

The Groton Independent

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Groton School Board reviews expenditure increases during opt-out discussion, review district report card

by Elizabeth Varin

With general fund revenue nearly flat lined through the last five years, the Groton Area School District Board is looking for ways to handle continuously rising expenses.

Superintendent Joe Schwan continued his presentation on what a potential fiscal year 2025 opt-out could look like during Monday's school board meeting.

The district has seen a little movement on the revenue side, though that has been achieved through transferring anywhere from \$500,000 to \$700,000 from the district's capital outlay fund to the general fund. Those transfers make up around 10 percent of the district's general fund.

However, the district has seen an increase in expenditures from \$4.85 million in fiscal year 2020 to an estimated \$5.94 million budgeted for fiscal year 2024.

A majority of fiscal year 2023 spending – \$3.42 million – consisted of salaries for teachers, staff and administrators at the district. Another \$947,000 went toward employee benefits. The remaining money – \$1.03 million – went toward other expenses, including \$472,000 spend on care and upkeep at the schools.

There's not one line item that can be cut to make the situation turn around, Schwan said.

"There's no magic bullet," he added.

Salaries make up about 80 percent of the budget, he added.

It seems obvious that unless the district is willing to cut six or seven positions and cut all extracurriculars, the district is going to have to make some type of change, said Board Member Tigh Flihs.

Even if extracurricular activities were cut, it would only be about five percent of the total budget, said Board Vice President Marty Weismantel.

"The moral of the story is if you're a business and you take numbers like this to the bank, you'll be looking for a new lender or at your assets," he said.

Having that much of a budget dedicated to salaries and benefits is typical for a school district, said Business Manager Becky Hubsch.

"You can't cut eight people. That's a whole wing over here. Who's going to be here for the kids?" she asked. "That's one of the tough things."

Board Member Heather Lerseth-Flihs said she was "surprised how little we get from the state. Is that fair?"

Superintendent Schwan replied, "No. It's not fair."

However, state aid used to be calculated differently, he said. The numbers used to be easier to understand, where money was allocated based on the number of students a district had enrolled.

"There was really nothing wrong with that formula," he said. "There just wasn't funding for it."

Now, the state counts some taxes the district used to receive as revenue the state no longer has to provide to the districts.

Board Member Tigh Flihs added he'd also like have something to show the community how many cuts the district has absorbed in the last ten years. Some teachers have retired, and, instead of hiring a new staff member, those duties were reabsorbed by others in the district.

The Board will continue reviewing whether an opt-out would be the most fiscally responsible choice at its next meeting in December. If the board chooses to proceed with an opt-out, they would need to make that decision in January or, at the latest, in early February, Schwan said.

Groton Area's report card is in

Superintendent Schwan reviewed the district's report card, released by the state Department of Education in October.

The elementary school ranked well in student performance, which is based on Smarter Balance Assessment in English language arts and math. However, the school didn't score well in the student progress section, which measure student growth in English language arts and math.

"That's a place where we could grow," Schwan said.

The middle school also scored well in student performance, with seventh graders in spring 2023 scoring 79.55 percent in English language arts vs. the state average of 51 percent. Those students also scored 61.36 percent in math vs. the state average of 41 percent.

Eighth graders in Spring 2023 also did well, scoring 81.08 percent in English language arts vs. the state average of 49 percent, as well as 72.97 percent in math vs. the state average of 38 percent.

"Those are among some of the top," Schwan said. "Very good num-

Continues on back page



Quilts presented at Veteran's Day Programs
This quilt was presented to Neil Wagner at the Groton Area Veteran's Day Program held Friday. His story was read by Gretchen Dinger. See pages 10-11 for more photos. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Laila Roberts gave the introductory remarks for the Honor Quilts for Viet Nam Veterans. She mentioned that the quilts were made by Karen Wolter. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Groton's Angel Trees are out

There are two Angel Trees in Groton again this year. Tina Kosel has put together her annual cards for the Angel Trees with one at Dollar General and one at Lori's Pharmacy. (Photos by Tina Kosel)

Weekly Vikings Recap - Vikings vs. Saints

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

The Minnesota Vikings came into their Week 10 matchup against the New Orleans Saints as the hottest team in the NFC with a four-game winning record. Despite injuries to nearly every position on offense, this Vikings team has found a new sense of momentum with the arrival of quarterback Josh Dobbs. For Dobbs, Sunday was his first opportunity to play at home in front of the Vikings fans, and he did not disappoint.

The first half was likely the best half of football the Vikings had played all season. Not only did the team score a season-high 24 points in the first two quarters, but they held the Saints to only 3 points. Like last week, the story for the Vikings was Josh Dobbs' dual-threat performance. For a fanbase who has gotten accustomed to having a lack of mobility at the quarterback position over the past six years with Kirk Cousins, the athleticism and creativity by Dobbs when both in and outside the pocket, has brought a new level of excitement to the Vikings offense. What is most impressive about Dobbs' dual-threat ability is that he never seems to give up on the pass. Often, Dobbs will get outside the pocket only to continue to look down the field, which tends to freeze opposing defenders into having to choose whether to go after Dobbs for a sack or stay in coverage.

The other great performance for the Vikings' offense was TJ Hockenson. Hockenson, who came into the game questionable to play with a rib injury, fought through intense pain for an impressive 11 catches for 134 yards receiving. It was evident in the first half that Dobbs gained immense confidence in throwing to Hockenson, as the tight end caught 10 passes for 128 yards. The problem for Hockenson was that he had to deal with getting hit after every catch. By the end of the first half, you could see the pain on Hockenson's face every time he got up from getting tackled. Impressively, the pain did not slow Hockenson down as he caught a 28-yard touchdown down the middle from Dobbs at the end of the first half to give the Vikings a 24-3 lead over the Saints.

The Saints, who came into Sunday's game in first place in the lowly NFC South, did not go away easily in the second half despite the 21-point deficit. After Derek Carr went out of the game after a big hit from Danielle Hunter, the former first overall pick, Jameis Winston, came in and immediately led the Saints down for their first touchdown of the game - thanks to an amazing catch by Chris Olave over Byron Murphy in the endzone. After the Vikings missed a field goal, the Saints again drove down the field for another touchdown that involved Byron Murphy getting mossed by a Saints' wide receiver, this time A.T. Perry. Thanks to their second consecutive successfully converted two-point conversion, the Vi-

kings found themselves with only a 27-19 lead.

Despite the Vikings intercepting Winston two times in the fourth quarter, the Vikings offense completely stalled in the second half and gave the Saints a chance to complete one Hail Mary pass to tie the game. However, the Saints could not complete their third crazy touchdown catch of the game and the Vikings came away with their fifth straight victory in a row.

Vikings 27 - Saints 19

The Vikings will now head to Denver to face the lowly Denver Broncos on Sunday night. This will be the Vikings' last road game before their bye week in Week 13. The question for the Vikings will be whether Justin Jefferson will play next week. Some say that if the weather is cold in Denver, the Vikings might wait another week to bring back Jefferson as the cold weather might aggravate his hamstring injury.

With the Vikings now at 6-4, the team firmly sits in a position to compete for the NFC North title against the Detroit Lions. That is something I did not think would be said given the Vikings were 1-4 just five weeks ago.

Let's talk ailments

If I only have to get up once during the night, it's a victory. However, if I don't have to get up at all, it probably means I'm dehydrated, and cramps will wake me up, anyway.

I'm feeling my high mileage these days, but the time it takes for me to leap out from under the covers when I feel a cramp coming on involves world class speed. Panic is a great motivator. Have you ever felt a cramp coming on, gotten your legs tangled in the sheets, and fallen out of bed on your face? Me neither.

Even a trip to the bathroom is complicated in the winter because I like a cold room and a pile of quilts. If I'm crawling out from under the covers, trust me, I really gotta go. A lot of shriveling can take place during that 30-foot trek.

I'm not sure how or when this happened, but I've become somewhat self-involved, fixated on my ailments, and decidedly more obtuse when dealing with social situations.

"How are you doing?" someone will ask.

"It's the wierdest dang thing. I can't raise my left arm."

"You realize it was a rhetorical question, right?"

"So, you don't care how I'm doing?"

"Dude, I don't even know you."

At least I know you'll listen because you're paying for this newspaper. You want to get



That's Life

by Tony Bender

your money's worth.

Anyway, prednisone is your friend. After a couple of doses, my shoulder was shouldering again, but I still don't know why it acted up. My right shoulder was the one I messed up playing baseball. It was also my tackling shoulder. Maybe the left shoulder felt ignored.

Clint Eastwood said once, "A man's got to know his limitations." Well, I've lost count of my growing limitations, but I do try to exercise good judgement. For one, don't lift heavy things alone. That's a lesson learned the hard way.

A few years ago, I decided I could move a vintage Coke machine down a couple of steps into my man cave by myself—with the proper tools, of course, a dolly. Well, it got away from me as I clung to the dolly, I went airborne, and when it stopped short, I kept going and smashed face-first into the pop machine. Loosened my teeth and got a bloody nose. Wile E. Coyote would have been proud.

I've been more cautious since breaking my hip almost two years ago. "Don't do stupid stuff," my surgeon advised after putting my hip back together with so much metal and wire, I'm guaranteed intimate moments with strangers at every airport I visit.

Unfortunately, some weeks ago, I ended up with a flat tire in Strasburg, and even though I got a hand from the local deputy, I still managed to pull a butt muscle in that hip while trying to loosen the lug nuts that had apparently been tightened by the Incredible Hulk.

Sometimes you can't avoid doing stupid stuff. Well, I could have, but that would have made me look like a slacker. Pride goeth before the limp.

I thought I was fine until it flared up last week. It didn't help that I had to do a lot of driving, including to Fargo for the football championships, so it stiffened up. The motel clerk watched curiously as I one-stepped and grimaced down the steps. I'm sure all the able-bodied 20-year olds got the first floor rooms.

"Tweaked my hip," I explained.

"Maybe it's the weather."

"Thank you Dr. Desk Clerk."

I discovered that by pulling my right foot in a bit when I walked, my hip felt better. However, then my knee started to hurt. After the national anthem, they rushed me into the medical tent. I'll say it again: prednisone is your friend. The good news is, I think I'm now in the running for Comeback Sports Reporter of the Year.

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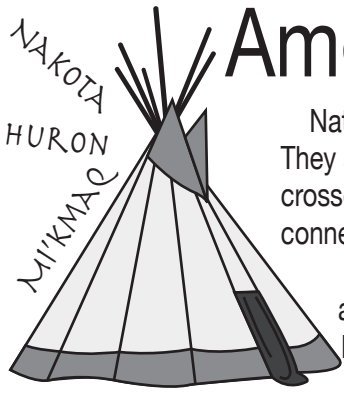
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America's First People

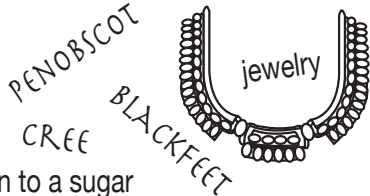
Native Americans were the first people to live in North America. They are believed to be descendants of people from Asia who crossed into North America on a land bridge (the Bering Strait) that connected the two continents during the Ice Age, but is now gone.

The Native Americans settled into different regions and each tribe adapted to its own environment. Tribes formed larger groups, learned how to talk with one another, began hunting, farming and trading.

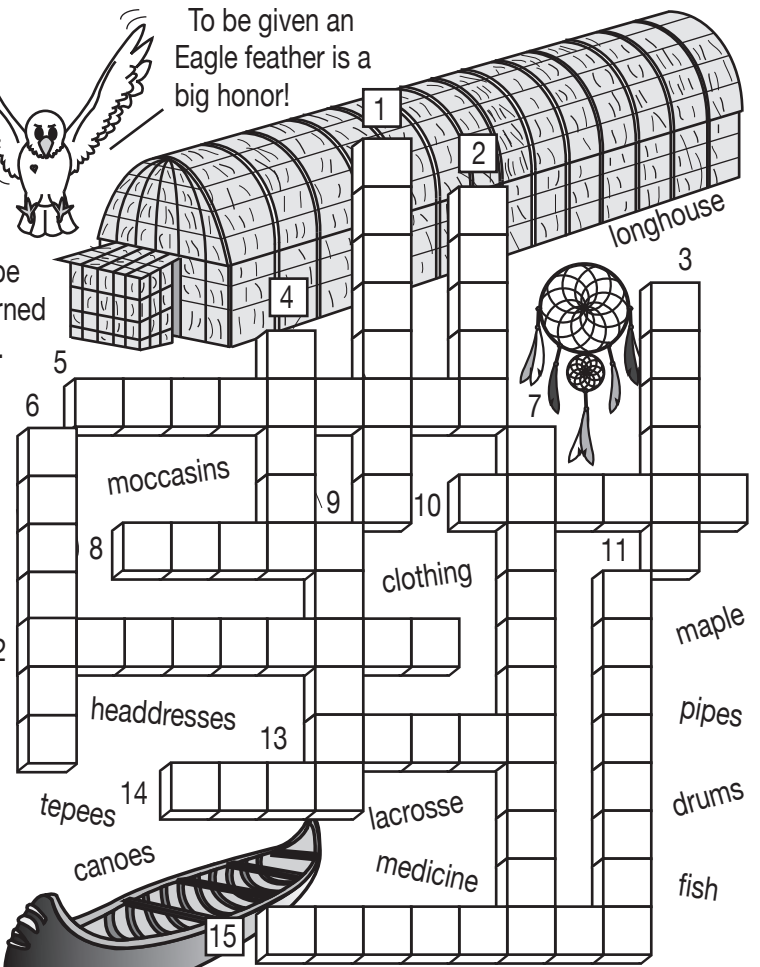
Then, about 500 years ago, European explorers arrived and began to form settlements. Many of the Native Americans got along with the newly arrived settlers and they lived in peace. But, there were also conflicts between some of the North American tribes and settlers (more so in areas of the U.S.). During the 1800s, many Native Americans were assigned to areas called reservations or reserves. Today, less than a third of the Native American population still lives in these areas.

Read the clues to learn about some Native American history and to fill in the puzzle.

- made from deer hides and other animal skins
- made from animal skins; used in ceremonies, at wartime
- made with birch or other tree bark; used to travel long distances on water and when hunting
- sap of this tree was drained; hot rocks used to boil it down to a sugar
- soft leather and fur shoes, some with bead patterns; tribes had their own styles and designs
- leather, ceramic beads, feathers, tortoise shells and copper used for making this
- powerful leaders and healers wore these; more bird feathers added for great feats
- used for smoking tobacco in ceremonies; often given as a gesture of peace
- some of the most important foods grown, the "three sisters": beans, corn and _____
- common shelter of the plains; hunting tribes used them; warm in winter's cold, cool in summer heat
- people who healed and helped their communities were called _____ people
- shelter that could hold many families



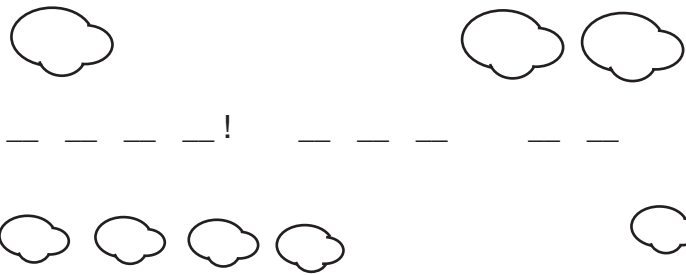
To be given an Eagle feather is a big honor!



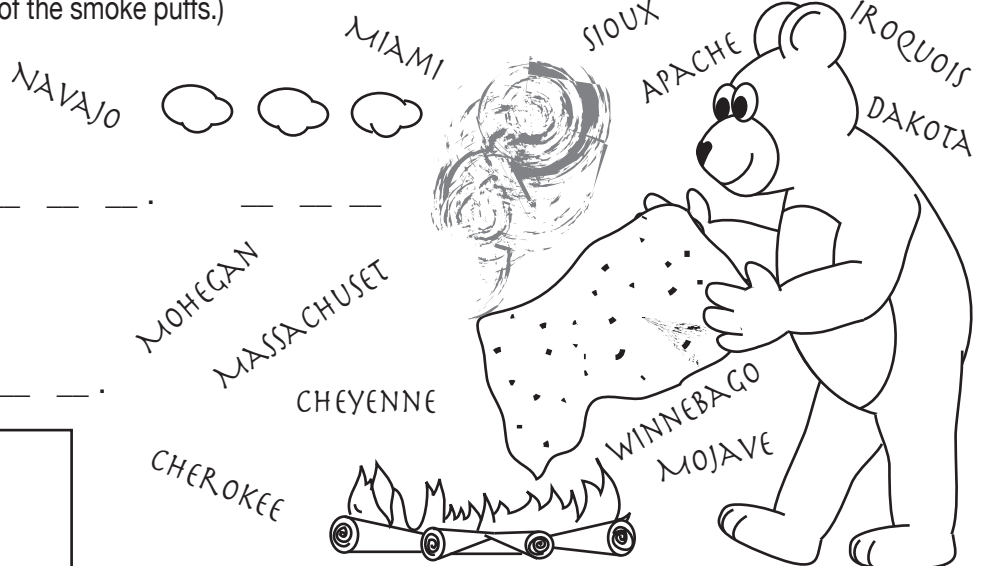
- signals used between tribes to warn of danger or to let others know all was well
- major source of food from the water, caught by spear, bow and arrow or net
- game played to settle disputes between tribes, used sticks with nets and balls

Smoke Signals Code

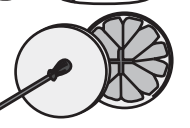
Some Native American tribes used smoke signals to "talk" to each other over long distances. They built a campfire and used a blanket to cover it and then took the blanket away to make a puff of smoke. The meanings of the signals were agreed upon between the tribes so they were only known to the users. The size and number of puffs were the key to the code. Use our simple Smoke Signals Code below to fill in the blanks to see what Forest is saying. (Hint: Pay attention to the size and number of the smoke puffs.)



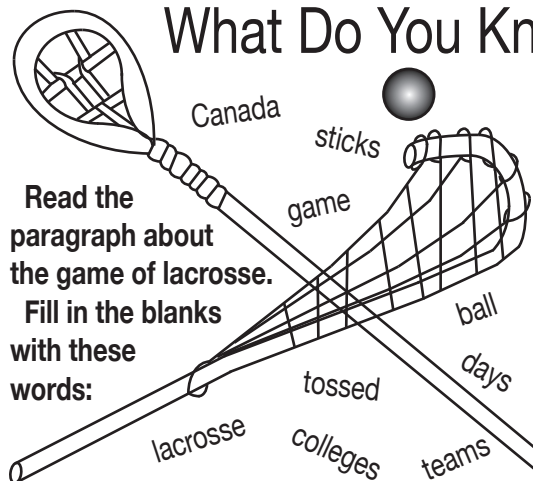
	= Saturday		= Hello
	= Sunday		= All Is Well
	= See		= Danger
	= You		



Native Americans also used different beats on drums to send messages over long distances.



What Do You Know About Lacrosse?



Read the paragraph about the game of lacrosse.

Fill in the blanks with these words:

Have you seen teams on a field playing a 1 _____ with sticks that have nets on the ends of them to catch a little 2 _____? This game is called lacrosse. It's a game that was first played by **Native Americans**.

Native Americans played 3 _____ to settle disputes or to train for war. 4 _____ could have as many as one thousand players and a playing field miles long! A small deerskin ball was 5 _____ up into the air and the two sides rushed to catch it in their netted playing 6 _____. The goal could be a rock or a tree that the players would hit the ball against. The game often lasted two or three 7 _____ from sunrise to sunset. It was a rough game and there were many injuries.

Today, as you can guess, lacrosse is not as punishing as it once was. It is very popular in 8 _____ and is played in many high schools and 9 _____ in the United States. It is popular along the Northeastern coast and is spreading to other states as well.

The Groton Independent

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Groton City Rubble Site

Permit Hearing

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE APPLICATION FOR OPERATION OF A COMPOST SITE AND SOLID WASTE SITE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Groton City Council on the 21st of November, 2023, at 7:00pm in City Hall, 120 N Main St, Groton, South Dakota will meet in regular session to consider the applications for operation of a compost site and a solid waste site.

The sites which are owned by the City of Groton are located on the E 1/2 of the NW 1/4, Section 30, Township 123, Range 60W, Brown County, South Dakota, which is approximately one mile south of Railroad Ave, Groton. The site contains 4 to 5 acres. The City of Groton will operate these solid waste and compost facilities. The sites will begin operation under these applications immediately after approval.

Any questions may be addressed to Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer, PO Box 587, Groton, SD 57445 or by telephone 605-397-8422. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that any person, persons, objections to these applications if any objections there be.

November 9, 2023

Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer

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Brown County Nov. 7, 2023

Meeting Minutes

November 7, 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, Wiese, Gage, and Sutton. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Wiese.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Commissioner Wiese moved to approve the agenda by scratching Rachel Kippley on the RFP for Expo Roof for this week, seconded by Gage. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: Mark Remily met with the Commissioners regarding the altercations that had happened while he is circulating petitions. He explained that he has been called many things including a baby killer over the Roe vs Wade petition: then explained the struggles him and his wife had with trying to have a baby. Mark then stated he would continue to get signatures.

FEMA BRIC GRANT: Scott Meints, Emergency Management Director along with Char Hagar, CEO and Jerry Weber, Operations Manager from Northern Electric met with the Commission to discuss the new FEMA BRIC (Building Resistant Infrastructure in Communities) Grant. Scott explained that this is mitigation funds, FEMA sets aside so much money from every Presidential Disaster declaration, which Brown County had due to the Spring Flooding. Northern Electric will apply for this grant, but they would need Brown County to be the Administrator of these funds and they would be the recipient. Scott shared that they have an agreement drawn up that has been reviewed by both the State's Attorney and Northern Electric's legal counsel that will need to be approved and signed. Char informed the Commission that Northern Electric currently has a project they are getting the application ready for; Northern Electric would take care of all the paperwork, then submit them to Scott/EM to file with FEMA. Char asked for the Commission's approval on this process. Scott also shared they would like to continue this as an ongoing process with Northern Electric as long as there are Federal Funds available. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve Northern Electric applying for the FEMA BRIC Grant and having Brown County be the administrator, along with authorizing Chairman to sign the agreement and letter of approval. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ROADS AT RICHMOND LAKE: Neil Bellikka along with Mark Hanson, Bruce Johnson, Ken Dulik, and several other residents of Richmond Lake met with the

Commission to discuss the condition of the County Roads. A concern was raised that a new guard rail hadn't been put up along the bridge after 2 years; Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent shared that he had just received notice to proceed from SD DOT (after 2 years of communication), he needed to apply for Safety Funds because of the cost being too substantial for the County. This project will be bid on through the State and it is in their 2024 Construction plans. Further discussion was had regarding the condition of the roads and their safety on them. The residents feel that the county needs to do a better job of maintaining the county roads, get rid of the washboard, cause within 2-3 days after blading the road it is back to the same state. Also, down the road the dam is going to be replaced so traffic from the west side will be rerouted and then have more traffic on it. Bruce Johnson shared that the dam is listed in the State for FEMA as the #1 hazard; there is 6.5 million dollars that will be allocated on the berm on the other side of the road and not replace the spillway; they are asking the Legislator to allocate another \$4-6 million to get a match with FEMA. District 3 Representative, Carl Perry shared it won't happen right away because they don't meet until January, but it is on the docket. Commissioner Dennert asked if he thinks it will likely be funded this year; Rep. Perry shared the budget is limited but he thinks it will be funded. After further discussion on the roads – Commissioner Wiese reiterated that the main concerns are the guard rail, will likely be taken care of next year and they want more effort on the wash-boarding of the roads at this time. Chairman Sutton shared they will work with Dirk to work on the wash-boarding issues then report back to the residents in two weeks; they will look at any and all options. Representative Perry shared that the County is not getting funding they need from the State but will do what they can on a State Level; the Representative for Transportation is Brandel Schaeferbauer for people to contact.

GROTON CITY SOLID WASTE PERMIT: The City of Groton sent in a letter along with a copy of their application to renew their Solid Waste Permit for the rubble and compost site located south of Groton. Mike Scott, Landfill Manager, informed the Commission this is just a formality, and he is in favor of this. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve and authorize the Chairman to send a letter of approval for the City of Groton renewal of the Solid Waste Permit. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY – WEB WATER: Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve application submitted to provide potable water line service by Web Water for occupancy of Brown County Hwy #14 in Section 4-T123-R63, Brown County, SD. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent informed the Commission the Highway Department is working on gravel stock piling; last of the fence at the Elm Lake project might be completely done at the end of the week; mowing but are behind so hoping the snow holds off; he will look at options for Richmond Lake roads. Commissioner Fjeldheim asked about cutting down on locations where you stop and go or if it comes right back; Dirk shared they will come back fairly quick. The accelerating and decelerating cause the wash-boarding. Commissioner Gage asked about the blading schedule for Co. Road 18 and the debris cleaned up on Br. Co. 10 by dump; Dirk shared they didn't get called on that one but normally when debris is on the road, deputies call it in, and they are notified then go out and clean it up.

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve the General Meeting minutes of October 31, 2023. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims/payroll: Claims: Professional Fees: Avera St. Luke's Hospital \$251.26; Brown County 4-H Leaders Association \$5,350.00; CGI, LLC \$788.13; Horizon Health Care, Inc \$302.08; Kennedy Pier Loftus & Reynolds, LLP \$85.60; LexisNexis Risk Data Mgt, LLC

\$400.00; Lincoln County Auditor \$226.20; Lucy Lewno \$270.00; Mark Katterhagen \$30.00; Sanford Health Occupational Medicine \$552.00; Satellite Tracking of People, LLC \$1,482.00; SD Dept of Legislative Audit \$2,847.70; US Bank \$699.85; Valerie Larson \$21.00; Yankton County Sheriff's Office \$50.00. Publishing: Groton Daily Independent \$107.55; Hub City Radio \$300.00; US Bank \$300.00. Rentals: Pantorium Cleaners Inc \$207.36. Repairs & Maintenance: SD Transport, LLC \$3,881.25; Big Scoop \$40.00; Chemtek, Inc \$53.98; CommTech Inc \$1,699.00; Crawford Trucks & Equipment \$64.43; Dakota Fluid Power \$43.45; Diamond Mowers LLC \$14.60; EcoLab Pest Elimination Division \$112.83; Eilers Water Conditioning and Lawn Irrigation \$135.00; Graham Tire Inc \$95.54; Jensen Rock & Sand Inc \$2,494.80; Pomp's Tire Service, Inc \$358.56; Precision Kiosk Technologies \$2,700.00; Quality Welding, Inc \$35.45; Runnings \$558.90; US Bank \$475.99; Webster Scale \$284,626.50. Supplies: Artz Equipment, Inc \$1,293.64; Bakken Building Maintenance \$500.00; Bimbo Foods USA, Inc \$696.57; Butler Machinery Company \$1,130.32; Century Business Products \$177.64; Chemtek, Inc \$224.75; Cole Paper Inc \$583.09; Crawford Trucks & Equipment \$3,110.45; Dakota Electronics \$3,056.35; Dakota Fluid Power \$2,713.85; Dakota Mailing & Shipping Equipment \$135.01; Dakota Oil \$1,223.35; Diamond Mowers LLC \$500.64; East Side Jersey Dairy Inc \$1,946.30; Fastenal Company \$53.73; Government Forms & Supplies \$499.42; Great Western Tire \$3,466.10; HOH Water Technology Inc \$256.61; Jensen Rock & Sand Inc \$82,258.55; JGE, Inc \$29.14; Karen Swank \$20.00; Kristin Barstad \$86.76; Lucy Lewno \$8.88; McLeod's Printing & Office Supply \$896.78; Menards \$161.67; Nelson Sales & Service, LLC \$30.02; Pantorium Cleaners Inc \$92.00; PharmChem, Inc \$351.45; RDO Equipment Co \$4,160.79; Runnings \$265.27; Tri State Water \$87.00; US Bank \$12,191.99; US Foods \$9,772.97. Travel & Conference: C Scott Bader \$203.94; Fox Valley Technical College \$325.00; Heartland Association of Fairs, Festivals & Events \$2,665.00; Ron Keller \$34.00; US Bank \$4,023.43. Utilities: AT&T Mobility \$43.23; CenturyLink \$305.48; City of Aberdeen Treasurer \$1,617.09; Midcontinent Communications \$163.80; Northwestern Energy \$9,881.00; US Bank \$2,857.71.

PAYROLL: Commissioner \$4,615.41; Auditor \$11,144.00; Treasurer \$16,302.58; SA \$34,070.32; Maintenance \$11,324.39; Assessor \$15,031.22; Register of Deeds \$9,932.81; VSO \$4,254.09; GIS \$2,643.52; IT \$8,974.46; HR \$4,698.75; Sheriff \$52,724.88; Jail \$58,704.82; Coroner \$613.60; Court Security \$7,587.62; JDC \$30,339.88; Welfare \$2,336.49; Museum \$11,581.44; Parks/Fairgrounds \$6,367.25; Fair Board \$4,107.22; 4-H \$786.79; Weed \$5,037.41; Planning & Zoning \$7,315.53; Highway \$56,333.52; Dispatch \$35,143.19; Emergency \$2,224.00; 24/7 Sobriety \$2,742.09; Landfill \$16,603.53; Meal Benefits \$270.00; FICA \$25,211.08; Medicare \$5,896.13; Discovery_HSA \$1,688.61; Health Insurance Wellmark BCBS \$127,686.85; Dental Insurance_Delta \$8,638.08; Life Insurance_Dearborn \$1,057.74. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve the following Human Resource Report submitted by Human Resources Director, Allison Tunheim:

- Transfer of Tina Jacobs from FT Brown County Jail Detention Officer to PT Brown County Jail Detention Officer, starting wage \$16.76; effective October 29, 2023.
- Employment ending for Jason Erickson, Landfill Heavy Equipment Operator, FT; effective October 30, 2023. Request to fill.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LANDFILL TONNAGE REPORT: Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to acknowledge the Landfill Tonnage Report for October 2023. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

SET HEARING DATE FOR RETAIL (ON-OFF) MALT BEVERAGE & SD FARM WINE LICENSES: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to set hearing date and authorize publication

for public hearing on the following applications of Retail (On-Off Sale) Malt Beverage and SD Farm Wine License on 28th day of November 2023 in the Commission Chambers of the Brown County Commissioners. Stacy Gossman, DBA: Head East at 5759 E. Hwy, 12, Ste. #2, Aberdeen, SD - Lot 1B, Gossman First Addition, Kesslers Outlot to Aberdeen in S 1/4 of Section 15-T123-R63 of the 5th P.M., Brown County, SD; Stacy Gossman, DBA: West Bound at 5759 E. Hwy, 12, Ste. #3, Aberdeen, SD - Lot 1B, Gossman First Addition, Kesslers Outlot to Aberdeen in S 1/4 of Section 15-T123-R63 of the 5th P.M., Brown County, SD; Stacy Gossman, DBA: Up North at 5759 E. Hwy, 12, Ste. #4, Aberdeen, SD - Lot 1B, Gossman First Addition, Kesslers Outlot to Aberdeen in S 1/4 of Section 15-T123-R63 of the 5th P.M., Brown County, SD; All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: District 3 Representative Carl Perry commented that this is Government at its finest and the Commission is doing a great job. Represent the County well.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to go into Executive Session for Personnel and Legal per SDCL 1-25-2. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. The Chairman declared the executive session closed with no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to adjourn the Brown County Commission meeting at 10:29 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published November 15, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$117.00 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 22704

Brown County Gossman Malt Beverage Hearing

NOTICE OF HEARING UPON APPLICATIONS FOR SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Notice is hereby given according to SDCL 35-2-5, a Public Hearing on the Application of a Retail (on-off sale) Malt Beverage & SD Farm Wine License is set for the 28th day of November 2023 in the Chambers of the Brown County Commissioners, Brown County, South Dakota at which time any interested persons wishing to register a complaint on their approval may appear:

PURCHASE – RETAIL (ON-OFF SALE) MALT BEVERAGE & SD FARM WINE LICENSE

Stacy Gossman, DBA: Head East an application for Retail (on-off sale) Malt Beverage & SD Farm Wine License at 5759 E. Hwy. 12, Suite #2, Aberdeen, SD – Lot 1B, Gossman First Addition, Kesslers Outlot to Aberdeen in the S 1/4 of Section 15-T123-R63 of the 5th P.M., Brown County, SD.

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published November 15, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$11.96 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 22705

Brown County Gossman Malt Beverage Hearing

NOTICE OF HEARING UPON APPLICATIONS FOR SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Notice is hereby given according to SDCL 35-2-5, a Public Hearing on the Application of a Retail (on-off sale) Malt Beverage & SD Farm Wine License is set for the 28th day of November 2023 in the Chambers of the Brown County Commissioners, Brown County, South Dakota at which time any interested persons wishing to register a complaint on their approval may appear:

PURCHASE – RETAIL (ON-OFF SALE) MALT BEVERAGE & SD FARM WINE LICENSE

Stacy Gossman, DBA: West Bound an application for Retail (on-off sale) Malt Beverage & SD Farm Wine License at 5759 E. Hwy. 12, Suite #3, Aberdeen, SD – Lot 1B, Gossman First Addition, Kesslers Outlot to Aberdeen in the S 1/4 of Section 15-T123-R63 of the 5th P.M., Brown County, SD.

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published November 15, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$11.96 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 22706

Brown County Gossman Malt Beverage Hearing

NOTICE OF HEARING UPON APPLICATIONS FOR SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Notice is hereby given according to SDCL 35-2-5, a Public Hearing on the Application of a Retail (on-off sale) Malt Beverage & SD Farm Wine License is set for the 28th day of November 2023 in the Chambers of the Brown County Commissioners, Brown County, South Dakota at which time any interested persons wishing to register a complaint on their approval may appear:

PURCHASE – RETAIL (ON-OFF SALE) MALT BEVERAGE & SD FARM WINE LICENSE

Stacy Gossman, DBA: Up North an application for Retail (on-off sale) Malt Beverage & SD Farm Wine License at 5759 E. Hwy. 12, Suite #4, Aberdeen, SD – Lot 1B, Gossman First Addition, Kessler's Outlot to Aberdeen in the S ¼ of Section 15-T123-R63 of the 5th P.M., Brown County, SD.

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published November 15, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$11.96 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 22707

Groton City Nov. 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes

November 7, 2023

The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00 p.m. at 120 N Main Street for their first monthly meeting with the following members present: Bahr, Cutler, Wells, Nehls, Babcock, Wambach, and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Also present were: Attorney Drew Johnson, Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich, Elizabeth Varin, Terry Herron, Dwight Zerr, Todd Gay, and Ken Hier.

Moved by Nehls and seconded by Wells to approve the agenda with the addition of discussion taking place regarding sidewalks. All members voted aye.

Public comments were welcomed pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1, but none were received.

Ken Hier addressed the council regarding wastewater projects and a potential street project on the west side of the city.

Ken Hier exited the meeting. Department reports were reviewed and discussed. Discussion also took place regarding sidewalk maintenance.

Todd Gay, Terry Herron, and Dwight Zerr exited the meeting. Discussion regarding the police department was tabled to executive session.

No action was taken regarding the park saferoom update.

The first reading of Ordinance No. 773 – 2024 Appropriations was approved on a motion by Wambach and seconded by Cutler. All members voted aye.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Bahr and seconded by Wells. All members voted aye.

Moved by Cutler and seconded by Nehls to authorize the following bills for payment with the exception of the invoice to Karl Chevrolet in the amount of \$41,282 for the 2023 Chevy Tahoe. All members voted aye.

Payroll, \$26,623.97, Employee salaries; Executive, \$685.43; Administrative, \$4,427.86; Public Safety, \$9,709.20; Public Works, \$11,801.48; Justin Cleveland, \$15.00, Community center rent refund; Verizon Wireless, \$40.01, Wireless router - Rubble Site; Dacotah Bank, \$5,422.86, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dakotaland FCU, \$730.00, Employee savings; Dacotah Bank, \$622.90, HSA contributions; Cadence Feist, \$130.00, Lifeguard recertification reimbursement; Groton Elementary School, \$42.50, Copies and lamination - Cemetery & Library; Dwight Zerr, \$326.27, Med flex; Lydia Meier, \$130.00, Lifeguard recertification reimbursement; Dacotah Bank, \$3,609.52, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dacotah Bank, \$50.00, HSA contributions; AFLAC, \$336.62, Employee insurance; Colonial Life, \$69.40, Employee insurance; Guardian Insurance, \$38.49, Employee insurance; Allied Benefit Systems, \$12,812.78, Employee insurance; Employers Mutual Insurance, \$82.70, Employee insurance; Heartland Energy, \$54,867.81, Power services - September 2023; City of Groton, \$250.00, Utility deposit applied to bill; SD Retirement System, \$10,613.92, Employee retire-

ment; EcoLab Pest Elimination, \$112.36, Rubble site rodent control; Cole Papers, Inc., \$267.04, Garbage bags & paper towels - Multiple Depts.; Groton Daily Independent, \$151.37, Publishing fees; Runnings Supply Inc, \$79.99, Packout toolbox - Electric Dept.; Menards, \$102.72, Rivet tool kit, metal cutoffs, locking c-clamps - City Shop; SD Department of Health, \$300.00, Water Testing; Core & Main, \$530.52, Socket set - Water Dept.; Aramark, \$58.03, Rug rent; Todd McGannon, \$351.90, Installation of (2) televisions at City Hall; SPS Works, \$160.78, 2024 dog license tags; US Bank, \$660.00, Administrative fees; NW Energy, \$12.02, Natural gas service - PD; J's Superior Cleaning, \$120.00, Commercial cleaning services - October 2023; Dollar General, \$258.35, Toilet paper, plastic cutlery, foam plates/bowls, Sharpie markers, tissues, coffee, creamer, candy, paper towels, dish soap, batteries - Multiple Depts.; Haider Construction, Inc., \$1,208.17, Boring services at 2 E 11th Avenue - Electric; Locke Electric, Inc., \$295.92, Service on lift station generator - Wastewater; Harry Implement, Inc., \$5.28, Chain for street sweeper; Share Corporation, \$306.37, Snowplow coating; Drew Johnson, \$1,950.00, Legal services - October 2023; Krueger Brothers Gravel & Dirt, \$14,518.13, Crushed gravel & washed sand - Streets; Irby, Inc., \$2,362.00, Stirrups, replacement blade, fuse links, hot line clamps, twist locks, washers - Electric Dept.; S&S Lumber Company, \$115.32, Toggle switch, PVC conduit elbow, grease zerks, gloves, bathroom drain, extension tube, drain trap, slip nut - Multiple Depts.; SD Supplemental Retirement, \$290.00, Employee Retirement; Full Circle Ag, \$55.39, Weed control chemicals; Groton Chamber of Commerce, \$250.00, 2024 membership dues; IMEG Corp., \$1,555.00, Engineering services - Water Dept.; WEB Water, \$20,953.67, Water services - October 2023; SD Municipal League, \$1,596.56, 2024 SDML membership dues; MN Municipal Utilities Association, \$520.00, 2024 associate member dues; A&B Business Solutions, \$359.14, Printer lease - City Hall; Geffdog Designs, LLC., \$137.98, Uniform purchases - Library; Sperry Stump Removal, \$455.00, Stump removal - Forestry; AutoZone, Inc., \$225.97, Toolsets - City Shop & Water Dept.; Groton Ford, LLC, \$389.95, Seat covers for '12 F250 - Water Dept.; Nelson Sales & Service, LLC., \$661.61, Mower repairs - Parks; Galls, LLC, \$291.96, Uniform purchases - Police Dept.; Ken's Food Fair, \$604.01, Fuel purchases; Dacotah Bank Visa, \$2,684.69, Wrench sets, book purchases for library, Halloween movie giveaway items for library, unlicensed vehicle cert mail, label tape, printer ink, sticky notes, copy paper, business cards, wastewater/water samples, hotel stay for SDML Annual Conference, new Dell computer for City Hall, fuel purchases, candy, postage, '1000 Books Before Kindergarten' shirts - Multiple Depts.

Skating rink employment applications are due by 5:00pm on December 4, 2023, at 5:00pm.

City offices will be closed on Friday, November 10, 2023, in observance of Veterans Day.

Elizabeth Varin exited the meeting.

Moved by Nehls and seconded by Cutler to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal matters 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 9:24pm. All members voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 10:27pm.

The first reading of Ordinance No. 772 – 2024 Salary Ordinance was approved on a motion by Bahr and seconded by Wambach. All members voted aye.

Moved by Cutler and seconded by Wells to adjourn the meeting at 10:30pm. All members voted aye.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor
Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer

Published November 15, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$60.98 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 22708

Brown County Tax Deed Sale

NOTICE SALE OF PROPERTY Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to Chapter 6-13 SDCL, the following described property will be offered for sale by auction in the Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, Aber-

deen, South Dakota on November 20, 2023 at 10:00 A.M. This property has been approved for public sale by the Brown County Commission. Purchase price of the property along with a \$30.00 recording fee shall be paid in full on the day of the sale and a Quit Claim Deed will be issued to the successful bidder. Property offered for sale is as follows:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION, DESCRIPTION/ADDRESS, MINIMUM BID

ABERDEEN CITY:

LT 1 BROWN COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S 4TH SD (LT 13-14 BK 27 HAGERTY & LLOYD ADD), LOT – 402 N. LLOYD ST., Aberdeen: \$11,000.00

LT 1 BK 56 THOMAS ADD, LOT – 912 S. 3rd ST., Aberdeen: \$6000.00

LT 1 BROWN COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S 5TH SD (LT 928-929 MORNING HTS EXT ADD), LOT – 1118 S. ALDRICH ST., Aberdeen: \$13,000.00

LT 6 BK 43, HAGERTY & LLOYD ADD, LOT- 810 2nd AVE. NE, Aberdeen: \$8,000.00

LT 1 BROWN COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S 6TH SD (LT10 & N 10' LT 11 BK 10 HAGERTY & LLOYD ADD), LOT – 605 N. ARCH ST., Aberdeen: \$10,000.00
E 2' LT 12 BK 18 HIGHLAND PARK ADD, LOT – 1400 9th AVE. SW, Aberdeen: \$50.00

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published November 8 and 15, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$30.91 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 22652

Columbia City Nov. 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes

City of Columbia Council Meeting – November 9, 2023

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – 7:00 p.m.

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

Community: Josh Larson, Tony Bisbee

Corey Mitchell called the meeting to order. He called for a motion to approve the agenda. Cole Kampa made a motion to approve the posted agenda. Emily Eichler seconded the motion. All in favor – motion carried. Corey Mitchell called for any conflict of interest on agenda items. There were none. Minutes were passed out from the October 4th meeting. Emily Eichler made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Cole Kampa seconded the motion. All in favor – motion carried. Minutes were passed out from the October 15th meeting. Cole Kampa made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Minutes were passed out from the October 4th meeting. Emily Eichler made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Cole Kampa seconded the motion. All in favor – motion carried. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All in favor – motion carried.

Warrant Vouchers: Web Water - fire prevention – 47.50; JVT - fire prevention – 207.01; GDI - publication – 97.87; Northwestern Energy - electricity - 1701.87; Jeremy Dosch - October wages – 419.99; Cara Dennert - October wages – 1235.25; Kappes Tree Service - tree trimming – 3300.00; Hall Sand & Gravel - gravel for streets – 680.46; Brown County Weed & Pest – mosquito control – 320.00; Dacotah Bank – shop supplies – 132.19; SDML – Workmen's Comp. 2024 – 451.00; Corey Mitchell – reimbursement for repairs – 833.60; Menard - shop supplies – 195.21; GDI - publication - 91.40; Runnings

– shop supplies – 53.03; Double D Lot Services – mowing parks – 3527.00; Web - fire prevention - 52.08; SDML- 2024 municipal membership dues – 202.34; Northwestern Energy – electricity – 3.25 On the posted agenda, Cara had listed Dakota Resources. That has not been invoiced yet – it will be a December bill. Trevor Meints made a motion to accept the vouchers as presented. Emily Eichler seconded the motion. All in favor – motion carried.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS / CORESPONDENCE: Opiate Litigation postcard, Paula Jensen e-mails, DANR e-mail & letter. Cara stated that there will be a December invoice from Dakota Resources. We are caught up.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – There was discussion about the park lease contract. The Columbia Baseball Association members were present and brought up some concerns with the agreement that had been drafted. There was talk of changing the wording to a possible user agreement and adding a dollar amount to what things would need to be taken care of by the association and what would need to be brought to the City Board. We could possibly have the wording/agreement finalized by the January 2024 meeting.

Nuisances - Cara will be sending Joel Johnson an e-mail regarding his timeline for getting started on code enforcement. We have received his signed contract.

Streets – The streets may not get bladed before winter. Trevor is going to call and see about availability of cattle/wind break panels to put up on the north end of town to help with the winter snow. We will purchase 5 or 6 – Corey will go and pick them up.

Parks - Emily has picked up some lights for some of the trees in park and might buy some wreaths & planters.

Lagoon/sewer - We are all caught up with paperwork.

Rubble Site – The site will need to be burned at an opportune time.

NEW BUSINESS - Corey has been looking into upgrading our snow removal equipment. He received some quotes from Bobcat: mini payload – 82,378, a skid steer – 50,149, and a V blade for 5,588. He will be gathering more quotes from John Deere and others. There was much discussion on which way to go with any future purchases and the benefits of various pieces of equipment. The Council is looking for someone to fill a council member's term through May 2024. Anyone interested in the position should e-mail the city (columbiacity@nvc.net) or leave a voice message 396-2655

FINANCIAL REPORT – Cara Dennert presented bank balances. Emily Eichler made a motion to accept the financial reports as given. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All were in favor – motion carried.

October 31, 2023 balances: SF - \$ 161,400.01; SF Money Market - \$ 50,404.19; GF - \$ 118,715.32; GF Money Market - \$ 50,404.19; CD Money Market - \$ 32,165.54; FIT - \$ 14,707.99; Cash on hand - \$0

Mayor Corey Mitchell declared the meeting adjourned.

Next City Council Meeting – December 6, 2023 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Cara Dennert, Finance Officer

Published November 15, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$46.63 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 22709

Classifieds and Card of Thanks

The following rates are for Classifieds published in both the Groton Daily Independent and the Groton Independent. Cut rate in half if you just want it in the GDI or just the weekly.

1 Week: \$9 for first 30 words, 20¢/word thereafter
2 Wks: \$17 for first 30 words, 38¢/word thereafter
3 Wks: \$24 for first 30 words, 54¢/word thereafter
4th consecutive week is free

605/397-NEWS (6397)
PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

EMPLOYMENT

APPLICATIONS ARE are being accepted for skating rink manager and attendants for the City of Groton. Contact City Hall 605-397-8422 for an application or print one online at <http://city.grotonsd.gov/>. EOE. Applicants must be at least 14 years of age with applications due by 5:00pm on December 4th, 2023. (1115.1122)

ONIDA ELECTRIC, INC in Onida, SD is looking for a hardworking, punctual individual to join our team! -Starting at \$25 to \$35 depending on experience, Fully Paid Health Insurance for Employee, Simple IRA with company match, Paid Holidays -2 Weeks Paid Vacation -Short Term Disability Policy -No Overnight Travel Email resume to onidaelectric1@gmail.com or call/text Bobby 605.280.1495

OAHE GRAIN CORPORATION in Onida, SD is looking for yard help. Starting pay \$23.00/hour. Dumping trucks, loading rail cars and trucks, drying grain. Wages DOE. Will train. Great equipment & work atmosphere. Health insurance, Aflac, paid vacation and sick leave. 401k program & profit sharing. Call 605-258-2811 ask for Tim.

INSURANCE

MEDICARE PLANS HAVE CHANGED!!! Make sure your plan will meets your needs in 2024. Our licensed agents can review the changes, address your needs and make sure you aren't overpaying! For a free quote, Call now! 1-605-202-5540

STOP OVERPAYING FOR HEALTH INSURANCE! A recent study shows that a majority of people struggle to pay for health coverage. Let us show you how much you can save. Call Now for a no-obligation quote: 1-877-723-8082

LAND

FARMLAND rents are strong. Do you need representation or a Farmland Manager? Contact Tim Peters at 605.270.9410 or tpeters@pifers.com. Pifer's Land Management, www.pifers.com

MISCELLANEOUS:

WHEN VETERINARY CARE is unavailable or unaffordable, ask for Happy Jack® equine and canine animal health products. At Tractor Supply® (www.happyjackinc.com)

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 855-799-3330

PEST CONTROL: PROTECT YOUR HOME from pests safely and affordably. Roaches, Bed Bugs, Rodent, Termite, Spiders and other pests. Locally owned and affordable. Call for service or an inspection today 1-605-202-8304

TRAVEL

SEE MLB GAMES AT Fenway Park, Yankee Stadium, etc. Quality game tickets, hotels and motorcoach. Call/text for free brochure: 507.217.1326 (leave name/address) bobbaseballtours.com

Northern Plains Forage Assoc.

Annual Meeting & Educational Seminars

December 1, 2023 | Noon–4:30 p.m.

Holiday Inn Express, Brandon, SD

Free to members. \$10 non-members.
CCA credits available.

Register: extension.sdstate.edu/events.
Email: nplforage@gmail.com

The Life of Douglas Ehrenberg



Memorial Services for Douglas Ehrenberg, 81 will be held 10 a.m., Saturday, November 25, 2023 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton. Rev. Jeremy Yeadon will officiate. Inurnment with military honors will be at Sunset Memorial Gardens, Aberdeen. 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.

Doug passed away November 4, 2023 at Hospice of the Valley in Glendale, Arizona surrounded by family.

Douglas Gene was born in Webster, SD on June 3, 1942 to George Fredrick and Catherine Roselie (Byrne) Ehrenberg. He attended school in Andover, graduating from Andover High School in 1960. In September of 1964, Doug enlisted in the US Army and served until his honorable discharge in June of 1966. Doug returned to South Dakota where he was employed at Valley Farmers Elevator, Harry Implement, Aberdeen Equipment and finally Farmers Insurance until retirement.

On November 14th 1970, he was united in marriage with Arlys Ann Johnson and together they made their home in Groton.

Doug was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church where he served as an elder for many years. He was also a member of the Groton American Legion Post #39.

He was famous for the best batch of baked beans you'll ever eat. He enjoyed watching the Twins and Vikings even when the games didn't go well. Besides watching sports, Doug could always tell you what the weather was since he was an avid weather channel viewer. Doug was also known for telling jokes and stories. Family was very important to Doug and he enjoyed attending all of their activities. He was so proud of all of them.

Celebrating his life are his children, Doug W Ehrenberg, Jr., Peoria, AZ; Brian (Kelly) Ehrenberg, Kansas City, MO; step-children, Val (David) McGannon, Groton, SD; Rick (Sherry) Koehler, Groton, SD; Kris (David) Gilmore, Peoria, AZ; grandchildren, Todd (Lisa Adler) McGannon, Becky McGannon, Travis McGannon, Ryan (Mara) Koehler, Ashleigh Koehler, Nikki (Max) Smith, Katie Koehler, Paige Gilmore, Connor Gilmore, Lilah Ehrenberg; twelve great grandchildren; sisters, Fran Newman, Aberdeen, and Georgia Dohman, Aberdeen, sister-in-law Diana Ehrenberg, Rapid City as well as many nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents, wife, brother, William Ehrenberg and sister, Margaret Stewart.

Honorary Urn Bearers are his grandchildren.

Condolences can be directed to Rick Koehler, PO 636, Groton, SD 57745.

Friendly Fellows & Daisies 4-H Club

The Friendly Fellows and Daisies 4-H Club met November 12, 2023. The meeting was called to order by Logan Warrington. The American flag pledge was led by Walker Zoellner, and the 4-H flag pledge was led by Treyton Smith. The roll call topic for the meeting was Favorite Thanksgiving Food. There was no communications to report. The Treasurer's report was read by Hudson Eichler and approved. The Secretary's report was read by Hailey Pauli. Ashlyn Warrington made a motion to approve the Secretary's report and it was seconded by Arthur Eichler and the motion carried. Old business was talking about the Recognition Event and record books. Hudson Eichler made a motion to approve the old business, and Greyson Warrington seconded the motion, which carried. New Business was discussing the Newshound, photos for the Christmas slide show, Christmas party list, Roll Call topics, and reminding members and leaders to re-enroll. Parker Zoellner made a motion to approve the new business, Treyton Smith seconded the motion, and it was approved by the members. Other business that was discussed was gifts for the Christmas guests. Hudson made

the motion to approve other business, Arthur Eichler seconded the motion, and it carried. Talks were given by Ashlyn Warrington on making blankets, Greyson Warrington gave a talk on facts on Pierre, and Logan Warrington gave a talk on his time of being a 4-H legislator. The members then made mug cakes for the Christmas gifts for the seniors who will be attending the December 4H club meeting/party. Lunch was served by Dylan and Sadie Frey.

Submitted by:
Parker Zoellner, Club
Reporter

The Life of Alan Strom



Services for Alan Strom, 68, of Groton will be 11:00 a.m., Thursday, November 16th at the United Methodist Church, Groton. Rev. Rob Moorlach will officiate. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. 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.

Visitation will be held at the church on Wednesday from 5-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m.

Alan Lee Strom, age 68, peacefully passed away on November 11, 2023, at St. Luke's Hospital in Aberdeen, SD, surrounded by his loving sons, daughters-in-law, four grandchildren, and his devoted partner, Shelly Lerew.

Alan's life journey began on September 26, 1955, as the only child of Doris and Lloyd Strom. Graduating from Groton High School in 1973, he embraced a life deeply rooted in family and farming. Moving to the family farm, he began a career in agriculture that forged a lifelong bond with his father, Lloyd.

On September 17, 1977, Alan married Vicki Clark in Aberdeen, and together, they built a loving home on a farm near Groton. A dedicated family man, they raised their two sons, Nicholas and Jackson, in a house he constructed on the farm.

After his father's passing in 1996, Alan continued the family legacy, nurturing a profound passion for farming that defined his life. From tending to feeder cattle in his youth to farming crops until his final days, he found fulfillment in every aspect of the agricultural cycle. Alan never missed a harvest in 54 years, a testament to his unwavering commitment.

Finding joy in every season, Alan was always ready for the next task, whether it involved expanding the farm, fixing equipment, or simply cleaning the shop. His deep passion for daily work extended beyond the fields, creating cherished moments with friends and fellow farmers over morning coffee.

As a devoted husband, Alan cherished 33 years with his wife, Vicki, who bravely battled cancer for four years before her passing in 2010. He took great pride in spending quality time with his sons, engaging in everyday tasks, and enjoying snowmobiling adventures out west. Alan was a proud 'Papa' and 'Grandpa Al' to his four beloved grandchildren.

Later in life, Alan met Shelly Lerew, and in addition to traveling together, they shared the joys of camping, attending races, and trail-riding UTVs. Together, they built a life and home in Groton.

Alan's days were filled with hard work, yet he always made time for those who mattered most. He was known for his generosity, and his love was expressed through acts of service.

In the community, Alan stood as a pillar, contributing time and effort to various causes, extending a helping hand wherever needed. No matter how deep the snow, Alan would be the first to be out clearing people's driveways. His impact reached far and wide, leaving an enduring mark on those fortunate enough to know him.

Beyond his agricultural pursuits, Alan was a skilled builder, contributing to the construction of over ten homes in and around Groton. He was a member of the Groton Methodist Church, served as a past president of the North Central Livestock Association, and coached basketball for his sons in elementary school.

Alan had a passion for classic cars and even built his own chopper in his earlier years. He enjoyed snowmobiling, ATV trail riding, camping, playing pool, attending stock car races, and car shows.

Alan's 68 years were characterized by a profound love for family, a deep connection to the land, and a steadfast commitment to the community he called home. His legacy of hard work, kindness, and a love for life will be remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him. Simply a good and honorable man.

We look forward to our next signature Alan hug and smile when we see him again.

Celebrating his life are his sons, Nicholas (Jenna) Strom of Groton, Jackson (Lindsey) Strom of Fargo, four grandchildren, Ava, Zoey, Sully, and Oliver, his mother, Doris Strom of Aberdeen, and partner, Shelly LeRew of Groton; mother-in-law Dorothy (Fritz) Fiala, Sisters-in-law Ginger (Joe) Kuschel, Julie Schaller, and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.


Preceding him in death is his father Lloyd Strom; wife Vicki Strom; father-in-law Casey Clark; sister-in-law Colleen Schnaidt; brother-in-law Scott Clark.

Honorary Casketbearers will be Kevin Anderson, Ralph Merkel, Barney Dombrowe, Jerry Johnson, Jerry Ray Johnson, Curt Merkel.

Casketbearers will be Dave Dell, Dave Stahl, Bruce Merkel, Larry Harry, Bob Krueger and Korey Freudenthal.

Memorials may be directed to the United Methodist Church, 906 North 2nd Street, Groton, SD 57445.

A subscription to the Groton Independent makes a great gift!



Annual Meeting
Friday, December 1, 2023
Dakota Event Center
720 Lamont Street, Aberdeen
Registration.....1:00 PM
Business Meeting.....2:00 PM

Agenda
Officer's Reports
Audit Report
Project Updates
Door Prizes

Refreshments provided
(Must be present to win door prize drawings and raffle)

Ad Paid By: WEB Water Development,
PO Box 51, Aberdeen, SD 57402
Equal Opportunity Provider



Stop signs installed

If you're driving on Second Street and see a stop sign, you don't have to say, "I don't remember a stop sign here." Because you're right. The stop sign was installed on Tuesday at the intersection of N. Second Street and East Seventh Avenue. North and south bound traffic will need to stop at this intersection, which will now make three straight stop signs Second Street between Sixth Avenue and Ninth Avenue. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Conde National League

November 13 Team Standings: Cubs 23, Braves 21, Mets 20½, Tigers 20, Giants 19½, Pirates 16,

Men's High Games: Dalton Locke 201, 191; Aaron Severson 187; Chad Furney 184

Men's High Series: Dalton Locke 527, Butch Farmen 501, Ryan Bethke 498, Russ Bethke 498

Women's High Games: Suzi Easthouse 206, 184; Mayme Baker 165; Vickie Kramp 153; Nancy Radke 153

Women's High Series: Suzi Easthouse 521, Vickie Kramp 437, Nancy Radke 423

Vermillion added to Groton Boys Basketball Schedule

A boys basketball game with Vermillion has been added to the schedule. It is set for Friday, February 2, 2024 in Groton. The JV will start at 5 p.m. with the Varsity at 6:30 p.m.

This will be game #20 for the boys, so besides changes due to weather, the schedule should be good to go!

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

2				3				7
		8	7			4	1	
	4				6		3	
	1	3	8					5
		7			9			6
5				7		2		
1			9					5
		2	6		1	8		
	8			4				9

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Frosty is Back!!!

Please check the Groton Daily Independent for daily clues as to who the Groton Area Mystery Frosty is. The unveiling of Frosty will take place at the Groton Area Snow Queen and Talent Contest on Sunday, November 26th at 4:00pm. The Groton Chamber voted to gift Snow Queen \$100 in Chamber Bucks for the winner of the Mystery Frosty competition.



2023 Frosty Clues

I....

- 10.) Dislike cilantro and coconut
- 11.) Have worked at a newspaper and as a janitor before
- 12.) Prefer salty over sweet
- 13.) Wear glasses/contacts
- 14.) Know how to snowboard and knee board
- 15.) Was the baby of the family growing up

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Mausoleum
- 5 "Born Free" lioness
- 9 Branch
- 12 Ornamental jug
- 13 Jupiter counterpart
- 14 Sheepish remark
- 15 Famed diarist
- 17 Squeak stopper
- 18 Historic times
- 19 Grown-up
- 21 Town square
- 24 Tizzy
- 25 Occupy the throne
- 26 Imaginary
- 30 Right angle
- 31 Count with an orchestra
- 32 Simile center
- 33 Bloated, in a way
- 35 Computer brand
- 36 Literary Jane
- 37 Puccini work
- 38 Curry spice
- 40 Roundish do
- 42 Palindromic constellation
- 43 Yearly charge
- 48 Up to
- 49 Oboe insert
- 50 Cupid's realm
- 51 Compass dir.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	
12					13					14			
15					16					17			
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21	22	23					24						
25					26	27					28	29	
30					31					32			
33				34						35			
			36						37				
38	39					40	41						
42					43	44					45	46	47
48					49					50			
51					52					53			

52 Columnist

Maureen

53 Milky gem

DOWN

- 1 Earl Grey, e.g.
- 2 Have
- 3 Gents
- 4 Light wind
- 5 Poet Pound
- 6 Meadows
- 7 Day light
- 8 With suspicion, as a look
- 9 Complete reversal
- 10 Banister

11 Beer ingredient

16 Monk's title

20 Cato's 502

21 Get ready,

briefly

22 Humdinger

23 Like the

Supremes

and the

Pointer

Sisters

24 Use scissors

26 Lose color

27 Tempe sch.

28 Addict

29 Zhivago's

love

31 Novelist

Malamud

34 Memo letters

35 Lunar program

37 Mouths (Lat.)

38 Felines

39 "The Haj"

author

40 From the start

41 Elmer of cartoons

44 "The Matrix"

role

45 Dandy guy

46 Actress

Mendes

47 Moray, for one

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How might we put 'unity' back in community?



Paula Jensen
Vice President of Program Development

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dakotaresources.org

Communities are the foundation of our society, and their strength and success lie in the unity of its members. Yet, often at the heart of so many communities is disunity.

As a community coach, I collaborate with rural leaders to build local capacity and engage community members in working on local priorities so their community can thrive. One of the most common topics that comes up as the groups are planning for future outcomes is their desire for unity with other community leaders. They recognize disunity as a polarizing barrier to their success as they strive to engage other individuals, organizations, or elected officials in creating a thriving community. When addressing disunity, one challenge of being a community coach is feeling the need to "fix it" because as an outsider it's often easier for me to recognize those blind spots. However, my role is to empower individual leaders to own their failures and create solutions for putting unity back into the community.

So, what is it that brings disunity to a community? Below is a list of some common culprits:

- Lack of trust between leaders and community members
- Resistance to change
- Leadership immaturity
- No defined purpose or vision
- Inconsistency in meetings
- Unfulfilled promises
- Competition for resources or power
- Unclear communication methods
- Self-centered interests
- Burnout and stress
- Allowing events to railroad relationships

To address disunity as a polarizing barrier to developing a thriving community, it's essential to name the specific causes at play from the list above and implement strategies to mitigate them. Below is a list of improvements that can be made by individuals, organizations, or elected officials to find more unity in their community:

Open Communication - The foundation of any united community is open and honest communication. Offer encouragement and opportunities for community members to express their thoughts, ideas, and concerns. Create platforms for discussion, whether through community meetings, online forums, or social events. Effective communication ensures that everyone's voice is heard, fostering an inclusive atmosphere where decisions are made collectively.

Include Everyone - Diversity is a strength, and inclusivity is key to building unity. Celebrate and respect the differences among community members, including cultural, social, and economic diversity. Develop programs that actively involve people from all backgrounds, ensuring that everyone has a place at the table. When people feel valued and heard, unity naturally follows.

Purpose and Goals - A united community needs a clear purpose and shared goals. These goals can be as simple as improving neighborhood safety, organizing cultural events, or addressing local environmental issues. When community members work together towards a common purpose, it strengthens their sense of unity. Ensure that the goals are transparent, achievable, and reflect the diverse needs and aspirations of your community.

Connect through Collaboration - Create opportunities for collaboration within your community. Encourage community members to form teams and work together on projects, whether it's a local garden, community signage, or organizing social events. Collaborations not only improve the quality of life but also foster a powerful sense of belonging and shared responsibility.

Empower and Engage - Empower community members to take ownership of their shared spaces and challenges. When individuals feel a sense of responsibility for their community, they become more invested in its well-being. Encourage people to take on leadership roles, participate in local governance, and contribute to the betterment of the community.

Inspire Learning - Promote education and awareness about programs or initiatives within your community and from resources outside the community. When community members are well-informed, they are more likely to respect and support each other's values, leading to a stronger sense of unity.

Celebrate Achievements - Celebrate the milestones of your work and recognize the efforts of individuals and groups who have contributed to the betterment of the community. Regularly holding events and celebrations not only instills a sense of community pride but also reinforces the feeling of unity and camaraderie.

Conflict Resolution - No community is without its conflicts. The key to maintaining unity lies in how these conflicts are managed. Establish an impartial conflict resolution process that allows for disagreements to be addressed constructively. Mediation and open dialogue can help community members find common ground and reach mutually acceptable solutions.

Commitment to Planning - Keeping unity in the community is an ongoing process that requires long-term planning. Establish a vision for the future and work collaboratively to achieve it. Encourage community members to stay engaged and commit to building a strong, unified community for generations to come.

Building unity in a community is a transformative process. By following these essential steps, your community can create a sense of belonging and togetherness that will empower its members to thrive and make a positive impact on society.

The Community Coach. Having a passion for community leadership and development is what drives Paula Jensen's personal and professional life. Paula lives in her hometown of Langford, South Dakota, population 318+. She serves as a Strategic Doing practitioner, grant writer and community coach with Dakota Resources based in Renner, South Dakota. Dakota Resources is a mission-driven 501c3 Community Development Financial Institution working to connect capital and capacity to empower rural communities. Contact her at paula@dakotaresources.org.

Find all my guest columns at <https://paulajensenblog.wordpress.com/>

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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

Justice Van Devanter of Wyoming: A "Mainstay" on the Court

The odds were against Willis Van Devanter ever winning an appointment to the Supreme Court. Widespread talk that he suffered from "pen paralysis," an affliction that subverted his production, made President William Howard Taft "hesitant" to nominate the Wyoming transplant to fill a vacancy on the nation's High Court.

Various factors, however, convinced President Taft to overcome his reluctance. In 1911, he named Van Devanter to the Court, where he served for 26 years. Geographic considerations persuaded Taft that he needed to add a Westerner to the Court, which lacked representation from anyone west of the Mississippi. Van Devanter boasted solid conservative credentials and an impressive record of public service, including a stint as Chief Justice of the Wyoming Supreme Court. Plus, he had been a judge for eight years on the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals. Most of all, there were the unrelenting efforts of Wyoming's beloved U.S. Senator Francis Warren to promote the Equality State and elevate his good friend into a seat at the Judicial Palace.

President Taft, who had held a variety of offices in his lengthy career, including the Chief Justiceship of the U.S. Supreme Court, expressed admiration for Van Devanter's track record. Van Devanter was the model for those who believed then, and believe now, that a Supreme Court Justice ought to possess experience beyond the law school classroom, the professoriate and the bench. In a word, he was steeped in governmental experience and presented a breadth of public service rare for a Justice, at any time in our history.

Van Devanter served in all three branches of government and held various local government offices. Born and raised in Marion, Indiana, he attended law school at the University of Cincinnati. In 1884, he moved to Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory, wisely taking advantage of the opportunities created by his brother-in-law's (John Lacey) appointment as Chief Justice of the territory. Van Devanter's pursuit of legal

and political prominence was in full sprint. He established himself as a loyal Republican and earned a reputation as a first-rate lawyer, representing railroads and the cattle industry. He became a close friend and indispensable aide to Francis Warren who, as Wyoming's Governor and later U.S. Senator, relied on Van Devanter's advice and organizational skills. Van Devanter served in the territorial legislature and revised the territory's statutes. On October 11, 1890, months after Wyoming achieved statehood, Van Devanter became the first Chief Justice of the Wyoming Supreme Court, although he resigned a year later to return to private practice.

Van Devanter continued to expand his resume. An avid outdoorsman who had once hunted with Buffalo Bill Cody, he was in 1897 appointed assistant attorney general in the Department of Interior, where he handled federal land claims and tribal matters. He taught law classes at George Washington University and was appointed by President William McKinley to the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals, where he served until appointed by President Taft to the Supreme Court.

Taft's concerns about Van Devanter's paralysis of the pen, demonstrated by his low productivity on the 8th Circuit, caused the President, at one point, to withdraw his name from consideration for a nomination to the Court. But Senator Warren's frantic maneuvers, aided by Van Devanter's concession that he was behind in his work—a deficit, he pleaded, that was the result of his own illness and that of his wife—persuaded Taft to proceed. But Taft's worries were confirmed by Justice Van Devanter's low production on the Court. Van Devanter was described by colleagues as meticulous and devoted to detail in his analyses at the Court's weekly conferences, and admired for his insightful questions at oral argument, but writing proved extremely difficult for him.

Taft and Van Devanter became close friends. Van Devanter's colleagues valued him, despite his low output, which illustrates how a Justice can play an important role in the work of Court, countering a poor public reputation. Chief Justice Hughes said of Van Devanter, "his careful and elaborate statements at conference were of greatest value. If these statements had been taken down stenographically, they would have served with little editing as excellent opinions. His perspicacity and common sense made him a trusted advisor in all sorts of matters." As Chief Justice, Taft once referred to Van Devanter as his "mainstay" on the Court.

Van Devanter was the first of a group of Court appointees who became known as the Four Horsemen, along with George Sutherland, Pierce Butler, and James McReynolds. He was viewed by scholars, eventually, as the dominant, behind-the-scenes spokesman for the anti-New Deal bloc of Justices who thwarted President Franklin D. Roosevelt's ambitious legislative programs to lift the country from the depths of the Great Depression. Justice Van Devanter was unwilling to adjust the Constitution to crises of the times, although his defenders applauded his hostility to economic regulation of private enterprise.

At the end of the 1937 Term, Van Devanter, 78 years old and exhausted by the Court's internal strife and public criticism, announced his resignation from the High Bench. He assumed senior status and spent his final days in New York, overseeing criminal trials.

Frederick Town Nov. 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes

City of Frederick
November 6, 2023 Minutes
Frederick's town board meeting was held Monday, November 6, 2023 in the Frederick Community Center beginning at 7:00 PM. Attending the meeting were Chairman Scott Campbell, Board member Troy Millard, Finance Officer Jennifer Morlock, Assistant Finance Officer Mariah Heine, and Utility Manager Dalton Kopecky.

Chairman Campbell opened the meeting and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the October meeting were read and approved with a motion by Millard/Campbell; motion carried. The financial statements were reviewed and accepted with a motion by Campbell/Millard; motion carried. The November accounts payable were approved with a motion by Millard/Campbell; motion carried.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
MDU electric BP/Wtr/Mun Bldg/SP/Sts/Swr/EBL \$1,048.87; Alpha Circle Cmty \$191.83; Brown County Weed and Pest Gen'l \$626; Brown County Sheriff's Office deputy svcs Gen'l

\$1,041.67; Century Bus Products printer Gen'l \$73.03; Dalton Kopecky UT wage Sts/Wtr/Swr \$192.08; Dependable Sanitation Grbg \$1,734; EFPTS taxes Gen'l/FO/CC/EBL/Sts/Wtr/Swr/Cmty \$852.87; FDC Gen'l \$1200; GDI minutes Gen'l \$115.78; USDA-RD loan Swr \$3,763; J. Koters Gen'l \$46.17; J. Morlock wage FO \$1,373.77; Jensen Rock & Sand material Sts \$1995; JVT Gen'l/Wtr/EBL/FO \$299.04; M. Cox wage EBL \$631.92; M. Heine wage FO \$1,126.37; M. Morlock mowing wage Gen'l \$33.25; R. Bakeberg UT wage Sts/Wtr/Swr \$144.07; S. Campbell wage Gen'l \$69.26; S. Campbell supplies Gen'l \$14.17, 16.52; SD Dept of Rev sales tax Gen'l \$66.35; SD Dept of Health samples Wtr \$67; T. Millard wage Gen'l \$46.17; VISA supplies Gen'l \$138.85; USDA-RD loan Wtr \$475; WEB Water Wtr \$5,139.96; Frederick Volunteer Firefighters fire hall prnt Fire \$14,384.14

OLD BUSINESS
Dalton Kopecky and Scott Campbell provided a utility report. The board reviewed the Brown County Sheriff's report from patrolling the area. The board discussed an agreement that was made October 5, 2022 to remove old trailer houses at a 4th Avenue property in order to bring an old trailer onto the

property. The owner was to remove the two unused trailer houses by Oct 1, 2023 and Oct 1, 2024, but no progress has been made. A request was sent for the owner to attend the meeting and the board will continue to do their due diligence to enforce the agreement.

NEW BUSINESS
Motion to approve liquor license for Community Store made by Campbell/Millard; motion carried. An application was sent to Titans Bar & Grill, but the board has not received it so could not approve it at this time. Motion to accept end of year report from Alpha Circle Wayside Cemetery made by Millard/Campbell; motion carried. Delinquent utility bills were discussed by the board. It was noted that those with water shut off will remain off; Services will need to be paid to be restored.

The next regular meeting will be Wednesday, December 6 at 7 PM.

Motion to adjourn made by Millard/Campbell at 7:44 PM; motion carried.

M. Heine
Assistant Finance Officer
Published November 15, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$31.73 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 22710

A subscription to the Groton Independent makes a great gift!

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

2	5	1	4	3	8	9	6	7
3	6	8	7	9	5	4	1	2
7	4	9	1	2	6	5	3	8
4	1	3	8	6	2	7	5	9
8	2	7	5	1	9	3	4	6
5	9	6	3	7	4	2	8	1
1	7	4	9	8	3	6	2	5
9	3	2	6	5	1	8	7	4
6	8	5	2	4	7	1	9	3

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

T	O	M	B	E	L	S	A	A	R	M			
E	W	E	R	Z	E	U	S	B	A	A			
A	N	N	E	F	R	A	N	K	O	I	L		
				E	R	A	S	A	D	U	L	T	
P	L	A	Z	A		S	N	I	T				
R	U	L	E		F	A	N	C	I	F	U	L	
E	L	L		B	A	S	I	E	A	S	A		
P	U	F	F	E	D	U	P	A	C	E	R		
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T	I	L		R	E	E	D		L	O	V	E	
S	S	E		D	O	W	D		O	P	A	L	



All of the public notices now appearing in the Groton Independent are posted on-line at

sdpublicnotices.com

There are a number of search options available

To see the notices published in the Groton Independent, select

THE GROTON INDEPENDENT and then search

America's First People!

What Do You Know About Lacrosse?

- 1) game
- 2) ball
- 3) lacrosse
- 4) teams
- 5) tossed
- 6) sticks
- 7) days
- 8) Canada
- 9) colleges

Smoke Signals Code

See You Saturday.

Groton Area Veteran's Day Program



Bruce Babcock and Steve Dresbach presented the colors at the Groton Area School Veteran's Day Program. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The Middle School Band, under the direction of Desiree Yeigh, played, "This is My Country." (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Faith Flihs and Emma Schinkel were the Masters of Ceremony at the program. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The High School Band, under the direction of Amy Warrington, sang, "We Honor You." (Photo by Paul Kosel)



American Legion officers participating in Friday's Veterans Day program. L-R Bob Thomason, Legion District 4 Commander, Jane Seibel, Legion Auxiliary District 4 President, and Bruce Babcock, Groton Post 39 Commander. (Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)



Five veterans were recognized at the Groton Area Veteran's Day Program held Friday. Here are the veterans with their families. (Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)



Veteran Steve Dresbach, Groton, receives a quilt from the Groton Legion Auxiliary recognizing his previous military service. Presenting quilt is Bob Thomason and Laila Roberts. (Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)



Members of the All State Chorus sang the "Star Spangled Banner," directed by Amy Warrington. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



This quilt was presented to Roger Overacker. His story was read by Emily Overacker. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



This quilt was presented to Steve Dresbach. His story was read by Faith Traphagen. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



This quilt was presented to Richard Taylor. His story was read by Cadence Feist. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



This quilt was presented to the sister of Lori Oliver, Valerie. Lori's story was read by Elizabeth Fliehs. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



This is the group of Junior Kindergarten through third grade directed by Amy Warrington. The JK/kindergarten and first grade sang, "America! Land of the Free" and the second and third grade sang, "I'm a Grand Old Flag w/ I Love that Grand Old Flag." (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Jayden Schwan played "Taps" at the end of the program. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM Video)

The Veteran's Day Program was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM. The video is archived under "Other Events."



The Middle School Choir, under the direction of Amy Warrington, sang, "Oh There I Sing." (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Chiropractic Clinic
 Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.
 1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204

GROTON
 Ford
 605/397-2311
 www.grotonford.com



The High School Band played the "Service Songs," under the direction of Desiree Yeigh. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM Video)

Hanlon Brothers Gravel Hauling
 New & Cleaning of Stockdams with our 60' reach trackhoe
 605/395-6531

School Board

Continued from front

bers.

The middle school also suffered in the student progress category, which gives an indication on "where we should focus our attention," he said.

"It's not tell-all data," Schwan said, adding that it is why the district also does MAPs testing to track student progress. "But it (the state report card) tells us something.

"...It's one test on one day. Take it as what it is."

The high school scores showed student progress for eleventh graders in Spring 2023. More than 90 percent of those students scored at or near standard or above standard in reading, writing, listening, speaking, research and inquiry.

• High schoolers in Groton are signing up for spring dual credit classes. The state Department of Education has been working to resolve the issue of whether dual credit classes will count as half a high school credit or a full high school credit, but a proposed compromise was rejected, and they're back at the drawing board, said middle school/high school Principal Shelby Edwards. A change could impact grade point averages for high schoolers, which could affect students' rank. In Groton, Edwards said, the school will continue to count college courses with three credits or below as half a high school credit, while college courses with four or more credits counted as a full high school credit. "We'll stick with that until they come up with another plan," she said.

• The board approved hiring Tanner Pietz as the K-12 vocal music teacher. Pietz will begin teaching Dec. 11 after graduating from Northern State University in December with a degree in music education. Pietz did part of his student teaching in Langford, and completed the rest in Aberdeen. "He's going to be really good," Superintendent Schwan said. "...He's ready to get going, and he's going to fit in here."

• The board voted to hire Troy Zoellner as junior high wrestling coach for the 2023-2024 season.

• The board approved three volunteer assistants on Monday for the winter sports season. Becky Hearnen will be a volunteer assistant for the girls basketball program, and Chris Ehresman and Jeremy Krueger will be volunteer assistants for the wrestling program.

• Work will be wrapping up soon on the HVAC system for the high school arena and gym, Superintendent Schwan told the board. Fay's Heating and Cooling has been on-site for the past couple of weeks demolishing the air handling unit being replaced in the old gym and installing the new one. The next work involves completing the ducting and plumbing connections and finishing the controls.

• The elementary school has added three new students to its enrollment since the school board's Oct. 10 meeting. Two student were enrolled into the first grade, while one was enrolled into the second grade.

• Elementary students will be taking their MAPs tests in the next few weeks. The test allows teachers to track students' progress and are administered multiple times throughout the school year.

• District administrators are working to implement electronic filing for W-2's and 1099s, said Business Manager Becky Hubsch. Before, the district mailed in printed documents.

• Business Manager Becky Hubsch told the board of Superintendent Joe Schwan's Innovator of the Year award from the South Dakota School Superintendents Association. Board President Deb Gengerke added that Schwan was recently caught helping a student change a flat tire, so he's not only an innovator, but teaches hands-on skills too.

Robotics compete at Corn Palace

Groton Robotics went to the Worlds Only Corn Palace on November 4th! What an opportunity... Highlights of the day were the lifting of the Robots! Only 2 teams were able to lift off the ground amongst all the teams that participated (Points are scored if this is accomplished) Team 9050F led by Garrett Schultz and Jamison Penning lifted off the ground - however it tragically fell upon the cutting of the power at the end of the game. Team 9050B led by Logan and Kira Clocksene along with Hayden Zoellner was the only team at the tournament that accomplished this feat! An exciting moment for the whole robotics family. The teams of 9050B and 9050E, led by Corbin Weismantel and Axel Warrington participated in the finals. An exciting day for Groton Robotics!

Our next tournament will be held in Harrisburg on 11-18-2023. Our Groton tournament will be held on 1-6-2024.

"Stay Safe Out There"

I learned a lot of statistics back in medical school, many of which are outdated and long since forgotten. A few still haunt me, though. One example: over 50% of seniors who suffered a broken hip would be in a nursing home, or in their grave, within a year.

The odds are somewhat better today, but a hip fracture is still a very serious event, especially if your health, or your independence, is already compromised. We may be better at helping people recover, but the best strategy is not break that hip in the first place.

Another lesson that has stayed with me from those days involves a gentleman who had spent his weekend baling hay despite his terrible back pain. He was able to do so with the assistance of handfuls of Tylenol, and a beer or two at the end of each long hot day. Little did he realize he was poisoning himself with all that acetaminophen. By Wednesday, he was on a ventilator in our ICU, in need of a new liver. His story is still common; acetaminophen toxicity is the most common cause for liver transplantation in the United States, and the second most common cause world wide. At appropriate doses, Tylenol is extremely safe. It's just really easy to exceed those doses if you aren't vigilant.

I don't think any American makes it into adulthood without a story or two about a motor vehicle accident involving someone they knew. After all, between 2 and 3 million of our countrymen are injured on our roads each year. About 40,000 of us die, and many others find their lives permanently changed by the injuries they sustain. Nearly 200 Americans die every day from traumatic brain injuries, but even those who survive the initial event face a grim future. If their injury is severe enough to require an inpatient rehabilitation stay, an additional 1 in 5 people die within the next 5 years. Nearly 60% of the others face at least moderate disability.

In 2019, unintentional injuries were the leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 1 and 44, and the 3rd leading cause overall. Poisoning, motor vehicle accidents, and falls account for the vast majority of those deaths, with all other causes, including suffocation, drowning, and fire making up about 15%.

I think I'll keep nagging people about getting their calcium, about wearing their seatbelts and helmets, and about locking up their firearms. In fact, I'm going to nag YOU right now: go check the batteries in your smoke detectors. Put your phone where it can't tempt you when you get behind the wheel. Slow down a little. Do your part to protect yourself, your family, and your neighbors.

Let's keep ourselves, and each other, safe out there, people.

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 22 Seasons, on SDPB and streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.



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