



\$2

The Groton Independent

Vol. 141 No. 25 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, March 13, 2024 ♦ Established in 1889



Columbia area residents attended the first meeting at the Columbia American Legion Monday to hear about the Groton Area's opt out. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Concerns about fiscal situation, football take stage at school district meeting

Finances, faculty and football failed to fill the room at the Columbia American Legion building.

However, more than a dozen members of the Groton Area School District community attended the first of three public meetings to discuss the proposed opt-out of tax levy limitations.

The school board voted in January to impose the excess tax – a maximum of 1.25 million per year starting with calendar year 2024 taxes payable in calendar year 2025. The issue was referred to a vote, set to take place April 9.

The district scheduled three informational meetings, the first that took place Monday evening.

For about an hour, district officials discussed the need for more general fund revenue.

"I do wish we were able to talk about things we could add," said Superintendent Joe Schwan. "We're having a discussion about 'how do we maintain and keep what we have going on.'"

"...An opt-out is nothing short of a tax increase," he added. "That's what it is. It's opting out of the imposed tax levy limitation."

The opt-out would allow more funding to come in to the general fund, the account that includes the day-to-day operation of the schools. About 80 to 85 percent of the general fund goes toward personnel salary and benefits, said Becky Hubsch, business manager.

The capital outlay is for expenses like text books, technology equipment and facilities maintenance.

In 2016, the state's funding formula for schools was rewritten, which continues impacting the Groton district negatively.

The Groton district used to benefit from telecommunication and windmill taxes, which was given to the districts on top of state funding. In 2016, that was equalized for the state.

At that time, the pension fund levy was eliminated, Schwan said. The district had been able to pay its share of retirement costs, but

that went away.

The pension fund levy brought in about \$100,000 per year, and other revenues like the wind farm and utility taxes brought in more than \$800,000.

Those in the crowd asked why an opt-out wasn't proposed in 2016.

The district has been routing some money from the capital outlay fund to the general fund, and officials had hoped to stay out of a position to need an opt-out. However, "the wells running dry," Schwan said.

If the opt-out is not approved at the polls, there would be an immediate impact which would include reduction in non-core educational programs.

"An opt-out is one solution to our issue," Schwan said. "If there's not support for the opt-out, then the conversation has to be had, 'what do we want to have?'"

"As a district, what do we want to do," he continued. "What programs do we have to offer our kids and how are we going to do that."

Others asked what is currently in the capital outlay fund (about \$771,000 as of the end of February), whether the funds Groton lost since 2016 has gone to someone else (yes) and whether putting more money into the capital outlay fund would keep up with inflation (likely no).

There are other districts in the region facing the same issues, said Board Vice President Marty Weismantel.

"They're all in the same boat," he said.

Two more community meetings are scheduled for 6 p.m. March 19 at the Bristol Community Center and 6 p.m. March 25 at the Groton Community Center.

The election is scheduled for April 9, and absentee early voting is available now at the Groton Area School District. The office is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday (not including days when the school is closed).

See School Board on Back Page



Brown County Burn Ban in effect

The Brown County Commission has enacted a fire danger emergency and is prohibiting open burning. This will go into effect immediately on March 12, 2024 and will be in place until further notice.

The ban is imposed to prohibit or restrict open burning with the exception of barbecue grills.

This ban is put in place in order to protect the public health and safety.

Questions can be directed to the Brown County Emergency Management Office at 605-626-7122.



The end of the road!

For these six seniors, the end of the road is the State A Basketball Tournament in Rapid City. These GHS Seniors have been playing basketball together since they were in first grade in 2013. They will embark on their final basketball journey at Groton Area this weekend. Pictured are Holden Sippel, Lane Tietz, Braxton Imrie, Logan Ringgenberg, Colby Dunker and Jacob Zak. (Photo courtesy Dawn Imrie)

Fast food in fast decline

I live about 100 miles from any major city so over the years we've had a house rule. If you get to Bismarck, Jamestown, or Aberdeen, bring home some fast food. What's mundane to urban dwellers is a treat to those of us who live in rural areas.

Plus, since we have to spend much of the day on the road, fast food becomes a logical culinary solution. Sometimes your schedule is tight and you just need to eat.

Several weeks ago, I complained on social media about getting two dry Quarter Pounders back to back. I was immediately taken to task by my woke friends who told me:

- I shouldn't be eating fast food in the first place; I should cook a nutritious meal when I get home (in two hours). Gee, thanks. Never thought of that option. You should be my life coach. Not to get religious on y'all but to everything there is a season. Maybe I haven't eaten in 15 hours. Maybe this is a matter of life and death. There's a reason we have convenience stores. Hint: Because they're convenient. Same deal with fast food. Maybe I don't have time to get together with Ward, June, Wally, and The Beav. I am single-handedly responsible for the decline of the American family.

- Did you know that (insert fast-food restaurant here) supports this (non-woke) political cause? No. But I'm dying here. If Stalin himself offered me water in a scorching desert, I think I'd swig now and ask questions later. Heck, I can't fight the Commies if I'm dead. Sure, I think Chick-fil-A is wound a bit tight and their sandwiches are overrated, but if a buddy brings me a chicken sandwich, I'm eating it. That's what happened last spring in Chicago, and when I posted a photo of my meal, as required by law these days, I got chewed out for eating a politically incorrect sandwich. I guess I should have kicked my buddy's butt.

Anyway, the bad Quarter Pounders, from different restaurants, were a surprise. One of the attributes of fast food restaurants is consistency. So, getting two dry quarter pounders in a row—which you don't discover until you're 20 miles down the road—got me wondering if it was economics. Inflation. The high cost of doing business. Some fast food just isn't a bargain, anymore.



That's Life

by Tony Bender

In one instance, I'd ordered a Quarter Pounder meal with a separate fish sandwich and the price was more than \$19. Fast food is not only supposed to be fast, it's supposed to be affordable. Comparatively, every Monday, my local bar and restaurant, the Stein Haus, offers ground ribeye burgers for about the same price as a Quarter Pounder. They're fantastic.

Last week, I swung into a longtime favorite taco place for instant gratification and some extra tacos for the weekend. Gus the Wonder Pug was my copilot, so I made sure to get his favorite, Potato Ole's. As we headed toward Interstate, I offered him one; he sniffed and turned away. The entire container was filled with hard, under-seasoned Ole's.

I am not a difficult customer. In my entire life, I've never sent a meal back. However, I have gotten a meal I couldn't eat. Which is as unprecedented as Gus turning down anything edible.

I wheeled around. I received an apology and a fresh batch of Ole's. They were still under-seasoned and somewhat overcooked, but it was, well, progress. Anyone can have a bad day. It may have been inexperienced employees. Anyway, Gus found them palatable enough.

In decades of drive through purchases I don't recall getting bad food. A forgotten burger or two, sure—again, discovered when you're 20 miles down the road—but bad food? No. Heck, I still buy SPAM and Slim Jims, so I don't think my palate has gotten more refined.

I suppose having three negative experiences in short order could be a coincidence, but when you see an increasing number of closed fast food restaurants, it's easy to speculate that food that otherwise might be tossed is staying on the warmer longer. But charging more for less quality is not a good business model.

© Tony Bender, 2022

Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

NFL free agency starts this week – and may have already begun depending on when you are reading this. Last week we evaluated the offensive side of the ball, so this week we turn our attention to the defense.

Defensive Line – After Mike Zimmer left in 2022, the Vikings switched from a 4-3 defense to a 3-4 alignment. The 3-4 defense attempts to counter the offensive line with only three defensive linemen (a nose tackle and two defensive ends), which allows an extra defender to rush the passer or drop into coverage. In

theory, it's a great scheme – but only if the defense has the correct type of players to run it. Unfortunately for the Vikings, they don't. Harrison Phillips is the best defensive lineman on the roster, but he has been asked to play out of position at nose tackle. If the Vikings can acquire a true nose tackle and move Phillips to defensive end, it would go a long way toward improving the defensive line. Besides Phillips, the Vikings have Jaquelin Roy, Dean Lowry, Patrick Jones, and Andre Carter II on the D-line – none of whom are difference-makers.

Outside Linebacker – The other change in a 3-4 defense involves the pass rushers. In a 4-3, pass rushers were labeled as defensive ends and usually lined up on the defensive line with their hands in the dirt. In a 3-4 defense, those players are moved to the outside linebacker position, where they can either rush the passer or drop into coverage. Last season Danielle Hunter and D.J. Wonnum were the starting OLB, but they are both free agents this offseason, so finding pass rushers will be a top priority for the Vikings.

Inside Linebacker – Last season, Jordan Hicks and undrafted rookie Ivan Pace Jr. were the team's primary inside linebackers. Hicks was playing well until an injury forced him to miss four games, but he will be 32 years old when the season starts and he is currently a free agent. Ivan Pace Jr. played well as a rookie and will enter training camp penciled in as one of the two starting inside linebackers. Luckily for the Vikings, the inside linebacker position has been de-valued in the modern NFL, so finding another capable starter in free agency won't be terribly expensive.

Cornerback – One of the few positions on the team that has good depth, cornerback will be low on the list of needs this offseason. Byron Murphy was brought in a year ago and is a capable starter, but the other CB position is wide open. Andrew Booth Jr. was a second-round pick in 2022 but has only managed to start two games these past two seasons. Akayleb Evans, a fourth-round pick from that same draft, started 15 games last season but saw a decline in play as the year rolled on. Mekhi Blackmon, a third-round pick in the 2023 draft, worked his way up the depth chart and eventually started three games last season. Those three players will be in the mix to be a starter this season, while A.J. Green, Theo Jackson, NaJee Thompson, Jay Ward, Jaylin Williams, and Joejuan Williams will battle it out to make the final roster.

Safety – Harrison Smith has been one of the best safeties in the league since he was drafted in 2012, but he is 35 years old and has a massive cap hit this year (\$19.2M) and next year (\$22M). I expect we'll hear something any day now regarding Smith, whether that is him retiring or the team asking him to take a pay cut. Camryn Bynum is the other starting safety for the Vikings and has started every game the past two seasons. Josh Metellus could be considered the team's third starting safety. Metellus was the team's Swiss army knife, lining up all over the field from safety to slot cornerback to linebacker and even some snaps as a pass rusher. Lewis Cine is the other safety on the roster, and to say he has been a disappointment would be an understatement. In the 2022 draft, the Vikings were in position to draft safety Kyle Hamilton, who is already considered one of the best safeties in the league. Instead, the team decided to trade down and draft Lewis Cine. Before his horrific injury in week four of the 2022 season, Cine was relegated to special teams. Although he was healthy to begin the 2023 season, he still couldn't see the field on defense, as he was a healthy scratch 10 games last season and didn't get any snaps on defense until week 17. Luckily, if Harrison Smith leaves, there are a ton of good safeties available through free agency.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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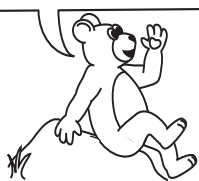
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Women Leading the Way!

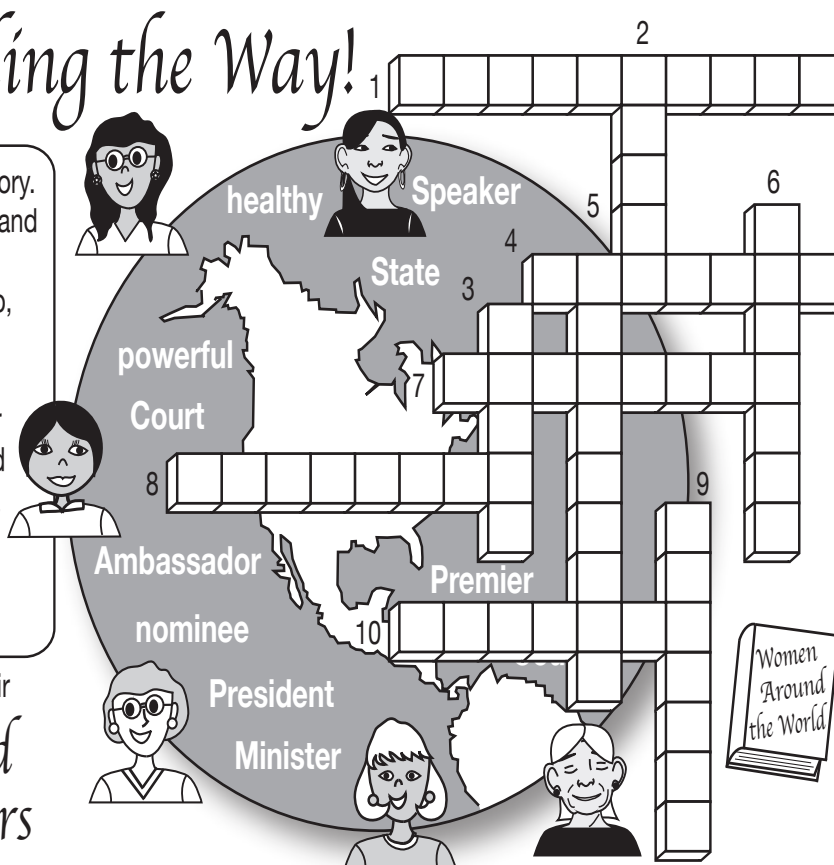
We visited the library to learn about women's achievements throughout history. It was easy to find books about *men's* leadership in the worlds of politics, arts and sciences. But, finding details about *women's* leadership was much harder! We learned that, until recently, women had few opportunities to lead, and many job, career and education choices were not open to them. A few women, such as Eleanor Roosevelt and Marie Curie, were credited with helping their husbands.

Today, women are better educated than ever before, and may work inside or outside the home. Those who decide to build a career may get challenging and higher-paying jobs, working alongside men in many fields. Through the years a lot of women have worked very hard – and taken big risks – to help create new things, start new organizations and gain rights and freedoms that might have seemed impossible in the past. They have made the world a better place!

Read the clues below to learn about women known all over the world for their contributions to leadership and politics. **Can you fill in the puzzle with the word that completes each sentence?**

World Leaders

- Nimarata "Nikki" Haley** was Governor of South Carolina and U.S. _____ to the United Nations; presidential candidate.
- Condoleezza Rice** was the first female African American Secretary of _____, a job in which she traveled the world to work with leaders.
- Ruth Bader Ginsburg** was a Justice on the U.S. Supreme _____ . She helped to decide what the U.S. Constitution means!
- Nancy Pelosi** was the first female _____ of the House of Representatives, one of the most powerful positions in the U.S. government.
- Kamala Harris** is the first female Vice - _____ of the U.S.
- Michelle Obama**, a writer, lawyer and former U.S. First Lady. She encourages people to work on a _____ lifestyle.



- Angela Merkel** was Chancellor (leader) of Germany from 2005 to 2021. She was one of the most _____ women in the world.
- Kim Campbell** was the first (and only) female Prime _____ of Canada. She served in her position for about 4 months!
- Rachel Notley** was the _____ of Alberta, Canada (2015 - 2019). (A job similar to a state Governor in the U.S.); party leader.
- Hillary Clinton** was First Lady, Senator, Secretary of State and the first female _____ for U.S. president for a major political party.

Connect the dots to see the symbol of the American Red Cross.

13 N B E E A S E
 H H L L N J L
 M N T I T G A
 O J P Z O N G
 T D A A N I N
 H R F B I B E
 M O D H E F E T P E A R T Q R C B J H
 N F D S I U R H A T N B H I Q P E R G
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Women in Health and Medicine



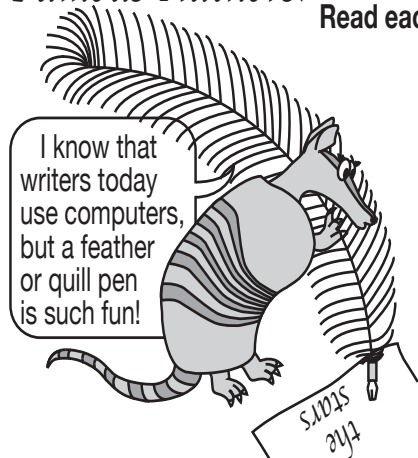
Images from Wikimedia Commons

These women are famous for their contributions in the fields of health and medicine. **Read about them, then find and circle their names in the puzzle.**

- Clara Barton** – started The American Red Cross, which provides emergency assistance to people facing disasters and teaches people how to perform first aid.
- Elizabeth Blackwell** – first woman to graduate from medical school with an M.D. and become a doctor.
- Mother Teresa** – nun who organized missions in 123 countries to help the poor, sick and dying; won the Nobel Peace Prize.
- Dr. Antonia Novello** – First female U.S. Surgeon General; was in charge of public health in the U.S.
- Florence Nightingale** – pioneer of nursing who changed how we care for soldiers during wartime.
- Patricia Bath** – eye doctor and inventor who was the first African American woman to earn a patent for an invention in the medical field.

Famous Authors!

These women have reached and affected millions of people through their writings. **Read each clue, then write the last name of the author in the puzzle:**

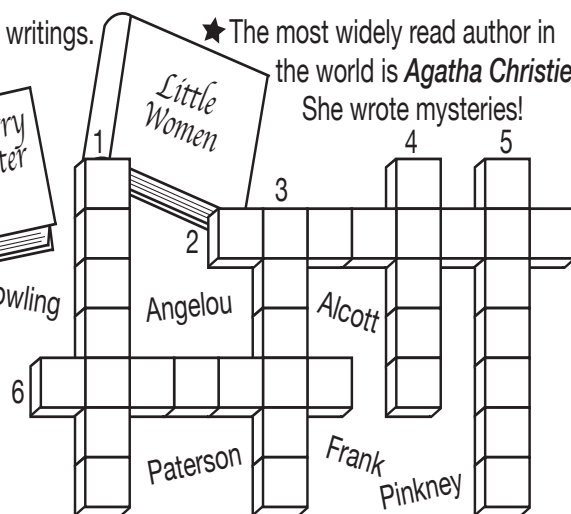


I know that writers today use computers, but a feather or quill pen is such fun!

- Andrea Davis _____ award-winning children's author who writes about African American culture.
- Katherine _____ wrote **Bridge to Terabithia** and a number of other books, and has received many awards.
- Louisa May _____ wrote **Little Women**, a story about being the best that one can be.
- Anne _____ wrote a diary that told of two years of hiding from the Nazis while living in an attic with her family.
- J.K. _____ is best known for her **Harry Potter** book series.
- Maya _____ African American poet who is best known for her autobiography **I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings**.



Rowling



★ The most widely read author in the world is **Agatha Christie**. She wrote mysteries!

The Groton Independent
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Marty Weismantel
605/396-7341
weisag@nvc.net

Stratford Town
Feb. 13 Meeting

Stratford Town Board Meeting February 13th, 2024
Prickett called meeting to order with Schley, Jark, and Kwak in attendance.

A motion was made by Jark, seconded by Jark, carried; to approve the Jan 9th, 2024 minutes as read. A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Jark, carried; to approve the financials as presented.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE
NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Jark, carried; to sign 2024 annual inspection agreement with Dakota Pump & Control for sewer lift station maintenance.

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Schley, carried; to use our Stripe payment link going forward for online utility payments and the city will pay transaction fees until further notice.

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Schley, carried; to approve the following claims for payment: -General Fund- NWE Bills: \$513.33, 52.86, 19.90, 264.14, 1,109.02, 15.39; James Valley: \$43.67; Quick-books: \$95.58; United Fire: \$574.00; Menards: \$27.37 (town hall supplies); Wal-Mart: 241.44 (office supplies); Kens: 136.00 (postage); Target: \$9.93 (office supplies); Vistaprint: 76.47 (office supplies); Stratford Fire Dept: \$4,387.75; John Seigh Agency: \$175.00 (anna bond); Groton Independent: \$171.09; Anna Kwak: \$820 (hourly wages); Dusty Schley: \$200 (hourly wages). -Water Sewer Fund-NWE Bills: \$148.86, 18.65; Web Water: \$1,459.29; Water Project: Helms \$3,025.46; DSG: \$1,720.00; USDA RD Loan Payment: \$478.00; NESD Loan Payment: \$383.71; Water District Maintenance: \$6,887.79.

The next board meeting will be held on March 12th, 2024, at 6:00pm at the Town Hall. Equalization meeting will be held March 18th, 2024, at 6:00pm at the Town Hall.

A motion was made by Schley, seconded by Prickett, carried; to adjourn the meeting.

Anna Kwak Finance Officer
Published March 13, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$19.04 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23078

Stratford, South Dakota. Those appealing will be notified of their scheduled time to meet with the Board.

Anna Kwak, FO
Stratford, SD
Published March 13, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$7.97 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23080

Stratford Town
Feb. 27 Meeting

Stratford Town Board Meeting February 27th, 2024

Prickett called meeting to order with Schley, Jark, and Kwak in attendance.

CODE ENFORCEMENT DISCUSSION:

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Schley, carried; to enter contract with Dennis (Mike) Olson as Code Enforcement Officer for the Town of Stratford for 2024 and pay the \$1,500 retainer fee.

The next board meeting will be held on March 12th, 2024, at 6:00pm at the Town Hall. Equalization meeting will be held March 18th, 2024, at 6:00pm at the Town Hall.

A motion was made by Schley, seconded by Prickett, carried; to adjourn the meeting.

Anna Kwak Finance Officer
Published March 13, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$8.00 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23079

State of S.D.
Scholz Hearing

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
COUNTY OF BROWN
SS))
IN CIRCUIT COURT
FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
A&N 23-7

NOTICE OF FINAL DISPOSITIONAL HEARING

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA IN THE INTEREST OF M.N. MINOR CHILD, AND CONCERNING LAURA LEE SCHOLZ AND JESSE NIKODYM, RESPONDENTS.

To: Laura Scholz
Please take notice and be advised that the above-entitled matter has been scheduled for a Final Disposition Hearing on May 10, 2024, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., before the Honorable Circuit Judge Julie Dvorak, at the Brown County Courthouse, Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Petitioner hereby notifies Respondents of intent to terminate parental rights.
Dated this 4th day of March, 2024
/s/ Karla Nelson, Deputy
Brown County States Attorney
Published March 13, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$11.34 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23074

Frederick School
Voter Registration

NOTICE OF DEADLINE FOR VOTER REGISTRATION
FREDERICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 6-2

Voter registration for the 2024 Opt Out Election to be held on April 9, 2024, will close on March 25, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. Failure to register by this date will cause forfeiture of voting rights for this election. If you are in doubt about whether you are registered, check the Voter Information Portal at www.sdsos.gov or call the county auditor at 605-626-7110.

Registration may be completed during regular business hours at the county auditor's office, municipal finance office, secretary of state's office, and those locations which provide driver's licenses, SNAP, TANF, WIC, military recruitment, and assistance to the disabled as provided by the Department of Human Services. You may contact the county auditor to request a mail-in registration form or access a mail-in form at www.sdsos.gov.

Any voter who needs assistance, pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, may contact the county auditor for information and special assistance in voter registration.

Shauna Severson
Business Manager
Published March 6 and 13, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$24.28 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23058

Groton School
Voter Registration

NOTICE OF DEADLINE FOR VOTER REGISTRATION
GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6

Voter registration for the Groton Area School District School General Fund OPT OUT Election to be held on April 9, 2024, will close on March 25, 2024. Failure to register by this date will cause forfeiture of voting rights for this election. If you are in doubt about whether you are registered check the Voter Information Portal at www.sdsos.gov or call the Brown County Auditor at (605) 626-7110, the Clark County Auditor at (605) 532-5921, Day County Auditor at (605) 345-9500, Marshall County Auditor at (605) 448-2401, or Spink County Auditor at (605) 472-4580.

Registration may be completed during regular business hours at the county auditor's office, municipal finance office, secretary of state's office and those locations which provide driver's licenses, SNAP, TANF, WIC, military recruitment, and assistance to the disabled as provided by the Department of Human Services. You may contact your county auditor to request a mail-in registration form or access a mail-in form at www.sdsos.gov.

Any voter who needs assistance, pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, may contact the county auditor for information and special assistance in voter registration.

Becky Hubsch, Business Official

Groton Area School District
Published March 6 and 13, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$28.69 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23059

Putney Township
Equalization Meeting

Putney Township Equalization Meeting Notice:

The Putney Township Board of Equalization will meet at Mark Thompson's Shop on Monday, March 18, 2024 at 5:00 pm.

All persons disputing their assessments are requested to notify the clerk prior to the meeting.

Mark Thompson
Putney Township Clerk
Published March 6 and March 13, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$9.96 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23066

Groton City
Equalization Meeting

PUBLIC NOTICE TO GROTON PROPERTY OWNERS

Notice is hereby given that City Council, sitting as the Local Board of Equalization, will meet at City Hall, 120 N Main Street, Groton, SD, for the purpose of reviewing, correcting and equalizing the assessment of property on March 19, 2024, at 8:00 pm, following the regular council meeting.

Appeals must be submitted in writing with supporting documentation by 5:00pm Thursday, March 14th at City Hall or mail appeals to the Finance Officer, PO Box 587 Groton, South Dakota. Those appealing will be notified of their scheduled time to meet with the Board. Contact City Hall for more information at 605-397-8422.

Douglas J. Heinrich, Groton City Finance Officer

Published March 6 and 13, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$16.56 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23065

Henry Township
Equalization Meeting

Henry Township Equalization Meeting Notice:

Notice is hereby given that the governing body section will serve as review board of Henry Township, Brown County. They will be meeting at 7 pm. on Monday, March 18, 2023, at Doug Abeln Seed Company Office for the purpose of reviewing and correcting of the assessment set of the tax districts for the year 2023. All persons considering disputing their assessments are requested to notify the clerk of the board in writing no later than March 15, 2024. Hearings are by appointment only.

/s/ Darlene Sass
Henry Township Clerk
13120 403rd Ave.
Groton, SD 57445

Published March 6 and March 13, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$14.90 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23067

Bates Township
Equalization Meeting

Bates Township Equalization Meeting Notice:

The Bates Township Board of Equalization will meet at the Clerk's home on Tuesday, March 19th, 2024 at 6:30 pm.

All persons disputing their assessments are requested to notify the clerk prior to the meeting.

Betty Geist
Bates Township Clerk
14523 409th Ave
Conde, SD 57434

Published March 6 and March 13, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$10.49 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23068

Groton Township
Equalization Meeting

Groton Township Equalization Meeting Notice:

The Groton Township Board of Equalization will meet at Sun & Sea Travel, 8 US 12, Groton, on Monday, March 18th, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

All persons disputing their assessments are requested to notify the clerk prior to the meeting.

Jeff Howard
Groton Township Clerk
Published March 13, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$5.52 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23077

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Stratford Town
Equalization Meeting

PUBLIC NOTICE TO STRATFORDPROPERTY OWNERS

Notice is hereby given that the town board, sitting as the Local Board of Equalization, will meet at City Hall, for the purpose of reviewing, correcting and equalizing the assessment of property on March 18, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

Appeals must be submitted in writing with supporting documentation by 5:00pm Friday, March 15 at City Hall or mail appeals to the Finance Officer,

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Frederick Town
March 4 Meeting

City of Frederick
March 4, 2024 Minutes
Frederick's town board meeting was held Monday, March 4, 2024 in the Frederick Community Center beginning at 8:05 PM. Attending the meeting were Chairman Scott Campbell, Board members Troy Millard and Jeff Kosters, Finance Officer Jennifer Morlock and Assistant Finance Officer Mariah Heine.

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

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

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
MDU electric BP/Wtr/Mun Bldg/SP/Sts/Swr/EBL \$1,438.45; Brown County Sheriff's Office deputy svcs Gen'l \$1,041.67; Century Bus Products printer Gen'l \$75.11; Dahme Construction demo house Gen'l \$26,052.24; Dahme Construction leak Wtr \$6,556.07; Dependable Sanitation Grbg \$1,723; DRN Readitech service FO \$21.04; EFPTS taxes Gen'l/FO/CC/EBL/Sts/Wtr/Swr/Cmty \$945.88; FDC Econ Devlp \$1200; GDI minutes Gen'l \$23.73; USDA-RD loan Swr \$3,763; J. Kosters wage Gen'l \$46.17; J. Morlock wage FO \$1,443.04; JVT Gen'l/Wtr/EBL/FO \$289.93; M. Cox wage EBL \$625.30; M. Heine wage FO \$1,195.64; Marty Morlock meter work Wtr \$600.27; Metering & Technology supplies Wtr \$613.22; R. Bakeberg supervisor wage Wtr \$230.87; S. Campbell wage Gen'l \$69.26; SD Dept of Health Wtr \$15; SD Dept of Rev sales tax Gen'l \$65.78; VISA postage Gen'l \$15.24; USDA-RD loan Wtr \$475; WEB Water Wtr \$4,640.55

OLD BUSINESS
Scott Campbell provided a utility report. The board reviewed the Brown County Sheriff's report from patrolling the area. Troy Millard turned in a petition for the board vacancy.

NEW BUSINESS
Equalization Week is March 18-22 and meetings will be held in the Frederick Community Center on Monday, March 18th at 7 PM. The city will act as a passthrough agent for the Fredrick Athletic Association for a grant from the North Brown Community Foundation.

The next regular meeting will be Wednesday, April 3 at 7 PM. Motion to adjourn made by Millard/Kosters at 8:59 PM; motion carried.
M. Heine
Assistant Finance Officer
Published March 13, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$23.73 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23075

Brown County
March 5 Meeting

MARCH 5, 2024 – 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 and Sutton. Commissioners Gage and Wiese were Absent. Auditor Heupel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: None

BID NOTICE OF AWARD – WOOD WASTE GRINDING: Time and place as advertised to open, read and consider sealed bids for Wood Waste Grinding at the Brown County Landfill for 2024. One bid was received from Dakota Wood-Grinding, Inc. from Rosemount, MN in the amount of \$750.00 per hour and \$2,500.00 for Mobilization. Mike Scott, Landfill Manager recommended to accept the bid from Dakota Wood-Grinding, Inc. at \$750.00 per hour for grinding and \$2,500.00 for mobilization and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the agreement. All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

BID NOTICE OF AWARD – WASTE TIRE REMOVAL: Time and place as advertised to open, read and consider sealed bids for Waste Tire Removal at the Brown County Landfill for 2024. Bids were received from Liberty Tire for \$218.00 per ton and Saber Shred for \$235.00 per ton. Mike Scott, Landfill Manager recommended going with Liberty Tire at \$218.00 per ton. Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Dennert to award the bid to Liberty Tire for \$218.00 per ton. All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASE-LANDFILL: Mike Scott, Landfill Manager requested to purchase a 2006 Osh Kosh T-1500 Fire Truck from Federal Surplus in Huron, SD for \$13,000.00. The Fire Truck only has 7,450 miles and 1,048 hours on it. Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Denner to approve the purchase of the 2006 Osh Kosh T1500 Fire Truck from Federal Surplus for \$13,000.00 to be used at the Brown County Landfill. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

SPRING RESIDENTIAL CLEAN-UP: Mike Scott, Landfill Manager met with the Commissioners to ask them to waive the fees for the Spring Residential Clean-up which will be from April 26th to May 11th. There is a 4-tire limit. One change this year is

that there will be only one drop off site in Aberdeen on Saturday, April 27th and it will be at Jensen's Rock & Sand located on South 5th Street from 8am to 5pm. All other dates the items will need to be delivered to the Landfill. Moved by Commissioner Dennert to approve waiving the fees during Spring Residential Clean-up, seconded by Fjeldheim. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve the February 27, 2024 General Meeting Minutes. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL: Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Dennert to approve the following CLAIMS: Insurance: SD Public Assurance Alliance \$289,917.68. Professional Fees: CO-OP Architecture \$3,562.50; Helms & Associates \$320.00; Kennedy Pier Loftus & Reynolds, LLP \$253.00; Lincoln County Auditor \$233.80; Lucy Lewno \$90.00; Mark Katterhagen \$27.00; Minnehaha County Auditor \$435.66; Priority Dispatch Corp \$3,496.00; Schneider Geospatial, LLC \$2,916.00; SD Dept of Transportation \$2,696.59; SD Secretary of State \$30.00; Taliaferro Law Firm, PC \$51.50; Valerie Larson \$27.00. Publishing: Groton Daily Independent \$120.59; Heartland Association of Fairs, Festivals & Events \$400.00; McQuillen Creative Group, Inc \$400.00; South Dakota Magazine \$255.00. Repairs & Maintenance: B & B Contracting, Inc \$15,339.86; Dakota Pump LLC \$26,309.29; Fox Law Firm, PLLC \$220.00; House of Glass \$279.99; Hoven Auto Repair, Inc \$356.05; K&S Plumbing, Inc \$3,506.24; Lawson Products, Inc \$37.87; Leidholt Electric, LLC \$1,381.33; SD Dept of Public Safety \$2,340.00; SD Public Assurance Alliance \$3,348.03. Supplies: Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$516.87; Bakken Building Maintenance \$500.00; Brandon Mills \$200.00; Correct RX Pharmacy Services, Inc \$29.23; Crawford Trucks & Equipment \$421.36; DiscountCell LLC \$1,352.70; Farm Power Mfg \$7.20; Fastenal Company \$347.68; Fox Law Firm, PLLC \$3.53; GovConnection, Inc \$185.15; Graham Tire Inc \$844.48; Lawson Products, Inc \$448.64; Leidholt Electric, LLC \$28.19; Lucy Lewno \$1.50; Menards \$361.95; Meyers Tractor Salvage, LLC \$500.00; Midstates Group \$178.50; Network Center, Inc \$1,351.75; Performance Oil \$119.15; Safety Service \$3,400.00; Warn Chemical & Equipment Company, Inc \$402.98. Travel & Conference: Kristin Boeshans \$20.40; Lynn Heupel \$221.84; SD Narcotics Officers Association \$100.00; Spearfish Holiday Inn Convention Center \$575.43; Stephanie Jacobson \$54.00. Utilities: AT&T Mobility \$185.09; CenturyLink \$305.67; Midcontinent Communications \$327.44; Northwestern Energy \$3,035.50. Machinery & Equipment: Karl Chevrolet \$97,322.80; Transource Truck & Equipment, Inc \$146,000.00. Others: SD Dept of Agriculture

& Natural Resources \$600.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

- Employment ending for Dorren Howell, Brown County Sheriff's Office Records Technician, FT; effective February 23, 2024. Request to fill.
- Employment ending for LeeAnn Harrell, Brown County Jail/JDC Nurse, PRN; effective February 23, 2024.
- Promotion of Stephanie Morgan from Brown County Appraisal Assistant to Brown County Real Property Appraiser, starting wage \$23.50/hr.; effective March 3, 2024. Will move from Grade 15A to Grade 16A (\$24.69), once temporary certification concludes, and permanent certification commences; effective September 1, 2024.
- Hiring of Brenda Lyke and Allison Campton as Brown County Jail/JDC Nurse, PRN – PT Temporary; effective February 23, 2024. Approximate time-period for assignment is two weeks.
- Request to fill State's Attorney Legal Assistant.
- Governor granted State Holidays off: Good Friday, March 29, 2024 and Easter Monday, April 1, 2024.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

TRAVEL REQUESTS: Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Dennert to approve the following travel request: Mariann Malsom, Register of Deeds to go to Lake Region District Meeting in Sisseton on March 28, 2024. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

WEED & PEST CHEMICAL BIDS: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Sutton to authorize advertising public hearing to open, read and consider bids for weed and pest chemical at 8:45 a.m., on Tuesday, March 26, 2023, in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. Specifications are online brown.sd.us and on file in the Brown County Auditor's Office. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LEASE AGREEMENTS: Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Dennert to approve

and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the following lease agreement: Kayden Svarstad for lease of Club House on September 7, 2024 for Wedding; Aberdeen Area Humane Society for lease of the Holum Expo Building on May 4, 2024 for Spring Second Paw Sale. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ABATEMENTS: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve the following abatements: for Tax Year 2024: for Joe Malsom, Parcel #24778 \$146.00 and for Richmond Heights Homeowners Assoc., Parcel #21274 \$75.33. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

SPECIAL EVENT MALT BEVERAGE LICENSE: Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Dennert to authorize advertising a public hearing to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD on March 26, 2024 to consider the following application for Special Malt Beverage License, submitted by Boys & Girls Club of Aberdeen Area, Aberdeen, SD – Holum Expo Building, SW ¼ of Sec 1-T123N-R64 Brown County, SD. Special License effective April 12-13, 2024. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LANDFILL TONNAGE REPORT: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Sutton to acknowledge the Landfill Tonnage Report for February 2024. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Dennert to go into executive session to discuss Personnel and Legal/Contracts per SDCL 1-25-2. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. The chair declared the executive session closed with no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Fjeldheim to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:17 a.m. All members present

and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the following lease agreement: Kayden Svarstad for lease of Club House on September 7, 2024 for Wedding; Aberdeen Area Humane Society for lease of the Holum Expo Building on May 4, 2024 for Spring Second Paw Sale. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor
Published March 13, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$87.20 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23076

Published March 13, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$87.20 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23076

Brown County
Boys & Girls Club Notice

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR SPECIAL MALT BEVERAGE LICENSE

Notice is hereby given according to SDCL 35-2, a Public Hearing on the following Malt Beverage License Application is set for the 26th day of March, 2024, in the Chambers of the Brown County Commissioners, in the Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota, at which time any interested persons wishing to register complaint on their approval may appear: Boys & Girls Club of Aberdeen Area, Aberdeen, SD – Holum Expo Building, SW ¼ of Sec 1-T123N-R64 Brown County, SD. Special License effective April 12-13, 2024.

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor


Lethargic Light Gray
SDLF-1978

South Dakota has thousands of homes with aging lead-based paint, older plumbing, and a host of other things that cause lead poisoning in children.

Symptoms include: **lethargy, vomiting, diarrhea, irritability and nausea.**

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Together we'll make SD Lead-Free!



ATTENTION TAXPAYERS:
NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE OF \$1,250,000 RESOLUTION FOR OPT OUT AND VOTE TO BE HELD

THE GOVERNING BOARD OF GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 06-6 do state that the above said board is unable to operate under the tax limitation measure currently in statute for the General fund. We, therefore, OPT OUT of such tax limitation in the amount of \$1,250,000 starting with the calendar year 2024 taxes payable in the calendar year 2025. This opt out will be for ten years, which will be through taxes payable in the calendar year 2034 This action has been taken by the board and approved by at least a two-thirds vote of the board.

Also, be it resolved that the GOVERNING BOARD OF GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 06-6 will conduct an election to approve or disapprove the tax levy opt out pursuant to SDCL 10-12-43. The election will be held on April 9, 2024.

Signed
Deborah Gengerke, Board Chairman
Tigh Fliehs, Board Member
Heather Lerseth-Fliehs, Board Member
Kara Pharis, Board Member
Martin Weismantel, Board Member
Date- February 29, 2024

Published March 6 and 13, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$165.00 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23063

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Egg on
- 5 Science room
- 8 Arm bone
- 12 Actress Gilpin
- 13 Hosp. area
- 14 Wedding cake layer
- 15 Bridge position
- 16 Not "agin"
- 17 "Snap out –!"
- 18 Monet or Debussy
- 20 Wards off
- 22 "– Poetica"
- 23 Be sick
- 24 Healthy
- 27 Embeds
- 32 Comic Philips
- 33 Menagerie
- 34 Trio after M
- 35 Fish lover's deli order
- 38 Group of quail
- 39 Transcript no.
- 40 Parched
- 42 Oracle setting
- 45 "Brigadoon" lyricist
- 49 Buffalo's county
- 50 Miss Piggy's pronoun
- 52 French water-way
- 53 – Romeo
- 54 Canine greeting
- 55 Summit
- 56 Ogler's look
- 57 "– -haw!" (cowgirl's cry)
- 58 Monopoly card
- 8 Perfect place
- 9 Game show aid
- 10 Astronaut Armstrong
- 11 Sciences' partner
- 19 AMA member
- 21 Hearing thing
- 24 Drenched
- 1 Detail, briefly
- 2 Bell sound
- 3 – Major
- 4 Ceremony
- 5 Not enlarged or reduced
- 6 Tennis feat
- 7 "Ironside" star
- 8 Perfect place
- 9 Game show aid
- 10 Astronaut Armstrong
- 11 Sciences' partner
- 19 AMA member
- 21 Hearing thing
- 24 Drenched
- 25 Ostrich's kin
- 26 Palmist's prediction
- 28 Neither mate
- 29 Hit song by OneRepublic
- 30 Calendar abbr.
- 31 Covert agent
- 36 Seem
- 37 Taunting laugh
- 38 Secondary route
- 41 Concerning
- 42 Bargain
- 43 Perry's creator
- 44 Noncommittal answer
- 46 Pleasing
- 47 Salinger girl
- 48 Marsh plant
- 51 Tram load

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Groton Independent ♦ Wed., Mar. 13, 2024 ♦ 5

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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.

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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

AUCTIONS

INTERSTATE AUCTION CENTER. March 16, 10:00am. 3 miles east of SF, exit 402, Brandon, SD. Spring consignment auction. Clean farm and ranch equipment. Full listing: auctionzip.com, 605-331-4550

EMPLOYMENT

Position available for full-time Public Works Laborer. Formal training and/or experience preferred. Salary negotiable DOE. Benefits include medical insurance, life insurance, and SD State Retirement. Please send application and resume to the City of Groton, PO Box 587, Groton, SD 57445, or email to city.doug@nvc.net. Applications will be accepted until 5pm on April 16, 2024. Full job description and application may be found at <https://www.grotonsd.gov/o/grotoncity/page/employment-options>. For more information, please call 605-397-8422. Equal opportunity employer.

SEEKING MS/HS INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC Instructor and Culinary Arts/Family and Consumer Science Teacher for the Mobridge-Pollock School District 62-6 for the 2024-2025 school year. Contact Dr. Tim Frederick at 605-845-9204 for more information. Certified Application and Resume can be mailed to: Mobridge-Pollock School District 62-6; Attn: Dr. Tim Frederick; 1107 1st Avenue East; Mobridge SD 57601. Open until filled. EOE.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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NOTICES

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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Childcare, Groton Tigers Week, city alerts take stage at City Council meeting

Conversations continued Tuesday evening about how to provide childcare in Groton. The city needs a solution, said Councilwoman Karyn Babcock during the City Council meeting. "We have a lot of daycares in town that are at-home daycares," she said. "If we're going to invest in a daycare, I would like us to look into daycares that provide a learning environment for kids."

Moving forward, she said she would like to see plans for a daycare that includes a learning structure environment and curriculum for the kids. She wants the city to have a daycare with a director, employees, insurance and more, but, she added, she is not sure if it will be an individual investor or the city that needs to make it happen.

Daycare is one of the discussion points for the currently-forming Groton Economic Development Corp., which will focus on growing the community, she said.

"My goal for this development group is to get a for-real daycare," she said. "It needs to be a for-real daycare."

Councilman Kevin Nehls said he would like to see some sort of business plan for a new daycare. It would be hard to judge if a business like this would be a long-term project "without seeing if there's going to be a breakeven."

Babcock agreed, saying she'd like to see proposals including how many employees would be needed and how many kids could attend. It would help clear up if it would have to be a city project or private business project.

The city currently doesn't make a profit from the swimming pool, skating rink or baseball complex, but still provides those opportunities because they are needed in Groton, she said.

"The families need daycare, even if it runs at a loss," she added.

If the daycare is owned by an individual, it could close if the owners moves, Babcock said. If a corporation or the city owns it, it would be less likely to close for personal reasons.

"If our community is going to grow, we can't invite new young people to move here without a place," she said. "It's not a very good opportunity to bring their families here."

"We can't just ignore the fact that we need childcare," she said.

The formation of the economic development corp. is building toward something like this, said Mayor Scott Hanlon.

"The building blocks are trying to be put in place and moving on it," he said. "I think we're moving in a positive way."

City honors boys' basketball team

It's Groton Tiger Week! The City of Groton proclaimed March 11 through 17 as "Groton Tiger Week" to honor the Groton Area High School Boys' Basketball team, and its "fine performance in the SoDak 16 as well as the regular playing season."

"...Groton Area School system has set a fine example in its role as an educational institution," the proclamation reads. "Groton City and the surrounding area are known for their support for the many athletic and academic programs of the Groton Area Schools."

Alerts by call, text or email?

The city will have a new way to alert citizens. The City Council approved a more-than-two year contract with Thrillshare, parent company of city website provider Apptegy. The contract includes \$1,666 pro-rated for the first year, plus \$2,000 per year for two years.

The contract, for unlimited calls, text and email alerts, would replace OneCall, the program that allows the city to send automated calls to citizens

Currently, the city has to be cautious on using OneCall as it has to pay for each completed call. The new system, said Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich, would be unlimited.

"The benefit would be its unlimited," he said. "We can do text, calls or emails."

Councilman Brian Bahr said it seems like a good deal, as long as the city doesn't end up overusing it and frustrating residents.

- Applications for a full-time public works laborer will be accepted starting Wednesday through April 16. The job includes performing tasks related to installing, maintaining and repairing city equipment and facilities, according to the job description approved Tuesday.

- Summer salaries for 2024 have been finalized. The City Council held its second reading of Ordinance No. 775, setting summer salaries for temporary employees, including baseball and softball coaches, lifeguards and public works laborers.

- o \$16 per hour with an additional 25 cents for each year of service for the public works laborer, cemetery caretaker and swimming pool manager positions.

- o \$14 per hour with an additional 25 cents for each year of service for the assistant part time swimming pool manager position.

- o \$11.20 per hour with an additional 25 cents for each year of service for the swimming pool lifeguard, baseball groundskeeper and baseball gatekeeper positions.

- o Regular salary plus \$1 hourly for WSI lifeguards during swimming lessons with a \$25 bonus per private lesson.

- o Regular salary plus 50 cents for WSI assistant lifeguard during swimming lessons.

- o \$50 daily plus 50 percent of net profits for the concession manager position.

- o \$4,000 yearly plus \$77.32 for each year of service for the baseball coordinator position.

- o \$1,500 yearly plus \$25.77 for each year of service for the softball coordinator position.

- o \$4,000 yearly for the legion baseball coach.

- o \$3,000 yearly plus \$51.55 for each year of service for the junior legion baseball coach.

- o \$2,000 yearly plus \$51.55 for each year of service for the junior teenager baseball coach position (if there is only one hired).

- o \$1,500 yearly plus \$38.66 for each year of service for the junior teenager baseball coach position (if two are hired).

- o \$2,500 yearly plus \$50 for each year of service for the day baseball/softball coach.

- o \$1,000 yearly plus \$20.62 for each year of service for the girls softball coach (U8, U10, U12, U14) position.

- Five bids were received for 2024 street surfacing improvements. The council awarded the project to Topkote out of Yankton with a bid of \$2.568 per square yard for a total project cost of \$95,016. Other bids received included \$3.05 per square yard from The Road Guy Construction Company in Yankton, \$3.10 per square yard from Jensen Rock and Sand in Aberdeen, \$3.15 per square yard from Pave LLC in Omaha, Neb., and \$3.75 per square yard from Bituminous Paving Inc. in Big Stone City, Minn. Topkote has won the city's bids for the last few years.

- The City Council awarded its 2024 gravel contract to Krueger Brothers Gravel & Dirt in Groton. The quote opened Tuesday was for \$19.85 per yard of gravel, the same as last year's bid.



Axel Abeln wins the tip off at one of the games at Milbank. (Photo by April Abeln)



Sixth graders take first at Milbank
Back row: Coach Tom Tietz, Liam Johnson, Major Dolan, Trayce Schelle, Axel Abeln, Ryder Schwan, Coach Reid Johnson

Front row: Hudson Eichler, Jace Hofer, Trey Tietz, Eli Heilman
Brett Schwan also serves as coach but is not pictured. (Courtesy Photo)



Sixth grader take first at Warner
Back row: Coach Tom Tietz, Eli Heilman, Major Dolan, Trayce Schelle, Ryder Schwan, Coach Ryan Schelle

Front row: Hudson Eichler, Trey Tietz, Liam Lord, Asher Zimmerman, Gavin Hanten (Courtesy Photo)



Sixth graders take first at Valley City
Back row: Liam Johnson, Trayce Schelle, Axel Abeln, Major Dolan, Liam Lord

Front row: Coach Brett Schwan, Trey Tietz, Asher Zimmerman, Gavin Hanten, Ryder Schwan, Coach Tom Tietz. (Courtesy Photo)



The Groton Chamber announces Hwy 12 electronic sign ad winners!

Last month, the Groton Chamber announced winners of the 2 ad spots on the electronic sign located on Hwy 12. This week, those advertisement spots were updated by Service Signs. Winner of the east ad spot was MGGQ Consulting LLC, owned by Jackie Krueger, a resident of Groton. Winner of the west ad spot was the Groton Area School District. Winners were drawn from members that paid their 2024 dues prior to February 1st.



approval or rejection of any such application may appear and be heard.

Dated at Groton, South Dakota this 7th day of March, 2024. Douglas Heinrich, Groton City Finance Officer
 Published March 13, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$9.20 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23081

Notice of Hearing upon Application for a Special Event Alcoholic Beverage License
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT The Groton City Council on the 19th day of March, 2024 at 7:00pm at the Groton City Hall, 120 N Main Street, Groton, South Dakota will meet in regular session to consider a special event alcoholic beverage license for Susan Fjeldheim to host a private graduation celebration at the Groton Community Center at 109 N 3rd Street in the City of Groton, South Dakota on May 4th, 2024.
 Any person interested in the

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605-397-7460
605-397-7285

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This is a division of the South Dakota Dept. of Human Services.

The Life of Alvera Weisenberger



Memorial Services for Alvera Weisenberger, 88, of Groton was held Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. The Rev. Jeremy Yeadon officiated. Inurnment followed in St. John's Lutheran Cemetery, Bowdle.

Vera passed away March 6, 2024 at her home in Groton.

Alvera Ramona Bauer was born on September 16, 1935 in Bowdle to Andrew and Lena (Bear) Bauer. She attended school in Bowdle. On November 1, 1953 she was united in marriage with LeRoy Weisenberger at the Lutheran Church in Bowdle. The couple made their home in Groton and were blessed with a son, Terry. Vera ran a cleaning business and drove school bus for 31 years. Outside of work, she enjoyed playing cards, collecting ceramic geese and tending to flowers in her yard, along with decorating the outside with lights. In earlier years, she was active in the Ladies Aid at St. John's Lutheran Church and liked to bowl. Vera loved to visit and have coffee with friends.

Celebrating her life is her husband of 70 years, LeRoy, her son, Terry (Judy) Weisenberger of Illinois, step-granddaughters, Caitlin Rickey, Erin Taylor and great-great grandchildren, Stanley and Everette Taylor, and her sister, Dolly (Ronnie) Dick of Aberdeen.

Preceding her in death were her parents and three brothers, Alvin, Ed and Raymond.

Brown County
Notice Sale of Property

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, Aberdeen, South Dakota on March 27, 2024 at 10:00 A.M. This property has been approved for public sale by the Brown County Commission. All delinquent taxes, penalties and interest are abated and are not the responsibility of the new owner. Brown County make no guarantee of absolute fee simple marketable title to the property. It is recommended that the purchaser of a County Quit Claim Deed pursue a quiet title action in order to acquire marketable title to the property (per SDCL Chapter 43-30, title standards 26-01 and 26-02).
 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 6TH SD, (LT10 & N 10' LT 11 BK 10 HAGERTY & LLOYD ADD), LOT - 605 N. ARCH ST., \$10,000.00
STRATFORD CITY:
 E 1/2 of LT 11 & All of LT 12, BK 2, STRATFORD, HOUSE - 381 CAMPBELL AVE., \$1,000.00
 LT 1-6 BK1, STRATFORD, HOUSE - 688 5th STREET, STRATFORD, \$3,000.00
GROTON
 HOLMEN OL 1, NW 1/4, SEC 9-T121N-R60W, LAND - 14320 408th Ave., Groton, SD 57445, \$8,000.00
 Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Brown County
Chemical Dealers Bid

NOTICE TO CHEMICAL DEALERS
 Sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners, Brown County Courthouse Annex at Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401 until 8:45 A.M. on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read, and considered for furnishing of chemical for the Brown County Weed and Pest Board for 2024.
 Proposal Guaranty: No deposit or bond will be required at time of bid opening.
 Contract: Brown County will give notice to the successful bidder that his proposal has been accepted and said bidder shall within ten (10) days thereafter enter into a contract with Brown County in accordance with the bid as accepted. Successful bidder shall furnish proper certificates of insurance as required by Brown County. Contract for the chemicals shall be firm and will be in effect for a period of eight months from April 1 to November 30, 2024.

Sealed envelopes containing bids shall be addressed to Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Ste 1, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401, and be marked "Chemical Bid for Brown County Weed and Pest Board" and to be opened at 8:45 A.M. on Tuesday, March 26, 2024.

The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County. Brown County is exempt from Federal Excise Tax and State Sales Tax. Specifications are on file and may be obtained at no charge at the office of the Brown County Auditor and the Brown County Weed and Pest Office.

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor



at the State A Boys Basketball Tournament!

Themes for state basketball are

Thursday: Hawaiian/I hate winter

Friday: USA

Saturday: State Shirts/Extreme Black and Gold

State A's Boys Basketball Community Hospitality Room

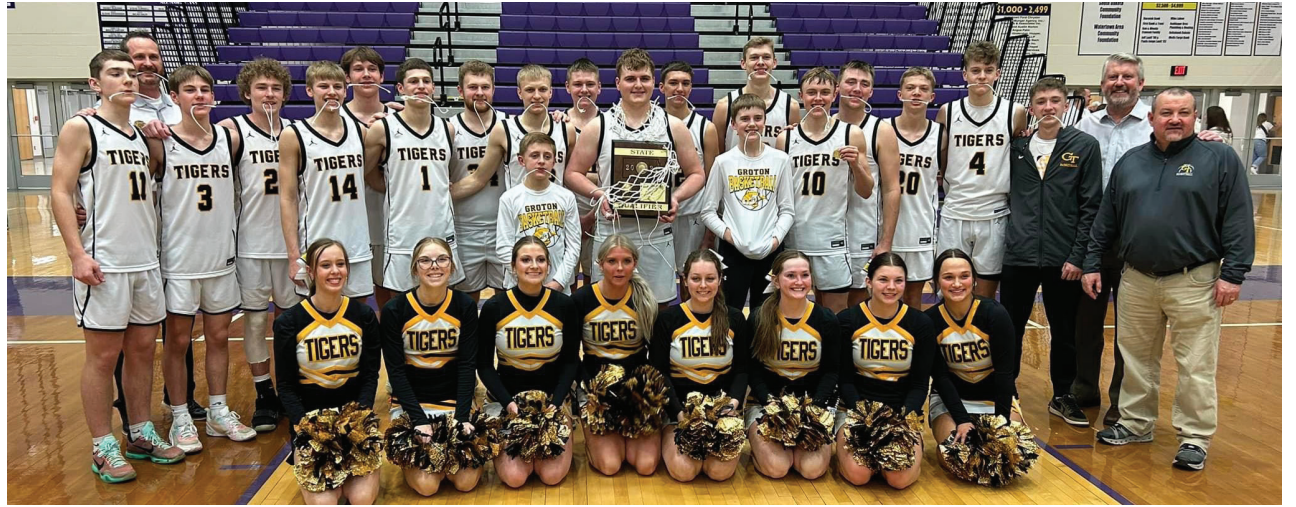
Thursday March 14 - Doors open following the 6 p.m. game. *The basketball team will be making their appearance here after they watch part of the 7:45 game. There will be free snacks, appetizers, and drinks to share with all. (No alcohol or smoking)

Friday March 15th - Doors will open depending on our Tiger's game time.

Win - We play at 7:45 p.m. MT - Doors will open at 2:30 p.m. Boys will be coming to eat pregame meal at that time before their game. Lose - We play at 1:45 p.m. MT - Doors will open at 11 a.m. Boys will be coming to eat pregame meal. Then doors will be open again after our game. *There will be free snacks, appetizers, and drinks to share with all. (No alcohol or smoking)

Minneluzahan Senior Center - Rapid City, SD 315 N 4' St. (This is just outside the Monument across the parking lot of E1 & E2)

EVERYONE IS WELCOME...GO TIGERS!!!

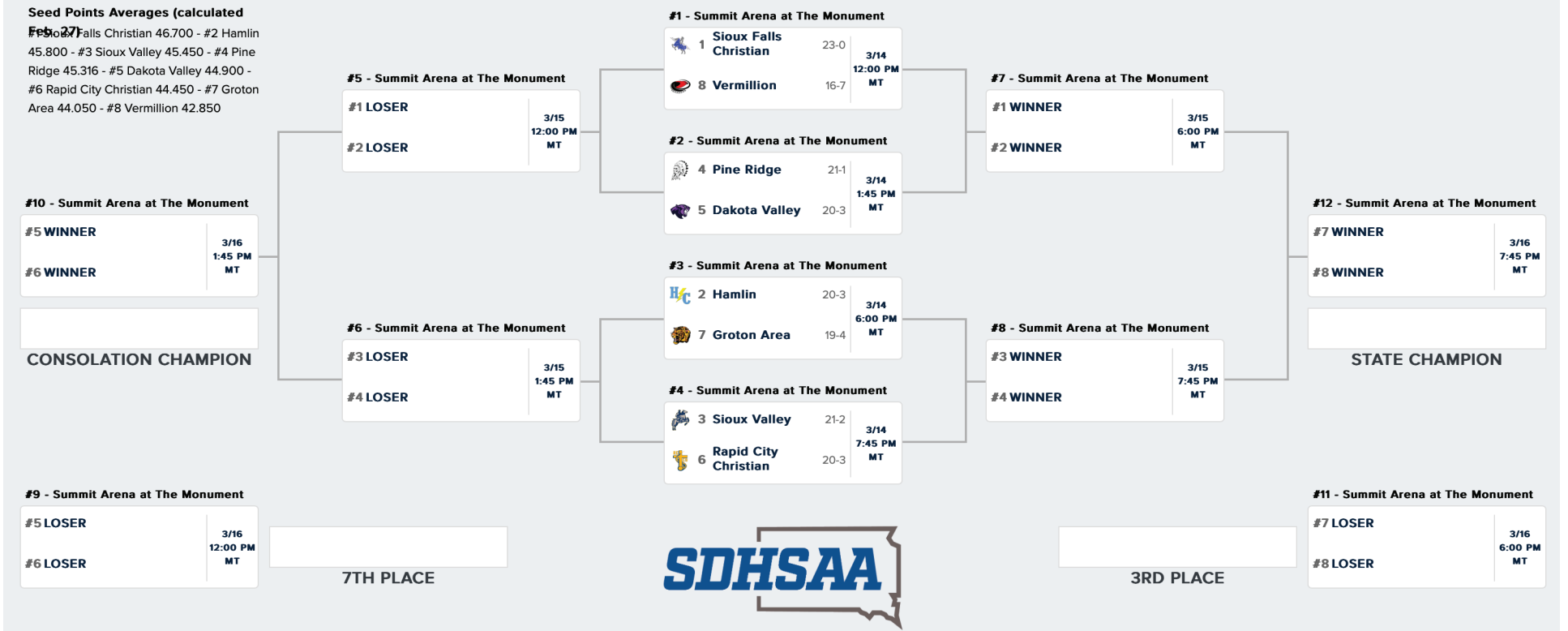


Pictured in back, left to right, are Kassen Keough, Assistant Coach Kyle Gerlach, Blake Pauli, Teylor Diegel, Karson Zak, Turner Thompson, Keegen Tracy, Holden Sippel, Jacob Zak, Logan Warrington, Jayden Schwan, Gage Sippel, Lane Tietz, Colby Dunker, Easton Weber, Ryder Johnson, Braxton Imrie, Head Coach Brian Dolan, Assistant Coach Matt Locke; in the middle row are Trey Tietz, Logan Ringgenberg and Major Dolan; cheerleaders in front are Anna Bisbee, Emma Schinkel, Hannah Monson, Abby Jensen, Shea Jandel, Cadence Feist, Breslyn Jeschke and Paisley Mitchell. (Photo from Robyn Warrington's facebook page)

Class A - State

Seed Points Averages (calculated)

#1 Sioux Falls Christian 46.700 - #2 Hamlin 45.800 - #3 Sioux Valley 45.450 - #4 Pine Ridge 45.316 - #5 Dakota Valley 44.900 - #6 Rapid City Christian 44.450 - #7 Groton Area 44.050 - #8 Vermillion 42.850



Good Luck Tigers from . . .
Allied Climate Professionals
Avantara
Bary Keith at Harr Motors
Basekamp Lodge
BK Custom Ts & More
Blocker Construction
Dacotah Bank
Farmers Union Coop
Fliehs Sales & Service
Full Circle Ag
Greg Johnson Construction
Groton Ag Partners
Groton American Legion
Groton Chamber

Groton Chiropractic Clinic
Groton Dairy Queen
Hanlon Brothers
Heartland Energy
James Valley
Telecommunications
John Sieh Agency
Jungle Lanes & Lounge
Ken's Food Fair
KR Body Shop
Krueger Brothers
Lavish Luxury Salon Suite
Lori's Pharmacy
Merry Lone Real Estate
MJ's Sinclair
Northeast Chiropractic Clinic

Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel
POET
Rix Farms/R&M Farms
S & S Lumber
Spanier Harvesting & Trucking
Sun & Sea Travel Co. by Becah Fliehs
The Groton Independent
The Meat House of Andover
Weber Landscaping
Weismantel Insurance Agency
Witte Exteriors LLC



The send-off to State A

The Groton Area Boys Basketball Team got a send-off by the Groton Fire Department, Groton Police and the elementary children as they head off to the State A Tournament. The team practiced at the Aberdeen Civic Arena and stayed the night in Pierre before heading to Rapid City this morning. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Spring District Legion Auxiliary Meeting held in Groton



District 4 President Jan Seibel presented District Four Member of the Year to Marlene Eimers, Redfield Unit. Pic Madsen, Eimers, and Seibel. (Courtesy photo from Jan Seibel)



Unit 39 presented Emma Schinkel a Youth Hero Award for saving a boy's life at the pool this past summer. Pictured are District 4 President Jan Seibel, Emma Schinkel, Dept. President Patsy Madsen. (Courtesy photo from Jan Seibel)



Tami Zimney and Karyn Babcock, Groton Unit members, are conducting the memorial service for 18 deceased district four members. (Courtesy photo from Jan Seibel)



These are the Auxiliary members that were in attendance of the district meeting held Sunday, March 3 in Groton. (Courtesy photo from Jan Seibel)

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King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

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Groton Show Choir competes at Aberdeen



Show Choir seniors. Camryn Kurtz, Emily Clark (pit band piano), Desiree Yeigh (pit band director), Cadence Feist (pit band saxophone) (Courtesy photo Show Choir Parents)



Groton's Show Choir competed at the Aberdeen Central Center Stage on Saturday. It was the first competition of the year. Sioux Falls Washington took first. Groton Area placed fifth at the event. (Courtesy photo Show Choir Parents)

City of Groton

South Dakota
Growing Families & Opportunities

PROCLAMATION

Groton Tiger Week – March 11th-17th

WHEREAS, the Groton Area High School Boys' Basketball Team has distinguished themselves by their fine performance in the SoDak16 as well as the regular playing season; and

WHEREAS, the Groton Area High School Boys' Basketball Team has earned an invitation to the South Dakota State A Boys' Basketball Tournament; and

WHEREAS, Groton Area High School has accomplished superior standings in each of the athletic and academic student participation programs; and

WHEREAS, Groton Area School system has set a fine example in its role as an educational institution; and

WHEREAS, Groton City and the surrounding area are known for their support for the many athletic and academic programs of the Groton Area Schools;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Scott Hanlon, Mayor of the City of Groton, South Dakota, do hereby proclaim the week of March 11th-17th, 2024 as "Groton Tiger Week" in the City of Groton, South Dakota in full recognition of their outstanding contributions to the community.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Groton to be affixed this 12th day of March, 2024.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor
Scott Hanlon, Mayor

PROUD TO SUPPORT

NATIONAL AG DAY

MARCH 19 / #AGDAY24



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Aberdeen, SD 57401

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"This Isn't the Baby Blues"

Transitioning to become a parent can be one of the most pivotal changes in a person's life. Rarely are the hard moments of this change talked about enough. For example, did you know 1 in 5 women and 1 in 10 men suffer from postpartum depression? Parents of any culture, race, age, or income level can be affected. We commonly hear and get confused about postpartum depression being the "baby blues". This is a common misconception. The baby blues are very common and happen to 80% of women in postpartum. This occurs within the first few days and lasts a few weeks. The baby blues will usually go away with rest and time.

Postpartum depression and postpartum anxiety are much more serious and will not get better without some sort of treatment. Postpartum depression and postpartum anxiety usually last weeks to months or sometimes years after childbirth, if not treated. Some of the red flags or symptoms one can look out for include: frequent shame, guilt, and sadness; feelings of rage, irritability; scary unwanted thoughts; lack of interest in caring for baby; difficulty in bonding with baby; loss of interest, joy, or pleasure in things you used to enjoy; disturbances in sleep and appetite; constant worry; racing thoughts; feelings of dread; physical symptoms like nausea, dizziness, and hot flashes; and possible thoughts of harming yourself or your baby. If you identify with any of these symptoms, please reach out to your doctor or mental health professional in your area. You know you best and if you don't feel like yourself, there is no shame in asking for help.

Becoming well and mentally healthy again are possible with treatment. Some of the common treatments for a person struggling with



Elizabeth A. Milton, LPCC, LPC-MH, MS

postpartum depression or anxiety can be seeing a counselor, medication management, bright light therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy, couples therapy, support from others, exercise, adequate sleep, healthy diet, yoga, and relaxation strategies. A healthy support network of friends/family can be so helpful for new moms and/or parents. Here are some tips on supporting your loved ones throughout this transition: Reassure her, this is not her fault, she will get better; Encourage her to talk about feelings; Help with housework without being asked; Encourage her to take some time for herself; Be realistic about what time you will be home, and come home at that time; Help her reach out to others for support; Schedule some dates with her and work together to find a babysitter; Offer simple affection and physical comfort.

There are so many resources available especially at postpartum.net or by dialing 988. Please know this is a transition and transitions are temporary. With help, you can be well. Take care of yourself.

Elizabeth provides counseling for individuals and families — primarily adolescents and adults in an outpatient setting at Avera Behavioral Health in Brookings, SD. She is a certified perinatal mental health therapist and works with depression, anxiety, stress management, trauma, interpersonal conflict, adolescent issues and women's issues. She is also certified to teach Bringing Baby Home workshops through the Gottman Institute. Her practice includes trauma-informed counseling, individual dialectical behavior therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy, emotion freedom technique, and solution-focused and mindfulness strategies. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairedoc.org and Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show providing health information based on science, built on trust, streaming live on Facebook and SDPB most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

School Board

Continued from front

Football cooperative moves closer to reality

Groton Area School District is one step closer to a football cooperative with the Langford School District.

Board members indicated they want to move forward with discussions with Langford after reviewing a recent survey of football parents.

Nearly 75 percent of those who responded said the district should continue discussion with Langford. More than 84 percent of respondents said "no" to moving one of Groton's home games to Langford, while about half were interested in playing junior high and junior varsity games at Langford.

One primary concern of those who don't want to continue discussion with Langford is that the Langford players may take opportunities to play away from kids in Groton, Superintendent Joe Schwan said.

While the cooperative agreement proposed is only for two years, high school athletic officials said six-man football is not likely in the next four years, so the cooperative may end up lasting longer.

Vice President of the Board Marty Weismantel added after a recent discussion with a Langford board member, the projected number of players in Langford likely won't be enough for a full nine-man team, so this may be a more long-term commitment.

"I would say this is a long term deal, and they (the Langford district officials) are anxiously awaiting a 'Yes' from us," he said.

Board member TJ Harder said, "if you have a chance to make your team better," why not. This would allow Groton to have players that don't have to play both offense and defense.

Other board members, like President Deb Gengerke, were excited about other future opportunities to work with Langford in both athletics and other extracurricular activities.

"But first things first," she said as the board moved forward with the football cooperative discussion.

New teachers, new staff member, new resignation

The board also approved four hires and two resignations.

Three teaching positions were filled for the 2024-2025 school year. Megan Serr has been hired as an elementary special education teacher. The Northern State University grad will come to Groton from a special education cooperative serving the school in Selby.

Lindsey Vander Wal has been hired as agriculture education teacher and FFA adviser. Vander Wal will graduate in May from South Dakota State University with an agriculture education degree and comes from a farm family background.

Carrie Cole has been hired as first grade teacher. Cole is a non-traditional teacher, having worked in journalism before going back to school for an elementary education teaching degree.

Ryan Scepaniak was listed as both a resignation and hire at Monday's meeting. Scepaniak resigned as assistant wrestling coach to take the maintenance director position at the district. He took the position March 7, and Superintendent Joe Schwan said he brings not only a great work ethic, but he is also a certified plumber.

One more resignation was added to the agenda Monday evening. District vocal music teacher Tanner Pietz, who began working for the district in December after graduating from Northern State University, submitted his resignation, to take effect at the end of the school year.

- The board also voted to increase the driver's education class rate from \$270 to \$290 for the summer. Driver's education instructor agreements were also approved.

- The boys' basketball team will travel to Rapid City for the State A state championship this week. Superintendent Joe Schwan clarified that the district is paying what it would cost to send a regular school bus with the team to the tournament. Upgrades, like taking a charter bus instead, is being covered through private donations.

- Elizabeth Varin

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<p>Whole Boneless Pork Loin \$1.79 Per Lb.</p>	<p>Malt-O-Meal Cereal 23-30 Oz. Bag \$3.49</p>
<p>Bear Creek Soup Mix 8.1-10.6 Oz. Pkg. \$3.88</p>	<p>Best Choice Oyster Crackers 9 Oz. Bag \$1.99</p>
<p>Pringles Chips 4.9-5.57 Oz. Can \$1.79</p>	<p>Old Orchard Apple Juice or 100% Blends 64 Oz. Jug 2/\$5</p>

Meat
USDA Choice Demkota Boneless Chuck Roast
\$5.59 Per Lb.

Dairy
Best Choice Milk 1%, 2% or Whole
1 Gallon Jug
\$3.49

Frozen
Digiorno or Tombstone Pizza 17.2-21.1 Oz.
2/\$7 - \$1.00 Digital Coupon Net Price

Liquor
Jameson 1.75 LITER
\$46.99

Household
Dawn Dish Detergent 24-28 Oz. Bottle
\$4.49

APP DEAL OF THE WEEK
Best Choice Peanut Butter 16 Oz. Jar
49¢ w/ \$10 purchase & Ken's App
Requires \$10 additional purchase and use of Ken's App

Bakery
Ken's Bakery Fresh Marble Rye Bread
\$2.99 1 Lb. Loaf

Deli
Cheese of the Week! Cady Creek Provolone
\$4.99 Per Lb.

Prices good at all Ken's locations: March 10th thru March 16th

Item	Price
Item 1	\$1.99
Item 2	\$2.99
Item 3	\$3.99
Item 4	\$4.99
Item 5	\$5.99
Item 6	\$6.99

10 ♦ Groton Independent ♦ Wed., Mar. 13, 2024