



### 4th grade boys 1st place champs in Watertown Tourney

Front Nolan Bahr, Trayce Schelle, Trey Tietz, Gavin Hanten Back Ryder Schwan, Liam Johnson, Major Dolan, Axel Abeln Coaches Tommy Tietz, Ryan Schelle

Not pictured Coach Brett Schwan, Liam Lord, Asher Zimmerman, Tucker Leicht, Hudson Eichler, Jace Hofer, Jameson Penning, Eli Heillman. (Courtesy Photo)



### 6th grade boys 1st place champs in Watertown Tourney

Front row: Jace Johnson, Karson Zak, Alex Abeln, TC Schuster, Coach Ryan Schelle

Back row: Coach Jeremy Weber, Ryder Schelle, Quinn Cogley, Ethan Kroll, Easton Weber, Coach Jerry Johnson. (Courtesy Photo)

## Thurston interns at Next Level Nutrition

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

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

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

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

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

Emilie Thurston is interning at Next Level Nutrition, owned by Ashley Bentz and located in downtown Groton.

"I decided to intern at Next Level because I am interested in the health field. The drinks we make here are not only very good nutrition but are tasty as well," Thurston stated. "The drinks have many great health benefits and provide energy and extra protein in your diet."

"It is also fun to work here, learn new nutritional facts, and wait on a variety of customers," she explained. "Working for Ashley has been very educational as well as enjoyable."

"Making the wide variety of drinks is the best part of this job, but learning how to make them and pleasing the customers is probably the hardest part!" Thurston exclaimed.

"After graduating from high school, I plan to attend Josef's School of Hair, Skin and Body to certify in aesthetics for the aesthetic and injectable cosmetic services portion of my profession as a registered nurse," Thurston explained.

"Aesthetic nurses are typically involved in non-surgical procedures. They perform cosmetic procedures such as facials, Hyaluronic acid fillers, neurotoxin injectables like BotOx, laser skin resurfacing treatments like skin pen and radio frequency, and fat reduction procedures called cool-sculpting.

Emilie is the daughter of Todd Thurston and Debbie Thurston and has three brothers, Mitchel, Riley, and Drew. At school she is involved in track, dance, and FCCLA.



Emilie Thurston

### UpComing Events

#### Thursday, Feb. 10

Basketball Double Header at Milbank. 4 p.m.: Girls JV at elementary gym, Boys C game at Armory; 5 p.m.: Girls C game at elementary gym, Boys JV at Armory. 6:15 p.m.: Girls Varsity at HS Gym, 7:45 p.m. Boys Varsity at HS Gym. **NOTE: The elementary gym is the new gym attached to the school. It is basically down the hall from the armory and to the left.**

#### Friday, Feb. 11

Rushmore Challenge Debate at Harrisburg

#### Saturday, Feb. 12

9 a.m.: State Junior High Wrestling at Pierre Basketball Doubleheader with Mobridge-Pollock in Groton. Girls JV at 1 p.m. followed by Boys JV, Girls Varsity and Boys Varsity Rushmore Challenge Debate at Harrisburg

#### Monday, Feb. 14

GBB at Flandreau Indian - JV at 5 p.m. followed by varsity School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

#### Tuesday, Feb. 15

Boys Basketball at Sisseton C game at 5 p.m. in the Practice Gym; JV at 5 p.m. in the varsity gym followed by Varsity game

Junior High Boys Basketball hosts Tiospa

Zina. 7th Grade at 5:30 p.m. followed by 8th grade game.

City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

#### Wednesday, Feb. 16

Band Trip to Orlando, Fla.

#### Thursday, Feb. 17

Parent-Teacher Conference, 4-8 p.m.

Band Trip to Orlando, Fla.

#### Friday, Feb. 18

NO SCHOOL

Parent-Teacher Conferences, 8 a.m. to

Noon

Basketball Double-Header at Deuel (Clear Lake). JV games start at 4 p.m.

Band Trip to Orlando, Fla.

## Weekly Vikings Roundup

### Pro Bowl plus Viking Head Coaching News

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

#### Pro Bowl

The 2022 Pro Bowl happened. There wasn't much tackling. It's tough to talk about a game that was essentially a flag football game sans the flags. The AFC set a record by winning for the fifth consecutive time, while the highlight of the game was Stephon Diggs playing defense against his younger brother Trevon Diggs.

#### Minnesota Vikings News

In Minnesota Vikings news, the team "hired" their new head coach, Kevin O'Connell, Wednesday. The word "hired" must come with quotation marks since the Vikings technically cannot hire O'Connell until after the Super Bowl because he is still on the Los Angeles Rams' coaching staff. O'Connell, who has been the offensive coordinator for the Rams for the past two years, will be yet another head coach to be hired from the Sean McVay coaching tree.

Although O'Connell comes to the Vikings with zero head coaching experience and a lot of uncertainty, there are still some things to look forward to. For starters, when he was an assistant coach in Washington, many described him as a "tall Sean McVay." Although this might not seem like anything, it is still interesting to know that many in the Washington organization felt that O'Connell had a similar demeanor and coaching style to McVay, who has been one of the best head coaches in the NFL since being hired in Los Angeles in 2017.

Moreover, O'Connell has been one of, if not, the vital piece to developing the offensive game plans for the Rams offense. The Rams, who will face off against the Bengals in the Super Bowl next week, took a gamble this off-season by trading for quarterback Matthew Stafford. With the help of O'Connell, Stafford, who had never won a playoff game before this season, has been able to have his best season yet. It will be interesting to see if O'Connell comes in and does the same with Kirk Cousins, or if the Vikings decide to trade Cousins away and start a rebuild.

The happiest man on earth right now might be Justin Jefferson. When asked about the hiring of O'Connell this past weekend at the Pro Bowl, Jefferson responded by saying, "I have been watching the Rams offense... They have some tremendous plays, Cooper Kupp was wide open all the time. I'm excited for it. This is my first head coach that's going to be on the offensive side instead of the defensive side, so I'm happy." As a reminder, Kupp led the NFL in receptions, receiving yards, and receiving touchdowns this past year and might be the Offensive Player of the Year to show for it. If O'Connell can do for Jefferson what the Rams have done for Kupp this past year, then the sky is the limit for Jefferson.

Since O'Connell cannot be officially hired until after the Super Bowl, there is not much information on who will make up the rest of the Vikings' coaching staff. As of right now, the Vikings have lost a number of their coaches from this past year to other teams: offensive coordinator Klint Kubiak went to the Denver Broncos, and quarterbacks coach Andrew Janocko went to the Chicago Bears. I would assume that we will see more names depart once O'Connell officially takes over as the head coach and puts together his coaching staff.

In all, it is a new day for the Vikings organization, one that is young and offensive-oriented.

## Larson has boys first double-double in win over Faulkton

Tate Larson had his first double-double of the season, in fact, it's the team's first double-double for the season as he had 12 points and 11 rebounds, and one assist as the boys defeated Faulkton Area, 57-38.

Groton Area jumped out to a 5-0 lead and took a 15-12 lead after the first quarter. The Tigers rallied late in the second quarter culminated with a near mid court three-pointer at the buzzer by Kaden Kurtz as Groton Area took a 33-24 lead at half time. The Tigers continued forward as Lane Tietz had seven points and Jacob Zak six in the third quarter as Groton Area took a 50-31 lead going into the fourth quarter.

Lane Tietz had 12 points, three assists and two steals. Kaden Kurtz had 12 points, one assist and four steals. Jacob Zak had 11 points, six rebounds, one assist, two steals and one block. Cole Simon had four points and two assists. Jayden Zak had three points, three rebounds, two assists and one steal. Wyatt Hearnen had three points and two rebounds. Logan Ringgenberg and Holden Sippel each had one rebound.

Groton Area made 17 of 37 field goals, four of 18 three-pointers, 11 of 14 free throws, had 24 rebounds, 11 turnovers, 10 assists, 10 steals, 13 fouls and one blocked shot.

Hunter Niederbaumer led Faulkton Area with 12 points followed by Bennett Cassens with nine, Ryan Beckler six, Roman DiMaria had four, Simon Bowar three and Layne Cotton two.

Faulkton Area made 16 of 48 field goals for 33 percent, three of seven free throws, had 17 turnovers and 11 team fouls.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 40-22. Colby Dunker had 14 points, Cole Simon eight, Teylor Diegel seven, Logan Ringgenberg five, Braxton Imrie and Tyson Parrow each had three and Turner Thompson and Holden Sippel each had two.

## Traphagen had double-double in girls win over Faulkton

Defense was the name of the game for the Lady Tigers as Groton Area held Isabel Aesoph with no field goals and Groton Area posted a 49-18 win. Faulkton held a 5-4 lead after the first quarter, but Groton Area took command in the second quarter and led, 22-8, at half time and 37-18 at the end of the third quarter.

Gracie Traphagen had a double-double with 17 points, 13 rebounds, two assists and one block shot. Allyssa Locke had nine points, four rebounds, one assist and one steal. Brooke Gengerke had seven points, six rebounds and one assist. Kennedy Hansen had five points, one rebound and one assist. Jerica Locke had four points, two assists and two steals. Alyssa Thaler had three points, one rebound, two assists and two steals. Sydney Leicht had two points, three rebounds, one assist, three steals and one block shot. Aspen Johnson had two points, two rebounds and two steals. Jayden Penning had three rebounds and three steals. Brooklyn Hansen had one rebound.

Groton Area made 12 of 29 field goals for 41 percent, five of 22 three-pointers for 23 percent, 10 of 18 free throws for 56 percent, had 34 rebounds, 11 turnovers, 10 assists, 12 steals, 14 fouls and two blocked shots.

Terilyn Cramer and Shayna Heitmann led Faulkton Area with six points each while Isabel Aesoph, Gabby Last and Ashly Senn each had two points.

Faulkton made six of 33 field goals for 18 percent, five of 11 free throws, had 22 turnovers and 18 team fouls.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 24-16. Kennedy Hansen had eight points while Jerica Locke had six,

Faith Traphagen four and Brooklyn Hansen, Elizabeth Flihs and Jaedyn Penning each had two points.

All games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM.

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## Six place at Big Dakota Wrestling Tourney, team places fifth

Groton Area placed fifth as a team at the Big Dakota Conference wrestling tournament held Saturday in Ft. Pierre. Winner placed first with 245.5 points followed by Kimball/White Lake/Platte-Geddes with 220 points, Chamberlain was third with 166, Miller/Highmore-Harrold with 149 and Groton Area was fifth with 107 points.

Cole Bisbee and Lane Krueger both placed second place, Christian Ehresmann and Pierce Kettering both placed third and Brevin Flihs and Korbin Kucker both placed fourth.

### 106-A: Walker Zoellner (13-14) placed 6th and scored 7.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 13-14 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 13-14 won by decision over Tee Birkland (Cheyenne-Eagle Butte/Dupree) 19-9 (Dec 8-5)

Semifinal - Gavin Braun (Kimball/White Lake/Platte-Geddes) 36-5 won by fall over Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 13-14 (Fall 1:06)

Cons. Semi - Brody Gossen (Marion/Freeman/Freeman Academy/Canistota/Menno) 12-20 won by decision over Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 13-14 (Dec 4-0)

5th Place Match - Tee Birkland (Cheyenne-Eagle Butte/Dupree) 19-9 won by major decision over Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 13-14 (MD 9-0)

### 120: Isaiah Scepaniak (3-19)

Champ. Round 1 - Isaiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 3-19 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Kasen Konstanz (Kimball/White Lake/Platte-Geddes) 30-3 won by fall over Isaiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 3-19 (Fall 1:07)

Cons. Round 2 - Isaiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 3-19 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 3 - Karson Keiser (Winner) 36-13 won by fall over Isaiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 3-19 (Fall 0:54)

### 132: Pierce Kettering (31-15) placed 3rd and scored 16.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Pierce Kettering (Groton Area) 31-15 won by decision over Quinn Long (Chamberlain) 12-16 (Dec 6-4)

Quarterfinal - Pierce Kettering (Groton Area) 31-15 won by fall over Carmine Crow Ghost (McLaughlin) 2-8 (Fall 0:41)

Semifinal - Konner Osborn (Winner) 22-17 won in tie breaker - 1 over Pierce Kettering (Groton Area) 31-15 (TB-1 6-5)

Cons. Semi - Pierce Kettering (Groton Area) 31-15 won by decision over Mark Sandquist (Mobridge-Pollock) 20-17 (Dec 1-0)

3rd Place Match - Pierce Kettering (Groton Area) 31-15 won by decision over Colby Rittel (Miller/Highmore-Harrold) 13-15 (Dec 3-0)

### 138: Brevin Flihs (23-15) placed 4th and scored 17.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Brevin Flihs (Groton Area) 23-15 won by fall over Aebrie Waugh (Todd County) 4-14 (Fall 0:59)

Quarterfinal - Bryce Reuer (Chamberlain) 20-15 won by decision over Brevin Flihs (Groton Area) 23-15 (Dec 8-2)

Cons. Round 2 - Brevin Flihs (Groton Area) 23-15 won in tie breaker - 1 over Declan Tveit (Chamberlain) 2-8 (TB-1 4-2)

Cons. Round 3 - Brevin Flihs (Groton Area) 23-15 won by major decision over August Bartels (Winner) 15-17 (MD 18-4)

Cons. Semi - Brevin Flihs (Groton Area) 23-15 won by fall over Zander Bowman (Cheyenne-Eagle Butte/Dupree) 11-5 (Fall 1:27)

3rd Place Match - Bryce Reuer (Chamberlain) 20-15 won by major decision over Brevin Flihs (Groton Area) 23-15 (MD 11-3)

### 138: Cameron Johnson (0-9)

Champ. Round 1 - Zander Bowman (Cheyenne-Eagle Butte/Dupree) 11-5 won by fall over Cameron Johnson (Groton Area) 0-9 (Fall 0:28)

Cons. Round 1 - Cameron Johnson (Groton

Area) 0-9 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 2 - August Bartels (Winner) 15-17 won by fall over Cameron Johnson (Groton Area) 0-9 (Fall 1:47)

### 138: Nick Morris (1-9)

Champ. Round 1 - August Bartels (Winner) 15-17 won by fall over Nick Morris (Groton Area) 1-9 (Fall 1:55)

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

Cons. Round 2 - Cody Provost (Lakota Tech) 2-3 won by fall over Nick Morris (Groton Area) 1-9 (Fall 2:16)

### 145: Christian Ehresmann (31-7) placed 3rd and scored 20.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 31-7 won by fall over Kellen Cihak-Brozik (Winner) 6-19 (Fall 2:42)

Quarterfinal - Colton Brady (Stanley County) 32-22 won by decision over Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 31-7 (Dec 3-2)

Cons. Round 2 - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 31-7 won by fall over Garret Westendorf (Kimball/White Lake/Platte-Geddes) 3-17 (Fall 2:04)

Cons. Round 3 - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 31-7 won by major decision over Navarre Head (Harding County) 21-16 (MD 15-2)

Cons. Semi - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 31-7 won by major decision over Thomas Powell (Chamberlain) 21-18 (MD 11-2)

3rd Place Match - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 31-7 won by decision over Colton Brady (Stanley County) 32-22 (Dec 4-1)

### 152: Korbin Kucker (25-18) placed 4th and scored 15.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 25-18 won by forfeit over FORFEIT FORFEIT (Stanley County) 2-9 (For.)

Quarterfinal - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 25-18 won by decision over Owen Eitemiller (Marion/Freeman/Freeman Academy/Canistota/Menno) 17-16 (Dec 4-3)

Semifinal - Grayson Hanson (Kimball/White Lake/Platte-Geddes) 31-6 won by fall over Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 25-18 (Fall 0:21)

Cons. Semi - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 25-18 won by major decision over Wyatt Head (Harding County) 17-18 (MD 11-3)

3rd Place Match - Ryder Rowland (Miller/Highmore-Harrold) 28-15 won by fall over Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 25-18 (Fall 1:19)

### 160: Cole Bisbee (28-10) placed 2nd and scored 16.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 28-10 received a bye () (Bye)

Semifinal - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 28-10 won by decision over Ty Allen (Bennett County) 26-14 (Dec 3-1)

1st Place Match - Riley Orel (Winner) 35-0 won by fall over Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 28-10 (Fall 1:28)

### 285: Lane Krueger (21-8) placed 2nd and scored 16.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 21-8 received a bye () (Bye)

Semifinal - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 21-8 won in the ultimate tie breaker over Kameron Styles (Kimball/White Lake/Platte-Geddes) 27-12 (UTB 2-2)

1st Place Match - Canyon Burkard (Chamberlain) 18-4 won by fall over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 21-8 (Fall 3:13)

### Girls-106: Liza Krueger (3-4) placed 4th.

Round 1 - Emma McConnel (Marion/Freeman/Freeman Academy/Canistota/Menno) 5-6 won by fall over Liza Krueger (Groton Area) 3-4 (Fall 0:52)

Round 2 - Akane Metcalfe (Kimball/White Lake/Platte-Geddes) 10-2 won by fall over Liza Krueger (Groton Area) 3-4 (Fall 1:01)

Round 3 - Kendall Peterson (Chamberlain) 3-12 won by fall over Liza Krueger (Groton Area) 3-4 (Fall 4:26)

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## Wrestlers split duals at Presho

Groton Area split a pair of duals Friday at the Lyman Quad held in Presho. No results were available with Bennett County. Lyman won the first dual and the Tigers defeated a coop of five schools. The wrestling team will be at Stanley County today for a tournament.

### Lyman 45, Groton Area 25

285: Lane Krueger (Groton Area) over Louie Thiry (Lyman) (Fall 3:03)

106: Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) over Lane Olivier (Lyman) (MD 9-1)

132: Pierce Ketterling (Groton Area) over Kellen Griffith (Lyman) (Dec 6-4)

138: Shilo Mowry (Lyman) over Brevin Fliehs (Groton Area) (MD 14-4)

145: Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) over Tristan Penny (Lyman) (Fall 3:08)

152: Tance Wagner (Lyman) over Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) (TF 15-0 5:38)

160: Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) wins by forfeit

### Groton Area 30, Marion/Freeman/Freeman Academy/Canistota/Menno 24

285: Lane Krueger (Groton Area) wins by forfeit

106: Brody Gossen (Marion/Freeman/Freeman Academy/Canistota/Menno) over Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) (Fall 5:10)

120: Josh Popkes (Marion/Freeman/Freeman Academy/Canistota/Menno) over Isiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) (Fall 1:04)

132: Pierce Ketterling (Groton Area) over Finley McConniel (Marion/Freeman/Freeman Academy/Canistota/Menno) (Fall 1:08)

138: Brevin Fliehs (Groton Area) over Riley Tschetter (Marion/Freeman/Freeman Academy/Canistota/Menno) (Fall 5:59)

145: Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) over Zac Saylor (Marion/Freeman/Freeman Academy/Canistota/Menno) (Fall 2:47)

152: Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) over Owen Eitenmiller (Marion/Freeman/Freeman Academy/Canistota/Menno) (Dec 8-3)

160: Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) over Tim Epp (Marion/Freeman/Freeman Academy/Canistota/Menno) (Dec 5-1)



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## Columbia City

Feb. 2, 2022

### Meeting Minutes

City of Columbia Council Meeting - February 2, 2022

CALL MEETING TO ORDER - 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL - Cara Dennert, Ellen Harr, Trevor Meints, Corey Mitchell, Emily Eichler-via Zoom  
Community - Jeremy Dosch  
Corey Mitchell called the meeting to order. Minutes were passed out from the January 5th meeting. Trevor Meints made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Ellen Harr seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried.

Warrant Vouchers: Web Water - 39.35; Kolker Law Office - 215.66; Northwestern Energy - 798.58; Dacotah Bank - 198.61; JVT - 125.19; Jeremy Dosch - 419.99; Cara Dennert - 823.50; GDI - 39.46; Runnings - 206.69; Petty Cash - 150.00; SDATAT - 205.00

Trevor Meints made a motion to accept the vouchers as presented. Ellen Harr seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE - EPath Filing reminder, Game Fish & Parks trail funds application, 2022 Boundary and Annexation Survey, 2021 - 2022 Declarations Packet - City of Columbia, survey from Paula Jensen/Dakota Resources, NECOG - city map update

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - There were no changes to the

current suspended Columbia Covid19 ordinance.; nothing new yet on the ball park

Nuisances - Corey will be working with our lawyer to develop a plan of steps to follow city nuisances.

Streets - no report  
Parks - no report

Lagoon/sewer - up to date with submissions to state

Rubble Site - Needs to be burned while there is snow on the ground

NEW BUSINESS - Dakota Resources has put together a Columbia Community Perception Survey that has been mailed to all city residents and has been on the city Facebook page. There is a committee of city residents that will be meeting next week with Paula Jensen.

FINANCIAL REPORT - Cara presented bank balances. There was talk of our maturing CDs. Cara will check with Cynthia at Dacotah Bank on if we should lump them together for better interest. Ellen Harr made a motion to accept the financial reports as given. Emily Eichler seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried.

January 31, 2022 balances: SF - \$ 169,010.93; GF - \$ 175,430.38; FIT - \$13,978.76

Cash on hand - \$0

Emily Eichler made a motion to adjourn. Ellen Harr seconded the motion. All were in favor - meeting adjourned.

Next City Council Meeting - March 2, 2022 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Cara Dennert, Finance Officer

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$25.66. 20881

## Tigers beat North Central

Groton Area led at the quarter breaks at 18-3, 43-10 and 53-16 en route to a 68-21 win over North Central.

Lane Tietz led the Tigers with 15 points while Kaden Kurtz added 11.

Lane Tietz - 15 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist, 5 steals.

Kaden Kurtz - 11 points, 1 rebound, 3 steals.

Jayden Zak - 5 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist, 2 fouls.

Jacob Zak - 2 points, 7 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 foul, 1 block.

Tate Larson - 6 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists.

Cole Simon - 6 points, 2 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 foul.

Wyatt Hearnen - 7 points, 6 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal, 1 foul, 1 block.

Colby Dunker - 6 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal.

Logan Ringgenberg - 1 rebound, 1 foul.

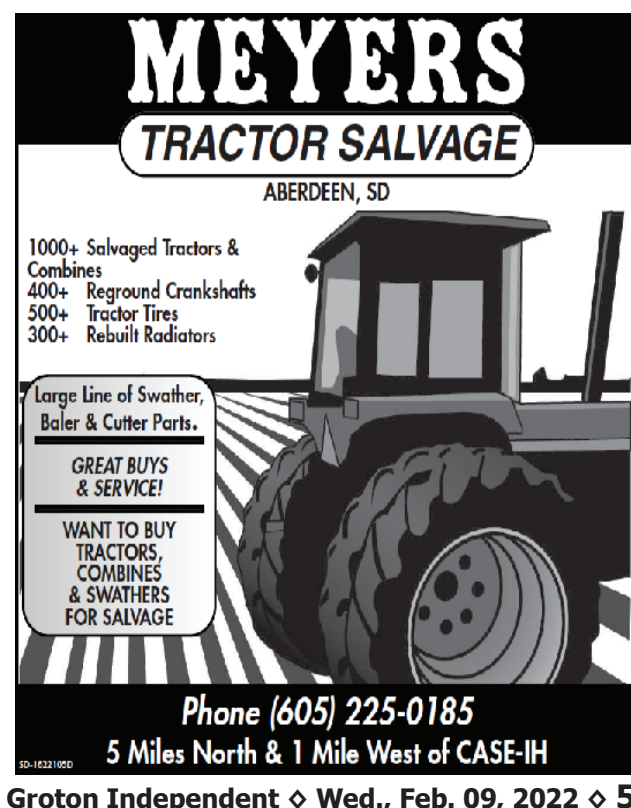
Cade Larson - 1 rebound, 2 fouls.

Taylor Diegel - 5 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal, 2 fouls.

Dillon Abeln - 3 points, 1 steal.

Holden Sippel - 2 points, 3 rebounds, 1 foul.

Groton Area made 17 of 33 field goals for 52 percent, six of 19 three-pointers for 32 percent, made 16 of 21 free throws for 76 percent, had 32 rebounds, nine turnovers, 10 assists, 12 steals, 11 fouls and 2 blocks.



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# Governor Noem Responds to False CNN Report

PIERRE, S.D. – Today, Governor Kristi Noem responded to a false CNN report claiming that hospitalizations are “surging” in Pennington County. The report, which aired on February 8, 2022, also shamed attendees of the Black Hills Stock Show and violated HIPAA by improperly including footage of patients.

“South Dakotans deserve the facts so that they can make the best decisions for themselves and their loved-ones. Unfortunately, CNN’s claims about COVID-19 in Pennington County were not factual,” said Governor Noem. “This political hit job ignored the mountains of factual data that we sent to them. We are demanding a correction.”

“South Dakota will continue to focus on working together to take care of people who get sick with COVID-19,” Noem continued. “We will not allow divisive out-of-state media outlets to get in the way of the partnerships between the State of South Dakota and our excellent hospital systems.”

Because of HIPAA violations in CNN’s coverage, Monument Health has also requested that the false story be retracted:

“A six-hour visit by CNN was summarized inaccurately in the story referenced. The quotes pulled were taken out of context to support a narrative that simply is not true,” said Robin Zebroski, Vice President of Strategic Marketing and Communications at Monument Health. “Monument Health has seen a steady decline in COVID-19 hospitalizations in recent weeks, and the overall testing positivity rate has gone down as well. We strongly support Governor Noem and are disappointed by the CNN report.”

COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennington County peaked three weeks ago, on January 18, 2022. Since then, they have declined by 32%.

“CNN did not reach out to the South Dakota Department of Health for this story. The Department of Health and the Governor’s Office provided data to be included in their story, but CNN ignored it,” said Joan Adam, Interim Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Health. “Governor Noem and the Department of Health will continue to work with our hospital systems to take care of people and ensure that up-to-date data is available to all South Dakotans. To find resources and facts, visit [COVID.SD.gov](https://COVID.SD.gov).”

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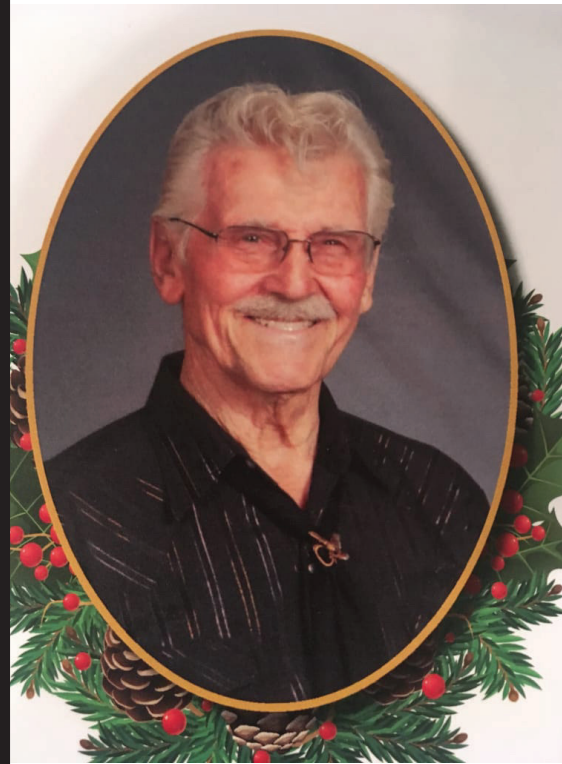
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# Sueltz celebrates 90th Birthday



Dave Sueltz is celebrating his 90th birthday!

His birthday was Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2022. Cards may be sent to:

Dave Sueltz  
1516 N Broadway  
Watertown, SD  
57201

**Happy Valentine's Day!**

I love to look at my photo of cacao pods hanging on the cacao tree. Isn't it strange to think that chocolate is made from the seeds inside these pods? I'm so grateful that people were clever enough to figure out the process of how to farm, gather and make the chocolate that we love!

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## Three hit double digits as Lady Tigers beat Tiospa Zina

Groton Area's girls basketball team posted a 58-28 win over Tiospa Zina in action played Tuesday in Groton. The Tigers led at the quarterstops at 22-4, 31-13 and 42-21.

Three players hit double figures for the Tigers with Alyssa Thaler leading the way with 15 points while Sydney Leicht had 14 and Gracie Traphagen 10.

Alexia Quinn led the Wambdi with 14 points followed by Kennadee Bissonette with nine, Latice Rodlund four and Maya Deutsch added a free throw.

Groton Area made 19 of 41 field goals for 46 percent, four of 18 three-pointers for 22 percent, eight of 13 free throws for 62 percent, had 38 rebounds, 10 turnovers, 11 assists, 12 steals and 13 team fouls.

The Wambdi made 10 of 37 in field goals for 27 percent, five of 17 from the line for 29 percent, had 12 team fouls and 13 turnovers.

Groton Area is now 9-7 and the Wambdi are 2-17.

### GROTON TALLIES

Alyssa Thaler - 15 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal.

Sydney Leicht - 14 points, 7 rebounds, 2 assists, 3 steals, 1 foul.

Gracie Traphagen - 10 points, 9 rebounds, 1 steal, 5 fouls.

Allyssa Locke - 7 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals, 2 fouls.

Brooke Gengerke - 4 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals, 1 foul.

Jaedyn Penning - 4 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal.

Kennedy Hansen - 2 points, 2 rebounds, 1 steal.

Laila Roberts - 2 points.

Aspen Johnson - 2 rebounds, 1 foul.

Jerica Locke - 4 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal, 3 fouls.

Elizabeth Fliehs - 1 rebound.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 47-7. Faith Traphage had 12 points, Jerica Locke 9, Laila Roberts 5, Mia Crank 5, Brooklyn Hansen 4, Jaedyn Penning 4, Kennedy Hansen 4, Rylee Dunker 2, Elizabeth Fliehs 2.

Harmony Rodlund had 3 points for Tiospa Zina with Latice Rodlund having 2, Hannah Ziegler 1, Talia Robertson 1.

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

## Bragg leads Ronalli past Groton Area

Madelyn Bragg put in 25 points as Aberdeen Roncalli defeated the Lady Tigers Monday night in Groton, 50-24.

The Cavaliers led at the quarterstops at 18-7, 29-12 and 43-18.

Gracie Traphagen led the Tigers with eight points while Alyssa Thaler had seven, Allyssa Locke had four, Jerica Locke three and Kennedy Hansen and Jaedyn Penning each had one point.

Adding to the Cavalier's tally were Morgan Fiedler with 11, Olivia Hanson 10 and Allie Morgan and Ava Hanson each had two.

Groton Area made nine of 51 in field goals for 17 percent, three of eight from the line for 38 percent, had 10 team fouls and six turnovers.

Roncalli made 20 of 42 in field goals for 47 percent, eight of 11 from the line for 73 percent, had eight team fouls and eight turnovers.

Roncalli won the junior varsity game, 33-20. The Cavaliers led at the quarterstops at 9-2, 17-7 and 22-15.

Faith Traphagen and Jaedyn Penning each had four points, Laila Roberts and Mia Crank each had three, Kennedy Hansen and Rylee Dunker each had two points and Jerica Locke and Elizabeth Fliehs each had one point.

Ava Hanson led the Cavaliers with 12 points while Rylee Voeller each had 10, Claire Crawford had five, Maddie Huber four and Ella Hanson had two points.

Groton Area won the C game, 27-21. The Cavaliers had a 7-6 lead after the first quarter, but then Groton Area took over and led at halftime, 20-9, and 25-19 after three quarters.

Rylee Dunker led Groton Area with 11 points while Laila Roberts had seven, Brooklyn Hansen and Emily Clark each had three points, Elizabeth Fliehs had two and Talli Wright added one point.

Rylee Voeller led the Cavaliers with 14 points followed by Kathryn Olivier, Sophia Feickert and Claire Crawford each had two points and Reese Henrich added one.

All three games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM. The JV and C game were sponsored by Steve and Betty Dunker. The varsity by Allied Climate Professionals with Kevin Nehls, the John Sieh Agency, Groton Ford, Dacotah Bank and Bary Keith at Harr Motors.

## Cyclones whirl past Groton Area

Clark/Willow Lake handed Groton Area its first Northeast Conference defeat with a 60-47 win. The game was played Saturday in Groton. It was the second straight Saturday that the Tigers have lost.

The first quarter was a battle as the game was tied four times and there were three lead changes before the quarter ended tied at 14. Both teams shot 46 percent in the first quarter.

Groton Area took a 17-16 lead early in the second period, but then the Cyclones made eight unanswered points to take a 24-17 lead and went on to lead at half time, 28-20. Groton made 25 percent of its shots in the second quarter while the Cyclones made 57 percent.

Clark/Willow Lake took a 40-29 lead late in the third quarter, but the Tigers battled to within five at the break, 40-35. Both teams put up 11 shots with Groton making five and Clark/Willow Lake six.

The Cyclones quickly jumped out to a 10-point lead early in the fourth quarter. Groton closed to within seven, 54-47, but the Cyclones made the final six points of the game for 60-47 win.

Tate Larson led Groton Area with 16 points. Noah Boykin led Clark/Willow Lake with 20 points followed by Tyler O'Neill with 15, Kaplan Felberg 11, Trey Huber had eight and Brady Jordan six.

Groton Area made 12 of 25 field goals for 48 percent, five of 15 three-pointers for 33 percent, and made eight of 11 free throws for 72 percent off of the Cyclones' 11 team fouls. The Tigers had 16 rebounds, five turnovers, 11 assists, eight steals and one block.

Clark/Willow Lake made 21 of 36 total field goals for 58 percent, 15 of 17 free throws for 88 percent off of Groton Area's 17 team fouls, and had nine turnovers.

Groton Area is now 11-2 on the season and will travel to Edmunds Central on Tuesday. Clark/Willow Lake is now 7-5.

### GROTON TALLIES

Tate Larson - 16 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 3 fouls

Jacob Zak - 8 points, 9 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 steals, 2 fouls, 1 block

Kaden Kurtz - 8 points, 2 rebounds, 3 fouls

Wyatt Hearnen - 7 points, 2 steals, 5 fouls

Jayden Zak - 5 points, 4 assists, 2 steals, 1 foul

Cade Larson - 3 points

Lane Tietz - 1 rebound, 1 assist, 1 steal, 3 fouls

Cole Simon - 1 assist, 1 steal

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 35-27. The Cyclones had an 8-4 lead after the

first quarter and the game was tied at 14 at halftime. Groton Area took a 22-19 lead after the third quarter and a seven-point run in the fourth quarter sealed the deal with the win.

Colby Dunker led Groton Area with 11 points followed by Cole Simon with 10, Logan Ringgenberg had six, Holden Sippel and Teylor Diegel each had three and Dillon Abeln added two points.

Mitchell Larson and Tyson Huber led the Cyclones with seven points apiece.

Groton Area won the eighth grade game, 48-25. The Tigers led at the quarter stops at 10-6, 21-16 and 41-20.

Ryder Johnson led the Tigers with 25 points, scoring 15 of those points in the third quarter. Gage Sippel had seven points followed by Keegen Tracy and JD Schwan with six each and Keegan Harry and Karter Moody each had two points.

Emmerson Larson led the Cyclones with 12 points while Mato Denoyers had six, Lincoln Reidburn had three and Ky Vandersnick and Masyn Knock each had two points.

Clark/Willow Lake won the seventh grade game, 33-9. The Cyclones led at the quarter breaks at 9-2, 11-8 and 23-8.

Ben Hoeft led Groton Area with seven points and Brody Lord had two points.

Talen Huber led the Cyclones with 10 points followed by Jacob Steen with nine, Diego Garcia six, Damien Severson four and Max Bratland had three points.

All of the games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM. The Johnson Agency sponsored the junior high games, Rutgear605 sponsored the junior varsity game and the varsity game was sponsored by Dacotah Bank, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, the John Sieh Agency, Groton Ford and Allied Climate Professionals with Kevin Nehls.

## Lady Tigers fall to Tea Area at NEC-DAKXII Clash

The Lady Tigers made just a single point in the second half as the Tea Area Titans pulled away for a 56-21 win at the NEC-DAK XII clash held Saturday in Madison.

Tea jumped out to a 14-1 lead and led it 26-18 at half time. Groton closed to within one, 28-20, early in the third quarter before going scoreless from field for the rest of the game.

Alyssa Thaler led the Tigers with six points.

Groton Area made three of 23 field goals for 13 percent, two of 19 three-pointers for 11 percent, made nine of 14 free throws, had 25 rebounds, 11 turnovers, three assists, six steals and 15 fouls.

Katie Vasecka led the Titans with 11 points while Bryan Schupher had 10, Kendra McKennig had nine and Haidyn West added seven.

The Titans made 21 of 45 field goals for 47 percent, five of 13 three-pointers for 39 percent, and made nine of 15 free throws for 60 percent. The Titans had 40 rebounds, six steals, 14 turnovers, three blocks and eight assists.

### GROTON TALLIES

Alyssa Thaler - 6 points, 1 rebound, 2 steals.

Gracie Traphagen - 3 points, 8 rebounds, 1 steal, 2 fouls.

Brooke Gengerke - 3 points, 5 rebounds.

Sydney Leicht - 3 points, 1 steal.

Jerica Locke - 2 points, 1 rebound, 2 assists, 1 steal, 4 fouls.

Jaedyn Penning - 2 points, 2 rebound, 1 assist, 3 fouls.

Kennedy Hansen - 2 points, 2 rebounds, 3 fouls.

Allyssa Locke - 5 rebounds.

Aspen Johnson - 1 steal, 3 fouls.

Faith Traphagen - 1 rebound.

## Lana's Annals-Week 4 Pierre Report

Greetings to all. More bills and resolutions rapidly dropped this week as all had a house of origin deadline. As a result, the numbers of pieces of legislation have now found their way to the Speaker assigned committees and will now either meet with passage or defeat as they continue down the pipeline.

My education committee usually has spirited debate on many different issues, and last week was no exception for what can be done as "talkers." HB1172 provides for presenting scientific information to students in an objective manner. Bottom line, issues are examined from both sides. One example would be the teaching of global warming. Many texts have students explore all of the negative effects that global warming causes and how to alleviate those problems. The bill would have us, instead, probe the converse side as to whether concept exists at all, and what has caused world leaders to believe this. That way "point and counter point" is probed. The opposition implored us to teach the science of it. As scientists cannot even agree on issues, I voted in favor. Teaching critical thinking skills is far more important than exploring a subject in only one direction.

After much discussion on HB1091, a request of 5 million state dollars to build a new rodeo practice facility as SDSU, our committee defeated the idea. The testifiers presented a good case that horses are stabled away from the current facility, creating complications. The schedule for using the current facility was also in conflict. For example, barrel racing practices may cut into roper practices. I voted against sending this to appropriations for the following reason: no general fund dollars have been used for a club sport. Five million dollars has been privately raised for the project and the committee felt that perhaps in the near future, the remainder could be raised through donations. The prior projects presented to us from other colleges this year have asked for spending authority only (meaning all of the funds for their projects has been raised and only approval to spend is asked).

We had the discussion on preventing derogatory Indian mascot names in our schools. Two examples mentioned were "Braves" and "Warriors." While I do not see these as offensive words, perhaps they are to some. I asked why these are not ok; the answer was that in schools that have less than 50 per cent Native population, it is not acceptable. I pointed out that one of our schools has the name "Redmen," which must meet the required student population 50 per cent or more Native attendance; however, why then do those who are not a part of the majority, not then protest that the name is a derogatory name to them? No answer. This example just goes to show that it is easy to "spin" things to our own satisfaction, which reverts to my earlier comments of being able to see both sides of an issue. We did not pass the bill but left decisions like these to local control.

The proposed CO2 pipeline has been the talk of many people in this portion of the state. What it is is a proposal only to lay pipe from Iowa to North Dakota to theoretically remove CO2 waste from the ethanol plants who have verbally committed to that idea.(the largest, POET, did not). The pipes would be placed 4 feet deep on private farmlands. The final destination would allegedly be to store this waste below the rock in North Dakota. Employees of Carbon Solutions have been busy surveying on private land, much of the time without permission, and trying to have farmers sign easements. This is, so far, an unapproved project as the PUC has not even looked at it or had any hearings, and I feel compelled to inform the public of that. Personally, I wondered about the rush to get permissions in place from our area farmers so I started doing a little research. Aside from the fact that the pipeline blew in Mississippi and caused a number of illnesses, I found that a group called Battelle is involved as project investors. This is the same group that Spink County sent packing when they wanted to do bore hole drilling to see if the ground was stable enough to store canisters of nuclear waste. Even though they said they were only going to drill multi-million dollars worth of holes in the Tulare area as an experiment of ground stability, the people knew they were paving the way for nuclear waste to be in our backyards. This made me wonder what would actually be stored in North Dakota who, by the way, also threw this group out on the bore hole hoax. It is food for thought and makes one wonder. I realize that the bill of goods has stated that they are here to save the ethanol industry, which many people, including me, wholeheartedly support; however, I question whether the "Solutions" federal grant project is here to help or just put money in the pockets of those who had the idea. I also question what will actually end up being stored in North Dakota. Conspiracy theory? May; maybe not. The House did pass a bill that, should the project be approved, these lines will be taxed.(HB1120).

We are starting to see more high school government classes visit. This past week I had the pleasure of introducing Groton High School and instructor Scott Thorson and also Hitchcock-Tulare with their teacher AND my former student, Bill Barrie. Also in the House I had was honored to introduce the Outstanding Teachers and Administrators of the Year. The latter included Dr. Becky Guffin, Superintendent of Aberdeen Schools (part of my district) and Fran Ruesink, principal of Dell Rapids Schools (formerly from Castlewood). I also enjoyed visiting with Jim Hulscher, Doland; George Seiler, Redfield; Peter Books, Castlewood; and Chris Lee, Willow Lake, attended administrators day at the Capitol.

Until next week, I ask for your prayers that we make wise decisions on your behalf. The days will get longer going forward and tempers will get shorter!!

Rep. Lana Greenfield, District 2

Lana.greenfield@sdlegislature.gov or lana.greenfield@gmail.com

## Glimpses From Greenfield 2022-Week 4

The legislature has now reached the bill introduction deadline. The House has dropped 339 bills, while the Senate has 212 bills in-play. A total of six Joint Resolutions have also been introduced, with three on each side. Joint Resolutions generally call for further action by proposing new Constitutional measures to the electorate. However, they may also be used to call for the state to participate in federal conventions that would seek to amend our US Constitution. Bills, on the other hand, seek to enact new or modify existing laws (statutes).

Because there has been a modest focus on South Dakota joining the effort to call for a "Convention of States", I will touch on that briefly. I have studied this issue at-length. Moreover, I was one of three legislators from South Dakota who had the opportunity in 2016 to participate in a mock convention that took place in Williamsburg, VA. After all has been said and done, I am not convinced that a convention will yield the positive results people anticipate. Before I go on, I would note that we have had a call for a convention on our books since 2015. That one contemplates acting on a "federal balanced budget amendment". Subsequent attempts have been made in the ensuing seven years that would call for us to participate in broader conventions. In the end, I believe if a convention is called for, Congress will set the initial rules, which could be further modified by convention-goers. As was the case in 2016 at the Williamsburg event, the convention exceeded the scope of authority it was called for. I would also note that despite efforts to provide assurances that delegates to a convention would only be able to act on specific measures, once a delegate travels to an outside jurisdiction, they are no longer bound by SD-specific laws. Said another way, when we travel to Minnesota, once we hit the border, we must modify our speed. If we get stopped doing 65 mph, we cannot tell the Minnesota police that we are from South Dakota where the speed limit is higher than their 60 mph limit. The same is true of laws that we pass that contradict rules of a convention in another jurisdiction. In my opinion, the possibility of attacking the 2nd Amendment, the electoral college, and a host of other matters our current Constitution embodies is too great. I would also note that Barack Obama is still a relatively young man. I would guess if the Constitution is opened up for potential amendments, there would be some who would argue that lifetime term limits for US Presidents should be revisited. On the flip-side, some of the most ardent supporters of holding a convention want to see term-limits for Congress addressed. The idealists say, "We'll be able to get rid of Schumer or Pelosi or this person or that." Well, I'm sure A.O.C. would love for the path to be cleared for her to run for the US Senate. And knowing how she operates, I'm also reasonably sure she'll have one of her acolytes groomed to take her place in the US House. Sometimes there's more to an issue than meets the eye. And, yes, ratification must follow any proposals that are offered, but in the sound-byte world we live in, we have seen dramatic changes in how people look at issues. I do believe the threat of a runaway convention is real. I've personally witnessed it. And my question to those who love and cling to our Constitution is "Why are you so hasty to want to change it?" We should push for enforcement of the original intent of what is written in black-and-white and not allow for political gamesmanship to change the most revered document in the history of world governments. I would also note that several names of people from across the state have been enlisted as "supporters" of the movement to call for a broader "Convention of States" but when I have visited with SOME of those people, they say they have NEVER signed anything that would imply their support. And I will refrain from stating a name, but this has happened to one of my siblings and any number of other unsuspecting South Dakotans. Granted, there are some of you reading this who are sincere in your support of the movement. Honest minds can disagree. I respect that. But when the people in charge of the movement from other locales are not providing truthful information, it undermines the very cause they are promoting.

There were not a lot of high-profile bills that made their way to the Senate floor last week. Most of my time was spent hearing funding requests in Appropriations and meeting with constituents. A very brief overview of some bills follows. HB 1025 was brought by the Bureau of Human Resources to reflect the federal law that notes June 19th, commonly called Juneteenth, is a federally recognized holiday going forward. The bill has passed both the House and Senate and is awaiting the Governor's signature. HB 1069 seeks to include out-of-state drug convictions when somebody commits a drug crime in South Dakota. Failure to do this would be akin to inviting drug dealers to come to South Dakota and start with a clean slate if they've been convicted elsewhere. This bill got hung up by a procedural move in which a fiscal note has been requested to determine the impact on our prison population if the bill should pass. SB 77 seeks to enhance the penalty for convicted sex offenders who commit subsequent sex offenses against minors. This bill passed the Senate unanimously and will be heard in the House in the near future.

Hopefully next week I will have more meat-and-potatoes to bring you up to speed on. For now, we are in a holding pattern as we await the decisions on some of the more high-profile bills.

Until next time, be blessed and stay well.

Brock



I've heard that a small amount of...



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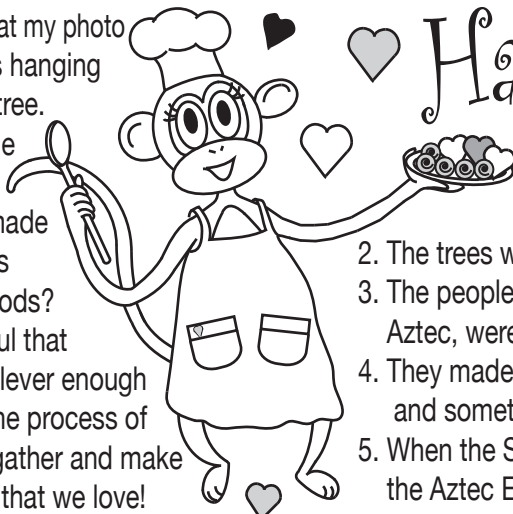
...dark chocolate is good for you.



Kids: color stuff in!



I love to look at my photo of cacao pods hanging on the cacao tree. Isn't it strange to think that chocolate is made from the seeds inside these pods? I'm so grateful that people were clever enough to figure out the process of how to farm, gather and make the chocolate that we love!



## Happy Valentine's Day!

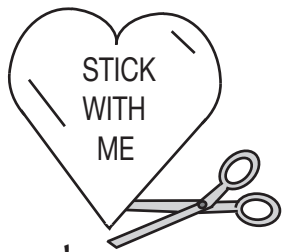
Read the clues and fill in the puzzle to learn how chocolate is made:

- Chocolate is made from the bean of the cacao \_\_\_\_\_.
- The trees were first found in rain forests of South and Central \_\_\_\_\_.
- The people of Mexico and Central America, which included the \_\_\_\_\_ and Aztec, were the first known to make chocolate.
- They made a chocolate drink that was not very sweet and sometimes had hot \_\_\_\_\_ in it.
- When the Spanish explorer Hernando Cortés came to \_\_\_\_\_, the Aztec Emperor, Montezuma, served hot chocolate.
- The Spanish brought the beans back to \_\_\_\_\_ where people made up new recipes using the chocolate.
- It took about 100 years for the chocolate drink to become a favorite throughout \_\_\_\_\_ - especially with sugar added.
- An Irish chocolate maker, John Hannon, brought beans from the West Indies to Massachusetts. With his partner, Dr. James Baker, he built the first chocolate mill and made chocolate squares for \_\_\_\_\_. You might still find some of this famous chocolate in your cupboard today.
- Today, cacao trees are farmed in many countries with warm and wet weather. \_\_\_\_\_ is the world's largest producer.
- Pods growing off the trunk of the cacao tree are harvested by hand by \_\_\_\_\_.
- The white beans from the pods are dried to a \_\_\_\_\_ color in the sun.
- The inside of beans (nibs) are gathered and crushed into thick chocolate "\_\_\_\_\_."
- The chocolate "paste" is mixed with \_\_\_\_\_, cocoa butter and vanilla.
- Next, the mixture is put into a conching machine to \_\_\_\_\_ the paste into tiny bits and create smooth, creamy chocolate to eat.
- The chocolate is \_\_\_\_\_ into our favorite bars by Hershey's, Mars, Cadbury and other companies.

15 sugar  
4 brown  
11 Spain  
paste  
Europe  
baking  
3  
5  
6 tree  
molded farmers  
America  
7  
8 Africa  
Mexico  
9 peppers  
10 grind  
12  
13  
14  
2  
Maya

Do the dot-to-dot puzzle to see me! Then, cut me out. Next, cut out this little paper Valentine heart and cut slots on the slanted lines. Put the heart on one of my spines to make a "sticky" Valentine.

### A Sticky Valentine!



### A Secret Message!

Study the pictures to fill in the secret message:

\_\_\_\_\_ L E \_\_\_\_\_ E  
R  
\_\_\_\_\_ E \_\_\_\_\_ E!

I'm kind of clumsy and sort of slow. My spines protect me wherever I go. When people see me they say, "Oh no!". I can't shoot my spines, but my heart I can throw! Who am I?

I am a \_\_\_\_\_  
R O P P U C E I N

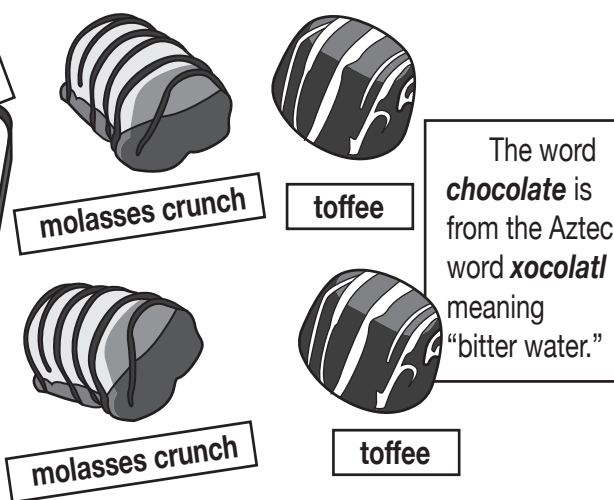
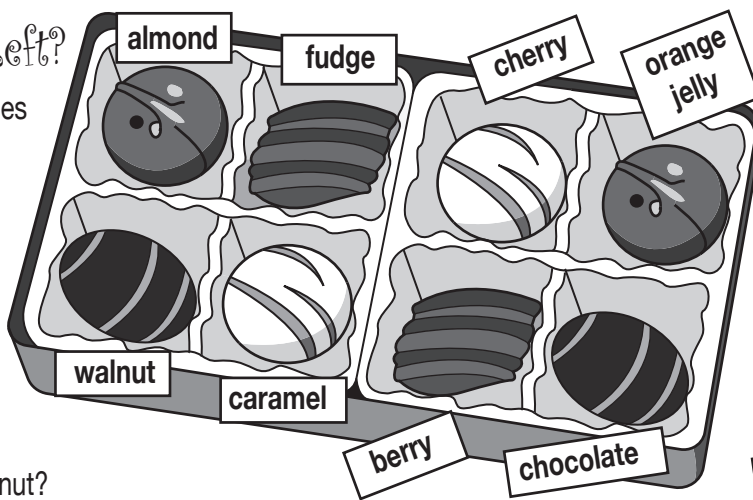
### Sweet Treats! What is Left?

Forest's Mom sent a box of chocolates to the clubhouse for the members.

- Chitter ate the 3 with fruit in them
- Chatter took the chocolate-filled one
- Wing bagged the ones with nuts
- Peak hid 2 molasses crunch bars
- Forest munched a toffee bar

What was left for the next meeting...

1. an almond, a fudge and a cherry? or
2. a caramel, a fudge and a toffee? or
3. an orange jelly, an almond and a walnut?



The word **chocolate** is from the Aztec word **xocolatl** meaning "bitter water."

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# Improving education top goal of Native American agenda in 2022 South Dakota legislative session

**Bart Pfankuch**

**South Dakota News Watch**

One way to understand which issues are most important to the South Dakota Native American community — the state's largest minority group — is to examine the bills that are filed each legislative session by the handful of Native lawmakers serving in statewide office.

This year, about three dozen bills were filed that directly touch on Native American topics, most proposed by Native legislators but a few by non-Natives.

A review of those measures reveals that one issue tops all others in importance — education, both improving education for Native children and teaching Native history and culture to all South Dakota students. Protecting the inherent treaty rights of Native Americans is also high on the list, as are protection of Native culture and an effort to enhance investigation of cases of missing and murdered indigenous persons.

Sen. Troy Heinert, D-Mission, has made education and care for elders the primary focus of his lawmaking efforts in 2022. Heinert is the prime sponsor of a bill to allow for creation of several Lakota-based language and education schools, and another to put Indian education management back into the Department of Education rather than in Tribal Relations, where he said progress has stalled. Heinert also has a bill to pave the way for a nursing home to be built on the Lower Brule Indian Reservation, which passed in committee.

Heinert's proposal to open schools using Lakota language and based on Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings on or near reservations is a way to try different cultural and educational approaches to teaching Native children who often struggle in traditional K-12 public schools, Heinert said.

The legislative process has become a critical way for Native issues to be studied, discussed, understood and hopefully acted upon in South Dakota, Heinert said.

"A lot of these issues have been burning for a long time, and our colleagues and the public aren't going to know about them unless we bring them forward," said Heinert, the Senate minority leader. "It's our job as Native legislators to educate our colleagues about these things that are important."

Other bills related to education would have mandated that the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings, a state-developed curriculum on Native history and culture, be taught in South Dakota public schools. That bill has already failed in committee. Other education proposals would allocate \$1.5 million to improve Native student achievement, create scholarships at tribal colleges, create tuition assistance for prospective Native teachers, and require greater focus on reporting of the status of Native education in state schools.

More than 20 bills were filed this session by Rep. Shawn Bordeaux, D-Mission, and several have already been killed in committee.

Yet Bordeaux remains committed to his causes, noting that Native voices often go unheard in South Dakota and that filing so many bills was a way to bring important Native issues to the attention of the Legislature and the public. His proposal to make hunting, fishing and state park entrance free for tribal members failed in committee.

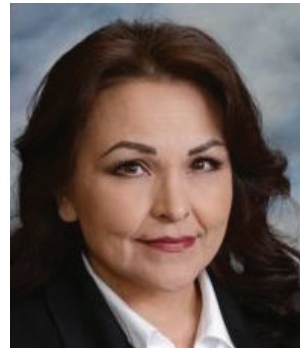
"We've got poor people in pockets across the state, and Native people across the state," he said. "All I'm trying to do is get those folks and their issues to be engaged upon by state



**Sen. Troy Heinert, D-Mission, has placed a major focus on education of Native American children and protection of the elderly during the 2022 legislative session.** Photo: News Watch file

government."

Rep. Tamara St. John, R-Sisseton, said she is confident in passage of her bill to allocate \$70,000 to the state Attorney General's Office to hire a liaison to aid in investigations of missing or murdered indigenous people.



**Tamara St. John**

The position was approved last year but never funded, so St. John hopes her bill will fund a state employee who can coordinate casework between state authorities and the Native community, as communication between them can sometimes be less than effective. For instance, state officials may have difficulty working with tribal police or individuals to get photos of missing people or adequate information to expedite investigations.

"I think at times, with rising cases of murdered or missing indigenous people, there often isn't an assigned person working on that within the tribe, just as there isn't a person working specifically on that within the state," St. John said. "It can be very confusing for everybody, given that emotions are running high, so ideally this liaison person would be able to reach out to the tribes and work closely with the AG's office."

Her measure, House Bill 1194, was passed 10-1 by the Joint Appropriations Committee and is moving forward in the legislative process.

Below is a look at all the bills filed in the 2022 legislative session that address issues related to the Native American community in South Dakota.

The deadline for South Dakota lawmakers to file bills has passed, so South Dakota News Watch reviewed all bills filed and found that three dozen House or Senate measures were related to Native American issues. Here is a glance at the bill numbers, the prime sponsors, the intent of the legislation and the status of the bills as of Feb. 7, 2022. If no action is noted, the bill has not yet had a committee hearing.

**HOUSE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

HB 1140 — Rep. Shawn Bordeaux, D-Mission; would permit tribal ID card to be used for voter registration (failed in committee).

HB 1141, 1142 — Bordeaux; waives fees for Native Americans to hunt, fish or visit state parks (failed in committee).

HB 1143 — Bordeaux; requires training on Native American laws for lawmakers and staff (failed in committee).

HB 1144 — Bordeaux; would remove offensive place names, including "scalp" (failed in committee).

HB 1146 — Bordeaux; allows tribal relations committee to issue subpoenas (failed in committee).

HB 1147 — Bordeaux; provides penalties for businesses that do not accept tribal IDs for identification (failed in committee).

HB 1150/1181 — Bordeaux; prohibit use of cyanide in mining for gold, silver and uranium (both failed in committee).

HB 1170 — Rep. Peri Pourier, D-Pine Ridge; requires teaching of Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings in social studies (failed in committee).

HB 1182 — Bordeaux; would provide 10% of national forest revenues to Native American tribes (withdrawn).

HB 1183 — Bordeaux; prohibits use of school mascots offensive to Native Americans (failed in committee).

HB 1184 — Bordeaux; allows playing of Lakota Flag Song or honor song at graduations (failed in committee).

HB 1185 — Bordeaux; permits wearing of beaded cap at graduation ceremonies (passed by committee).

HB 1186 — Bordeaux; provides free tuition for tribal members at regental colleges and technical schools.

HB 1187 — Bordeaux; prohibits use of police chokeholds and creates database of police-misconduct cases (failed in committee).

HB 1188 — Bordeaux; creates a scholarship program at tribal universities.

HB 1189 — Bordeaux; provides \$1.5 million for Native achievement schools program.

HB 1190 — Bordeaux; creates tuition-assistance program in Department of Native Education for teacher certification.

HB 1191 — Bordeaux; would develop Lakota Language child learning centers.

HB 1192 — Bordeaux; provides \$500,000 to support development of Indian horseracing relays.

HB 1194 — Rep. Tamara St. John, R-Sisseton; provides \$70,000 to the Attorney General's Office to fund a specialist on missing/murdered indigenous people (passed by committee).

HB 1195 — St. John; directs the Indian Education Advisory Council to make annual report to governor and State-Tribal Relations Committee.

HB 1196 — St. John; designates the Dakota flute as the official indigenous musical instrument of South Dakota (passed by committee).

HB 1248 — Rep. Steven Haugaard, R-Sioux Falls; provides \$700,000 to build Sioux code talkers memorial at state Capitol.

HB 1264 — Pourier; provides \$85,000 to the Attorney General's Office for missing/murdered indigenous persons specialist (passed by committee).

HB 1275 — Bordeaux; establishes Commission of Truth and Reconciliation on past and present state and federal government policies toward Native Americans (failed in committee).

HB 1281 — Rep. Rocky Blare, R-Ideal; provides \$300,000 to a South Dakota tribal college to enhance research into 3D printing in tribal housing development.

HB 1297 — Bordeaux; requires display of tribal flags in state Capitol (failed in committee).

HB 1298 — Bordeaux; reallocates revenues from Black Hills and Custer national forests

**Continues on next page**

Continued from previous page

to Indian education-grant program.

HCR 6001 — Rep. Becky Drury, R-Rapid City; designates Native star quilt as official state quilt.

HR 7001 — Bordeaux; supports official inquiry into Medals of Honor given to U.S. soldiers for involvement in the Wounded Knee Massacre of 1890.

SENATE BILLS

SB 112 — Sen. Troy Heinert, D-Mission; would transfer the Office of Indian Education from Department of Tribal Relations to the Department of Education.

SB 139 — Heinert; provides for the creation and funding of Oceti Sakowin community-based Lakota language and curricular schools (passed by committee).

SB 147 — Heinert; authorizes construction of a nursing home on Lower Brule Indian Reservation (passed by committee).

SB 178 — Heinert; refers changing of name of Custer State Park to state Board of Geographic Names.

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**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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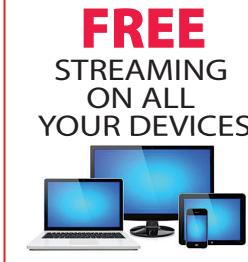
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Dear EarthTalk: As millions and millions of electric car batteries start to reach the end of their useful lives, how can we avoid an e-waste apocalypse?

-- W. Alexander, San Francisco, CA

Record-breaking electric car sales confirm that the future of electric transport is here. Globally, 10 million lithium-ion battery-powered vehicles are now on the road. The International Energy Agency predicts that number will increase to 300 million by 2030, accounting for over 60 percent of new car sales. But a huge problem looms on the horizon: in less than a decade, nearly two million tons of lithium-ion batteries from electric vehicles will be retired each year, and the current recycling infrastructure isn't ready for them. Most lithium-ion batteries are tossed in landfills, with only five percent recycled worldwide.

Researchers at Newcastle University in the UK warn that this growing stream of spent batteries poses "an enormous threat" to the natural environment and human health. "Degradation of the battery content in some cases may lead to the emergence of chemicals structurally similar to

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chemical warfare agents."

Given the risks, upping our capacity for recycling these batteries is imperative not only to avoid possibly catastrophic landfill disposal, but also to reduce the need for harmful mining. More than 70 percent of the world's cobalt, the most expensive element in a lithium-ion battery, is produced in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). One would assume this to be an economic miracle for miners in the DRC, however unrelenting poverty forces even the children to work in the mines instead of attending school.

In addition to pitiful wages, DRC miners face serious health threats and local environmental annihilation. Researchers at the University of Lubumbashi found that residents near the mines, especially children, had higher urinary levels of cobalt, cadmium and uranium. The urinary cobalt concentrations found in this population are the highest ever reported for a general population. Fish in the DRC are also heavily contaminated with high levels of metals, while soil samples are so contaminated that the mining regions of the DRC are considered among the 10 most polluted areas in the world.

Lithium mining has also spurred a backlash across the globe, including in Serbia, Tibet and Chile. And in the U.S., residents near Thacker Pass in Nevada formed a grassroots group to sound off on multiple concerns should a proposed lithium mine begin production there. Concerns include a possible dramatic decrease in air quality due to the tens of thousands of gallons of diesel fuel that will be burned daily at the proposed mine, releasing the same carbon dioxide emissions as a small city. The mine would also extract more than a billion gallons of water annually from an already over-allocated aquifer in the Quinn River Valley, possibly leaching dangerous substances into groundwater in the process. Further distressing are the adverse impacts to the area's unique sagebrush steppe terrain, a habitat for over 350 species, including greater sage-grouse, golden eagles, pronghorn antelope, burrowing owls, pygmy rabbits and more.

Dramatically increasing recycling capacity for lithium-ion batteries and creating new ways to store electricity safely are crucial to staving off the worst impacts of our newfound reliance on this technology.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: [question@earthtalk.org](mailto:question@earthtalk.org).



**Activists are concerned that local workers, including many children, eat a steady diet of contaminated fish from a lake at the site of a big cobalt mine at Katanga in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.**

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## The Entire Cast and Crew



**By Jill Kruse, D.O.**

When you watch a medical drama on television the main characters are generally doctors, nurses, and patients. We rarely learn about the many extras in the background. In an actual hospital, patients are cared for by their doctors and nurses, along with a large supporting cast and crew. Many of these people on stage and behind the scenes rarely get their name in lights. I would like to introduce them now.

Before a patient arrives at the hospital, we often rely on emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and transport teams to safely bring them to the hospital via ground ambulance, helicopter, and airplane.

Once the patient reaches their hospital room, those providing direct patient care include nursing assistants and patient care techs. They literally do much of the heavy lifting in the hospital. There is an entire team of therapists including physical, occupational, speech, and respiratory therapists who play a role in developing a rehabilitation plan for each patient. Wound care nurses help manage complex wounds and ostomies. Various radiology techs, phlebotomists and lab staff help administer the tests needed to diagnose patients.

Some play the role of teacher at the hospital. Dietitians, pharmacists, and diabetic educators help patients learn about their conditions, medications, and behaviors that can help them live healthier lives. Social workers and case management teams arrange after care plans including social supports, which take effect when the patient is discharged. Many hospitals have palliative care teams and hospice teams whose primary goal is reducing suffering and easing pain. Pastoral care teams help with emotional and spiritual support for patients and their family.

We perform our jobs in a clean, healthy environment thanks to the dietary and kitchen staff, maintenance crew, and housekeeping team. Without them we would be hungry, thirsty, and cold, without clean sheets, gowns, and towels.

Information Technology departments maintain patient portals and electronic medical record systems giving patients and their care teams access to essential information. Billing, coding, and insurance filers ensure the patient data entered is accurate and timely. And there are many others I won't have the time to mention here.

As a hospitalist, I'm a big fan. I get to work with these professionals every day and each of them is a star of the show in my opinion. Television and movies may give doctors and nurses all the attention, but I hope I've successfully turned the spotlight on the entire cast and crew doing their part for a successful patient story. I hope you join the fan club!

Jill Kruse, D.O. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices as a hospitalist in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at [www.prairiadoc.org](http://www.prairiadoc.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.