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The Groton Independent

Vol. 139 No. 48 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2022 ♦ Established in 1889

School Starts Aug. 24th

The Groton Area School District will begin classes on Wednesday, Aug. 24th. With that, the blinking lights on Broadway will be activated. When school is in session, they will blink from 7:45 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and from 3:22 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The exception will be for Parent-Teacher Conferences when school will dismiss at 1 p.m. on Sept. 29 and Feb. 16. On those days, the afternoon lights will flash from 1 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Also, on Christmas Vacation when school dismisses at 2 p.m., the afternoon lights will flash from 2 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. When there is no school, the lights will not flash: Sept. 2, Sept. 30, Oct. 1, Nov. 23-25, Dec. 23-Jan. 3, Feb. 17-20, March 16-17, April 7-10



No outside watering starting Sept. 1

The unsightly water reservoir is due for a facelift, inside and out. This summer's major water project includes sandblasting the city's 450,000 gallon reservoir. So starting September 1, there will be no outside watering for 6-8 weeks while the reservoir is taken out of service.

This ground storage tank helps maintain water capacity in the city's water system. WEB Rural Water system supply's water to the city ground storage tank. The city then pumps this water up into the elevated tower for storage and maintain system pressure. WEB Water can meet and exceed the city's normal water demand when supplying water directly into the city ground storage tank but cannot supply water at the same rate when supplying directly into the city's elevated water tower. Also, while the city ground storage tank is out of service to do the work, this temporary change may present flow and pressure problems within both WEB and city water systems without the Groton public's help by reducing water use.

When you look at your city utility bill, the cost is included in the Water Surcharge of \$7.85. There will also be an expansion of the city infrastructure on both the south and north side of town which is included in that monthly surcharge.



Logan Ringgenberg, Lane Tietz and Ben Hoeft were putting the stickers on their helmets at uniform handout on Tuesday. Preseason story on Page 3. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Z & M Trucking lost four round bales Saturday evening on SD37 just south of US12 in Groton. Dwight Zerr from the city came to the rescue to clear off the road and salvage one of the bales, which were en route to Kansas. (Photos by Paul Kosel)



Jason Wambach and Mary Carrico filled one of the tubs with corn as they were setting up for the Family Fun Fest held. This was a project being done by Poet Bioprocessing. More photos on Page 6. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Frazier forgave him

I've held few heroes in my life. The first and greatest was Muhammad Ali who captured my imagination when he returned to the ring in 1970 after a three-and-a-half year exile by the boxing establishment as a prison sentence hung over his head.

His crime? Opposition as a conscientious objector to the war in Vietnam. He was right, of course, but few came to that conclusion until years later. He was charismatic, funny, engaging, and courageous in defense of his beliefs.

While Ali stood ringside as the prime of his career evaporated, the boxing establishment held a tournament, and a South Carolina-born steam-shovel of puncher emerged as the new champion, one of the greatest in history, Joe Frazier.

After the Supreme Court rightfully freed Ali from the threat of imprisonment, The Greatest, a master promoter, began spoiling for a fight with the relentless Frazier, casting him as the establishment "white man's" candidate. Ironically, it was Frazier who rose from gritty big city streets while Ali enjoyed a comfortable middle class upbringing in Louisville.

Things changed. Hard times for Ali. He struggled to get by during his excommunication as Frazier enjoyed a lavish lifestyle accorded the heavyweight boxing champion of the world. A showdown was inevitable. Neither of them could claim the championship without defeating the other. Two undefeated champions. Some cheered for Ali to regain his rightful throne, others hoped for his comeuppance.

Frazier quietly lent Ali money to get by until he could return. He lobbied Richard Nixon and the boxing establishment to restore Ali's license. I believe it was a simple unselfish act of kindness, but they needed each other. Ali couldn't have been Ali without Frazier, and Frazier couldn't have been Frazier without Ali.

Painfully for me, though, while promoting their first fight in 1971, Ali exhibited the cruel streak all boxers require. He was racist. He called Frazier an "Uncle Tom," and in the epic finale of their three bouts, labeled him a "gorilla." I cringed. Ali was fascinatingly complex. A spiritual hero. A world politician. Social activist. A womanizer. Often cruel before matches. Often compassionate in victory. He remained dignified through boxing-induced Parkinson's disease, and he never stopped being my hero. But he was flawed.

I met Joe Frazier in 1991, 20 years after he knocked down my hero in the 14th round, red tassels famously flying from Ali's boots. It was

20 years before Frazier would succumb to liver cancer. Ali wept.

Joe's son, Marvis, was in Bismarck to fight Virgil Hill, and the press conference was held on the riverboat. It was noisy and stuffy inside, so I went outside, leaned against the railing, and watched the shoreline pass by. A while later, a figure joined me. About my height, about my size, actually, but with an unmistakable coiled aura about him. Smokin' Joe Frazier. He leaned against the railing beside me, this great man, my hero's foil, and we began a quiet, relaxed conversation about how beautiful the Missouri River was.

He never stood a chance at the microphone, no one did when Ali was in the room. Joe wasn't a big talker. Just a big puncher with a huge left hook and an unconquerable heart. His trainer, Eddie Futch, out of love for the man, refused to let Frazer come out for the last round in Manilla. The closest he'd come to dying, Ali said later. By then, their skills were fading, but they'd each won a fight, and this would settle it. It was, someone said, a fight to decide the championship of each other.

As we talked, I felt pangs of guilt for cheering against Joe two decades before. And I did what most people he met probably didn't—I avoided the topic of boxing, and that's probably why he stayed as long as he did. I'd always hoped to meet Ali, but life is rife with unrequited wishes, and I'm not sure it could have been more poignant than my 20 minutes with Joe Frazier.

My ex-wife gave me a signed boxing glove from Frazier some years later, but reclaimed it in the divorce. Ouch. But I recently found an autographed photo of Smokin' Joe knocking Ali down, tassels forever suspended in defeat. I've got one of Ali, too, and I'm in the process of putting together a display of sports memorabilia. They'll soon be together again as they've always been in my mind.

Ali apologized in the end, and Frazier forgave him. I imagine them sometimes, leaning across the railing, together again, watching the shoreline go by.



That's Life

by Tony Bender

Weekly Vikings Recap

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

The 2022 preseason is finally here, and the Minnesota Vikings lined up against the Las Vegas Raiders on Sunday afternoon. As expected, both teams sat the majority of their starters and are leaving these games up to the reserves and rookies to earn a spot on an NFL roster.

For the past four seasons, despite many fans thinking we could do better at quarterback, the one thing that has been consistent is Kirk Cousins does not miss many games due to injury (Covid is another subject) and is one of the most durable quarterbacks in football. That said, the Vikings have a heated competition at the backup role. Sean Mannion is the lead candidate, having been the backup for the past two seasons, and Kellen Mond, the 2nd year player from Texas A&M, who many feel can be Kirk's replacement someday, will be battling it out for a roster spot. The rumors going into Sunday's game was that the new Viking regime does not have their backup QB on the roster today and may be looking at the waiver wire as teams begin cutting players.

In Sunday's game, Kellen Mond may have moved ahead of Mannion for the #2 spot. Mond looked much more poised in the backfield and made a couple of nice throws to extend drives and ultimately hitting on a pair of touchdowns. Obviously the Vikings need to make sure they have a solid backup and cannot rely on past history to assume Kirk will always be available.

A few things stood out in Sunday's game.

First, the Vikings stable of running backs looks to be a bright spot for this team. Alexander Mattison is the confirmed backup to Dalvin Cook, but Ty Chandler (50 yds) and Kene Nwangwu (41 yds) will push Mattison for the #2 spot. Mattison is in the final year of his rookie contract, and the Vikings will need decide on whether to keep him for years to come or look to trade him to a team that may incur an injury to their starter.

Secondly, the tight end position needs to get shored up. We all know Irv Smith, Jr. has all the talent in the world, but his inability to stay on the field due to injuries may cause the Vikings to look elsewhere. Allowing Tyler Conklin to leave in free agency may have been a mistake as he proved he could be a starter in this league. With one of the best wide receiving groups in the league, maybe Kevin O'Connell is not too concerned with production as opposed to needing a solid blocker to give Kirk some extra time.

Third, the young defensive players have a long way to go. Now that all of the guys they are playing against are big and fast, they will need to adjust to the speed of the NFL and turn it up a notch. It's still hard to tell in the first game of the preseason as most of the top defensive players did not dress for the game and will undoubtedly make life easier for the youngsters when the regular season begins.

Finally, rookie Ed Ingram may have earned himself a starting spot at right guard. He stood out when the Vikings ran the ball well, but we need to be cautious as he was lined up mostly against backups and practice squad players. Solid guard play is critical as there have been concerns about the center position and Bradbury can use as much help as possible.

A view from training camp.

The family ventured out to the open practice at TCO Performance Center on August 8th. It has been a couple of years due to Covid restrictions, but we highly recommend it to all Viking fans. In addition to watching the players close-up on the field, the Viking museum and pro shops are well worth the visit. You never know what former players might be hanging out around the facility. It is hard to believe that any player that visits the facility as a rookie or free agent would want to play anywhere else. Make the trip in you get the chance.

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2022 Groton Area Football Team

Keegen Tracy, Easten Ekern, Karsten Jeschke, Payton Mitchell, Karter Moody, Ryder Johnson, Bradin Althoff, Christian Ehresmann, Kaden Kampa, Gavin Englund and Tristin McGannon; in the middle row, left to right, are Assistant Coaches Travis Kurth and Seth Erickson, Lincoln Krause, Ben Hoeft, Nick Morris, Caden McInerney, Korbin Kucker, Lane Tietz, Kellen Antonsen, Aiden Heathcote, Logan Warrington, Drew Thurston, Brevin Flihs and Head Coach Shaun Wanner; in front, left to right, are Charlie Frost, Holden Sippel, Logan Ringgenberg, Cole Bisbee, Caleb Hanten, Kaleb Antonsen, Ethan Gengerke, Tate Larson, Andrew Marzahn, Colby Dunker, Teylor Diegel and Brynlee Dunker; on the ground are Brooke Gengerke, and cheer-leaders Anna Bisbee, Hannah Monson, Shea Jandel, Camryn Kurtz, Abby Jensen, Shaylee Pe-terson, Nia Garcia and Cadence Feist. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Tigers to put work ethics on the field

The 2021 Northeast Conference Champions will be challenged this year after losing a number of players to graduation and finding and training new players to fill those roles. Coach Shaun Wanner, starting his 22nd year at Groton Area, returns six starters offensively and defensively with 16 returning letterwinners.

Andrew Marzahn, now a senior, is a three-year returning starter. He had 300 yards rushing last year and is on the roster at 6' and 185 pounds. He doubles on the field as a running back on offense and a defensive back on defense.

Ethan Gengerke is a senior at 6-4, 190 pounds. The wide receiver had 120 yards receiving and he also plays defensive end.

The other returning seniors are Kaleb Antonsen, 6-0, 215 lbs., playing center offensively; and Caleb Hanten, 6-2, 225, playing tackle offensively.

The returning juniors are Logan Ringgenberg, 6-3, 235, playing guard offensively and defensive tackle; Holden Sippel, 6-0, 200, playing guard offensively and also defensive end; Ethan Gengerke, 6-4, 190, defensive end; and Colby Dunker, 6-1, 205 pounds, linebacker; and sophomore Christian Ehresmann, 5-10, 165, linebacker.

"We lost most of our skilled positions," Wanner said. "We have some good young skilled kids that will get better as the season goes on. We should be able to run and pass the ball, which will be beneficial.

Lane Tietz will be filling the quarterback shoes again. He lettered his freshman year. Tietz was quarterback when Kaden Kurtz was injured two years ago and he returns to the starting position this year. He had passed 800 yards as a freshman. Tietz is a junior, 6-0, 180 pounds.

"I feel if we stay healthy and continue to develop our young, skilled kids, we should be pretty competitive by the end of the season," Wanner said. "We have a good work ethic!"

Others coming in to fill some shoes are letterwinners and sophomores Kaden Kampa, 6-0, 185 pounds at offensive line; Teylor Diegel, 5-10, 165 pounds; and Korbin Kucker, linebacker, 5-10, 175 pounds. Another senior is Tate Larson (lettered his sophomore year), wide receiver and defensive end, will see a lot of action, 6-4, 190 pounds. Other letterwinners are senior Cole Bisbee, 6-0, 185 pounds, offensive guard and linebacker; and sophomores Caden McInerney, 6-0, 175 pounds, wide receiver and defensive end; and Payton Mitchell, 5-10, 170 pounds, center and linebacker.

Others filling out the roster are junior Bradin Althoff, kicker-punter, 6-2, 220 pounds; sophomores Kellen Antonsen, WR/DB, 5-9, 125; Brevin Flihs, RB/LB, 5-9, 165; Nick Morris, WR/DB, 6-0, 165; Karsten Jeschke, RB/DE, 5-10, 175; Easten Ekern, WR/DE, 6-0, 170; Aiden Heathcote, OG/OT, 5-9, 175; and Drew Thurston, OG/DT, 5-9, 200; and freshmen Keegen Tracy, WR/DB, 5-10, 155; Ryder Johnson, QB/S, 6-2, 165; Lincoln Krause, WR/DB, 5-8, 145; Logan Warrington, WR/DE, 5-10, 170; Tristin McGannon, RB/DB, 5-10, 160; Ben Hoeft, OG/LB, 5-10, 180; Charlie Frost, OT/DT, 5-10, 185; Gavin Englund, OT/DT, 5-10, 190; and Karter Moody, OG/DT, 6-2, 220.

- Paul Kosel

Football

Fri., Aug. 19	Roncalli @ DacotahSta.	7:00
Fri., Aug. 26	Redfield	7:00
Fri., Sept. 2	Dakota Hills Coop	7:00
Fri., Sept. 9	at Clark/Willow Lake	7:00
Fri., Sept. 16	at Deuel	7:00
Fri., Sept. 23	Sisseton (HC)	7:00
Fri., Sept. 30	Webster	7:00
Fri., Oct. 14	at Mobridge-Pollock	7:00
Thurs., Oct. 20	First Round Playoffs	
Thurs., Oct. 27	Second Round Playoffs	
Fri., Nov. 4	Quarterfinals	
Nov. 11	State at Dakota Dome	2:30

Groton Golfers Take Fourth at Sioux Valley

The Groton Area boys soccer team placed fourth at the Sioux Valley meet held August 15. Carter Simon placed eighth, shooting a 43 in the front nine and a 41 in the back nine for a total score of 83. Brevin Flihs shot a 41 and a 46 for a total score of 87. Logan Pearson shot a 41 and a 50 for a total score of 91. Jace Johnson shot a 48 and a 44 for a total score of 92. Cole Simon shot a 52 and a 44 for a total score of 96. Andrew Marzahn shot a 51 and a 49 for a total score of 100.

Sioux Valley Blue won the team title with a 324 followed by Roncalli with a 336, Sioux Valley Gold with a 341, Groton 353, Milbank 356, Flandreau 370, Redfield 404 and Sisseton 426.

- Paul Kosel

Girls Soccer opens season with win

The Groton Area girls soccer team traveled to Garretson on Saturday and came home with a 2-1 win. Garretson scored first and had a 1-0 lead at half time. Groton Area scored two goals in the second half to get the win.

Groton Area will travel out west this weekend, taking on Belle Fourche on Friday at 5 p.m. and St. Thomas More on Saturday at 11 a.m.

The Groton Independent

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Frederick School Aug. 8, 2022

Meeting Minutes FREDERICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #6-2

Regular Board of Education Meeting
August 8, 2022

A regular meeting of the Frederick Area Board of Education was called to order on August 8, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. by President Rich Schlosser. Members present were Rich Achen, Jon Ellwein, Alex Hart and Eric Sumption. Others present were Superintendent/9-12 Principal/Athletic Director Jeff Kosters, K-8 Principal Jessica Ringgenberg and Business Manager Shauna Severson.

The meeting began with all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

No one was present for public comment.

Motion 2023-018 Motion by Achen, second by Sumption to approve the agenda with the addition to discuss High School Building Project. All aye, carried.

Motion 2023-019 Motion by Sumption, second by Ellwein to approve the following consent agenda items. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

a. July 11, 2022 Minutes
b. July 2022 Financial Report, Custodial Accounts and Investments

c. July 2022 Payroll
d. August 2022 bills
Financial Report:

General Fund- Checking: Bal 7-1-22: \$505,905.45; Receipts: \$101,136.19; Disbursements: \$170,540.24; Bal 7-31-22 \$436,501.40. Investments: Bal 7-1-22: \$275,359.20; Interest: \$690.70; Bal 7-31-22: \$276,049.90. Ending Fund Balance: \$712,551.30.

Capital Outlay Fund- Checking: Bal 7-1-22: \$652,407.56; Receipts: \$5996.13; Disbursements: \$23,838.10; Bal 7-31-22 \$634,565.59. Investments: Bal 7-1-22: \$1,933,634.20; Interest: \$0; Bal 7-31-22: \$1,933,634.20. Ending Fund Balance: \$2,568,199.79.

Special Education Fund- Checking: Bal 7-1-22: \$157,001.30; Receipts: \$767.71; Disbursements: \$19,864.76; Bal 7-31-22 \$137,904.25. Investments: Bal 7-1-22: \$1,446,175.05; Interest: \$0; Bal 7-31-22: \$1,446,175.05. Ending Fund Balance: \$1,584,079.30.

Food Service Fund: Bal 7-1-22: \$8361.45; Receipts: \$0; Disbursements: \$1491.43; Bal 7-31-22 \$6870.02.
Drivers Ed Fund: Bal 7-1-22: (\$1321.65); Receipts: \$1388.00; Disbursements: \$66.00; Bal 7-31-22 \$35.

Custodial Fund: Bal 7-1-22: \$6339.45; Receipts: \$941.93; Disbursements: \$707.00; Bal 7-31-22 \$6574.38.

Ovid J Stevens Scholarship: Bal 7-1-22: \$.85; Receipts: \$0; Disbursements: \$0; Bal 7-31-22 \$.85. Investments: Bal 7-1-22: \$26,437.99; Interest: \$0; Bal 7-31-22: \$26,437.99

Claims approved: July 2022 Payroll - General Fund salaries 62,589.77; Special Education salaries 11,729.24; EFTPS-federal income tax/Social Security/Medicare 21,348.10; AFLAC-supplemental insurance 1229.69; American Funds- retirement 1,341.18; Delta Dental-insurance 1,858.90; The Standard-life insurance 254.84; Security Benefits-retirement 1073.22; Optilegra-vision insurance 378.71; Wellmark-health insurance 17,402.00; SD Retirement 11,698.22; SD Retirement Supplemental, 478.22.

Bills approved: General Fund: Agtegra-fuel, 1075.50; Amazon-supplies, 766.23; (cc)Amazon-supplies, 1240.74; Arrowwood Resort-supt travel, 217.84; (cc) BP of Brookings-fuel, 68.56; Bledsoe Chiropractic-DOT physical, 90.00; CWD-concessions, 1280.37; (cc)Cenex-fuel, 93.00; Custodial Fund-impres, 307.00; Dakota Broadcasting-radio ads, 500.00; (cc)Delta Airlines-FCLLA baggage fees, 60.00; eBoard Solutions-reprint, 300.00; Gate-House Media SD Holdings-job classifieds, 374.60; GDI News-publishing, 474.26; Gopher-PE supplies, 1291.69; Goverlan-IT Maintenance support, 343.00; Graves IT Solutions-server upgrade, 500.00; Innovative-supplies, 285.22; Interactive Educational Services-website hosting and maintenance, 850.00; JVT-telephone, 246.70; JM Electric-gym floor/fb field, 739.21; Jostens-yearbooks, 619.00; (cc)Kens-fuel, 94.01; Lakeshore Learning-supplies, 134.52, M-F Athletics-PE supplies, 298.10; (cc)Manchester Grant Hyatt San Diego-FCLLA travel, 1515.90; MARC-cleaning

supplies, 1005.35; Menards-maintenance supplies, 120.72; MDU-electric, 2335.38; Pan-torium Cleaners-maintenance supplies, 225.90; Pashen, Brock-coach training, 35.00; Price Plumbing-plumbing, 446.00; Scholastic News-subscriptions, 422.83; (cc)Scholastic Testing Service-testing materials, 96.56; Sumption, Michelle- FCLLA travel, 227.74; Town of Frederick-utilities, 670.23; Training Room-athletic supplies, 160.81; (cc) Uber-FCLLA travel, 54.82; (cc) Visa-fees, 42.12; (cc)WalMart-supplies, 56.52. Capital Outlay Fund: A&B Business Solutions-managed print services, 693.96; (cc)Amazon-time clock, 349.99; Applied Computer Systems-software licenses, 741.14; Custodial Fund-impres, 400.00; Future Pro Inc-stage mats, 2309.32; Imagine Learning-digital libraries, 1800.00; Miller Construction-fb field shed, 1061.23; Ramsey Education-curriculum, 451.91; Staples-student/staff laptops, 46,879.23; Teacher Innovations-planbook, 243.00. Special Education Fund: (cc) Amazon-supplies, 261.40; Avera-OT, 887.40; Special Educator Academy-membership, 250.00. Impres Checks: Bon Homme VB Booster Club-VB equipment, 400.00; Kosters, Jeff-conference meals, 48.00; SD Dept of Labor & Regulation-reemployment assistance benefits, 224.00; USPS-box fee and increase, 35.00. Custodial Fund: BSN Sports-fb jerseys, 1305.16.

Motion 2023-020 Motion by Achen, second by Hart to approve Cahill, Bauer & Associates, LLC as the FY23 Auditor and approve the Engagement Letter. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

The following reports were presented:

Jeff Kosters: Superintendent/9-12 Principal/Athletic Director
Jessica Ringgenberg: K-8 Principal

2023-021 Motion by Hart, second by Ellwein to approve the following coaching contracts: Troy Podoll-JH Football, Brock Pashen-JH Football All voted Aye. Motion carried.

2023-022 Motion by Hart, second by Ellwein to acknowledge the following volunteers for the Leola/Frederick FB program: Warren Sumption, Bryson Thorpe and Kennedy Kosters, All voted Aye. Motion carried.

The possibility of a HS Building Project was discussed; exploring options for timeline and examination of current building.

The school board would like to express their appreciation to John and Warren Sumption for removing the old shed and installing the new hydrant, and Doug Braa for his work in preparing the area for the new shed to be placed.

2023-023 Motion by Sumption, second by Ellwein to adjourn at 7:41 p.m. All aye, carried.

Rich Schlosser, President
Shauna Severson, Business Manager

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Brown County Aug. 9, 2022

Meeting Minutes

AUGUST 9, 2022 - GENERAL MEETING

Meeting called to order by Chair Sutton at 8:45 A.M. in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. Present were Commissioners Feickert, Fjeldheim, Sutton, and Gage. Commissioner Wiese was absent. Commissioner Fjeldheim led the pledge of allegiance. Commission Chair Sutton requested a moment of Silence in Remembrance for Don Fischer. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Gage to approve the agenda. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: Trevor Jones with Carbon Summit Solutions was present for any questions. NECOG COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PASS-THROUGH:

Ted Dickey updated the commission on a grant supporting the Y Youth Development Center. September 20, 2022 set for grant application and publication. Moved by Fjeldheim, Seconded by Feickert. All members present voting aye. Motion Carried. BID OPENING IMEG-ELM LAKE ACCESS ROAD BID OPENING: 4 Bids received, Moved by Feickert, Seconded by Gage to defer until August 16, 2022. All

members present voting aye. Motion carried. NAME AUDITOR REPLACEMENT: Lynn Heupel was named as Interim Auditor for 2 years. She will have to run in the 2024 election. Moved by Gage, seconded by Fjeldheim. All members present voting aye. Motion Carried. SET HEARING DATE FOR BDM WATER APPLICATION: Ross Aldentaler, Deputy State's Attorney, met to discuss setting hearing date for BDM Water Application. He recommended August 30, 2022 for hearing date. Moved by Feickert, seconded by Fjeldheim. All members present voting aye. Motion Carried. INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF ABERDEEN AND BROWN COUNTY: Dave Lunzman, Chief Deputy Sheriff, discussed the need for an MOU between the City of Aberdeen and Brown County. Grant money has been used for body cams, radios, towers, etc. in the past. Moved by Feickert, seconded by Gage. All members present voting aye. Motion Carried. WAIVE FEES FOR FREE FALL RESIDENTIAL CLEANUP: Mike Scott, Landfill Manager, met to discuss waiving the fees for the fall residential cleanup. Landfill will be the only drop site for the fall cleanup. Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Gage. All members present voting aye. Motion Carried. MINUTES:

Moved by Gage, seconded by Gage to approve the general meeting minutes of August 2, 2022. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. CLAIMS: Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Gage to approve the following claims: Professional Fees: ABERDEEN FIRE & RESCUE \$950.00; ACE REFRIGERATION LLC \$102.00; Aleda Tollefson \$50.00; Alesha Stadel \$50.00; Ashley Seeklander \$50.00; AV-ERA ST. LUKE'S \$2,370.99; Brian Braaten \$2,959.19; Cathy Jorgenson \$50.00; Cindy Schnabel \$50.00; DAKOTA COUNSELING GROUP, LLC \$2,100.00; Doreen Sperry \$50.00; Florence Kraus \$50.00; GELLHAUS & GELLHAUS, PC \$80.00; Grant Petersen \$137.50; HELMS & ASSOCIATES INC \$240.00; JAMES KRAMP \$12,000.00; Joy Braun \$50.00; Karen Porter Bartell \$50.00; Kathy Novstrup \$50.00; Katie Saterbak \$75.00; KENNEDY PIER LOFTUS, LLP \$151.50; LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES INC \$90.00; Linda Thurston \$50.00; Lora Schaanaman \$50.00; Lucille M. Youngberg \$203.11; Mike Grann \$50.00; Mysty Schaanaman \$150.00; Nancy Klungseth \$50.00; Randy Schweer \$75.00; Rosalie Schumacher \$50.00; SANFORD HEALTH \$746.80; SANFORD HEALTH OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE ABERDEEN \$42.00; Shirelle Stadel \$50.00; Susan Gerlach \$50.00; Terry Burks \$250.00; Tonya Zinter \$50.00; Tyler Meyers \$150.00; Val Dashed \$50.00; Weston Geppert \$100.00; YANKTON COUNTY TREASURER \$352.20; Zack Post \$150.00 Publishing: DAKOTA BROADCASTING, LLC \$210.00; GROTON INDEPENDENT \$242.55; HUB CITY RADIO \$1,390.00; MIDSTATES PRINTING \$6,557.50 Repairs & Maintenance: CRAWFORD TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT \$3,024.65; DAKOTA FLUID POWER INC \$78.71; DIAMOND MOWERS INC \$133.13; DIESEL MACHINERY \$14,790.00; DOUBLE D BODY SHOP INC \$228.00; ECOLAB PEST ELIMINATION \$147.16; HF JACOBS & SON CONSTRUCTION INC \$4,133.16; Locators & Supplies Inc. \$70.29; Meister Mowing LLC \$1,395.00; MIDWEST PUMP & TANK \$13,047.81; POMPS TIRE SERVICE, INC \$619.64; PRO WINDMILL INC. \$440.00; RDO EQUIPMENT CO. - AG \$609.95; ROLAND L. MOERKE \$6,608.75; SEWER DUCK INC \$550.00; STEVEN LUST AUTOMOTIVE \$213.48; TRANSOURCE TRUCK & EQUIPMENT, INC. \$19,635.88; WALTH SAFETY SERVICE INC \$370.00; WOODMAN REFRIGERATION, INC \$552.04 Supplies: AGTEGRA COOPERATIVE \$51,060.08; APH STORES, INC \$237.84; ARAMARK UNIFORM & CAREER APPAREL GROUP, INC \$132.50; BAKKEN BUILD MAINTENANCE \$500.00; BUTLER MACHINERY CO \$3,618.05; CARTNEY BEARING \$137.86; COLE PAPERS \$2,472.63; CRAWFORD TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT \$2,993.30; CRESCENT ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO \$44.73; DAKOTA FLUID POWER INC \$1,843.84; DAKOTA OIL \$571.17; DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP \$207.27; DIA-

MOND MOWERS INC \$1,316.19; DIESEL MACHINERY \$935.25; GREAT WESTERN TIRE INC \$6,169.25; INTERIOR DESIGN CONCEPTS, INC \$474.80; JENSEN ROCK & SAND INC \$111,599.40; KAREN SWANK \$40.50; LARRY BECKER \$601.86; LEIDHOLDT TOOL SALES, LLC \$92.97; LIEN TRANSPORTATION COMPANY \$69,477.83; Linde Gas & Equipment Inc. \$120.85; Locators & Supplies Inc. \$462.00; MB LLC \$20.00; MENARDS \$351.74 MIDSTATES PRINTING \$1,334.33; MIDWEST PUMP & TANK \$294.80; PHARM-CHEM \$629.00; Plains Mechanical Services, Inc. \$14,132.68; PLUMBING & HEATING WHOLESALE, INC. \$325.81; R.D. OFF-UTT COMPANY \$2,055.10; RDO EQUIPMENT CO. - AG \$3,156.28; RUNNINGS \$74.99; SHARE CORP \$1,035.60; Tom Paepke \$187.74; TRANSOURCE TRUCK & EQUIPMENT, INC. \$14,233.80; TRI STATE WATER \$35.00; US FOODS \$8,832.09 Travel & Conference: Ann Gibbs \$50.00; Becky Erickson \$50.00; Bobbi Dempsey \$50.00; Brian Sharp \$50.00; Brianna Arrowwood \$50.00; Cara Dennert \$50.00; Cathy Jorgenson \$27.07; Courtney Wolff \$111.10; Deb Stamm \$246.64; Evalyn Smith \$50.00; Grant Petersen \$177.92; Gretchen Sharp \$50.00; Hannah Sumption \$50.00; Jeff VanderWal \$284.42; John Eilertson \$306.04; Joy Braun \$28.84; KAREN MIK-KELSON \$50.00; Karen Porter Bartell \$38.92; Katie Saterbak \$227.28; KEYLI SAWATZKY \$700.00; Lisa Fedeler \$272.02; Marsha Braun \$119.56; Mike Grann \$115.61; Pat Dennert \$50.00; Randy Schweer \$175.58; Renee Axness \$50.00; Rosalie Schumacher \$56.78; Stephanie Jacobson \$183.46; Tayler Wolff \$111.10; Tyler Goplen \$245.70; Tyler Meyers \$298.92; Weston Geppert \$139.12; Zack Post \$263.20 Utilities: CITY OF ABERDEEN \$1,494.77; ECONOMY PROPANE LLC \$103.82; MID-CONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS \$127.52; NORTHWESTERN ENERGY & COMMUNICATIONS \$3,295.73; STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA \$128.08; TOWN OF FREDERICK \$76.00; WEB WATER DEVELOPMENT ASSOC. INC. \$96.53 Others: SD DEPT OF AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES \$4,476.47 All members present voting aye. Motion carried. HR REPORT: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve the following Human Resource Report: Acknowledge resignation of Shawn Schnabel, Brown County IT Office, Full time; Effective August 12, 2022. Request to fill. Acknowledge adjusting end date from August 2, 2022, HR report; Retirement of Kurt Smith, Brown County Fairgrounds Manager, full time; effective August 31, 2022. Approve hiring of Martha Stohr, Brown County Register of Deeds Deputy, full time; Starting wage of \$16,27/hour; effective August 23, 2022. Approve hiring of Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor, full time; starting salary \$63,448/year; effective September 6, 2022. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. LOTTERY PERMIT: Moved by Gage, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve a lottery permit for the Aspire Foundation Inc. for an event at the Brown County Fair. Commission Sutton abstained from the vote. All other members present voting aye. Motion carried. HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT RIGHT OF WAY: Continuation of the previous update. Moved by Feickert, seconded by Fjeldheim. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. OUT OF STATE TRAVEL REQUEST: Moved by Gage, seconded by Feickert to approve out of state travel request from the Planning & Zoning Office for two employees to attend a conference in North Dakota. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. OTHER BUSINESS: Carl Perry discussed that August 22, 2022 is the upcoming regional jail planning meeting. Commissioner Feickert asked Carl Perry for update on Property Tax Study, Carl stated he has not seen the update yet. ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Gage to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:11 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. Brown County Auditor

Published August 17, 2022, at the total approximate cost of \$84.16 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 21464

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**Brown County
B.D.M. Rural
Water Notice**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Brown County Commissioners will hold a public hearing for the purpose of receiving public testimony concerning the Application by B.D.M. Rural Water System, Inc. which has been filed with the Brown County Auditor requesting authority to install water lines and appurtenances within Brown County road rights-of-way pursuant to SDCL §§31-26-24 and 31-26-25. The hearing on this Application will be held on the 30th day of August, 2022 at the hour of 8:45 o'clock AM. In the Commissioners Room at the Brown County Courthouse. A copy of the Application is on file with the Brown County Auditor.

All interested parties will be entitled to provide information, opinions, and arguments concerning this Application.

ATTEST:
Brown County Auditor
Published August 17 and 24, 2022, at the total approximate cost of \$19.87 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 21465

**Westport Town
Aug. 1, 2022
Meeting Minutes**

Town of Westport General Meeting

August 1st, 2022
The Town of Westport met on August 1st, 2022 with Shane Storm, Mitch Wilson and Doreen Hertel present.

The following expenses were presented:

City General NWPS (\$229.96), Eddie's Northside (\$207.68), Brown County Treasurer (\$230.04), Groton Independent (\$14.62), Bank charge (\$2.00) & Jeff Schroder (\$209.99).

Sewer NWPS (\$ 2238.02) & NRWA -loan repayment (\$210.13).

Water WEB (\$1,896.13), State of SD (\$15.00) & Water Maintenance District (\$59.18).

Mitch Wilson made motion to pay all bills; second by Shane Storm.

The following deposits were presented:

City General Brown County Collections (\$366.93), State of SD (\$1,738.63) & Interest (\$4.35).

Sewer Resident Payments - (\$3,000.00).

Water Resident Payments - (\$4,596.35).

NEW BUSINESS:
Budget was presented and approved for 2023.

WEB water has raised their rates by about 20%. The city

will investigate into paying off the current water loan. This will get rid of the surcharge. We will use the COVID funds and General funds. That way the city can reduce the base water rate and just increase the gallon rate and help the city residents with very little increase in water.

The city has a current account at Interstate bank. When Interstate bank took over Great Western bank, they no longer support the type of account the city has, so we are unable to access the on line banking. We will also be required to purchase new checks as the routing number has changed and they will no longer accept our current checks after January 1st, 2023. We are going to look on changing banks.

Doreen Hertel, Finance Officer
Published August 17, 2022, at the total approximate cost of \$20.42 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 21461

**Claremont Town
Aug. 9, 2022
Meeting Minutes**

The board of trustees for the town of Claremont met on 8-9-2022 at 7pm at city hall. President Johnson called the meeting to order with trustees Spencer and Rasmussen present. The minutes of the July meeting were approved on a motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Spencer. On a motion by Spencer and seconded by Rasmussen the following warrants were allowed: General: Missi Smith, 17 hrs mowing, 162.70; Dacotah Bank, city hall loan, 573.55; NWE, st lights, 214.40; Grand Slam Computers, testing and reloading computer, 332.50; Br. Co. Treasurer, mosquito spraying, 485.62; GDI, publishing, 13.80; Don Vandervorst, 11 1/2 hrs, 126.50; Charla Rye, quick books install, 365.74; Charla Rye, wage, 350.00; James Valley, telecom, 91.70; Jason Spencer, mowing gas, 214.97; WSSW: DANR, environmental fee, 60.00; SD Public Health Lab, water testing, 30.00; BDM, water purchased, 1325.50; Helms and Asso., sewer /grant, 11347.65; U.S. Bank, waste water payment, 5461.36; DPC, main lift logged, 1629.59; SD ARWS, annual dues, 360.00; Rural Development, water loan, 576.00; A resident concerned about water flow was wondering if a culvert under drivingly on 6th Ave. The board members discussed this issue- it will not enable water to go any where so matter was tabled. With no further business before the board a motion was made to adjourn by Rasmussen and seconded by Spencer. Motion carried.

C Rye, F.O.
Published August 17, 2022, at the total approximate cost of \$15.45 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 21462

CLASSIFIEDS

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and Card of Thanks**

The following rates are for Classifieds published in both the Groton Daily Independent and the Groton Independent, and posted online at www.grotonsd.net. Cut rate in half if you just want it in the GDI or just the weekly.

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Now hiring full or part-time positions. Tire handler, responsible for assisting in unloading tires from semi trailers, feeding the tire shredder and general cleanup tasks. Must be able to lift 50 lbs. Starting pay \$16/hr. Contact Robert Wegner at 605-397-7579. Saber Shred Solutions (formerly New Deal Tire Groton, SD)

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

NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATOR: Strasburg Care Center has an open position for Administrator in a 44-bed, skilled nursing facility, in Strasburg, ND. The ideal candidate will have a four-year degree and the ability to be licensed as a Nursing Home Administrator in the state of ND. This individual is responsible for the overall leadership and management of the organization including planning, organizing, staffing, and directing the facility to ensure quality care for the residents; to be knowledgeable of and implement federal, state, and local laws and regulations applicable to the facility, residents, personnel, and physical plant. SCC offers a competitive compensation and benefit package. For consideration, please forward resume to: Strasburg Care Center, ATTN: Brian Schumacher, 409 S 3rd Street, Strasburg, ND 58573. 701-336-4643 (fax). scadmin@bektel.com

FULL-TIME DEPUTY SHERIFF, Hyde County Sheriff's Office, Highmore, SD. Applicants must be certified in law enforcement or willing to be trained and certified within one year of hire date. Experience preferred. Request applications from Hyde County Auditor's Office, 605-852-2519 or hydeaud@venturecomm.net. Submit completed application to Hyde County Auditor's Office, 412 Commercial Ave. SE, Highmore, SD 57345. Open until position filled. Hyde County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

THE MOBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT is hiring for full-time 911 Dispatchers and full-time Police Officers. Pay is DOE. Applications may be obtained through the Mobridge Police De-

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partment website or by calling 605-845-5000.

HCSO JAIL ADMINISTRATOR, Pierre SD. 168 bed facility, +40 full time staff. Grade 21, \$32.57 to \$39.66 DOE. Contact Sheriff Callahan @ 605.773.7470

PERKINS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT is accepting job applications for a full-time employee. A valid South Dakota CDL is preferred or be willing to obtain a CDL within 6 months, and be at least 18 years of age. Operates a variety of heavy construction grade equipment and trucks utilized in the construction, maintenance and repair of county roads and bridges. Performs additional various tasks in the maintenance of county roads, bridges, traffic control signs, fences and related facilities. Regularly works 40-60 hours per week. Benefits Package Offered. Applications can be picked up at the Perkins County Highway Department Office in the Courthouse at Bison, SD, at www.perkinscounty.org, or please call 605-244-5629. Perkins County is An Equal Opportunity Employer.

THE CITY OF FAITH is accepting applications for a Full Time Deputy Police Officer. Please contact the City Office at 605-967-2261 for an application. EOE.

LAND

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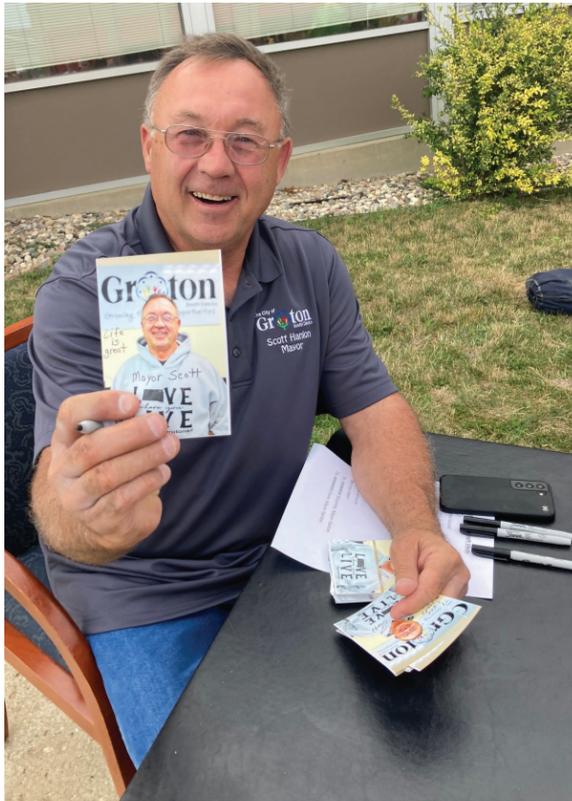


60th Anniversary
Open House
Sunday August 21, 2-4 p.m.
to honor 60 years of marriage for
Richard and Wava Seurer
SEAS Catholic Church in Groton
(please no gifts)



A good crowd showed up for the Family Fun Fest held Thursday night at Groton's Main Street. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Mayor Scott Hanlon had auto-graphed photos that he handed out. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



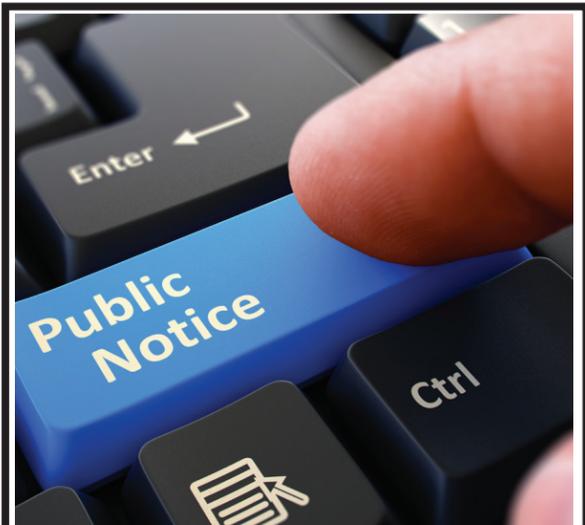
Booths were set up on the sidewalks downtown. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

SPORTS REPORTER

The Brookings Register is looking for an ambitious and talented individual to fill a sports reporter position. Coverage area includes high school athletics in Brookings and area towns. Candidates will produce game stories and features, as well content for our digital platforms. Candidates should be self-starters who can generate story ideas and meet deadlines. This position requires the ability to work nights and weekends, strong writing and grammar skills, knowledge of AP style and solid photography skills. This is a salaried position with a full benefits package. Any persons interested in joining an award-winning daily newspaper should send a cover letter and resume, along with references and writing samples to:

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EOE



All of the public notices now appearing in the Groton Independent are posted on-line at **sdpublicnotices.com**. There are a number of search options available. To see the notices published in the Groton Independent, select **THE GROTON INDEPENDENT** and then search.



Groton Police Officer Justin Cleveland talks with the kids and has them sign up for a bicycle helmet. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



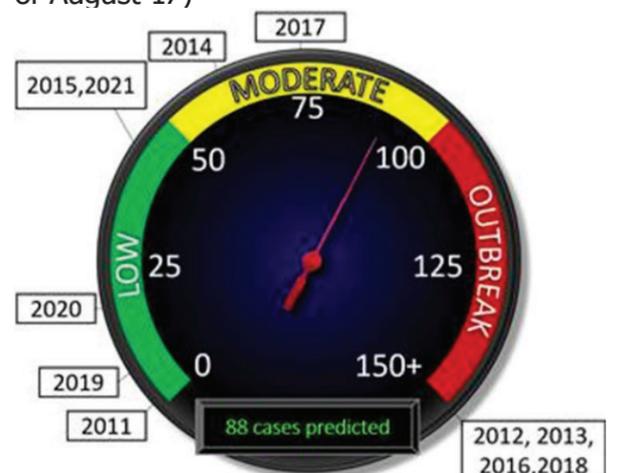
Pastor Josh Jetto of the Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance Church loaded up the fish hook. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

SD WNV (as of August 17):

- 6 human cases reported (Brookings, Brown, Kingsbury, Sully, Union)
- 4 human viremic blood donors (Minnehaha, Potter, Spink)
- 7 counties with positive mosquito pools (Beadle, Brookings, Brown, Codington, Hughes, Lincoln, Minnehaha)

US WNV (as of August 11): 54 cases (AL, AZ, CA, CO, LA, MN, MS, MO, NE, ND, PA, SD, TX) and 4 deaths

WNV Prediction Model – Total Number of Cases Projected for 2022, South Dakota (as of August 17)



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Farm Times Riddles & Rhymes!

Who Am I?

1. hens (poultry)
 2. cheese (dairy)
 3. honey (bee)
 4. sheep (livestock)
 5. trees (orchard)
 6. swamp (cranberry bog)
 7. wines (vineyard)

What Did He Say?

1. until the cows come home
 2. when pigs fly
 3. work for chicken feed
 4. one horse town
 5. stubborn as a mule
 6. pull a rabbit out of your hat
 7. when the cat's away the mice will play
 8. get your ducks in a row
 9. get someone's goat
 10. golden goose

A. not willing to change one's mind
 B. people will do what they want while the boss is gone
 C. until it's very, very late
 D. work for almost nothing
 E. something of great value
 F. do something surprising
 G. annoy or bother someone
 H. town without many people
 I. organize things well
 J. never

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 702 Main St Webster, SD 57274
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 rlikness@amfam.com

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 Downtown Groton

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CASE II AGRICULTURE


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 Harry Implement Ferney ~ 395-6421

Hanlon Brothers Gravel Hauling
 New & Cleaning of Stockdams
 395-6531

MJ's Sinclair
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 397-2717

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 J.R. Johnson 397-8155
 Agent

Kolker Law Office
 102 N Main, Groton
 (605) 397-8464
 Kari A. Bartling

Football

Fri., Aug. 19	Roncalli @ DacotahSta	7:00
Fri., Aug. 26	Redfield	7:00
Fri., Sept. 2	Dakota Hills Coop	7:00
Fri., Sept. 9	at Clark/Willow Lake	7:00
Fri., Sept. 16	at Deuel	7:00
Fri., Sept. 23	Sisseton (HC)	7:00
Fri., Sept. 30	Webster	7:00
Fri., Oct. 14	at Mobridge-Pollock	7:00
Thurs., Oct. 20	First Round Playoffs	
Thurs., Oct. 27	Second Round Playoffs	
Fri., Nov. 4	Quarterfinals	
Nov. 11	State at Dakota Dome	2:30

Boys Golf

Mon., Aug. 15	at Sioux Valley	10:00
Thurs., Aug. 18	at Milbank	10:00
Tues., Aug. 23	NEC at Sisseton	10:00
Tues., Aug. 30	at Lee Park, Abdn.	10:00
Thurs., Sept. 8	OGGC, Groton	10:00
Tues., Sept. 13	at Redfield	10:00
Thurs., Sept. 15	Tiospa Zina Invite @11:00	
	Dakota Magic Golf Course at Sisseton	10:00
Tues., Sept. 20	Region 1A	
Mon., Sept. 26	Region 1A	
Oct. 3-4	State at Moccasin Creek	

Cross-Country

Thurs., Sept. 1	at Redfield	
Tues., Sept. 6	at Britton	4:00
Mon., Sept. 12	at Webster	2:00
Thurs., Sept. 15	at Roncalli (Lee Park)	4:00
Mon., Sept. 19	at Deuel (Clear Lake)	4:00
Mon., Sept. 26	GROTON (OGGC)	4:00
Thurs., Sept. 29	at Sisseton	4:00
Thurs., Oct. 6	NEC at Webster	1:00
Thurs., Oct. 13	Region at Webster	3:30
Sat., Oct. 22	State at Broadland, Huron	

Volleyball

Thurs., Aug. 25	at Hamlin	
Mon., Aug. 29	at Aberdeen Christian	
Tues., Aug. 30	Ipswich	
Thurs., Sept. 1	at Sisseton	
Tues., Sept. 6	Webster Area	
Thurs., Sept. 8	Aberdeen Roncalli	
Thurs., Sept. 15	Clark/Willow Lake	
Sat., Sept. 17	at Hamlin Tournament	
Tues., Sept. 20	Warner	
Thurs., Sept. 22	Tiospa Zina	
Mon., Sept. 26	at Faulkton	
Tues., Sept. 27	Florence/Henry	
Tues., Oct. 4	at Mobridge-Pollock	
Thurs., Oct. 6	at Milbank	
Thurs., Oct. 13	at Deuel	
Sat., Oct. 15	at Milbank Tourney	
Mon., Oct. 17	Langford Area	
Tues., Oct. 18	at Northwestern	
Fri., Oct. 21	Redfield	
Fri., Oct. 28	at Britton-Hecla	
Tues., Nov. 1	Region 1A	
Thurs., Nov. 3	Region 1A	
Tues., Nov. 8	SoDak 16	
Nov. 17-19	State at Sioux Falls	

Track

Tues., Mar. 28	Indoor at NSU	
Fri., Apr. 7	at Hitchcock-Tulare	11:30
Tues., Apr. 11	Groton Luecke Invite	11:00
Tues., Apr. 18	at Britton-Hecla	2:00
Tues., Apr. 25	Groton Invite	11:00
Fri., Apr. 28	at Webster	10:00
Tues., May 2	at Milbank	1:00
Fri., May 5	at Sisseton	3:00
Sat., May 6	at Eureka	10:30
Thurs., May 11	NEC at Aberdeen	11:00
Thurs., May 19	Region 1A TBD	12:00
May 25-27	State at Sioux Falls	

Girls Golf
 No Schedule available

Community Events

Aug. 10	Storybook Land Theatre (2:00)
Aug. 24	First Day of School
Sept. 1	Cory Greenwood Assembly (1:00)
Sept. 2	NO SCHOOL
Sept. 2-4	Groton Airport Fly-In/Drive-In
Sept. 5	NO SCHOOL - Labor Day
Sept. 10	Fall Rummage Day
Sept. 19	Homecoming Coronation (7:30)
Sept. 23	Homecoming game with Sisseton
Sept. 29	P-T Conferences (1:30-8:00)
Sept. 30	NO SCHOOL - Faculty Inservice
Oct. 1	Pumpkin Fest
Oct. 6	Fall Picture Day
Oct. 7	Lake Region Marching Festival
Oct. 10	NO SCHOOL - Native American Day
Oct. 21	End of First Quarter
Oct. 31	Downtown Trick/Treat & UMC Trunk or Treat
Nov. 11	Veteran's Day Program (2:00)
Nov. 12	Groton Legion Post Turkey Party
Nov. 23-25	Thanksgiving Vacation
Nov. 24	Community Thanksgiving at the Com. Center
Dec. 2-3	North Area Honor Band (NSU)
Dec. 3	Olive Grove Tour of Homes & Holiday Party
Dec. 8	MS/HS Christmas Concert (7:00)
Dec. 10	Santa Claus Day at Professional Mgmt. Services
Dec. 22	Elementary Christmas Concert (1:00)
Dec. 22	Early Dismissal (2:00)
Dec. 22	End of First Semester
Dec. 22-Jan. 3	Christmas Vacation
Jan. 4	School Resumes
Jan. 29	Robotics Pancake Feed
Jan. 29	Carnival of Silver Skates
Feb. 12	Youth Wrestling Tournament
Feb. 16	P-T Conferences (1:30-8:00)
Feb. 17	NO SCHOOL - Faculty Inservice
Feb. 20	NO SCHOOL - President's Day
Mar. 10	End of Third Quarter
Mar. 16-17	NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
Apr. 1	Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt @ Park
Apr. 2	POPS Concert (2:00 & 5:00)
Apr. 7-10	NO SCHOOL - Easter Vacation
Apr. 19	FCCLA Banquet (6:00)
Apr. 22	Firemen's Spring Social
Apr. 22	PROM
Apr. 23	Princess Prom
Apr. 27	MS Spring Concert (7:00)
May 2	Elementary Spring Concert (7:00)
May 4	HS Concert/Awards Night (7:00)
May 6	Lions Club Spring Rummage Sales
May 14	Graduation (2:00)
May 17	End of 2nd Semester
May 29	Legion Memorial Day Services
July 9	Lions Club Summer Fest/Car Show
Sept. 9	Lions Club Fall Rummage Sales

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

Wrestling

Sat., Dec. 3	at Clark/Willow Lake	10:00
Fri., Dec. 9	at LaMoure	10:00
Thurs., Dec. 15	NEC at Webster	4:00
Thurs., Dec. 22	Groton & Webster in Redfield	6:00
Sat., Dec. 31	at Webster Invitational	9:30
Sat., Jan. 7	at Garretson Invitational	9:30
Sat., Jan. 14	at Gettysburg	10:00
Tues., Jan. 17	Groton & Hamlin in Willow Lake	
Fri., Jan. 20	Deuel at Groton	6:00
Sat., Jan. 21	at Arlington Invite	10:00
Sat., Jan. 28	Groton Invite	10:00
Fri., Feb. 3	Lyman/Bennett Co. at Presho	
Sat., Feb. 4	at Stanley County	10:00
Sat., Feb. 18	Regions at Sioux Valley	10:00
Feb. 23-25	at The Monument in Rapid City	

Robotics

- Douglas – October 22, 2022
- Mitchell – November 5, 2022
- Harrisburg – November 19, 2022
- Groton – January 7, 2023
- Canton – January 28, 2023 DATE NOT CONFIRMED
- Mines – February 4, 2023
- Douglas – March 4, 2023 (State Tournament)



Basketball
 Red=GBB • Blue=BBB • Black=DH

Tues., Dec. 6	at Sisseton
Fri., Dec. 9	at Hamlin
Thurs., Dec. 15	Sisseton
Sat., Dec. 17	at Classic at Jamestown College
Tues., Dec. 20	at Roncalli
Thurs., Dec. 22	at Roncalli
Tues., Jan. 3	Warner
Thurs., Jan. 5	Clark/Willow Lake
Fri., Jan. 6	at Clark/Willow Lake
Sat., Jan. 7	Sioux Falls Lutheran
Tues., Jan. 10	at Aberdeen Christian (Civic Center)
Thurs., Jan. 12	at Tiospa Zina
Mon., Jan. 16	at Langford
Thurs., Jan. 19	at Milbank
Mon., Jan. 23	Northwestern
Thurs., Jan. 26	at Webster
Fri., Jan. 27	Webster
Sat., Jan. 28	at Madison Classic
Mon., Jan. 30	at Florence/Henry
Tues., Jan. 31	at Langford
Thurs., Feb. 2	Deuel
Sat., Feb. 4	at Madison Classic
Tues., Feb. 7	North Central
Thurs., Feb. 9	at Redfield
Fri., Feb. 10	Redfield
Sat., Feb. 11	at Mobridge-Pollock
Thurs., Feb. 16	Britton-Hecla
Fri., Feb. 17	at Britton-Hecla
Sat., Feb. 18	Florence/Henry
Tues., Feb. 21	Region 1A at high seed
Thurs., Feb. 23	Region 1A at high seed
Fri., Feb. 24	Aberdeen Christian
Tues., Feb. 28	Region 1A at high seed
Thurs., Mar. 2	SoDak 16
Fri., Mar. 3	Region 1A at high seed
Tues., Mar. 7	SoDak 16
March 9-11	State at Watertown
March 16-18	State at Denny Sanford Premier (SF)

Girls Soccer

Sat., Aug. 13	at Garretson	1:00
Fri., Aug. 19	at Belle Fourche	5:00
Sat., Aug. 20	at St. Thomas More	11:00
Sat., Aug. 27	Vermillion	1:00
Fri., Sept. 2	Dakota Valley	4:00
Sat., Sept. 3	at Tea Area	1:00
Sat., Sept. 10	SF Christian	1:00
Sat., Sept. 24	Tea Area	1:00
Sat., Oct. 1	Garretson	1:00
Tues., Oct. 4	1st Round Playoffs	
Sat., Oct. 8	Semi-Final Playoffs	
Sat., Oct. 15	State at Tea Area	

Calendar Composed by

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New goal posts installed at Groton Doney Field

New goal posts were installed at Doney Field at Groton Sports Complex. Top left features Joe Foertsch (right) making sure it's level as he is assisted by Bill Ogden. The bottom photo features Foertsch in the skidsteer as Superintendent Joe Schwan lends a hand to Bill Ogden. (Photos by Tigh Fliehs)



Governor Noem Accepting Applications for Fall Interns

PIERRE, S.D. – Governor Kristi Noem is now accepting applications for the Governor's Office fall 2022 internship program.

Student interns will work with staff on various projects depending on interests and strengths. Additional duties include aiding the governor's general counsel, constituent services, and communications team; conducting policy research; preparing policy briefings; and staffing events. Internships provide students with first-hand knowledge of the state government and the functions of a governor's office.

College students who would like to be considered for an internship should submit a resume, cover letter, and letter of recommendation to judy.davis@state.sd.us. Applications for fall interns should be submitted by Aug. 31, 2022.

Rounds Introduces Legislation to Blacklist China from Buying American Farm Land and Agriculture Businesses

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) introduced legislation that would blacklist China, Russia, Iran and North Korea from investing in, purchasing or otherwise acquiring land or businesses involved in agriculture.

"Protecting American farmland is critical to maintaining our national security," said Rounds. "As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I was alarmed when a Chinese company recently purchased farmland near an Air Force base in North Dakota. This acquisition could threaten our national security by allowing the Chinese Communist Party to closely monitor the operations and communications at a very important military facility."

"In my travels around South Dakota, I've heard from many farmers and ranchers who are concerned about foreign adversaries owning American farmland. It's time to put a stop to this and take action. This legislation makes certain American interests are protected by blacklisting foreign adversaries from purchasing land or businesses involved in agriculture."

On July 1, 2022, Representative Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.) introduced the House version of the PASS Act. Rounds' legislation retains key provisions of the House version and adds additional language related to foreign investments, agricultural land acquisition and reporting by the Secretary of Agriculture. The new provisions are outlined below:

- * Blacklists China, Russia, Iran and North Korea from purchasing or investing in agriculture land and companies.

- * Requires reporting from the Secretary of Agriculture on the risk to the American agriculture sector of foreign takeovers and/or investments in agriculture companies or land used for agricultural purposes.

- * Allows the President, after reporting to Congress on why doing so is vital to the national security interests of the United States, to waive the requirement prohibiting a transaction on a case-by-case basis.

Encourage more federal arts funding for SD

By Jim Speirs, Executive Director, Arts South Dakota

It was disappointing to see our lone Congressman, Dusty Johnson, recently support a funding bill amendment that would have reduced National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) appropriations by 25%, sending the NEA budget back to 2017 levels. Johnson has been a past supporter of South Dakota arts programs, and has expressed his belief that our state benefits from cultural development and artistic creativity. To go backward with federal arts funding—especially important in a rural state like ours—is damaging to education and the quality of life for all South Dakotans.

Now, more than ever, we need to strengthen our support for the arts. During the height of the pandemic, a creative-industry analysis estimated losses of 2.7 million jobs and more than \$150 billion in sales of goods and services for creative industries nationwide, representing nearly a third of all jobs in those industries and 9% of annual sales. In South Dakota during 2020 and early 2021, a survey of arts nonprofits tells us 94% had to cancel events. That equated to 879,259 lost program attendance with an over \$11 million negative financial impact on the sector. In addition, over 500 South Dakotans had been laid off or furloughed in the arts sector during the pandemic.

National arts funding is vital for South Dakota's cultural growth. The NEA and its state partner, the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC), support creative expression in nearly all South Dakota counties. In FY19, the SDAC awarded 439 grants, impacting 1.35 million people throughout South Dakota, including the nine Native Nations with lands in our state. These programs often provide the only contact to the arts for underserved populations in rural areas and limited-resource communities across the state.

Please join us in reminding Congressman Johnson that South Dakota needs the NEA and annual growth in federal arts funding appropriations! To learn more about the impact of NEA support to South Dakota, check out the facts online at ArtsSouthDakota.org.

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Do you know how a farm is run?



Newspaper Fun!

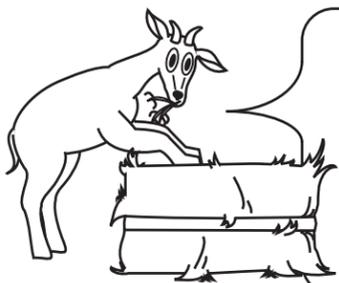
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What kind of farms have you visited?



Kids: color stuff in!



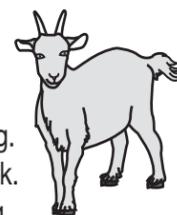
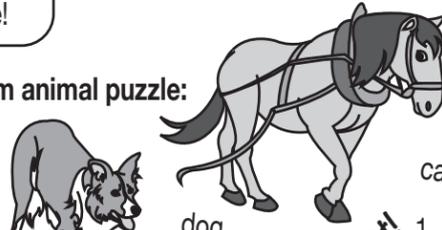
Hi everyone. It's me, Peak, again! This week I'm visiting my cousin at the farm. There are lots of different animals here. Get a piece of paper and list all the ones you can think of. Then, do my farm puzzle!

Farm Times Riddles & Rhymes!



Who Am I? Read the riddles to fill in this farm animal puzzle:

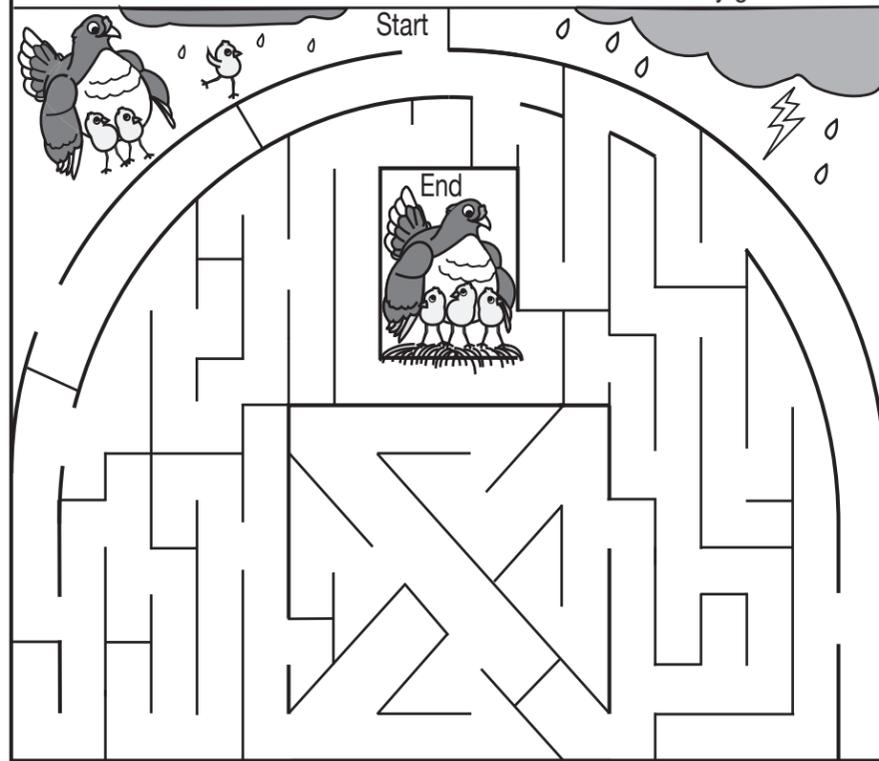
- Most farmers use tractors, but I still may help to break ground in some fields or pull heavy loads.
- I can eat many kinds of plants. My milk may be drunk or made into cheese. I don't have a "baaaaaad" attitude.
- I am the "purrfect" pet. I chase mice away. I may not get along with the dog!
- I have a long neck like a camel. My soft fur is used to make clothing and blankets. I can help carry things up mountains. I am calm, but watch out - sometimes I spit!
- If I am a rooster, I crow at sunrise. If I am a hen, I lay eggs.
- I might eat hay, grass, barley or corn. My milk can be made into butter, cheese, yogurt and ice cream. I even have a type of bell named after me!
- I have long ears and great hearing. I may freeze when frightened, then thump the ground to warn others.
- I lay eggs. My feathers are used for pillows. I have good eyesight and honk loudly when something seems wrong.
- My fluffy wool ranges in color from creamy white to black. It is sheared and used for making clothing and carpeting.
- Some say I like damp and rainy weather. My babies follow me in a line. I have webbed feet for swimming.
- I help to herd and gather sheep. I guard and protect.
- I have a pink curly tail. I lie in mud to keep cool. When someone makes a mess, others may joke that they act like me.



cat 2
dog 1
plow horse 3
chicken 4
rabbit 5
goose 6
llama 7
I'm a llama. I have long, banana-shaped ears and I am about twice as big as you.
Who are you?
I am an alpaca!11
10
12

Head for Shelter

There's a storm a-comin'. Help the hen get her chicks inside the barn before they get soaked!



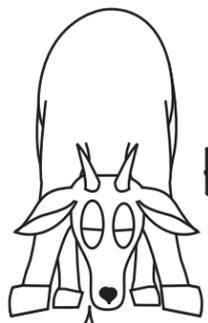
What Kind of Farm?

There are lots of different kinds of farms. Fill in my rhyming clues one by one - you'll know seven types when you are done!

- You'll find birds at poultry farms, in coops, in fields, in pens; feathered creatures: roosters, chicks and _____.
- Large, refrigerated tank trucks let us deliver milk with ease - to the dairy plant to be readied for butter, cream and _____.
- Black and yellow insects can 'bee' farmed to make us money; dripping sweetly in their hives is gold, delicious _____.
- A livestock farm may have ranchers or sheepherders - like little Bo Peep; they breed different animals like goats, cattle and _____.
- An orchard grows apples to bite and bake and squeeze; it's a farm that plants endless rows of leafy apple _____.
- A cranberry bog grows bitter berries we crush into sauce and chomp; they're farmed in a wet, marshy field that looks a bit like a _____.
- A vineyard is a farm for grapes, the fruit that grows on vines; the grapes are used in juice and jam, in jellies and in _____.

trees swamp hens cheese wines honey sheep

What Did He Say?



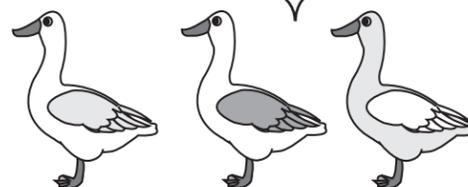
Hee Hee

I know I shouldn't, but I like to "get my brother's goat!"

There are some phrases that do not mean exactly what they say. They have special meanings. These phrases are called "idioms." Match these farm animal idioms to their meanings:

- until the cows come home
- when pigs fly
- work for chicken feed
- one horse town
- stubborn as a mule
- pull a rabbit out of your hat
- when the cat's away the mice will play
- get your ducks in a row
- get someone's goat
- golden goose
- not willing to change one's mind
- people will do what they want while the boss is gone
- until it's very, very late
- work for almost nothing
- something of great value
- annoy or bother someone
- town without many people
- organize things well
- never

Hi, ho, hi, ho...get your ducks all in a row!



Poll: Majority of South Dakotans oppose total ban on abortion

Stu Whitney

South Dakota News Watch

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of articles based on a July 2022 statewide poll conducted by South Dakota News Watch and the Chiesman Center for Democracy at the University of South Dakota, and is the latest segment in the ongoing "South Dakota Matters" series of polls and panel discussions hosted by News Watch.

A majority of South Dakotans believe the state's abortion ban is too restrictive and feel that voters should determine the legality of abortion access rather than the state Legislature, according to a statewide poll sponsored by South Dakota News Watch.

The poll of 500 registered voters showed that a majority (57%) of respondents support allowing legal access to abortion medications in the state, including 42% who "strongly support" such access. Nearly two-thirds (65%) said they support having a statewide referendum to determine South Dakota's laws regarding reproductive rights.

More than three-fourths (76%) of those polled support allowing legal abortion in cases of rape and incest, an exception not currently allowed under South Dakota's laws, among the most restrictive in the nation following the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe vs. Wade* in June.

The random survey was conducted July 19-22, 2022, by Mason-Dixon Polling & Strategy and contacted voters in all South Dakota counties by landline and cell phone; it was co-sponsored by News Watch and the Chiesman Center for Democracy at the University of South Dakota. The margin of error is plus or minus 4.5%.

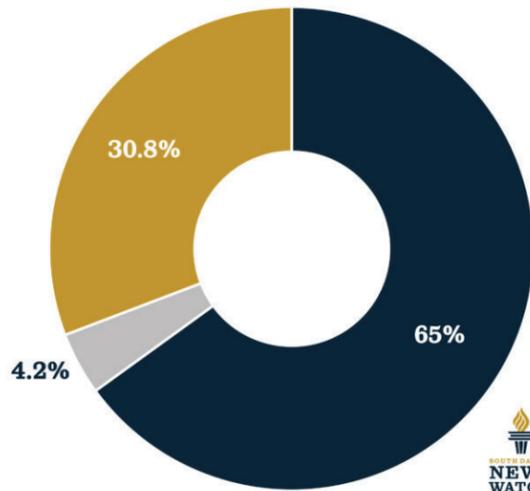
The recent landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Dobbs vs. Jackson's Women's Health Organization* removed the federal constitutional right to an abortion, leaving it up to states to determine legality and access. South Dakota had a "trigger law" from 2005 that took effect, making it a Class 6 felony for anyone "who administers to any pregnant female or prescribes or procures for any pregnant female" a means for an abortion, except to save the life of the mother. The crime is punishable by two years in prison, a \$4,000 fine, or both.

"That's the reality we're living in right now," said Rick Weiland, whose Dakotans for Health organization plans to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot in 2024 to legalize but regulate access to abortion in South Dakota. "I do think recent events have galvanized a segment of people who haven't engaged in the past because now they see their rights being taken away."

The poll also showed that nearly 8 in 10 respondents (79%) oppose criminal penalties for anyone who helps a South Dakota resident obtain an abortion where it is legal, such as in a neighboring state. An overwhelming majority (71%) also support permitting South Dakota

Do you support or oppose having the legality of abortion in South Dakota decided by voters in a statewide referendum?

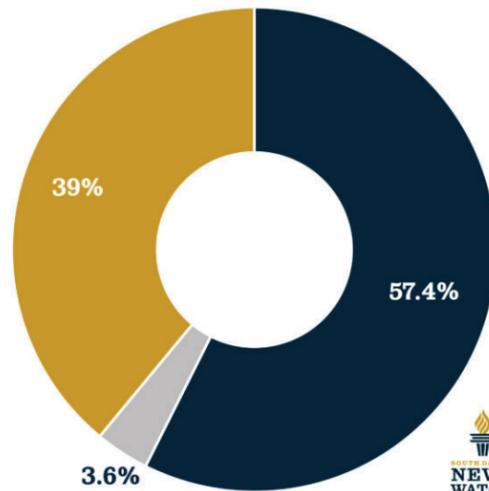
Support
Not sure
Oppose



Source: July 2022 Mason Dixon poll of 500 registered South Dakota voters. Chart: Matt Jensen Marketing

Do you support or oppose having legal access to abortion medications in South Dakota?

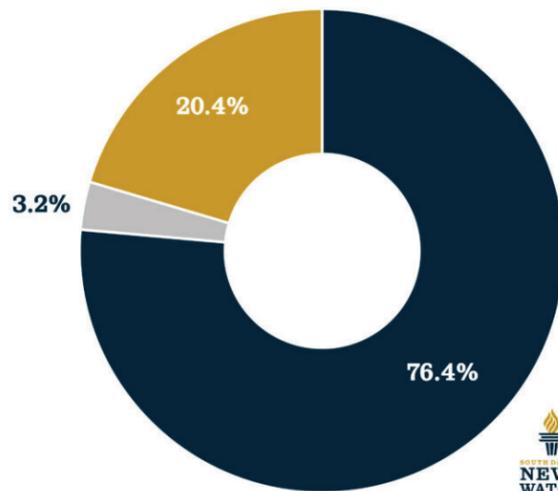
Support
Not sure
Oppose



Source: July 2022 Mason Dixon poll of 500 registered South Dakota voters. Chart: Matt Jensen Marketing

Do you support or oppose allowing legal abortion in cases of rape or incest?

Support
Not sure
Oppose



Source: July 2022 Mason Dixon poll of 500 registered South Dakota voters. Chart: Matt Jensen Marketing

residents to leave the state to obtain abortions.

Dale Bartscher, executive director of South Dakota Right to Life, declined an interview request from News Watch but was quoted by the Washington Post recently as saying he was "very interested" in preventing South Dakota residents from accessing abortion in other states. "I've heard that bantered about across the state of South Dakota," Bartscher told the Post.Gov. Kristi Noem had no comment on the poll results when contacted through her office by News Watch.

Some voters balk at government involvement

The poll revealed no significant differences in responses based on age, gender or region of the state. Though there were partisan differences, a majority of Democrats, Republicans and Independents support holding a statewide abortion referendum; support legalized abortion in the cases of rape and incest; and support allowing residents to leave the state to legally seek abortions in other states.

The majority of respondents in both parties also oppose criminal penalties for those who help individuals obtain an abortion in a state where it is legal.

Julia Hellwege, an associate professor of political science at the University of South Dakota, said that bipartisan agreement is likely attributable to shared distaste for too much government intervention rather than any sort of moral agreement on abortion.

"It's important to note that (the poll) is differentiating the action of having an abortion versus criminalizing the action and role that the state should play," said Hellwege, who serves as director of the Government Research Bureau at USD. "If the question was simply 'do you support abortion?' or 'would you have one yourself?' there would likely be different results. These questions were about the state's role, and a lot of South Dakotans, as it shows, don't support the state intervening in the circumstances that were presented."

Weiland, a former Democratic candidate for U.S. House and Senate, said he was encouraged but not surprised by the results. He said the responses show that abortion restrictions supported by Noem and the Republican-controlled Legislature are not representative of the general electorate.

"There's been tremendous overreach," said Weiland. "But the court threw it back to the states, and it's reassuring that people in South Dakota want it decided by a ballot initiative and not by the governor or state Legislature. That's exactly what we're proposing to do."

The constitutional amendment proposed by Dakotans for Health would prevent the state from regulating abortions during the first trimester. During the second trimester, the state could regulate "the abortion decision and its effectuation only in ways that are reasonably related to the physical health of the pregnant woman." After the end of the second trimester, abortion could be regulated or prohibited except to preserve "the life or health" of the mother.

Weiland said the effort would return South Dakota's abortion laws to where they stood before *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, a landmark 1992 Supreme Court ruling that upheld the basic tenets of *Roe* while broadening the ability of states to regulate abortion with provisions such as waiting periods.



Rick Weiland

Dakotans for Health, which can legally start collecting petition signatures on Nov. 5, has a stated goal of collecting "60,000-plus" signatures using both volunteers and paid circulators to get the measure on the ballot for 2024. The threshold for signatures will be 10% of the total vote in the upcoming gubernatorial election (about 34,000 signatures using the 2018

Continues on next page

election as a guide). It wouldn't be the first time South Dakotans have gone to the ballot box to determine state abortion laws. In 2006, the Legislature passed a law to ban all abortions except those done to save the life of a pregnant woman. The measure was signed by then-Gov. Mike Rounds, but opponents gathered enough signatures to refer it to the ballot, where it was defeated with more than 55% percent of the vote.

Two years later, voters rejected by a margin of 55% to 45% a ballot initiative that would have banned all abortions in the state except in cases of rape or incest or "to preserve the health or life of the woman."

Weiland sees those votes – combined with recent polling – as evidence that South Dakota's electorate is not as conservative on cultural issues as the state legislature, setting up a battleground between direct democracy through ballot initiatives and representative democracy through legislative action. Similar clashes will likely play out throughout the country, particularly in the 26 states that have initiative processes at the statewide level.

"South Dakota was the first state in the country to embed in its constitution this citizen initiative process," said Weiland. "And here we have a very red state that has demonstrated on a number of ballot measures – from payday lenders to minimum wage to cannabis – that the voters are pretty independent when it comes to these proposed public policies."

Battle lines drawn as midterm election nears



Julia Hellwege

wary of overreach on issues such as abortion.

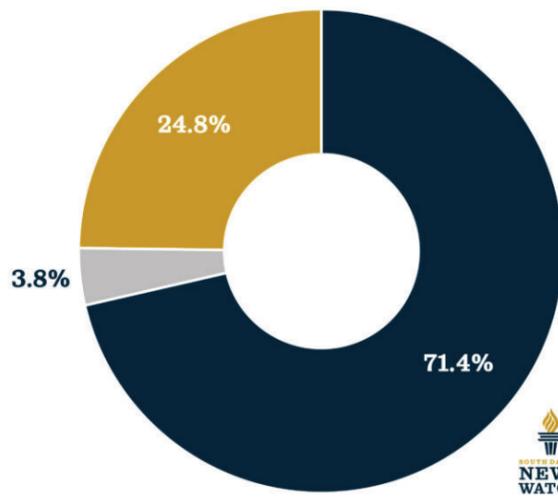
In Kansas, a state that former President Donald Trump won with 56% of the vote in 2020, voters on Aug. 2 overwhelmingly rejected a constitutional amendment that would have allowed the Republican-controlled legislature to tighten restrictions or ban abortion outright, with 59% voting against the amendment. Turnout was unusually high for a primary election, with nearly half of registered voters casting a ballot.

That came on the heels of a national Pew Research Center poll after the Dobbs decision that showed 62% of respondents saying abortion should be legal in all or most cases.

"Tensions were really high not just in Kansas, but around the country," said Hellwege. "This was sort of a first test of a post-Dobbs world where states decide the abortion question, and a lot of people were surprised at the result. On the other hand, the results really match what the (Pew poll) found in terms of what national political opinion looks like. I'm not saying necessarily that Kansas is in all ways reflective of the national environment, but on this issue the numbers line up."

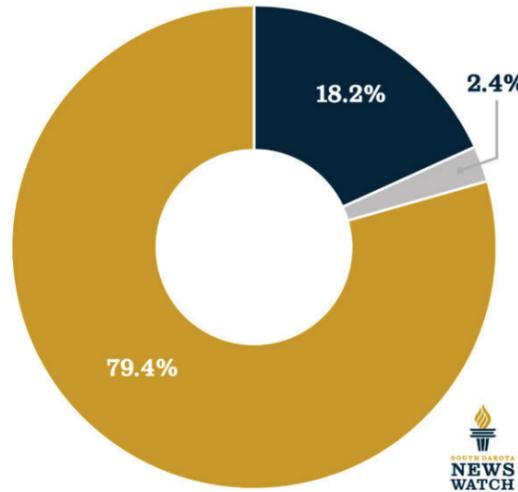
Noem, who faces a re-election challenge

Do you support or oppose permitting South Dakota residents to leave the state to obtain an abortion?



Source: July 2022 Mason Dixon poll of 500 registered South Dakota voters. Chart: Matt Jensen Marketing

Do you support or oppose criminal penalties for anyone who helps a South Dakota resident obtain an abortion in a state where it is legal?



Source: July 2022 Mason Dixon poll of 500 registered South Dakota voters. Chart: Matt Jensen Marketing

from Democratic nominee Jamie Smith in November, initially planned to call for a special session on abortion laws after the Supreme Court overturned Roe vs. Wade, but later reversed that decision, opting to wait until the 2023 legislative session. There is concern among some Republicans nationally that pushing for more restrictions could further energize Democratic and Independent voters for the November midterms.

"If these kinds of issues are sustained long enough, there's certainly the potential for a big wave of turnout," said Hellwege. "And the larger the turnout, the more likely that the vote will be close to what public opinion has shown."

Noem has said that she intends to introduce new restrictions on medicated abortion – a combination of two pills prescribed in the first 10 weeks of pregnancy that makes up more than half of all abortions nationally. The governor signed a bill in March that prevented receiving the pills by mail from certified prescribers or pharmacies and using doctor consultations via video or phone as needed, a telehealth process approved by the Food and Drug Administration in 2021.

In the News Watch poll, 57% of Republican respondents oppose allowing legal access to abortion medication, including 42% who strongly oppose. Of the Democratic voters polled, 86% support allowing access, including 76% who strongly support. Among Independents, 66% support allowing access, including

47% who strongly support.

Planned Parenthood sued and U.S. District Judge Karen Schreier granted a preliminary injunction to pause the legislative action, but that was prior to the Dobbs decision. The medication abortion question remains in legal limbo in terms of enforcement and constitutionality, as does the practice of traveling across state lines for reproductive services. President Joe Biden has said his administration plans to defend the rights of citizens to pursue those options as part of federal jurisdiction.

"Extremist state governors and legislators that are looking to block the mail, search a person's medicine cabinet, or control a woman's actions by tracking data on the apps she uses are wrong, extreme, and out of touch with a majority of Americans," Biden said in a speech on the day of the Dobbs decision.

The November midterm elections, in which Noem seeks to retain her office and Republicans aim to take control of the U.S. House and Senate, could determine the degree of confidence and authority with which the GOP moves forward on the abortion issue.

Either way, it's likely that the state's ban will remain law in South Dakota until at least 2024, when voters could get a chance to weigh in.

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



ABOUT STU WHITNEY

Stu Whitney is an investigative reporter for South Dakota News Watch. A resident of Sioux Falls, Whitney is an award-winning reporter, editor and novelist with more than 30 years of experience in journalism.

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Dear EarthTalk: I know that upgrading the energy efficiency of my home will make it less expensive to heat or cool, but will it also raise its market value significantly?
 – J.B.M., St. Louis, MO

That depends on your definition of “significant!” According to a study published in the Journal of Urban Economics, with every 10 per cent increase in energy efficiency, a home’s market value increases by approximately 2.2 per cent. In another set of studies, the government-backed energy efficiency experts at Energy Star found that their certified homes in Maryland sold between 2012 to 2015 had a two to five per cent sales price increase, simply because they were deemed energy efficient.

This pattern has been observed across the U.S. A six per cent increase was seen in the final price tags of Energy Star certified homes in Austin-Round Rock, Texas (sold 2009 to 2016), and an eight per cent increase was found in select housing markets across Oregon, Idaho and Washington (2015).

Why is this happening? To put it simply, the average home buyer has become savvier in the world of sustainability. In a report by the National Association of Realtors (NAR), it was found that 51 per cent of agents interacted with clients that were very interested, or at

least somewhat interested, in sustainability. In a related report by Energy Star, the stats showed that 83 per cent of home buyers desired more efficient windows, 81 per cent wanted more efficient appliances, and 80 per cent wanted more efficient lighting.

Undoubtedly, homeowners have come to understand that energy-efficient upgrades translate into lower energy costs. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the average family spends approximately \$2,200 annually on energy bills. Thirty per cent of that cost can be removed just like that through energy-efficient home modifications.

That being said, the increase in demand for sustainable homes and home upgrades may also be driven by a sense of personal responsibility. A sweeping study by Simon-Kucher & Partners covering 17 countries and 10,000 participants revealed that a significant paradigm shift in purchasing habits was occurring. Eighty-five per cent of respondents reported that they had changed their spending habits over the past five years to accommodate a greener lifestyle. In addition, one-third of the population is willing to spend more for sustainable products or services—as much as 25 per cent!

If you’re feeling the same inclination, there are many ways to upgrade your home’s energy efficiency. Insulating walls is usually where people begin, but sealing air leaks (even the small ones!) with caulking, spray foam and weather stripping can save anywhere from five to 30 per cent on energy. Ducts specifically are



Making energy efficiency upgrades to your home now will lower monthly bills moving forward & increase resale value when it’s time to sell. Credit: Pexels.com.

known to have leaks that can cause losses of as much as 60 per cent of the heated air traveling through them. Energy efficient light fixtures, windows, doors, skylights, appliances and hot-water heaters are all available for purchase these days, and when used in congruence with a programmable thermostats and smart-device timers, you can save a surprising amount of money in energy savings by the end of the year.

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 Don't miss Wednesday's Primrose Senior Day, Sheep & Goat Day starting at 11am,
 Luncheon starting at 12pm - Sponsored by Primrose and be sure to attend Ken's
 MUSIC 4-8 & Kids Day picnic, Thursday from 11am-1pm featuring this talent!

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Health promotion and personal safety

The annual wellness exam is one of my favorite things to do as a doctor. It's a chance to talk about one of my passions: health promotion.

As most patients expect, our health promotion discussion includes smoking cessation, diet, and exercise. Perhaps more surprising is our conversation regarding personal safety. We talk about sunscreen, seatbelts, helmets, distracted driving or driving under the influence. And I ask if their guns are locked up.

I grew up in Iowa and I live in South Dakota. Both are states where hunting and guns are such a part of the culture, we don't think twice about people having guns in their homes. The same can be said about many states in our region.

So why do I ask if guns are locked up?

Guns are a popular target of thieves. Anyone can have a break in, and you don't want to make it easy for the thieves to profit from the act, or worse still, hurt someone. More importantly, however, is the safety of people in the home.

Sometimes parents tell me confidently their guns are well hidden from their children. They usually reconsider when I ask, "Did you know where your parents hid the Christmas presents when you were young?"

Sometimes parents tell me their children have been taught not to touch guns. However, those same children, when asked at their well child visits, often tell me they would pick up an unattended gun to bring it to an adult. Research bears this out.

Protecting children in the home from unintentional injury is only part of the story. I also hope to prevent intentional injury. Although guns are used in only about five percent of suicide attempts, they are involved in more than half of suicide deaths. In fact, nationwide, over 50 percent of gun deaths are suicides.

The underlying causes for suicide are complex and many, but once a person decides to do it, there is often a very brief period before acting on that decision. For many individuals, if they are unable to carry out their plan in those first few minutes, or if that plan involves a less lethal means, the moment of crisis passes. People are far more likely to survive a suicide attempt that does not involve a gun, while more than 80 percent of people who attempt suicide using a gun die.

Keeping guns unloaded and locked up, keeping ammunition somewhere separate, removing the guns from the home if someone is struggling: these are actions that can save the life of someone you love. It could even be your life. This topic is indeed integral to health promotion.



Debra Johnston, MD

Debra Johnston, M.D. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices family medicine in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc®...based on science, built on trust, at www.prairiedoc.org and on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show, broadcast on SDPB and streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.