



## The Groton Tuff Tigers recently held their end of the season banquet

Front Row- Bennett Iverson (Mr. Hustle), Kroy Kahli (Rookie of the Year), Henry Pharis (MVP), Huntley Overacker (Coach's Award), Luke Gauer (Most Improved)  
Back Row - Parker Zoellner (Coach's Award), Bentley Ehresmann (Coach's Award), Keenan Moody (MVP), Hank Flihs (Most Improved), Xzavier Klebsch (Rookie of the Year), Wyatt Hagen (Mr. Hustle), Preston Hinkelman (Coach's Award) (Courtesy photo)

## Free lunches for all students to be discontinued

The Groton Area district will get about \$15,000 in one-time USDA funding. Funds are used to help offset costs related to COVID. Milk and locally processed beef would qualify - the meat qualifies, the processing does not. The local beef would also contain lower amounts of sodium than what the processed beef has and Superintendent Joe Schwan said that the low sodium requirement is real tough to meet. The free meals for everyone will end at the end of this school year. It will be back to the regular free and reduced meals to those that qualify for the next school year.

Schwan reported that the Governor's Executive Order is to require the Department of Education to examine its programs to make sure there are no inherently divisive concepts.

There are currently three vacancies in the Groton Area School with the reposting of the K-12 music with or without show choir, high school math and high school special education.

Due to a print-out error from the lender, the board had to budget an additional \$200,000 for the facilities purchase. In addition, \$90,000 needs to be budgeted for the roof project as the expenses are already coming in for the elementary roof project.

The James Valley Thunder basketball program had grown to 11 teams and 106 kids. The program has increased from 10 Groton Area kids playing summer basketball to nearly 40. "That's a pretty significant increase for the kids playing from Groton," said Justin Hanson. Ryan Tracy was also on hand. They had requested the use of the gym facilities.

Coaches take care of the bathrooms, donation to the facility and take care of the insurance, the board authorized the use of the gym for the James Valley Thunder organization as long as the district is covered with insurance.

The district is looking at a 14 passenger bus contingent on the bid opening at the Platte School. Groton Area would piggyback off of the Platte bid if they approve the bid.

The board approved the district membership for the North Central Special Education Cooperative.

The school year will not be extended. Three days were missed due to snow days and there were three late starts. Consensus was not to extend the school year by two days as they will not be productive. The board agreed to have the last student contact day remain at May 18th and the staff last contact day will be extended to May 20. Auxiliary staff will be able to work those days to get their hours; however, they will not be able to use sick days or personal leave days for those make-up days.

- Paul Kosel

## Hanlon re-elected as Groton's Mayor



**Incumbent Scott Hanlon**  
218 Votes



**Aaron Grant**  
24 Votes

Twenty-five percent of the eligible voters in Groton turned out at the poll on Tuesday to vote for Groton's mayor position. There are 967 eligible voters with 244 turnout out to vote. Incumbent Mayor Scott Hanlon was re-elected to a three-year term with 218 votes. Challenger Aaron Grant received 24 votes and there was one spoiled ballot.



Before the election began, the election workers (Mel Sombke, Julie Hinds, Anita Lowary) had to verify the number of ballots that was given to them. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

# Happy Easter!



# Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

## Should the Vikings trade down in the First Round of the 2022 NFL Draft?

With the NFL Draft coming up in less than three weeks, teams are at the point of the draft process where they move from evaluating players to evaluating what they should do in the draft. For the new Vikings' regime in their first draft, the question now becomes whether they should trade down from the 12th pick in the first round of this draft and accumulate more picks.

Recently the history of Vikings trading down in the first round has resulted in mediocre outcomes at best. In 2020, the Vikings traded the 25th pick to the San Francisco 49ers for the 31st pick, which the Vikings used to draft Jeff Gladney. That move did not pay off for the Vikings as they released Gladney after just one season because of his indictment for domestic violence. In 2021, the Vikings traded the 14th pick to the New York Jets for the 23rd pick, which the Vikings used to take Christian Darrisaw. Although Darrisaw only started ten games in 2021 because of injuries, he appears to have the potential to be the starting left tackle of the future for the Vikings.

The 2022 NFL Draft provides a unique opportunity for the Vikings to deeply consider another trade down in the first round. Four NFL teams have multiple first round picks after the Vikings pick at 12. The Philadelphia Eagles hold the 15th and 18th pick; the New Orleans Saints hold the 16th and 19th pick; the Green Bay Packers hold the 22nd and 28th pick; and the Kansas City Chiefs hold the 29th and 30th pick. Because of the extensive draft capital these teams have, they might try to reach out to a team like the Vikings to trade up and draft a player they highly covet.

There is also a rumor out there that the Los Angeles Chargers want to move up in the first round of the draft to get a right tackle for Justin Herbert. Since the Vikings are already set at the tackle positions, the Vikings would be a great trade partner with the Chargers. Currently, the Chargers have the 17th pick, which is only five spots behind the Vikings. Therefore, the Vikings would likely not receive a massive haul of draft picks from the Chargers for this trade. In my opinion, I would not do this trade if I was the Vikings as I do not see the reward in trading down for such little draft capital in return.

Ultimately, the best trade partner for the Vikings might be the Pittsburgh Steelers. As of now, the Steelers hold the 20th pick in the first round. There are rumors that the Steelers are extremely high on Malik Willis, the quarterback from Liberty. The only problem for the Steelers is, he probably will not make it to the 20th pick. If Malik Willis does make it to the Vikings at the 12th pick, the Steelers might start to feel the pressure and give the Vikings a call to move up to take him.

The question now becomes what the Steelers would be willing to trade to move up to the Vikings' 12th pick. Last year in 2021, the Chicago Bears moved from the 20th pick to the 11th pick in the draft to take quarterback, Justin Fields. For doing so, the Bears gave the Giants their first-round pick for the 2022 draft. It is uncertain if the Steelers would be willing to

give up their first-round pick in the 2023 draft to move up eight spots in the 2022 draft. Nonetheless, if the Vikings receive the call from the Steelers on draft night, they could use the template from the Bears-Giants trade in 2021 to pry away a first-round pick from the Steelers in 2023. If that happens, the Vikings should be ecstatic about trading down in this year's draft.

# Spring storms

As I write this, North Dakotans are bracing themselves for what threatens to be an epic spring storm. It's bad enough for city-slickers, but for ranchers and all those fresh calves, it's a potential disaster. The good news is that weather prognostications have gotten better, and although late shifts in a storm's trajectory are possible, we generally have enough lead time to prepare.

In 1997, when Dylan was just a toddler, we found ourselves stranded for four days in our rented farm home with a babysitter. By the time we returned from a date night, conditions were too dangerous to try to take her home. We lost power so Dylan was bundled up in layers of clothing to keep him cozy, and he happily rolled around on the floor.

The rest of the floor show was tragic. I had several aquariums, the largest 150 gallons, filled with rare, delicate marine animals, including a giant clown trigger I'd paid the insane price of \$300 for. I bought my first car for \$200. Over the course of the next few days, we watched as these beautiful creatures succumbed to the cold. As for us, we could go out and warm up in my Bronco from time to time. On the fourth day, the roads had been cleared but we were still socked in when there was a knock at the door. It was a young highway patrolman with an offer to get us to town and a cozy room at the Mirror Lake Lodge in Hettinger. He carried Dylan over a 20-foot snowbank on the north side of the shelterbelt. I no longer have aquariums but I do have generators, one of which was called into action years ago when an ice storm knocked out power in the Ashley area for the better part of two weeks. I had my big standby generator serviced a couple of months ago, so, fingers crossed, I hope we're ready. Unfortunately, my once-trusty Bobcat has been as dependable as a meth addict in recent winters. It's always something. Fortunately, my neighbor and his big Ford loader tractor are dependable.

The approaching storm has stirred memories of the blizzard of 1966 when snowbanks covered high line wires. We were living in Edgeley at the time in a two and half story home near the National Guard Armory. I remember sledding from the roof for what seemed miles. Two young twin teachers lived next door in a trailer home and my father spent hours digging them out from three feet of snow that had created monstrous drifts in high winds.

Afterward, we visited my grandfather, a dairy farmer south of Gackle, and I remember my mother driving our station wagon through what seemed like a one-lane tunnel, snow piled at least 20 feet high on either side, hoping we didn't meet the milk truck.

In what ranks as heroism in my books, my grandfather had managed to clear the yard with a 1940's-era loader tractor. The snowbanks extended to the roof of the massive old barn. Naturally, it made for epic sledding.

There was a great loss of livestock and some lives. We knew farmers who strung clotheslines from the house to the barn to guide them as they fed and watered their livestock. In 1997, there were also herds lost. Sometimes you can only do so much, and Mother Nature is bigger than we are.

I thought about swapping out the winter tires on the pickup about a week ago, which would have guaranteed a storm like

washing your car guarantees rain. I never made the appointment, but I'm superstitious enough to think that it's the thought that counts, in this case, in the worst way possible. Blame me if you must.

We'll take the moisture and try to remember that spring is inevitable.

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## That's Life

by Tony Bender

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The demolition of the Groton pool has begun. The plaster will be removed and replaced later this month. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

## High School Baseball

### Groton Area out-hits competition, yet Elkton Blue Sox takes the win

Groton Area fell 8-5 to Elkton Blue Sox on Sunday despite out-hitting them nine to eight.

Groton Area got things moving in the second inning, when Pierce Kettering singled on a 1-1 count, scoring one run.

In the bottom of the third inning, Elkton Blue Sox tied things up at three when Nate Timm doubled on the first pitch of the at bat, scoring two runs.

Elkton Blue Sox pulled away for good with three runs in the fourth inning. In the fourth Logan Kuehl singled on a 2-0 count, scoring one run and Ryan Krog grounded out, scoring two runs.

Krog took the win for Elkton Blue Sox. The pitcher surrendered two runs on two hits over five innings, striking out 12.

Bradin Althoff took the loss for Groton Area. The lefthander surrendered three runs on four hits over two and two-thirds innings, striking out four.

Kuehl started the game for Elkton Blue Sox. The righthander allowed seven hits and three runs over two innings, striking out two and walking one Jackson Cogley started the game for Groton Area. The righty allowed two hits and three runs over two and a third innings, striking out six

Groton Area totaled nine hits in the game. Kettering and Althoff each collected multiple hits for Groton Area. Althoff and Kettering all had two hits to lead Groton Area. Groton Area was sure-handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. Dillon Abeln had the most chances in the field with ten. Groton Area tore up the base paths, as two players stole at least two bases. Kettering led the way with two.

Elkton Blue Sox collected eight hits on the day. Timm, Aiden Erickson, and Krog each racked up multiple hits for Elkton Blue Sox.

- Seth Erickson

### JV Baseball Team beats Elkton

The Groton Area High School junior varsity baseball team defeated Elkton, 3-1. Colby Dunker pitched 2 innings and had 3 strikeouts. Kellen Antonsen pitched 1 inning and had 1 strikeout. Brevin Flihs had a single and scored, Dillon Abeln and Evin Nehls scored the other 2 runs.

- Seth Erickson

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Photos by Paul Kosel

Several Turkey Vultures were roosting on a Cottonwood Tree along Broadway in Groton Saturday evening.

According to From Wikipedia, "The turkey vulture is a scavenger and feeds almost exclusively on carrion. [4] It finds its food using its keen eyes and sense of smell, flying low enough to detect the gasses produced by the beginnings of the process of decay in dead animals.[4] In flight, it uses thermals to move through the air, flapping its wings infrequently. It roosts in large community

groups. Lacking a syrinx—the vocal organ of birds—its only vocalizations are grunts or low hisses. It nests in caves, hollow trees, or thickets. Each year it generally raises two chicks, which it feeds by regurgitation. It has very few natural predators. In the United States, the vulture receives legal protection under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918."



## GROTON AREA

4/10 @ ELKTON 2PM (V/JV)

4/16 @ CANOVA  
VS HOWARD & ORR/ARLINGTON 2PM, 4PM (V)

4/24 @ BRYANT  
VS HAMLIN AREA & MADISON 4PM, 6PM (V)

4/30 @ VOLGA  
VS SIOUX VALLEY 3PM (V/JV)

5/1 @ CASTLEWOOD 2PM (V/JV)

5/8 @ MILLER 2PM (V/JV)

5/10 @ REDFIELD 6PM (V/JV)

TBD @ CLARK (V/JV)



# The Groton Independent

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## The Life of Lila Olson

Lila Ball Olson at the age of 98 went to meet her Savior and Lord on April 9, 2022. Services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 14th at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton. Pastor Kari Foss will officiate. Following the service, Lila's wishes were to have her body donated to the USD Medical Program in order to help others.

Lila was born on February 17, 1924 at a farmhouse in Day County near Butler, SD to Gladys (Simmons) and Edward Herr. The family moved to a farm in Beotia Township in Spink County. She attended a one-room school at Beotia No. 2. In those days there were many farms in each township and Lila enjoyed playing with neighbor friends that lived close enough that she could walk to their homes.

Even though she grew up in the dirty thirties her parents managed to give her a happy childhood. The community had high moral standards and expected their children to obey them. She attended Conde High School and rode with an older neighbor boy until the weather got bad. Then she stayed in a dormitory while attending school.

Henry Ball came with his friend on a blind date. The sparks must have flown as Lila was married shortly after graduating from high school. They lived with Henry's parents near Verdon until Janet was born in 1945. Then they moved to a farm near Verdon where they were full-time farmers. They raised cattle, pigs, sheep, chickens along with wheat, oats, barley, flax, corn, sorghum, cane, millet, and milk cows for family use. One of the highlights of the week for them was the trip to Conde to get groceries, socialize and go to the movies.

They were blessed with four children, Janet, Loretta, Roger and Barbara. Their children attended grade school at Verdon so that meant two trips a day while school was in session. Muddy roads were a challenge for the times it rained. Verdon school closed and the Conde school provided bus transportation so they all graduated from Conde High School.

Lila attended PTA meetings and sporting events with them. She also had interesting experiences being a band mother. Lila served as a 4-H leader for several years and learned right along with the girls in many activities especially in sewing, making most of her children's clothing. Lila also taught Sunday school while her children were attending. She was a member of ELCA and church circles.

Following the death of Henry in 1980, Lila married Maurice Olson in 1983 and moved into a home in Groton with Maurice. They enjoyed entertaining friends and family, traveling, and going to casinos.

Lila was widowed again at the passing of Maurice in 2002. She continued to live in Groton until May 1, 2017 when she moved to Bethesda Towne Square. Lila developed many friendships at her new residence. Lila also continued to travel and make new memories with her daughter Janet.

Lila's health declined in early 2022 and on March 14, 2022 it was necessary for her to move to Bethesda Nursing Home.

Preceding Lila in death were her parents, her siblings Ivan Herr, Elmer Herr, Beverly McComsey, Darlene Madsen; her husbands, Henry Ball and Maurice Olson; daughter Loretta Avery; son Roger Ball; sons-in-law Howard Dirksen, Earl Steinhoff, and Jerry Lehman; stepsons Roy Olson and Phillip Olson.

Left behind to celebrate her life are Janet Lehman, Barbara (Jerry) Hoefler, Ranae Ball (daughter-in-law), Merry Jo Ball (sister-in-law), Eileen Brandt (stepdaughter), Ginny Olson (stepdaughter-in-law), Debra McKiver (stepdaughter-in-law) and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-children.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that a donation be made to the charity of your choice. [www.paetznick-garness.com](http://www.paetznick-garness.com)

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## Plan to move cheer and dance, cross-country to Sioux Falls, Rapid City changed

By Dana Hess

For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE — A plan to rotate the state cheer and dance and cross-country meets between Sioux Falls and Rapid City was nixed on Wednesday by the board of directors of the South Dakota High School Activities Association.

The plan, as presented to board members, called for holding the 2022 cheer and dance tournament in Watertown. In 2023 it would be held at the Premier Center in Sioux Falls and it 2024 at the Rapid City Monument Center. Starting in 2025 it would rotate between Sioux Falls and Rapid City, based on the availability of a facility in one of those towns.

A similar plan for cross-country called for the state meet to be held in Huron in 2022, Sioux Falls in 2023 and Rapid City in 2024. Starting in 2025, the meet would rotate between Sioux Falls and Rapid City depending on the availability of facilities.

SDHSAA Executive Director Dan Swartos said moving the cross-country meet out of Huron was likely due to hotel availability. He also said that it is convenient to have cheer and dance and cross-country in the same community at the same time because this year there were four athletes that competed in both.

Board member Terry Rotert of Huron said the events didn't need to be scheduled in the same cities to accommodate fewer in than five athletes. Rotert said he found it "offensive" that smaller communities were being "squeezed out" of hosting state events.

"When we host these events, we roll out the red carpet," Rotert said. Making the change was the same as saying "now Huron isn't good enough."

Board member Mark Murphy said the cross-country coaches he has talked to prefer the Huron course.

"The Huron course is by far the best," Murphy said. "That is the best facility for cross-country."

The board approved a rotation starting in 2025 that alternates between Sioux Falls, Rapid City and Watertown for cheer and dance and between Sioux Falls, Rapid City and Huron for cross-country. When Huron hosts cross-country, Watertown will host cheer and dance.



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## UPCOMING SCHEDULE

**Thursday, April 14**  
Emmanuel: 7 p.m.: Worship with 1st communion for youth  
St. John's: 7 p.m. Worship with communion  
School Breakfast: muffins.  
School Lunch: Tacos.  
Senior Menu: Sweet and sour pork, steamed rice, carrot and broccoli medley, honey fruit salad, whole wheat bread.

**Friday, April 15**  
No School, Groton City & States offices closed  
7 p.m.: Worship at Emmanuel with Methodist & CM&A.  
St. John's: 7 p.m. worship

**Saturday, April 16**  
Emmanuel: 10 a.m.: Rosewood Court

**Sunday, April 17**  
Emmanuel: 7 a.m. Worship with communion and breakfast, 9:30 a.m. Worship with communion, 3 p.m. worship at Avantara (serving group)  
St. John's: 8 a.m. Bible Study, Worship with communion at 9 a.m. at St. John's and 11 a.m. at Zion, 10 a.m. Sunday School

**Monday, April 18**  
No School, Groton City & States offices closed  
10 a.m.: Girls Golf at Whetstone Creek GC in Milbank  
1 p.m.: Senior Citizens meet at Groton Community Center  
St. John's: Christian Literature Circle, 7:30 p.m.  
Senior Menu: Creamed chicken, buttermilk biscuit, peas, mandarin oranges, cookie.  
Emmanuel: 6:30 a.m.. Bible Study

**Tuesday, April 19**  
7 p.m.: City Council Meeting  
St. John's: 9 a.m.: Quilting  
School Breakfast: Cereal.  
School Lunch: Pulled pork sandwich, tater tots.  
Senior Menu: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes/gravy, coleslaw, fruit, frosted brownie, whole wheat bread.

**Wednesday, April 20**  
6 p.m.: FCCLA Banquet in GHS Arena Lobby  
Emmanuel: 6 p.m. Confirmation, Newsletter deadline  
School Breakfast: Hash browns, pizza.  
School Lunch: Grilled cheese sandwich, cooked carrots.  
Senior Menu: Baked chicken breast, noodles romanoff, lemon buttered broccoli, pineapple strawberry ambrosia, whole wheat bread.

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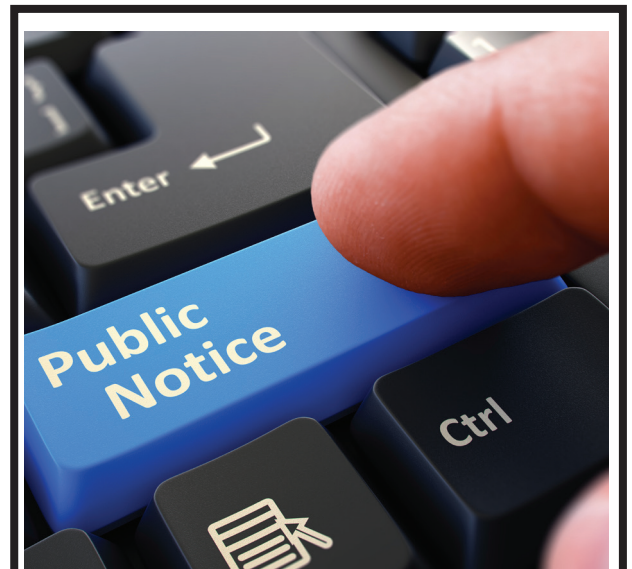
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Easter Is A Time For...

What Is The Biggest Egg In The World Today?  
The Ostrich egg!

CHRISTIANS  
CLOTHES  
HUNTS  
BASKETS  
CANDLE S  
FAMILY  
PARADES

What Do People Do With Eggs?  
Did you find and circle all the words that tell what people do with eggs?

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## Brown County April 5, 2022

### Meeting Minutes

APRIL 5, 2022 – GENERAL MEETING

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

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

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Public comment was heard in opposition to the Summit Carbon Solution pipeline application to the SD Public Utilities Commission.

**BID OPENING – WEED AND PEST CHEMICAL:**

Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Feickert to award Weed and Pest Chemical to VanDiest Supply and approve the option to buy of State of South Dakota bid award based on availability and pricing. Bid tab on file with the Brown County Auditor and open for public inspection. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**BID OPENING – SPRAY FOAM CONTRACTORS:**

Place and time as advertised, to open read and consider bids Spray Foam Contractors. Bids were opened and deferred for review. Bids received from Moved by Wiese, seconded by Feickert to defer bids for review at April 12, 2022 meeting. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE WITH DOE:**

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to acknowledge annual conference with Gene Loeschke, Director of Equalization per SDCL 10-3-14, discussing County Equalization, County Consolidated Boards of Equalization, and the Property Assessments. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY:**

Moved by Feickert to approve the application for occupancy made by Michael Elsen for occupancy of Brown County Highway Number 16, Section 5&9, Township Liberty, Range 62, Brown County, South Dakota for Tile Pipe. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY:**

Moved by Wiese seconded by Gage to approve the application for occupancy made by Northern Valley Communications for occupancy of Brown County Highway Number 18, Section 19/31/6, Township 126/125, Range 61, Brown County, South Dakota; Brown County Highway Number 7A, Section 35/26/25/30, Township 126, Range 61/62, Brown County, South Dakota; Brown County Highway Number 16, Section 17,8,5, Township 126, Range 62, Brown County, South Dakota; Brown County Highway Number 7, Section 12,13,18,17,8,3,2,1,34,36, Township 63/62/31, Brown County, South Dakota for Telecommunications. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY:**

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve the application for occupancy made by WEB Water for occupancy of Brown County Highway Number 12, Section 6, Township 123, Range 63, Brown County, South Dakota for Potable Water Line. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**SD DOT COST SHARE:**

Moved by Wiese, seconded by Feickert to approve and authorize chair sign agreement PP8007(213), PCN 08GQ with the SD Department of Transportation to cost share a new highway rail grade crossing DOT 393781T, MP 713.50, 379th Ave West of Aberdeen, SD. County to share in 10% of the total costs of the new highway rail grade crossing signal installations. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**HIGHWAY UPDATE:**

Dirk Rogers (Highway Superintendent) met to discuss current and future highway projects. No action taken.

**APPLICATION FOR PARTY STATUS:**

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize chair sign application for party status before the public utilities commission of the State of South Dakota in the matter

of the application by SCS Carbon Transport, LLC for Permit to Construct a Carbon Dioxide Transmission Pipeline. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**DOCKET COMMENT – APPLICATION FOR PARTY STATUS:**

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Gage to submit docket comment #HP22-001 with the application for party status before the public utilities commission of the State of South Dakota in the matter of the application by SCS Carbon Transport, LLC for Permit to Construct a Carbon Dioxide Transmission Pipeline. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**MINUTES:**

Moved by Wiese, seconded by Feickert to approve the general meeting minutes of March 29, 2022. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS:**

Moved by Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the following claims:

Professional Fees: AVERA ST. LUKE'S \$7,082.18; CHRISTY GRIFFIN-SERR LAW OFFICE \$8,541.67; COGLEY LAW OFFICE, PROF LLC \$8,541.67; COGLEY LAW OFFICE, PROF LLC \$251.00; DARCY LOCKWOOD \$40.50; DOHRER LAW OFFICE \$8,541.67; DREW BECKER \$200.00; Heather Molan \$200.00; JERALD M. MCNEARY \$8,541.67; KRISTI BRANDT \$49.40; KUCK LAW OFFICE \$8,541.67; LUCY LEWNO \$355.00; MICHELLE GAIKOWSKI \$30.60; Saber Shred Solutions, Inc. \$30,871.85; Sanford Health Network \$764.71; SD Governmental Human Resource Association \$50.00; US District Court - District of Minnesota \$13.00 Publishing: GROTON INDEPENDENT \$274.96 Repairs & Maintenance: DAKOTA DOORS INC \$148.98; DAKOTA PUMP INC. \$1,193.88; FORTERRA CONCRETE PRODUCTS, INC \$3,464.00; KARST CAR CARE \$1,770.07; LAWSON PRODUCTS, INC \$20.51; NICHOLAS R. VOLK \$225.00; STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA \$690.31 Supplies: APH STORES, INC \$14.48; Austin Ball \$20.01; BAKKEN BUILD MAINTENANCE \$500.00; CHARM-TEX \$1,544.94; CNA SURETY \$50.00; COLE PAPERS \$604.00; DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP \$583.07; FASTENAL CO \$39.88; GILLUND ENTERPRISES \$240.96; J GROSS EQUIPMENT \$29.02; JEFFREY L. HEISER \$240.00; LABSOURCE, INC. \$147.46; LAWSON PRODUCTS, INC \$258.42; LEIDHOLDT TOOL SALES, LLC \$469.31; LUCY LEWNO \$13.06; MAC'S INC \$372.95; MENARDS \$164.08; MIDWEST PUMP & TANK \$43.20; PHARMCHEM \$743.68; PLUMBING & HEATING WHOLESALE, INC. \$634.50; ZASTROW'S SALES & SERVICE \$98.91 Travel & Conference: CRAIG STEINLEY \$325.00; DALE KURTH \$112.53; DARWIN BETTMANN \$15.24; DAVID NORTH \$105.48; DOUG FJELDHEIM \$157.92; DUANE SUTTON \$221.84; JAMES MEYERS \$28.50; Joni Napton \$46.00; Josie Gorecki \$1.88; PATRICK KEATTS \$11.37; RACHEL KIPPLEY \$517.88; STAN BECKLER \$18.33; SUZANNE MOEN \$46.00 Utilities: AT&T MOBILITY \$257.55; MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS \$268.75; NORTHWESTERN ENERGY & COMMUNICATIONS \$13,286.63; QWEST CORPORATION \$306.79 Others: SIEGEL, BARNETT & SCHUTZ \$4,487,709.26 Jury: AMANDA LONG \$275.88; AMY HARTMAN \$32.68; ANDREA FARNDELL \$275.88; Angela Antonsen \$26.80; ANGELA SCHAIBLE \$25.04; Anthony Mach \$11.68; APRIL GEDEROS \$21.68; AUDREY BLOCK \$10.84; Barbara Kimball \$26.80; Barry Parkin \$21.68; BEULAH DECORY \$10.84; BONNIE NERISON \$23.36; Brad Nehlich \$20.92; BRODYN DEHOET \$15.88; Bruce Jones \$26.80; Bryan Garreau \$25.04; Carol Hunter \$11.68; Charles Bell \$275.88; CHRISTOPHER LAMONT \$25.04; Corey Siefkes \$16.72; Dale Washnok \$275.12; Damien Krueger \$67.04; Dave Osborn \$11.68; David Bergjord \$23.36; DAVID HEILMAN \$25.96; Delores Saylor \$10.84; Dennis Johnson \$21.68; Derek Eisenbeisz \$275.88; Diane Giblin \$14.20; DORIS ANDERSON \$26.80; DUSTIN GESE \$21.68; DYLAN REID \$21.68; ELAINE SCHUMACHER \$21.68; Eli Regula \$12.52; Evonne Marx \$10.84; FLAURYSE M C BAGUIDY \$10.84; Gary Hegg \$281.76; Gregory Tople \$25.04; HONEY BERG \$10.84; Jaelyn Opp \$12.52; JAMES CARRELS \$11.68; James Dauwen \$446.40; Jared Grimmus \$10.84; JASON LICKFELT \$23.36; Jeremy Bitz \$23.36; JEREMY SMITH \$21.68; Jessica Peterson \$11.68; JOAN HEIDZIG \$11.68; Jodie Kannas \$12.52; JOEL WEIG \$23.36; John Hinrichs \$39.40;

Jon Seaton \$19.24; JONATHAN HILLESTAD \$23.36; Joshua Walberg \$10.84; Judy Barke \$10.84; JUDY WEISMANTEL \$19.24; JULIE KRIEGER \$21.68; JUSTIN WEGLEITNER \$431.36; Kaleb Schneider \$11.68; Kara Pharis \$29.32; Kathy Nipp \$11.68; Keith Mayer \$21.68; KELLIE FRENCH \$10.84; KELLY BURLEY \$528.72; KELLY HOGAN \$12.52; Ken Reinbold \$25.04; KENDALL FRAHM \$265.04; KENNETH MILLER \$36.04; Kevin Braun \$26.72; Kevin Kimball \$11.68; Kim Carlson \$30.08; Kristen Metzger \$10.84; Kristie Flihs \$25.96; Lauren Mitchener \$21.68; LEE FRENCH \$21.68; Lee Hasz \$11.68; Linda Ertz \$23.36; Linda Lunghi \$11.68; Lori Tobin \$26.72; Lucky Peterson \$265.04; Margaret Artz \$11.68; Mark Fischer \$23.36; MARK HOVEN \$23.36; Martin Schmidt \$281.76; MATHEW ROMBS \$23.36; Matthew Gasperich \$12.52; Melissa Brakefield \$16.72; MICHAEL BISHOP \$23.36; Michael Bowser \$275.88; MICHAEL RE \$13.36; Michelle Huber \$11.68; Molly Genzler \$11.68; Nancy McGarry \$21.68; NATHAN MARZENELL \$11.68; Pamela Behan \$12.52; PATRICIA VANMETER \$14.20; PRISCILLA NELSON \$10.84; RACHEL LARRANAGA \$11.68; Rebekah Malchow \$287.64; RICHARD WEAVER \$11.68; RONALD SPILDE \$11.68; ROSS NORMAN \$23.36; SALESI MOUNGA \$23.36; SHARON RAGELS \$10.84; SHAWN MERKEL \$10.84; SHELLEY WESTRAHEIER \$11.68; SHELLY KRYSO-WATY \$12.52; STACEE ALMICH \$311.16; STACY HARTY \$10.84; Stacy Miller \$11.68; STANTON HUNDSTAD \$11.68; TARA WOODS \$21.68; TAYLOR ARMSTRONG \$270.08; TERRENCE WACHOLZ \$14.20; TERRY LIKNESS \$10.84; Thomas Husom \$21.68; TODD BAIN \$21.68; Todd Rozell \$23.44; Valerie Pappas \$53.60; WAYNE HANSON \$10.84; William Brown \$11.68; Yvonne Haynes \$23.36. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**HR REPORT:**

Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Human Resource Report: Acknowledge employment ending for Jakob McKittrick as Brown County Jail Correctional Officer, full-time; effective March 28, 2022, and approve the request to fill the vacancy.

Acknowledge transfer of Johann Kolb from Brown County Jail Correctional Officer to Brown County JDC Correctional Officer; effective April 1, 2022

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**ABATEMENT:**

Moved by Wiese, seconded by Feickert to approve the following abatement request: Henry Hoerner (LT1 HAPI INFILL 2nd Add (E83' LT 1 BK 3 Pleasant Hill)) (qualified appeal) in the amount of \$334.78. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**SDPAA MEMORANDUM OF GOVERNMENTAL LIABILITY:**

Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize chair sign documents with South Dakota Public Assurance Alliance memorandum of Governmental Liability. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**LEASES:**

Moved by Gage seconded by Wiese to approve the following lease agreements: Don Schumacher for hay cutting land east of the fairgrounds as awarded on bid and Don Schumacher for hayland near Richmond Lake Youth camp as awarded on bid. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**OUT OF STATE TRAVEL REQUEST:**

Moved by Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve out of state travel request for Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent to attend NACE Annual Convention in Buffalo, NY April 24-28, 2022. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**AUDITORS REPORT OF ACCOUNTS:**

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Auditor Report of Accounts for February, 2022: Total Cash and Checks on Hand 7700 Total Checking Account Balances: 17897133.16 Total Savings Account Balances: 6175447.42 Total Certificates of Deposit: 3978174.09 Grand Total Cash and Balances: 28058454.67 General Fund Road & Bridge Fund 2769318.04 Road & Bridge Fund - restricted 423243.27 911 Service 1299634.06 Emergency & Disaster 215748.6 Domestic Abuse 1880.02 Teen Court 5439.91 Grant 32.11 JDAI 3263.41 Richmond Youth 21916.96 24/7 Sobriety 45885.31 ROD M&P 110040.64 American Rescue Plan Federal Grant 3772057.66 Rural Access Infrastructure 95415.63 Tif Debt Service 1081.68 Landfill + cash

change 3138554.45 Landfill - restricted 1400479.44 Trust and Agency Funds 3103955.35 GRAND TOTAL GENERAL FUND CASH AND INVESTMENTS 28058454.67. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**WEED AND PEST GRANTS:**

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to authorize the Chair to sign letter of agreement with the South Dakota Weed & Pest Commission for grant award of \$5,100 for Chemical, Seasonal Labor, and Educational Materials in Brown County. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$125.55. 21107

## Groton City April 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2022

The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00 PM at 120 N Main Street for their first monthly meeting with the following members present: Bahr, Babcock, Cutler, Flihs, Wells, Blackmun, and Hanlon presiding. Also present were: Attorney Drew Johnson, Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich, Paul Kosel, Terry Herron, Aaron Grant, Jason Wambach, Patty and Reid from A-1 Sanitation, and a Kent Mauck from Heartland Waste Management.

Public comments were welcomed pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1. Aaron Grant addressed the council and apologized for his actions. No other comments were received.

Two sealed bids were submitted for garbage hauling, one from Heartland Waste Management and one from A-1 Sanitation. Heartland Waste Management's bid was \$15.95 monthly per residence using manual garbage collection. A-1 Sanitation's bid was \$13.49 monthly per residence using automated garbage collection. Due to the need for further discussion, the decision was tabled until the end of the council meeting. At this time, Kent Mauck from Heartland Waste Management and Patty and Reid from A-1 Sanitation exited the meeting. Later in the meeting, following executive session, the bid for \$15.95 monthly per residence from Heartland Waste Management was accepted on a motion by Cutler and seconded by Bahr, based upon the lack for readiness in the community to shift toward automated garbage collection. All members voted aye.

Two sealed bids were submitted for 2022 Street Resurfacing, one from Topkote Inc. at \$2.461 – unit price and Bituminous Paving, Inc. at \$3.45 – unit price. Moved by Flihs and seconded by Blackmun to award the project to Topkote Inc's low bid of \$2.461 – unit price. All members voted aye.

Discussion took place regarding possible plans for the airport.

The minutes from the previous meeting on March 15, 2022 were approved on a motion by Blackmun and seconded by Wells. All members voted aye.

The minutes from the Board of Equalization meeting on March 21, 2022 were approved on motion by Blackmun and seconded by Flihs. All members voted aye.

Moved by Flihs and seconded by Cutler to authorize the following bills for payment. All members voted aye.

Payroll, \$44,416.18, Employee salaries; Executive, \$2,651.12; Administrative, \$9,649.96; Public Safety, \$8,264.65; Public Works, \$23,258.05; Culture & Recreation, \$592.40; Dacotah Bank, \$2,531.25, SS/Medicare/Withholding; Dacotah Bank, \$6,433.70, SS/Medicare/Withholding; Dacotah Bank, \$3,323.06, SS/Medicare/Withholding; Dacotah Bank, \$4,906.96, SS/Medicare/Withholding; Dacotah Bank, \$408.32, HSA Distributions; Dacotah Bank, \$428.32, HSA Distributions; Dakotaland FCU, \$730.00, Employee Savings; Dakotaland FCU, \$730.00, Employee Savings; SD Municipal League, \$150.00, SDMEA Conference & Tech Expo Registration Fee; City of Groton, \$30.00, Community Center Refund - Cecelia Siefkes; NW Energy, \$88.77, Natural Gas - Watertower; Kellie Locke, \$80.00, Med Flex; Groton Legion, \$150.00, Deposit for District Meeting - 3/23/2022;

Robert Martin, \$150.00, Building Permit #22006 Refund; IMEG Corp, \$39,138.46, Professional Services from 11/8/21 - 3/7/22; Paul Kosel, \$382.67, Med Flex; Verizon Wireless, \$40.03, Wireless Internet - Rubble Site; USPS, \$265.00, First-Class Presort Permit; Allied Benefit Systems, \$6,319.67, Employee Insurance; Aflac, \$458.36, Employee Insurance; Colonial Life, \$69.40, Supplemental Insurance; Guardian Insurance, \$72.61, Supplemental Insurance; Employers Mutual Insurance, \$77.30, Employee Insurance; Locke Electric, Inc., \$980.00, 2 Circuits - Fridge/Freezer at Community Center; Cheryl's Cleaning Service, \$60.00, Cleaning Services at City Hall - 3hrs; Aberdeen Awards, \$14.91, Groton Legion Baseball Trophies - 2021; Galls, Inc, \$139.26, Tactical Waterproof Boots; Harry Implement, Inc, \$163.60, Lawnmower blades, air filter; J Gross Equipment, \$30.87, Position Locking Switch; Terry Herron, \$72.80, Med Flex; Meal Reimbursement - MSHA Training; Dwight Zerr, \$14.00, Meal Reimbursement - MSHA Training; Colonial Research, \$338.32, CRC-552D - Slam (Super Impact Grease); Dakota Doors, \$478.06, West Warehouse Hoop Barn Door Repair; Northwestern Energy, \$12.06, Natural Gas - PD Generator; Justin Cleveland, \$20.88, Mileage Reimbursement - EDGAR; Douglas Heinrich, \$23.20, Mileage Reimbursement - CISA Training; Groton Baseball/Softball, \$10,000.00, Donation from City; Groton Chamber, \$12,000.00, Donation from City; RDO Equipment Co, \$73.80, 5/8x2.5" Bolts; Quantity = 30; Irby, Inc, \$1,068.45, Overhead Material, Curved Washers - Electric; SD Supplemental Retirement, \$240.00, Supplemental Retirement; GDI, \$343.78, Publishing; SD Retirement System, \$9,510.08, Employee retirement; S&S Lumber, \$975.18, Honeywell thermostat, privacy lock, gloves, drain opener, drain snake, caulk, steel door, 20 amp breaker, elect. ballasts, 1/2" ball valve, tape, tire tester, vinyl tubing, 3/4" x 10 black piping; Darrel's Sinclair, \$29.95, Oil Filter - Generator; Michael Todd & Company, Inc, \$940.90, Elgin Tube Broom - 66" & Bolt w/ Threaded Block; Dollar General, \$25.00, Office supplies, SDML Meeting supplies, batteries; Badger Meter, \$32.93, Cellular Service Fee; McLeod's, \$122.74, Municipal Election Packet & Precinct Box, Provisional Ballot Envelopes; Groton Area School District, \$348.60, Floor stripping and waxing at Community Center; Aramark, \$33.84, Rug Rent; Runnings Supply Inc, \$74.96, Chain for saw, rake, mounting hardware for air compressor; SD Department of Health, \$30.00, Water Testing.

Department reports were reviewed and discussed.

Sealed bids were due for Community Center Surplus, but none were received.

Discussion took place regarding possible plans for the bathrooms and concessions at the baseball field.

2022 Spring City Wide Clean Up - April 30th through May 6th was approved on a motion by Blackmun and seconded by Flihs. All members voted aye.

A Special Event Retail on Sale Liquor License for Groton Firemen was approved for their event on April 23, 2022 on a motion by Bahr and seconded by Wells. All members voted aye.

Ken's Food Fair, MJ's Sinclair, and Dollar General 2022-2023 Malt Beverage License Renewals were approved on a motion by Blackmun and seconded by Cutler. All members voted aye.

A donation of 4 Season Baseball Passes and 1 Season Family Swimming Pool Pass for the Duelling Duo on April 9, 2022 was approved on a motion by Flihs and seconded by Wells.

Discussion took place regarding The Pantry (Food Bank) and the potential hours of Mondays from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM and Tuesdays from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Softball, Baseball, and T-Ball Sign-ups are open - Deadline: April 15, 2022

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Flihs to allow City offices to be closed on April 15th and 18th for Easter. Employees will be paid for this time off. All members voted aye.

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Cutler to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal items 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 8:45 PM. All members voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 9:23 PM.

Moved by Bahr and seconded by Cutler to offer Thomas Strick-

land the position of Police Officer at a wage of \$26.75/hour. All members voted aye.

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Wells to hire the following seasonal baseball/softball employees: Matt Locke - Baseball/Softball Coordinator; Matt Locke - Legion Coach; Seth Erickson - Assistant Legion Coach; Dalton Locke - Jr. Legion Coach; Aaron Severson - Jr. Teener Coach; Susan Fjeldheim - U12 Girls Softball Coach; Kenzie McInerney - U8 Girls Softball Coach; Anje Hinkelman, Brenna Imrie, and Jerica Locke - Gatekeeping; Bradin Althoff, Kaleb Hoover, Tate Larson, Cole Simon, and Alyssa Thaler - Grounds-keeping.

Moved by Wells and seconded by Cutler to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 PM. All members voted aye.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor  
Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$76.71. 21109

## Columbia City April 4, 2022 Meeting Minutes

City of Columbia Council Meeting - April 4, 2022

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

ROLL CALL - Cara Dennert, Ellen Harr, Trevor Meints, Corey Mitchell, Emily Eichler, Cole Kampa

Community - Jeremy Dosch  
Corey Mitchell called the meeting to order. Minutes were passed out from the March 2nd meeting. Ellen Harr made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried. Minutes were passed out from the March 23rd Equalization meeting. Emily Eichler made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Ellen Harr seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried.

Warrant Vouchers: Web Water - 39.44; Northwestern Energy - 833.58; Kolker Law Office - 71.89; JVT - 125.06; Dacotah Bank - 346.76; Cara Dennert - 1235.25; GDI - 32.56; Jeremy Dosch - 419.99; Corey Mitchell - 317.14; Trevor Meints - 255.29; Emily Eichler - 296.46; Ellen Harr - 296.46; Cole Kampa - 255.29; Productivity Plus - 918.06; Runnings - 72.78; United State Treasury -1623.48; SD Unemployment Insurance - 32.62; SD Federal Property Agency - 103.13; Kolker Law Office - 628.25; Menards - 86.43; SDPAA - 3333.69; Dakota Resources - 3625.00

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

COMMUNITY COMMENTS / CORESPONDENCE - meeting on the 7th with Safety Benefits

UNFINISHED BUSINESS Baseball field update

Nuisances - Emily talked to Mindy at the post office about their landscaping

Streets - Trevor will call someone to blade the streets in the next couple weeks. Corey is getting a bid on putting in more culverts and doing some ditch shaping. We have already replaced a lot of culverts.

Parks - no further report  
Lagoon/sewer - Cole asked the council what they thought about doing a discharge. He will check into it further to see if it needs to be done.

Rubble Site - Cameras are still in the process of being installed.

NEW BUSINESS - Sydney Hanna wanted to discuss a city website with the council. She was unable to attend the meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT - Cara presented bank balances and the 2021 Annual Report. The 941 & Unemployment Quarterly taxes are finished. The SDPAA's renewal packet was presented. Trevor Meints made a motion to accept the financial reports as given. Cole Kampa seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried. Cara will send the Annual Report to the paper for publishing.

March 31, 2022 balances: SF - \$179,987.58; GF \$173,437.49; FIT - \$13978.79

Cash on hand - \$0  
Emily Eichler made a motion to adjourn. Cole Kampa seconded the motion. All were in favor - meeting adjourned.

Next City Council Meeting - May 4, 2022 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Cara Dennert, Finance Officer

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$28.97. 21108



**Groton School  
April 11, 2022**

**Meeting Minutes**

UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
OF BOARD OF EDUCATION  
GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6  
REGULAR MEETING  
April 11, 2022

President Gengerke called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the GHS Library Conference Room. Members present: Flihs, Gengerke, Pharis, Rix, and Weismantel. Absent: Harder and Smith. Others present were Supt. J. Schwan, Principals B. Schwan and Sombke and Business Manager Weber.

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

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

Moved by Flihs, second Pharis to approve consent agenda items: March 14, 2022, and March 28, 2022, minutes, and District bills. Motion carried.

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

Moved by Pharis, second Weismantel to approve March 2022 Financial Report, Custodial Accounts, and Investments. Motion carried.

Moved by Flihs, second Pharis to approve March 2022 School Lunch Report. Motion carried.

Moved by Pharis, second Rix to approve March 2022 Transportation Report. Motion carried.

**GENERAL FUND:** Net Salary – 188,679.53; FIT – 16,670.47; Medicare – 7,127.06; FICA – 30,473.94; American Funds Service Co. – 547.60; SD Retirement – 31,008.82; HSA Contribution – 100.00; Waddell & Reed – 1,150.00; Horace Mann – 907.61; Thrivent – 250.00; AFLAC – 2,914.02; Delta Dental – 3,908.46; SD Supplemental Retirement – 2,140.83; Division of Child Support – 365.79; US Dept of the Treasury – 252.04; MN Child Support Pay Center – 101.00; Groton School Lunch Donation – 184.70; Wellmark – 60,850.33; Standard Life – 682.83; Wage Works – 1,137.46; Avesis Vision – 294.03; Aberdeen Awards – awards, 267.00; Amazon – supplies, 462.31; Avera St Luke's – services, 379.62; Best Western – lodging, 4,004.00; Brookings Inn – lodging, 546.00; Capital One – supplies, 81.10; Cole Paper – paper, 3,441.38; Custodial Fund – advanced pays, 17,866.75; Dependable Sanitation – service, 1,238.00; Dollar General – supplies, 23.25; Duenwald Transportation – busing, 4,250.00; Fire Safety First

Description	General Fund	Assigned Gen Funds	Capital Outlay	Special Education	Bond Redemption	Enterprise Fund	Custodial Fund	Total for District
<b>1. Beginning Balance</b> .....	<b>1,552,676.37</b>	<b>149,575.03</b>	<b>1,624,948.69</b>	<b>314,149.50</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>73,605.96</b>	<b>142,940.60</b>	<b>3,857,896.15</b>
<b>a. checking</b> .....	<b>1,552,676.37</b>	<b>149,575.03</b>	<b>1,624,948.69</b>	<b>314,149.50</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>73,605.96</b>	<b>142,940.60</b>	<b>3,857,896.15</b>
<b>b. petty cash</b> .....	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>2. Transfers in</b>								
<b>3. Revenue to date</b> .....	<b>2,911,685.69</b>	<b>17,707.82</b>	<b>906,356.63</b>	<b>471,172.98</b>	<b>1,061.30</b>	<b>250,064.46</b>	<b>722,128.06</b>	<b>5,280,176.94</b>
<b>4. Total accounted for</b> .....	<b>4,464,362.06</b>	<b>167,282.85</b>	<b>2,531,305.32</b>	<b>785,322.48</b>	<b>1,061.30</b>	<b>323,670.42</b>	<b>865,068.66</b>	<b>9,138,073.09</b>
<b>5. Transfers out</b>								
<b>6. Expenditures to date</b> .....	<b>3,532,496.35</b>	<b>23,272.96</b>	<b>1,274,099.34</b>	<b>591,478.16</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>213,489.54</b>	<b>718,130.92</b>	<b>6,352,967.27</b>
<b>a. encumbrances</b> .....	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>b. disbursements</b> .....	<b>3,532,496.35</b>	<b>23,272.96</b>	<b>1,274,099.34</b>	<b>591,478.16</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>213,489.54</b>	<b>718,130.92</b>	<b>6,352,967.27</b>
<b>7. Ending Balance</b> .....	<b>931,865.71</b>	<b>144,009.89</b>	<b>1,257,205.98</b>	<b>193,844.32</b>	<b>1,061.30</b>	<b>110,180.88</b>	<b>146,937.74</b>	<b>2,785,105.82</b>
<b>a. checking</b> .....	<b>931,865.71</b>	<b>144,009.89</b>	<b>1,257,205.98</b>	<b>193,844.32</b>	<b>1,061.30</b>	<b>110,180.88</b>	<b>146,937.74</b>	<b>2,785,105.82</b>
<b>b. petty cash</b> .....	<b>(0.00)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>(0.00)</b>
<b>March Receipts</b> .....	<b>138,944.91</b>	<b>3,066.06</b>	<b>62,626.78</b>	<b>33,496.39</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>28,758.45</b>	<b>79,943.22</b>	<b>346,835.81</b>
<b>March Expenses</b> .....	<b>420,214.10</b>	<b>2,764.27</b>	<b>12,547.77</b>	<b>106,227.38</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>23,473.63</b>	<b>50,729.30</b>	<b>615,956.45</b>
<b>Custodial Checking</b> .....	<b>146,937.74</b>							
<b>District Checking</b> .....	<b>2,638,168.08</b>							
<b>Certificate of Deposit</b> .....	<b>0.00</b>							
<b>Total all Funds</b> .....	<b>2,785,105.82</b>							

– service, 1,054.00; Geffdog Designs – shirts, 12.00; Greg's Repair – service, 20.00; Groton Area School – bank fee, 24.00; Groton Area – bank fee, 86.65; Groton Chiropractic Clinic – physicals, 200.00; Groton Daily Independent – legal, 220.79; Groton Rescue Squad – service, 500.00; Hillyard – supplies, 379.15; Instrumentalist – awards, 86.00; JW Pepper – music, 191.99; Jeff's District – service, 284.00; Ken's – food, 28.53; Jordan Kjellsen – fee, 35.00; Midstates Group – signs, 192.50; Midwest Bus – parts, 205.83; Mike N Jo's – repairs, 120.00; Aubray Miller – meals, 206.51; MJ's Sinclair – fuel, 8,592.23; Mike Nehls – Mac's part, 41.54; Northeast Conference – shirts, 519.92; Northside Implement – repairs, 2,437.06; Northwestern Energy – utilities, 7,993.12; Olive Grove – fees, 682.50; Otis Elevator – service, 1,388.52; Kristi Peterson – expenses, 319.31; Pfitzer – pest control, 246.96; S&S Lumber – supplies, 2,376.97; SASD – fee, 200.00; Scholastic Testing – supplies, 187.84; School Specialty – supplies, 74.52; Joseph Schwan – lodging, 762.00; Share Corp – supplies, 571.72; Taylor music – resale/parts, 261.79; TIE – fee, 225.00; Deb Tietz – physical, 100.00; Desiree Yeigh – meals, 65.31. Total General Fund – \$413,199.19.

**CAPITAL OUTLAY:** A&B Business – print agreement, 1,950.21; Active Network – software, 494.00; Amazon – equipment, 163.96; Custodial Fund – advanced pays, 791.71; Hauff Mid-America – batons, 32.00; Hub City Roofing – repairs, 35,500.00; Riverside Technologies – equipment, 1,980.00; Stan Houston – equipment, 295.79. Total Capital Outlay – \$41,207.67.

**SPECIAL ED:** Net Salary – 31,532.63; FIT – 2,505.93; Medicare – 1,164.54; FICA – 4,979.22; SD Retirement –

4,957.02; Waddell & Reed – 200.00; AFLAC – 412.15; Delta Dental – 829.42; SD Supplemental Retirement – 100.00; MN Child Support Pay Center – 14.43; Wellmark – 10,595.67; Standard Life – 173.12; Wage Works – 58.33; Avesis Vision – 63.28; Avera St Luke's – OT/PT, 14,779.80; Custodial Fund – advanced pays, 391.12; Sheraton Sioux Falls – lodging, 149.00; Judy/Gene Williamson – mileage, 705.60. Total Special Ed – \$73,611.26.

**ENTERPRISE:** Fund 51-Net Salary – 5,463.93; FIT – 373.73; Medicare – 196.62; FICA – 840.78; SD Retirement – 848.02; AFLAC – 218.49; Wellmark – 1,542.00; Standard Life – 3.84; Avesis Vision – 19.63; BIMBO – bread, 83.20; Cintas – service, 65.45; Custodial Fund – advanced pays, 308.65; CWD – food, 82.44; East Side Jersey – milk, 1,260.78; Groton Area School – transfer, 55.00; Performance Foodservice – food, 6,362.35; SD DOE – food, 303.03; US Foods – food, 2,943.04; Wordware – software, 1,996.00. Total Fund 51 – \$22,966.98. Fund 53-Net Salary – 1,736.10; FIT – 101.78; Medicare – 61.22; FICA – 261.88; SDRS – 182.12; AFLAC – 163.93; Wellmark – 678.00; Standard Life – 23.28; Custodial Fund – advanced pays, 550.38. Total Fund 53 – \$3,758.69. Total Enterprise – \$26,725.67.

**CUSTODIAL FUND:** Total – \$50,729.30  
**RECEIPTS:** Local Sources, Taxes – 183,751.63; Other Local Sources – 97,269.23; County Sources – 3,528.19; State Sources – 0.00; Federal Sources – 62,286.76. Total Receipts – \$346,835.81.

The following topics were discussed in administrative reports: Governor Noem's Executive Order, vacant positions, staff negotiations, requisitions, Spring testing, student presentations, jr./sr. prom, elementary

PAC update, state assessments, track and field day, Connect 4Ed, summer library, SPED Extended School Year, DARE, and staff benefit open enrollment.

The board received a request for use of gym and Arena facilities over a period of spring/summer dates from Justin Hanson and Ryan Tracy representing James Valley Thunder student basketball instruction. Mr. Hanson stated that the group does have their own liability insurance. Moved by Flihs, second Rix to approve use of the facilities with the requirement the group adds a waiver of subrogation to their liability policy, exempting the school district as a liable third party in case of claim. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, second Pharis to approve the following: **RESOLUTION #1 TO ADOPT SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET FOR 2009 EASTSIDE HS ADDITION WITH BUILD AMERICA BONDS REFINANCED IN 2016 AND 2021**

**WHEREAS:** The following budget function level set by the Board of Education was not adequate to meet the operating needs of the 2009 Eastside HS Addition Principal Debt Service on Build America Bonds Refinanced in 2016 and 2021

**THEREFORE:** Be it resolved that the Board of Education, in accordance with SDCL 13-11-3.12, adopts the following supplemental budget change as follows:

Capital Outlay Expenses  
21-5000-999-611 from \$310,000 to \$510,000  
Date of Resolution, April 11, 2022.

Deborah Gengerke, President M. J. Weber, Business Official (Resolution carried.)

Moved by Pharis, second Weismantel to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION #2 TO ADOPT SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET FOR 2022 ELEMENTARY ROOF PROJECT**

**WHEREAS:** The following budget function level set by the Board of Education was not adequate to meet the operating needs of the 2022 Elementary Roof Project

**THEREFORE:** Be it resolved that the Board of Education, in accordance with SDCL 13-11-3.12, adopts the following supplemental budget change as follows:

Capital Outlay Expenses  
21-2539-000-520 from \$25,000 to \$115,000  
Date of Resolution, April 11, 2022.

Deborah Gengerke, President M. J. Weber, Business Official (Resolution carried.)

Moved by Pharis, second Flihs to approve bid of \$68,772 from Foreman Sales for 14-passenger bus pending final bid award from Wagner School District. Motion carried.

Moved by Rix, second Flihs to approve District Membership Agreement with North Central Special Ed Cooperative. Motion carried.

Moved by Rix, second Weismantel to authorize participation in SDDOE Title III (ELL) Statewide Consortium. Motion carried.

Moved by Pharis, second Weismantel to adopt resolution authorizing membership in the SDHSAA. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, second Pharis to cast ballot for ASBSD Board of Directors – Northeast Region for Robert Stephan of Clark. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, second Flihs to amend 2021-22 School Calendar due to missed time for snow days with classes ending on May 18th for students and staff returning for in-service on May 19th and 20th. Auxiliary staff members using sick or personal leave on the two in-service days will not be paid. Motion carried.

Moved by Rix, second Pharis to adjourn at 8:42 pm. Motion carried.

M. J. Weber, Business Manager  
Deborah Gengerke, President

The addition of signatures to this page verifies these minutes as official.

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$138.13. 21110



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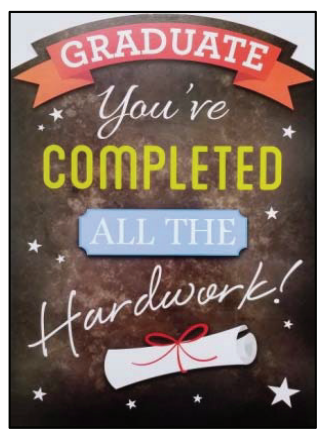
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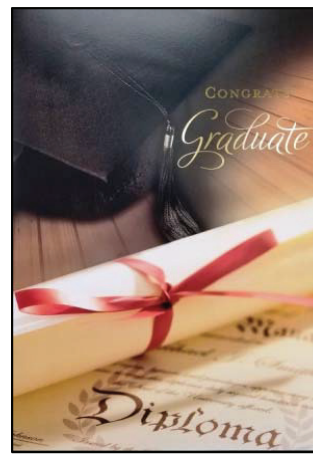


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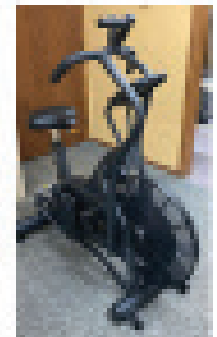


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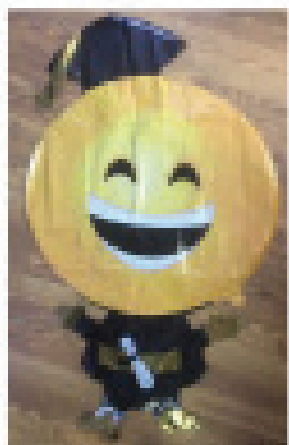
#10 - \$5



#11 - \$5



#12 - \$5



#13 - \$8 35"



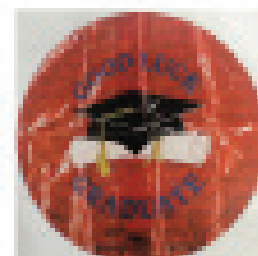
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#16 - \$5



#17 - \$5



#18 - \$5



#19 - \$5

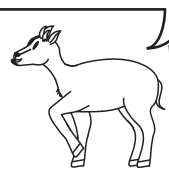


#20 - \$5

We have many other balloons available as well. We now offer locker pickup in the laundromat so you can pick up your order ANY TIME once the order is completed!



# A subscription to the Groton Independent makes a great gift!

We are hiding eggs with prizes...  ...inside of them for an Easter egg hunt.  Kids: color stuff in! 

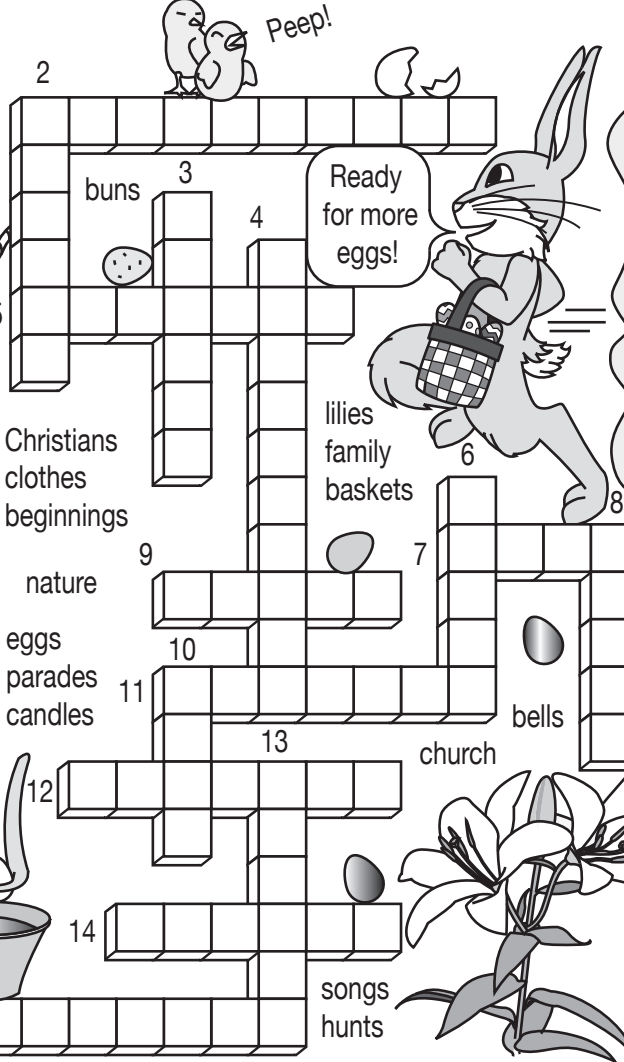
## Newspaper Fun!

www.readingclubfun.com Annimills LLC © 2022 V15

We love decorating eggs for Easter. We use paints, dyes and stickers.  Hmmm...maybe we shouldn't keep all of the eggs in one basket? 

## Easter Is A Time For...

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



Ready for more eggs!

lilies family baskets

church

songs hunts

Easter is a time for many activities - some serious and some for fun. **Read the clues to fill in the puzzle.**

**Easter is a time for:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ to celebrate
- going to services at \_\_\_\_\_
- joy in the spring green of \_\_\_\_\_
- starting, new \_\_\_\_\_
- wearing new \_\_\_\_\_
- ringing \_\_\_\_\_
- dying and decorating \_\_\_\_\_
- singing Easter \_\_\_\_\_
- Easter egg \_\_\_\_\_
- baking hot cross \_\_\_\_\_
- Easter bunny bringing \_\_\_\_\_
- lighting \_\_\_\_\_
- gathering Easter \_\_\_\_\_
- visiting friends and \_\_\_\_\_
- marching in Easter \_\_\_\_\_

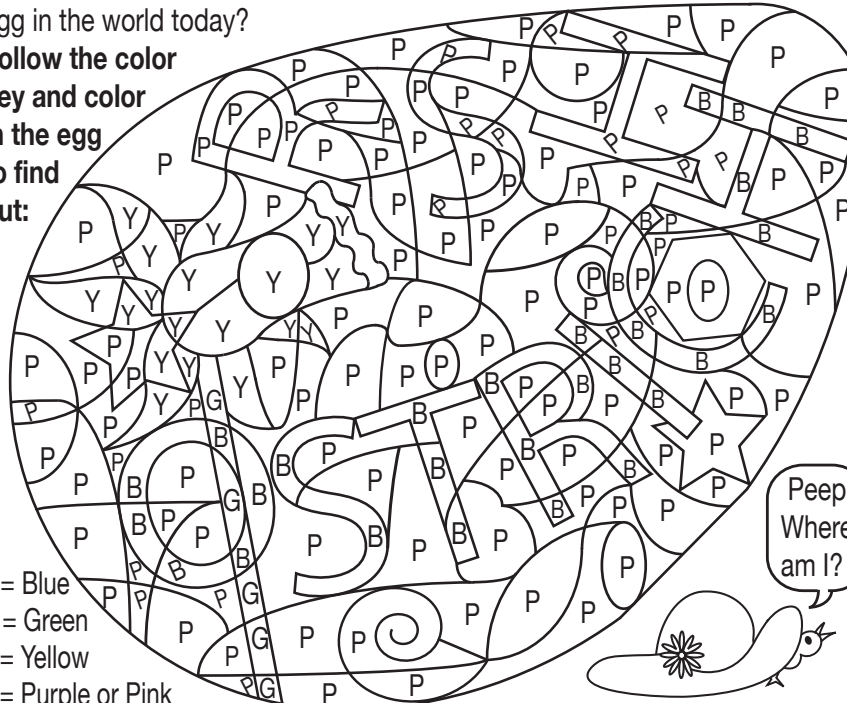
**Find and circle all of these words that tell what people do with eggs:**

fry eat dye hatch pickle  
 deliver scramble decorate refrigerate  
 roll hunt hide toss paint

## What Is The Biggest Egg In The World?

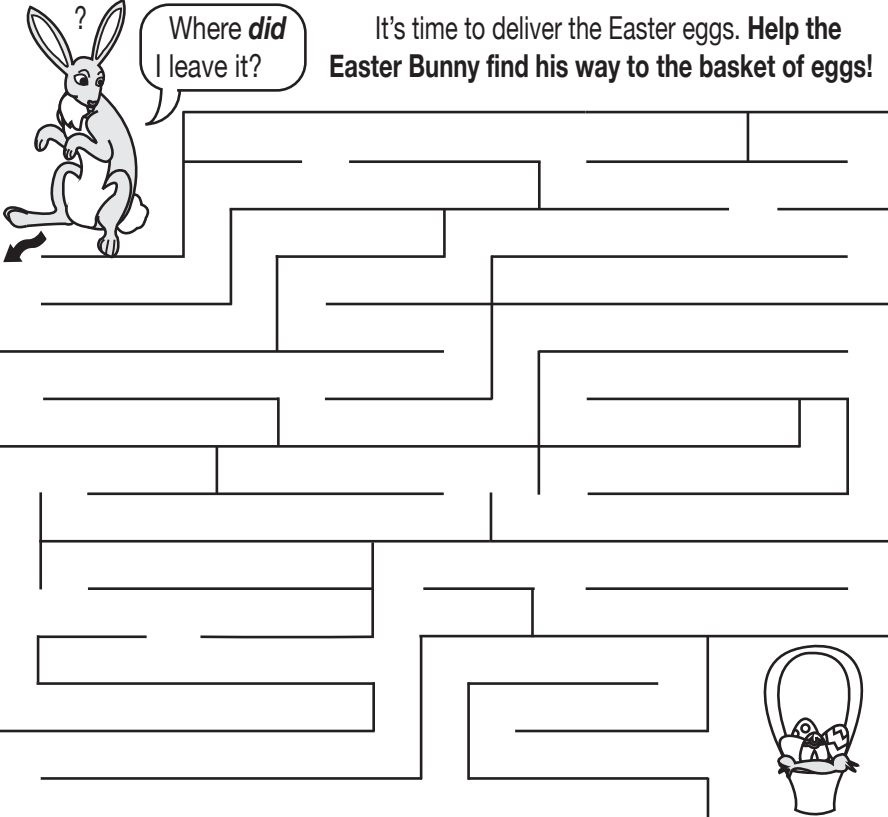
Do you know what animal lays the biggest egg in the world today? **Follow the color key and color in the egg to find out:**

B = Blue  
 G = Green  
 Y = Yellow  
 P = Purple or Pink



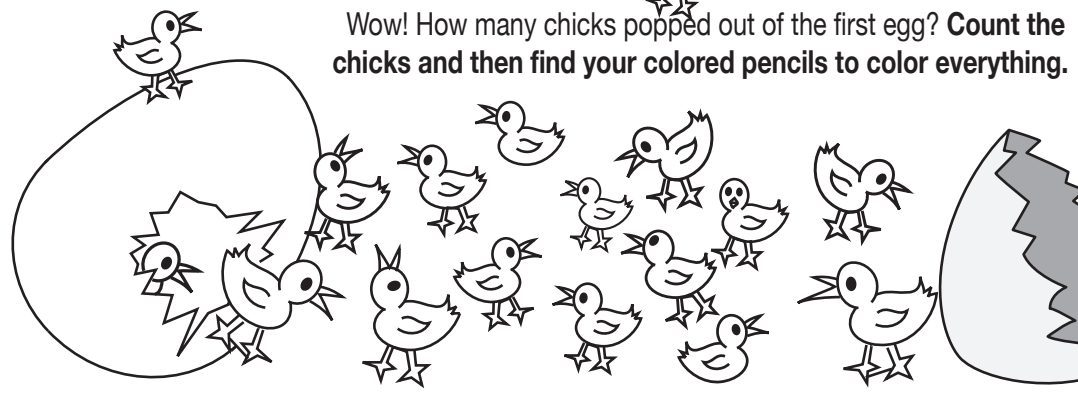
Peep! Where am I?

Where *did* I leave it? **It's time to deliver the Easter eggs. Help the Easter Bunny find his way to the basket of eggs!**

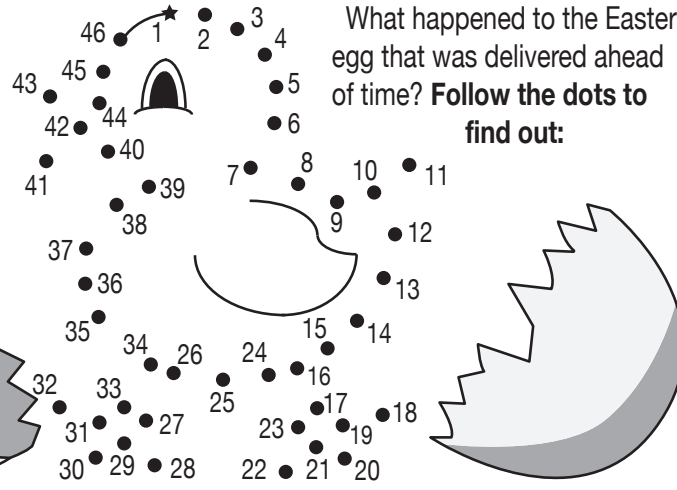


## Egg-citing Surprises

Wow! How many chicks popped out of the first egg? **Count the chicks and then find your colored pencils to color everything.**



What happened to the Easter egg that was delivered ahead of time? **Follow the dots to find out:**





# Pending closure and poor care at Ipswich nursing home latest outcomes of staffing crisis

**Bart Pfankuch**  
**South Dakota News Watch**

A crisis at the nursing home in Ipswich, S.D., illustrates the two worst potential outcomes of staffing shortages affecting long-term care facilities across the state: possible nursing home closures and troubling incidents of inadequate resident care.

A shortage of staff was given as one reason that officials for the Avantara Ipswich nursing home said they will close the 40-bed nursing home on May 31, 2022. Challenges related to COVID-19 were also listed.

The closure would leave residents and families searching for new care options, potentially 25 miles away or more. Employees would also face job uncertainty, and the Edmunds County community of 1,000 people about 27 miles west of Aberdeen would see a loss of economic activity. Local municipal leaders have called a public meeting for April 18 to discuss ways to keep the Ipswich home open.

Staffing problems were also identified by the South Dakota Department of Health, which sent inspectors to the Avantara Ipswich nursing home in April 2021. The state compiled a list of 13 code violations in that inspection that required 104 pages to document. Four violations were listed as "Quality of Life and Care Deficiencies."

According to records from the state health department and the federal government, which were reviewed by News Watch, the April 2021 inspection revealed a facility short on staff, with inexperienced, inefficient management and oversight, and numerous errors or omissions in regard to how residents were cared for.

"The provider failed to ensure the facility was operated and administered in a manner that ensured the safety and overall well-being for all 28 residents in the facility," the state report concluded.

Legacy Health Care, the Illinois company that operates Avantara Ipswich and 12 other nursing homes in South Dakota, did not return a call or email requesting comment for this story. Legacy administrator Connie Ortega did not return a message, and the director of Avantara Ipswich told News Watch he was unable to comment. A state health department licensing official also declined an interview request from News Watch.

The 2021 inspection report gave examples of serious deficiencies in resident care at Avantara Ipswich. Some residents lost large amounts of weight; others were found by family members to be frequently soaked in urine; some had injuries or ulcers that were not documented or treated; and one elderly man had catheter problems that caused his penis to begin "eroding away."



**Mark Deak**

The pending closure of the home in Ipswich is an ominous sign for the state's nursing home industry, which is a critical component of the healthcare continuum in South Dakota and a basic necessity for many of the state's oldest and most vulnerable residents, said Mark Deak, director

**"What's been happening, and this is a very tough situation, is they don't take new admissions; they simply do not have the staff to take on new residents that need their care."**

- Mark Deak, executive director of the South Dakota Health Care Association

of the South Dakota Health Care Association. Deak was not directly familiar with what has taken place at Avantara Ipswich, but he said the inability of nursing homes across the state to hire workers was a problem even before the pandemic.

"For something as critical as long-term care, this is a big deal," Deak said. "The issue is particularly acute in the rural areas."

## Lack of revenue a hurdle for homes

Beyond staffing challenges, providing consistent, adequate funding of nursing homes remains a related and ongoing issue. For each resident on Medicaid, the federal health plan for low-income residents, nursing homes

lose more than \$50 per day, according to state and federal documents. That equation means the roughly 100 nursing homes in South Dakota lose about \$56 million a year combined in unreimbursed care provided to Medicaid recipients, who make up about 55% of the overall residents in nursing homes.

The heightened concerns over viability of nursing homes comes after a disastrous year in 2020-2021, when the pandemic hit. Nursing home employee costs rose by about \$30 million overall that year in South Dakota,

due to heightened virus protocols and reduced admissions.

The South Dakota Legislature, recognizing the funding crisis, allocated in the 2022 session about \$30 million in one-time funding to temporarily boost the bottom lines of nursing homes. The funding, which will reach nursing homes before June 30, 2022, equals about a 20% bump in annual state funding to nursing homes, according to a legislative budget memo.

In the memo, the Joint Committee on Appropriations said nursing homes could use the state money to raise employee pay, but the committee urged the recipients to spend the resources on "business continuation efforts" and "to use them for one-time expenses such as construction, debt payment or retention bonuses."

Deak said the cash infusion is needed, but not adequate in the long run to stabilize the long-term care industry. "That will help float some people for a while, but that is also just a Band-Aid," he said.

Despite the one-time state funding bump, and incremental increases in Medicaid funding in recent years, South Dakota remains near the bottom of all states in regard to state Medicaid reimbursement levels.

Deak said that without a more stable funding source, and an increase in the ability of homes to hire and retain healthcare workers, the industry may continue to suffer closures and overall constriction even as the need for long-term care is expected to rise dramatically in coming years.

South Dakota saw a handful of nursing home closures, mostly in rural areas, over the past five years.

Each time a home closes, it upsets the lives of many people, said Erica Larson, a city council member in Ipswich.

"That will definitely hurt our small town, for those employees and those families that have loved ones in our facility," Larson said. "When people come to visit, they stop in our town and visit our grocery store and convenience stores. It will definitely hurt us a lot by not having the people come here and spend money in our local facilities and by not having our loved ones here in the community."

Deak said the combination of insufficient workforce, rising business and personnel costs and stagnant or barely rising revenues could lead to serious repercussions in the long-term care industry in South Dakota.

"What's been happening, and this is a very tough situation, is they don't take new admissions; they simply do not have the staff to take on new residents that need their care," Deak said. "And without taking on enough residents, obviously that hurts the viability of their operation, so it really catches them that way and makes it very difficult."

## Tough job, low pay, but big rewards

Healthcare workers of all sorts remain in great demand in South Dakota, where wages are generally lower than in other states.

Among the most difficult positions to fill, and among the most critical in terms of function, is the certified nursing assistant position.

According to the state Department of Labor and Regulation, the nurse aide position will be one of the fastest-growing professions in the state over the next decade, with employment

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APPLIER	STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE 617 Bloemendaal Drive Ipswich, SD 57451
Time's plan to correct this deficiency, please contact the nursing home or the state survey agency.	
SUMMARY STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES (Each deficiency must be preceded by full regulatory or LSC identifying information)	
Administer the facility in a manner that enables it to use its resources effectively and efficiently.	
**NOTE- TERMS IN BRACKETS HAVE BEEN EDITED TO PROTECT CONFIDENTIALITY**	
Based on observation, interview, record review, job description review, and policy review, the provider failed to ensure the facility was operated and administered in a manner that ensured the safety and overall well-being for all 28 residents in the facility. Those areas included:	
*An advance directive was in place for one of one newly admitted resident (125).	
*Three of three sampled residents (15, 19, and 74) had timely notification of changes to the residents' representatives and physician.	
*Implement and follow the comprehensive care plan for seven of fourteen (5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13, 14, 124, 126, and 129) sampled residents to ensure they had received the appropriate care and services they required.	
*Ensure professional standards had been followed for:	
Two of two sampled resident's (7 and 126) physician's orders [MEDICAL RECORD OR PHYSICIAN ORDER].	

**This report from an April 2021 state inspection of the Avantara Ipswich nursing home explains 13 operational deficiencies, including an overall lack of ability to properly care for residents.** Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch





**Nursing homes rely heavily on underpaid employees known as Certified Nursing Assistants, who often make about \$14 an hour to provide critical care to nursing home residents.** Photo: News Watch file

**Continued from previous page**

of almost 4,000 by 2028, if open positions can be filled.

But becoming a CNA requires education, training and expertise not demanded of entry-level workers in other fields, who can often make more money per hour.

A survey of South Dakota nursing homes in 2021 showed the average pay for a CNA was \$14 an hour, or \$29,000 a year. Many fast-food workers are being hired for higher pay in the current employment market, and they don't have to manage elderly residents, provide them food, bathing and bathroom assistance, or go through the extensive training required of CNAs.

To become certified, CNAs must be at least age 16 and complete 75 hours of classroom and clinical instruction. They then must pass a written or oral final exam and complete a competency evaluation that includes performing at least five nursing tasks on a live person. Nursing aides must also undergo 12 hours of training annually to maintain certification.

About three dozen individual skills are required for certification, including basic duties such as communication and interpersonal skills, taking and recording vital signs, height and weight, and showing proficiency in feeding, bathing, dressing and toileting of patients.

But CNAs must also be proficient in more medically sensitive skill areas, including: infection control; overseeing range of motion

and use of prosthetics or orthotics; using mechanical lifts; completion of several reporting and security functions; caring for patients lacking bladder or bowel control; handling patients with dementia or cognitive decline; and caring for patients when death is



**Rochelle Rindels**

**"We've got to continue to invest and find some creative solutions to ensure that the workforce is there to provide care ... it's a challenge, but it's extremely important in our state to provide care for people close to home."**

-- Rochelle Rindels, vice president of nursing at Good Samaritan Society

imminent.

The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society, which runs 23 housing campuses in South Dakota, many of them with nursing homes, is taking aggressive steps to recruit and retain more healthcare workers, said Rochelle Rindels, vice president of nursing and clinical services at the agency.

As of mid-April, Good Sam had about 1,000 nursing employees but about 250 open positions in South Dakota, including 65 openings for licensed nurse positions and about 180 CNA openings.

CNA jobs remain hard to fill in South Dakota, where overall job openings are plentiful and the available workforce is low. Furthermore, working as a CNA is a difficult job that requires a great level of caring and commitment, Rindels said.

"They come in at that entry-level pay, and it's a very physical job," she said. "If somebody comes into the position and doesn't really expect what the work would be or look like, it can lead to burnout."

Long-term care facilities have a hard time competing with other entry-level industries, such as manufacturing or service industries, which can raise employee pay and then pass that cost on to consumers, Rindels said. Nursing homes are limited in how much they can charge before pricing customers out of the market, and Good Sam, like most providers in South Dakota, has about half its residents on Medicaid, which provides a set per-resident funding level each year.

Good Sam is working to become more competitive on pay, especially for CNA positions, recently investing \$15 million targeted at raising pay for healthcare employees. Last year, the agency developed a new program to recruit and pay to train people interested in the CNA position, Rindels said. So far, about 600 students have entered the program and more than 90% have made it through and passed state certification exams.

Rindels said additional training programs, new funding sources and expanded employee-support systems are needed on the federal and state levels to stabilize staffing at nursing homes in South Dakota.

"We've got to continue to invest and find some creative solutions to ensure that the workforce is there to provide care, to partner with state and federal associations to really just come at this staffing challenge from multiple perspectives," she said. "It's a challenge, but it's extremely important in our state to provide care for people close to home."

Rindels said she and other lifelong nurses often feel a calling to the profession and greatly value the opportunity to help people, to provide high-quality medical care and to build positive, long-lasting relationships with residents, families and staff.

"It's the relationship and the friendships that you build," she said. "It's the things you learn and the wisdom shared by residents, and attending all those birthdays and anniversaries."

Deak said the nursing home industry will continue to struggle to find workers if it cannot even compete with entry-level pay at fast-food outlets. Deak, who spent a day following a CNA a few years ago, has a deep appreciation for how difficult the job can be.

"It takes a particularly special person, someone with angelic qualities, to do the day-in and day-out

hard, physical and emotional work of working in a nursing home," he said. "If Taco Bell is hiring for a couple bucks more an hour, it might be worth it for the extra money and easier work, too."

He added: "We're really looking for angels and they're tough to find sometimes, and they need to put food on their tables at home, too."

Deak said the long-term care industry may need to look to more immigrant laborers to fill the many open positions. He also suggested that perhaps immigrants from Ukraine, fleeing the war in their country, could help fill employment gaps at South Dakota nursing homes.

**A troubling inspection in Ipswich**

Some of the deficiencies noted by state inspectors during their April 2021 inspection of Avantara Ipswich involved a lack of basic procedures such as developing "care plans" for all residents, implementing a toileting plan for all residents and not properly documenting skin conditions and other ailments. Low morale and operational confusion within the staff were also noted in the report.

Other deficiencies found by inspectors included unsafe or unsanitary conditions for residents.

One female resident went from 152 pounds to 133 pounds in three weeks, and the rapid weight loss was not documented by staff or reported to a physician. Another resident was given the wrong dose of a vitamin.

Residents were not provided adequate care for incontinence, the report stated. One female resident said bedpans were left in too long and became painful. One resident was sent to the emergency room, where nurses found two skin tears, a bruise and an ulcer on the perineum that had not been documented or addressed by employees at the home, according to the report.

The treatment of one man was the subject of a lengthy analysis. The man's wife said she found him regularly soaked in urine and with dried urine under his bed, dried food on the floor and a soiled trash can. His wife reported that his legs were red, swollen and oozing and that he had an undocumented open sore on his buttock. The day after Christmas 2020, the resident was found to have removed a problematic catheter and after he arrived at an emergency room, his penis was found to be "eroding away," the report stated.

"There was no other communication or notes regarding resident's penis eroding away. There was no communication regarding the open sore on his buttocks," the report noted.

Another man, a 75-year-old Vietnam War veteran, lost 18 pounds in three weeks and

**Continues on next page**

\*Stated residents should receive water two times per day but sometimes they are lucky to be water one time a day.

\*Stated dietary is not passing water at 2:00 p.m.

\*Residents are not being toileted or repositioned as they should be.

Interview on 4/7/21 at 10:30 a.m. with resident [redacted] wife revealed:

\*She stated she felt like they were short staffed.

\*Surveyor asked why she felt that way, she stated:

-Resident [redacted] had been wet with urine every day that she has come into the facility.

-CNA M told her they were short staffed and that is why the residents were soaked.

\*Had voiced concerns about the cleanliness of his room.

\*There was dry urine underneath his bed, dried food on his fall mat and a soiled trash can.

-This had been this way since Saturday 4/3/21.

\*When she had informed staff about her concerns she had been told it is an old building.

\*She was concerned if she voiced her concerns to us she would no longer be allowed

**These notes from an April 2021 state Department of Health inspection of the Avantara Ipswich nursing home point toward staffing problems as one cause of deficient resident care.** Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch



was also frequently found by his wife to be out of water and wearing urine-soiled clothing.

That resident's wife told inspectors that nursing home staff said her husband was "naughty, naughty, naughty" during clothing changes and that closer monitoring of his water intake would be "entirely too much work."

In several areas, the inspection report pointed to a lack of staffing as a primary cause of deficiencies in care at the Ipswich home.

"The provider failed to ensure sufficient nursing staff were available at all times to provide nursing services to meet residents' needs safely and in a manner that promoted each resident's rights and physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being," the report stated.

Inspectors found that the activities director was sometimes forced to serve as a nursing assistant.

An inspector, called a surveyor in state reports, also interviewed the clinical care coordinator of the facility in April 2021 and noted the coordinator was also serving as interim director of nursing at the time.

"When surveyor asked who was in charge of infection control for the facility, she stated, 'I guess that would be me,'" according to the state report.

The coordinator also told the inspector that infection-control matters, even during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, were "not really" part of the discussion at quality-assurance meetings.

"Surveyor asked who was in charge of antibiotic stewardship for the facility. She stated, 'probably me,'" the report noted.

The coordinator was not sure whether a physician or pharmacist was involved in the facility's antibiotic-stewardship program.

Followup reports from the state indicate that the deficiencies found in the April 2021 inspection had been fixed. The 2021 inspection found far more deficiencies than inspections in October 2019, when seven deficiencies (two related to quality of life and care) were found, and in August 2018, when three deficiencies were noted (only one related to quality of life and care,) according to state records.

In the press release announcing the pending closure of the nursing home, Legacy Health Care official Connie Ortega said the decision to close Avantara Ipswich was difficult, but that "the challenges related to staffing and the continued impact of COVID-19 have created an environment where we can no longer keep the doors of Avantara Ipswich open."

Residents and their families will be given individual plans to relocate and continue their care, the release said.

The release praised the staff at Avantara Ipswich as "incredibly hardworking and dedicated to the care of our residents and community" and said the company would help employees explore other opportunities.

The release said Legacy made significant investments into the home and had worked with state officials to find solutions. The home has filed a formal closure notice with the state, the release said. Other Avantara nursing homes operated by Legacy Health Care in South Dakota are located in Arlington, Armour, Clark, Groton, Huron, Lake Norden, Milbank, Pierre, Rapid City, Salem and Watertown.

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#### ABOUT BART PFANKUCH

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

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

## Schools will vote on seven activities association amendments

By Dana Hess

For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE — At its annual meeting Tuesday, the South Dakota High School Activities Association approved submitting seven constitutional amendments to a vote of member schools.

Perhaps the most far-reaching of the amendments would use a free and reduced lunch formula to adjust the enrollment numbers that are used to determine classifications and alignments for schools in sports and activities.

The formula could reduce a school's enrollment numbers by 30%. An example offered Tuesday proposed a high school with an enrollment of 400 in which 85% of the students are eligible for a free or reduced lunch. The formula calls for 30 to be multiplied by .85 for 25.5. That number is then subtracted from 100 for 74.5. Used as a percentage, .745, that number is then multiplied by the enrollment figure, 400, reducing the enrollment number used for classification from 400 to 298.

The rationale for the amendment, as offered by SDHSAA staff and the organization's Native American Advisory Council says: "We have a number of schools on the line between classifications with large populations of students who qualify for free and reduced lunch. In general, those schools and students have severe discrepancies in access to equipment and school/personal access to outside training opportunities as compared to similar-sized schools with low populations of students who qualify for free and reduced lunch."

The rationale statement goes on to say that the free and reduced lunch multiplier is used in other states where it is "widely accepted" as a major factor in athletic and activity success. Using the formula, according to the rationale, would allow schools to remain at a classification level that appropriately reflects their opportunities.

"There's a big difference there" in access to facilities, said SDHSAA Executive Director Dan Swartos, noting that similar formulas are used in Minnesota and North Dakota.

Board members said there have been some questions about the amendment from schools. "This may not have a possibility of passing if people don't know what the numbers are," said board member Kelly Messmer of Harding County.

Swartos said he would apply the free and reduced lunch numbers to some enrollments and send the data to schools so that members could see how it would affect classifications. He said Harding County and Lakota Tech, a relatively new high school near the Pine Ridge Reservation, are both close to going from A to AA in classification.

"This would prevent them from moving up," Swartos said.

Another amendment changes the eligibility appeals process for athletes. Currently, that process includes a Level One appeal that is heard by the executive director. If that decision is appealed, it goes to a Level Two appeal heard by a three-member committee that can include superintendents, high school principals, activities directors and school board members. If the committee's decision is appealed, Level Three is an appeal before the SDHSAA board of directors.

The amendment changes the Level Two appeal by appointing three SDHSAA board members to the appeals committee. The rationale for the change says that the association's executive director processes between 80 and 100 hardship requests per year. Changing the make-up of the appeals committee assures that the people hearing the appeal are better informed about SDHSAA rules and bylaws. The three board members on the Level Two committee would not participate in the Level Three appeal to the full board.

"It put those people in a bad spot," said Swartos, referring to the administrators selected randomly to hear appeals.

The amendment also makes changes to ensure that a school's superintendent or a school board member signs off whenever an appeal is made. In the past, some appeals have been brought to SDHSAA without the knowledge of member school administrators.

Two amendments bring the organization's bylaws into compliance with current state law regarding home-schooling. One allows competition by seventh and eighth grade students in high school activities if they satisfy SDHSAA's scholastic standards. Another allows students receiving alternative education to satisfy the scholastic standards for participation.

Two other amendments bring the bylaws into compliance with the organization's current practice. One calls for a school's resolution authorizing membership to be signed by the superintendent and the chairman of the board of education. The other notes that SDHSAA has suspended membership dues and fees, but allows them to be reinstated if necessary.

Another amendment deletes a reference to No Child Left Behind from transfer rules.

Member schools will receive their ballots for the amendments by April 22. Ballots must be returned to SDHSAA by May 31. Constitutional amendments must receive an endorsement from 60% of the member schools in order to pass.

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## Watertown superintendent will join SDHSAA board

By Dana Hess

For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE — During the annual meeting of the South Dakota High School Activities Association on Tuesday, nominations were offered for the Division II representative to the board of directors. This position must be filled by a superintendent.

The only candidate nominated was Watertown Superintendent Jeff Danielsen. He will serve a five-year term and is not eligible for re-election.

Danielsen will replace current board member Terry Rotert. Rotert, the activities director in Huron, is filling out the last year of the term of former Brookings Activities Director Randy Soma who resigned from the board when he was hired as an assistant executive director at SDHSAA.

Division II includes the state's larger schools, excluding Sioux Falls and Rapid City which are in Division I. Those schools include Brandon Valley, Aberdeen Central, Watertown, Brookings, Mitchell, Yankton, Sturgis, Pierre, Douglas, Huron, Spearfish and Sioux Falls O'Gorman.

The board will have another opening soon as Derek Barrios of Elk Point-Jefferson will be leaving that school for a position at Watertown. A replacement for Barrios, who will represent the interests of the state's smaller high schools, will be appointed at the board's June meeting.

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# Schools to decide on changing 2023 football schedules

By Dana Hess, For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE — The 2023 high school football schedules may get a second look after a lengthy discussion Tuesday by the South Dakota High School Activities Association board of directors.

At issue were complaints from schools that field nine-man teams and 11A schools. The board also discussed an oversight in the way conference games are scheduled.

Dave Hutchison, superintendent of the Irene-Wakonda School District, a 9-B school in football, asked the board if there was any chance of changing his school's football schedule for the coming fall.

"We don't have one 9-B game scheduled," Hutchison said. "Not one coach at that level is going to see our players play."

Hutchison explained that it was tough to get recognition for his players if the coaches at that level don't see them in action.

SDHSAA Executive Director Dan Swartos told the board that a letter with similar complaints had recently been received from the Gayville-Volin School District.

SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director Randy Soma, in his first year of creating the football schedules, said conference games or games within a classification are not guaranteed.

"I want to make sure that everyone gets a schedule," Soma said, explaining that creating a schedule for each school is his top priority.

Football schedules are made two years at a time. For a time there was talk among board members of having the staff go back and redo the schedules for this fall and for the season after that.

Soma tried to get board members to see the difficulty of making changes to the schedule. "If you make changes, it's not three schools that are affected, Soma said. "It's 40 schools."

Swartos noted that Soma scheduled more than 800 games. "He was trying to appease everybody," Swartos said.

Board member Kelly Messmer of Harding County said the board's reaction to the two complaints was worrisome. He said the board was discussing major changes with the "majority of schools not knowing we're discussing this today."

Messmer said some of schools he has talked with are happy with their schedules and will be upset by any changes. "It seems like a monumental topic for a few schools; I just wonder if it's an issue for the rest of them."

During the discussion, board members and the SDHSAA staff discovered that a directive regarding conference play had failed to make it into the organization's athletic handbook. That rule says that any football conference with more than seven teams would need to split into two divisions with the last game of the season played by the top teams in each division to declare a conference champion.

Swartos characterized the omission as an "honest oversight."

The board agreed that it was too late to change the fall football schedule. The board members directed Swartos to inform member schools about the conference scheduling oversight as well as ask their opinions about the 2023 football schedule and whether or not they would like to see it changed.

## Rule changes approved for high school golf and track

By Dana Hess, For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE — In the future the South Dakota High School Activities Association may seek some consistency in the way that the state's golfers qualify for state tournaments. That suggestion was made Wednesday as SDHSAA board members approved the annual changes to the organization's athletic handbook.

Prior to last year, 60% of Class A golfers qualified for the state tournament. Last April, the board approved a rule change reducing the field to 50%. At the time, SDHSAA staff said tournament days were taking longer than six hours with some golfers on the course who didn't belong in a state tournament.

This year, a request from Class A athletic directors sought a return to the 60% number or, barring that, a redistribution of athletes if a region doesn't send a full complement of golfers to the state tournament.

SDHSAA Executive Director Dan Swartos cautioned the board against approving the return to the 60% qualifying field since there was not yet a full year of data on the change. The A and AA boys' golf tournaments took place in October while the B boys and girls and the A and AA girls will play theirs in June.

"We're not even through the first year of this," Swartos said.

Board member Terry Rotert of Huron said coaches were upset because the Class A field of golfers at the state tournament was "significantly smaller than it could have been."

Swartos said last year's change was approved by athletic directors, but golf coaches didn't like it. "Once the A coaches got wind of it this fall, all heck broke loose."

Rotert explained that if the field isn't increased to 60% of golfers, the athletic directors would like to be able to add golfers in their region if one of the regions doesn't send all 50% of its golfers. Rotert said a region with 100 golfers would be allowed to send 50 to the state tournament. If it didn't send them all, the other regions would add golfers equally among themselves in order to send as many golfers as possible to the state tournament.

That change was approved by the board on a 7-1 vote with the dissent coming from Marty Weismantel of Groton.

During the discussion, board member Derek Barrios of Elk Point-Jefferson asked if there was any way to get continuity across classes. He asked if the association could look at "how golf is run in our state

as a whole."

Swartos said that each class uses a different formula. Class B takes 40% of golfers. AA calculates those golfers that are within 75% of the average state tournament score to determine tournament qualifiers.

In the area of track and field, the board approved using fully automatic timing at all AA state qualifying track meets. The vote by AA athletic directors was 16-3 on this change. SDHSAA Assistant Activities Director Randy Soma said the schools that voted against the change were likely concerned about hiring more people to run the meet and the expense of the FAT system.

"There's so much inconsistency with handheld time," said board chairman Tom Culver of Avon, noting that his school district rents out its FAT system for \$600. "I know there's others that charge a lot more."

Board member Kelly Messmer of Harding County said he has used a handheld device to time races at track meets. "It's a disservice to the kids," Messmer said. "I'm not very good at it."

SDHSAA will do more research on the automatic timing systems.

"We need to find out how many systems we have across the state," said SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director Jo Auch.

At the urging of Swartos, the board tabled a request from athletic directors to change the out-of-bounds rule in wrestling. Under the proposed rule, if any part of the wrestler is within the circle, the wrestler would be considered in-bounds.

Swartos said the proposed rule deviates from the rules set by the National Federation of State High School Associations. The NFHS is considering the change in its rules review process. Swartos said the proposed rule would be back on the board's agenda for its June meeting.

## SDHSAA hopes to share more revenue with schools that host state events

By Dana Hess For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE — The South Dakota High School Activities Association is trying to balance funding all of its activities with fairly compensating schools that host state events.

Wednesday the SDHSAA board of directors' discussion about funding for state event hosts was sparked by a comment from Casey Meile, coordinator of athletics for the Sioux Falls School District.

During a discussion about site selection, Meile told the board, "We lose a lot of money hosting these events while SDHSAA does profit."

SDHSAA Executive Director Dan Swartos said it can look bad when a host school loses money on an event while the association turns a profit.

As an example, Swartos noted the combined state wrestling meet that Sioux Falls hosted. The association paid a hosting fee to the school district of \$24,500, Swartos said, while the district's expenses were probably twice that. The association made a \$104,000 profit on the event.

"It's the profit that we make that funds the rest of our events where we lose money," Swartos said. Those events include debate, oral interp, all-state band, tennis, golf and gymnastics. Swartos also noted that profit from events helps fund the association's \$200,000 catastrophic insurance policy in the event an athlete is injured.

Surrounding schools benefit from Sioux Falls hosting the meet, Swartos said, because they don't have to pay transportation or lodging costs. He said those schools could be asked to provide workers for the meet, taking some of the financial burden off the Sioux Falls School District.

That could "cut down a lot of the cost of hosting that event," Swartos said.

The association expects a surplus of revenue this year. After the association's expenses are paid, Swartos said it could share that revenue with host schools.

The association would be "using our surplus we have to make those sites whole," Swartos said. He told the board that action on such a plan could be on the June agenda.

## Basketball tournaments highlighted by lack of sportsmanship

By Dana Hess For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE — A lack of sportsmanship was a common theme when members of the South Dakota High School Activities Association staff reported on the recent state basketball tournaments. They made their report Wednesday to the SDHSAA board of directors.

SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director Jo Auch told the board that she attended the State B boys' and girls' tournaments.

"Our sportsmanship is getting pathetic," Auch said, noting that she includes players, coaches and fans in that statement. "A handful of people can make it miserable."

Auch said one fan was kicked out of a B tournament, led away in handcuffs.

SDHSAA staffers Randy Soma, who attended the AA tournaments and Dan Swartos, who attended the A tournaments, agreed with Auch's assessment.

"There's a lot of work we need to do in that area," said Swartos, the organization's executive director.

Board member Mark Murphy said he has observed coaches giving officials a hard time during games and that attitude is picked up by players.

"They take their cues from coaches," Murphy said. "I really think coaches need to help us in that sportsmanship area."

The statements were made during a portion of the board meeting set aside for staff reports. No action was taken.



# Groton Robotic Seniors bring home first place award at National Event!

Congratulations to G-Force-(Travis Townsend, Jace Kroll) and Gear Heads (Jack Dinger, Ethan Clark and Axel Warrington) for earning their way to the Us Open in Council Bluffs, Iowa!

The boys had a great tournament this weekend to finish off what really turned out to be a great year for GT Robotics. We traveled to Council Bluffs, IA for the CREATE US Open Competition. They competed against 48 teams from across the country, including Hawaii, in a game, that due to some different circumstances, was not entirely familiar to us. Needless to say, there were a few goose eggs for scores in their first few rounds, but they caught on quickly.

On the second day, Gear Heads actually got one of the highest qualifying round scores in the whole tournament! For the finals, 48 teams were condensed down to twelve alliance teams containing 4 teams a piece. G-Force (Travis Townsend, Jace Kroll) finished in the 1st place alliance, and Gear Heads (Ethan Clark, Jack Dinger, Axel Warrington) finished in the 5th place alliance. They did great.

I would really like to thank the school and the entire Groton community for all of the support they give the robotics program. In talking to other coaches at tournaments, funding for this or that always comes up. And for me, the conversation always boils down to how blessed our club is to have such great support from the community. Thank you! We couldn't do it without you!

Submitted by Coach Neil Warrington



**Coach-Neil Warrington, G-Force (Jace Kroll and Travis Townsend), Gear Heads (Axel Warrington, Jack Dinger and Ethan Clark). Hats off and THANK YOU to BK Custom T's for making the guys polo shirts in a VERY short amount of time!** (Courtesy of robotic parents)



**Groton teams frantically planning, and regrouping-note they are the only ones there!** (Courtesy of robotic parents)



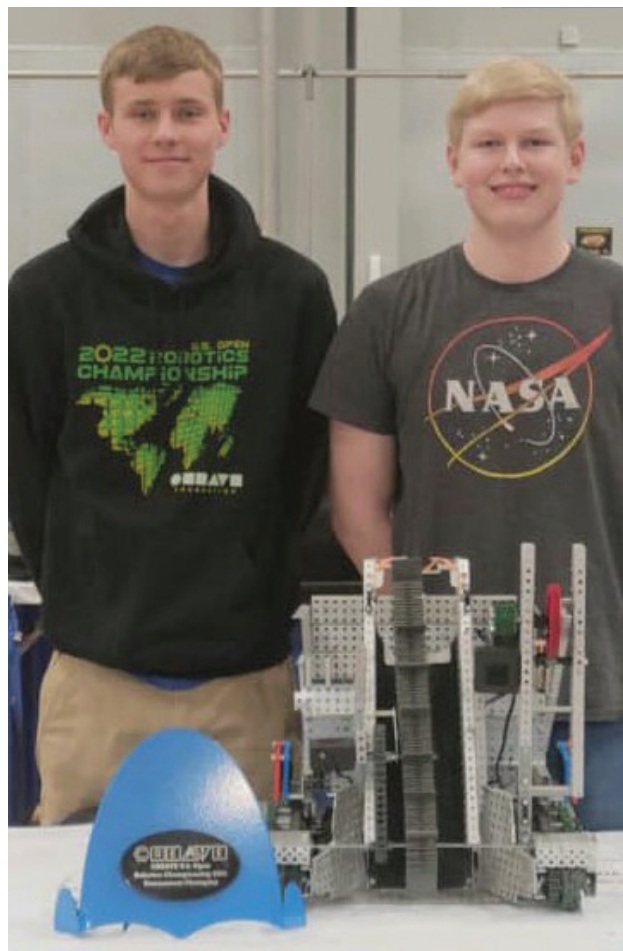
**FIRST PLACE ALLIANCE TEAMS- G-Force ((far right) Jace Kroll and Travis Townsend)** (Courtesy of robotic parents)



**Axel, Ethan and Jack getting 9050B ready for a match!** (Courtesy of robotic parents)



**Fifth place Gear Heads (Ethan Clark, Axel Warrington and Jack Dinger) Posing with the star of the show 9050B!** (Courtesy of robotic parents)



**G-Force (Jace Kroll and Travis Townsend) Posing with the star of the show 9050A!** (Courtesy of robotic parents)



**G-Force-Jace and Travis waiting for a match to start.** (Courtesy of robotic parents)

**45<sup>th</sup> Annual KINGSWOOD RUMMAGE SALES** Southwest Sioux Falls, SD

<b>Wed.-Fri., April 27-29</b> 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM	<b>Sat., April 30</b> 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
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THE DAYS AND HOURS INDIVIDUAL SALES ARE OPEN WILL VARY. A LISTING OF PARTICIPATING SALES WILL BE AVAILABLE AT [www.kingswoodrummage.com/listings](http://www.kingswoodrummage.com/listings) AVAILABLE ON APRIL 22.

Kingswood Boundaries: SW Sioux Falls, between I-29 on the East and the Tea-Ellis Road on the West, 12th Street on North and 57th Street on South





**The Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt was held Saturday at the Groton City Park. Once 10 a.m. came, it was off the races. The eggs were collected in five minutes!** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Everyone is in line ready for the 10:00 a.m. start of the Easter Egg Hunt at the Groton City Park.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



**Groton Lions Club members helping with the Easter Egg Hunt were Steve Gebur, Karyn Babcock, Mayor Scott Hanlon, Dave Pigors, sitting next to bunny- honorary member April Abeln and Topper Tastad.** (Photo courtesy April Abeln)

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Dear EarthTalk: What kind of environmental toll is Russia's war on Ukraine taking?  
-- James P., Philadelphia, PA

Russia's war on Ukraine is one of the worst humanitarian crises facing Europe since World War II. As Russian military forces continue their violent, murderous invasion, environmental organizations worldwide are raising additional concerns of the war's far-reaching devastation to the environment.

Russia's military activities threaten Ukraine's environment through air, water and soil pollution. Toxic materials are released not only from munitions, but from the destruction of infrastructure, ranging from buildings and roads to pipelines and chemical storage sites. Ukraine's highly industrialized landscape intensifies the country's risk of toxic pollution from destruction in and around industrial facilities like fuel storage facilities and hazardous waste storage sites.

The Donbas region of eastern Ukraine knows this impact all too well: That area was the site of fighting after Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014, and is still suffering toxic contamination from leaking industrial facilities and munitions.

Ukraine is home to Europe's largest nuclear facility, the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, and fighting near the plant has caused fires to break out. Russian occupancy of the Chernobyl nuclear site, also located in Ukraine, is also deeply concerning. "Few regions on Earth are as poorly equipped to handle military conflict as the Chernobyl nuclear power plant," Senior White House Correspondent Alexander Nazaryan says. Russian movement in the area has launched radioactive dust from soil into the air, spiking radiation levels within the zone. While experts say there is no immediate danger to surrounding vicinities, the potential of nuclear disaster makes this war even more dangerous to the environment.

The country's already deteriorating water infrastructure is further threatened by the war. On top of Russian forces cutting off vital water resources that civilians need for drinking and sanitation, damages to wastewater infrastructure are causing untreated sewage to pollute water supplies. On the other end of the spectrum, artillery fire compacted with dry conditions due to climate change make the region susceptible to wildfires. "There is an urgent need for ecological monitoring to assess and minimize the environmental risks arising from the armed conflict," says UN Environment Program analyst Leila Urekenova.

The war is impacting climate change talks as well. Since Russia is one of the top three fossil fuel suppliers in the world, some green groups worry the climate change agenda will be sidelined. Already, the crisis is showing that other countries, especially the U.S., need to be less dependent on foreign fuel, and fossil fuels in general. Climate analysts hope, if anything good can come from the war, it will be the advancement of renewable energy investment to secure energy independence from nations like Russia.

In its present state, the environmental toll of the Russian war on Ukraine seems boundless. However, the full environmental impact may not be seen for generations to come. As Benjamin Franklin warned, "Wars are not paid for in wartime, the bill comes later."

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**Russia's war on the Ukraine is creating untold environmental mayhem in the form of air, water and soil pollution.** Credit: Manhhai, FlickrCC..

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## Recognizing PTSD

Post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, was first listed as a medical diagnosis in 1980. However, it has been recognized and called by many

different names throughout history. The first recorded description of PTSD is in the Epic of Gilgamesh which dates back to 2100 B.C. In The Iliad and The Odyssey, Homer wrote about Trojan War soldiers exhibiting the symptoms of PTSD. Shakespeare described a character in King Henry IV who suffered from post-traumatic nightmares.

During the Civil War, the terms "irritable heart" and "soldier's heart" were used to describe PTSD symptoms. In World War I it was called "combat stress" or "shell-shock". In World War II it became "battle fatigue" and "combat exhaustion". PTSD is not limited to soldiers, as the terms "concentration camp syndrome", "survivor syndrome", "battered child syndrome", and "rape trauma syndrome" were all recognized as conditions in the aftermath of WWII.

PTSD is a mental health condition resulting from experiencing trauma firsthand or from witnessing others undergoing a severely traumatic event. It can also result from repeated exposure to distressing details of an event. For example, many firefighters and other rescue personnel who searched for survivors after the 9/11 attacks suffer from PTSD.

The traumatic experience can lead to flashbacks or nightmares which can progress to physical reactions such as rapid heart rate or shaking when reminded of the event. Individuals with PTSD will often avoid any person, place, activity, or object that could trigger memories of the event. As a result, they may feel detached from others, or have persistent negative thoughts of themselves or others. They may have difficulty experiencing positive emotions like joy and happiness.

Another common symptom of PTSD is hyper vigilance and always feeling "on guard". This in turn can cause problems such as excessive sleeping, irritability, aggressive behavior, heightened startle response, or difficulty concentrating. If these symptoms last more than one month and interfere with multiple areas of a person's life, then they meet criteria for the diagnosis of PTSD.

PTSD is best treated by psychiatrists and psychotherapists with special training in this condition. Treatment often involves a combination of medication and therapy. Support groups, exercise, and mindfulness practices are also healthy coping strategies. And, as with any sickness, compassion from family and friends is crucial.

While the name for this illness may have changed, PTSD has been acknowledged for centuries. If you or someone you know is suffering from PTSD, don't wait. Talk to your doctor, counselor, or spiritual leader. For more information, call the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration National Helpline at 1-800-662-HELP (4357) or text HELP4U (435748).

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



By Jill Kruse, D.O.