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The Groton Independent

Vol. 140 No. 07 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2022 ♦ Established in 1889



Beauty Brew Boutique
Kelby & Keegan Tracy
(Photo by April Abeln)

Downtown businesses welcome trick and treaters



Common Cents Community Thrift Store volunteers
Diane Warrington, Pat Miller & Nancy Larsen
(Photo by April Abeln)



Groton Community Transit
Alandra Graff, Pam Hanson and Amara Graff
(Photo by April Abeln)

Johnson interns in 4th grade



Base Kamp Lodge
Bruce and Karyn Babcock
(Photo by April Abeln)



Teddy Bear Daycare Too
Charity Hinman
(Photo by April Abeln)



Dacotah Bank
(Photo by April Abeln)



Jungle Lanes- Ashton Bahr
(Photo by April Abeln)



Groton Police Department
Officer Tony Garcia & his wife, Melissa
(Photo by April Abeln)



Aspen Johnson, the daughter of Fred and Melanie Johnson, is interning in the fourth grade with Mrs. Susan Fjeldheim. "I decided to try this to see if teaching would be a good fit for me," Johnson admitted. "I've been trying to make a decision between teaching and nursing."

"I have several jobs here in the fourth grade classroom," she explained. "I make copies for Mrs. Fjeldheim, cut papers and other projects for the students, and help the fourth graders with their reading."

"I've really enjoyed working here and find that my various jobs are all quite easy," Johnson admitted. "Mrs. Fjeldheim has the hard ones of explaining and teaching to these kids each day!"

"The best part of working here is being with the students every day," she smiled. "They are fun to be around and to help. I've really enjoyed being here."

"I'm involved in several different sports including volley ball, basketball, and track as well as being a member of the color guard for the high school marching band," Johnson listed.

"After I graduate from high school, I have decided to attend Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell and major in nursing," she said. "Even though I've really enjoyed this internship in the elementary school, I think I prefer nursing over teaching. I also might try to play college volleyball."

- Dorene Nelson

More Photos
on
Page 6

The problem is not our part-time legislators

"Of course, I'm just a wild-eyed liberal," I said sarcastically during a conversation with a conservative friend one day. "No, you're a moderate," she said. "You just seem liberal in McIntosh County."

Perhaps so. On social issues, I think government ought to stay out of the bedroom, doctor's offices, and out of our personal lives in general. I don't believe laws should be religiously-based but should pragmatically consider the potential harm of one's actions to others.

I'm fiscally conservative. By that, I mean, I want expenditures to be investments in infrastructure, education, and healthcare that create a better, more-efficient society, investments that pay off, not just economically—and that's important—but also by simultaneously improving our quality of life.

Philosophically, that's where politics come in. We task elected officials with representing our wishes, to deliver the services we as citizens seek. If the majority thinks education and healthcare should be basic rights, it's on our elected officials to deliver them while navigating opposing views. Democracy is built on the art of compromise. Sometimes half a loaf is enough. We sometimes forget that we all want what's best for America, we just may disagree on the path forward.

Moderate Democrats represent my philosophies best, and I'll support them, but the decrepit state of the Democratic Party in North Dakota means my choices are usually between moderate Republicans and those who represent a more extreme brand of conservative politics like the Bastiat Caucus.

Their numbers are small; they've managed only to disrupt while accomplishing little. State Auditor Josh Gallion, however, has made an impact, aggressively investigating various state departments, revealing corruption and bureaucratic sloth. He takes it too far sometimes, but serves as a counterweight to a super-majority that's gotten more arrogant and corrupt as their power's increased.

There's the un-prosecuted coverup regarding former Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem's deleted emails and the possibly-related \$1.7 million cost overrun on office space involving his former campaign treasurer, Rep. Jason Dockter. The lack of regulation and prosecution of oil companies that pump and leak sludge into the ground and toxins into the air. Gov. Burgum used millions of COVID relief

funds to clean up "orphaned" wells, bailing out oil interests instead of helping citizens. And when voters approved of an Ethics Commission as a watchdog, the legislature refused to fund it adequately.

On a national level, sign me up for term limits. We've got epic stagnation and corruption with a millionaire Congress. Our system wasn't intended to have professional politicians whose only interest is getting re-elected—doing and saying whatever they must—as illustrated in North Dakota by Sen. John Hoeven and Rep. Kelly Armstrong's continued support for a man who planned to overturn an democratic election to remain in power.

I draw the line there. I'll never support anyone who doesn't support democracy and the U.S. Constitution, anyone who supports the leader of an insurrection. If we abandon the basic framework of our republic, we've tragically lost our way.

However, I can't support the Bastiat's Measure 1 on term limits because it's self-serving. They believe it's the only way they can crack the stronghold of establishment Republicans, and if they did, I believe we'd get worse government.

In my perfect world, we'd elect more Democrats because every major gain for working families, from workers' rights, civil rights, women's equality, Medicare, and Social Security, has come from Democrats. But I don't believe the problem in our state is with part-time Republican legislators. This measure, in this political climate, I fear, would do more harm than good.

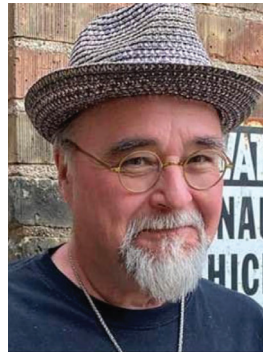
I miss my Republican friend Billy Kretschmar who served District 28 for decades and was always open to a reasonable conversation. Today, Republicans Sen. Robert Erbele and Rep. Mike Brandenburg represent my fiscal interests pretty well. They're reasonable and accessible. Beyond voting the party line on intrusive busy-body social issues, they deliver the funding for education and infrastructure that allows my local government to keep taxes down.

Democratic philosophies better represent my overall beliefs but until the party rebuilds, my reality is that I live in a very conservative district in a very conservative state. I'll take my half a loaf. I'll support Democrats when I can and work with Republicans because they represent the majority.

Consolidated powers get extreme, and extremism is anathema to democracy. Our state government lacks vision; we could do much more to attract and retain higher education students and workers. We have the bankroll to do it, but lack political will.

The Bastiat's are not the answer but political diversity—checks and balances—better serve all interests. Take me back to the time when Tip O' Neill and Ronald Reagan could be personal friends and political opponents.

© Tony Bender, 2022



That's Life

by Tony Bender

Weekly Vikings Recap

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

After having the prior week off with a bye, the Vikings get right back in the win column with a 34-26 victory over the Arizona Cardinals. The Vikings now stand at 6-1 and hold the largest division lead of any of the current division leaders in the NFL. Despite owning the second-best record in the NFC, it still feels like the Vikings are flying a little under the radar from a national perspective. Perhaps that is just what this Vikings team wants.

The first half for the Vikings felt like a performance we would have seen from them last year. First, the run game was the main catalyst for the Vikings jumping out to an early lead on the Cardinals. Coming into the game, the Arizona Cardinals boasted the second-best run defense in the league. However, you would never have known that based on the way Dalvin Cook ran the ball today. Not only was Cook able to surpass 100 yards rushing for the first time this season, but he did it on only 20 carries. Cook's backup, Alexander Mattison, had a great day as well, picking up 40 yards and a touchdown on only five carries.

The best rushing highlight of the game surprisingly did not come from Cook or Mattison, however. It was from Kirk Cousins. On the Vikings' opening drive, the team found themselves in a 3rd and 4 from the Arizona 17-yard line. With the pocket collapsing, Cousins took off to his right, outran a diving tackle from a Cardinals defender, and sprinted down the sideline to dive in for a rushing touchdown. Who knows if will ever see such an athletic play from Cousins again in his career?

As the Vikings jumped out to a 14-3 lead, it felt like this might be the first game for the Vikings to blow out its opponent. However, the nightmares of last year's late first-half woes started to creep back in as the Vikings gave up a touchdown on a one-handed catch from superstar DeAndre Hopkins with 0:47 left in the first half.

The story of the second half had to be the Cardinals' turnovers. The first one came on a Harrison Smith interception of an underthrown pass by Kyler Murray midway through the third quarter. For the first time this season, the Vikings were able to turn a takeaway by the Vikings' defense into a touchdown by the Vikings' offense to go up 28-17.

After the Cardinals were able to cut the Vikings' lead to 28-26 and all momentum had shifted into the Cardinals' favor, the second Cardinals' turnover came on a muffed punt by Cardinals' punt returner, Greg Dortch. Initially, it looked like Dortch would recover his fumble, but the Vikings punt team did a nice job of hustling to the pile and crushing Dortch a couple of times while he was trying to grab the ball. For the second time in the game, the Vikings' offense turned a Cardinals' turnover into a Vikings' touchdown and extended their lead to 34-26.

As the game started to wind down, the Vikings' defense made big play after big play to secure the Vikings' victory. Cam Bynum picked off a poorly thrown Kyler Murray in what would be the Vikings' third takeaway of the game. Later, former Cardinal Jordan Hicks made a huge tackle on a fourth-down play to ensure Cardinals' running back, Elo Benjamin, would be short of the first down marker. And lastly, on the final drive of the game, the Vikings' defensive line came up big with two back-to-back sacks on Kyler Murray as the time expired. If this keeps up, the story of the Vikings' season is going to be all about all the nerve-wracking wins they have gotten this year.

Next week, the Vikings head to Washington to face former Vikings' preseason superstar, Taylor Heinicke, and the 4-4 Washington Commanders. On paper, the Vikings should win easily. But, as we have seen all year, winning easily is not this team's style.

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We the People

The South Dakota Humanities Council is making available a weekly column -- "We the People" -- that focuses on the U.S. Constitution. It is written by David Adler, who is president of The Alturas Institute, a non-profit organization created to promote the Constitution, gender equality, and civic education.



By David Adler

Presidents and Former Presidents are Subject to Subpoenas

The 1807 treason trial of Aaron Burr, lost in the mists of early American legal history, stirs, at most, only faint recollections among members of the Bar, let alone the general public. But Chief Justice John Marshall's landmark ruling that the president is required to obey subpoenas represents a principle that is fundamental to American Constitutionalism and the rule of law.

Marshall's ruling is a grand reminder of the resonance--in the fanatical politics of our time--of the American ideal that all men are equal in the eyes of the law. The principle that the president is subject to the rule of law was succinctly stated by James Wilson, one of the heavyweights in the Constitutional Convention and a Supreme Court Justice at the dawn of the republic: "Not a single privilege is annexed to his character; far from being above the laws, he is amenable to them in his private character as a citizen, and in his public character by impeachment." It hardly needs to be mentioned that the law applies equally to sitting and former presidents alike.

At the time of his trial, the disgraced former vice-president of the United States had few allies. He had been shunned by fellow Jeffersonian Republicans for opportunistically opposing the leader of their party, Thomas Jefferson, during the House of Representatives' presidential runoff in the 1800 presidential election. And he was exiled by Federalists for killing Alexander Hamilton in their famous duel in 1804.

A grand jury indicted Burr on the charge of treason for instigating war against Spain. The indictment against Burr focused on his activities at Blennerhasset's Island in the Ohio River on December 10, 1806.

Chief Justice Marshall presided at the trial since his duties as a Supreme Court Justice included assignment as a federal judge for the U.S. Circuit for Virginia. Marshall instructed the jury on the meaning of the Treason Clause—Article III, Section 3—of the Constitution, which provided, "Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort. No person shall be convicted of treason unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on confession in open court."

The government's case against Burr was weak. The prosecution offered no evidence that Burr had instigated war against Spain, and it produced not a single witness, let alone two, to testify that Burr had engaged in an overt act of levying war against the United States. Burr was acquitted on all charges.

At trial, Burr's stellar defense team, which included Luther Martin and John Randolph, both delegates to the Constitutional Convention, asked Chief Justice Marshall to subpoena President Jefferson to testify and submit letters that it believed would exonerate Burr. Jefferson replied that personal attendance at a trial would interfere with his duties as president, particularly if he could be hauled to far-off St. Louis, to one court after another. But he offered to testify by deposition, if Burr should "suppose there are any facts within the knowledge of the heads of departments or of myself to give him the benefit of it."

Jefferson's plea rested on a serious administrative inconvenience, not a claim of immunity from judicial process. Indeed, Jefferson's attorney made no such claim. As Marshall stated, "the attorney for the United States avowed his opinion that a general subpoena might issue to the president."

Marshall left no doubts on this score. "In the provisions of the constitution, and of the statutes, which give the accused the right to compulsory process of the courts, there is no exception whatever." He rejected the practice in England of protecting the King from testimony on grounds that it was incompatible "with his dignity," because the "principle of the English constitution that the king can do no wrong" was inapplicable to our Constitution, under which, "the president may be impeached and removed from office." Marshall emphasized that "the president may be subpoenaed and examined as a witness, and required to produce any paper in his possession, is not controverted."

Marshall acknowledged that a president might have "sufficient motives for declining a particular paper," but the court would be the final authority on any presidential claim to withhold documents. In the end, the importance to the defense of the disclosure of a document would override presidential refusal to disclose.

Chief Justice Marshall was intent on placing beyond doubt that a subpoena could reach the president. His opinion reflected the conventional view of his time, and even Jeffersonian Republicans agreed. Jefferson, moreover, as an apostle of democracy, was not about to place the executive above the law.

To the end of his life, Marshall considered the Burr trial the most unpleasant experience in his 35 years on the bench. Like many, he was repulsed by Burr's cynicism and opportunism, particularly after the death of Hamilton, but he took pride in affirming the subordination of the president to the rule of law. The equivalent treatment before the law of presidents and ordinary citizens, he believed, breathed life into the text of the Constitution and the most deeply held principles and values of the republic that he fought to preserve.

David Adler is president of The Alturas Institute, a non-profit organization created to promote the Constitution, gender equality and civic education. This column is made possible with the support of the South Dakota Humanities Council, South Dakota Newspaper Association and this newspaper.

Brown County Ochsner Rezoning Hearing Notice

Application has been made by Todd Ochsner/Ochsner Real Estate LP to the Brown County Board of Commissioners for a change of zoning. Hearing to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota on November 15, 2022 at 8:45 A.M. for the purpose of rezoning the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.15 Light Industrial District (L-I):

The S 1/2 of Section 19-T123N-R64W lying South of Railroad R.O.W. of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota.

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the amendment to Second Revision Brown County Ordinances pertaining to rezoning the described property. At conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt first reading of Ordinance No. 231.

ATTEST:
Lynn Heupel
Brown County Auditor
Published November 2 and 9, 2022, at the total approximate cost of \$22.07 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 21647

Brown County Jangula Rezoning Hearing Notice

Application has been made by Jerrad Jangula to the Brown County Board of Commissioners for a change of zoning. Hearing to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota on November 15, 2022 at 8:45 A.M. for the purpose of rezoning the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG):

Proposed Lot 1, "Jangula Subdivision" in the NE 1/4 of Section 24-T123N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota.

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the amendment to Second Revision Brown County Ordinances pertaining to rezoning the described property. At conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt first reading of Ordinance No. 232.

ATTEST:
Lynn Heupel
Brown County Auditor
Published November 2 and 9, 2022, at the total approximate cost of \$21.53 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 21648

Brown County Gossman Rezoning Hearing Notice

Application has been made by Stacy Gossman to the Brown County Board of Commissioners for a change of zoning. Hearing to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota on November 15, 2022 at 8:45 A.M. for the purpose of rezoning the following property from Chapter 4.08 Residential District (R-1) to Chapter 4.13 Commercial District (C):

Proposed Lot 1, "Ole Crow Addition" in the NW 1/4 of Section 17-T123N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota.

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the amendment to Second Revision Brown County Ordinances pertaining to rezoning the described property. At conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt first reading of Ordinance No. 234.

ATTEST:
Lynn Heupel
Brown County Auditor
Published November 2 and 9, 2022, at the total approximate cost of \$22.07 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 21650

Brown County Daily Rezoning Hearing Notice

Application has been made by John Daily to the Brown County Board of Commissioners for a change of zoning. Hearing to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota on November 15, 2022 at 8:45 A.M. for the purpose of rezoning the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG):

Lot 1, "First Subdivision of Bieber's Outlot 1" in the N 1/2 of Section 21-T126N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota.

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the amendment to Second Revision Brown County Ordinances pertaining to rezoning the described property. At conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt first reading of Ordinance No. 233.

ATTEST:
Lynn Heupel
Brown County Auditor
Published November 2 and 9, 2022, at the total approximate cost of \$22.63 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 21649

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- Establish a pilot project for day care and pre-school children
- Preserve culture and history
- Re-establish career and technology courses for Carpentry, Plumbing, Mechanics, Electricians to help our work force
- Protect our property, and our sports activities

Working together, we can solve problems!

The Groton Independent

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Region 1A Volleyball

Lady Tigers take down Webster in straight sets

Groton Area advanced in Region 1A competition Tuesday with a 3-0 win over Webster Area. The Tigers avenged an earlier season 3-2 loss to the Bearcats.

Groton Area came out with a vengeance in the first set, after winning the coin toss, Groton Area took a 6-0 lead and Webster had no answer to the Tiger's offensive powers as Groton took a 25-16 win. Aspen Johnson powered in five kills while Sydney Leicht had four kills, Jerica Locke had two ace serves, Elizabeth Fliehs had a kill and an ace serve, Anna Fjeldheim and Hollie Forst each had a kill and Carly Guthmiller had an ace serve.

Webster Area adjusted in the second set and kept the game close with it being seven times and two lead changes. After trailing 17-16, the Tigers rallied to take the set, 25-19. Fjeldheim had two kills and an ace serve, Johnson had two kills and a block, Laila Roberts and Lydia Meier each had two kills, Frost had a kill and a block, Locke had an ace and a kill and Leicht had a kill.

Coach Chelsea Hanson earned her pay in the third set when the Tigers were struggling to get a foothold on the set. The set was tied four times before the Bearcats took a commanding 15-7 lead and still held an 18-11 advantage. Hanson called time-out and started to switch up the line-up. Groton Area would score eight straight points to take the lead, 19-18 and would go on to win, 25-21. Leicht had four kills and an ace serve, Fjeldheim had three kills, Emma Kutter had two kills, Roberts and Johnson each had a kill and Fliehs and Jaedyn Penning each had had ace serve.

Overall, Johnson had eight kills and a block, Leicht had nine kills and an ace and Fjeldheim had six kills and an ace. Webster was led by Gracie Cadwell with six kills while Elliott Steiner had five kills and a block, Baylie Somsen had three kills and an ace, Payton Snell had two kills, Kara Kwansniewski had a kill and an ace serve, Erin Sannes had a kill and a block and Katie Braun and Jersey Johnson each had a kill.

Justin Hanson and Ryan Tracy did the play-by-play calling on GDILIVE.COM. The event was sponsored by Heavy Hitter Detailing with Cyrus DeHoet, Hefty Seed, Rutgear605, Bierman Farm Service, Groton Legion, BK Custom T's & More, Blocker Construction, Milbrandt Enterprises Inc, Groton Chiropractic Clinic, John Sieh Agency, Dacotah Bank, Lori's Pharmacy, Thunder Seed - John Wheeting, Weismantel Insurance Agency, Bahr Spray Foam, Groton Chamber Commerce, Karma Salon, Bary Keith at Harr Motors and the SD Army National Guard with Brent Wienk.

Groton Area will play Aberdeen Roncalli at Roncalli on Thursday at 6 p.m. That event will be broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM and will not require a ticket for viewing.

- Paul Kosel

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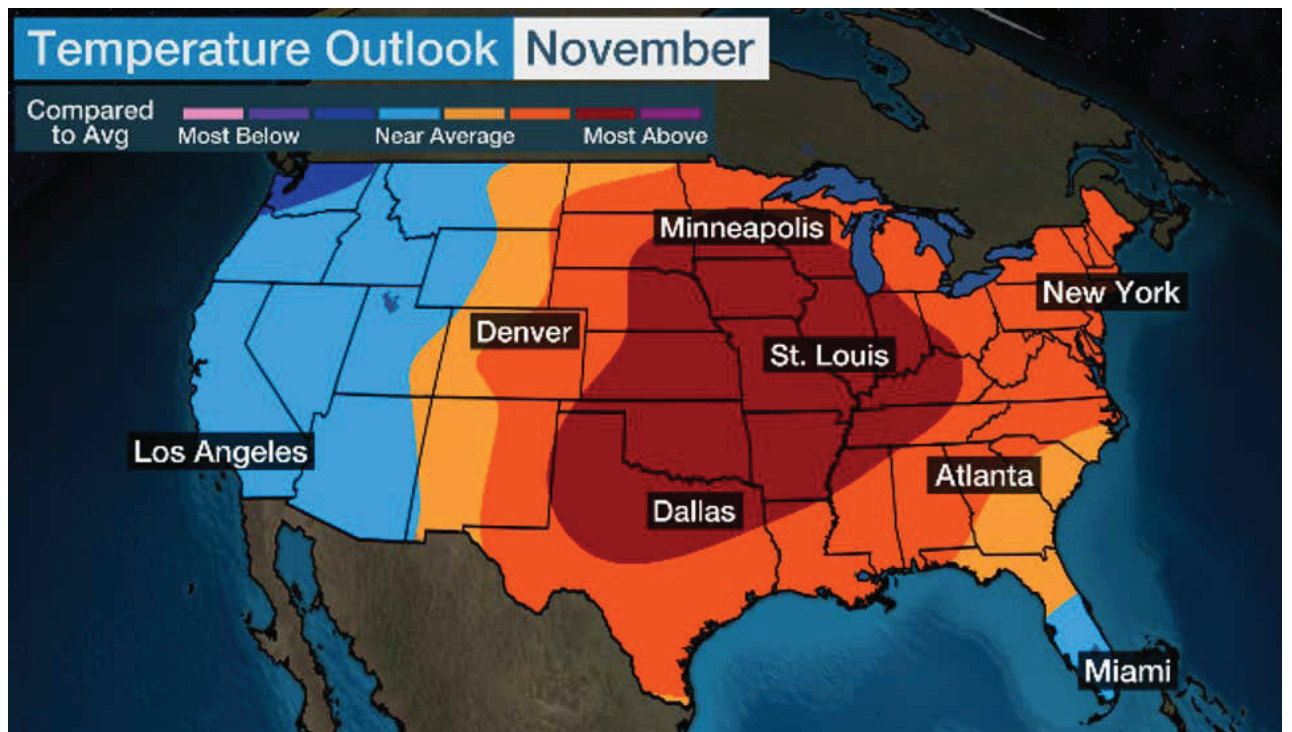


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November's temperatures are expected to be warmer than average for much of the United States, especially early in the month, allowing those not yet ready for winter to enjoy some late fall warmth.

Most areas east of the Rockies are forecast to skew warmer than usual during the month, according to an updated outlook from The Weather Company, an IBM Business, and Atmospheric G2.

The Plains, as well as the Missouri, Mississippi and lower Ohio valleys, are most likely to experience a warm month.

That doesn't mean there won't be chilling cold fronts at times, but the month as a whole is expected to skew much milder than a typical November.

On the other end of the spectrum, most areas west of the Rockies are expected to lean at least a bit cooler in November. This is most likely in parts of the Pacific Northwest, particularly Washington state.

One big driver of this outlook is a sharp plunge of the jet stream that will carve into the West in the first week of the month.

This will send temperatures soaring across the Plains, Midwest, South and East in what will feel like a bout of "second summer," while much of the West will be relatively cool by November standards.

But late November is more of a question mark.

Some computer models are forecasting blocking high pressure to develop near Greenland later in the month, a setup meteorologists refer to as the negative phase of North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) or a "Greenland block."

If that happens, there's an increased risk of more persistent cold air plunging into the eastern and central U.S. later in the month.

This potential Greenland blocking may also hold an intriguing piece to the rest of winter's forecast.

According to Todd Crawford, director of meteorology at Atmospheric G2, if a sharp NAO signal (negative or positive) shows up in late November, that same signal may persist through the core winter months of December through February.

So if this Greenland blocking is strong later in the month, that could portend a winter with more Greenland blocking and, thus, a colder risk in the East through February.

Brown County Oct. 25, 2022

Meeting Minutes

OCTOBER 25, 2022 – GENERAL MEETING

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Commissioner Fjeldheim moved to approve the agenda with addition of amending and approving September 20th minutes, seconded by Feickert. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: Dave Meyer with Summit Carbon Solutions commented that he was here if anyone had any questions.

INDIGENT COUNSEL PROPOSAL: Ernest Thompson, State's Attorney shared there are 8 attorneys that sent in a proposal for a 2-year period; January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024. Annual payment of \$750,000.00 for calendar year 2023/equal installments of \$7,812.50 and \$800,000.00 for calendar year 2024/ equal installments of \$8,333.33. This being the only bid Ernest recommended to accept the bid and can start contract negotiations. Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Gage to accept the proposal then move forward with Contract Negotiations. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

JAIL PROJECT: Dave Lunzman, Sheriff Chief Deputy and Ernest Thompson, State's Attorney met with the Commission to discuss the Jail Project and heighten the awareness and importance of this need. The current jail is 56 years old, no longer meets expectations, needs upgrades, too small. Current capacity is 48 beds – estimate new jail could hold around 200 beds. They stressed to the Commission that we need to either build a new facility or we will be spending money to transfer prisoners to other states because this is a problem across the state. If they end up having to transport prisoners than our expenses will go up. Federal prisoners can be brought in to help cover some of the costs. Commissioner Sutton shared that Commissioner Wiese and himself have been contacting other counties to see if they are interested in the Regional Jail – Aberdeen being a good location due to having 2 hospitals, NE Mental Health Center and staffing. Representative Perry shared they have a Regional Jail meeting in Pierre on November 1st; there is a possibility of some funding coming from the State to help with this project, also. Was discussed that they want to have rehabilitation programs, which would be another benefit but don't have the ability to do that right now. Deputy Lunzman shared that they don't have any Trustees in jail right now, they are violent criminals that can't be trusted so need to be incarcerated. State's Attorney Thompson shared the issue is not going away it is getting worse.

TOWNSHIP RURAL ACCESS INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING (RAIF): Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent presented plans from 3 Townships for 5 culverts. Greenfield Township 1 application for \$10,500/ 5 yr. plan; Groton Township 2 applications for \$12,500 ea./5 yr. plan; Liberty Township 2 applications for \$18,500 ea./5 yr. plan. Moved by Feickert to award the grants per Dirks recommendation, seconded by Wiese. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

GROTON AG PARTNERS: Scott Bader, Planning & Zoning Director along with Carl Schwab and June Thompson from Groton Ag met with the Commission to discuss "Green Energy" Tax Credits. Sharing information with the Commission to make them aware and to ask them to find ways to Harvest "Green Energy" Tax Credits to retain some of the money within the county and/or local government.

ELECTION UPDATE: Lynn Heupel, Auditor gave an update on the General Election. As of October 24th, we had 2098 absentee voters. 119 New Voter Registrations were processed on October 24th, which was the last day to register for this election. Held one Mock Election and will be doing another one this Thursday, October 27th. Public testing of the Tabulator will be held on Tuesday, November 1st at 11am. Discussion is happen-

ing about doing Post-Election Audits but that will be discussed with Legislators in the future.

TRANSFER BAND RADIO: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to transfer Communications Band Radio and to the Landfill. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Feickert to approve the October 18, 2022 General Meeting Minutes. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to amend and approve the September 30, 2022 minutes for Ordinances 225 & 227. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

PAYROLL/CLAIMS: Moved by Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the following payroll and claims:

PAYROLL: Commission \$4,503.96; Elections \$2,610.00; Auditor \$9,666.46; Treasurer \$14,250.23; SA \$27,444.01; Maintenance \$10,259.73; Assessor \$15,103.01; ROD \$9,544.00; VSO \$4,143.28; GIS \$2,483.72; IT \$5,586.59; HR \$4,061.37; Sheriff \$45,568.31; Jail \$64,236.11; Court Security \$7,372.19; JDC/HD \$29,917.90; Welfare \$2,161.43; Museum \$8,036.98; Parks/Fairgrounds \$4,133.80; Fair \$4,790.80; 4-H \$638.80; W&P \$4,248.63; P&Z \$5,681.44; Hwy. \$42,526.79; Dispatch \$40,869.36; EM \$4,285.81; 24/7 \$1,524.73; Landfill \$14,585.83; Mutual Benefits \$182.00. **MATCHING BENEFITS:** FICA \$23,192.72; Medicare \$5,424.08; Discovery/HSA \$1,421.17; Retirement/SDRS \$47,966.97.

CLAIMS: Professional Fees: Avera St. Luke's \$369.78; Century Business Products \$54.23; Christy Griffin-Serr Law Office \$8,541.67; Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$8,541.67; Dana J. Larson \$140.00; Darcy Lockwood \$30.00; Dave Lunzman \$200.00; Dohrer Law Office \$8,541.67; Harmelink & Fox Law Office \$169.67; James Kramp \$12,640.45; Jerald M. McNeary \$8,541.67; Kuck Law Office \$8,541.67; Lucy Lewno \$220.00; Lumen \$165.46; Marco Inc \$400.00; Nicole Embury \$1,407.09; Sd Dept Of Health \$40.00; Taliaferro Law Firm \$8,541.67; Valerie J. Larson \$30.00. Publishing: GateHouse Media South Dakota Holdings, Inc. \$2,046.31; Groton Independent \$746.22. Repairs & Maintenance: Century Business Products \$44.70; Climate Control \$119.35; Ecolab Pest Elimination \$113.54; House of Glass \$146.69; Kone Inc \$4,239.72; McGaugh Family Inc \$25.33; Midwest Pump & Tank \$330.89; Northwestern Energy & Communications \$491.88; Timothy C. Gardner \$70.00; Woodman Refrigeration, Inc \$849.92. Supplies: Agtegra Cooperative \$1,542.62; Arts South Dakota \$350.00; Avera LTC Pharmacy Aberdeen \$472.91; Cartney Bearing \$92.94; Century Business Products \$945.51; Charm-Tex \$2,647.44; Cole Papers \$3,668.27; Crescent Electric Supply Co \$31.75; Daniel J. Heinz \$450.00; Election Systems & Software LLC \$9,150.99; Karen Swank \$9.00; Kessler's \$54.43; Lucy Lewno \$13.14; Marco Inc \$41.38; Meister Mowing LLC \$465.00; Menards \$363.86; Plumbing & Heating Wholesale, Inc. \$171.14; Premier Biotech, Inc \$616.98; Roland L. Moerke \$1,137.26; Shi International Corp \$216.54; Tri State Water \$37.75; Web Water Bottling Company \$98.25. Travel & Conference: Heartland Assoc of Fairs, Festivals & Events \$1,395.00; Kelsi Thilmony-Vinger \$215.28; Rachel Wilson \$30.00. Utilities: City of Aberdeen \$406.81; Dependable Sanitation Inc \$348.00; Northwestern Energy & Communications \$8,109.61; Verizon Wireless Services LLC \$124.21. Rentals: H & H Farms \$250.00; Les Frohling \$200.00; Ron Jacobson \$250.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT: Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Gage to approve the following Human Resource Report:

Acknowledge the resignation of Jordon Sutton, Brown County Landfill Equipment Operator,

full-time; effective November 4, 2022. Request to fill.

Approve request to hire Brown County IT intern, part-time; wage of \$12.50/hour.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried

PLATS:
Resolution #52-22: Commissioner Gage brought the following resolution: "Be it resolved by the County Commission of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "DeMaray Addition to the City of Columbia, in the NW ¼ of Section 28, Township 125 North, Range 62 West of the 5TH P.M., Brown County South Dakota" having been examined is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-3 and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Commissioner Wiese. All members present voting aye. Resolution adopted.

Resolution #53-22: Commissioner Gage brought the following resolution: "Be it resolved by the County Commission of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "Jangula Subdivision in the NE ¼ of Section 24-T123N-R65W of the 5TH P.M., Brown County South Dakota" having been examined is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL 11-3 and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Commissioner Wiese. All members present voting aye. Resolution adopted.

Resolution #54-22: Commissioner Gage brought the following resolution: "Be it resolved by the County Commission of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "Ole Crow Addition in the NW ¼ of Section 17, Township 123 North, Range 63 West of the 5TH P.M., Brown County South Dakota" having been examined is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-3 and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Commissioner Wiese. All members present voting aye. Resolution adopted.

Resolution #55-22: Commissioner Gage brought the following resolution: "Be it resolved by the County Commission of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "Bormann First Addition in the W ½ SW ¼ of Section 30-T128N-R61W of the 5TH P.M., Brown County South Dakota" having been examined is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL 11-3 and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Commissioner Wiese. All members present voting aye. Resolution adopted.

Resolution #56-22: Commissioner Gage brought the following resolution: "Be it resolved by the County Commission of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "S L A Addition in the SW ¼ of Section 25, Township 124 North, Range 64 West of the 5TH P.M., Brown County South Dakota" having been examined is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-3 and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Commissioner Wiese. All members present voting aye. Resolution adopted.

ZONING ORDINANCES - SET HEARING DATE/AUTHORIZE ADVERTISING: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to set hearing date and authorize advertising for first reading of the following zoning ordinances to be held November 15, 2022 in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD at 8:45 a.m.: Proposed ordinance 231, applicant Todd Ochsner/Ochsner Real Estate, LP requesting to move from Chapter 4.06 Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.15 Light Industrial District (L-I): The S ½ of Section 19-T123N-R64W lying South of Railroad R.O.W. of the 5TH P.M., Brown County, South Dakota; Proposed ordinance 232, applicant Jerrad Jangula requesting to move from Chapter 4.06 Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini Ag District (M-AG): "Proposed Lot 1, "Jangula Subdivision" in the NE ¼ pf Section 24-T123N-R65W of the 5TH P.M., Brown County, South Dakota; Proposed ordinance 233 applicant

John Daily requesting to move from Chapter 4.06 Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini Ag District (M-AG): Lot 1, "First Subdivision of Bieber's Outlot 1" in the N ½ of Section 21-T126N-R64W of the 5TH P.M., Brown County, South Dakota; Proposed ordinance 234, applicant Stacy Gossman requesting to move from Chapter 4.08 Residential District (R-1) to Chapter 4.13 Commercial District (C); Proposed Lot 1 "Ole Crow Addition" in the NW ¼ of Section 17-T123N-R63W of the 5TH P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. The proposed ordinances will be made available for public inspection at the Brown County Auditor's Office or Brown County Planning and Zoning Office during regular business hours. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: None
EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Gage, seconded by Wiese to go into executive session to discuss Personnel & Legal per SDCL 1-25-2. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. The chair declared the executive session closed with no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Gage to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 11:10 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published November 2, 2022, at the total approximate cost of \$120.03 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 21651

Frederick City Water Rate Increase

City of Frederick
Water Rate Increase
Resolution #2022-1: Water Rate Increase

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF FREDERICK APPROVING A RATE INCREASE FOR WATER USAGE AS APPROVED

Whereas, the Board did pass and approve a rate increase at the October 5, 2022 meeting with a second reading October 18, 2022.

Whereas, motion was made and unanimously approved to raise the rate to \$4.75 per 1,000 gallons after the first 1,000 gallons with a \$27 monthly minimum to be effective November 1, 2022.

Whereas, cause for the rate increase was due to raise in rates from WEB Water; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Frederick, SD the rate increase for the water will become effective November 1, 2022 and continue until repealed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City of Frederick this day October 18, 2022.

Scott Campbell, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST: Mariah Heine, Frederick Assistant Finance Officer

Published November 2, 2022, at the total approximate cost of \$13.49 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 21652

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- February 7, 14, and 21, 2023 | Pierre
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- April 4, 11, and 18, 2023 | Mitchell

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City of Milbank, Chief of Police

The City of Milbank, South Dakota seeks Chief of Police. Milbank is a small, progressive community with a population of 3,544. Requirements: bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a minimum of ten years of progressively responsible experience in law enforcement, including management and supervision; or any such combination of education, experience and training as may be acceptable to the hiring authority; current South Dakota Law Enforcement Certification or ability to obtain through reciprocity.

Applicants must have proficient computer skills and possess great interpersonal, communication and organizational skills. Must possess a valid driver's license. The salary range for this position is \$57,500 to \$81,650 annually (DOQ), plus benefits.

A complete job description and application can be accessed on the City of Milbank website, <https://www.milbanksd.com/city-of-milbank/employment/>.

Position will close on Friday, November 18, 2022.



Allied Climate Professionals
(Photo by April Abeln)



Bahr Spray Foam
(Photo by April Abeln)



City Hall/Wage Memorial Library
(Photo by April Abeln)



Professional Management Services
Lori Westby
(Photo by April Abeln)



Next Level Nutrition
(Photo by April Abeln)



Heather Flihs & kiddos
(Photo by April Abeln)



Kolker Law Office- Kari Bartling
(Photo by April Abeln)



Groton Legion/Legion Auxiliary
(Photo by April Abeln)



Karma Salon
(Photo by April Abeln)



SD Army National Guard
(Photo by April Abeln)



Bierman Farm Service
(Photo by April Abeln)



Farmers Union Insurance
Ryder Johnson
(Photo by April Abeln)

Groton Chamber of Commerce

November 2, 2022

12pm City Hall

• Individuals present: Christine Hilton, Katelyn Nehlich, Hope Block, Kellie Locke, Carol Kutter, April Abeln, Doug Heinrich, and Bruce Babcock

• Dues mailing materials were distributed for members to get ready to mail while meeting items were discussed.

• Minutes from the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Block and seconded by Locke. All members present voted aye.

• Treasurer's report was given. Dacotah Bank checking account balance is \$25,113.75. \$1,008.40 is in the Bucks account. Report was approved by Block and seconded by Heinrich. All members present voted aye. It was mentioned a Facebook post about Chamber Bucks should be posted.

• Motion by Abeln and seconded by Locke to order more \$10 Chamber Bucks. All members present voted aye. (after meeting a box of \$10 Bucks was located, so order was not placed.)

• Motion by Abeln and seconded by Block to do a \$100 Facebook boost on the post regarding shirt orders and shirt giveaway. All members present voted aye. Abeln will email better order form images and will ask Kay to post link to order form on the Chamber website. Shirt orders are open now until November 23rd with 5 shirt winners being announced on that date as well.

• Motion by Abeln and seconded by Block to order 50 of the rawhide leatherette tumblers from Rustic Cuts as long as the 15% discount is given. All members present voted aye.

• Geffdog Rack Cards were discussed. Abeln will email changes and have an updated proof available at the next meeting.

• Motion by Abeln and seconded by Block to publish a half page ad in both the Aberdeen Magazine and SD Magazine for July/August, September/October, November/December issues for 2023. All members present voted aye.

• Dues notices were mailed today and window clings were presented. Nehlich will mail clings to paid 2023 members.

• Ashley Smith has resigned from the Chamber due to work commitments. A new Vice President and Email Coordinator along with Advertising Coordinator will be elected at the January meeting along with other board positions.

• Motion by Block and seconded by Abeln to donate a Chamber tumbler and \$25 in Chamber bucks to the FEZtival of Trees event put on at the Yelduz Shrine Center. All members present voted aye. The City of Groton will be sponsoring the Christmas tree and decorations. Other businesses are encouraged to donate gifts to be placed under the tree. Tree and gifts will be raffled as a fundraiser for the Yelduz Shrine.

• It was decided not to decorate a Christmas tree at Wage Memorial Library.

• Motion by Abeln and seconded by Hilton to gift the Wage Memorial Library \$50 in Chamber Bucks to be given away to the People's Choice Christmas tree winner at their Tour of Homes event. All members present voted aye.

• Motion by Block and seconded by Heinrich to gift \$50 in Chamber Bucks to Next Level Nutrition to be given away the final day of their 12 Days of Christmas Giveaway. All members present voted aye.

• Motion by Abeln and seconded by Babcock to donate \$100 to the Groton Snow Queen. All members present voted aye.

• Motion by Abeln and seconded by Block to donate \$100 in Chamber Bucks to the Community Thanksgiving hosted by Tom & Barb Paepke at the Community Center on Thanksgiving Day. All members present voted aye. It was suggested we schedule a picture opportunity for such donation.

• Electronic sign ad spots were sold in 2015 with leases lasting 10 years. It was decided to leave Wells Fargo ad spot until lease is done since they are still in business elsewhere.

• Smith Autobody would like to wait until they have their signage installed to have their new business welcome.

• Motion by Abeln and seconded by Heinrich to donate \$100 to the Shop for a Cop event organized by Dakota Broadcasting. All members present voted aye. All Fraternal Order of Police members, including Groton Police Department, Aberdeen Fire & Rescue, and SD Game, Fish & Parks employees are encouraged to participate. Families are chosen by the Salvation Army.

• Block will contact businesses that have not paid dues prior to our electronic sign drawing to encourage them to be members.

• Next meeting:

o December 7th at City Hall 12-1pm with Ken's catered lunch of Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Corn, and Biscuits. An RSVP email will be sent out and Chamber members will be encouraged to attend as well.

• Upcoming events

- o 11/06/2022 SEAS Catholic Church Soup Supper 5:30-7:30pm
- o 11/10-12/2022 Lori's Pharmacy Holiday Open House
- o 11/10-12/2022 Beauty Brew Boutique Holiday Open House
- o 11/11-13/2022 Front Porch 605 Christmas at the Barn 10am-5pm each day
- o 11/13/2022 Groton Area Snow Queen
- o 11/19/2022 Legion Post #39 Turkey Party 6:30pm
- o 11/24/2022 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm

o 12/03/2022 Holiday Tour of Homes & Silent Auction at Olive Grove Golf Course 4-7pm

o 12/10/2022 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services 9am-12pm


o 01/29/2023 Groton Robotics Pancake Feed at the Community Center 10am-1pm

o 01/29/2023 85th Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm

John DEMOCRAT
Cunningham


★ ★ ★ FOR STATE TREASURER ★ ★ ★

JOHN CUNNINGHAM FOR ETHICAL SOUTH DAKOTA TREASURER



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Paid for by Cunningham4EthicalSDTreasurer

GROTON'S EVENTS

Nov. 11-13 Front Porch
605 Christmas at the Barn
10am-5pm each day

Nov. 19 American
Legion Post #39 Turkey
Party 6:30pm

Nov. 24 Community
Thanksgiving at the
Community Center
11:30am-1pm

Dec. 3 Holiday Tour of
Homes & Silent Auction
at Olive Grove Golf
Course 4-7pm



Dec. 10 Santa Claus
Day at Professional
Management Services
9am-12pm



Jan. 29, 2023 Groton
Robotics Pancake Feed
at the Community
Center 10am-1pm



Jan. 29, 2023 85th Carnival of
Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm

GROTON
Chamber Of Commerce

120 N Main St., Groton, SD 57445

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WITH BRENT WIENK
THUNDER SEED - JOHN WHEETING
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GROTON VS. RONCALLI
REGION 1A MATCH

Classifieds and Card of Thanks

The following rates are for Classifieds published in both the Groton Daily Independent and the Groton Independent. Cut rate in half if you just want it in the GDI or just the weekly.
1 Week: \$9 for first 30 words, 20¢/word thereafter
2 Wks: \$17 for first 30 words, 38¢/word thereafter
3 Wks: \$24 for first 30 words, 54¢/word thereafter
4th consecutive week is free
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PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

AUCTIONS

INTERSTATE AUCTION CENTER November 5 10am. 3 Miles East of Sioux Falls exit 402 Brandon. Fall Lawn and Garden Recreational Consignment and Farm Equipment Sale. Call 605-331-4550. Website auctionzip.com

BIDS

STANEK CONSTRUCTORS IS SOLICITING BIDS from MBE and WBE Subcontractors & Suppliers for: Kingbrook Rural Water System's De Smet Water Treatment Plant Improvements Project. Bid Date: 11/17/22 - 2:00PM Email: estimating@staneconstructors.com for more info.

EMPLOYMENT

SATURDAY CLEANER NEEDED IN FERNEY, SD, 830 am to 130 pm, \$16 an hour. Must be dependable and be willing to work around customers coming into the family owned business. Please call Stephanie at 605-381-1758. (1102.1109)

EMS SERVICE DIRECTOR: Opportunity for an experienced Paramedic/EMT/RN to serve as director for a progressive rural community. Current SD license required. Salary DOE and benefits package. Direct inquiries to continuum@venturecomm.net.

ARE YOU LOOKING for a change of pace in the middle of Montana? Experienced butcher needed ASAP Moore, MT. Employee housing available. Email bigskyprocessingllc@gmail.com

CHIEF OF POLICE: City of Kimball. Must be certified or be able to be certified through the South Dakota Law Enforcement Training Center within one year of hiring. Must be highly motivated with a great work ethic. Salary ranges from \$40,000 to \$50,000, depending on experience. For details and application, e-mail kimballcitysd@midstatesd.net. 605-778-6277. EOE.

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Fines start January 1, 2023
Spayed/Neutered dogs are \$5 per dog, otherwise \$10 per dog

Proof of rabies shot information is **REQUIRED!!**
Email proof to city.kellie@nvc.net, fax to (605) 397-4498 or bring a copy to City Hall!!
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Questions call (605) 397-8422

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Groton Robotic Team Competes in Box Elder, SD

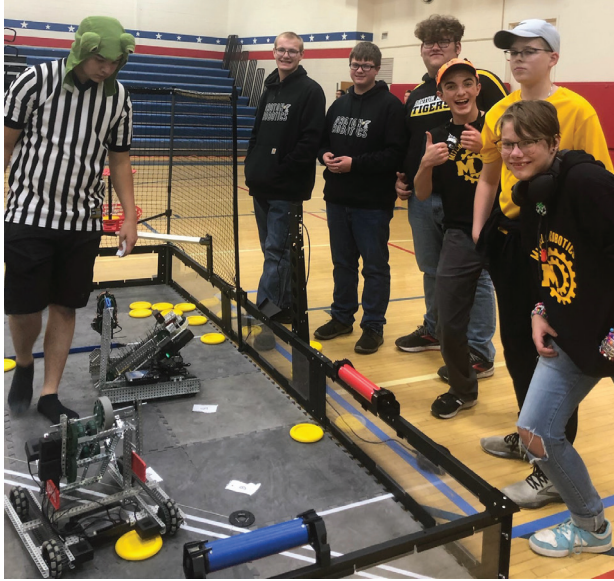
Gear Heads-Jack Dinger, Ethan Clark headed out to Rapid City for their first tournament of the season held at Douglas High School in Box Elder on Saturday, October 29th. This tournament was very small and only 4 schools participated including Groton, Box Elder, Mitchell, and Gillette, Wyoming for a total of 16 teams. Gear heads were 8th after the qualifying rounds. They ended the day by coming short one point in the quarter finals tournament. Mitchell took home the first place trophy for the day.

The team has been working on their robot since spring, but first tournaments always act as a learning curve. There are a few ways to score during this tournament and their original scoring plan of shooting disk into goals didn't go as efficiently as they had hope. Mid-point during the qualifying matches they decided to change their scoring strategy and tweak their robot accordingly. After this they were able to finally rack up some points at the end of each match. Each tournament acts as a learning curve and the robots are modified each time to become more efficient.

Thanks again to all who support Groton Robotics! All Groton Robotic

teams will be traveling down to Mitchell next weekend on Saturday, November 5th. The 6th grade team will be competing for the first time. It's always fun to watch their enthusiasm and see what skills and knowledge they take home. The tournament starts at 10:30 and will be in the Norby Trade Center at Mitchell Technical Institute. A link to watch will be posted on the Groton Robotics Facebook page.

Submitted by: Groton Robotics



Gear Heads (L-R) Ethan Clark, Jack Dinger, Corbin Weismantel (fill-in assistant) (Courtesy Photo)

**RE-ELECT
INDEPENDENT
SUSAN
WISMER**

**DISTRICT ONE
STATE SENATE**

- ★ Experienced farmhand & lifelong resident of District 1
- ★ Pro Education and respect for the profession
- ★ Pro protecting freedoms, including women's
- ★ Known in Pierre as a State Budget Guru and Ferocious Fighter for Small Towns, Small Schools and Rural.

Paid for by Susan Wismer for Senate

PAID FOR BY KRISTI FOR GOVERNOR

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GROWING OUR ECONOMY

✓ TAXES CUT & INCOMES GROWN BY 21%

*I humbly ask for your vote
and your support! -Kristi*

NOEM
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Dear EarthTalk: How are populations of sea turtles faring these days?

-- A.J., Los Angeles, CA

Swimming alongside a sea turtle in coastal waters is certainly a thrilling sensation, but the experience is becoming increasingly harder to come by. Declines in sea turtle populations around the world and in U.S. waters over recent decades is a sad reminder of all the environmental offenses that contribute to making the world's oceans less hospitable to these majestic, iconic reptiles.

Researchers estimate that since the dawn of the Industrial Age in the early 20th century, global sea turtle populations have decreased by as much as two-thirds overall. These days only about 6.5 million sea turtles roam the world's subtropical and tropical coastlines. Indeed, sea turtle populations are on the ropes: Three out of the world's seven sea turtle species are considered "critically endangered" by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN); green sea turtle numbers have fallen by some 90 percent while Leatherbacks have lost 40 percent of their population. Strict conservation measures are needed if we are to save these species outright.

But why even care about the turtles? They might seem like any other sea creature, but they are actually vital to maintaining a balanced environment. Turtle's graze on sea-

grass meadows to regulate their growth and prevent them from suffocating. Unhatched eggs are also a vital source of nutrients to sand dunes, which allow vegetation to grow. So, if our turtle populations become too low, it will cause a chain reaction within the whole shoreline ecosystem.

Unfortunately, populations of sea turtles face myriad threats. For starters, sea turtles often mistake plastic bags for jellyfish, one of their favorite delicacies. But this plastic can get stuck in the turtle's stomach, imitating their sensation of being full which causes them to not eat any actual food. Researchers estimate some 52 percent of turtles have eaten some type of plastic.

With sea level rises, many beaches and even smaller barrier islands are disappearing. Turtles therefore become confused as to where to lay their eggs, potentially making it so that they don't lay any. In addition, as reptiles, the gender of their hatchlings relies on temperature. Higher equals females, and lower equals males. With global warming, beaches are warming up, drastically altering the male/female balance. This could potentially affect the breeding success of turtles, and contribute to the decline as well.

The federal Endangered Species Act already protects turtles by making it illegal to harm them in any way, and provides resources to combat endangerment. Environmentalists have also created new programs like the State of the World's Sea Turtles and the IUCN Turtle Specialist group which examine risk factors, data and potential conservation efforts.



Since the dawn of the Industrial Age, global sea turtle populations have decreased by 2/3, with only 6.5 million sea turtles left today. Credit: Pexels.com.

Additionally, many volunteers come together during nesting and hatching season to protect and guide turtles. And their efforts have not gone to waste; Leatherback turtle nests in and around U.S. waters are up from 27 in 1989 to 614 in 2014 thanks to protections enacted under the Endangered Species Act. In addition, 3,960 nests have been counted on the Georgia Coast, a record for the state. By continuing to fund conservation efforts and with the help of volunteers, sea turtles can continue to thrive in the wild. .

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"The vital role that women play in men's health"

A hug when I come home after a long day. A smile that melts my heart. A song and a dance that are spontaneous and carefree. Those are some of the blessings that come to mind when I think about my daughter.

Daughters can be a blessing in so many ways, as can sons of course. However, when it comes to taking care of families, women often play a vital role. Whether it is a young mom with her baby, a concerned wife encouraging her husband to go to the doctor, or a loving daughter preparing her elderly father another meal, women are important for men's health.

Certainly, men are important for the health and well being of children, spouses, and parents as well. However, women naturally tend to be caregivers and stewards of a family's health. Studies have shown that having a daughter increases their father's life expectancy, while sons do not statistically contribute to paternal longevity. (Interestingly, having sons or daughters both decrease the life expectancy of their mothers, presumably due to the stress on the body.)

Thus, if one wants to promote men's health and awareness, one must reach the women!

This November, you may see a few more mustaches than usual, for the annual "No-shave November" sometimes called "Movember" for the "M" from "mustache", and intended to raise awareness of men's health issues such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and suicide.

Oftentimes the key to detecting and treating cancer is to catch it early. A preventative physical exam with a primary care provider can allow time to identify a person's health risk factors and decide on a strategy for screening and detecting disease. This wellness visit should also promote healthy efforts at diet and exercise that may prevent some diseases altogether.

And who is it that often encourages men to get their preventative physical and see the doctor? It's the mothers, wives, and daughters!

For this "Movember," I want to give a "thank you" to the women and anyone taking care of the men in their life. Thank you for encouraging them to get their health checked out and seeking help for mental illness. Thank you for being caregivers. Thank you for being a blessing and saving lives.

Andrew Ellsworth, M.D. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices family medicine in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org and on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show based on science, built on trust for 21 seasons, broadcast on SDPB and streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.



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Andrew Ellsworth, MD.