



Dance Groups celebrate 35th Anniversary

I would like to thank the Groton Community, the Groton School, and the many dance parents for supporting our dance program over the past 35 years.

Special thanks to Wynella Abeln, Ashley Patterson Harr, Gwen Briscoe, and all assistants who helped in any way over the years. Dance teaches so many skills, but it's the friends you make along the way that make it the most special to me. I have heard that "DANCE is about enjoying every STEP along the way," and I have truly enjoyed the past 35 years of dance.

Be sure to support our fundraiser for the GHS Fellowship of Christian Athletes and purchase some homemade baked goods and also sweets from the JUNCTION of Aberdeen in the concessions area. There are also some Valentines items, a blanket raffle, and a split pot drawing. Thanks to Paul Kosel for making this flier, to Groton Area OST for making the raffle blanket, Mike Nehls for setting up tables, and to anyone who helped bake and/or work at our fundraiser. Hope you enjoy our entertainment today.

All four of the songs we chose this year focus on positivity and encouragement. We hope you enjoy our performances.

Keep on dancing!

Kim Weber



Sweet Sensations

"Lights Shine Bright"

In back, left to right, are Cora Kotzer, Rayna Loeschke, Andi Gauer, Hadley Heilman, Kinzleigh Furman and Hazel Hill; in the middle row, left to right, are Hazel Neu, Nori Hinman, Jozie Lord and Haley Erickson; in front, left to right, are Maci Dunbar, Aryanna Cutler and Railey Mulder; not pictured is Kaelee Morehouse.



Spice Girlz

"Cloudy Day"

In back, left to right, are Tenley Frost, Teagan Hanten, Emerlee Jones and Avery Crank; in front are Ruelle Gilbert, Journey Zieroth and Kaedy Bonn; not pictured is Raelynn Feist.



Sugar Babes

"Colorful World"

In back, left to right, are Jaeden Morehouse, Laken Kurth, Ellie Lassle, Calli Willkinson and Kinsey Frost; in the middle row, left to right, are Brielle Dunbar, Lexie Locke, Kaylynn Furman, Ivy Cole, and Elaina Fordham; in front, left to right, are Grace Scepaniak, River Wipf, Harper Cleveland and Jorie Locken; not pictured is Layla Feist.

UpComing Events

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). Boys C Game at 4 p.m. in the Cardinal

Gym. Girls JV game starts at 4 p.m. in the main gym followed by Boys JV game, girls varsity game and then boys varsity game.

Band Trip to Orlando, Fla.

Saturday, Feb. 19

Region Wrestling at Britton

Band Trip to Orlando, Fla.

Sunday, Feb 20: Band Trip to Orlando, Fla.

Monday, Feb. 21

NO SCHOOL - President's Day

Band Trip to Orlando, Fla. - RETURNING
Boys Basketball hosts Tiospa Zina - C game at 5 p.m. followed by JV and Varsity

Junior High Basketball vs. Warner. 7th grade game at 4 p.m. followed by 8th grade game

Tuesday, Feb. 22

Girls Basketball regions begin

Thursday, Feb. 24

Girls Basketball regions

Weekly Vikings Roundup

Super Bowl Recap

By Duane & Jack Kolsrud

Super Bowl LVI

An improbable matchup at the beginning of the season, the Los Angeles Rams and Cincinnati Bengals did not disappoint in Super Bowl XVI.

The game started in a Hollywood-like fashion. Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson was on-field to pontificate like his wrestling alter ego while the players nervously waited for the game to begin.

After stopping the Bengals on fourth down in the first quarter, the Rams take advantage of the Bengal aggressiveness. The Rams scored the first touchdown on a beautiful corner route from Matthew Stafford to Odell Beckham Jr. Beckham started red-hot only to go out late in the second quarter with a knee injury and never returned to the game.

After a Bengals field goal, the Rams connect with the top QB-WR duo of the year on a Stafford pass to Cooper Kupp from 11-yards out. The Bengals used a mix of running and passing plays on their next possession, scoring on a halfback pass from Joe Mixon to Tee Higgins.

The Rams march the ball down the field only to have Matthew Stafford remind Detroit fans that he can still force a throw into tight coverage and gets intercepted in the endzone. The score at halftime ends with the Rams leading the Bengals 13-10.

The second half started with a bang. On the first play of the half, Joe Burrow tosses a 75-yard touchdown pass to Tee Higgins down the left sideline. The replay showed that Higgins could have been penalized for a facemask on defensive back Jalen Ramsey. On the very next drive for the Rams, Stafford gets intercepted at the 30-yard line and the Bengals convert the turnover into a 25-yard field. The Rams were quickly down by seven points.

But this was going to be a night for Cooper Kupp and Aaron Donald—the best offensive and defensive players in the NFL this season. For most of the fourth quarter, it was a chess match between the two teams. With seven minutes left to go in the game, the Rams go on a 15 play drive, and Kupp scores again on a 1-yard pass from Stafford. Joe Burrow drives the Bengals to mid-field but Donald ends the game in All-Pro fashion, hitting Burrow on the final Bengal offensive play of the game.

The Rams win the Super Bowl, 23-20.

The 2021 season may go down as one of the best playoff seasons of all time. The final seven games all came down to the wire. Luckily for the Viking faithful, we didn't have to endure the pain of another heartbreaking loss.

It's all about the commercials:

Over 50 new commercials debuted during the Super Bowl. Here are our top 5 in 2022- we had some help voting as the lovely Gayle Kolsrud (Jack's mom) helped in choosing the best ads.

1. Toyota Tundra- Keeping up with the Jones'
2. ETrade with the return of baby Benny
3. Lay's Potato Chips Zombie Wife with Paul Rudd and Seth Rogan
4. Uber Eats and Don't Eats new delivery options
5. Michelob Ultra bowling with Peyton Manning and Serena Williams



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Sometimes there is no spring

T. S. Elliot wrote that April is the cruelest month, but I'd argue that. It comes in the winter.

Winter is more than a metaphor for the twilight of a life, the final whirl of child's wind up-toy as the coiled spring inside releases the last of its energy and it freezes in suspended animation, a monument to a life lived.

No, winter is a dying season. Impersonal statistics will bear that out. From December to March more of us march to the grave than any other time and, if you had to pick one, January would be the cruelest month. It creates more tears than the rest — enough tears to grow tulips in the spring. Maybe that's what T. S. Elliot was talking about — the memory of winter.

In small, rural newspaper offices in which I've spent too much time out of the sun, we don't need statistics to know these things. It's all too real. We must face the survivors.

I remember the first one, the trembling hand of a mother handing me an obituary of a teenage son thrown from his prized white pickup and crushed in a rollover. Interesting I should remember the color. In a kinder dimension, he'd be a father now and his children would be graduating from college. So much died with him that night. I still remember his face.

Little of the history we write in small-town newspapers will be broadly-shared, but in these moments we are reminded of its importance and again each summer, when pilgrims return to sift through old issues, searching for remnants of lives long at rest. History can be a grand analysis of broad cause and effect, changing geographies. But, always, in the end, in the minutia of it all, it's personal.

We try to be perfect when the type is set, but few publications are without error. The rule seems to be typos are never visible to the proofreader until there are thousands of copies memorialized forever in print. Gutenberg's Curse.

But these memorials? We try especially hard to get it right. Long after our own ink has dried up and faded, searchers will come for the past and they must trust that our work was true.

This week it was a thank-you, handwritten three times before it said as much as could be said, the dust of a husband's fresh grave not yet settled.

A few weeks ago, it was another mother, an unexplainable cruel confluence of events and an unexpected funeral. This lost son had been born into challenges, one of those children God decides must forever remain a child, one of those rare creatures we love so much it hurts, because they smile through adversity, not recognizing much of the time that it's even there. Is that the lesson they bring to us — that if we don't acknowledge hardship, it ceases to exist?

His picture was all teeth.

No one knows why he went for a walk on that bitter, winter day, only that he didn't come back.

"I thought of my brother Mike," I told her.

"I did, too," she said.

Lame "I'm sorry's" leaked from my mouth. When she described how they had found him... alone... frozen... gone... that was it for me.

Sometimes we sweep the survivors up in a hug and our chests rattle and wheeze from the hurt, reminding us how impossible it is for these condolences, like the words in the obituaries, to ever say enough. But we have to try.

I'm not sure if pain is something that can be shared, a yoke harnessed to anything at all. Or if it is like a dark cloud billowing until it chooses to stop of its own malevolent whim. I only know it is in our willingness to share the pain that we are most human.

I was reminded of something I scribbled out a year ago after another such a moment:

He walked in slowly, stoically, with checkbook in hand to place a thank-you in the paper. I looked over the neat handwriting. He'd thanked all the people who had expressed sympathies, the pastor, the church ladies who had served the meal. The funeral home.

"\$14.30," I said.

"Is that all?" Because death comes at such a high cost.

He handed me the checkbook and I filled in everything but the signature.

"I'm sorry for your loss."

Silence.

"How long were you married?"

"Sixty-six years."

I stopped and looked up at him. He had pale, gray eyes.

"That's a long time. I'll bet it's pretty quiet around the house."

His lip trembled. His eyes glistened.

I passed him the checkbook. He signed, struggled a bit to tear the check out cleanly. Her name was still on the check, too. Just a memory now. He neatly wrote the amount in the register.

Silence. He looked so thin.

"I'm really sorry," I said.

A nod. He croaked out something. A lament. If tears have a sound then that is what they sound like. And then he walked out.

So thin. Alone.



That's Life

by Tony Bender

**A
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great gift!**

2022-2023 Groton Area School District

Drafted 2/11/2022

August 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August						
22 - Faculty Inservice						
23 - Faculty Inservice						
24 - 1st Day of School						

January 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January						
4 - School Resumes						

September 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

September						
2 - NO SCHOOL						
5 - Labor Day - NO SCHOOL						
?? - Homecoming - TBD						
29 - Parent/Teacher Conferences (1:30-8:00)						
30 - Faculty Inservice - NO SCHOOL						

February 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

February						
16 - Parent/Teacher Conferences (1:30-8:00)						
17 - Faculty Inservice - NO SCHOOL						
20 - President's Day - NO SCHOOL						

October 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

October						
7 - Lake Region Marching Festival						
10 - Native American Day - NO SCHOOL						
21 - End of 1st Quarter (39)						

March 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

March						
10 - End of 3rd Quarter (45)						
16-17 - Spring Break - NO SCHOOL						

November 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

November						
11 - Veterans Day Program						
23-25 - Thanksgiving - NO SCHOOL						

April 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

April						
2 - Pops Concert (2:00 & 5:00)						
7 - Good Friday - NO SCHOOL						
10 - Easter Monday - NO SCHOOL						
22 - PROM						
27 - Middle School Spring Concert (7:00)						

December 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

December						
8 - MS/HS Christmas Concert (7:00)						
22 - Elementary Christmas Concert (1:00)						
22 - Early Dismissal (2:00)						
22 - End of 1st Semester (41/80)						
22-31 Christmas Break - NO SCHOOL						

May 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

May						
2 - Elementary Spring Concert (7:00)						
4 - High School Concert/Awards Night (7:00)						
14 - Graduation (2:00)						
17 - End of 2nd Semester (44/89)						

- Faculty Inservice
- No School
- Important Dates
- End of Quarter/Semester
- Early Dismissal

All make-up days will be added to the end of the school calendar.

Monthly COVID-19 reports eliminated from future agendas

Ann Gibbs, Lindsey DeHoet, Emily Eichler and Julie Milbrandt gave a program review of the junior kindergarten, kindergarten and first grade. Alexa Schuring also assists with the core programs in the kindergarten and junior kindergarten level.

DeHoet said they had to revamp the math program last year - rearranged the chapters so it made more sense in teaching the curriculum.

Superintendent Joe Schwan said the state sets the standards, it then goes to the local schools to choose the curriculum and then the teachers reorganize the curriculum for teaching at a local level. "That's the way it suppose to be," he said. He said what the group was talking about is what the legislatures need to hear in how it works locally.

It is required that every six months the district has to review the COVID-19 plan. Superintendent Schwan said he questions whether the COVID-19 update needs to be done each month. During the peak COVID-19 period Schwan had to make a dash to Pierre to pick up additional test kits. "I'm glad we did as we got the tests out quickly." The board agreed to get rid of the COVID-19 report and if something comes up, he can report on it during his superintendent's report.

Schwan reported on athletic cooperative request from Doland School. He said they are leaning towards a co-op with Hitchcock-Tulare.

The district only had one ding from the food service inspections and that was an incomplete thermometer calibration report in the MS/HS.

Schwan said the district is looking at a 20 percent grant for a full size bus and a possible ESSER grant for full funding for a 14-passenger minibus.

A new re-imbursement program available through the USDA is a USDA Supply Chain Assistance grant. The district would qualify for \$14,000 and Schwan said it could be used to purchase milk and for local beef purchases. It would be available for next year as items already invoiced cannot be used for this grant. Schwan said there have been supply chain issues as the district had run out of milk at one point.

One item going through the state legislature is making hazing a crime. If a student recklessly engages in hazing, they would be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor. An intentional act of hazing would be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. A person who maliciously engages in hazing and by that conduct causes serious bodily injury to the student would be guilty of a class 6 felony.

Board Member Marty Weismantel said at a cracker barrel, he asked if there would be a special one-time appropriation to the eight schools in the state that do not get state aide, which includes Groton. The response was that there is probably no chance of that.

Academic All-State team awards through the South Dakota High School Activities Association recognized these Groton Area groups: All-State Chorus, Boys Cross Country, Boys Golf, Boys Soccer, Football, Football Cheerleaders, Girls Soccer and Volleyball.

There will be new CTE and Science Courses available to Groton Area students. Becky Hubsch will be teaching Introduction to Sports Medicine, Specialized Accounting and Medical Terminology and Adam Franken will be teaching Fundamental Plant Science and

Fundamental Animal Science.

Some of the roof at the elementary school has been leaking and bids will be let for the replacement of the roof. Architectural Roofing and Sheet Metal will do an inspection of both facilities for \$935.

The district signed an intent to participate for softball to not register for fast-pitch softball in the Spring 2023 with the South Dakota High School Activities Association. It can be changed if there is a sudden demand to participate.

The board approved the bid from Don Donley for \$150 for the surplus van.

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Brown County Waste Tire Bid Notice

NOTICE TO WASTE TIRE CONTRACTORS
BROWN COUNTY LANDFILL
Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Court House Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 57401, until 8:46 A.M. on February 22, 2022, at said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read, and considered by the Brown County Board of Commissioners for the 2022 BROWN COUNTY WASTE TIRE CLEANUP.

Envelopes containing bids shall be addressed to the Brown County Auditor, Brown County Courthouse Annex, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 57401, and are to be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope: "2022 BROWN COUNTY WASTE TIRE CLEANUP", to be opened on February 22, 2022 at 8:46 A.M.

PROPOSAL GUARANTEE: The proposal guarantee required and must accompany each bid is a certified check, cashier's check or bank draft. This guarantee must be certified or issued by a national or state bank and payable at sight to Brown County, South Dakota in the amount of five per cent (5%) of the total amount of the bid. In lieu

thereof, bidder may furnish a bid bond of ten percent (10%) of the bid, such bond is to be issued by a surety company authorized to do business in South Dakota and payable to Brown County, South Dakota.

The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids that they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County, and to waive any informalities or irregularities therein. Brown County is exempt from all Federal Excise Tax and State Sales Tax.

Copies of the specifications are on file at the Brown County Auditor's Office and the Brown County Solid Waste Department Office and may be obtained at no charge.

ATTEST: Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor (0209.0216)

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Brown County Change in Zoning Notice

NOTICE
Application has been made by Brown County Planning and Zoning Office to the Brown County Board of Commissioners for a change of zoning. Hearing to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota on February 15 at 8:46 A.M. for the

purpose of rezoning the following property from Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG) to Chapter 4.06 Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P):

Previously described Lot 1, Block 2; Lot 4, Block 2; & Lot 5, Block 2, "Whitetail Meadows First Subdivision" in the NW1/4 of Section 26-T123N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota.

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the amendment to Second Revision Brown County Ordinances pertaining to rezoning the described property. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt first reading of Ordinance No. 212.

ATTEST: Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor (0202.0209)

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Brown County Wood Waste Bid Notice

NOTICE FOR WOOD WASTE GRINDING

BROWN COUNTY LANDFILL
Sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Courthouse Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401 until the hour of 8:47 AM. Tuesday,

February 22, 2022 at said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read and considered by the Brown County Board of Commissioners regarding 2022 WOOD WASTE GRINDING for the Brown County Landfill.

Brown County will give notice to the successful bidder that his/her proposal has been accepted, and said bidder shall within ten (10) days thereafter enter into a contract with Brown County, South Dakota. The successful bidder shall also furnish proper certificates of insurance required by Brown County.

Envelopes containing bids shall be addressed to the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Brown County Courthouse, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 57401, and are to be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope "BID ON 2022 WOOD WASTE GRINDING FOR THE BROWN COUNTY LANDFILL". To be opened on Tuesday, 8:47 A.M., February 22, 2022. The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to accept the bid that they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County.

Brown County is exempt from all Federal Excise Tax and State Sales Tax.

Specifications and notice to bidders are on file in the Brown County Auditor's Office and at the Brown County Landfill and may be obtained at no charge.

ATTEST: Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor (0209.0216)

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Presidents Day

Do you know which two U.S. presidents were born in February and have holidays on the calendar?

Pop Quiz! Who are these two presidents?
1. President Obama
2. President Trump

What Did They Do?
Did you fill in the puzzle with the jobs Presidents had before leading the nation?

Presidential Number Challenges!

1. George Washington 16
2. John F. Kennedy 35
3. Abraham Lincoln 46
4. Barack Obama 1
5. Joe Biden 44

Groton Prairie Mixed

Feb. 9 Team Standings: Foxes 4, Shih Tzus 2, Chipmunks 2, Jackelopes 2, Coyotes 2, Cheetahs 0

Men's High Games: Lance Frohling 217, Roger Spanier 215, Brad Waage 212

Women's High Games: Brenda Waage 185, 178, Darci Spanier 171, Sue Stanley 165

Men's High Series: Brad Waage 583, Mike Siegler 577, Roger Spanier 573

Women's High Series: Brenda Waage 494, Darci Spanier 461, Sue Stanley 444.

Feb. 2 Team Standings: Cheetahs 22 1/2, Chipmunks 22, Jackelopes 12, Foxes 12, Shih Tzus 8 1/2, Coyotes 7

Men's High Games: Randy Stanley 218, 214, Brad Waage 208, Lance Frohling 203

Women's High Games: Darci Spanier 197, 180, 158, Nicole Kassube 181, Alexa Schuring 153

Men's High Series: Randy Stanley 590, Brad Waage 555, Larry Frohling 526

Women's High Series: Darci Spanier 535, Nicole Kassube 472, Dar Larson 429

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1 Week: \$9 for first 30 words, 20¢/word thereafter
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\$19.70/hour, depending upon qualifications. SDSU College of Nursing is currently seeking a professional individual with a passion for helping students learn and grow in their pursuit of an education in Nursing. This position is responsible for providing overall support to the Aberdeen College of Nursing site through set-up and implementation of simulation and learning lab educational sessions. Incumbents will operate simulation manikin sessions using high-fidelity simulators; coordinate the set-up and break-down of scheduled simulation activities; stock and organize equipment and supplies while maintaining an inventory database; support student learning experiences that involve the use of human patient simulators; and provide maintenance on the medical simulation and lab equipment. Must be able to provide a high level of professionalism and maintain confidentiality when working with external and internal clients. Hours will vary based on simulation/lab needs. Hours will fluctuate between 7am-7pm, but a majority of the hours will take place between 8am-5pm. Incumbent will work 18 hours/week, which equates to 45% time. Position is classified as a Program Assistant II. This position is subject to South Dakota State University's Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy 4:14. SDSU is a tobacco free environment. Employment is contingent upon a successful background check. Posting # CSA01272P. Deadline: 02/22/2022. [SE5874]

SDSU accepts applications through an on-line employment site—to apply visit: <http://yourfuture.sdbor.edu>. Please contact SDSU Human Resources at (605) 688-4128 or HR@sdstate.edu if you have questions or require assistance. Background check may be required. AA/EEO

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BEAUTIFUL 5 MONTH OLD Maine Coon Kitties, all with extra toes. 2 females. Just gorgeous with Russian parents and papers. Two newborns, ready in 5 months. Please call for availability. 712-322-8888

3 CARAT+ DIAMOND RING. \$18,000 All paperwork, appraisal, and clarity. Ready for Valentines! 712-322-8888

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BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 855-577-0313

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NOTICES

ADVERTISE IN NEWSPAPERS statewide for only \$150. Put the South Dakota Statewide Classifieds Network to work for you today! (25 words for \$150. Each additional word \$5.) Statewide Full Digital Ad is \$300 for 1 week. Call the Groton Independent at 397-7460 for details.

SCHOLARSHIPS

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS! 2022 Better Business Bureau Student of Integrity Awards. \$2,000 SCHOLARSHIPS. Application Deadline 3-13-22 bbb.org/south-dakota 605.271.2067

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Brown County

Feb. 8, 2022

Meeting Minutes

FEBRUARY 8, 2022 – GENERAL MEETING

Meeting called to order by Chair Sutton at 8:45 A.M. in the Commission Chambers, Court-house Annex, Brown County, SD. Present were Commissioners Feickert, Wiese, Fjeldheim, and Gage. Commissioner Wiese led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

BID OPENING- MICROSURFACING: Place and time as advertised, to open read and consider bids for Microsurfacing approximately 28 miles of county highway. Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to award bid from Missouri Petroleum Products Company in the amount of \$1,387,645.35, rejecting bid from Astech Corp. in the amount of \$1,479,781.85. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ABATEMENT: Joe Huffman met to request a tax abatement for 2021 pay 2022 taxes. The owner-occupied application was not filed with the assessor's by the statutory deadline for taxes payable in 2022. An owner-occupied application has been filed and approved by the Assessor for 2022 pay 2023 taxes. Moved by Wiese, seconded by Gage to deny abatement request for 2021 pay 2022 taxes. Roll call vote: Commissioners Feickert-nay, Sutton-aye, Wiese-aye Gage-aye Fjeldheim-aye. Motion Carried.

MINUTES: Moved by Wiese seconded by Gage to approve the general meeting minutes of February 1, 2022 with the following correction to Kent Jones wage from \$72,861.62 per hour to \$72,861.62 per year and correct the minutes from January 25, 2022 to include the roll call vote on the following motion as follows: Lobbyist Contract: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Sutton to approve contract and sign employer authorization form to hire Julie Johnson as Brown County Lobbyist for 2022 session not to exceed \$3,000. Roll call: Commissioner Feickert – nay, Fjeldheim – aye, Wiese – aye, Gage- nay, Sutton – aye. Motion carried. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims: Professional Fees: Aberdeen ED \$525.31; CERTIFIED LANGUAGES INTERNATIONAL LLC \$470.25; CITY OF ABERDEEN \$274.24; COGLEY LAW OFFICE, PROF LLC \$53.94; COMMERCIAL ELECTRONICS CORP \$5,500.00; FREDERICK PEREZ \$1,200.00; GELLHAUS & GELLHAUS, PC \$80.00; HOUSTON ENGINEERING, INC. \$846.50; LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES INC \$933.08; LEXISNEXIS RISK DATA MGMT INC. \$150.00; LUMEN \$149.30; MICHELLE GAIKOWSKI \$1,241.80; MICROFILM IMAGING SYSTEMS, INC. \$1,088.00; Mullen Coughlin, LLC \$197.50; Pathology Clinic Reference LA \$70.44; Radiology - North Center \$566.98; SANFORD CLINIC ABERDEEN \$120.68; SANFORD HEALTH OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE ABERDEEN \$49.00; SD DEPT OF HEALTH \$40.00; SHI INTERNATIONAL CORP \$168.00; We Care Online \$812.00; ZYLSTRA INVESTIGATIONS \$2,657.50 Publishing: ABERDEEN COMMUNITY THEATRE \$600.00; GateHouse Media South Dakota Holdings, Inc. \$420.00; GROTON INDEPENDENT \$628.99; HUB CITY RADIO \$300.00; MIDSTATES PRINTING \$450.00; NORTHWEST BLADE \$86.00 Repairs & Maintenance: ABERDEEN AUTO CENTER, INC. \$750.00; CRAWFORD TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT \$2,489.26; DAKOTA FLUID POWER INC \$87.44; JOSHUA L. HALSEY \$740.00; LAWSON PRODUCTS, INC \$31.56; MARCO INC \$330.66; MARK KOLB \$340.00; PRO WINDMILL INC. \$345.00; RDO EQUIPMENT CO. - AG \$2,927.41; TITAN MACHINERY - ABERDEEN NH \$7,230.96 Supplies: ABERDEEN AUTO CENTER, INC. \$679.42; AGTEGRA COOPERATIVE \$13,292.34; APH STORES, INC \$2,064.60; BAKKEN BUILD MAINTENANCE \$500.00; BUTLER MACHINERY CO \$3,931.23; CHARM-TEX \$58.90; COLE PAPERS \$891.04; CRAWFORD M S & F INC \$1,690.30; CRAWFORD TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT \$2,840.44; DAKOTA FLUID POWER INC \$1,065.68; DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP \$13.12; EARTHGRAINS BAKING CO. INC. \$572.57; EAST SIDE JERSEY DAIRY, INC \$743.76; FE-

DEX \$89.64; HOUSE OF GLASS \$64.98; LAWSON PRODUCTS, INC \$397.70; LEIDHOLDT TOOL SALES, LLC \$928.98; MAC'S INC \$1,100.96; MARCO INC \$492.80; MB LLC \$88.00; MCKESSON MEDICAL-SURGICAL GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS \$42.36; MIDSTATES PRINTING \$2,076.50; PANTORIUM CLEANERS INC. \$28.00; R.D. OFFUTT COMPANY \$351.06; RDO EQUIPMENT CO. - AG \$17,639.08; ROLAND L. MOERKE \$727.40; RUNNINGS \$392.43; SATELITE TRACKING OF PEOPLE, LLC \$1,404.00; SEWER DUCK INC \$325.00; TITAN MACHINERY - ABERDEEN NH \$5,194.27; US FOODS \$7,640.81 Travel & Conference: MARK MILBRANDT \$248.00 Utilities: AT&T MOBILITY \$249.08; CITY OF ABERDEEN \$1,234.61; MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS \$343.61; NORTHWESTERN ENERGY & COMMUNICATIONS \$14,976.49; WEST CORPORATION \$1,436.79; TOWN OF FREDERICK \$76.00 Rentals: ROLAND L. MOERKE \$120.45 Others: SD ASSOC OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS \$2,150.00; SAFE HARBOR \$1,547.40; SD ASSOC. OF COUNTY OFFICIALS \$958.00 All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the following HR report: Acknowledgement resignation of Austin Kurkowski, Brown County Jail Correctional Officer; full-time; effective February 2, 2022 and approve request to fill vacancy. Approve regrouping of Sam Mouna, Brown County HD Supervisor, back to the step schedule with the rest of Sergeants and Supervisors; wage \$24.80; effective December 26, 2021. Approve hiring of Dacotah Prairie Museum Intern. Approve personal miles driven for December 2021 and January 2022 as follows: December 2021 at .56 per mile: Kendall Titze 114 miles at \$63.84; John Florey 132 miles at \$73.92; Dirk Rogers 760 miles @ \$425.60; Mike Scott 150 miles @ \$84.00. January 2022 at .585 per mile: Kendall Titze 90 miles @ \$52.65; John Florey 126 miles @ 73.71; Dirk Rogers 684 miles @ \$400.14; Mike Scott 190 @ \$111.15. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

APPENDIX A – WELFARE GUIDELINES: Commissioner Fjeldheim offered the following Resolution: RESOLUTION #09 – 22 WHEREAS, Title 2, Second Revision Brown County Ordinance, as amended, required the Brown County Commission, to adopt rules, regulations and appendices necessary for the implementation of a County Welfare Program, in accordance with SDCL 28-13, and WHEREAS, the rules, regulations and appendices necessary for the implementation of a County Welfare Program were adopted by Resolution #23-16, dated April 5, 2016, and WHEREAS, Roxy Hilgenberg Brown County Welfare Director recommended changes to the fees contained in Appendix A – Income Eligibility/Determination Tests. NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Brown County Commission amend the fees contained in Appendix A – Income Eligibility/Determination Tests, as follows:

Poverty Guidelines	Family Size..... Monthly
1	\$1,383
2	\$1,868
3	\$2,353
4	\$2,839
5	\$3,324
6	\$3,809
7	\$4,295
8	\$4,780

(each additional household member – add \$486/month).

Dated this 08th day of February, 2022. Seconded by Commissioner Wiese. Roll call vote: Commissioners Feickert-aye, Sutton-aye, Wiese-aye Gage-aye Fjeldheim-aye. Resolution adopted.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – CIVIL AIR PATROL: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize chair sign memorandum of understanding between Brown County Emergency Management and The Civil Air Patrol for placement of radio gateway stations. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LEASES: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following lease agreements: Paula Kornder for lease of Richmond Lake Youth Camp May 28th, 2022 with approved alcohol permission form; 4-H Horse Club lease of Akkerman Arena June 22, 2022; 4-H Rodeo for lease of Akkerman Arena July 1-3, 2022; 4-H Hub City Livestock Expo for lease of Expo

Addition, Hog and Sheep Barn, Poultry Barn June 1 -5, 2022. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ABATEMENT: Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve the following abatement: Dan Kimball LT 101,103,105,107 James St Pecks Add Columbia (Solid waste removal as empty lots). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Community member inquired about the results of the jail study and when the public hearing on the study would be.

2022 LIBRARY CONTRACT: Discussion on following up on the library contract negotiation with the City of Aberdeen.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Feickert to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:33 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$85.27. 20904

Township Notices

Bates Township

BATES TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Bates Township will hold its annual meeting and election on Tuesday, March 1st, 2022 at the home of the Clerk, 14523 409th Ave, Conde.

Election of officers and business meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m.

We will be receiving bids for road maintenance and gravel. Please mail bids to

Betty Geist, Bates Township Clerk, 14523 409th Ave., Conde, SD 57434 prior to meeting date.

Betty Geist, Township Clerk (0216.0223)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$12.15. 20898

Groton Township

Groton Township Notice of Annual Meeting NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION IN GROTON TOWNSHIP

Notice is hereby given that the annual Groton Township Annual and Election of Officers will be held Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at the Groton Community Center. Meeting at 1 p.m. followed by election of officers. Sealed bids will be accepted for gravel, loaded and delivered, to designated places in Groton Township. The township board reserves the right to inspect the gravel before awarding the bid. Bids must be addressed to Jeff Howard, Township Clerk, 40829 131st Street, Groton, SD 57445, sealed and plainly marked "Bid for Gravel." Separate bids will be accepted for mowing weeds along road ditches, removal of snow and blading. Bidders are to furnish township with name and address of insurance agent. Bids will be opened by the Board of Supervisors, Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at 1 p.m. The board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Jeff Howard, Township Clerk (0216.0223)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$20.97. 20899

East Hanson

The citizens of the township of East Hanson in the county of Brown, South Dakota and who are qualified to vote at township elections, are here by notified that the annual township meeting for said township will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Ferney, SD in said township, on Tuesday, the 1st day of March next, at 7:00pm o'clock for the following purposes: To elect one Supervisor for the term of three years, one township clerk, one treasurer, each for the term of one year, opening bids for gravel and road maintenance. Also bids for mowing the Ferney Park and Ferney Ball park. All bids can be mailed to East Hanson Township. Betty Schinkel P.O. Box 782 Ferney, SD 57439.-0782. And to do any other business proper to be done at said meeting when convened. Given under my hand this 2nd day of February, 2022.

Betty Schinkel Township Clerk. (0216.0223)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$18.21. 20900

Olean Township

Olean Township is accepting bids for screened and crushed gravel, blading and mowing. Bids must be received by March 5, 2022.

Send bids to:
Sherry Hanson
Olean Township, Clerk
15477 409th Ave
Conde, SD 57434

Successful bidders must name township on insurance certificate. The board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

(0216.0223)
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$11.76. 20903

Putney Township

NOTICE OF CAUCUS AND ELECTION IN PUTNEY TOWNSHIP

Notice is hereby given that the annual Putney Township Caucus and Election of Officers will be held Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at Mark Thompson's Shop.

Caucus at 3 p.m. followed by election of officers.

Sealed bids will be accepted for gravel, loaded and delivered, to designated places in Putney Township. The township board reserves the right to inspect the gravel before awarding the bid. Bids must be addressed to Mark Thompson, Township Clerk, sealed and plainly marked "Bid for Gravel." Separate bids will be accepted for mowing weeds along road ditches, removal of snow and blading. Bidders are to furnish township with name and address of insurance agent. Bids will be opened by the Board of Supervisors, Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at Mark Thompson's Farm House shop at 3 p.m. The board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Mark Thompson Township Clerk (0216.0223)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$22.33. 20901

Riverside

NOTICE OF CAUCUS AND ELECTION IN RIVERSIDE TOWNSHIP

Notice is hereby given that the annual Riverside Township Caucus and Election of Officers will be held Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at Bruce Sippel's Shop. Caucus 7:30 p.m., followed by election of officers from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Sealed bids will be accepted for 2,000 yards, more or less, of gravel, loaded and delivered to designated places in Riverside Township. The township board reserves the right to inspect the gravel before awarding the bid. Bids must be addressed to Bruce Sippel, Township Clerk, sealed and plainly marked "Bids for Gravel." Separate bids will be accepted for mowing weeds along road ditches. Bidders are to furnish township with name and address of insurance agent. Bids will be opened by the Board of Supervisors, Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at Bruce Sippel's shop at 7:30 p.m. The board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Bruce Sippel, Township Clerk (0216.0223)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$33.12. 20879

West Hanson

NOTICE OF CAUCUS AND ELECTION IN WEST HANSON TOWNSHIP

West Hanson Township will hold its annual caucus, business meeting and election on Tuesday, March 1st at 7:30 PM. The meeting will be held at the Dirks home, 40305 138th St. There will be an election of one supervisor, clerk and treasurer.

The township will also be accepting bids for 1,000 yds., more or less, of screened and/or crushed gravel within the township. We will also take bids on the same date for road blading and mowing on township roads and snow removal work. All bids must be accompanied by certificate of contractor's liability insurance. The board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Jennifer Dirks, Township Clerk (0216.0223)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$16.56. 20902

Groton School Feb. 14, 2022

Meeting Minutes

UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6
REGULAR MEETING
February 14, 2022
President Gengerke called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the GHS Library Conference Room. Members present: Flihs, Gengerke, Harder, Pharis, Rix, and Weismantel. Absent: Smith. Others present were Supt. J. Schwan, Principal B. Schwan and Sombke and Business Manager Weber.

Moved by Weismantel, second Harder to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Pursuant to SDCL 23-3, there was no potential conflict disclosure reported.

Moved by Harder, second Pharis to approve consent agenda items: January 10, 2022, minutes, bills, financial report, custodial accounts, investments, transportation report, and school lunch report. Motion carried.

Members of the public are allowed five minutes to address the board on any topic of their choice. With no public members requesting to speak, the board proceeded with their agenda items.

GENERAL FUND: Net Salary – 192,968.31; FIT – 17,039.67; Medicare – 7,279.74; FICA – 31,126.94; American Funds – 547.60; SDRS – 30,844.66; HSA Contribution – 100.00; Waddell & Reed – 1,390.00; Horace Mann – 907.61; Thrivent – 250.00; AFLAC – 2,914.02; Delta Dental – 3,908.46; SD Supplemental Retirement – 2,140.83; Child Support – 951.06; Wellmark – 60,080.34; Standard – 682.83; Wage Works – 1,137.46; Avesis – 294.03; Aberdeen Awards – awards, 1,238.00; Allied Climate Professionals – repairs, 1,806.53; Amazon – supplies, 448.85; ASBSD – seminar, 50.00; Avera – service contract, 843.30; Tyler Beck – services, 500.00; BK Custom T's – embroidery, 38.34; Capital One – supplies, 14.80; Cintas – services, 627.41; City of Groton – utilities, 13,454.02; Cole Papers – supplies, 1,644.75; Custodial Fund – advanced pays, 60,720.23; Dacotah Prairie Museum – entry fee, 75.00; Dependable Sanitation – garbage, 1,238.00; Farm Tire Service – repairs, 35.00; Adam Franken – expenses, 78.74; Geffdog – clothing, 181.00; Governor's Inn – rooms, 522.00; Greg's Repair – repairs, 232.26; Groton Area – concessions, 18.00; Groton Area – fee, 56.15; Groton Chiropractic – physical, 100.00; Groton Daily Independent – printing, 18.76; Hauff Mid-America – letters, 463.50; Hillyard – supplies, 1,314.62; House of Glass – repairs, 198.45; JW Pepper – music, 282.99; Jostens – diploma, 12.16; Locke Electric – repairs, 4,411.34; Lori's Pharmacy – flowers, 33.50; McGannon Plumbing – repairs, 92.17; Midstates – brackets, 324.00; Mike's Heating – repairs, 1,025.40; Jaimie Mitchell – refund, 153.00; Northside Implement – repairs, 2,088.35; Northwestern Energy – utilities, 15,194.73; Otis Elevator – repairs, 264.25; Pepsi-Cola – vending, 116.44; PSAT – PSAT tests, 432.00; Quality Inn – rooms, 425.00; Reporter & Farmer – legal, 24.41; Riley Bus – charter bus, 2,500.00; S&S Lumber – supplies, 532.23; Jodi Schwan – expenses, 82.72; SD Federal Property Agency – supplies, 32.00; Sheraton SF – rooms, 199.00; Sheyenne Transport – charter bus, 1,260.00; Taylor Music – repairs, 183.94; Scott Thorson – expenses, 46.87; Training Room – supplies, 300.05; Tresona – services, 380.00; Trugreen – services, 2,446.34. Total General Fund – \$473,324.16.

CAPITAL OUTLAY: A&B Business – print contract, 2,137.26; Amazon – equipment, 596.00; Custodial – advanced pays, 22,730.66; Don Donley – project work, 1,300.00; Eric Armin – equipment, 21.95; Follett – books, 1,645.86; Hauff Mid-America – clothing, 2,025.00; House of Glass – doors, 434.30; Midstates – clothing, 279.65; RDO – equipment, 3,591.17; SD Federal Property – equipment, 450.00; Stan Houston – tools, 434.25. Total Capital Outlay – \$35,646.10.

SPECIAL ED: Net Salary – 27,336.72; FIT – 2,402.36; Medicare – 1,018.52; FICA – 4,355.10; SDRS – 4,375.18; Waddell & Reed – 200.00; AFLAC

MONTHLY DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT FOR GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 06-6

For the reporting period beginning July 1, 2021, and ending January 31, 2022

Description.....	General Fund	Assigned Gen Funds	Capital Outlay	Special Education	Bond Redemption	Enterprise Fund	Custodial Fund	Total for District
1. Beginning Balance	1,552,676.37	149,575.03	1,624,948.69	314,149.50	0.00	73,605.96	142,940.60	3,857,896.15
a. checking	1,552,676.37	149,575.03	1,624,948.69	314,149.50	0.00	73,605.96	142,940.60	3,857,896.15
b. petty cash.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2. Transfers in								
3. Revenue to date.....	2,550,218.06	11,454.86	809,929.18	419,777.61	1,061.30	191,518.40	503,905.67	4,487,865.08
4. Total accounted for.....	4,102,894.43	161,029.89	2,434,877.87	733,927.11	1,061.30	265,124.36	646,846.27	8,345,761.23
5. Transfers out								
6. Expenditures to date	2,624,962.59	18,706.22	1,225,905.47	401,894.42	0.00	160,624.13	628,790.43	5,060,883.26
a. encumbrances.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
b. disbursements.....	2,624,962.59	18,706.22	1,225,905.47	401,894.42	0.00	160,624.13	628,790.43	5,060,883.26
7. Ending Balance	1,477,931.84	142,323.67	1,208,972.40	332,032.69	1,061.30	104,500.23	18,055.84	3,284,877.97
a. checking	1,477,931.84	142,323.67	1,208,972.40	332,032.69	1,061.30	104,500.23	18,055.84	3,284,877.97
b. petty cash.....	(0.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(0.00)
January Receipts.....	22,974.15	1,999.48	3,004.91	1,591.38	7.53	25,601.72	51,003.69	106,182.86
January Expenses	412,747.68	1,876.94	4,483.17	72,187.12	0.00	16,834.77	93,790.66	601,920.34
Custodial Checking	18,055.84							
District Checking.....	3,266,822.13							
Certificate of Deposit.....	0.00							
Total all Funds	3,284,877.97							

– 412.15; Delta Dental – 775.92; SD Supplemental Retirement – 100.00; Wellmark – 10,595.67; Standard – 128.48; Wage Works – 58.33; Avesis – 55.87; Amazon – supplies, 77.99; Avera – services, 18,115.20; Custodial Fund – advanced pays, 2,199.66; S&S Lumber – supplies, 24.46; SD Dept of Human Services – services, 957.70; Volunteers of America – tuition, 318.24; Judy/Gene Williamson – mileage, 423.36. Total Special Ed – \$73,930.91.

ENTERPRISE: Food Service Net Salary – 4,698.03; FIT – 315.01; Medicare – 168.94; FICA – 722.36; SDRS – 733.40; AFLAC – 218.49; Wellmark – 1,542.00; Standard – 3.84; Avesis – 19.63; Ace Refrigeration – repairs, 1,148.52; Bernard Food Industries – food, 371.54; BIMBO Bakery – food, 246.17; Cintas – services, 130.50; Custodial Fund – advanced pays, 672.41; East Side Jersey – milk, 1,556.59; Hillyard – detergent, 311.22; Performance Foodservice – food, 6,071.81; SD DOE – food, 446.96; US Foods – food, 3,261.33. Total Food Service – \$22,638.75. OST Net Salary – ; FIT – 1,144.81; Medicare – 63.50; FICA – 40.84; SDRS – 174.52; AFLAC – 163.93; SD Retirement – 140.44; Wellmark – 678.00; Standard – 23.28; Custodial Fund – advanced pays, 557.58. Total OST – \$2,986.90. Total Enterprise – \$25,625.65.

CUSTODIAL FUND: Total - \$95,579.61.
RECEIPTS: Local Sources, Taxes – 10,881.54; Other Local Sources – 70,316.24; County Sources – 2,715.34; State Sources – 0.00; Federal Sources – 22,269.74. Total Receipts - \$106,182.86.

The board heard program overview presentations from Kindergarten and First Grade Teachers Lindsey DeHoet, Ann Gibbs, Julie Milbrandt and Emily Eichler. Junior Kindergarten teacher Alexa Schuring provided a handout.

The board continued discussion and necessary action on District response to Covid-19 issues including active case updates for the Groton Area School District and Brown County.

The following topics were discussed in administrative reports: North Central Special Ed Coop Director search, SD Department of Health food service inspections, Clean Diesel application, USDA Food Service Supply Chain funding, legislative bills, FFA Farm Safety demonstrations, Elementary Pac supper, book fair, MAPS training, SDHSAA academic awards, Spring 2022 Registration, new CTE and Science Courses, Dual Credit meetings, inventory and requisitions.

Moved by Weismantel, second Flihs to approve bid specifications for partial elementary roof replacement with bid opening at 2:00 pm, Friday, March 11. Motion carried.

Moved by Rix, second Pharis to approve Planned Maintenance Agreement with Architectural Roofing and Sheet Metal for \$935/year. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, second Harder to approve bid specifications for new 59-passenger school bus with bid opening at 2:00 pm, Monday, March 14. Motion carried.

Moved by Gengerke, second Pharis to approve 2022-23 School Calendar. Motion carried.
Superintendent Schwan presented a proposal from SDHSAA for school district participation in softball for Spring of 2022-23. Moved by Pharis, second Harder not to participate in 2022-23. Motion carried.

Move by Weismantel, second Pharis to approve sale of surplus lunch van to Don Donley from sealed bids for \$150. Motion

carried.
The board took a short recess at 8:22 pm and returned at 8:30 pm.

Moved by Rix, second Flihs to go into executive session at 8:30 pm pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) for personnel issues including Superintendent evaluation. Motion carried.

Gengerke declared the board out of executive session at 8:40 pm.

Moved by Weismantel, second Pharis to adjourn. Motion carried.

M. J. Weber, Business Manager Deborah Gengerke, President
The addition of signatures to this page verifies these minutes as official.

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$124.28. 20892

Groton City Feb. 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2022
The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00 PM at 120 N Main Street for their second monthly meeting with the following members present: Cutler, Blackmun, Wells, Bahr, Flihs, Babcock, and Hanlon presiding. Also present were: Attorney Drew Johnson, Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich, Deputy Finance Officer April Abeln, Groton PD Chief Stacy Mayou, and Bill Schuck.

Public comments were welcomed pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1, but none were received.

Bill Schuck made a special request to be on a budget pay plan for utilities. Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Wells to approve Mr. Schuck's request to be on a budget pay plan for utilities. All members voted aye.

Request was made by potential buyer to forgive a portion of the debt from curb and gutter at 608 N 2nd Street. Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Bahr to forgive the interest in the amount of \$3,939.60, and leave the principal amount of \$7,620.00 to be owed. All members voted aye.

Groton PD Chief, Stacy Mayou, requested to adjust the residency requirement for employment. Discussion on the residency requirement will continue at next meeting.

Groton PD Chief, Stacy Mayou, exited the meeting.

Two quotes for gravel were received, one from Hanlon Brothers for \$23.75 per yard and the other from Kruger Brothers Gravel & Dirt for \$17.89 per yard. Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Cutler to accept the gravel quote from Krueger Brothers Gravel & Dirt at \$17.89 per yard. All members voted aye.

The minutes from the February 10th meeting were approved on a motion by Flihs and seconded by Babcock. All members voted aye.

The minutes from the February 1st meeting were approved on a motion by Blackmun and seconded by Wells. All members voted aye.

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Cutler to authorized the following bills for payment, with one adjustment to an error on the heading to reflect the accurate year of 2022. All members voted aye.

Payroll, \$24,068.05, Employee salaries; Executive, \$577.20; Administrative, \$3,434.73; Public Safety, \$8,137.77; Public Works, \$11,027.97; Culture & Recreation, \$890.38; Chase Visa, \$40.01, Rubble Site Gate; City of Groton, \$50.00, Util Dep Refund - Curt Krueger; City of Groton, \$120.00, Util Dep Refund - Joe Keller; Dacotah Bank, \$5,146.83, SS, Med, Tax; Dakotaland Federal Credit Union, \$730.00, Employee savings; HSA Distributions, \$408.32; HSA Contributions; Dacotah Bank, \$3,075.67, SS, Med, Tax;

Northwestern Energy, \$12.06, natural gas - pd generator; Full Circle Ag, \$60.00, Propane tank rental; Farmers Union Coop, \$1,515.60, Diesel; Ken's Food Fair, \$341.61, Fuel, supplies; Brown County Treasurer, \$5.00, Vehicle title fees; City of Groton, \$147.76, Util Dep Refund - Roberta Rivera Falcon; Roberto Rivera, \$102.24, Util Dep Refund; Brenda Englund, \$93.15, Util Overpayment Refund, Util Dep Refund; USPS, \$243.16, Utility Bill Postage; Aramark, \$12.79, Rug rent; Aramark, \$33.84, Rug rent; Allied Benefit Sys., \$7,866.03, Benefit premiums; A&B Business, Inc, \$407.95, Copier rent; Dakota Electronics, \$97.00, New speaker installed; Dollar General, \$127.15, Supplies (food, water, cleaning products); Galls Inc, \$72.24, Uniforms - gloves, pants; Heartland Consumer Power, \$75,660.46, Power 1/2022; Grand Slam Computers, \$109.00, Nordic Backup; MJs Sinclair Inc, \$1,631.20, Fuel, car wash, propane; Northwestern Energy, \$58.80, natural gas - wattertower; Motion Sports & Safety Prod, \$750.00, 4 skate helpers (2 to be reimbursed by CSS); Irby, Inc, \$3,632.87, Line material; Irby, Inc, \$61.20, wireholder; Irby, Inc, \$854.95, Gloves, glove testing; SD Supp. Retirement, \$240.00, Retirement; Cole Paper, \$81.01, Black garbage bags; JVT, \$861.72, Internet, fax, phone, dispatch; WAPA, \$24,652.07, Power 1/2022; GDI, \$254.15, Publishing; Matheson Tri-Gas, Inc, \$60.30, Welder gas; Badger Meter, Inc, \$26.70, Cellular service fee; Web Work, \$13,787.21, Water; RDO, \$98.25, Road grader headlight; Dacotah Bank Visa, \$752.06, Job ad, postage, floor jack, gas, skating bleachers; AutoZone, \$208.92, Windshield washer fluid, oil; Branden Abeln, \$26.72, Med Flex;

Moved by Flihs and seconded by Wells to approve the January finance report. All members voted aye.

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Bahr to approve the Community Center surplus items (E.g. Wurlitzer Touch Tone Funmaker Super Sprite Piano, Wurlitzer Piano, Lessing Orchestral Piano, 4-Door Locking Cabinet with 1 Locking Drawer and 3 Non-Locking Drawers - 8' long x 2' deep x 4' high, Hobart Mixer with Table) with sealed bids due by 5:00 PM on March 1st, 2022. All members voted aye.

Two Pool Resurfacing Contract bids were opened. The first bid was from Global Specialty Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$236,776.95. The second bid was from Go Get Fred, Inc. in the amount of \$134,034.30. Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Babcock to table discussion and possible award of Pool Resurfacing Contract to the next meeting.

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Flihs to approve first reading of Ordinance #759 - Summer Salaries with the following changes: \$.50 raises in hourly rate for the Swimming Pool Manager, Public Works Laborer, and Cemetery Caretaker. All members voted aye.

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Cutler to table discussion on the Baseball Complex Facilities Use Agreement for High School Spring Baseball to the next meeting. All members voted aye.

Babcock introduced and discussed the possibility of having a food bank at the Community Center with a non-profit entity to sponsor. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting.

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Flihs to table discussion on the Allied Health Insurance refund for lower-than-expected claim costs. All members voted aye.

Reminder - closing for Summer employment applications is on March 11th, 2022 at 5:00 PM.

Reminder - SDML District 6 Annual Meeting is March 23rd, 2022. RSVP by March 9th, 2022.
Reminder - Election petitions must be submitted by 5:00 PM on February 25th, 2022.
Bill Schuck exited the meeting.
Moved by Bahr and seconded by Wells to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal items 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 8:36 PM. All members voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 8:49 PM.
Moved by Bahr and seconded by Blackmun to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 PM. All members voted aye.
Scott Hanlon, Mayor
Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$62.36. 20893

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Scott Hanlon, Mayor
Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer

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Groton School Notice of Bus Bids

Advertisement for Bids
The Board of Education of Groton Area School District 06-6 of Brown County, State of South Dakota, requests sealed bids for a new 2021 or 2022 59-passenger school bus with minimum of 220 HP electronic diesel engine and standard chassis dimensions. Vehicle must be delivered between July 20, 2022, and August 20, 2022, with payment made upon delivery.

I. CHASSIS. The specifications of the school bus chassis shall comply with the minimum recommended standard for school busses as set forth by the Department of Education for the State of South Dakota. In addition, it shall comply with the present requirements of the Federal Government and the special requirements requested by the local school board.

II. BUS BODY. To meet the current minimum standards for the construction of school bus bodies, as adopted by the State Board of Education, available from the Department of Education, Pierre, South Dakota, in addition to special requirements of the Federal Government and the special requirements requested by the local school board.

Specifications are on file in the offices of Business Official, Mike Weber, and Bus Mechanic, Damian Bahr, at Groton, SD. Call 1-605-397-2351 for more information.

The school board reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Address bids to Business Official, Groton Area School District 06-6, PO Box 410, Groton, South Dakota 57445. Mark envelopes "BUS BID".

Bids will be opened at a meeting on Monday, March 14, 2022, at 2:00 PM in the Office of the Superintendent at Groton Area High School for examination and recommendation to the Board of Education at their regular meeting on Monday, March 14, 2022, at 7:00 PM for acceptance or rejection.

(2t. Feb 21 & Feb 28, 2022)
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$36.43. 20894

Groton School Notice of Roofing Bids

Invitation for Bids
The Board of Education of Groton Area School District No 06-6 of Brown County, South Dakota requests sealed bids for roof replacement of a portion of its Elementary School facility.

For an on-site review of the facility and the complete scope of work expected to be completed by September 1, 2022, contact head custodian Mike Nehls at (605) 397-8381.

A bid bond shall be provided as allowed by SDCL 5-18A-35. The bid bond may be in the form of a certified check, cashier's

check, or bank draft. The bid bond is to be in an amount equal to 5% of the amount bid and the check is to be certified and/or issued by either a state or national bank and made payable to Groton Area School District No 06-6.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Address bids to:
Business Manager
Groton Area School District
06-6

PO Box 410
Groton, SD 57445

Mark envelopes: "Roof Bid"
Bids are due and will be opened at 2:00 PM on Friday, March 11, 2022 at the Groton Area High School Conference Room for examination and recommendation to the Board of Education at their regular meeting on Monday, March 14, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

(2t. Feb 21 & Feb 28, 2022)
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$27.04. 20895

Frederick Town Notice of Vacancy

NOTICE OF VACANCY
MUNICIPALITY OF FREDERICK

The following office will become vacant due to the expiration of the present term of office.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Frederick Board Member - 3 year term.

Circulation of nominating petitions may begin on January 28 and petitions may be picked up and filed at the office of the Finance Officer located at 406 3rd Avenue, Frederick, SD on Monday, Wednesday or Friday mornings between the hours of 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM (Central Standard Time). Final day for turning in petition is February 25, 2022, when Finance Office will be open until 5:00 PM.

Diane Bruns
Frederick Finance Officer
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$8.89. 20896

Frederick School Notice of Vacancy

NOTICE OF VACANCY ON
SCHOOL BOARD
FREDERICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 6-2

The following school board position will become vacant due to the expiration of the present term of office.

Alex Hart, School Board Member, 3-year term

Circulation of nominating petitions may begin on March 1, 2022, and petitions may be filed in the office of the business manager located at 202 E Main St, Frederick, SD between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., central time, not later than March 29, 2022, at 5:00 p.m., or mailed by registered mail not later than March 29, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

Janel Hettich
Business Manager
(2t. Feb 21 & Feb 28, 2022)
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$17.10. 20897

A subscription to the Groton Independent makes a great gift!

Groton Area boys fall to Sisseton

The Northeast Conference race got more interesting as Sisseton handed Groton Area its second conference loss. Several teams now have two losses in the conference as Groton Area watched its 16-point lead fall in the second half as the Redmen pulled out a 54-53 win.

The Tigers held a 15-9 lead after the first quarter and a 35-22 lead at halftime. The Tigers jumped out on top, 40-24 early in the third quarter before the bottom fell out. While Groton Area had five turnovers in the first half, they had four in the third period and five in the fourth. Groton's lead dwindled to five after the third period, 46-21. The Redmen tied the game at 46 with 5:38 left in the game, but Groton still held the upper hand. Then its 50 second left, Sisseton took the lead for the first time, 54-53. Sisseton turned the ball over with six seconds left in the game but a last second shot did not materialize and Sisseton hung on for the win.

Lane Tietz led the Tigers with 17 points which included five three-pointers in the first half. Kaden Kurtz had 14, Jacob Zak 10, Jayden Zak six, Tate Larson five and Logan Ringgenberg had one.

Ty Langager was the main threat for Sisseton and he solely kept the Redmen in the game and finished as high scorer of the game with 22 points. Riley BraveBull had 13, Mikah Hamm eight, Jairus Chance four, Nate Tchida three and Parker Hanson and Jason Fisher each had two points.

TEAM STATS

Lane Tietz - 17 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal, 2 fouls.

Kaden Kurtz - 14 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal, 1 foul.

Jacob Zak - 10 points, 6 rebounds, 5 assists, 3 steals, 2 fouls.

Jayden Zak - 6 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist.

Tate Larson - 5 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assist, 2 fouls.

Logan Ringgenberg - 1 point, 2 rebounds.

Wyatt Hearnen - 1 rebound, 3 fouls.

Taylor Diegel - 1 assist.

Groton Area made 12 of 26 field goals for 44 percent, eight of 18 three-pointers for 44 percent, five of nine free throws for 56 percent, had 20 rebounds, 14 turnovers, 12 assists, five steals and 10 team fouls.

Sisseton made 23 of 50 field goals for 46 percent, two of four free throws for 50 percent, had 12 team fouls and 11 turnovers.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Dacotah Bank, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Allied Climate Professionals with Kevin Nehls, Groton Ford, MIke-N-Jo's Body-N-Glass, John Sieh Agency and Matt's Tree Service.

Sisseton won the junior varsity game, 41-35. Logan Ringgenberg had 13 points while Teylor Diegel had eight, Cade Larson and Keagan Tracy each had four, Holden Sippel had two and Dillon Abeln and Colby Dunker each had one point.

The junior varsity game livestream was sponsored by Ed and Connie Stauch.

Groton Area won the C game, 40-12. The Tigers led at the quarterstops at 10-2, 19-4 and 27-8.

Rutgear605 was the sponsor of the livestream on GDILIVE.COM.

Caden McInerney led the Tigers with seven points followed by Keagan Tracy and Ryder Johnson with six each, Dillon Abeln and Gage Sippel each had four points, Turner Thompson and Logan Warrington each had three points, JD Schwan, Blake Pauli and Karter Moody each had two points and Holden Sippel made a free throw. Warrington made the only three-pointer in the game.

Dana BraveBull and Gage Hanson each had four points for Sisseton while Kade Hruby and Christian Shepherd each had two points.

Boys varsity and girls junior varsity beat Mobridge-Pollock

Groton Area hosted Mobridge-Pollock in a double header Saturday with the boys varsity team and the girls junior varsity team both posting wins. The boys varsity team won, 71-39, the junior varsity boys team lost, 51-45, the girls varsity team lost, 45-38 and the girls junior varsity team won, 32-28.

The girls junior varsity team started out the afternoon with a 7-0 lead, but Mobridge-Pollock would come back to take the lead during the second quarter and led it at half time, 17-16. Mobridge-Pollock held the upper hand for the third quarter, leading it, 26-18 after three periods. Groton Area staged a come-back in the fourth quarter and took the lead with 1:33 left in the game, 29-28. Kennedy Hansen put the icing on the cake with her basket with 10 seconds left and added a free throw in the closing seconds as Groton Area won.

Hansen led the Tigers with nine points followed by Brooklyn Hansen with six, Faith Traphagen five, Jerica Locke and Jaedyn Penning each had four points and Laila Roberts and Elizabeth Fliehs each had two points.

Sophie Overland led Mobridge-Pollock with six points while Charley Henderson had five, Grace Overland four, and Emily Hatzenbuehler, Gretchen Olson and Faith Heil each had two points.

The boys junior varsity game was tied seven times with the lead changing hands seven times. Groton Area took a 13-9 lead after the first period, then fell behind right at the closing seconds of the first half, 22-18. Mobridge-Pollock opened up a 10-point lead early in the third period, 28-18, but Groton Area would then go on a 12-point run to take the lead, 30-28. Mobridge-Pollock would make a long three-pointer at the buzzer to reclaim the lead at the end of the third period, 38-37. Mobridge-Pollock would get the upper hand in the fourth quarter and would go on for the 51-45 win.

Cole Simon led the Tigers with 18 points followed by Teylor Diegel with nine, Dillon Abeln seven, Logan Ringgenberg had six, Braxton Imrie had three and Cade Larson had two.

Michael Wald led Mobridge-Pollock with 23 points while Holden Eisemann had 11, Kody Keller five, Simon Fried four, Turner Pfitzer and Coy Hinsz each had three and Shane Henderson added two points.

The girls varsity team played again without Gracie Traphagen as she is under concussion protocol. The Lady Tigers fought hard and nearly pulled out a win over the 11-3 Mobridge-Pollock Tigers. Groton Area held a 7-4 first quarter lead and Mobridge-Pollock held a 21-19 lead at half time. The game was tied twice and there were a couple of lead changes late in the third quarter before Mobridge-Pollock took a 27-26 lead into the fourth quarter. Foul trouble plagued Groton Area with three players eventually fouling out and Mobridge-Pollock got the upper hand in the fourth quarter for the 45-38 win.

TEAM STATS

Alyssa Thaler led Groton Area with 13 points while Sydney Leicht and Kennedy Hansen each had seven.

Mariah Goehring led Mobridge-Pollock with 13 points and Heidi Olson and Landyn Henderson each had 11.

Alyssa Locke - 4 points, 1 rebound, 5 fouls.

Alyssa Thaler - 13 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists, 3 fouls, 1 block

Brooke Gengerke - 3 points, 6 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal, 4 fouls

Sydney Leicht - 7 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist, 2 steals.

Aspen Johnson - 7 rebounds, 5 fouls.

Jerica Locke - 2 points, 7 rebounds, 2 assists,

1 steal, 1 foul.

Jaedyn Penning - 2 points, 4 rebounds, 3 fouls.

Brooklyn Hansen - 1 rebound.

Kennedy Hansen - 7 points, 6 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals, 5 fouls.

Faith Traphagen - 1 foul.

Tate Larson had his second double-double of the year with 15 points and 10 rebounds as the boys easily defeated Mobridge-Pollock. Groton Area led at the quarterstops at 15-8, 33-22 and 57-29 en route to the 71-39 win. Groton's defense held Mobridge-Pollock to its lowest scoring game of the year. Three other players hit double figures for Groton Area with Kaden Kurtz leading all scorers on the night with 16 points while Lane Tietz had 13 and Wyatt Hearnen had 12.

Jackson Eisemann led Mobridge-Pollock with 14 points and Brady Bauer had seven.

Groton Area made 12 of 25 field goals for 48 percent, two of 20 three-pointers for 10 percent, eight of 12 free throws for 67 percent, had 38 rebounds, 16 turnovers, eight assists, six steals, 27 team fouls and 1 block.

TEAM STATS

Jayden Zak - 4 points, 2 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 steals, 4 fouls.

Lane Tietz - 13 points, 3 assists, 2 steals, 2 fouls.

Jacob Zak - 8 points, 1 rebound, 2 assists, 1 steal, 4 fouls.

Tate Larson - 15 points, 10 rebounds, 4 assists, 2 steals, 2 fouls.

Kaden Kurtz - 16 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 6 steals.

Cole Simon - 1 point, 2 rebounds, 1 steal.

Wyatt Hearnen - 12 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals, 3 fouls.

Colby Dunker - 2 rebounds.

Logan Ringgenberg - 1 rebound.

Taylor Diegel - 2 points, 1 rebound, 3 assists.

Groton Area made 22 of 30 field goals for 73 percent, six of 21 three-pointers for 29 percent, made nine

of 13 free throws for 69 percent, had 26 rebounds, 13 turnovers, 18 assists, 16 steals and 15 team fouls.

All of the games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM. The girls junior varsity was sponsored by Steve and Betty Dunker. The boys junior varsity was sponsored by Vander-Hemel Construction of Woonsocket.

The varsity games were sponsored by Allied Climate Professionals with Kevin Nehls, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, the John Sieh Agency, Groton Ford and Dacotah Bank.

The boys varsity team is now 14-2 on the season and will travel to Sisseton on Tuesday. MobridgePollock falls to 7-5. The girls varsity team is now 9-9. The Flandrau Indian game that was scheduled for Monday was cancelled so Groton Area goes to 10-9.

Mobridge-Pollock goes to 12-3.

- Paul Kosel

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Glimpses From Greenfield 2022–Week 5

We're getting down to crunch time! As I type this, we are hearing updated revenue estimates based upon the most recent data available (for January). Our year-to-date revenues remain extremely strong. Many folks attribute this to federal policies that have sparked hyperinflation as well as our SD policies that have been promoted by the Governor and local leaders to remain "open-for-business". This has caused strong trends across nearly every revenue stream, sparked in many cases by increased tourism and an influx of new residents to our great state!

Last Tuesday, I pitched SB 137 in Judiciary Committee. This bill would regulate a practice known as gestational surrogacy that has been occurring in SD for over 30 years. One might ask "Why?" Why would we feel the need to regulate something that has been deemed legal for over three decades? It is because there have been repeated efforts in the past decade by some to actually ban in vitro fertilization altogether or to ban gestational surrogacy. When the most recent ban attempt failed, some of the legislators told the advocates of gestational surrogacy to bring back regulations so the process has some well-defined parameters. This is a highly-charged bill with a lot of misunderstanding surrounding it. I will discuss it further in future weeks if the bill continues to progress through the process, but by way of background, some of you may remember a real-life story that played out in Aberdeen and was subsequently made into a movie. "Labor of Love: the Arlette Schweitzer Story" highlighted the story of a grandmother who carried her twin grand babies to term for her daughter and her son-in-law who were suffering from infertility issues. Across South Dakota, approximately 1 in 6 couples experience infertility, and the process of gestational surrogacy has provided a finite number of those people with an opportunity to grow their biological families. The language in the bill would require screening procedures to ensure that gestational surrogacy is medically necessary for those seeking to engage in the process, and to ensure that the parties are all mentally prepared and that they are financially stable, should they pursue this route. The regulations contained within the bill are endorsed by Families from SD Surrogacy, the SD Medical Association, the SD Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, as well as a host of other organizations and individuals. It is opposed by some of the groups with whom I have always been closely associated, including some pro-family and pro-life organizations. That is what makes it so difficult. We are trying to educate people concerning what the bill actually does. I am hopeful that we will have a meeting of minds as to what the passage or failure of this bill means. If the bill dies, gestational surrogacy remains legal in SD, but without proper regulations and restrictions. If the bill passes, gestational surrogacy remains legal in SD with a better-defined framework as to the process, regulations, restrictions, and expectations of all involved.

In 2017, the legislature passed a bill to allow Nurse Practitioners to serve their patients under a new model. They can remain part of the former process, in which they collaborate with physicians. However, we established a different process by which they can also function autonomously under certain guidelines. This year, SB 134 would establish a similar process for Physician Assistants. All these people are medical professionals who have been educated and trained to serve their patients. They take their responsibilities very seriously. In a state with many rural clinics, it may not always be plausible for a physician to collaborate with the P.A.'s and N.P.'s (or A.P.P.'s) who serve those clinics. In 2017, we heard of the untimely passing of a physician who was connected to the clinic in Lemmon. When this happened, they scrambled to find a supervising physician. Otherwise, they were facing having to suspend their operations or to shut down. It seems preferable to allow the trained professionals who have served their communities so capably for years to be able to go about their business as they would be allowed to in many, many other states. After some negotiations in 2017, the N.P. legislation passed with flying colors. I am hopeful the same outcome will be achieved this year.

SJR 502 passed the Senate last week by a vote of 18-17. If it meets with a favorable vote on the House side, it will place a Constitutional Amendment on the ballot for you to consider. The language in this proposal involves allowing sports wagering, which the voters have already passed, to be extended to electronic platforms that would still be overseen by Deadwood. I am not a gambler. I do not have a dog in this fight. I did vote in favor of the measure in order to give the voters an opportunity to weigh-in on changing the current process, which only allows for wagers to be placed in-person in Deadwood. I have had conversations with any number of people who say they can currently place wagers online through other venues. They would simply like to be able to do so through a SD outlet. Keep posted for the outcome in the House, and realize you may be asked to vote on this in November.

A few brief mentions of other bills that may be of interest to you... The Convention of States issue I mentioned last week had been smoked-out of the committee that killed it two weeks ago. However, proponents failed to get the bill calendared by a vote of 16-19. SB 179 speaks to allowing municipalities to upgrade campgrounds under their control and continuously operated since 1980. This does not affect a lot of SD communities, but the one most recognizable to us is Wylie Park. Under current law, ANY private campground within a 15-mile radius can unilaterally nix any city's plan for updating or expanding their local campgrounds. I understand there is a fine line in dealing with this issue, but as I discussed this issue, it struck me that this bill does not place the state in the middle of the fight. It says the city (of Aberdeen in this case) may choose to pursue improvements to

or expansion of their local facilities. If the locals disagree, they have means to refer the local decision(s) or they can vote people out-of-office if they feel the local decisions are not consistent with the will of the voters. Finally, SB 101 would allow a person who is over 18 AND who has gone through the Techniques of Alcohol Management (TAM) Training to open a drink, mix a drink, or pour a drink from a tap. Under current law, those individuals can deliver such drinks to customers, however, they are banned from opening, mixing, or pouring the drink. We have one of the most restrictive laws in the country as it relates to this process. If SB 101 passes, we will allow more local flexibility, but we also require training, which few states require. I think this bill strikes a fair balance between where we were and where we would be. This bill passed the Senate 33-2.

I wish you all a blessed week, and I thank you for reading!
Brock

Lana's Annals-Week 5 Pierre Report

Hello once again. Our workload has greatly increased this week. The days are getting longer as we continue to try to get the bills out of our respective houses before crossover day.

HB 1210, a critical race theory for higher education was passed after listening to several testifiers, both opponent and proponent. This bill deals with cultures and political agendas. No one who is college personnel on our campuses has the right to shame people of other cultures and political ideologies. It is ok to have the conversation, but not to the detriment of individual expression.

HB1337 also addresses critical race theory, but this is about k-12. Teachers are not allowed to discriminate against anyone in the classroom. This subject could be about ideologies, political affiliation, doctrines, religion, and yes, culture. What has become a concern is that a person is being singled out and berated in some manner, and we do not want that. I did point out that while I have a hard time believing this is occurring in schools in my area, I have to be sensitive to those areas who have had trouble. I might also mention that teaching outlandish and destructive philosophies to our children is not only despicable but also violates standard teacher practices and ethics. After removing some of the sections of the bill with an amendment, we kept bantering back and forth until the bill passed after HB1337, Sections 4-7 were removed. Those sections gave a lot of heartburn as may have been interpreted to not be able to have children attend, for example, government class trips to the capitol. The question also would be if they could be paid interns or pages during session among others. On the upside, I was pleased, as House Education chairwoman, to welcome Dr. Ben Carson as a proponent testifier on both bills via zoom.

Our education committee also heard HB1163, which was a request to move the kindergarten date for youngsters who passed school readiness screening requirements. The sponsor requested extending the time an extra 6 months. As the committee thought that was too long of a period of time, we extended it from September 1st to the 30th. It will now be debated on the House floor. While I thought that the current cutoff was reasonable, this provides an opportunity for a child to at least try to meet readiness requirements. I had not, prior to this, thought about the fact that when a child moves in from a state that allows a child less five to be in kindergarten, that child is allowed to transfer to the grade in which he/she had attended.

Our local government committee heard HB1332 that was to create building activity. If passed, it would encourage people age 65 or older who had resided a minimum of 5 years in a current residence to move to a new house and only pay the tax amount they had been paying on the former home. This could be done until sold or up to 10 years. Our committee did not act favorably as it seemed unfair. If I come to a town and purchase a new home, I would have to pay for what it was assessed. I would then not take kindly to a person who moved into the area and only paid the tax that their former home was worth. It was a little too "out of the box" for us so it went to the 41st day.

We also heard a bill that requested to make a law to be able to petition the school board for a community concern. In this case, it was to prevent wearing masks at school. It would seem that the school had moved up a tier and that meant masks. After going to the board and being told that they could do nothing, the people finally came to the capitol hoping for us to pass a law. This did not happen. After asking if the people followed the chain of command and the grievance procedure and being told "no", I decided communication, perhaps, was lacking on the part of patron and school. Therefore this was a local decision to be worked out. It is not up to the legislature to pick winners and losers, nor should we be micromanaging other body-making decisions. Some of the bills we see try to do just that, and we should not be in the middle.

On the floor we discussed the project of workforce housing. I became confused about this as has also been called an infrastructure project only covering the ground and down. So the question is this: will the money be used for building houses and apartments or will it be used for roads, curb and gutter, and dirt removal. Many legislators feel that the housing industry should be promoted and built by private companies. It should not be the duty of government to interfere with private enterprise. This is a good idea IF private companies will do it. I would think that if a large company moves into a city, it would also fund some housing for its people. The rent that the workers would pay would then go back to the company. Seems as if this could be a win, win.

With that, I would encourage you to look at the upcoming bills. Also remember you are welcome to come out anytime. Just let me know, and I will introduce you! Have a good week.

Rep. Lana Greenfield, Dist.2

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



Do you know which two U.S. presidents were born in February and have holidays on the calendar? Can you recognize them by their profiles, which you've probably seen many times on coins?



Read the clues below and fill in the puzzle with the last name of the correct President:

1. First African-American President; encourages students to get a good education; likes basketball: Barack _____.
2. One story tells that our first president never "told a lie" and confessed to cutting down a cherry tree: George _____.
3. Family was poor, but he learned to read and write; loved books; tallest president; fought to keep the nation united: Abraham _____.
4. First president to travel outside the U.S.; first American to win the Nobel Peace Prize; Teddy Bear named for him: Theodore _____.
5. Became president 12 years after his father: George W. _____.
6. Wrote most of the Declaration of Independence; designed his own home: Thomas _____.
7. President who served 2 terms not back-to-back; married in the White House: Grover _____.
8. First president to have his photo taken; had an alligator; kept a diary: John Quincy _____.
9. On the \$50 bill; fought in Civil War where he was the first 4-star general: Ulysses S. _____.
10. Was governor of Arkansas; can play the saxophone: "Bill" _____.
11. Never married; his niece went to the White House to be his hostess: James _____.
12. Five-star Army General; first president to ride in a nuclear-powered submarine: Dwight D. _____.
13. Youngest elected president; set up the Peace Corps to help poor countries: John F. _____.
14. At 13, took part in a Revolutionary War battle; was taken prisoner and slashed with a sword for refusing to clean a British officer's boots: Andrew _____.
15. His wife, Dolly, saved a favorite portrait of George Washington before the British attacked the city of Washington and burned down the White House: James _____.
16. He was inaugurated as President when he was 78 years old: Joe _____.

Pop Quiz!

Fill in the blanks with the letters that spell the last names of these two presidents:

Presidents Day

1. President O _ a _ a

2. President T _ u _ p

Crossword puzzle with clues and illustrations of presidents: Clinton, Kennedy, Bush, Obama, Biden, Adams, Roosevelt, Eisenhower, Madison, Lincoln, Jefferson, Jackson.

Challenge Puzzle!

What Did They Do?

How many Presidents can **you** name? Get a pencil and paper, and gather your family or friends. Write down all the names you can think of, and then check your list to see if you named all of the U.S. presidents! (Note: Don't forget that Grover Cleveland served as both the 22nd and 24th President.)

The Lincoln kids kept my great, great, great, great grandfather as a pet in the _____ White House.

Presidents had other careers before leading the nation. Fill in this crossword with their jobs:

1. Ronald Reagan
2. Ulysses S. Grant
3. Abraham Lincoln
4. James E. Carter

Crossword puzzle with clues and illustrations of a deer and a dog.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Wow! That's tough...

So put on **your** Presidential hat... um...I mean your thinking cap and get into the games!

A few of our cousins lived there too!



Coolidge, Harrison, Fillmore, Cleveland, Pierce

Where Did They Live?

Read the four names of Presidential homes on the right, then:

1. Circle the name of Thomas Jefferson's home.
2. Put an "X" on the presidential home used for relaxing.
3. Draw a square around the house where the President lives.
4. Underline George Washington's home.

Illustration of the White House with labels: Mount Vernon, Monticello, Camp David, White House.

Presidential Number Challenges!

1. Did you know that George Washington was the

10 1

9 • • 8

6 • 7 • • 2 • 3

• • • 4 st

5

U.S. President?

2. Who is on every penny and five-dollar bill? Unscramble the letters to find out:

A M A R B H A

N I C N L O L

3. Draw a line from the name to the number that tells each president's order in history.

- | | |
|----------------------|----|
| 1. George Washington | 16 |
| 2. John F. Kennedy | 35 |
| 3. Abraham Lincoln | 46 |
| 4. Barack Obama | 1 |
| 5. Joe Biden | 44 |

Grover Cleveland was our 22nd and 24th President.

4. Who might be our 50th president? Follow the color key to find out:

R = Red B = Blue

R	B	R	B	B	R	R	B	R	B	R	B	R
R	B	R	B	R	B	R	B	R	B	R	B	R
B	R	R	R	B	R	B	R	B	R	B	R	B
B	R	B	B	R	B	R	B	R	B	R	B	B
B	R	B	B	R	R	R	B	R	R	R	B	R

Legislation would make state burial laws clearer

.....Or.....

Legislation seeks to clarify who decides what happens to the dead in South Dakota

Bart Pfankuch

South Dakota News Watch

South Dakota has some of the weakest laws in the nation when it comes to regulating who decides what should happen to the body of someone who dies, and the vague laws are causing greater expense for survivors, creating emotional trauma for grieving families and funeral directors, and occasionally leading to contentious lawsuits.

But state lawmakers are poised to update so-called "disposition" laws to make clear who has the final say over whether a body is embalmed and buried or is cremated, and over where it should be buried or who keeps the remains.

A bill moving quickly through the legislative process, House Bill 1152, would enact eight separate sections of legal language that would spell out specifically how bodies should be handled after death. The measure is modeled on legislation developed by the National Funeral Directors Association and is backed by the South Dakota Funeral Directors Association, whose members have regularly endured stress and uncertainty when disposition challenges arise.

South Dakota laws now allow someone 18 or older to legally dictate his or her own disposition plans before death, though current law allows for challenges of those plans to be made after death. In deaths where a challenge arises, a lawsuit may result and a judge may be called on to decide disposition of a body.

In a death without any legal pre-arrangements in place, state law requires all surviving direct family members to agree on disposition in order for burial or cremation to take place.



Mitch Steinhoff

Beyond that, however, South Dakota disposition laws are unclear on several points and have become inadequate to address legal issues that are arising more often than in the past, said Mitch Steinhoff, director of Eidsness Funeral Home in Brookings.

For example, obtaining consensus on burial plans from all surviving family members has become far more difficult as people have become more mobile, families have become more geographically dispersed and estrangement among family members appears to be more common, Steinhoff said.

"The biggest thing is that the law has just been outdated for some time, and the law the way it reads now is very vague on a lot of issues," Steinhoff said. "This will really clean it up and give us direct law on how things have to happen."

The proposed law would make it much harder for a pre-arranged disposition to be changed, allowing a challenge only if the decedent made it clear before death that he or she was open to other plans, and only from survivors the person designates in advance.

While a signed and notarized "pre-need" legal document makes it much easier to determine disposition intent, many people die without making such arrangements, Steinhoff said.

The current law requiring consensus among survivors of people without pre-need arrangements is unhelpful when there are only two surviving siblings who disagree, if there are varying opinions within a group of survivors or



Members of the South Dakota Funeral Directors Association are backing legislation to further clarify who decides on the disposition of bodies of people who die in the state. Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

when one or more surviving family members cannot or refuse to be located or contacted.

Unexpected deaths or those without pre-need documents can lead to family arguments, causing high stress during a time of grief and sometimes requiring costly litigation. Disputes over disposition also place logistical and emotional burdens on funeral directors who cannot process a body until disposition is legally settled.

"Under this bill, it's clearly defined in terms of the order in which it goes and how things operate if a family ever had an issue," Steinhoff said. "It makes it so much simpler for everybody. It will be very easy to show them, 'Here is the law,' and we don't have that now."

Rep. Charlie Hoffman, R-Eureka, the prime sponsor of the legislation, said the revised laws are needed "to assist families and funeral homes to make decisions that successfully avoid many of the circumstances that can stalemate or stall funeral arrangements."

Hoffman said all states allow someone to designate in advance the disposition of his or her body after death. About half of U.S. states have enacted four or more of the eight major provisions in the proposed model legislation, but only three states, including South Dakota, have not adopted any of the revised legal principles, Hoffman said.

Jason Glodt, lobbyist for the state funeral directors group, said the weak South Dakota laws have led to expensive and needless litigation in contested disposition cases and caused undue hardship for families and for funeral directors caught in the middle.

In one example highlighted by Glodt, a non-Native man in South Dakota was charged in the death of his son, but then refused to agree with the wishes of the mother, a Native American, to bury the boy's body on a reservation.

A judge had to intervene to grant the mother's wishes, Glodt said. The new law would remove disposition rights from someone charged in the killing of a family member.

In another case, two siblings arguing over the estate of their late father could not agree on the disposition of their mother after her death, with one sibling refusing to be contacted after the mother's death in an apparent attempt to gain emotional leverage over the other sibling in the ongoing estate case.

The mother's body remained in refrigerated limbo for months at the funeral home until a judge settled the disposition. The new law would forfeit the disposition rights of someone who cannot be contacted or refuses to be contacted within three days of a person's death.

In another case, a body was held in storage

for several months while survivors bickered over how to dispose of it. The new law would allow a simple majority of survivors to agree on disposition, rather than requiring all survivors to agree.

Other elements of the law would remove disposition rights of someone who cannot be located, give funeral directors legal immunity in cases of disputes and allow for disposal of unclaimed remains.

Rep. Mike Stevens, R-Yankton, brought some personal experience, and some levity, to the discussion of the bill before the House Judiciary Committee, where it passed unanimously on Feb. 9.

Stevens, an attorney and member of the committee, shared how a client who died and was cremated had no one to claim his ashes, so they were brought to Stevens' office where they remain to this day. Stevens referred to the client only as "Jim."

"They're in the corner of my office and I can't get any of Jim's family members to come and get his remains," Stevens testified. "I have to explain to my clients why they're sitting next to Jim."

In all seriousness, however, Stevens said the update to the laws is needed to avoid unsettled disposition of bodies.

"This is a lot more common than people actually really think, so for us to have that and get it taken care of is very important," he said.

HB 1152 was passed unanimously by the full House of Representatives on a consent motion on Feb. 14 and now moves to the Senate.

Steinhoff said future legislation is needed to further clarify the obligations and responsibilities of South Dakota funeral directors. But he said the disposition bill now under consideration will be a great aid to funeral directors and families.

"The reason we become funeral directors is that we have a calling to help people," he said. "Obviously, if an issue arises, the grief process is not being helped, and it can become a horrible situation because not only are you dealing with the death of a loved one, but now you're fighting with other loved ones or relatives."

— This article was produced by South Dakota News Watch, a non-profit journalism organization located online at SDNewsWatch.org.



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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Tigers go 3-3 in full round of basketball at Milbank

It was a full round of basketball Thursday in Milbank as six games took the courts starting at 4 p.m. and ending just before 10 p.m. The boys varsity team won, 66-45, The boys C team lost, 39-35, the girls varsity team lost, 37-35, the girls JV team lost, 25-20, the girls C team won, 27-18, and the boys JV team won in overtime, 55-53.

Special thanks to Shane and Laura Clark for assisting with the livestream as they followed the girls junior varsity and C games. Both C games were played in the newly built elementary gym while the junior varsity and varsity games were played in the main high school gym. Steve and Betty Dunker were the sponsors of the girls C game and junior varsity game; Rutgear605 sponsored the boys C game, VanderHemmel Construction of Woonsocket sponsored the boys junior varsity game, and the varsity games were sponsored by Dacotah Bank, Groton Ford, John Sieh Agency, Bary Keith at Harr Motors and Allied Climate Professionals with Kevin Nehls.

Milbank led for most of the C game, leading at the quarterstops at 13-5, 27-24 and 28-26 en route to a 39-35 win. Groton Area closed to within two, 37-35, but couldn't close the gap down the end. Blake Pauli, Ryder Johnson and Turner Thompson each had eight points, Keagan Tracy had five, Gage Sippel four and Carter Simon had two points. Mason Meister led the Bulldogs with 12 points and Graham Lightfield had 10.

Rylee Dunker led the Lady Tigers in the 27-18 win in the C game. Elizabeth Flihs had six points, Brooklyn Hansen had five, and adding two points apiece were Faith Traphagen, Laila Roberts and Mia Crank.

Faith Traphagen led the Lady Tigers in the junior varsity game with seven points while Mia Crank had four and adding three points each were Kennedy Hansen, Brooklyn Hansen and Jaedyn Penning. Milbank won, 25-20.

The boys junior varsity game was a battle to the end with Cole Simon powering in 23 points to lead the Tigers to a 55-53 overtime win. Groton Area held a 12-10 first quarter lead while the Bulldogs held the lead at halftime, 21-18. Groton Area scored 10 unanswered points to take a 36-34 lead in the second half. Down the stretch Milbank caught back up and took a 46-45 lead. The Tigers held a 48-46 lead in the closing seconds but Milbank would tie the game before time ran out at 48. Milbank scored first in the overtime, but the Tigers captured a 54-51 lead and hung on for the 55-53 win. Logan Ringgenberg added 11 points while Teylor Diegel had eight, Colby Dunker seven, and Dillon Abeln, Cade Larson and Holden Sippel each had two points. Joe Schulte led the Bulldogs with 19 points and Jaxson Wildung added 10.

The Lady Tigers did miss teammate Gracie Traphagen who is out on concussion protocol, but the Tigers battled all the way to the end, falling just short of the win, 37-35. The game was tied three times and the lead changed sides 10 times. Milbank held a 12-9 first quarter lead and a 19-18 lead at half time. The Bulldogs held a 27-25 lead at the end of the third quarter. Groton took the lead, 33-32, with 2:56 left in the game. The lead changed sides three more times in the remaining time with Milbank getting the win. Brooke Gengerke and Sydney Leicht each had eight points to lead the Tigers followed by Alyssa Locke with seven, Kennedy Hansen and Alyssa Thaler each had four points and Aspen Johnson and Jaedyn Penning each added two points. Tyra Berry led the Bulldogs with 14 points, Isabella Anderson had 12, Maurina Street seven and Claire Snaza five.

Groton Area made seven of 25 in field goals for 28 percent, four of 15 three-pointers for 27 percent, nine of 11 free throws for 82 percent, Aspen Johnson had eight of the team's

27 rebounds, Alyssa Locke had three of the team's eight assists, Locke, Brooke Gengerke and Johnson each had two of the team's eight steals and the Tigers had 12 teams fouls and 19 turnovers.

Milbank made 11 of 32 in field goals for 34 percent, 11 of 20 in free throws for 55 percent, had 11 team fouls and 13 turnovers.

The Groton Area boys dominated the varsity game, leading at the quarterstops at 19-10, 38-24 and 49-32 en route to the 66-45 win.

Three players hit double figures for the Tigers with Kaden Kurtz and Tate Larson each having 16 points, Lane Tietz had 14, Jayden Zak, Jacob Zak and Cole Simon each had five points, Wyatt Hearnen and Taylor Diegel each had two points and Logan Ringgenberg added one free throw.

Groton Area made 20 of 29 in field goals for 69 percent, six of 17 in three-pointers for 35

percent, made eight of 17 free throws for 47 percent, Larson had seven of the team's 22 rebounds, Jayden Zak had five of the team's 17 assists, Tietz had three of the team's 10 steals, the Tigers had 13 fouls and 10 turnovers.

Wylie Mursu led the Bulldogs with 13 points followed by Garrett Mertens with nine, Joe Schulte and Bennett Schwenn each had seven, Kellen Hoeke had five and Stevie Ash had three points.

Milbank made 17 of 39 in field goals for 44 percent, four of seven in free throws for 57 percent, had 18 turnovers and 10 team fouls.

The boys varsity team is now 13-2 on the season while Milbank falls to 8-8. The girls varsity team is 9-8 and Milbank goes to 8-9.

The Tigers will engage another double-header on Saturday as the Mobridge-Pollock Tigers come town.

- Paul Kosel

Happy ending to a brutal battle for the FIRST-PLACE trophy to Groton Robotics Senior team!

Groton Robotics sent 4 teams down to Sioux Falls for their last regular season tournament held at the CTE (Career and Technical Academy) on Saturday, February 12th competing against 12 other teams. 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, Bradyn Wienk).

The competition started off with 26 qualifying matches, with the 17 teams competing 6 times. At the end of the 26 qualifying matches G-Force ranked 4th, Gladiator's 9th, Gear Heads 12th, Galaxy 17th.

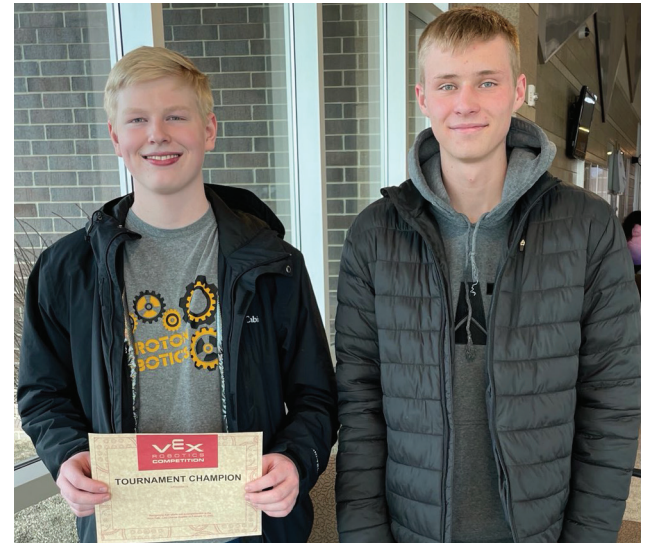
Lots of demolition derby style battling occurred during this tournament and near tipping of robots. Defensive moves were seen frequently throughout the day by stealing mobile goals right out of another robots' hands to tipping over another team's platform causing all their hard-earned points to slide down their platform. These are all legal moves, but in the last 30 seconds of the match it's illegal to touch another team's platform, if robots do, they will be disqualified and earn 0 points for that match.

Gladiators, Galaxy, and Gear Heads journey for the day ended in the quarter finals.

Robotics is a very self-motivating, self-learning, mentoring program in which games and rules change every year. Kids can enter in 6th grade, but during the first couple years their role is shadowing and learning from the older teams. This can get very frustrating, but as the years pass, they learn more and become more independent. The process takes a lot of patience and motivation. These kids are handed pieces of metal, wires, screws, nuts, bolts and a computer in which they have to learn how to build and program their robot. The not knowing how to in the beginning makes the success as Juniors and Seniors a wonderful thing to watch unfold for parents and coaches.

Congratulations to all the robotists who participated! Groton Robotics will be headed down to Rapid City for the South Dakota VRC State Championship, held at Douglas High School on Saturday, February 26th. For more information check 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!

Submitted by Groton Robotics



Tournament champions! Congratulations to our Seniors Travis Townsend and Jace Kroll! (Courtesy photo)

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Dear EarthTalk: Is there any truth to claims that we need not worry about plastic pollution because nature will evolve microorganisms to break it all down?
 -- C. Davis, Sacramento, CA

EARTHTALK

organisms capable of breaking down PET plastic. They use enzymes that allow degradation of plastics into component pieces in only six weeks, compared to the 450 years it takes for plastic to break down on its own. This discovery gave rise to the question of how people can harness and utilize these microorganisms, as the naturally occurring microorganisms broke down plastic at a rate far too slow to be efficient for practical use. In response, scientists created a "super enzyme"—a mutant of the naturally-occurring organisms—capable of speeding the rate of plastic degradation so that 90 percent of a sample can be broken down in 10 hours.

Plastic-eating microorganisms are an amazing example of the resilience and adaptability of our planet. However, they are unlikely to be our saving grace to rid the Earth of the plastic pollution scourge. Current recycling systems are inefficient; most of the plastic we put in recycling bins ends up in landfills. Also, the products that are recycled are unappealing to manufacturers due to their dark, gray coloration. Nonetheless, thanks to these microorganisms, recycled plastic can now rival the quality of virgin plastics.

But even with the help of super enzymes, microorganisms that break down plastics do so far too slowly to keep up with current production levels of plastic production and disposal. Additionally, it is crucial to understand the broad impacts of plastic pollution even as it is broken down. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) associates 78 percent of priority pollutants with plastic pollution. Plastics contain contaminants and harsh chemicals absorbed in the manufacturing process which are released into the environment as they break down. This means that we will see an increase in the effects of chemical leaching impacting marine life by causing respiratory problems, chemical accumulation in fatty tissues, disruption of endocrine function, and death.

The discovery of these microbes may very well be the future of recycling, but we are still years away from adequately scaling up this potential use. In the meantime, addressing the amount of plastic making its way into the environment is still an important global issue; reducing plastic use and disposal is the best tool we have to address the problem at hand.

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.



Are plastic-eating microorganisms the solution to our plastic pollution woes? And if so do we have to slow down our production of plastic? Credit: pexels.com

Humans have long aimed to maximize efficiency and convenience in everyday life. Plastic has fueled the growth of today's post-industrial world: From food preservation and textile production to construction and machinery, plastic has made elements of everyday life more convenient. Consequently, the planet is inundated with plastics like Polyethylene terephthalate (PET). Around the world over 70 million tons of PET plastic is manufactured, and only 19 percent of it is recycled. The World Economic Forum estimates that the planet is on track to have as much plastic by weight as fish in the ocean by 2050.

Scientists and environmental advocates alike are focused on addressing global plastic pollution. In 2016 Japanese scientists at the Kyoto Institute of Tokyo took samples outside of a recycling facility in Osaka and made a revolutionary discovery: micro-

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Does All Back Pain Warrant Imaging?

Experts estimate that well over 80 percent of people will experience back pain at some point in their lives. Perhaps ten percent of adults experience it at any given moment. Back pain is extremely common, and people with back pain can be extremely miserable. It may hurt to move, sit, stand, lay, even breathe. No wonder back pain accounts for so many visits to the doctor!

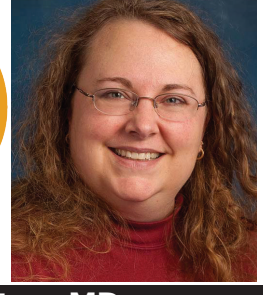
When people with acute back pain come to see me, they often have a preconceived notion of what will happen. They anticipate I will talk with them, examine them, and many expect x-rays or an MRI. They are often surprised, and sometimes worried, when I stop short of ordering imaging.

My first goal when I see someone with acute back pain is to rule out rare conditions that threaten life and limb. Could this be a fracture? Cancer? Infection in the bone or spinal cord? Severe and rapidly progressing compression of the nerves? These conditions could require imaging for diagnosis and urgent treatment. However, they are uncommon, and unless specific "red flags" are revealed during the patient history and exam, it is extremely unlikely a rare condition is responsible for the pain.

Most acute back pain gets better in four to six weeks. Unwarranted imaging only increases medical costs and the likelihood of invasive treatment like surgery or injections but doesn't get people better any faster. For most people, the best approach for relieving back pain is to stay as active as you can, take an anti-inflammatory pain medicine if you don't have a reason to avoid them, use a heating pad, and perhaps have manipulation by a chiropractor, osteopathic doctor, or physical therapist.

When imaging is used, it is important to realize that something seen on an x-ray or MRI might not actually be responsible for the back pain. Indeed, it has been found that as we age, it becomes more likely that, even with no back symptoms, we will have abnormalities on imaging. This is true in about ten percent of people in their 30s; among the very old, the likelihood approaches 100 percent.

There is no one-size-fits-all solution to chronic back pain. It takes a knowledgeable clinician to tease out what might be causing the problem and which treatment might help. I urge caution if anyone tries to sell you a treatment without careful analysis of your individual situation. Your money might be better spent on a heating pad, and a gym membership.



Debra Johnston, MD

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