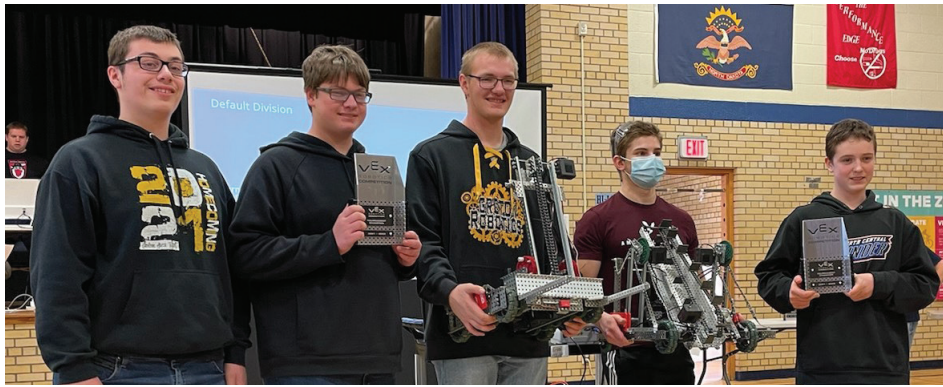




Groton Robotic Teams take first and second at Valley City



Gear Heads (Axel Warrington, Jack Dinger and Ethan Clark) with their alliance partners, Double Trouble from Eureka came home with a FIRST PLACE TROPHY-this is Gear Heads first time at winning a tournament! (Courtesy Photo)

Groton Robotic Teams take home the 1st and 2nd Place Trophy's this Weekend in Valley City!

When most of the town is sleeping the Groton Robotics crew is hitting the road on chilly Saturday morning! On the road by 6:30 am, of which is late considering this is the closest tournament for the kids.

Groton Robotics sent 4 teams up north on Saturday, January 26th to participate in the VALLEY CITY FROZEN CLASSIC Vex Robotics Tournament competing against 18 teams from the tri-state area, 10 being from South Dakota. G-Force 9050A (Travis Townsend, Jace Kroll) Gear Heads 9050B (Jack Dinger, Ethan Clark, Axel Warrington) Galaxy 9050E (Kiana Sanders, Corbin Weismantel, River Pardick and Isaac Higgins) and the Gladiators 9050F (Garrett Schultz, not present Bradyn Wienk).

The competition starts off with 36 qualifying matches, each team competing 8 times. At the end of the 36 qualifying matches G-Force ranked 4th, Gear Heads 7th, Gladiator's 10th and Galaxy 13th.

After the 36 qualifying matches 18 teams go into the tournament



Axel Warrington, Jack Dinger and Ethan Clark. The match that won the tournament for Gear Heads! (Courtesy Photo)

determined by an alliance selection. Each team chooses a tournament partner starting with the team that is ranked first and down the line.

Gladiators and Galaxy worked hard but faced very tough matchups in the quarter finals as they matched with G-Force and a Britton team that both ended up being the tournament runner-up. Robots are always a work in progress and it's fun to see the tweaks and improvements that take place between tournaments to help them advance as the year goes on!

G-Force, the 3rd seed in the tournament, advanced through the quarter and semi-finals with scores well above their opponents.

Gear Heads, the 5th seed, made it through the quarter finals, and met up with the #1 seed in the semi-finals, it was a close match with very close scores.



River Pardick, Corbin Weismantel, Kiana Sanders and Isaac Higgins hanging out in the pits making some changes to their robot. More photos on Page 6. (Courtesy Photo)

In the finals Gear Heads and their alliance partner from Eureka (Double Trouble) advanced further to face G-Force and their Britton alliance partner (Phil the Terrible).

The championship match was a grueling match that had us all on the edge of our seats. G-Force has a very impressive robot and has done extremely well. It's made some good moves by being able to stack the most mobile goals on their platform than any other team-this means LOTS of points! Some very jaw dropping moments! (see picture). Gear Heads had good offensive moves, in one match they were able to push their partner plus themselves and a mobile goal on the platform to balance to rack up some pretty good points (see picture). **FIRST PLACE TROPHY** goes to Gear Heads, **SECOND PLACE** to G-Force!

In the end it was 4 South Dakota teams that came out on top and competed for that 1st place trophy! Congratulations to all the robotists who participated! Groton's next tournament will be Saturday, February 12th as they head down to Sioux Falls. For more information check



G-Force (Jace Kroll and Travis Townsend) game back down to South Dakota with a SECOND PLACE TROPHY! (Courtesy Photo)



Garrett Schultz navigating his robot to get some points during a qualifying match. (Courtesy Photo)

out the Vex VRC robotics website, download the VEX via app and follow Groton Tiger Robotics on Facebook. Thanks to all who support Groton Robotics!

Article submitted by Shane and Laura Clark
Picture credits: Kellie Townsend, Ari Dinger, Laura Clark, Jessica Kroll, Shane Clark

UpComing Events

Thursday, Feb. 3

Basketball Doubleheader at Faulkton (5:15 p.m.: Girls JV in new gym, Boys JV in Competition Gym, Girls Varsity in Competition Gym at 6:20 p.m. followed by Boys Varsity.

5 p.m.: Junior High Wrestling Invitational in Groton

Friday, Feb. 4

Wrestling triangular at Presho

Saturday, Feb. 5

Girls basketball at Madison (Groton Area vs. Tea Area at 12:30 p.m. in the main gym)

10 a.m.: Wrestling at Stanley County
Boys Basketball with Clark/Willow Lake at Groton (7th grade at 1 p.m. followed by 8th grade, JV and Varsity).

Monday, Feb. 7

Junior High Boys Basketball at Aberdeen Christian. 7th grade at 6 p.m. followed by 8th grade.

Girls Basketball hosts Aberdeen Roncalli. C game at 5 p.m. followed by JV and then Varsity.

School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 8

Girls Basketball hosting Tiospa Zina with JV game at 6 p.m. followed by Varsity.

Boys Basketball vs. North Central at Edmunds Central with JV at 6:30 p.m. followed by Varsity.

Weekly Vikings Roundup Conference Championship Week Roundup

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

Cincinnati Bengals vs. Kansas City Chiefs

For the first time since 1988, the Cincinnati Bengals are heading to the Super Bowl. After falling behind 21-3 to the Kansas City Chiefs in the first half, the Bengals managed to complete the comeback thanks to the help of their defense, which held Patrick Mahomes to a measly three points in the entire second half.

In what was his fourth straight AFC Championship game, Patrick Mahomes went from looking like a superhero in the first half to a mere mortal in the second half. Although Mahomes finished with 275 yards passing and 3 touchdowns, he was only able to muster up just 55 yards in the second half. To make matters worse, Mahomes threw two interceptions, making it his first multi-interception game since week 6.

The game truly flipped on one moment at the end of the first half. With 0:05 remaining and the ball at the Bengals 1-yard line, the Chiefs decided to take one more shot to the endzone, despite leading 21-10. Mahomes threw a quick pass out to Tyreek Hill who got stuffed at the goal line as time expired, leaving valuable points on the board for the Chiefs as they headed into halftime. Based on the Bengals dominance in the second half and overtime, there is no doubt that play shifted momentum away from the Chiefs and into the Bengals hands.

In just two years, the Cincinnati Bengals have gone from the worst record in the NFL to the Super Bowl. Amazing what happens when you have a superstar quarterback like Joe Burrow.

Final Score: Bengals 27 – Chiefs 24.

San Francisco 49ers vs. Los Angeles Rams

On March 18, 2021, the Los Angeles Rams put all their chips into the middle and said “all in” by trading their starting quarterback, Jared Goff, along with three first-round picks to the Detroit Lions for Matthew Stafford. Many were skeptical that the trade was too much for a quarterback with zero playoff wins to his name. However, after the Rams win today, there is no doubt that that trade paid off.

Despite being favored and at home, the Rams came into the NFC Championship game with an “underdog” feel to them. Rams’ head coach, Sean McVay, was on a six-game losing streak to his buddy and 49ers’ head coach, Kyle Shanahan; Matthew Stafford was facing a 49ers defense who had shut down the explosive

offenses of the Cowboys and the Packers in previous playoff rounds, and the 49ers fans took over SoFi stadium so much that it was predicted the crowd would only be 35% Rams fans.

Nevertheless, the Rams made it an effort to rely on their stars to give themselves a 20-17 victory over the 49ers. Wide receivers, Cooper Kupp and Odell Beckham Jr., combined for a total of 255 yards receiving and two touchdowns. And when the game was on the line at the end, it was Aaron Donald and Von Miller who got to Jimmy Garoppolo to force the game-clinching interception. The Rams will now be the second team in a row to play a Super Bowl game in their home stadium.

Final Score: Rams 20 – 49ers 17.

Minnesota Vikings News

In other news, Vikings fans were the recipient of some exciting news this past Wednesday as the team hired its new General Manager, Kwesi Adofo-Mensah. Adofo-Mensah carries with him a unique background than the prototypical general manager. Having spent seven years in the 49ers’ organization and two years in the Browns’ organization, Adofo-Mensah worked on the “analytics” side of football. He will become the first general manager in NFL history with this sort of background. Although this might make fans nervous, every indication from those who have worked with Adofo-Mensah is that he is going to be a great General Manager for the Vikings.

Moreover, it appears that the Vikings have decided on three finalists for their head coach vacancy: Rams’ offensive coordinator Kevin O’Connell, 49ers’ defensive coordinator DeMeco Ryans, and Michigan Wolverines head coach Jim Harbaugh.

Radio stereotypes pretty real

When “WKRP in Cincinnati” hit the airwaves, radio veterans appreciated just how spot-on the characters were. The thing about stereotypes is they’re usually based on reality. Of course, this topic arises with the death last weekend of Howard Hessman—Dr. Johnny Fever—the somewhat chemically-imbalanced or balanced (your call) morning announcer. As a former disc jockey, Hessman was a natural, and everyone’s favorite.

Every one of the eight stations I worked for had eye candy like Jennifer Marlow (Loni Anderson) at reception. It was good for morale and a good way to defuse anyone steamed “about what the disc jockey said today.”

My friend and former roommate Tim Ost could have played “Andy Travis” as well as Gary Sandy. Both unflappable program directors, nice guys who brokered peace between the air staff and the sales staff—see “Herb Tarlick,” brilliantly played by Frank Bonner. Salespeople would promise advertisers anything no matter how demeaning it might be to the announcers who had to make it work. I don’t know if anyone really dropped live turkeys from a helicopter as they did on WKRP’s greatest episode, but lots of weird stuff happened. We regarded salespeople as prostitutes, only with fewer scruples.

My lasting image of Tim is of him sitting in the living room after we’d celebrated something, a full mug of beer in his hand tilted just to the point of spilling. In the morning he was still there. Motionless. Hadn’t spilled a drop.

“Les Nessman” (Richard Sanders), five-time winner of the Buckeye Newshawk Award, was a typical newsman. Usually, low maintenance, but even newsmen can cause trouble. When I was working at KIMN in Denver, my newsman, George Weber, walked in one night steamed and demanded to be put on the air. Curiosity got the best of me, so I did, only to hear a 10-minute harangue about a drive-through debacle at a fast-food restaurant as he was rushing (sort of) to the scene of a big fire. His contention was that he missed the scoop because of Arby’s. On Monday, we had to appear before the program director, who informed us that we’d blown a \$100,000 account and the snooty saleswoman, who drove a Mercedes, was really riled about it. That made us feel a little better. Our program director’s final admonishment was, “And it wasn’t even funny.”

We all knew a Johnny Fever. Most of them didn’t make 81 like Hessman. One of my buddies at a competing radio station told the tale of trying to reach a supremely-talented DJ, who was very late for an important gig, but he wouldn’t answer the phone. They found him delirious and naked on his living room floor.

Once, after I’d pulled an overnigher, the morning guy walked in for his shift reeking of skunky marijuana. “Dude, I don’t know what you’ve got in your pocket, but I can smell it from here.” A typical day in our world of barely-controlled anarchy.

I may have pulled a Johnny Fever a couple of times. Checking the Statute of Limitations, now. One night, I was blowing off some steam after a blowup with management and ran into Ole Olson, a competitor. I got home at 3 a.m. Ost may still have been there with his unspilled beer.

I awoke with an exhausted alarm weakly buzzing at 5:45 a.m. I was supposed to have signed on at 5:30. I laughed hysterically as I listened on the way in. The general manager and my nemesis, the greasy sales director, had managed to get the station on the air and had a record playing, but the mike was on and I could hear the desperate conversation. “What do we do, now?” Someone was going to have to do a 20-minute news block at the top of the hour, and that was me.

They had a look of incredulous horror when I shuffled in. Disheveled would have been a step up. I cued up a record and mumbled, “When that song’s over, hit that button.” Then I headed down the hall for a gallon of coffee. When I got back, it took me three tries to get my headphones plugged in. The sales manager, as if I couldn’t hear him, said to the general manager, “You can’t let him go on like that!”

“Why not?” I sniffed, “I’ll be better than you guys.” And I was. I only slurred (slightly) once.

Rest in Peace, Johnny Fever.

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That's Life

by Tony Bender

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2022 Carnival of Silver Skates

Brooklyn Imrie gets a ride on the sleigh around the rink as the new Carnival of Silver Skates Queen.



Marty Weismantel
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Joe Foertsch and Joel Guthmiller (far right), were recognized by the Carnival of Silver Skates committee for this work over the years in assisting in park the vehicles on the ice.

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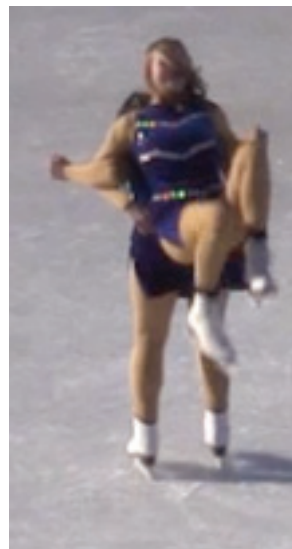
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Guest Skater: Kinsee Hruby, Watertown Figure Skating Club "New York, New York"



Guest Skater: Dasia Woertink, Watertown Figure Skating Club "Blood, Sweat, and Tears"



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Specialty Act: 2021 Silver Skates Queen Alexis and "We Go Together"



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1 Week: \$9 for first 30 words, 20¢/word thereafter
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SEEKING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR for Western SD Community Action, Rapid City, SD. Experience with Board of Directors, rural/urban anti-poverty programs and weatherization. 605.348.1460 for more information.

GUN SHOW

GUN SHOW: Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Association ABERDEEN Show, Saturday, Feb. 5, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 6, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at THE DAKOTA EVENT CENTER. Laura Ennen 701-214-3388.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP: ENEMY SWIM DAY SCHOOL is seeking A/E services for an Expansion project of approximately 15,000 square feet. See <https://esds.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Request-for-Proposal-ESDS-Expansion.pdf> for complete RFP. Questions or to schedule an onsite walk-thru, contact Dr. Nadine Eastman at (605) 265-1062 (cell) or email to neastman@esds.us

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Groton City Water Main Bid Notice

ADVERTISEMENT WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE II WATER MAIN EXTENSION "SCHEDULE A" GROTON, SD
 Sealed Bids will be received by the City of Groton, 120 N Main Street, PO Box 587, Groton, SD 57445, until 2:30 PM local time on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, for the above referenced project. Bids shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the Bidding Documents. The City of Groton reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all Bids as set forth in the Bidding Documents.

At or shortly after the time named above and within the office of the City of Groton, Groton, SD such Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids will be reviewed by the City of Groton at a subsequent meeting of the Groton City Council.

The Project includes the following Work:

- Installation of approximately 3215 LF of 8" PVC water main.
- Installation of 547 LF of 8" PVC water main by Horizontal Directional Drilling.
- Boring & Jacking 320' of 16" steel casing for 8" PVC water main crossing BNSF RR.
- Installation of 144 LF of 6" PVC water main by Horizontal Directional Drilling.
- Installation of 1260' of 6" PVC water main
- Installation of 3880 Ton Gravel Surfacing.

As per the Contract Documents, the date for Substantial Completion on this project is September 30, 2022.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Documents. The Successful Bidder will be required to provide Payment and Performance Bonds as described in the Bidding Documents.

Bidding Documents may be viewed and obtained at www.questcdn.com by entering Quest project number 7958512. Please contact QuestCDN Customer Support at 952-233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance. Upon request, one copy of Plans and Specifications shall be furnished, without charge, to each Contractor resident in South Dakota who intends, in good faith, to bid upon the project.

Bidders shall comply with the Equal Opportunity Clause published at 41 CFR Part 60 and Executive Orders 11246, 11518, and 11625, as amended. This

requires Bidders will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Requirements are explained further in the specifications.

Bidders on this work shall be required to comply with Title 40 CFR 33 and Executive Order 12138. The requirements for Bidders and Contractors under this regulation which concerns utilization of Disadvantaged/Minority Business Enterprises (DBE/MBE) and Women's Business Enterprises (WBE) are explained in the specifications. The DBE/MBE and WBE goals for participation in this contract in terms of percentage of contract value are as follows:

Disadvantaged/Minority Business Enterprises: 1%
 Women's Business Enterprises: 4%

Davis-Bacon and Related Acts wages apply to this project in its entirety. All provisions relative to those acts must be met.

The low responsive bidder will be required to certify to compliance with the American Iron and Steel provision of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014. This certification form may be found on page AIS-21 and 22 of the State Revolving Fund (SRF) General Conditions and must be included in the bid proposal.

Please be advised that waivers or exemptions from the American Iron and Steel provision that cite International Trade Agreements DO NOT comply with the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 as it applies to the SRF programs. Claims from suppliers that the American Iron and Steel provision does not apply to certain products based on the International Trade Agreement exemptions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 will not be accepted.

The successful bidder, including any contractors and their subcontractors on the project, must be registered in SAM.gov (System for Award Management).

The low responsive bidder must assure compliance with the requirements of Public Law 115-232, Section 889, Prohibition on Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment.

BY: April Abeln, Interim Finance Officer

PUBLISHING DATES: January 26, 2022

February 2, 2022

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Groton Lions paired up with Groton Robotics for a successful Pancake Feed!

Thank you to all those who came out to the community center on Sunday to support the Groton Robotics teams, including parents and Lion club members. The event was a huge success! People were able to visit with robotists and check out their robots used in tournaments. It was decided to pair the event with the Carnival of Silver Skates so families could come out and enjoy a big breakfast before heading to the rink! Dine-in or take-out options were available. We hope to see you next year! STAY TUNED!

Groton Robotics is open for all kids grade 6th-12th, contact Neil Warrington or Weston Dinger to find out more! The group meets once a week and travels to about 5 Saturday tournaments a year located in Canton, Harrisburg, Mitchell, Rapid City, Sioux Falls and Valley city, ND. Groton hosts one tournament a year, typically in January. Please visit the Groton Tigers Robotics facebook page for the latest updates and tournament information. Our next tournament will be in Sioux Falls on Saturday, February 12th. Visit our facebook page for the link to view the livestream, pictures, and tournament results!

Submitted by Laura Clark-Groton Robotics Board Member



Travis Townsend and Jace Kroll after getting 5 mobile goals stacked on their platform, BIG points in the robotics world! (Courtesy Photo)



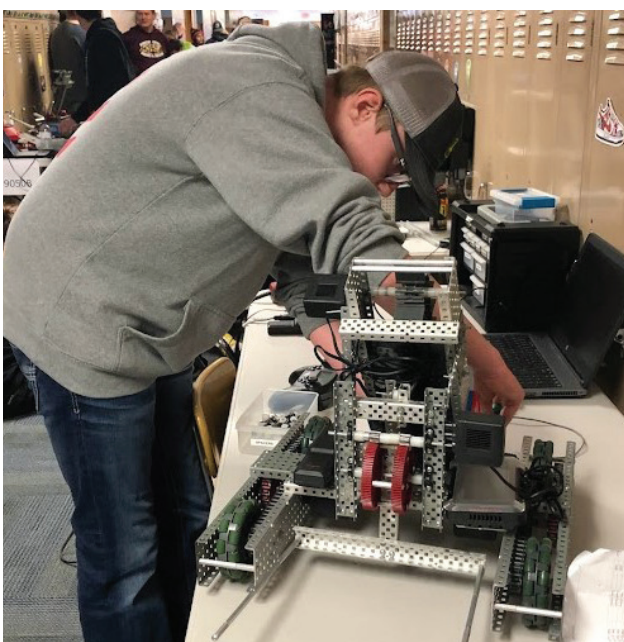
Lions Club members and Robotics crew anxiously waiting for the pancake feed to start! (Courtesy Photo)



Welcoming some supporters! (Courtesy Photo)



Robotists serving pancakes! (Courtesy Photo)



Garrett Schultz working on his robot in the pits between matches. (Courtesy Photo)



River Pardick paired up with Garrett Schultz strategizing on making some points. (Courtesy Photo)

Northern State Football Announces 42 Additions on National Signing Day

Aberdeen, S.D. – Northern State University head coach Mike Schmidt announced today his 2022 football signing class. The group features 42 incoming freshman and transfer student-athletes. The class hails from ten different states and covers ten different positions.

"I am encouraged by the student-athletes we signed today," explained Schmidt. "This is a championship-caliber signing class. We emphasized adding great size, length, and athleticism up front on both sides of the ball. We did that. We found some elite pass rushers and some huge, physical OL's. I am also very pleased with the amount of talent we were able to add from the local region around Aberdeen. There are some great players staying close to home to play their college ball."

The 2022 signees include Isaiah Allred (Tyler, Texas), Felipe Alvear (Katy, Texas), Sebastian Amorrortu (Minnetonka, Minn.), Brady Bauer (Mobridge, S.D.), Graham Borden (Geneva, Ill.), Tyler Bowman (Spring Valley, Wis.), Breshaun Brown (Phoenix, Ariz.), Ty Carlson (Aurora, Ill.), Cardell 'Cash' Cheeks (Fountain, Colo.), James Dahn (Brooklyn Park, Minn.), Ben Flak (Wittenberg, Wis.), Aidan Fredrickson (Britton, S.D.), Gavin Giesler (Mantorville, Minn.), Hayden Gilbert (Chancellor, S.D.), Jaziah Gipson (Maple Grove, Minn.), Chance Gregg (Selby, S.D.), Camden Haggard (Chandler, Ariz.), Kaden Henley (Alpharetta, Ga.), Carter Jackson (Buffalo, Minn.), Gabe Johnson (Garretson, S.D.), Paden Johnson (Watertown, S.D.), Elijah Jopp (Mayer, Minn.), Ismael Kante (Brooklyn Park, Minn.), Kaden Kurtz (Groton, S.D.), Cooper Logan (Gettysburg, S.D.), Brock Longville (Brookings, S.D.), Aiden Mack (Crete, Ill.), Cole Madsen (Buffalo, Minn.), Luke Manos (San Diego, Calif.), Ivan Martin (Glendale, Ariz.), Collin Olla-Chatman (Chicago, Ill.), Daniel Porisch (Edina, Minn.), Aiden Russell (Prescott, Wis.), Trevor Schwartz (Scottsbluff, Neb.), Noah Smith (Rochester, Minn.), Drew Smook (North Mankato, Minn.), Maxamillion Thomson (Sioux Falls, S.D.), Hezekiah Trotter (Chicago, Ill.), Anthony Vespo (Bolingbrook, Ill.), Jackson Warren (Lacrosse, Wis.), Braden Wells (Scottsdale, Ariz.), Prentice Wheatley Jr. (Minneapolis, Minn.), and Josh Witt (Green Bay, Wis.).

"Recruiting quality student-athletes takes a village," Schmidt added. "There were countless hours worked and miles-traveled by our coaching staff to identify these players and build the relationships necessary to get them to Northern. Our on-campus visits were made great by Layton Cooper and the Admissions staff, our amazing professors giving up time on their Saturdays, and the Aramark staff putting on great meals for the recruits and their families. We could not have put together such a great signing class without the support of so many people on-campus and throughout the community."

Heinrich hired as Finance Officer

Doug Heinrich has been hired as Groton's new finance officer. He was hired at the council meeting Tuesday night and will start at \$23 an hour and will be re-evaluated after six months.

In the mean time, Deputy Finance Officer April Abeln and Assistant Finance Officer Kellie Locke have been filling the shoes of the finance officer position. The council gave Abeln a temporary \$3 an hour raise and Locke a \$1.50 an hour raise from January 1, 2022 until a month after the new finance officer was hired.

Groton Area wins own invitational wrestling tournament

Five Groton Area grapplers took first place at the Groton Invitational Wrestling Tournament held Saturday. The first place finishes propelled the Tigers to a first place finish in the team standings, outdistancing runner-up, Watertown JV, by 20 points. Those who took first were Pierce Kettering, Christian Ehresmann, Korbin Kucker, Cole Bisbee and Lane Krueger. Brevin Fliehs took second while Walker Zoellner was third and Porter Johnson was fourth.

106: Liza Krueger (1-6)

Champ. Round 1 - Liza Krueger (Groton Area) 1-6 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Cooper Pommer (Clark/Willow Lake) 25-15 won by fall over Liza Krueger (Groton Area) 1-6 (Fall 0:32)

Cons. Round 2 - Alec Pester (Huron JV`) 4-15 won by fall over Liza Krueger (Groton Area) 1-6 (Fall 2:15)

106: Walker Zoellner (12-11) placed 3rd and scored 18.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 12-11 won by fall over Alec Pester (Huron JV`) 4-15 (Fall 1:35)

Quarterfinal - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 12-11 won by fall over Logan Foster (Clark/Willow Lake) 3-15 (Fall 3:43)

Semifinal - Keslar Swenson (Watertown JV) 6-7 won by fall over Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 12-11 (Fall 1:27)

Cons. Semi - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 12-11 won by fall over Alec Pester (Huron JV`) 4-15 (Fall 3:24)

3rd Place Match - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 12-11 won in sudden victory - 1 over Robbie Sealey (Sioux Falls O`Gorman JV) 6-5 (SV-1 2-0)

113: Porter Johnson (15-17) placed 4th and scored 11.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 15-17 won by fall over Jonah Crow (Sioux Falls O`Gorman JV) 0-4 (Fall 1:47)

Semifinal - Brady Unser (Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle) 10-6 won by fall over Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 15-17 (Fall 1:22)

Cons. Semi - Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 15-17 won by fall over Slayton Swenson (Canton JV) 2-3 (Fall 0:31)

3rd Place Match - Cooper Kettwig (Watertown JV) 5-8 won by fall over Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 15-17 (Fall 1:49)

120: Isaiah Scepaniak (3-18)

Quarterfinal - Yen Kyaw (Huron JV`) 3-11 won by fall over Isaiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 3-18 (Fall 0:22)

Cons. Round 1 - Isaiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 3-18 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Semi - Sam Anderson (Watertown JV) 3-1 won by fall over Isaiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 3-18 (Fall 0:28)

132: Cameron Johnson (0-7)

Quarterfinal - Ben Suther (Britton/Hecla) 10-12 won by fall over Cameron Johnson (Groton Area) 0-7 (Fall 1:07)

Cons. Round 1 - Sam Crandall (Watertown JV) 2-6 won by fall over Cameron Johnson (Groton Area) 0-7 (Fall 4:15)

132: Pierce Kettering (27-14) placed 1st and scored 24.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Pierce Kettering (Groton Area) 27-14 won by fall over Isaac Ramirez (Sully Buttes) 1-14 (Fall 0:45)

Semifinal - Pierce Kettering (Groton Area) 27-14 won by fall over Blaise McGregor (Webster Area) 7-18 (Fall 1:28)

1st Place Match - Pierce Kettering (Groton Area) 27-14 won by fall over Ben Suther (Britton/Hecla) 10-12 (Fall 3:21)

138: Brevin Fliehs (19-13) placed 2nd and scored 20.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Brevin Fliehs (Groton Area) 19-13 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Brevin Fliehs (Groton Area)

19-13 won by fall over Trace Genzler (Potter County) 3-13 (Fall 0:44)

Semifinal - Brevin Fliehs (Groton Area) 19-13 won by fall over Nicholus Giese (Sioux Falls O`Gorman JV) 8-4 (Fall 2:36)

1st Place Match - Clayton Dulany (Warner/Northwestern) 20-8 won by decision over Brevin Fliehs (Groton Area) 19-13 (Dec 6-2)

138: Nick Morris (1-9)

Champ. Round 1 - Nick Morris (Groton Area) 1-9 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Nicholus Giese (Sioux Falls O`Gorman JV) 8-4 won by fall over Nick Morris (Groton Area) 1-9 (Fall 5:38)

Cons. Round 2 - Kieshon Smith (Canton JV) 6-6 won by fall over Nick Morris (Groton Area) 1-9 (Fall 0:40)

145: Christian Ehersmann (26-6) placed 1st and scored 24.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Christian Ehersmann (Groton Area) 26-6 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Christian Ehersmann (Groton Area) 26-6 won by fall over Chays Mansfield (Warner/Northwestern) 4-11 (Fall 0:59)

Semifinal - Christian Ehersmann (Groton Area) 26-6 won by fall over Gavin Witt (Webster Area) 10-21 (Fall 2:51)

1st Place Match - Christian Ehersmann (Groton Area) 26-6 won by decision over Lucas Arcoren (Sully Buttes) 26-13 (Dec 7-4)

152: Korbin Kucker (22-16) placed 1st and scored 28.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 22-16 won by fall over James Hooper (Watertown JV) 1-2 (Fall 1:31)

Quarterfinal - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 22-16 won by fall over Okay Htoo (Huron JV`) 1-10 (Fall 0:27)

Semifinal - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 22-16 won by fall over Tucker Urdahl (Watertown JV) 4-8 (Fall 3:03)

1st Place Match - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 22-16 won by fall over Carter Luikens (Potter County) 11-16 (Fall 3:44)

160: Cole Bisbee (27-9) placed 1st and scored 24.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 27-9 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 27-9 won by fall over Aiden Kenable (Sioux Falls O`Gorman JV) 4-1 (Fall 5:08)

Semifinal - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 27-9 won by fall over Cole Shoemaker (Webster Area) 9-23 (Fall 0:36)

1st Place Match - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 27-9 won by decision over Gavin Neu (Canton JV) 11-6 (Dec 5-0)

285: Lane Krueger (20-7) placed 1st and scored 20.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 20-7 received a bye () (Bye)

Semifinal - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 20-7 won by fall over Zach Carlson (Sioux Falls O`Gorman JV) 8-18 (Fall 3:26)

1st Place Match - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 20-7 won by decision over Avery Nichols (Clark/Willow Lake) 4-1 (Dec 4-1)

Tigers win four of five games at Northwestern

It was a five-game slate on Thursday as the Tigers traveled to Mellette to take on the Northwestern Area Wildcats in basketball action. Groton Area won four of the five games.

The Groton Area boys C team took control of the game in the fourth quarter to post a 28-20 win. Gage Sippel led Groton Area with 10 points while Keagan Tracy had seven, Ryder Johnson five, Carter Simon four and Balke Pauli and Turner Thompson each had one point.

Rennan Bruns led the Wildcats with seven points while Aaron Blachford and Dallas Stoltenberg each had four, Patrick Olson and Cordell Vitense each had two points and Jack Hansen added one.

It was a five-minute break between games and the junior varsity teams had their pre-game

practice time in the auxiliary gym so it was quickly off and running in the girls junior varsity team. The Wildcats took the early lead at 5-0. Groton Area scored nine unanswered points midway in the game and took a 20-19 lead after the third quarter. The Wildcats reclaimed a 22-20 lead, but then Groton Area scored six straight points to take a 26-22 lead and hung on for the win, 26-25.

Kennedy Hansen led Groton Area with seven points followed by Brooklyn Hansen with six, Jerica Locke five, Jaedyn Penning four and Faith Traphagen and Rylee Dunker each had two points.

Ella Boekelheide led the Wildcats with eight points followed by Tara Blachford with six, Ashley Haven, Josie Sparling and Kayra Ratigan each had three points and Payton Grandpree added two.

The only loss of the day was the boys junior varsity team losing to the Wildcats, 46-28. Northwestern had two runs of 10 straight points to pull away from the Tigers. Teylor Diegel led Groton Area with nine points while Colby Dunker had eight, Cole Simon and Logan Ringgenberg each had four and Braxton Imrie added three points. Nathan Melius led Northwestern with 13 points and Lincoln Woodring added a dozen.

The girls varsity team improved to 7-5 on the season with a 52-29 win. Groton Area had a 12-point rally midway in the game to pull away for the win. Groton Area led at the quarterbreaks at 18-7, 33-11 and 48-20.

Allyssa Locke led the Tigers, making four three-pointers and finishing with 18 points, three rebounds, six assists, three steals and one block. Gracie Traphagen had a double-double with 16 points, 14 rebounds and one steal. Brooke Gengerke had seven points, three rebounds and two assists. Kennedy Hansen had six points, one rebound and one assist. Alyssa Thaler had three points, three rebounds, one assist and two steals. Jaedyn Penning had two points, one rebound and one block. Sydney Leicht had two assists and one block. Aspen Johnson had three rebounds. Jerica Locke had three rebounds, one assist and one steal. Faith Traphagen and Elizabeth Fliehs each had one rebound.

Groton Area made 14 of 31 in field goals for 45 percent, six of 14 in three-pointers for 43 percent, six of 11 free throws for 55 percent, had 32 rebounds, 19 turnovers, 13 assists, seven steals, 10 team fouls and three blocks.

Jessica Boekelheide led the Wildcats with 11 points followed by Faith Larson and Adriana Ratigan with five each, and adding two points apiece were Ella Haven, Ella Boekelheide, Ashley Haven and Emma Grandpre. The Wildcats made 12 of 45 field goals for 27 percent, four of eight free throws, had 14 team fouls and 14 turnovers.

The boys varsity team had a strong showing have being absent from the court for 10 days with a 57-42 win. The Tigers led at the quarterstops at 16-7, 31-16 and 46-25.

Four players hit double figures for the Tigers with Kaden Kurtz making four three-pointers and finished with 15 points, had one rebound, one assist and two steals. Lane Tietz had 14 points, four rebounds, three assists and four steals. Jacob Zak had 11 points, three rebounds, two assists, one steal and one block. Wyatt Hearnen had 10 points (eight in the second quarter), three rebounds, one assist and five steals. Jayden Zak had five points, one assist and two steals. Tate Larson made two free throws, had eight rebounds and had two assists. Cole Simon had one rebound, one assist and two steals. Logan Ringgenberg had one rebound and one assist.

The Tigers made 17 of 33 field goals for 52 percent, was five of 18 in three-pointers for 28 percent, was perfect from the line, making eight of eight free throws, had 21 rebounds, nine turnovers, 11 assists, 16 steals, 10 fouls and one block shot.

The Wildcats were led by Jude Ortmeier with 18 points followed by Quintin Fischbach with 12, Jamal Gallego had six, Justin Haven had four and Fatafehi Faonelua added two points.

Groton Area goes to 9-0 on the season while Northwestern falls to 5-6.

All of the games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM. The White House Inn sponsored the Boys C game, Gordon and Dorene Nelson sponsored both junior varsity games, and Groton Ford, Allied Climate Professionals with Kevin Nehls, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Dacotah Bank and the John Sieh Agency were the sponsors for both varsity games.

- Paul Kosel

Lana's Annals-Report from Pierre, Week 3

As I begin, even though renaming a book Tale of Two Chambers (aka Tales of Two Cities) would be a lengthy and sordid tale, the open line would be unoriginally the same, "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." This pretty much defines the frenzy of bills that are forthcoming, the hearing delays due to legislator illness, and the overall time deadlines which must be met with bill drafting and submitting, and yes, the spats, which is entire different novel material! Some who are unaware of the process think we should be able to put the idea in the bill, debate it, and have it become law all within a few days. Not so! It is lengthy and tedious with lots of rhetoric in tow.

This week in local government, HB1084 requested our approval to allow a municipality to permit the use of a motorized foot scooter on streets or bike paths. It would be up to the city to adopt specific traffic regulations if they choose to instate the rule so seemed to be a good idea, thus the bill passed our committee and will now go to the House floor for debate.

HB1114, also in local government committee, would have required a hearing on a comprehensive plan in a joint jurisdictional area. The bill was mainly asking for a requirement that landowners who are affected with zoning should have letters mailed out to them 10 days prior to action. The argument was that some people do not get newspapers nor do they consult online news. We felt that for small communities the mailings would be workable; however, the law would relate to all and cost would be astronomical to large cities. The bill then went down in flames.

In education we listened to HB1080, which would prolong the requirement of reporting increases in teacher compensation. This measure would continue accountability for teacher salary increases. Opponent arguments on this were that with so many teachers retiring, perhaps with a salary of 65,000 and hiring a new teacher for 48500, it would then appear in reports that schools were no longer being accountable with pay. The sponsor pointed out, however, that there is a board who reviews teacher salaries and investigates causes for possible lower salary budget. We voted in favor of the bill.

Our committee also heard from DSU requesting permission for a new sports complex, from SDSU wanting to renovate the Stanley Marshall building, and from Lake Area who wants to build a laboratory, additional classes, and a skyway. All of these only requested spending authority as money seems to have been raised already for the projects. Now that said, it is wonderful that donors will fund these projects, but it is the burden of the state in most cases to cover future maintenance and repair. We did, however, send them over to Appropriations to have a further review of said projects.

HB1057 and 1058 on the House floor sought to regulate marijuana. The first dealt with preventing the flavor and shape of the product to be attractive to children. For example, the bill discouraged the use of sugars and shapes which may attract our most loved and vulnerable. The second one would have prevented the transfer of the medical marijuana card from one to another. Both, surprisingly, fell to defeat. The reasons behind the defeat of the first one was that some believed little ones who need marijuana distributed to them would find it more attractive to take so would offer little resistance. Hence both sides mainly had the same arguments ironically! The second bill was laid to rest as there may be circumstances where the caregiver may have to produce a card at the dispensary on behalf of someone in a nursing home, children's home, etc.

As session continues, I would respectfully ask that you stay tuned to the live stream sessions so that you will be informed about issues, many of which will affect you. You are all invited and encouraged to visit committee meetings and floor sessions. If you have questions on any bills, please e-mail me. I would ask that you read the entire bill before addressing a concern.

Until next week, please think of at least one thing or person you are grateful for each day and thank God for that blessing. We are too quick sometimes to focus upon the negative so this may get us all thinking in another direction. It is worth a try!!

My e-mail is lane.greenfield@sdlegislature.gov or lane.greenfield@gmail.com

Rep. Lana Greenfield



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Glimpses From Greenfield 2022-Week 3

Last week, we took up a whole host of bills related to the medical cannabis program that was enacted at the ballot box in 2020. A 2021 summer study committee was convened to go over all 95 sections of the initiated measure with a fine-toothed comb. Certain areas that seemed to need tweaks and clarifications were identified. By-and-large, the proposed changes seek to uphold the will of the voters, while making the law more common sense. While I will not go over every proposal, I will give an example of one such modification that has passed the Senate. In the initiated measure, it allowed doctors to provide patients with medical cards so patients could seek out a dispensary to accommodate the patient. However, the initiated measure completely ignored the fact that nurse practitioners and physician assistants also have prescribing authority. Hence, one of the measures in the package of reforms called for a change in the definition of "practitioners" who may provide patients with medical marijuana permits. As an editorial note, the electorate spoke, so the legislature is trying to respect the decision of the people, while clarifying some language to make the program more practical in function.

In the recent past, the Secretary of State has brought forth bills to inject more of an electronic presence in the voting process. One bill attempted to allow for broad changes that would provide for online registration and voting. The legislature has rejected such measures for fear of exposing our system to fraud and abuse by those who would attempt to exploit vulnerabilities. SB 69 presents a baby step to increased use of an electronic system. Should this bill pass, people would be able to update their registration information, including changes to last names, addresses, phone numbers, and party affiliations. It is not a wholesale change to the process, but a number of Senators felt that it would be the proverbial foot-in-the-door to a wider swath in the future. The bill crept through the Senate on a vote of 20-15.

SB 72 contemplates putting anti-hazing legislation on the books as it relates to a student's initiation or admission to a school, college, or university. The first question I asked when I saw the bill in caucus is "Why does it only relate to students in educational institutions?" As a baseball coach, it struck me that it is altogether possible that a summer team (or a dance studio or a taekwondo club, etc.) may not be under the auspices of a school, and those who participate may not be students at the time of an incident. Moreover, it establishes three different levels of crime for two different levels of infractions. "Reckless engagement" in hazing would be a Class 2 misdemeanor. "Committing an intentional act" of hazing would be a Class 1 misdemeanor. "Malicious engagement" in hazing would be a Class 6 felony. Hazing, under this bill, would be defined as a "forced activity that endangers the physical health or safety of the student OR that subjects the student to extreme mental stress." A few examples of hazing were handed out to the lawmakers as we arrived at our desks. What struck some of us was that generally speaking the accounts provided were already covered under existing sections of the code. What really caused us to pause, though, was the question of what rises to the level of "extreme mental stress". This is a highly subjective standard, and there was a relatively robust debate over whether this bill was needed and how it would be applied. I reiterate, if it is appropriate to apply to students in an academic environment, it should apply to those same individuals involved in outside activities. The bill limped over to the House on a 19-16 vote, but even some of the "Aye" votes have since expressed to me that they don't think they voted the right way. I'm hoping the House will either iron out some of the perceived wrinkles or they will kill the bill altogether.

The Appropriations Committee continues to put in LONG days. Every day, we meet from 7:30 until noon, and nearly every day, we reconvene as a whole committee or in subcommittees after session adjourns and we work until the evening hours. We have a myriad of issues to work through as we determine what to recommend to the legislature in terms of state general fund allocations and other and federal funds expenditure authority. Generally speaking, we are committed to achieving the Governor's recommendation to provide 6% increases to education, medical providers, and state employees. A real challenge arises when talking about what the real-world scenario of hyper-inflation will bare out relative to new monies coming into the treasury, coupled with increases in internet sales tax revenues, along with both huge boons to South Dakota tourism and new residents locating here. Given those considerations, we are discussing whether we can provide some element of sales tax relief that was promised in 2016 with the passage of the extra half-cent sales tax. Also, we are having sweeping discussions about how to best invest federal ARPA (American Recovery Plan Act) dollars. We want to provide for long-term infrastructure investments that will pay dividends for decades to come. We do not take lightly the fact that the feds are blowing through dollars that will affect future generations, so we are trying our best to decide what projects will provide the greatest long-term dividends for the maximum number of people.

Many important debates and decisions hang in the balance. As such, I encourage you to let us know your thoughts and to pray for wisdom for each legislator as we wade through uncharted waters. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Brock

Groton Area Second Quarter Honor Roll

Seniors

4.0 GPA: Allyssa Locke, Madeline Flihs, Trista Keith, Travis Townsend, Kansas Kroll, Alyssa Thaler, Jordan Bjerke, Seth Johnson, Julianna Kosel

3.99-3.50: Jackson Cogley, Megan Flihs, Kaden Kurtz, Pierce Kettering, Emilie Thurston, Landon Kokales, Jace Kroll, Kody Lehr, Madisen Bjerke, Wyatt Hearnen, Hannah Gustafson, Ryder Daly, Lane Krueger, Michal Tabke, Kelsie Frost, Christian Zoellner

3.49-3.00: Favian Sanchez-Gonzalez, Kennedy Anderson, Evin Nehls, Brooklyn Imrie, Cassandra Schultz, Brayden Hansen

Juniors

4.0 GPA: Jackson Dinger, Jacob Lewandowski, Ethan Clark, Caleb Hanten, Elliana Weismantel, Andrew Marzahn, Cole Simon, Aspen Johnson

3.99-3.50: Brooke Gengerke, Cadance Tullis, Cole Bisbee, Kaleb Antonsen, Cade Larson, Tate Larson, Gracie Traphagen, Shaylee Peterson

3.49-3.00: Carter Barse, Porter Johnson, KayLynn Overacker, Shal-lynn Foertsch, Sierra Ehresmann, Cameron Johnson

Sophomores

4.0 GPA: Emily Clark, Claire Heinrich, Camryn Kurtz, Lydia Meier, Hannah Monson, Ashlyn Sperry

3.99-3.50: Kyleigh Englund, Abigail Jensen, Jaycie Lier, Lexi Osterman, Cadence Feist, Holden Sippel, Jackson Garstecki, Sara Menzia, Bradin Althoff, Faith Flihs, Sydney Leicht

3.49-3.00: Shea Jandel, Bryson Wambach, Dillon Abeln, Anna Fjeldheim, Emma Schinkel, Lane Tietz, Colby Dunker, Ava Wienk

Freshmen

4.0 GPA: Gretchen Dinger, Elizabeth Flihs, Payton Mitchell, Faith Traphagen, Axel Warrington

3.99-3.50: Blake Pauli, Jeslyn Kosel, Corbin Weismantel, Kayla Lehr, Laila Roberts, Brooklyn Hansen, Karah-Jo Johnson, Kellen Antonsen, Kennedy Hansen, Emily Overacker, Emma Kutter, Kianna Sander

3.49-3.00: Aiden Heathcote, Kaden Kampa, Blake Dennert, Diego Eduardo Nava Remigio, Savannah Bible, Carter Simon, Brevin Flihs, Rebecca Poor, Korbin Kucker, Easten Ekern, Turner Thompson, Emma Bahr, Ashley Johnson

Eighth Graders

4.0 GPA: Carly Gilbert, Nathan Unzen

3.99-3.50: Jaedyn Penning, Talli Wright, Mia Crank, Benjamin Hoefft, Jerica Locke, Gage Sippel, Logan Warrington, Nathalia Warrington, De Eh Tha Say, Lucas Carda, London Bahr

3.49-3.00: Raelee Lilly, Karter Moddy, Ryder Johnson, Paisley Mitchell, Keegen Tracy, Rylee Dunker, Karsten Flihs, Olivia Stiegelmeier, Lincoln Krause, Jayden Schwan, Coli Tollifson, Hannah Sandness, Cambria Bonn, Tristin McGannon, Breslyn Jeschke

Seventh Graders

4.0 GPA: Teagan Hanten, Carlee Johnson, Ashlynn Warrington

3.99-3.50: Liby Althoff, Emerlee Jones, Aiden Strom, Colt Williamson, Halee Harder, Brody Lord, Kira Clocksene, Avery Crank, Walker Zoellner, Claire Schuelke, McKenna Tietz

3.49-3.00: Gavin Kroll, Leah Jones, Blake Lord, Dylan McGannon, Hayden Zoellner, Zander Harry, Taryn Traphagen, Jackson Hopfinger, Addison Hoffman Wipf, Dylan Alexander Lopez Marin, Maggie Cleveland, Brenna Imrie, Hailey Pauli

Sixth Graders

4.0 GPA: Makenna Krause, Sydney Locke, Thomas Schuster

3.99-3.50: Elizabeth Cole, Chesney Weber, Addison Hoefft, Kyleigh Kroll, Layne Johnson, Taryn Thompson, Easton Weber, Ruelle Gilbert, Wyatt Wambach, Jace Johnson, Ethan Kroll, Ryder Schelle, John Bisbee

3.49-3.00: Rylie Rose, Rylan Ekern, Mya Feser, Dee Eh June Say, Kason Oswald, Karson Zak, Alex Abeln, Destin Pardick, Shaydon Wood, Journey Zieroth

Lennox hands Groton Area boys first loss

Groton Area's boys basketball team suffered its first loss of the season at the DAK XII -NEC Clash held Saturday in Madison. Groton Area took on Lennox and the Orioles pulled out a 62-52 win over the Tigers.

Lennox jumped out to an 8-0 but the Tigers rallied and closed to within one at the first quarter break, 12-11. Once again, the Orioles captured an eight-point lead early in the second quarter and again, Groton rallied to close to within two points, 19-17. Lennox would take a 24-17 lead at half time.

Groton Area found itself down by eight and then 10 points early in the third quarter. The Tigers battled back and closed to within three points, 34-31, but Lennox went on to take a 45-35 lead at the end of the third quarter. Lennox would open up a 14-point lead in the fourth quarter and would go on to win by 10.

Lane Tietz led the Tigers with 14 points, three rebounds, two assists and two steals. Tate Larson had 10 points, five rebounds, two assists and two steals. Jayden Zak had nine points, three rebounds and two assists. Jacob Zak had eight points, five rebounds, two assists and two steals. Wyatt Hearnen had six points, four rebounds and one steal. Kaden Kurtz had five points, one rebound, two assists

and one steal. Cole Simon had one rebound, one assist and one steal.

Groton Area made 21 of 53 total field goals for 40 percent while Lennox made 20 of 35 for 57 percent. The Tigers were five of seven from the line off of Lennox's 12 team fouls and Lennox was 12 of 18 from the line off of Groton Area's 18 team fouls with Jacob Zak fouling out with 32 seconds left in the game. Lennox had more turnovers, 14-8. The Tigers had 17 rebounds.

Groton Area is now 9-1 on the season while Lennox is 12-2.

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

- Paul Kosel

Groton Area boys run past Langford Area

Groton Area's boys basketball team took to the court with a chip on its shoulder after suffering its first loss of the season Saturday. Langford Area was the recipient of Groton Area's flurry of lighting the nets on fire as Groton Area won, 65-27. Groton Area took a 25-8 lead after the first quarter and a 49-10 lead at half time. The Tigers led, 61-17, after the third quarter.

Lane Tietz scored all 20 of his points in the first half, making three of seven three-pointers. He also had two rebounds and one assist. Jayden Zak had 13 points, two rebounds and one assist. Kaden Kurtz fired in four three-pointers in the first half to finish with a dozen points and had six rebounds, five assists and two steals. Jacob Zak had eight points, six rebounds, five assists, one steal and one block. Tate Larson had four points, four rebounds, three assists and one steal. Wyatt Hearnen had four points. Cade Larson had two points, one rebound and one assist. Taylor Diegel had two points. Cole Simon had three rebounds and two steals. Colby Dunker had one rebound and one block shot.

Groton Area made 17 of 30 field goals for 57 percent, made 10 of 17 in three-pointers for 59 percent, made one of two free throws, had 24 rebounds, eight turnovers, 18 assists, eight steals, 13 team fouls and two blocked shots.

Jesse Keough led the Lions with 10 points while Brayden Peterson had seven, Aden Godel six and Benjamin Gustafson added four points. The Lions made nine of 30 field goals for 30 percent, six of 15 free throws for 40 percent had seven team fouls and 15 turnovers.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, leading at the quarter stops at 13-2, 33-4 and 43-15 en route to the 48-20 win. Cole Simon had 12 points while Colby Dunker and Teylor Diegel each had 10, Dillon Abeln had five, Turner Thompson four, Holden Sippel three and Cade Larson had two points.

Keegan Schock led Langford Area with seven points while Kassen Keough and Jacob Samson each had five, Karen Godel had two and Ryder Smith had one point.

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

Several dance groups also performed and were all broadcast as well. The games are archived at 397news.com.

- Paul Kosel

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Bills would allow South Dakota Native Americans to hunt, fish and visit state parks for free

Bart Pfankuch
South Dakota News Watch

Native Americans from South Dakota would be able to hunt or fish anywhere in the state for free and visit or camp in state parks without paying fees under two bills under consideration by the state Legislature.

House Bill 1141 would allow enrolled members of a federally recognized Indian tribe located entirely or partially in South Dakota to be exempt from fees for hunting or fishing licenses, permits or stamps. House Bill 1142 would allow those same tribal members to be exempt from fees to enter or camp in state parks.

Both bills were proposed by Rep. Shawn Bordeaux, D-Mission, a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. Bordeaux said he proposed the state park fee waiver for Natives after seeing that Minnesota had enacted a law waiving park entrance fees for tribal members starting this year. New York state waives hunting and fishing fees for enrolled tribal members, according to state law.

In an interview with News Watch, Bordeaux said tribal members should have free access to state parks and recreation areas once inhabited by their ancestors, as many of those lands retain cultural and spiritual significance among Native Americans. Bordeaux said tribal members should also be allowed to hunt and fish without fees, just as they did before the state was settled by Europeans. Treaties signed between Indian tribes and the federal government generations ago guaranteed such rights, but have been ignored by South Dakota and other states, he said.

"We feel like we should be able to go the state parks because it's our land, and it was taken from us," said Bordeaux, an administrator at Sinte Gleska University in Mission. "Is it too much to ask for our Legislature and state to say, 'OK, we recognize that all this land was yours, so we're going to make it free to card-carrying Natives?'"

Bordeaux also sees the fee waivers as important to Native Americans in both in a practical and a philosophical sense.

In practice, making park and camp usage free and removing license fees for hunting and fishing would provide a new opportunity for outdoor activities among Native American individuals and families who often struggle financially.



Remi Bald Eagle

State park entrance fees are \$8 daily or \$36 annually for one vehicle; camping fees range from \$15 to \$26 per night. Resident fishing fees are \$8 per day or \$28 per year; resident hunting fees vary, but common fees are \$33 for pheasant and small game and \$40 for

"It really weighs on our hearts ... it would be nice to be able to walk on our homelands without the necessity to pay for it. To gather medicine or to do ceremony, that would be ideal."

-- Remi Bald Eagle



Rep. Shawn Bordeaux, shown on the floor of the House of Representatives, wants to waive fees for South Dakota Native Americans for hunting, fishing, camping and visiting state parks. Photo: Courtesy Shawn Bordeaux on Facebook

many deer licenses.

"For a family, it's really expensive, and these are depressed areas, some of the poorest counties in the nation where we live," he said. "This would give our kids a chance to get out in a way that is more affordable, and when you're putting deer as food on your table or your grandma's table, there's a real need for this."

Bordeaux said the fee waivers would have a very limited impact on state revenues, especially since most Natives already hunt or fish on reservation lands, and because many state parks are far from Native communities. Fiscal impacts would be minimal in the long run but especially at a time when the state coffers are flush with more than \$1 billion in federal COVID-19 aid, Bordeaux said.

Officials with the Department of Natural Resources in Minnesota estimate the state park fee waiver there will cost the state only about \$25,000 in reduced fee revenue and \$2,000 lost in sales-tax collections.

From a philosophical perspective, Bordeaux said waiving the fees would send a strong signal to the Native American population in South Dakota that the state cares about them and supports their rights to visit religious, cultural and recreational sites.

"We feel like it's not going to cost a whole of money, it's a nice gesture, and it's a thing that can go a long ways toward reconciliation to bring our peoples together," Bordeaux said. "It's a little carrot, but if it's the only carrot in your view, it's substantial enough to see it as something important."

Both measures have been referred to the House State Affairs Committee, but as of Feb. 1 had not had a hearing.

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks, which runs state parks and regulates hunting and fishing, had not taken a position on the two bills as of Jan. 31, according to spokesman Nick Harrington.

State law allows for some exceptions to park-entrance fees, Harrington said, including for disabled veterans or former prisoners of war, who also get half-off camping fees. Some tribal members do not have to pay entrance fees to state parks or recreation areas within their

boundaries, including Crow Creek tribal members at West Bend Recreational Area, and Yankton Sioux tribal member at North Point, Fort Randall South, Randall Creek or Fort Randall Spillway recreation areas.

The state Hunting Handbook also notes that state hunting licenses are not valid on reservation lands, and that tribal licenses are not valid on non-reservation lands. Active military and disabled people receive free or reduced fishing access.

Most Indian tribes in South Dakota and across the U.S. already allow members to hunt and fish on reservation lands without a fee, though they are still subject to

permitting requirements, bag limits and other restrictions set by tribal governments, said Remi Bald Eagle, intergovernmental affairs coordinator for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in western South Dakota. Fees are not charged to tribal members for entrance or usage of reservation parks, Bald Eagle said.

But Bald Eagle said many treaties signed between Indian tribes and the federal government call for allowing Native Americans to hunt and fish on lands outside reservation boundaries that are within the wider treaty boundaries. In regard to the Cheyenne River tribe, treaties signed in the 1800s should allow tribal members to hunt and fish without state licensing through all of South Dakota west of the Missouri River, but Bald Eagle said state laws do not recognize the full language or intent of the treaties of 1851 and 1868.

Continues on next page



Native Americans in South Dakota may choose to practice religious or cultural ceremonies in state parks if they are granted free admission, which could provide educational or culture enrichment opportunities for other park visitors, some lawmakers say. Photo: News Watch file

Continued from previous page

"One of the primary things we as Lakota people feel is that the treaties were never honored, that we made treaties for peace, and they have been consistently abrogated by one party and not the other," Bald Eagle said, speaking for himself and not on behalf of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. "We reserve the right to hunt and fish anywhere within the treaty territory, not just on reservations, but that includes our ceded lands, which are basically all of western South Dakota."

Bald Eagle said he doesn't think the fee waivers would be seen as much of a financial break by Native Americans, who would be more likely to view passage of the bills as acknowledgment of the treaties and of respect for Native Americans and their history and way of life.

"It really weighs on our hearts more than it does economically, to not be welcomed, to not be allowed to go onto our land as we see fit," Bald Eagle said. "It would be refreshing to us, and how this is received by non-tribal members may be seen as a litmus test for how future relations between Natives and non-Natives will go."



Jennifer Keintz

Rep. Jennifer Keintz, D-Eden, said she signed on as a co-sponsor of both Native fee-waiver bills because she sees the measures as a gesture of goodwill and reconciliation toward Native Americans in South Dakota.

"When I read the bills, what initially occurred to me is something I think about a lot living here in South Dakota, that it has to be painful for a lot of Native Americans to be charged a fee to access lands that were stolen from their ancestors," said Keintz, who works in real estate. "I know that waiving these fees won't change that past ... and maybe it's only a small gesture, but it's not insignificant to say that we can't fix what happened in the past, but at least we can give you access to these abundant natural resources, wonderful parks and recreation, and all of this that we have in South Dakota that was built on land that was taken from your ancestors."

Keintz also noted that Gov. Kristi Noem has sought to eliminate fees the state charges to developers or businesses, and that the Legislature is often looking for ways to reduce or eliminate fees paid by residents.

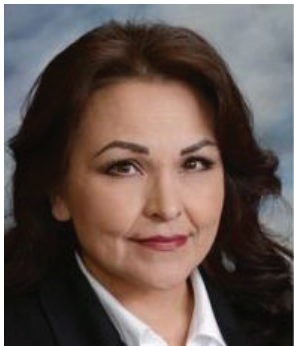
"I don't know how this idea [of tribal fee waivers] is being met by others in the Legislature, but if it is controversial, it sort of shows where our priorities lie," Keintz said.

Increasing inclusiveness and creating more equity for Native Americans was clearly part of the impetus for the removal of state-park fees in Minnesota, where Gov. Tim Walz recommended the fee waiver. The law extended existing fee waivers from known sacred sites within state parks to the entire state-park system.

"This proposal will better recognize and honor the cultural and spiritual ties between Minnesota Tribal Nations and many state parks and recreation areas, and improve access of tribal members to these sites," the governor's office wrote in a report. "This proposal would also be a move toward greater inclusion at state parks and recreation areas, a high priority for the DNR as we continue to focus on creating a welcoming and inclusive outdoor recreation system."

In an email to News Watch, Minnesota DNR spokesman Jamie McBride said the state allows tribal members to hunt and fish on non-reservation state lands if they possess a tribal hunting or fishing license. The agency has also recently hired a tribal liaison officer, implemented a tribal-relations working team and provided Native culture, history and sovereignty training to DNR employees.

"Strengthening tribal relationships is a strategic priority for the Minnesota DNR," McBride wrote. "Many issues are deeply complex, and DNR is dedicating the needed time and resources toward active listening, proactive response and shared problem solving."



Tamara St. John

South Dakota state Rep. Tamara St. John, R-Sisseton, said she has not taken a position on the fee-waiver bills because she has not yet seen any potential fiscal impact data or specifics regarding implementation or regulation of wildlife and fishing activities. So far, the bills

contain no reference to changing existing statewide hunting or fishing laws for tribal members beyond the waiving of fees.

Yet St. John, an enrolled member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe who is also co-chair of the state Tribal Relations Committee, said she understands and appreciates the argument that tribal members should have free and open access to lands they once inhabited and often see as spiritual sites.

"These are all the homelands to indigenous people and these lands have the footprints of indigenous people," said St. John, a tribal historian by trade. "Where we don't have access to places of importance, places we used to gather or hunt or pray, the importance of access is something that is always in the back of my mind."

Furthermore, St. John said the fee waivers would be one more way in which the state could encourage people to get outdoors and to maintain traditions of hunting and fishing in the state. St. John added that visiting state parks, camping and engaging in outdoor sports are also an avenue for Native Americans to build family relationships, promote mental health and possibly share Native history and culture with others.

"I think it would be great encouragement, and what a nice way of promoting mental health and also sharing tribal history," she said.

Bald Eagle said state-park entrance fees have been an emotional burden for many Native Americans, especially those who were prohibited from practicing religious ceremonies on state lands before the 1978 American Indian Religious Freedom Act, which allowed Native Americans to visit sacred sites across the country.

Bald Eagle recalls how his father used to take his family to Bear Butte in Meade County to make an offering of tobacco to elders in the spirit world. Saying prayers while casting the tobacco into the air or placing it in the ground was the common ceremonial method. But when such practices were banned on public lands, Bald Eagle's father would instead deliver prayers before driving to Bear Butte, then arrive and hurriedly place a bit of tobacco in a pouch and hang it from a tree before quickly fleeing.

Bald Eagle said passage of the fee waivers might attract more Native Americans to state parks, and some may wish to perform religious ceremonies in parks. But he said the practice would likely become more of a "novelty" that would rarely be repeated, but that would remain close to the hearts of tribal members who would cherish the right to choose to do so if they wished.

"If something like this were to pass, it would stoke the curiosity of many people and we would go to put our feet in the grass and say, 'Can it really be?' It seems surreal to even suggest something at that level," Bald Eagle said. "It would be nice to be able to walk on our homelands without the necessity to pay for it. To gather medicine or to do ceremony, that would be ideal."

Bordeaux said that even if his fee waivers do not pass this legislative session, it is important to start a conversation that can be continued in future sessions.

"I'm hopeful that even if we only get one person to agree this session, in the future, some student might be watching and think about getting involved in state government as a result," he said. "This will happen; it might take 10 or 15 years, but I do believe these bills will pass eventually."

— This article was produced by South Dakota News Watch, a non-profit journalism organization.



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.



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Dear EarthTalk: I've recently been really into salads and have been wondering does my consumption of more salads and less meat help fight climate change?
-- Penelope Marie, via e-mail

Prioritizing salads is indeed a step forward, as meat and animal products lead to pollution and the production of greenhouse gasses that trap heat in the atmosphere and lead to global warming. Methane emissions from cows is a significant source of greenhouse pollution, but livestock agriculture also contributes to global warming in other ways. In fact, the global meat industry would be the third largest polluter if it was a country after the United States and India.

Worse, 58 percent of food emissions come from animal products alone. Another contributing factor is improper storage methods leading to immediate declines in water quality when antibiotics and feces-borne diseases such as e. coli enter waterways. Several containment failures for pig feces in North Carolina in recent years highlight the severity of the problem.

EARTHTALK

Plant-based diets have the potential for reducing one's carbon footprint. A carbon footprint is how much each person contributes to climate change through their consumer behaviors, including their support of factory food production.

If you're one of the 89 percent of Americans who eat meat and other animal products, you're complicit with factory farming techniques. However, choosing to minimize your meat consumption—by eating salads—can help break this cycle. In fact, a recent study in the journal Food Policy finds that cutting meat consumption in half can reduce a typical American's carbon footprint by some 30 percent.

Some argue that so-called "ethical consumption" is less significant a factor than institutional action—and therefore individual actors don't have the capacity to shift global climate problems. But this line of reasoning fails to take into account the importance of citizen and consumer action in shifting societal behaviors. Indeed, consumers can work in tandem with governments and businesses. This could include boycotting meat, advocating for social change or volunteering with or donating to related nonprofit and/or political campaigns. Voting for candidates who take the climate crisis seriously is also an important way individuals can make a difference.

Finally, consider other ideas to reduce your carbon footprint even further. Salads are a great start, but staying mindful of what one puts into a salad is also important. Consider reducing quinoa and almond consumption. Quinoa degrades soil quality. Almonds siphon water away from people and animals, which contributes to drought conditions in California. Focusing on reducing meat consumption as much as possible may also be helpful, including switching to vegetarian proteins such as beans or reducing a reliance on proteins as the centerpiece of a meal.

Even if you've already done a great job reducing your carbon footprint in other ways, think about how much more you could be contributing by reducing or eliminating meat from your diet.



Eating more salad and less (or no) animal products is one of the most impactful ways you can fight climate change and help the planet. Credit: Roman Odintsov, Pexels.

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Seeing Shadows

Did the groundhog see his shadow this year? Every year on February 2, people gather in the small town of Punxsutawney in western Pennsylvania to observe the annual Groundhog Day ceremony. If the groundhog does see his shadow, he may retreat to his den and winter will last another six weeks. If he does not see his shadow, spring may arrive early.

This tradition is nearly 140 years old. Organizers claim for the sake of folklore that the original groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil is still alive today, getting his longevity from drinking the "elixir of life." But obviously, different groundhogs have been used through the years. The average lifespan of groundhog is only two or three years in the wild, and up to fourteen years in captivity. And besides, it's inevitable that the groundhog's eyesight would become less dependable as years go by. But I digress.

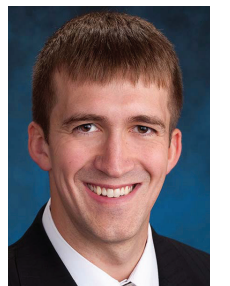
Like Punxsutawney Phil, some of us humans often see shadows in our vision. Eye floaters can be spots or shadows in our vision from a variety of causes. They often drift about when we move our eyes, and then dart away if we try to look at them, like a groundhog scurrying back to his burrow.

Most floaters are caused by age-related changes that occur as the vitreous, the jelly-like substance inside our eyes, becomes more liquid. Microscopic fibers within the vitreous clump up and cast tiny shadows on our retina, which we see as floaters.

Floaters are most visible when looking at a plain bright background like a white wall. They may appear as dark specks or clear strings. In general, floaters are not harmful and are nothing to worry about. However, a sudden increase in floaters may signal something worrisome, especially if you notice flashes of light or loss of peripheral vision. This may signal a retinal tear, a painless condition that requires prompt treatment to help save your vision.

As we age and the vitreous of the eye liquefies, it may sag and tug on the retina with enough force to tear it. Without treatment, the retinal tear may lead to a retinal detachment, when fluid accumulates behind the retina and separates it from the back of the eye. Untreated, this can result in permanent vision loss.

There are many reasons to go to the eye doctor once or twice per year for routine checkups to help maintain our vision. However, if you see a sudden increase in shadows, floaters, lights, or darkness of any side or sides in your vision, it's time to leave your den and scurry back to the eye doctor regardless of the season.



Andrew Ellsworth, MD

Andrew Ellsworth, M.D. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices family medicine in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org and on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show celebrating its twentieth season of truthful, tested, and timely medical information, broadcast on SDPB and streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.