



Groton qualifies four to state wrestling

Three boys and Groton Area's first girl will advance to the state wrestling tournament to be held this weekend in Sioux Falls. Pictured are Coach Head Coach (Darin Zoellner, Cole Bisbee, Liza Krueger, Christian Ehresmann, Lane Krueger - state qualifiers) statistician Easton Ekern and Assistant Coach Ryan Scepaniak. (Photo from Groton Youth Wrestling - Tuff Tigers Facebook Page)



St. John's Lutheran Pre-School students made signs to wish the Groton wrestlers good luck at state. Pictured are RIVER Wipf, Asher Heilman, Lexie Locke, Laker Hansen, Mya Flihs, Ivy Cole, Kodi Hinman, Beau Bahr, Landry Johnson, Carson Zeck, Natalie Walberg, Briggs Sperry and Roman Bahr. (Photo courtesy Tricia Keith)



Cataloging of books at Wage Memorial Library has begun

Kellie Locke, Wage Memorial Librarian, has started the process of cataloging all of the books in the library located at 120 N. Main. She said she hopes to have it all completed by the end of March. Each books has to have its ISSN number put into the computer and each book will have a special sticker that will be scanned when checked out. Locke is pictured on the left scanning a bar code that she is seen putting on a book in the right photo. (Photos by Paul Kosel)



UpComing Events

Thursday, Feb. 23

Girls Basketball regions begin. Groton plays Milbank at Sisseton at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 25

Boys Basketball vs. Aberdeen Christian at the Aberdeen Civic Center. C game starts at 5:15 p.m. Junior High Basketball at Webster with 7th grade playing at 7 p.m. followed by 8th grade game. Debate National Qualifiers

Saturday, Feb. 25

Girls Basketball regions, 6 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 28

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

Tuesday, March 1

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m. First round of boys basketball regions FFA Tractor Drive in Groton

Thursday, March 3

Girls SoDak16

Friday, March 4

Second round of boys basketball regions State debate at Harribsurg

Saturday, March 5

State debate at Harribsurg

Tuesday, March 8

Boys SoDak16

Thursday, March 10

End of Third Quarter Middle School Talent Show, 7-8:30 p.m.

Sunday Morning Heroes

I still remember Sunday mornings at the apartment Bob Booker and I shared on Railroad Avenue in Aberdeen in the late Seventies. While Bob was sleeping, I would tip-toe out to the living room and patch an audio cable from the television to the stereo system and wait until All Star Wrestling began, "featuring the top professional wrestlers from the United States, Canada, England, Australia, Mexico, Poland, Germany, Japan..." ("But mostly Minneapolis," Bob once quipped.)

With "Mean Gene" Okerlund's voice thundering through the speakers, Bob would emerge sleepily in a bathrobe and a half-flattened perm, which for some reason was a thing back then, and the day would begin with us cheering the heels (bad guys), the jobbers (perennial losers) and booing the babyfaces (good guys). We were rebels.

We admired the tag team of Jesse "The Body" Ventura and "Adorable Adrian Adonis" who would strut and bully until things got tough, at which point, the hulking, musclebound Jesse would drop to his knees, hands clasped in prayer, begging for mercy, before his scrawny opponent, Greg Gagne, whose father Verne co-founded the AWA (American Wrestling Association). Then, while the referee was distracted, Adrian would club "Greggy," as we derisively called him, from behind with a folding chair, causing the immediate disqualification of our heroes and—get this—allow them to retain their tag team title because of the disqualification. The AWA had the greatest rules ever.

Verne looked like your dad—if your dad was bald, wore tight swim trunks around the house and accessorized with lace up boots. But he was a popular people's champion and a 1948 Olympian. His foil at the time was Nick Bockwinkel, the suave, erudite, arrogant heel managed by Bobby "The Brain" Heenan, described as "the smartest man in wrestling."

During interviews conducted by the short, tuxedoed, seedy-looking Gene Okerlund, Heenan would brag about the exemplary wrestling prowess of "Mr. Bockwinkel" and complain about the skullduggery of supposed mastermind promoter and co-founder of the AWA, Wally Karbo, who had a thick German accent and often grew so flustered during exchanges with Heenan and Bockwinkel all he could do was sputter. While Heenan was singing his praises, Bockwinkel, in all his sweptback blond-haired splendor, would preen for the camera and nod in agreement.

Heenan's role was to insult and infuriate fans. One time, before an appearance at the Aberdeen Civic Arena, Heenan was a guest on Bob's afternoon show on KSDN, and obliged by calling everyone in town ignorant hillbillies and insisting that there would be trouble if anyone showed up waving "Weasel" signs or chanting "Weasel!" when he walked in, which naturally, they did. During his career, he was shot at, beaten and stabbed by fans who took their wrestling pretty seriously. He once paid his \$1,200 fee to join the Screen Actor's Guild so he could take a small movie role for which he was paid \$1,000. "That's how smart I was," he said.

A former wrestler, Heenan once took on perennial loser "Sodbuster" Kenny Jay, who got his name from his landscaping business. In every match, Kenny Jay would put on a good show and almost win, only to fall victim to some underhanded tactic or nefarious plot. This time though, at a key point in the match, "Rock 'N' Roll" Buck Zumhofe distracted Heenan, who was summarily pinned. "The Brain" was so furious, he smashed Zumhofe's boom box, valued in the thousands (claimed Zumhofe), on the turnbuckle, setting off another memorable controversy.

With Kenny Jay's hand raised in victory, Bob and I leapt to our feet, dancing around on the furniture in our bathrobes like spastic Samurais, chanting "Kenny Jay won! Kenny Jay won!" During his career, Kenny Jay (Benkowski) wrestled an ape, a bear, and even lasted two and a half rounds with Muhammad Ali in an exhibition match—the highlight of his career, he said—but for Bob and me, it was the was the memorable win over "The Brain" that remains unforgettable.

One of the great interviews was Reggie Lisowski, otherwise known as the barrel-chested Crusher, who trained by "smoking cigars and carrying kegs of beer". By the end of his road work, legend has it, the keg was empty, but Crusher continued to exercise late into the evening by "dancing with all the dollies on Wisconsin Avenue." He favored stout Polish barmaids.

The interviews were always as entertaining as the matches. The best one I ever saw was with Jerry Blackwell, a 474-pound bearded villain from Stone Mountain, Georgia, who planned to illustrate his toughness by breaking a plank with his forehead in front of the cameras. With Baron Von Rashke (a substitute school teacher in the off-season) holding the board, Blackwell gave it a mighty whack. It cracked but didn't break. Blackwell wobbled while Okerlund and Von Rashke's eyes grew wide at the botched stunt. He managed to carry on, but as he woozily bragged about the mayhem he would inflict on his next opponent, a trickle of blood began to trickle down his face. So it was that the only blood I ever saw on All Star Wrestling came during an interview.



That's Life

by Tony Bender

The AWA folded in 1991 after Vince McMahon transformed wrestling from a regional attraction to a slickly produced worldwide phenomenon. It had its moments, but it lacked the humor, personality and heart of the AWA. The AWA was cartoons for adults. A soap opera for men and a few rabid grandmothers. But those days are gone. Vern Gangne is gone. So is Blackwell. Karbo exited in 1993. Adonis died in a car wreck in 1988 on the way to a match. We lost the Crusher in 2005. Heenan, beloved in wrestling circles, has battled throat cancer, his arrogant lisp now silenced.

I miss those guys. I was feeling kind of wistful about it on this, a misty Sunday morning 35 years later. Then, half afraid of what I would find, I did a web search for Kenny Jay. Fear not, "The Sodbuster" is still going strong at 77, still living in Minnesota. It made me smile.

© Tony Bender, 2014

Weekly Vikings Roundup

Vikings New Coaching Hires

By Duane & Jack Kolsrud

Vikings' new coaches

The Vikings finally announced the hiring of their new head coach, Kevin O'Connell, this past Thursday. Rumors started to circulate during the early part of the week that Los Angeles Rams' head coach, Sean McVay, was considering retirement and that O'Connell would return to the Los Angeles Rams to become the Head Coach. This left many Vikings fans worried that the Vikings would have to choose their secondary options to become their next head coach.

However, this scare quickly died down as the Vikings front office got in contact with ESPN reporter, Adam Schefter, to have him inform the public that O'Connell would in fact be the Vikings' head coach and that the delay was because of contract negotiations.

O'Connell will bring with him a much different approach to coaching than his predecessor, Mike Zimmer. In his press conference on Thursday, O'Connell constantly reiterated that he and his coaching staff will be more personable with their players, which was something Zimmer was unwilling to do in the last few years as the Vikings' head coach.

Also, unlike Zimmer, O'Connell will have more of an emphasis on the offensive side of football. With the way the NFL is played and officiated today, offensive-minded head coaches are becoming more and more valuable to teams' successes than defensive-minded coaches. Since 2010, the only defensive-minded head coach, not named Bill Belichick, to win a Super Bowl has been Pete Carroll when his Seahawks beat the Broncos in Super Bowl XLVIII.

With the arrival of Kevin O'Connell, the Viking's defense is going to look much different than it ever has in the team's entire history. On Thursday, the Vikings announced that Ed Donatell would become the team's new defensive coordinator. What is unique about this hire is that Ed Donatell is expected to run a 3-4 defense for the Vikings. For those that don't know, teams usually run either a 4-3 defense or a 3-4 defense. The difference between the two is the number of defensive linemen on the field. For a 4-3 defense, there will be 4 defensive linemen on the field, with the 2 interior linemen lined up between the center and either guard. A 3-4 defense, on the other hand, involves only 3 defensive linemen being on the field, with the 1 interior lineman lined up directly over the center. Although this might not seem like much, this will be a drastic change for this team as it will be the first time in Vikings' history that they are running a 3-4 defense. The days of the Purple People Eaters and the Williams Wall will be no more.

At this moment, many of the positions on the Vikings' coaching staff are still being figured out. As of this weekend, it was just announced that Wes Phillips, son of Wade and grandson of Bum, will be the new offensive coordinator. However, one thing is for certain, it will be almost an entirely new staff of coaches. The only returning coach from last year will be wide receivers coach, Keenan McCardell. McCardell likely received the opportunity to return to the Vikings thanks to Justin Jefferson and Adam Thielen voicing their opinions over social media as to how much they loved McCardell as their coach and wanted him back for the 2022 season.

Looking ahead to key NFL dates:

The NFL offseason will start to take shape here soon as the NFL Scouting Combine will kick off on March 1. After that, on March 16, NFL teams will be permitted to start signing free agents and making trades.

Since the Vikings hired a new head coach, the team will be able to start their offseason workout programs on April 4, which is two weeks earlier than the rest of the league.

And on April 28, the NFL Draft will begin and the new Vikings regime, led by Kwesi Adofo-Mensah and Kevin O'Connell, will get their first opportunity to hopefully build the Minnesota Vikings into a Super Bowl contender.

Next up: what to look for at the NFL Combine.



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Friendly Fellows and Daisies 4-H Club

Date: February 6, 2022

The Friendly Fellows and Daisies 4-H Club met on February 6, 2022, in Claremont. The meeting was called to order by President Andrew Marzahn. American Pledge was led by Hailey Pauli. The 4-H Pledge was led by Walker Zoellner. Roll call topic was name your favorite color. There was a thank you from a 4-H member read by communications officer Hailey Pauli. The treasurer's report was read by Logan Ringgenberg and was approved by Logan Warrington and seconded by Ashlynn Warrington. There were no additions or improvements. The Secretary's report was read by Logan Warrington and approved by Hailey Pauli and seconded by Walker Zoellner. Logan Warrington made a motion to close old business; Ashlynn Warrington approved it and was seconded by Walker Zoellner. For new business the club read the Newshound, talked about the ski trip, and the annual 4-H fundraiser. New business was closed by Logan Ringgenberg and seconded by Hailey Pauli. The meeting was adjourned by Ashlynn Warrington and seconded by Walker Zoellner. Lunch was served by the Eichler family. Demonstrations were given by Ashlynn and Logan Warrington on the state capital. The club members did their club project by making tile coasters.

Submitted by Walker Zoellner, Club Reporter

DACOTAH BANK SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Dacotah Bank is proud to continue with their scholarship program for high school seniors. Dacotah Bank has been happy to help youth in the communities they serve move on to secondary schools. To be eligible, high school seniors must be attending a higher education institute in South Dakota, North Dakota or Minnesota, and the applicant or immediate family member must have an account with Dacotah Bank.

Each Dacotah Bank location has been allotted a \$1,000 scholarship to award a student that fits eligibility requirements and completes the application in its entirety. Dacotah Bank will choose the two highest scoring applications out of the submission pool to receive a \$2,000 scholarship. These two winners are not eligible for the \$1,000 location scholarship, and another application from that location will be chosen.

Robert Fouberg, Dacotah Bank president and CEO stated, "Dacotah Bank and the communities in which we live, and work depend on a quality workforce. Inasmuch as post-secondary education represents a huge financial commitment, we feel it is important to invest in the next generation."

If you would like to apply for a Dacotah Bank Scholarship or for more information visit dacotahbank.com/scholarships.

Vendor Fair set for March 26

by Dorene Nelson

Ashley Bentz, owner and operator of Next Level Nutrition in downtown Groton, is setting up a vendor fair in Groton to be held on March 26, 2022. The purpose of this event is to offer a wide variety of crafters and vendors for local individuals.

In addition to a wide variety of crafters and vendors, shoppers can enjoy some lunch while they look at the individual booths. The vendor participants are being asked to donate items for an auction table. The proceeds from this auction will be donated to Make-a-Wish Foundation.

"I have twenty-five booths that will be set up for everyone to shop from," Bentz explained. "If businesses would like to donate an item to the Silent Auction, they can contact me at (605) 467- 1257.

"I have commitments from Pampered Chef, Mary Kay, 31, craft items, clothes, the U.S. Post Office, doTerra Oils, Tupperware, and Herbalife Nutrition," Bentz listed.

"I decided to organize this Vendor Fair to help other businesses who don't have storefronts to get their name out there! The last time there was an event like this was at the Pumpkin Fest last fall," Bentz explained. "The Vendor Fair is scheduled for March 26th from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. at the Groton Community Center, 109 N. 3rd St., Groton, SD."

Groton Prairie Mixed

Team Standings: Jackelopes 6, Coyotes 5, Shih Tzus 4, Chipmunks 4, Foxes 4, Cheetahs 1

Men's High Games: TJ Sperry 214, Mike Siegler 197, Brad Waage 194

Women's High Games: Nicole Kassube 197, Vicky Walter 179, 179, Darci Spanier 178

Men's High Series: Mike Siegler 566, Brad Waage 564, TJ Sperry 552



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Women's High Series: Vicky Walter 489, Nicole Kassube 481, Darci Spanier 443

The Life of Debra Jensen

Funeral services for Debra L. Jensen, 67, of Bath, SD, will be 10:30am, Friday, February 25, 2022 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, with Pastor Jeff Whillock officiating. Burial at Lebanon Cemetery, Lebanon, SD. Debra died Saturday, February 19, 2022, at Avera McKennan in Sioux Falls, SD.

Visitation will be 3:00-7:00pm, Thursday, with family present from 5:00-7:00pm, followed by a prayer service at 7:00pm at Spitzer-Miller Funeral Home, 1111 South Main Street.

Debra Lee Jensen, 67, of Bath, SD, passed away Saturday, February 19, 2022, at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD. It is with great sadness that the family announces Deb's sudden passing. Deb was surrounded by her family as she peacefully passed away.

Deb was born April 15, 1954, in Gettysburg, SD, to Lyle and Patricia Stoner. Deb and Greg Jensen were united in marriage on August 17, 1978, and soon after they began to build a life together in Groton, SD. They had two children, a daughter: Jenna Lee Jensen (Hansen), followed by a son: Justin Scott Jensen. Deb taught and lived in Groton, SD, until her retirement from public education in 2017. It was then that her and her husband Greg moved to Bath, SD.

Deb attended Gettysburg Public School where she was very involved in band and choir. Deb was very close with her grandparents, Harold (Red) and Edna (Peggy) Anderson, and spent a great deal of her childhood in Lebanon, SD. Following high school Deb graduated from Northern State University, and began her music teaching career in 1975. Deb taught in both the Hamlin and Mobridge school districts, later moving into the Groton Public School District in 1978. For 38 years Deb taught 5-12 band. Her bands and individual performers consistently earned superior ratings and had a woodwind player selected for All-State Band and/or Orchestra nearly every year of her career. She also directed the Groton show choir, Prismatic Sensations, consistently placing at competitions. In 2004 Deb was given statewide recognition by being named "Outstanding Bandmaster" by the South Dakota chapter of Phi Beta Mu, a national fraternity of band directors. Deb taught in Groton until her retirement in 2015, completing a 41 year teaching career. Deb devoted her life to the betterment of her students, school, and community. She was a true testament to what every educator hopes to achieve during their career.

Deb was an amazing wife and mother, and it was no surprise that she was an even better grandmother to Elliott and Emmett Hansen. She so enjoyed her family and the various family activities that consumed much of her time, such as: spending time at the lake, traveling, babysitting the grandkids, and attending many concerts and music events involving her family members.

Left to cherish her memory is her husband Greg Jensen; her children: Jenna (Kent) Hansen of Aberdeen, and Justin (Mackenzie) Jensen of Pierre; and her grandchildren Elliott and Emmett Hansen. Preceding Deb in death were her parents, Lyle & Patricia Stoner.

Deb will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and all who knew her. Her family would like to thank all of you for your support and friendship.

Rose Hill Church RE:SET Women's Conference

The first-ever RE:SET Women's Conference will be held on Saturday, March 5, 2022, from 10 am to 3 pm at the Rose Hill Evangelical Free Church, rural Langford. The event is free and women of all ages are welcome. The guest speaker for our event is Nicole J. Phillips of the Kindness Podcast. Here's a little bit about Nicole:

Nicole is a big fan of FUN! She won a car on The Price is Right and found a new home on HGTV's House Hunters. But her biggest joy comes from teaching people how to use kindness to overcome all of life's difficulties. A breast cancer survivor, Nicole spreads the message of the healing power of kindness as host of "The Kindness Podcast", and through her weekly column, "Kindness is Contagious" which runs in newspapers in North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota. Nicole is a regular guest on Hallmark Channel's Home & Family Show. She is also the author of three books, Kindness is Contagious: 100 Stories to Remind You God is Good and So are Most People, Kindness is Courageous: 100 Stories to Remind You People Are Brave + Kind and her authentic and entertaining "how-to" guide, The Negativity Remedy.

Nicole has her Broadcast Journalism degree from the University of Wisconsin and has worked as a television anchor and reporter in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin and Fargo, North Dakota. As Miss Wisconsin 1997, she spent the year touring the state talking to kids and adults about overcoming crisis.

Nicole lives in Aberdeen, South Dakota, has three children and is married to her childhood crush, Saul Phillips.

Register online by March 1st using the online registration form, which can be accessed at <http://www.rosehillcfc.com/events/reset-womens-conference>.

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I will say that sometimes, our livestreaming experiences never ceases to amaze me in the challenges that we face.

As you or may not be aware, Jeslyn and Julianna are on the band trip to Florida. Jeslyn is the master video operator. Shane Clark has helped out with some of the girls games so that helped with the work load (perhaps should say stress level!).

We had one hiccup last night during the girls varsity game where we went off line. Not really sure what happened, but we got it back on-line fairly quickly. That happens from time to time.

But the kicker of it all was when it started to rain on us during the boys varsity game. The air conditioner unit was right above us. The person running the school camera beside me suddenly pointed to

the table. Water started to fall on the table. Really! He grabbed a garbage can and set it on the table to catch the water. Okay, problem solved. But then I felt it dripping down my back. And on the floor right near our power strip. So I'm trying to stay dry and move the electrical equipment away from the water and trying to keep the commentary going and keeping the stats. Then I started getting text messages about the camera not keeping up with the action. Gee, I wonder why?!

Livestreaming over the years has been interesting and I could probably write a book of all of the experiences, mishaps, and challenges that we have had. I will say one of the greatest joys of doing the livestreaming is really following the teams over the years and watching the players develop, grow and improve. Not every game is perfect and we're there when things are not going so well, but we're also there when they are going great - or even perhaps that big game winning basket - right Brody!

Over the years, we've even had high school students doing the play-by-play. And as of lately, we've had Mike Nehls coming along for the football games. The way I look at it, it's not just my livestream, it's the community's. We are the vehicle to bring the events into your home when you can't travel or make it to the game or event.

Thanks to our advertisers, sponsors and subscribers for making this all possible. I do hear from a lot of people who like the service.

Varsity hoop teams ground the Cardinals

Groton Area's basketball teams won three of the five games played Friday at Deuel as part of a double-header. Both varsity teams won and the girls junior varsity team won.

The girls varsity team led at the quarterstops at 9-4, 26-9 and 38-23 en route to the 49-31 win. Brooke Gengerke powered in three three-pointers to lead the Tigers with 19 points. Alyssa Thaler also had three three-pointers and had 13 points. Kennedy Hansen had eight, Allyssa Locke five and Sydney Leicht added four points.

Harley Hennings led the Cardinals with 10 points and Haley Winter added nine.

TEAM STATS

Brooke Gengerke - 19 points, 5 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals.
Alyssa Thaler - 13 points, 2 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 steals, 1 foul, 2 blocks.
Kennedy Hansen - 8 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal.
Allyssa Locke - 5 points, 6 rebounds, 8 assists, 4 steals, 4 fouls.
Sydney Leicht - 4 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals, 2 fouls.
Aspen Johnson - 3 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals, 2 fouls.
Jerica Locke - 3 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal, 1 foul.
Jaedyn Penning - 1 rebound, 3 fouls.
Brooklyn Hansen - 1 steal.
Faith Traphagen - 2 rebounds, 1 steal, 2 fouls.

Groton Area made 13 of 57 field goals for 35 percent, seven of 13 in three-pointers for 54 percent, made two of four free throws for 50 percent, had 27 rebounds, 11 turnovers, 18 assists, 12 steals, 15 fouls and 2 blocked shots.

The Lady Tigers won the junior varsity game, 45-7. Kennedy Hansen, Brooklyn Hansen and Jaedyn Penning each had eight points while Jerica Locke had 5, Faith Traphagen and Rylee Dunker each had 4, Laila Roberts and Elizabeth Flihs each had 3 points and Talli Wright added 2 points.

Shane Clark was the special guest commentator on GDILIVE.COM of both girls games. The girls livestream was sponsored by Rich and Tami Zimney.

The Deuel boys were able to keep up with Groton Area in the first quarter, but then the Tigers blew past the Cardinals after that to post a Northeast Conference win, 83-68. There were 10 lead changes in the game and the contest was tied twice before the Tigers went on a 12-point run to take the lead for good. Deuel held a 19-16 lead after the first quarter and Groton led at half time, 43-30, and held a 60-44 lead at the end of the third quarter.

TEAM STATS

Kaden Kurtz - 26 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal, 2 fouls.
Tate Larson - 16 points, 2 rebounds, 2 assist, 2 fouls.
Jacob Zak - 13 points, 6 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 steals, 4 fouls, 1 block.
Wyatt Hearnen - 11 points, 3 rebounds, 2 steals, 3 fouls.
Lane Tietz - 10 points, 2 rebounds, 2 assists.
Jayden Zak - 5 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assists, 2 steals, 4 fouls, 1 block.
Teylor Diegel - 2 points, 1 rebound, 1 steal, 2 fouls.

Groton Area made 26 of 30 field goals for 87 percent, four of 12 three-pointers for 33 percent, 19 of 29 in free throws for 66 percent, had 22 rebounds, 12 turnovers, 10 assists, 8 steals, 17 fouls and 2 blocks.

Zane Bingham led the Cardinals with 19 points while Cooper Schiernbeck and Trey Maaland each had 15 points, Nathan Lovre had 9, Gavin Benck 6 and Braydon Simon 2.

Deuel won the junior varsity game, 39-21. The game was tied at 10 after the first period and Deuel led at halftime, 24-15, and after three periods, 31-19. Teylor Diegel led Groton Area with 12 points while Colby Dunker had 4, Ryder Johnson 3 and Holden Sippel 2. Dravyn Carlson led the Cardinals with 22 points. The junior varsity game was livestreamed and sponsored by Gordon and Dorene Nelson.

Deuel also won the C game by a couple of points.

Varsity game sponsors were Mike-N-Jo's Body-N-Glass, John Sieh Agency, Groton Ford, Matt's Tree Service, Allied Climate Professionals, Dacotah Bank and Bary Keith at Harr Motors.

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Four Groton Grapplers advance to state

Christian Ehresmann at 145 pounds, Lane Krueger at 285 pounds and Cole Bisbee at 160 pounds will advance to the state wrestling tournament after placing in the top four at the regional tournament held Saturday in Britton. Ehresmann placed second, Krueger placed third and Bisbee placed fourth. Pierce Kettering placed fifth at 132 pounds. Lane's sister, Liza Krueger, also became Groton Area's first female to qualify for state. The state starts Thursday at the Denny Sanford PREMIER Center in Sioux Falls.

132: Pierce Ketterling (38-17) placed 5th and scored 12.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Pierce Ketterling (Groton Area) 38-17 received a bye () (Bye)
 Quarterfinal - Dylan Zell (Kingsbury Co) 39-5 won by fall over Pierce Ketterling (Groton Area) 38-17 (Fall 3:37)
 Cons. Round 2 - Pierce Ketterling (Groton Area) 38-17 won by fall over Isaac Ramirez (Sully Buttes) 1-22 (Fall 0:54)
 Cons. Round 3 - Pierce Ketterling (Groton Area) 38-17 won by major decision over Riley Steen (Sisseton) 7-19 (MD 10-1)
 Cons. Semi - Parker Geditz (Faulkton Area) 32-4 won by decision over Pierce Ketterling (Groton Area) 38-17 (Dec 9-2)
 5th Place Match - Pierce Ketterling (Groton Area) 38-17 won by injury default over Keaton Rohlf (Redfield) 8-4 (Inj. 0:00)

138: Brevin Flihs (28-18) scored 1.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Brevin Flihs (Groton Area) 28-18 received a bye () (Bye)
 Quarterfinal - Clayton Dulany (Warner/Northwestern) 37-14 won by fall over Brevin Flihs (Groton Area) 28-18 (Fall 1:18)
 Cons. Round 2 - Brevin Flihs (Groton Area) 28-18 won by decision over Tucker Adkins (Deuel) 9-29 (Dec 8-1)
 Cons. Round 3 - Luke Steffensen (Kingsbury Co) 26-18 won by fall over Brevin Flihs (Groton Area) 28-18 (Fall 1:50)

145: Christian Ehresmann (38-8) placed 2nd and scored 22.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 38-8 won by fall over Dashel Davidson (Britton-Hecla) 13-21 (Fall 2:54)
 Quarterfinal - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 38-8 won by fall over Sheldon Balderston (Kingsbury Co) 3-17 (Fall 2:26)
 Semifinal - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 38-8 won in tie breaker - 1 over Elliot Bratland (Clark/Willow Lake) 30-19 (TB-1 3-1)
 1st Place Match - Mason Whitley (Redfield) 37-12 won by decision over Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 38-8 (Dec 6-2)

152: Korbin Kucker (30-21) scored 3.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 30-21 received a bye () (Bye)
 Quarterfinal - Josh Long (Sisseton) 23-17 won by decision over Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 30-21 (Dec 10-7)
 Cons. Round 2 - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 30-21 won by fall over Timmy McGaugh (Faulkton Area) 3-13 (Fall 2:36)
 Cons. Round 3 - Caleb Clark (Kingsbury Co) 27-19 won by decision over Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 30-21 (Dec 12-11)

160: Cole Bisbee (34-13) placed 4th and scored 15.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 34-13 won by fall over Damion Johnson-Horn (Potter Co) 5-21 (Fall 0:50)
 Quarterfinal - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 34-13 won by major decision over Kaden St. Pierre (Hamlin/Castlewood) 21-22 (MD 14-1)
 Semifinal - Russell Sheets (Sioux Valley) 40-8 won by fall over Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 34-13 (Fall 1:26)
 Cons. Semi - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 34-13 won by decision over Tucker Anderson (Kingsbury Co) 28-17 (Dec 3-2)
 3rd Place Match - Lincoln Dikoff (Faulkton Area) 21-20 won in sudden victory - 1 over Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 34-13 (SV-1 7-5)

285: Lane Krueger (28-9) placed 3rd and scored 16.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 28-9 won by forfeit over Forfeit Forfeit (Hamlin/Castlewood) 9-12 (For.)
 Semifinal - Avery Nichols (Clark/Willow Lake) 9-5 won by fall over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 28-9 (Fall 4:55)
 Cons. Semi - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 28-9 won by decision over Ethan Skarnagel (Sisseton) 18-17 (Dec 1-0)
 3rd Place Match - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 28-9 won by fall over Parker Bode (Faulkton Area) 23-21 (Fall 1:42)



Brevin Flihs
 (Photo by Scott & Ann Thorson)



Cole Bisbee
 (Photo by Scott & Ann Thorson)



Lane Krueger
 (Photo by Scott & Ann Thorson)



Korbin Kucker
 (Photo by Scott & Ann Thorson)



Pierce Kettering
 (Photo by Scott & Ann Thorson)



Christian Ehresmann
 (Photo by Scott & Ann Thorson)



Liza Krueger
 (Photo courtesy Jeremy Krueger)



Coach Darin Zoellner
 (Photo by Scott & Ann Thorson)

**Brown County
Feb. 15, 2022**

Meeting Minutes

FEBRUARY 15, 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, and Gage. Commissioner Fjeldheim was absent. Commissioner Gage led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

ORDINANCE 212 – FIRST READING:

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Gage to approve first reading of proposed ordinance 212. Applicant Brown County Planning and Zoning Office requesting to rezone 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. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

GRANDSTAND LIGHT, SOUNDS, AND STAGE EQUIPMENT (TMS Contract):

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize the chair sign the 6 day option with TMS as awarded in the bid and as recommended by the Brown County Fair Board in the amount of \$38,820. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FAIRGROUNDS SOUND:

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize chair sign agreement with Pauer Sound & Music for sound and light equipment specific to individual events around the fairgrounds during the fair as recommended by the Brown County Fair Board in the amount of \$12,500. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FAIR SANITATION CREW:

Moved by Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize chair sign agreement with Darin Olson to provide sanitation services during the County Fair as recommended by the Brown County Fair Board in the amount of \$14,863. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

PORTABLE TOILETS- COUNTY FAIR:

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize chair sign agreement with Dakota Portable Toilets, Inc for portable toilet service during the County Fair as recommended by the Brown County Fair Board in the amount of \$20,000. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FAIR ENTERTAINMENT – RANDY BUNNKER:

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize chair sign agreement with Randy Buker for entertainment during the County Fair as recommended by the Brown County Fair Board in the amount of \$5,000. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FAIR UPDATE 2022:

Fair Manager Rachel Kippley announced the theme of the 2022 fair is Celebrating the Red, White & Blue.

MINUTES:

Moved by Feickert seconded by Wiese to approve the general meeting minutes of February 8, 2022. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL:

Moved by Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the following payroll: Commission \$4,503.96; Auditor \$9,637.93; Treasurer \$12,862.91; SA \$27,125.58; SVAWA \$0.00; Maintenance \$7,344.18; Assessor \$15,360.25; Register of Deeds \$8,028.80; VSO \$4,143.28; GIS \$2,483.72; IT \$7,918.83; HR \$4,061.37; Sheriff \$41,675.07; Jail \$56,757.11; Coroner (Voucher) \$0.00; Court Security \$6,726.82; JDC \$26,414.75; Welfare \$2,161.43; Museum \$9,058.53; Parks/Fairgrounds \$3,488.06; Fair Board \$5,050.00; 4-H \$620.00; Weed \$918.14; Planning & Zoning \$5,681.44; Highway \$40,923.37; Dispatch \$35,901.08; Emergency \$4,285.81; Teen Court \$528.96; JDAI \$1,846.15; 24/7 Sobriety \$1,380.30; Landfill \$14,582.49; MATCHING BENEFITS: Fica \$21,644.76; Medicare \$5,062.12; Discovery HSA \$864.96.

CLAIMS: Professional Fees:

CASS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT \$54.50; CGI \$216.72; CHRISTOPHER A. HAAR \$278.40; DAKOTA COUNSELLING GROUP, LLC \$2,100.00; DAY COUNTY \$1,120.00; DREW BECKER \$200.00; HELMS & ASSOCIATES INC \$520.00; MICHELLE GAIKOWSKI \$19.00; SANFORD HEALTH OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE ABERDEEN \$129.00; SARA ZAHN \$51.40; SD DEPT OF HEALTH \$1,715.00; WEST PUBLISHING CORP. \$275.05; WEX HEALTH INC. \$179.85; YANKTON COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE \$100.00 Repairs & Maintenance: ASPHALT ZIPPER, INC. \$657.05; Boyer Trucks \$10.91; DAY COUNTY TREASURER \$494.04; DIAMOND MOWERS INC \$15.79; DIESEL MACHINERY \$300.00; DOUBLE D BODY SHOP INC \$3,803.32; ECOLAB PEST ELIMINATION \$252.61; JOSHUA L. HALSEY \$330.75; KIRK KARLEN \$60.88; MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS, INC \$48,858.31; PIERSON-FORD-LINCOLN -MERCURY \$199.50; POMPS TIRE SERVICE, INC \$516.10; TIMOTHY C. GARDNER \$90.00; TITAN MACHINERY - ABERDEEN NH \$6,698.39; TRANSOURCE TRUCK & EQUIPMENT, INC. \$6,802.73; WALTH SAFETY SERVICE INC \$2,092.39; WOODMAN REFRIGERATION, INC \$120.41 Supplies: KES-SLERS \$2.39 ABERDEEN MEDICAL CENTER PHARMACY \$327.39; ADVANCE AUTO PARTS \$160.13; AGTEGRA COOPERATIVE \$4,486.71; ASPHALT ZIPPER, INC. \$28,690.42; Boyer Trucks \$120.70; BRENT A FISCHER \$15.45; CARTNEY BEARING \$48.00; CENTURY BUSINESS PRODUCTS \$110.30; CNA SURETY \$50.00; COLE PAPERS \$302.00; Cook's Correctional \$56.82; DAKOTA OIL \$246.63; DIAMOND MOWERS INC \$507.43; DIESEL MACHINERY \$58.76; DONALD P. PALMER \$121.84; FARNAMS GENUINE PARTS INC \$412.97; FEDEX \$124.05; FULL CIRCLE AG \$5,936.48; GRAHAM TIRE INC \$716.04; KESSLERS \$219.04; Linde Gas & Equipment Inc. \$269.69; MENARDS \$192.65; NELSON SALES & SERVICE, LLC \$28.74; NORTHERN VALLEY COMMUNICATION \$26.76; PAN-TORIUM CLEANERS INC. \$56.00; PERFORMANCE OIL & LUBRICANTS \$1,502.75; PERFORMANCE RENTALS LLC \$100.00; PIERSON-FORD-LINCOLN-MERCURY \$385.09; PRECISION KIOSK TECHNOLOGIES \$2,700.00; RUNNINGS \$622.90; SANDERS'S SEW-N-VAC, INC \$209.94; STAN HOUSTON EQUIPMENT CO. \$1,397.00; TITAN MACHINERY - ABERDEEN NH \$4,418.47; TRANSOURCE TRUCK & EQUIPMENT, INC. \$1,764.59; TRI STATE WATER \$67.40; WALTH SAFETY SERVICE INC \$7,332.58;

WEB WATER BOTTLING COMPANY \$30.00; WEST PUBLISHING CORP. \$1,785.86 Travel & Conference: CITY OF GROTON \$70.74 Utilities: CITY OF ABERDEEN \$376.39; CITY OF HECLA \$182.06; ECONOMY PROPANE LLC \$2,700.43; NORTHERN ELECTRIC COOP, INC \$1,974.60; NORTHERN VALLEY COMMUNICATION \$2,783.97; NORTH-WESTERN ENERGY & COMMUNICATIONS \$4,700.76; STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA \$119.12; VE-RIZON WIRELESS SERVICES LLC \$200.05; WEB WATER DEVELOPMENT ASSOC. INC. \$84.32 Rentals: ARAMARK UNIFORM & CAREER APPAREL GROUP, INC \$361.00; Linde Gas & Equipment Inc. \$47.62 Others: DIESEL MACHINERY \$49,270.00; WEX HEALTH INC. \$3,000.00

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT:

Moved by Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the following HR report:

- Acknowledge retirement of Jacquelyn Ormand, Brown County Museum Collections, full-time; effective April 29, 2022.

- Approve re-hiring of Tyler Richards as Brown County Jail Correctional Officer, full-time; starting wage \$19.22 per hour; effective February 22, 2022.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY:

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Gage to approve application for occupancy submitted by Northwestern Energy for occupancy of Brown County Highway Number 11, in section 25, township Westport, Range 125N to section 27, township Garland, range 125N. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

BRIDGE INSPECTION RESOLUTION:

Commissioner Wiese offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 10-22
BRIDGE REINSPECTION PROGRAM RESOLUTION
FOR USE WITH SDDOT RETAINER CONTRACTS

WHEREAS, 23 CFR 650 Subpart C, requires initial inspection of all bridges and reinspection at intervals not to exceed two years with the exception of reinforced concrete box culverts that meet specific criteria. These culverts are reinspected at intervals not to exceed four years.

WHEREAS, Brown County is desirous of participating in the Bridge Inspection Program using Bridge Replacement funds.

The county requests SDDOT to hire IMEG (Consulting Engineers) for the inspection work. SDDOT will secure federal approvals, make payments to the Consulting Engineer for inspection services rendered, and bill the county for 20% of the cost. The county will be responsible for the required 20% matching funds.

Dated this 15th day of February, 2022 at Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Seconded by Commissioner Feickert. Roll call vote: Commissioner Feickert – aye, Sutton – aye, Wiese – aye, Gage – aye, Fjeldheim – absent. Resolution adopted.

LEASES:

Moved by Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the following lease agreements: Alexis Defea for lease of Clubhouse May 28th-29th, 2022; Reverend John G. Creel, M.D. (little rock holiness church) for lease of Richmond Lake Youth Camp July 11th – 15th, 2022 All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Brown County Employee Union Representatives met to discuss the status of union nego-

tiations and raised concerns over employee wages and the length of the negotiations. Negotiations are scheduled and ongoing. No action taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Dennis Feickert raised concern over discussing the proposed regional jail facility in executive session. Moved by Gage, seconded by Wiese to go into executive session to discuss personnel, contracts, and security per SDCL 1-25-2(1,4,6). All members present voting aye. Motion carried. The chair declared the executive session closed with no action taken. Commissioner Dennis Feickert was in executive session for personal and excused himself for contracts and security.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Gage, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:32 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$98.41. 20912

**Frederick Town
Feb. 9, 2022
Meeting Minutes**

Town of Frederick
February 9, 2022 Minutes
Frederick's town board meeting was held Wednesday, February 9, 2022 in the Frederick Community Center beginning at 7 PM. Attending the meeting were Chairman Scott Campbell, Board member Troy Millard, Utility Manager Rich Bakeberg, and Finance Officer and Assistant Finance Officer Diane Bruns and Mariah Heine. Also attending the meeting were Brandon Lewis, Don Nickelson, and Donna Sumption.

Chairman Campbell opened the meeting and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the January meeting was read and approved with a motion by Millard/Campbell; motion carried. The financial statements were reviewed and accepted with a motion by Millard/Campbell; motion carried. The February accounts payable and revised January accounts payable were approved with a motion by Millard/Campbell; motion carried.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

MDU electric BP/Wtr/Mun Bldg/SP/Sts/Swr/EBL \$1,473.43; Badger Meter meter fees Wtr \$116.59; Badger Meter 129 meters Wtr \$8,216.83; Brown County Hwy Dept 12.02T of salt/sand Sts \$208.06; Century Bus Products printer Gen'l \$101.61; D. Bruns CC \$108.05; D. Bruns wage FO \$1,337.60; Dependable Sanitation Grbg \$1,821; EFPTS taxes Gen'l/FO/CC/EBL/Sts/Wtr/Swr \$508.32; USDA-RD loan Swr \$3,763; FDC Econ Dev \$1,200; FU Oil propane EBL \$1,675.78; GDI minutes Gen'l \$88.68; J. Koster's wage Gen'l \$46.17; JVT phone/svc FO/EBL/Wtr/Gen'l \$345.73; Local iq advertise UT mgr Gen'l \$418.60; M. Cox wage EBL \$478.46; M. Heine wage FO \$1,126.37; R. Bower snow removal Sts \$181.47; R. Bakeberg wage St/Wtr/Swr \$225.33; R. Bakeberg veh. Allow St/Wtr/Swr \$75; R.S. Campbell wage Gen'l \$69.26; R.S. Campbell reimburse fuel Sts \$135.43; SD Dept of Rev sales tax Grbg \$81.62; SD AT&T dues Gen'l \$218.75; T. Millard wage Gen'l \$46.17; T. Millard reimburse parts, fuel Sts \$1,575.09; USDA-RD loan Wtr \$475; WEB Water Wtr \$3,739.10

OLD BUSINESS

Rich provided a utility report. The law enforcement agreement is in effect; there was discussion about asking that the police

are in town at certain times to encourage safer driving when there's more people out and about. The COLA wage increase was tabled for the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Brandon Lewis would like the zoning board's approval to sell and distribute guns from his home. Motion to give Brandon Lewis permission to apply for a license to sell firearms out of his residence at 302 1st St made by Campbell/Millard; motion carried. Donna Sumption and Don Nickelson discussed the possibility of developing land east of town for homes in Frederick. They asked about what the city and developer are each responsible for as far as getting utilities to the area or developing streets. There would need to be some rezoning if this project would move forward. The board has a vacancy open for a three year term. Petitions must be returned by 5PM on February 25, 2022. The city is considering purchasing a used pickup from JM Electric. The vehicle would serve as a utility vehicle and tools could be kept in the building as well as be used for sanding the streets. Troy presented the value estimates from two different websites ranging from \$11,000-\$18,775. He would ask for \$8,500 if the city would like to purchase the vehicle.

Motion to adjourn made by Millard/Campbell at 7:56 PM; motion carried.

M. Heine
Assistant Finance Officer
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$33.39. 20913

**Westport Town
Feb. 7, 2022
Meeting Minutes**

Town of Westport General Meeting
February 7th, 2022

The Town of Westport met on February 7th, 2022 with Derek Schoenfelder, Shane Storm, Mitchell Wilson and Doreen Hertel present.

The following expenses were presented:

City General
NWPS (\$591.90), Groton Independent (\$13.25), B&B –snow removal (\$700.00).

Sewer
NWPS (\$53.78), NRWA –loan repayment (\$210.13)

Water
WEB (\$1,501.33), Dept. of Health (\$3000) & Water Maintenance District (\$459.18)

Mitchell Wilson made motion to pay all bills; second by Derek Schoenfelder.

The following deposits were presented:

City General
Brown County Collections (\$109.14), State of SD (\$5,243.90), Interest (\$4.44).

Sewer
Resident Payments - (\$2,230.00).

Water
Resident Payments - (\$3,423.10).

NEW BUSINESS:
April Buller and Ken Hier from IMEG (former Clark Engineering) came to the meeting. They followed up on the lift station project. They discussed about possible project in the future such as; the storm sewer system and the sewage lagoon.

It was decided to take out the horse pits as they were not being utilized. The city would take the fence from the horse pit and use it at the lift station.

The city is looking for mowing this summer. If anyone is interested please contact a town board member.

Doreen Hertel, Finance Officer
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$16.83. 20914

**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

**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 buses 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

Weird, Wintry Weather!

Dad is putting snow tires on the car.

There's No Day Like a Snow Day!

Ice is Safe! Open Today!

What! word winter weird walking wintry weather what's wintry will words we web when wow

Did you find and circle at least 12 words that begin with the letter "w" as in the word "winter"?

Here's my list!

I just found the word "woodpile" too.

1. shoveling
2. snowblowing
3. snowmobiling
4. sanding
5. salting

1. tag
2. hockey
3. seeds
4. basketballs
5. cars
6. dogs
7. soccer

Oh, no you don't!

Is that a carrot?

Tag! You're it.

Too Much Snow!

Newsprint: Fun! Created by Animis LLC © 2022

STORM LAKE

A NEWSPAPER. A FAMILY. A COMMUNITY.

A FILM SCREENING AND CONVERSATION WITH PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING EDITOR ART CULLEN

Tuesday, March 15, 2022 | 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Belbas Theater at the Washington Pavilion | Sioux Falls, SD

Tickets available at www.sdna.com/stormlake

Sponsored by South Dakota Newspaper Association in support of South Dakota News Watch, an independent, non-profit journalism organization reporting stories of statewide impact and interest.

A subscription to the Groton Independent makes a great gift!

Classifieds and Card of Thanks

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

1 Week: \$9 for first 30 words, 20¢/word thereafter
 2 Wks: \$17 for first 30 words, 38¢/word thereafter
 3 Wks: \$24 for first 30 words, 54¢/word thereafter
 4th consecutive week is free
605/397-NEWS (6397)
 PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Seeking SLP or SLPA in Northeast South Dakota for 2022-2023 school year. Must have or able to get board licensure. More info at nesc.k12.sd.us. Send materials to: Tim Frewing, NESC, P.O. Box 327, Hayti, SD 57241. Phone: (605) 783-3607. EOE.

NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS Multi-District/ Education Cooperative in Isabel, South Dakota is seeking applications for the 2022-2023 school year for the following position: open until filled. Early Childhood Special Education Instructor. South Dakota licensure is required. NWAS offers competitive salary, benefits, transportation and SD Retirement. Contact Quinn Lenk, Director, at 605-466-2206, or email quinn.lenk@k12.sd.us. Northwest Area Schools Multi-District/Education Cooperative does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

CITY OF WEBSTER seeks a Water Superintendent. CDL required, must have or be able to obtain necessary certifications. Benefit package. For more details or to submit a resume to mail.cityofwebster@midconetwork.com EOE.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Inogen One G4 is capable of full 24/7 oxygen delivery. Only 2.8 pounds. FREE information kit. Call 888-820-2384.

NOTICES

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TRAVEL

DISCOUNT AIR TRAVEL. Call Flight Services for best pricing on domestic & international flights inside and from the US. Serving United, Delta, American & Southwest and many more airlines. Call for free quote now! Have travel dates ready! 866-797-0338

Dakota Outdoors
 Erik Dean
 402 N Main St
 Aberdeen, SD 57401
 605.229.0123
 dakoutdoors@midconetwork.com

Groton Chiropractic Clinic

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.
 1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204

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

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 hereby 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.

Bruce Sippel, Township Clerk (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

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 10 am to 3 pm
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 Childcare will be available.
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Glimpses From Greenfield 2022—Week 6

I will kick off this week's article by noting that on Wednesday, we took a few moments out of our busy day to pause and recognize the Watertown Vietnam Era Veterans Chapter who have been recognized as the national chapter of the year. It was also "Watertown day" at the Capitol, so there were dozens of friendly faces in the gallery when the Veterans' group was recognized. While I did not know everybody present, some of the Veterans in attendance with the honorees were Greg Overby, Bob Syring, and Dennis Brenden, all of whom have strong ties to this legislative district. To all who have served, and to those who were recognized, we are eternally grateful for your service and your sacrifice, as well as that of your families! Thank you, and God bless you!

On the floor, we took up SB 211, which was brought by the Governor's office, and calls for statutory exemptions from COVID-19 vaccination mandates. This bill speaks to the process by which people can claim exemptions and stipulates that those who are otherwise subject to federal mandates—such as SD National Guardsmen and healthcare professionals who are subject to Medicare, Medicaid, or CDC mandates—are not able to claim the exemptions, due to the fact that federal policy trumps state policy. In the final analysis, this is largely what many people have been calling for, and I truly appreciate the Governor's office for bringing this forth. This is not an anti-vaccine measure, but it recognizes that some people have medical or religious reasons for not complying with mandates. Moreover, it allows for a "natural immunity exemption" as well. The bill passed the Senate, 31-4.

The surrogacy issue (SB 137) I mentioned last week was narrowly defeated on the Senate floor, and a competing bill that would have gone further to restrict surrogacy arrangements (the antithesis of SB 137) was defeated on the House side. However, there were conversations behind-the-scenes, and it appears the two sides are beginning to find some middle ground. Whether this year or next year, I am hopeful that the Legislature is able to establish a public policy relative to surrogacy that will provide for a better road forward.

Several bills seeking to undermine our criminal justice code have come out of the Judiciary Committee. Two such bills were SB's 173 and 207. They were brought on behalf of an out-of-state group called the Great North Innocence Project. In addition to that group, proponents included the Chief of Police from Norwood, Massachusetts, the Deputy Chief of Police from Albuquerque, NM, and a person from the Washington, DC, Police Department. Obviously, there is a concerted effort by these radical leftists to spread their soft-on-crime agenda to the masses. One bill would have banned lineups of suspects and would have gone to a "photographic lineup" instead, in which a potential suspect's picture may or may not appear. This would be to try to sow seeds of doubt and confusion in the minds of witnesses. The other bill would have undermined the way law enforcement conducts interrogations. Both bills, thankfully, were defeated soundly on the floor on votes of 13-22. This week, we will see two more bills that have come out of the Judiciary Committee. One seeks to effectively repeal the death penalty in South Dakota, while the other seeks to remove life imprisonment if a murderer commits his or her heinous crime before the age of 25. People have heartfelt feelings about the death penalty that I will not question. All I will say is that prosecutors exercise great discretion in determining whether to seek the death penalty. Having that option available to them sometimes leads to plea bargain and guilty pleas. As for the undermining of life sentences for younger murderers, this, too, is part of a nationwide soft-on-crime approach that defies logic. The same people who argue that no child is too young to undergo permanent, life-changing, elective medical procedures, then flip the script and argue that until people are 25, their brains are still developing, and they cannot fully comprehend that murdering somebody is irreversible and wrong. The latter two bills will have been heard on the Senate floor by the time most of you read this article. If last year is any indication, the repeal of the death penalty will be killed on the Senate side, and the end of life sentences for young murderers will die on the House side.

SB 186 sought to expand Medicaid in SD. This issue will be voted on in November. By all accounts provided by legislators in other states where they have expanded Medicaid coverage for more able-bodied individuals, the number of people who come under the expanded portion of the program always exceeds projections, and the dollar amount borne by the taxpayers is higher-than-projected. Many people game the system and determine what it will take for them to come under the government program. They ask their employers to cut their hours or maneuver things in other ways so they are eligible for the program. This is part of a broader attempt at establishing single-payer, government-run healthcare across the country. In every other country where that has happened, medical services become less available and are subject to rationing. Capable practitioners leave the field because the government handcuffs them in ways they do not agree with and they are unwilling to subject themselves to. As a blanket statement, research and development is disincentivized and the medical system becomes less efficient when the government takes over the system. While we could do better in terms of providing Medicaid reimbursements, Medicaid expansion is NOT the answer. This bill failed 12-23, and I would encourage you to vote against this ill-conceived plan when you see it on the ballot. If MedEx passes in SD, it will result in one

of two things. Either existing funding for education, caring for those who cannot care for themselves, and other priorities will be cut OR taxes will be increased. Something will have to give.

The Physician Assistant bill I mentioned last week was delayed with a pending amendment. I have asked Sen. Tobin, the Nurse Practitioner who is the prime sponsor of the bill, and Senator/Dr. Curd who came out against the amendment to try to work out a compromise that both sides can agree with. They seemed willing to try to strike a middle ground that will allow for P.A.'s to be able to expand their scope of practice in SD. I will hope to have good news on that front when I write next week.

Until then, take care and God bless you!
Brock

Lana's Annals-A report from Pierre

Greetings from the People's House. We had a busy week in the education committee. House Bill 1310, which sought to have public school educators put all of their lessons and extra activities online, proved to be a very unpopular one with both educators. We listened to a fair amount of testimony from both sides. The proponents stressed the need to be able to view each daily lesson in which their children would be involved in all subjects. It was alleged that some inappropriate surveys, for one, were being distributed at a certain school, and the parent thought this could be prevented if daily plans were placed online. On the flip side came an urgent plea from educators not to do this as it would be too time consuming and cumbersome. Our committee decided that the bill was unnecessary for one main reason: it is not up to the legislature to try to micromanage an area that is the responsibility of school boards and administrators. Along with that, if a teacher wanted to present subversive lessons in class, all of the online plans would not help. Complaints such as this have to go through a policy and procedure method as adopted by that particular school.

HB1207, which asked to clarify standards of open enrollment, proved to be emotional. A testifier said that her family moved out of a school district, but open enrolled their autistic child back into the old district immediately after the move. They were told that there was no room nor was there anyone to monitor the child so they should get services in their current, larger school. We really had a difficult time with this, but in the end, we voted "no" on the bill. Again, it is not the role of the legislature to change school policy and force the former school to take the child. According to current law, it is up to the two involved schools to have a meeting to arrive at the best solution to meet the child's needs. Had the family just stayed within the old district, this would not have been a problem, and the child would have felt more secure in his old environment and around the people with whom he had become comfortable. Such was not the case.

Our local government heard from several 911 dispatchers who sought to be labeled as class B workers in the SD Retirement System. It was testified that these people have important work to do and sometimes, they mean the difference between the life or death of a caller. Several examples were given of dispatchers having to talk people out of committing suicide or also diffusing domestics, especially where handguns were part of the mix. We had our chief retirement analyst testify that it would be up to the local department to look at the retirement issue and at the classifications. With that, we moved the bill to the 41st day.

Also in local government a campground issue was presented. It was stated that if a city-owned campground wanted to expand, officials of the city would have to get permission from private campground owners within a 15 mile radius before doing so. Wylie Park in Aberdeen wanted to expand but could not locate the owners of a local, now defunct campground less than 15 miles away (as the story went). We decided that the city owned campgrounds should not compete with private enterprises so voted it down. I had some frustration with this; while I am a huge believer in free enterprise and property rights, it is somewhat unfair to deprive a city owned campground from expanding if there is no one currently interested in building a private facility.

On the House floor HB1311 appeared to be the talker of the week. It mainly sought to prevent anyone from pre-contracting for a baby. Instead, a mother who wanted to relinquish rights to the baby had to wait until the baby was born, and it would have to go through the adoption steps. This bill, in essence, sought to stop surrogacy. A broad brush in this bill painted the picture as if to look like surrogates were baby sellers who made great profits off their "contract babies." We voted against this bill as was the feeling of the majority that we South Dakotans are not in the baby selling racket. I wondered why "contract babies" kept being said. If that is true, would not adopted babies go through a contract process with money being exchanged? I think so!

We heard HB1278, which sought to increase non-custodial parent child support. Although well-intentioned, it was defeated (motion to reconsider was made, however). I think the inflationary index is present and also petitioning the court for additional support is a possibility. One of our legislators is a non-custodial parent, and I felt that I would rather see him have the proposed increase in HIS pocket so he had money to take his children fishing, to movies, to the fair, etc. The time that both parents spend with their children is very important, and the memories the children will have by being able to do activities with both may always be cherished.

With that, I will conclude by mentioning this: the days are getting longer, and the bills are more contentious. Legislating is not for the faint of heart

as we have a job to do and a process to follow. It would be far easier to vote with emotion than with logic!

Until next week, may you be well and stay informed.

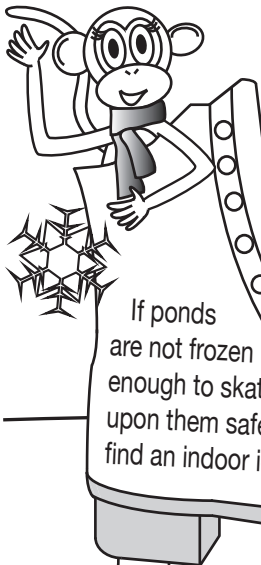
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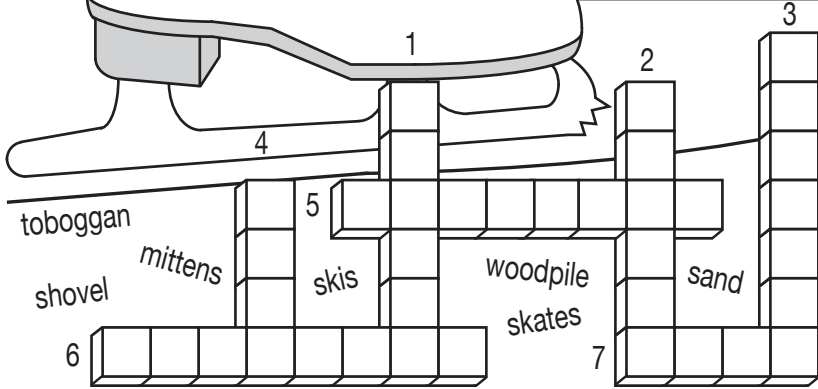
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Aberdeen: 605/725-4900

Weird, Wintry Weather!



Wow! Every winter we seem to say at some point that we are having "weird weather this year." Sometimes the temperature is above freezing for a period of time and fun, outdoor events may be called off due to lack of cold, ice and snow. Other times we have deep cold with surprisingly low temperatures and we break records. And once in awhile, we have a winter with "too much" snow. In some areas people even have to shovel some of the snow off of their roofs!

If ponds are not frozen enough to skate upon them safely, find an indoor ice rink!



- Read the clues to fill in this wintry weather puzzle:**
- handy to clean the driveway and sidewalks
 - are sharpened and ready to glide
 - will keep my hands warm while I build a snowman
 - will keep people from slipping on ice
 - is waxed and ready to carry my friends downhill
 - is stacked and ready to fuel warm fires
 - are next to the poles, ready to slide downhill

- Follow the dots to see what's coming down. Next, find and circle the snowy day words in the word search puzzle.**



Don't you just love a snowy day?



Oh, no you don't!

Is that a carrot?



Hmmm

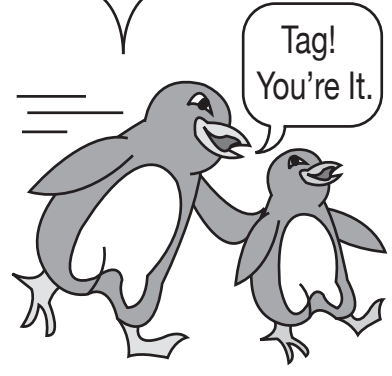
Word search puzzle grid with letters and numbers 1-36. Includes a snowflake illustration.

There's No Day Like a Snow Day

What Do People Do When There's No Snow?

Some people think that we may be in for more bitter, cold weather before spring arrives. Right now, in many areas it is too cold to stay outside for long periods of time, but there is no snow for sledding and the ponds are not safe for skating. People are still getting outside for exercise and a breath of fresh air. **Can you fill the correct word in the blanks for outdoor activities that can be done when there's no snow?**

Dad is putting _____ on the car, because a snowstorm may be coming.



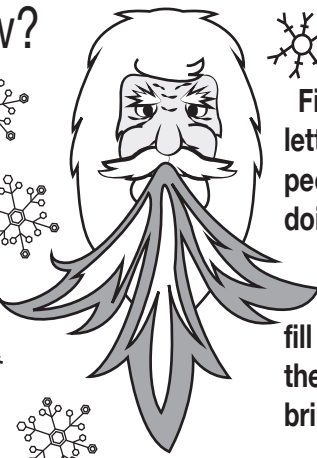
- Kids are:
- playing a game of _____
 - playing street _____
 - scattering _____ for birds
 - bouncing _____
 - racing radio-controlled _____
 - walking their _____
 - kicking _____ balls

- cars tag hockey
basketballs dogs seeds
snow tires soccer

Too Much Snow!

Fill in the missing letters to see what people are busy doing when there's just too much snow! Then fill in the names of the storms that bring the snow.

- s _ o _ e _ i _ g
- s _ o _ b _ o _ i _ g
- s _ o _ m _ b _ l _ n _
- s _ n _ i _ g
- s _ l _ i _ g



l n w d
v o n i w h
i n w l t a
n n a g

Can you find and circle at least 12 words that begin with the letter "w" as in the word "winter"?

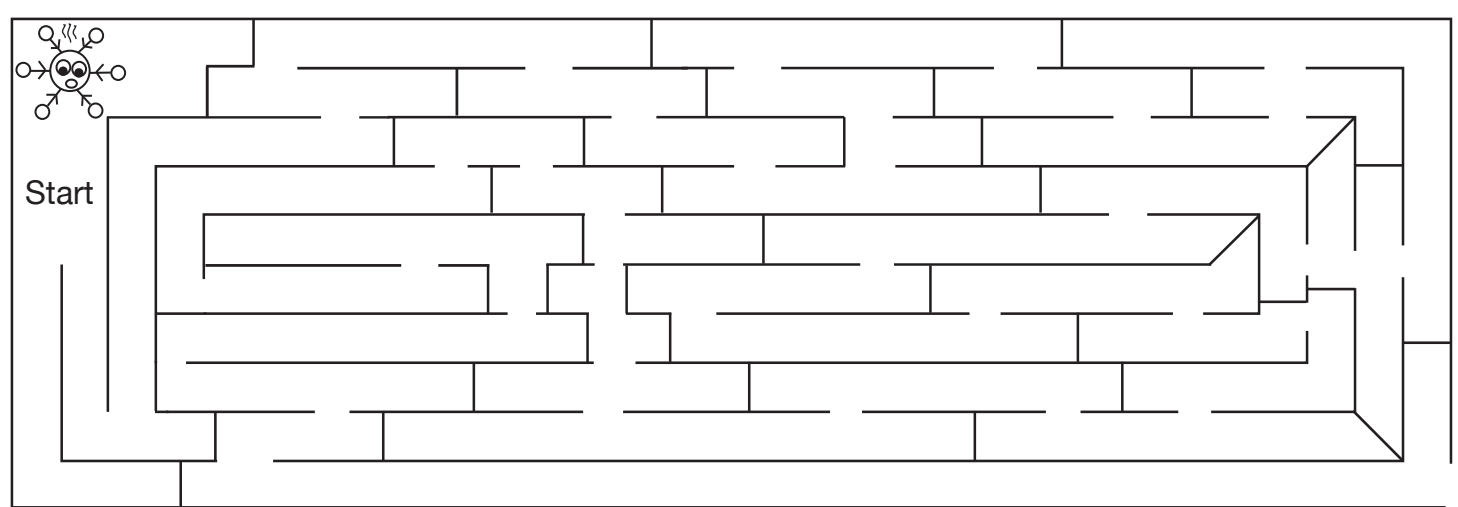
What Brings the Snow?

When a lot of precipitation falls in a short period of time, usually combined with a lot of wind, the meteorologist calls it a storm. A storm may have rain, hail, sleet or snow. **What are the names of storms that bring snow?**

- _ now _ torm
- bli _ _ ard
- nor' _ ast _ r
- snow squa _ _

Snow Daze!

Just one little snowflake is swirling in the sky! Help him drift through the maze to land gently on the ground!



Rising anger and violence toward healthcare workers hampering patient care in S.D.

Bart Pfankuch
South Dakota News Watch

Increasing anger and even violence toward healthcare workers in South Dakota and across the U.S. is adding great stress on practitioners who are already enduring the pain and hardship of providing care during the deadly COVID-19 pandemic.

Healthcare workers in South Dakota have been called offensive names, faced threats at work or at home, had things thrown at them, and occasionally have endured direct physical violence. The aggression is being displayed by both patients and family members.

In the short term, dealing with inappropriate behavior takes the focus of doctors, nurses and aides away from patients who need help. In the long term, the outbursts are driving some healthcare professionals out of the field, worsening a worker shortage that threatens to reduce overall patient care and efficiency of the American medical system.

Ashley Kingdon-Reese of Huron, S.D., is an independent nurse who provides at-home care and runs a nursing consultancy. Preventing violence and anger against nurses and other healthcare workers has been a topic of concern for several years, but especially since the pandemic began.

Kingdon-Reese recently experienced violence firsthand while providing at-home nursing care to a woman with behavioral problems who had a potential infection and needed to be taken from her home to a clinic.

The patient grew angry when told she would have to wear a mask upon arrival at the clinic, Kingdon-Reese said.

"She jumped out of bed, pushed me against the wall and bit me in my thigh and I had to do what I could to get her off me," recalled Kingdon-Reese, who serves as the government relations committee chair for the South Dakota Nurses Association. "Part of it was obviously behavioral health, but the other part was she didn't want to wear a mask and she was very big into social media that said, 'You can't tell me what to do.'"

Kingdon-Reese and others are asking medical patients and the public to reduce their tension level before entering a healthcare facility and to try to remember that providers are there to help them, not hurt them.

"It starts with putting the facts out and advocating for our industry so people know that we're human, and we've dedicated our lives to this and it isn't easy," Kingdon-Reese said. "We're not asking for your devotion or appreciation, we're just asking for decency."

Dr. Kara Dahl, a physician in the emergency room at the Sanford Aberdeen Medical Center, said there is no doubt that incidents of inappropriate, threatening or violent behavior toward healthcare workers has been on the rise since the pandemic began.

"You can almost guarantee that you're going to be name-called or disrespected in some capacity at least once a week," said Dahl, president of the South Dakota Medical Association. "The frequency of getting to the magnitude of calling security is rising at such an alarming rate, it's no longer just an occasional thing."

The anger displayed toward healthcare workers has multiplied the stresses of dealing with a deadly pandemic in an industry already beset by worker shortages. The moment anger or violence arises, patient care overall is immediately damaged, not only for the patient involved but for all patients, Dahl said.

"If we are pulled from a more critical situation to have to deal with a behavioral issue, that is definitely impacting patient care," she



Nurses and other medical professionals have been subjected to repeated name-calling, threats and even physical violence during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Photo: News Watch file, courtesy Monument Health

said. "The more disruptive the behavior or outburst, the more it takes us away from the bedsides of other patients who need help."

Politics and stress brought to healthcare settings

Many healthcare practitioners see the rise in anger as an outcome of the political polarization surrounding prevention and treatment of COVID-19, and the rise of misinformation campaigns by conservative television and radio commentators and on social media. Disdain for healthcare workers prior to the pandemic was caused mostly by frustration with the increasing role of insurance companies in what treatments are offered and at what cost, according to experts.

Dahl said the recent anger toward healthcare workers can be traced in some cases to a generalized angst many people are feeling from the ongoing employment, health and social stresses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Sometimes those attacks are not even directed at us, they're directed [by] an overall anger and upset with their overall everyday lives," Dahl said.

Whatever the cause of the rising tension, the result is that the healthcare industry is seeing workers getting burned out and enduring stress that hampers their effectiveness — with some prompted to leave the field completely.

The long-range result may be that as medical professionals leave the industry, hospitals and clinics will see a worsening of the ongoing shortage of nurses, aides, technicians and physicians, said Dr. Jeremy Cauwels, chief physician of Sanford Health in Sioux Falls.

"I think it's reasonable to say that there are people leaving health care because of this, because for many people there are easier ways to make a living than being verbally or sometimes physically assaulted," Cauwels said.

Officials and healthcare providers at Monument Health in Rapid City have been the target of a recent protest campaign by the wife of a man who has been receiving treatment in the COVID-19 ward at the hospital.

The woman has criticized the care her husband has received in numerous online videos and postings. She has held signs outside the hospital, posted the name and phone number of the Monument Health patient liaison, and urged people to call and complain on her behalf. The woman's social media posts call the coronavirus a "bio-weapon" launched against Americans, refers to the pandemic as a "scandemic" and insists that Monument employees receive financial bonuses for each patient assigned to the COVID ward and for each person who dies of COVID-19 at the hospital.

In response, someone started a Gofundme account to raise money to buy takeout meals for Monument emergency room staff. So far, the effort has raised \$2,150 from 106 donors and meals have been provided to hospital staff, according to the Gofundme page.

Kingdon-Reese has begun to worry that unless the anger, disrespect and violence against healthcare workers abates, nursing positions and other healthcare jobs may go unfilled. In that case, she said, health care may become dominated by less experienced or less well-trained workers.

"Because of this, we're losing an industry that everybody needs," she said. "Everyone in their life is going to need health care at some point."

Leaders of the healthcare industry regularly post articles and information on the growing risks to employees in the industry, and share ideas and procedures to improve safety.

Research confirms rising anger

In the U.S. Congress, an act to protect healthcare and social service workers from violence by requiring employers to create safety protocols remains stalled in the Senate after passage by the House of Representatives in 2019.

South Dakota is one of many states that have taken legislative action in recent years to address violence against healthcare workers.

In 2018, former Gov. Dennis Daugaard signed into law a bill that increased the penalty from a misdemeanor to a felony for anyone who assaults a healthcare worker who is providing patient care.

Research into the escalating anger and violence toward healthcare workers has picked up in pace and intensity in recent years.

Survey results published in August 2020 in the Journal of the American Medical Association showed that nearly a quarter of all physicians who responded had endured personal attacks on social media. Female physicians were more likely to report online sexual harassment.

The World Health Organization found in February 2022 that as many as 38% of healthcare workers around the world suffered physical violence at some point during their careers. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics found that workplace violence against American healthcare workers nearly doubled in frequency from 2011 to 2018. Violence was found at five times the rate in healthcare compared with all other industries, and healthcare workers made up 73% of all nonfatal workplace injuries due to violence in the country in 2018.

Nurses, who have much of the direct medical interaction with patients and their family members, are enduring much of the anger and violence arising during the pandemic.

National Nurses United, a professional association with 175,000 members across the U.S., surveyed 15,000 registered nurses in late 2020 and found that 20% had faced increased workplace violence since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Nearly 80% of nurses reported higher stress levels, about two-thirds reported feeling sad or depressed, and more than half had difficulty sleeping since the pandemic hit.

News reports from around the country and world have highlighted the increase in violence and the rising concerns. A hospital group in Missouri provided panic buttons to 400 nurses; a nurse in Colorado had an unknown liquid thrown at her while working at a COVID-19 vaccine clinic; and many hospitals are advising workers not to leave work while wearing

Continues on next page

Continued from previous page

scrubs that identify them as healthcare workers.

Violence and anger toward medical workers is not unique to the COVID-19 pandemic, though surveys and anecdotal reports indicate the pandemic has made the risks to healthcare workers higher and more frequent.

Hospitals get proactive to protect workers

Monument Health officials would not discuss the situation with the protesting woman due to privacy concerns and because the situation is ongoing, spokesman Dan Daly said.

But the West River hospital group is far from unique in facing backlash from patients or family members who are upset or angry, said Nicole Kerkenbush, director of nursing at Monument Health.

Monument has taken a proactive approach to reducing unhelpful or tense interactions between people in its hospitals, Kerkenbush said.

Monument has a Workplace Violence Committee that meets monthly or more frequently if needed to discuss recent incidents but mostly to develop strategies to reduce tension or potential violence.

"We look for ways we can prevent these situations from happening at all," she said. "But also, how do we make sure people know how to react when they do happen?"

The hospital group has provided training for nurses, physicians and others in de-escalation techniques and on how to react respectfully and safely when tension arises. The group holds regular meetings among security officials and employees to develop strategies to identify potential hotspots for tension and to develop ways to protect both employees and patients.

One recent review showed that in-patient settings, where people have been admitted for treatment, are prone to negative interactions with patients or visiting family members, Kerkenbush said.

The hospital also collects and analyzes data on where negative interactions occur and has adapted its security strategies as a result.

Additionally, to bring its messaging to all who enter, the hospital has erected a series of posters that urge people to "Please take responsibility for the energy you bring into this space." The posters also note that, "Your words matter. Your behaviors matter. Our patients and teams matter. Take a slow, deep breath and make sure your energy is in check before entering."

Kerkenbush doesn't rule out that misinformation or binary political views on the pandemic are driving some of the inappropriate behavior toward medical professionals. However, she said her belief is that the rise in tense or angry incidents among patients and family members is being driven mostly by the overall tension caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many people have had disruptions in their workplaces, at schools, in access to shopping or leisure activities, or have lost a loved one, she noted.

At a recent conference, Kerkenbush said she heard and took heed of the phrase, "Hurting people hurt people," which helps her understand the pain and agony many have suffered during the pandemic and how it may cause some to act in ways they otherwise would not. Additionally, she pointed to a rise in drug and alcohol use during the pandemic as fueling some negative patient or visitor behaviors.

"It's mostly people who are worn out or stressed or angry, as they're not here in the hospital because they're having their best day ever," she said.

Cauwels said that the politicization and misinformation surrounding COVID-19 have created distrust in the medical community that is unprecedented and unwarranted.

Wherever people are receiving inaccurate messaging about COVID-19 prevention and treatment, the result is that some patients arrive at the hospital with a predisposition to distrust, resent or even feel violent toward nurses, aides and physicians, Cauwels said.

"With cancer or pneumonia, you don't try to pick your own treatments; instead you defer

to the expertise of the expert in the room," he said. "My recommendation would be that since you would trust us to make profound medical decisions and do things like transplant your liver, or do surgery on your heart, you can trust us again to make these decisions in the case of COVID or any other illness when you come into the hospital, because it's what we're trained to do and these are the decisions we're trained to make."

Cauwels said individual patient care can suffer when anger or the threat of violence permeates a medical setting by distracting medical workers from their critical duties or by making them emotionally uneasy and less focused.

Patients are encouraged to learn about their conditions and should feel free to raise questions or make suggestions about potential treatment, Cauwels said. But maintaining a collaborative, respectful demeanor should be expected on both sides of the equation, he said.

"I would never expect your doctor to scream at you to get a certain treatment in place, nor would I expect a patient to scream at me to give a certain medication," he said. "We have to ask: How do you protect those folks while they're working on the front lines, working in extremely stressful situations on their best day, and then you have the added difficulty of people who are challenging the therapeutic options they are given but doing so in way that is not respectful or constructive?"

"Since you would trust us to make profound medical decisions and do things like transplant your liver, or do surgery on your heart, you can trust us again to make these decisions in the case of COVID or any other illness." -- Dr. Jeremy Cauwels, chief physician at Sanford Health

Healthcare workers seek help and support. Some patients or family members make frequent angry calls to the hospitals that also take practitioners away from patients who need help.

Lori Popkes, head of nursing at Avera Health, said Avera has seen an increase in healthcare workers asking for mental health assistance or entering into employee assistance programs due to stress.

Popkes said she has seen a shift over the past couple of years in how medical professionals are viewed by the public, almost "from heroes to zeros," she said. While nurses and doctors were once viewed with appreciation at the start of the pandemic, they are now held in contempt.

"I do think maybe the public underestimated how much their support and acts of kindness meant to healthcare team members," Popkes said.

"We saw a number of different things, such as businesses sending letters saying thanks, or organizations stepping forward to provide a special lunch. That's just something that went by the wayside and got overshadowed with some of this negativity," she added.

Healthcare workers say they are devoted to helping people and just want to do their jobs well. Dahl said she hopes patients and family members will keep that in mind when visiting a hospital or clinic for any reason.

"Our big ask would be just for people to have some patience and understanding that there are critically ill people here, whether it's COVID-related or not, and we're trying our best to prioritize and take care of as many people as possible," she said. "We're really doing this because we just want to help people."

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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Groton Area boys win Northeast Conference title, again

Groton Area defended its Northeast Conference title with a 50-32 win over Tiospa Zina in a game played Wednesday night in Groton.

The game was postponed from earlier in the week due to the blizzard and school officials from both schools grappled with trying to find a make-up date. Tiospa Zina was suppose to play Crazy Horse Wednesday night in a make-up game as well, but because of the importance of this game in the conference, they canceled that game. Groton School officials said they were not happy about a Wednesday night game, but there were no other options available this late in the season. In a compromise, no junior varsity game was played so the varsity game could start earlier.

Coach Brian Dolan said that had the game not been played, there was a question in the conference of whether Groton or Tiospa Zina would have qualified for a share of the conference title because they would have had one less win than the other two teams, if they win their last games. "We didn't want to go down that road so we decided to play the game, not have the JV game to start earlier and allow the girls to have their night to shine in the regions," he said.

The Tigers struggled early in the game as Tiospa Zina controlled the tip and score in a few seconds and the Wambdi had an 8-3 lead early in the game. It was 10-8 in favor of Tiospa Zina after the first quarter. Groton Area tied the game at 13, but fell behind again at 16-13. Then Groton Area went on a 20-point run to take a 33-16 lead and the Tigers went on for the win. It was 21-16 at halftime and 37-20 after the third quarter.

Lane Tietz led the Tigers with 20 points while Jacob Zak had nine, Kaden Kurtz eight, Tate Larson and Wyatt Hearnen each had five and Jayden Zak had three.

Mike Smith, Caleb Barse and Perry Lufkins each had six points to lead the Wambdi while Tate Never Misses A Shot had five points, Storm Siera had four, Reondre Greeley three and Devin Long Crow had two points.

Jayden Zak - 3 points, 1 rebound, 4 assists, 1 steal, 1 foul.

Lane Tietz - 20 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals.

Jacob Zak - 9 points, 7 abounds, 2 assists, 2 steals, 3 fouls, 2 block.

Tate Larson - 5 points, 6 rebounds, 1 foul.

Kaden Kurtz - 8 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 3 fouls.

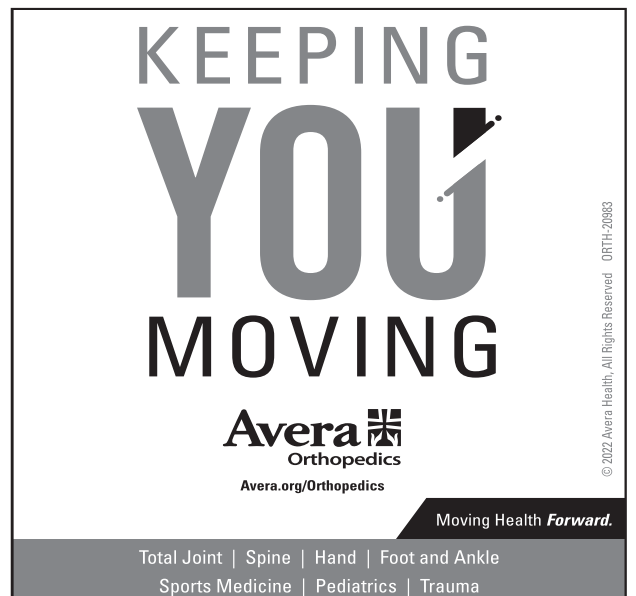
Cole Simon - 2 rebounds, 1 steal.

Wyatt Hearnen - 5 points, 9 rebounds, 3 fouls, 1 block.

Taylor Diegel - 1 assist, 1 foul.

Groton Area made 14 of 30 field goals for 47 percent, five of 19 three-pointers for 26 percent, seven of 13 free throws for 54 percent, had 32 rebounds, 10 turnovers, 10 assists, six steals, 12 fouls and three block shots.

Tiospa Zina made 14 of 40 field goals for 45 percent, three of six free throws for 50 percent, had 14 turnovers and 11 team fouls.



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Dear EarthTalk: What are some of the leading environmental podcasts out there these days?
 -- Jane Mitchell, Boise, ID

EARTHTALK

Given the popularity of podcasts these days, it's no surprise that several have popped up on environmental topics. Whether you are interested in green tech, environmental justice or climate change, there's no doubt a podcast (or two) for you. Here is a rundown of some of the leading offerings.

Investigative journalist Amy Westervelt's podcast company, Critical Frequency, has launched some of the most engaging eco-podcasts out there today. One is *Inherited*, a reported, narrative podcast by, for and about youth climate activists. Each explores a different facet of what the next generation plans to do with the climate-compromised world it is inheriting. Another great listen from Critical Frequency is *Drilled*, a narrative, investigative climate accountability podcast reported, hosted and produced by Westervelt herself. The most downloaded climate podcast of all time, *Drilled*, tackles the fossil fuel industry's role in spreading climate denial. Lastly, the latest offering from Critical Frequency

is *Damages*, a courtroom drama podcast that follows hundreds of climate lawsuits currently underway around the world in order to highlight activists' quest for justice in perhaps the largest crime against humanity of all time, human-induced climate change. The first season explores "rights-of-nature" laws, which bring Indigenous approaches to nature into Western judicial systems by giving ecosystems the same rights as individuals.

Sea Change Radio is another great source for long-form audio on green topics. This nationally syndicated radio show and podcast—with an archive of 700 shows spanning the last 16 years—focuses on the shift to environmental and economic sustainability. Veteran host Alex Wise interviews activists, entrepreneurs and policymakers to get the inside scoop on various climate and other initiatives in the U.S. and globally. If you're fascinated with the science of nature, the weekly *Nature Podcast* highlights research from a recent issue of the scientific journal *Nature*. Each weekly edition features interviews with the scientists behind some of the most striking environmental research currently underway, with topics ranging from astronomy to zoology.

Another great podcast for keeping your finger on the pulse of environmental activism is *How to Save the Planet*, a weekly podcast from leading non-profit Friends of the Earth that features stories from the front lines of the climate movement while explaining complex issues—environmental racism, eco-anxiety, fracking, etc.—in language anyone can understand. Yet another, *Sustainababble*, infuses coverage of climate and environment with humor thanks to the witty repartee of hosts Oliver Hayes and David Powell as they interview a wide range of experts to untangle confusing environmental concepts and highlight the greenwashing that pervades so much of the information sphere.

For those listeners with shorter attention spans, the *Climate Connections Podcast* might be just the ticket. This daily 90-second audio drop hosted by Anthony Leiserowitz, a human geographer at Yale University who studies public perceptions of climate change, details how the climate crisis is already shaping our lives and what we can do about it. The show aims to highlight positive solutions to reduce climate-related risks and wasteful energy practices.

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.



Investigative journalist Amy Westervelt's podcast company, Critical Frequency, has launched some of the most engaging environmental and climate podcasts out there today.

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Choose Behaviors That Reduce Cancer Risk



Kelly Evans-Hullinger, MD

Cancer is a broad term which encompasses many different diseases, and each type of cancer has different patterns and tendencies. But at its core, cancer means a group of cells which is growing uncontrollably, due to one or multiple genetic mutations.

Cancer prevention is a topic we see frequently in the media, and it can be hard to separate fact from fiction. Truthfully, many cancers occur at random, and even modern science does not yield any clues as to how to prevent such cancers. Supplements and products marketed as "cancer prevention" do not have sound medical data, and I would advise skepticism of any product purporting to "cleanse" or "detox." However, there are environmental factors that increase the risk of many cancers. Let's focus on those.

Smoking increases the risk of cancer – not just lung, but also bladder, kidney, cervical, and numerous other types of malignant tumors. Additionally, chewing tobacco significantly increases the risk of head and neck cancers. Quitting tobacco is the most impactful lifestyle change one can make to reduce their lifetime cancer risk.

Sun protection is essential for reducing the risk of most skin cancers, including melanoma and the more common basal or squamous cell cancers. Experts recommend sun avoidance, protective clothing, and use of sunscreen with SPF 30 or greater when out in the sun.

Human papilloma virus is a common virus which increases risk of cervical, penile, and many head and neck cancers. We have highly effective vaccines which can prevent this cancer-causing virus. The first vaccine is recommended at age 11 or 12, as it is most effective when administered in adolescence; but the vaccines are now FDA approved up to age 45.

Other components of a healthy lifestyle including a healthy diet, exercise, and lowering alcohol intake, can also reduce your lifetime cancer risk. Most importantly, have a yearly conversation with your primary care provider about age-appropriate cancer screening. In rare cases, a strong family history of cancer may warrant genetic counseling, as some inherited abnormalities merit more aggressive cancer screening. Thus, providing a thorough family history to your care provider is crucial too.

In summary, though many cancers appear out of sheer bad luck, there are many things one can do to reduce overall risk of cancer. None of those things include spending money on products touted as "anti-oxidant," "detoxifying," or "cleansing." So, my advice: save your money and focus on the data-driven recommendations.

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