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The Groton Independent

Vol. 140 No. 09 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2022 ♦ Established in 1889

Weather delayed Veteran's Day Program

The weather did not cancel the Veteran's Day Program that was scheduled for Friday, but only postponed it to Monday with all activities being held. The breakfast was held at the elementary school with the program in the afternoon. Five Veterans were honored this year with the Quilt of Honor. The quilts were made by Karen Wolter. Dr. Tracy Diefenbach talked about the DTOM ranch near Warner and the services that are provided for the Veterans.

Music was provided by the school's music department. The All State Chorus members sang the "Star Spangled Banner"; The 8-12 choir sang, "Of Thee I Sing, America!"; The JK/Kindergarten and First Graders sang, "This Land is Your Land"; the second and third graders sang, "I'm A Yankee Doodle Dandy"; the fourth and fifth graders sang, "Let Freedom Ring"; the 6-7 choir sang, "For Which it Stands"; and the 8-12 Band performed the Service Songs; and along with the entire student body and band, "America the Beautiful" was sung. The Groton American Legion Post #39 presented the colors and Jayden Schwan performed "Taps."



The All State Chorus students sang the "Star Spangled Banner," under the direction of Scott Glodt. Pictured are Cadance Tullis, Anna Bisbee, Carter Barse, Axel Warrington, Kianna Sanders, Shaylee Peterson, Rebecca Poor, Ellie Weismantel.

(Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)

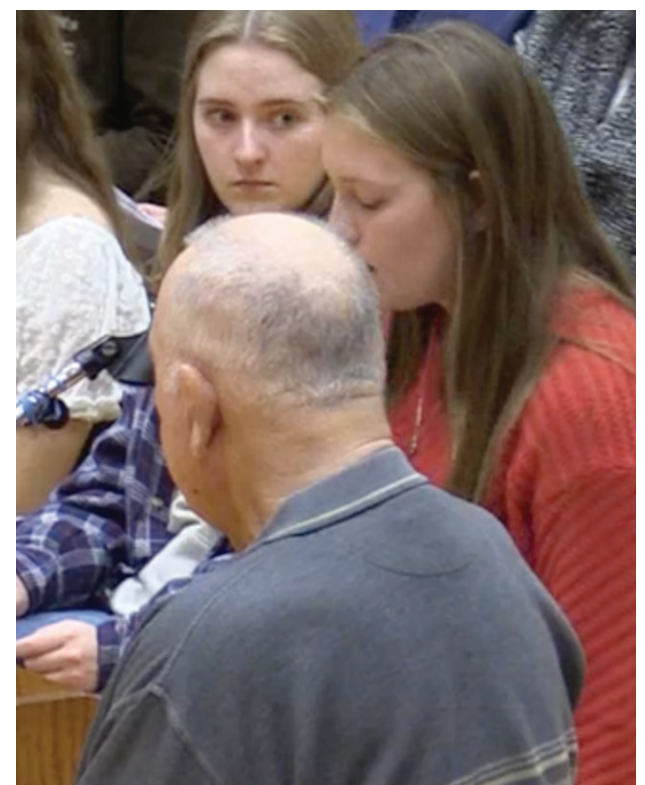
More Photos on Page 5



Mia Crank read the story about Stanley Monson, Sr. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Logan Warrington read the story about Charles Robinson. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Jaedyn Penning read the story about Edward Stauch. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Lucas Carda read the story about Bob Voss. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Jerica Locke read the story about Thomas Belden. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Jayden Schwan performed "Taps." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



SNOW QUEEN PHOTOS ON PAGE 6

Surviving Thanksgiving

Editor's note: In the interest of public safety, here's a column from Tony on what not to do on Thanksgiving.

I'm going to end the suspense right now. No one died from my Thanksgiving Day dinner.

I did not realize that for the many years I have been making turkeys for the holidays, I have been putting people in mortal danger. I'm probably in denial about the very real possibility that there has been significant loss of life due to my recklessness. Which would explain why I no longer get Christmas cards from some people. Then again, it might just be politics.

This all started last week when I was setting up tables and chairs and finalizing plans to host our family Thanksgiving in the repurposed Congregational Church I moved to my property several years ago. I suppose I should explain that. Basically, I was tired of losing theological arguments—sometimes with real preachers trained in the art of hand-to-hand religion. I suppose I could have gone to seminary, but like vampires burst into flames in the sunlight, or wicked witches melt, I figured I might be a victim of spontaneous combustion.

So I bought my own church. I even bought the pulpit. So when I need to do some parenting, I like to stand behind it and pontificate. I feel it strengthens my position. Thou shalt clean thy room.

And now, whenever I think I am losing a religious argument to someone armed with facts and historical perspective, I interrupt them. "Do you have your own church? Because I do." End of argument, because moving a church 70 miles shows commitment.

Anyway, I have the space, and I thought I would give my Mom a break. You remember my Mom, reigning Ashley Oktoberfest Cooking Champion. So, this offer of mine was already pressure-packed. But I was confident. Because up to that point I had no idea of the carnage I had wrought. I suppose no one ever gave me the body count because they didn't want to hurt my feelings.

Even from 60 miles away, this thing was micromanaged from the start. I decided to do festive but disposable place settings rather than drag all of that over from the main house.

Then Mom called. "Did you put the turkey in the refrigerator to thaw?"

"Of course not. I've been thawing birds in cold water in the sink since the Eighties. Thanksgiving is four days away."

But then she explained, as one does to the dim-witted, in short succinct sentences, that it was much safer to do it her way. She made it sound like there are hand grenades in each bird. One wrong move and ka-boom! So we negotiated. She agreed to let me use sturdy plastic dinnerware if I promised to put the turkey in the refrigerator to thaw "the right way".

Well, I got up at 5:30 a.m. Thanksgiving Day and threw a ham into one oven and then trudged across the yard to start the turkey. (The church has a functional kitchen.)

The turkey was a brick. It might have even been more frozen! Apparently the hunters who had rented the church earlier, had cranked up the cold. But I blame my mother. None of this would have happened if she had just let me continue my annual unintentional killing spree.

I went from despair to anger. I considered calling her at that ungodly hour to chew her out, but then thought better of it. I realized she'd probably just give me more bad advice.

Meanwhile, my sister Sherry, who is bossier than my mom, and my sister-in-law Pam, who I have nothing bad to say about because she scares me, were already contemplating the disaster that awaited them. They wondered what I would forget or what I would burn. And what the number of the coroner was.

I called the Butterball hotline. I never got a real answer. Just hysterical laughter. Can you cook a frozen turkey? As a matter of fact, yes. It came out a delicious brown and the meat fell off the bone. And it was done on schedule. I'd rather not talk about the giblets.

The minute Mom arrived, I lit into her, though, just as a matter of principle. Our family functions are usually combative anyway, so throwing the first punch is a widely respected strategy. I had her on her heels all day. No matter what the subject, I brought it right back to flawed turkey thawing methods and the heroic efforts required to overcome them.

I sensed my sister hovering, looking for something to worry about. I placated her with wine.

My brother Mike prayed before we ate. "Please Jesus, don't make us eat this food. Amen."

Mom called the next day to report that the debriefing went well. Everyone was suitably impressed with my organizational and culinary skills. Mike was still praying though, in case of a delayed reaction. "It's nice to meet the low bar of expectations," I said.

The turkey soup is on simmer.

© Tony Bender, 2016



That's Life

by Tony Bender

Weekly Vikings Recap

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

For the first time since week 3, the Vikings kicked off to start the game. The decision to kick off to the Bills, who arguably have the most potent offense in the game, paid off as they went three-and-out on their opening drive. The Bills then had to punt to what truly might be the best offense in the NFL, the opening drive Vikings. In the Vikings' nine games this season, the offense has scored a touchdown on their opening drive in six of them, including every game since they returned from their bye week. Thanks to two huge plays by Justin Jefferson, one of which was a 46-yard catch on 3rd & 11, the Vikings' opening drive success continued as they took the lead 7-0 over the Bills.

However, that lead barely lasted as Bills' running back, Devin Singletary, punched in two goal line runs for touchdown to give the Bills a 14-7 lead. Coming into this game, the Vikings had yet to play a cold, outdoor game, and it showed. The 39-degree weather and light flurries seemed to soften up the Vikings' defense as they looked afraid to get physical with the Bills' offense. To make matters worse, the Vikings' defense seemed to be unprepared for the Bills' turf as players were running gingerly or just plain slipping on the field.

After a Kirk Cousins' interception on an overthrow to KJ Osborn, it appeared that the Bills were going to run away with this game. However, the Vikings' defense was able to hold the Bills to a field goal to keep the game within 10 points. After the Vikings' field goal cut the Bills' lead to 17-10, the Vikings got a stroke of luck on a Devin Singletary fumble that could have easily been called down by contact. Unfortunately, the Vikings' offense could not capitalize as they came up with no points and gave the Bills plenty of time to score before the first half ended. And that is exactly what the Bills did as they drove quickly down the field, scoring on a Gabe Davis touchdown catch to give themselves a 24-10 lead going into halftime.

It's a shame the Vikings' opening drive success does not carry over into opening second-half drive success because the Vikings would have loved to score a touchdown to start the second half. Instead, the Vikings killed a promising opening drive on an awful interception by Kirk Cousins directly to a Bills defender.

Not to be deterred though, this Vikings team is different than the past couple of seasons.

A defensive battle until late in the third quarter, the Bills took a 27-10 lead on a field goal. On the very next play, Dalvin Cook ran for 81-yards to cut the lead 27-17. All of a sudden there is new life in this purple team.

Moving to the fourth quarter, it was about as crazy as it could get. Looking to put the nail in the coffin, Josh Allen throws a pick in the endzone to Patrick Peterson, who then returns it to the 40-yard line. The Vikings drive it down and CJ Ham scores his first TD in 5 years to make it 27-24. After a defensive stand, Kirk Cousins drives the Vikings all the way down to the 1-yard line. On fourth down, Cousins tries to sneak it in only to come up just inches short. Looking like the game was over, Josh Allen proceeded to fumble the snap on the next play, and Eric Kendricks lands on the ball for a touchdown. This game was far from over as Allen led the Bills down close to kick a game-tying field. On to overtime.

In the overtime, the Vikings won the toss and put a nice drive together ending in a field goal. Vikings go up 33-30. Allen once again runs the Bills to within field goal range only to throw another interception to Peterson in the endzone. Game over and the Vikings are now 8-1.

Now the Vikings head home for a tough three game home stand and kick things off with the Cowboys next Sunday. SKOL!!!

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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.



Before the Court: The Future of National Unity

Two hundred years ago, in the landmark case of *Cohens v. Virginia* (1821), the future of our Constitution, the aspirations of national unity, and the status and role of the federal judiciary itself, were before the Supreme Court. We have seldom seen in one case the coalescence of so many issues fundamental to the integrity of our constitutional system.

By David Adler

The stakes for America could not have been higher. If the Supreme Court could not exercise appellate authority over state court decisions, then each state would be free to interpret federal legislation and the Constitution as it wished. In theory, there might be as many interpretations of the Constitution as there were states. Patently, national unity would be but a pipe dream.

The Cohen brothers, members of a prominent Baltimore banking family, had been convicted in a Virginia court for violating the state's law prohibiting the sale of lottery tickets. The Cohens appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, on the assertion that the law authorizing the sale of lottery tickets had been enacted by Congress, which meant that the state law was invalid since it conflicted with a federal law.

Five years earlier, in *Martin v. Hunter's Lessee* (1816), the Court had held, over the objection of the high court of Virginia, that it enjoyed appellate authority over a state court decision in cases involving civil suits. Despite its loss, the Commonwealth of Virginia clung to claims of state sovereignty and refused to honor the Court's decision in *Hunter's Lessee*. Now, in *Cohens*, Virginia continued to insist that the Supreme Court could not review state court decisions involving criminal law. Virginia, it was plain, was challenging the concept of federal supremacy, clearly stated in Article VI of the Constitution, the principle of national unity, and the status of the Supreme Court as the nation's High Tribunal.

Chief Justice John Marshall, a lifelong Virginian, nonetheless held for the Court that states are not independent sovereignties, but rather members of one great nation—a nation endowed by the Constitution with a government competent to achieve all national objects. "The exercise of the appellate power over those judgments of the state tribunals which may contravene the Constitution or the laws of the United States, is, we believe, essential to the attainment of those objects."

Marshall's magisterial opinion, one of his finest for its vivid imagery and enduring reminder of our national unity, settled the authority of the nation's High Tribunal to review decisions by state courts in both civil and criminal cases. "The mischievous consequences" of Virginia's argument, Marshall wrote, "would prostrate the government and its laws at the feet of every State in the Union. Each member will possess a veto on the will of the whole."

The potential of each state to subordinate the federal government, as envisioned by Virginia, prompted a strong response from the Chief Justice. "No government ought to be so defective in its organization, as not to contain the means of securing the execution of its laws against other dangers than those which occur every day."

With the decision in *Cohens*, the structure of judicial power created by the Marshall Court was completed. Chief Justice Marshall's opinion settled forever the authority of the Supreme Court to hear appeals from state courts when a federal issue was involved, and it restated the supremacy of the Union. It also rounded out the role and scope of judicial power in the development of our nation. The authority of the judicial branch to enforce the Constitution against both the national and state governments became an accepted part of American constitutional law.

In *Marbury v. Madison*, Marshall established the principle of judicial review. In *McCulloch v. Maryland*, Marshall articulated the doctrine of implied powers as an essential tool for congressional governance. In *Cohens v. Virginia*, Marshall confronted the assertion of state sovereignty and the compact theory of the Constitution which purported to support it and drove them both from the field of judicial conversations. He wrote: "The constitution and laws of a State, so far as they are repugnant to the Constitution and laws of the United States, are absolutely void."

Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, a century after *Cohens v. Virginia* was delivered, noted its significance in the annals of American constitutional law. "I do not think," he declared, "the United States would come to an end if we lost our power to declare an Act of Congress void. I do think the Union would be imperiled if we could not make declarations as to the laws of the several states."

The landmark nature of *Cohens v. Virginia* lay in the Court's settlement, over Virginia's objection, of the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. Though defeated in its primary objective, Virginia did prevail in its prosecution of the Cohen brothers for selling lottery tickets within the state. Indeed, Chief Justice Marshall held that the

law authorizing the sale of lottery tickets applied only to the District of Columbia. If it had desired, he emphasized, Congress could have authorized a national lottery, but it did not. Thus, the statute under which the Cohens were convicted was upheld. It may be said, then, that Virginia won the battle, but lost the war.

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.



Trees and power lines were blanketed with ice from the ice storm that hit the area Wednesday and Thursday. Large branches came down in Groton and there were a few that landed on service lines. Groton Area had no school last week Thursday and Friday due to the storm.. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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21 N Main, Groton 605/397-NEWS (6397)
Paul Irvin Kosel, Publisher paperpaul@grotonsd.net ~ 605-397-7460

Tina Kosel, Office Manager office@grotonsd.net ~ 605-397-7285

Notices: legals@grotonsd.net

News Items: news@grotonsd.net

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Groton Prairie Mixed Bowling League

Week 1 Team Standings: Shihtzus – 3, Chipmunks – 3, Coyotes – 2, Foxes – 2, Cheetahs – 1, Jackelopes – 1

Men's High Games: Brad Waage – 204, Roger Spanier – 201, Brad Larson – 197

Women's High Games: Alexa Schuring – 188, Vicki Walter – 176, Darci Spanier – 156

Men's High Series: Brad Waage – 556, Roger Spanier – 538, Randy Stanley - 503

Women's High Series: Alexa Schuring – 456, Darci Spanier – 428, Vicki Walter – 413

Week 2 Team Standings: Chipmunks – 7, Foxes – 5, Cheetahs – 4, Shihtzus – 3, Coyotes – 3, Jackelopes – 2

Men's High Games: Larry Frohling – 191, Brad Larson – 183, Mike Siegler – 183

Women's High Games: Michelle Johnson – 166, Brenda Waage – 164, Alexa Schuring – 159,

Men's High Series: Lance Frohling – 503, Mike Siegler – 498, Brad Waage – 496

Women's High Series: Michelle Johnson – 421, Alexa Schuring – 418, Sue Stanley – 406

Conde National League

Nov. 7, 2022 Team Standings: Braves 20, Tigers 17, Pirates 16, Cubs 16, Giants 15, Mets 9

Men's High Games: Butch Farmen 213, 189; Brody Sombke 181; Topper Tastad 172

Men's High Series: Butch Farmen 570, Ryan Bethke 498, Chad Furney 458

Women's High Games: Joyce Walter 164, Vickie Kramp 159, Michelle Johnson 149

Women's High Series: Joyce Walter 466, Vickie Kramp 433, Michelle Walter 422

Nov. 14, 2022 Team Standings: Braves 21, Pirates 18, Cubs 18, Giants 18, Tigers 17, Mets 16.

Men's High Games: Dalton Locke 211, Ryan Bethke 198, Porter Johnson 182

Men's High Series: Ryan Bethke 502, Russ Bethke 468, Chad Furney 465

Women's High Games: Sam Bahr 159, Vickie Kramp 150, Michelle Johnson 146

Women's High Series: Vickie Kramp 414, Mayme Baker 390, Sam Bahr 388

American Legion Auxiliary news for Groton Unit 39

Three unit members, Wendy Cooper, Tami Zimney and Jan Seibel distributed toy soldiers and ALA coloring pages to trick or treaters during Groton's annual downtown event on October 31.

Unit 39 member and District Four president, Jan Seibel, hosted a continuous member pot-luck at the American Legion hall on November 7. Eight of the 15 honorees attended the event. The night began with a pot-luck meal and then everyone was served cake. Next, Seibel presented eight certificates of continuous membership, and several of those members spoke about their special memories while serving our state and local veterans while being a unit member of the American Legion Auxiliary. Camryn Kurtz sang our National Anthem and "God Bless the USA." Word bingo was played and seven prizes were won. In closing, each member was given a long stemmed rose from Unit 39 for Make a Difference Day.

Turkey party is on November 19. Kitchen opens at 5:30 and cake walk and BINGO start at 6:30. Members, please have a cake to the kitchen by 6.

Veterans Day is November 11 and unit 39 will be presenting five quilts of honor to Thomas Belden, Bob Voss, Stanley Monson, Edward Stauch, and Charles Robinson. Program starts at 2. Guest speaker will be Doc. T from DTOM Ranch.



Auxiliary Members Recognized

Front Row, L to R: Patricia Larson 40 yrs, Carol Dohman 42 yrs., Gertrude Erickson 60 yrs., and Charlean Erickson 49 yrs.

Back row L to R: Lisa Pray 40 yrs, Tami Zimney 55 yrs., Michele Everson 45 yrs., and Dawn Monson 47 yrs.

Other members recognized but not present: LaVonne Helmer 67 yrs, Jean Walter 62 yrs, Debra McKiver 62 yrs, Tracey Anderson 54 yrs., Beverly McGannon 51 yrs, Ruby Luce 49 yrs, and Mary Flihs 45 yrs. (Courtesy Photo)

Working at the Downtown Trick and Treat event were Wendy Cooper, Tami Zimney, and Jan Seibel. (Courtesy Photo)



The Groton Independent

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Veterans breakfast held Monday morning hosted by the Groton Area Elementary School.

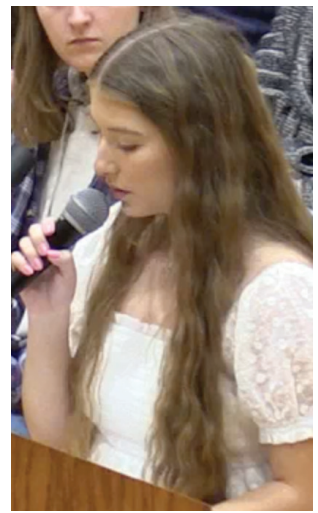
(Courtesy Photos by Bruce Babcock)



Many families attended the Groton Area Veterans Day program. Karyn and Bruce Babcock with grandchildren Rylan and Emery Blackwood. Babcock joined the Air Force on Nov. 16, 1978. He served 11 years in active duty and 17 years part-time in the reserves for a total of 28 years. (Courtesy Photo Bruce Babcock)



Dr. Tracy Diefenbach talked about the services provided for Veterans, free of charge, at the DTOM ranch. For more information about their ranch, go to dtom220.org. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Shaylee Peterson gave the introduction for the Groton Legion Auxiliary, who presented Quilts of Honor to several Veterans.

(Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Jerry and Sharon Busch along with their son, Dan, had breakfast with their granddaughter. Their son, Dan, served 26 years of active service in the Air National Guard. Jerry served 20 years active as a jet engine mechanic in the Air Force. (Courtesy Photo Bruce Babcock)



Pictured are the readers, guest speaker, Veterans and their wives. In back, left to right, are Shaylee Peterson, Jerica Locke, Connie Stauch, Chris Reder from DTOM, Jaedyn Penning, Logan Warrington, Mia Crank, Lucas Carda, Nina Monson, Dr. Tracy Diefenbach from DTOM, and Charlene Voss; in front are Thomas Belden, Edward Stauch, Charles Robinson, Stanley Monson, Sr., and Bob Voss. (Photo by Jan Seibel)



Aaron Grant and Bruce Babcock posted the colors at the Veteran's Program held Monday. (Courtesy Photo Bruce Babcock)

Bids to be let for MS/HS air conditioning

There was discussion on air conditioning for the Arena and other areas of the middle/high school building. The air handlers in the Arena will work for air conditioning; thus, saving a considerable amount of money from having a total replacement. Superintendent Joe Schwan said the estimate for the project is now about \$750,000 instead of \$1.2 million. Bids will be published and bid specs put together with an opening date December 8 at 2 p.m.

The roof analysis summary was presented. Priority A repairs for the MS/HS was \$19,139 which also includes \$90 for a small repair on the elementary building. Priority B repairs recommended for FY2022 was \$8,451. For FY2023, two sections of the elementary school re-roofing was \$177,100 each. The cost of the report was \$900. The project was deferred to

the building and grounds committee for their recommendations.

Schwan reported about the issue with the phone calls not going out last Thursday for the school closing due to the weather. He reported to the board that this is the third vendor that the district has had since he has been here and there has been issues with all of the vendors. Schwan said the app is the most reliable. The information is also relayed to various media outlets.

The board accepted the resignation of Emily Eichler as first grade teacher at the end of this school year. She has been a teacher for 15 years in Groton. The job will be posted in January 2023.

The board hired Amanda Tarpein as food service staff for 3.5 hours per day at a rate of \$14 per hour.

Both the high school and elementary food service inspection report was given and both were given a perfect score of 100.

The following were approved as volunteer assistant coaches: Wrestling were Troy Zoellner, Wyatt Locke, Jeremy Krueger and Chris Ehresmann; girls' basketball was Becky Hearnen and boys' basketball is Jesse Zak.



Cadance Tullis and Gracie Traphagen gave the introductory remarks. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)

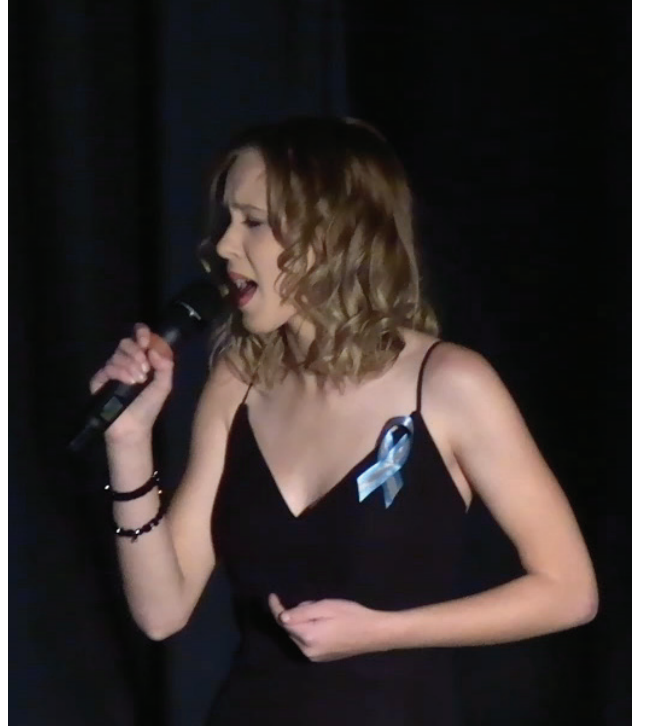


2023 Groton Snow Queens

On the left is Senior Snow Queen Shaylee Peterson with her parents, Kristi and Ben Peterson. On the right is Junior Snow Queen Talli Wright, with her parents Adam and Nikki Wright. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Libby Cole and Addison Hoeft sang a duet for the junior talent show. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Anna Bisbee sang a solo for the senior talent show. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Snow Queen Contest

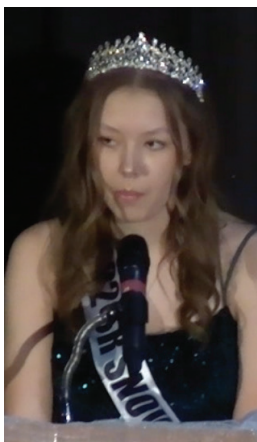
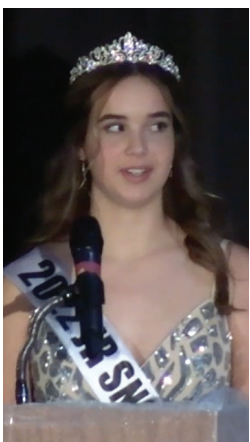
Pictured are Anna Bisbee, senior talent winner; Hollie Frost, Ava Kramer; Sierra Ehrsmann, first runner-up; Senior Snow Queen and Miss Congeniality Shaylee Peterson, Prince Liam Gibson, Princesses Ellie Lasse, Junior Snow Queen Talli Wright; Cambria Bonn, Natalia Warrington, and Junior talent winners Addison Hoeft and Libby Cole. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Cadance Tullis sang a solo for the senior talent show. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Bags were handed out and two lucky children had a snowman in them to indicate that they were the prince and princess. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



The 2022 Snow Queens gave their farewell addresses. Left is Junior Snow Queen Gretchen Dinger and right is Snow Queen Christina Zoellner. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)

Prince Liam Gibson (above) and Princesses Ellie Lasse (right). (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Adam Franken interviewed the Prince and Princess candidates. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)

**Brown County
Nov. 8, 2022**

Meeting Minutes

NOVEMBER 8, 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, Sutton and Wiese. Commissioner Feickert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: None

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR GRANDSTAND CONCESSIONS: Rachel Kippley, Fair Manager met to open the RFP's for Grandstand Concessions during Brown County Fair. We received 1 RFP from the Boys & Girls Club. Their proposal was for \$85/keg; \$20/case; 15% Concessions \$1.00-\$10,000.00 and 30% Concession for \$10,001.00 and up. Rachel suggested to accept the RFP since they have been a good partner in the past and went above what we were asking for. Moved by Commissioner Feickert, seconded by Fjeldheim to accept this RFP. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CONTRACT FOR EMPLOYEES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP): Moved by Wiese, seconded by Feickert to authorize and approve the Chairman sign the EAP contract to add Northern Plains Psychological Associates as another provider for EAP Services, effective January 1, 2023. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FORKLIFT TRAINER APPOINTMENT: Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve the request from the Brown County Safety Committee to appoint Kyle Price as the official forklift trainer for Brown County Employees to replace Kurt Smith who has retired. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the November 1, 2022 General Meeting Minutes. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

PAYROLL/CLAIMS: Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Feickert to approve the following payroll and claims: Payroll: Commission \$4,503.96; Elections \$2,910.00; Auditor \$10,051.92; Treasurer \$14,283.33; SA \$30,353.00; Maintenance \$10,274.80; Assessor \$15,380.50; ROD \$10,157.13; VSO \$4,143.28; GIS \$2,483.72; IT \$5,586.59; HR \$4,061.37; Sheriff \$41,670.44; Jail \$58,244.53; Court Security \$6,722.56; JDC/HD \$27,419.53; Welfare \$2,161.43; Museum \$7,824.28; Parks/Fairgrounds \$4,052.80; Fair \$4,790.80; 4-H \$638.80; W&P \$4,642.14; P&Z \$5,746.31; Hwy. \$41,286.31;

Dispatch \$37,165.38; EM \$4,285.81; 24/7 \$1,424.58; Landfill \$13,840.40. **MATCHING BENEFITS:** FICA \$22,394.28; Medicare \$5,237.43; Discovery/HSA \$1,421.17; Health Insurance/Wellmark BCBS \$124,358.81; Dental Insurance/Delta \$8,042.63; Life Insurance/Dearborn \$1,054.34. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS: Professional Fees: Certified Languages International LLC \$727.65; Dakota Counseling Group, LLC \$2,100.00; Gellhaus & Gellhaus, PC \$80.00; Grace Anderson \$242.08; Kenty County 17th Circuit Court \$10.00; Language Line Services Inc. \$548.25; LexisNexis Risk Data Mgmt. Inc. \$150.00; Lincoln County Treasurer \$511.22; Michelle Galkowski \$85.00; Sanford Health Occupational Medicine Aberdeen \$47.00; Satellite Tracking of People, LLC \$1,563.25; Tyler Technologies Inc \$520.00; West Publishing Corp. \$283.30; Yellow Robe Consulting, Inc. \$4,500.00. **Publishing:** Groton Independent \$102.10; Hub City Radio \$300.00; Independent Press Newspaper \$71.50; US Bank \$173.67. **Repairs & Maintenance:** Auto Glass Solutions Inc \$487.56; Double D Body Shop Inc \$6,381.12; Graham Tire Inc \$17.77; Hoven Auto Repair Inc \$1,209.89; Kirk Karlen \$540.74; Precision Kiosk Technologies \$2,700.00; Roland L. Moerke \$1,458.75; Tri State Water \$85.00; US Bank \$1,127.76. **Supplies:** Aberdeen Awards \$15.00; APH Stores, Inc \$17.52; Bakken Build Maintenance \$500.00; Barton Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc. \$102.04; Cole Papers \$551.35; Crawford Trucks & Equipment \$231.88; Dave Lunzman \$22.63; Earthgrains Baking Co. Inc. \$815.48; East Side Jersey Dairy, Inc \$967.12; Henry Fulda \$12.76; House Of Glass \$5,203.12; Kasey Kurtz \$40.26; Ken's SuperFair Foods \$29.97; Matheson Tri-Gas, Inc. \$1,377.52; Mb LLC \$140.92; Menards \$121.24; Midstates Printing \$91.45; Pantorium Cleaners Inc. \$84.00; Pharmchem \$691.90; Pumps Tire Service, Inc \$852.84; Pro Ag Supply, Inc \$41.59; Town & Country Building Supply \$24.00; Tri State Water \$35.00; US Bank \$12,642.98; US Foods \$11,486.37; Zastrow's Sales & Service \$173.95. **Travel & Conference:** Jordanne DuCheny \$27.20; Russell Metz \$164.40; US Bank \$5,659.29. **Utilities:** AT&T Mobility \$43.23; Midcontinent Communications \$85.39; Northwestern Energy & Communications \$9,539.01; Qwest Corporation \$299.45; Town of Frederick \$76.00; US Bank \$2,141.96. **Others:** US Bank \$76.46; SS Assoc. of County Officials \$870.00.

LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWALS: Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve the following applications for liquor license renewals of Alcoholic Beverage Licenses to operate outside of the Municipality: **PACKAGE (OFF-SALE) LIQUOR:** Stacy J Gossman DBA Mansfield Bar & Grill, (Lots 11-14, Block 4, Mansfield, 32-121-64) AND Roderic L Hanson DBA Ferney Farmers Bar (Lot 4-5, Block 5 Ferney SW 31-122-60) AND Travis Swenson DBA Elm Lake Resort LLC (Lot 1 Elm Lake Resort SE 8-128-65) AND Jackie Chantal LLC DBA Richmond Oasis (Lot 4 Schaefer Richmond Lake 2nd Addition NW & NE 25-124-65) AND PZA Inc DBA Anchors Away Lodge & Resort (Palmer's Richmond Resort SD Lt 1, SD OL 1 Richmond OL 1 & 2) AND Dustin Guthmiller DBA Bath Quick Stop LLC (Lot B Weismantels 1st SD Lot 1 Ex. N 12' Jenkins SD Inc Adjacent N 12' Lot 1 Jenkins SD E2 SE 18-123-62). **RETAIL (ON-SALE) LIQUOR:** Stacy J Gossman DBA Flying Pig (Lot 2, Gossman 2nd Addition, SE 1/4 of Section 15-123N-R63) AND Stacy J Gossman DBA Big Fella's (Lot 1B, Gossman 1st Addition, S2 15-123-63) AND Stacy Gossman DBA Nacho Business (Outlot A SE 15-123-63) AND Tyler Jones DBA: Tacoma Park Place LLC (5 acres in NE Corner of NW 1/4 23-124-62) AND Roderic L Hanson DBA Ferney Farmers Bar (Lots 4 & 5, Block 5, Ferney, 31-122-60) AND Travis Swenson DBA Elm Lake Resort LLC (Lot 1 Elm Lake Resort SE 8-128-65) AND Moccasin Creek Country Club Inc (Prairiewood Village OL 7, E2, 33-124-63) AND PZA Inc DBA Anchors Away Lodge & Resort (Palmer's Richmond Resort SD Lt 1, SD OL 1 Richmond OL 1 & 2). **RETAIL (ON-OFF-SALE) WINE AND CIDER:** ARR LCC DBA Flatland Flyways Lodge (Russo's OL 1 NW 1/4 1-127-62) AND Moccasin Creek Country Club (Prairiewood Village OL 7, E2, 33-124-63). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ABATEMENT: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following abatement: CML Companies LLC Unit 1 305 S Main Condominiums LT 15-16 BK 5 Original Plat – Parcel #28425 – Special Assessment Coded wrong, should be BID Aberdeen. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIM ASSIGNMENT: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to authorize and approve the Chairman sign the Claim Assignment against an individual to Credit Collections Bureau for the purpose of collecting liens.

1, 2022. Request to fill. Acknowledge the resignation of Cory Erhardt, Brown County Communications Dispatcher; full-time effective November 3, 2022. Request to fill. Approve hiring Heather Kulwicki as Brown County Jail Correctional Officer; full-time; starting wage \$18.87/hour; effective November 15, 2022. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWALS: Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve the following applications for liquor license renewals of Alcoholic Beverage Licenses to operate outside of the Municipality: **PACKAGE (OFF-SALE) LIQUOR:** Stacy J Gossman DBA Mansfield Bar & Grill, (Lots 11-14, Block 4, Mansfield, 32-121-64) AND Roderic L Hanson DBA Ferney Farmers Bar (Lot 4-5, Block 5 Ferney SW 31-122-60) AND Travis Swenson DBA Elm Lake Resort LLC (Lot 1 Elm Lake Resort SE 8-128-65) AND Jackie Chantal LLC DBA Richmond Oasis (Lot 4 Schaefer Richmond Lake 2nd Addition NW & NE 25-124-65) AND PZA Inc DBA Anchors Away Lodge & Resort (Palmer's Richmond Resort SD Lt 1, SD OL 1 Richmond OL 1 & 2) AND Dustin Guthmiller DBA Bath Quick Stop LLC (Lot B Weismantels 1st SD Lot 1 Ex. N 12' Jenkins SD Inc Adjacent N 12' Lot 1 Jenkins SD E2 SE 18-123-62). **RETAIL (ON-SALE) LIQUOR:** Stacy J Gossman DBA Flying Pig (Lot 2, Gossman 2nd Addition, SE 1/4 of Section 15-123N-R63) AND Stacy J Gossman DBA Big Fella's (Lot 1B, Gossman 1st Addition, S2 15-123-63) AND Stacy Gossman DBA Nacho Business (Outlot A SE 15-123-63) AND Tyler Jones DBA: Tacoma Park Place LLC (5 acres in NE Corner of NW 1/4 23-124-62) AND Roderic L Hanson DBA Ferney Farmers Bar (Lots 4 & 5, Block 5, Ferney, 31-122-60) AND Travis Swenson DBA Elm Lake Resort LLC (Lot 1 Elm Lake Resort SE 8-128-65) AND Moccasin Creek Country Club Inc (Prairiewood Village OL 7, E2, 33-124-63) AND PZA Inc DBA Anchors Away Lodge & Resort (Palmer's Richmond Resort SD Lt 1, SD OL 1 Richmond OL 1 & 2). **RETAIL (ON-OFF-SALE) WINE AND CIDER:** ARR LCC DBA Flatland Flyways Lodge (Russo's OL 1 NW 1/4 1-127-62) AND Moccasin Creek Country Club (Prairiewood Village OL 7, E2, 33-124-63). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ABATEMENT: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following abatement: CML Companies LLC Unit 1 305 S Main Condominiums LT 15-16 BK 5 Original Plat – Parcel #28425 – Special Assessment Coded wrong, should be BID Aberdeen. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIM ASSIGNMENT: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to authorize and approve the Chairman sign the Claim Assignment against an individual to Credit Collections Bureau for the purpose of collecting liens.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LANDFILL TONNAGE REPORT: Moved by Gage, seconded by Wiese to acknowledge the Landfill Tonnage Report for October 2022. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

SDPAA RELEASE FORM: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Feickert to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the SDPAA Release form for claim settlement, so that we may receive payment. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: Carl Perry just wanted to remind everyone that today is Election Day so please get out and vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to go into executive session to discuss Personnel, Legal and Contracts 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 Fjeldheim, seconded by Feickert to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:15a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published November 16, 2022, at the total approximate cost of \$84.99 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 21709

**Westport Town
Nov. 7, 2022**

Meeting Minutes

Town of Westport General Meeting

November 7th, 2022

The Town of Westport met on November 7th, 2022 with Jason & Jennifer Bender, Shane Storm, Mitch Wilson, Larry Schmit and Doreen Hertel present. The

following expenses were presented:

City General NWPS (\$188.37), Groton Independent (\$13.25), Brown County Treasurer- mosquito spraying (\$560.00), SDML Workers Compensation (\$511.00), David's Lawn and Snow (\$375.00) & SD Municipal league dues (\$125.45).

Sewer NWPS (\$34.29) & NRW –loan repayment (\$210.13)

Water WEB (\$1,566.19), Water District Maintenance (\$459.18) & Public Health Laboratory (\$196.00).

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

The following deposits were presented:

City General Brown County Collections (\$338.26), State of SD (\$3,245.34), & Interest (\$109.06).

Sewer Resident Payments - (\$2,400.00).

Water Resident Payments - (\$3,635.95).

NEW BUSINESS:

2023 liquor license for The Shed was approved. Snow removal contract was signed with B&B for the 2022-2023 winter. Larry Schmit will fill the vacancy on the town board.

Recommendations from the insurance company was review, the board will have some corrections to make on the play equipment. They will have to remove the spring animals and replace some of the swings.

Doreen Hertel, Finance Officer Published November 16, 2022, at the total approximate cost of \$18.21 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 21710

**Claremont Town
Nov. 7, 2022**

Meeting Minutes

The board of trustees for the town of Claremont met on 11-7-2022 at 7pm in city hall. President Johnson called the meeting to order with trustees Rasmussen and Spencer present. Also present community club Rep. Missi Smith. On a motion by Spencer and seconded by Rasmussen the minutes of the October meeting were approved. On a motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Spencer the following warrants were approved: General: James Valley Telecom, telecom, 91.00; Grand Slam computers, problems and Nordic backup, 118.75; SDML, work comp, 447.00; Br.Co. Treasurer, mosquito spraying, 560.00; NWE, street lights and city hall, 388.00; GDI publishing, 12.14; Dacotah Bank, city hall loan, 573.55; Charla Rye, wage, 350.00; Charla Rye city hall supplies, 117.02; SD Municipal League, annual dues, 171.19; post office, postage, 60.00; WSSW: Eframson Electric, grant/sewer, 807.00; NWE, sewer, 18.02; U.S. Bank and Trust, clean water (sewer) grant, 4845.56; Rural Development, water loan, 576.00; BDM, water purchased, 1218.20; Helms and Asso., sewer/grant, 3022.20; Will contact House of Glass for proposal without installment costs. Missi Smith was present with update on Christmas decorations. With no further business before the board. On a motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Spencer to adjourn. Motion Carried.

CRye, F.O. Published November 16, 2022, at the total approximate cost of \$14.90 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 21711

Skating Rink tarp high on the discussion for this year

There was discussion on putting a tarp on the skating pond to help with the water containment. A tarp to cover the pond ranges from \$3,800 to \$4,500. There was discussion of then putting gravel on it which would amount to an additional \$10,000. Time was of the essence with the next council meeting set for December 6. It will take time to order the tarp, get the gravel and put the tarp down before water can be put on it. No decision was made, but further research into the tarp for this year is being done. The company would come out to install the tarp at a rate of \$190 per hour per person; however, the council figured that city employees and other volunteers could do it to save that money.

The bills included \$13,255.13 to have electrical service installed at the Groton Municipal Airport. An easement for the utilities for the airport and a construction contract with Northern Electric was approved. A change order for Dahme Construction was approved which resulted in a reduction of \$92,753.12. A pay request in the amount of \$185,419 for McGuire Iron was approved.

The park bathrooms were discussed. Councilman Karyn Babcock said she would like to see what the city could get with a FEMA grant which would cover about 75 percent of the cost. Councilman Kevin Nehls said the council needs to look at plans before a decision could be made. Councilman Brian Bahr said there are other options for a storm shelter without going the FEMA route. A Land Conservation Grant would be a possibility with the park bathrooms. There are colonies in the area that do precast buildings. Bahr will looking into the precast option.

The 2023 salary ordinance was approved at a 3 percent wage increase for all full time city employees. The 2023 Appropriation Ordinance was approved which amounts to \$2,034,935.

The Holiday Lighting Contest was approved with the winners receiving credits on their utility bills. First place would be \$100, second place \$75 and third place \$50. Judging will be December 10.

Curb and gutter around the soccer field was discussed. There are some areas that streets need to be repaired.

The following were hired for working at the skating rink: Kelsie Frost as manager; attendants Emma Schinkel, Shalyn Foertsch, Aspen Johnson, Anna Fjeldheim, Carly Guthmiller, Cadence Feist, Ashley Johnson, Emma Kutter, Gretchen Dinger, Abby Yeadon, Kayleigh McGannon and Leah Jones. The wage was wet at \$10.80 per hour for attendants and the manager will get \$11.40 per hour plus \$250 a month.



GROTON
Chamber Of Commerce

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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.

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EMPLOYMENT:

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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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The Life of Allen McKiver



Memorial services for Allen "Al" McKiver will be 11:00 a.m., Saturday, November 19th at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Pastor Jeremy Yeadon will officiate. Lunch will be provided at the Groton Community Center after the service. Private inurnment will follow in Union Cemetery, Groton under the direction of Paetznick-Garness.

Visitation will be held at the chapel on Saturday one hour prior to service. Services will be broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM and will also be broadcast on GDIRADIO at 89.3 FM, available within 1 mile of Groton.

Al passed away November 11, 2022 at Sanford Aberdeen Medical Center.

Al was born to Dale and Marjorie (Fritz) McKiver on August 4, 1943. Al lived his entire childhood on a farm outside of Groton. He attended his first 8 years of school at the Joan of Arc School in West Hanson Township. He graduated from Groton High School in 1962. Al always worked for his father and neighbors on their farms. In August of

1962, he married his high school sweetheart, Sherry Johnson, and they were blessed with two children, Cindy and Allen, Jr.

After Cindy was born, they moved to the Twin Cities where Al started work at Control Data. He then took a position at the Federal Arsenal as a tool and die supervisor. He couldn't shake the South Dakota dust off his boots so they returned back to Groton. Al worked three years driving a semi for Siefkes Trucking. Sherry grew tired of him always being away, so she got him an interview for a job working for the City of Groton. He stayed there for 35 years before he retired.

Al enjoyed fishing and spending weekends at their cabin on Pickerel Lake. He was a dedicated Green Bay Packers fan. Above all, he loved his children, grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren (soon to be 6!). He was known all around town for walking his best friend, Rudy. Sometimes he even got Rudy a roadie cup.

Al will be greatly missed by his wife of 60 years, Sherry; children: Cindy (Kyle) Hoops of Cedarburg, Wisconsin, Allen (Colleen) McKiver, Jr. of Aberdeen; his five grandchildren: Kayla (Aaron) Waller, Alex McKiver, Tyler (Gabriela) Hoops, Naomi McKiver, Jack McKiver; five great-grandchildren, and his siblings: Sharon (Larry) Sombke, Nancy (Merle) Walters, Bill McKiver, Gloria (Bernie) Huber, Carla Ronning, Gail (John) Zeck, sister-in-law, Deb McKiver, and many nieces and nephews.

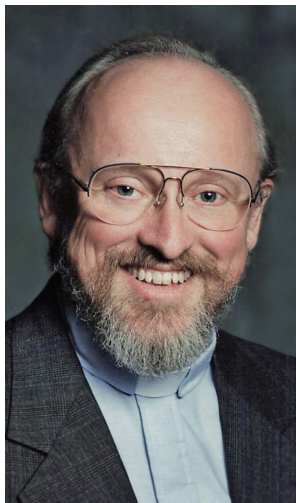
Preceding him in death were his parents, Dale and Marjorie, his grandmother, Minnie, infant brother, Kenneth, brother and sister-in-law, Jake (Renee) McKiver, and father-in-law, Bruce Johnson, and mother-in-law, Lucille Siefkes.

The family would also like to thank his extended family at Derian Living for all of their love, compassion and care shown to Al. You are all, and always will be, special to us.

Casual dress is requested at the service.

Memorials directed to Sherry (1714 Stewart Drive, Box F-6, Aberdeen, SD 57401-0203) will be donated to the Groton High School Robotics Club in Al's name.

The Life of Rev. Keith Smith



Rev. Keith L. Smith, age 81, of Revillo, SD, passed away on Sunday, November 13, 2022, at Avantara – Milbank Nursing Home.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, November 17, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. at Zoar Lutheran Church in Revillo. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Mundwiler Funeral Home in Milbank and will continue one hour prior to the service at the church on Thursday. Rev. Hans Sacrison will officiate the service and interment will take place at Groton Cemetery in Groton, SD.

The service will be livestreamed and recorded and will be viewable on Keith's obituary page at www.mundwilerfuneralhome.net.

Keith LeRoy Smith was born on July 13, 1941, in Britton, SD, to Orval and Bernice (Melland) Smith. He grew up in Groton and attended school, graduating with the Class of 1958. He attended college at South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD, graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science in 1962.

Following college, Keith held several temporary jobs before accepting a full-time position at a college library in Wisconsin. At that time, Keith strayed from his faith but found his way back. He spent a year at two different seminaries, volunteered at a Lutheran retreat in Washington State, worked at his parent's business in Watertown, SD, and spent a year working at a church in Canada. Keith lived many places and did many things in his life bringing him from the small town of Groton to Brookings, SD, to St. Paul, MN, to Kenosha, WI, to Dubuque, IA, to Lake Chelan, WA, to Kenora, Ontario, to Lubbock, TX, to Kadoka, SD, to Revillo, SD, and finally to Milbank, SD.

In his 40s, Keith attended University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in Dubuque, IA and graduated with a Master of Divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, IA. He was a pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Revillo, SD, and Zoar Lutheran Church in rural Revillo, SD, for nearly 25 years.

Keith absolutely loved the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch and was very involved with donating his time and efforts in collecting monetary gifts: donating much, himself, and helping to organized times of worship for the children at the ranch. In his leisure time, he enjoyed mountain hiking, reading, studying theology, and exploring national and state parks.

Keith is survived by his brother, Curtis and "Cookie" Smith of Littleton, CO; sister, Cheryl Smith of Lubbock, TX; numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews; Doug and Carol Spany and family of Wauzeka, WI; along with many friends and parishioners.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Orval and Bernice Smith; sister, Diane Sallee; and brother, John Luther Smith.

Mundwiler Funeral Home of Milbank is in charge of the arrangements. To leave a condolence, please visit www.mundwilerfuneralhome.net.

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Football Awards



Northeastern Conference All-Conference
Logan Ringgenberg, Teylor Diegel, Colby Dunker, Andrew Marzahn and Lane Tietz. (Photo courtesy Deb Gengerke)



Coaches Award
Brooke Gengerke was honored for her seven years of "service and dedication to the Groton Area Football Team" as the team's student manager. Brooke is pictured with head coach Shaun Waner. (Photo courtesy Deb Gengerke)



Team Awards
Front row: Kellan Antonsen, Defense Scout Team; Caden McInerney, Offense Scout Team; Tate Larson, Most Improved Defense; Andrew Marzahn, Most Improved Offense; Caleb Hanten, Most Improved Lineman. Back row: Teylor Diegel, MVP Offense; Holden Sippel, MVP Lineman, Colby Dunker, MVP Defense. (Photo courtesy Deb Gengerke)



Richard Duerre Memorial Scholarship
Kaleb Antonsen
 (Photo courtesy Deb Gengerke)



Academic All-State Awards
Senior students who have a minimum gpa of 3.5 and have participated in football at least three years.
Front row(l-r): Brooke Gengerke and Kaleb Antonsen; Back row (l-r): Cole Bisbee, Andrew Marzahn, Tate Larson, Caleb Hanten. (Photo courtesy Deb Gengerke)

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Dear EarthTalk: Why are coyote sightings so much more common in urban areas these days? Should I be worried about kids and pets outside? Is this a bad sign for the environment at large and is there a humane way to deter these carnivores from residential areas?

- Max B., Norwalk, CT

Coyotes, known as the Song Dogs of North America, are the sole canid predator endemic to North America. They can be found as far north as Canada and Alaska, and as far south as Central America, but are most prevalent in the Great Plains, where they began their outward migration 100 years ago. Since the 1950s, they've managed to expand their territory by 40 percent, and can now be found anywhere from remote plains to bustling urban parks.

As many experts agree, the coyote is an incredibly adaptive animal. This evolutionary advantage has kept the species not only surviving, but thriving in response to human expansion. This is one of the reasons the coyote has prevailed where other species have faltered, and why their sightings have only increased along with urbanization. Coyotes are flexible creatures on many counts: their time of activity, their preferred habitat, even their diet. When they aren't eating rabbits or small rodents, coyotes can be seen eating small fruits like berries and apples, and even vegetables like carrots to maintain their daily caloric needs.

Coyotes also have flexible temperaments. They are aggressive enough to hunt small prey, but skittish enough to avoid deadly human contact. Indeed, coyotes are relatively harmless to humans (but they will definitely eat a small pet!). A 2021 study from Madison, Wisconsin discovered that most human-coyote interactions were benign, lacking any aggression by the coyotes whatsoever. When participants in the study were asked to pick a number from zero (calm) to five (aggressive), 90 percent chose zero.

That being said, they are not completely harmless to humans and should always be approached with caution. Last year, four people were injured by a coyote in San Francisco, including a four-year-old.

Counterintuitively, of all the factors influencing coyote population increases, one of the greatest may be population control. According to multiple studies conducted since the 1970s, the indiscriminate killing of coyotes, which has occurred for decades across all of North America, causes what is known as pack disruption, whereby normally "sterile" females become sexually active in a pack when an alpha male or female is killed. This phenomenon inevitably led to a positive feedback loop, where the encouragement of hunting reduced coyote population levels in the short-term, but increased them in the long-term.

Coyotes are considered a keystone spe-



Coyotes are becoming more & more common in urban & suburban areas across the U.S. and there's not much we can do about it... Credit: Esteban Arango, Pexels.com.

cies, meaning their presence or absence significantly influences an ecosystem. This also means their overabundance can lead to ecosystem disruption.

If you're looking to humanely deal with a coyote, hazing—waving your arms and yelling—is often considered the best method of deterrence. Keeping pets inside and livestock penned securely is also encouraged, as is the removal of any garbage or pet food that you may have outside. ..

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"Looking out for all of you"

Recently, while visiting from out of state, my father had a "health hiccup." As we navigated getting this problem investigated and addressed, he was very concerned that we keep his primary care doctor informed. As my dad has said repeatedly, "I give him more grief than any of my other doctors, but I also listen to him more than any of my other doctors. He's the only one looking out for all of me!"

Like many Americans, particularly older Americans, my dad has a whole host of specialists he sees on a regular basis. One of my friends recently teased, what do primary care providers do, anyway? It seems that there is a specialist for pretty much any problem you can imagine! If I see a cardiologist, an electrophysiologist, a urologist, an endocrinologist, a gastroenterologist, a rheumatologist, a nephrologist and maybe even an oncologist, why do I need one more doctor, who doesn't seem to be handling anything?

Established readers of this column know that I, like Dr Holm before me, am a proponent of the annual wellness visit. It's a chance to step back and look at the big picture, to review screenings, immunizations, and health promotion recommendations. Many factors can influence these recommendations, beyond age and gender. Did you know that older men who have smoked should be screened for aortic aneurysms, and that diabetes in pregnancy increases diabetes risk going forward?

The origin of a symptom is not always straightforward. For example, abdominal pain can originate not just from the digestive system, but from many other systems, and from causes that might surprise you, such as blood or metabolic diseases and poisonings. Some people, women especially, get their gallbladders removed, only to discover that the problem was, in fact, their heart. A primary care doctor can help sort things out in a more efficient way.

A primary care doctor looks at the big picture, In fact, all of us answering questions tonight are primary care doctors. We commonly say we are specialties of breadth, not depth. My father says the specialist studies one 1000 page book on their topic, while the generalist studies the 10 page summary for 100 different topics. We may ask for assistance from our specialist colleagues for more unusual, treatment resistant, or advanced diseases, but every day we help patients manage their health problems. We coordinate care between specialists, and watch for signs that the treatment for one problem is worsening another. In fact, I would argue that the more specialists you have, the more important it becomes to have someone "looking out for all of you. Everyone deserves a primary care provider!"

Debra Johnson, 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 providing health information based on science, built on trust for 21 Seasons, streaming live on Facebook and SDPB most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.



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