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The Groton Independent

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Groton City Council tables electric rate increase talk, reviews baseball/softball complex project

by Elizabeth Varin

A potential electrical rate increase was put on hold until the next City Council meeting after concerns about transparency were presented.

The Groton City Council tabled the second reading of an ordinance that would increase electric rates for most electric services by 1 penny per kilowatt hour. The increase follows an increase in electrical costs from one of the city's providers. The resulted increase would be 1 cent per kilowatt hour for general service and 1/2 cent for all other services (Geo, Dual Fuel, Demand KWH and Interruptible)

Doug Hamilton, who spoke earlier at the meeting about the Groton Baseball/Softball Foundation's new concession stand project, brought up the fact that he had not seen the ordinance about the potential rate change published anywhere.

Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich said the city published the minutes that included the first reading of the ordinance, but is not required to publish the ordinance itself until after the second reading had occurred. At that point, it would be published in the newspaper and would be available on the city's website.

Hamilton countered that it would be a courtesy to the residents to publish an ordinance like that.

"Evidently not a soul in town will know until they get their bill," Hamilton said.

Council members were concerned about residents not knowing about the issue.

The rate change has been discussed before and has also been put off for as long as possible, said Councilman Kevin Nehls. The council has been concerned about putting the rate change into effect, especially during winter months. That is why the council had pushed so the change wouldn't take effect until March 1, Nehls said.

He added there should be more transparency in the process, though.

Mayor Scott Hanlon thanked Hamilton for bringing this to the council's attention. The City Council will have to look into getting information out to the public regarding what is included in ordinances, he added.

The second reading of the ordinance is set to be discussed again at the City Council's February 21 meeting, which will take place at City Hall.

Changes may also be coming to the baseball and softball complex on the west side of town.

Jarod Flihs, vice president of the Groton Baseball/Softball Foundation, presented a building plan for a new concession stand and

bathroom facility. The building would have roughly the same footprint at the complex, but would be larger.

"Right now the bathrooms and concession stands are too small for what we need out there," Flihs said.

Currently the building does not provide enough storage, leaving some items housed in the pump house, he said. The bathrooms are also not big enough for the demand at the facility.

Changes may be needed sooner rather than later, Flihs said.

Foundation members have recently been told that Groton will host the 2024 State Junior Legion Tournament, he said. That will expedite the timeline for the project.

Flihs said he hopes that concrete work on the project can begin in the fall of 2023 as the foundation does not want the concession stand and bathrooms out of commission in the summer months. Work can then continue through the winter to get the building up.

Based on construction bids the foundation has compiled, the project is estimated to cost around \$163,000, Flihs said.

The foundation has already received some donations from trusts and members of the community, said Doug Hamilton, foundation treasurer and Legion liaison. After the upcoming fundraiser, the Dueling Duos scheduled for April 1 at the Groton Legion, the foundation could have nearly \$50,000 to put toward the project.

The council and foundation representatives discussed possible grant funding to shore up the gap in funding.

Councilman Nehls asked about how much the foundation would need from the city to complete the project.

If the project starts in the fall and continues through the winter, Flihs replied, funding could come from both the 2023 and 2024 fiscal year budgets.

Hamilton added once the word gets out that the city and foundation are committed to the project, more monetary donations could come in.

The city will look into possible grant funding for the project, and Finance Officer Heinrich said he would reach out to the foundation with what he finds.

Concerns were presented, both at the start of the meeting and during the baseball and softball facility discussion, about replacing the electrical hookups at the City Park.

Currently only one of the hookups for campers at the park is 50 amp, Mayor Hanlon said. The city needs to fix that to potentially bring in more campers and allow for more use at the park.

Hanlon asked the finance office to look into getting the issue fixed.

The two-and-a-half hour meeting was adjourned, but not before the City Council approved hiring a new police officer. The council discussed the hire in executive session. Afterward, the council approved hiring Benjamin Smith at \$28 per hour with a probationary 50 cent increase after six months.

The council continued discussion about 2023 summer salaries, but voted to table the topic until the council's next meeting.

Electric Superintendent Todd Gay was granted the 20-year allowance for vacation time.



Mike Weber

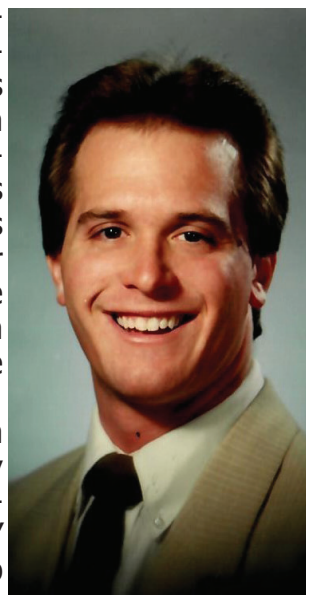
2023 Photo at his desk at GHS

Weber leaving school business manager position after 37 years of service

by Dorene Nelson

Mike Weber has resigned from his position as the business manager for the Groton Area Public School effective at the end of this school year. Weber has been in this position for thirty-seven years. He and his wife Lorrie both plan to retire and take life a bit easier.

"I am originally from Tripp, SD, where my family owned and operated a grocery store," Weber said. "I grew up working in that store, helping my grandfather to bag potatoes into ten



Mike Weber 1986 College Photo

pound bags when I was in the first grade. It was here in this store that I was first introduced into the world of business and finance."

"I graduated from Dakota State University, Madison, SD, in 1986 with a degree in business administration. I started working here in Groton one week later," he stated. "While I was attending Dakota State, the college converted from a teacher college into the computer / technology school that exists today."

"My first year here in Groton was when we had so many snow days that we had school until June 2nd," Weber smiled. "Bob Wegner, the business manager that I replaced, was originally going to train me, but he could not come to an agreement with the administration for his services after he retired."

"Basically I called him at home every other day for a full year until I was acclimated," he admitted. "Wegner had done all of his work previously in a large ledger book, using sheets of carbon copy paper that is very tedious work."

Continues on page 3

Varin joins Writing Staff of Independent

Elizabeth Varin has joined the writing team of The Groton Independent / Groton Daily Independent. She is currently the multimedia coordinator at Northern State University. Her past experience has included the WEB Lead at the Aberdeen American



News, store manager for Habitat for Humanity. Varin has a Bachelor's degree in journalism from California State University, Chico with minors in English and communication design.

Bearded Wonders

Editor's Note: What was Tony Bender doing 10 years ago? The same thing he's doing now—growing facial hair, this time for the Wishek Centennial. This one's from 2013.

As I traveled to wrestling and basketball tournaments recently, it was easy to pick out people from Ashley. We were the ones that looked like invading Visigoths. Let me explain. You see Ashley is about 100 days away from it's 125th celebration, June 20-23, 2013, and most of the men (and some of the women) are growing beards to celebrate.

It is my understanding that in a show of solidarity, women not genetically predisposed to facial hair have stopped shaving their legs. (Projected 2013 birthrate in Ashley: Zero.) Some women quit shaving after the last celebration in 1988 and cannot go near a zoo for fear of ending up on the wrong side of the bars. I would be the last person to suggest a lack of femininity in Ashley, but around here "dowdy" is considered a fashion statement. I don't know when Maybelline is going to hit town, but it's going to be big.

We are a ragged-looking bunch indeed. At halftime, the workers at the Jamestown Civic Center concession stand ducked behind the popcorn machine when the Ashley horde approached. That's how the rumor about Hell's Angels got started. In the interest of public safety, how do you tell Ashley Brothers of the Brush from Hell's Angels? The Ashley guys are the mean ones with Dekalb Seed hats.

Some guys naturally look better in beards. There's me, Bobby Delzer, Jesse Kaseman, Santa Claus and the guys from ZZ Top. My kids were so horrified by their first glimpse of my face when I shaved for a funeral a year ago, they made me take a sacred vow never to do that again. India, with tears in her eyes and a quivering voice, begged—"Please Dad, never again!" The cats hissed.

It is traditional for all Brothers of the Brush to shave at the same time months ahead of the celebration for a beard-growing contest. There are various categories: Best Beard, Scraggiest Beard, Unibomber Look-a-Like, Fewest Lice—that kind of thing.

The last time I saw Bobby Delzer without a beard we were in grade school, so it really

freaked me out. I don't want to get into details, but when you have a beard for decades you don't realize there's a lot happening underneath all that hair—none of it good. Jesse Kaseman is a good friend of mine and a darn fine mechanic, but if ever there was a face built for a beard, it is his.

Then there is baby-faced Dillon Becker who walked into my office last week with what appeared to be an emaciated kitten with mange clinging to his chin. My ear hair is thicker. He was dressed in black. "You know," I said, "All you need is a plaid shirt and suspenders and you'll be ready for the Hutterite Colony." He unzipped his jacket to reveal a plaid shirt. No suspenders. His beard meowed.

I don't know much about the Hutterites other than they are good neighbors and sell quality smoked chickens, but I don't think you get your suspenders until you have been promoted. Kind of like in the army. So, if you see a guy with just one suspender, it means he knows how to plow but his furrows are crooked.

Imagine some day thousands of years from now if by archeological happenstance my column is the only known record of Hutterites. That will be hilarious.

"Class, what do we know about the Hutterites?"

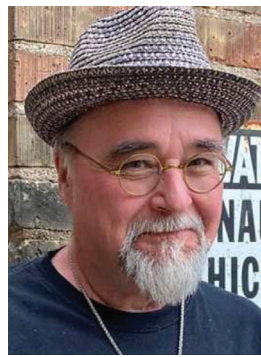
"Well, they smoked chickens, wore suspenders and their leader was Dillon Becker. He used a kitten for a beard."

At any rate, let's get back to my whole point, which is that Dillon Becker has one pitiful looking beard. (Chances of Dillon getting a date in 2013 with that feeble beard? Zero.) If he registers at eHarmony.com, the mainframe is going to melt down. That's a face only the FBI could appreciate.

The original name for the celebration was quasiquicentennial but the committee spent the first three meetings trying to figure out how to spell it before agreeing it would be called "The 125th" but not before one committee member died from blood loss while getting an "Ashley Quasiquicentennial" tattoo.

When Eureka, SD, celebrated their quasiquicentennial last year they appointed subcommittees for each syllable but eventually decided to call it "The Big Q". But that sounded a little too "James Bond" for Ashley.

If you are wondering, in 2038 when we celebrate 150 years, it will be called a sesquicentennial. With No Child Left Behind in place, if we start now we should be able to spell it by then.



That's Life

by Tony Bender

Weekly Vikings Recap -

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

Pro Bowl Recap

For the first time in history, the Pro Bowl switched from tackle football to flag football. The Vikings had seven pro bowlers partake in the game: Justin Jefferson, Kirk Cousins, TJ Hockenson, Dalvin Cook, Danielle Hunter, Za'Darius Smith, and Andrew DePaola. The NFC came out victorious over the AFC, 35-33, thanks to yet another game-winning drive by Kirk Cousins. Justin Jefferson, who was reportedly the most popular player among all the pro bowlers' children, had the game-winning one-point conversion from Cousins.

In all honesty, it's hard for a football game played in shorts and t-shirts to bring the same level of excitement as a padded, tackle football game. So, let's move on to a game that matters.

Super Bowl LVII Preview Historically Close Matchup

Currently, the Eagles are 1.5-point favorites over the Chiefs. If that point spread remains the same by next Sunday, it will be tied for the second smallest point spread over the last 40 Super Bowls. In other words, it is rare when we get a Super Bowl matchup between such evenly-matched teams like this one.

Storylines

There are several storylines heading into this game that make this Super Bowl so unique.

For starters, Chiefs' tight end, Travis Kelce, and Eagles' center, Jason Kelce, will be the first brothers to play against one another in a Super Bowl. The fact that there are two brothers in a Super Bowl, as the Kelce brothers mentioned on their New Heights Podcast, is crazier than hitting the lottery.

The other big storyline is that Andy Reid is facing his former team. Reid, who coached the Eagles for 14 seasons, is the all-time winningest coach in Eagles history by a wide margin. He will become the fifth head coach in Super Bowl history to face his former team. If Reid wins next Sunday, he will tie Hank Stram for the most wins as the Chiefs' head coach. So, with a victory on Sunday, Reid will be the only head coach to hold the record for most wins for two NFL franchises.

Key Matchup

The biggest matchup of the game will be between the Chiefs' offensive line and the Eagles' pass rush. This season, the Eagles become the first team in NFL history to have four players total 10 or more sacks: Haason Reddick (16), Josh Sweat (11), Javon Hargrave (11), and Brandon Graham (11). That means that the Chiefs' offensive line will be unable to focus their protection on just one Eagles' pass rusher.

The good news for the Chiefs is that their offensive line might have the talent to match the Eagles' pass rush. The Chiefs had three offensive linemen elected to the pro bowl this year: Orlando Brown, Joe Thuney, and Creed Humphrey. And Andrew Wylie and Trey Smith, the other two Chiefs' offensive linemen, are no scrubs either. In Mahomes' two prior Super Bowl appearances, he has been pressured on an astonishing 30% of his dropbacks. If the Chiefs' offensive line can cut that number in half, it will not only ensure Mahomes more time, but it will also ensure his health as he is still healing from that high-ankle injury he suffered just three weeks before the Super Bowl.

Prediction

The underdog mentality that helped propel the Eagles' Super Bowl run in 2017 is no longer there with this version of the Eagles. The team has been a favorite in every game they have played throughout the whole season, and as mentioned above, that will include the Super Bowl next Sunday. However, the Chiefs have something the Eagles do not have: Patrick Mahomes. A victory on Sunday would give Mahomes his second Super Bowl trophy, a future Hall of Fame jacket, and the start of a realistic discussion of where he ranks among the greatest quarterbacks of all time. And because of all that, we predict the Chiefs to win Super Bowl LVII 31-21.

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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

The First Amendment and Free Speech on Campus

The difficulties that college and university administrators from California to Massachusetts have faced over the past 30 years in protecting their students from harassment, within the context of America's constitutional commitment to freedom of speech, were brought center stage once more in December of 2022 at the University of Wyoming, where a church elder was banned from the student union for harassing an LGBTQ student by name.

This most recent controversy was initiated on December 2, when Todd Schmidt, an elder with the Laramie Faith Community Church, displayed a prominent sign on a table inside the student union that stated: "God created man and woman and [student's name] is a man." The student referenced is a transgender female.

University officials asked Schmidt to remove the name of the student and he complied. Schmidt was subsequently suspended from exercising "tabling privileges" in the student union for one year. University of Wyoming President Ed Seidel said that Schmidt had violated the university's policy prohibiting discrimination and harassment.

President Seidel stated: "While freedom of expression is cherished on this campus and across this nation, a line was crossed when a student was harassed by name. This is something we will not tolerate on this campus, and this action speaks to that key principle to which we adhere at UW. We do not tolerate harassment of any student or any university community member."

The university's policy provides that "language or actions that discriminate or harass the above (protected) groups will not be tolerated," and that "all individuals tabling, whether UW affiliated or not, are expected to bring their views in a respectful and civil manner." The UW Dean of Students informed Schmidt in a December 7 letter that his tabling privileges were being suspended because he used language "targeting a specific student in a protected class."

President Seidel's suspension of Schmidt from the student union likely violated Schmidt's First Amendment right of freedom of speech. Seidel's instinct to protect his students from harassment, however noble, conflicted with the law governing a public forum, which precludes governmental entities, including universities, from practicing viewpoint discrimination. Another problem that arises is that the policy's emphasis on language that is "respectful and civil" is likely to be viewed as unconstitutionally vague, a legal deficiency because it allows those in positions of authority too much latitude in determining the scope of the standard, thus permitting enforcement of the standard in a way that encourages viewpoint discrimination.

These problems, which led to the cratering of similar policies and codes at other distinguished universities, including Stanford, the University of Michigan and the University of Massachusetts, beginning in the 1990s, reflect good-faith intentions which, nonetheless, run afoul of legal prohibitions.

Those policies, historically speaking, have sought to protect minorities and others underrepresented in society; those, in other words, that are most vulnerable to racial epithets and various disparaging remarks. Stanford University, for example, adopted a code that prohibited "harassment by personal vilification" when it aimed to "stigmatize an individual or small number of persons based on their sex, race, color, handicap, religion, sexual orientation, or national and ethnic origin." These policies, however, have failed legal tests, which creates frustration among administrators, professors and students because, after all, a university represents a setting for students to engage in rigorous study, protected against speech and conduct that would interfere with their pursuit of learning.

Alas, colleges and universities are not simply protective sanctuaries but, indeed, resemble much of the rest of the world, where terrible beliefs, disparaging remarks, bigotry and racism are in full sprint. What is the remedy for students and others at the University of Wyoming who fundamentally disagree with what the church elder has said or, for that matter, what anyone has said?

Justice Louis Brandeis, one of America's greatest champions of freedom of speech, explained, in his landmark opinion

in *Whitney v. California* (1927), the rationale for protecting obnoxious speech: "Discussion affords ordinarily adequate protection against the dissemination of noxious doctrine." The remedy for speech we don't like, he wrote, is more speech. In his words, "speech should be made to counteract speech."

Students at the University of Wyoming and other universities have learned, or shortly will learn, that freedom of speech is a powerful tool to be exercised to expose impoverished opinions and ideas with which they disagree, whether social, political or religious in nature. Offensive speech, whether delivered by a politician, minister or fellow student, is ripe for response. Students can sharpen their analytical skills by listening closely to the views and ideas that they find objectionable, discerning the false assertions, doctrinal weaknesses, contradictions and indefensible propositions of the speaker and strengthening their own powers of persuasion in the preparation of their replies.

There is, in the availability of a public forum such as that established in the student union at the University of Wyoming, an opportunity—one to be seized by energetic students—to correct the record and promote one's own views and ideals. The answer to objectionable speech is not to silence the speaker, for that serves only to create a martyr for the principle of free speech. The far better response, as Justice Brandeis explained, is more speech: speech to counteract speech.

Weber

Continued from front

"I still remember two important pieces of advice that I received from Wegner," he said. "First, he advised me to just use my initials and my last name when signing papers, documents, checks, order forms, etc. Otherwise, I'd be wasting valuable time."

"His second piece of advice involved his introducing me to Omer Nelson, who sold insurance and person investment products," Weber stated. "From that initial investment of \$25 a month, I am now able to comfortably retire early!"

"The switch to more reliance upon computers was slow, first putting payroll on the computer," he explained. "Then the school added IBM personal computers followed later by an entire computer lab of IBM's."

"In addition to the switch from paper/pencil bookkeeping to the computer, there have been many other changes in the school district," Weber said. "For example, in 1987 the elementary school in Columbia was closed, followed by an addition to the elementary school in 1992-1993."

"In 2002-2004, the bond issue was passed with the eventual building of the arena addition currently used for all competitive sporting events," he explained. "In the fall of 2004, the Bristol School District merged with Groton followed by the Conde area in 2008."

"The east side addition to the middle school/high school, the next big project, was completed in 2010," Weber said. "This addition, changing the front door of the high school from the south side to the east side, added an important security step that had been missing."

"The last major change, while I was employed in the Groton District, was the addition to the elementary school, completed in 2016."

"I would like to remain as the business manager for the North Central Special Ed Coop, a job that I added in 1993," Weber explained. "The level of that work is basically 1 day per week so it will still give me something to do!"

"I also have a provision in my Coop contract for 2023-24 that would allow me to continue in that capacity and work from home beginning July 1, 2023," he added. "However, the Coop would have to provide me with a computer and printer."

"I have not made a decision on the Coop yet but will do so later this spring," Weber said. "Some of that decision will depend upon who gets hired in Groton and whether or not they want to assume the Coop duties."

"This summer I will be available for consultant work for other school districts and Groton as well, if they need help," he stated. "Currently, there are brand new business managers in Langford, Frederick, and Northwestern. Doland and Redfield business managers are in year two and Edmund Central's business manager is starting year three. All these schools are part of the Coop except Redfield."

"During the thirty-seven years I've been employed by the Groton Area School District, I had the opportunity to work with the following five superintendents: Robert Olson, William Gange, Larry Klapperich, Laura Schuster, and Joe Schwan."

"My wife Lorrie and I have a blended family of three boys and three girls," Weber explained. "I am pleased and grateful that my children have all received a top-notch education here in Groton and have used that foundation for the excellent jobs that they have today!"

The Groton Independent

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Brown County Jan. 31, 2023

Meeting Minutes

JANUARY 31, 2023 – 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 Dennert, Fjeldheim, Gage, Sutton and Wiese. Commissioner Gage led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: Craig Schaubman questioned why his request to discuss Julie Johnson's contract was no longer on the agenda. Commissioner Sutton shared that Julie Johnson has withdrawn her status with the Secretary of State to be a lobbyist and as of last Friday no longer working for Brown County. Commissioner Sutton shared that we would have to pay Julie for some expenses but doesn't know the exact amount at this time.

Ed Fischbach gave an update on the Carbon Pipeline Legislation. Monday, February 6, 2023 at 7:45 A.M. is when HB1133, HB 1136 and HB 1084 will be presented to the Legislators. Ed also shared a letter that was in the Minneapolis paper and stated that a number of complaints that have been filed with the Attorney General in the State of MN.

LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the transfer of the following license: RETAIL (ON-SALE) LIQUOR – UPDATING LOCATION: Stacy Gossman, DBA Flying Pig to update location from 5635 US Highway 12 East, Aberdeen, SD – Lot 2, Gossman Second Addition, SE ¼ of Sec 15-T123N-R63 to 2520 8th Ave. NE, Aberdeen, SD 57401 – Lot 1, Ronnie's Way Addition in the NW ¼ of Sec 17-T123-R63W of 5th P.M., Brown County, SD. RETAIL (ON-SALE) LIQUOR-UPDATING LOCATION: Stacy Gossman, DBA Nacho Business to update location from 5485 US Highway 12 East, Aberdeen, SD – Outlot A, SE ¼ of Sec 15-T123-R63 to 578 North Roosevelt St., Aberdeen, SD – Lot 1, Creekside addition in the NW ¼ of Sec 17-T123N-R63W of 5th P.M., Brown County, SD. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LEASE AGREEMENTS: Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize the Chair sign the following lease agreements: Aberdeen Home Builders Association for lease of Holum Expo Building for Home Builder's Show on March 3-5, 2023; Liebelt's RV for lease of Holum Expo Building for Liebelt's RV Show on March 6-19, 2023; Centerstage Entertainment for lease of Holum Expo Building for Extreme Dwarfactors Wrestling on May 6, 2023. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FAIR CONTRACTS: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign an entertainment contract for the 2023 Brown County Fair (names confidential until official press release). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

DPM RENODRY PROJECT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve the RENODRY Dehydration Project quote for the Dacotah Prairie Museum in the amount of \$17,634.73. All member present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to approve the following:

Claims: Professional Fees: Avera St. Luke's \$6.36; Blackburn & Stevens, Prof. LLC \$497.90; Dakota Group LLC \$2,100.00; Faulk County Sheriff's Office \$2,790.00; Kristi Brandt \$120.75; Pauer Sound & Music Inc \$75.00; Rice County Sheriff's Office \$140.00; Sanford Health Network \$902.48; Sara J. Zahn \$34.00; SDAAO-SD Assoc of Assessing Officers \$525.00; Spokane County Sheriff's Office \$95.00; State of South Dakota \$6,328.38; Travel Leaders \$35.00. Publishing: GateHouse Media California Holdings, Inc. \$133.00; GateHouse Media South Dakota Holdings, Inc. \$1,713.52; Orlando Sentinel \$148.17; The Argus Leader \$20.89. Repairs & Maintenance: Double D Body Shop Inc \$424.00; Honeywell International Inc \$6,702.17; Jalene M. Palmer \$553.19; Leidholt Electric LLC \$5.95; Pierson-Ford-Lincoln-Mercury \$40.98; Valley Service Mechanical LLC \$61.00. Supplies: Century Business Products \$208.16; Crescent Electric Supply Co \$825.13; Dakota Supply Group \$1,019.70; Hillyard Sioux Falls \$5,368.56; Karen Swank \$87.00; Leidholt Electric LLC \$291.50; Marco Inc \$42.51; Menards \$798.20; Midstates Printing \$2,118.00; Nicole Volk \$14.47; Performance Oil & Lubricants \$334.80; Plumbing & Heating Wholesale, Inc. \$1,954.13; Pro Ag Supply, Inc \$28.74; Schwan Welding \$5,729.00; Sherwin Williams \$49.19; State of South Dakota \$693.14; Valley Service Mechanical LLC \$659.00; WEB Water Bottling Company \$27.75. Travel & Conference: Lynn Heupel \$208.30. Utilities: Mon-

tana Dakota Utilities Co \$55.26; Northwestern Energy & Communications \$21,236.15; Verizon Wireless Services LLC \$84.06. Others: City of Aberdeen-K.O. Lee Public Library \$6,000.00; Emma Burnham Public Library \$1,000.00; Groton Community Transit, Inc \$1,000.00.

PAYROLL: Commission \$4,615.41; Auditor \$11,359.50; Treasurer \$16,517.83; SA \$28,369.92; Maintenance \$11,005.41; Assessor \$16,796.81; Register of Deeds \$9,932.80; VSO \$2,336.49; GIS \$2,643.52; IT \$6,029.54; HR \$5,001.68; Sheriff \$44,094.18; Jail \$68,752.93; Court Security \$7,018.13; JDC \$32,244.60; Welfare \$2,336.49; Museum \$11,273.56; Parks/Fairgrounds \$3,230.79; Fair Board \$4,107.20; 4-H \$786.80; Weed \$1,058.37; Planning & Zoning \$7,232.60; Highway \$46,863.20; Dispatch \$34,313.65; Emergency \$4,933.61; 24/7 Sobriety \$1,693.40; Landfill \$13,958.93. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve the following Human Resource Report submitted by Human Resources Director, Erica Coughlin: Acknowledge resignation of Kyle Price, Brown County Assistant Building Maintenance Superintendent effective February 10, 2023. Request to fill. Acknowledge resignation of Lisa Samson, Brown County State's Attorney Legal Assistant; effective January 27, 2023. Request to fill. Resignation of Brandon Richardson, Brown County Jail Detention Officer; effective January 30, 2023. Request to fill. Approve hiring of Christine Haggerty, Brown County States Attorney Legal Assistant; full-time; starting wage \$20.17/hour; effective January 30, 2023. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LEASE AGREEMENTS: Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize the Chair sign the following lease agreements: Aberdeen Home Builders Association for lease of Holum Expo Building for Home Builder's Show on March 3-5, 2023; Liebelt's RV for lease of Holum Expo Building for Liebelt's RV Show on March 6-19, 2023; Centerstage Entertainment for lease of Holum Expo Building for Extreme Dwarfactors Wrestling on May 6, 2023. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FAIR CONTRACTS: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign an entertainment contract for the 2023 Brown County Fair (names confidential until official press release). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

DPM RENODRY PROJECT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve the RENODRY Dehydration Project quote for the Dacotah Prairie Museum in the amount of \$17,634.73. All member present voting aye. Motion carried.

ABATEMENTS/REFUNDS: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following abatements for tax year 2023: Mary Lou Kautz, Parcel #8873, \$1,892.18. For tax year 2022: John Peterson, Parcel #19768, \$780.00 and refund for Delbert Lowe, Parcel #4996, \$15.04. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

VACATE OF EXISTING PLAT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to authorize advertising for public hearing to consider petition submitted by Dwain Buntrock to vacate the plat described as follows: Tract 2, "Buntrock Tracts" in the NW ¼ of Section 5-T125N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (11848 395th Ave., Columbia) to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD on February 21, 2023. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

BID - OVERLAY PROJECT ON CO. RD. 5: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to authorize advertising public hearing to open, read and consider sealed bids for Overlay Project on Co. Rd. 5 to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD on February 21, 2023. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: None
EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to go into executive session to discuss Personnel and 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 Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:04a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published February 8, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$80.57 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 21909

Brown County Buntrock Notice to Vacate

HEARING NOTICE TO VACATE PLAT

Notice is hereby given by the Brown County Commission of a hearing to receive testimony pertaining to a petition, submitted by Dwain Buntrock to vacate the plat described as follows:

Tract 2, "Buntrock Tracts" in the NW ¼ of Section 5-T125N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (11848 395th Ave., Columbia)

Said hearing date shall be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota on February 21, 2023. At said hearing the Board shall consider a Resolution to accept or reject the petition to vacate. Any person unable to attend the hearing may submit written testimony to the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Ste. 1, Aberdeen, SD.

ATTEST:
Lynn Heupel
Brown County Auditor
Published February 8, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$11.04 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 21910

Brown County Surfacing Project Bid Notice

2023 Brown County Surfacing Project

Brown County, South Dakota
Sealed Bids will be received by the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 57401, until 8:45 AM local time on Tuesday, the 21st day of February, 2023, for the above-referenced project. Bids shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the Bidding Documents. Brown County reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all Bids as set forth in the Bidding Documents.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at or shortly after the time named above. Bids will be reviewed by the Brown County Commission at a subsequent meeting of the Brown County Commissioners.

The Project includes the following Work:

•3" Asphalt Concrete overlay for approximately 9 miles.
•Additional items as set forth in the Contract Documents.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Documents. The Successful Bidder will be required to provide Payment and Performance Bonds as described in the Bidding Documents.

Bidding documents may be viewed and obtained at www.questcdn.com by entering QuestCDN project number 8387131. If you need assistance with the website, please contact QuestCDN Customer Support at 952-233-1632 or info@questcdn.com.

A pre-bid conference will not be held.

Attest: Lynn Heupel
Brown County Auditor
Published twice (February 8 and February 15, 2023) at the total approximate cost of \$32.01 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 21911

Columbia City February 1, 2023 Meeting Minutes

City of Columbia Council Meeting – February 1, 2023

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – 8:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL – Cara Dennert, Corey Mitchell, Cole Kampa, Trevor Meints, Meghan Butler, Emily Eichler

Community – Rod Tobin, Julie Lillis, Cheryl Kampa

Corey Mitchell called the meeting to order. Minutes were passed out from the January 4th meeting. Cara pointed out the omission of Emily Eichler from the Roll Call at the last meeting. Cole Kampa made a motion to accept the minutes as amended.

Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All in favor – motion carried.

Warrant Vouchers: Agtegra – 1043.71; Web Water – 48.45; Northwestern Energy – 902.89; McLeod's Printing – 78.28; Menards – 39.96; Cara Dennert – 1235.25; Jeremy Dosch – 419.99; Cole Kampa – 161.76; Corey Mitchell – 434.81; GDI News – 46.64; SDATT – 205.; NASASP – 39.00; Runnings – 351.40

Cole Kampa made a motion to accept the vouchers as corrected. Meghan Butler seconded the motion. All in favor – motion carried.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS /CORESPONDENCE – Thank you card from Lloyd and Doris Dennert expressing their thanks for all the snow removal this winter.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Hearings on the liquor licenses in town – after discussion, Trevor Meints made a motion to approve the transfer of The Lodge's liquor licenses from 9 S Broadway to 18 S Broadway. Cole Kampa seconded the motion. All were in favor – motion carried. Emily Eichler made a motion to approve the on and off sale liquor licenses for Karen's Bar & Grill at 9 S Broadway. Meghan Butler seconded the motion. All were in favor – motion carried.

Nuisances – Our lawyer, Rod Tobin was present and updated us on some things that he is working with on our behalf. He has been in contact with Herb Buntrock talking about the ballfield & parks and the future upkeep of the facilities. They discussed the Foundation and establishing set funding for that purpose. Rod advised us to get proposed budget numbers/estimates together. He also talked to the council about our nuisance ordinances and our rights to levy fines to violators. He stated that we send letters to individuals and they would have 30 days to care of the issue. They can request to be heard at the city meeting. He will be sending us files/letters for our usage. He also discussed baseball park management and the chain of command/responsibility.

Streets – Corey presented the proposal of vacating West Townsend. He will bring a vacation resolution to the next meeting for the council's approval.

Parks – no report
Lagoon/sewer – no report
Rubble Site – We need to burn while there is a decent amount of snow surrounding the site.

NEW BUSINESS – Cheryl and Julie represented the Columbia Social committee and shared information about Columbia Fest "Blast from the Past" – planned for July 29th. It will be a full day of community fun. There will be ball games, park games (pickle ball, frisbee golf), a mini arts in the park, food and other vendors, parade, dance, and park dedications.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Cara presented bank balances. Cara reported that the annual report is finished and will be presented at the next meeting. Money Market Accounts were activated 1/11/23 for the amounts of \$50,000 each out of the General Fund and Sewer. Meghan Butler made a motion to accept the financial reports as given. Cole Kampa seconded the motion. All were in favor – motion carried.

January 31, 2023 balances: SF - \$147,881.18 SF – Money Market - \$50,028.77 ; GF - \$176,962.93 GF Money Market - \$50,028.77; FIT - \$14,202.63

Cash on hand - \$450
Emily Eichler made a motion to adjourn. Meghan Butler seconded the motion. All were in favor – meeting adjourned.

Next City Council Meeting – March 1, 2023 7:00 p.m.
Submitted by Cara Dennert, Finance Officer

Published February 8, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$38.91 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 21912

Brown County Road Oil Bid Notice

NOTICE TO ROAD OIL SUPPLIERS

Sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Court House Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota, until the hours of 8:45 A.M. on February 21, 2023 at said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read and considered for producing, furnishing and delivery of Road Oil to the Brown County System of Roads, F.O.B. Brown

County, South Dakota.

Item (A) Cutback Asphalt Road Oil – MC-70

Item (B) Cutback Asphalt Road Oil – MC-3000

Item (C) Emulsion Asphalt Road Oil- CSS1H

ATTEST:

Lynn Heupel

Brown County Auditor

Published Feb. 1 and Feb. 8 at the total approximate cost of \$17.66 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 21899

Groton School Notice of 2021 Audit

Notice of Audit of the Fiscal Affairs of Groton Area School District No. 06-6

Notice is hereby given that the records and books of account of Groton Area School District No. 06-6 of Brown County, South Dakota, have been audited by Eide Bailly LLP for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, and that a detailed report thereon is filed with the governing board, the Business Manager, and the Department of Legislative Audit, 427 South Chapelle, Pierre, South Dakota, for public inspection.

The following findings and recommendations referred to in the report are hereby published in compliance with the provisions of SDCL 4-11-12:

Current Audit Findings and Recommendations

Finding 2021-001 – Preparation of Financial Statements, Footnotes and Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA) including Significant Audit Journal Entries

Criteria: Groton Area School District 06-6's (the School District) internal control structure should be designed to provide for the preparation of the financial statements, footnotes, and the SEFA which includes having an adequate system for recording and processing entries material to the financial statements being audited in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Condition: The School District requested the external auditors to assist in the preparation of the financial statements and related footnotes along with assistance in preparing the SEFA for the year ended June 30, 2021. As part of the financial statement preparation process, at times we propose material audit adjustments that are not identified as a result of the School District's existing internal controls and, therefore, could result in a misstatement of the School District's financial statements.

Cause: The limited size of the School District's staff and resources causes the inability to prepare the financial statements, footnotes and SEFA and could cause the need for auditors to, at times, propose material journal entries.

Effect: This condition may affect the School District's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statements.

Recommendation: This circumstance is not unusual in an organization of this size. It is the responsibility of management and those charged with governance to make the decision whether to accept the degree of risk associated with this condition because of cost or other considerations. Also, a thorough review of the transactions in each fund should take place prior to the beginning of the audit, to ensure generally accepted accounting principles have been followed for each fund type, especially for transaction types infrequent in occurrence.

Views of Responsible Officials: Management agrees with the finding.

Finding 2021-002 – Lack of Controls on Inventory Counts at Year-end

Criteria: A good system of internal controls allows for all inventory to be counted at year-end and allows for a recount to be performed by someone outside of the person counting.

Condition: At year-end, we, as auditors, counted inventory on hand multiple times and were not able to count to the numbers that were reported in inventory.

Cause: The inventory was not organized so the inventory count could not be completed, and items were not able to be found to trace back to inventory count sheet.

Effect: This condition increases the risk that inventory could be misstated as inventory not recorded could exist and inventory listed might not be on hand.

Recommendation: We recommend that an inventory count is completed twice a year and a test count on various items is completed by someone who did not participate in the initial count to ensure all items have been accounted for.

Views of Responsible Officials: Management agrees with the finding.

Published Feb. 1 and Feb. 8 at the total approximate cost of \$83.88 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 21900

Brown County Equipment Rental Bid Notice

NOTICE TO ROAD CONTRACTORS AND MACHINERY DEALERS

Sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Court House Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota, until the hour of 8:45 A.M. on February 21, 2023. At said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read and considered for furnishing Full Operation Rental Services of Gravel Trucks and Road Machinery for construction and maintenance repairs on Brown County Road Projects for the year 2023. Successful bidders will be working along with Brown County Highway Department Forces, Brown County Landfill Forces and the Brown County Fairground Forces to complete the projects.

Proposal Guaranty: No deposit or bond will be required at time of bid opening.

Performance Bond: Brown County will give notice to the successful bidder that his proposal has been accepted and said bidder shall within ten (10) days thereafter enter into a contract with Brown County and said bidders shall then be required to furnish the following: Certificates of Insurance as per Bid Specifications or Requested from Brown County. Brown County must be listed as additional insured on all Certificates of Insurance.

Contract for Rental Equipment shall be firm and will be in effect for a period of one year from March 1, 2023 to February 29, 2024.

Envelopes containing bids shall be addressed and delivered to the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401, and to be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope: "BIDS FOR RENTAL OF EQUIPMENT" to be opened February 21, 2023. The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County.

Bids shall include all applicable taxes and fees for materials furnished and/or installed by the Contractor and all applicable taxes and fees for materials supplied by the County. Brown County is exempt from all Federal Excise Tax and State Sales Tax.

ATTEST:

Lynn Heupel

Brown County Auditor

Published Feb. 1 and Feb. 8 at the total approximate cost of \$44.15 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 21898



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Groton School Feb. 1, 2023

Special Meeting UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF EDUCATION GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6 SPECIAL MEETING February 01, 2023

President Gengerke called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm in the GHS Library Conference Room. Members present: Flihs, Harder, Gengerke, Pharis, Rix, and Weismantel. Absent: Smith. Others present were Supt. J. Schwan.

Moved by Rix, second Weismantel to approve the agenda as proposed. Motion carried.

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

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

Moved by Weismantel, second Pharis to approve job descriptions for Business Manager and 6-12 Principal. Motion carried.

Moved by Pharis, second Harder to go into executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) for Business Manager interviews and SDCL 1-25-2(4) for negotiations at 5:04 pm. Motion carried.

President Gengerke declared the board out of executive session at 9:16 pm.

Moved by Rix, second Weismantel to adjourn at 9:17 pm. Motion carried.

M. J. Weber, Business Manager

Deborah Gengerke, President
The addition of signatures to this page verifies these minutes as official.

Published February 8, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$15.73 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com.
21913

Mud Creek Notice of Annual Meeting

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF BROWN COUNTY MUD CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT AND REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS FOR BOARD OF MANAGERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That the Annual Meeting of the Brown County Mud Creek Watershed District, will be held in the Groton Community Center, located at 109 N. 3rd Street, Groton, South Dakota on March 21, 2023 at 2:00 p.m., during which annual meeting the eligible voters in the district shall elect, by ballot, under the direction of the secretary of the district, managers to replace those whose terms have expired. Any party interested in becoming a candidate for the Board of Managers for the Brown County Mud Creek Watershed District shall file their written application with Grant Rix, Secretary of the Board of Managers, at 12960 406th Avenue, Groton, South Dakota 57445 at least thirty (30) days prior to elections pursuant to SDCL 46A-14-38. All managers and candidates shall be eligible voters of the district or designees of eligible voters of the district as provided in SDCL 46A-14-15.1. Upon the election of the managers of the district, officers of the district shall be elected by the managers, except the secretary/treasurer shall be appointed by the managers; and any other personnel of the district may be appointed or hired by the managers. Additionally, at such annual meeting any interested person may appear either in person or by a representative and will be given an opportunity for a full and complete discussion of all purposes, objectives, items, schedules, appropriations, estimates, amounts and any other matters relevant to the Brown County Mud Creek Watershed District. Grant Rix, Secretary, Brown County Mud Creek Watershed District.

Published Feb. 8 and Feb. 15 at the total approximate cost of \$35.87 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 21914

Groton Area Fire Protection & Rescue District

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING GROTON AREA FIRE PROTECTION AND RESCUE DISTRICT NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of the Groton Area Fire Protection and Rescue District members who live in the District and own any real property interested in the District will be held on February 20, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fire Hall located on Railroad Avenue, Groton, South Dakota.

Order of Business: This is the time and place for the annual election of board members and a regular meeting of the board. All interested parties should attend.

/s/ Bruce Sippel
Bruce Sippel, Secretary
Published Feb. 8 and Feb. 15 at the total approximate cost of \$16.00 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 21915

Brown County Asphalt Bid Notice

NOTICE TO ASPHALT CONCRETE PLANT MIX SUPPLIERS
Sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Court House Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota, until the hour of 8:45 A.M., February 21, 2023. At said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read and considered for producing, furnishing all materials and delivery of Asphalt Concrete Plant Mix Materials for road maintenance and construction on Brown County System of Roads, F.O.B. Brown County, South Dakota.

Proposal Guaranty: No deposit or bid bond will be required at time of bid opening.

Contract Notice: Brown County will give notice to the successful bidder that his proposal has been accepted and said bidder shall within ten (10) days thereafter enter into a contract with Brown County.

Contract for Asphalt Plant Mix Materials shall be firm and will be in effect for a period of one (1) year from March 1, 2023 to February 29, 2024.

Envelopes containing bids shall be addressed and delivered to the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 57401 and to be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope: "BIDS ON ASPHALT CONCRETE PLANT MIX MATERIALS" to be opened on February 21, 2023. The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County.

Bids shall include all applicable taxes and fees for materials furnished and/or installed by the Contractor and all applicable taxes and fees for materials supplied by the County. Brown County is exempt from all Federal Excise Tax and State Sales Tax.

Section 320.5 - Basis of Payment: "A" - Asphalt Concrete Plant Mix Materials for Maintenance and Construction. The accepted quantities of Asphalt Plant Mix will be paid for at the contract unit price per ton.

ATTEST:
Lynn Heupel
Brown County Auditor
Published Feb. 1 and Feb. 8 at the total approximate cost of \$40.29 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 21897

Brown County Gravel Bid Notice

NOTICE TO GRAVEL PRODUCTION CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS

Sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Court House Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota until the hour of 8:45 A.M. on February 21, 2023 at said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read and considered for furnishing and delivery of ONE (1) YEARS SUPPLY OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GRAVEL MATERIALS.

Proposal Guaranty: No deposit or bid bond will be required at time of the bid opening.

Performance Bond: Brown County will give notice to the successful bidder that his proposal has been accepted and said bidder shall within ten (10) days thereafter enter into a contract with Brown County and furnish a performance bond in accordance with the bid as accepted or as required by the Brown County Highway Department Superintendent. Brown County must be listed as additional insured on all Certificates of Insurance.

Envelopes containing bids shall be addressed and delivered to the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401, and to be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope: "BIDS ON GRAVEL AGGREGATE MATERIALS" to be opened February 21, 2023. The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County.

Bids shall include all applicable taxes and fees for materials furnished and/or installed by the Contractor and all applicable taxes and fees for materials supplied by the County. Brown County is exempt from all Federal Excise Tax and State Sales Tax.

Contract for GRAVEL MATERIALS shall be firm and will be in effect for a period of one (1) year from March 1, 2023 to February 29, 2024.

ATTEST:
Lynn Heupel
Brown County Auditor
Published Feb. 1 and Feb. 8 at the total approximate cost of \$39.74 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 21896

Groton Area Boys' Basketball

Boys lose close game to Elk Point-Jefferson

The Groton boys hoop team went to Elk Point-Jefferson on Saturday, losing a close game to the Huskies, 60-56.

Groton held an 18-15 lead after the first quarter, but the Huskies led at halftime, 26-25, and after the third quarter, 46-40.

Jacob Zak led the Tigers with 24 points, two rebounds, three assists and one steal. Lane Tietz had 11 points, two rebounds and four assists. Tate Larson had eight points, three rebounds, three assists and one steal. Ryder Johnson had eight points, two rebounds and one steal. Cole Simon had three points, two rebounds and one steal. Logan Ringgenberg had two points, three rebounds, one assist and one steal. Cade Larson had one rebound, one assist and one steal.

Groton Area made 16 of 26 two-pointers for 62 percent, five of 15 three-pointers for 33 percent, made nine of 18 free throws for 50 percent, had 15 rebounds, 10 turnovers, 12 assists, six steals and 18 team fouls.

Conde National League

Feb. 6 Team Standings: Tigers 19, Cubs 15, Pirates 14, Giants 13, Braves 12, Mets 11

Men's High Games: Ryan Bethke 216, Chad Furney 210, Aaron Severson 203, Butch Farmen 200

Men's High Series: Ryan Bethke 562, Butch Farmen 524, Chad Furney 523

Women's High Games: Michelle Johnson 176, Sam Bahr 152, Vickie Kramp 150

Women's High Series: Michelle Johnson 491, Sam Bahr 425, Vickie Kramp 396

Rodney Kappes, Manager of BDM Rural Water System Named Rural Water Manager of the Year

The South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) recently named Rodney Kappes of the BDM Rural Water System as the Rural Water Manager of the Year during the organization's Annual Technical Conference in Pierre. This award recognizes managers of rural water systems across South Dakota for outstanding performance in operating a rural water system.

Rod Kappes took over as manager of BDM Rural Water in 2016 when the board of directors decided to make a change. Kappes stepped in, took the bull by the horns, and turned BDM around financially. He made the board see the importance of funding depreciation, its impact on a business, and its financial benefits to the organization. Kappes has steadfastly guided the system as it continually looks to improve infrastructure to meet commitments to members. BDM has been in a perpetual improvement phase since he arrived, and the system is better for it.

Kappes works closely with BDM's consulting engineer to ensure BDM can provide adequate high-quality water to its members while keeping the system sustainable for the long term. He has put a lot of time and energy into the WINS project, coming up with creative solutions to many problems.

The South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to enhancing South Dakota's water and wastewater industries by providing training and on-site technical assistance. SDARWS is financially supported through its membership dues and grant programs as a member-driven organization. SDARWS hosts a yearly Annual Technical Conference in Pierre during the second week of January for rural and municipal water and wastewater systems for sessions in operations, management, boardsmanship, and governance, and to recognize leaders in the water and wastewater industry.

St. Elizabeth to host Hunger Banquet

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is again hosting a Hunger Banquet to raise money and awareness for the poor on Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2023, 6:30 p.m. Guest Speaker & Program by Deacon John Devlin of St. Michael's Parish, Sioux Falls

The SEAS Hunger Banquet helps start off the season of Lent. Especially to help those in our world who are in need of support. So many people suffer from lack of food and safe drinking water to sustain life.

A little about the banquet...You are divided into groups before the banquet. About 10% will receive a three course meal. About 30% will receive a bowl of stew and the remaining people will receive a scoop of rice. A free will offering will be taken.

This is an excellent way to help your children understand that not everyone in the world has sufficient food. If you bring a group, please rsvp to Carol Smith so they have enough rice.



**RURAL WATER
MANAGER OF THE YEAR
Rodney Kappes,
Manager of BDM Rural Water**

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The newly formed junior drum line received a standing ovation after its performance Tuesday night at the boys basketball game. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

GHS Boys' Basketball

Groton Area beats North Central

Groton Area's boys basketball team defeated North Central Tuesday night in Groton, 62-21. The Tigers led at the quarters tops at 22-6, 36-10 and 51-21.

Lane Tietz led the Tigers with 12 points, one rebound, two assists and two steals. Jacob Zak had nine points, four rebounds, two assists, two steals and two blocks. Tate Larson had eight points, seven rebounds, three assists and one steal. Gage Sippel had eight points and three rebounds. Cole Simon had six points, two rebounds and three steals. Logan Ringgenberg had five points, three rebounds, one steal and one block. Cade Larson had three points and two assists. Taylor Diegel had three points, two rebounds and two assists. Keegan Tracy had three points, two rebounds and two assists. Tyson Parrow had three points. Ryder Johnson had two points, two rebounds, one assist and one steal. Holden Sippel had one rebound and one assist. Blake Pauli had one assist.

Groton Area made 16 of 25 two-pointers for 64 percent, nine of 19 three-pointers for 47 percent, three of eight free throws for 38 percent, had 27 rebounds, 13 turnovers, 16 assists, 10 steals, eight team fouls and three blocks.

Cole Bukaske and Bastien Delalande each led the Thunder with seven points while Raynor Sprague had three and Dawson Walz and Spencer Buechler each had two points. North Central made five of 25 field goals for 20 percent, eight of 11 free throws for 72 percent, had nine team fouls and 19 turnovers.

Groton Area led at the quarter stops at 17-0, 29-7 and 39-13 en route to a 47-19 junior varsity game win. Ryder Johnson led the Tigers with nine points followed by Logan Ringgenberg with 10, Keegan Tracy had eight, Turner Thompson and Taylor Diegel each had four points and adding two points apiece were Dillon Abeln, Blake Pauli, Holden Sippel, Gage Sippel and Logan Pearson.

Cooper Oxner led the Thunder with 11 points while Daniel Bonen and Harrison Beyers each had four points.

Both games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM. The junior varsity game was sponsored by Larry and Val Flihs. The varsity game was sponsored by Bahr Spray Foam, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Bierman Farm Service, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Groton Chamber of Commerce, Groton Ford, John Sieh Agency, Locke Electric, Milbrandt Enterprises Inc., Spanier Harvesting & Trucking, Thunder Seed with John Wheeting.

- Paul Kosel

Groton Area boys win, girls lose at Milbank double header

Milbank's girls took control of the second half to beat the Lady Tigers, 40-33. Groton Area led after the first quarter, 10-6, and at half time, 17-16. Milbank took the lead after three quarters of play, 30-26.

Sydney Leicht led the Tigers with 13 points, four rebounds and one steal. Jaedyn Penning had 10 points, four rebounds, one assist and one steal. Kennedy Hansen had five points and one assist. Brooke Gengerke had three points, four rebounds, one assist and one steal. Jerica Locke had two points, seven rebounds, six assists and three steals. Aspen Johnson had five rebounds. Faith Traphagen had one rebound and three steals. The Tigers made 10 of 33 two-pointers for 30 percent, three of 19 three-pointers for 16 percent, one of four free throws for 25 percent, had 25 rebounds, 12 turnovers, nine assists, nine steals and 16 team fouls.

Maurina Street led Milbank with 13 points while Siera Wenzel had 10, Clare Snaza had six and Tyra Berry added five points. 41 -33 points

Groton led at the quarter stops at 15-8, 28-12 and 37-17 en route to a 45-20 junior varsity game win.

Faith Traphagen led the Tigers with nine points followed by Laila Roberts with eight, Kennedy Hansen, Rylee Dunker and Talli Wright each had six, Taryn Traphagen had three points and Brooklyn Hansen, Elizabeth Flihs, Mia Crank and Emily Clark each had two points.

Anna Neugebauer led Milbank with six points while Ella Sandvig and four, Rylee Schoular had three and Avery Schueman, Josie Riveland and Belle Pauli each had two points and Ivy Lewno added a free throw.

Groton girls won the C game, 19-15. Taryn Traphagen and McKenna Tietz each had six points, Mia Crank had five and Kella Tracy added two points. Paelle Pauli led Milbank with 10 points.

Groton Area led at the quarter stops, 16-9, 37-22 and 50-28 en route to a 64-36 win in the varsity boys game.

Lane Tietz led the Tigers with 23 points, two rebounds, four assists

and three steals. Jacob Zak had 13 points, seven rebounds and one assist. Tate Larson had nine points, three rebounds and four assists. Cole Simon had seven points, five rebounds, two assists and three steals. Ryder Johnson had six points, one rebound, one assist and one block. Cade Larson had three points and four rebounds. Keegan Tracy had three points and one rebound. Braxton Imrie had an assist and Dillon Abeln had a block. The Tigers made 21 of 30 two-pointers for 70 percent, five of 18 three-pointers for 28 percent, seven of 15 free throws for 47 percent, had 23 rebounds, seven turnovers, 13 assists, 10 steals, 16 team fouls and two blocks.

Sisseton made a three-pointer at the buzzer to edge past Groton Area in the junior varsity game, 43-42. Groton had taken the lead with 8.6 seconds left on a rebound and put back by Gage Sippel, 42-40.

Ryder Johnson led Groton Area with 19 points followed by Logan Ringgenberg with seven points, Colby Dunker had five points, Gage Sippel and Braxton Imrie each had four points and Dillon Abeln had two points. Groton made four of nine free throws.

Groton Area won the boys C game, 22-11. Gage Sippel had 10 points followed by Logan Warrington with five, Blake Pauli, Carter Simon and Turner Thompson each had two points and JD Schwan had one free throw.

All of the games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM with lots of help. Thanks to Ryan and Carla Tracy for calling the JV and varsity games and for getting Jeslyn and the equipment to the game. To Jeslyn Kosel for getting everything up and going. To Tami Zimney and Darci Moody for running the iPad during the C Games.

Varsity game sponsors were Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Bierman Farm Service, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Groton Chamber of Commerce, Groton Ford, John Sieh Agency, Locke Electric, Spanier Harvesting & Trucking, Bahr Spray Foam, Thunder Seed with John Wheeting. C game sponsors were Darcie and Eric Moody and Russ and Dixie Clark. JV sponsors were Kent and Darcy Muller and the Imrie family in memory of Jay Imrie.

Groton Area Girls' Basketball

C-Hawks defeat Lady Tigers at DAK XII/NEC Clash

Canton defeated Groton Area at the DAK XII vs. NEC Clash held Saturday in Madison, 70-63. Hamlin defeated Vermillion, then it was the Groton-Canton game that was the closest game.

The game was tied twice in the first quarter before Canton took an 18-13 lead at the end of the first quarter. Canton opened up a 16 point lead in the second quarter and led it at halftime, 38-31. Groton Area sliced the lead to two early in the third quarter at 38-36 but Canton took a 10-point lead into the fourth quarter, 56-46. The C-Hawks opened up a 15-point lead early in the fourth quarter but the Tigers continued to battle back and thanks to a three-pointer by each Mia Crank and Laila Roberts in the closing minute cut the final margin down to seven.

Sydney Leicht led Groton Area with 23 points, one rebound, two assists and two steals. Brooke Gengerke had 10 points, two rebounds and one assist. Kennedy H Hansen had eight points, three rebounds, two assists and three steals. Jerica Locke had six points, six rebounds, five assists, three steals and one block. Jaedyn Penning had six points, five rebounds and three steals. Aspen Johnson had four points, one rebound, one assist and three steals. Laila Roberts and Mia Crank each had three points and one assist. Brooklyn Hansen had two points and one assist. Faith Traphagen had six rebounds, one assist and one steal. Elizabeth Flihs had one rebound. Rylee Dunker had one assist and one steal.

Groton Area made 11 of 35 two-pointers for 31 percent, nine of 17 three-pointers for 53 percent, 14 of 24 free throws for 58 percent, had 25 rebounds, 20 turnovers, 16 assists, 16 steals, 23 team fouls and one block.

Amanda Lease led the C-Hawks with 21 points followed by Shelbie Olseth with 20, Bria Cady had 12, Jenna Vande Weerd had seven, Brynn Oakland six and Danica Roseboom had four points. Canton made 24 of 50 field goals for 48 percent, 16 of 29 free throws for 55 percent, had 19 team fouls and 19 turnovers.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, with Shane Clark doing the play-by-play calling. The broadcast was sponsored by Bahr Spray Foam, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Bierman Farm Service, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Groton Chamber of Commerce, Groton Ford, John Sieh Agency, Locke Electric, Milbrandt Enterprises Inc., Spanier Harvesting & Trucking, Thunder Seed with John Wheeting.

- Paul Kosel

Groton Area Wrestling

Ehresmann, Bisbee and Kucker place at Big Dakota Conference Wrestling Tournament

Three Groton Area wrestlers placed at the Big Dakota Conference wrestling tournament on Saturday at Stanley County.

Christian Ehresmann placed first at 138 pounds, Cole Bisbee placed second at 170 pounds and Korbin Kucker placed fourth at 152 pounds.

106 Lincoln Krause (1-4) scored 3.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Vincent Lenz (Kimball/White Lake/Platte-Geddes) 27-13 won by fall over Lincoln Krause (Groton Area) 1-4 (Fall 1:35)

Cons. Round 1 - Lincoln Krause (Groton Area) 1-4 won by fall over Ben Glanzer (Marion/Freeman) 0-6 (Fall 0:42)

Cons. Round 2 - Maddux Risse (Bennett County) 26-9 won by fall over Lincoln Krause (Groton Area) 1-4 (Fall 0:44)

106 John Bisbee (2-10)

Champ. Round 1 - Gunner Fuegen (Kimball/White Lake/Platte-Geddes) 2-9 won by fall over John Bisbee (Groton Area) 2-10 (Fall 0:59)

Cons. Round 1 - Shay Smith (Harding County) 19-21 won by fall over John Bisbee (Groton Area) 2-10 (Fall 1:22)

132 Tristan McGannon (2-12)

Champ. Round 1 - Spencer Sargent (Stanley County) 17-13 won by fall over Tristan McGannon (Groton Area) 2-12 (Fall 0:50)

Cons. Round 1 - Sutton Powers (Chamberlain) 4-8 won by fall over Tristan McGannon (Groton Area) 2-12 (Fall 0:46)

138 Christian Ehresmann (24-3) placed 1st and scored 28.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 23-3 won by fall over August Bartels (Winner Area) 10-15 (Fall 1:01)

Quarterfinal - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 23-3 won by fall over Roy Antrim (Faith) 6-17 (Fall 0:38)

Semifinal - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 23-3 won by fall over Quinn Long (Chamberlain) 18-13 (Fall 1:03)

1st Place Match - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 24-3 won by decision over Konner Osborn (Winner Area) 30-15 (Dec 5-2)

138B Isiah Scepaniak (2-14)

Champ. Round 1 - Isiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 2-14 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Chisum Blum (Chamberlain) 3-0 won by fall over Isiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 2-14 (Fall 0:51)

Cons. Round 2 - Isiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 2-14 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 3 - Quirt Wondercheck (Faith) 8-9 won by major decision over Isiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 2-14 (MD 10-0)

145 Nick Morris (3-10) scored 4.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Nick Morris (Groton Area) 3-10 won by forfeit over Forf. Forf. (Lakota Tech) 0-2 (For.)

Quarterfinal - Ryken Orel (Winner Area) 37-15 won by fall over Nick Morris (Groton Area) 3-10 (Fall 1:13)

Cons. Round 2 - Jerrod Larsen (Chamberlain) 2-2 won by fall over Nick Morris (Groton Area) 3-10 (Fall 3:43)

152 Korbin Kucker (5-2) placed 4th and scored 16.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 5-1 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Jack Peters (Winner Area) 20-15 won by decision over Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 5-1 (Dec 13-6)

Cons. Round 2 - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 5-1 won by fall over Carson Schremp (McLaughlin) 1-15 (Fall 2:48)

Cons. Round 3 - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 5-1 won by fall over Austin Blare (Winner Area) 8-22 (Fall 4:01)

Cons. Semi - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 5-1 won by injury default over Colby Kolda (Miller/Highmore-Harrod) 29-7 (Inj. 0:00)

3rd Place Match - Bryce Reuer (Chamberlain) 26-11 won by decision over Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 5-2 (Dec 6-2)

170 Cole Bisbee (16-11) placed 2nd and scored 20.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 16-10 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 16-10 won by decision over Kamryn Meek (Winner Area) 13-16 (Dec 7-3)

Semifinal - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 16-10 won by fall over Case Kolda (Stanley County) 18-14 (Fall 3:55)

1st Place Match - Jesse Bears Heart (Moberidge-Pollock) 30-9 won by decision over Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 16-11 (Dec 8-2)

220 Gavin Englund (4-14) scored 4.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Gavin Englund (Groton Area) 4-14 won by fall over Wyatt Zeigler (Moberidge-Pollock) 5-14 (Fall 1:49)

Quarterfinal - Grey Gilbert (Harding County) 32-7 won by fall over Gavin Englund (Groton Area) 4-14 (Fall 1:00)

Cons. Round 2 - Dalton Defenbaugh (Kimball/White Lake/Platte-Geddes) 9-15 won by decision over Gavin Englund (Groton Area) 4-14 (Dec 10-7)

Junior High Teams split with Aberdeen Christian

Groton Area's junior high basketball teams split a pair of games with Aberdeen Christian, Monday, at the Groton Area Arena.

Groton Area's seventh grade team won, 55-19. Easten Weber led Groton Area with 19 points followed by Ryder Schelle with 14, Ethan Kroll 10, Larson Zak eight, Braeden Flihs four, Jace Johnson three and Alex Abeln two.

Charlie Eichler led the Knights with 21 points while Andrew Schwab had three and Kaleb had two.

Then it was reversal time as the Knights won the eighth grade game, 56-22.

Larson Zak and Easten Weber each had eight points while Ethan Kroll, Alex Abeln and Jace Johnson each had two points.

Cowboy led the Knights with 20 points while Luke had 14, Dylan 13 and Brooks nine.

Both games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Akaska Tavern & Bait Shop.

Groton Area December Students of the Month



Elliana Weismantel
Senior



Cadence Feist
Junior



Rebecca Poor
Sophomore



Natalia Warrington
Freshman



Liby Althoff
8th Grade



Addison Hoeft
7th Grade



Novalea Warrington
6th Grade

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Students are selected based on individual student growth in the areas of: positive behavior, citizenship, good attendance, a thirst for knowledge, and high academic standards.

GHS Wrestling

Ehresman, Kucker pick up wins on the mat over Marion/Freeman

Groton Area traveled to Presho on Friday for a wrestling quadrangular. Lyman and Marion/Freeman both posted team wins over Groton Area. Groton Area's 18 points came from three forfeit wins against Lyman County. Christian Ehresmann and Korbin Kucker both posted wins over their opponent in the Marion/Freeman dual and Groton Area picked up three other wins by forfeit.

Lyman 38, Groton Area 18

195 Isaac McManigal (Lyman) wins by forfeit

220 Gunner Johnson (Lyman) wins by forfeit

285 Louie Thiry (Lyman) over Gavin Englund (Groton Area) (Fall 0:36)

106 Lane Olivier (Lyman) over Lincoln

Krause (Groton Area) (Fall 3:07)

113 Skyler Langenbau (Lyman) over Jon Bisbee (Groton Area) (Fall 3:31)

120 Kellen Antonson (Groton Area) wins by forfeit

132 Braydon Oldenkamp (Lyman) over Tristan McGannon (Groton Area) (Fall 1:04)

138 Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) wins by forfeit

145 Easton Robbins (Lyman) over Nick Morris (Groton Area) (Dec 6-3)

152 Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) wins by forfeit

160 Tance Wagner (Lyman) wins by forfeit

182 Rory McManus (Lyman) over Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) (Dec 4-3)

Marion/Freeman 42, Groton Area 28

195 Raymond Arnold (Marion/Freeman) wins by forfeit

220 Gavin Englund (Groton Area) wins by forfeit

106 Brody Gossen (Marion/Freeman) over Lincoln Krause (Groton Area) (Fall 0:55)

113 Easton Tschetter (Marion/Freeman) over Jon Bisbee (Groton Area) (Fall 0:55)

120 Axle Schultz (Marion/Freeman) over Kellen Antonson (Groton Area) (Fall 3:39)

126 Finley McConniel (Marion/Freeman) wins by forfeit

132 Keaton Prehiem (Marion/Freeman) over Tristan McGannon (Groton Area) (Fall 0:31)

138 Isiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) wins by forfeit

145 Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) over Zac Saylor (Marion/Freeman) (MD 16-2)

152 Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) over Chris Flores (Marion/Freeman) (Fall 1:33)

160 Riley Tschetter (Marion/Freeman) wins by forfeit

170 Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) wins by forfeit

Groton Area Second Quarter Honor Roll

Seniors

4.0 GPA: Ethan Clark, Elliana Weismantel, Jackson Dinger, Jacob Lewandowski, Cole Simon, Shaylee Peterson, Ashtyn Bahr, Caleb Hanten, Kaleb Antonsen, Brooke Gengerke, Aspen Johnson, Cadance Tullis

3.99-3.50: Sierra Ehresmann, Carter Barse, Brenna Carda, Porter Johnson, Gracie Traphagen, Cole Bisbee, Cade Larson, Shallyn Foertsch, Tate Larson, Hollie Frost, Andrew Marzahn, KayLynn Overacker, Nathalia Garcia, Ethan Gengerke

3.49-3.00: Kamryn Fliehs, Tannon McGannon

Juniors

4.0 GPA: Claire Heinrich, Lydia Meier, Kyleigh Englund, Hannah Monson, Emily Clark, Ashlyn Sperry, Lexi Osterman, Holden Sippel, Emma Schinkel, Sara Menzia

3.99-3.50: Cadence Feist, Abigail Jensen, Anna Fjeldheim, Sydney Leicht, Colby Dunker, Lane Tietz, Camryn Kurtz, Bradin Althoff, Celia Moreno Mananes, Logan Ringgenberg

3.49-3.00: Dillon Abeln, Jaycie Lier, Bryson Wambach, Faith Fliehs, Karsyn Jangula, Anna Bisbee, Jackson Garstecki

Sophomores

4.0 GPA: Gretchen Dinger, Elizabeth Fliehs, Emma Kutter, Kayla Lehr, Payton Mitchell, Diego Eduardo Nava Remigio, Faith Traphagen, Axel Warrington

3.99-3.50: Kennedy Hansen, Blake Pauli, Brooklyn Hansen, Emily Overacker, Turner Thompson, Karrah-Jo Johnson, Jeslyn Kosel, Logan Pearson, Brevin Fliehs, Laila Roberts, Kaden Kampa, Korbin Kucker

3.49-3.00: Rebecca Poor, Carter Simon, Abby Yeadon, Riley Carman, Aiden Heathcote, Nicolas Fernandez Gonzalez, Corbin Weismantel, Drew Thurston, Kellen Antonsen, Karlie McKane, Christian Ehresmann, Emma Bahr, Quintyn Bedford

Freshmen

4.0 GPA: Lucas Carda, Carly Gilbert, Jerica Locke, Jaedyn Penning, Nathan Unzen, Natalia Warrington, Talli Wright

3.99-3.50: Mia Crank, Logan Warrington, Ryder Johnson, Paisley Mitchell, Benjamin Hoeft, De Eh Tha Say, Gage Sipel, London Bahr, Raelee Lilly, Olivia Stiegelmeier, Aiden Meyer, Rylee Dunker, Karter Moddy

3.49-3.00: Keegen Tracy, Cali Tollifson, Karsten Fliehs, Lincoln Krause, Cambria Bonn, Jayden Schwan, Breslyn Jeschke, Hannah Sandness, Drake Peterson, Jarrett Erdmann

Eighth Grade

4.0 GPA: Teagan Hanen, Carlee Johnson, Ashlynn Warrington

3.99-3.50: Kira Clocksene, Colt Williamson, Brody Lord, Liby Althoff, Emerlee Jones, Addison Hoffman Wipf, Aiden Strom, Taryn Traphagen, Halee Harder, Leah Jones, Gavin Kroll, McKenna Tietz, Walker Zoellner, Kella Tracy

3.49-3.00: Avery Crank, Blake Lord, Claire Schuelke, Zander Harry, Hailey Pauli, Brenna Imrie

Seventh Grade

4.0 GPA: Elizabeth Cole, Makenna Krause, Sydney Locke, Thomas Schuster

3.99-3.50: JoHanne Beauchamp, Mya Feser, Taryn Thompson, Easton Weber, Layne Johnson, Jace Johnson, Ryder Schelle, Addison Hoeft, Ethan Kroll, Rylie Rose, Chesney Weber, Kyleigh Kroll

3.49-3.00: Wyatt Wambach, Karson Zak, Rylen Ekern, Brysen Sandness, Ryelle Gilbert, Brayden Barrera, John Bisbee, Kason Oswald, Aimee Heilman, Journey Zieroth

Sixth Grade

4.0 GPA: Wesley Borg, Abby Fjeldheim, Zachary Fliehs, Novalea Warrington

3.99-3.50: Tevan Hanson, Neely Althoff, Brooklyn Spanier, Kolton Antonsen, Asher Johnson, Madison Herrick, Lincoln Shilhanek, Arianna Dinger, Aurora Washenberger, Aspen Beto, Adeline Kotzer, Tenley Frost

3.49-3.00: Logan Olson, Samuel Crank, Wesley Morehouse, Savannah Beauchamp, Skylor Bedford, Kaedynce Bonn, May Dallaire, Grayson Flores, Jose Fernando Nava Remigio, Wyatt Hagen, Mathias Walters Weidner

Valentine's Day Balloons Giant Valentine's Cards

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Groton Area January Students of the Month



Jackson Dinger Senior



Claire Heinrich Junior



Brooklyn Hansen Sophomore



Lucas Carda Freshman



Emerlee Jones 8th Grade



Sydney Locke 7th Grade



Kolton Antonsen 6th Grade

Groton Area School works to ensure that all levels of academic instruction also include the necessary life skills teaching, practicing, and modeling that encourages essential personal life habits that are universally understood to facilitate helping our students become good human beings and citizens.

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Dear EarthTalk: Since when is the transition to electric vehicles an "environmental justice" issue?

-- P. Balducci, Troy, NY

The poorest members of our society are likely to benefit the least from a widespread transition to electric vehicles (EVs) for a few reasons. For starters, those with the least income are unlikely to be able to afford to purchase a new car, let alone a Tesla. As such, gas guzzling, internal combustion cars and trucks will likely persist well into the future—even if they are not the majority of vehicles on the road any longer—and their drivers will be paying a lot more for fuel (gas) than their EV-driving lane mates.

And lower income individuals who do pony up for an EV will also suffer disproportionately as even the electricity to recharge will be a much higher portion of their overall income than wealthier EV drivers. A January 2023 study from the University of Michigan found

that "more than half of the lowest-income U.S. households (an estimated 8.3 million households) would continue to experience high transportation energy burdens, defined...as spending more than 4 percent of household income on filling the tank or charging up."

"EV ownership in the U.S. has thus far been dominated by households with higher incomes and education levels, leaving the most vulnerable populations behind," reports Joshua Newell, a co-author on the study and an urban geographer at the University of Michigan's Center for Sustainable Systems. "Policy interventions are needed to increase EV accessibility so that all Americans can benefit from the EV transition."

This problem has not gone unnoticed by some lawmakers and policymakers. One positive development is the federal government's re-upping of its policy offering up to \$7,500 in tax rebates to those who purchase a qualifying new EV. Additionally, many states and localities offer their own financial and other incentives to help low-income individuals afford the transition to an EV. Check out the Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency (DESIRE), a free online resource from the North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center at North Carolina State to find what incentives are available in your area. Other ways that some states and cities are trying to bridge the income disparity gap caused by the EV transition include car-sharing programs for low-income residents and education and job training opportunities in the EV industry. Meanwhile, the cost of EVs continues to



The non-profit Forth, which works to electrify transportation by bringing people together to create solutions that reduce pollution and barriers to access, has been running a successful EV car sharing program out of the headquarters of Hacienda, a local community development corporation in a low-income neighborhood in Portland, Oregon, since 2017.

go down. U.S. car buyers can comparison-shop among more than a dozen EV models with sticker prices under \$40k for the 2023 model year. And many governments and private organizations are actively engaged in research and development to make EVs more affordable and accessible to everyone. Since EVs are cheaper to own and operate than their gas guzzling counterparts, it's a shame that those least able to afford them bear a disproportionate burden, whether they upgrade or not.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

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 USDA Choice Demkota Boneless New York Strip Steak 12 Oz. \$6⁹⁹ Each	 Cold Water Lobster Tail 4 Oz. \$6⁹⁹ Each
 Fresh Strawberries 1 Lb. Pkg. \$3⁹⁹	 Ken's Fresh 80% Lean Ground Beef Family Pack Per Lb. \$2⁵⁹ <small>SAVE \$1.40 Per Lb.</small>

 Heinz Squeeze Ketchup 38 Oz. Bottle \$2⁹⁹	 Hormel Chili w/Beans 15 Oz. Cans 2/\$3⁵⁰ <small>Sale Price 2/\$4 -50¢ Digital Coupon Net Price</small>
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 Keebler Townhouse Crackers 9-13.8 Oz. Boxes 3/\$9 <small>Sale Price 3/\$10 -1.00 Digital Coupon Net Price</small>	 Hidden Valley Ranch Dressing 36 Oz. Bottle \$6⁹⁹
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 Milwaukee Baby Dill Pickles Qt. Jar \$3⁷⁹	 Nabisco Snack Crackers or Chips Ahoy! Cookies 3.5-13 Oz. Pkg. \$2⁴⁹ <small>Sale Price \$2.99 -50¢ Digital Coupon Net Price</small>
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APP DEAL OF THE WEEK

99¢

Sheboygan Cocktail Smokies

12-14 Oz. W/\$10 PURCHASE & KEN'S APP.

Requires \$10 additional purchase and use of Ken's App

Place Your Order Early!

Long Stem Rose Bouquets

1 Dozen \$19⁹⁹

Per Dozen

Meat

 Best Buy Pork Baby Back Ribs Per Lb. \$2⁵⁹	 Smithfield Whole Pork Butt Roast 3 Piece \$1⁴⁹ Per Lb. <small>SAVE 50¢ Per Lb.</small>
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Dairy

Dinner Bell Grade AA Butter

1 Lb. Qtrs. \$3⁸⁸

Frozen

Brew Pub Lotzza Motzza Pizza

22.7-28.25 Oz. \$5⁹⁹

Liquor

Crown Royal Peach

750 ML \$29⁹⁹

Tuesday is Sushi Day at Ken's!!

- Roll Pkg. Only \$5 each
* Includes Roll + Onsen Roll + Sake Drink
 ** Includes Roll + Onsen Roll + Sake Drink + Sake Drink
 *** Includes Roll + Onsen Roll + Sake Drink + Sake Drink + Sake Drink
 **** Includes Roll + Onsen Roll + Sake Drink + Sake Drink + Sake Drink

KEN'S SUSHI BOWL!

REGISTER TO WIN 1 OF 2 PARTY'S FOR 20

SUSHI BOWL

REGISTRATION TO WIN & PARTY FEB 11TH

 Coffee • Gourmet Drinks Sunday 9 AM - 1 PM Monday-Friday 7 AM - 5 PM Saturday 8 AM - 3 PM Call 605-325-6671	 Stromboli Kitchen Guacamole Starter \$1⁰⁰ OFF	 Flavor of the Week! Carmel Mocha \$3⁴⁹-\$4⁴⁹	PRICES GOOD AT ALL KEN'S LOCATIONS: FEB 5TH THRU FEB 11TH 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
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"The Benefits of Sleep: Why You Should be Sleeping More"

Most people know that getting enough sleep is important for their health, but many do not realize that there are specific health benefits that come from getting a good night's sleep. Getting enough sleep can improve your mood, help you maintain a healthy weight, and reduce your risk of chronic health problems like diabetes and heart disease. Sleep can even help boost your immune system and improve memory.

Despite knowing that sleep is important, according to the CDC, one in three adults do not get enough sleep. The National Sleep Foundation found that almost half of all Americans say they feel sleepy during the day between three and seven days each week. Many untreated health conditions can interrupt or affect sleep. Issues from an enlarged prostate, hot flashes from menopause, sleep apnea, acid reflux, and restless legs are just some of the conditions that can keep us from a good night's rest. A lack of sleep can also affect or worsen depression and anxiety. Unfortunately depression and anxiety can make falling asleep much harder causing a cycle of worsening mood and sleep difficulties.

Weight can also be affected by the lack of sleep due to the hormones that help regulate your appetite and sense of fullness. Lack of sleep increases the hormone ghrelin, which increases appetite. Even partial sleep deprivation can increase the body's resistance to insulin. This can increase blood sugar levels and contribute to the development of diabetes.

Loss of sleep affects the risk of heart attacks and high blood pressure. This is related to the hormone, cortisol which is on a circadian rhythm and increases in the morning hours. Increased cortisol helps to awaken you and peaks about thirty to forty-five minutes after awakening. One study found that there was a 24% increase in heart attacks on the Monday after Daylight Savings Time. This increase is thought to be related to the hour of sleep lost and increased cortisol levels.

Certain immune components work more while you are sleeping to help repair the body and fight infections. Good sleep helps consolidate memories, improves creativity, and can even improve sports performance.

Getting a good night's rest is not just nice, it is imperative to your body's health. If you are having trouble sleeping, it is important to talk with your health care provider to see what can be done to help your sleep improve. He or she can also help rule out any underlying health conditions that could be impacting your ability to get the rest your body needs. Count some sheep and get some extra ZZZ's so you can "stay healthy out there!"

Jill Kruse, D.O. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices as a hospitalist in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.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, on SDPB and streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.



Based on Science, Built on Trust



Jill Kruse, DO