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# The Groton Independent

Vol. 141 No. 22 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2024 ♦ Established in 1889



## State Wrestling Qualifiers

Groton Area will be sending four boys and one girl to the state wrestling tournament with two Doland girls who wrestle on the Groton team. The top 16 in the state qualify in the girl's division. The top four in the region for the boys qualify for state. The state tournament is this weekend in Sioux Falls.

Pictured left to right are Christian Ehresmann, Korbin Kucker, Walker Zoellner, Wyatt Hagen, Liza Krueger and Doland's girls Reganne Miles and Kyla Logan. (Photo courtesy Alexa Schuring)

## City Council discusses downtown buildings issues, summer employment

Buildings in downtown Groton may be in danger.

The Groton City Council discussed maintenance of the alley east of Main Street at Tuesday's council meeting.

Topper Tastad, president of the Groton Community Historical Society, said the problem became apparent when two buildings (15 North Main Street and 29 North Main Street) began having water damage on walls facing the alley.

Water doesn't drain from the alley between North Main Street and North Third Street, he said. And the mess of water and mud has damaged the structures there, and may do more in the future.

"If we don't do this, these buildings are going to be gone," he said. "We're going to be another Stratford or Avon. These buildings will be gone. You don't replace these buildings."

This wasn't an issue likely discussed when Main Street businesses were built in the late 1800s and early 1900s, he said. Gravel has been brought in for years to try and make the alley better, but that has caused the alley to sit above where it should be, and it doesn't allow water to drain into the sewer system, he said.

"It will be everyone's fault if we don't fix this. These buildings will be gone in 20 years if we don't fix it," Tastad said. "...All those guys who owned the buildings a hundred years ago are gone. It's up to us."

Tastad proposed a number of projects to help the alleyway that runs from East Railroad Avenue north to East Third Avenue. The highest priority would be to pull three to five inches of gravel from behind some of the buildings and grade the alleyway with a low side to the west so that water will drain.

**Continues on Page 13**



## Dacotah Bank donates to Groton Area Student Needs Account

Dacotah Bank of Groton donated \$325 to the Groton Area High School Students Needs Account.

The donation came from three-pointers and free throws made at the Mobridge-Pollock double header played in Groton on February 10.

Dacotah Bank paid \$5 for each free throw made and \$10 for each three-pointer made.

For Groton Area, 10 free throws were made for \$50 and 13 three-pointers were made for \$130. For Mobridge-Pollock, 23 free throws were made for \$115 and three three-pointers were made for \$30.

Receiving the donation is Groton Area Superintendent Joe Schwan. Making the presentation are Dacotah Bank employees Tammy Locke and Heidi Locke. (Courtesy Photo)



## SD Middle School All State Band

6th grader Liam Johnson (Alto Sax), 8th grader Libby Cole (Trombone) and 7th grader Novalea Warrington (Flute/Piccolo) have been accepted into the 2024 SD Middle School All State Band. This year marks the 25th anniversary with conductors Mr. Randall Standridge (Honor Band) and Dr. Larry Petersen (Festival Band). This year there were 598 auditions submitted from 75 schools. 199 students were selected with 52 schools represented in the state. Novalea and Liam were selected into the honor band and Libby was selected into the festival band. Libby will also be presented with her 3-year member award. MS All State Band will be held next week in Mitchell on March 1-2 with a concert on Saturday March 2nd at 3:00 pm. (Photo from Desiree Yeigh's Facebook Page)

# Weekly Vikings Roundup

## Yearly Recap - Offense

By Jordan Wright

With the Super Bowl behind us, it's time to take one last look back on the 2023 NFL season. The Minnesota Vikings finished with a disappointing 7-10 record and failed to reach the playoffs - a stark reversal from the 2022 season, which saw the Vikings finish with a 13-4 record even with one of the worst defenses in the league.

The NFL is a quarterback-driven league, so it's no surprise the Vikings finished with a poor record considering Kirk Cousins went down with an injury halfway through the season. Prior to the injury, Cousins was playing some of the best football of his career. In eight games this season, Cousins completed 216/311 passes (69.5%) for 2,331 yards, 18 touchdowns and five interceptions. If you extrapolate those numbers out to a full season, Cousins would have been in the conversation for MVP. Instead, the Vikings had to scramble to find a replacement and keep the season afloat. The team traded for journeyman QB Josh Dobbs right before the trade deadline, and although he was able to capture lightning in a bottle for a few games, eventually Dobbsmania fizzled out. Fifth-round draft pick Jaren Hall came in and played admirably, but was clearly not ready to play. Nick Mullens got a few starts as well, and while he put up some good stats, he also threw too many interceptions. Needless to say, it was a carousel at the one position in football where you NEED stability.

To make matters worse, the Vikings were unable to turn to their running game to help support the anemic passing attack. Dalvin Cook was cut prior to the season, and Alexander Mattison failed to take advantage of being the lead back. In fact, he was the first starting running back in Vikings history to fail to reach the end zone. Ty Chandler and Cam Akers also got carries, and while both showed promise, it's too early to tell if either one is capable of replacing Alexander as the starter.

As if all that wasn't enough, the football gods decided to take away Justin Jefferson for much of the season as well. JJ only played in 10 games and was forced to leave many of those games early because of injury, yet he still managed to surpass 1,000 yards for the season (which is especially impressive considering how many different quarterbacks were throwing him the ball). T.J. Hockenson was second on the team with 960 yards, but he missed the final two games of the season after a cheap shot by the Detroit Lions' safety

blew out Hockenson's knee. Rookie Jordan Addison was third, putting up a very respectable 960 yards and leading the team with 10 touchdowns.

If you needed any more reason as to why the 2023 season was completely off the rails, look no further than the offensive line. For years, the Vikings' offensive line was the weak link on the offense. This year, however, it was a strength for the team. Offensive tackles Christian Darrisaw and Brian O'Neill are perhaps the best tackle duo in the league. The Vikings brought in Dalton Risner to play left guard, Garrett Bradbury was a familiar presence at center, and Ed Ingram actually made improvements this year.

Make sure to check back next week, as we break down the 2023 Minnesota Vikings defense. Skol!

## A tale of two Bettys

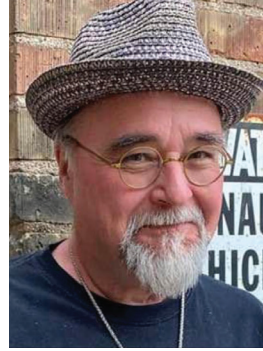
You may have heard my hypothesis before, that small towns produce a larger percentage of big personalities. The nicknames. Colorful escapades, the kind that would get you arrested anywhere else.

Hettinger was like that when I rolled in back in 1991. The only thing that was green in that dusty cowboy town nestled among the buttes was me. Still learning my craft. Still learning how local government worked. The nuts and bolts. The nuts.

For all the vaquero misogyny—Ted Uecker once called my fiancée "a good looking heifer"—women were major players at City Hall and at the Adams County Courthouse. There were two Bettys. Two different spellings, two different personalities. City Councilwoman Bette Sanger was a tough-talking hat-wearing broad in the best sense of the word. She wore bloody red lipstick that may have been made from the hemorrhages she inflicted. She was opinionated. I always imagined her as a flapper in her youth.

When she viewed the front page feature story of former state's attorney and Republican activist Tom Secrest, she snorted, "There he is... a horse's ass!"

When I discovered that the Hettinger City



## That's Life

by Tony Bender

Council had used a since-closed loophole to avoid publishing public notices, I petitioned them to restore the minutes to the Adams County Record so taxpayers could be informed.

Well, they shot the snot-nosed newcomer down, a declaration of war. So, each week, I left a bordered blank space in the paper explaining that this is where the minutes had last run at a cost of \$36 or so. I wrote editorials. Encouraged residents to give their pocket change to council members. A county commissioner gave the mayor a dime. After a month, even Bette Sanger had had enough. I'll never forget her motion. "Well, I suppose it's time to grease the squeaky wheel."

Then there was Adams County Auditor Betty Svihovec. Classy, almost regal. Always impeccably dressed. There were two women's clothing stores in town. I suspect she was a good customer. When the County Commission met, she glided into the room and deftly steered the peoples' business. She was the best politician in town but I doubt that most people grasped her impact.

Glancing over her obituary last week I learned that she'd gone to work in the courthouse after high school graduation in 1954. Four years later, she was the auditor. The queen of Adams County, really.

I had much to learn about the workings of local government, and I remember Commissioner Lenny Jacobs (later a legislator) kindly pausing meetings and leaning back in his chair to give me the background on a particular issue. Betty, too, had a way of explaining issues without condescension.

I didn't find them above reproach, however. They had a way of turning a 90-minute meeting into three hours, complete with a donut break. Betty brought the donuts. I kind of ticked off my friend and commissioner Darrell Papka when I dedicated an editorial to the evils of pastries and government inefficiency. I don't think Betty batted an eye, however. She was the coolest of customers.

I've opined in the past that the key to good government is a great auditor or business manager. It didn't take me too many meetings to understand the impact Betty Svihovec had. She presented the information in such a way that you'd have to be a complete idiot not to make the right decision. And even if, for the sake of argument, a commissioner wanted to explore the path of idiocy, she respectfully steered them straight. She didn't have a vote, but she was the most powerful force in the courthouse.

And beyond.

"Betty truly held a special place in my heart," eulogized Blanche (Weishaar) Schumacher, a former auditor. "Not only was she the county auditor from my home county of Adams, but when I was appointed and later elected as Logan County Auditor, she was the go to wealth of knowledge and information for many county-related projects/duties. Betty knew no strangers in the North Dakota County Auditor's Association—she treated each and every one of us like we were her family. Thank you, Betty, and rest in peace, my dear friend."

I hadn't seen her in years, but I think we have statues in our minds of those who impacted us and so it is with her. Was anyone more influential, did anyone provide more leadership in Adams County than Betty Svihovec? I think not.

I'll take an apple fritter, Betty.

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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**It's About Time!**

2024 is a Leap Year!

When we speak about time we talk about the past, present or the future.

Clocks and Watches

Geesh! Please tell me that they aren't talking about us when they say "feeding time at the zoo!" We are so nice and neat.

**A Race Against Time!**

**Time Talk**  
Set #1 A, B, 7, C, 1, D, 5, E, 2, F, 4, G, 3  
Set #2 A, B, 2, C, 5, D, 7, E, 1, F, 3, G, 4  
by Anninilis LLC © 2024

Why are there 29 days in February?



# Newspaper Fun!

www.readingclubfun.com

Animills LLC © 2024 V7

Because 2024 is a Leap Year!



Kids: color stuff in!



It's time to get the grandfather clock checked and oiled. It's a beautiful way to tell **time**, but most of the day I use a wristwatch or cell phone.

Sunrises and sunsets are natural ways to mark time.

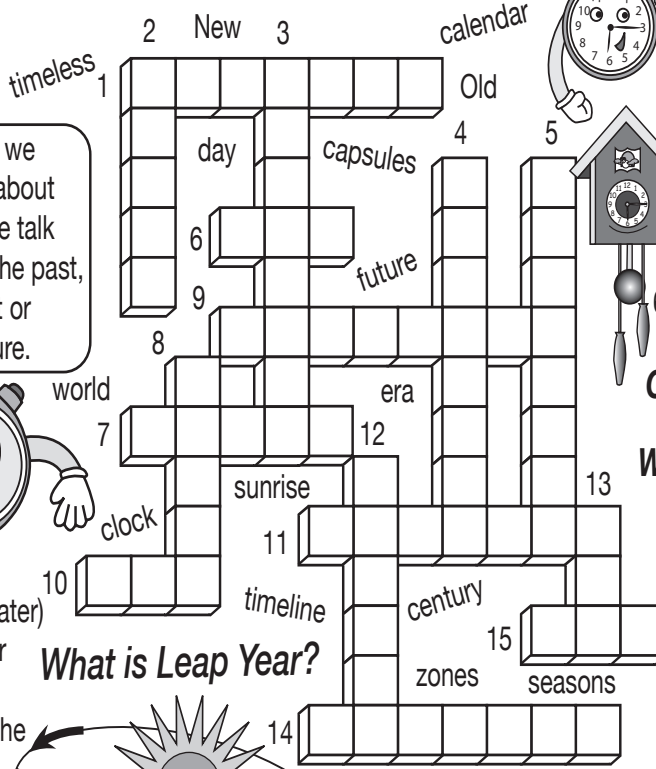
Read the clues to fill in the puzzle:

- one hundred years
- common way to tell time
- shows events in order of when they happened
- tool to keep track of activities, days and months
- fun way to capture a moment in time (item is dug up later)
- Baby \_\_\_\_\_ Year is full of energy to start the year
- there are 24 time \_\_\_\_\_ throughout the world
- \_\_\_\_\_ clock shows what time it is anywhere on the planet – often shown by a series of clocks on a panel
- something that isn't affected by the passage of time
- \_\_\_\_\_ Father Time is tired after working all year; he is often shown with a long beard, sundial and sickle
- the start of each morning, dawn
- time that has yet to pass
- period of time marked by important events
- parts of the year that mark temperature and weather
- twenty-four hours

## It's About Time!



When we speak about **time** we talk about the past, present or the future.

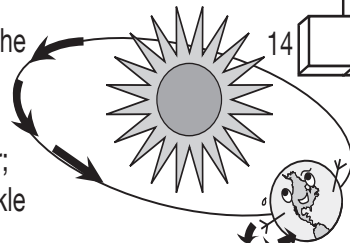


2024 is a Leap Year!

Clocks and Watches

Read the clues below to fill in the puzzle:

### What is Leap Year?



Our calendar is based on the time it takes our planet, Earth, to **orbit** or travel around the sun. But, our calendar is not perfect.

Every year our calendar ends the year **a bit ahead** of Earth's trip around the sun. To keep it lined up with the actual timing of Earth's orbit we add **one extra day** to the calendar in February **every four years**.

Many kinds of clocks and watches have been invented through the years. A watch was even made for engineers to help them run the trains on time.

- \_\_\_\_\_ clock, tall standing clock with swinging pendulum
- \_\_\_\_\_ watch, timepiece you can wear to school
- \_\_\_\_\_ watch, great for measuring races
- \_\_\_\_\_ watch, can be underwater without being damaged
- \_\_\_\_\_ clock, hangs on the wall and sings a song every hour
- \_\_\_\_\_ watch, often on a chain and kept in a small pouch on vest

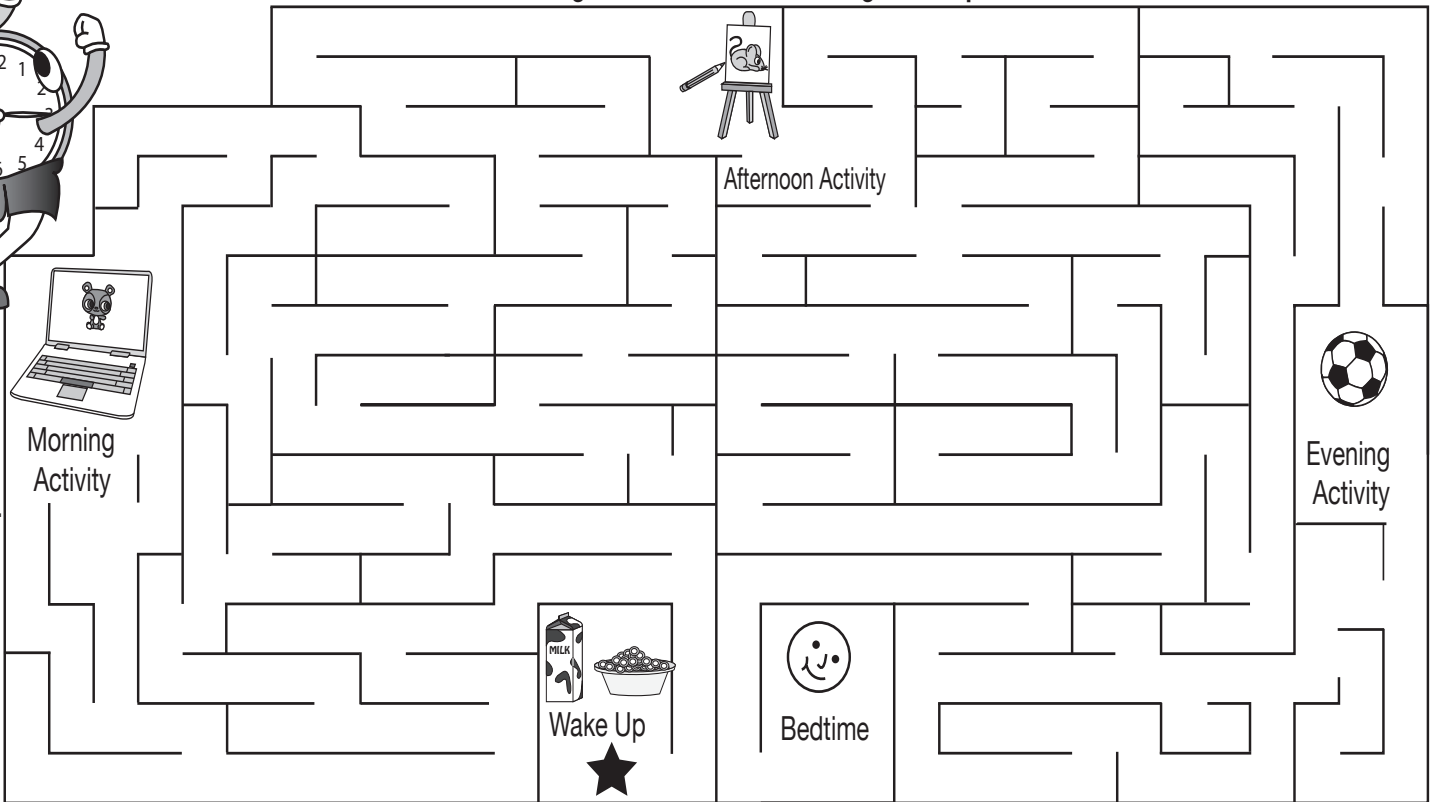


## A Race Against Time!

Every day is packed with chores, activities and fun. Can you find the shortest way through this maze from morning wake-up to bedtime?



- Start at the star ★ wake up to a new day!
- Next, find your way to the *morning activity*.
- Then, go to the *afternoon activity*.
- Travel along to your *evening activity*.
- Finally, end your day at *bedtime*!



## Time Talk

Match up each saying about time to its meaning:

- a race against time
- all the time in the world
- waste of time
- time flies
- time out
- it's feeding time at the zoo
- a stitch in time saves nine

- not worth the effort
- a break in the action
- doing a task well now can save effort later
- group of people eating in a noisy, untidy way
- life moves quickly
- rush to beat a deadline
- plenty of time

Geesh! Please tell me that they aren't talking about us when they say "feeding time at the zoo!" We are so nice and neat.



- there's no time to lose
- time is up
- pressed for time
- not given the time of day
- give a hard time
- time to call it a day
- have a whale of a time

- cause someone trouble
- no time left
- stop working on something
- enjoy yourself
- be rushed to do something
- you need every moment
- not getting attention







## Groton Area boys stun Dakota Valley in 17-point win

The game lived up to all the hype and intensity as the Groton Area boys avenged an earlier loss to Dakota Valley and handed the Panthers their third loss of the season. The game was played Monday in Groton and was a make-up game from earlier in the season. Groton Area won, 71-54. It was Dakota Valley's lowest scoring game of the season. The previous lowest was 62 points which came on the heels of Hamlin's win over Dakota Valley and was also 62 points in the Panther's win over Groton at the DAK12-NEC Clash at Madison.

Dakota Valley had the early 12-7 lead, but the Tiger defense forced turnovers and capitalized on them and took a 16-12 lead at the end of the first quarter. Groton Area had the upper hand for most of the second quarter with a four-point lead being the average. The Panthers tied the game at halftime at 29.

The first half stats were as even as it could possibly be. Both teams shot 57 percent in the first half. Both teams had five turnovers. Both teams had three fouls. Both teams missed nine field goals and both teams had 29 points.

Groton Area never trailed in the second half. The Panthers had closed to within one two times, but the Tigers went on a six-point run to take a 46-38 lead and took a 48-40 lead into the fourth quarter.

Keegen Tracy sparked the Tigers in the fourth quarter with 11 points and Lane Tietz was seven of eight from the free throw line as Groton Area slowly pulled away for the win.

Coach Brian Dolan said, "This is by far the best we've played all year. Our goal was to shut down Logan Collette and he only had one free throw all night. The kids were dialed in. Jacob did a nice job getting to the basket. Lane carried us in the first half and made some big free t throws down the stretch. It took all of us. We've had great practices the last 10 days. The players on the bench are just as much a part of this as the guys on the floor."

Senior Lane Tietz said after the game, "We played absolutely together tonight. We trusted each other. Everyone stepped up. When Gage came in - great minutes. When Kassen came in - got a deflection and got a layup. That's huge.

"In all the struggles we've had all year, they have gotten us to this point right now. At the begining the season, I would ask God just to prepare this team to make a run for the state tournament. No one knows His plan, but He's gotten us ready for this moment. We've had a lot of growing pains with our younger guys, but they're not younger guys any more."

Groton Area is now 15-4 on the season and will finish the regular season with a home game against Aberdeen Christian in Groton on Friday. Dakota Valley falls to 15-3.

"Friday is the biggest game on our schedule right now," Dolan said. "It's a 47 point seed game for us. That will help us for our seeding for the SoDak 16. I want the kids to enjoy tonight, but we have to refocus for Friday. This didn't happen just today. This happened in all the practices and all the hard work.

"Let's make sure we're all at Roncalli to support the girls in the first round of the region against Webster. That's the next big game for this family and we need to cheer them on."

The percentages were high in all categories for Groton Area. The Tigers made 15 of 28 in two-pointers for 54 percent, nine of 14 in three-pointers for 64 percent and 14 of 16 in free throws for 88 percent. The Tigers had 22 rebounds, nine turnovers, 16 assists, three steals, 13 team fouls and one block.

Lane Tietz led the Tigers with 28 points including six of 10 three-pointers and seven of eight free throws. Tietz also had four rebounds, three assists and one steal. Jacob Zak had 18 points which included one three-pointer and was five of six from the line plus he had three rebounds, six

assists and one steal. Keegen Tracy had 16 points with included two of two in three-pointers, two of two in free throws and four of five in two-pointers and he had three rebounds and six assists. Logan Ringgenberg scored the opening basket of the game and finished with two points, two rebounds and one assist. Kassen Keough had two points. Gage Sippel had three rebounds and one block shot and Colby Dunker and Easton Weber each had one rebound.

Jaxson Wingert led the Panthers with 29 points while Luke Bruns had 14, Charlie Margeas eight and Grant VanDenHul and Logan Collette each had one free throw. Dakota Valley made 19 of 38 in field goals for 50 percent, 12 of 17 free throws for 71 percent, had eight turnovers and 13 team fouls.

### Boys Junior Varsity: Groton 33, Dakota Valley 30

Groton Area rallied in the closing minute to come from behind to beat Dakota Valley in the junior varsity game, 33-30. Groton Area held a 12-11 lead after the first quarter and Dakota Valley led at halftime, 18-15, and after three quarters, 24-17. The Panthers opened up a 10-point lead early in the fourth quarter at 27-17. Gage Sippel made seven fourth quarter points and Turner Thompson made a two-pointer and a three-pointer in the fourth quarter to spark the Tiger offense. Jayden Schwan made a basket with 46 seconds left to tie the game at 30. Sippel made a basket with 2.1 seconds left, was fouled and made the free throw for the final three-point win.

Sippel led the Tigers with seven points, Blake Pauli, Turner Thompson and Easton Weber each had five points, Karson Zak had four, Kassen Keough three and Jayden Schwan and Logan Warrington each had two points. Keough, Thompson and Weber each made one three-pointer.

Tyler Cornelsen led Dakota Valley with 12 points while Drew Lukken and Luke Anema each had four points, and adding two points apiece were Dylan Lukken, Sean Meiske, Grady Ramos, Zachary Schlotman and Carver Fritchen.

The games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM. The junior varsity game was sponsored by Craig and Jodi Sternhagen. The varsity game was sponsored by Agtegra, Avantara Groton, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, BK Custom Ts & More, Bierman Farm Service, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Full Circle Ag, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, John Sieh Agency, Krueger Brothers, Locke Electric, The MeatHouse of Andover, Rix Farms/R&M Farms and Spanier Harvesting and Trucking. Paul Kosel did the play-by-play and Jeslyn Kosel ran the camera.

- Paul Kosel

## Groton Area February Students of the Month



**Holden Sippel**  
Senior



**Faith Traphagen**  
Junior



**Rylee Dunker**  
Sophomore



**Kira Clocksene**  
Freshman



**Sydney Locke**  
Eighth Grade



**Asher Johnson**  
Seventh Grade



**Asher Zimmerman**  
Sixth 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.**

**It is learning with our heads, hearts, and hands to be caring and civil, to make healthy decisions, to effectively problem solve, to be respectful and responsible, to be good citizens, and to be empathetic and ethical individuals.**

**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.**

# Groton Area wins all six games over Britton-Hecla

## Boys Varsity:

### Groton 77, Britton-Hecla 35

Groton Area made 70 percent of its two-pointers as the boys basketball team posted a 77-35 win over Britton-Hecla. Groton Area led at the quarterstops at 21-10, 40-22 and 66-33.

Lane Tietz led the Tigers with 25 points, two rebounds, three assists and five steals. Keegen Tracy had 19 points, four rebounds, two assists and two steals. Ryder Johnson had 10 points, four rebounds, two assists, three steals and one block. Jacob Zak had nine points, seven rebounds, six assists, six steals and one block. Logan Ringgenberg had four points, one rebound and three steals. Gage Sippel had four points and three rebounds. Jayden Schwan had two points, Logan Warrington had two points and one rebound, Colby Dunker had one point and three rebounds, Blake Pauli and Kassen Keough each had one assist, Turner Thompson had one rebound and Karson Zak had two rebounds and one steal.

Three-Pointers: Jacob Zak - 1, Tietz - 3, Tracy - 3.

Groton Area made 23 of 33 two-pointers for 70 percent, seven of 25 three-pointers for 28 percent, 10 of 16 free throws for 63 percent, had 27 rebounds, 14 turnovers, 14 assists, 21 steals, 11 team fouls and two blocks.

Ty Fagerland led the Braves with 12 points followed by Daniel Person with 10, Jaxon Zuehlke had seven and adding two points apiece are Isaiah Jackson, Graham Fosness and Jordyn McGregor.

Three-Pointers: Zuehlke - 1.

Britton-Hecla made 15 of 32 field goals for 47 percent, four of 10 free throws for 40 percent, had 25 turnovers and 12 team fouls.

### Boys Junior Varsity: Groton 47, Britton-Hecla 19

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 47-19, leading at the quarterstops at 11-5, 18-7 and 31-12.

Gage Sippel led Groton Area with 14 points followed by Kassen Keough with eight, Easton Weber five, Blake Pauli, Turner Thompson and Ethan Kroll each had four, Jayden Schwan and Logan Warrington each had three and Jace Johnson added two points.

Benjamin Folkman led Britton-Hecla with five points while Mitchell Burger and Nathaniel Schuller each had four, Jordyn McGregor had had three, Riley Holland two and Jace Rein added one point.

### Boys Eighth Grade: Groton 43, Britton-Hecla 35

Groton Area won the eighth grade game, 43-35. The game was tied at 13 after the first quarter and the Tigers took a 27-18 lead at halftime and a 37-31 lead after the third quarter.

Jace Johnson led Groton Area with 19 points followed by Ryder Schelle with 12 and Anthony Gilmore and Ethan Kroll each had six points.

LaFrom Herr and Chaz Victor each had nine points for the Braves while Jack Teveldal had seven, Kaden Mills six and Luke Bosse had four.

### Boys Seventh Grade: Groton 52, Britton-Hecla 13

Groton Area won the seventh grade game, 52-13, leading at the quarterstops at 20-4, 28-9 and 36-13.

Anthony Gilmore led Groton Area with 24 points followed by Asher Johnson with 11, Jordan Schwan six, Zach Flihs five and Connor Kroll, Ian Kutter and Sam Crank each had two points.

Jett Ford led Britton-Hecla with four points while Bowman Micko, Luke Bosse and Trey Biel each had two points.

### Girls Varsity: Groton 69, Britton-Hecla 31

Groton Area's Lady Tigers defeated Britton-Hecla, 69-31. Jaedyn Penning did not commit a single foul on the night and Emily Clark made her first three-pointer of the year.

Groton Area led at the quarter stops at 21-8, 43-16 and 54-22. Groton Area had a 16-point run in the first half.

Sydney Leicht led Groton Area with 16 points, one rebound, one assist and two steals. Faith Traphagen had 12 points, one assist and two steals. Jaedyn Penning had 10 points, five rebounds, one assist and one steal. Mia Crank had five points and one rebound. Jerica Locke had four points, one rebound, four assists and one steal. Kennedy Hansen had four points, six rebounds, three assists and three steals. Brooklyn Hansen had four points, three rebounds, three assists and one block. Rylee Dunker had four points, six rebounds, four assists, one steal and two block shots. Emily Clark had three points. Laila Roberts had three points, five rebounds and four assists. Talli Wright had two points. Taryn Traphagen had two points, two rebounds and one assist. McKenna Tietz had one assist.

Three-Pointers: Leicht - 3, Faith Traphagen - 2, Crank - 1, Clark - 1.

Groton Area made 20 of 38 field goals for 53 percent, seven of 21 three-pointers for 33 percent, eight of 10 free throws for 80 percent, had 30 rebounds, seven turnovers, 23 assists, 10 steals, 12 rebounds



**Senior Emily Clark gets ready to launch and make this three-pointer.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

and three block shots.

Sterling Brassfield led Britton-Hecla with points followed by Tiyanna Schott six, Jayden Bender four, Danika Zuehlke and Faith Small each had three points, RaeAnn Hagenson had two and Maddi Micko added a free throw.

Three-Pointers: Brassfield - 1.

The Braves made nine of 31 in field goals for 29 percent, 12 of 20 free throws for 60 percent, had 19 turnovers and seven team fouls.

Groton Area, now 13-7, will play Webster in the first round of the Region 1A tournament Tuesday at Aberdeen Roncalli.

### Girls Junior Varsity: Groton 36, Britton-Hecla 8

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 36-8, leading at the quarterstops at 3-2, 19-8 and 30-8.

Groton Area scored the last 21 points of the game, limiting Britton-Hecla's scoring from the free throw line, making eight of 14 free throws.

McKenna Tietz led Groton Area with nine points while Emerlee Jones had six points, Faith Traphagen and Mia Crank each had four points, Kella Tracy had three and add-

ing two points apiece were Laila Roberts, Taryn Traphagen, Ashlynn Warrington, Talli Wright and Sydney Locke.

Koryn Jones had four points and Karlie Zuehlke and Adriana Buer each had two points for Britton-Hecla.

The games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM. Varsity game sponsors were Agtegra, Avantara Groton, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, BK Custom Ts & More, Bierman Farm Service, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Full Circle Ag, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, John Sieh Agency, Krueger Brothers, Locke Electric, The MeatHouse of Andover, Rix Farms/R&M Farms and Spanier Harvesting and Trucking. The junior varsity game sponsors were Craig and Jodi Sterhagen and Tom and Lindsey Tietz. The junior high game sponsor was the Groton Chiropractic Clinic. Shane Clark, Paul Kosel and Jeslyn Kosel were on the scene for the games.

- Paul Kosel



Shane Clark and Jeslyn Kosel ran the GDILIVE broadcasts for the junior varsity games.



Anna Bisbee sang the National Anthem prior to the girls varsity game Friday night.

## NEC Boys' Basketball

### Musical chairs for number two

It appears that Groton Area should maintain the number one spot for Region 1A; however, the number two spot has musical chairs. It's been Waubay/Summit, Milbank and Tiospa Zina all in the hunt for the second seed. Sunday morning, it was Milbank. By Sunday afternoon, it was Tiospa Zina. By Monday morning, it was Milbank.

A big game this week for number two features Milbank and Tiospa Zina on Friday. Regions begin Tuesday. Groton will host the first round.

For the Northeast Conference, Hamlin wins the championship outright with Groton Area in number two.

### Boys NEC Standings

	NEC	Overall	
Hamlin	10-0	17-3	Hamlin 90, Britton-Hecla 31
Groton Area	9-1	14-4	Hamlin 52, Clark-Willow Lake 38
Clark/Willow Lake	7-3	9-10	Aberdeen Roncalli 46, Deuel 34
Roncalli	7-3	13-7	Tiospa Zina 76, Redfield 33
Milbank	6-3	13-5	Groton 77, Britton-Hecla 35
Deuel	5-5	8-12	Milbank 68, Webster 49
Tiospa Zina	4-5	13-6	
Webster Area	3-7	8-11	
Britton-Hecla *	2-8	4-16	
Sisseton	1-9	3-16	
Redfield	0-10	1-19	

\* Class B Team

Aberdeen Roncalli 58, Clark-Willow Lake 35  
Clark-Willow Lake 59, Tiospa Zina 49  
Deuel 60, Sisseton 51

Feb. 23: Tiospa Zina at Milbank



# Groton Area boys beat Florence-Henry in all five games

Groton Area boys took all games into the mercy rule with the 30-point difference as the Tigers defeated Florence-Henry in all five games. The games were played Saturday in Henry.

Groton Area reached the 30-point spread in the varsity game with 4:08 left in the third quarter, in the junior varsity game with 1:31 left in the game, the C game with 1:22 left in the third quarter, the eighth grade game with 5:42 left in the third quarter and the seventh grade game with 15 seconds left in the third quarter.

## Varsity Game: Groton Area 73, Florence-Henry 50

Three players hit double figures as Groton Area defeated the Falcons in the varsity game, 73-50. The Tigers led at the quarterstops at 23-17, 45-24 and 61-34.

Ryder Johnson had four three-pointers to lead the Tigers with 21 points, seven rebounds, three assists and one steal. Jacob Zak made one three-pointer and finished with 13 points, six rebounds, one assist and one steal. Lane Tietz made one three-pointer to finish with 13 points, four rebounds, two assists and one steal. Keegen Tracy made two three-pointers and finished with eight points, three rebounds, five assists and one steal.

Colby Dunker had six points, one rebounds and two assists. Gage Sippel had four points, two rebounds, one steal and one block. Logan Ringgenberg had two points, one rebound and one assist. Jayden Schwan had two points and one rebound. Karson Zak had two points and one assist. Easton Weber had two points, one rebound and one assist. Blake Pauli had one assist and one steal. Kassen Keough, Logan Warrington and Turner Thompson each had one rebound.

Groton Area made 21 of 30 two-pointers for 70 percent, eight of 24 three-pointers for 33 percent, seven of 13 free throws for 54 percent, had 29 rebounds, nine turnovers, 17 assists, six steals, 13 fouls and one block.

Carson Vavruska led the Falcons with 20 points, James Schroeder had 11 points, Logan Vavruska seven, Ty Bergh six, Jaxon Orthaus three, Tristan Sumner two points and Tate Hartley added one free throw.

## Junior Varsity Game: Groton Area 54, Florence-Henry 24

Groton Area led at the quarterstops at 20-7, 31-12 and 41-22 en route to a 54-24 junior varsity win.

Kassen Keough led the Tigers with 14 points, Gage Sippel and Karson Zak each had 11, Turner Thompson six, Logan Warrington five, and Blake Pauli, Jace Johnson and Easton Weber each had two points.

Three-Pointers: Keough - 2, Zak - 1.

Jaxon Orthaus led the Falcons with eight points, Zach Schroeder had six, Tucker Keller five, Carson Kelly three and Masyn Warne two.

Three-Pointers: Keller - 1, Schroeder - 1, Kelly - 1, Orthaus - 2.

## C Game: Groton Area 46, Florence-Henry 20

Groton Area led at the quarterstops at 17-0, 25-5 and 42-11 en route to a 46-20 C game win.

Logan Warrington led Groton Area with 16 points, Ethan Kroll 10, Karson Zak six, Jace Johnson and Ryder Schelle each had four, and adding two points apiece were Jayden Schwan, Keegen Harry and T.C. Schuster.

Zack Schroeder led the Falcons with eight points.

## 8th Grade Game: Groton Area 52, Florence-Henry 18

Groton Area led at the quarterstops at 18-0, 36-7 and 48-16 en route

## Groton Prairie Mixed Week #13

**Team Standings:** Chipmunks - 17, Shihtzus - 16, Coyotes - 15, Jackelopes - 10, Foxes - 9, Cheetahs - 5

**Men's High Games:** Randy Stanley - 223, Tony Waage - 222, Lance Frohling and Vern Meyers - 218

**Women's High Games:** Sue Stanley - 163, Darci Spanier and Vicki Walter - 160, Hayley Merkel - 158

**Men's High Series:** Tony Waage - 604, Lance Frohling - 589, Mike Siegler - 547

**Women's High Series:** Darci Spanier - 455, Sue Stanley - 450, Vicki Walter - 448

**FUN GAME:** Most Splits - Chipmunks with 19!

— **King Crossword** —  
Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

V	I	M	O	L	E	T	A	P	R	E
I	S	O	P	I	V	E	N	E	A	R
P	H	O	N	E	C	A	R	D	T	M
A	R	E	M	Y	S	T	I	C		
O	R	P	H	A	N	S	E	C		
R	A	E	S	S	S	T	A	C	O	S
E	G	A	N	E	T	S	B	A	D	E
L	U	R	E	D	D	E	M	S	I	A
C	H	I	N	C	A	T	H	E	R	
C	H	A	I	S	E	O	R	L		
E	E	K	P	R	A	N	K	C	A	L
D	I	E	E	V	A	D	E	R	E	O
E	R	S	L	E	A	S	T	F	O	B



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**Coach Brian Dolan goes over a game plan with the team during a time-out.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

to a 52-18 win in the eighth grade game.

Jace Johnson led Groton Area with 17 points, Ethan Kroll had eight, Alex Abeln seven, Jordan Schwan five, Anthony Gilmore, Asher Johnson and Ryder Schelle each had four and T.C. Schuster had three points.

## 7th Grade Game: Groton Area 50, Florence-Henry 10

The seventh graders won their game, 50-10, leading at the quarterstops at 14-4, 24-6 and 41-10.

Anthony Gilmore led Groton Area with 13 points, Zach Fliehs had 11, Jordan Schwan and Asher Johnson each had nine points and Connor Kroll and Wes Morehouse each had four points.

The games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM. Varsity game sponsors were Agtegra, Avantara Groton, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, BK Custom Ts & More, Bierman Farm Service, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Full Circle Ag, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, John Sieh Agency, Krueger Brothers, Locke Electric, The MeatHouse of Andover, Rix Farms/R&M Farms and Spanier Harvesting and Trucking. The junior varsity game sponsors were Craig and Jodi Sterhagen and Tom and Lindsey Tietz. The C game sponsor was S & S Lumber. The junior high games were sponsored by Jesse and Bridgett Scott of Waubay. Paul Kosel and Jeslyn Kosel were on the scene for the games.

- Paul Kosel

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Pep
- 4 "Get Here" singer Adams
- 9 Opposite of "post-"
- 12 Equal (Pref.)
- 13 Jeremy of "Entourage"
- 14 Corn serving
- 15 Prepaid convenience for cell users
- 17 Texter's "Enough!"
- 18 Common verb
- 19 Spiritualist
- 21 Oliver Twist, for one
- 24 Cabinet dept. head
- 25 "Norma —"
- 26 Snake's warning
- 28 Mexican snacks
- 31 Actor Richard
- 33 UFO crew
- 35 Commanded
- 36 Enticed
- 38 Rep.'s rival
- 40 "Diamonds" singer
- 41 Goatee's spot
- 43 "O Pioneers!" author
- 45 Long recliner
- 47 Magic, on scoreboards
- 48 "A spider!"

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12				13						14		
15			16							17		
			18				19		20			
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
54					55					56		
57					58					59		

- 49 Cell user's practical joke
- 54 Conk out
- 55 Dodge
- 56 Classic car
- 57 Hosp. areas
- 58 Opposite of most
- 59 Watch chain
- 7 Semesters
- 8 "Still ..."
- 9 Fund for minor expenses
- 10 Malek of "Bohemian Rhapsody"
- 11 Guitarist Clapton
- 16 "Unh-unh"
- 20 Wound cover
- 21 Pitcher Hershiser
- 22 Pasta sauce brand
- 23 Fruity baked goods
- 27 Norm (Abbr.)
- 29 Garfield's pal
- 30 Blacken
- 32 Classic soda brand
- 34 Extra helpings
- 37 Put to rest
- 39 Grocery store
- 42 Audacity
- 44 Patient's need, briefly
- 45 Give up
- 46 Estate recipient
- 50 Bond rating
- 51 Canine cry
- 52 Zodiac feline
- 53 Arced tennis shot

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## Four wrestlers to advance to state

Four Groton Area wrestlers have advanced to the state tournament in Region 1B competition held Saturday in Gettysburg. The state will be held Feb. 22-24 in Sioux Falls.

Wyatt Hagen took fourth place at 106 pounds, Walker Zoellner placed third at 126 pounds, Christian Ehresmann placed second at 144 pounds and Korbin Kucker took first at 157 pounds.

### 106: Wyatt Hagen (29-16) placed 4th and scored 12.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Wyatt Hagen (Groton Area) 29-16 won by major decision over Chase Henriksen (Kingsbury County) 32-24 (MD 12-0)

Semifinal - Cade Gaikowski (Clark/Willow Lake) 36-9 won by fall over Wyatt Hagen (Groton Area) 29-16 (Fall 5:10)

Cons. Semi - Wyatt Hagen (Groton Area) 29-16 won by major decision over Logan Smith (Faulkton Area) 21-19 (MD 18-6)

3rd Place Match - Tayten Kurkowski (Webster Area) 28-15 won by decision over Wyatt Hagen (Groton Area) 29-16 (Dec 5-1)

### 113: Lincoln Krause (23-17) placed 6th and scored 6.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Nicholas Schlachter (Potter County) 27-7 won by fall over Lincoln Krause (Groton Area) 23-17 (Fall 1:12)

Cons. Round 1 - Lincoln Krause (Groton Area) 23-17 won by fall over Avery Williams (Sully Buttes) 0-14 (Fall 4:21)

Cons. Semi - Sean Roseland (Faulkton Area) 35-16 won by fall over Lincoln Krause (Groton Area) 23-17 (Fall 0:41)

5th Place Match - Caden Singrey (Kingsbury County) 22-13 won by fall over Lincoln Krause (Groton Area) 23-17 (Fall 2:26)

### 126: Walker Zoellner (32-14) placed 3rd and scored 17.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 32-14 won by fall over Dubhlainn Vermeulen (Sioux Valley) 13-25 (Fall 0:30)

Semifinal - Conner Zens (Redfield) 33-10 won by major decision over Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 32-14 (MD 10-0)

Cons. Semi - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 32-14 won by major decision over Tyson Hagberg (Deuel/Deubrook Area) 16-22 (MD 11-0)

3rd Place Match - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 32-14 won by fall over Dubhlainn Vermeulen (Sioux Valley) 13-25 (Fall 2:13)

### 144: Christian Ehresmann (35-5) placed 2nd and scored 21.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 35-5 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 35-5 won by fall over Donovan Sandven (Kingsbury County) 14-16 (Fall 1:51)

Semifinal - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 35-5 won by major decision over Bryce Hawkinson (Britton-Hecla) 38-10 (MD 11-3)

1st Place Match - Landon Coyle (Faulkton Area) 36-9 won by decision over Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 35-5 (Dec 5-2)

### 157: Korbin Kucker (24-7) placed 1st and scored 30.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 24-7 won by fall over Lincoln Reidburn (Clark/Willow Lake) 4-12 (Fall 2:26)

Quarterfinal - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 24-7 won by fall over Beau Schilling (Ipswich/Bowdle) 14-19 (Fall 0:52)

Semifinal - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 24-7 won by fall over Gage Baumgarn (Webster Area) 31-16 (Fall 4:19)

1st Place Match - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 24-7 won by fall over Charlie Dulany (Warner/Northwestern) 27-7 (Fall 2:38)

### 165: Easten Ekern (13-25) placed 6th and scored 3.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Deion Harris (Kingsbury County) 17-24 won by fall over Easten Ekern (Groton Area) 13-25 (Fall 0:53)

Cons. Round 1 - Easten Ekern (Groton Area) 13-25 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Semi - Dustin Dirksen (Warner/Northwestern) 29-13 won by fall over Easten Ekern (Groton Area) 13-25 (Fall 0:41)

5th Place Match - Deion Harris (Kingsbury County) 17-24 won by fall over Easten Ekern (Groton Area) 13-25 (Fall 0:28)

### 175: Ben Hoeft (13-23).

Champ. Round 1 - Marshall Holz (Kingsbury County) 29-18 won by fall over Ben Hoeft (Groton Area) 13-23 (Fall 2:31)

Cons. Round 1 - Ben Hoeft (Groton Area) 13-23 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 2 - Justin Rorhbach (Ipswich/Bowdle) 24-16 won by fall over Ben Hoeft (Groton Area) 13-23 (Fall 2:31)

### 190: Drew Thurston (7-14) scored 4.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Drew Thurston (Groton Area) 7-14 won by fall over Kameron Hunnel (Potter County) 3-28 (Fall 3:02)

Quarterfinal - Tristen Baloun (Faulkton Area) 25-9 won by fall over Drew Thurston (Groton Area) 7-14 (Fall 0:50)

Cons. Round 2 - Drew Thurston (Groton Area) 7-14 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 3 - Riley Popp (Clark/Willow Lake) 17-26 won by fall over Drew Thurston (Groton Area) 7-14 (Fall 2:31)

### 215: Charlie Frost (15-16) placed 6th and scored 6.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Kadyn Weisser (Ipswich/Bowdle) 27-14 won by fall over Charlie Frost (Groton Area) 15-16 (Fall 1:27)

Cons. Round 1 - Charlie Frost (Groton Area) 15-16 won by fall over Raymond Klein (Deuel/Deubrook Area) 20-24 (Fall 2:47)

Cons. Semi - Preston Cavalier (Warner/Northwestern) 38-9 won by fall over Charlie Frost (Groton Area) 15-16 (Fall 0:46)

5th Place Match - Matthew Angiolelli (Webster Area) 21-17 won by decision over Charlie Frost (Groton Area) 15-16 (Dec 7-3)

### 285: Gavin Englund (30-14) placed 5th and scored 10.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Owen Vandeweerd (Sioux Valley) 41-5 won by decision over Gavin Englund (Groton Area) 30-14 (Dec 4-1)

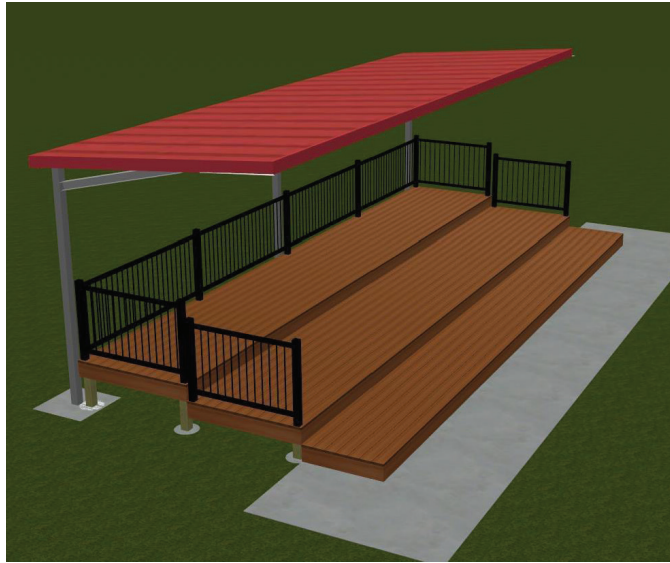
Cons. Round 1 - Gavin Englund (Groton Area) 30-14 won by fall over Gage Miotke (Webster Area) 11-22 (Fall 1:39)

Cons. Semi - Tucker Hardy (Britton-Hecla) 34-14 won by decision over Gavin Englund (Groton Area) 30-14 (Dec 10-6)

5th Place Match - Gavin Englund (Groton Area) 30-14 won by fall over Brayden Satter (Warner/Northwestern) 15-21 (Fall 2:13)

# Shade Shelters coming to Groton Baseball Complex

The Groton Baseball/Softball Foundation is in the process of installing three new shade structures at the Groton Baseball Complex. There will be one shade structure for each field. The bases were poured last fall and the support poles arrived yesterday. The follow photos are from the Groton Baseball/Softball Foundation Facebook Page.



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# Watertown Youth Tourney

## Results for Groton

**TOTS 31-34: Watson Herron's place is 3rd and has scored 8.0 team points.**

Round 1 - Griffen Gerrish (watertown) won by fall over Watson Herron (Groton) (Fall 0:27)

Round 2 - Watson Herron (Groton) won by major decision over Rhett Myhre (Minneota) (Maj 14-1)

Round 3 - Theo Bortz (watertown) won by fall over Watson Herron (Groton) (Fall 0:20)

**TOTS 40-44: Ryker Herron's place is 1st and has scored 20.0 team points.**

Round 1 - Ryker Herron (Groton) won by fall over Hudson Morris (Claremont) (Fall 3:56)

Round 2 - Ryker Herron (Groton) won by injury default over Jack Tadlock (watertown) (Inj. 3:00)

Round 3 - Ryker Herron (Groton) won by fall over Bennett Vander-snick (Hazel) (Fall 0:18)

**BANTAM 71-77: Kroy Khali's place is 1st and has scored 17.0 team points.**

Round 1 - Kroy Khali (Groton) won by fall over Darin Peterson (Colton) (Fall 0:19)

Round 3 - Kroy Khali (Groton) won by major decision over Reed Trapp (Milbank) (Maj 9-0)

Round 4 - Kroy Khali (Groton) won by fall over Leon Hahn (Chester) (Fall 2:41)

Round 5 - Kroy Khali (Groton) won by fall over Grayson Bevers (watertown) (Fall 2:02)

# Ipswich Youth Tournament

## Results for Groton Tuff Tigers

**Tots 52-61: Vic Flihs's place is 3rd and has scored 9.0 team points.**

Round 1 - Vic Flihs (Groton Tuff Tigers) won by fall over Lincoln Kolb (Aberdeen youth wrestling club) (Fall 4:29)

Round 2 - Kru Peterson (Aberdeen youth wrestling club) won by decision over Vic Flihs (Groton Tuff Tigers) (Dec 14-10)

Round 3 - Kohen Resel (Miller) won by fall over Vic Flihs (Groton Tuff Tigers) (Fall 3:25)

**Bantam 50-56: Levi Davis's place is 5th and has scored 5.0 team points.**

Round 1 - Henry Schaffner (Aberdeen youth wrestling club) won by major decision over Levi Davis (Groton Tuff Tigers) (Maj 10-2)

Round 2 - Rowan Richard (MATPAC Wrestling) won by decision over Levi Davis (Groton Tuff Tigers) (Dec 6-5)

Round 3 - John Lechner (warner northwestern) won by decision over Levi Davis (Groton Tuff Tigers) (Dec 4-0)

Round 4 - Levi Davis (Groton Tuff Tigers) received a bye ( ) (Bye)

Round 5 - Elmer Braun (Ipswich Area) won by fall over Levi Davis (Groton Tuff Tigers) (Fall 0:21)

**Bantam 56-61: Roman Bahr's place is 3rd and has scored 7.0 team points.**

Round 1 - Roman Bahr (Groton Tuff Tigers) won by decision over Teague Resel (Miller) (Dec 7-2)

Round 2 - Cayson Howard (Ipswich Area) won by fall over Roman Bahr (Groton Tuff Tigers) (Fall 1:18)

Round 3 - Kasper Weisz (Redfield) won by decision over Roman Bahr (Groton Tuff Tigers) (Dec 5-2)

**Midget 51-56: Bennett Iverson's place is 4th and has scored 4.0 team points.**

Round 1 - Carter Olson (Mobridge Youth Wrestling) won by fall over Bennett Iverson (Groton Tuff Tigers) (Fall 1:45)

Round 2 - Tobias Jones (Miller) won by tech fall over Bennett Iverson (Groton Tuff Tigers) (TF 15-0)

Round 3 - Gabriel Shempert (Mobridge AAU Wrestling) won by fall over Bennett Iverson (Groton Tuff Tigers) (Fall 0:54)

**Midget 57-58: Carter Zoellner's place is 1st and has scored 20.0 team points.**

Round 1 - Carter Zoellner (Groton Tuff Tigers) won by fall over Kamdyn Frost (Tea) (Fall 1:15)

Round 2 - Carter Zoellner (Groton Tuff Tigers) won by fall over Ramiro Flores (Faulkton Trojans) (Fall 0:40)

Round 3 - Carter Zoellner (Groton Tuff Tigers) won by fall over Ryker Hoffman (Aberdeen youth wrestling club) (Fall 3:44)

**Midget 60-62: Bo Flihs's place is 2nd and has scored 14.0 team points.**

Round 1 - Bo Flihs (Groton Tuff Tigers) won by fall over Peyton Jandel (warner northwestern) (Fall 1:02)

Round 2 - Bowdrey Logan (Doland) won by fall over Bo Flihs (Groton Tuff Tigers) (Fall 2:43)

Round 3 - Bo Flihs (Groton Tuff Tigers) won by fall over Alec Griese (Hoven Greyhounds) (Fall 0:33)

**Midget 78-80: Samuel Flihs's place is 2nd and has scored 12.0 team points.**

Round 1 - Hayzen Davis (Governor Wrestling) won by fall over Samuel Flihs (Groton Tuff Tigers) (Fall 1:17)

Round 2 - Samuel Flihs (Groton Tuff Tigers) won by fall over Jacob Powell (Aberdeen youth wrestling club) (Fall 1:41)

Round 3 - Samuel Flihs (Groton Tuff Tigers) won by decision over Axton Geist (Faulkton Trojans) (Dec 8-5)

**Midget 112-118: Keenan Moody's place is 1st and has scored 18.0 team points.**

Round 1 - Keenan Moody (Groton Tuff Tigers) won by fall over Jonathan Becker (warner northwestern) (Fall 1:04)

Round 2 - Keenan Moody (Groton Tuff Tigers) received a bye ( ) (Bye)

Round 3 - Keenan Moody (Groton Tuff Tigers) won by fall over Lincoln Pederson (Aberdeen youth wrestling club) (Fall 0:27)

**Novice 65-72: Bentley Ehresmann's place is 1st and has scored 18.0 team points.**

Round 1 - Bentley Ehresmann (Groton Tuff Tigers) received a bye ( ) (Bye)

Round 2 - Bentley Ehresmann (Groton Tuff Tigers) won by injury default over Easton Pochop (Redfield Youth Wrestling) (Inj. 2:15)

Round 3 - Bentley Ehresmann (Groton Tuff Tigers) won by fall over Jared Steiger (Mobridge Youth Wrestling) (Fall 0:57)

**Novice 77-80: Brayson Hubbs's place is 3rd and has scored 9.0 team points.**

Round 1 - Brayson Hubbs (Groton Tuff Tigers) won by fall over Anderson Braun (warner northwestern) (Fall 0:13)

Round 2 - Ryder Long (warner northwestern) won by fall over Brayson Hubbs (Groton Tuff Tigers) (Fall 3:00)

Round 3 - Carter Lane (Aberdeen youth wrestling club) won by fall over Brayson Hubbs (Groton Tuff Tigers) (Fall 0:36)

**Novice 79-82: Preston Hinkelman's place is 1st and has scored 18.0 team points.**

Round 1 - Preston Hinkelman (Groton Tuff Tigers) won by fall over Jeremyah Heidzig (Aberdeen youth wrestling club) (Fall 0:21)

Round 2 - Preston Hinkelman (Groton Tuff Tigers) won by fall over Graham Reuer (warner northwestern) (Fall 0:56)

Round 3 - Preston Hinkelman (Groton Tuff Tigers) won by decision over Coy Stephenson (Faulkton Trojans) (Dec 6-2)

**Novice 84-92: Adam Flihs's place is 2nd and has scored 14.0 team points.**

Round 1 - Connor Van Wagner (Ipswich Youth) won by decision over Adam Flihs (Groton Tuff Tigers) (Dec 12-5)

Round 2 - Adam Flihs (Groton Tuff Tigers) won by fall over Markem Wright (Dupree) (Fall 1:20)

Round 3 - Adam Flihs (Groton Tuff Tigers) won by fall over Taitum Traversie (Timber Lake Youth Wrestling) (Fall 0:40)

**Novice 87-93: Parker Zoellner's place is 1st and has scored 20.0 team points.**

Round 1 - Parker Zoellner (Groton Tuff Tigers) won by fall over Colt Warriner (Governor Wrestling) (Fall 1:08)

Round 2 - Parker Zoellner (Groton Tuff Tigers) won by fall over Xzander Logan (Doland) (Fall 3:49)

Round 3 - Parker Zoellner (Groton Tuff Tigers) won by fall over Draycen Easterby (Ipswich Area) (Fall 1:08)

**Novice 129-140: Hank Flihs's place is 2nd and has scored 14.0 team points.**

Round 1 - Hank Flihs (Groton Tuff Tigers) won by fall over Tristan Powell (Aberdeen youth wrestling club) (Fall 0:37)

Round 2 - Hank Flihs (Groton Tuff Tigers) won by forfeit over Hudson Maack (Aberdeen youth wrestling club) (FF)

Round 3 - Corbin Dawson (Britton Hecla Wrestling Club) won by fall over Hank Flihs (Groton Tuff Tigers) (Fall 3:25)

**Girls Midget 77-86: Elsy Hagen's place is 1st and has scored 6.0 team points.**

Round 1 - Elsy Hagen (Groton Tuff Tigers) won by fall over Harper Opsahl (Ipswich Tigers) (Fall 1:27)

Round 2 - Elsy Hagen (Groton Tuff Tigers) won by fall over Harper Opsahl (Ipswich Tigers) (Fall 0:56)

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## The Life of Susan Kurth

"Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." Luke 23:43  
Memorial services for Susan Kurth, 77, of Groton will be 11 a.m., Thursday, February 22, 2024, at St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton. Pastor Jeremy Yeadon will officiate. Inurnment will follow in the spring at Union Cemetery, Groton.

Surrounded by her loving family, Susan Kurth was called home by her Lord to her eternal resting place on February 15, 2024 after several years of battling dementia.

Susan Lynn Ulrich was born in Aberdeen, SD on November 11, 1946 to Ervin and Ruth (Stablein) Ulrich. She was raised on the Ulrich farm near Putney, SD. Susie, as she was often known by her family and friends, attended the two room Putney country school through the 8th grade. Her fondest memories of growing up was time spent with her beloved mother, often in her flower garden, from which Susan entered many varieties in the Brown County Fair. She spent time swimming and playing at Tacoma Park with her sisters and friends. She also enjoyed trips with her mother to Aberdeen to visit her cousins and family. And, of course, her very favorite television show, "The Howdy Doody Show." To which she was known, in her later years, to greet everyone with a very, cheery, "Howdy Doody!"

From Putney, she attended Groton High School and graduated in the Class of 1964. In high school she was an active member of Girls' Glee Club, Pep Club, the school newspaper, chorus, class plays and "declam" contests, where she advanced to the district contest for her dramatic reading. She carried her love of these activities throughout life as she enjoyed many musicals, plays, and public speaking - often, with her dear friends through her association in the local Red Hat Society club.

After high school, Susan attended Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, SD where she pursued a degree in teaching, receiving a Bachelor's degree in English. The summer before leaving for college, Susan met Dale Kurth in Claremont. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Dale and Susan dated throughout her time in college and were married following her graduation from DWU on June 29th, 1968 at the First Methodist Church in Groton. They settled on Dale's family farm near Claremont, SD, where they would reside for over 50 years. Time spent together centered around their children but also meant attending church events, card parties, dancing or taking in a local baseball game. She was a member of the Claremont American Legion Auxiliary and Putney Ladies Aid. At the time of Susan's passing, Susan and Dale were lovingly married for 55 years.

Susan joined the faculty at Britton High School teaching English, speech and directing class plays. Upon the arrival of her first child in 1971, she made the decision to stay at home to raise their family. They were blessed with 3 children - Travis, Troy and Tiffany. She rarely, if ever, missed an event in which her children participated. Somehow, she attended more sporting events than could be counted - while never really becoming a "sports fan." All for her kids and grandkids.

As her children grew, Susan returned to college earning a degree in Special Education from Northern State University in 1990. She spent the next 20 years teaching Special Ed, coaching oral interp and directing class plays in Langford, Roslyn, and Groton. She retired from Groton High School in 2011. She continued to scratch her teaching itch by guiding classes for Weight Watchers, something she had done throughout her life. She was an inspiration for many in their pursuit toward healthier lives.

A "city girl" at heart, one of Susan's favorite pastimes was window shopping. Which, admittedly, sometimes became actual shopping, much to Dale's chagrin. She loved to model jewelry and new clothing, always finding the perfect match. Susan also loved decorating her home for the various holidays, with her favorite being Christmas. She loved Christmas. Baking, singing, shopping, wrapping gifts and celebrating the birth of Jesus. She often reminisced about visiting the famous Christmas scene on the 8th floor of the Dayton's store in downtown Minneapolis as a youth. She was an avid collector of The Dicken's Village houses and created stunning winter model scenes that she enjoyed sharing with the community.

Susan loved playing games. You might often find yourself at the wrong end of a witty jab as she placed another winning Scrabble tile or a winning hand in cards. She was always quick with a smile or a laugh, even to the very end. Her greatest laughs, however, were shared with her grandchildren whom she loved to pamper, whether with a gift, a special trip, an amusement park ride or a "sweet treat" - which she definitely shared.

Susan's deepest passion was reserved for her faith and relationship with Jesus. She was firm in her conviction her entire life and spent a lifetime cultivating her relationship with God. Before she was called home, she expressed her excitement to find her final resting place in heaven where she could be reunited with all her loved ones, but especially her cherished mother and sister. Today she is celebrating that reunion with the same vigor she showed in life.

Susan is survived by her husband of Claremont; sons, Travis (Debbie) Kurth of Groton and Troy (Jessica) Kurth of Minnetonka, MN; one daughter, Tiffany (Jake) Unzen of Groton; her sister Penny (Craig) Wenzel of Wessington Springs, SD; 10 grandchildren, Marlee, Cali, Boston, Laken, Annie, JD, Haley, Megan, Erin, and Nathan; and 1 great-grandchild Stetson.

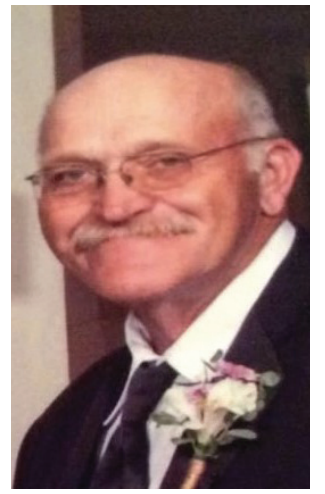
She was preceded in death by her parents and her sister Sharon.

Memorials may be directed to Avera Hospice or St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton.



## The Life of Russell Sass

Memorial services for Russell Sass, 68, of Groton will be 11 a.m., Friday, February 23, 2024 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. Father Gregory Tschakert will officiate. Military honors will be provided by Groton American Legion Post #39. Visitation will be held at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel on Thursday from 5-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m. Deacon Greg Sass will lead.



Russell passed away February 19, 2024 at Sanford Medical Center in Sioux Falls, surrounded by his family. He graciously gave life to others as a donor.

Russell Patrick was born on March 22, 1955 in Webster, South Dakota to Raymond F. and Pauline (Gaikowski) Sass. He attended school in Webster, graduating in 1973. Russ farmed for several years before enlisting in the US Marine Corps, where he served from 1980-1984. Following his honorable discharge, he returned to the Webster area. On November 15, 1985 he was united in marriage with Darlene Heupel and together they were blessed with two sons. Russ began driving truck for Hyman Freight Ways, later working for Mitzel and Sons in Aberdeen. He later drove for 3M, New Deal Tire and Full Circle Ag before his retirement.

Russ enjoyed spending time in the outdoors, hunting and fishing. He also enjoyed card and board games, building model cars/airplanes and spending time with his family.

Celebrating his life is his wife, Darlene of Groton, his sons, Jacob of Aberdeen, Ethan (Sarah) of Aberdeen, three grandchildren, Brooklynn, Shane and Harley, his siblings, Jim (Janet) Sass of Annadale, VA, Jerry (Ricky) Sass of Bigfork, MT, Ron (Judy) Sass of Florence, MT, Allan (Pat) Sass of Webster, Gene Sass of Milbank, Dwayne Sass of Webster, Greg (Nancy) Sass of Rapid City, Bob (Melinda) Sass of Rapid City, Becky (Jack) Vander Poel of Jasper, MN, Barb (John) Bauman of Maple Plain, MN and Mary (Jay) Aadland of Webster. Russ is also survived by 28 nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents, an infant child and infant grandchild, Alex.

### Petition being circulated to put Groton Area opt-out to a vote

The \$1.25 million opt-out resolution passed by the Groton Area School Board could be going to a vote of the people. A petition is currently being circulated to put the measure on the ballot. The opt-out amount is the maximum that the board would use and under its proposal, would use less in several of the 10-year opt-out period.

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# City Council

## Continued from front

The second priority in Tastad’s plan presented to the council would be for an engineer to determine what elevation the alley should be and to put a large storm drain in the alley.

The third and fourth priorities deal with the alley between East First and East Third avenues, specifically determining what elevations should be and reshaping the alley.

The proposal from Tastad may not be the best option, but something has to be done, he said.

“This is what I think is workable,” he said. “No matter what, it has to happen, or we’re going to lose these buildings.”

This issue could have long-ranging consequences, Tastad warned. With recent talk of economic development and new building in town, “it’s going to be a hard sell if we can’t take care of our buildings.”

The city is going to have to do something, Mayor Scott Hanlon agreed. He added he would speak with Public Works Coordinator Terry Herron about the best steps moving forward.

“There are a lot of variables, but we will get something going on this,” he said. “We need to look into all these and get something figured out.”

Councilman Brian Bahr cautioned the group about moving to quickly. The first thing that needs to be done, he said, is to locate the utilities so those aren’t disrupted or damaged by alley-way work.

### Summer employee list taking shape

The council approved hiring summer baseball employees, as well as setting pay rates for all summer employees.

Matt Locke will continue as baseball coordinator, with seven years of prior experience. Softball coordinator will be Jackie Iverson.

Additional baseball positions hired include:

- Seth Erickson as Legion Coach with two years of experience
- Aaron Severson as Jr. Legion Coach with one year of experience
- Spencer Locke as Jr. Teener Coach with four years of experience
- Susan Fjeldheim as U14 Softball Coach with six years of experience
- Christopher Frost as U12 Softball Coach in his first year
- Reilly Fuhrman as U10 Softball Coach with one year of experience
- Sydney Kurtz as U8 Softball Coach with two years of experience

The city is also opening the application period for other summer positions, including swimming pool manager, swimming pool lifeguard, baseball groundskeeper, baseball gatekeeper and cemetery caretaker. Other positions opened include public works laborer and assistant part-time swimming pool manager, though those positions might not be filled.

The council also approved salaries and time of payment for summer employees.

- Public works laborer at \$16 per hour paid biweekly
- Cemetery caretaker at \$16 per hour paid biweekly
- Swimming pool manager at \$16 per hour paid biweekly
- Assistant part-time swimming pool manager at \$14 per hour paid biweekly
- Swimming pool lifeguard at \$11.20 per hour plus 25 cents per year of service paid biweekly
- Water Safety Instructor lifeguards during swim lessons at their regular salary plus \$1 per hour paid biweekly (plus \$25 bonus per private lesson session paid upon successful completion of entire swimming pool season)
- Water Safety Instructor assist lifeguard during swim lessons at their regular salary plus 50 cents per hour paid biweekly
- Concession manager at \$50 daily paid biweekly plus 50% net profit paid at the end of the season
- Baseball coordinator at a yearly rate of \$4,000 plus \$77.32 per year of service paid monthly
- Softball coordinator at a yearly rate of \$1,500 plus \$25.77 per year of service paid monthly
- Legion baseball coach at a yearly rate of \$4,000 paid monthly
- Jr. Legion baseball coach at a yearly rate of \$3,000 plus \$51.55 per year of service paid monthly
- Jr. Teener baseball coach (if only one is hired) at a yearly rate of \$2,000 plus \$51.55 per year of service paid monthly
- Jr. Teener baseball coach (if two are hired) at a yearly rate of \$1,500 plus \$38.66 per year of service paid monthly
- U8/U10/U12 day baseball coach at a yearly rate of \$2,500 plus \$50 per year of service paid monthly
- Girls softball coach (U8, U10, U12, U14) at a yearly rate of \$1,000 plus \$20.62 per year of service paid monthly
- Baseball groundskeeper at \$11.20 hourly plus 25 cents per year of service paid biweekly
- Baseball gatekeeper at \$11.20 hourly plus 25 cents per year of service paid biweekly

### Other actions taken Tuesday:

The city council named a building inspector to identify code violations in the community. Dennis “Mike” Olson, doing business as OCCS Consulting/Contracting Service, will identify issues with proper maintenance of building exteriors, maintenance of yard area and safety issues in commercial and residential areas. Olson is a retired Edmunds County sheriff (1979-95), Aberdeen code enforcement officer (2003-14)

and Aberdeen City Councilman (2016-20).

- The council authorized accepting bids for the 2024 resurfacing of city streets, with bids to be opened at 7 p.m. March 5. Work on the project includes about 37,000 square yards of bituminous seal coat.
- The city will begin accepting quotes for 1,200 yards of gravel. Quotes are due March 5.

- Elizabeth Varin

## Reliable Energy is in Jeopardy

By: Steve Barnett & Jim Matheson

South Dakota’s families and businesses rightfully expect their lights to stay on at a price they can afford. Our national energy policies should support our cooperative mission, which is to provide safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to our member-owners.

Unfortunately, our country is now confronted with a harsh reality – we are quickly approaching a point where there won’t be enough electricity to go around.

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) is the nation’s grid watchdog. For years, the organization has issued a string of increasingly dire reports warning that threats to grid reliability are mounting and more frequent rolling blackouts could soon become the norm.

In fact, nine states experienced rolling blackouts at the end of 2022 as demand for electricity outstripped supply during a period of extreme cold. In its 2023-2024 Winter Reliability Assessment, NERC warned that half of the nation faces the same risk during extreme weather this winter.

Keeping the lights on is not a partisan issue. Yet, politics and energy policy have had an outsized impact on how we got here. The current state of our nation’s energy policy related to electricity can be summed up simply: Do more with less.

That’s just not sustainable. From data centers to EVs, from home heating and cooling to the way we run America’s farms, our nation is increasingly reliant on electricity to power the economy. As technology and energy demands advance, a recipe for rolling brownouts and blackouts is brewing.

Opposite that increasing demand for electricity is an alarming reduction in supply as our country shutter existing always available power plants to comply with various federal and state regulations.

South Dakota experiences extreme weather conditions throughout the year with temperatures rising above 100 degrees in the summer and falling far below zero in the winter. When the sun is not shining and when the wind is not blowing, renewable energy sources do not fit the bill for reliability. We simply cannot fully retire power plants that still have a useful life ahead of them.

The final challenge to meeting our nation’s energy needs is the arcane set of rules and regulations required to build anything in this country. The process for siting, permitting and building infrastructure - everything from solar farms, to pipelines to transmission lines - is mired in red tape and years of litigation.

These trends are not going to get any better in the coming years.

The EPA recently proposed a rule to overhaul the way always-available power plants operate – requiring them to either deploy carbon capture technology or run on clean hydrogen in seven years. The proposal is unlawful and will lead directly to more blackouts, higher costs, and uncertainty for America. That’s a dangerous approach to regulation.

We must have a serious conversation in this country about where we’re going and what it will take to realistically get there. Policymakers cannot overlook the laws of physics or the reality of the current situation. Adding more renewable resources to the nation’s energy portfolio can be part of the solution; however, since the wind doesn’t always blow and the sun doesn’t always shine, our country also needs a robust supply of readily available energy resources to call on at a moment’s notice.

Any long-term solution requires policymakers to recognize the need for time, technology development and new transmission infrastructure. These are essential ingredients for an energy future that prioritizes reliable electricity for all consumers.

Electricity powers industries, businesses, and technology. It fosters economic development vital for medical facilities, ensuring the functioning of life-saving equipment. Reliable power is essential for emergency services, law enforcement, and disaster response efforts. It also fuels innovation by supporting research, development, and deployment of new technologies.

Keeping the lights on is vital to South Dakota’s economy. The stakes are too high to get this wrong.

Steve Barnett is General Manager of the South Dakota Rural Electric Association, a statewide association that represents 31 member-owned electric cooperatives. He previously served as Secretary of State for South Dakota.

Jim Matheson is CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association that represents the nation’s more than 900 not-for-profit, consumer owned electric cooperatives. He previously served seven terms as a U.S. representative from Utah.

### Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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



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Dear EarthTalk: What are the climate benefits of switching over to a four-day workweek?

-- P. Proby, Denver, CO

Nearly 200 companies across the globe have completed six-month trials of a four-day workweek with promising results. Juliet Schor, an economist and sociologist at Boston College, is leading the trials with the nonprofit group Four Day Week Global. Schor says, "Stress, burn-out, mental health, physical health...job satisfaction... all of those are going in the right directions." While the four-day workweek seems to improve employee lives, the results of the trial also suggest that the shorter workweek has climate benefits as well.

The four-day workweek benefits the environment by lessening the environmental impacts of commuting, reducing energy consumption and cutting greenhouse gas emissions. In 2021, the transportation sector was the leading contributor of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S., accounting for around 28 percent of total emissions nationwide. By committing to a four-day workweek every employee could reduce their commute by 20 percent. Furthermore, during a six-month trial, workers spent less time commuting by car and more time biking and walking.

Another major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions is lighting, heating, cooling and generally powering up office buildings. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that commercial and residential buildings account for nearly 13 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. Keeping offices closed (or partially powered down) for an extra day per week could yield significant emissions reductions. Schor found that just a 10 percent reduction in work hours is linked to a 8.6 percent fall in carbon footprint.

Along with climate benefits, the four-day workweek provides employees with their own perks. During a 2022 trial in the U.K., of 70 firms, 56 said they planned to keep a four-day workweek in place after the trial ended. The most commonly cited benefits of the trial were increased productivity and significant financial savings for employees. Employ-

ees saved money on both transportation and childcare during the trial. The UK trial also found that during the four-day workweek daily production rose by 22 percent. This statistic exemplifies the main goal of four-day workweek which is the idea of improving efficiency by avoiding overworking employees. Rethinking the culture around work and the desire to constantly produce could not only benefit employees, but could yield reductions in carbon pollution.

The idea of the four-day workweek sounds great, but is it really viable? The fact is, most companies have been able to implement the four-day workweek without seeing a decline in productivity. A case study in New Zealand focused on Perpetual Guardian, an estate management company that started using the four-day workweek in 2018. The results were beyond expectations. Employees maintained their work output by eliminating unproductivity during work hours and working more efficiently. Additionally, all 240 employees experienced a 24 percent improvement in work-life balancing, while maintaining their high productivity levels. The employee perks, combined with the climate benefits, make the four-day workweek an increasingly strong option for businesses.

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**The four-day workweek benefits the environment by lessening the environmental impacts of commuting, reducing energy consumption and cutting greenhouse gas emissions.**

## "No Man is an Island"

"No man is an island, entire of itself, every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main." This is the beginning of a poem from 1624. In it, the poet John Donne appreciates how humans are all connected. Indeed, humans are



**Andrew Ellsworth, MD**



social beings, and social connection is a factor in our health.

We all know the importance of a healthy diet and exercise for our health. We are getting better at understanding the importance of mental health. One thing we do not discuss much, however, are the benefits of social connection.

Our relationships with family, friends, people at work and in the community have a major impact on our health and well-being. Those who are socially connected and have stable and supportive relationships can more easily make healthy choices and have better mental and physical health outcomes. Social connections can help us cope with stress, anxiety, depression, and hard times. Rates of most any disease are lower for those that feel a high sense of community. This includes lower rates of heart disease, strokes, dementia, depression, and anxiety. Social connection with others can improve sleep, decrease your risk of death, and reduce your risk of violence and suicide.

Similarly, marriage decreases your risk of disease. While you may not need to get married to have a life-long partner, the benefits of a long-term relationship are well established. Marriage has been found to help with lower rates of cancer, dementia, and increases your chances of surviving a heart attack.

Loneliness is becoming more rampant even as cities grow larger and transportation faster. We seem to have everything right on our phones to keep us company. Somehow, despite all these advances in technology, or perhaps because of them, people can feel ever more isolated and alone.

So how do we build community? How do we foster social connections? One way is to encourage face to face contact, to get people together. Schools, sporting events, churches, grocery stores, coffee shops, parks, concerts, festivals, and more all help to build community. Civic organizations and volunteering can help foster social connections and help us find meaning and purpose.

You can improve your social connections right now. You could call someone. You could consider going to a local basketball game, visiting someone alone in their home, or seek out a volunteer opportunity. When you increase your sense of social connection and community, you can improve your health. When you brighten up someone else's day, you often brighten your own.

John Donne's famous poem "No Man is an Island" ends with a warning: "Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind. And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

Andrew Ellsworth, M.D. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices family medicine in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at [www.prairiedoc.org](http://www.prairiedoc.org) and on Facebook and Instagram featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show celebrating its 22nd season of health information based on science, built on trust, streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

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