

## Switching to new water tower delayed

The plan was to start switching over to the new water tower earlier this week, but during the excavation to finish the piping, there were a couple of complications that pushed the switch back to tomorrow. Above left is Clint Jacobson (on ladder) of Jackson Electric working on tying the reservoir to the new pump room. Above right is the excavation site just north of the reservoir. (Photos by Paul Kosel)



## Rubble site detour

If you need access to the rubble site, you will need to take a detour as the normal route off of Railroad Avenue is closed. The railroad is currently doing construction work in that area. Access to the rubble site can be obtained by going south of Groton to Aspen Avenue, and then go east. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

## Spotlight on Groton Area Staff



Name: Joe Schwan  
Position: Superintendent  
Length of Employment: 2013-Present

The role of the school superintendent is to manage and supervise the operations of the school district they are employed by. They oversee and participate in the operations of multiple departments from Human Resources to Policy Development. Their job requires the superintendent to pay attention to every department involved with their school, be involved in the development of policies and the school's curriculum,

and be aware of the state of affairs in regards to each teacher and their classes. In the Groton Area School District, the intensive position of Superintendent is held by Joe Schwan, who has worked in this position for a total of eight years.

Before he began his work in the field of education, Mr. Schwan attended Northern State University and obtained a bachelor's degree in Mathematics Education in 2005. He would go on to obtain his master's degree in Leadership & Administration two years later, and obtain yet another degree in the form of an Education Specialist degree in 2014 from the University of South Dakota.

Before he became the superintendent of the Groton Area School District, Mr. Schwan worked as the Middle School and High School Principal for two years. He also worked as the middle school principal and athletic director at Hamlin for two years and the math teacher in Arlington for four years.

Although his duties as the superintendent have become more intensive in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, the newly presented challenges and obstacles have only pushed Mr. Schwan to do better in the face of these new difficulties. As a man driven by the prospect of allowing his students to succeed in school and whatever they want to do after they graduate, he has taken the challenges presented by the consequences of COVID-19 in stride.

When he is not supervising the operations of the school district and its employees, Joe enjoys watching a variety of sports at both the varsity and professional levels and supporting his kids with their extracurricular activities.

**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.**

## Soccer Schedule Change for this weekend

The times are the same but the opponents are switched for this weekend's soccer schedule. Belle Fourche will be in Groton on Friday with the boys playing at 3 p.m. followed by the girls at 5 p.m. The girls game will be broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM.

On Saturday, St. Thomas More will come to town with the girls playing at 1 p.m. and the boys at 3 p.m. The girls game will be broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM.

## Higher water rates on the horizon

The Groton City Council is in the process of increasing the water rates. The city received notification that WEB Water is increasing its rate and it will affect the city by the tune of \$13,000 a year. One of the things the council agreed on was to eliminate the third rate tier where anyone using over 18,000 gallons a month would no longer receive a discounted rate. Three options were presented and the council tabled any decision so they could take the proposals home for further study.

The city's mitigation plan was also reviewed. This plan has to be approved by the council before it can qualify for FEMA funding. They include a storm shelter with bathrooms at both the park and the baseball complex, generators at most of the sanitary sewer lift stations and city hall, bury power lines through town, rebuild streets and modify part of the pool building so it can be used as a storm shelter.

## Flihs places eighth at Sioux Valley Golf Meet

The Groton Area boys golf team placed third at the Sioux Valley golf meet held in Volga. Sioux Valley placed first with 320 points followed by Roncalli with 333, Groton Area 384, Milbank 388, Flandreau 405, Sisseton 429 and Redfield 434.

Brevin Flihs was a medalist at the meet, placing eighth in a field of 44 golfers. He shot a 43 in the first nine and a 42 in the back nine for a total score of 85.

Jackson Cogley shot a 50 and a 49 for a score of 99. Carter Simon shot a 53 and a 47 for a score of 100. Logan Pearson shot a 48 and a 52 for a score of 100. Jayden Schwan shot a 60 and a 52 for a score of 112. Cole Simon shot a 61 and a 55 for score of 116.

# Nursing shortage worsens in South Dakota at a time when COVID-19 is reemerging

By: Andrew Rasmussen  
South Dakota News Watch

At a time when they are needed most, South Dakota is facing a shortage of nurses that healthcare professionals worry could negatively affect patient care at hospitals across the state.

The nursing shortage has been ongoing for years but worsened during the pandemic.

High stress, long hours and fear of infection during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic caused more nurses than usual to leave the field, move to other states or retire early.

From 2015 to 2016, about 1,700 registered nurses left the South Dakota healthcare workforce. Last year, more than 2,500 nurses dropped out of the state workforce. One national nursing organization estimates that South Dakota will be almost 2,000 nurses short of the need by the end of the decade.

"The pandemic just kind of burned them out," said Michelle Bruns, acting chairperson for the nursing program at Oglala Lakota College. "It's a tough situation."

The state higher-education system has not produced enough nursing graduates to keep up with a growing population and rising demand for healthcare services, and educators are scrambling to find ways to lure more students and produce degrees more quickly.

Meanwhile, a shortage of nurses in other states has raised competition to attract new graduates and experienced providers, but South Dakota healthcare systems are at a competitive disadvantage because median pay for nurses in South Dakota is the lowest in the nation, according to federal labor data.

The recent shortage has compounded a long-range lack of nurses in South Dakota, and some healthcare officials are growing concerned that patient care in the state could suffer, especially if the highly transmissible COVID-19 delta variant causes infections and hospitalizations to spike.



**Nicole Kerkenbush**

"Throughout South Dakota, and the U.S., this pandemic has shown the world how important health is," said Nicole Kerkenbush, chief nursing and performance officer for Monument Health in Rapid City. "You need that workforce to help folks dealing with any type of healthcare crisis, whether it's COVID or something else."

South Dakota is ranked seventh in the nation for the greatest need of nurses, according to RegisteredNursing.org. The state ranks last in the nation in nursing pay with a median of \$55,660, according to 2017 data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics.

The aging of the nursing workforce is likely to exacerbate the need for nurses in the future. Nurses over the age of 50 make up 35% of the state nursing workforce.

The biggest need now is for experienced nurses in critical settings.

Monument Health is offering a \$40,000 sign-on bonus for highly skilled positions in intensive care and operating rooms, said Kerkenbush. Billboards and ads for the eye-catching hiring bonus are in the Black Hills area and a



**A South Dakota State University nursing student practices drawing medication under supervision of a teacher.** South Dakota State University

few other states across the country, such as Maine, Connecticut and Mississippi, she said.

"Those are two specialty areas in very short supply throughout the country," she said. "If someone needs a complex procedure and we can't do it because of staffing, that is not a position we want to be in at all. We want those folks to be able to get the care that they need."

The rate of registered nurses joining the workforce in the state has been decreasing for the last five years. Over the same time period, more have been leaving the workforce, according to the 2021 South Dakota Nursing Workforce survey report.



**Kelly Hefti**

"We have known that there are various influences on the supply of nurses that are not new. We think about increasing healthcare needs coupled with baby boomers retiring, that's a conversation that's been around a long time," said Kelly

Hefti, Sanford vice president of nursing and clinical services in Sioux Falls.

While the overall number of registered nurses in South Dakota increased slightly in recent years — from 17,693 in 2016 to 18,693 in 2020 — the supply of workers has not kept up with the increased demand. In 2016, more than 1,600 positions were added to the workforce, compared to just about 200 between 2019 and 2020.

According to the report, the state saw a net loss of 478 licensed practical nurses between 2018 and 2020. Those who left in 2020 reported retirement, exiting the profession, leaving South Dakota and inactivation of license as primary reasons for the decrease.

Rural areas have had greater difficulty recruiting nurses.

According to the South Dakota Board of Nursing 2021 report, though 28% of the state's population live in Minnehaha and Lincoln Counties, almost half of the state's registered nurses are in those areas.

More patients are coming from surrounding rural counties, adding to the need for nurses in the region.

To address the shortage, Kerkenbush said she spends her days focusing on ways to support staff, increase efficiency and use technology to their benefit.

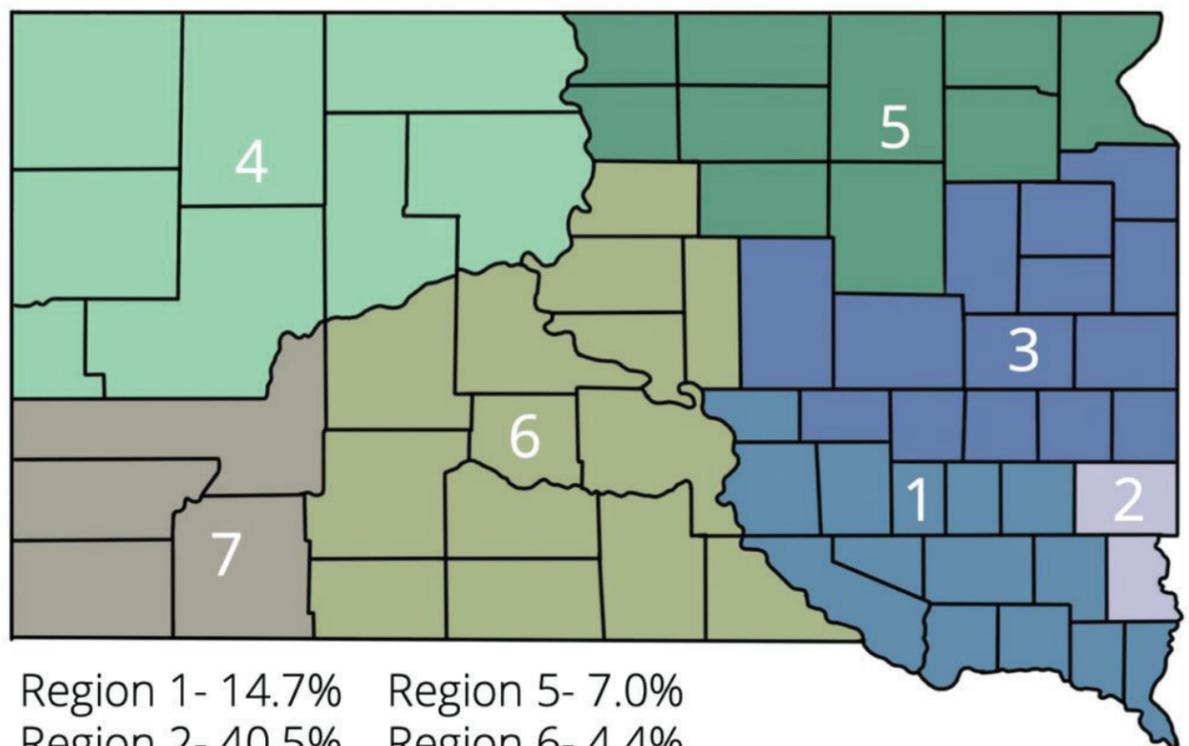
During the height of the pandemic last fall, Sanford brought in traveling nurses to Sioux Falls hospitals to fill staffing gaps, a practice that is not in the norm, Hefti said.

"Late last fall, we did bring in traveling nurses during the peak of our COVID surge — we balanced our increasing adult volumes with the need to give our own nurses a reprieve," Hefti said.

Due to recent inpatient admissions, because of COVID-19 and other conditions, Sanford is again using traveling nurses, Hefti said.

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## Registered Nurse Distribution in South Dakota



Region 1- 14.7%      Region 5- 7.0%  
 Region 2- 40.5%      Region 6- 4.4%  
 Region 3- 10.7%      Region 7- 16.0%  
 Region 4- 6.7%

Information from South Dakota Board of Nursing 2021 Workforce Report

**A disproportionate number of registered nurses are located in the population centers of South Dakota, leaving a shortage of nurses in rural areas.** Graphic: Courtesy of South Dakota Board of Nursing



**Experienced registered nurses such as Clint Miller, pictured here in the Intensive Care Unit at Monument Health Rapid City Hospital, are in high demand across the state and the nation.** Photo: Courtesy of Monument Health

### Continued from previous page

As far as day-to-day operations, Sanford approaches staffing based on the needs of their patient population and the skill mix of the nursing staff while also using unlicensed positions such as nursing assistants, Hefti said.

That challenge and the need for more nurses has been around for years in South Dakota.

"I've been in nursing for just about 30 years, and through that entire time, there hasn't been a period where we haven't been talking about a nursing shortage," said Kerkenbush, who was a nurse in the Army for about 25 years before starting at Monument.

Both Hefti and Kerkenbush said that creating competitive employment packages and making education more accessible are ways the state can address the shortage.

Hefti said that offering 401K retirement packages, paid time off and staffing flexibility are a few ways Sanford tries to provide a competitive package.

Some of the state's nursing programs are working to bolster the workforce by keeping the education modern and on the cutting edge of the latest techniques.

South Dakota State University's Nursing program is designed to prepare future nurses for the modern workforce, said Mary Anne Krogh, Dean of the College of Nursing at SDSU.

"Students have to have a broad understanding of nursing care to pass their nursing boards," Krogh said. "We do have a couple of programs for students to get rural clinical opportunities."

Changes to nursing programs are happening to meet the workforce needs in South Dakota.

In August, the South Dakota Board of Regents approved a plan for SDSU to expand its Rapid City nursing program, while phasing out a program from the University of South Dakota, thereby increasing attendance in the SDSU program from 48 to 72 students.

"I hope that we make a big difference in the nursing workforce, particularly in western South Dakota," Krogh said.

The South Dakota Board of Regents also approved this year a nurse anesthetists' program at the University of South Dakota, addressing a need in a growing field.

Augustana University's accelerated nursing program allows people who have graduated with any bachelor's degree to become a nurse in 16 months, said program director and long-time nurse Lynn White.

Depending on the degree, a student may have to take some anatomy or physiology prerequisites. The program is attractive to those who don't want to attend a four-year degree program again, and most graduates stay in the area, said White.

The same is true for the state's public universities. In 2019, South Dakota's public universities graduated 520 nursing students, 64% of whom are employed in South Dakota, according to data from the South Dakota Board of Regents. Students from South Dakota who graduated in 2019 experienced 78% in-state employment after graduation, and 31% of out-of-state students stayed after graduation.

Internships and residencies are a major part of a nursing students' education. While getting real experience as a nurse, students are also getting a feel for the culture and environments of South Dakota health providers which can lead to post graduation employment.

Though some nurses left the field during the stress of the COVID-19, the pandemic has also raised Interest in the nursing profession among some prospective healthcare workers, Krogh said. Technology played a major role in keeping nursing students on track during the pandemic.

Kerkenbush said she also noticed more young people becoming interested in the healthcare field when the pandemic exposed the need for health workers. Getting the younger generation interested in nursing will be critical to the future of the profession.

"We certainly need our young folks and those looking for career changes to consider that option, which is a critical workforce to our communities' health," Kerkenbush said.

— News Watch reporter Danielle Ferguson contributed to this report.



**South Dakota healthcare systems are in great need of more operating room nurses, critical medical positions now held by professionals such as Christine Murphy, who works at Monument Health in Rapid City.** Photo: Courtesy of Monument Health

### ABOUT ANDREW RASMUSSEN



Andrew Rasmussen, a native of Brookings, S.D., is a journalism student at South Dakota State University who is the recipient of the 2021 Jeffrey B. Nelson Investigative Journalism Endowed Internship sponsored by SDSU and South Dakota News Watch.

## GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 06-6 2021-2022 Groton Area School District Back to School Information

### Groton Area School District 06-6 – "Mission Statement"

Each school will foster a school climate conducive to learning by encouraging good behavior and citizenship, good attendance, a thirst for knowledge, and high academic standards. Teachers will employ strategies and approaches to instruction to meet the needs of all children assigned to them. With proper motivation and instruction, all children can learn!

### Teacher Qualifications

All teachers of core academic subjects must hold at least a bachelor's degree, have full state certification, and demonstrate knowledge in the core academic subject they teach. For information regarding the qualifications of your child's teachers, you may contact the superintendent's office at 397-2351.

### Registration

Anyone new to the District should contact the respective building principal(s) as soon as possible. Middle School and High School Schedule changes can be made on Wednesday, August 19, 2021 from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

### School Supply Lists

Students' school supply lists for the elementary school (preschool – grade 5) are posted on the District's web site at [www.grotonarea.com](http://www.grotonarea.com) under the District Info Heading. Students in the middle school (grades 6-8) will be required to have the same color notebook, folder, and book cover for each class. Math will be green; English, blue; reading, red; science, purple; and social studies, black. The students can choose their own colors for PE, art, health, and computer classes.

### 6th Grade Welcome Walk – Monday, August 23

Groton Area Middle School is hosting a 6th Grade Welcome Walk on Monday, August 23 from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM. Students and their parents are invited to come get a class schedule and other important information from the school office, find the student locker and classrooms, and begin to learn the new building.

### Tablet PCs or Ipad Issued to All Students

Prior to being issued their tablet PC, students and their parents must sign and return the following documents: Laptop Computer Protection Agreement, the Student Pledge, E-mail Acceptable Use Agreement, the Groton Area School District Network/Internet agreement, and the Parental Consent to Publish Student Photos/Work. Required forms can be picked up in the School Office or will be sent home with students on the first day of classes.

### First Day of School – Wednesday, August 25

The first day of school is on Wednesday, August 25. Buses will run and school lunch will be served. Each route driver will contact parents to confirm bus arrival times. Other bus route questions may be referred to transportation supervisor, Loren Bahr, at (605) 397-8117. The GRASP (OST) program at the elementary school will be available on the first day of school.

### Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten

The District offers all-day, every day kindergarten classes. Children may enter kindergarten if they are 5 years of age on or before September 1 of the year in which they are to enter school. The District offers a junior kindergarten program each day from 12:15PM – 3:22 PM for students that are eligible to attend kindergarten, but are not quite ready for kindergarten. Students enrolling in first grade must be 6 years of age on or before September 1 of that school year.

### Non-Resident Enrollment

For out-of-district students, applications to open enroll may be accepted throughout the school year. Applications are available from any school district administrative office. All open enrollment requests and related questions should be referred to school superintendent, Joe Schwan, at (605) 397-2351.

### 2021-2022 School Hours

Groton Area Elementary 8:15 AM Arrival Time (Supervision)  
8:21 AM – 3:22 PM Classes in Session  
Groton Area MS/HS 8:25 AM First Bell  
8:30 AM – 3:30 PM Classes in Session

### GRASP (OST) Program

The GRASP program services children in junior kindergarten through grade five with before and after-school homework help, supervised learning activities, and snacks. The GRASP program will be held in the Groton Area Elementary School from 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM and 3:22 PM – 6:00 PM each day that school is in session. Rates are \$2.75 per hour, per child. Any OST questions or registrations may be directed to Elementary Principal, Mr. Brett Schwan, at (605) 397-2317.

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**K-12 Breakfast and Lunch Program**

The Groton Area School District will operate a School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program with adopted modifications to support a healthy environment for congregate eating.

Through a USDA program referred to as "Seamless Summer Option" and flexibilities provided as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, all students attending Groton Area School District are automatically eligible for free breakfast and lunch regardless of income. No application is necessary to participate in this program. Families may still choose to complete the application for free or reduced priced lunch if they so choose.

The District is still required to charge for second servings and extra milk. Second servings at the elementary are \$1.00 and second servings at the middle/high school are \$1.25.

**Activity Tickets**

Activity tickets are intended to admit all students to regularly scheduled home activities or events, with about the only exceptions being tournaments and the Pops Concert. Students in grades 1-5 may purchase an activity ticket, if they wish. All students who participate in activities for which an activity stipend is paid are required to purchase an activity ticket as a condition of participation since they are the primary beneficiaries of the activity programs. For example, staff activity stipends include: all sports, marching band, forensics, cheerleading, drama, oral interp, DI, FFA, FCCLA, FBLA etc.

Activity Ticket prices for 2021-2022 are as follows:

Grades 1-5	\$25.00
Grades 6-12	\$30.00
Adults	\$45 (10 events)
Adults – All Events	\$75.00

**Admission Prices:**

Adults = \$5.00; \$6.00 for double headers  
Students, Grades 1-12 = \$4.00

**School Cancellations**

All school cancellations or early dismissals due to inclement weather or emergencies will be sent out via the Apptegy Messenger System. Within minutes, Apptegy automatically sends a pre-recorded message to every recipient on a selected list. Parents will be asked to provide phone numbers and e-mail addresses (when available) to the school so that a selected calling list can be created. Emergency cancellations will be broadcast over TV stations KSFY, KDLT, and KELO as well as the District Facebook page and website, www.grotonarea.com, and by push notifications on the District app (Groton Area Tigers, SD).

**Groton Area Tigers, SD Mobile App**

The Groton Area School District has a mobile application available for both Apple and Android devices. Search "Groton Area Tigers, SD" in your app store and download the free app. Be sure to set up the app to allow push notifications to receive timely and important updates from your child's school. The app includes event calendars, athletics schedules, staff contacts, school menus, access to up-to-date news and information and access to archived documents.

**Immunization Requirements (SDCL 13-28-7.1)**

State law requires that any pupil entering school or an early childhood program in the state shall, prior to admission, be required to present the appropriate school authorities certification from a licensed physician that the new child has received or is in the process of receiving adequate immunization against poliomyelitis, diphtheria, pertussis, rubeola, rubella, mumps, tetanus, and varicella, according to recommendations provided by the Department of Health. The Department of Health may modify or delete any of the required immunizations. As an alternative to the requirement for a physician's certification, the pupil may present:

- 1) Certificate from a licensed physician stating the physical condition of the child would be such that immunization would endanger the child's life or health; or
- 2) A written statement signed by one parent or guardian that the child is adherent to a religious doctrine whose teachings are opposed to such immunization; or
- 3) A written statement signed by one parent or guardian requesting that the local health department give the immunization because the parents or guardians lack the means to pay for such immunization.

Students enrolling in 6th grade are required to get one dose of Tetanus, Diptheria, Pertussis (Tdap) vaccine and one does of Meningococcal vaccine on or after their 11th birthday.

**Harassment and Bullying Policies**

The district has harassment & bullying policies in place in both buildings. Bullying among students can be defined as intentional, repeated hurtful acts, words or other behavior, such as name-calling, threatening and/or shunning committed by one or more students against another. This definition also includes "cyber-bullying" which is the sending or posting of cruel or harmful texts or images using the Internet or other digital media such as cell phones, etc. For a complete copy of the district's harassment or bullying policy, please contact the building principal.

**Grievance Procedure**

In an effort to maintain effective communications, if you have a particular concern about your child's progress or about what is happening on the bus, at school, in a class or activity, first discuss it with the driver, teacher, or director of the activity. If your concern or grievance remains unresolved at that level, or if there is a need to share your concern, contact the principal in charge of the school in which your child attends. If the concern/grievance remains unresolved at that level, contact the superintendent. If school policy is at issue or if the concern grievance remains unresolved, you may request that the superintendent include the subject on the school board meeting agenda. To maintain confidentiality, student matters may be confined to an "executive session" with the Board and administration.

**Complaint Policy for Federal Programs and Homelessness Policy**

A parent, student, employee, or district stakeholder who has a complaint regarding the use of federal funds and is unable to solve the issue, may address the complaint in writing to the district's superintendent. Disputes addressing the enrollment, transportation, and other barriers to the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness are also addressed under this procedure. For a copy of the complete policy, contact the school superintendent or refer to the District web site.

**Child Find**

Parents or guardians are to be informed that the Groton Area School District 06-6 continuously conducts a "Child Find" search to identify and evaluate District children ages 0-21, with special education needs. Persons who know of a child with un-served education needs may refer the child, by name, to the appropriate building principal. With the parent or guardian's consent, an evaluation will be made. After the evaluation has been completed, a placement committee will meet with the parent or guardian to determine if special assistance is needed.

**Title I**

The federal government provides funding to states each year for Title I services. The goal of Title I is to provide extra help in math and reading for eligible students. Students are selected for the program based on information provided by classroom teachers, parents, and achievement test results. Title I services in our district are provided to students in grades K-5, with a strong emphasis on students in grades K-3.

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**Title I Right to Know**

**– Teacher Certification**

As a parent or guardian of a student attending a school that is receiving Federal Title I dollars (Groton Area Elementary), you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the teacher(s) and instructional paraprofessionals who instruct your child. We are happy to provide this information to you. At any time, you may ask:

1. Whether the teacher met state qualifications and certification requirements for the grade level and subject he/she is teaching; 2. Whether the teacher received an emergency or conditional certificate through which state qualifications were waived, and; 3. What undergraduate or graduate degrees the teacher holds, including graduate certificates and additional degrees, and major(s) or area(s) of concentration.

You may also ask whether your child receives help from a paraprofessional. If your child receives this assistance, we can provide you with information about the paraprofessional's qualifications.

**Federal Compliance Notice**

Students, their parents, and employees of the Groton Area School District #06-6 are hereby notified that this school district does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, national origin, color, age, disability or religion in employment practices and educational activities. To ensure compliance with Section 427 of GEPA, effective steps shall be taken to remove potential barriers so as to ensure equity of access and participation in grant programs and to achieve high standards. Any person having inquiries concerning compliance or application of Title VI, Affirmative Action, Title IX, Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act is directed to contact Federal Program compliance coordinator, Joe Schwan, Superintendent, Groton Area School District 06-6, Phone 397-2351 or, Department of Education, Civil Rights Office, 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, MO 64114; Phone: (816) 268-0550; TTD (800) 4370-0833; FAX: (816) 823-1404; Web link: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html?src=mr>

**FERPA Notification of Rights**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day the Groton Area School District receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the Groton Area School District to amend a record should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that

FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the school board. A school official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of the school who performs an institutional service of function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the Groton Area School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

**Student Directory Information**

The Groton Area School District routinely discloses names, addresses, and telephone numbers to the South Dakota Board of Regents, South Dakota Technical Institutions, and upon request, to military recruiters, subject to a parent's or eligible student's request not to disclose such information without written consent. Parents or eligible students who wish to opt-out of the disclosure of this information may contact the school office for the appropriate document or may obtain it here: <https://bit.ly/3fFyC58>

**Notice of Nondiscrimination**

Applicants for admission and employment, students, parents, employees, and all professional organizations holding negotiated agreements or professional agreements with the school district are hereby notified that this district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, age, gender, disability, national origin, or ancestry in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities.

**Section 504**

Section 504 is the part of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that applies to persons with disabilities. Section 504 is a civil rights act that protects the civil and constitutional rights of persons with disabilities. It states

that no person with a disability can be excluded from or denied benefits of any program receiving federal financial assistance. Section 504 and special education are two separate services.

**Notification of Asbestos in School Building(s)**

In compliance with the Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools Rule, the Groton Area School District had its school buildings inspected on 3/19/2019 by an asbestos inspector, accredited by the state of South Dakota. During that inspection, areas of suspected asbestos (ACBM) were identified and inspected. The Groton Area School District has an Asbestos Management Plan which provides information on the periodic monitoring of the condition of asbestos (ACBM) remaining in the school buildings. Anyone that would like to see the Asbestos Management Plan can contact a building principal or superintendent.



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**Groton School**  
**August 9, 2021**

**Meeting Minutes**  
UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
OF BOARD OF EDUCATION  
GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6  
REGULAR MEETING  
August 9, 2021

President Gengerke called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Conference Room. Members present: Flihs, Gengerke, Harder, Pharis, Rix, Smith and Weismantel. Others present were Supt. J. Schwan, Principals Sombke and B. Schwan, and Business Manager Weber.

Moved by Harder, second Pharis to approve the agenda with the following amendments: under Consent Agenda – move open enrollment approval to New Business Item #10 and under New Business Item #9 – add September 13 meeting time change. Motion carried.

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

Moved by Weismantel, second Pharis to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: District minutes of July 15, 2021, bills, financial reports, custodial accounts and investments, school lunch report and transportation report. Motion carried.

**GENERAL FUND:** Net Salary – 76,659.64; FIT – 7,411.40; Medicare – 2,824.36; FICA – 12,076.72; SD Retirement – 7,801.38; Waddell & Reed – 700.00; Horace Mann – 350.00; AFLAC – 836.54; Delta Dental – 810.22; SD Supplemental Retirement – 679.54; Wellmark – 13,004.00; Standard Life – 213.34; Wage Works – 112.50; Avesis Vision – 55.87; A&B Business – staples, 430.50; Amazon – supplies, 305.61; ASBSD – fee, 25.00; ABC – alarm monitor, 480.00; Blick Art – pencils, 71.99; Boston Fern – plant, 60.00; Carson-Dellosa – supplies, 16.22; Cole Papers – supplies, 3,214.93; Connecting Point – repairs, 6,102.42; Custodial Fund – advanced pays, 29,342.54; Demco – supplies, 83.51; Dependable Sanitation – service, 1,238.00; Didax – supplies, 27.48; Eric Armin – supplies, 92.75; Rebecca Erickson – supplies, 40.19; Adam Franken – expenses, 230.38; Groton Area – bank fee, 83.30; GDI – legals, 406.12; Lance Hawkins – fee, 35.00; Hillyard – supplies, 7,186.71; Randy Hjermstad – expense, 95.00; Jerke Irrigation – service, 189.61; Jostens – books, 1,396.52; Matheson Tri-Gas – supplies, 191.76; Mid-states Group – shirts, 333.35; MSU Moorhead – fee, 275.00; Northeast Superintendents – dues, 50.00; Northwestern Energy – utilities, 266.95; OTC Brands – supplies, 216.64; Kristi Peterson – expenses, 93.86; Really Good Stuff – supplies, 151.71; S&S Lumber – supplies, 2,079.86; Scholastic – subscriptions, 4,340.39; School Specialty – supplies, 4,692.09; SD Dept of Public Safety – fee, 90.00; SDI innovations – books, 54.50; Joie Spier – fee, 70.00; Stan Houston – labor, 387.00; Teacher Direct – supplies, 1,519.34; WageWorks – fee, 118.25. Total General Fund – \$191,619.99.

**CAPITAL OUTLAY:** A&B – print agreement, 989.01; Amazon – equipment, 2,639.32; Apple – iPads, cases, 34,316.00; AVI Systems – software, 738.56; BeyondTrust Corp – software, 4,126.58; Brainpop – subscription, 2,950.00; Cole Papers – vacuum, 1,676.64; Custodial Fund – advanced pays, 56,273.73; Steve Diegel – labor, 4,260.00; Finnesand Floor Covering – labor, 4,260.00; Flinn Scientific – equipment, 626.68; Floor to Ceiling – carpet, 11,239.57; Gopher – equipment, 279.51; Goverlan – software, 291.00; Great Ideas – books, 171.00; Hauff Mid-America –

equipment, 4,878.05; Hillyard – equipment, 2,519.61; IXL – fee, 3,225.00; Junior Library Guild – equipment,

1,546.30; Kaplan – equipment, 32.95; Lakeshore – equipment, 524.28; Learning A-Z – fee, 236.00; Learning Solutions – fee, 510.00; Matheson Tri-Gas – torch, 520.00; NCS Pearson – fees, 2,445.50; OTC – equipment, 110.16; Pro-Ed – book, 55.00; Really Good Stuff – equipment, 266.53; Renaissance – fee, 2,403.75; Robert Thomas CPA – fee, 2,000.00; Savvas Learning – fee, 660.00; School Specialty – equipment, 1,875.53; Sports Imports – carts, 512.30; Super Duper – books, 69.90; Teacher Direct – equipment, 249.60; Teacher Innovations – fee, 600.00; Typing Agent – fee, 575.00. Total Capital Outlay – \$150,653.06.

**SPECIAL ED:** Net Salary – 2,109.62; FIT – 100.00; Medicare – 74.22; FICA – 317.32; SD Retirement – 307.08; Amazon – Supplies, 73.96; Avera – PT/OT, 6,001.42; Custodial Fund – advanced pays, 1,336.21; Dollar General – supplies, 109.05; Rebecca Erickson – services, 840.00; Sydney Kurtz – services, 840.00; OTC – supplies, 78.38; Really Good Stuff – supplies, 58.94; School Specialty – supplies, 272.84; Teacher Created Resources – supplies, 43.45; Teacher Direct – supplies, 37.76; Judy or Gene Williamson – mileage, 141.12. Total Special Ed – \$12,741.37.

**ENTERPRISE:** Food Service: Net Salary – 1,906.30; FIT – 240.58; Medicare – 72.38; FICA – 309.48; SD Retirement – 316.06; AFLAC – 110.07; Wellmark – 771.00; Standard Life – 1.92; Wage Works – 8.33; Avesis Vision – 19.63; East Side Jersey Dairy – milk, 258.01. Total Fund 51 – \$4,013.76. **OST:** Net Salary – 7,958.77; FIT – 456.97; Medicare – 275.18; FICA – 1,176.74; SD Retirement – 696.70; Custodial Fund – advanced pays, 316.27. Total Fund 53 – \$10,880.63. Total Enterprise Funds – \$14,894.39.

**CUSTODIAL FUND:** Total – \$133,303.59. **RECEIPTS:** Local Sources, Taxes – 525,934.80; Other Local Sources – 23,718.49; County Sources – 3,047.57; State Sources – 0.00; Federal Sources – 0.00; Bond Refi Proceeds – 33,799.20. Total Receipts – \$586,500.66.

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 discussed COVID-19 issues as they relate to the upcoming school year. Topics discussed from the Learn On 2021 School District handout included a return to a standard district calendar, traditional learning plan, continuity of instruction summary, health and safety measures, classroom safety measures, transportation services, food service free meal options, custodial services, protocols for handling Covid-19 cases, close contacts and quar-

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

Description	General Fund	Assigned Gen Funds	Capital Outlay	Special Education	Bond Redemption	Enterprise Fund	Custodial Fund	Total for District
1. Beginning Balance	1,552,676.37	149,575.03	1,624,948.69	314,149.50	0.00	73,605.96	142,940.60	3,857,896.15
a. checking	1,552,676.37	149,575.03	1,624,948.69	314,149.50	0.00	73,605.96	142,940.60	3,857,896.15
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	532,667.26	350.00	41,174.59	5,189.01	4.03	6,511.74	603.43	586,500.06
4. Total accounted for	2,085,343.63	149,925.03	1,666,123.28	319,338.51	4.03	80,117.70	143,544.03	4,444,396.21
5. Transfers out								
6. Expenditures to date	283,795.28	908.28	107,732.91	9,105.50	0.00	19,492.94	133,303.59	554,338.50
a. encumbrances	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
b. disbursements	283,795.28	908.28	107,732.91	9,105.50	0.00	19,492.94	133,303.59	554,338.50
7. Ending Balance	1,801,548.35	149,016.75	1,558,390.37	310,233.01	4.03	60,624.76	10,240.44	3,890,057.71
a. checking	1,801,548.35	149,016.75	1,558,390.37	310,233.01	4.03	60,624.76	10,240.44	3,890,057.71
b. petty cash	(0.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(0.00)
July Receipts	532,667.26	350.00	41,174.59	5,189.01	4.03	6,511.74	603.43	586,500.06
July Expenses	283,795.28	908.28	107,732.91	9,105.50	0.00	19,492.94	133,303.59	554,338.50
Custodial Checking							10,240.44	
District Checking							3,879,817.27	
Certificate of Deposit							0.00	
Total all Funds								3,890,057.71

antine recommendations, masks and/or cloth face coverings, Covid-19 testing, Covid-19 vaccinations, symptoms of Covid-19, Abbott BinaxNOW Covid-19 Point-of-Care Rapid Antigen testing protocols, and Release of Information and Informed Consent to Covid-19 Testing.

The following topics were discussed in administrative reports: Teacher Compensation Review Board, State Superintendent Conference, fall athletics, elementary PE/Music schedule, supervision schedule, teacher observation/grouping schedule, Write to Learn roster, Renaissance/AR student rosters, IXL rosters, Reading/Social Studies rosters, D2L updates and rosters, consumable textbooks, student/family handbooks, peanut allergy sheet, updated clocks, bases on elementary baseball field, SBAC testing results, Prepare Frontline evaluation platform, leave and behavior forms, CRRSA grant award, MS/HS Information Packets, ICU Parent Letter, Homework Summary Form, Caught You Being Good form, Dual Credit and E-Learning, 6th Grade Welcome Walk, salary schedule updates, District Annual Report progress and Federal Grant audit expenses.

Austin Fordham and Kayla Duncan presented details for a joint band/show choir trip to Orlando scheduled for February 16-21, 2022. The instructors will meet with parents to share information.

Moved by Weismantel, second Pharis to approve 2021-22 bus routes. Motion carried.

The board heard first readings of amendments to Policy BD – School Board Meetings, JHCDE – Administration of Medical Cannabis, JHCE-E(1) – Medical Cannabis Administration Plan, JFCH – Alcohol and Other Drug Use by Students, JGD – Student Suspension/Expulsion, GBEC – Use of Alcohol and Other Drugs by Employees and JHCD – Administering Medicines to Students.

Moved by Harder, second Rix to cast SDHSAA Board of Directors West River At-Large Representative second runoff ballot for Kelly Messmer. Motion carried.

Moved by Rix, second Flihs to approve inter-district transportation requests from Langford Area School District and Webster Area School District pursuant to SDCL 13-29-4. Motion carried.

Moved by Pharis, second Weismantel to approve \$900 lane change for Diane Kurtz from MS+45 to MS+60. Motion carried.

Moved by Harder, second Flihs to approve volunteer assistant coaches Carleen Johnson and Kaylin Kucker for girls soccer, Garrett Wiedrick for boys soccer, Carla Tracy for volleyball and Dalton Locke for football. Motion carried 6-1 with Weismantel voting no.

Gengerke declared a short recess at 8:53 pm. The board returned at 8:59 pm.

Moved by Rix, second Weismantel to go into executive session at 8:59 pm pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) for a personnel matter. Motion carried.

Gengerke declared the board out of executive session at 9:19 pm.

Moved by Weismantel, second Pharis to change the September 13, 2021, board meeting start time to 6:00 pm due to Homecoming Coronation. Motion carried.

Superintendent Schwan reported that open enrollment application #22-05 was withdrawn at the request of the parent.

Moved by Flihs, second Harder to approve open enrollment application #22-06. Motion carried.

Moved by Smith, second Flihs to adjourn at 9:23 pm. Motion carried.

M. J. Weber, Business Manager

Deborah Gengerke, President  
The addition of signatures to this page verifies these minutes as official.

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$140.21. 20325

**Brown County**  
**Aug. 10, 2021**

**General Meeting**  
AUGUST 10, 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 Kippley. Commissioner Wiense was absent. Commissioner Fjeldheim led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**MINUTES:** Moved by Sutton, seconded by Kippley to approve the general meeting minutes of August 3, 2021. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**FAIR CONTRACTS:** Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to approve the fair contract with T&K Rentals for lease of tents during the Brown County Fair for \$15,100.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**2021 FAIR PROMO LIST:** Moved by Feickert, seconded by Sutton to approve the 2021 Fair Promo List. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**LANDFILL FALL CLEAN-UP - WAIVE FEES:** Moved by Kippley, seconded by Sutton to approve waiving fees on all material types from Residential Users only during the Fall Residential Cleanup at the Brown County Landfill, to be held from August 27 – September 11, 2021. No large demo projects (houses, tree belts, etc.) will be allowed for free. No free waste will be accepted from commercial contractors or businesses (including mobile homes). Limit of four car or pickup tires. In the event circumstances beyond the control of Brown County (flood, tornado, fire, other) would occur during the FREE Cleanup period the Brown County Commission reserves the right to end the free cleanup period at such time and implement the regular fee structure. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION\_COURTNEY BURN BAN:** A member of the public met with the Commissioner to discuss his knowledge and experience with burn ban implementation and openly shared about the system that Pennington-Custer-Meade County follows when issuing a burn ban. No actions taken.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION\_RICHMOND ROAD:** A member of the public met with the Commissioner to get an update about the roads by Richmond area. No actions taken.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Moved by Sutton, seconded by Kippley to go into executive session to discuss contract & personnel 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 10:41 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Jeannette McClain, Brown County Deputy Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$29.09. 20321

**Brown County**  
**Vacate Service**  
**R-O-W**

**NOTICE OF HEARING REGARDING A PETITION TO VACATE SERVICE ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY**

A public hearing will be held by the Brown County Commission on the 24th day of August 2021, at 8:48 a.m. in the Commissioners' Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota, on the petition to vacate service road right-of-way filed by Linda Fordham, Darin Duvall, Michael Rohl, Christopher Galvin, Lee Goetz and Brown County Highway Department for the vacation of the service road right-of-way described as follows:

50ft x 1,098ft Service Road Right of Way bordered on the N by 129th St and bordered on the S by Lots 14, 15, and 26 of the Replat of Lots 6, 7, and 8 in Block 2 of Gederos Subdivision and Lot 1, Goetz Consolidation Subdivision in Gederos Subdivision in the NW ¼ of Section 35, Township 124N, Range 64 W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota.

The public is invited to attend the hearing on the petition to vacate the service road right-of-way and to present comments and testimony regarding said petition. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board of Commission may approve a resolution granting the petition to vacate the service road right-of-way. Dated this 5th day of August 2021.

ATTEST: Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

(0811.0818)  
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$28.80. 20313

**Frederick School**  
**Notice of Opt Out**  
**Election**

**NOTICE OF SCHOOL OPT OUT ELECTION**

FREDERICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 6-2

A School District Opt Out Election will be held on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, in all the voting precincts in School District No. 6-2, Frederick, South Dakota. If the polls cannot be opened because of bad weather, the election may be postponed one week.

The election polls will be open from seven a.m. to seven p.m. central time on the day of the election.

Proposed \$200,000 General Fund Opt Out for three (3) years. Yes

No  
The polling place in each precinct of this district is as follows: Frederick Community Center – Precinct 22 Westport Town Hall – Precinct 14

Any voter who needs assistance, pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, may contact the school business manager at (605) 329-2355 before the election for information on polling place accessibility for people with disabilities.

Janel Wagner  
Business Manager  
0818.0825)  
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$25.86. 20322

**Frederick City**  
**Notice to Vacate**  
**Right-Of-Way**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO VACATE RIGHT-OF-WAY**

A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2021 AT 7 PM, IN THE FREDERICK COMMUNITY CENTER TO OBTAIN PERMISSION BY THE FREDERICK FARMERS ELEVATOR TO VACATE ALL PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAYS ACQUIRED BY DEED(S) AS FOLLOWS:

Running East and West commonly known as 4th Street, bordered by Frederick Farmers Elevator Cooperative on the North and Frederick Farmers Elevator Cooperative on the South locate in Section 11, Township 127, Range 64, Town of Frederick, Brown County, South Dakota. The public right-of-way is approximately 66 feet wide and 150 feet in length. It is located in the old D.M. St. P&P railroad right-of-way.

0818.0825)  
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$18.81. 20323

**Groton City**  
**Sperry Special**  
**Exception Notice**

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL EXCEPTION HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT The Groton Planning & Zoning Commission will be holding a public hearing on September 2, 2021 at 6:00pm CDT at City Hall, 120 N Main St., Groton, SD for a special exception of Chapter 6, Section 6.0106 of the Groton Zoning Ordinance. This application was made by Tyler Sperry for a salon in a Residential (R-1) District at 5 E 3rd Ave, Groton, SD, legally described as Lot 9-10 & S 74' Lot 11 Bk 45 3rd Addition.

Any person wishing to present testimony for or against this special exception may appear in person or by representative at the above time and place.

Hope Block  
Zoning Administrator  
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$9.47. 20324

**Groton City**  
**Lease with**  
**Rix Farms**

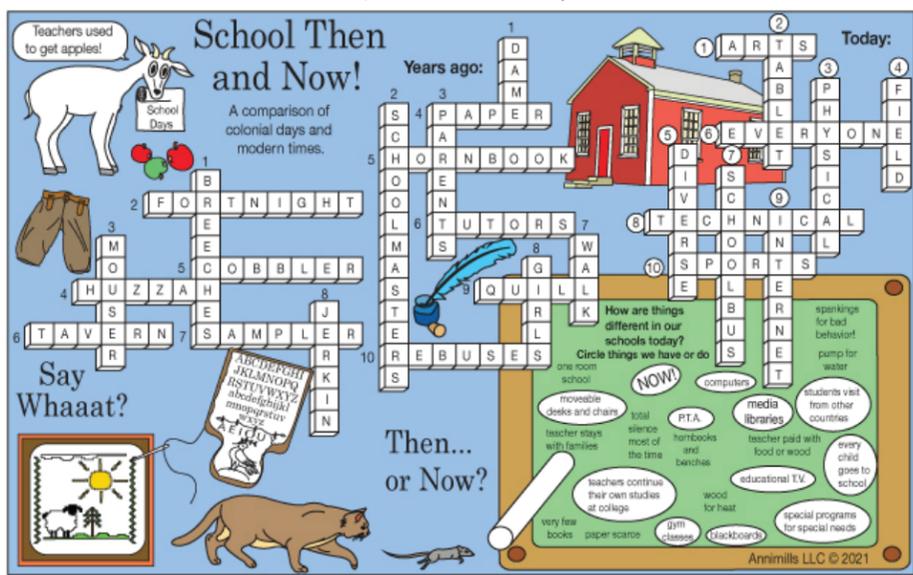
**NOTICE OF HEARING ON RESOLUTION TO LEASE CITY PROPERTY**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a petition has been filed requesting the City Council of the City of Groton, South Dakota, to approve a resolution to lease city property to Grant Rix, DBA Rix Farms, Inc., covering the farm ground with a legal description as follows:

That portion of the Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) of Section 19, Township 124, Range 60, Brown County, South Dakota being 95 acres more or less known as the Groton City Airport land, excluding all of the building site and landing strip with buffer zone (as described by the SD State Office of Aeronautics - no farming will be allowed directly north or south of runway for approach or along the sides of the runway) located thereon.

A hearing will be held on said resolution on the 7th day of September 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall in the City of Groton, South Dakota, at which time and place the lease agreement will be discussed, voted on and approved.

Date: 8/18/21  
Hope Block  
Finance Officer for Groton, South Dakota  
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$9.47. 20324





## School Then and Now!

Long ago it was hard to get a good education. People had to work long days just to survive. Some taught their children at home or sent them to craftsmen to learn a skill. Then Americans realized that the country needed people who could lead and do many kinds of jobs. Laws were passed that required all children to go to school so they would have the chance for a good education.

### Did you know that years ago:

- housewives taught children their alphabet, and about religion, in their kitchens for a small fee? These were called "\_\_\_\_\_ Schools."
- teachers in schoolhouses were almost always men and were called \_\_\_\_\_?
- \_\_\_\_\_ working hard just to survive had to teach their children at home?
- \_\_\_\_\_ was very expensive and scarce?
- students used a flat, wooden board with a handle called a \_\_\_\_\_? A paper with a lesson was placed on it.
- wealthy families hired \_\_\_\_\_ to teach in their homes?
- some students had to \_\_\_\_\_ many miles in all kinds of weather to get to school?
- \_\_\_\_\_ often stayed home to learn skills for running a household: sewing, cooking, the alphabet, etc?
- students were lucky to have charcoal or \_\_\_\_\_ pens to write with?
- one way to teach reading was by using pictures in stories, called \_\_\_\_\_?

### Today:

- \_\_\_\_\_ like painting, dancing, music are taught in all schools
- students may have handheld \_\_\_\_\_ computers
- \_\_\_\_\_ education helps kids learn about keeping fit
- classes go on \_\_\_\_\_ trips to visit places: museums, zoos
- classrooms are \_\_\_\_\_: students, teachers of many cultures
- \_\_\_\_\_, as a child, has to attend school
- many students ride on a \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ schools teach useful trades for work
- \_\_\_\_\_ gives students access to information from all over the world
- after school \_\_\_\_\_ teach teamwork

*I love it when kids...leave things at school!*

## Say Whaaat?

Words and phrases continuously change throughout the years. Read the clues below to fill in this crossword puzzle with the words that kids would have used in colonial times:

## Then... or Now?

Schooling has changed throughout the years. Reading, writing and arithmetic are still the basis for a good education! But, demands on teachers, ways to teach, and subjects taught are different. Computer classes anyone?

### Draw a ring around 11 things we have or do...

- one room school
- spankings for bad behavior!
- computers
- media libraries
- wood for heat
- pump for water
- moveable desks and chairs
- P.T.A.
- paper scarce
- students visit from other countries
- teacher stays with families
- hornbooks and benches
- total silence
- most of the time
- teacher paid with food or wood
- every child goes to school
- teachers continue their own studies at college
- gym classes
- educational T.V.
- programs for kids with special needs
- very few books
- blackboards

**NOW!**

## Sweating School!

Forest is really sweating because school is starting tomorrow and he's lost his backpack. Can you help him find it?

# Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Dominique Clare

The Minnesota Vikings' first preseason game has concluded. Before we dive into the game, I would like to remind you not to overreact to a preseason game regardless of how good or bad it may be. Too often do I see this happen when what you are seeing at this point is rarely indicative of what the team will play like during the regular season.

With that being said, the Vikings' first preseason game against the Denver Broncos was bad. They lost the game 33-6 in a long boring game that was difficult to watch. They lacked energy as a team and made a lot of mistakes.

It is important to note that the Vikings rested almost all of their projected starters for this game, which is one big reason why this game should not have you worried.

Let's take a look at some of the headlines from the game.

**Jake Browning back to reality**

After becoming a fan favorite for being available during training camp, Browning came back down to reality. He completed 5 of 10 passes for 31 yards and 1 interception. It is starting to look like availability may be his best attribute and with the way the NFL set the COVID-19 protocols, that might still be enough to keep him as the backup going forward.

**Kellen Mond makes his debut**

The second-round draft selection of the Minnesota Vikings hit the field for the first time. He did so with limited practice after having to sit out for a portion of training camp for COVID-19 protocols. In his 1st preseason game, his stats were not great as he completed 6 of 16 passes for 53 yards but played much better than the stats indicated. Several nice throws were dropped and he showed some signs of progression in things like footwork and making NFL reads. He was also the 3rd leading rusher on the team with 25 yards on 5 carries.

**No receivers to be found**

The anticipated race for receiver depth was nonexistent in this game. The leading receiver was a running back who had 1 reception for 18 yards. KJ Osborn was the second leading receiver with 15 yards on 2 catches. The Vikings are covered at receiver with Adam Thielen and Justin Jefferson, but this group needs someone else to step up to the plate.

**The Defense was really bad**

With the starters resting, the Vikings' second-team defense was clearly outmatched at every level. On nearly every play, they were out of position and not aggressive. If that sounds like the Vikings' defense from last year, that is because it essentially was. This backup unit was very similar to the defense the Vikings put out on the field last season.

Luckily for the Vikings, this won't be the case unless the team gets an extreme injury bug.

**Kicker was actually a bright spot**

It's not often that you can say that the Vikings kicker was a bright spot. Greg Joseph made both his field-goal attempts scoring the Vikings only 6 points of the game. Kicker was my biggest question mark for the Vikings heading into the season, so this is a great start for Joseph and his career with the Vikings.

The Vikings next preseason game is Saturday against the Indianapolis Colts. Carson Wentz is now in Indy after being traded this offseason, but he won't be on the field in this game because of an injury he sustained in training camp. Mike Zimmer will likely play his starters this game, which will hopefully lead to a much better performance when compared to the preseason opener.

## I'm not in charge

Well, things are back to normal here at the ranch, which is to say I'm an empty nester again. One of the silver linings in the pandemic was that it made it easier for India to finish her semester at West Virginia University online at home while helping me recover from cancer treatment. (I'm cancer-free and feeling terrific.)

After eight months of music, comedy, and good cooking, India headed back for her senior year, so it's just me and the livestock, Gus the Wonder Pug, Squirrel The World's Grumpiest Cat, and the doe, fawns, foxes, coyotes, raccoons, and the multitude of ravenous birds I feed bushels of seed. It feels like I'm in the middle of a Hitchcock movie. Not to mention another 50 houseplants India left behind, and let me tell you, that's a lot of pressure.

Gus has emerged from his funk after his girl left him, and Squirrel is his old cantankerous self, only worse because India turned him into a shameless beggar. Today's menu included Ashley sausage, cheese curds, and three feedings of Greenies, a snack that helps alleviate bad breath, from which Squirrel, and subsequently, I, suffer. I always say, only half-kiddingly, that I lost the custody agreement and got stuck with the cat.

Squirrel got his name from his odd behavior after he was rescued from a shady pet store as a kitten. Turned out the poor guy had ear



## That's Life

by Tony Bender

mites. We keep his medical records taped to the inside of a cabinet door from which India would report his birthday and his age, all well and good until we discovered she'd been counting rabies shots. He's 17 rabies shots (or possibly years) old.

Gus will be eight in December and remains convinced he's a Rottweiler. Although he's a constant companion, a big fan of r-i-d-e-s, and demanding of lap time each evening, he's also my nemesis. He loves to join me outside—Squirrel not so much these days—where I stay busy rescuing about 40 containers of flowers and a large garden from the drought. I also write from several seating areas, whichever is the shadiest, as I'm doing now. The summer evenings always end outside with a cold drink and a concert from the birds, but I always outlast Gus. He's an early to bed, late to rise Pugasaurus Rex, so he pesters and pesters until I finally go in. I'd love to just open the door for him but as my wingman, he won't go without me.

Now, you'd think he'd be grateful, instead, when I finally rise, hands holding my phone, an empty glass, and my laptop, he circles my ankles growling and snapping. He loves my mock terror as I recoil. "Oh, Gus, you're too powerful! You're too strong!" So it goes, and when he's feeling particularly fierce, he'll tug on my shorts. Twice this summer, including last night, he pantsed me. So, I waddled in with my pants around my ankles. At least my ankles were protected. If I ever have a fatal fall under those circumstances, it's going to be a weird-ass crime scene. I've never feared death, I just don't want to die like Elvis on the toilet. But dying on the front steps with my pants down would even be worse for my reputation. I can imagine the headlines: "Once Beloved Columnist Turns Out to be Some Kind of Sicko." "Bender Dies with Boots on and Pants Down."

This is our ritual. And get this, once inside, Gus gallops to the kitchen and parks in front of the pantry until I give him a biscuit as a reward for his abhorrent behavior. I'm an enabler. I definitely should not be training dogs, but as someone pointed out to me recently, he's training me.

Squirrel has been merciless, too, and every time I'm in the kitchen he gets feral, yowling until I give in. He. Will. Not. Quit. It wouldn't be so bad if he didn't have the most grating yowl. He's incapable of sweetly mewling, instead he sounds like I'm stepping on his tail.

That's how my morning begins, too. I have an alarm cat. He hates that I start my coffee first thing, and moans until he can escort me down the stairs to his food dish for inspection. It matters not whether it's full or not, he just needs to know I haven't forgotten where it is.

Tonight, Squirrel will perch on the armrest of the couch, purring as I scratch his mite-free ears while Gus snores, cuddled up close. And in the morning it will start all over again.

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## Donation brings joy to Groton seniors

### Heartland donates bird feeders for community service project

GROTON, S.D. – Residents of two Groton senior living centers were recently presented with special gifts.

Bird-watching is a popular pastime for elderly adults. It relieves stress, helps them reconnect with nature and is accessible for people with a range of abilities. It also provides sensory and memory benefits. This activity became especially important during the pandemic when residents were socially isolated.

Heartland Consumers Power District donated bird feeders with seed to Avantara Groton and Rosewood Court as part of the Public Power Month of Giving.

### Power supplier gives back

Public power utilities, such as the city of Groton, are owned and operated by the communities they serve. They are a division of local government, run by boards of local officials accountable to the citizens.

Public power is defined by commitment to community. Across the country, they support local commerce, employ 93,000 people in hometown jobs, and invest more than \$2 billion annually directly back into the communities they serve. Employees volunteer their time on community boards and improvement projects. Residents have a voice in utility operations and the opportunity to make decisions that benefit the community.

Public power is embedded in the fabric of the communities it serves.

To celebrate this commitment to community, public power utilities across the nation celebrated a Month of Giving in June.

"Public power is all about serving the community. That's our number one motivation," said Heartland CEO Russell Olson. "What better way to serve Groton than by going beyond our day-to-day electric work and making a difference."

Heartland, a non-profit public power utility located in Madison, South Dakota, provides wholesale power as well as energy services and community development programs to the city of Groton as well as other municipal electric utilities throughout the Midwest.

Heartland donated 115 bird feeders and 30 bird houses to 29 facilities in 19 communities. Local officials were also invited to join for presentations and be recognized as the hometown public power provider. Groton Mayor Scott Hanlon and finance employees Hope Block and April Abeln joined Heartland officials at both facilities to present the items to residents and staff.

Heartland staff traveled more than 2,400 miles overall and committed about 60 hours to this project. What can't be measured is how much joy it brought to everyone involved.



**Officials from Heartland Consumers Power District and the city of Groton presented five bird feeders with seed to Avantara Groton for a public power community service project. Pictured, seated, Groton Mayor Scott Hanlon with Avantara resident Jack. Standing, from left to right: Groton Finance Officer Hope Block, Avantara employee Christina, Groton Assistant Finance Officer Kellie Locke, Groton Deputy Finance Officer April Abeln, Avantara resident Tom, Avantara employee Dana, and Heartland Chief Financial Officer Mike Malone.**

(Photo by Ann Hyland, Heartland Chief Communications Officer)



**Officials from Heartland and the city of Groton presented bird feeders plus seed to Rosewood Court as part of a public power community service project. Pictured standing from left to right: Rosewood Court employee Cindy, Groton Finance Officer Hope Block, Mayor Scott Hanlon, Rosewood resident Doris, Deputy Finance Officer April Abeln, Groton Assistant Finance Officer Kellie Locke, and Heartland Chief Financial Officer Mike Malone. Seated, left to right: Rosewood residents Rochelle, Beulah, Barb and Jean.**

(Photo by Ann Hyland, Heartland Chief Communications Officer)

## Turning Your Life Around

By Bryan Golden

It's never too late to change direction. Regardless of past mistakes, you can decide today to take a different path. Here are some suggestions to help you.

The first step is to understand why you are where you are and what went wrong. You can't turn your life around until you take responsibility for your actions. If you blame other people or circumstances, you inhibit your ability to make changes.

Next, identify exactly what actions you took, or decisions you made, that led to your current situation. It may not be obvious at first, but there is always a cause and effect. It may be hard to face what you have done, but it's essential before you can turn things around.

What challenges do you have to overcome in order to turn things around? Some examples are education, time, money, bad habits, relationships, and attitude. Having this understanding allows you to begin to develop an action plan.

Identify negative self-talk. What you say to yourself programs your mind for either success or failure. In order to turn your life around, you have to believe you can and tell yourself you can. Many people have become so used to negative self-talk that they accept it as normal. Telling yourself that you can't do something prevents you from accomplishing it.

Identify automatic negative behavior patterns. For example, do you avoid making major decisions? Do you make impulsive decisions? Are you prone to doing things you know are wrong? These behaviors must be corrected.

Look for sabotaging behavior patterns. Are you doing anything that either sabotages your success or attracts failure? Some examples might be the type of people you associate with, abrasive personality traits, spending money beyond your means, repelling people who can help you, alienating those who are a good influence, or engaging in needlessly risky behavior that has no benefit.

Find and use a proven plan. Whatever mistakes you have made, you are not the first. There are many others before you who have travelled the same path. There are also numerous examples of how these people managed to turn their lives around. Look for these success stories and study the approach they used. There's no need for you to reinvent the wheel. It's a lot more efficient to utilize the same plan that has been proven to work for others than to figure everything out on your own.

Reevaluate your needs and expectations. You change over time. You change as a result of your experiences. You don't want to make decisions based on outdated needs and expectations. Your goals have to fit you where you are today. Fulfilling a goal which is externally imposed, rather than emanating from your own desires, rarely leads to satisfaction, if it is attained at all.

Part of this process involves distinguishing needs from wants. People get into trouble, especially financially, when they don't accurately separate the two. Anything you can get along without is a want. Be honest in this assessment. Don't use what others have acquired as a gauge; you are not in a competition.

Copy successful people who are where you want to be. Whatever your goals may be, there are others who have already attained them. How did they do it? What approach did they take? You will avoid a lot of mistakes by emulating their successful behavior. Learning from their mistakes is much more efficient than learning from your own.

These steps will help you turn your life around. While you can't undo or change the past, you can take steps to get onto as positive a path as possible. You are never too old, and it's never too late to start turning your life around.

## BIDS

MCPHERSON COUNTY is offering by sealed Bid September 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM a 2009 Caterpillar140MAWD Grader with Snow equipment 9438 hours. Questions call 605-380-0491.

## BRIDAL SHOWER

OPEN HOUSE BRIDAL Shower for Melynda Sletten, bride-to-be of Lance Larsen, will be held Sunday, Aug. 29, 2021, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton. No RSVP needed. Hosted by aunts of the groom. They are registered at Amazon, Target, Wayfair and Menards Gift Cards.

## 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!

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. 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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By Debra Johnston, M.D ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

## First Day of School

"First day of school! Wake up! Come on. First day of school," the little fish shouts at his dad in the opening scene of Finding Nemo. The first day of school is an important transition for students of all ages, and it is often a challenging one. That is particularly true this fall as we start yet another academic year marked by the pandemic.

Parents have an important role in preparing their children for a successful school year. First, start adjusting the schedule. Many families relax the rules during the summer and may be in the habit of staying up late and sleeping in. Make sure your child has time to adjust to their school year routine before that first day. Second, develop good habits by acting ahead. Having the backpack ready and clothing laid out the night before saves scrambling in the morning and reduces the risk of forgotten items. Invite your children to help decide if they want school lunch or a sack lunch and let them help pack their lunch boxes.

Back to school checkups for your children provide a valuable opportunity to talk to the doctor about physical, developmental, and social changes. Additionally, children may need immunizations: boosters for tetanus and pertussis, or shots to protect them from HPV, meningitis, and Covid.

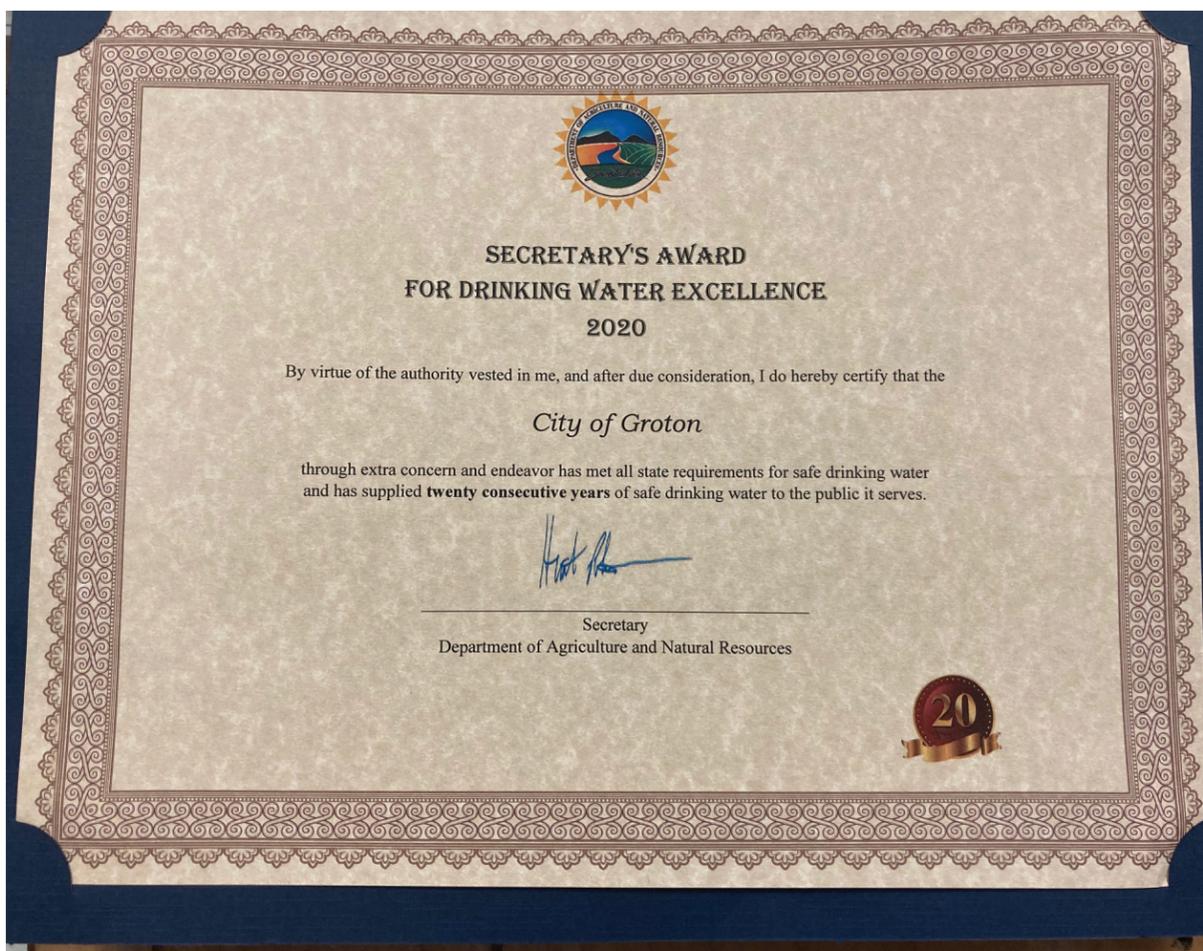
The Covid vaccine is available to those age 12 and over, and I urge parents to schedule those shots if your child is eligible! Although in general children are less likely than adults to end up in the hospital with Covid, we do see previously healthy children become seriously ill and suffer complications. The jury is still out on whether the Delta variant is more dangerous to children than previous variants, but we do know this variant is more contagious, which means more people fall ill. Infected children can spread the virus to other people who may be more likely to develop serious illness. There are still many people who are not eligible for the vaccine, who have chosen not to get the vaccine, or whose vaccine may not be as effective as hoped due to underlying health conditions.

Many children feel nervous about the start of school and those jitters may be worse this year due to the pandemic. Talk to your children about their concerns. Help them work through "what ifs": What if I forget to wash my hands? What if I start coughing during school? What if I forget my homework? Most adults have had practice dealing with these experiences in the moment, but we, too, can benefit from mental rehearsals. Become familiar with your school district's plan for controlling and responding to the pandemic so you can help your child with changing conditions.

With a little preparation, we can reduce stress, set our kids up for a successful year and help them be as excited as Nemo to start school!

Debra Johnston, M.D. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices family medicine in Brookings, South Dakota. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit [www.prairedoc.org](http://www.prairedoc.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.

**Water Superintendent Terry Herron along with Dwight Zerr were presented with a 20-year certificate from the S.D. Dept. of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The certificate is pictured on the left.**



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By Dana Hess

## For the S.D. Newspaper Association No COVID protocols for high school sports this fall

PIERRE — The pandemic-inspired safety protocols that high school athletes needed to adhere to last year will not be in place with the start of the fall sports seasons.

"We're planning on moving forward as a normal year," South Dakota High School Activities Association Executive Director Dan Swartos told the SDHSAA board of directors at its meeting on Thursday, Aug. 12.

Swartos did show the board the protocols for student athletes who test positive for COVID-19. "It's essentially focused on how we treat those athletes that come down with COVID-19 infections."

There are separate protocols for infected athletes who are asymptomatic, moderately ill, severely ill and those who show cardiopulmonary symptoms upon a return to exercise.

All infected athletes must isolate for 10 days in compliance with South Dakota Department of Health guidelines.

An athlete who is asymptomatic or has a mild illness is classified as having symptoms similar to the common cold, GI symptoms, loss of taste or smell and without fever or having a fever for less than two days.

In order to be cleared to return to play, the athlete must consult with their clinician, undergo cardiac testing if there are clinical concerns, must not exercise for three to five days while in isolation and use an individualized exercise progression based on symptoms.

To return to play, an athlete must have a normal COVID-19 test, fill out an SDHSAA return to play form and the school and student are charged with monitoring for new cardiopulmonary symptoms.

Characteristics of a moderate illness include a temperature of 100.4 degrees, chills, flu-like symptoms for more than two days, chest pain, labored breathing or palpitations.

In the case of moderate infection, the protocol includes a medical evaluation including consideration of an EKG, echo or troponin test before a return to exercise, no exercise for five to seven days from the onset of the infection and the moderate symptoms must be resolved prior to starting an individualized exercise progression.

For athletes with a moderate infection, a return to play form must be completed after a normal COVID-19 test.

Athletes with a severe illness or hospitalization must have a comprehensive medical evaluation with a recommended cardiology consult.

If cardiopulmonary symptoms occur when the athlete returns to exercise, the protocol recommends considering an EKG, echo and troponin test with a cardiology consult and no return to exercise until the evaluation is complete.

Swartos explained that contact tracing is left up to schools and that if the COVID situation becomes dire in South Dakota, the association can revert back the competition protocols it implemented last year.

## Tournament management fees take a jump

PIERRE — The South Dakota High School Activities Association accomplished one of its goals by substantially raising the amount of money it will pay to schools that host state tournaments.

The action was taken by the SDHSAA Board of Directors at its meeting on Thursday, Aug. 12.

In the past, school districts have raised some concerns about the cost of hosting a state tournament, noting that the funding provided by SDHSAA can fall short of the expenses that a host school incurs. One of the board's goals was to study the issue and raise the fees paid to schools.

Seeing the biggest jumps in funding were cross-country and track and field with the fees paid to host schools jumping by \$15,000. Wrestling saw a \$13,500 increase.

"Those are the most labor-intensive events that we host," said SDHSAA Executive Director Dan Swartos.

Overall, the association increased its payments to host schools by \$79,000 from \$87,000 to \$166,000. A recent vendor contract supplied \$70,000 of the funding.

The SDHSAA-sanctioned activities, the previous fee and the new fee include:

- A boys' golf, \$300, \$675.
- AA boys' golf, \$300, \$675.
- Soccer, \$1,500, \$2,000.
- Cheer and Dance, \$2,000, \$4,750.
- Cross-country, \$3,000, \$18,000.
- Volleyball, \$10,000, \$12,250.
- Oral interp, \$200, \$575.
- One act play, \$200, \$575.
- Gymnastics, \$4,000, \$7,750.
- Wrestling, \$11,000, \$24,500.
- B girls' basketball, \$5,500, \$10,000.
- A girls' basketball, \$5,500, \$10,000.
- AA girls' basketball, \$5,500, \$10,000.
- B boys' basketball, \$8,000, \$10,000.
- A boys' basketball, \$8,500, \$10,000.
- AA boys' basketball, \$8,500, \$10,000.
- All-state choir and orchestra, \$1,500, \$1,875.
- Debate, \$200, \$575.
- B boys' and girls' golf, \$600, \$1,350.
- A girls' golf, \$300, \$675.
- AA girls' golf, \$300, \$675.
- Track and field, \$6,100, \$21,100.
- Girls' tennis, \$2,000, \$4,000.
- Boys' tennis, \$2,000, \$4,000.

"We've nearly doubled what we're paying out," Swartos said.

## Study will look at economic impact of state tournaments

PIERRE — The South Dakota High School Activities Association will sponsor an economic impact study to measure the impact of state tournaments on local communities. The SDHSAA board of directors took that action on Thursday, Aug. 12, as it set its goals for the coming school year.

The economic impact study would help the association as it forms a bid process in which communities would vie for the opportunity to host state tournaments and events, according to SDHSAA Executive Director Dan Swartos.

"That gives us more of a basis to go out for bids," Swartos said of the economic impact study.

Swartos explained that the bid process isn't meant as a means for making more money for the association. Funds raised in the bid process would be used to help with the expenses incurred by schools that host state events.

A host school shouldn't lose \$20,000 to host a state event while the community reaps millions of dollars, Swartos said.

The bid process was initially a part of a goal from the last school year in which the association sought more means for raising revenue for host schools. Due to a new contract with a merchandise vendor, SDHSAA was able to increase the management fees it pays to host schools by \$79,000.

Another goal held over from last year will be the implementation of girls' softball and E-sports.

"We have a lot of people interested in the possibility of softball," Swartos said, predicting that the board could take action on the two new sports at its November meeting with implementation in the next school year.

Swartos admitted that more work needed to be done on another goal from last year, examining modifiers for the average daily membership structure. The classification for sports is determined by a school's average daily membership. The association's goal is to look at modifying that structure by taking into consideration the free/reduced lunch count.

As an example, Swartos said Todd County may soon have enough students to qualify as an AA school, yet a significant number of students there qualify for reduced or free lunches.

"It is something we're going to have to address," Swartos said.

A new goal for the coming school year is the formation of partnerships with universities, schools and professional organizations to develop the best practices for recruiting and retaining officials.

One of last year's goals, the implementation of a new website, has been completed. Another goal, simplifying and articulating

the association's mission, vision and beliefs statements, will be ready for the board at its November meeting, Swartos said.

## Huron activities director joins SDHSAA board

PIERRE — On Thursday, Aug. 12, the South Dakota High School Activities Association board of directors welcomed Huron Activities Director Terry Rotert as its newest member.

Rotert will serve for one year, completing the term of former Brookings Activities Director Randy Soma. Soma had to resign from the board when he joined the SDHSAA staff as an assistant executive director.

The other candidate for the one-year term was Spearfish Activities Director Stephanie Ornelas. An initial motion to nominate Ornelas for the position failed on a board vote of 2-5. A motion to nominate Rotert passed on a 6-1 vote.

After his appointment, Rotert joined the board meeting via Zoom.

At the meeting, board chairman Tom Culver of Avon made his annual appointments to the association's site selection committee. The committee decides which venues will host state tournaments.

Members of the committee include Culver and SDHSAA board members Barry Mann of Wakpala and Marty Weismantel of Groton. Other members of the committee are activities directors from the schools that host the most events. They include Casey Meile of Sioux Falls, Jared Vasquez of Rapid City; Dawn Seiler of Aberdeen, Craig Boyens of Watertown and Bill Freking of Brandon Valley.

The committee will meet in December to work on sites for the 2025-2026 school year.

## Softball, E-sports may get their start in the next year

PIERRE — E-sports and girls' softball could be sanctioned for South Dakota high schools as soon as the 2022-2023 school year. At its meeting on Thursday, Aug. 12, the South Dakota High School Activities Association board of directors learned that SDHSAA staff will have proposals ready for the two sports at its November meeting.

At the meeting SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director Jo Auch said there was some difference of opinion among schools as to when the girls' softball season should take place. She said that schools were polled as to whether they were interested in adding the sport and what the preference would be for scheduling the season: in the spring, fall or summer.

South Dakota is the only state that does not offer high school girls' softball. Of those states that do, 44 offer it in the spring, four in the fall and one in the summer.

"Obviously the weather is much better in the fall," Auch said, noting that of the 25 schools that want to offer the sport, 16 preferred the spring, two the summer and seven the fall. The survey results showed that 34 schools might be interested in adding the sport and 15 said no. The 74 schools that responded to the survey represent a little more than half of the schools that belong to SDHSAA.

Auch said a steering committee tasked with starting the sport prefers offering girls' softball in the spring. The sport could run for eight to nine weeks and end before Memorial Day.

Board member Terry Rotert of Huron asked if there was too much of a rush to get the sport started in the spring of 2022-2023. Auch said the sport has been under consideration for three years and that the 16 schools that said yes to offering it in the spring was enough to get it started.

"We've started sports with a lot less teams than 16 and played a state tournament," Auch said.

SDHSAA Executive Director Dan Swartos said E-sports would be fairly easy to offer as it can be done through the PlayVS program offered by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

"They essentially take care of everything," Swartos said, adding that the board would need to decide on which games to sanction and whether to offer one or two seasons of the sport per school year.

# EARTHTALK™



**Ireland's Avoca Handweavers have been making fashionable clothing items with the care and attention to detail nowadays associated with "slow fashion" since 1723.**

Credit: William Murphy, Flickr.

Dear EarthTalk: What is "slow fashion?" Does it relate to sustainability? – K. Lam, Taos, NM

In the U.S., millions of shoppers pack clothing stores, excited to key into the newest trends while paying low prices. On the other side of the world, low-wage workers—many of them young girls—are crushed under the hammer of "fast fashion" (the mass production of cheap, poor quality, disposable clothing), laboring without safety protections or adequate rights. Fast fashion's impacts on both the environment and human rights are evident, and slow fashion may just be the only solution to a greener future.

First off, fast fashion revolves around the concept of speeding up production time while minimizing costs, which prompts producers to use the cheapest textiles and toxic textile dyes. Perhaps one of the most popular textiles, polyester is derived from fossil fuels and sheds microfibers that can end up in oceans. Another common material is cotton, which requires extensive quantities of water, pesticides and labor to produce. More important, fast fashion is constantly changing clothing trends—most consumers fall into this ploy and discard garments once they are out of trend. As a result, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in 2018 11.3 million tons of textiles ended up in landfills and 3.2 million tons were incinerated—releasing high amounts of greenhouse gases.

While fast fashion exploits labor and the environment to make more and sell more, slow fashion focuses on quality over quantity and respects workers' rights. A foundational principle of slow fashion is simply to buy less in the first place. Social media and other influencers have lured shoppers with the hottest brands and pressed on the idea of wearing your clothing only once. Slow fashion encourages consumers to dismantle that mindset and learn to value every piece of clothing you own or buy.

Since many people shop for the experience and enjoy the feeling of buying clothes more than the clothing article itself, slow fashion emphasizes choosing high-quality pieces made with sustainable materials. Although more expensive doesn't necessarily mean more sustainable, higher cost investments do promote that shift in mindset for you to better cherish a garment and wear it more often.

For those who are more financially conservative, second-hand shopping is a great alternative to more expensive sustainable brands. Thrifting is an extremely cheap option for you to shop based on individual desires rather than trends while also gaining that sense of fulfillment from shopping. Other second-hand options like vintage or consignment stores allow shoppers to purchase unique, high-quality items at a fraction of the normal cost.

Slow-fashion also encourages making garments last longer, such as washing and drying clothing at the proper temperatures and buying sewing kits to fix small holes or replace buttons.

While fast-fashion brands have been doing well lately, slow-fashion is also gaining ground. For those who want to practice sustainable shopping, it's simple to take that step into your environmental journey—join a slow-fashion support group, start your own personal challenge to spend less, and spread awareness within your community and beyond.

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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Be sure to check out the Brown County Fair Book for our Daily Schedule of Fun Activities and Entertainment under the Ken's Family Tent !!

**USDA Choice Demkota Boneless Top Sirloin Steak**  
SAVE \$2.00 Per Lb.  
**\$5.99** Per Lb.

**Whole Seedless Watermelon**  
**\$3.99** Each

**USDA Choice Demkota Boneless Bread and Butter Roast**  
**\$3.49** Per Lb.

**O'l' West BBQ Sauce**  
**\$3.99** 20 Oz. Bottle

**Red Gold Ketchup**  
**\$1.69** 32 Oz. Squeeze Bottle

**Ball Park Hamburger or Coney Buns**  
**\$1.99** 8 Ct. Pkg.

**Best Choice Bath Tissue**  
6 Mega Roll  
**\$3.99**

**Skippy Peanut Butter**  
15-16.3 Oz. Jars  
**2/\$5**

**APP DEAL OF THE WEEK**  
**Cass Clay Orange Juice**  
Reg. or w/calcium 99¢  
1/2 Gallon Plastic Jug  
W/ \$10 PURCHASE & KEN'S APP  
Limit 1 per customer, requires \$10 additional purchase and use of Ken's App.

**Family Fresh SUSHI**  
NOW OPEN in Ken's Deli in Aberdeen!  
MADE FRESH DAILY  
SPECIAL ORDERS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

**Ken's Fresh 80% Lean Ground Beef**  
**\$2.99** Per Lb.  
SAVE \$1.60 Per Lb.

**Dairy**  
**Cass Clay 2% Swiss Chocolate Milk**  
**\$2.99** 97 Oz. Jug

**Frozen**  
**Prairie Farms Ice Cream**  
**\$5.99** 4 Qt. Pail

**Liquor**  
**Patron Silver**  
**\$45.99** 750 ML

**Household**  
**QuickClean Alcohol Wipes**  
**\$2.99** 50 Ct.

**Bakery**  
**Brat Buns**  
**\$1.99** 6 Pk.

**Deli**  
**Grab & Go Deli Express Wrap Sandwiches**  
**\$4.99** Each

Ken's Gourmet Coffee • Coffee • Gourmet Drinks • Gourmet Foods  
Monday-Friday 7 AM - 6 PM  
Saturday 7 AM - 4 PM  
Sunday 9 AM - 1 PM  
Call 605-725-6671

AOIIS • Drink of the Week: Smore's Frap  
**\$2.00 OFF** **\$2.00 OFF**

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PRICES GOOD AT ALL KEN'S LOCATIONS: August 15<sup>th</sup> THRU August 21<sup>st</sup>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
15	16	17	18	19	20	21

## The Life of Rosemary Belden



Funeral services for Rosemary Belden, 80, of Groton were held Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton. Pastor Kari Foss officiated. Burial followed in Union Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Rosemary passed away Saturday, August 14, 2021 at Avantara Groton.

Rosemary Gladys was born on July 17, 1941 to George and Rosemary (Hardesty) Beck. She was the second of four girls. The family moved to California when Rosemary was a young girl, and she grew up there. Rosemary later returned to South Dakota and began working for Kmart in Aberdeen before the store's opening.

On August 23, 1975, she was united in marriage with Thomas Belden. They made their home in Groton, living in the same house from 1977 to 1992. That spring, they moved to the farm. Throughout the years, Rosemary did sewing work for others and had ceramics in her basement. She continued her ceramics business at the farm, and opened Rose Creations in Groton in the early 2000s. She retired in 2008.

Rosemary was a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church. She enjoyed attending craft shows and all types of handiwork. She made many quilts over the years, embroidered hand towels and did needlepoint. Rosemary liked to watch the deer and pheasants, among other wildlife in their farmyard. She also treasured time spent with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Celebrating her life is her husband, Tom of Groton, six daughters, one sister, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Preceding her in death were her parents, her son and two sisters. Casketbearers were Bob Osterman, Jason Osterman, Will Nordine, Richard Hoops, Greg Belden and Cal Belden.

## 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  
Notices: [legals@grotonsd.net](mailto:legals@grotonsd.net)  
News Items: [news@grotonsd.net](mailto:news@grotonsd.net)  
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