



GHS offers local internships

Madeline Flihs at Beauty Brew Coffee Shop and Boutique

by Dorene Nelson

Groton Area High School offers a variety of business classes. One of these classes, School Internships, offers seniors the opportunity to work in various local businesses of their choice.

The purpose of this internship is to teach students responsibility by working for someone other than their family. It helps them learn how to work with the public and with customers who might not be all that agreeable at times.

Internships could also help students decide on a part-time job while they are in college or maybe even to help them choose a future occupation.

The business teacher, Becky Hubsch, has set up this experience for the seventeen students enrolled in her School Internship class.

All students must be at their chosen place of work during the first period of the school day. The student interns must contact the place they would like to work and have their own personal transportation.

Madeline Flihs, daughter of Jeff and Bridget Flihs, is interning first semester at Beauty Brew Coffee Shop and Boutique. Flihs has two sisters and a brother, all younger than she is.

"I participate in volley ball, soccer, and lacrosse," she listed. "Lacrosse is a club sport in Aberdeen."

"I work in Beauty Brew every school day from 8:30-9:20," Flihs explained. "I can do this again second semester but have to select a different business."

"We get to select the places where we intern," she stated, "but it is up to us to contact that business and ask if they would be interested in having us work for them. It costs the businesses nothing except the time needed to explain our duties."

"I chose to intern in the coffee shop for several reasons," Flihs admitted. "First of all, I already knew Karla Tracy as one of my volleyball coaches."

"Secondly, I like making the wide variety of coffee and tea drinks that are available here," she smiled. "I also like the 'pay' I receive—a chai tea every day! You can't beat that!"

"Working at Beauty Brew has been fun and educational," Flihs stated. "It was easy to learn how to run the machine and make the drinks the way the customers wanted."

"That actually is the best part of this job: making a wide variety of drinks and helping the customers," she said. "People are always so happy to get their cup of coffee!"



"The hardest part of this job is learning the many drink recipes and knowing how to run the equipment," Flihs admitted. "However, it wasn't really all that hard, and I've really enjoyed the experience."

"We started the school year in the classroom for the first week or two, learning how to make a resume and filling out time cards," Flihs explained. "After that first week, we are expected to go to our chosen place of 'employment' every day."

"Next year I plan to attend SDSU and major in either human biology or pre-med," she said.



Middle School Music Students Participate at Northwestern Middle School Music Festival

Middle School students from Groton and fourteen area schools participated in the Northwestern Middle School Music Festival on Tuesday October 12th in Mellette. The students rehearsed with guest directors and performed a concert that was open to the public that same evening.

Thirteen students participated in the Festival Chorus and eleven students were selected to play in the Festival Band. The band students are selected from nomination forms filled out by each school's director. Out of the fifteen nominations that were submitted by Mrs. Yeigh, eleven of those students were selected to participate in the festival.

Eighth graders Jayden Schwan and Garrett Schultz were recognized as three-year members of this event. Seventh grader Carlee Johnson was placed as the first chair horn section leader as well.

The festival choir was directed by Mrs. Kim Bruguier from Mitchell, SD. Bruguier is in her fifteenth year of teaching music. She teaches K-5 Music/Band at LB Williams Elementary in Mitchell. The festival band was directed by Mrs. Cherie Lunstrum. Lunstrum taught music for a total of thirty-three years and is now retired. Her last thirteen years were in the Redfield School District teaching K-6 Vocal and 5th Grade Band.

Congratulations to all the students for representing the Groton Middle School Music Department!



Band Festival

Front row from L to R: Mrs. Desiree Yeigh (Director), Teagan Hanten (Percussion), Natalia Warrington (Clarinet), Ashlynn Warrington (Flute)

Second row from L to R: Carlee Johnson (1st Chair Horn), Elizabeth Cole (Trombone), Gavin Kroll (Trombone), Brody Lord (Trombone)

Back row from L to R: Lincoln Krause (Percussion), Garrett Schultz (Baritone), Blake Lord (Tuba)

Not pictured is Jayden Schwan, Trumpet



Festival Choir

Front row from L to R: Maggie Cleveland, Mrs. Kayla Duncan (Director), Addison Hoffman

Second row from L to R: Claire Schuelke, Halee Harder, Liza Krueger

Third row from L to R: Cambira Bonn, Emerlee Jones, Kira Clocksene, ReAnn Dennert

Fourth row from L to R: Jacob Tewksbury, Kolton Dockter, Jackson Hopfinger, Logan Clocksene

Starting 10/24/21, you must dial the area code for all calls. This change supports 988 as the new 3-digit code to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

# Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

Just when Vikings fans think they can put the defibrillator back on the wall, the Minnesota Vikings needed overtime to beat the Carolina Panthers. Final score: 34-28.

## First Half:

The Vikings get on the board early after a Brashaud Breeland interception and take a 3-0 lead on a Greg Joseph field goal. After a Justin Jefferson fumble, the Panthers go up 7-3 on a short run by Chubba Hubbard. The Vikings get three points back after an 11-play drive, once again ending in a 25-yard field goal.

In the second quarter, the Vikings managed a nine-play 83-yard drive, ending in a short touchdown pass and first catch of the season by Chris Herndon. The Panthers come back to kick a 47-yard field goal. The score at half-time ends at 12-10.

For the most part, the first half was a defensive battle, with short fields ending in quick scores. The second half was a different story.

## Second Half:

It was pretty quiet until the 6:49 mark in the third quarter. That's when the game became interesting.

The Panthers got things started by blocking a Viking punt and picking it up for a touchdown. Kirk Cousins and company quickly responded, marching the team down the field 75 yards in five plays ending with a Dalvin Cook 16-yard run. A two-point conversion failed.

After another Panther turnover, the Vikings needed only four plays and a 5-yard touchdown pass to Adam Thielen. It finally looked like the Vikings were about to put a game away for the first time this season.

The Vikings add another Joseph field goal early in the fourth quarter to extend the lead 28-17. Then all the craziness broke loose.

Sam Darnold, the Panthers quarterback that struggled all day, sprints for 45 yards up the

middle of the field, setting up a field goal and cutting the lead to eight.

The Vikings managed to burn some time off the clock and punt the ball inside the 5-yard line. When it looked over, Darnold hits a 47-yard pass over the middle on fourth down. A few plays later, Darnold hit Anderson for a short touchdown, followed by a 2-point conversion. The game is tied 28-28 with 45 seconds remaining. A failed 47-yard field goal as time expired takes the game to overtime.

The Vikings won the toss and marched the team down the field, hitting KJ Osborn on a 27-yard touchdown to end the game.

## Statistical Leaders:

Kirk Cousins 33 for 48, 373 yards, 3 TD pass

Dalvin Cook 29 carries for 140 yards rushing, 1 TD

Adam Thielen 11 catches for 126 yards, 1 TD

## The highlight of the day:

CJ Ham, the powerhouse fullback, scampered 30 yards on his lone carry of the game—the longest run of his career.

## The irony of the day:

After winning two games in a row, a team would prefer to keep the momentum going and play next week. But for this Vikings team and the craziness of the first six games of the 2021 season, the bye week could not get here any sooner. They know they are right on the cusp of a great season but need to figure out how to finish games.

## Next game: Bye Week

Trick or Treat!! After the bye week, the Dallas Cowboys come to town on Halloween Night. US Bank Stadium will be rockin'. Dak Prescott has returned this season and maybe playing the best football of this career. The wide receiver duo of Ceedee Lamb and Amare Cooper might be the second-best duo in the game - right behind Thielen and Jefferson.

# Requiem for a gunfighter

Why do we compete on the diamond, hardcourt, gridiron, or wrestling mat? Because there's meaning to these contests. They're tests of the human spirit, a honing of our inner blades as we march toward life's unknown battles ahead.

This is what I was thinking about during a funeral home viewing on Thursday. We lost Gary Hoffman, a two-time state and national collegiate champion and architect of a now-storied South Border (Ashley-Wishek) Wrestling Program. Covid.

No one looked into that casket and thought that's all that's left of the man. Uh, uh. He built something that endures. Thrives, actually. His two team championships grew into... what is it, now—nine? His son, Josh, is the head coach, now, and a friend of mine since the day he leaped into his father's arms as an unlikely state champion more than two decades ago. Gary was so proud then, but he didn't say it aloud until his last week in this dimension. Typical German. He had what I call a gunfighter mentality. The respect was in the glint of his eye but you had to know what you were looking for. You could miss that when you're 17.

I wasn't close to Gary. He'd call me sometimes to lobby me on some local political issue, never bothering to identify himself, he just started talking in that slow, low, deliberate, unmistakable tone of his, and even if I didn't agree with him, he earned my respect.

A lawyer called me years ago in an attempt to intimidate me over coverage of his guiltier-than-sin client, and after about a minute, I told him to do the anatomically impossible, but when I got off the phone I grinned and told my staff how much I loved that he'd fight so hard for his client, and later, when facing a divorce and an opposing lawyer that was meaner than a snake, that's who I called.

You catch my drift.

I walked into Sportsman's Bar one day, and Gary was there, just him and the bartender, and I sat down and we talked. One of his wrestlers had looked up into the stands in those early days of the program, and commented that there sure weren't a lot of fans there. "Remember that," Gary told him. "That's life. When you get home after a hard day on the job, there won't be 300 people there to console you, and when you have a good day, there won't be 300 people there to applaud you."

Old school. It's another way of saying tradition, and Gary was steeped in it like a teabag forgotten in a cup overnight. All sports demand sacrifice, but after most practices you get to eat. Not so for wrestlers trying to make weight. "When you get home tonight," he told his wrestlers, "you may want to have more to eat." That, he said, is when you must remember your ancestors who came here with nothing, had nothing, and somehow, ribs peeking through sunburnt skin, built this place. That's the blood that's in your veins, he reminded them. "Somewhere, your ancestors are watching and they are proud." This you do for them. This you do for yourself.

The temptation is great to mythologize the departed. I suspect Gary would have hated that. Besides, he could be a shit. But in the important ways that exemplify the best of us, he had those qualities. Reverence for the echoes. Honor. Sacrifice. Humility. The willingness to give more when you think you've got nothing left.

In retrospect, I wish he'd come into my office to twist my arm—metaphorically, Jesus!—because I admired what I saw in his eyes. That intense, searching look he displayed

as he tilted his head at me that day, his eyes making a point impossible for words, eyes that twinkled more once there were grandchildren. I saw it in the pictures at the funeral home.

I don't think Josh will mind if I share what he told me. "He was my rock. My best friend. To me, he could crush mountains. He was my idol."

The scuttlebutt at the viewing was that for the funeral the next day Josh would shave the beard his father detested, a great, wooly thing that would make lumberjacks weep, or maybe there was a grizzly perched on his chin. I don't know if he did. I do know that Gary would have respected him if he did. Or if he didn't. That respect was there all along in the glint of his eye.

If I'd ever needed a wrestling coach, I'd have hired Gary Hoffman.



## That's Life

by Tony Bender

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# Northwestern sweeps Groton Area in three sets

Groton Area's volleyball team was defeated by Northwestern Area Tuesday night in Groton, 3-0. Game scores were 25-13, 25-16 and 25-11.

Sydney Liecht had 12 kills, Anna Fjeldheim four kills, Madeline Fliehs five kills, Aspen Johnson four kills and a block and Elizabeth Fliehs had an ace serve.

Ella Haven led Northwestern with 16 kills, two blocks and an ace serve, Kenzie Stoltenberg had nine kills, Emma Grandpre seven kills, a block and three ace serves, Haiden Grandpree had five kills and a block, Ashley Haven had four kills and an ace serve, Teryn Sparling had three ace serves and Payton Grandpree had two ace serves and a kill.

Groton Area won the junior varsity match, 19-25, 25-21 and 15-12. Emma Schinkel had seven kills and two ace serves, Faith Traphagen and Laila Roberts each had three ace serves and a kill, Lydia Meier and Marlee Tollifson each had three kills, and Carly Guthmiller and Shalyn Foertsch each had two ace serves.

Groton Area won the C match, 25-23 and 25-19.

## Groton Area beats Langford Area in three sets

Groton Area's volleyball team traveled to Langford Monday night and came home with a 3-0 win over the Lions. Game scores were 25-19, 25-20 and 25-20.

Sydney Leicht had eight kills and three ace serves, Anna Fjeldheim had four kills and an ace serve, Madeline Fliehs had five kills and an ace serve, Maddie Bjerke had four kills, Elizabeth Fliehs had two kills and two ace serves, Allyssa Locke had an ace serve and a kill and Alyssa Thaler had an ace serve.

Langford was led by Ashley Cadwell with six kills, a block and an ace serve while Olyvia Dwight had four kills, a block and two ace serves, Gracie Cadwell had four kills and an ace serve, Rebecca Hanson had four kills, Katherine Jensen had two kills and two blocks and Megan Gustafson had two kills and a block.

Groton Area won the junior varsity match, 25-14 and 25-21. Emma Schinkel had eight kills and a block, Lydia Meier had two kills and three ace serves, Marlee Tollifson had three kills, Faith Traphagen two kills, Carly Guthmiller two ace serves, Hollie Frost a kill and Laila Roberts an ace serve.

## Groton Area places seventh at Milbank Tourney

Groton Area took part in the Milbank Pool Play Tournament held Saturday. In the first match, Groton Area lost to Sisseton, 2-0. The first set was tied nine times and the lead changed hands eight times before the Redmen scored six unanswered points to take a 21-16 lead and went on to win, 25-20. Anna Fjeldheim had two kills and two ace serves, Elizabeth Fliehs had an ace serve, Alyssa Thaler had a kill, Madeline Fliehs and Maddie Bjerke each had a kill and a block assist and Aspen Johnson had two kills and a block. The second set was tied 12 times and the lead changed hands seven times. Groton Area held a 23-20 lead, but the Redmen would score the last five points with the game winning kill coming from Krista Langager. Anna Fjeldheim had three kills and three ace serves, Elizabeth Fliehs had a kill, Sydney Leicht had four kills and a block, Madeline Fliehs had a kill and Aspen Johnson and Maddie Bjerke each had two kills. Leicht had 14 digs while Elizabeth Fliehs had eight and Thaler five. Elizabeth Fliehs had 14 assists while Allyssa Locke had two. Sisseton used its height to create issues for the Tigers at the net with the Langager girls having six blocks at the net.

Groton Area came back from a bad second set to win the third and take a 2-1 win over Sioux Valley. Groton Area won the first set, 25-18. That set was three times and just two lead changes as Groton Area led all the way except for one time. Anna Fjeldheim had a kill, Elizabeth Fliehs had an ace serve, Sydney Leicht four kills, Madeline Fliehs four kills and an ace serve, Allyssa Locke had a kill, Aspen Johnson had a kill and a block and Maddie Bjerke had two kills. Groton Area fell flat in the second set, trailing early, 10-1, and ended up losing, 25-13. Fjeldheim had an ace serve, Elizabeth Fliehs had a kill and an ace serve, Liecht and Allyssa Locke each had a kill and Madeline Fliehs had a kill and a block. Groton Area regrouped in the third set to post a 25-22 win. The set was tied eight times and the lead changed hands three times. The Tigers held a 22-16 lead. Sioux Valley closed to within one, 23-22, but Groton Area would post a 25-22 win. Madeline Fliehs had four kills and a block, Aspen Johnson had two kills and a block, Sydney Liecht had two kills, Alyssa Thaler and Maddie Bjerke each had a kill and Elizabeth Fliehs had an ace serve.

Mobridge-Pollock posted a 2-0 win over Groton Area, winning the sets, 25-21 and 25-17. The first set was tied three times with the lead changing hands once. Groton Area had the early lead at 7-2 and 11-7. Mobridge-Pollock tied the set at 11, and 12 and it was tied at 13 before Mobridge-Pollock took a 17-13 lead. Anna Fjeldheim had three kills, Elizabeth Fliehs a kill, Sydney Leicht five kills, Madeline Fliehs and Aspen Johnson each had three kills and Maddie Bjerke had a kill. Charley Henderson had a kill and a block for Mobridge-Pollock while Katy Kemnitz, Emma Keller and Emily Hatzenbuehler each had a kill, Mariah Goehring had a kill and an ace serve, Ava Sotick had an ace

serve and Landyn Henderson had two kills and an ace serve. Mobridge-Pollock took the early lead in the second set, 4-1, but Groton Area came back to tie it three times and had a 9-8 lead. Mobridge-Pollock then took control the set and went on for the 25-17 win. Fjeldheim, Leicht and Bjerke each had one kill, Johnson had three kills, Elizabeth Fliehs had an ace serve and Madeline Fliehs had an ace serve and a block. Mobridge-Pollock had Charley Henderson with three kills, Sophia Overland had two kills, Landyn Henderson had two kills, Leah Overland and Stoick each had an ace serve, Mariah Goehring had a kill and Keller had two kills. Groton Area won the final match of the day with a two-set win over Langford Area in the seventh place match. The first set was tied nine times and there were six lead changes before Groton Area scored five straight points to take a 15-11 lead and then went on to a 25-12 win. Anna Fjeldheim had three ace serves and a kill, Elizabeth Fliehs had an ace serve, Sydney Liecht had two kills, Madeline Fliehs had three kills and two ace serves, Aspen Johnson had three kills and a block and Maddie Bjerke had a kill. Olivia Dwight led the Lions with two kills and an ace serve while Megan Gustafson had two kills and Gracie Cadwell and Ashley Cadwell each had a kill. Groton Area jumped out to a 16-8 lead in the second set, but the Lions came roaring back, scoring seven unanswered points to close to within one, 16-15. Langford would tie the set at 17 and 18 and then would take a 19-18 lead. The Tigers retook the lead, but Langford Area tied the set at 23 and took a 24-23 lead. Groton Area tied the set at 24, took a 25-24 lead and Madeline Fliehs had the game winning kill, 25-24. Leicht had six kills, Madeline Fliehs had four kills, Johnson two, Alyssa Thaler had two ace serves, Elizabeth Fliehs had a kill and Fjeldheim had a block. Dwight and Gracie Cadwell led the Lions with four kills each while Rebecca Hanson had two kills and an ace serve, Gustafson had two kills and Ashley Cadwell had a kill. Groton Area is now 8-13 on the season.

All Groton Area matches were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Milbrandt Enterprises Inc., Allied Climate Professionals with Kevin Nehls and Bary Keith at Harr Motors.

## Lady Tigers beat Milbank in four sets

Three players hit double figures as the Groton Area volleyball team defeated Milbank, 3-1. It was senior recognition night with the match being played in Groton.

The first set was tied eight times and there were five lead changes as the Tigers went on to win, 25-22. In that set, Madeline Fliehs had six kills and an ace serve, Sydney Liecht had five kills, Anna Fjeldheim three kills, Aspen Johnson had two kills and Maddie Bjerke had one. Rachel Schulte led Milbank with three kills and an ace serve and Skyler Skoog had two kills and an ace serve.

The second set was tied three times and Groton Area never trailed en route to a 25-18 lead. Leicht had four kills and an ace serve, Johnson had three kills, Madeline Fliehs had two kills and an ace serve, Alyssa Thaler had three ace serves, Fjeldheim had three kills, Elizabeth Fliehs had one ace serve and Bjerke had a kill. Skoog led Milbank with four kills and a block and Schulte had two kills.

Groton Area led for most of the third set in a close game. Groton Area held a 21-16 lead, but Milbank would rally to tie the set at 22 and 23 and then scored the last two points for the win, 25-23. Madeline Fliehs had six kills, Leicht had three kills, Fjeldheim had a kill and an ace serve, Johnson had a kill and a block, Elizabeth Fliehs had a kill, Thaler had an ace serve and Bjerke had a kill. Schulte led Milbank with five kills while Averie Engebretson had four kills, Skoog three kills and Addisyn Krause two kills and an ace serve.

Groton Area quickly jumped out to an early lead, leading 17-7, and went on to win the fourth set, 25-18. Leicht had six kills and two ace serves, Madeline Fliehs had three kills and an ace serve, Johnson and Fjeldheim each had three kills, and Bjerke had a kill. Schulte had two kills to lead Milbank in the final set.

Overall for the Tigers, Fjeldheim had 10 kills and an ace serve, Liecht had 18 kills and three ace serves, Madeline Fliehs had 17 kills and three ace serves, Johnson had nine kills and a block, Thaler had four ace serves, Bjerke had a kill in each set for a total of four, and Elizabeth Fliehs had a kill and an ace serve.

Schulte led Milbank with 12 kills and an ace serve, Skyler Skoog had nine kills, one ace serve and one block, Addisyn Kruase had two kills and an ace serve, Engebretson had four kills and an ace serve, Rylie Overby had three kills and a block, Camryn Wiese had one kill and Casside Seezs had two kills.

The match was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Milbrandt Enterprises Inc., Allied Climate Professionals with Kevin Nehls and Bary Keith at Harr Motors.

Milbank won the junior varsity match, 25-16 and 27-25. Lydia Meier had seven kills, Emma Kutter had five kills and two ace serves, Marlee Tollifson had six kills, Faith Traphagen four kills, Carly Guthmiller three ace serves, Hollie Frost two blocks and a kill and Laila Roberts had two kills. There was a sponsor for the junior varsity match on GDILIVE.COM.

Milbank won the C match, 25-21 and 26-24. Ashley Johnson had four kills, Emma Kutter had three kills, two ace serves and a block, Tallie Wrighthead three kills, Jerica Locke two ace serves and Ava Wienk and Cadence Feist each had a kill.

The match was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Greg and Kathy Scheinost of Page, Neb., with Anna Fjeldheim and Aspen Johnson being guest commentators.

# The Groton Independent

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## Groton City Ord. 750

### Water Rates

ORDINANCE NO. 750

An Ordinance entitled "Amending Rates for Groton Municipal Utility Customers" to be effective October 19, 2021.

Be it ordained by the City of Groton, South Dakota that Ordinance No. 8-1-4 be amended to read as follows:

8-1-4 Rates.

Rates for the use of utilities furnished by the City shall be established by Ordinance by the Groton City Council.

Section 4. Water Rates:

The schedule of rates governing Residential or General Service Consumers of water in the City of Groton which follows is to be used for billing on a monthly basis throughout each year. Each water service is figured independently from any other water service at each customer's location.

a. Residential and General Service Water Customers  
Meter Charge: \$9.62 plus  
Minimum charge: \$20.77 per month which includes 0-2,000 gallons

Anything over 2,000 gallons \$5.62 per 1,000 gallons  
Plus, Water Surcharge: \$11.50 per customer who receives or benefits from the new water tower (this surcharge is to be implemented whether or not the water is capped, to be removed in July of 2049)

Plus, Water Surcharge: \$7.85 per customer who receives or benefits from the water system (this surcharge is to be implemented whether or not the water is capped, to be removed in July of 2051). Residents who qualify for Section 4c are not required to pay this surcharge.

b. Bulk water rate: \$8.00 per 1000 gallons

c. Residential Low Income Discount  
A \$9.62 per month discount will be allowed on the meter charge of residential consumers for a period of 12 months (from January to December) if the consumer provides proof that the family is eligible to receive low income fuel assistance (LIEAP).

d. Residential or General Service consumers found to be using unmetered water furnished by the City of Groton water system shall be disconnected until a meter is installed by the property owner.

Passed First Reading: 9/7/21  
Passed Second Reading: 9/21/21

Published: 10/20/21  
Effective: 11/19/21

Attest:  
Scott Hanlon, Mayor  
Hope Block, Finance Officer  
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$26.45. 20484

## Groton City Notice of Audit

Notice is hereby given that the records and books of account of the City of Groton, South Dakota, have been audited by Side Bailly, LLP, Certified Public Accountants of Aberdeen, South Dakota for the two years ended December 31, 2019. A detailed report thereon, containing additional information, is filed with the City of Groton and the Department of Legislative Audit in Pierre, South Dakota for public inspection. The following findings and recommendations referred to in the report are hereby listed in accordance with the provisions of SDCL 4-11-12.

Current Audit Findings and Recommendations

Finding:  
The City does not have an in-

ternal control system designed to provide for the preparation of the financial statements including required footnotes and disclosures. During the course of our engagement, we were requested to draft the financial statements and accompanying notes to those financial statements.

Recommendation:

This circumstance is not unusual in an organization of this size. It is the responsibility of management and those charged with governance to make the decision whether to accept the degree of risk associated with this condition because of cost or other considerations. Also, a thorough review of the transactions in each fund should take place prior to the beginning of the audit to ensure that the modified cash basis of accounting has been followed for each fund type, especially for transaction types infrequent in occurrence.

Views of Responsible Officials:  
Management agrees with the finding

Finding:

The city did not provide timely reconciliations for cash and equity accounts resulting in material audit adjustments.

Recommendation:

It is the responsibility of management and those charged with governance to make the decision whether to accept the degree of risk associated with this condition because of cost or other considerations. Also, a thorough review of the transactions in each fund should take place prior to the beginning of the audit, to ensure that the modified cash basis of accounting has been followed for each fund type, especially for transaction types infrequent in occurrence.

Views of Responsible Officials:  
Management agrees with the finding.

Finding:

During testing, the following noncompliance was noted with SDCLs:

During 2019 and 2018, the City overspent multiple department lines in the General Fund budget, but they did not overspend the overall budget, SDCL 9-21-9 through 9-21-9.2, 9-21-10, and 9-21-15 provides the criteria requiring the city to refrain from spending in excess of the amount appropriated for any purpose or department each fiscal year.

Recommendation:

We recommend the city officials review the SDCLs applicable to municipalities to become familiar with the statutory requirements and implement necessary controls and processes to ensure the compliance with those such laws.

Views of Responsible Officials:  
Management agrees with the finding.

Russell A. Olson, Auditor General  
Department of Legislative Audit.

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$36.89. 20485

## Riverside Township Mowing Notice

### Riverside Township Weed Notice

Riverside Township Owners and Tenants of Riverside Township are hereby notified and required according to law, to cut all weeds in road ditches tenanted by them within said township on or before Oct. 28, 2021 will be fined \$250 a mile charged to the abutting property.

By order of the township board  
Bruce Sippel  
Township Clerk  
(1020.1027)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$11.75. (20486)

## Westport Town Oct. 4, 2021

### Meeting Minutes

Town of Westport General Meeting

October 4th, 2021

The Town of Westport met on October 4th, 2021 with Shane Storm, Mitch Wilson and Doreen Hertel present.

The following expenses were presented:

City General NWPS (\$229.56), SD Unemployment Ins. (\$15.46), US Treasury (\$1,390.11), Darin McGaugh (\$375.52) & Groton Independent (\$18.81).

Sewer NWPS (\$210.13), NRWA - loan repayment (\$210.13), Sewer project payments; IMEG (\$10,038.95), NCCOG (\$5,000) & B&B contracting (\$261,865.10).

Water DENR (\$3912.12) & Water Maintenance District (\$408.16). Shane Storm made motion to pay all bills; second by Mitch Wilson.

The following deposits were presented:

City General State of SD (\$2,033.24) & Interest (\$5.07).

Sewer Loan for Sewer project from State of SD (\$305,691.33) Resident Payments- (\$2,550.00).

Water Resident Payments - (\$3,830.71).

NEW BUSINESS:  
There was a complaint from a concerned citizen of nudity and indecent exposure, which was seen while they were driving in town. They were inquiring as what the board could do. It was recommended that a police report to be made.

The board members are still being notified about a citizen who is letting their dogs of running loose and the dogs biting a resident. Recommendation is to file a police report.

In November, the liquor license will be up for renewal.

Doreen Hertel, Finance Officer

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$18.81. 20487

## Claremont Town Oct. 12, 2021

### Meeting Minutes

The board of trustees met on 10-12-2021 at 7pm in city hall. President Johnson called the meeting to order with trustees Spencer and Rasmussen present.

Others present were Matt Jenner Traylor and Lisa Thomas. Karen Schaifers and Doug Svatos also present. The minutes of the September minutes were approved on a motion by Jason and seconded by Frank.

On a motion by Frank and seconded by Jason the following warrants were allowed: General post office, stamps, 58.00; IRS, 3rd quarter fed report, 321.19; Reemployment assistance Dir, unemployment Ins of SD; James Valley telephone, telecommunications, 91.04; NWE, lights/city hall, 420.14; GDI, publishing, 14.40; SD PAA, insurance, 2157.56; NAPA, auto parts, parts, 34.04; DAcotah bank, Loan payment/city hall, 573.55; Charla Rye, wage, 350.00; Shane Johnson, gas for mower, 95.00; Missi Smith, mowing 7hrs, 71.12; WSSW: R & R Contracting, grant/sewer, 200,285.36; NWE, water, 57.31; NWE, sewer, 57.91; SD public Health lab, water perciase, 1281.10; Ecolab, pest elimination, 171.38; Rural

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$13.81. 20489

loan, 576.00; A letter concerning cleanup of premises is being sent to resident concerning his lot and junk around his home. Motion made by Frank and seconded by Jason. Motion carries. Renewal license for Full Pen was oked on a motion Jason and seconded by Frank. Motion carried. On a motion by Jason and seconded by Frank to approve the pay, estimate #8 on sewer was approved Doug Svatos was allowed time to discuss his concerns involving 6th St (water ruining the road if water sits in ditches that are being filled in with dirt.) Another concern was floating in town with a large downfall of rain. Svatos left the meeting! Karen Schaifers of Helings and Asso. was there to address issues brought to the board attention such as adding drain tiles and others including water draining projects in the future. With no further business before the board a motion to adjourn was made by Jason and seconded Frank. Motion carried.

CRye F.O.  
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$20.86. 20488

## Claremont Town Sept. 14, 2021

### Meeting Minutes

9-14-2021

The Board of trustees for the town of Claremont met on 9-16-2021 at 7:00 pm at city hall. President Johnson called the meeting to order with trustees Spencer and Rasmussen. Present. On a motion Rasmussen and seconded by Spencer its minutes of the previous meeting were approved. On a motion by Spencer and seconded by Rasmussen the following warrants were allowed: General: post office, postage, 55.00; Missi Smith, mowing /55 hrs, 157.46; James Valley, telecommunications, 88.98; Langford Lbr/ Doug Schantz, window in door, 190.88; Dacotah Bank, city hall loan, 573.33; Johnson Rock and Gravel, 24.92 gravel, 286.58; Charla Rye, in supplies, 103.97; GDI, publications, 30.27; Charla Rye, wage, 350.00; Holland Atualo, air blower, 28.99; NWE lights, 393.22; NWE BDM, water purchased, 1699.20; SD public health lab, water sample, 15.00; Helms and asso, grant/ sewer project 19,431.00; B&B Contracting, grant/sewer project 187,272.05; NWE, sewer, 50.56; NWE, sewer, 63.72; Rural Development, water loan 576.00; On a motion by Spencer and seconded by Rasmussen the 7th pay estimate was approved. With no other business before the board a motion was made by Spencer to adjourn and seconded by Rasmussen. Motion carried!

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$13.81. 20489

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The GDILIVE.COM crew of Jeslyn Kosel, Paper Paul and Mike Nehls as taken by Bruce Babcock.

## Wagner ends Groton Area's football season

Groton Area had four attempts in the closing minute to score within the 15 yard line, but was unable to make the play as Wagner hung on to win the first round football playoff game, 28-21. The game was played Thursday in Groton.

Both teams scored on their first possession with Groton Area taking a 7-6 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Wagner scored twice in the second quarter and Groton Area scored with no time left to make it 21-14 at halftime with Wagner holding the lead. Neither team scored in the third quarter. Wagner would score in the fourth quarter with 6:58 left. Groton Area would score with 2:03 left and then held Wagner on four plays to take over with a little over a minute left in the game. Andrew Marzahn had a big play to get the ball down to the 15 yard line. Groton Area tried to hit paydirt with the final attempt from the seven yard line with no time left on the clock.

Wagner had 222 yards passings compared to 154 for Groton Area. The Tigers had 128 yards rushing while the Red Raiders had 57 yards rushing. Both teams had 14 first downs and both teams lost a fumble and Groton Area had three interceptions while Wagner had one. Groton Area had seven penalties for 61 yards while Wagner had nine for 90 yards.

Rushing leaders were Kaen Kurtz with 97 yards and Favian Sanchez for 34 yards. Receivers with Andrew Marzahan with 49 yards on two catches, Jackson Cogley had 46 yards on four catches, Ethan Gengerke had one for 20 yards, Sanchez had tree for 18 yards, Jordan Bjerke had two for 18 yards and Pierce Kettering had two for 13 yards.

Sanchez scored on a 16 yard run, Ethan Gengerke scored on a 20 yard pass from Kaden Kurtz, and Kurtz scored on a 20 yard ru. Jackson Cogley kicked all three PATs.

Kurtz had nine tackles while Evin Nehls had eight, Gengerke seven, Logan Ringgenberg seven, Bjerke seven, Kettering seven, and Sanchez had seven tackles, one interception and one fumble recovery.

According to statistician Tom Woods, this is the third time the two teams have met in the playoffs and the first time that Wagner has won.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsoerd by Lori's Pharmacy, Mike-N-Jo's Body-N-Glass, BK Custom T's & More, Groton Legion, John Sieh Agency, PMS, Dacotah Bank, Blocker Construction, Weismantel Insurance, Thunder Seed - John Wheeling, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Allied Climate Professionals with Kevin Nehls, Bierman Farm Services, Milbrandt Enterprises, Locke Electric, Doug Abeln Seed, Greg Johnson Construction, TD Sponsor Bahr Spray Foam. Mike Nehls was a guest commentator with Jelsyn Kosel running the camera.

## Tigers win regular season finale over Sisseton

Groton Area finished its regular season Friday in Sisseton with a 60-6 win over the Redmen.

Groton Area had 17 first downs while Sisseton had four.

In rushing, Groton Area carried the ball 28 times for 235 yards. Kaden Kurtz 3-82, Andrew Marzahn 3-35, Favian Sanchez 2-17, Pierce Kettering 4-20, Teylor Diegel 4-52, Christian Ehresmann 4-17, Jacob Lewandowski 8-16, Korbin Kucker 1-(-4). Sisseton had 16 carries for a minus one yard.

In passing, Kaden Kurtz completed seven of 10 passes for 127 yards and Jacob Lewandowski completed two of three passes for 20 yards. Sisseton's Ethan DeSpiegler completed five of 22 passes for 84 yards.

Receivers for Groton Area were Jordan Bjerke 2-43, Ethan Gengerke 2-30, Jackson Cogley 1-30, Andrew Marzahn 1-17, Teylor Diegel 1-15, Pierce Kettering 1-1, Favian Sanchez 1-11. Sisseton's Parker Hanson had five catches for 59 yards.

Groton Area lost one fumble. Sisseton recovered both of their fumbles. Groton Area was penalized two times for 30 yards while Sisseton was eight times for 52 yards.

Defensive leaders for Groton Area were Logan Ringgenberg, Evan Nehls and Pierce Kettering with four tackles each while Kettering and

Holden Sippel each had an interception.

Groton Area is now 7-1 on the season and Sisseton is 0-8.

First Quarter:

10:17: Kaden Kurt 58 yard run. PAT: Jackson Cogley kick  
7:17: Jackson Cogley 30 yard pass from Kaden Kurtz. PAT: Cogley kick)

6:50: Kaden Kurtz 12 yard run. PAT: kick no good.

3:54: Kurtz 25 yard pass to Ethan Gengerke. PAT: Kurtz to Gengerke.

2:42: Andrew Marzahn 22 yard run. PAT kick no good.

Second Quarter

9:40: Taylor Diegel 3 yard run. PAT run no good.

4:41: Favian Sanchez 5 yard run. PAT: Cogley kick.

Third Quarter:

Sisseton: Parker Hanson 45 yard pass from Ethan DeSpiegler. PAT run no good.

3:28: Kurtz to Jordan Bjerke, 25 yards. PAT: Cogley kick.

Fourth Quarter

2:04: Teylor Diegel 32 yard run. Game over.

## Conde National League

Oct. 11 Team

**Standings:** Mets 15, Pirates 12, Tigers 11, Giants 10, Braves 7, Cubs 5

**Men's High Games:** Ryan Bethke 185, Tim Olson 155, John Lowery 145

**Men's High Series:** Ryan Bethke 466, Tim Olson 419, Chad Furney 414

**Women's High Games:** Nancy Radke 201, 198, 172; Joyce Walter 165; Vickie Kramp 158

**Women's High Series:** Nancy Radke 571, Joyce Walter 405, Vickie Kramp 399

Oct. 18 Team

**Standings:** Mets 16, Tigers 14, Pirates 13, Giants 10, Braves 10, Cubs 9

**Men's High Games:** Ryan Bethke 198, 190, 178; Chad Furney 166; Austin Schulke 163.

**Men's High Series:** Ryan Bethke 566, Austin Schulke 456, Dalton Locke 438.

**Women's High Games:** Joyce Walter 160, 157; Nancy Radke 160, 156; Vickie Kramp 157, 157, 158.

**Women's High Series:** Vickie Kramp 472, Joyce Walter 458, Nancy Radke 426.

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Words with the long "i" sound:  
wild like kinds  
cider pie pioneer  
words with the letter "y" ...by and my

1. True  
2. False - Planting apple saplings was his business and he planned it.  
3. True  
4. True  
5. True that some people thought he may have done that.  
6. False - apples, not pumpkins  
7. True  
8. True

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# Rising prices for meat and other groceries placing financial burden on South Dakota families

**Bart Pfankuch**  
South Dakota News Watch

Rising food prices have added another financial burden on South Dakota families already facing increased costs for essential goods and services during the pandemic and amid a recent spike in inflation.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the average price of food bought for home consumption has risen at double the typical rate of inflation, especially among meat products that form the basis of many family meals in South Dakota.

Beef and veal prices were almost 10% higher in 2021 compared with 2020, while pork prices at the retail level jumped by 6.3% and poultry rose by 5.6% during that time period. Meat prices overall jumped almost 16% from 2019 to 2021, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and experts are predicting meat prices will increase as much as 6% more by the end of 2021.

The increase in food prices comes as many other essential products are increasing in price in South Dakota and across the country, including gasoline, home heating fuels, vehicles and housing.

When food prices rise, it puts a disproportionate financial burden on lower-income families, who must buy food to feed their families regardless of gross family income. Due to transportation and other factors, food costs are typically higher in rural communities, which make up the majority of South Dakota's population.

By one measure, South Dakotans pay less for at-home food than all other Great Plains states, and South Dakota is ranked 46th lowest in the nation, with the average per-person food cost at \$286.23 a month in Sioux Falls. However, South Dakota is also among the lowest in the nation in median gross family income, and the state is one of 17 states that charge sales taxes on food. Consumers pay 4.5% in state sales tax and can also be charged local sales tax on food in South Dakota.

The group Feeding America predicted that one in six children in South Dakota will face food insecurity in 2021, an increase over the prior year. In August 2021, about 34,000 households in South Dakota qualified for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as food stamps. Those households are home to about 35,000 children under 18, according to state data.

The rise in food prices is also affecting senior citizens who live on fixed incomes. Many elderly South Dakotans do not have much budgetary wiggle room and often spend a significant portion their overall income on essentials, including food.

Kathy Ryther, 65, a retiree from Pierre who lives on a fixed income, said she is shocked by the jump in grocery prices in South Dakota this year. Ryther said she has adapted by buying less food in general and by skimping on some meals.

"It's just so ungodly high right now," Ryther said after shopping at Lynn's Dakotamart in Pierre on a recent day. "I don't live in New York, do I?"

Ryther said she has cut back on buying ground beef and pork steaks that are usually a staple of her diet.

Her friend, 62-year-old Deb Buringa of Pierre, said she has noticed higher prices on almost all grocery items since the pandemic hit.

"Canned goods, cereal, I've seen it all going up," said Buringa, a retiree who lives mostly on Social Security. "You can't afford a roast anymore; you have to almost butcher it yourself."

The rising food prices in South Dakota are the result of a combination of broader economic conditions, largely driven by the pandemic, said Nathan Sanderson, executive director of the South Dakota Retailers Association, who also served as a financial adviser on agriculture and other issues for former Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

"It's kind of complicated how we got here, but you don't have to be a rocket scientist and do anything other than pay attention to see that prices are up," Sanderson said.



**Jennifer Stensaas**

As with many other businesses, breakdowns in the supply chain anchored by the shipping and trucking industries have made it harder and more expensive to get foods and other goods shipped to states like South Dakota, Sanderson said.

The food-distribution and grocery sales industries are also facing the same workforce shortage that is holding many industries back, Sanderson said. An overall level of inflation in America, which could reach 5% this year, more than double the usual rate, has also added to costs of food growers, distributors and



**Meat prices, particularly beef, have risen sharply in South Dakota and across the country this year. This certified Angus ribeye steak was offered at \$19.99 a pound at a regional grocery chain in eastern South Dakota.** Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

sellers, he said.

But the food industry is facing some unique challenges that are leading to higher prices, Sanderson said. Before the pandemic, food stocks around the world were high and products were moving efficiently. But the global slowdown in production during the pandemic has led to a disruption in supply and demand, where demand for food is higher than supplies, which ultimately pushes up prices, he said.

"People still need to eat, and demand for food hasn't decreased, it's actually increased during the pandemic as people are making more food at home," Sanderson said. "The demand has increased at a time the production has slowed down."

Sanderson, whose group represents numerous grocers across the state, said it is important for consumers to know that just because they are paying more, it doesn't mean that grocery stores or other businesses are raking in profits.

"At a high level, when consumers are paying more, retail businesses are paying more, too," he said. "Retail sellers aren't getting rich by fleecing consumers, because retailers are paying more, and in fact, a lot of businesses like restaurants are making less than they did before the pandemic."

According to the USDA, food spending rises in families as income rises, but at a slower rate than the rise in income. For families with the lowest 20% of gross incomes in the United States, spending on food averages \$4,400 a year, making up 36% of their income.

For comparison, families in the second-lowest 20% of average incomes spent \$5,500 on food in 2019, which consumed only 18% of their income. Meanwhile, families in the top 20% of average incomes

**Continues on next page**

## SOUTH DAKOTA FOOD PRICES LOWEST IN GREAT PLAINS

This chart shows the per-person monthly cost of food purchased to be eaten at home in the largest city in each state listed (Sioux Falls in South Dakota.) Among the 50 states and District of Columbia, South Dakota ranked 46th lowest in 2020. Notably, South Dakota ranks 47th lowest in terms of median wage by state.

State	Rank	Per-person monthly food costs
Hawaii	1st	\$556.76
Minnesota	14th	\$395.39
Iowa	22nd	\$347.05
Wyoming	25th	\$345.62
Nebraska	31st	\$336.90
North Dakota	35th	\$326.66
Montana	37th	\$323.91
South Dakota	46th	\$286.23
New Hampshire	51st	\$183.00

Source: USDA data compiled by Numbeo.com



**Grocery shoppers Deb Buringa, at left, and Kathy Ryther of Pierre have noticed a recent sharp rise in food costs, especially for meat. While living on fixed incomes, they both have had to make hard choices about what and what not to buy.** Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

in the U.S. spent \$14,000 on food in 2019, making up only 8% of their income.

Jennifer Stensaas, spokeswoman for Feeding South Dakota, said the group that provides free food to needy families closed its food pantries during the pandemic. The group has moved to providing only mobile food pickup sites across the state but increased the frequency of visits allowed by clients.

Stensaas said she has personally witnessed the rise in food prices in South Dakota, and is aware that increasing prices will force some individuals and families to make increasingly difficult choices about how to spend their money.

"You can see that food prices are going up as we start to see everything around us increase, and you think about people having to make these impossible choices of whether to pay their rent or their gas or utility bills or buy food for their families," Stensaas said.

"We've got families choosing, do they buy their eggs or do they pay their utility bills, do they buy breakfast foods or do they pay their day-care bill? They can't do everything, and that's where we come in and try to help with hunger in our state."

Increasing food prices, particularly among staples such as meat, dairy products and cereals, can also lead to purchasing of cheaper, more highly processed foods that are not as healthful as more expensive whole foods, Stensaas said. Feeding South Dakota, she said, works hard to purchase or accept donated foods that are as nutritious as possible.

"If you're at the grocery store and you're in financial crisis mode today, and you can't even think about tomorrow, you're probably making choices that aren't as nutritionally sound," she said. "Crisis mode can do things to your strategic thinking that don't always lead to healthy choices for your family."

Ken Newling, 70, a retired trucker and chaplain who lives in Pierre, is on a fixed income and has made recent visits to Feeding South Dakota mobile food banks to supplement what he can afford to buy at the grocery store.

"If it wasn't for them, I'd really be hurting right now," Newling said before a recent grocery-shopping trip in Pierre.

Newling said rising prices for meat have led him to purchase more frozen meals, canned meats and processed foods that are generally higher in sodium and fat.

"I've seen the beef really going up, which hurts because I'm a meat-and-potatoes man," Newling said. "That's how I grew up."

Dave Johnson, interim general manager of the Lynn's Dakotamart chain of grocery stores, said food sellers don't have many options when it comes to pricing, other than offering "loss-leader" deals or weekly specials to attract customers to their stores. Lynn's is a Rapid City-based regional chain with 10 full-service grocery stores ranging from Belle Fourche in the west to Fort Thompson in the east.

Johnson called the modern grocery industry a "penny business" that generally makes only a small profit on each item, and relies instead on high volume of sales in order to remain profitable.

In general, he said, grocery stores raise prices as little as possible and only to cover higher costs for products purchased at the wholesale level or if other factors such as energy or personnel costs rise, Johnson said.

"It's mostly out of our control [on pricing]; we just have to do what our distributors and manufacturers require us to do," he said. "It's money in, money out, and you've got to pay the bills."

Johnson said his company is aware that retail food prices have risen, but noted that a recent rise in inflation in the U.S. has also led to increases in the costs of gasoline and other consumer goods.

"It's a competitive business and we're all in the same boat," he said. "We have the same problems that everybody else does."



**Retired truck driver and chaplain Ken Newling stands in the parking lot of Lynn's Dakotamart in Pierre, where Newling bought just enough groceries to get by for a couple days. Newling said that since food prices have gone up, he's started getting help from Feeding South Dakota.**

Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

## Upcoming Events

### Saturday, Oct. 23

State Cross Country at Yankton Trail Park, Sioux Falls  
NSU Invitational Oral Interp  
ACT Testing at GHS, 8 a.m. to noon

### Monday, Oct. 25

Oral Interp at Brookings Invitational  
Volleyball hosts Deuel (C at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m. followed by varsity)

### Tuesday, Oct. 26

ASVAB Testing at GHS, 8:30 a.m. to Noon  
Volleyball at Redfield (JV at 6 p.m. followed by Varsity)

### Thursday, Oct. 28

All State Chorus & Orchestra at Rapid City Civic Center

### Friday, Oct. 29

All State Chorus & Orchestra at Rapid City Civic Center  
Downtown Trick or Treat, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
Methodist Church Trunk or Treat, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### Saturday, Oct. 30

All State Chorus & Orchestra at Rapid City Civic Center  
Pumpkinstakes Oral Interp at Watertown

### Tuesday, Nov. 2

Brookings Novice Debate  
Volleyball Region 1A Tourney  
NCRC Test at GHS, 8:30 a.m. to noon

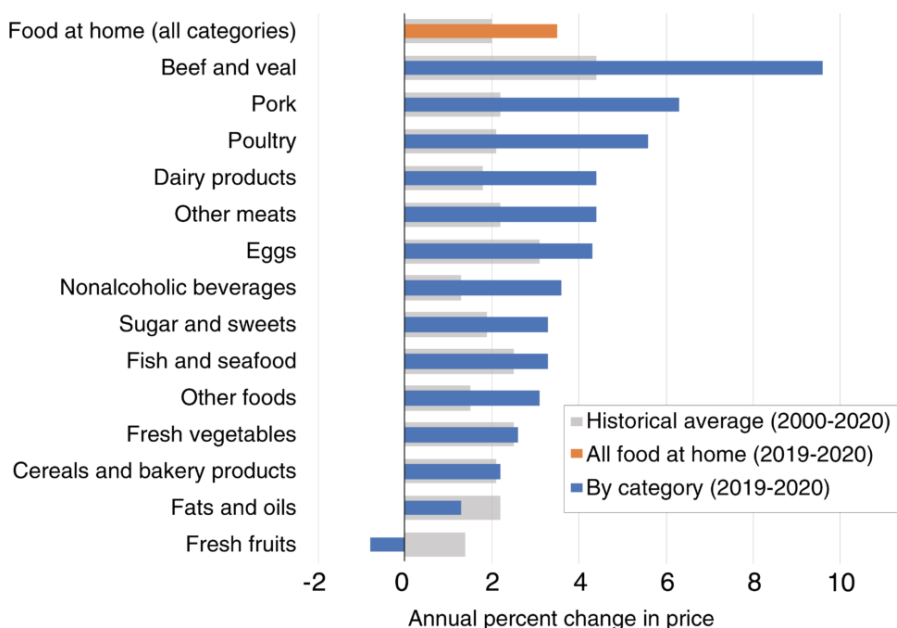
### Thursday, Nov. 4

Aberdeen Novice Online Debate  
Volleyball Region 1A Tourney  
Bowdle LDE

### Friday-Saturday, Nov. 5-6

Golden Eagle Cup Debate & Oral Interp at Aberdeen Central

### Price changes for CPI food-at-home categories, 2019-2020



Note: CPI = Consumer Price Index.  
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index data.

## Classifieds and Card of Thanks

The following rates are for Classifieds published in both the Groton Daily Independent and the Groton Independent. Cut rate in half if you just want it in the GDI or just the weekly.

1 Week: \$9 for first 30 words, 20¢/word thereafter  
2 Wks: \$17 for first 30 words, 38¢/word thereafter  
3 Wks: \$24 for first 30 words, 54¢/word thereafter  
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## 90th BIRTHDAY

**Marcene Bruckner will mark her 90th birthday on October 29, 2021. Cards/Greetings may be sent to her at 40825 152nd St., Conde, SD 57434."**

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## EMPLOYMENT

**CITY FINANCE OFFICER:** City of McLaughlin, SD is accepting applications for City Finance Officer. Responsibilities are set forth in SDCL Chapter 9-14. Primary job is chief accounting and financial officer providing accounting advice and counsel to the Mayor, Department Heads and City Council. Business Management, or closely related major with coursework and/or experience in governmental accounting preferred. Minimum of one year experience required with preference given for governmental accounting. Must be eligible for bonding. Excellent benefits package. Salary DOQ. Open until filled. Submit a letter of interest, detailed resume and application to: City of McLaughlin, Attention: Finance Office PO Box 169 McLaughlin, SD 57642.

**MOODY COUNTY IS SEEKING** an experienced person for the position of Highway Superintendent. Contact HR Director Tawny Heinemann @ 605-573-4353 or tawnyh@moodycounty.net for more info.

**ONIDA ELECTRIC IN ONIDA, SD** is looking for an Electrician and HVAC tech to add to their team. Wage DOE. Paid health insurance. Call 605.258.2555 for more info.

## MISCELLANEOUS

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## Brown County Oct. 12, 2021

### Meeting Minutes

OCTOBER 12, 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, Wiese and Kippley. Commissioner Fjeldheim led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**SUMMIT CARBON SOLUTIONS BRIEFING:** Dan Lederman gave a presentation on Summit Carbon Solutions pipeline plans. Summit Carbon Solutions plans to develop a new carbon capture and storage project in Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska. Midwest Carbon Express will capture carbon dioxide emissions from bio-refineries including seven plants in South Dakota and transport it through a pipeline to North Dakota for permanent underground storage. Informational only. No action taken.

**FREE SPEECH WEEK PROCLAMATION:** Moved by Kippley, seconded by Sutton to Proclaim Free Speech Week. Free Speech Week Proclamation October 18-24, 2021 WHEREAS, our Founding Fathers created and adopted the United States Constitution in 1787, thereby setting forth the supreme law of the United States of America; and WHEREAS, the first ten amendments to the Constitution, written by James Madison to guarantee individual freedoms, were ratified in 1791 and became known collectively as the Bill of Rights; and WHEREAS, the First Amendment states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances"; and WHEREAS, freedom of speech is a right guaranteed to all Americans; and WHEREAS, Free Speech Week, a national, annual, non-partisan, commemorative event, takes place during the third full week of October to raise awareness of the importance of free speech and a free press in the United States; and WHEREAS, Free Speech Week is designed to be an inclusive celebration for all Americans, and as such, a wide variety of organizations, schools and individuals across the country will conduct activities and events devoted to free speech topics to mark the week; and WHEREAS, Free Speech Week is also an opportunity to share information with the public and the media as a way of furthering the vision of our Founding Fathers; NOW, THEREFORE, We, the undersigned do hereby proclaim October 18-24, 2021, to be Free Speech Week, and encourage all students, faculty, staff and citizens of the City of Aberdeen and Brown County, South Dakota to participate in the celebration of this fundamental freedom. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**PACKAGE OFF-SALE LIQUOR RENEWAL FEES:** Discussion on package-off sale renewal fees. Current fee is \$300. No change recommended. No action taken.

**APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY:** Moved by Wiese, seconded by Sutton to approve application from Dakota Valley Electric Cooperation for occupancy of Brown County Highway in section 1, township 128N, range 61W, Brown County, South Dakota for irrigation and drain tile. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY:** Moved by Feickert, seconded by Sutton to approve application from Northern Electric Cooperative for occupancy of Brown County Highway Number 16, in section 8, township 121N, Range 62W, Brown County, South Dakota. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**SPEED ZONE AMENDMENT:** Commission Wiese offered the following resolution: RESOLUTION #51-21 WHEREAS, Chapter 6.03 Speed Zones of the Second Revision of Brown County Ordinances authorizes the Brown County Commission to change the speed limit or the extent of any such limited speed zones, at any time they may deem necessary, and WHEREAS,

all Speed Zones throughout the County were established by Resolution #46-05, as amended by Resolution #66-06, Resolution #39-08, Resolution #72-08, Resolution #101-08, Resolution #94-13, Resolution #69-14, Resolution #15-16, Resolution #26-17, Resolution #31-18, and WHEREAS, the Brown County Commission has received the recommendation from the Highway Superintendent to amend the speed zone on County Road 15, and NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Resolution #46-05, as amended by Resolution #66-06, #39-08, #72-08, #101-08, and #94-13, #69-14, #15-16 #26-17, and #30-18, be amended as follows: AMEND: County Road #15 beginning at the intersection of County Road #15 and Roosevelt St between the SW1/4 of Section 5 and the South1/4 corner of Section 5, Township 123N, Range 63W of the 5th PM, at 35 MPH. Seconded by Commissioner Sutton. Roll call vote: Commissioners Feickert-aye, Sutton-aye, Wiese-aye, Fjeldheim-aye, Kippley-nay. Resolution adopted.

**MINUTES AMENDMENT:** Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to amend the minutes from September 28th, 2021 to correct the bid award. Original award was reported as \$171,568 with the corrected bid award being \$173,468. Minutes are updated to reflect correct bid award. Roll call vote: Commissioners Feickert-aye, Sutton-aye, Wiese-aye, Fjeldheim-aye, Kippley-nay. Motion carried.

**MINUTES:** Moved by Sutton, seconded by Kippley to approve the general meeting minutes of October 5, 2021. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS/PAYROLL:** Moved by Sutton, seconded by Kippley to approve the following claims and Payroll:

Payroll: Commission \$4,321.95; Auditor \$8,946.97; Treasurer \$13,731.76; SA \$22,954.06; SWAVA \$1,575.00; Maintenance \$7,866.03; Assessor \$14,086.91; Register of Deeds \$9,624.94; VSO \$4,114.82; GIS \$2,411.38; IT \$7,354.23; HR \$4,071.33; Sheriff \$40,546.17; Jail \$51,862.00; Coroner \$150.00; Court Security \$6,038.57; JDC \$21,595.28; Welfare \$2,982.62; Museum \$9,325.28; Parks/Fairgrounds \$4,363.22; Fair Board \$6,492.77; 4-H \$678.97; Weed \$4,060.94; Planning & Zoning \$5,332.71; Highway \$41,666.80; Dispatch \$31,815.22; Emergency \$4,160.96; Teen Court \$699.55; JDAl \$1,846.15; 24/7 Sobriety \$1,190.55; Landfill \$15,813.01; MATCHING BENEFITS: FICA \$20,968.84; Medicare \$4,903.94; Discovery HAS \$966.72; Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield \$120,580.83; Delta Dental \$7,273.35; Dearborn Life Insurance \$1,080.35; SDRS Retirement \$45,680.23. Claims: Professional Fees: A TO Z WORLD LANGUAGES \$696.85; DEAN SCHAEFER COURT REPORTING \$192.00; FAULKTON AREA MEDICAL CENTER \$154.80; GELLHAUS & GELLHAUS, PC \$80.00; KENNEDY PIER LOFTUS, LLP \$188.10; LEXISNEXIS RISK DATA MGMT INC. \$150.00; MICHELLE GAIKOWSKI \$68.00; MICROFILM IMAGING SYSTEMS, INC. \$544.00; MUTH ELECTRIC INC \$26,812.64; ROMEO ENTERTAINMENT GROUP INC \$944.88; SANFORD HEALTH OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE ABERDEEN \$144.00; SARA ZAHN \$612.00; SD ASSOC OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS \$2,000.00; SD DEPT OF REVENUE & REGULATIONS \$711.90; SD RETIREMENT SYSTEM \$4,428.13; TYLER TECHNOLOGIES INC \$7,559.50 Publishing: DAKOTA BROADCASTING, LLC \$1,400.00 Repairs & Maintenance: ABERDEEN CLEAN-ALL, LLC \$198.75; ARTZ EQUIPMENT \$94.10; CRAWFORD M S & F INC \$1,084.00; CRAWFORD TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT \$314.62; DIESEL MACHINERY \$15,326.00; ECOLAB PEST ELIMINATION \$150.00; FULCRUM BIOMETRICS \$749.00; GRAHAM TIRE INC \$66.00; HOUSE OF GLASS \$203.82; JENSEN ROCK & SAND INC \$2,267.20; KIRK KARLEN \$96.89; LEIDHOLT ELECTRIC LLC \$4,544.55; RUNNINGS \$97.91; SCOTT SUEDEMEIER \$1,366.80; TRANSOURCE TRUCK & EQUIPMENT, INC. \$7,416.86; WALLACE LEE ALBRECHT \$1,009.80; WOODMAN REFRIGERATION, INC \$916.73 Supplies: AGTEGRA COOPERATIVE \$46,918.46; APH STORES, INC \$104.38; Arts South Dakota \$350.00; ARTZ EQUIPMENT \$1,231.65; CARTNEY BEARING \$572.65; CENTURY BUSINESS PRODUCTS \$132.73; COLE PAPERS \$1,112.03; COMMTECH INC. \$593.30; CRAWFORD M

S & F INC \$397.65; CRAWFORD TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT \$519.85; DAKOTA MAILING & SHIPPING EQUIPMENT INC \$227.17; DAKOTA OIL \$293.53; DIESEL MACHINERY \$1,654.09; EARTHGRAINS BAKING CO. INC. \$2,861.41; EAST SIDE JERSEY DAIRY, INC \$877.23; FARNAMS GENUINE PARTS INC \$229.95; FASTENAL CO \$321.25; GRAHAM TIRE INC \$789.00; GREAT WESTERN TIRE INC \$3,349.65; HOH Water Technology Inc. \$499.22; JENSEN ROCK & SAND INC \$115,393.36; KAREN SWANK \$60.00; KEN'S SUPERFAIR FOODS \$7.47; KRISTEN GONSOIR \$726.88; MENARDS \$251.23; PANTORIUM CLEANERS INC. \$84.00; PERFORMANCE OIL & LUBRICANTS \$427.05; PRECISION KIOSK TECHNOLOGIES \$2,700.00; ROMEO ENTERTAINMENT GROUP INC \$181.33; RUNNINGS \$93.33; SATELLITE TRACKING OF PEOPLE, LLC \$1,755.00; TASER INTERNATIONAL \$721.27; TRANSOURCE TRUCK & EQUIPMENT, INC. \$5,872.91; ULINE \$600.00; US FOODS \$8,155.75; WEB WATER BOTTLING COMPANY \$22.50 Travel & Conference: DOUG FJELDHEIM \$608.86; DUANE SUTTON \$82.72; RACHEL KIPPLEY \$233.12; REGENCY MIDWEST VENTURES LIMITED PARTNERSHIP \$606.00; SDSU EXTENSION \$100.00 Utilities: CITY OF ABERDEEN \$1,693.56; MIDWEST ALARM \$281.40; NORTHWESTERN ENERGY & COMMUNICATIONS \$12,844.88; TOWN OF FREDERICK \$76.00; WEB WATER DEVELOPMENT ASSOC. INC. \$82.51 Rentals: ARAMARK UNIFORM & CAREER APPAREL GROUP, INC \$330.81 Others: SD DEPT OF REVENUE & REGULATIONS \$539,811.10; SD DEPT OF ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES \$4,755.20; PERFORMANCE CRANE & HEAVY HAUL \$3,800.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**HR REPORT:** Moved by Kippley, seconded by Sutton to approve the HR Report as follows: Acknowledge resignation of Elizabeth Collins, Brown County Dispatch, full-time; effective October 4, 2021 and approve request to fill vacancy. Acknowledge resignation of Jodi Brown, Brown County State's Attorney, part-time; effective November 31, 2021 and approve request to fill vacancy. Approve hiring of Daniel Snyder as Deputy Coroner at \$150 per call effective July 20, 2021. Approve transfer of Cortney Paul from Brown County Deputy Sheriff to Brown County Victim Specialist for State's Attorney; starting salary at \$52,000; effective October 18, 2021. Approve the following personal miles driven to be taxed at \$0.56 per mile: June 2021 Kendell Titze 120 miles @ \$67.20, John Florey 120 miles @ \$67.20, Dirk Rogers 684 miles @ \$383.04, Mike Scott 210 miles @ \$117.60; July Kendell Titze 78 miles @ \$43.68, John Florey 114 miles @ \$63.84, Dirk Rogers 760 miles @ \$425.60, Mike Scott 180 miles @ \$100.80; August John Florey 132 miles @ \$73.92, Dirk Rogers 722 miles @ \$404.32, Mike Scott 210 miles @ \$117.60; September Kendell Titze 30 miles @ \$16.80, John Florey 126 miles @ \$70.56, Dirk Rogers 684 miles @ \$383.04, Mike Scott 140 miles @ \$78.40. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**LEASE:** Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the following lease agreement: Paul Wigg for lease of Club House October 16th, 2021 with approved alcohol use permission form. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT QUARTERLY GRANT:** Moved by Kippley, seconded by Wiese to authorize chair sign quarterly report for 4th Quarter on the State of South Dakota Department of Public Safety Office of Emergency Management Local Emergency Management Performance Grant. All member present voting aye. Motion carried.

**QUARTERLY INTERSET:** Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese approve 3rd quarter interest in the amount of \$2,759.52. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**SPECIAL EVENT ALCOHOL LICENSE:** Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the special event alcohol permit for Stacy Gossman DBA Nacho Business for event September 16, 2021 at the Brown County Clubhouse. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**SHERIFF'S REPORT- AUGUST 2021:** Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve August 2021 Sheriff's Report. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

**ADJOURNMENT:** Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:20 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor  
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

## Groton City Ord. 753 2022 Salaries

**ORDINANCE NO. 753**  
An Ordinance entitled "The 2022 Salary Ordinance" to amend Ordinance No. 739, being an ordinance regulating the salaries of the elective and appointive officers and employees of the City of Groton.

**BE IT ORDAINED BY** The City Council of the City of Groton that the 2022 salaries and time of payment are as follows for the elected and appointed officers and employees:

Mayor: \$625.00, Monthly  
Council Members: \$3,000.00, Yearly; \$125.00, Per special City Council Meeting

Board of Equalization: \$200.00, Yearly  
Planning & Zoning Commission: \$35.00, Per meeting  
Planning & Zoning Commission: \$70.00, Per special meeting  
Elected Officials: \$300.00, Per full day of additional authorized meetings

Elected Officials: \$100.00, Per half day of additional authorized meetings  
Finance Officer: \$25.18, Hourly

Deputy Finance Officer: \$24.39, Hourly  
Asst Finance Officer: \$20.60, Hourly

Public Works Coordinator, St & Water Supt.: \$31.53.....Hourly  
Wastewater Superintendent: \$28.04, Hourly  
Asst Street Superintendent: \$25.95, Hourly

Public works on call: \$200.00, Weekly  
Technology Specialist: \$27.41, Hourly

Electric Superintendent: \$50.00, Hourly  
Electric Lineman: \$26.97, Hourly

Electric Department on call: \$200.00, Weekly  
Police Chief: \$30.89, Hourly  
Police Officer & Assistant Chief: \$27.90, Hourly

Police Officer Level 1: \$26.91, Hourly  
Police Officer Level 2: \$26.00, Hourly

Full time permanent employee individual health insurance premium will be covered by the City of Groton, along with \$260 per month toward a dependent's insurance coverage provided by the City.

The city will contribute to a med flex account at a 2 to 1 city/employee match, with a maximum city contribution of \$400.

The city will contribute \$2 for every \$1 the employee contributes up to \$1000 to their health savings account under the HSA health insurance option only.

First Reading: 9/21/21  
Second Reading: 10/5/21  
Published: 10/20/21  
Effective: 1/1/22

/s/ Scott Hanlon, Mayor  
/s/ Hope Block, Finance Officer  
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

## Groton City Ord. 752 Security Lights

**ORDINANCE NO. 752**  
An Ordinance entitled "Security Lights Rates for Municipal Utility Customers"

Be it ordained by the City of Groton, South Dakota that Ordinance No. 8-1-4 Schedule L be amended to read as follows:

8-1-4 Rates  
Schedule L - Security Lights  
\$10/month per unmetered light

\$3/month per metered light  
\$20/month for 400-watt directional light

Disconnection or Reconnection Fee - \$50  
Passed First Reading: 9/21/21  
Passed Second Reading: 10/5/21

Published: 10/20/21  
Effective: 11/19/21  
Attest:

Scott Hanlon, Mayor  
Hope Block, Finance Officer  
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

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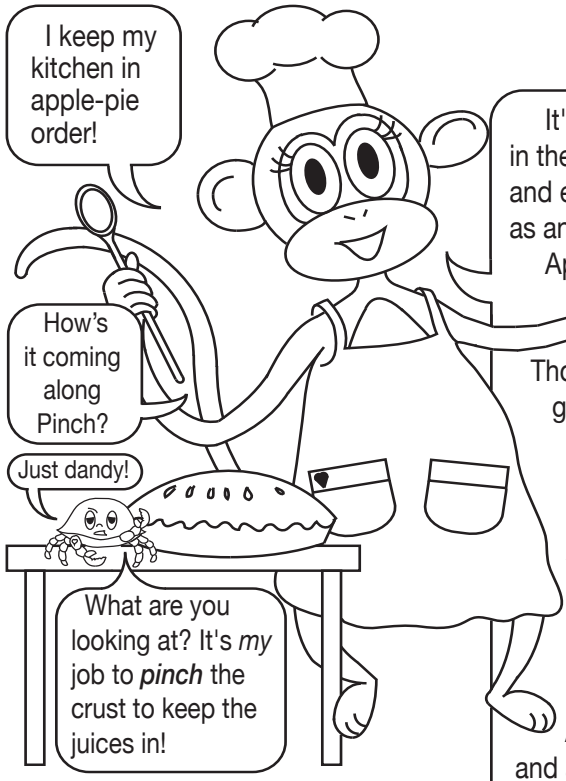
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## Fall Harvest!



It's time for the fall harvest! I love going to pick apples in the orchards. This very important fruit has been grown and eaten by as anyone Apples people for as long can remember. were brought

to America by the earliest European settlers.

Thousands of different kinds have been grown all over the world. Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, McIntosh, Jonathan and Rome Beauty are some of the favorites in North America.

Apples, including the wild and crab varieties, are used to make many other foods. Fresh apple cider (juice) with a homemade doughnut is a fun fall treat.

Do you like hot apple pie or applesauce?

Apples are used for decorations and crafts, and are painted in pictures. People use apples

in games. We use apples in our sayings, stories and folktales. One of our legends is about John Chapman or "Johnny Appleseed." He was an American pioneer who traveled and gave away and planted apple seeds. Hungry yet? See you in the orchard picking apples!

I like the long "i" sound in words. Can you find and circle 8 words in Chatter's talk above that have the long "i" sound in them? **Hint:** two words with the long "i" sound are spelled with a "y."

Can you find and circle these words in the puzzle?

- fall
- wild
- crab
- red
- Europeans
- apples
- orchard
- ladders
- basket
- thousands
- Delicious
- McIntosh
- yellow
- Jonathan
- Johnny Appleseed



Hey! Why isn't anyone picking *this* apple? It's really tasty!

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

cider  
vinegar  
games  
stories  
green

As people gather and store the harvest from the fields and orchards, so do the animals.

**Unscramble the letters below to see the name of the tree that has this kind of leaf.**

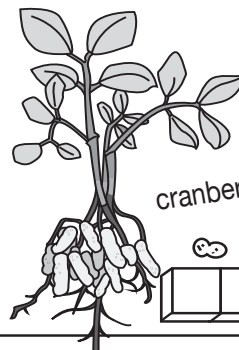
**Next, connect the dots** to see what kind of harvest the squirrels gather and store from this tree.



Scrambled letters: S, T, P, Q, R, U, V, W, A, M, L, X, Y, Z, K, J, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I

Word bank: k o a

## Favorite Harvest Time Foods



Some crops, like lettuce or radishes, can be harvested more than once during the year, but autumn is the main season for harvesting food to put away for the coldest months. **Can you fit these favorite fall harvest foods into the puzzle?**

Yummy!

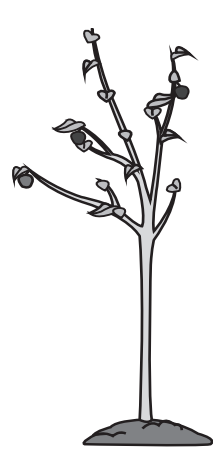
Peanuts are a huge fall crop. Do you know which state grows more peanuts than any other state? Georgia, of course!

Labels: cranberries, eggplant, cabbage, onions, celery, pears, carrots, apples, potatoes, cauliflower, pumpkins

## Johnny Appleseed -

Have you ever heard the legend of Johnny Appleseed? Try this pop quiz to see what you know about him! **Circle "T" for true or "F" for false.**

- Johnny Appleseed is the nickname for a real man named John Chapman. T F
- He wandered the land throwing apple seeds everywhere for fun. T F
- John set up orchards of apple saplings to help pioneers settle the land. T F



## The Stuff of Legends

- The apples he planted weren't for eating. They were bitter and used to make cider. T F
- Some people claim that Johnny Appleseed wore a tin pot on his head to cook his food in. T F
- Thanks to Johnny Appleseed's work, we have more types of pumpkins today to choose from like the Red Delicious and Golden Delicious. T F
- To honor John Chapman, some communities name their schools or libraries after him. T F
- The U.S. Post Office created a stamp to honor him (in 1966). T F

# EARTHTALK™



**Climate Pledge Arena in Seattle, the first net-zero-emissions arena of its size in the world, is home to the NHL's Kraken and WNBA's Storm.**

Dear EarthTalk: What is the "Climate Pledge" that Seattle's new hockey arena is named after all about? -- E. Howard, Washington, DC

When Seattle's new sports and concert arena opened its doors to the public in October 2021, many were left scratching heads as to what the heck the building's name was about. It turns out that hometown e-commerce juggernaut Amazon bought the naming rights and decided to use the opportunity to raise awareness for the Climate Pledge. The Climate Pledge calls on companies to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2040, a decade earlier than called for under the terms of the Paris climate accord.

Amazon co-founded the Climate Pledge with organizer Global Optimism in 2019, and immediately became the first signatory. Cut to the present and 200 other companies—including Procter & Gamble, Hewlett Packard, Visa and PepsiCo—have since signed on.

Seattle's Climate Pledge Arena is indeed an apt showpiece for what signatory companies hope to achieve.

The new building—home to the National Hockey League's expansion team, the Seattle Kraken, as well as Women's National Basketball League, The Seattle Storm—was designed by architect Jason McLennan.

As founder of the International Living Future Institute (ILFI), McLennan helped set the standard for how buildings in the carbon-constrained days ahead will likely operate. Indeed, ILFI's Living Building Challenge certifies "net-zero" buildings and others at the extreme end of the sustainability spectrum while advocating for the tightening of standards for new construction as to emissions reduction/elimination and energy efficiency across the U.S. and beyond.

At Climate Pledge Arena, rooftop solar panels account for most if not all energy needs. No fossil fuels are used within, making it the first net-zero arena of its size in the world. Ditching fossil fuels inside makes transportation to and from the arena the largest contributor to its overall carbon footprint. Amazon is stepping up and paying for carbon offsets through the non-profit Nature Conservancy, which purchases and expands agricultural and forest lands that serve as carbon sinks. Also, fans who purchase tickets through Climate Pledge Arena's app can download free public transit ride vouchers to get there and back.

Reusing rainwater is a big part of meeting Living Building Challenge goals, and Climate Pledge Arena was designed from the ground up to utilize a series of chutes and gutters to channel Seattle's prodigious rain water into cisterns that then feed the arena's ice making processes and all other on-site water needs.

Another aspect of the arena's green appeal is that 75 percent of the ingredients for food and drinks served come from sources within a 300-mile radius of the facility, significantly cutting down on "food miles" emissions. Single-use plastics are a no-no; vendors must stick to aluminum or biodegradable/compostable containers, straws, cutlery and to-go packaging. All paper products must contain at least 30 percent postconsumer content while cans, bottles and other non-compostables get recycled. Given there will be no "trash" created inside the arena, visitors will have to get used to seeing only composting and recycling bins for their waste.

Only time will tell whether these green features will become standard in other arenas and new buildings elsewhere moving forward. Environmental advocates among others are sure hoping so.

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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## Will America Protect Our Mothers?

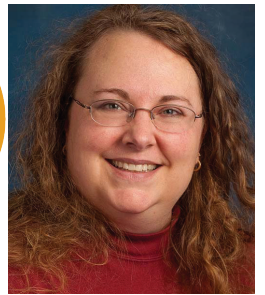
In medicine, we routinely ask people about their family health history. Knowing that your mother had diabetes, or that your grandfather battled alcoholism, helps us be alert for health conditions to which you may be predisposed. Sometimes, though, what is revealed by those histories isn't a medical problem, but a family tragedy.

Earlier in my career, my older patients commonly told me that their grandmother, or even their mother, died in childbirth. Today, it is all too easy to forget just how perilous it can be to be pregnant. In the early 1900s, nearly one mother died for every 100 live births. Even today, approximately 800 women around the world die from pregnancy related causes EVERY DAY, and a woman's lifetime risk of dying as a result of pregnancy hovers around one in 200. In some countries, that risk is around one in 20. In others, it is less than one in 10,000. Infants, and their older siblings, face a grim future without those mothers. Many infants don't survive to their first birthdays. Older siblings have an increased risk of death before age five.

Although most maternal deaths occur in the developing world, where access to trained birth attendants or clean birthing conditions is limited, the United States ranks disturbingly high among developed nations. In fact, our rates were higher in 2017 than in 2000. A woman's risk of death varies with her age, education, socioeconomic status, and most dramatically, race. Black women face a risk of pregnancy related death more than triple that of white women, and indigenous women face approximately twice the risk. Wealth, health, and education are not enough to close these gaps. Serena Williams and Beyonce have both spoken publicly about their own life-threatening pregnancy complications. More research is needed to understand and address these disparities, and maternal mortality rates in general.

Sometimes death is caused directly by a pregnancy: bleeding, eclampsia, embolisms of amniotic fluid into the mother's lungs, infections. Sometimes death results from the added stress of pregnancy combined with another disease. Weakened hearts, for example, may not meet the additional demands of pregnancy and delivery. Historically, influenza has killed disproportionate numbers of pregnant women. My own great grandmother was one of them. Similarly, a pregnant woman who contracts Covid is 20 times more likely to die than one who doesn't. Women who struggle with depression or substance abuse may fall victim to overdoses or suicides triggered by the stress of pregnancy and caring for a newborn. Domestic violence may start or escalate during pregnancy, and too many women die at the hands of current or former partners.

The good news is that nearly two thirds of maternal deaths are thought to be preventable. We simply need the societal will to make changes and save lives.



**Debra Johnston, MD**