



### Iron Warrior give \$2,500 to Schinkel/Kulm

The Iron Warriors poker run was held Saturday, July 31, starting and ending in Groton. The Iron Warriors is made up of fire fighters and police officers. A check for \$2,500 was given to Jasmine Schinkel in memory of Casey Kulm. Kulm was also a firefighter. The Schinkel/Kulm family members are pictured in the green shirts as the bike riders gathered behind for a photo opp. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



I seen this post on Patti Woods' Facebook Page. Someone had a drone and took this photo of Locke-Karst Field from the air. What is neat is how the outfield is mowed. Aaron Severson did a neat job in perfecting the pattern in the outfield. This was taken of the opening ceremony.

# Alcohol and tobacco sales soared in South Dakota during COVID-19 pandemic

By: Danielle Ferguson  
South Dakota News Watch

South Dakotans bought far more alcohol and tobacco than usual during the COVID-19 pandemic, and some healthcare professionals are concerned that residents who consumed more of the unhealthy products could suffer long-term physical and mental health consequences.

Health experts say the pandemic brought on social isolation, job loss, grief and ongoing anxiety about the future, all factors that likely contributed to heightened use of alcohol and tobacco.

In South Dakota, gross sales in liquor stores increased by about 21% from 2019 to 2020, from roughly \$96 million in 2019 to about \$117 million in 2020, according to state Department of Revenue data. The rise in alcohol sales during the pandemic came after alcohol tax collections had fallen by 9% in the year prior to the arrival of COVID-19.

Gross sales at tobacco stores and stands rose by 42% from 2019 to 2020, from about \$17 million to \$24 million.

Retail sales data for alcohol are highly relevant in terms of understanding alcohol consumption in the pandemic era since many bars and restaurants were closed or saw significantly slower sales in the early stages of the pandemic. The sales figures include all items sold at liquor stores and smoke shops, which could include non-alcoholic or tobacco-free products.

The higher alcohol sales have already resulted in a greater need for addiction services in South Dakota.

Avera Behavioral Health in South Dakota saw a roughly 25% increase in addiction-related admissions during the pandemic, with alcohol the most common substance abused by patients, said Dr. Matt Stanley, vice president for Avera Behavioral Health.

"With the effect of social isolation over time, I think that alcohol became a substitute for socializing and now it's kind of a dangerous substitute," Stanley said.

For those with an existing addiction issue, the pandemic led to a halt of most in-person support groups and counseling sessions, mak-

ing the ongoing recovery process tougher and relapses more likely. Prevention experts say that rural residents, Native Americans and youths in South Dakota may have seen the greatest increases in alcohol use over the past year or more.

The state is part of a national trend in rising alcohol and tobacco sales. Across the nation, total alcohol sales outside of bars and restaurants increased by about 24% during the pandemic, according to Nielsen National Consumer Panel market data. Sales of spirits with higher alcohol contents rose even more, by about 27% over the previous year. Tobacco sales showed a 13% increase during the early months of the pandemic.

The sales spike has continued into 2021. Nielsen data show retail sales of spirits, wine and beer were roughly 20% to 30% higher in March 2021 compared to March 2019. The research firm predicts that those trends will "flatten" as 2022 approaches.

Revenue from state and tribal cigarette sales taxes increased from about \$47.7 million in Fiscal 2019 to more than \$48.3 million in Fiscal 2020, reversing a trend from the previous

two years when cigarette sales had been declining.

State and tribal sales tax revenues from other tobacco products in South Dakota also rose by more than 8% from fiscal 2019 to 2020, from about \$9.7 million to \$10.5 million,

one of the largest percent jumps of any business tax category for the year.

Although increased drinking during times of stress is not automatically indicative of an alcohol-use disorder, some healthcare professionals worry that higher alcohol consumption and the prolonged stress during the pandemic could put residents at risk of long-term physical and mental health consequences.

Rural residents in South Dakota in particular turned to unhealthy substances to cope during the pandemic, said Brandi Knife, a behavior health counselor for South Dakota Urban In-



**Retail liquor sales increased dramatically across South Dakota during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to state tax data. Some residents purchased more out of boredom, whereas others turned to alcohol more to cope with stress from the pandemic.** Photo: Danielle Ferguson, South Dakota

News Watch



**Brandi Knife**

dian Health.

While tele-health has expanded quickly in many areas of the state, some rural or older residents do not have reliable internet access or resources to learn about and participate in treatment or other alternatives that could have helped them during the pandemic.

"The older generation isn't too familiar with how to do Zoom and how to reach out to tele-health medicine," Knife said. "People were going back to old-school coping ways. Smoking cigarettes, drinking alcohol, taking illegal substances. Those increases have been huge during the pandemic."

Alcohol use and abuse among youth in South Dakota was also a growing concern during the pandemic, though specific survey data is not yet available.

The Avera addiction center in Sioux Falls, the only provider for at-risk youth in a 250-mile radius, has seen more youth coming to the facility for help, Stanley said.

Avera plans to complete a \$28 million expansion of the Avera Behavioral Health Center in Sioux Falls in spring 2022. The four-story wing will add capacity to serve more children, adolescents and at-risk adults and provide more residential addiction care for youth.

"Substance use doesn't respect the above-18 age line," Stanley said. "Our kids are reeling."

This is the first time Avera will offer partial hospitalization to youth, according to the hospital system, allowing youth patients to spend part of their day in school and "part of their day making progress on their behavioral health condition to help improve their overall quality of life."

Among American youths, alcohol is the most widely used harmful substance, according to surveys. About 25% of youths aged 14 and 15 reported having at least one drink in the past month, and 11% of teenagers say they binge drink, according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

In South Dakota, the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey showed that 26% of youths 14-15 had a drink in the past 30 days and that about 15% of youths had experienced binge drinking in the past month. Research has shown that youth alcohol use is also a strong predictor of substance use disorders in later life.

Native American youths on reservations have

## ADDICTION SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA

If you or someone you know needs help with addiction or mental-health issues, here are some resources that can provide help.

Avera Behavioral Health crisis and assessment lines: 1-800-691-4336 and 605-322-4065

Helpline Center: 211

South Dakota Quitline: 1-866-737-8487

South Dakota Urban Indian Health: Pierre clinic, 605-224-8841; Sioux Falls clinic, 605-339-0420

Monument Health Behavioral Health: (605) 755-7200

Sanford Health Behavioral Health: (605) 312-8700

Continues on next page



**Avera Health plans to open a \$28 million expansion of the Avera Behavioral Health Center in Sioux Falls in 2022. The four-story wing will add capacity to serve more children, adolescents and at-risk adults and provide residential addiction care for youth.** Photo: Courtesy of Avera Health

**Continued from previous page**

a greater propensity for alcohol use than their white peers, with alcohol use up to 3.4 times more likely among Native youth, according to the Journal of the American Medical Association.

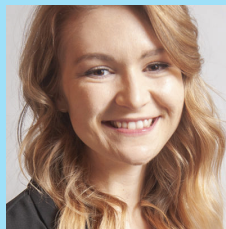
"The long-term effects of that substance use is that use just keeps increasing," Knife said. "It starts out minimal, but ultimately leads to the death of more of our people."

Stanley said that while the increase in consumption is concerning, the fact more people are talking about addiction and treatment can be beneficial to reducing stigma around substance addiction.

"If there's an upside to this, it's the conversations we're having today. Awareness, acknowledging the vast numbers of alcohol use, there's a growing social consciousness around behavioral health. The pandemic pushed this conversation forward dramatically," he said. "That could do a lot of good for us. It has always been a problem, but we can come out the other end to help."

**ABOUT**

**DANIELLE FERGUSON**



Danielle Ferguson, Sioux Falls, S.D., is an investigative reporter for South Dakota News Watch. She grew up in Salem, S.D. and previously worked as a watchdog reporter at the Sioux Falls Argus Leader.

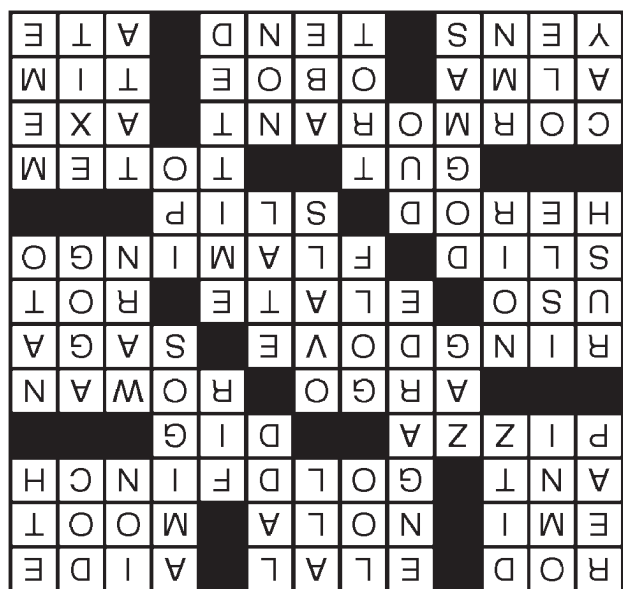


By Lucie Winborne

\* In a practice called sexual death feigning, female dragonflies play dead to avoid sex. Why? A scientist at the University of Zurich observed that, when faced with aggressive males, female moorland hawk dragonflies will freeze in mid-air, fall to the ground and lie motionless in an attempt to avoid injury and sometimes even death that can result from being coerced into mating. Four other species, including the spider and praying mantis, are known to do this as well.

\* When Victor Hugo was facing a tight publication schedule for "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," he asked his valet to confiscate his clothes so he wouldn't be able to leave the house.

\* President John F. Kennedy was buried without his brain. The original reason given was that it had been "lost" during his autopsy, but in 2018, newly released U.S. government documents revealed that his brother, Robert Kennedy, ordered the brain secretly destroyed to ensure that it would never be displayed in a museum.



**Solution time: 24 mins.**

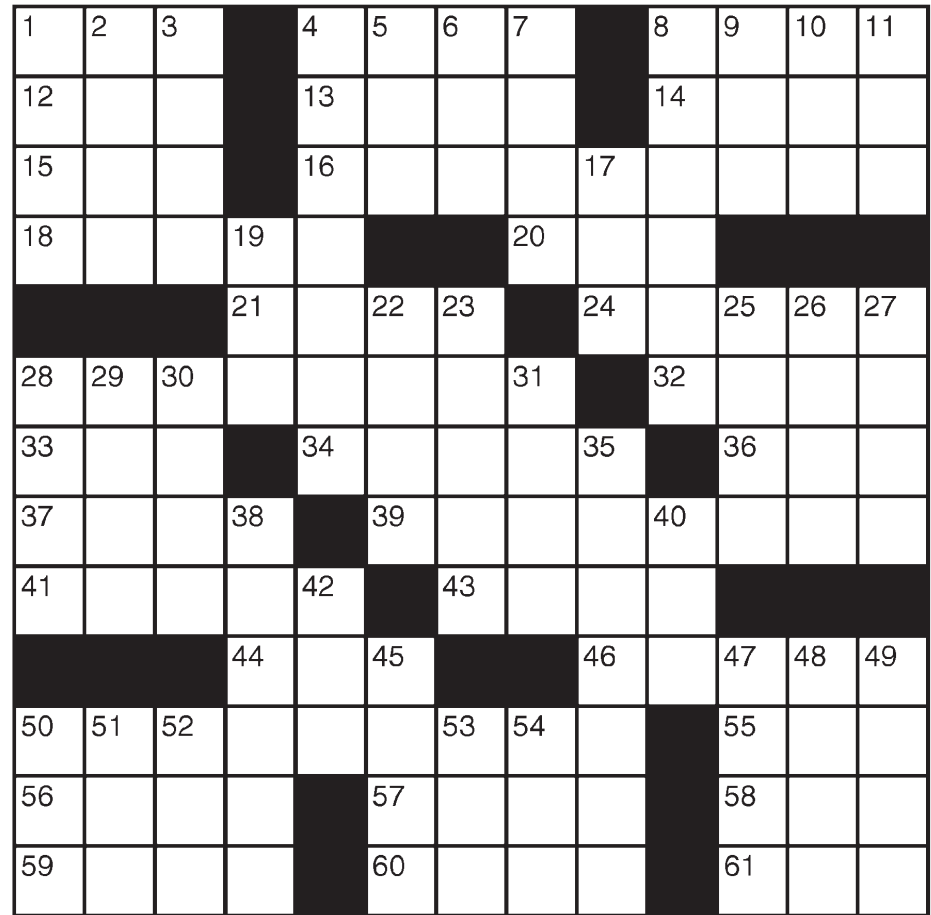
*Answers*

**King Crossword**

# King Crossword

**ACROSS**

- 1 Scepter
- 4 Israeli airline
- 8 Staffer
- 12 Brit. record label
- 13 The Big Easy acronym
- 14 Not worth debating
- 15 Picnic crasher
- 16 Bird with yellow plumage
- 18 Popular take-out entree
- 20 Use a shovel
- 21 Golden Fleece ship
- 24 Atkinson of "Mr. Bean"
- 28 Wood pigeon
- 32 Long tale
- 33 Mil. morale booster
- 34 Gladden
- 36 Decay
- 37 Lost traction
- 39 Pink wading bird
- 41 King of Judea
- 43 Faux pas
- 44 Belly
- 46 Tribal emblem
- 50 Coastal diving bird
- 55 Chopper
- 56 — mater
- 57 Bassoon's kin
- 58 Director

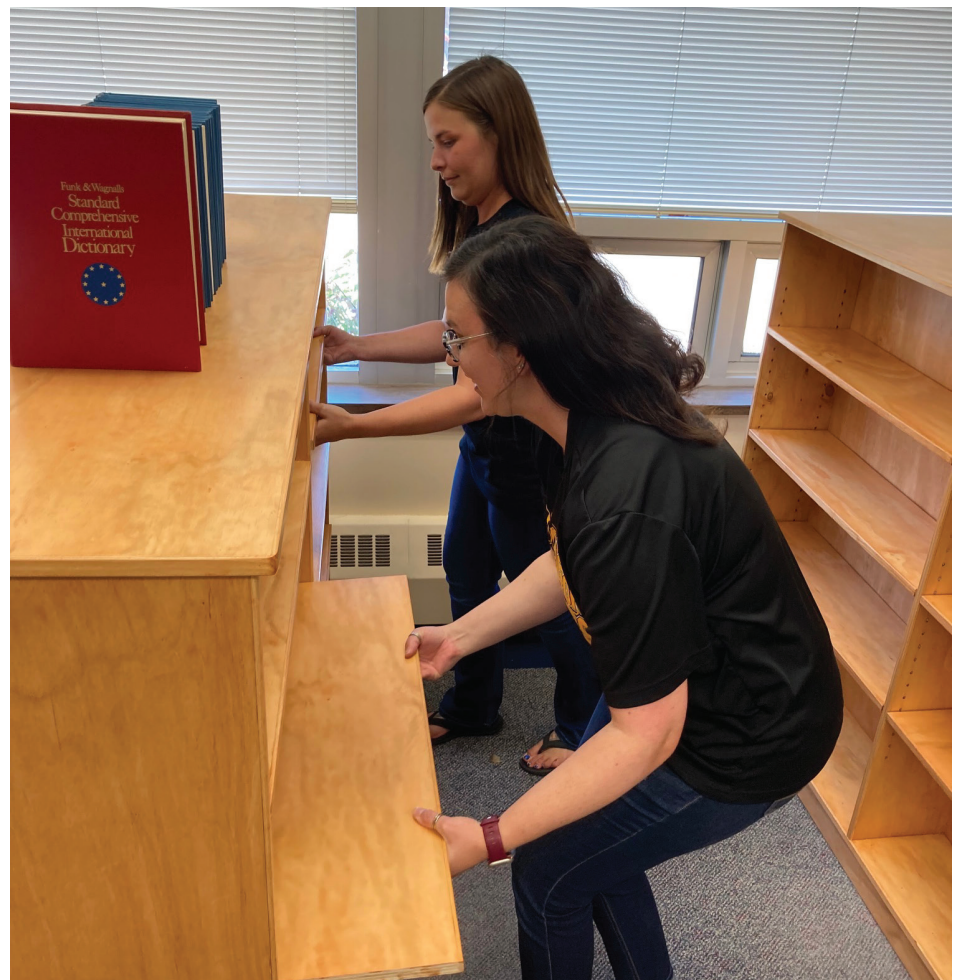


- Burton
- 59 Longings
- 60 See to
- 61 Packed away
- 11 Ordinal suffix
- 17 Fragrant tree
- 19 Abrupt turn
- 22 Michelle Wie's game
- 23 Cameo shapes
- 25 Tip off
- 26 Awestruck
- 27 Peacekeeping org.
- 28 Hurry
- 29 Capri, for one
- 30 Pinot —
- 31 And others (Lat.)
- 35 Sent forth
- 38 Doctrines
- 40 Wall St. debut
- 42 Pair
- 45 Jog
- 47 "Toodle-oo!"
- 48 Way out
- 49 Viral web phenomenon
- 50 Low isle
- 51 Flamenco cheer
- 52 LBJ's successor
- 53 Copper head?
- 54 "Smoking or —?"

**DOWN**

- 1 Harvest
- 2 Hotel chain
- 3 Bubblehead
- 4 Fencer's cry
- 5 Brit's restroom
- 6 100 percent
- 7 "Shane" star
- 8 Juan's pals
- 9 Charged bit
- 10 Medico

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**The new book shelves are at the Wage Memorial Library. Kellie Locke and April Abeln were busy putting the shelves in the book cases as they prepare to put more books on the shelves.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

# Groton Police Report

July 26 to August 1

City Miles Driven: 545

County Miles Driven: 84

1 animal call, 1 to assist other law enforcement agencies, 1 bad driving complaint, 1 request for family crisis/transient, 3 suspicious activities, 1 business security, 1 new sex offender registration, 5 citizen assistance, 1 fire assistance, 5 warnings issued, 2 summons issued, 4 speeding tickets, 1 locked vehicle assistance, 2 medical/rescue/ambulance, 1 motorist assistance, 1 gas drive-off, 1 to finger print person, 1 equipment complaint, 1 careless driving complaint, 1 violation of move over law.



## Chip Seal Project Completed

The chip seal project was done last week in Groton. Many streets around town were done. It was the first chip seal project done in several years.



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## Summertime Action



I can canoe. Can you canoe, too?

1 Echo, why are you bothering to learn how to canoe?

2 Well, I'm already a great swimmer, so I'm trying something new!

3 Don't you feel a bit like a fish out of water?

4 Nah! As you know, dolphins aren't fish. We're mammals. We are warm-blooded.

Unless, of course, you are talking about the dolphin fish, which isn't **really** a dolphin. It's a cold-blooded animal. It's found in warm waters such as those around Hawaii and is commonly called Mahi-mahi.

## Summertime Fun!



Can you fill in the crossword with these words about summer fun?

## Where Do You Go?

There is lots to do during the summer months! Match the summer activities to the spots you might visit to do them:

- |                     |                                |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. town fairs       | A. woods, mountains, peaks     |
| 2. baseball games   | B. roads around town, tracks   |
| 3. running races    | C. fairgrounds                 |
| 4. nature hikes     | D. gazebos, town greens, parks |
| 5. outdoor concerts | E. sports stadiums             |

bingo beachcombing fishing swimming camping

Hey, stop making waves!

Boy, Billy bug bobs beautifully!

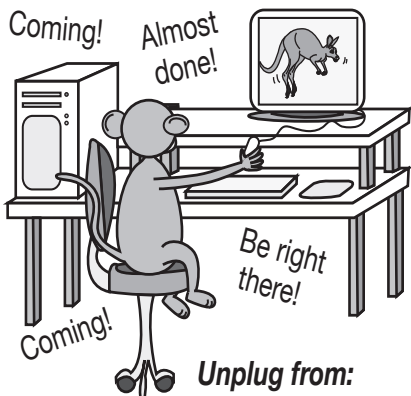
swimming stargazing picnicking tubing

Cheese? Yuck!

canoeing

Why did the banana use sunscreen? It didn't want to peel.

Answer:



Coming! Almost done! Be right there! Coming!

Unplug from:

- c \_ llph \_ n \_ s
- t \_ l \_ v \_ s \_ \_ n
- c \_ mp \_ t \_ rs
- G P S
- \_ m \_ \_ l

- music pl \_ y \_ rs
- m \_ cr \_ w \_ v \_ oven
- w \_ bs \_ t \_ s
- v \_ d \_ \_ games
- video str \_ \_ m \_ ng

## Unplug, Then Spring Into Action!

Unplug from everything, then spring into action. Fill in the missing vowels to spell the names of things that you can unplug from. Next, match it to a fun activity to replace it!

Then Spring Into Action:

- write letter, address envelope, mail it
- research reference books at library
- study paper maps, a globe
- visit and have a chat in person
- enjoy a play at a theater or a school

- cook on the grill with Dad
- go to a drive-in movie
- rock out at a live concert
- play board games with friends
- read comics, magazines, books

Hmmm! I wonder if this would pop?

Connect the dots to see some toys to play with in the water.

Use the full activity page (top and bottom) to find and circle:

- one word that rhymes with "biking"
- two words that rhyme with "know"
- 4 words that rhyme with "you" and
- 2 words that rhyme with "lots."

## Weather Watch!

The summertime is full of unsettled weather. Sometimes there are **floods** from too much **rain**. Some areas of the country may hurt from **drought** caused by a lack of rain. **Tornadoes** may wreak havoc on homes and stores. **Lightning** streaking through the air and booming **thunder** will send us scurrying into our houses on **hot** summer afternoons. While having fun, keep an eye on the sky!

Find and circle the underlined weather words:



|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | E | O | D | A | N | R | O | T | N | E | D | C | F | G | N | T |
| L | J | U | K | T | F | D | O | J | H | F | S | E | Q | A | O | H |
| B | H | F | D | X | D | N | M | O | U | G | R | D | T | L | J | U |
| M | T | O | L | I | G | H | T | N | I | N | G | F | H | O | I | N |
| J | H | U | T | E | S | W | M | E | R | S | Z | G | G | X | A | D |
| S | K | I | Y | G | E | V | R | E | C | S | A | O | U | L | J | E |
| N | B | F | L | O | O | D | S | E | V | T | D | S | O | K | L | R |
| P | K | J | R | E | S | A | D | C | O | L | K | U | R | G | E | D |
| P | O | S | H | T | G | C | N | I | A | R | N | B | D | L | O | U |





# Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Dominique Clare

The new-look Minnesota Vikings are getting to know each other very well during camp. The improved defense is pushing the offense to be better as there have been great matchups on both sides of the ball.

Unfortunately, camp has not been drama-free this year. It was announced that the Vikings have the lowest vaccination rate in the NFL with one of their players being starting quarterback Kirk Cousins. Because of the strict guidelines for unvaccinated players, Cousins had to miss several practices. This is something that is expected to hover over the Vikings season all year based on how many unvaccinated players they have.

On top of that Justin Jefferson gave Vikings fans an injury scare. The second-year all-pro receiver from LSU landed on his shoulder area funny after a collision with cornerback Bashaud Breeland. Jefferson received good news that it was just a sprain later that day. The Vikings updated his status to day to day.

The Vikings are now gearing up for their first preseason game. Here is everything you need to know and look out for.

Who do the Vikings play their first preseason game? The Vikings play their first preseason game against the Denver Broncos on Saturday, August 14th at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis.

What are the top position battle to watch? The Vikings will be using the preseason to get a good look at several players that have a chance to have a significant role on the team.

The backup quarterback battle will be interesting to watch. Fans are excited for the rookie Kellen Mond, but it's looking like he is going to have to earn that spot. Jake Browning is making a push for the backup job after being the only quarterback available for camp when Cousins, Mond, and Stanley had to sit out due to the COVID-19 protocols.

Another position that has players battling is wide receiver. The top two spots are obviously Adam Thielen and Justin Jefferson. After that, it is wide open. The Vikings brought in Dede Westbrook right before camp. At the time it seemed like he was a lock for the 3rd receiver

but others are giving him a run for his money. KJ Osborn has put together a nice camp and is looking like a legitimate 3rd receiver. The rookie Ihmir Smith-Marsette is also having a great camp. Westbrook is still working his way back to full strength so don't be surprised to see either of those two guys early on during the season,

Arguably the most important position battle for the Vikings is right guard. Right now that is between Dakota Dozier, Oli Udoh, and Wyatt Davis. Udoh is my favorite to win the position. He has received amazing feedback about his play and particularly his strength during camp.

What about the Broncos? I don't expect the Broncos to be a top team in the NFL this season but they do have the potential to be above average. Vikings fans will get a chance to see Teddy Bridgewater again, as he is currently the backup for Drew Lock on the Broncos. He should see a lot of minutes during the game. It will be a great team for the Vikings players to shake off the rust and officially kick off the season.

## A parking lot conversation

"That's a beautiful car you have there," a voice booms from behind me in the parking lot of Ken's Fairway as I place deli food and a case of Grain Belt in the trunk. Dad drank the stuff, and like I keep lemon drops in a candy dish to remind me of Grandpa Spilloway, who used them to kick a smoking habit, and like the blackberry brandy I keep to remind me of Grandma Bender's cold remedy, I like to have Grain Belt on hand. Can beer be a comfort food? I think definitely so.

I thank the man, and yes, it is a beautiful car, and I tell him it's the third ragtop I've owned. "You must make a lot of money," he says. "Naw, I just spend a lot."

He's wearing a Korean War veteran's hat. So, I ask him about it. He doesn't look it, but he's



## That's Life

by Tony Bender

92. And his wife is 85. He volunteered for the Air Force for two reasons. One, he had a nail in his leg—I didn't ask—and he didn't think it would hold up in the infantry, and besides, he thought it would be safer in the air. As it turns out, a lot of planes were going down. No matter. He ended up in the navy, an adventure that included a three-day typhoon so violent the propellers of the big warship churned nothing but air much of the time in high seas.

It's funny. I'd been to Aberdeen twice in three weeks for a crown and a chipped upper canine tooth, and the last time, I was accosted in the parking lot of Kessler's by an old-timer with a case of a lesser beer in his shopping cart. "Do you know what tax was on this?" he asked, but before I could guess, he shouted, "\$1.56!"

"That's not too bad," I blurt, because I'm a dutiful American. "Not too bad!" He grumbles some more unintelligibly, like I'm some kind of tax-paying degenerate or something.

Thankfully, Lloyd isn't angry about anything, he's just worried about all the hate in the world. I don't argue, because I can't, and then he tells me about boot camp in the Carolinas when a big ol' country boy took him aside and said, "You Yankees are going to ruin everything for us," because you, know, black people were getting the vote and sharing drinking fountains.

I smile and pull out my phone and show him a picture taken a few days earlier of my nephew's cherubic black baby on my lap. I'm embarrassed when I realize I'm wearing the same shirt, but hey, I really like the shirt. Lloyd squints in the sun and nods while I absently run my tongue over the repaired canine. My nose hasn't been this numb since the '80's.

A couple of times I try to break off the conversation but Lloyd doesn't seem to notice that I'm aiming to return my cart to the bin which by my reckoning is about nine football fields away. But I love old people, and everyone has a story to tell, so I listen. To all 92 years of it. Or that's how it seemed, anyway.

Lloyd tells me about the rows of trees he and his wife once planted at the farm 15 miles north of town, how tall they've grown, and he's proud of that, and he should be, because Lloyd will leave this world a better place.

He circles back to all the hate in the world, and then quotes me a Bible verse, but not in a threatening Billy Sunday hellfire way, besides, I like Psalms, and I am really beginning to like Lloyd. So much in fact, that I give him a big old bear hug right there in front of God and the August Schell Brewing Company. Because the world needs more Loyds.

Unconsciously, I glance at the shopping cart again. "I'll take that back for you," he volunteers. We shake hands and he wheels it toward the bottle shop. "It was good meeting you, Lloyd," I say, but he just nods serenely which is what you do when you're 92 and your hearing aid is almost that old.

In the car I check my face to see how puffy it might be. I find I'm smiling.

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## The Life of Anna Rix



Funeral services for Anna Rix, 92, of Groton will be 10:30 a.m., Thursday, August 12th at the United Methodist Church, Groton. Pastor Brandon Dunham will officiate. Burial will follow in Groton Union Cemetery, under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held at the funeral chapel on Wednesday from 5-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m.

Ann passed away August 7, 2021 at her home.

Anna Mae was born on December 9, 1928 in Frederick, SD to Walter and Sedia (Kattilasaari) Sammuli. She was their eighth child of ten but the first to be born in the U.S., since they immigrated from

Sweden. Ann attended school at Frederick, SD and Northern State Teachers College, later becoming a country school teacher. She was later employed at Employment Security in Aberdeen. On September 14, 1952 she was united in marriage with Gerald Rix at Savo Lutheran Church, rural Frederick. Together they were blessed with three children and made their home in rural Groton.

Anna was an active member of several groups including PEO, Eastern Star and United Methodist Women. She enjoyed reading, playing bridge and spending time with her grandchildren. In earlier years, she and Jerry spent many nights at children's activities and always enjoyed hosting after event get-togethers.

Celebrating her life are her children, Roger (Pamela) Rix of Groton, Elaine (Fred) Wolken of Piedmont, Teresa (Larry) Enze of Sioux Falls; her grandchildren, Grant (Tracy) Rix, Jarrett (Amy) Rix, Mary Ann Rix and fiancé Eric Benton, Jessica (Mike) Hauck, Adam (Carmen) Grams, Alana (David) White, Amber (Bryce) Sombke, Sheila (Jim) Otteson, Wendy (Jamie) Howard, Christa (Mike) Sports, Logan Enze and Erin Enze. Anna is also survived by her great-grandchildren: Gideon, Conrad & Roscoe Rix, Leo Rix, Nicholas Love, John White, Justin & Casey Taul, Neva & Theresa Howard, Nicholas Lane, Rowan Shepherd, her

## The Life of Doris Zoellner



Funeral Services for Doris Zoellner, 92, of Groton were held Wednesday, August 4th at the Groton United Methodist Church. Pastor Brandon Dunham officiated. Burial followed in Union Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Doris passed away July 29, 2021 at her home in Groton.

Doris Matilda was born on January 26, 1929 to Charles and Hulda (Johnson) Strom. She was born the youngest of nine siblings, including her twin brother. Doris attended school in Groton and began working at the Bank in Groton

following graduation. This is where she met her future husband, Richard Zoellner. They were married a year later on September 12, 1949 at the United Methodist Church in Groton. The couple made their home on the family farm and were blessed with four children.

Doris was an active member of the United Methodist Church. For over 50 years, she served on the UMW Committee and was honored for her service. Doris enjoyed baking and often did so for others, making her famous caramel rolls. In earlier years, she loved traveling to visit her family in other states and her daughter in Poland. Doris also cherished time spent with her grandchildren, helping them with puzzles, playing cards, reading to them and baking Christmas cookies.

Celebrating her life are her children, Kenneth Zoellner of Aberdeen, Yvonne (Jim) Bailey of Sioux Falls, Kathy (Richard) Engel of Warsaw, Poland, Bill Zoellner of Groton, 8 grandchildren: Katie, Michael, Matthew, David, Samantha, Bailee, Tia, Christina and two sister-in-laws.

Preceding her in death was her husband Richard in 2009, her daughter-in-law, Wanda, her eight siblings, and five half-brothers.

Casketbearers were Art Zoellner, Loel Schott, Bill McKiver, Alan Strom, Dan Strom and Michael Bailey.

## Groton Police Report

### July 19-25

City Miles Driven: 664

County Miles Driven: 76

1 animal call, 2 to assist other departments, 2 to assist other law enforcement agencies, 1 request for family crisis/transient, 3 suspicious activities, 1 business security, 6 citizen assistance, 2 county vehicle accidents, 3 dog complaints, 1 domestic disturbance, 3 fire assistance, 2 locked vehicle assistance, 2 medical/rescue/ambulance, 5 warnings issues, 2 summons issued, 6 speeding tickets, 3 to finger print people, 1 violation - No contact order.

## The Life of Donald E. Helmer



Donald E. Helmer, 90, Cibolo, Texas, and formerly Andover, SD, died Thursday, July 22, 2021 in San Antonio, Texas.

Donald Eugene Helmer was born February 10, 1931, Webster, SD, to Henry W.F. and Mabel (Wilmson) Helmer, Andover, SD. He was raised on the farm, where he did chores with his eight siblings. He graduated from Andover High School in 1949 and went to work in the Groton, SD, bank. And soon he received his draft notice. Not wanting to join the Army, he instead enlisted in the United States Air Force. Upon returning home from his service, he was asked back to work at the Groton bank. Deciding he didn't want to work in the bank the rest of his life, he reenlisted in the USAF and made it a career. He retired October 31,

1984 as a Colonel in the Air Force with the 47th Flying Training Wing at the Laughlin Air Force Base, Del Rio, Texas.

He settled in Del Rio, bought a house and worked at part-time jobs. He later moved to Cibolo, Texas, where he bought a house. He corresponded with family often and visited his hometown, "the beautiful Andover, South Dakota" regularly. He ran in many 5K events around the country. He created and ran the Andover 5K Walk/Run in 2001, to assist with repairing the Andover Waldorf Hotel. He operated and participated in the annual event for several years. It was discontinued upon the demolition of the hotel.

He is survived by one sister, Joyce Skiles, Chattanooga, Tenn.; three sisters-in-law, Ilene Helmer, Andover, SD; LaVonne Helmer, Aberdeen, SD, and Norma Helmer, Groton, SD; many nieces and nephews; and friend, Christopher Kite, Texas.

Preceding him in death were his parents; three sisters, Dorothy Sundermeyer, Beatrice Tobin and Barbara Guthmiller; four brothers, Leon, Richard, Orville and Norman; one sister-in-law, Shirley Helmer; four brothers-in-law, William Sundermeyer, James Tobin, Myron Guthmiller and Gwin Skiles; one niece, Sharon Sundermeyer; and two nephews, Scott Tobin and David Skiles.

Donald was cremated and his ashes scattered, according to his wishes.

## Water rate proposal to increase by 25¢/1000 gallons

WEB Water has announced to its customers that it plans to increase its rates for the third time in as many years. The council will consider a first reading on the water rate ordinance at its next meeting, reflecting about 25 cents per 1,000 gallons of water used increase. WEB Water raised its rates by 24 cents per 1,000 gallons. In addition, there is a 55 cent per 1,000 gallon increase for any water the city uses over its contracted rate with WEB.

The city was presented with a Drinking Water Excellence Award for the 20th consecutive year. It recognizes the fact that the city has provided safe drinking water to its citizens.

The second reading was passed in regarding the issuance of local medical cannabis establishment permits and/or licenses.

## Attention shifting from COVID to Education

Superintendent Joe Schwann said, "The attention is shifting from COVID to education. Everything is shifting together away from COVID." He presented the district response to COVID-19. He said the most important thing to note is that, "if you're sick, stay home. It doesn't matter if it's COVID, influenza, strep throat or what ever. It's just common sense." He also said there will be no quarantine of close contact situations and no contact tracing. "I feel comfortable making that recommendation." If someone tests positive for COVID, then they do need to be quarantined for 10 days. There are tests now available for families that want to test themselves for COVID.

The list of qualifying conditions requiring medical cannabis is broad and short. Schwann recommended that the staff not administer the cannabis treatment and that the district not store the cannabis on the school grounds.

Board Member Marty Weismantel questioned the process of selecting volunteer assistant coaches. The head coaches hand pick their volunteers. Weismantel said there is no vetting processing and would like to see on-staff personnel given priority over off-staff personnel. He said that going forward, he would like to see a different procedure. The board did approve the volunteer assistant coach list with Weismantel voting no. They are Carleen Johnson and Kaylin Kucker for girls soccer, Garrett Wiedrick for boys soccer, Carla Tracy for volleyball and Dalton Locke for football.

## AUCTIONS

INTERSTATE AUCTION CENTER: Consignment Auction August 14th. 3 miles east of Sioux Falls exit 402. Tractors, farm, ranch and construction equipment. Call 605 331 4550 Website – auctionzip.com

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

FOR LEASE MUNICIPAL BAR/RESTAURANT with liquor license in Summit, SD, call Kathy 881-8575 Pete 398-6419 or Norma 881-2469 evenings for more info. Interested parties will be considered at our September 7th meeting.

## EMPLOYMENT

KENNEDY IMPLEMENT in Philip, SD is looking for service technicians! Wage DOE, willing to train, comprehensive benefit package! Inquire by e-mail at sales@kennedyimplement.com!

DENTAL HYGIENISTS: Are you a dental hygienist looking for a change? Delta Dental of South Dakota's Mobile Program has opportunities for dental hygienists. These opportunities include both full time and/or part-time flexible schedules, including working specific weeks and/or months out of the year. The dental hygienists will work under collaborative supervision in southwest South Dakota, primarily on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The dental hygienists will join a team providing preventive services and oral health education in schools, Head Starts, etc. Extensive travel is required. Excellent salary and benefits including health, dental, vision, life/long term disability insurance, paid holidays, vacation/sick leave, 401k, and more. For more information visit [www.deltadentalsd.com](http://www.deltadentalsd.com). Submit a cover letter and resume to: [summer.sporrer@deltadentalsd.com](mailto:summer.sporrer@deltadentalsd.com). Questions? Contact Summer Sporrer at 605-494-2569.

POLICE CHIEF NEEDED: The City of Kadoka is accepting applications for the position of fulltime Police Chief. Application forms are available at the City Finance Office. Must be certified or be able to certified through the SD Law Enforcement Training Center within one year of hire date. Please return letter of interest, resume and/or completed application form to City Finance Officer, PO Box 58, Kadoka, SD 57543 or [kadokacity@goldenwest.net](mailto:kadokacity@goldenwest.net). Salary DOQ. EOE.

HUGHES COUNTY FINANCE OFFICER, full time, Pierre area. Position requires knowledge and training in administration, management, supervision accounting, purchasing, and human resources. Wage DOQ. 605-773-7477. EOE

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**The area had been engulfed with smoke which reduced visibility and created a very strong smell in the air from the Canadian fires. So much so that a poor air quality alert was issued, many outdoor activities were cancelled including various swimming pools in the state including Groton's.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

## Laughter is the Best Medicine

It is often said that laughter is the best medicine, yet I have never written a prescription for a funny movie, or a television comedy show, and I have no clowns or rubber chickens in my office. On the contrary, doctors are often expected to be serious and professional. Perhaps we are missing a great opportunity to help heal. What if more doctors were like Dr. Patch Adams, who is known by the medical community for his quest to inject humor and laughter into the treatment of patients?

In medicine we work to cure disease. To cure means "to eliminate all evidence of disease." However, there is a second goal that we also have and that is to heal. To heal means "to become whole by strengthening the mind and spirit to improve the quality of life, even if, or when, no physical cure is possible." Laughter helps us heal. There have been multiple studies on what happens to the human body when we laugh. Research has been done on the importance of laughter from children to the elderly and no matter the age, laughter is the best medicine.

Due to the mind-body connection, laughing can aid your brain in producing chemicals that help your heart work better and pump more evenly. Laughing can assist in reducing pain by causing the body to produce its own natural painkillers. A deep belly laugh benefits and enhances your intake of air, which stimulates the lungs and muscles. Laughter helps boost your body's immune system to help you prevent and fight off infections. It can also lower your stress level and give you more energy.

According to the American Heart Association, research has shown that laughing can decrease stress hormones, reduce artery inflammation, and increase your HDL (good cholesterol). Who knew that a laugh could do so much good? A study on adults age 65 and older in Japan showed that even after adjustment for high cholesterol, high blood pressure, depression, weight, and other risk factors, the frequency of heart diseases among those who never or almost never laughed was 1.21 times higher than those who reported laughing every day. In the same study, the risk of having a stroke was 1.60 times higher for those who almost never laughed compared to those who were full of mirth.

So, I will leave you with a few "treatments" to help improve your health today. Why did the pillow go to the doctor? Because he was feeling all stuffed up. Why did the cookie go to the hospital? He was feeling really crumbly. Does an apple a day keep the doctor away? Only if you aim it well enough. Did you hear the one about the germ? Never mind; I don't want to spread it around. Laughter is one medicine for which there is no maximum dose. Laugh often and well for a happy and healthy life.

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



## State B American Junior Legion Baseball Tournament

### Groton claims consolation championship title

Lake Norden got things moving in the first inning, when an error scored one run for Lake Norden.

Groton pulled away for good with three runs in the third inning. In the third Tate Larson singled on the first pitch of the at bat, scoring one run and Jordan Bjerke singled on a 1-2 count, scoring one run.

Dillon Ablen pitched Groton to victory. The bulldog surrendered two runs on five hits over seven innings, striking out six and walking one.

Christain Rodriguez took the loss for Lake Norden. The bulldog allowed seven hits and four runs over five innings, striking out eight and walking zero.

Lake Norden collected five hits on the day. Turner Stevenson and Troy Randall each managed multiple hits for Lake Norden. Randall and Stevenson all had two hits to lead Lake Norden.

Ryan Groeblichhoff went 2-for-3 at the plate to lead Groton in hits.

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### Early Lead For Groton Seals Fate For Lennox

Lennox watched the game slip away early and couldn't recover in a 7-4 loss to Groton on Saturday. Groton scored on a double by Brandin Althoff, a fielder's choice by Dillon Ablen, and a fielder's choice by Cole Simon in the second inning. The Groton win at the state tournament in Redfield will advance the team to a fifth place game with Lake Norden at 1 p.m. today followed by the third place game between Clark/Willow Lake and Winner/Colome. The championship game will follow between Belle Fourche and Redfield.

In the second inning, Groton got their offense started when Althoff doubled on a 1-1 count, scoring one run.

Groton scored four runs in the fourth inning. Groton big bats were led by Andrew Marzahn, Ryan Groeblichhoff, Colby Dunker, and Tate Larson, all knocking in runs in the inning.

Althoff earned the victory on the mound for Groton. The pitcher lasted six and two-thirds innings, allowing six hits and three runs while striking out six and walking one. Simon threw one-third of an inning in relief out of the bullpen.

Braeden Wulf took the loss for Lennox. Wulf allowed five hits and seven runs over three innings, striking out four.

Wulf led Lennox with three hits in three at bats.

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### Groton Falls To Winner Colome After Fifth Inning Score

The State B American Junior Legion Baseball Tournament is going on in Redfield. Groton stayed in it until the end, but Winner Colome pulled away late in a 7-5 victory on Friday. The game was tied at three with Winner Colome batting in the top of the fifth when Ethan Bartels singled on a 2-0 count, scoring one run.

Winner Colome got things moving in the first inning. An error scored one run for Winner Colome.

In the bottom of the third inning, Groton tied things up at three when Bartels's wild pitch allowed one run to score for Groton.

Bartels was credited with the victory for Winner Colome. Bartels went five innings, allowing three runs on two hits and striking out six. Aiden Barfuss threw two innings in relief out of the bullpen. Barfuss recorded the last six outs to earn the save for Winner Colome.

Ryan Groeblichhoff took the loss for Groton. The pitcher surrendered three runs on four hits over four innings, striking out four.

Kaleb Hoover started the game for Groton. The bulldog went two-thirds of an inning, allowing three runs on four hits, striking out one and walking zero

Cole Simon, Brandin Althoff, and Colby Dunker all had one hit to lead Groton.

Winner Colome saw the ball well today, racking up eight hits in the game. Barfuss and Bartels each collected multiple hits for Winner Colome. Winner Colome tore up the base paths, as two players stole at least two bases. Jack Peters led the way with two.

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## State B American Legion Baseball Tournament

### Christian Of Redfield Shuts Out Groton

Christian DeYoung threw a gem on Sunday for Redfield Post 92, allowing zero runs and besting Groton Post 39 by a score of 1-0

The pitching was strong on both sides. DeYoung struck out eight, while Alex Morris sat down three.

One bright spot for Groton Post 39 was a single by Pierce Kettering in the third inning.

DeYoung was credited with the victory for Redfield Post 92. The pitcher lasted seven innings, allowing four hits and zero runs while striking out eight and walking one.

Morris took the loss for Groton Post 39. The bulldog allowed five hits and one run over six innings, striking out three and walking one.

Peyton Osborn led Redfield Post 92 with two hits in two at bats. Redfield Post 92 was sure-handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. Keaton Rohlf had the most chances in the field with nine.

Groton Post 39 didn't commit a single error in the field. Peyton Johnson had eight chances in the field, the most on the team.

### Groton Grabs Lead In Fifth Inning To Defeat Winner/Colome

Groton Post 39 took the lead late and defeated Winner/Colome Post 169 4-2 on Saturday. The game was tied at two with Groton Post 39 batting in the bottom of the fifth when Alex Morris singled on a 3-1 count, scoring one run.

In the second inning, Winner/Colome Post 169 got their offense started. Charley Pravecek drove in one when Pravecek singled.

Chandler Larson took the win for Groton Post 39. The pitcher allowed five hits and two runs over seven innings, striking out eight and walking one.

Kameron Meiners took the loss for Winner/Colome Post 169. The hurler went four innings, allowing four runs on six hits, striking out one and walking one.

Groton Post 39 tallied seven hits. Morris and Tate Larson all managed multiple hits for Groton Post 39. Larson and Morris each collected two hits to lead Groton Post 39.

Aiden Barfuss led Winner/Colome Post 169 with two hits in three at bats.

### Two Pitchers Team Up As Lake Norden/Badger Post 260 Defeats Groton Post 39 In Shut-Out

Lake Norden/Badger Post 260 defeated Groton Post 39 4-0 on Friday as two pitchers combined to throw a shutout. Jackson Noem struck out Tate Larson to finish off the game.

Lake Norden/Badger Post 260 got things moving in the second inning, when Cameron Thue hit a solo homer.

One bright spot for Groton Post 39 was a double by Alex Morris in the first inning.

Nicholai Arbach pitched Lake Norden/Badger Post 260 to victory. Arbach went six and two-thirds innings, allowing zero runs on two hits, striking out seven and walking zero. Noem threw one-third of an inning in relief out of the bullpen.

Peyton Johnson took the loss for Groton Post 39. The bulldog lasted four and a third innings, allowing six hits and two runs while striking out two and walking zero.

Lake Norden/Badger Post 260 hit one home run on the day. Thue had a homer in the second inning.

Lake Norden/Badger Post 260 tallied eight hits on the day. Christian Rodriguez and Noem all had multiple hits for Lake Norden/Badger Post 260. Noem and Rodriguez each collected two hits to lead Lake Norden/Badger Post 260. Lake Norden/Badger Post 260 was sure-handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. Rodriguez had the most chances in the field with eight.

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# EARTHTALK™



Is it true that we've done such a good job bringing back bald eagles that they've become pests now?  
-- D. Maguire, Winston-Salem, NC

It's hard to believe the bald eagle was on the brink of extinction in the Lower 48 United States just a half century ago, given how common the majestic birds are all over the country nowadays. While their population rebound is indeed a great source of pride for the environmental movement, some American farmers are wondering if maybe we have too much of a good thing, given a recent uptick of eagles' preying on livestock.

**Bald eagles have come back from the brink of extinction in the Lower 48, but some wonder if there are too many of them around nowadays.** Credit: Anthony, Pexels.com.

While bald eagle populations fell drastically in the first half of the 20th century mostly due to hunting, it wasn't until the 1960s that people started to realize how big a threat the insecticide DDT was to supporting healthy eagle populations. The synthetic chemical was successful in keeping insects down. But when eagles ingested the chemical, it made their egg shells fragile and prone to cracking prematurely, dooming the chick inside to a premature death. Rachel Carson's landmark 1962 book *Silent Spring* highlighted the plight of eagles and other birds as victims of DDT poisoning.

In 1963, there were just 417 known mating pairs of bald eagles within the U.S. In 1972, the federal government banned DDT, and eagle populations started to rebound within a few years, with no looking back. By 2017, researchers believe 70,000 bald eagles inhabited the Lower 48; a 2021 survey estimates that number has now grown to over 300,000 individual bald eagles.

This exponential growth has sparked a call for officials to reconsider protection for the species. The presence of too many bald eagles has been a problem for decades in Alaska, where the birds were able to hold on better than in the Lower 48. In 1917, bald eagles were causing so many issues for the Alaskan fishing industry that the government placed a bounty on the birds. An editorial in 1920 from *Douglas Island News* in Alaska stated that: "Sentimentally, [the bald eagle] is a beautiful thing, but in life it is a destroyer of food and should be and is killed wherever found."

Similar situations could start to become more common in the Lower 48, where bald eagles have grown so much in population that they pose a significant threat to farms and pastures where chickens, ducks and other animals roam. Farmers don't know what to do about it, though, as shooting a bald eagle is a \$100,000 fine along with a year of jail time.

One option for farmers is to get an "eagle-depredation" permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service if the birds have become "injurious to wildlife, agriculture or other personal property, or human health and safety." Once granted, non-lethal deterrents like air horns, scare-

crows and pyrotechnics can be used to scare them off, though farmers have little recourse if these tactics fail. In the end, we're just going to have to get used to having so many of these majestic creatures around, reminding us not only of our freedom and national pride but also of what good stewards we can be for nature when we set our hearts and minds to it.

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](mailto:question@earthtalk.org).

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| 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  |

## Groton Senior Citizens

July 12 Groton Seniors met with 10 members President had the flag pledge. Had a short meeting. Minutes and treasure report were read. No old or new business. A sympathy card was sent to the family of Don Darwin. Meeting was adjourned and cards played. The winners of each game. Pinochle- David Kliensassor, Hearts- Dick Donavon, Canasta- Pat Larson, door prizes Eunice McColister, Sarge Likness, Marilyn Thorson. Lunch was served by Ruby Donavon. July 19 Groton Senior met with 13 members. Flag pledge was said. Cards were played the winners. Pinachle- David Kliensassor, whist- Elda Stange, Conasta- Pat Larosn. Door prizes- Ruby Donavon, David Kleinsossor and Bev Sombke. Lunch was served by Bev Sombke. July 26 Groton Seniors had their pot luck dinner. Eleven members were present. President had the flag pledge and table prayer. After dinner bingo was played. Ruby Donavon, Bev Sombke and Kelly Miracle won Black out. Cards were played after bingo. We celebrated Bev Sombke and David Kliensassor birthday with cake and ice cream before going home. Singing Happy birthday to them.

## The Groton Independent

21 N Main, Groton 605/397-NEWS (6397)  
Paul Irvin Kosel, Publisher [paperpaul@grotonsd.net](mailto:paperpaul@grotonsd.net) ~ 605-397-7460  
Tina Kosel, Office Manager [office@grotonsd.net](mailto:office@grotonsd.net) ~ 605-397-7285  
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