 N Railway Avenue in Westport.

Therefore, notice is hereby given that the Westport Town Board of City of Westport will hold a public hearing to consider the vacation of the above described public roadway; that such meeting will be held on Monday, the 3rd day of May, 2021 at 7 o'clock P.M. at Westport Town Hall.

That any person interested in the proposed action may be present at said date and time and present their information, opinions, and/or arguments relative to the proposed action. Any person(s) unable to attend this meeting may deliver their written opinion for consideration by the Board of Supervisors. Such testimony should be delivered prior to the date and time of the scheduled hearing by mailing or delivering the opinion to: Doreen Hertel, Finance Officer, City of Westport, Brown County.

WESTPORT CITY
By Doreen Hertel
Finance Officer
(0421.0428)

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Brown County April 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes

APRIL 13, 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, Sutton and Wiese. Commissioner Kippley attended over the phone. Commissioner Sutton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

MINUTES: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the general meeting minutes of April 6, 2021. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS & PAYROLL: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Kippley to approve the following claims:

PAYROLL Commission \$4,327.95; Auditor \$8,937.75; Treasurer \$13,731.76; SA \$22,634.37; SVAWA \$1,730.76; Maintenance \$8,562.74; Assessor \$14,636.40; Register of Deeds \$9,124.95; VSO \$4,510.65; GIS \$2,411.38; IT \$7,785.54; HR \$3,064.33; Sheriff \$42,622.46; Jail \$48,606.51; Court Security \$5,823.63; JDC \$23,119.16; Welfare \$2,982.62; Museum \$7,592.74; Parks/Fairgrounds \$4,019.10; Fair Board \$2,246.60; 4-H \$631.60; Weed \$4,251.45; Planning & Zoning \$3,864.71; Highway \$35,414.32; Dispatch \$26,222.26; Emergency \$4,160.96; Teen Court \$504.74; JDAI \$1,786.92; 24/7 Sobriety \$1,252.32; Landfill \$14,425.94; FICA \$19,725.92; Medicare \$4,613.32; HSA \$350.00. CLAIMS Other: SD Association of County Officials \$1,336.00; SD Department of Environment & Natural Resources \$5,065.03; SD Department of Revenue \$932,057.99. Professional Fees: Avera McKennan Hospital \$115.74; Avera St. Luke's \$889.93; Aberdeen American News \$249.21; Birmingham & Cwach Law \$366.85; Boulder County Sheriff \$26.16; Quest Corporation \$238.83; Helms & Associates \$17,852.85; Semotus \$6,268.00; Mark Katterhagen \$15.00; Language Line \$1,396.56; Lucy Lewno \$320.00; Lincoln County Treasurer \$36.67; Darcy Lockwood \$15.00; Microfilm Imaging \$680.00; Richardson, Wylly, Wise, Sauck \$556.00; Sanford Clinic \$758.97; SD Department of Revenue \$2,051.63; SDAE4-HP \$10.00; Kristi Spitzer \$200.00; West Publishing \$175.05; Yankton County Sheriff \$150.00. Publishing: Aberdeen American News \$999.11; Aberdeen Public Schools Foundation \$200.00. Rentals: Praxair Distribution \$44.42; Aramark \$435.92; Roland Moerke \$485.00. Repairs & Maintenance: Aberdeen Clean-All \$300.00; Mark Kolb \$220.00; Butler Machinery \$903.49; Mark Nelson \$887.00; Roland Moerke \$470.40; Diesel Machinery \$11,579.27; State of South Dakota \$73.71; Graham Tire \$938.69; HF Jacobs & Son \$5,417.46; Lawson Products \$54.11; Midstates Printing \$25.95; Pantorium Cleaners \$328.32; Pierson Ford \$135.92; Poms Tire Service \$133.00; RDO \$8,165.60; Steven Lust Automotive \$218.06; Transource \$6,050.66; Trinity Services Group \$100.00; Wallace Lee \$829.77; Walth Safety Service \$173.40. Supplies: Agtegra Cooperative \$45,364.17; American Alliance of Museums \$275.00; Butler Machinery \$2,781.09; Century Business Products \$48.65; Charm-Tex \$268.70; Cole Papers \$507.20; Roland Moerke \$2,892.00; East Side Jersey Dairy \$1,408.44; Gaylord Bros \$918.96; J Gross Equipment \$141.13; L.G. Everist \$3,448.51; Lawson Products \$1,011.35; Lucy Lewno \$13.02; Menards \$46.10; Midstates Printing \$243.25; Performance Rentals \$12.00; Pierson Ford \$56.02; Plumbing & Heating \$106.16; Precision Kiosk \$2,700.00; Pro Ag \$3.58; RDO \$3,376.21; Runnings \$627.95; Satellite Tracking \$802.75; Sherwin Williams \$74.64; Steven Lust Automotive \$80.10; Transource \$927.50; Tri State Water \$164.28; Web Water Bottling \$32.50. Travel & Conference: Regency Midwest \$202.00; SD Association of County Officials \$370.00. Utilities: City of Aberdeen \$1,123.68; Qwest Corporation \$1,028.77; City of Hecla \$230.60; Economy Propane \$960.64; State of South Dakota \$87.75; Midcontinent Communications \$470.00; Northern Electric \$758.42; Northwestern Energy \$2,718.88; Town of Frederick \$68.00; Web Water Development \$91.82. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FAIR CONTRACTS: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Brown County Fair Agreement: Lisa Fedeler @ \$100 (4-H Judge). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

COURT SECURITY GRANT: Moved by Kippley, seconded by Feickert to authorize the Chair to sign the Court Security Grant Application to replace existing cameras in the Courthouse. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIM ASSIGNMENTS: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to authorize Auditor sign documentation to assign claim against an individual to Credit Collection Bureau for the purpose of collecting liens. All

members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LEASE RICHMOND YOUTH CAMP: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve lease agreement with Brown County Jail (Linn Kamin) for the lease of Richmond Lake Youth Camp on June 4-6, 2021. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LEASE DAKOTA SLIDEWAYZ: Moved by Kippley, seconded by Wiese to approve lease agreement with Dakota Slidewayz to install/build a remote car racing facility on the NE portion of the Fairgrounds for a five year period commencing May 1st of 2020 and terminating on April 30th of 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

WEED AND PEST CHEMICAL BID OPENING: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Sutton to award Weed and Pest Chemical to VanDiest Supply and the option to buy of state bid, rejecting bid from Adapco. Bid tab on file with the Brown County Auditor and open for public inspection. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

POSSIBLE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT WITH AGTEGRA RESCUE TEAM: Scott Meints, Emergency Management Director, discussed with the Commission about drafting a mutual aid agreement with Agtegra Rescue Team and future grant opportunities his department can apply for. No actions taken.

PUBLIC COMMENTS SOUTH DUMPSITE: Members of the public came in to check for any updates in regards to south dumpsite relocation areas. No actions taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to go into executive session to discuss personnel and contracts per SDCL 1-25-2(1, 4). All members present voting aye. Motion carried. The chair declared executive session closed with no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Kippley, seconded by Sutton to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:50a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Jeannette McClain, Brown County Deputy Auditor

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Westport Town April 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Town of Westport General Meeting
April 12th, 2021

The Town of Westport met on April 12th, 2021 with Dan & Deb Schlosser, Don & Deb Schlosser, Shane Storm, Mitchell Wilson (on the phone) and Doreen Hertel present.

The following expenses were presented:

City General NWPS (\$419.49), Groton Independent (\$19.10), Card member service-computer virus protection (\$230.08), Postmaster (\$362.00) US treasury (\$460.84) & SD Unemployment (\$11.28).

Sewer NWPS (\$105.76) & NRWA –loan repayment (\$210.13), Gappa Electric (\$48.99).

Water Dept. of Revenue (\$15.00), Water Maintenance District (\$408.16), DENR –loan repayment (\$3,912.12), WEB water (\$1409.70).

Shane Storm made motion to pay all bills; second by Mitchell Wilson.

The following deposits were presented:

City General Brown County Collections (\$1,378.41), State of SD (\$11,235.95), & Interest (\$3.80).

Sewer Resident Payments - (\$2277.50).

Water Resident Payments - (\$3,778.19).

NEW BUSINESS:

Don and Deb Schlosser visited with the board about the process of closing the alley on a house being sold. A notice will be placed in the paper and there will be a meeting on May 3rd, to have a hearing on a petition to vacate.

Dan and Deb Schlosser visited with the board about the sewer project. There were some concerns about things that were left undone, such as, there were rocks left in their property that would break the mower which need to be removed. There is a divot that should be filled and grass that should be planted.

Media policy was update to make Mitchell Wilson the media contact for the city.

Doreen Hertel, Finance Officer
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Brown County April 13, 2021 County Equalization

APRIL 13, 2021 – BROWN COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

This being the second Tuesday, April 13, 2021, the Brown County Commission organized themselves as the Brown County Board of Equalization, in accordance with SDCL 10-11-25, at 11:00 A.M. in the Community Room, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota. Oaths of office were taken by Commissioners Mike Wiese, Duane Sutton, Rachel Kippley, Dennis Feickert and Doug Fjeldheim. Director of Equalization Gene Loeschke and Secretary Becky Desens were also present.

Auditor Cathy McNickle called the meeting to order and called for nominations for Chairman. Commissioner Sutton nominated Doug Fjeldheim as Chair for the 2021 Brown County Board of Equalization. Moved by Kippley, seconded by Wiese that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Commissioner Fjeldheim as Chair of the 2021 Brown County Board of Equalization. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to instruct the Director of Equalization to reduce values on all properties qualifying for Assessment Freeze for the Elderly and Disabled for 2021. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to instruct the Director of Equalization to reduce values on all properties qualifying for 100% Disabled Veteran Exemption for 2021. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to instruct the Director of Equalization to reduce values on all properties qualifying for Paralegic Veteran Exemption and Paralegic Exemption for 2021. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the applications submitted per SDCL 10-4-15 for 100% Tax Exempt Status (complete listing available for public inspection Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Director of Equalization Office, 25 Market Street Ste 6, Aberdeen, SD). All members present voting aye. Motion carried. Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve 100% Tax Exempt Status, as requested, for the following new applications:

Aberdeen City #32 Presentation Sisters on BOLS S 732' of West 366' Highlands OL 3 SE 12-123-64; Avera St. Likes on Portion of BK 83 Hagerty & Lloyd Add & Etc. (see R.O.D. for full legal description); New Life Fellowship on W 8.75' LT 4 & LT 5-7 & E 15' LT 8 BK 77 Hagerty & Lloyd Add; Aberdeen Development Corp on LT 4 Jones Natural Gold SD SE 16-123-63 and LT 1 Malchow's 1st Add (LT 1-5BK 31 1st Add) and LT 2 BK 1 Centennial Commons Add SE 17-123-63;

Garland Township #46 on LT 1 St John's Association NW 5-125-62;

Claremont City # 42 on LT 7-14 BK 12 Orig Pl Claremont. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. Moved by Feickert, seconded by Kippley to approve partial Tax Exempt Status, as requested, for the following applications: # 32

ABERDEEN CITY REQUESTS FOR LESS THAN 100% ACT 2 Inc 63% on #2 Midwest Capitol Project of LT 10-12 BK 27 1st Add, #3 Midwest Capitol Project of LT 13-18 BK 27 St Add Ex Mezzanine Hallway, Mezzanine Storage Unit 4A #3 Midwest Capitol Project of LT 13-18 BK 27 1st Add; Avera St. Likes 40% on Lt 3 Avera-Land-O-Lakes 2nd SD (b72 H&L & OL 2 Lanes); 47.91% on Lot 2 Avera Land-O-Lakes 2nd SD, 53.88% on LT 4 Hagerty & Lloyds 3rd SD SE 13-123-64, 72.33% on Lot 1 Avera Land-O-Lakes 2nd SD, 99.09% on Lt 1 Avera St Likes Add (B86,87, & 96 H&L Etc), First United Methodist Church 33% on Lt 12-13 BK 29 SD Of Lt 4-5 BK 29 1st Add & Lt 12-13 BK 29 2nd Add, Freedom Worship Center 96% at Lt 2 ADC 2005-1 SD NE 16-123-63 (Industrial Pk East), Loyal Order of Moose Lodge #590 80% at LT 1-8 & All of Vac Alley Blk 54 2nd Addn, TDAF/Tom Aman 36% at Lt 1 Blackstone 2nd SD (2.48AC) (RR ROW); Yelduz Temple 90% on Lt 1 Yelduz Corner SD (LT 1-3 BK 50 2nd Add).

#23 WARNER TOWNSHIP Foundation for Youth Firearms Safety Inc 80% at N 820' of SE 15-122-64 E of RR Ex Hwy;

#33 Groton City Groton American Legion Post 60% on LT 22-25 BL 11 Orig Plat Groton; 75% on LT 9-12 Blk 10 10 Orig Plat Groton,

#35 HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP St John Lutheran Church, LCMS (highland) 85% on St John Evangelical Lutheran Church OL Lots 1 & 2 SW 24-122-65. All members present voting aye.

Motion carried. REMOVE EXEMPT STATUS: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to remove tax exempt status from properties no longer qualifying (complete listing available for public inspection Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Director of Equalization Office, 25 Market Street Ste 6, Aberdeen, SD). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

RECESS: Moved by Kippley, seconded by Sutton to recess the Board of Equalization recessed until 11:00 a.m. on April 20, 2021.

Cathy McNickle – Brown County Auditor

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Brown County April 13, 2021 Consol. Equalization

APRIL 13, 2021 – CONSOLIDATED BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

Members of the Brown County Commission, Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeen School District 6-1 organized themselves as the 2021 Consolidated Board of Equalization, in accordance with SDCL 10-11-66 at 1:00 P.M. on April 13, 2021 in the Community Room, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota. Oaths of Office were taken by Commissioners Duane Sutton, Rachel Kippley, Dennis Feickert, Aberdeen School Board Member Duane Alm and Aberdeen Mayor Travis Schaanaman (teleconference). Director of Equalization Gene Loeschke and Equalization Secretary Becky Desens were also present. Meeting was called to order and called for nominations for Chair. Commissioner Sutton nominated Commissioner Kippley as Chairman for the 2021 Consolidated Board of Equalization. Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Commissioner Kippley for Chairman of the 2021 Consolidated Board of Equalization. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. EQUALIZATION UPDATE: Director of Equalization Gene Loeschke gave an update and presented a timeline for consolidated board of equalization.

RECESS: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Alm to declare the Board of Equalization recessed until 1:00 p.m. on April 20, 2021.

Cathy McNickle – Brown County Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$14.99. 19990

East Hanson Opt-Out Notice

ATTENTION TAX PAYERS
Notice of Property Tax Increase of \$30,000.

The Governing Board of East Hanson do state that the above said board is unable to operate under the tax limitation measure currently in statute. We therefore OPT OUT of such tax limitation in the amount of \$30,000 starting with the calendar year 2021 taxes payable in the calendar year 2022. This opt out will be for 10 years, which will be through taxes payable in the year 2031. This action has been taken by the board and approved by at least a two-thirds vote of the board.

The decision may be referred to a vote of the people upon a petition signed by at least 5 percent of the registered voters in the district and filed with twenty days of the first publication. Unless this action is referred to a vote of the people and reversed by such vote, this resolution authorizes the county auditor to spread an excess levy to raise tax dollars in the above stated amount.

Signed: Betty Schinkel, Clerk (0414.0421)
Published Twice at the total approximate cost of \$22.34. 19972

Brown County Notice of Surplus Property
NOTICE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY SALE
Notice is hereby given for surplus auction. Auction to consist of the following highway department surplus: Volvo G946 Motor Grader, 2008 Komatsu GD655-3EO. Bids may be submitted online at Purplewave.com. Auction to conclude May 11, 2021. For information please contact the Brown County Highway Department at (605)626-7118.

ATTEST
Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor (0414.0421)
Published Twice at the total approximate cost of \$12.93. 19970

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**Groton School
April 12, 2021
Meeting Minutes**

UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6
REGULAR MEETING
April 12, 2021
President Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Elementary Commons Area. Members present: Flihs, Gengerke, Harder, Pharis, Rix, Smith and Weismantel. Others present were Supt. J. Schwan, Principals B. Schwan and Sombke, and Business Manager Weber.

Moved by Weismantel, second Harder to approve the agenda with the following amendments: under New Business Item #6 renew health plan, under New Business Item #7 renew worker's compensation plan, under New Business Item #8 approve NCSEC membership agreement and under New Business Item #9 approve request for bus. Motion carried.

Pursuant to SDCL 23-3, there was no potential conflict disclosure reported.

Moved by Gengerke, second Flihs to approve District minutes of March 8, 2021 and March 22, 2021. Motion carried.

Moved by Pharis, second Weismantel to approve March 2021 Financial Report, Custodial Accounts and Investments. Motion carried.

Moved by Flihs, second Harder to approve March 2021 Transportation Report. Motion carried.

Moved by Gengerke, second Pharis to approve March 2021 School Lunch Report. Motion carried.

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MONTHLY DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT FOR GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 06-6
For the reporting period beginning July 1, 2020, and ending March 31, 2021

Description	General Fund	Assigned Gen Funds	Capital Outlay	Special Education	Bond Redemption	Enterprise Fund	Custodial Fund	Total for District
1. Beginning Balance	1,310,020.82	166,442.24	1,494,432.18	282,971.70	157,818.14	51,718.27	161,560.84	3,624,964.19
a. checking	1,310,020.82	166,442.24	1,494,432.18	282,971.70	157,818.14	51,718.27	161,560.84	3,624,964.19
b. petty cash	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2. Transfers in								
3. Revenue to date	3,117,229.91	26,572.79	998,119.10	493,239.37	99,834.52	208,476.84	584,172.36	5,527,644.89
4. Total accounted for	4,427,250.73	193,015.03	2,492,551.28	776,211.07	257,652.66	260,195.11	745,733.20	9,152,609.08
5. Transfers out								
6. Expenditures to date	3,331,875.98	42,470.07	1,296,701.83	582,817.94	207,086.25	191,877.31	661,906.46	6,314,735.84
a. encumbrances	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
b. disbursements	3,331,875.98	42,470.07	1,296,701.83	582,817.94	207,086.25	191,877.31	661,906.46	6,314,735.84
7. Ending Balance	1,095,374.75	150,544.96	1,195,849.45	193,393.13	50,566.41	68,317.80	83,826.74	2,837,873.24
a. checking	1,095,374.75	150,544.96	1,195,849.45	193,393.13	50,566.41	68,317.80	83,826.74	2,837,873.24
b. petty cash	(0.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(0.00)
March Receipts	107,517.15	5,807.00	76,937.86	38,335.90	587.00	29,577.52	95,734.86	354,497.35
March Expenses	406,258.40	1,244.60	1,808.41	106,973.60	0.00	26,531.42	97,531.50	640,347.93
District Checking	2,754,046.50							
Certificate of Deposit	0.00							
Total all Funds	2,837,873.24							

age, 88.20; Judy or Gene Williams - mileage, 705.60. Total Special Ed - \$75,282.93.

ENTERPRISE: Fund 51-Net Salary - 5,332.40; FIT - 375.55; Medicare - 191.22; FICA - 817.60; SD Retirement - 762.92; AFLAC - 326.91; Wellmark - 2,289.00; Standard Life - 5.76; Wage Works - 8.33; Avesis Vision - 33.44; BIMBO Bakeries - food, 527.09; Cintas - services, 122.68; Custodial Fund - advanced pays, 339.24; CWD - food, 1,314.19; East Side Jersey Dairy - milk, 1,265.09; Hillyard - soap, 149.67; Reinhart - food, 5,192.89; SD DOE - food, 1,653.45; US Foods - food, 2,396.06. Total Fund 51 - \$23,103.49. Fund 53-Net Salary - 1,494.26; FIT - 101.79; Medicare - 54.48; FICA - 232.92; SDRS - 191.46; AFLAC - 327.86; Wellmark - 1,342.00; Standard Life - 46.56; Custodial Fund - advanced pays, 180.46. Total Fund 53 - \$3,971.79. Total Enterprise - \$27,075.28.

CUSTODIAL FUND: Total - \$97,531.50

RECEIPTS: Local Sources, Taxes - 208,049.09; Other Local Service Co. - 118,930.38; County Sources - 2,853.52; State Sources - 0.00; Federal Sources - 24,664.36. Total Receipts - \$354,497.35.

Members of the public are allowed five minutes to address the board on any topic of their choice. With no public members requesting to speak, the board proceeded with their agenda items.

Superintendent Schwan reported on COVID-19 issues related to the school district including Covid-19 active case updates for Groton Area School District, Brown County and the State of South Dakota and Abbott BinaxNOW rapid testing. Plans are underway to schedule PROM on April 24, music concerts on April 29, May 4 and May 6, elementary field trips, elementary track and field day on May 6 and graduation on May 16. Loosening restrictions was discussed including a cease of mid-day temperature checks for students and amending the mask policy on district transportation to "recommended" vs. "required". No action was taken.

The following topics were discussed in administrative reports: Langford Cooperative meeting scheduled for April 13, Department of Education Survey, 2020-21 School Calendar, ES-SER 3 Grant Funding, Teacher TEAMS, NWEA Assessments, curriculum review cycle, SB177 homeschool bill, Executive Order 2021-05 related to participation of transgender student-athletes in women's sports, DARE graduation, DIBELS testing, state testing, summer programs, dual credit registration prom/post prom activities, smarter balanced make-up testing, election update, and open enrollment periods for health, life, vision and dental insurance.

Moved by Gengerke, second Flihs to approve signed administrative contracts with salary to be negotiated later. Motion carried.

Moved by Rix, second Gengerke to authorize membership in the SDHSAA for the 2021-2022 school year. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, second Flihs to hire Greg Kjellsen as JH Boys Basketball Coach for the 2021-22 school year. Motion carried.

Moved by Gengerke, second Weismantel to hire Shaun Wanner as Head Track Coach for the 2021-22 school year. Motion carried.

The board reviewed health insurance options for 2021-22. Moved by Weismantel, second Pharis to approve single/family deductible plans \$1,000/\$2,000, \$2,000/\$4,000 and \$3,000/\$6,000 HAS through the Associated School Boards Protective Trust Health Plan. Motion carried.

Moved by Gengerke, second Harder to approve worker's compensation insurance rates for 2021-22 through the Associated School Boards Protective Trust Worker's Compensation Plan. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, second Flihs to approve 2021-22 North Central Special Education Cooperative Membership Agreement. Motion carried.

Moved by Pharis, second Gengerke to approve request from St. John's Lutheran Church for use of a school bus to Watertown Zoo on April 22. Motion carried.

The board took a short recess at 7:54 pm and returned at 7:59 pm.

Moved by Harder, second Weismantel to go into executive session at 8:00 pm for personnel issues pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) and negotiations pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(4). Motion carried.

President Smith declared the board out of executive session at 10:20 pm.

Moved by Weismantel, second Harder to adjourn. Motion carried.

M. J. Weber, Business Manager

Steven R. Smith, President

The addition of signatures to this page verifies these minutes as official.

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Groton Area presents Disney's Frozen Jr.

The first of two school play performances was held Thursday night in the GHS Gym. The second performance was held Saturday evening. In the photo above, Elsa, played by Julianna Kosel, throws her unexpected power to her sister Anna, played by Alexis Hanten. The Snow Chorus are Shaylee Peterson, Anna Bisbee and Camryn Kurtz. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Cast in order of appearance

Young Anna - Alyssa Fordham, Young Elsa - Ashtyn Bahr, King Agnarr - Isaac Smith, Queen Iduna - Hailey Monson, Pabbie - Steven Paulson, Bulda - Cadance Tullis, Middle Anna - Alyssa Fordham, Middle Elsa - Ashtyn Bahr, Bishop - Steven Paulson, Housekeeper - Shaylee Peterson, Butler - Nevaeh Pardick, Handmaiden - Anna Bisbee, Cook - Camryn Kurtz, Anna - Alexis Hanten, Elsa - Julianna Kosel, Kristoff - Carter Barse, Sven - Sage Mortenson, Hans - Braden Freeman, Steward - Ashlyn Feser, Duke of Weselton - Ashtyn Bahr, Olaf - Noah Theisen, Oaken - Isaac Smith.

Townspeople: Nevaeh Pardick, Natalia Warrington, Ashlyn Feser, Cambria Bonn.

Castle Staff: Shaylee Peterson, Nevaeh Pardick, Anna Bisbee, Camryn Kurtz.

Snow Chorus: Shaylee Peterson, Anna Bisbee, Camryn Kurtz.

Hidden Folk: Cambria Bonn, Natalia Warrington, Ashlyn Feser, Nevaeh Pardick.

Summer Chorus: Shaylee Peterson, Anna Bisbee, Camryn Kurtz, Nevaeh Pardick, Ashlyn Feser.

Oaken's Family: Alyssa Fordham, Ashtyn Bahr, Steven Paulson, Hailey Monson, Cambria Bonn, Natalia Warrington.

Production Team

Director/Sound: Austin Fordham

Stage Manager/Music: Samantha Pappas

Lights: Eric Bishop

Tech Crew: Elliana Weismantel and Rease Jandel.



Young Anna, played by Alyssa Fordham (left) and young Elsa, played by Ashtyn Bahr (right), talk with their parents, King Agnarr (Isaac Smith) and Queen Iduna (Hailey Monson).



Anna (Alexis Hanten) talks with Hans (Braden Freeman).



Here are Kristoff (Carter Barse) and Sven (Sage Mortenson).



Olaf comes onto the scene, played by Noah Theisen.



Mayor Scott Hanlon gives the oath of office to Karyn Babcock, Shirley Wells and Jon Cutler. They turned in petitions with no opposition. (Photo by Paul Kosel)





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City council passes first reading on water surcharge fee

The Groton City Council gave first reading to a surcharge to the water rate of \$7.85 per month for 30 years. The surcharge will pay for maintenance of the city's water reservoir tank in addition to expanding the city's water distribution system south and north of Groton. The city was approved for a the \$1.3 million dollar project.

The city had received \$296,000 in COVID-19 Relief Funds, of which \$250,000 is earmarked for the purchase and other expenses for the new city hall. The remain funds will be divided out to \$10,000 for baseball, \$10,000 for pool, \$10,000 for the new software for the library books and \$16,000 for recreation (tennis/pickleball courts improvements and the start of a fund for new bathrooms at the park).

Brian Bahr was sworn in as a new councilman while Karyn Babcock, Jon Cutler and Shirley Wells were re-instated as councilmen. David Blackmun was re-elected as council president, Shirley Wells was re-elected as council vice-president and Drew Johnson was re-appointed as the city council attorney - a position he has had with Groton for 39 years.

The second reading for the cable franchise agreements was approved.

MJ's Sinclair was approved for an off-sale liquor alcoholic beverage license. This was the last such license left for the city.

After an executive session, the council gave lineman Landon Johnson a \$1.19 raise (5%), bringing him to \$24.93 an hour. He has recently completed the Merchants Training Course (he took the 4-year course in less than a year and a half) and is now getting his hours in as well.



Brian Bahr was sworn in as the new councilman from Ward 2 by Mayor Scott Hanlon. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



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

Strive to Prevent Falls

My grandmother was a lively, caring, wonderful woman, who remained very active late in her life. One spring day, after an unusual April blizzard, she stepped out of her apartment on her way to her weekly bridge game. She fell on the ice, in an event that led to an open ankle fracture and changed the course of the remainder of her life.

We all know that a fall, especially in an elderly or frail person, can result in disaster. Major fall-related injuries such as hip fractures can sometimes precede abrupt decline in function and death in the worst cases. While many falls don't result in any injury at all, when I discuss falls with my patients, I consider those events near misses and potentially catastrophic for any elderly or frail person.

Falls can have many causes, and often numerous factors contribute. Some factors can be modified by at-risk people, and some cannot. Discussing the mechanism and contributors to falls with one's health care provider (or even better, a physical or occupational therapist) can help identify those factors. If a person can reduce their risk of fall and injury, by all means we want to help!

Modifiable risk factors might include weakness in large muscle groups, need for and proper use of an assistive device such as a walker or cane, and potential hazards in one's home such as rugs or bathtubs. Of course, in some patients there may be fall risk factors which cannot be easily modified, which might result in the decision for extra help or a change in living arrangement.

After my grandmother's ankle fracture, she had a rocky course. She endured surgeries, bone infection, hospitalizations, and other medical complications. She never regained the ability to walk independently again and spent much of the last couple years of her life in a nursing home where she could receive the care she required.

Last summer, my grandmother contracted COVID-19 at her nursing facility and sadly died a few weeks later. A woman who led a truly remarkable life lost her fierce independence after an accidental fall. I'm sure if she could have gone back in time, she would have just stayed home that icy April day. If you or a loved one is worried about falling, I hope you will talk to your primary care provider about it.

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 and follow Prairie Doc® on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show streaming on Facebook and broadcast on SDPB most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.



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EARTHTALK

From the Editors of E - The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: What's the latest on hydrogen powered fuel cells? Not long ago they were touted as the energy source of the future, but news has been scant of late. -- J. Gorman, Columbia, SC



Consider yourself lucky to see a Toyota Mirai or any other "FCV" (fuel cell vehicle) out in the wild — there are only about 300 on the road in the U.S., with the vast majority of those in California. Credit: Aaron Smart, FlickrCC.

Indeed, around the turn of the millennium, the development of hydrogen fuel cells to power our transportation sector with renewable, non-polluting power was all the rage among environmentalists and techies alike. Fuel cells combine hydrogen and oxygen via an electrochemical reaction to make electricity, with water as the only "exhaust." The first crude fuel cells were invented in England in the 1830s, but the technology really gained momentum in the 1960s when NASA developed them for the space program.

Unlike traditional batteries, which need to be regularly recharged, fuel cells operate continuously as long as they have a steady supply of oxygen and hydrogen. Oxygen is available anywhere and anytime from the air around us. Hydrogen, though also one of the planet's most common elements, isn't easily separated from the compound molecules it is usually part of. So, either gasification or electrolysis are used to separate the hydrogen out. But this requires copious amounts of energy, which is most often derived from fossil fuel sources, calling into question just how sustainable fuel cells actually may be.

Start-ups working on fuel cells for the auto industry (Ballard Power, Plug Power) became the darlings of investors in the 1990s and 2000s, but in the intervening two decades hybrids and EVs started to take over the auto sector instead of cars powered by hydrogen, and fuel cell makers shifted most of their attention to the aviation industry. So, what happened? Why aren't we all driving around in fuel cell cars today?

One major hurdle was the lack of a refueling infrastructure. Internal combustion cars and trucks (and hybrids) can get gasoline at just about every other corner and highway exit across the country. Meanwhile, EV drivers just need an electrical outlet, one of the most ubiquitous pieces of "infrastructure" in our world, to recharge their cars' batteries for the next 80-200 miles.

But if you do happen to drive one of the 300 fuel cell vehicles sold (or leased) in the U.S. in recent years—Toyota Mirai or Honda Clarity, to name a few, you'll have to find a hydrogen refueling station to keep the road trip alive. And if you don't live in California, home to 43 of the nation's 48 hydrogen refueling stations thanks to the forward-looking state's Clean Transportation Program, a fuel cell vehicle probably doesn't make a lot of sense.

While fuel cells may not have lived up to their initial hype as the future of the automotive transportation sector, they are playing an increasingly larger role in powering various aspects of the aviation and aerospace industries, where hydrogen production and refueling operations can be relatively centralized. Another growth area for fuel cells is stationary applications. Our existing natural gas distribution system could be modified to pipe hydrogen into our buildings to feed fuel cells to take care of our energy needs. While fuel cells alone may not be the answer to our environmental problems, they are proving to be one of the arrows in the quiver of those trying to be part of the solution.

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.



The new council table (which also serve as a library table) at the new city hall location at the former Wells Fargo building. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

AUCTIONS

INTERSTATE AUCTION spring/lawn/garden equipment. Recreation consignment sale May 1st, 10am. 3 miles east of Sioux Falls exit 402. Call 605 331 4550. Auctionzip.com. Auctioneer. bppagel@gmail.com, auctionzip.com.

ACREAGE FOR AUCTION: 25654 431st Ave Spencer, SD 57374 – Near I-90 Spencer exit. 25.5 acres with maintained home and numerous outbuildings. Monday, May 10th 6:30 pm on-site. Open house Wednesday, May 5th 5-7pm. Visit www.totalaar.com for terms. Total Auctions and Real Estate. Andy Harr auctioneer/broker 605-274-6500.

EMPLOYMENT

NOW HIRING

MJ's Sinclair of Groton is looking for someone to work weekends and nights. Stop out and see Jeff for an application.

NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS Educational Cooperative in Isabel, South Dakota, is seeking an Early Childhood Special Education Instructor. Must have, or be able to obtain South Dakota licensure. NWAS offers competitive salary, benefits, transportation and SD Retirement. Position is open until filled. NWAS is an EOE. Contact Quinn Lenk, Director, at 605-466-2206, or email quinn.lenk@k12.sd.us

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MISCELLANEOUS

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Health Systems, Department of Health Urge COVID Vaccination

SIoux FALLS, S.D.— Today in a united front, Avera Health, Monument Health and Sanford Health systems joined with the South Dakota Department of Health to encourage residents to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

Currently, vaccinations in South Dakota are open to anyone age 16 or older. Numerous vaccination appointments are available, and walk-in clinics are being held at some locations statewide. Vaccinations are provided at no cost to residents. Over half of South Dakotans have received at least one vaccine dose.

"We all want to put this pandemic behind us, and the quickest way to do so is by choosing to get vaccinated today," said Kim Malsam-Rysdon, South Dakota Secretary of Health. "The vaccination is safe and effective, even against variants of the virus. The best way to slow down transmission and prevent adverse health reactions is for residents to choose to get vaccinated."

Malsam-Rysdon and health system experts emphasize the following: All COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. Millions of people across the United States have been vaccinated.

The vaccine is working. Hospitalizations of COVID-19 are down, but some parts of the country are seeing additional waves of the virus and its variants. Vaccination is close to 100 percent effective against serious illness, hospitalizations, and deaths, even in the case of variants.

We have not yet reached "herd immunity." Widespread immunity will not happen until around 70% of the population has been vaccinated.

Even if you had COVID-19, you should still be vaccinated. Antibodies wane over time and will not protect like the vaccine does.

If you received the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, it's important to get both doses for the greatest immunity.

"Get vaccinated to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your community," added Malsam-Rysdon.

No More Nickels

Grandma made dandelion wine. I was no more than seven when I first tasted it. And I have searched in the years since to recapture that bitter-sweet taste.

I was immortal then and so was Grandma. She could always make more, I might have thought—if my unformed jellied brain had not been enthralled with living.

Much of what Grandma was came from her mother. I knew her as Grandma Joachim. I would visit my great-grandmother almost daily when the school day was done.

She made "Russian Tea" from a plant that grew around the tiny trailer house that was her home. She made cookies for me while I paged through picture books filled with somber faces I would never know. Yet their blood runs through my veins.

The highlight of the visit was the nickel that she would pull from her coin purse.

I was a mercenary visitor.

When Grandma Joachim died, it was her daughter who took my hand and led me to the casket. As Grandma Bender and I looked down at the shell of what had been, she squeezed my hand. "No more nickels," she said.

My memories of Grandma Bender are much more vivid. We had more time together. I spent summers there and would have grown fat on the rich German delicacies had Grandpa and Grandma not seen to it that I develop my skills as a bale hauler.

Nobody worked harder than Grandma.

One day, out in the field, we came upon a very young rabbit—it's mother was dead. Grandma picked it up, and when I realized she meant to dispatch it, I pleaded for its life. I lost the case and the bunny lost its life. She thought it better to end its life with a quick twist of the neck than have it starve or become a meal for a fox.

But Grandma was far from heartless. If you were quick, you could catch her eyes smiling. She could spot a drinker a mile away, and when Grandpa walked in the door after a social visit at George's Bar, she would chew him out for having "chicken eyes." She ended every argument with Grandpa with a simple statement: "Ach Benny, you're so dumb."

Theirs was not a romantic partnership. Grandpa tells me that when he asked her to marry him, all she did was shrug her shoulders as if to say, "Well, I'm not doing anything else for the rest of my life." With a simple shrug of the shoulders, my father came into existence as did I some years later.

At Christmas, she would get modern kitchen conveniences from her thoughtful children and grandchildren. But at the end of the day the new mixers and toaster ovens would be stowed in the attic with last year's loot. "She was saving it for nice," she told us. We still quote her today.

Today when any Bender gets a gift you can see a glint come to his eye and a grin to his face. "I'm gonna save it for nice," is the punch line that always gets a laugh.

A beautiful crocheted doily lies on my old oak table. Grandma made one for all of us grandkids, I've had it for years, but only lately could I bring myself to put it on display. I guess I was saving it for nice.

Grandma left us dozens of crocheted masterpieces. And for two years after her death we dined on her famous kuchen and homemade noodles. The freezer was one of the only modern appliances she ever used.

Her whole life was a service to those she loved and when a stroke took the use of her hands she felt useless.

"I wish I could die," she told me. "Well Grandma, I can't say I would wish otherwise if I were you," I replied. "Besides, as stubborn as you are, you'll probably get your way."

She cried.

"But I'm stubborn too, Grandma," I amended.

There was no merciful hand to ease her suffering as she had ended the life of a small rabbit all those years ago.

A few months later when Grandma got her wish, no one held my hand as I took my last look. But as we waited for the minister to begin the service, Mom leaned over and whispered in my ear.

"No more nickels," she said.



That's Life by Tony Bender

Put our experienced team to work for you!



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

The Life of George Alberts Jr.

George Alberts, Jr. was born December 6, 1926 to George Alberts, Sr and Alma (Yelkin) Alberts in Putney Township. He attended rural school in Putney Township and graduated from Groton High School in 1944.

After high school, George enlisted in the US Air Force. He was a weatherman and an accomplished sharp shooter. He received his honorable discharge in October of 1946. He was happy to be able to go on the Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. All his life he was proud to be a patriot.

After his service, he returned to Putney to farm. He married Doris Schliemann on June 5, 1950 at St Lawrence Catholic Church in Milbank, SD. He farmed until his retirement in 1989. He enjoyed golfing, fishing and searching for antiques. He loved having his grandchildren visit in the summer and meeting his family at Lewis and Clark Lake for a weekend of boating and fishing.

He belonged to St Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church and was 4th degree Knights of Columbus. He was a member of the Groton American Legion, Moose Lodge 590 and the Elks Club in Aberdeen.

Celebrating his life is his wife, Doris, three children, Marilyn (David) Anderson of Van Meter, Iowa, Michael Alberts of Groton, Brenda Henley of Littleton, Colorado, four grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, five step-great grandchildren and one sister Mavis Kirschenmann of Aberdeen.

He was preceded in death by his parents, four brothers and one sister.



The football awards were finally presented after a long delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Academic All-State Award

Alexa Herr, Trey Gengerke, Chandler Larson, Jaime Farrell, Alex Morris

(Photo by Deb Gengerke)



Left: 11B All-State Team, Fullback/Tightend/H-Back Position: Jaime Farrell. (Photo by Deb Gengerke)



Right: Rich Durre Outstanding Senior Football Player Scholarship: Alex Morris. (Photo by Deb Gengerke)



NEC All-Conference Team: Jordan Bjerke (Honorable Mention), Alex Morris, Jaime Farrell, Pierce Kettering (Honorable Mention). (Photo by Deb Gengerke)



Front Row: Pierce Kettering, Defense MVP; Alex Morris, Lineman MVP; Jaime Farrell, Offense MVP; Back Row: Jacob Lewandowski, Defense Scout Team MVP; Ethan Gengerke, Offense Scout Team MVP; Jordan Bjerke, Most Improved Offense; Paxton Bonn, Most Improved Defense. (Photo by Deb Gengerke)

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