

The

Groton Independent



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Elementary Winter Music Concert

The Groton Area Elementary students put on its winter music concert Wednesday afternoon in the GHS Gym. It was a pack house for the concert. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Area Kindergarten students are featured in this issue!



Dynamics Dance Team performs

The Groton Dynamics Dance Team performed at halftime of the varsity basketball game Tuesday night. Pictured are Alyssa Locke, Emilie Thurston, Riley Leicht, Marlee Tollefson, Julianna Kosel, Breslyn Jeschke, Ani Davidson, Tina Zoellner, Megan Flihs, Maddie Bjerke, Trista Keith, Paisley Mitchell, Trinity Smith, Cadance Feist. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Volleyball Awards

L-R: Alyssa Thaler, Elizabeth Flihs, Maddie Bjerke, Madeline Flihs, Megan Flihs, Sydney Leicht, Aspen Johnson, Anna Fjeldheim
Ace Award: Anna Fjeldheim; Most improved: Aspen Johnson; Rookie of the Year: Elizabeth Flihs; Defensive Player of the Year: Alyssa Thaler; Offensive Player of the Year: Madeline Flihs; MVP: Sydney Leicht; Spirit of the Tiger: Maddie Bjerke and Megan Flihs; NEC All Conference team: Madeline Flihs and Sydney Leicht. (Courtesy Photo)

Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

In the words of ESPN's Chris Berman, it was another Central Division collision as the Bears and Vikings met in Chicago at the historic Soldier Field on Monday Night Football.

It wasn't pretty, but the Vikings did what they had to do, getting back to .500 by taking advantage of an inept Bears team and coming away with a 17-9 victory.

The Bears' head coach Matt Nagy set the tone early by getting one of the Bears four unsportsmanlike conduct penalties of the game. It was as if he was looking to spend this Christmas away from Chicago, as rumors have him fired at the end of the season.

As for the Vikings, it was a night of milestones for the team. Kirk Cousins threw for only 87 yards, the lowest yardage total of his ten-year career.

Justin Jefferson had a quiet night, with four catches and a touchdown, but he passed Randy Moss for the most yards by a Viking wide receiver in his first two years. Jefferson is just 21 yards short of Odell Beckham's NFL record. It was also the first Viking win when Jefferson failed to get seven catches.

The Viking's defense had not stopped one team from scoring once they got to a goal-to-goal situation. Tonight they broke that streak and created a turnover in the second quarter.

Eric Kendricks got ejected for the first time in his career on a helmet-to-helmet hit on Justin Fields.

Defensive end DJ Wonnum had the best game of his career with three sacks and a

forced fumble. Wonnum has had big shoes to fill since taking over for Danielle Hunter in the middle of season but is showing he belongs as a starter.

The rookie wide receiver from the University of Iowa, Imir Smith-Marsette, catches the first touchdown of his career to put the Vikings up 17-3.

Playoff picture:

With just three games to go, the Vikings are the seventh seed in the NFC. That could be temporary if Washington defeats Philadelphia on Tuesday night. With a 7-7 record, they currently hold the tiebreaker on the New Orleans Saints and Philadelphia Eagles. If the season were to end today, the Vikings would travel to Dallas for the first round of the playoffs.

The Vikings have the toughest remaining schedule in the NFC with a home game against the 9-4 Los Angeles Rams and a road game against the #1 seed, Green Bay Packers. They finish at home against the Bears. For the Vikings to make the playoffs, they will need to earn the opportunity and not hope to get in through the back door.

Next up: Los Angeles Rams

The Vikings may benefit from all of the NFL Covid restrictions when they meet their next opponent is the Los Angeles Rams. The reason is the Rams had their game this weekend moved to Tuesday night.. That makes for a short week of preparation. Let's hope Matthew Stafford has memories of getting sacked ten times as a Detroit Lion when he returns as the Rams' new quarterback and has trouble finding the top receiver in the league this season in Cooper Kupp. The Vikings will need a packed US Bank Stadium to make some noise and get the Vikings to win number 8. Let's hope Santa Claus brings us just a few more wins in his sleigh this weekend.

Merry Christmas!!

Joe's goodbye

Editor's note: Tony is taking a a break for the holiday. Here's one of our favorites from 2013.

The sky was darkened by wings flying south, the sound a deafening rumbling, an announcement of winter. God's calendar. Like the fallen leaves, a warning that growing things must stop, hunker down or die. Wondrous, yet in the din, the message they bring is somber. Fly away if you can. Prepare, you must. Times are going to get hard.

Looking up at the sky, Joe knew he was going to die. Hell, we all know we're going to die, but the way it happened surprised everyone.

I met Joe once, some twenty years ago at my friend Steve's wedding in Michigan. It was inauspicious start to a marriage. Margo and a bridesmaid crashed into a big buck deer the night before wedding, and though there was a lot of broken glass and a totaled car, no severe injuries. Except for the deer.

Steve's older brother Joe dressed out the animal and the next day when the bride and groom made good their escape from the rice shower, there dangling from the rear view mirror, taxidermist-clean, were the buck's family jewels, decorated with a curled violet ribbon. All of us guys in tuxedos laughed, but most the women were really mad. This was not the kind of wedding one reads about in Bride Magazine. That was Joe.

My cell phone rang a few weeks ago when I was under yet another oppressive deadline. It was Steve. I knew I didn't have the 30 minutes the bull session might take so I didn't pick up, knowing that he would understand. The next day, still under deadline, I missed another one of his calls. The following day, I picked up.

Joe was dead. The words hung like a shroud in the air. He had collapsed suddenly doing what he loved—hunting under a crisp autumn sky. They found him unconscious in a field. A blood vessel in his brain had burst. The irony was he was already dying of cancer. Everyone knew death was coming, but they had expected to have more time, the one small bit of dignity cancer typically allows—time for goodbyes.

Joe was a big brother with a little brother's rascal soul, a guy to whom rules were sometimes, well, optional. An army vet, thin and wiry, he was a guy who got things done, as good with a hammer as he was with a shotgun or a skinning knife. He had a toughness and force of will that made it hard to believe he could die, but that was the prognosis.

Steve was past the initial shock of it all, and I rationalized that it was just as well that I hadn't picked up sooner. Steve talked and I mostly listened. I guess I've been on this end of things enough times to know that "I'm sorry" is about the best you can do. When it got too hard, Steve said goodbye.

A week or so later, he called again. "I wanted to tell you something else," he said in his understated cadence, not a monotone, but steeped in stoicism. He wanted to tell me how Joe had died.

"Okay," I said. I thought I knew the story, but as it turns out, I didn't know everything.

They rushed Joe to the hospital in a coma and it was as bad as things can get without the patient being dead. No

responsiveness. No chance for anything but death. His wife and one of his daughters kept a somber vigil, hoping he would make the grim decision that needed to be made. To let go. These are the things you hope for when there is no hope. Nurses came and went. Nothing changed.

At one point, they decided to step out for a moment to get some air. They sighed, rose, and buttoned jackets, but just as they were about to leave, something impossible happened. Joe sat up. His eyes opened and he smiled beatifically at each of them. Then he laid back down, closed his eyes, and stopped breathing forever. And that is when they started breathing again.

I was silent at the other end of the line when the story ended, afraid that my words would turn into something else. Finally, I croaked out, "It was a gift..."

Joe had gotten his goodbyes after all. In the end, he had reached across from that place that is Almost Heaven to comfort those he loved.

That was Joe.

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That's Life

by Tony Bender

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Groton Area boys take down Redfield

Groton Area defeated Redfield in a Northeast Conference game Tuesday night in Groton, 70-58.

The Tigers never trailed in the game, but the Pheasants kept the game interesting. Groton Area held a 15-8 lead after the first quarter. The second quarter proved to be a three-point show with Cole Simon coming off the bench to make three and Lane Tietz added two more while Peyton Osborn made two three-pointers and Jerron Haider one for the Pheasants. The Tigers 12-point lead, but Redfield cut it down to seven by halftime, 34-27.

Groton Area was back on top by 11, but once again, the Pheasants rallied to cut it down to a five-point game, 49-34, with 1:45 left in the third quarter. Groton Area made the last four points of the third quarter and took a 53-36 lead into the fourth quarter.

The Tigers made six of eight free throws in the fourth quarter and went on for the 70-58 win. Lane Tietz led the Tigers with 25 points which included making six of 12 three-pointers, he had three rebounds, two assists and two steals. Cole Simon had 14 points which included making three of four three-pointers, he had one rebound and one assist. Jacob Zak had 13 points, six rebounds, three assists and three steals. Tate Larson had a double-double night with 12 points, 10 rebounds, one assist and three steals. Wyatt Hearnen had four points, three rebounds, two assists and one steal. Kaden Kurtz made two free throws, had four rebounds and three assists. Jayden Zak had one rebound, one assist and three steals. Teylor Diegel had one assist.

Groton Area made 17 of 33 field goals for 52 percent, nine of 30 three-pointers for 30 percent, made nine of 13 free throws for 69 percent off of Redfield's 11 team fouls, had eight turnovers, 18 assists, 12 steals and 14 team fouls.

Peyton Osborn led the Pheasants with 17 points while Jerron Haider had 15, Mitchell Mack had 12, Nolan Gall eight, Paul Juarez four and Justin Ratigan added two points.

Redfield made 24 of 42 field goals for 57 percent, four of 10 free throws for 40 percent off of Groton Area's 14 team fouls, had 23 turnovers of which 12 were steals, had 24 rebounds and 10 assists.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Allied Climate Professionals with Kevin Nehls, Groton Ford, the John Sieh Agency, Dacotah Bank and Bary Keith at Harr Motors.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 60-35. The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Kent and Darcy Muller with Charlie Frost as the guest commentator.

Colby Dunker led the Tigers with 12 points followed by Cole Simon with 11, Logan Ringgenberg eight, Teylor Diegel and Dillon Abeln with seven apiece, Tyson Parrow six, Turner Thompson and Holden Sippel with four each and Blake Pauli added two points.

Justin Ratigan led the Pheasants with 11 points.

Pheasants escape the grasp of the Tigers in the fourth quarter to win

Groton Area lost a nine-point lead going into the fourth quarter as Redfield rallied to overcome the Lady Tigers, 44-42.

Groton Area led for most of the game, having an 11-6 lead after the first quarter and opening up a 16-8 lead midway in the second quarter. Redfield scored eight straight points to the game at 16, but Groton held on for a 19-18 lead at half time. Redfield scored first in the third quarter to take its first lead, 21-19. The lead then changed hands three more times and was tied once before Groton Area scored 10 unanswered points to take a 32-23 lead at the end of the third quarter. The shooting by the Tigers turned ice cold in the fourth quarter, making just one of 12 shots while the Pheasants were five of seven and that was enough to propel the Pheasants to the 44-42 win.

Allyssa Locke had a perfect fourth quarter from the free throw line, making eight of eight and she led the Tigers in scoring with 10 points and she had one assist. Alyssa Thaler had seven points, one rebound, three assists, one steal and one block. Sydney Leicht, fouled out with 3:48 left in the game, finished with seven points, two rebounds, one steal and one block shot. Jaedyn Penning had six points, one assist and two steals. Brooke Gengerke had five points and six rebounds. Gracie Traphagen had four points, 10 rebounds, one assist and three steals. Aspen Johnson had two points, two rebounds, two assists and two steals. Jerica Locke had one point, two rebounds, one assist and one steal. Kennedy Hansen had one assist.

The Tigers made 13 of 42 field goals for 31 percent, was two of 10 in three-pointers for 20 percent, made 10 of 15 free throws for 67 percent off of Redfield's 14 team fouls, had 10 turnovers, 10 assists, 23 rebounds, 10 steals and two block shots.

Redfield was led by Camryn Rohlf with 12 points (she made two three-pointers in the fourth quarter), Grace Fast had 11 points which included a three-pointer and four of four free throws in the fourth quarter, Katie Rozell had nine points, Ashlyn Clausen had six, Chelsea Smith and four and Ellie Evans added two points. The Pheasants were 12 of 33 in shooting for 36 percent, made 11 of 17 free throws for 64 percent off of Groton Area's 18 team fouls, and had 19 turnovers.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Dacotah Bank, Groton Ford, the John Sieh Agency, Bary Keith at Harr Motors and Allied Climate Professionals with Kevin Nehls.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 35-14. Kennedy Hanson had seven points, Laila Roberts and Jaedyn Penning each had six, Faith Traphagen, Talli Wright and Mia Crank each had four points and Jerica Locke and Brooklyn Hansen each had two points. Annie Smith led Redfield with nine points.

The junior varsity game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Rich and Tami Zimney.

Groton Prairie Mixed

Dec. 9 Team Standings: Coyotes 14, Cheetahs 14, Chipmunks 13, Shih Tzus 12, Jack-opes 10, Foxes 9

Men's High Games: Brad Larson 223, Roger Spanier 199, Ron Belden 194

Women's High Games: Sue Stanley 179, Vicki Walter 174, Cindy Frohling 165

Men's High Series: Brad Larson 551, Randy Stanley 519, Roger Spanier 516

Women's High Series: Sue Stanley 479, Darci Spanier 435, Vicki Walter 428

Dec. 16 Team Standings: Coyotes 17, Chipmunks 17, Cheetahs 14, Shih Tzus 13, Jack-opes 13, Foxes 10

Men's High Games: Brad Waage 214, Mike Siegler 213, 199, Lance Frohling 193

Women's High Games: Sue Stanley 194, Darci Spanier 191, Vicki Walter 190

Men's High Series: Mike Siegler 578, Brad Waage 528, Lance Frohling 519

Women's High Series: Vicki Walter 513, Sue Stanley 491, Darci Spanier 476

Boys hoop team presses past Sioux Falls Lutheran

The Groton Area boys basketball team traveled to Sioux Falls Lutheran on Saturday for the Eagles first ever varsity game. Sioux Falls Lutheran is a three-year old school, playing junior varsity games the first two years and now entering the varsity level this year.

Groton Area led at the quarter stops at 24-5, 48-15 and 67-15 en route to a 78-23 win.

Lane Tietz led the Tigers with 19 points, one rebound, one assist and three steals. Kaden Kurtz had 12 points, three assists and two steals. Jayden Zak had 10 points, three assists and two steals. Wyatt Hearnen had 10 points, six rebounds and one steal. Tate Larson had seven points, seven rebounds, two assists and one steal. Cade Larson had four points, one rebound, two assists and one steal. Jacob Zak had three points, one rebound, one assist and three steals. Cole Simon had three points, two rebounds and two assists. Teylor Diegel had three points, one rebound, one assist and six steals. Braxton Imrie had three points and one rebound. Logan Ringgenberg had two points, four rebounds and two assists. Dillon Abeln had two points, two rebounds and one assist. Colby Dunker had two rebounds. Holden Sippel had one rebound and Tyson Parrow had one steal.

Groton Area made 25 of 37 field goals for 68 percent, made six of 18 three-pointers for 33 percent, had 33 rebounds, nine turnovers, 18 assists, 20 steals and 12 team fouls.

Ethan Olson led the Eagles with 10 points while Daniel Pinn had five, Kaden Roben and Jordy Martinez each had three points and Grant Prouty had two points. Sioux Falls Lutheran made eight of 35 field goals for 23 percent, was three of nine from the line for 33 percent, had 19 turnovers and 16 team fouls.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 58-8. Turner Thompson led the Tigers with 11 points followed by Blake Pauli with eight, Logan Ringgenberg and Tyson Parrow with seven each, Holden Sippel had six, Colby Dunker five, Cade Larson four, Dillon Abeln and Teylor Diegel each had three points and Braxton Imrie and Cole Simon each had two points.

The varsity game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Doug and Wanda Hamilton, Dacotah Bank, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Allied Climate Professionals with Kevin Nehls, Groton Ford and the John Sieh Agency. The junior varsity game was also broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM with a private sponsor.

Conde National League

Dec. 20 Team Standings: Pirates 6, Giants 6, Mets 5, Tigers 4, Cubs 2, Braves 1

Men's High Games: Butch Farmen 264, 214; Ryan Bethke 238; Justin Buckley 224

Men's High Series: Butch Farmen 630, Ryan Bethke 545, Justin Buckley 493

Women's High Games: Amanda Morehouse 185, Michelle Johnson 170, Sam Bahr 156

Women's High Series: Michelle Johnson 417, Joyce Walter 407, Vickie Kramp 390



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Seven wrestlers place at Cossack Avalanche Tournament

Seven wrestlers placed at the Sioux Valley Cossack Avalanche wrestling tournament held Saturday in Volga. With that, Groton Area placed fourth in a field of 19 teams.

Lane Krueger placed first at 285 pounds, Cole Bisbee placed second at 160 pounds, Korbin Kucker placed third at 152 pounds, Christian Ehresmann placed first at 145 pounds, Brevin Flihs placed third at 138 pounds, Pierce Kettering placed fourth at 132 pounds, and Porter Johnson placed fourth at 113 pounds.

Kingsbury County placed first with 198 points followed by Sioux Valley with 151, Deuel 142, Groton Area 135.5, Flandreau 109, West Central 76, Mitchell 54, Spearfish 42, Hamlin 41.5, Ortonville MN 40, Tai-Valley 38.5, Brookings 38, Yankton 37, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 30.5, Sioux Falls Lincoln 28.5, Viborg-Hurley 28, Sioux Falls Jefferson 17, Lennox 7 and Dell Rapids 0.

106B: Walker Zoellner (7-6) placed 2nd.

Champ. Round 1 - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 7-6 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 7-6 won by fall over Joshua David (Sioux Falls Jefferson) 2-2 (Fall 0:40)

Semifinal - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 7-6 won by fall over Jett Yaggie (Yankton) 2-2 (Fall 1:56)

1st Place Match - Cody Zell (Kingsbury County) 5-4 won by decision over Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 7-6 (Dec 4-1)

106B: Liza Krueger (0-2)

Champ. Round 1 - Liza Krueger (Groton Area) 0-2 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Jett Yaggie (Yankton) 2-2 won by fall over Liza Krueger (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 0:41)

Cons. Round 2 - Michael Zoller (Spearfish) 2-2 won by fall over Liza Krueger (Groton Area) 0-2 (Fall 0:22)

113: Porter Johnson (4-7) placed 4th and scored 13.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 4-7 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 4-7 won by fall over Teagen Bitteringer (Lennox) 2-2 (Fall 4:43)

Semifinal - Greyson Nielsen (Kingsbury County) 5-1 won by major decision over Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 4-7 (MD 10-2)

Cons. Semi - Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 4-7 won by fall over Ryker Gauger (Deuel) 4-10 (Fall 4:05)

3rd Place Match - Dubhlainn Vermeulen (Sioux Valley) 7-7 won by fall over Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 4-7 (Fall 2:36)

126: Isiah Sepaniak (2-8)

Champ. Round 1 - Dylan Christenson (Flandreau) 7-9 won by fall over Isiah Sepaniak (Groton Area) 2-8 (Fall 1:10)

Cons. Round 1 - Blake Jennings (Kingsbury County) 2-3 won by fall over Isiah Sepaniak (Groton Area) 2-8 (Fall 0:48)

132: Pierce Kettering (10-6) placed 4th and scored 17.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Pierce Kettering (Groton Area) 10-6 won by fall over Justin Klein (Flandreau) 7-7 (Fall 4:36)

Quarterfinal - Lane Holland (Kingsbury County) 5-5 won by decision over Pierce Kettering (Groton Area) 10-6 (Dec 6-2)

Cons. Round 2 - Pierce Kettering (Groton Area) 10-6 won by fall over Ethan Johnson (Kingsbury County) 6-3 (Fall 4:41)

Cons. Round 3 - Pierce Kettering (Groton Area) 10-6 won by fall over Tate Everson (Hamlin) 6-11 (Fall 2:04)

Cons. Semi - Pierce Kettering (Groton Area) 10-6 won by fall over Shayce Platt (Yankton) 5-2 (Fall 2:15)

3rd Place Match - Lane Holland (Kingsbury County) 5-5 won by fall over Pierce Kettering (Groton Area) 10-6 (Fall 3:59)

138: Brevin Flihs (10-5) placed 3rd and scored 14.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Brevin Flihs (Groton Area) 10-5 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Brevin Flihs (Groton Area) 10-5 won by decision over Luke Steffensen (Kingsbury County) 7-7 (Dec 5-4)

Semifinal - Brock Gisselbeck (Hamlin) 9-5 won by fall over Brevin Flihs (Groton Area) 10-5 (Fall 5:09)

Cons. Semi - Brevin Flihs (Groton Area) 10-5 won by fall over Kellan Odell (Mitchell) 3-2 (Fall 2:24)

3rd Place Match - Brevin Flihs (Groton Area) 10-5 won by decision over Luke Steffensen (Kingsbury County) 7-7 (Dec 7-6)

145: Christian Ehresmann (8-2) placed 1st and scored 25.5 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 8-2 won by fall over Tucker Adkins (Deuel) 3-10 (Fall 1:43)

Quarterfinal - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 8-2 won by tech fall over Jesus Mendoza (Tri-Valley) 0-2 (TF-1.5 3:11 (18-2))

Semifinal - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 8-2 won by fall over Jacob Ellingson (Spearfish) 5-4 (Fall 0:51)

1st Place Match - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 8-2 won by decision over Skylar Trygstad (Sioux Valley) 14-2 (Dec 12-6)

152: Korbin Kucker (6-7) placed 3rd and scored 18.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 6-7 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 6-7 won by fall over Evan Wilson (Spearfish) 3-4 (Fall 3:00)

Semifinal - Tathan Headrick (Flandreau) 9-3 won by fall over Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 6-7 (Fall 1:49)

Cons. Semi - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 6-7 won by fall over Javier Mendoza (Tri-Valley) 3-6 (Fall 1:58)

3rd Place Match - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 6-7 won by fall over Evan Wilson (Spearfish) 3-4 (Fall 4:22)

160: Cole Bisbee (10-4) placed 2nd and scored 22.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 10-4 won by fall over Breyten Johnson (Kingsbury County) 3-4 (Fall 1:58)

Quarterfinal - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 10-4 won by fall over Noah Gruenstein (Mitchell) 0-2 (Fall 1:13)

Semifinal - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 10-4 won by disqualification over Karter Headrick (Flandreau) 9-7 (DQ)

1st Place Match - Russell Sheets (Sioux Valley) 14-3 won by fall over Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 10-4 (Fall 2:33)

285: Lane Krueger (8-2) placed 1st and scored 26.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 8-2 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 8-2 won by fall over Justin Person (West Central) 0-2 (Fall 2:45)

Semifinal - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 8-2 won by fall over Braeden Stadler (Brookings) 2-2 (Fall 0:24)

1st Place Match - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 8-2 won by fall over Braden Petersen (Sioux Falls Lincoln) 6-3 (Fall 1:55)

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Five wrestlers place at Northeast Conference

Five Groton Area wrestlers placed in the top four at the Northeast Conference Wrestling Tournament held Thursday in Sisseton.

Liza Krueger was the only girl wrestler at 106 pounds so she claimed the first place spot. Lane Krueger placed second at 285 pounds, Cole Bisbee placed third at 160 pounds, and Brevin Flihs at 138 pounds and Pierce Kettering at 132 pounds both placed fourth.

Redfield won the team title with 198.5 points followed by Milbank with 152.5, Sisseton 120.5, Hamlin 115.5, Clark/Willow Lake 100, Groton Area 57, Britton-Hecla 49, Deuel 42, Webster Area 22 and Tiospa Zina 4.

G106: Liza Krueger (0-0) placed 1st.

Round 1 - Liza Krueger (Groton Area) 0-0 received a bye () (Bye)

Round 2 - Liza Krueger (Groton Area) 0-0 received a bye () (Bye)

106: Walker Zoellner (5-5) scored 6.0 team points.

Prelim - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 5-5 won by fall over Brenden Cook (Tiospa Zina) 2-6 (Fall 2:40)

Quarterfinal - Brady Risetter (Redfield Area) 5-0 won by fall over Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 5-5 (Fall 0:00)

Cons. Round 1 - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 5-5 won by fall over Tyson Hagberg (Deuel) 4-5 (Fall 4:35)

Cons. Semi - Brody Randall (Hamlin) 11-5 won by tech fall over Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 5-5 (TF-1.5 3:59 (15-0))

113: Porter Johnson (2-5) Quarterfinal - Taylor Merkel (Clark/Willow Lake) 5-6 won by decision over Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 2-5 (Dec 7-0)

Cons. Round 1 - Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 2-5 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Semi - Conner Zens (Redfield Area) 4-1 won by fall over Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 2-5 (Fall 2:22)

126: Isiah Sepaniak (2-6) scored 3.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Jacob Johnson (Milbank) 6-6 won by fall over Isiah Sepaniak (Groton Area) 2-6 (Fall 0:15)

Cons. Round 1 - Isiah Sepaniak (Groton Area) 2-6 won by fall over Thomas Anderson (Tiospa Zina) 0-4 (Fall 1:23)

Cons. Semi - Trace Shoemaker (Webster Area) 8-6 won by fall over Isiah Sepaniak (Groton Area) 2-6 (Fall 1:56)

132: Pierce Kettering (6-4) placed 4th and scored 10.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Pierce Kettering (Groton Area) 6-4 won by fall over Ernesto Garcia (Clark/Willow Lake) 4-5 (Fall 3:11)

Semifinal - Kaden Krause (Milbank) 4-4 won by major decision over Pierce Kettering (Groton Area) 6-4 (MD 14-5)

Cons. Semi - Pierce Kettering (Groton Area) 6-4 won by major decision over Tate Everson (Hamlin) 4-9 (MD 12-2)

3rd Place Match - Jaxon Quail (Deuel) 10-2 won by decision over Pierce Kettering (Groton Area) 6-4 (Dec 8-5)

138: Brevin Flihs (6-4) placed 4th and scored 11.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Brevin Flihs (Groton Area) 6-4 won by fall over Dustin Stabnow (Britton/Hecla) 2-9 (Fall 1:01)

Semifinal - Ethan Mcelhone (Clark/Willow Lake) 6-4 won by decision over Brevin Flihs (Groton Area) 6-4 (Dec 3-2)

Cons. Semi - Brevin Flihs (Groton Area) 6-4 won by fall over Blaise McGregor (Webster Area) 2-5 (Fall 2:15)

3rd Place Match - Brock Gisselbeck (Hamlin) 6-4 won by decision over Brevin Flihs (Groton Area) 6-4 (Dec 4-3)

152: Korbin Kucker (3-6) scored 1.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Troy Randall Jr. (Hamlin) 12-4 won by fall over Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 3-6 (Fall 1:51)

Cons. Round 1 - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 3-6 won by decision over Collin Beaner (Britton/Hecla) 4-7 (Dec 5-2)

Cons. Semi - Tate Schlueter (Milbank) 9-3 won by fall over Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 3-6 (Fall 1:42)

160: Cole Bisbee (7-3) placed 3rd and scored 12.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 7-3 received a bye () (Bye)

Semifinal - Barrett Schneck (Milbank) 12-3 won by fall over Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 7-3 (Fall 2:10)

Cons. Semi - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 7-3 won by fall over Braeden Johnson (Clark/Willow Lake) 2-7 (Fall 2:49)

3rd Place Match - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 7-3 won by fall over Conner Glines (Britton/Hecla) 4-6 (Fall 1:29)

285: Lane Krueger (5-2) placed 2nd and scored 14.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 5-2 received a bye () (Bye)

Semifinal - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 5-2 won by decision over Landon Novy (Milbank) 10-4 (Dec 5-0)

1st Place Match - Grady Fey (Redfield Area) 2-0 won by fall over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 5-2 (Fall 2:17)

Groton Area Boys have come-from-behind win over Hamlin

Two evenly matched teams battled it out on the court Thursday night as Groton Area came from behind to edge out Hamlin in boys basketball action in Groton, 56-52.

Both teams came out with guns blazing in the first quarter. After a tie at two, the lead changed hands eight times before Groton Area held a 17-16 lead at the end of the first quarter. The lead changed hands three more times and the game was tied twice more in the second quarter as Hamlin led at half time, 32-28. Groton Area came out flat in the third quarter and the Chargers opened up an eight-point lead, 43-34, with 2:03 left in the third quarter. Hamlin held the lead, 43-38, at the break.

Groton Area closed to within two to start the fourth quarter, but Hamlin held a six-point lead, 49-43, with 4:34 left. Groton Area then scored 11 unanswered points to take a 53-49 lead with 24 seconds left and went on for the 56-52 win.

Three players hit double figures with Kaden Kurtz scoring eight of his 13 points in the fourth quarter. He also had two rebounds. Jayden Zak had 12 points, five rebounds, two assists, five steals and one block. Tate Larson had 12 points, six rebounds and one steal. Jacob Zak had seven points and three rebounds. Wyatt Hearnen had seven points, five rebounds and one steal. Cole Simon had three points and two rebounds. Lane Tietz had two points, one rebound, four assists and two steals.

Groton Area made 16 of 30 field goals for 53 percent, four of 15 three-pointers for 27 percent, made 13 of 23 free throws for 52 percent off of Hamlin's 19 team fouls, had 24 rebounds, 12 turnovers, six assists, nine steals, 17 team fouls and one block shot.

Hamlin was led by Tyson Stevenson with 19 points followed by Easton Neudendorf and Brennan Kessler with eight apiece, Dawson Noem had six, Evan Stormo five, Luke Fraser four and Rylan Bawdon two. The Chargers made 20 of 45 field goals for 44 percent, nine of 11 free throws for 82 percent off of Groton Area's 17 team fouls, and had 11 turnovers.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 40-33. Cole Simon had 16 points while Teyton Diegel had 10, Logan Ringgenberg eight, and Braxton Imrie, Dillon Abeln and Colby Dunker each had two points. Matt Donahoe and Jameson Nebel each had nine points for Hamlin.

Hamlin runs away in girls game

Hamlin led at the quarterstops at 15-5, 33-8 and 46-16 en route to a 52-22 win the girls varsity game.

Gracie Traphagen led the Lady Tigers with seven points and two rebounds. Brooke Gengerke had five points and two rebounds. Jerrica Locke had five points, four rebounds and one steal. Allyssa Locke had one rebound and three assists. Sydney Leicht had four rebounds and one steal. Aspen Johnson had one rebound and one steal. Jaedyn Penning had three rebounds. Laila Roberts had one rebound.

Groton Area made six of 25 field goals for 24 percent, three of 16 three-pointers for 19 percent, was one of two from the line, had 20 rebounds, 10 turnovers, five assists, three steals and 11 team fouls.

Hamlin was led by Kami Wadsworth with 21 points followed by Addison Neudendorf and Brooklyn Brandriet with nine each, Ally Abraham and eight points, Grace Opdahl and Zoie Fraser each had two points and Alyssa West had one free throw.

The Chargers made 19 of 39 field goals for 48 percent, was six of nine from the line, had nine team fouls and four turnovers.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 32-17. Laila Roberts had 11 points, Jaedyn Penning had seven, Brooklyn Hansen five, Faith Traphagen four, Jerrica Locke and Elizabeth Flihs each had two points and Kennedy Hansen had one. Emily Everson led the Chargers with 10 points.

Both varsity games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Groton Ford, Allied Climate Professionals with Kevin Nehls, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, the John Sieh Agency and Dacotah Bank.

Friendly Fellows and Daisies 4-H

The Friendly Fellows and Daisies 4H Club met on Dec. 5th at Claremont Methodist Church for their annual Christmas Party. In attendance were the following: Janet Frey, Yvonne Gibbs, Virginia Pulkey, Deloris Bruns, Les Warrington, Diann Warrington, Karl Eichler, Val Eichler, Ruth Nelson, Connie Anderson, Missi Smith, Jeremy Smith, Ryan Smith, McKenzie Smith, Trinity Smith, Stefan Wright, Lynn Wright, Collin Eichler, Emily Eichler, Hudson Eichler, Arthur Eichler, Jason Warrington, Robyn Warrington, Logan Warrington, Ashlynn Warrington, Greyson Warrington, Wade Marzahn, Renee Marzahn, Andrew Marzahn, Mike Frey, Mike Ringgenberg, Molly Ringgenberg, Brad Pauli, Michelle Pauli, Staci Anderson, Logan Ringgenberg, Blake Pauli, Hailey Pauli, Ryan Tracy, Carla Tracy, Kella Tracy, Kinton Tracy, Treyton Smith, Darin Zoellner, Walker Zoellner, and Parker Zoellner. Everyone enjoyed the club slide show, card bingo and potluck. Snowman popcorn gifts were given to our guests.

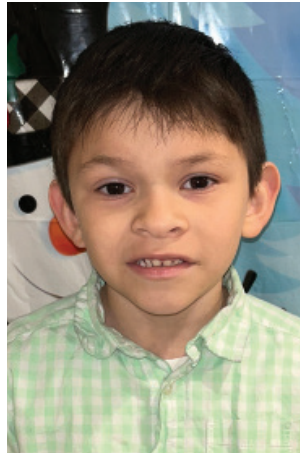
There may be beauty in the season, but the reason reaches deep into our hearts!

BFS Seed Chemical Fertilizer

Joel Bierman
Jordan Steen
605-397-4003

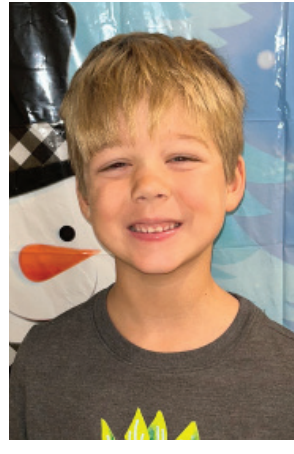
DU PONT

PIONEER



Michael Garcia of Groton and the son of Tony and Melissa Garcia.

What Christmas means to me is opening presents and giving gifts to friends and its a lot of fun to open presents with my family.



Maverick Severson of Groton and the son of Matt and Jordan Severson.

What does Christmas mean to me is about giving.



Saylor Gilchrist of Columbia / Groton and the son of Grant Gilchrist and Jennifer Gilchrist.

What does Christmas mean to me is joy.

Groton Angel Tree Thanks You All

I would really really like to thank everybody very much this year. It has just warmed my heart with the donations and lots of gifts for the children to have a great Christmas. I have never been called the Angel lady for the children before, but that just melts my heart. I am so overwhelmed with my heart so full of love for these children that will have the best Christmas that they will have. And to the lady that gave me the biggest hug and thanked be for doing this every year. This is my 16th year doing it and it is the best time of the year for me giving back. I have also gotten my daughters involved with buying gifts also and they love helping me out. And I would like to thank my two friends that helped me with little things here and there. And the two businesses that host my trees every year. I love living in a little community like this. Thanks a lot!

The Angel lady with a big heart for Children
Tina Kosel



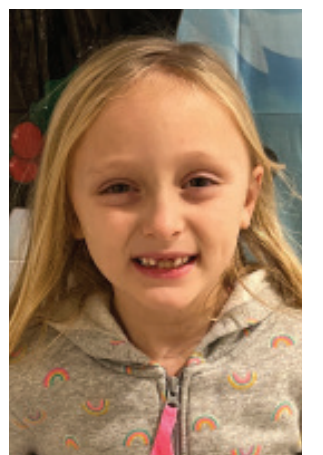
Steston Foertsch of Groton and the son of Joe and Teri Foertsch.

What does Christmas means to me is to get toys on Christmas and to have a good new year.



Taige Sombke of Groton and the daughter of Rikki Clifford and Chris Sombke.

What does Christmas mean to me is happiness and decorating the Christmas tree.



Sophia Gilchrist of Columbia / Groton and the daughter of Grant Gilchrist and Jennifer Gilchrist.

What does Christmas mean to me is Santa comes.

Even Santa uses Love to Travel!

Merry Christmas!

Love to Travel
Where can we take you?
Becah Flihs: (605) 380-1711



Karsyn Bickel of Andover and Daughter of Jason and Chelsie Bickel.

What does Christmas mean to me is being nice, and being kind.



Karter Merkel of Groton and the daughter of Heather Merkel.

What does Christmas mean to me is about Jesus' birthday



KayLynn Furman of Groton and the daughter of Jessica Kjenstad and Aaron Anderson and Sam Furman.

What does Christmas mean to me is for Santa and elves

We are blessed to live in a state with a strong agriculture community!

Merry Christmas!

SOUTH DAKOTA Farmers Union

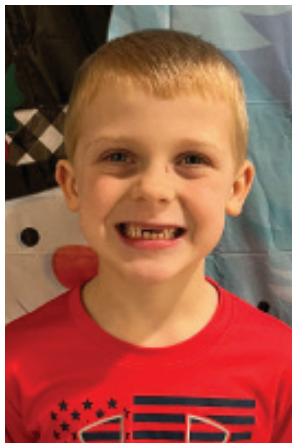
Doug Sombke
President

THIS SEASON, LET HIM BE BORN INSIDE YOUR HEART

Merry Christmas from BJK Custom T's & More
bkcustomsd.com



Feddy Cole of Groton and the son of Chuck and Carrie Cole.
What does Christmas mean to me is making sweaters and stockings and Christmas cards.



Gauge Johnson of Groton and the son of Samantha and the late TJ Johnson
What does Christmas mean to me is presents



Ian Neu of Conde and the son of Nicole Barton, Chris Speney, and Cody Neu
What does Christmas mean to me is being happy, snow, mom and dad, kisses and hugs.

Here's to teeing off for Christmas from the

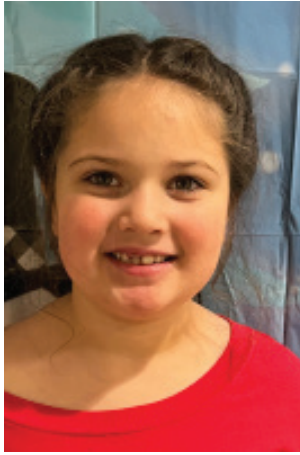
Olive Grove Golf Course

Merry Christmas!

397-GOLF
Groton, South Dakota



Jaeden Morehouse of Andover and Groton and the daughter of Justin Morehouse and Amanda Morehouse.
What does Christmas mean to me is helping family.



Ella Clocksene of Groton and the daughter of Brandon and Alicia Clocksene.
What Christmas means to me is joy and happiness.



Dawson Kampa of Columbia and the son of Cole and Jordan Kampa.
What Christmas means to me is being thankful for some presents and for santa.

It was a Holy Night
So special -
So calm -
So bright

Merry Christmas from
Krueger Brothers Road Maintenance, Dirt & Gravel
Dave: 397-8387 ~ Roger & Dan: 397-2618



Piper Heilman of Groton and the daughter of Greg and Danielle Heilman.
What does Christmas mean to me is getting presents and going on sleigh rides and baking cookies



Zachary Say of Groton and the son of Tansay Bahlaing and Dee Say.
What does Christmas mean to me? It is a holiday and we open presents.



Samuel Flihs of Groton and the son of Rich and Heather Flihs
What does Christmas mean to me is being with my grandma and grandpa and playing with my cousins.

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

From all of us at Lori's Pharmacy in Groton, we wish you a very blessed Christmas!

We're building a solid foundation so we can wish you a Merry Christmas!

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Have a most joyous Christmas!

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GO WITH **BLESSINGS.**
HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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Laken Kurth of Groton and the daughter of Travis and Debbie Kurth.

What does Christmas mean to me is I get to go on the trolley and go to Aberdeen and see Christmas lights and drink cocoa.



Madison Harry of Groton and the daughter of Jeff and Betsy Harry.

What does Christmas mean to me is it feels so glad in my heart because it is Je-sus' birthday.



Maryn Sombke of Groton and the daughter of Bryan and Whitney Sombke.

What does Christmas mean to me is that we give presents to each other.

Merry Christmas.

MAY YOUR CHRISTMAS SPARKLE WITH MOMENTS OF LOVE, LAUGHTER AND GOODWILL, AND MAY THE YEAR AHEAD BE FULL OF CONTENTMENT AND JOY.

WEBER LANDSCAPING
605/380-7811
Groton



Dayton Gonsor of Groton and the son of Stan and Madeleine Gonsoir.

What does Christmas mean to me is joy and help



Carter Zoellner, son of Darin and Anne Zoellner, Groton.

What does Christmas mean to me is making Christmas pizzas and opening presents.



Jagger Penning of Pieront and the son of Brad and Penning.

What does Christmas mean to me is spending time with my family.

Wishing You A Picture-Perfect Season!

Here's hoping your holiday is all you've dreamed of and more. We thank you for your friendship and support.

Hanlon's Gravel & Manure Hauling
605/395-6531



Eva Henerson of Groton and the daughter of Brad and Michelle Henderson.

What does Christmas mean to me is opening presents and baking cookies for Santa.



Kamden Gackle, son of Chad and Melissa Gackle, Columbia.

What does Christmas mean to me is making cookies and building a snowman.



Calli Wilkinson of Groton and the daughter of Sydney and Trent Kurtz and Blake and Chelsea Wilkinson.

What does Christmas mean to me is we make Christmas pizzas and open presents

We're rolling to wish you a Merry Christmas!

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Andover, SD
Kevin Raap
380-8539

Merry Christmas from your home away from home!

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Your Premier Destination Lodge in Groton
www.basekamplodgeSD.com

Est. 2015 Groton, SD



Bennett Iverson of Groton and the son of Jeremy and Jackie Iverson.

What does Christmas mean to me is family and friends



Legend Po of Groton and the son of DayDay Po and Victoria Shwe.

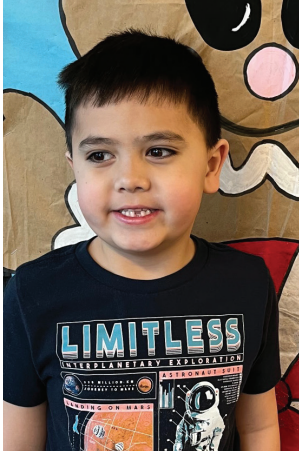
What does Christmas mean to me is Santa claus and presents



Zoey Ewalt of Groton and the daughter of Mike and Steph Ewalt.

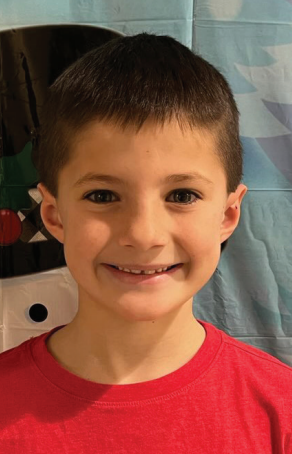
What does Christmas mean to me is santa comes and gives us presents

S & S Lumber
HARDWARE HANK
 Peace on Earth will come to stay
 when we live Christmas every day!
 - Helen Steiner Rice
Have a Merry Christmas!
 201 East Hwy 12 • 605/397-2361



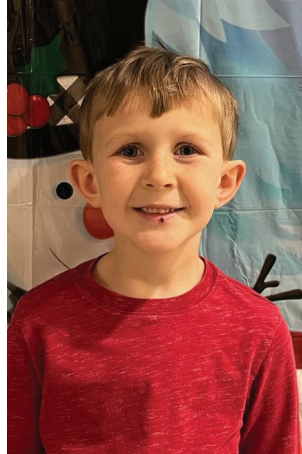
Weston Merkel of Ferney and the son of Jacob Merkel and Alex Homsombath.

What does Christmas means to me is getting presents.



Braxten Sombke of Groton and the son of Brett and Steph Sombke.

What Christmas means to me is my presents and family.



Conrad Rix of Groton and the son of Grant and Tracy Rix .

What does Christmas mean to me is presents

Merry Christmas from the attorney that makes a difference!

Drew C. Johnson
 Attorney at Law
 517 S. Lincoln St.
 Aberdeen
 (605) 225-5895
 drewjohnsonlaw@gmail.com



Ava Strom of Groton and the daughter of Nick and Jenna Strom.

Whar Christmas means to me is Jesus' was born at that day.



Baylin Taylor of Aberdeen and the daughter of Ross and Amanda Taylor.

What Christmas mean to me is celebrating Jesus' birthday.



Nolan Rose of Groton and son of Ian and Karen Rose.

What does Christmas means to me is presents and stockings.

To our patients, associates and friends, our best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season, trimmed with the blessings of peace, love and joy.

We value your trust in us, and are proud to serve you all year long.

With Well Wishes from the
Groton Chiropractic Clinic
 1205 North 1st Street, Groton 605/397-8204

God bless you during this wonderful season when we remember the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. As the Word says, "He is Lord."

DQ Grill & Chill
 Merry Christmas from Dale, Joyce and the rest of the crew at the Groton Dairy Queen!

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Bahr Spray Foam

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

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Quinton Ronning of Groton and the son of Blake and Leah Ronning.

What does Christmas mean to me is spending time on Jesus' birthday



Paxton Eichler of Columbia and the son of Collin and Emily Eichler.

What does Christmas mean to me is fun, happiness and getting toys.



Leslie Davis of Columbia and the daughter of Tony and Christine Davis.

What does Christmas mean to me is Santa comes to my house and he gives us presents.



There are many layers of Christmas, but the most important one is Jesus. His birth gave us the promise of a heavenly home!

Merry Christmas!

**GDI News
 GDI Fit
 GDI Clean
 GDILIVE
 GDI Rent**



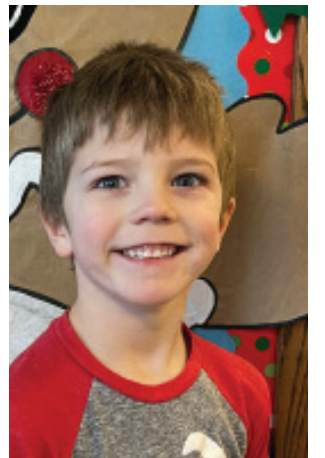
Anna Fliehs of Groton and daughter of Rich and Heather Fliehs.

What does Christmas mean to me is we get to go to our grandma's and open our presents early.



Bentley Johnson of Groton and son of Matt and Casey Johnson.

What does Christmas mean to me we see grandma and grandpa and open pre-sents.



Bo Fliehs of Claremont and the son of Tigh and Adrienne Fliehs.

What does Christmas mean to me is Jesus' birthday

May you and those you love find true *happiness and peace* this Christmas!



W
Weismantel Agency
 Marty Weismantel ~ 605/396-7341 ~ weisag@nvc.net



Left: Lincoln Heilman of Groton and the son of David and Kari Heilman.

What does Christmas mean to me is that you get new presents and new toys.



The American Legion wishes you and your family a Very Merry Christmas!

Groton American Legion Post #39 Legion Lounge

Doug Abeln Seed Company

Silent Night, Holy Night
 Christ the Saviour was born for us
Merry Christmas!



Doug Abeln ~ 605/380-0200

Latham HI-TECH SEEDS **BECK'S** **ROB-SEE-CO**

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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.

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605/397-NEWS (6397)

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THE CITY OF MCLAUGHLIN is accepting applications for Assistant Finance officer. The Assistant Finance officer will assist the City Finance officer with the operation of all the duties of the office applicant should have knowledge of the operation of office equipment and accounting principles, High School diploma or GED is required with some additional education and or experience. Contact the City of McLaughlin at 605-823-4428 for an application or email at mclughsd@heartlandpower.org

CITY OF MCLAUGHLIN is accepting applications for Utility Manager; duties include administering all phases of public works for the city utilities including electric, water, sewer, garbage, streets, airport and parks. Duties involve organizing, assigning, and reviewing the operation and maintenance of all the utilities including office and administrative details and supervision of employees. For more information and an application contact the City of McLaughlin at 605-823-4428 or email mclughsd@heartlandpower.org

FINANCE OFFICER/CITY ADMINISTRATOR <https://www.city.grotonsd.gov/jobs.html> Excellent benefits, annual salary \$42,000-\$60,000 DOE. Cover letter and resume can be sent to PO Box 587, Groton SD 57445

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GUARANTEED BUFFALO AND ELK HUNTS in the Black Hills. Elk hunts: cows \$2300, bulls starting at \$2900. Buffalo hunts: cows \$2100, bulls starting at \$3100. 605-391-4646. nvrbuf-falo@gmail.com

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Volleyball Team

Front L-R: Allyssa Locke, Elizabeth Flihs, Laila Roberts, Carly Guthmiller, Alyssa Thaler
Middle L-R: Trista Keith, Marlee Tollifson, Anna Fjeldheim, Emma Schinkel, Aspen Johnson, Lydia Meier, Ashlyn Sperry
Back L-R: Chelsea Hanson, Kyleigh Englund, Madeline Flihs, Megan Flihs, Maddie Bjerke, Kelsie Frost, Hollie Frost, Sydney Leicht

(Courtesy Photo)

Groton Area Senior Citizens

The Groton Senior Citizens met on December 13 for their pot luck Christmas dinner. Twenty members were present. Bingo was played after dinner. Dick Donovan won black out, cards were played after bingo. They surprised me with a birthday party and celebrating the service of secretary for 33 years or more. The birthday table was decorated with Christmas decorations, balloons, cards, gift and a birthday cake. Ruby Larson came to help celebrate. I was presented with a beautiful corsage that was the highlight of my day.

A Big thank you to all who helped me celebrate my 98 birthday. Door prizes went to Marilyn Thorson, Sarge Likness and Tony Goldade.

Sombke re-elected South Dakota Farmers Union president



Doug Sombke, Conde farmer was re-elected to serve as SDFU President during the 2021 South Dakota Farmers Union Convention held in Huron Dec. 16-17.

HURON, S.D. - True to South Dakota Farmers Union grassroots philosophy, as an organization focused on family farmers and ranchers, leaders of South Dakota Farmers Union (SDFU) are family farmers and ranchers.

During the 2021 State Convention held Dec. 16 and 17 in Huron, an election was held and members re-elected Conde farmer, Doug Sombke to serve as President; Lake Preston farmer, Wayne Soren to serve as Vice President; Wessington Springs farmer/rancher Scott Kolousek to serve as District 2 Director; Reliance rancher, David Reis to serve as District 4 Director and Parade rancher, Oren Lesmeister to serve as District 6 Director.

"I am honored to serve the family farmers and ranchers who make up this organization," Sombke said.

Read on to learn more about the leaders recently elected and the reasons they serve South Dakota family farmers and ranchers.

Doug Sombke, Conde farmer and SDFU President

Q: What motivates you as you begin another term of service to SDFU members?

A: There is work yet to be done. I am honored to work for our state's family farmers and ranchers.

Even though our organization has made great strides on issues like E30, and we believe we are close to a return of MCOOL because policymakers are beginning to agree that we need to hold packers accountable, now is not the time to relax.

We need to remain diligent and focused.

As a family farmer, I see my sons struggling with some of the same challenges I faced when I was a young farmer starting out. Like many of you, our family needs to have off-farm income to make it.

Although some of the struggles today's young farmers and ranchers face are the same ones those of us who got our start in the '80s experienced, the political climate within South Dakota has changed. Today, there are fewer farmer/rancher legislators. This underscores the need for our organization to provide education and serve as a resource to leaders in Pierre and D.C.

It takes time to build relationships and trust. During the years I have served, I have worked hard to do this. I will continue to work hard every day for South Dakota's family farmers and ranchers and the policy Farmers Union members put in place.

Vera Osness Card Shower



The family of **Vera (Darling) Osness** request a card shower in honor of her **80th birthday** Thursday, Dec. 30th

Cards may be sent to Vera Osness
721 S. Ohio Ave - Apt #2
Platte, SD 57369

Believe in the magic of Christmas

Merry Christmas!

BDM
RURAL WATER SYSTEM

705 7th Street, Britton
605/448-5417 ~ 800-448-9236



Santa (Lane Krueger) and an elf (Christian Ehresmann) did a little dancing as dress-up theme for the night was Christmas. (Photo by Deb Gengerke)

Ho! Ho! Ho! Merry Christmas!

CASE III
AGRICULTURE

Harry Implement
"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"
(605) 395-6421 ~ Ferney

For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Warm wishes from

BLOCKER CONSTRUCTION LLC
New Construction
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605/216-2677
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prblocker@hotmail.com

The Night Before Christmas!

Merry Christmas!
Treats for the Reindeer
Pulling the Sleigh!

It's Christmas Eve and...

1 C A N D L E S
2 M
3 G I N G E R
4 S E R V I C E S
5 T O
6 C A K E
7 S T O R Y
8 S P E E C H
9
10 G I F T S

Plural Words

gifts	windows	oranges
coins	animals	pencils
pens	friends	toys
nuts	families	socks
cards	services	books
games	candles	surprises
nouns	cookies	canes
plurals	stockings	puzzles
tops	candies	mitters
toes	treasures	kids

I found and circled these words that are plurals ending in 's'...they mean more than one!

There is no better time for friends and family to come together such as Christmas. May the true meaning of this season fill our hearts, and that is, to appreciate the love given to us by not taking it for granted.

Merry Christmas!

Kolker Law Office
120 N Main, Groton
605/397-8464 ~ tdlaw@nvc.net
Kari A. Bartling, Attorney at Law

Christmas will always be as long as we stand heart to heart and hand in hand. Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection. From everyone at the

Groton Vet Clinic,
Merry Christmas!

GROTON VET CLINIC

1503 N Broadway, Groton, 605/397-8145

Experts: Noem's child care funding needed, but far from a solution to daycare crisis

Bart Pfankuch
South Dakota News Watch

Gov. Kristi Noem wants to spend \$100 million to boost child care offerings across the state, but experts say it will take more than a one-time government investment to expand access to quality daycare for working parents in South Dakota.

South Dakota is facing a child care crisis in which working parents have few options for placing their children during the workday. At the same time, child care has become increasingly expensive and is out of reach for some parents.

The lack of reliable child care is forcing some parents to leave the workforce, exacerbating a worker shortage in the state and potentially slowing economic development and job growth.

Noem's budget proposal, which would require legislative approval, includes \$100 million in one-time federal funds to encourage employers to open daycare centers for their employees and for scholarships to help students train in child care fields. Department of Social Services Secretary Laurie Gill said \$60

million of the governor's proposed funding would initially go toward "stabilization grants" to aid existing daycare providers when they apply for state registration.

Rebecca Wimmer, formerly CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of the Sioux Empire, said daycare providers are grateful for the governor's spending proposal, but said fixing the broken child care system in the long term will require financial support as well as creative thinking and new partnerships among government, community groups, employers and daycare providers.

"Some of that one-time funding can help stabilize things in the short term, but if we're looking long term, though, we're going to need something that is a little more robust," Wimmer said. "It's not going to get fixed overnight, but that one-time funding can help prop things up while we really focus on what those long-term solutions will be."

Wimmer, who will soon take a child development position within the Sioux Falls school system, spoke as part of an online panel discussion hosted by South Dakota News Watch on Dec. 16 in which four daycare experts from around the state examined the child care crisis and offered potential solutions.

Overall in South Dakota, there are about 73,000 children under age six, but only an estimated 34,500 child care slots, according to a recent analysis by South Dakota Kids Count, a nonprofit data research group.

The child care shortage is particularly challenging for families in South Dakota, where almost 75% of children under age six have both parents working. The reduced daycare access and increasing prices come as the state is facing a workforce shortage, both inside the child care industry and among many other employers.

The lack of access to affordable, high-quality child care could stymie future economic growth, said Rich Merkouris, pastor of King of Glory Church, who sits on two Sioux Falls organizations that seek to improve child welfare.

"If our workforce shrinks, the new businesses that are coming to South Dakota are going to have to relocate somewhere else," Merkouris said. "If we want to provide an environment for businesses to flourish, we're going to have to provide good, affordable, safe and education-based child care."

Merkouris suggested that employers, most who have resisted opening internal child care centers for employees, should try to find ways to create a child care benefit similar to health or dental insurance for workers.

"Employers at the end of the day are going to get creative in doing what they have to do to recruit talent," he said. "They're going



Rebecca Wimmer, former CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of the Sioux Empire, and now heading to a position with the Sioux Falls School District, said South Dakota needs a multi-faceted, partnership-based approach to solving the state child care crisis. Photo: YouTube

to have to find some unique ways to potentially provide a child care benefit."

Merkouris also suggested that the state may want to revise some elements of the ongoing child care assistance program in order to provide more daycare access for sin-

gle parents, among others.

Merkouris said South Dakota elected officials must accept that government programs play a critical role in providing child care to low- to moderate-income families and likely will need to be expanded to end the crisis. Merkouris said that failing to provide good-quality child care can make children less prepared for kindergarten, which can slow their entire educational progress into adulthood.

"The reality is that the public is already involved in this space in South Dakota," he said. "There is a financial outcome if government is not involved ... sometimes fiscal responsibility actually is providing a program that allows that child to become a contributor in the years ahead, rather than paying for that on the back end."

Pigeon Big Crow, who runs the child care program for the Oglala Sioux Tribe on Pine Ridge, said reservation communities are continually seeking ways to expand access to child care and improve the quality of early education for children.

Big Crow said tribal governments continue to have a great need for federal child care assistance and funding of daycare programs, but said future child care expansion would benefit from private investment on reservations as well. Right now, however, a lack of available buildings is deterring such investment, she said.

"Someone would have to have the capital to come in and construct here, because right now there's not enough facilities in this area," she said. "I'm sure a lot of our rural areas in our state might have the same issue."

Big Crow said tribal communities rely heavily on in-home providers of daycare, and suggested that improved financial and logistical support could encourage more at-home providers to open.

The governor's proposal to encourage more students to consider child care as a career choice is a long shot right now, with daycare workers underpaid compared with employees in much easier jobs in the workforce, said Rachel Talich, an in-home daycare provider in Murdo.

"If you spend a year or two in college to get paid \$12 or \$13 an hour, I don't know if there's a huge benefit to that," Talich said. "At what point do you say, 'I'm not going to be able to make ends meet by doing this as a job.'"

Financial support from government or industry will also be needed to encourage development of new daycare options in small towns or rural communities, Talich said. When she considered opening a child care center in Murdo, Talich said the only building available would have cost \$200,000 to buy and renovate. Talich also said one-time funding may help the industry now but is unlikely to improve daycare access in the long run.

"If we shove a bunch of money at something, does it serve us long term?" she said. "It fixes the problem now but what do you do in 10 years and the center can't stay open because they don't have the funds? That's a discussion that also needs to be had."

Talich also said that the paperwork involved in running a state-licensed child care operation is unwieldy and that the approval and inspection process could be streamlined.

Merkouris added that the state should take steps to encourage development of more in-home daycare providers that are often less expensive than center-based care.

"We need to make sure we're providing regulation and functional government oversight that works for both settings," he said.

Wimmer suggested that the K-12 public school system could also play a larger role in finding creative ways to expand after-school child care offerings for working parents. She said a major goal is to make child care accessible to families of all income levels, not just those who can afford center-based care at market rates.

Ultimately, Wimmer said, to improve access to affordable, high-quality child care, South Dakota needs input from all facets of the child care system, including parents, providers, employers and government.

"Dreaming together as a community on how we can make things better is the first step to finding a solution," she said.

A tape of the panel discussion, part of the ongoing "South Dakota Matters" series of statewide polls and panel discussions hosted by News Watch, is available for viewing on the News Watch Facebook page.



ABOUT BART PFANKUCH

Bart Pfankuch, Rapid City, S.D., is the content director for South Dakota News Watch. A Wisconsin native,

he is a former editor of the Rapid City Journal and also worked at newspapers in Florida. Bart has spent more than 30 years as a reporter, editor and writing coach.

Last year we heard hooves pawing...

...and Santa's sleigh jingling on the roof!

Newspaper Fun!

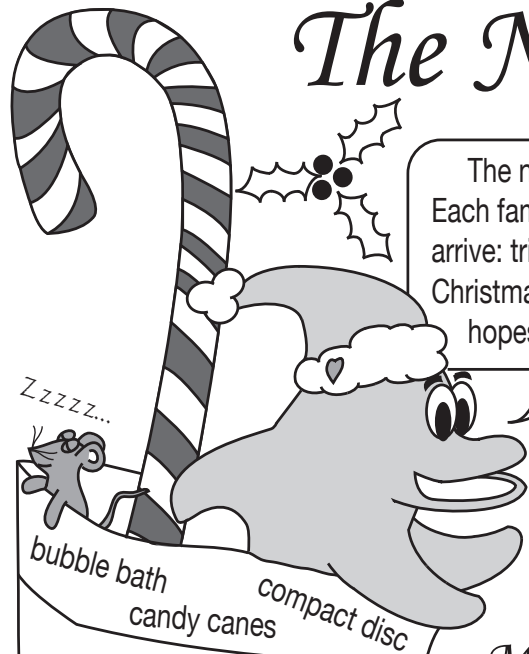
www.readingclubfun.com

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Kids: color stuff in!

The Night Before Christmas!

The night before Christmas is an evening filled with wonder and surprises. Each family has its own way of celebrating as they wait for Christmas morning to arrive: trimming a tree, joining in Christmas caroling or sharing hot chocolate and Christmas cookies. A fun custom is the hanging of stockings by the fireplace in hopes of finding small candies and treasures in them on Christmas morning!



Zzzzz...

bubble bath
candy canes
compact disc

What might Santa tuck into a stocking to be found on Christmas morning? **Can you find and circle the surprises listed in the stocking?**

Merry Christmas to you and your family!

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

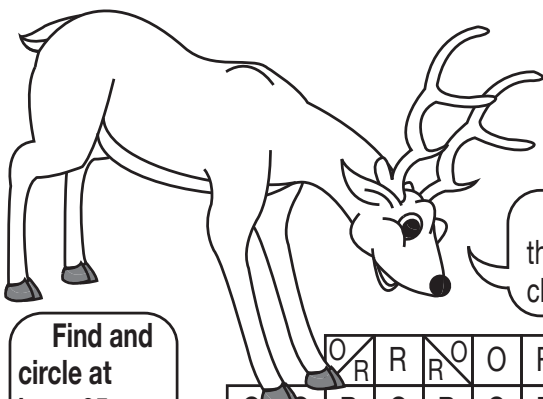
socks
mittens
pencils
games
pens

toys
coins
books
puzzles
oranges
cards
nuts

It's Christmas Eve and...

- one family is putting up its Christmas _____ and decorating it.
- when Mary and Joseph could not find a room in Bethlehem, an innkeeper offered his _____.
- lighted _____ are in our windows.
- children hang their _____.
- families attend church _____.
- kids remember to leave cookies and milk for Santa Claus and _____ for his reindeer.
- a family's favorite Christmas _____ is being read aloud.
- in one story, animals can talk at midnight; they are given the gift of _____ for one special night.
- friends and families join together to stroll the block and sing Christmas _____.
- Santa Claus is busy delivering _____!

1. carols
2. sugar
3. services manger stockings
4. gifts
5. candles
6. story tree speech
7. gifts
8. reindeer
9. reindeer
10. reindeer

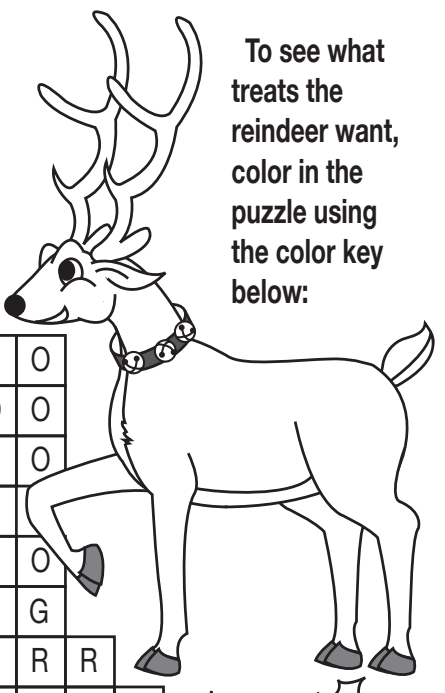


Treats for the Reindeer Pulling the Sleigh!

Gosh! We do all the work pulling the sleigh on Christmas Eve and Santa gets the cookies and milk left out by children everywhere. Maybe some thoughtful children would leave us a little bit of sugar as a treat! Oh, we like these too:

Find and circle at least 25 nouns that are plurals - meaning "more than one." (Hint: they end with the letter 's'.)

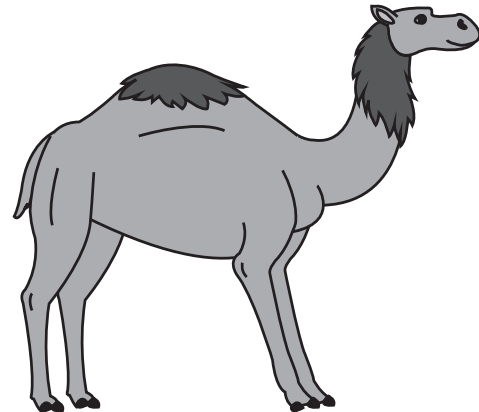
O	R	R	O	O	R	R	O	O	R	R	O	O	R	O	O	O	R	R	O	R	R	O	R	O
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G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	
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O	R	O	O	O	R	R	R	O	R	R	O	R	R	O	R	O	O	R	O	O	R	R	R	O
O	R	O	O	O	R	O	R	O	R	O	R	O	R	O	R	O	O	R	O	O	O	O	R	O
O	O	R	R	O	R	O	R	O	O	R	O	O	R	R	O	O	R	O	O	R	R	R	O	O



To see what treats the reindeer want, color in the puzzle using the color key below:

R = Red
O = Orange
G = Green

Shining Brightly on Christmas Eve!



In the Christmas story this appeared and shone brightly in the sky. It guided the Three Kings to the place where the Christ child was born. It is a symbol of hope and joy. Follow the dots to see what it is:

What's happening below? Ohhhhh...

The...

17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25.

16. 15. 14. 13. 12. 11. 10. 9.

R T S A

...of Bethlehem!

EARTHTALK™

Dear EarthTalk: Is Amazon.com an environmental hero or villain?
-- J. West, Orange, CA

Not surprisingly, Amazon.com's environmental performance is a mixed bag. One charge often levied by critics is that Amazon's low pricing and expedited shipping encourages customers to spend more on more unnecessary stuff, further exacerbating our already rampant consumerism. Likewise, critics charge that the company's "Prime" service encourages customers to order single items that must be rush-shipped to them instead of combining multiple orders in bigger boxes, which would be more energy efficient.

Others criticize Amazon for introducing huge commercial operations into hundreds of otherwise residential and predominantly minority communities across the country. An analysis by Consumer Reports found that 69 percent of Amazon warehouses have more people of color living within a one-mile radius than the median neighborhood in their metro areas. Residents complain of increased air pollution from the preponderance of trucks and vans going to and fro, more dangerous walking and biking conditions for neighborhood kids, traffic congestions and significant upticks in noise.

In 2019 the company's carbon emissions were in the spotlight when hundreds of employees ("Amazon Employees for Climate Justice") called on corporate leadership to commit to net-zero pollution by 2030. For its part, Amazon reports it is moving quickly toward net zero carbon emissions. It won't practically be able to get there until 2040, but the company is aiming to run on 100 percent renewable energy by 2030.

Other green initiatives from the e-tailing juggernaut include a \$100 million investment in nature-based climate solutions like reforestation projects, a recent purchase of 100,000 fully electric delivery vehicles, and collaborations with manufacturers to improve and reduce packaging that has led to a 27 percent reduction in packaging weight and the elimination of 810,000 tons of packaging material since 2008.

Another area where the company garners green kudos is its leadership in cloud computing. Amazon's servers no doubt use a lot of electricity (much of which is derived from renewables nowadays), research suggests that companies who move their server infrastructure to cloud-based services—like industry leading Amazon Web Services—could save 87 percent on energy. The upshot is that as more and more companies ditch their own servers, energy consumption and carbon emissions can decline rapidly.

And let's not forget Amazon.com founder and former CEO Jeff Bezos' \$10 billion pledge to fund global warming resilience and mitigation efforts around the world over the next 10 years. So far, the so-called Bezos Earth Fund, while not officially tied to Amazon.com but built on Bezos' wealth stream from the company, has donated some \$947 million to various programs, organizations and research efforts working on climate and environmental justice issues—and the philanthropic giving has just started.

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.



Despite efforts by Amazon.com to achieve net zero emissions, environmentalists still have plenty of beefs with the e-tailing juggernaut. Credit: Soumit, FlickrCC.

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CHRISTMAS 2021
Merry Christmas

Ken's SUPER FAIR FOODS & BOTTLE SHOP
ABERDEEN
Will close 5 pm December 24th
SHELL EXPRESS C-STORE
Will close 7 pm December 24th
FOOD FAIR & SHELL EXPRESS
GROTON, IPSWICH, BRITTON,
CLARK & EUREKA
Will close 5pm December 24th

SUPER FAIR FOODS & BOTTLE SHOP
ABERDEEN & KEN'S FOOD FAIR IN
BRITTON, CLARK & EUREKA
Will be closed December 25th
SHELL EXPRESS
ABERDEEN
Will be open 6am-6pm December 25th
FOOD FAIR & SHELL EXPRESS
GROTON & IPSWICH
Will be open 8am-Noon
December 25th

USDA Choice Demkota Boneless Whole Ribeye
cut, wrapped, frozen free
\$12.99 Per Lb.

Fresh Raspberries, Blackberries, Blueberries
6 Oz. - 1 Pint
5/\$10

Kretschmar Boneless Whole or 1/2 Ham
\$3.99 Per Lb.

Best Choice Vegetables Green Beans, Corn, Peas or Carrots
14.5 - 15.25 Oz. Cans
2/\$1

Libby's Sliced Pineapple
20 Oz. Can
\$1.79

Campbell's Cream of Chicken or Mushroom Soups
10.5 Oz. Can
88¢

Swanson Broth
14-14.25 Oz Cans
4/\$3

Kraft Miracle Whip
30 Oz Jar
\$2.99

APP DEAL OF THE WEEK
Best Choice Cream Cheese
8 Oz. Block
FREE
W/\$10 PURCHASE & KEN'S APP
Limit 1 per customer, requires \$10 additional purchase and use of Ken's App

Family Fresh SUSHI
NOW OPEN in Ken's Deli in Aberdeen!

Meat
Sugardale Bone In 1/2 Ham
\$1.79 Per Lb.

Dairy
Best Choice Butter
1 Lb. Qts.
\$2.49

Frozen
Cool Whip Whipped Topping
8 Oz Tub
99¢

Liquor
Jackson Morgan Salted Caramel & Whipped Orange Cream
750 ML
\$25.99

Household
Best Choice Napkins
250 Ct.
\$1.89

Bakery
Dinner or Finger Rolls
2/\$5 12 Ct.

Deli
Kretschmar Buffalo Chicken Breast
\$7.49 Per Lb.

Food Intolerance or Allergy... Which Is It?

Food intolerance and food allergy are common these days.

When I was a kid, no one asked about nut allergies or gluten sensitivities when inviting you to a birthday party. You could bring homemade snacks to school. Peanuts were served to everyone on airplanes. Today, we are constantly reminded to be aware and take precautions to help prevent exposure for those who are intolerant or allergic.

Understanding the difference between allergy and intolerance is important. Allergies can result in life threatening reactions, whereas food intolerances are not life threatening but can be very problematic. Food allergies and intolerance have many overlapping symptoms making diagnosis difficult.

Food intolerance is very common and is estimated to affect 20 percent of the world's population. Food intolerance occurs when the body has a chemical reaction to eating a particular food or drink. Most food intolerance reactions involve the digestive system, skin, and respiratory system. Many of us have mild intolerance, say to dairy, but other common triggers are gluten, caffeine, and eggs.

Food allergies can be more serious and result from an inappropriate immune system response. Nuts, for example, are harmless yet the immune system can identify them as toxic. Even a small exposure can lead to a life-threatening reaction known as anaphylaxis.

Thankfully, we have new approaches to manage food allergy. Today, we better understand how exposure to a broad variety of food in infancy can reduce risk of developing allergy as we age. Another option available is immune therapy for peanut allergy.

On the other hand, managing food intolerance requires an understanding of what food or ingredient triggers symptoms, then we focus on avoidance. We do not have immune therapy for food intolerance.

Both food intolerances and allergies are becoming more prevalent. For example, between 2007 and 2016 there was a 377 percent increase in treatment of diagnosed anaphylactic reactions to food. Why are more people having challenges with food? It is not clear. Maybe it is our environment, our diet, or both. No specific cause has been identified.

Our world has changed and our treatments for food allergies and food intolerance have changed as well. It seems we will continue to have special dietary requests for a long time to come, so getting the right diagnosis is our most important first step.

Jennifer May, M.D. practices rheumatology in Rapid City, South Dakota. She is a contributing Prairie Doc® columnist and guest host this week on the Prairie Doc® television show. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit www.prairiedoc.org and follow Prairie Doc® on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show streaming on Facebook and broadcast on SDPB most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.



Jennifer May, M.D.