



Upcoming Events

Thursday, Sept. 23

10 a.m.: Boys golf at Sisseton Golf Course
4 p.m.: Boys soccer at James Valley Christian
Volleyball at Clark (7th grade at field house,
4 p.m.; 8th grade at field house, 5 p.m.; in the
main gym: C at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m. followed
by varsity).

Friday, Sept. 24

7 p.m.: Football hosting Aberdeen Roncalli

Saturday, Sept. 25

Soccer at Tea Area: Boys at 1 p.m. Girls at
3 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 27

Boys golf at Madison Golf Course
4 p.m.: Cross Country meet at Olive Grove
Golf Course, Groton.

4 p.m.: Junior high football at Aberdeen
Roncalli

5 p.m.: Junior Varsity football at Aberdeen
Roncalli

Volleyball hosting Faulkton Area (C match at
5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m., Varsity to follow)

7 p.m.: School Board Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 28

Volleyball vs. Florence/Henry at Henry High
School. (7th at 3 p.m., 8th at 4 p.m., C at 5
p.m., JV at 6 p.m. with varsity to follow).

Wednesday, Sept. 29

NE Region Land & Range Contest in Webster

Thursday, Sept. 30

Fall Planning Day and Career Expo at North-
ern State University for juniors

4 p.m.: Cross Country at Sisseton Golf
Course

4:30 p.m.: Junior High Football at Redfield
Volleyball hosting Hamlin (C match at 5 p.m.
followed by JV and Varsity)

Friday, Oct. 1

7 p.m.: Football vs. Dakota Hills Coop at
Waubay

Saturday, Oct. 2

2 p.m.: Boys soccer hosts Freeman Academy

3 p.m.: Girls soccer at Dakota Valley with JV
game at 1 p.m.



To the great community of Groton, we wish to give a great THANK YOU to all of the people helping out in the concession stand during the State Legion Tournament. We would like to thank some of the people who helped out during Randy's kidney transplant. Groton Baseball/Softball Foundation, City of Groton, Dave Blackmun, Jarod Fliehs, Matt Locke, Lars Hanson, Seth Erickson, Meri Erickson and all of the people who helped in the stand. It was greatly appreciated. Also thanks for all the thoughts and prayers during my stay in Rochester.

Randy, Rebecca and Peyton Padfield

Gonsoir is state finalist for Presidential Award

By Dorene Nelson

Kristen Gonsoir, science and chemistry teacher for the Groton Area School District, is one of three State finalists for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). Around 100 nation-wide individuals are chosen annually.

The PAEMST is one of the most prestigious honors in the nation for teachers and recognizes exemplary teaching and leadership in mathematics and science education.

After each state selects its three finalists, a national committee selects the winners who will receive a \$10,000 award and a paid trip to Washington, DC. During this week-long trip, winners participate in a series of networking opportunities and recognition events, plus a special citation signed by the President of the United States.

Gonsoir, who has been teaching for 28 years, currently teaches tenth through twelfth grade general chemistry, eleventh and twelfth grade organic chemistry, and twelfth grade physics.

Gonsoir teaches the top science classes in the school, often using college textbooks to do so. Several of her classes are weighted due to their difficulty. This helps her students to earn extra grade points when doing well in these advanced courses.

Many of her former students return home to thank her for helping to make their college course work easier because of her teaching methods and skill.

Gonsoir earned her Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry and Secondary Education at Northern State University (NSU) in 1992. Furthering her education, she next received her Master's Degree in Education in 2015, also from NSU.

In 2019 Gonsoir was a Japan-U.S. Fulbright program teacher. The Fulbright program focuses on utilizing technology to promote global citizenship with students.

On the local level, she has been involved with the Department of Education (DOE) Mentor Teacher program and with Science Standards Translations Team.

Gonsoir has also received multiple honors and awards while serving as her district's debate coach. She started coaching oral interpretation and debate when she was still in college.



September Students of the Month

From back left: Teagan Hanten (7th), Elizabeth Cole (6th), Colby Dunker (10th), Corbin Weismantel (9th)

From Front Left: Shaylee Peterson (11th), Alyssa Thaler (12th), Natalia Warrington(8th)

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

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

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

Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

The Vikings play their hearts out against one of the best young QBs in the NFL and still fall short of a victory thanks to a missed kick by Greg Joseph. If you didn't already think the Vikings franchise was cursed, this game might have changed your mind.

First Half:

The Vikings came out firing to start their Week 2 matchup in Arizona, scoring on the 2nd play of the game thanks to a 64-yard touchdown from Kirk Cousins to KJ Osborn. The offensive line looked like a completely different unit from the one we saw last week, giving up 0 sacks and creating gigantic holes for Dalvin Cook to run through. For a Vikings team that constantly shot themselves in the foot last week with penalties, it was nice to see the team go the entire first half without having a single penalty called on them. Thanks to that, the Vikings were able to put together three very impressive drives to put themselves up 20-7 over the Cardinals midway through the 2nd quarter (Vikings' kicker, Greg Joseph, missed the extra point that would have given the Vikings 21 points).

The Vikings defense, on the other hand, did not look as impressive. They struggled to contain Kyler Murray on key third downs, and it quickly became evident that the first half was turning into a back-and-forth shootout. As the first half was winding down, the Vikings were holding onto a 20-14 lead with the Cardinals getting the ball back at their own 23. In just one play, Kyler Murray was able to take advantage of broken coverage in the Vikings'

secondary and find a wide open Rondale Moore for a 77-yard touchdown to give the Cardinals a 21-20 lead. The Vikings quickly answered with a 52-yard field goal, only to be outdone by Cardinals' kicker, Matt Prater, booming a 62-yard field goal as the first half's time expired. Cardinals 24-Vikings 23.

Second Half:

The second half was a much different story for the Vikings' defense. Just one minute in, Vikings' linebacker, Nick Vigil, picked off Kyler Murray and took it to the house to give the Vikings the lead again at 30-24. The Cardinals quickly answered with a 9-yard touchdown catch from AJ Green to retake the lead, 31-30. However, the game started to slow down immensely after that. The next eight drives saw a total of five punts, another Kyler Murray interception, and a field goal from each team's kicker to make the score 34-33 in the Cardinals' favor.

The Vikings began their final drive of the game at their own 23-yard-line with 2:09 left in the 4th quarter. The offense quickly got things going with a short pass to Adam Thielen, followed by a Dalvin Cook run that got them a first down. After a few more plays, the Vikings found themselves with a tough 3rd and 10 at Arizona's 48-yard-line. With the pressure of the entire game on Kirk Cousins's shoulders, Cousins was able to step up into a clean pocket and deliver a strike to Adam Thielen on the sideline for a first down. After back-to-back completions on slants to KJ Osborn, the Vikings found themselves set up at Arizona's 27-yard-line for the chance at a game-winning field goal. Greg Joseph, who had yet to miss a field goal for the Vikings so far this season, stepped up with 0:04 remaining and a 37-yard field goal attempt.

The snap was good, the hold was clean, and the game-winning kick went... wide right. Cardinals win 34-33 and the Vikings fall to 0-2 on the season.

Statistical Leaders:

Kirk Cousins 22 for 32, 244 yards, 3 TDs
Dalvin Cook 22 carries for 131 yards rushing, 0 TDs
KJ Osborn 5 catches for 91 yards, 1 TD

The highlight of the day:

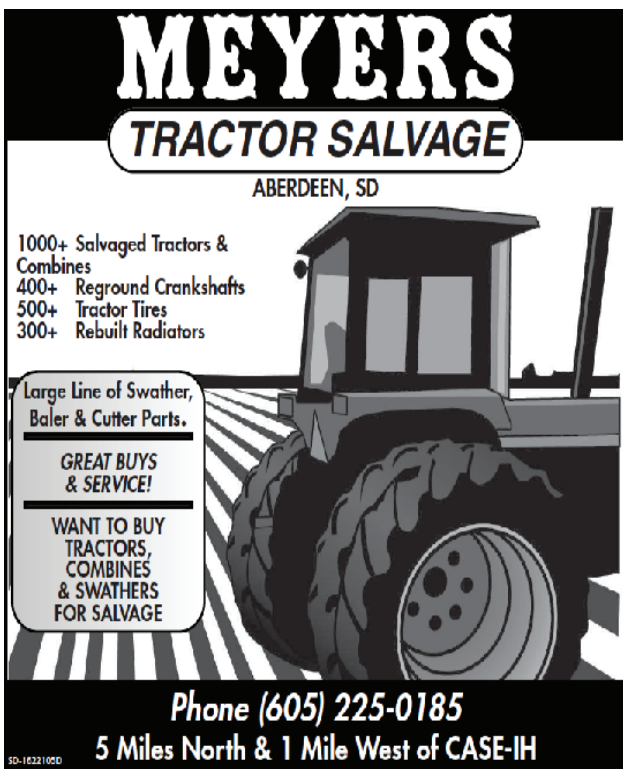
The Vikings pass rush continues to show its dominance as Danielle Hunter finished the game with 3 sacks against the slippery and quick Kyler Murray.

The irony of the day:

With the Vikings not wanting to risk another Dalvin Cook fumble at the end of the game like last week, the Vikings elected to run the clock out at the end of the game and take their chances with Greg Joseph. Sadly, that decision did not work out for the Vikings either. So, it will be interesting to see what plan C is for the Vikings at the end of the game next week.

Next game:

The Vikings finally get to come back home to U.S. Bank Stadium after starting the season on the road. Here, the Vikings will face a 1-1 Seattle Seahawks team that seems to make every single one of their games chaotic. It will be interesting if the Vikings will bounce back from two heartbreaking losses to get their first win of the season, or it will all snowball into a forgettable season.



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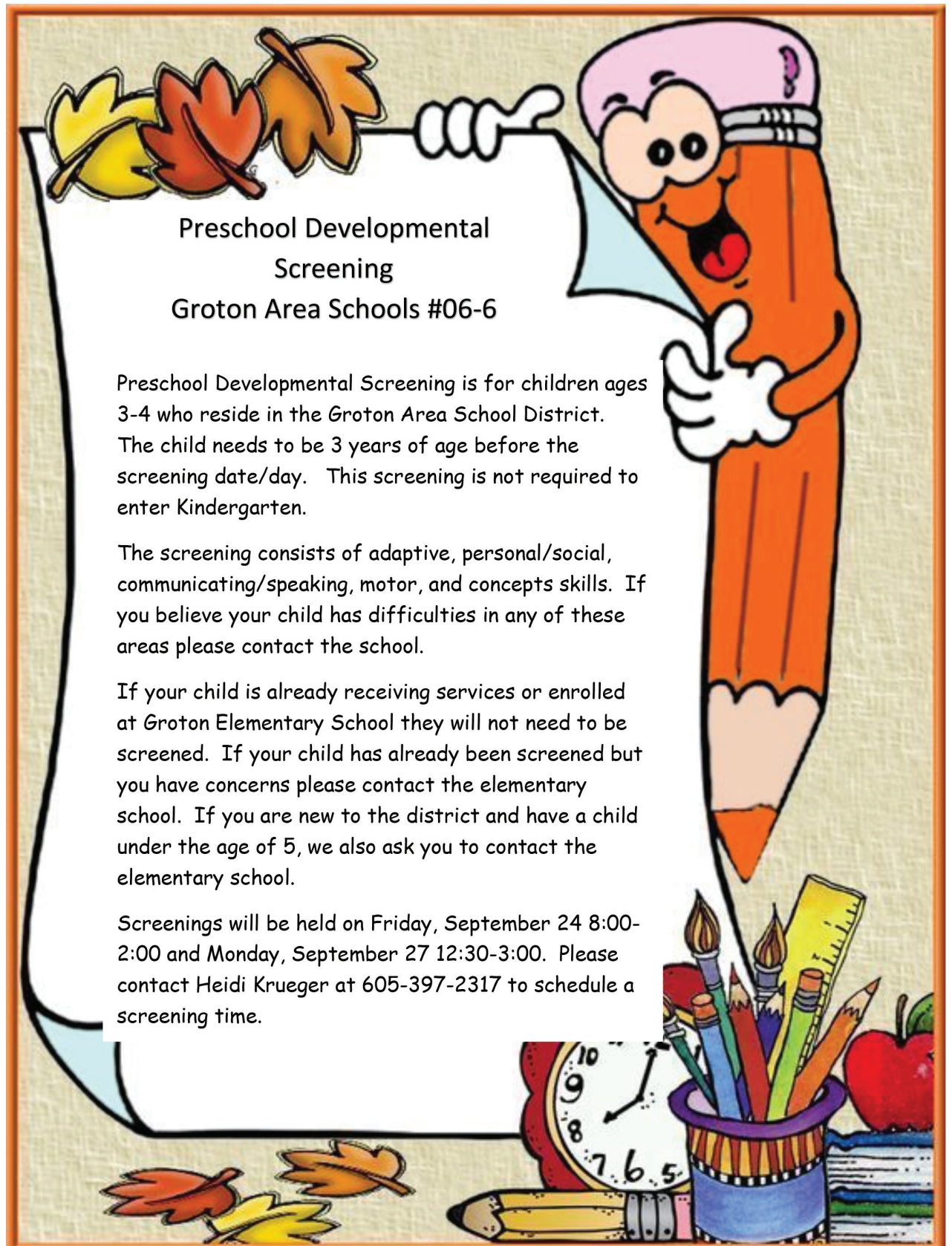
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Preschool Developmental Screening
Groton Area Schools #06-6

Preschool Developmental Screening is for children ages 3-4 who reside in the Groton Area School District. The child needs to be 3 years of age before the screening date/day. This screening is not required to enter Kindergarten.

The screening consists of adaptive, personal/social, communicating/speaking, motor, and concepts skills. If you believe your child has difficulties in any of these areas please contact the school.

If your child is already receiving services or enrolled at Groton Elementary School they will not need to be screened. If your child has already been screened but you have concerns please contact the elementary school. If you are new to the district and have a child under the age of 5, we also ask you to contact the elementary school.

Screenings will be held on Friday, September 24 8:00-2:00 and Monday, September 27 12:30-3:00. Please contact Heidi Krueger at 605-397-2317 to schedule a screening time.

The greatest game

In the end, I was thankful for what seemed like the thankless task of coaching a first-year women's softball team in Jamestown, ND, in 1985. Early on, I realized I had just one very good ballplayer, a third-baseman named Margo, who carried herself like Geena Davis in "A League of Our Own." We had an okay shortstop, one outfielder who caught about half the balls hit her way, and another, Dolly, a devastating hitter, who was a complete liability in the outfield.

Our pitcher, Sue, showed up for practice the day after giving birth. Runaround Sue, as I dubbed her, wasn't a great pitcher. Not even good. But she had such an odd delivery, I figured it would confuse batters as much as it did me. She was so bad she was good.

In a league loaded with experienced teams with real athletes, we were lambs to the slaughter, the Worse News Bears. I spent the season teaching girls who'd never picked up a bat how to hit, throw, and occasionally catch.

I immediately put Dolly on the bench, deducing correctly that anything that wasn't hit directly to her in right field would roll to the fence for a home run. She was a big girl and could hit a ton—devastating, whistling line drives that many fielders ducked instead trying to catch, but she clogged up the base paths. A walking double play.

I remember the day Dolly turned in her jersey while I was on the air at KQDJ. If she couldn't start, she wasn't going to play, she asserted tearfully. "You know, Dolly, you're the best hitter on the team," I said with Barry Manilow fading in the studio. "I want you at the plate when it means something," assuming that at some point, in some game, we'd be competitive. A few days later, after thinking it over, she retrieved her jersey, because there's no crying in softball.

In time, we improved from being terrible to just bad. We even won a few. Still, we finished in the cellar, so no one gave us a chance in the season-ending league tournament, especially against the swaggering perennial champion Holiday Inn team. They looked great just taking the field, and were great once they started playing. Maybe Margo could have sat the bench for them.

While Runaround Sue's unorthodox delivery had helped keep us in some ballgames, the Holiday Inn team had her number right off. Two players blasted monster home runs in each of their first two at-bats, and after the second inning we were down 9-0. It's what the snoozing crowd expected.

Out of pure desperation, I intentionally walked their sluggers the rest of the game, loading the bases in doing so twice, maybe three times. The umpire looked at me incredulously each time, and the crowd groaned at the insanity, but we began to claw back. A run here, a couple there, and in the field, a series of miracles. Outfielders made snow cone catches. Line drives were snagged purely out of self-defense, and the Holiday Inn didn't score another run.

By then, the crowd was with us. With the bases loaded in the seventh and the score 9-4, I sent Dolly to the plate. What she did wasn't batting, exactly, it was attempted murder. She cleared the bases with a screamer and ended up on third where I was coaching. It was 9-7.

"Dolly," I said, "I'm going to send you, so if the play comes to home, and the catcher blocks the plate, mow her down." Because that's the way I played. And that's exactly what happened on an infield dribbler. The catcher flew one way, the ball another, and it was 9-8.

Even the girls who couldn't hit, kept hitting and we had the tying run on third when we made the final out. The crowd groaned... then cheered. Us. Us! They cheered us!

In the dugout, their faces beaming at the realization of what they'd accomplished, I told the team how proud I was. Turns out there is crying in softball. Afterward, as I was loading up the gear, a fan walked up. "I just want to tell you that's the best ballgame I've ever seen," he said.

It was. It was the greatest game ever.

I soon lost track of the girls; the next summer I was on the air in Denver, but I think of them often and what we discovered together that summer, that sometimes you win when you don't.

I've still never seen a better game.

© Tony Bender, 2021



That's Life

by Tony Bender

Mobridge-Pollock beats Groton Area in volleyball

Mobridge-Pollock defeated Groton Area in volleyball action played Thursday at the Groton Area Arena, 3-0. Game scores were 25-17, 25-21 and 26-24.

Madeline Fliehs had four kills, an ace serve and a block. Sydney Leicht had three kills and an ace serve. Anna Fjeldheim had three kills. Aspen Johnson had two kills and two blocks. Elizabeth Fliehs had two kills and an ace serve. Emma Schinkel had a kill and two ace serves. Megan Fliehs had one kill.

Landyn Henderson led Mobridge-Pollock with seven kills while Mariah Goehring had five kills, Emma Keller had four kills, Emily Hatzenbuehler had two kills and two blocks, Leah Overland had two kills, four ace serves and one block, Grace Overland had two kills and Katy Kemnitz had three ace serves.

Mobridge-Pollock won the junior varsity match, 25-16 and 25-12. Aspen Johnson had three kills, Marlee Tollifson had two kills, Emma Schinkel and Carly Guthmiller each had two ace serves, Lydia Meier had an ace and a kill, Laila Roberts had an ace and Anna Fjeldheim had a kill.

Groton Area won the C match, 25-21 and 25-9. Ashley Johnson had five ace serves and a kill, Kyla Lehr had four kills, Emma Kutter had three kills, a block and an ace serve, Carly Giblert had two ace serves, Jerrica Locke had an ace and a kill and Talli Wright had a kill.

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Warner has clean sweep over Groton Area

Warner swept all three matches Tuesday night in Warner, winning the C and JV matches, 2-0, and the varsity match, 3-0.

Game scores of the C match were 25-20, 25-8 and a third set was played as well, 25-16. Kara Jo Johnson had a kill and an ace serve, Emma Kutter had two kills, Cadence Feist had two ace serves and Jerrica Locke had three ace serves.

Junior varsity scores were both 25-4. Shalyn Foertsch had two kills and Faith Traphagen and Emma Schinkel shared a block.

Varsity scores were 25-8, 25-9 and 25-8. Anna Fjeldheim had two kills and a block while Madeline Fliehs had three kills.

The Groton Independent

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Awkward Phase Day

Pictured left to right are Addison Hoefft, sixth grade; Teagan Hanten and Taryn Traphagen, seventh grade; Braden Althoff, sophomore; JD Schwan, eighth grade; Emma Kutter, freshman; and Shaylee Peterson, junior. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

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Twin Day

Pictured left to right are Gavin Khali and Garrett Schultz, second place, eighth grade; Taryn Traphagen, McKenna Tietz and Brenna Imrie, first place, seventh grade; Brooklyn Hansen and Kennedy Hansen, second place, freshman; and Cole Bisbee and Kaleb Antonsen, juniors. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

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Pictured left to right are Karsyn Jangula and Carly Guthmiller, sophomores; Gretchen Dinger and Emma Kutter, first place, freshman; Jaedyn Penning and Jerrica Locke, first place, eighth grade; and Sydney Locke and Chezney Weber, sixth grade; not pictured are Kansas Kroll and Tina Zoellner, seniors; and Blake and Brody Lord, second place, seventh grade. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Costume Day

Pictured in back, left to right, are Claire Schuelke and Addison Hoffman, seventh grade; Aimee Heilman and BRadyn Wipf, sixth grade; Nathalia Warrington, eighth grade; Brenda Carda, junior; Payton Mitchell and Caden McInerney, freshman; Dillon Abeln, sophomore; in front are Riley Leicht, Emilie Thurston and Madeline Flieds, seniors (not pictured is senior Trista Keith). (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Homecoming Parade

Unless noted, all photos lifted from GDILIVE.COM video.



Junior High Marching Band



The eighth grade class float won second place



Groton Area Marching Band



Miss South Dakota, Groton's own Kaitlyn O'Neill.



The freshmen class float won first place



Class of 1981



The seventh grade class float won third place



Class of 1996



Sarah Schuster shows her excitement telling everyone that the Fellowship of Christian Athletes float won first place in the commercial division.



Parade Marshall Chuck Padfield

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Both of these are Class of 1970



Senior Snow Queen Tiara DeHoet
Junior Snow Queen Lydia Meier
(Photo by April Abeln)



Class of 1971



Homecoming Court



Fifth Grade



1971 Royalty Terry Gilchrist and Renee Mydland Swisher



Senior Class Float



Queen Megan Flihs and King Kaden Kurtz

Falling Into Autumn!

Match-up Idiom Puzzle
1. B, 2. A, 3. F, 4. D, 5. E, 6. C
1. D, 2. C, 3. E, 4. A, 5. B, 6. F

The period of strangely warm weather that happens sometimes in the fall after a cold snap is known as **Indian Summer!**

Huh? Is it summer or is it fall?

But, I'll bet that you already knew that!

1 C I
2 S W E A T E R
3 A C O R N S
4
5 I D
6 R A K E
7
8
9 C H R Y S A N T H E M U M
10 F R O S T
11 U
12 M
13 P U M P K I N S
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15 S C A R E C R O W
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College life in South Dakota appears normal, but COVID concerns still simmer

Danielle Ferguson

South Dakota News Watch

College campuses across South Dakota have a mostly back-to-normal feel so far this academic year, but the COVID-19 pandemic remains a top concern for many students, faculty and staff.

University leaders want students to experience a typical collegiate year with indoor and outdoor pep rallies, sporting events and group study sessions. Instructors want to offer engaging classroom experiences. Students want to live and learn without limitations or distractions.

Most of that is happening so far this fall. And yet, worry over the potentially deadly coronavirus still simmers just below the surface.

Administrators remain vigilant in monitoring infections and stand ready to increase coronavirus restrictions. Most institutions are offering financial incentives and prizes to students who get vaccinated. Masks are required at some colleges but not in the public university system, where they are infrequently used.

Meanwhile, administrators in the state system are blocked from requiring vaccinations, so they remain unsure of vaccination levels at a time when COVID-19 cases across the state are rising again.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that everyone at colleges and universities wear masks indoors, even if they are fully vaccinated, in locales with substantial or high transmission of the coronavirus, which includes most of South Dakota.

Some students are feeling the emotional strain of uncertainty or worry over becoming infected.



Laurie Nichols

More students than ever are using the counseling services at Black Hills State University in Spearfish, said President Laurie Nichols. The university is considering adding more staff to that department.

"There has been a lot of traffic into our student counseling," Nichols said. "Those areas are being taxed. They're having a hard time keeping up."

BHSU held a mass testing event at the start of the school year because western South Dakota is being "hit hard" with COVID-19 cases, Nichols said. A noticeable peak in cases a few weeks after the Sturgis motorcycle rally in

August coincided with the start of the semester, which "wasn't great timing for us," she said.

"Last year, we didn't know what we were doing. We did the best we could," Nichols said. "We hardly had testing kits when school started last year. There weren't vaccines. We've been through a year and we're all much calmer and reasonable. Better at problem solving now. Everybody was on edge last year for sure."

Positive cases, reported on university and college websites, are lower than at this time last year. As of Sept. 21, the state's colleges, universities and technical schools are reporting a total of 201 cases among students and 70 among staff, according to the South Dakota Department of Health.

According to individual public university COVID-19 dashboards, about 90 people are in quarantine or isolation, down from the hundreds of mandatory isolations at this time last year.

"I really believe we're not in as bad of shape as last year," said University of South Dakota COVID-19 task force leader Kevin O'Kelley. "It's not over, but I think the things that degraded the school experience last year are under control this year."

Most higher education institutions in the state are not requiring masks, and none is mandating vaccines, though most are encouraging both practices to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 cases, which have been on the rise in South Dakota since late July.

State medical experts have noted that the average age of people infected with COVID-19 has fallen in recent months as older residents have gotten vaccinated and vaccine hesitancy remains solid among many young adults.

Colleges in the South Dakota Board of Regents system are not limiting capacity at events or classes, and the majority of institutions are not



College life in South Dakota may seem back to normal, such as during this Aug. 20, 2021 move-in day pep rally at the University of South Dakota. But worries over the COVID-19 pandemic remain for many students, faculty and staff. Photo: Courtesy University of South Dakota

Courtesy University of South Dakota

recording absences due to illness or virus exposure, as some did last year.

Across South Dakota's colleges, universities and technical schools, 4,171 COVID-19 cases were reported among students and staff in 2020-21, according to a back-to-school presentation prepared by the South Dakota Department of Health. Seven people tied to an institution did not recover from the illness, according to the presentation.

Nationally, about 10 states have a mask mandate in K-12 schools as of August,

according to the Pew Research Center. Some individual universities or colleges in every state have issued mask mandates. South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem has signed an executive order banning vaccine passports and has strongly opposed mask or vaccine mandates.

As of Sept. 21, 2021, the Chronicle of Higher Education tallied 1,053 campuses across the country that require vaccination of some students or staff. An Associated Press analysis showed that about half of the country's 50 largest public university campuses are requiring vaccination.

While a COVID-19 vaccine isn't required for enrollment or employment at higher-education institutions in South Dakota, most colleges are encouraging campus communities to get vaccinated.

Students who attend an on-site vaccine clinic or show proof of vaccination could be eligible for prizes such as hundreds of dollars in gift cards, tablets or Nintendo Switches.

Students who need a clinical rotation to graduate may be required to be vaccinated to go into the hospitals as Sanford, Avera and Monument health groups begin to implement vaccine requirements for employees.

The regental universities don't know exactly how many of their students or staff are vaccinated because the vaccine isn't a requirement, said Board of Regents director of communications Janelle Toman.

The leaders of some state universities, though, estimate that campus vaccination rates are higher than the state average.

At a student government meeting at the University of South Dakota on Aug. 31, Athletic Director David Herbster told student government leaders that 80% of student athletes there had been vaccinated.

O'Kelley said that based on the low case numbers at the university and strong response to the university's vaccine clinic, he predicts more than half of the student body and a higher percentage of staff are likely vaccinated.

Campuses are busier this year and feel more lively, university leaders

Continues on next page



Use of masks remains optional at most South Dakota colleges and universities, including in this fall 2021 semester biology class at Dakota State University. Photo: Courtesy of Dakota State University

Courtesy Dakota State University



COVID-19 cases are down significantly at South Dakota colleges and universities this year compared to 2020, including at the University of South Dakota, shown here. Photo: Courtesy of University of South Dakota

Continued from previous page

said, largely in part due to an increased access to testing and vaccines, which are approved for anyone age 12 and up. More students are walking on campus, classrooms are full and sporting events are back in full force.

"Our students as well as our employees are just in it together," said Angi Kappenman, Dakota State University vice president for human resources. "Students want to have that university on-campus experience. Everybody is willing to do their part so we can keep that experience going."

USD peaked at around 230 active COVID-19 cases in early September 2020; this year active cases for both staff and students have stayed under 25.

The university did not want to be "caught unprepared" this year, O'Kelley said, and is offering daily, free rapid testing in the campus hub. Getting students who test positive out of the population faster has helped reduce the spread of the virus, he said. O'Kelley estimated that the university population has a higher vaccination rate than the general state population.

The majority of counties in South Dakota are considered to have a high transmission rate of COVID-19, or when the test positivity rate is 10% or higher. The only counties with low transmission as of Sept. 17 are Sully, Potter and Jerauld. Ten other counties are considered to have substantial spread, or a test positivity rate between 8% and 9.9%.

Some non-regental or private schools across the state are requiring masks or are still mostly learning virtually.

Mount Marty University in Yankton is requiring masks in public spaces, classrooms, offices and hallways because of the "high community transmission" classification in Yankton, Codington and Minnehaha counties, according to the university website.

Dakota Wesleyan in Mitchell estimates that about 60% of its student body and about 95% of staff members have received a vaccine. The private college doesn't have a mask mandate at the moment, but interim President Theresa Kriese said that could change if the delta variant of COVID-19 continues to spread throughout the state. The positivity rate for Davison County, where Dakota Wesleyan is located, is about 12%, or "high community spread," according to the state.

"We have prepared our campus community for the possibility that may happen," she said. "Our goal is to keep everybody as safe as we can and keep the learning moving forward."

Augustana University in Sioux Falls is requiring masks indoors. The university is also tracking how many of its students are vaccinated. About 89% of the staff and 81% of students are fully vaccinated, according to self-reporting and vaccine clinics, said Suzie O'Meara Hernes, COVID-19 response coordinator at Augustana.

"For us, it's making sure everybody understands the role we play in the broader community," she said. "The vaccine is not only keeping yourself safe, but keeping your whole community safe and being respectful of protocols in place."

Oglala Lakota College, on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, is still holding most classes over the Zoom online platform. The Oglala Lakota Sioux Tribe announced on Sept. 18 that the reservation would be on a shelter-in-place order because of a 10% positivity rate of cases in the area. The tribe also ordered on Sept. 14 that all K-12 schools would be in quarantine until Sept. 28.



Thomas Shortbull

The college is taking the most aggressive approach in keeping staff and students safe, said President Thomas Shortbull.

No students have reported contracting COVID-19 as a result of a college activity, Shortbull said.

"We wanted to minimize any potential for our students to get covid by coming to classes," Shortbull said.

The decentralized nature of Oglala Lakota College made it easier to continue the online delivery of classes, something students seem

to prefer, said Shortbull. Each of the reservation's nine communities has a college building so students can stay home and attend classes. The OLC has just two dorms, which also made mitigation efforts easier, Shortbull said.

All of Oglala Lakota College's staff members are vaccinated, Shortbull said, and he estimates about 75% of students have received a vaccine.

"The reason we are doing all this is I see colleges across this country, I see football games, thousands in the stadium, you just kind of shake your head and think, 'There's potential for people to get covid,'" Shortbull said.

Sophia Lewis, a 20-year-old student at Dakota State University, said the campus has been livelier, but she can tell those around her are fatigued by the pandemic.

"The whole world is tired of dealing with COVID and that's no different on campus," she said.

The majority of her college experiences have come during a global pandemic, and Lewis receives regular emails about cases on campus and quarantine procedures.

Her freshman year at Dakota State ended abruptly when universities across the state announced they would lengthen their spring breaks by one week, before sending students home for the rest of the semester. That hampered her social life and ability to focus on her schoolwork, she said.


"I did probably end up with less socialization," she said. "I definitely was not cut off by any means, but it still was kind of a bummer."

The honors student from Winner said she'd always been a good student. The sudden switch to virtual learning was tough on her attention span, she said.

"My grades stayed about the same, but my ability to pay attention, to absorb the content and interact in class was definitely hindered a little bit," said Lewis, 20, who is scheduled to graduate in the spring with a degree in computer science and plans to enter a graduate program.

She was never considered a close contact with anyone who tested positive for COVID-19, she said, and she kept those she interacted with to her tight group of friends throughout the last two years. She's hoping the pandemic eases so she and her friends can experience a year of what she describes simply as "normalcy."

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



Frederick Town Achen/Sumption Rezoning Notice
REZONE PETITION
TOWN OF FREDERICK COMMISSION

PO BOX 546
FREDERICK, SD 57441
Town of Frederick Zoning Commission Members:
I/We the undersigned, do hereby petition the Town of Frederick Zoning Commission of Frederick, South Dakota, to rezone property as follows:

Legal Description:
Lot 3 "Schlosser-Sumption Addition" in the W 1/2 NW 1/4 of Section 11-T127N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Town of Frederick, Brown County, South Dakota.

General Area Location or Street Address: 951 7th St., Frederick, South Dakota
From the (HC) Highway Commercial

To the (M-A) Agricultural
Purpose: rezone to its proposed use.

Size of Parcel: 3 acres
Existing Land Use: Seed Business & Agriculture
Petitioner: /s/ Richard Achen / Warren Sumption

Date: August 9, 2021 (0915.0922)
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$22.92. 20404

Groton City Loeschke Spec. Excep.
NOTICE OF SPECIAL EXCEPTION HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT The Groton Planning & Zoning Commission will be holding a public hearing on October 25, 2021 at 6:00pm CDT at the City Hall, 120 N Main St., Groton, SD for a special exception of Chapter 16, Section 16.0103 of the Groton Zoning Ordinance. This application was made by Gene and Robin Loeschke for a secondary structure on a separate lot in a Residential (R3) District at 22 N 5th St., Groton, SD, legally described as S 23' Lot 3 & Lot 4 & N 25' Lot 5 Block 39 1st 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 \$10.12. 20411

Groton City Hanson Spec. Excep.
NOTICE OF SPECIAL EXCEPTION HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT The Groton Planning & Zoning Commission will be holding a public hearing on October

25, 2021 at 6:00pm CDT at City Hall, 120 N Main St., Groton, SD for a special exception of Chapter 11, Section 11.0104 of the Groton Zoning Ordinance. This application was made by Justin Hanson for a commercial business that sells firearms and ammunition in a Residential (R-3) District at 620 W 3rd Ave, Groton, SD, legally described as Lot A Frohling 4th 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 \$9.80. 20412

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2 Wks: \$17 for first 30 words, 38¢/word thereafter

3 Wks: \$24 for first 30 words, 54¢/word thereafter

4th consecutive week is free

605/397-NEWS (6397)

PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

AUCTIONS

INTERSTATE AUCTION CENTER: September 25, 2021 10:00am. Consignment Sale. 3 miles East of Sioux Falls. Building and Construction Sale. Call 605-331-4550. Visit our website: auctionzip.com

BIDS

CITY OF WILLOW LAKE is offering by Sealed Bid October 6 at 3:00 PM a 1991 Champion 730A Grader. Questions call 605-625-3631.

ACCEPTING BIDS FOR 637.95 contiguous acres of prime, unirrigated Crop & Pastureland, Section 8, Township 117 North, Range 68 West, 5th P.M. Arcade, Faulk County, South Dakota. All successful Bids must be properly submitted no later than 5:00 PM, Sept. 30, 2021. CONTACT: All inquiries, request a bid form, or to submit a sealed bid, direct correspondence to: Text: 605-641-1998 or Email: HussEstate@gmail.com

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

FOR LEASE MUNICIPAL BAR/RESTAURANT in Summit, SD, Call Kathy 605-881-8575, Pete 605-520-0544 or Norma 605-881-2469 for more info. Bids will be taken for monthly rent on October 4th, 2021 at 7pm. A bank letter of credit is also required with the bid.

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The Town of Frederick is hiring a part-time Assistant Utility Manager. If you are interested please call the Frederick office for more information . 605-329-2242. The Town of Frederick is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Groton Area wins Homecoming Game in the Battle of the Tigers

Groton Area won its first homecoming game in several years with a 23-14 win over Mobridge-Pollock.

It was also the annual Battle of the Tigers with the trophy coming back to Groton after a leave of absence for three years.

Groton Area scored with 6:58 left in the first quarter on an Andrew Marzahn one yard run. Jackson Cogley kicked the PAT and it was 7-0.

Mobridge-Pollock would score on a one-yard run by Holden Eismann with 6:03 left in the second quarter. The run attempt failed and Groton Area held a 7-6 lead at halftime.

Mobridge-Pollock would take the lead late in the third quarter when Holden Eismann scored on a three-yard run. The PAT was good on a pass from Jackson Eismann to Holden Eismann. The visiting Tigers now held a 14-7 lead.

Early in the third quarter, Groton Area would hit pay dirt with Kaden Kurtz scored on a seven yard run. Jackson Cogley kicked the PAT and with 10:26 left in the game, the game was tied at 14.

Groton Area would score with 2:27 left, thanks to penalty. On fourth down, Cogley attempted a field goal. It was short and Mobridge-Pollock grabbed the ball and ran it back to its own 45 yard line. However, a penalty on Mobridge-Pollock recalled the returned and the ball returned to Groton Area with an automatic first down. That would set up a score by Kaden Kurtz on a six-yard run with 2:27 left. Cogley kicked the PAT and it was 21-14.

Mobridge-Pollock went on a fourth down deep in their own territory; however, a bad snap resulted in the ball going into the end zone and Jordan Bjerke would tackle the Mobridge-Pollock player for a two-point safety with 1:17 left.

Groton Area had the upper hand in all areas with more first downs, 15-11, more yards rushing, 113-111, and more yards passing, 114-62, and fewer penalty yards, 69-35.

Rushing: Groton: 33-113 (Kaden Kurtz 19-70, 2 TD; Andrew Marzahn 9-29, 1 TD; Favian Sanchez 4-9, Pierce Kettering 1-5). Mobridge: 30-111 (Cole Wellner 16-112, Holden Eismann 11-7, Trent Schmeichel 1-2).

Passing: Groton: Kaden Kurtz completed 6 of 18 for 114 yards. (Receivers: Favian Sanchez 3-69, Jordan Bjerke 1-30, Andrew Marzahn 2-15). Mobridge: Holden Eismann completed 9 of 19 passes for 62 yards. (Receivers: Jackson Eismann 2-21, Brady Bauer 2-18, Simon Fried 2-13, Dayday Heminger 2-8, Cole Wellner 1-2).

Fumbles: Groton: None. Mobridge: had 2, lost 1 (caused by Pierce Kettering and recovered by Favian Sanchez).

Penalties: Groton: 3-35, Mobridge: 6-69.

Defense: Groton: Tackles: Pierce Kettering 8, Colby Dunker 8, Jordan Bjerke 7, Evan Nehls 6, Kaden Kurtz 6. Also Bjerke had a safety. Mobridge: Ashton Pfitzer 17, Cole Wellner 7, Colby Hinsz 4.

Record: Groton: 4-1. Mobridge: 1-3.

Next Game: Groton hosts Roncalli. Mobridge hosts Webster.



The Battle of the Tigers trophy has returned to Groton after a three-year absence. (Photo by Britt Andera Frost)

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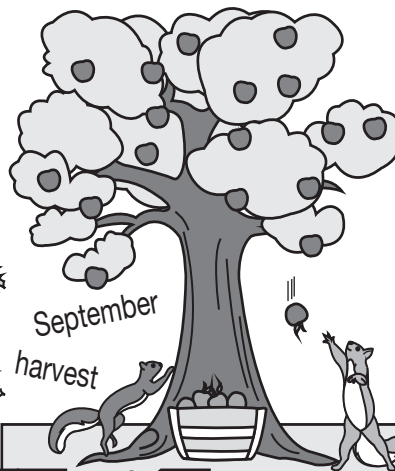
Falling Into Autumn!



Read the clues to fill in the crossword with fall words:

The autumn season is a very colorful and busy time. People take drives or hikes to view the bright fall leaves. We fall to work to get our homes and clothes ready for the winter months ahead. Football games and apple picking fill our free time while hot cider and doughnuts fill our stomachs! What special activities do you do with friends or family?

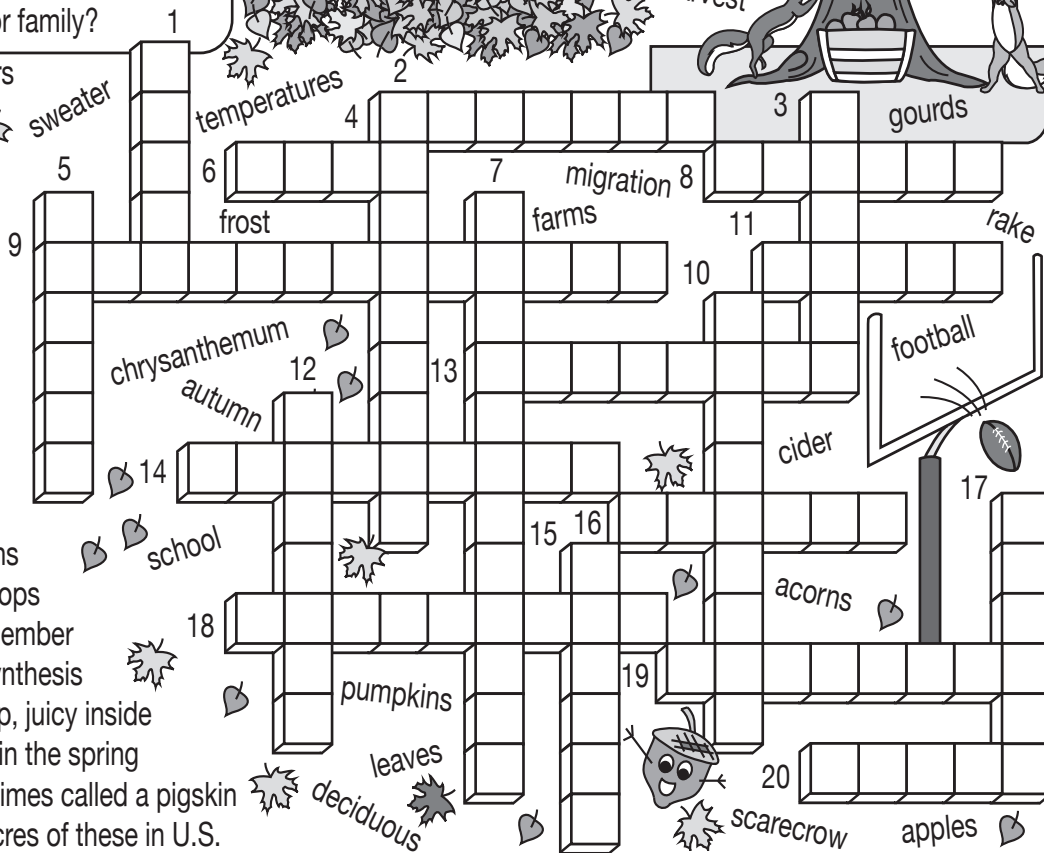
This is lots more fun than raking the leaves.



September

harvest

- juice made from crushing apples; made for over a thousand years
- ninth month of year; first month of autumn
- fruits with a solid rind or skin; grow on vines
- long-sleeved clothing, often knitted from wool or cotton
- place where people are educated; teaches skills for life
- long stick with comb-like prongs used to gather leaves
- degree and intensity of heat; measured in Fahrenheit or Celsius
- nuts of an oak; tough shells protect a single seed
- flower that belongs to the daisy family, often called a "mum"
- seasonal travel of animals (birds) from one place to another
- deposit of small ice crystals, a major problem for crops
- time of year for gathering crops grown during summer
- orange gourds with fleshy center, used for pies or as decorations
- stuffed person-shaped figure; used to scare birds away from crops
- temperatures start to drop; crops harvested; September to December
- parts of plant connected to a stem; absorb sunlight for photosynthesis
- fruit of trees from the rose family; green, red or yellow skin; crisp, juicy inside
- type of tree that sheds leaves every autumn and regrows them in the spring
- most popular sport in U.S.; played with oval-shaped ball sometimes called a pigskin
- places that grow crops and raise livestock; about 915 million acres of these in U.S.



Falling to Work on This Fall Puzzle!

Have you ever heard of **idioms**? They are words or expressions that have a meaning that's different from what you would think from reading the words. For example, look at the expression, "It's raining cats and dogs"! Do people really mean that cats and dogs are falling from the sky? No, they mean that it is raining heavily.

Read the **idioms** below. **Match them to their meanings. One is done for you.**

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. He is falling down on the job. | A. failing to sell |
| 2. The advertisement is falling flat . | B. not doing the job well |
| 3. The boy is falling behind in his studies. | C. doing everything she can |
| 4. A falling star shot by. | D. meteor |
| 5. They had a falling-out . | E. argument, quarrel |
| 6. She is falling over backwards to help. | F. not keeping up |

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. The inspections are falling through the cracks . | A. not working right |
| 2. The students are falling short in their budget. | B. beginning to believe |
| 3. The new members are falling into line . | C. do not have enough |
| 4. The can opener is falling apart . | D. not being done |
| 5. The teacher is falling for my story. | E. obeying the rules |
| 6. Their family is falling on hard times. | F. has many troubles |

Mum's the Word

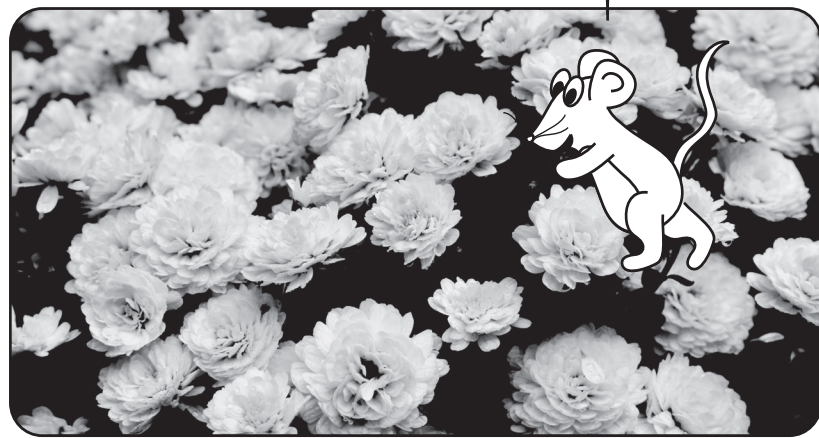


Mom loves the color of fall flowers. Her favorite flower is the chrysanthemum.

Chrysanthemum? Is that just a big word for the mums our Mum buys every fall?

Yes. They might look like little balls like the ones below or they could be flat like a daisy. It's a secret that we are buying her some...so "Mum's the word."

These smell so nice!

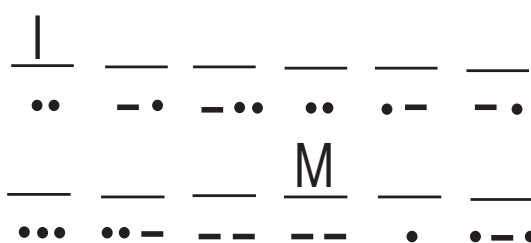


Mother Nature lets us know winter is coming. She swirls cool air that nips us. She paints the first frost on the grass and plants.

People and animals know the signs and scurry to get things ready. Then a strange thing happens late in the fall or in early winter. We get a break. There is often a period of mild weather! It lasts about a week. Do **you** know what this special time is often called?

Summer in the Fall?

Use the Morse Code Alphabet to fill in the puzzle blanks to find out if you know!



Huh? Is it summer or is it fall?

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

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EARTHTALK™



Dear EarthTalk: Whatever happened to the Yukon to Yellowstone (Y2Y) wildlife corridor dream that was in the news years ago?
-- Jos. Meredith, Bozeman, MT

Conservationists' dreams of a wildlife corridor stretching from the Yukon to Yellowstone (Y2Y) where "charismatic megafauna" like bears, wolves and caribou can roam freely and have enough continuous undisturbed habitat to thrive is slowly becoming a reality thanks to the dogged determination of thousands of concerned individuals and over 450 partner groups behind them. Since the project's inception in 1993, green groups, indigenous groups and government agencies have worked together to preserve upwards of 500,000 square miles of the intermountain west for this project, with hopes of adding much more.

The core of Y2Y is all within the Rocky Mountains, the eastern edge of the Rocky Mountain Trench in British Columbia, and the Liard Plateau in northern B.C. Scientists have collaborated as well to expand Y2Y into the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the Columbia Mountains of eastern B.C., the Mackenzie Mountains of the Northwest Territories and the Yukon, given their similar ecological characteristics.

Unlike other animal crossings, Y2Y is a large area across mountain ranges without a hard boundary. Since natural ecosystems are entirely interconnected, conservationists have drawn soft, flexible boundaries in conjunction with evolving patterns of seasonal movements by wildlife. These untouched areas serve as safe highways for the diverse range of species to feed, breed and migrate without outside interference.

In other sections of the Y2Y region where development has been more commonplace, partner groups have worked to create wildlife-friendly infrastructure to facilitate crossings of roads and other man-made obstructions. They have also set up tracking mechanisms for some species to monitor their success. Meanwhile, other partners have been focused on acquiring real estate parcels that can be left in a natural state or converted back from development to be included in the animal-friendly network of corridors.

In the Y2Y region, conservationists and scientists have focused on the preservation of grizzly bears—an "umbrella" species. Since grizzly bears roam such an expansive area of land in search of food and mates, they play a central role in maintaining the healthy functioning of an ecosystem. Given the population declines and genetic diversity loss of the region, conservationists have especially pushed for wildlife corridors to alleviate the habitat loss and fragmentation among grizzly bears.

Achieving the Y2Y vision has not come easy. Much of the region stretches across private lands. To accommodate both humans and wildlife, conservationists have worked with private landowners to ensure safe passage for wildlife without interrupting human lifestyles. Many oil, gas and mining projects also require access roads, which often cut through natural landscapes and degrade wildlife habitat.

While the Y2Y mission has come far in preserving the natural environments from Yellowstone to Yukon, the initiative calls for further col-

Conservationists are working to create a 2000-mile long wildlife corridor between the Canadian Yukon and Yellowstone National Park so wolves and other charismatic megafauna can have enough space and resources to thrive.

Credit: Brenda Timmermans, Pexels.

laboration from diverse communities. Whether it's volunteering from local groups or partnerships with larger organizations, Y2Y aims to continue its vision of harmonizing a wild and woolly 2,000-mile swath of the North American West.

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.

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The Life of William H. Rock III



William H. Rock III of Groton, South Dakota died peacefully on September 16 at his home in White Bear Lake, MN after a long illness. Bill was born to Dorothy E. and William H. Rock Jr. on December 31, 1951 in Minneapolis, MN. He attended the University of Minnesota High School for several years and graduated from Washburn High School in 1969. He graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Agricultural Business and decided to become a farmer. Bill worked his way through college as a silk

screeener in a local factory. He was clearly gifted in all things mechanical and extremely hard working.

Bill learned farming by apprenticing with Jack Walter of Groton, South Dakota starting in 1973. Several years later he took over his grandparent's land, Groton Auto and Tractor Corp., and continued farming for the rest of his life.

In 1981 Bill married Hedrin Atwood, from the Twin Cities. In 1983 Hedrin moved to Groton and taught in the Groton School District for 25 years. Bill was a great inspiration to his stepson, Sea Atwood, and later enjoyed spending time with Sea, his wife, Julie, and his grandchildren, Alex and Audrey, of Aberdeen, South Dakota.

He was a supervisor on the Groton Township Board in Brown County for many years. He was an avid gardener and won ribbons every year for his onions, wheat, and corn at the Brown County Fair. He loved to buy and sell classic cars and other vehicles. For the last 12 years Bill divided his time between South Dakota, Minnesota. and Mesa, Arizona.

A memorial will be held by the family at their White Bear Lake residence on October 2, 2021 at 2-5 pm. Bill's ashes will be buried at a later date at a gathering on his farm in Groton, SD.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, William (Jr.) and Dorothy Rock of Minneapolis. He is survived by his wife Hedrin, son Sea (Julie) Atwood, his two grandchildren, Alex (25) and Audrey (16), and his two sisters, Amy Rock of Minneapolis and Stephanie Rock of San Diego, CA.

Conde National League

Sept. 20 Team Standings: Mets 6, Giants 4, Pirates 4, Tigers 4, Braves 3, Cubs 3
Men's High Games: Butch Farmen 176; Russ Bethke 171; Ryan Bethke 171, 161, 161; Dalton Locke 159
Men's High Series: Ryan Bethke 493, Russ Bethke 444, Butch Farmen 440
Women's High Games: Vickie Kramp 154; Michelle Johnson 153, 152; Joyce Walter 145
Women's High Series: Vickie Kramp 426, Michelle Johnson 412, Nancy Radke 401