

The Groton Independent

Vol. 141 No. 26 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, March 20, 2024 ♦ Established in 1889



Veda Stiegelmeier
Girls Tots 67lb State Champ



Brooks Sombke
Tots 43lb State Champ



Henry Pharis
Midget 72lb State Champ

Three young Groton wrestlers are state champions

Three Groton youth wrestlers became state champions at the South Dakota Wrestling Coaches Association's State Wrestling Tournament held over the weekend at The Monument in Rapid City. It's been a few years since Groton has had a state champion - Liza Krueger was the last girls state champion in 2017. Wyatt Locke was last boys state champion in 2011. Groton had six in the championship match with Veda Stiegelmeier, Henry Pharis and Brooks Sombke all taking first place while Ryker Herron, Rosalyn Block, and Braxten Sombke all taking second. Ben Hoeft and Gavin Englund took second in the high school division. Keenan Moody placed third. Landry Johnson and Kroy Khali both took fifth. Madison Little placed sixth. Those taking seventh were Elsy Hagen, Huntley Overacker and Wyatt Hagen. Placing eighth were Layne Johnson and Christian Ehresmann. Full results are on Page 10. (Courtesy Photos)



Legion celebrates 105th Birthday

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. There are nearly 2 million members of The American Legion, making it the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization. The Groton American Legion Post #39 celebrated the Legions' 105th Birthday. Pictured in front, left to right, are Wendy Cooper, Rose Locke, Jan Seibel, Samantha Oswald, Grace Oswald and Anna Oswald; in back, left to right, are Ron Falk, Roger Overacker, Brent Wienk, Ben Smith, Bruce Babcock and Aaron Grant. (Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)



Jail gets new roof

The roof historic jail building at the corner of N Third Street and East 1st Avenue was being worked on this past week. The building is now under ownership of the Groton Historical Society. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Bruce Babcock, Groton American Legion Post 39 Commander opens the District 4 Spring Meeting. Seated at the head tables L-R Bob Thomason, District 4 Commander (Selby), Courtney Steffen, SD Department Commander (Madison), and C.P. Van Delist, Department Adjutant (Wartertown). (Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)



SD Department Commander Courtney Steffen provided opening remarks. (Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)



District 4 Commander Bob Thomason conducts the Legion business meeting. (Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)

Scattered Thoughts

Mixed messages from my window

After the winter that never was (knock on wood), we got a dusting of snow on St. Patrick's Day. Then, Gus the Wonder Pug's furious barking alerted me to the giant tractor rolling past our rural abode. Here's a prayer for timely rains and good prices.

I've never understood farmers who vacation in Las Vegas. It seems redundant. Anyway, as a local business, I love seeing our farmers and ranchers buying new equipment and trucks. When they thrive, we all thrive. Especially the hardware stores in the fall when there's a run on mailboxes thanks to larger combine headers that are now measured in miles.

Liver and onions

The only thing more controversial in these parts other than what the heck are the Minnesota Vikings doing, is liver and onions. You're either all in or completely repulsed. For you snooty Nordic critics, I have one word for you. Lutfisk.

I get a craving a couple times a year or when I need an organic pesticide to take out the fruit flies. My mom and sister are excellent liver and onioners, but I'm not sure that's something you want on your resume. But, I don't think my effort on Saturday brought (any more) shame to the family name. The package was larger than I needed, so Gus enjoyed a couple of upscale meals.

After posting a photo online I received several cooking tips and a three-day suspension from Facebook. I was reminded to give the liver a milk bath and to cook it in bacon grease. Bacon, of course, along with Snickers, is the world's most perfect food.

The Vikings

OK, what are the Vikings doing? And why are the chronic complainers suddenly upset that whipping boy Kirk Cousins left for Atlanta? Well, the reality is that it's a business, there's a salary cap to consider, and Cousins' agent is an evil genius. Hey, I have no issues with these entertainers getting paid. Their careers are brutish and short. Like my seventh grade girlfriend. Besides, Cousins is a great passer.

Cousins' newfound popularity may have something to do with the Netflix series "Quar-



That's Life

by Tony Bender

terback." Other quarterbacks profiled included Patrick Mahomes and Marcus Mariota, but Cousins came off best—eminently likable.

Bottom line, it appears the Vikes are positioning themselves to draft a QB, and there are some pretty good ones available.

Win Twins?

Then, there are the Minnesota Twins. All bullpen and questionable starters. Pitching by committee. Last year, was excruciating even though they won the division and probably will again. They just couldn't string hits together. Baseball is a funny game that way. They say streaks and momentum aren't a thing, but anyone who's played the game doesn't believe that. You may be the most logical, pragmatic person in the world but if you believe your hitting streak depends on eating at Chick-fil-A before game time, well, some chickens are gonna die.

Baseball is the most optimistic of all the sports. The season opens in the spring, the most optimistic of all the seasons, and even a bad team can stay in the mix through June. Not so much with a really, really, really bad team, though. I grew up loving the Baltimore Orioles—I used to clip the box scores to track the exploits of Brooks Robinson and Boog Powell. In 1988, five years removed from their last World Series win, the team started out 0-21. They were out of it in April.

Back home

If you've ever wondered how foreign health-care compares to ours, my brother Scott can report that Portugal's medical system is outstanding. The hospital food? Meh. He and his wife Pam recently got back the US after vacation interruptus. Scott had an episode involving a heart murmur that torpedoed the next stage of their trip to Africa and led to open heart surgery in Lisbon.

The doctors didn't feel good about putting him on a plane home without addressing his condition. So, they had an extended stay. Scott came home with Portuguese pig parts and zipper on his chest. He typically receives care from the VA, but had nothing but good things to say about the Portuguese medical system (except for the food), and Pam was adopted by some of the locals in what otherwise would have been a very lonely "vacation."

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

NFL free agency kicked off last week, and the Minnesota Vikings were involved in plenty of headlines around the league. From some big-name players leaving the team, to high-priced free agents joining, here is everything you might have missed...

The biggest storyline entering free agency was the status of quarterback Kirk Cousins. The Vikings' front office publicly spoke about wanting Kirk back, while also pointing out that they wouldn't exceed a certain price point. Enter the Atlanta Falcons. Much like the Vikings in 2018, many in Atlanta felt the team was only a quarterback away from truly competing. So,

as the Vikings did six years ago, the Falcons offered a massive contract to Cousins (four years, \$180M). The contract on the table was much higher than what the Vikings were offering, in both salary and years, so Kirk is officially moving to Georgia while the land of 10,000 lakes is once again trying to figure out what to do at the game's most important position.

To fill that void, the Vikings made two moves this past week that give us a good idea of what they intend. The first move was bringing in Sam Darnold with a one-year, \$10M deal. Darnold was taken third overall in the 2018 NFL draft by the New York Jets. After three unproductive seasons in NY, Darnold was shipped off to the Carolina Panthers. Two seasons later, Carolina decided to draft Darnold's replacement, and Sam spent this past season as a backup in San Francisco. Now, Darnold gets one final shot to show the world that he is a capable starter in the NFL.

The second move the Vikings made was making a trade with Houston to acquire their first-round pick this year. By making the trade now, the Vikings currently have two first-round picks in the upcoming draft, and theoretically have the ammunition needed to move up and get a rookie quarterback. To get one of the A-tier signal callers, the Vikings will likely need to move into the top three, and I expect if that's the plan we'll see a corresponding trade happen sooner rather than later.

Aside from quarterback, the Vikings also needed to address their pass rush. With their top three outside linebackers hitting free agency (Danielle Hunter, D.J. Wonnum, and Marcus Davenport), the Vikings elected to spend big money on the position. The first move was to sign Jonathan Greenard (pronounced GRUH-NARD) to a four-year, \$76M contract. Greenard spent the first four seasons of his career in Houston and now becomes the main pass rusher for Minnesota (ironically enough, the Houston Texans filled Greenard's position by signing Danielle Hunter).

To further bolster the outside linebacker position, the Vikings also signed Andrew Van Ginkel from Miami (two-year, \$20M). Van Ginkel was a third-round pick in 2019 when Vikings' defensive coordinator Brian Flores was the Dolphin's head coach.

At inside linebacker, the Vikings replaced the aging and departing Jordan Hicks with Blake Cashman, a former University of Minnesota standout. Cashman will pair with last year's undrafted rookie Ivan Pace Jr, providing the Vikings with a ton of speed and athleticism at the inside linebacker spot.

The biggest remaining area of need on the Vikings' defense is along the defensive line. While the team did re-sign Jonathan Bullard and brought in Jerry Tillery through free agency, neither player has shown they are capable starters thus far into their respective careers. With the available number of free-agent defensive linemen dwindling, I expect the Vikings to spend a high(ish) draft pick at the position.

On the offensive side of the ball, aside from quarterback, the biggest addition was adding running back Aaron Jones. Jones, a superstar for the division rival Packers for many years, was cut by the team after they added Josh Jacobs in free agency. Less than 24 hours later, Jones had signed with the Vikings, following in the footsteps of many great players who eschewed the ugly green and yellow and upgraded to the purple and gold.

Three other players the Vikings brought in through free agency are offensive guard/center Dan Feeny, wide receiver Trent Sherfield, and kicker John Parker Romo. Feeny projects to be the primary backup interior offensive lineman, while Sherfield's biggest strength is on special teams.

In addition to adding outside help, the Vikings also re-signed some of their own pending free agents, including tight ends Johnny Mundt and Nick Muse, offensive linemen Blake Brandel and David Quessenberry, receiver Brandon Powell, and safety Theo Jackson.

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The Life of Gregory Verne McCullough

March 9, 1942 - March 16, 2024

Greg McCullough, 82 of Fargo, formerly Lidgerwood, ND passed away Saturday, March 16, 2024 at Sanford Hospital on Broadway, Fargo. Visitation will be Friday, March 22, 2024 from 9:30 -11:00 a.m. followed by a memorial service at 11:00 a.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Lidgerwood, ND. *The service will be live-streamed. If there are technical issues it will be available to view later that day.

Greg was born on March 9, 1942, in Aberdeen, SD to Beverly (Erdmann) and Verne McCullough. He was baptized and confirmed in St. John's Lutheran Church in Groton, SD, where he grew up and attended country school and then Groton High School until he graduated in 1960. Greg then attended and completed the first 5-year pharmacy program offered by South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD, graduating in 1965.

Greg and Sue were married in Brookings on December 17, 1964 and were blessed with 59 years of marriage.

After Greg's graduation they moved to Dubuque, IA, where Greg worked for Hartig Drug Company. They lived there for 1 1/2 years, at which time Hartig's transferred Greg to their Oelwein, IA, store. Greg and Sue lived there for 1 1/2 years. They moved to Lidgerwood in January of 1968 and Greg started a 37-year career as owner-pharmacist of Lidgerwood Drug.

They were members of Holy Cross for all of those years. Greg and Sue have two children: Kevin and Brenda.

Greg was always supportive of community projects and church activities. His favorite sport was hunting with his dogs, his son and many friends around Lidgerwood.

The healthcare of the community of Lidgerwood was incredibly important to him. He retired in 2006.

In 2021, Greg started dialysis, so they moved to Fargo. Greg approached his healthcare issues like he did everything in life - head on.

Greg is survived by his wife, Sue; children and grandchildren, Kevin (Carmen), Austin and Ethan; Brenda Clark (Stephen), Kathryn and Sean; brothers, David (Patsy), Gene (Georgia) and numerous nieces and nephews and many friends.

For those who wish to give a memorial, the family plans to support Lidgerwood community projects.

The Life of Gerald Rossow

Gerald "Jerry" Rossow, 83, of Groton passed away March 12, 2024 at his son's home.

Gerald "Jerry" Duane Rossow was born on February 23, 1941 in Aberdeen to Duane and Thelma (Hitchcock) Rossow. He graduated from Groton High School and joined the Army. On December 23, 1959 he was united in marriage with Ramona Liebel at the Presbyterian Church in Groton. Together, they were blessed with four boys. After service with the Army, he was employed at the gold mine in Lead, SD before returning to the Ferney area to farm. He also had various other jobs in the Groton area.

He enjoyed spending time with his family and attending activities and sports events for his children and grandchildren.

Celebrating his life is his sons, Rick (Melanie) Rossow of Glenwood Springs, CO; Marc (Jayne) Rossow of Canyon Lake, TX; Jamie Rossow of Groton, his grandchildren: Morgan (James), Tyler, Jeraka (Steve), Shay (Weston), Sydney (Ben), Parker (Kylie) and Taryn, his great grandchildren: Knox, Bowen, Ella, Wells, Adley and Abby and his sisters: Judy (Emmet) Anderson Chandler, Az, Ginger Vickers, Henderson, NV and Debbie Rossow, Henderson, NV.

Preceding his in death was his wife Ramona, infant son Roger, his parents and grandparents.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, March 22nd at the Groton American Legion Club Room from 4-7 p.m.



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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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So much going on in Groton! Thank you for shopping locally!

2024 Groton Spring Vendor Fair

Stop and shop from a variety of Crafters and Vendors! Also enjoy some lunch while you shop! There will also be an Auction table & all proceeds will go to Make-A-Wish Foundation!

Where: Groton High School Gym
502 N 2nd St. Groton, SD 57445

When: Saturday, March 23rd 2024

Time: 10:00am - 3:00pm



March 23, 2024 Spring Vendor Fair at the GHS Gym



Groton Lions Club Lunch
starting at 11am

\$10 MEAL DEAL includes BBQ,
Chips, Bottled Water & Dessert
Beverages & individual items for sale as well!

GROTON LIONS CLUB ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, March 23rd @10am sharp!
Groton City Park

3 age groups: 3 and under, 4-6 & 7-10

Your Lions Club Members will be filling & hiding nearly 1200 Easter eggs!

Alternate date is March 30th.



MARCH 23RD, 10AM-3PM

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- Eat
- Shop
- Buy

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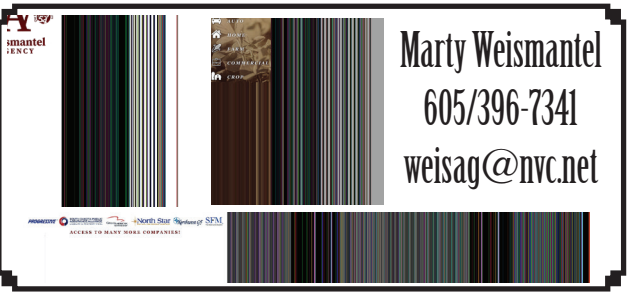
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Heartland Energy
Need Comments

NOTICE OF SOLICITATION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS
 NOTICE is hereby given that Heartland Energy, on behalf of the City of Groton, is requesting written comments from the customers of the Groton Municipal Electric System.
 Comments can relate to:
 Current electric conservation measures that are being used in the City of Groton
 Both power supply and energy conservation options for meeting the future electric needs of Groton, including but not limited to:
 Preferred generation resources/fuel types
 Use of demand side resources including load management and time-based rates
 Relative importance of outcomes (cost, reliability, environmental impacts, etc.)
 Offer ideas and promote the efficient use of electricity in Groton
 This public solicitation for written comments is being conducted to comply with a federal regulation, which requires the City of Groton to seek public participation regarding the implementation of an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). Comments will be considered in the development of the IRP. Groton must adopt an IRP in order to continue to receive its allocation of electric hydropower from Western Area Power Administration. Heartland Energy, one of Groton's power suppliers, is assisting with this project and will accept comments for 10 days following this notice.
 Please send written comments to Heartland Energy, PO Box 248, Madison, SD 57042; Attn: Adam Graff. Heartland will also be accepting comments electronically via the email address, IRP@heartlandenergy.com.
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Westport Town
March 4 Meeting

Town of Westport General Meeting
 March 4th, 2024
 The Town of Westport met on March 4th, 2024 with Deb & Dan Schlosser, Jeff Stein, Kathy Patton, Larry Schmit, Shane Storm, Mitch Wilson and Doreen Hertel present.
 The following expenses were presented:
 City General
 NWPS (\$578.45), Groton Independent (\$13.25), Cardmember services – Computer virus protection (\$156.74), Payroll – Larry Schmit (\$150.00), Shane Storm (\$50.00), Mitch Wilson (\$150.00), & Doreen Hertel (\$900.00).
 Sewer
 NWPS (\$55.40), NRWA –loan repayment (\$210.13) & Payroll –Doreen Hertel (\$300.00).
 Water
 WEB (\$2,825.99), Water Maintenance District (\$459.18), Payroll- Doreen Hertel (\$300.00).
 Shane Storm made motion to pay all bills; second by Larry Schmit.
 The following deposits were presented:
 City General
 Brown County Collections (\$378.59), John Badgley Cemetery (\$250.00), State of SD (\$6,895.99) & Interest (\$216.92).
 Sewer
 Resident Payments – (\$2,350.00).
 Water
 Resident Payments – (\$3,523.91).
 NEW BUSINESS:
 Equalization meeting will be held on Monday March 18th 6:00pm to 7:30pm at the town hall. Kathy Patton and Jeff Stein inquired about the alleyway that the city owned adjacent to the church. They were looking to construct a shed on that piece of land. The board suggested to the church to get an easement. The church will check into it and get back to the board. The board has hired Jason Heagley

to mow the cemetery for the 2024 season. The board will be looking for bids to fix the front of the Westport town hall. Discussion was held on Water maintenance district bill. We have not received all of the invoices, so no payment will be made until they have met their part of the contract. WMD district contract will not be renewed. A donation to the fireworks club of \$1,500 was approved. Deb Schlosser was approved to take over job as finance officer. Mitch Wilson was approved to do the billing of Water / Sewer for the city.
 Doreen Hertel, Finance Officer
 Published March 20, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$22.63 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23103



Claremont Town
Feb. 13 Meeting

The board of trustees for the town of Claremont met on 2-13-2024 at 7pm in City Hall. President Johnson called the meeting to order with trustees Rasmussen and Spencer present. On a motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Spencer the minutes of the January meeting were approved. On a motion by Spencer the following warrant were allowed: General Chala Rye, wage, 500.00;GDI, publishing, 75.00; JVT, phone and internet, 140.18; Holland NAPA Auto Parts, parts, 24.98; NWE, street lights, 410.75; City hall, 108.88;Charla Rye, wage, 500.00; Full Circle Ag, propane and Diesel, 980.90;Charla Rye, ink for printer, 106.00; WWW: BDM, water purchased, 907.70; Helms and Asso. Claremont Storm Sewer, 6075.00; NWE, Lift Station, 75.78;NWE, Left Station, 24.50; USDA, loan payment, 576.00; With no further business the motion was made Spencer to adjourn and seconded by Rasmussen motion carried.
 Respectfully Submitted,
 CRye
 Published March 20, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$10.49 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23111



Claremont Town
March 13 Meeting

The board of trustees for the town of Claremont met on 3-13-2024 at 7pm at City Hall. President Johnson called the meeting to order with trustees Rasmussen and Spencer present were Mitch Babcock and Jordan Allbee of Helms and Associates. Mitch and Jordan were there to update the board on the Stormwater project. On a motion by Spencer and seconded by Rasmussen the minutes of the February meeting were approved. On a motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Spencer the following warrants were allowed: General: Full Circle Ag, payment, 74.15; Northwestern, street lights, 415.01; Northwestern, city hall, 90.62; jvt, phone and internet, 140.18; post office, postage,66.00; GDI, publishing, 23.39; Charla Rye, wage,500.00; SD Association of Tns.Tnships, dues, 192.00; WWW: Northwestern, pump house, 165.07; Northwestern, sewer lift, 51.63; Northwestern, storm sewer lift, 20.22; Helms and Associates, storm sewer design, 4050.00; Board of Equalization will be held on 3-18-2024 through 3-22-2024. March 20 the board will be available at city hall at 7pm. There will be no election in Claremont as only one petition was turned in by Frank Rasmussen. With no further business before the board a motion was made by Spencer and seconded by Rasmussen to adjourn motion carried.
 Respectfully Submitted,
 C. Rye, R.O.
 Published March 20, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$13.52 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23112



Columbia City
Vacate Alleyway Notice

1 - ORIGINAL PETITION FOR VACATION
 TO THE HONORABLE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, BROWN COUNTY, SD:
 That the petitioners herein respectfully represent that they are the electors residing in the organized incorporated City of Columbia, Brown County, State of South Dakota; and as residence and electors of said City, they feel that the public convenience and necessity will be better served by Vacating the alley right-of-way area described as being located, to-wit:
 The alleyway between James Street and Broadway Street, on plat #37, "Smith's 1st Addition to Columbia, Brown County, Dakota" with Lots 401-428, that were filed on October 2, 1882, running north and south from Fourth Avenue NW to Fifth Avenue NW.
 That said public alleyway being approximately 16 feet wide and 350 feet in length.
 This platted alleyway is not developed or improved as a useable alleyway, so it would be in the best interest of the public that this alleyway be vacated.
 Whereas, said petitioners request the council of the City of Columbia to vote on this proposal at the next regular meeting and petitioners herein state that the public convenience or necessity will be better served by this proposed Vacation. This petitions is submitted pursuant to SDCL 31-3-6.
 The owners of lot parcels are parallel and adjacent to which this alleyway passes are:
 NAME, ADDRESS, DATE
 Kurt & Amy Aalseth, 424 N. James Street, Columbia, SD 57433, 01/31/24.
 Anthony Lee & Christine Shannon Davis, 418 N. James Street, Columbia, SD, 57433, 01/31/24.
 Steven & Caitlin Beckman, 412 N. James Street, Columbia, SD, 57433, 01/31/24.
 Trevor Meints, 24 Fourth Avenue NW, Columbia, SD 57433, 01/31/24.
 Kevin & Jean Nelson, 4 Fourth Avenue NW, Columbia, SD 57433, 01/31/24.
 Wherefore, the petitioners pray that the council of the City of Columbia, by Resolution, determine that the public interest will be better served by the Vacation of this alleyway area and makes its Order Vacating the same.
 Published March 20, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$23.30 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23109

King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Gold-loving king
 - 6 Soviet space station
 - 9 Actress Dennings
 - 12 "That – I ask"
 - 13 Longoria of TV
 - 14 Writer LeShan
 - 15 "What – mean?"
 - 16 Journal
 - 18 Singer Timberlake
 - 20 Monster
 - 21 Med. plan option
 - 23 Sweetie
 - 24 Different
 - 25 Exile isle
 - 27 Russian villa
 - 29 Deceived
 - 31 There
 - 35 Rocker Adams
 - 37 Harvard rival
 - 38 City near Venice
 - 41 Prefix with gender
 - 43 Shrill bark
 - 44 Teensy bit
 - 45 Frenzied
 - 47 Pampering places

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- 49 Dizzying designs
 - 52 Dad on "Black-ish"
 - 53 Swiss canton
 - 54 Bellini opera
 - 55 Feminine side
 - 56 Favorite
 - 57 Idyllic spots
 - 6 Islamic holy city
 - 7 Infamous tsar
 - 8 Shaft of light
 - 9 IRA relative
 - 10 Worship
 - 11 Greedy sort
 - 17 Plant science
 - 19 Hot rum drink
 - 21 Skirt edge
 - 22 Roman 1051
 - 24 Discoverer's call
 - 26 Photo collections
 - 28 Doubter
 - 30 Notable time
 - 32 Workplace perk, maybe
 - 33 Yalie
 - 34 Gym unit
 - 36 Nails the test
 - 38 Rice field
 - 39 Arcade pioneer
 - 40 Senior member
 - 42 14 pounds
 - 45 Aesopian also-ran
 - 46 Apple product
 - 48 Young dog
 - 50 LBJ's successor
 - 51 Prof's aides
- DOWN**
- 1 Central
 - 2 Equal (Pref.)
 - 3 Nine-to-five gigs
 - 4 Matty of baseball
 - 5 Melting snow



MARCH 12, 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, Gage, Sutton, and Wiese. Commissioner Wiese led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Commissioner Wiese moved to approve the agenda with the addition of discuss burn ban, seconded by Gage. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: District 3 Representative, Carl Perry shared with the Commissioners that HB1229 passed, which was an act to add a county as able to be assigned responsibility for secondary highways on municipal boundaries. Representative Perry shared that Dirk Rogers, County Highway Superintendent and Robin Bobzien, Aberdeen City Manager both presented along with SD Department of Transportation. All three of them worked together on this bill and it passed by both the House and the Senate then went on to Governor Noem and it was signed. Representative Perry commented that your ideas are listened to and this one went all the way through. He also shared that SB201, which was to provide new statutory requirements for regulating linear transmission facilities, to allow counties to impose a surcharge on certain pipeline companies and to establish a landowner bill of rights - did not give more power to the County, it gave less but shared that all District 3 people voted 'No', but it passed 39-31 in the House. Chairman Sutton thanked Representative Perry for all his help on HB1229 and other bills.

FAIR ENTERTAINMENT CONTRACTS: Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Dennert to authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the following Entertainment Contracts for the 2024 Brown County Fair: Sugar Ray for \$70,000.00; LIT for \$40,000.00 and Smash Mouth for \$45,000.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CHANGE ORDER FOR HOLUM EXPO ROOF: Curtis Miller with North Central Steel met with the Commission regarding some engineering concerns that were brought to his attention after the engineers found the old drawings of the Expo Building. If they remove the old roof and replace it with the new style the engineers said the roof structure design would not be valid and there is potential for purlin roll over or sag, so they recommend replacing with sag angle like currently on the roof. With technology the product has improved, and the warranty would be the same but will cost less. The Change Order for the Holum Expo Roof results in the Bid going from \$585,654.00 down to \$541,125.00. Commissioner Fjeldheim asked if there are any issues with getting the materials, Curtis shared that he is locked in with a May 1st date, which is the start date on the project and as of now there are no issues. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Change Order for the Holum Expo Roof. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve the March 5, 2024 General Meeting Minutes. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims/payroll: CLAIMS: Professional Fees: Aberdeen ED \$705.79; Aberdeen Surgery \$72.40; Borns Group \$11,390.46; Carrels & Bain Family Dental Care, LLC \$335.64; Cook County Sheriff \$60.00; Dakota Embalming & Transport Service Inc \$1,463.50; DEVNET \$3,445.31; Freeborn County Sheriff's Office \$100.00; gWorks \$1,050.00; IMEG Corp \$11,700.00; Karpel Solutions \$7,425.00; Language Line Services, Inc \$377.90; LexisNexis Risk Data Mgt, LLC \$200.00; MOCIC \$150.00; Radiology-North Center \$957.20; Sanford Health Occupational Medicine \$188.00; Sara J. Zahn \$51.00; Satellite Tracking of People, LLC \$1,293.50; SD Dept of Public Safety \$6,150.00; Siegel, Barnett & Schutz \$1,012.50; Thomson Reuters-West Payment Center \$291.80; US Bank Visa \$1,454.43. Publishing: Black Hills Pioneer \$12.62; Gannett South Dakota LocalIQ \$21.60; Groton Daily Independent \$9.81; KJRV FM/KOKK AM/KIUV AM \$1,500.00; Moberg Tribune \$12.39; US Bank Visa \$300.00. Rentals: Aramark \$262.68; Dakota Electronics \$99.50. Repairs & Maintenance: A-1 Locksmithing \$390.00; Ace Refrigeration, LLC \$2,064.48; Big Scoop Snow Removal \$330.00; Diesel Machinery, Inc \$8,267.18; EcoLab Pest Elimination Division \$125.83; Graham Tire Inc \$749.48; Hoven Auto Repair, Inc \$548.50; J&K Painting \$1,248.90; Kirk's Auto \$249.00; Meister Mowing LLC \$337.50; Precision Kiosk Technologies \$2,700.00; RDO Equipment Co \$94,488.50; Safety Service \$4,290.74; SD Dept of Public Safety \$2,840.00; Titan Machinery \$839.93; Transource Truck & Equipment, Inc \$6,977.45; US Bank Visa \$5,348.63. Supplies: A-1 Locksmithing \$36.50; Agetra Cooperative \$49,598.14; Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$1,701.39; Auto Value Aberdeen \$11.88; Bimbo Foods USA, Inc \$792.86; Blaze Mills \$49.87; Butler Machinery Company \$1,753.87; Century Business Products \$381.83; Dakota Electronics \$169.25; Dakota Fluid Power, Inc \$723.04; Diesel Machinery, Inc \$1,711.28; East Side Jersey Dairy Inc \$894.52; Fastenal Company \$33.58; House of Glass \$54.02; IMEG Corp \$1,250.00; Interstate Battery System of South Dakota \$595.80; Karen Swank \$45.00; Kessler's \$297.55; Leidholdt Tool Sales, LLC \$179.62; Linde Gas & Equipment Inc \$399.14; Mac's Inc-Capital One Trade Credit \$181.05; Menards \$137.11; Midstates Group \$75.00; Napa Central \$849.98; Nelson Sales & Service, LLC \$102.00; Northwest Divers \$1,342.00; Performance Oil \$73.44; PharmChem, Inc \$607.05; Pitney Bowes Global Financial Services LLC \$1,046.10; RDO Equipment Co \$173.14; Rinse & Go Car Wash \$24.00; Running's \$29.98; Safety Service \$330.00; SD Federal Property Agency \$638.35; Sherwin Williams \$39.49; Simon Solutions, Inc \$162.00; Stan Houston Equipment Company, Inc \$3,399.95; Transource Truck & Equipment, Inc \$6,370.08; Tri-State Water \$35.00; US Bank Visa \$19,182.08; US Foods \$9,640.31. Travel & Conference: Dave Lunzmann \$458.00; US Bank Visa \$1,133.35. Utilities: City of Aberdeen Treasurer \$1,546.20; Dependable Sanitation, Inc \$172.00; Economy Propane, LLC \$1,545.60; Northern Electric \$101.00; Northwestern Energy \$19,640.97; Town of Frederick \$82.62; US Bank Visa \$3,512.23; WEB Water Development Association, Inc \$108.48. Machinery & Equipment: RDO Equipment Co \$77,574.03. Others: SD Assoc of County Officials \$618.00. PAYROLL: Commission \$4,753.89; Elections (Voucher) \$1,834.40; Auditor \$9,850.83; Treasurer \$17,241.75; SA \$34,526.58; Maintenance \$11,970.11; Assessor \$17,385.05; Register of Deeds \$10,406.83; VSO \$4,466.24; GIS \$2,790.90; IT \$9,322.67; HR \$4,960.64; Sheriff \$56,946.09; Jail \$81,631.61; Coroner \$591.30; Court Security \$7,388.15; JDC \$33,901.46; Welfare \$2,466.75; Museum \$12,994.24; Parks/Fairgrounds \$5,191.94; Fair Board \$4,336.33; 4-H \$830.80; Weed \$3,654.77; Planning & Zoning \$7,674.76; Highway \$53,096.84; Dispatch \$36,667.13; Emergency \$5,098.61; 24/7 Sobriety \$2,811.28; Landfill \$19,545.10; SDRS Pay-out \$12,931.77; FICA \$27,629.88; Medicare \$6,461.86; Discovery (HSA) \$1,739.78. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

- Acknowledge the resignation of Cheyenne Waldo, Brown County 911 Communications Officer, FT - effective March 8, 2024. Request to fill.
- Hiring of Blaze Mills as Brown County Jail Detention Officer, PT; starting wage \$15.50/hr. - effective March 5, 2024.
- Return of Richard Burns as Brown County Fair and Parks Maintenance, PT, starting wage \$15.50/hr. - effective March 5, 2024.
- Hiring of Lori Wipf as Brown County Jail/JDC Nurse, PRN; PT Temporary - effective March 8, 2024. Approximate time period for assignment is two weeks.
- Extension of Allison Camp-ton as Brown County Jail/JDC Nurse, PRN; PT Temporary for an additional approximate two-week time period assignment - effective March 9, 2024.
- Extension of Brenda Lyke as Brown County Jail/JDC Nurse, PRN; PT Temporary for an additional approximate two-week time period assignment - effective March 9, 2024.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

NOTICE FOR TAX DEED SALE: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to authorize advertising the following described properties to be offered for sale by auction in the Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex on March 27, 2024 at 10am and further to declare property surplus for purpose of sale: Aberdeen City: Lot - 605 N. Arch St. (LT 1 Brown County Commissioner's 6th SD; LT 10 & N 10' LT 11 BK 10 Hagerty & Lloyd Addition) Aberdeen, Brown County, South Dakota; Stratford City: House - 381 Campbell Ave. (E 1/2 of LT 11 & All of LT 12 BK 2) Stratford, Brown County, South Dakota and House - 688 5th St. (LT 1-6 BK 1) Stratford, Brown County, South Dakota; Groton: Land - 14320 408th Ave. (Holmen OL 1 NW 1/4 Sec 9-T121N-R60W) Groton, Brown County South Dakota. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIM ASSIGNMENTS: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to authorize and approve the Auditor sign the Claim Assignment against an individual to Credit Collections Bureau for the purpose of collecting liens. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS: Kristi Lindell, Government Account Executive from T-Mobile met with the Commissioners wanting to see how they can enter into a partnership with the County and share how they are partnering with counties across Minnesota & South Dakota and share about a community outreach program they have. Chairman Sutton recommended that she contact the IT Department and Emergency Management Department to review the information and determine if it would be a good fit for Brown County.

LEASE AGREEMENTS: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the following lease agreements: Janel Hoeltzer for lease of Richmond Lake Youth Camp on September 14, 2024 for a Wedding; Dave Kramer for lease of Richmond Lake Youth Camp on July 27, 2024 for a Wedding. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LOTTERY PERMITS: Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign applications submitted by SPURS Therapeutic Riding Center for a lottery to be held September 14, 2024 at the SPURS Barn and for another lottery to be held on December 13, 2024 at the SPURS Therapeutic Riding Center. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE TEMPORARY PERMIT FOR SPECIAL EVENT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the following Alcoholic Beverage Temporary Permit for Special Event to Stacy Gossman, DBA: Flying Pig (RL-5733) at the Brown County Fairgrounds Clubhouse for a Wedding on September 7, 2024. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ABATEMENTS: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following abatement for Tax Year 2024: Parcel #19504 \$4,008.56 for Collin Gengerke. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

DISCUSS JAIL NURSE HIRES: Sheriff Dave Lunzmann met with the Commissioners to give a quick update on the nursing staff. Sheriff Lunzmann shared with being short-staffed they have hired 2 RN's and 1 LPN, and they are starting to get into a groove and things are going well. Chairman Sutton shared that they wanted an updated because they seen in the HR Report that a third nurse was hired, and the other two temporary nurses were extended for an additional two weeks so asked if they are still working on a potential permanent solution. Sheriff Lunzmann replied he hopes so but hard to know what that will be at this time; the first two temporary employees have full-time jobs so it was taxing them which is the reason for the third nurse at a lower rate, which helps with cost associated and can spread the duties out to handle them 24/7; there is a possibility of bringing on another person to spread it out even more. Commissioner Dennert asked how much lower the rate was on the third employee. Sheriff Lunzmann stated only thing they changed was by the hour and went to \$50.00. Commissioner Wiese ask if he anticipates a long-term solution coming. Sheriff Lunzmann said it is hard to plan and not knowing how long they are going to be short or how all of this will go and what will happen. Sheriff Lunzmann stated to discuss further would need to go into Executive session.

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

OTHER BUSINESS: Chairman Sutton shared that he had spoken with Scott Meints, Emergency Management Director and at this time there will not be a burn ban but that is subject to change; conditions are extremely dry and dangerous; urge people to use extreme caution and go through the proper channels, make the notifications, have a backup plan in case it gets out of control any expenses of distinguishing the fire goes to the Landowner that started the fire. Commissioner Dennert asked Scott to clarify that it is just a suggestion but not required to not burn at this time. Scott Meints shared that Corey Mitchell, Columbia Fire Chief and President of the Fire Chief Association along with Kevin Barton, Frederick Fire Chief and Vice-President of the Fire Chief Association joined the call to change that recommendation and ask for a County-Wide Burn Ban be put on immediately. Due to the dry conditions and a result of a control burn that was reported but got out of control which the landowner was not prepared for and got within 100 feet of 2 homes in Westport. Ross Aldentaler, State's Attorney Deputy shared that per County Ordinance 18.02 "No person shall set any open fire when the National Weather Service publication of the grassland fire danger index reaches any of the following categories "very high" or "extreme fire danger" or "fire weather watch" or "red flag warning" for any or all of Brown County"; so its tied to the National Weather Service but the Commission by Resolution can determine a fire danger emergency. After further discussion, the following Resolution was presented for a County-Wide Burn Ban effective immediately until lifted.

OPEN BURNING BAN
Commissioner Dennert offered the following Resolution.

RESOLUTION #15-24
WHEREAS, Brown County having received very little rain fall across the entire county, and WHEREAS, the Brown County Commission is dedicated in taking steps to protect the health and safety of all residents of the County and all property within the County, and

WHEREAS, the Brown County Commission has consulted with local fire officials and law enforcement officials in regard to the severity of this issue.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Brown County Commission enact this resolution on an emergency basis and impose a ban to prohibit or restrict ALL open burning with the exception barbecue grills in order to protect the public health and safety; and

RESOLVE that the ban will be in place until further notice; and FURTHER RESOLVE that criminal and civil penalties per County Ordinance 18.07 be imposed if found in violation of this Resolution.

Dated this 12th day of March 2024.

Seconded by Commissioner Fjeldheim.
Roll call vote: Commissioners Dennert-aye, Fjeldheim-aye, Gage-aye, Sutton-aye, Wiese-aye. Resolution adopted.

Auditor, Lynn Heupel informed the Commissioners that Legislative Audits will be coming on Monday, March 25th to start the 2022 & 2023 Audits.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:48 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published March 20, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$153.97 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23099



NOTICE OF MEETING OF COUNTY EQUALIZATION BOARD
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN per SDCL 10-11-25 that the Board of County Commissioners, sitting as a County Board of Equalization of Brown County, South Dakota will meet in the Commissioner's Chambers in said County on Tuesday, the 9th day of April, 2024 for the purpose of review-

ing, correcting and equalizing the 2024 assessments of said County payable in 2025 and shall continue in session and may adjourn from time to time until all property filed appeals have been determined and equalization is completed but no later than April 30, 2024.

All persons considering themselves aggrieved by said assessment, are required to submit written notice to the Brown County Department of Equalization, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, SD 57401 no later than April 2, 2024.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published March 20 and 27, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$19.31 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23100



NOTICE OF MEETING OF CONSOLIDATED EQUALIZATION BOARDS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN per SDCL 10-11-71 that the Consolidated Board of Equalization of Brown County, South Dakota will meet in the Commissioner's Chambers in said County on Tuesday, the 9th day of April, 2024 for the purpose of reviewing, correcting and equalizing the 2024 assessments of said County payable in 2025 and shall continue in session and may adjourn from time to time until all property filed appeals have been determined and equalization is completed but no later than April 30, 2024.

All persons considering themselves aggrieved by said assessment, are required to submit written notice to the Brown County Department of Equalization, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, SD 57401 no later than April 2, 2024.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published March 20 and 27, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$19.31 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 231001



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

Published March 13 and 20, 2024 at the approximate total cost of \$17.78 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23096



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.

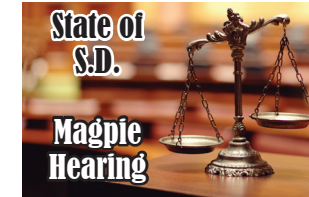
Contract: Brown County will give notice to the successful bidder that his proposal has been accepted and said bidder shall within ten (10) days thereafter enter into a contract with Brown County in accordance with the bid as accepted. Successful bidder shall furnish proper certificates of insurance as 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

Published March 13 and 20, 2024 at the approximate total cost of \$18.70 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23097



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
COUNTY OF BROWN
(SS))
IN CIRCUIT COURT
FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
A&N 23-104
NOTICE OF REVIEW HEARING
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA IN THE INTEREST OF S.W.M., MINOR CHILD, AND CONCERNING PHOEBE ROSE WHITE MAGPIE AND EUGENE TRACY, RESPONDENTS.

To: Phoebe White Magpie
Please take notice and be advised that the above-entitled matter has been scheduled for a Review Hearing on the 8th day of May, 2024, at the hour of 9:30 a.m. of said day, before the Honorable Circuit Judge Julie Dvorak, at the Brown County Courthouse, Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Dated this 11th day of March, 2024

/s/ Karla Nelson, Deputy
Brown County States Attorney
Published March 20, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$10.12 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23098

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UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF EDUCATION GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6 REGULAR MEETING March 11, 2024

President Gengerke called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. at the Columbia American Legion. Members present: Fliehs, Gengerke, Harder, Lerseth-Fliehs, Pharis, and Weismantel. Absent Rix. Others present were Supt. J. Schwan, Principal Edwards, and Business Manager Hubsch.

Moved by Weismantel, second Fliehs to approve the agenda with an amendment of the resignation of Tanner Pietz as music instructor at the end of the 23-24 school year. Motion carried.

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

Public discussion was had regarding district opt-out proposal. President Gengerke called for a recess at 7:17pm.

President Gengerke declared the board out of recess at 7:32pm.

Moved by Pharis, second Lerseth-Fliehs to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: District minutes of February 12, 2024, school board meeting and February 29, 2024,

special school board meeting; February 2024 district bills, February 2024 financial report, custodial accounts, investments, February 2024 school lunch report, and February 2024 school transportation report. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND: Net Payroll - 318,354.55; Benefits - 82,244.72; Amazon - supplies, 102.09; Loren Bahr - DOT physical reimbursed, 100.00; The Boston Fern - BB parents night, 52.00; Bristol Community Center - election room rental, 250.00; City of Groton - election room rental, 150.00; Cole Papers - janitor supply, 1,246.04; Comfort Inn - MS All State Band lodging, 369.00; Custodial Fund - advanced payments, 52,412.90; Dependable Sanitation - garbage, 1,287.00; Brian Dolan - sports help, 70.00; Farm Tire Service - tires, 200.00; Full Circle Ag - diesel, 366.00; Geffdog Desjans - BBB shirts, 530.96; Justin Hanson - sports help, 90.00; Hillyard - repairs, 523.87; Layton Holmstorm - sports help, 90.00; Logan Huber - sports help, 215.00; Mike Imrie - sports help, 175.00; JW Pepper - music, 196.98; Jostens - yearbook payment, 1,036.00; Jordan Kjellens - sports help, 70.00; McLeod's - election supplies, 380.37; Nardini Fire Equipment - fire compliance services, 697.00; Northside Implement - repairs, 11,094.82; Northwestern Energy - utilities, 6,603.11; Petty Cash, Kristi Peterson - MS State, 62.50; Roy L Hall American Legion Post 58 - election room rental, 100.00; SDHSAA - late penalty BBB, 50.00; Mike

Siegler - sports help, 70.00; Ryan Tracy - sports help, 165.00; Tom Woods - sports help, 70.00; Desiree Yeigh - meals, 55.75; Jesse Zak - sports help, 175.00; Kristi Zoellner - sports help, 565.00. Total General Fund - \$480,220.66.

CAPITAL OUTLAY: A&B Business - managed print agreement, 2,801.37; Amazon - wet floor signs/chair, 264.58; Billion Auto - van, 34,995.00; Custodial Fund - advanced payments, 433.45; Follett - Elementary center books, 551.18. Total Capital Outlay - \$39,045.58.

SPECIAL ED: Net Payroll - 50,503.35; Benefits - 14,084.09; Avera St Lukes - PT/OT, 16,267.47; Custodial Fund - advanced payments, 556.92; Judy or Gene Williamson - mileage, 514.08; Nikki Wright - mileage, 336.60. Total Special Ed - \$82,262.51.

FOOD SERVICE: Net Payroll - 8,143.16; Benefits - 2,660.04; Amazon - kitchen microwave, 149.98; BIMO Bakery - food, 321.78; Cintas - apron/towel service, 107.92; Custodial Fund - advanced payments, 877.27; East Side Jersey Dairy - milk, 988.98; Edutrack - software lunchroom, 2,301.00; Performance Foodservice - food, 8,029.91; US Foods - food, 2,522.70. Total Food Service - \$26,102.74.

OST: Net Payroll - 2,769.60; Benefits - 418.31; Custodial Fund - advanced payments, 626.85. Total OST - \$3,814.76.

DRIVERS ED: Net Payroll - 0.00; Benefits - 0.00. Total Driver's Ed: \$0.00.

CUSTODIAL FUND: 81,112.46. RECEIPTS: Local Sources, Taxes - 107,611.13; Local Sources, Other - 193,525.54; County Sources - 2,633.63; State Sources - 155,024.31; Federal Sources - 9,440.26. Total Receipts - 468,234.87.

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

Discussion regarding forming a football cooperative with Langford School District. Mr. Schwan gave an overview of a community meeting from March 1st. The board reviewed survey results and determined that the Groton Area Board football cooperative committee will meet with Langford's board committee for further discussion on the next steps in forming a football cooperative.

Moved by Weismantel, second by Harder, to approve the job description for maintenance director. Motion carried.

Moved by Harder, second by Pharis, to approve the District Wellness Policy. Motion carried.

The following items were discussed in administrative reports: J. Schwan gave a 2024 legislation update and congratulated the boy's basketball and cheerleading team for making it to the state tournament in Rapid City. Schwan also clarified that the charter transportation and additional lodging and meals are being funded with private donations and thanked the donors. Vacancies include a sign lan-

guage interpreter (immediate) and a 24-25 school-year music instructor.

S. Edwards reported her completion of the leadership academy. The middle school and high school handbook will be ready to review in April, and Smarter Balance testing will be taking place in the middle/high school April 8-17.

Hubsch notified the board that there would be no school board election this year, as only two petitions were filed for the two open positions by the deadline. Martin Weismantel and Nicholas Strom will begin their three-year terms at the annual meeting held in July.

Hubsch shared quotes from Cahill Bauer & Associates for the FY 24 audit and the possible savings in switching auditor firms. She also shared a health insurance quote from Northern Plains Insurance Pool. Hubsch will attend the Associated School Boards Protective Trust Annual Health Insurance. An election training workshop was set for poll workers, and Hubsch thanked Presentation Sisters for donating to students pursuing their CNA certification.

Moved by Weismantel, second by Fliehs, to authorize the superintendent to sign Section 179D allocation letter for Sichmeller Engineering, Inc. Motion carried.

Moved by Harder, second by Pharis, to approve Cahill Bauer & Associates, LLC to conduct the FY2024 District Audit and authorize the Business Manager to sign a formal engagement letter. Motion carried.

Moved by Harder, second by

Pharis, approve 2024 Diver's Education Fees at \$290 and instructor agreements. Motion carried.

Moved by Fliehs, second by Pharis, approve Megan Serr, Elementary Special Education Teacher, for the 2024-25 school year with salary to be published in July. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, second by Harder, approve Lindsey Vander Wal, Ag Education Teacher/FFA Advisor, for the 2024-25 school year with salary to be published in July. Motion carried.

Moved by Fliehs, second by Harder, approve Carrie Cole, 1st Grade Teacher, for the 2024-25 school year with salary to be published in July. Motion carried.

Moved by Harder, second by Pharis, approve the resignation of Ryan Scepaniak as Assistant Wrestling Coach. Motion carried.

Moved by Fliehs, second by Lerseth-Fliehs, to approve Ryan Scepaniak, as Maintenance Director effective March 7, 2024. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, Second by Harder to approve the resignation of Tanner Pietz as Music Instructor at the end of 23-24 school year. Motion carried.

Moved by Harder, second Weismantel to adjourn at 8:27 pm. Motion carried.

Becky Hubsch, Business Manager Deborah Gengerke, President

The addition of signatures to this page verifies these minutes as official.

Published March 20, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$170.81 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23104

GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 06-6 FINANCIAL REPORTS								
	General Fund	Capital Outlay	Special Education	Bond Redemption	Food Service	OST	Driver's Ed	Custodial
JAN. 1 2024.....	\$1,833,127.89	\$891,992.72	\$518,922.48	\$20.43	\$187,169.06	\$27,515.21	\$18,108.33	\$96,387.82
RECEIPTS								
Local Sources	\$39,502.51	\$4,720.17	\$2,253.63	\$22.36	\$13,643.50	\$5,108.35		\$132,326.52
County Sources	\$2,633.33							
State Sources								
State Aid.....	\$27,699.00							
Mentor Teacher Program	\$350.00							
State Apportionment								
State Reimbursements								
Bank Franchise								
Federal Sources					\$6,999.05			
Sale of Assets								
Due from Govt								
Transfer In/Out								
TOTAL MONTHLY RECEIPTS	\$70,184.84	\$4,720.17	\$2,253.63	\$22.36	\$20,642.55	\$5,108.35	\$0.00	\$132,326.52
FUNDS AVAILABLE.....	\$1,903,312.73	\$896,712.89	\$521,176.11	\$42.79	\$207,811.61	\$32,623.56	\$18,108.33	\$228,714.34
MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS.....	(\$483,234.12)	(\$41,707.09)	(\$82,330.39)	\$0.00	(\$19,608.00)	(\$3,951.93)	\$0.00	(\$61,682.71)
JOURNAL ENTRIES.....	(\$605.00)					\$498.67		
JAN. 31, 2024.....	\$1,419,473.61	\$855,005.80	\$438,845.72	\$42.79	\$188,203.61	\$29,170.30	\$18,108.33	\$167,031.63
GENERAL FUND.....	\$301,359.28							
Payroll	\$301,359.28							
Instruction.....	\$80,613.93							
Employee Benefits	\$101,260.91							
Supplies, Utilities, Etc.	\$483,234.12							
Total.....								
SPECIAL EDUCATION Payroll								
Instruction.....	\$43,905.15							
Employee Benefits	\$13,527.55							
Supplies, Etc.	\$24,897.69							
Total.....	\$82,330.39							
FOOD SERVICE Payroll								
Instruction.....	\$6,628.40							
Employee Benefits	\$2,472.37							
Food, Supplies, Etc.	\$10,507.23							
Total.....	\$19,608.00							
OST Payroll								
Instruction.....	\$3,083.32							
Employee Benefits	\$686.95							
Supplies, Etc.	\$181.66							
Total.....	\$3,951.93							
Driver's Education Payroll								
Instruction.....	\$-							
Employee Benefits	\$-							
Supplies, Etc.	\$0.00							
Total.....	\$0.00							



City of Columbia Council Meeting - July 12, 2023

CALL MEETING TO ORDER - 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL - Cara Dennert, Corey Mitchell, Cole Kampa via Zoom, Trevor Meints, Emily Eichler,

Meghan Butler Community; Jeremy Dosch, Julie Lillis, Ray Larson

Corey Mitchell called the meeting to order. He called for a motion to approve the agenda. Emily Eichler made a motion to approve the posted agenda. Meghan Butler Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried. Corey Mitchell called for any conflict of interest on agenda items. Emily Eichler stated that she would not vote on the PA system motion. There were no other conflicts. Minutes were passed out from the June 14th meeting. Trevor Meints made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Emily Eichler seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried. Warrant Vouchers: Web - fire

prevention - 47.72; Northwestern Energy - electricity- 798.44; Dacotah Bank - flowers/plants- 506.83; Cara Dennert - May salary- 1235.25; GDI -; Jeremy Dosch- May salary - 419.99; Runnings-shop supplies - 25.97; United States Treasury - 2nd Q taxes- 2275.74; Meghan Butler - 2nd Q salary - 329.40; Trevor Meints- 2nd Q salary - 370.58; Corey Mitchell - 2nd Q salary - 340.34; Emily Eichler- 2nd Q salary - 370.58; Cole Kampa - 2nd Q salary - 370.58; Siegel, Barnett & Schutz - lawyer fees- 2921.77; Double D Lot Services - park mowing- 3076.79; Artz Equipment - shop supplies- 160.88; Agtegra- fuel - 83.30; Dakota Resources - community

coachng- 1912.06; SDPAA - insurance- 3273.34; JVT- fire prevention- 206.57; SD Unemployment Insurance - insurance - 43.41; Public Health Laboratory - sample analysis - 32.00

Cole Kampa made a motion to accept the vouchers as presented. Emily Eichler seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE: - Letter from DANR; SD Dept of Transportation; Public Health Lab - sample analysis

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - Ray Larson was present to propose a plan for handling the financials/ management of the baseball park. The city will take care of

payments to the mowing service. In October, we will submit a bill to the Buntrock family for reimbursement. For the next two years, the Buntrock family will continue to pay for the upkeep of the park. Going forward, the city will pay for the insurance and electricity for the baseball park. The Columbia Baseball Committee will take care of mowing, equipment needed, and cleaning of the ballpark. They will lease the ballpark from the city (for a minimal fee) for the next two years. Any fundraising for the Baseball Park will go towards paying for needs for the baseball park only. There will be a more formal agreement reached at the next city meeting (August 2nd, 2023). Julie Lillis was also present to give an update on Columbia Fest - July 29th. Corey will be calling to remind the county about spraying for mosquitos.

Nuisances - Letters will be going out this month for violators of city ordinances.

Streets - We are on the list to have streets bladed. Corey and Jeremy have been working on some intersections. Mayor Corey presented the 2nd reading for the street vacation of South Mill and East Townsend. Trevor Meints made a motion to approve the vacation of South Mill and East Townsend. Cole Kampa seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried.

Parks - the PA system has been installed at the new ball park.

Lagoon/sewer - Meghan is catching up on data entry for the lagoon. It needs to be pumped soon before we receive any more rain. Tim Flor has agreed to come out and train Meghan on how to handle the lagoon tests and data entry.

Rubble Site - It is full. NEW BUSINESS - The council discussed the new speaker system for the ballpark. Trevor

Meints made a motion to pay for the PA system. The check will be written next month. Meghan Butler seconded the motion. All were in favor. Emily Eichler abstained from voting. Motion carried. Jeremy and Corey went into Aberdeen to look at mowers. They looked at three different places. Their recommendation to the board is a mower that comes from Artz Equipment. It will be \$13,000 with our trade in. It will come with a 3 year warranty. Our current mower was bought seven years ago. Meghan Butler to purchase the mower. Emily Eichler seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT - Cara Dennert handed out revenue and expenditure budget papers for all incoming and outgoing financials January through June. She advised the board to start looking over totals and our current budget to start planning our 2024 budget. That will be addressed in the next couple months. Cara presented bank balances. Trevor Meints made a motion to accept the financial reports as given. Meghan Butler seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried.

June 30, 2023 balances: SF - \$ 156,709.90; SF Money Market -\$50,234.70; GF - \$ 181,196.00; GF Money Market -\$50,234.70; CD Money Market -\$ 32,057.37; FIT - \$14,466.81; Cash on hand - \$0

Mayor Corey Mitchell declared the meeting adjourned.

Next Regular City Council Meeting - August 2, 2023 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Cara Dennert, Finance Officer

Published March 20, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$50.77 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23106

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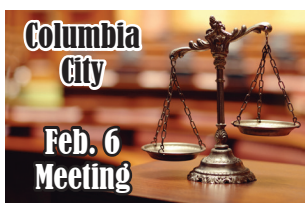
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City of Columbia Council Meeting - February 6, 2024

CALL MEETING TO ORDER - 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL - Cara Dennert, Corey Mitchell, Cole Kampa, Trevor Meints, Emily Eichler, Jeremy Dosch

Community: Kevin Nelson, Julie Lillis, Lisa Mohr, Glen Larson
 Corey Mitchell called the meeting to order. He called for a motion to approve the agenda. Emily Eichler made a motion to approve the posted agenda. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried. Corey Mitchell called for any conflict of interest on agenda items. There were no conflicts. Minutes were passed out from the January 3rd meeting. Emily Eichler made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried.

Warrant Vouchers: JVT - fire prevention - 207.13; Web Water - fire prevention - 50.58; Northwestern Energy - electricity - 1723.97; Runnings - 31.29; GDI - publication - 66.50; NASASP - 39.00; Jeremy Dosch - 419.99; Cara Dennert - December wages - 1235.25; Dacotah Bank - shop supplies - 126.74; Runnings - shop supplies - 80.94; SDATT - membership dues - 205.00

Trevor pointed out - on the posted agenda, Cara had listed the voucher amount for her salary as December wages. That should have been listed as January wages. Cole Kampa made a motion to accept the vouchers as amended. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS / CORESPONDENCE: 2024 Boundary and Annexation Survey - Corey took care of the survey.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - Kevin Nelson was present to discuss the vacating of the alley by their home. He still needs one signature before we can have a 1st reading of the vacation at the March meeting. If he has that signature at that time, we can have our second reading of that vacation at the March equalization meeting. There was more discussion about the user agreement for the baseball park. Emily will put some final corrections into the agreement before the next meeting.

Nuisances - Code Enforcement Specialists had a report to present the Council. The council was in agreement to proceed with sending the owner(s) a final notice giving them an additional 2 weeks to comply or their vehicle or junk will be abated. This means towing away vehicles. The owner of the property is responsible for all costs related to an abatement. Cole Kampa made a motion for Mike Olson to proceed. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried. A reminder dog letter will go out with the next sewer invoices. There are a few new residents in town - some in need of dog licenses.

Streets - There was a city map update from NECOG. Corey completed the update. The streets are a mess currently. Paula Jensen passed along a grant opportunity for some street signs. Corey is working on that paperwork.

Parks - Emily brought up some thoughts on Summer Rec 2024. While she would help with planning and Olivia would help with the activities, the city is looking for someone to be in charge. Anyone interested should let a council member know. Corey is applying for a grant for cameras for the parks. The council received a check from Dean Buntrock covering the mowing of the new parks.

Lagoon/sewer - Stockwell Engineers are working with the council to do some studies of our storm water and waste water facilities. Cole Kampa made a motion that Mayor Mitchell should send in the planning grant application to start the study. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried.

Rubble Site - In order for the site to be burned properly, we need an excavator to push the rubble into piles. Still in the works.

NEW BUSINESS - Cara purchased an external drive to back up the city files. The Social Op-

portunities group was present to talk about the 3rd annual Columbia Fest. Parking and streets being blocked off last year seemed to work out well. They need to get a better staging route for the parade figured out. They asked if it will be possible to get some of the vendors and the games onto the grass in the park this year - Corey said that the grass should be more established and it shouldn't be a problem - as long as it's foot traffic only. They are also hoping to promote the use of the games that the park has to offer - pickle ball, frisbee golf, and basketball. They are looking to hold an informal All-School Reunion.

FINANCIAL REPORT - Cara has started the annual report. She presented bank balances. Trevor Meints made a motion to accept the financial reports as given. Cole Kampa seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried.

January 31, 2024 balances: SF - \$ 70,164.35; SF Money Market - \$ 150,596.80;

GF - \$ 127,773.33; GF Money Market - \$ 50,531.22; CD Money Market - \$ 32,246.61;

FIT - \$ 14,894.60; Cash on hand - \$0

Mayor Corey Mitchell declared the meeting adjourned.

Next City Council Meeting - March 6, 2024 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Cara Dennert, Finance Officer

Published March 20, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$48.84 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23107



City of Columbia Council Meeting - March 6, 2024

CALL MEETING TO ORDER - 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL - Cara Dennert, Corey Mitchell, Trevor Meints, Emily Eichler via Zoom, Jeremy Dosch

Community: Kevin Nelson, Julie Lillis, Julie Voeller, Dana Mohr, Scott Meints, Cyndy Larson
 Corey Mitchell called the meeting to order. He called for a motion to approve the agenda. Jeremy Dosch made a motion to approve the posted agenda. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried. Corey Mitchell called for any conflict of interest on agenda items. There were no conflicts. Minutes were passed out from the July 12, 2023 meeting. Cara explained that a secretarial mistake was made and the section about the 2nd reading was left off inadvertently. It was on the back side of the minutes page. It read - Mayor Corey presented the 2nd reading for the street vacation of South Mill and East Townsend. Trevor Meints made a motion to approve the vacation of South Mill and East Townsend. Cole Kampa seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried. Jeremy Dosch made a motion to approve the revised minutes of the July 12, 2023 meeting. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried. Minutes were also passed out from the February 6th meeting. Trevor Meints made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Emily Eichler seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried.

Warrant Vouchers: JVT - fire prevention - 204.47; Web Water - fire prevention - 50.34; Northwestern Energy - electricity - 2190.61; Jeremy Dosch - February wages - 419.99; Cara Dennert - February wages - 1235.25; Dacotah Bank - shop supplies - 20.42; Code Enforcement - nuisance work - 385.50; Stockwell Engineers, Inc. - stormwater facility plan & wastewater facility plan - 2500.00
 Cara clarified that the crossed out items were listed incorrectly. Dacotah Bank was a personal expense. Code Enforcement was paid in January. Emily Eichler made a motion to accept the vouchers as amended. Jeremy Dosch seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS / CORESPONDENCE:
UNFINISHED BUSINESS - The ballpark lease contract has been revised - next month some members of the baseball committee will be present to finalize. Mayor Corey stated that Kevin Nelson has brought a petition to vacate the alley on his block. Legal description:

the alleyway between James St. and Broadway St., on plat #37, "Smith's 1st addition to Columbia, Brown County, Dakota" with Lots 401-428, that were filed on October 2, 1882, running north and south from Fourth Avenue NW to Fifth Avenue NW. This meeting is the 1st reading of alley vacation. The 2nd reading of this petition will be March 19th at 7:00 p.m. We will send the paperwork that he has given us to Paul to publish. There will not be an election for council members - only two residents turned in petitions - Jeremy Dosch and Scott Meints. They will be automatically appointed.

Nuisances - The council received a new follow-up report from Code Enforcement Specialists. Dana Mohr was present to discuss the open pit on his property. He asked the council for an extension to fill the pit. The council extended his time to June 1st, 2024.
Streets - The streets need to be built up a bit - they aren't draining properly. Dana said that he filled in some potholes on his street. The streets also need grading. Hard to judge when that should happen with the weather.
Parks - Emily is talking to a few people about possibly running Summer Rec. There are some new bleachers at the ball park. Corey will talk to Marty this week to make sure they are insured.
Lagoon/sewer - A flow meter is being installed - part of the wastewater study. Corey said that we will probably need to do a discharge soon.

Rubble Site - Jeremy is working with the Department of Natural Resources on the city's burn site permit.

NEW BUSINESS - Julie Voeller was present to talk about a couple trees near her property. Cole Kampa (who is the street committee) will be notified to look into the situation. The council discussed possible dates for the equalization meeting. It was decided it will be held Tuesday, March 19th at 7:00 p.m. Corey will stop by the courthouse on the 12th to pick up the city's packet for the meeting. Some members of the Columbia Foundation were present. Corey talked about grant information sent to the city. The Columbia Foundation is paying the remainder of Paula Jensen's contract. Julie Lillis explained that the foundation doesn't want to hand out a lump sum of money to the city each year, but currently they said that they would have around \$29,000 available for us. Corey talked about some of our security cameras not working great. He told us about a proposal of three separate cameras that would cover both new parks. Cyndy asked about the possibility of getting some grant funding for those cameras. Cyndy will forward information on possible grant to Corey. There was some discussion about the speed signs in town.

FINANCIAL REPORT - The Sam's registration is complete. Cara is almost finished with the annual report. She presented bank balances. Trevor Meints made a motion to accept the financial reports as given. Jeremy Dosch seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried.
 February 29, 2024 balances: SF - \$ 72,389.27; SF Money Market - \$ 150,714.69;

GF - \$ 156,866.38; GF Money Market - \$ 50,570.78; CD Money Market - \$ 32,271.85;

FIT - \$ 14,953.51; Cash on hand - \$0

Mayor Corey Mitchell declared the meeting adjourned.
Next Meeting - City of Columbia Equalization Meeting - March 19, 2024 7:00 p.m. This meeting will also be the 2nd reading of alleyway vacation.
Next Regular City Council Meeting - April 3, 2024 7:00 p.m.
 Submitted by Cara Dennert, Finance Officer
 Published March 20, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$56.29 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23108

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Next Regular City Council Meeting - April 3, 2024 7:00 p.m.
 Submitted by Cara Dennert, Finance Officer
 Published March 20, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$56.29 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23108

WHEREAS, the City of Groton adopted Ordinance No. 669 dated 5/1/2011 (the "Franchise Ordinance") authorizing Northwestern Corporation to operate a gas distribution system within the City of Groton; and, **WHEREAS**, as of January 1, 2024, Northwestern Corporation's South Dakota and Nebraska assets and related contractual obligations transferred to a new entity named NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy consistent with a corporate reorganization authorized by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Docket No. GE22-002) and the Nebraska Public Service Commission (Docket No. NG-114); and, **WHEREAS**, other than the above-referenced transfer there is no change to the terms or conditions of the Franchise Ordinance or performance thereto; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Groton hereby acknowledges and accepts the assignment of Ordinance 669 from NorthWestern Corporation to NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy.

Moved by Nehls and seconded by Cutler to approve replacing Employers Mutual with Reliance Standard for employee life insurance. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Wells and seconded by Cutler to approve the agenda with no changes or additions. All members present voted aye.

Public comments were welcomed pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1, but none were received.
 Mayor Hanlon signed the proclamation declaring March 11th - 17th as Groton Tiger Week to honor the Groton Area Boys' Basketball Team earning an invitation to the State A Boys' Basketball Tournament. **Congratulations Tigers!**

Jana Simunek made a special request to be on a budget pay plan for utilities. Moved by Bahr and seconded by Babcock to approve Simunek's request to be on a budget pay plan for utilities. All members present voted aye.
 Simunek exited the meeting.

Five sealed bids were submitted for the 2024 Street Resurfacing Project - Jensen Rock and Sand at \$3.10 per sq. yd., The Road Guy Construction Co. at \$3.05 per sq. yd., Bituminous Paving, Inc at \$3.75 per sq. yd., Topkote, Inc at \$2.568 per sq. yd. Pave LLC submitted an alternative bid at \$3.15 per sq. yd. Moved by Cutler and seconded by Nehls to award the project to Topkote, Inc.'s low bid of \$2.568 per sq. yd. All members present voted aye.

Department reports were reviewed and discussed.
 Herron and Zerr exited the meeting.

Discussion took place regarding the Groton Police Department's 2017 Ford Explorer.

Follow-up discussion took place regarding childcare.

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Nehls to enable Thrillshare's "Alerts" feature. All members present voted aye.

Discussion took place regarding the surplus of the safe in the history room at City Hall. Council would like to retain the safe in the history room and not move forward with declaring the safe as surplus.

Moved by Wambach and seconded by Wells to approve Resolution No. 20241 acknowledging the assignment of Ordinance No. 669 from NorthWestern Corporation to NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation. The resolution reads as follows: (All members present voted aye)

WHEREAS, the City of Groton adopted Ordinance No. 669 dated 5/1/2011 (the "Franchise Ordinance") authorizing Northwestern Corporation to operate a gas distribution system within the City of Groton; and, **WHEREAS**, as of January 1, 2024, Northwestern Corporation's South Dakota and Nebraska assets and related contractual obligations transferred to a new entity named NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy consistent with a corporate reorganization authorized by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Docket No. GE22-002) and the Nebraska Public Service Commission (Docket No. NG-114); and, **WHEREAS**, other than the above-referenced transfer there is no change to the terms or conditions of the Franchise Ordinance or performance thereto; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Groton hereby acknowledges and accepts the assignment of Ordinance 669 from NorthWestern Corporation to NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy.

Moved by Nehls and seconded by Cutler to approve replacing Employers Mutual with Reliance Standard for employee life insurance. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Cutler and seconded by Wambach to authorize the following bills for payment. All members present voted aye.

Payroll, \$27,786.86, Employee salaries; Executive, \$559,27; Administrative, \$4,743.83; Public Safety, \$9,939.81; Public Works, \$12,543.95; City of Groton, \$111.94, Family crisis utility payment; Douglas Heinrich, \$50.00, Med flex; Brown County Treasurer, \$26.70, Licensing of reel trailer - Electric

tor, wrench set, hammer, soap, tools - City Shop; Dacotah Bank Visa, \$2,145.15, Air filters, spark plug, water sample postage, router for new PD Tahoe, tablet for new PD Tahoe, planner, fuel purchases, Red Cross Facility Fee for pool, candy, wrench - Multiple Depts.; IT Outlet, Inc., \$65.00, Remote support service - Electric Dept.; Heartland Waste Management, \$10,144.20, Garbage hauling; Lori's Pharmacy, \$11.98, Batteries - City Shop; Avera Occupational Medicine, \$190.00, Employee drug screening fees x2; Ken's Fair Foods, \$311.59, Fuel purchases - Multiple Depts.; Banyon Data Systems, Inc., \$1,490.00, PSN Online Pay Module; Heartland Energy, \$46,986.60, Power services - February 2024; Aramark, \$67.26, Rug rent; Avera Medical Group - Aberdeen, \$80.00, Employee DOT drug screening fees x2; USPS, \$320.00, Fee for First-Class Presort Permit #10; James Valley Telecommunications, \$776.12, Telephone and internet services;

The Equalization meeting was set for March 19, 2024, after the regularly scheduled council meeting on a motion by Nehls and seconded by Bahr. All members present voted aye.

City offices will be closed on March 29th and April 1st of 2024 for Good Friday and Easter Monday.
 Varin exited the meeting.
 Moved by Nehls and seconded by Cutler to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal matters 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 8:16pm. All members present voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 9:06pm.
 Varin reentered the meeting.
 Moved by Wells and seconded by Wambach to begin accepting applications for a full-time Public Works Laborer. Applications are due by April 16, 2024, at 5pm. All members present voted aye.
 Moved by Babcock and seconded by Nehls to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 775 - Summer Salaries with the addition of \$.25 per year of service bonus added to Public Works Laborer, Cemetery Caretaker, Swimming Pool Manager, and Asst. Part-time Swimming Pool Manager. All members present voted aye.
 Moved by Bahr and seconded by Nehls to adjourn the meeting at 9:10pm. All members present voted aye.
 Scott Hanlon, Mayor
 Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer
 Published March 20, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$95.20 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23110

tor, wrench set, hammer, soap, tools - City Shop; Dacotah Bank Visa, \$2,145.15, Air filters, spark plug, water sample postage, router for new PD Tahoe, tablet for new PD Tahoe, planner, fuel purchases, Red Cross Facility Fee for pool, candy, wrench - Multiple Depts.; IT Outlet, Inc., \$65.00, Remote support service - Electric Dept.; Heartland Waste Management, \$10,144.20, Garbage hauling; Lori's Pharmacy, \$11.98, Batteries - City Shop; Avera Occupational Medicine, \$190.00, Employee drug screening fees x2; Ken's Fair Foods, \$311.59, Fuel purchases - Multiple Depts.; Banyon Data Systems, Inc., \$1,490.00, PSN Online Pay Module; Heartland Energy, \$46,986.60, Power services - February 2024; Aramark, \$67.26, Rug rent; Avera Medical Group - Aberdeen, \$80.00, Employee DOT drug screening fees x2; USPS, \$320.00, Fee for First-Class Presort Permit #10; James Valley Telecommunications, \$776.12, Telephone and internet services;

The Equalization meeting was set for March 19, 2024, after the regularly scheduled council meeting on a motion by Nehls and seconded by Bahr. All members present voted aye.

City offices will be closed on March 29th and April 1st of 2024 for Good Friday and Easter Monday.
 Varin exited the meeting.
 Moved by Nehls and seconded by Cutler to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal matters 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 8:16pm. All members present voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 9:06pm.
 Varin reentered the meeting.
 Moved by Wells and seconded by Wambach to begin accepting applications for a full-time Public Works Laborer. Applications are due by April 16, 2024, at 5pm. All members present voted aye.
 Moved by Babcock and seconded by Nehls to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 775 - Summer Salaries with the addition of \$.25 per year of service bonus added to Public Works Laborer, Cemetery Caretaker, Swimming Pool Manager, and Asst. Part-time Swimming Pool Manager. All members present voted aye.
 Moved by Bahr and seconded by Nehls to adjourn the meeting at 9:10pm. All members present voted aye.
 Scott Hanlon, Mayor
 Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer
 Published March 20, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$95.20 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23110

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Groton Independent ♦ Wed., Mar. 20, 2024 ♦ 7

Brown County Court
 Cleberg Name Change Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 6th day of March, 2024 a Verified Petition for Adult Name Change has been filed by Zion Cleberg the object and prayer of which is to change Petitioner's name from Zion Isabelle Cleberg to Caelus Leon Cleberg. On the 8th day of May 2024, at the hour of 8:45am said verified petition will be heard by this Court before the Honorable Gregg C. Magera Presiding, at the Court Room in the Brown County Courthouse, City of Aberdeen, Brown County, South Dakota, or as soon thereafter as is convenient for the court. Anyone may come and appear at that time and place and show reasons, if any, why said name should not be changed as requested.

Published March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 2024 at the approximate total cost of \$29.19 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23105

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Groton City
 March 12 Meeting

City of Groton Council Meeting - March 12, 2024

CALL MEETING TO ORDER - 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL - Cara Dennert, Corey Mitchell, Cole Kampa, Trevor Meints, Emily Eichler, Jeremy Dosch

Community: Kevin Nelson, Julie Lillis, Lisa Mohr, Glen Larson
 Corey Mitchell called the meeting to order. He called for a motion to approve the agenda. Emily Eichler made a motion to approve the posted agenda. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried. Corey Mitchell called for any conflict of interest on agenda items. There were no conflicts. Minutes were passed out from the January 3rd meeting. Emily Eichler made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried.

Warrant Vouchers: JVT - fire prevention - 207.13; Web Water - fire prevention - 50.58; Northwestern Energy - electricity - 1723.97; Runnings - 31.29; GDI - publication - 66.50; NASASP - 39.00; Jeremy Dosch - 419.99; Cara Dennert - December wages - 1235.25; Dacotah Bank - shop supplies - 126.74; Runnings - shop supplies - 80.94; SDATT - membership dues - 205.00

Trevor pointed out - on the posted agenda, Cara had listed the voucher amount for her salary as December wages. That should have been listed as January wages. Cole Kampa made a motion to accept the vouchers as amended. Trevor Meints seconded



MINUTES FOR THE CITY OF GROTON LOCAL BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

The City of Groton Local Board of Equalization met on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 8:00pm at 120 N Main Street. Board members present were Mayor Scott Hanlon, Council members: Jason Wambach, Shirley Wells, Jon Cutler, Karyn Babcock, Brian Bahr, and Kevin Nehls. Also present was Douglas Heinrich - Finance Officer, Dale Ringgenberg, and Glen Cooper.

The Local Board of Equalization received two written notice of appeals in objection to property assessments from Glen Cooper (Wendy and Bonnie Cooper) and Dale Ringgenberg. Cooper objected based upon the fact that the lot in question, LT 2-3 BK 13 ORIGINAL PLAT GROTON, had a house removed from old '206' property, yet still saw an increase in value that Cooper believes to be unwarranted. The Local Board of Equalization agreed with Cooper that the value seemed high and deferred Cooper's corrected value of \$270,000 to the Brown County Board of Equalization for review.

Ringgenberg objected based upon his belief that the value of the lot in question, N 46' LT 18 & LT 19 BK 39 1ST ADDITION GROTON, was assessed too high. The Local Board of Equalization deferred Ringgenberg's corrected value of \$78,000 to the Brown County Board of Equalization for review. No other property owners

were present on March 19th to object to assessments. The Local Board of Equalization reviewed the property assessment list and had no recommendations for Brown County to review.

The Groton City Local Board of Equalization adjourned at 9:29 PM.

ATTEST:
Scott Hanlon, Mayor
Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer

Published March 20, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$17.11 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23123



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 20th day of March, 2024 a Verified Petition for minor Name Change has been filed by Heather King (mother) the object and prayer of which is to change their minor child's name from Anthony Eugene Gilmore III to Anthony Eugene Tracy. On the 16th day of May 2024, at the hour of 1:15pm said verified petition will be heard by this Court before the Honorable J.M. Dvorak Presiding, at the Court Room in the Brown County Courthouse, City of Aberdeen, Brown County, South Dakota, or as soon thereafter as it is convenient for the court. Anyone may come and appear at that time and place and show reasons, if any, why said name should not be changed as requested.

Published March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 2024 at the approximate total cost of \$29.19 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23124



A large crowd was on hand Tuesday night at the Bristol Community Center as the Groton Area School Board held its second of third meeting about the opt-out proposal. The third meeting will be held Monday, March 25, 6 p.m., at the Groton Community Center. The event was livestreamed on GDILIVE.COM and is archived under School Board. The school board received a round of applause from those in attendance. At the end of the meeting, Board President Deb Gengerke said, "This is not a fun topic. It requires a lot of discernment. It is a sacrifice. We hope that you think it's a sacrifice worthwhile and that you trust everyone sitting up here doesn't want to pay more taxes if they didn't have to either." A member of the audience told the board, "Thank you very much. It was very informative." And upon that, the board and administration received a round of applause. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Whitney Sombke requested approval from the board, which was approved, to read a letter in response to her support of the opt-out. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)

Architecture and Construction Instructor, Health Sciences Instructor, IT/Stem Instructor, Speech Language Pathologist, Early Childhood Special Education. Contact: Quinn Lenk, NWAS Director by email: quinn.lenk@k12.sd.us or call 605-466-2206. Northwest Area Schools Education Cooperative--52201 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

CUSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT has vacancies for SpEd, Science, and Gr 4 teachers, coaches and custodian. Apply online CSD.k12.sd.us. 527 Montgomery St., Custer, SD 605-673-3154. EOE

THE EDMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT, located in the Southern Black Hills, is looking for a full time 9-12 math teacher with or without coaching (4 day school week). This position is to start the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year. Position open until filled. For more information contact Amy Ferley at 605-662-7254 or email Amy.Ferley@k12.sd.us.

Classifieds and Card of Thanks

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

- 1 Week: \$9 for first 30 words, 20¢/word thereafter
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EMPLOYMENT

Dairy Queen in Groton is hiring! If you're looking for a fun job with lots of variety, look no further! We're looking for energetic, smiling people – we provide free meals, uniforms, competitive wages, fun atmosphere and flexible scheduling. Part-time – day, evening, week-end shifts available. We will work with your schedule. Stop in today and pick up an application.

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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Groton Legion holds District Meeting

The Groton American Legion Post 39 hosted the well attended Legion District 4 Spring Meeting March 3rd. 30 Legion Posts comprise the District 4 boundaries in North Central South Dakota. Both the Legion and Auxiliary conducted separate business meetings and then combined for a joint luncheon in the Groton Legion Hall.

Commander Steffen awards Groton Post 39 the department membership goal award (106%) Accepting the award for Post 39 is Bruce Babcock (center) with Bob Thomason to his left. (Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)

Groton Prairie Mixed Bowling League Week #16 Results

- Team Standings:** Coyotes – 6, Jackelopes – 5, Chipmunks – 5, Shihtzus – 4, Cheetahs – 3, Foxes – 1
- Men's High Games:** Brad Waage – 229, Mike Siegler – 192, John Sippel – 187
- Women's High Games:** Vicki Walter – 182, Hayley Merkel – 156, Sue Stanley – 154
- Men's High Series:** Brad Waage – 595, Mike Siegler – 510, John Sippel – 502
- Women's High Series:** Vicki Walter – 497, Sue Stanley – 449, Darci Spanier – 404

Week 16 Fun Game – 2 Strikes in same Frame – Coyotes and Jackelopes with 10!

Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

2024 SDWCA State Tournament Results

1st: Midgets 72: Henry Pharis.

Champ. Round 1 - Henry Pharis (Groton) won by fall over Ty Roskens (Parkston) (Fall 0:35)

Quarterfinal - Henry Pharis (Groton) won by fall over Kade Reiff (Dell Rapids) (Fall 2:55)

Semifinal - Henry Pharis (Groton) won by fall over Haizen DeBruin (Alcester-Hudson) (Fall 2:09)

1st Place Match - Henry Pharis (Groton) won by major decision over Michael Dylla (DeSmet) (Maj 9-1)

1st: Tots 43: Brooks Sombke

Champ. Round 1 - Brooks Sombke (Dakota Boyz Wrestling Club) won by fall over Myles Olson (Belle Fourche) (Fall 2:09)

Quarterfinal - Brooks Sombke (Dakota Boyz Wrestling Club) won by fall over Calvin Blake (Garretson) (Fall 1:29)

Semifinal - Brooks Sombke (Dakota Boyz Wrestling Club) won by fall over Benjamin Rikala (Sturgis) (Fall 1:25)

1st Place Match - Brooks Sombke (Dakota Boyz Wrestling Club) won by fall over Alan Petersen (Howard) (Fall 3:17)

1st: Girls Tots 67: Veda Stiegelmeier.

Champ. Round 1 - Veda Stiegelmeier (Groton) received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Veda Stiegelmeier (Groton) received a bye () (Bye)

Semifinal - Veda Stiegelmeier (Groton) won by fall over Remington Champagne (Chamberlain) (Fall 0:11)

1st Place Match - Veda Stiegelmeier (Groton) won by major decision over Elsie Lauritsen (Mitchell) (Maj 14-1)

2nd: Tots 46: Ryker Herron.

Champ. Round 1 - Ryker Herron (Groton) won by fall over Caleb Sisk (Yankton Jr Bucks) (Fall 2:04)

Quarterfinal - Ryker Herron (Groton) won by fall over Drake Fulkerson (Hill City) (Fall 0:31)

Semifinal - Ryker Herron (Groton) won by fall over Parker Carda (Yankton Jr Bucks) (Fall 0:45)

1st Place Match - Lawson Martens (SF Washington) won by fall over Ryker Herron (Groton) (Fall 2:39)

2nd: Girls Midget 96: Rosalyn Block.

Champ. Round 1 - Rosalyn Block (Groton) received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Rosalyn Block (Groton) won by fall over Elizabeth Tonsager (Belle Fourche) (Fall 2:25)

Semifinal - Rosalyn Block (Groton) won by fall over Paisley Volker (Sully Buttes) (Fall 3:27)

1st Place Match - Ellie Bult (Bon Homme) won by fall over Rosalyn Block (Groton) (Fall 0:55)

2nd: Midgets 77: Braxten Sombke.

Champ. Round 1 - Braxten Sombke (Dakota Boyz Wrestling Club) won by major decision over Keegan Rachetto (Westside Raider Youth Wrestling) (Maj 10-2)

Quarterfinal - Braxten Sombke (Dakota Boyz Wrestling Club) won by fall over Nathaniel Halbur (Tea Area) (Fall 2:39)

Semifinal - Braxten Sombke (Dakota Boyz Wrestling Club) won by decision over Gideon Current03 (Dakota Boyz Wrestling Club) (Dec 12-6)

1st Place Match - Asher Spoehr (Pierre) won by decision over Braxten Sombke (Dakota Boyz Wrestling Club) (Dec 7-6)

2nd: Junior 175: Ben Hoeft.

Round 1 - Elliot Bratland (605 Grapplers) won by tech fall over Ben Hoeft (Groton) (TF 10-0)

Round 2 - Elliot Bratland (605 Grapplers) won by tech fall over Ben Hoeft (Groton) (TF 10-0)

2nd: Junior 285: Gavin Englund.

Round 1 - Braden Petersen (SF Lincoln) won by tech fall over Gavin Englund (Groton area tuff tigers) (TF 10-0)

Round 3 - Gavin Englund (Groton area tuff tigers) won by decision over Randall Powers (Bon Homme) (Dec 9-9)

3rd: Midgets 113: Keenan Moody.

Champ. Round 1 - William Selwyn (Bon Homme) won by fall over Keenan Moody (Groton) (Fall 2:07)

Cons. Round 1 - Keenan Moody (Groton) won

by forfeit over Forfeit Forfeit (Edgemont) (FF)

Cons. Round 2 - Keenan Moody (Groton) won by fall over Darrian Kills Enemy (Dupree) (Fall 0:12)

Cons. Round 3 - Keenan Moody (Groton) won by fall over Dexton Fuhrmann (Cobbler Kids Wrestling) (Fall 0:14)

Cons. Semi - Keenan Moody (Groton) won by fall over Sullivan Nedved (Dell Rapids) (Fall 0:40)

3rd Place Match - Keenan Moody (Groton) won by fall over Hooper Sazue (Lyman County) (Fall 1:27)

5th: Bantam 50: Landry Johnson.

Champ. Round 1 - Bennett Michael (Platte/Geddes) won by fall over Landry Johnson (Groton) (Fall 1:09)

Cons. Round 1 - Landry Johnson (Groton) won by fall over Cooper Hogg (Parker) (Fall 4:01)

Cons. Round 2 - Landry Johnson (Groton) won by decision over Lucas Kuphal (Alcester/Hudson) (Dec 7-3)

Cons. Round 3 - Landry Johnson (Groton) won by fall over Hudson Gassen (Harrisburg) (Fall 1:07)

Cons. Semi - Tell Johnson (Watertown) won by fall over Landry Johnson (Groton) (Fall 0:37)

5th Place Match - Landry Johnson (Groton) won by fall over Sawyer Bierema (Bon Homme) (Fall 2:01)

5th: Bantam 76: Kroy Khali.

Champ. Round 1 - Kroy Khali (Groton) won by fall over Grayson Schone (Douglas Wrestling Club) (Fall 0:10)

Quarterfinal - Kroy Khali (Groton) won by fall over Grayson Bevers (Watertown) (Fall 3:51)

Semifinal - Iven Meyer (Chamberlain) won by fall over Kroy Khali (Groton) (Fall 0:27)

Cons. Semi - Lucchese Helkenn (Winner) won by decision over Kroy Khali (Groton) (Dec 12-5)

5th Place Match - Kroy Khali (Groton) won by fall over Braysen Uzzle (Redfield) (Fall 2:12)

6th: Schoolgirl 112: Madison Little.

Champ. Round 1 - Madison Little (Groton) won by fall over Layla Crowe (DeSmet) (Fall 1:05)

Quarterfinal - Madison Little (Groton) won in tie breaker - 1 over Kaidynce Hand (Sturgis) (TB-1 3-2)

Semifinal - McKayla Schardin (Madison) won by fall over Madison Little (Groton) (Fall 2:34)

Cons. Semi - Kalley Teason (Miller/Highmore) won by forfeit over Madison Little (Groton) (FF)

5th Place Match - Essah Syverson (Custer) won by decision over Madison Little (Groton) (Dec 2-1)

7th: Midgets 89: Huntley Overacker.

Champ. Round 1 - Huntley Overacker (Groton) won by forfeit over Forfeit Forfeit (Brandon Valley) (FF)

Quarterfinal - Ladd Riopel (Spearfish) won by decision over Huntley Overacker (Groton) (Dec 6-0)

Cons. Round 2 - Huntley Overacker (Groton) won by fall over Kash Pugh (Miller/Highmore) (Fall 1:01)

Cons. Round 3 - Luke Finnicum (SF Roosevelt) won by major decision over Huntley Overacker (Groton) (Maj 10-1)

7th Place Match - Huntley Overacker (Groton) won by fall over Gus Witt (Burke) (Fall 2:48)

7th: Girls Midget 84: Elsy Hagen.

Champ. Round 1 - Elsy Hagen (Groton) won by major decision over Amelia Apland (Sturgis) (Maj 13-0)

Quarterfinal - Ella Haines (Tea Area) won by fall over Elsy Hagen (Groton) (Fall 0:53)

Cons. Round 2 - Elsy Hagen (Groton) won by fall over Scottie Silver (Westside Raider Youth Wrestling) (Fall 2:06)

Cons. Round 3 - Mycah Zuhlsdorf (Watertown) won by fall over Elsy Hagen (Groton) (Fall 1:25)

7th Place Match - Elsy Hagen (Groton) won by major decision over Isabella Dalseide (SF Roosevelt) (Maj 17-4)

7th: Schoolboy 110: Wyatt Hagen.

Champ. Round 1 - Wyatt Hagen (Groton) won by major decision over Tucker Larson

(Cobbler Kids Wrestling) (Maj 10-2)

Quarterfinal - Rayne Wickre (Alcester/Hudson) won in sudden victory - 1 over Wyatt Hagen (Groton) (SV-1 7-5)

Cons. Round 2 - Wyatt Hagen (Groton) won by decision over Bode Minder (Pierre) (Dec 5-1)

Cons. Round 3 - Mason Hagen (Sturgis) won by major decision over Wyatt Hagen (Groton) (Maj 10-0)

7th Place Match - Wyatt Hagen (Groton) won by decision over Shay Weber (Badlands Little Brawlers) (Dec 5-0)

8th: Cadet - 16U 175: Layne Johnson.

Champ. Round 1 - Layne Johnson (Groton) received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Kamden Needham (Yankton Jr Bucks) won by decision over Layne Johnson (Groton) (Dec 6-5)

Cons. Round 2 - Layne Johnson (Groton) received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 3 - Tanner Gouldin (Sturgis Youth Wrestling) won by fall over Layne Johnson (Groton) (Fall 1:15)

7th Place Match - Radley Barrick (Madison) won by fall over Layne Johnson (Groton) (Fall 0:28)

8th: Junior 157: Christain Ehresmann.

Quarterfinal - Ethan Rearick (Wolsey Wessington) won by fall over Christain Ehresmann (Groton area tuff tigers) (Fall 5:01)

Cons. Round 1 - Tyler Tjeerdsma (Bon Homme) won by decision over Christain Ehresmann (Groton area tuff tigers) (Dec 14-9)

7th Place Match - Kaleb Johnson (Kingsbury County Knights) won by forfeit over Christain Ehresmann (Groton area tuff tigers) (FF)

Tots 67: Kase Ronning.

Champ. Round 1 - Emmett Schroeder (Winner) won by fall over Kase Ronning (Groton) (Fall 0:44)

Cons. Round 1 - Kase Ronning (Groton) received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 2 - Gavin Martinsen (West Central) won by fall over Kase Ronning (Groton) (Fall 0:53)

Midgets 53: Bennett Iverson.

Champ. Round 1 - Kaddilac Coleman (Pony Hills) won by fall over Bennett Iverson (Groton) (Fall 3:33)

Cons. Round 1 - Bennett Iverson (Groton) won by fall over Pierce Luten (Hill City) (Fall 0:26)

Cons. Round 2 - Eli Engelhart (Watertown) won by fall over Bennett Iverson (Groton) (Fall 2:11)

Novice 77: Bentley Ehresmann.

Champ. Round 1 - Dylan Ingalls (LOG) won by fall over Bentley Ehresmann (Groton) (Fall 2:13)

Cons. Round 1 - Rowdy Schrempp (Dupree) won by fall over Bentley Ehresmann (Groton) (Fall 2:52)

Novice 82: Preston Hinkelman.

Champ. Round 1 - Preston Hinkelman (Groton) won by major decision over Tate Krul (Belle Fourche) (Maj 16-2)

Quarterfinal - Axl Jones (LOG) won by major decision over Preston Hinkelman (Groton) (Maj 8-0)

Cons. Round 2 - Kallan Peterson (Miller/Highmore) won by decision over Preston Hinkelman (Groton) (Dec 13-9)

Novice 93: Parker Zoellner.

Champ. Round 1 - Grayson Licht (Sioux Valley) won by decision over Parker Zoellner (Groton) (Dec 8-1)

Cons. Round 1 - Parker Zoellner (Groton) won by fall over Crawston Craven (Winner) (Fall 2:51)

Cons. Round 2 - Joe Murphy (Pierre) won in sudden victory - 1 over Parker Zoellner (Groton) (SV-1 2-0)

Cadet - 16U 120: Lincoln Krause.

Champ. Round 1 - Zachary Pederson (Colman) won by fall over Lincoln Krause (Groton) (Fall 2:32)

Cons. Round 1 - Lincoln Krause (Groton) received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 2 - Shea Deering (Sturgis Youth Wrestling) won by fall over Lincoln Krause (Groton) (Fall 2:10)

Renewable energy production, summer employment discussed at City Council meeting

How will Groton deal with renewable energy produced in town?

The City Council approved a resolution Tuesday to adopt an interconnection process and requirements for individuals wanting to co-generate electricity.

The city gets its main supply of electricity from the Western Area Power Administration, with remain peak power being purchased from Heartland Consumer Power District.

Questions come in, though, if residents begin adding renewable energy sources like solar panels onto their homes, said Kelly Dybdahl, customer relations manager with Heartland Energy. The city, as a utility provider, is obligated to connect to these systems as long as they abide by federal regulations.

If a resident with renewable energy at their property were to produce more energy than they consume, the city would have to buy back that energy, he said. However, because the city currently is contracted to purchase electricity above what they receive through WAPA from Heartland, that would violate the contract between Groton and Heartland.

The resolution would solve that issue, he said, along with providing a pathway for the city to handle interconnection agreements should they come forward.

"This is just a way that you guys would have the right procedures to handle them fairly, handle them safely," Dybdahl said.

The home owner would need to have certain insurance to put a system in, and it can't be something just put together in a garage, he said.

This is not common here in South Dakota, Dybdahl said, but the Groton Finance Officer was approached by a company out of Utah that has reached out to other South Dakota cities to inquire about the interconnection and co-generation process. It is not clear if that company is representing anyone specifically in Groton.

The interconnection process before the council is in place in a number of other cities that contract with Heartland Energy, Dybdahl said. Having a document like this in place at least covers the city's utility arm if the issue should come up.

"Basically it protects you guys and us," Mayor Scott Hanlon asked, with confirmation from Dybdahl.

City Attorney Drew Johnson said he has reviewed the interconnection process and saw no issue with it.

The council approved the resolution to adopt the interconnection process with a unanimous vote.



Kelly Dybdahl, customer relations manager with Heartland Energy, spoke at the City Council meeting Tuesday night. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)

More added to summer staff

More than 30 people were hired for various summer positions.

Kami Lipp and Tricia Keith will continue as swimming pool co-managers for the year, Lipp with 13 years of experience and Keith with 12 years of experience. Karla Pasteur will be substitute co-manager with 12 years of experience, and Cody Swanson will be assistant part time swimming pool manager with eight years of experience.

Other summer worker positions hired include:

- Kelli Hanson as lifeguard with 12 years of experience
 - Tanae Lipp as lifeguard with six years of experience
 - Aspen Johnson as lifeguard with four years of experience
 - Emma Schinkel as lifeguard with three years of experience
 - Gretchen Dinger, Faith Traphagen and Emma Kutter as lifeguards with two years of experience each
 - Anna Fjeldheim, Hannah Sandness, Easten Ekern, Jerica Locke, Carly Gilbert, Jayden Schwan, Laila Roberts, Talli Wright and Mia Crank as lifeguards with one year of experience each
 - Avery Crank, Emerlee Jones, Ashlynn Warrington and Addison Hoffman as lifeguards with no years of experience with the city
 - Rebecca Padfield as baseball concessions manager with eight years of experience
 - Ryan Groeblichhoff as baseball groundskeeper with two years of experience
 - Braxton Imrie as baseball groundskeeper with one year of experience
 - Nicholas Groeblichhoff as baseball groundskeeper with no years of experience with the city
 - Leah Jones as baseball gatekeeper with one year of experience
 - Addison Hoffman (who was also hired as a lifeguard) as baseball gatekeeper with no years of experience with the city
 - Brian Gravatt as cemetery maintenance worker with nine years of experience
 - Aaron Severson as public works laborer with eight years of experience
- Summer salaries were set through an ordinance finalized at last week's council meeting.

More items from Tuesday's City Council meeting:

• The spring city-wide cleanup has been scheduled for April 27 through May 3. Pickups will be available by appointment from April 29 through May 3. "It will be an opportunity for people to get rid of things we haven't been able to get rid of," said Mayor Scott Hanlon.

• The city will accept bids for non-alcoholic beverages to be sold at the Groton Baseball Complex and Groton Swimming Pool for the 2024, 2025 and 2026 seasons. The contract would include carbonated soft drinks and non-carbonated soft drinks, juices, water, tea and enhanced isotonic drinks. Coolers and vending machines must be provided, according to the advertisement for bid. Proposals are due to City Hall by 5 p.m. April 15 in sealed envelopes marked "BID." Contracts will be awarded at the April 16 City Council meeting.

• A special event alcoholic beverage license was approved for a private graduation event on May 4 at the community center. The malt beverage license was requested by Groton resident Susan Fjeldheim.

• Malt beverage licenses were renewed for MJ's Sinclair, Ken's Food Fair and Dollar General for 2024-2025.

- Elizabeth Varin

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

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

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Dear EarthTalk: What's causing the decline in U.S. wild turkey populations?
 – John Groveton, Alexandria, VA

Americans have always loved wild turkeys, perhaps too much. By 1900, we had nearly driven this close relative to the chicken to extinction as a result of unregulated hunting and habitat destruction. But thanks to conservation and relocation efforts, these big birds started making a comeback in the 1940s. Over the next several decades, thanks to a series of reforms and demographic changes, wild turkey numbers grew and the species hit its population peak in 2004 with as many as seven million of them across the U.S. All this made wild turkeys one of the biggest success stories in the history of American wildlife?

But will it last? Since that population peak, wild turkey numbers have fallen, declining some 15 percent between 2004-2014 and another 3 percent between 2014-2019. Biologists are struggling to determine why. Much of this decline has been in the South and the Midwest. Scientists have been investigating habitat loss, hunting, disease and climate change, as all possible causes of this population downturn.

One of the potential reasons causes for the decline is the rise in turkey-eating predators. Hawks, bobcats, coyotes and raccoons are among wild turkeys' natural predators. Hawks and owls are protected species and have had significant rebounds since the federal government banned the use of the pesticide DDT. This protection has allowed populations of birds of prey to grow, but they are also key predators of turkeys. This increase in predators could be one of the sources of the turkey decline.

Turkeys have very specific requirements when it comes to their environment, so habitat loss could be another factor of their decline. Turkeys need areas of low, thick vegetation for nesting and raising chicks, and areas with mature trees to provide nuts to eat in the fall. As more natural areas are destroyed, turkeys may be having a harder time finding swatches of land that meets all of their needs.

Climate change is likely another factor. Turkeys may be experiencing a failure to respond to the environmental shifts of climate change. A study published in the journal *Climate Change Ecology* found that turkeys don't shift nesting times much as temperatures and precipitation change. This has can cause newly hatched turkeys to miss out on plant cover and edible bugs if the spring bloom starts earlier. In turn, this could affect the likelihood that turkey chicks survive into adulthood. We already know that rising temperatures affect over 100 bird species in the Americas; they might be harming turkeys too.

There is more research needed to find a definitive answer to the decline in turkey populations. It is most likely that the answer is the combination of a number of problems. As scientists look for solutions, many states have started to scale back on turkey hunting seasons in hopes of bringing population numbers up again.

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Wild turkey population numbers are declining across the U.S. in recent years and researchers haven't figured out how to turn the tide. Credit: Pexels.com.



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Red Baron Pizza 3/\$10
 10.4-12.9 Oz. Pkg.

Best Choice Whipped Topping \$1.29
 8 Oz. Tub

Kemp's Ice Cream \$6.99
 128 Oz. Pails

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

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\$2.79 Per Lb.

Dairy
 Best Choice **Butter** - \$1.00
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2/\$6 1 Lb. Qtrs.

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 California **Navel Oranges**
\$3.49 4 Lb. Bag

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 Black Velvet Reserve 10 YR.
 1.75 LITER
\$21.99

Household
 Clorox **Household Bleach**
 77-81 Oz. Jug
\$5.99

USDA Choice Demkota Boneless Bread and Butter Roast \$4.49
 Per Lb.

Whole Pork Butt \$1.89
 Per Lb.

Dakota Style Kettle Chips 2/\$4
 8 Oz. Bags

Betty Crocker Hamburger Helpers 2/\$3
 4.7-8.7 Oz. Boxes

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 Ken's Bakery Fresh **White Party Buns**
\$2.99 12 Count

Deli
 Cheese of the Week! **Old Wisconsin Swiss**
\$7.49 Per Lb.

Flavor of the Week!
 Golden Leprechaun (Almond & Amaretto)
\$3.49-\$4.49

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"True Self-Care"

During our most recent family movie night, we watched one of my favorites: *Encanto*. At one point in the movie, a character who has been gifted supernatural strength confesses that she fears she will crumble under the weight of all



Debra Johnston, MD

that is expected from her. Although she accomplishes amazing things, it never feels like enough. She never feels like she, herself, is enough.

Popular culture suggests she should prioritize "self-care," which is usually represented by manicures or massages and long soaks in the tub, or perhaps half an hour of meditation or spin class.

Now, to be clear, I'm a big fan of massages and getting my nails done, and I spend a lot of my professional time nagging people about exercise, as my patients can certainly attest. But I'd suggest this perspective on self-care is at best incomplete. Protecting your mental well-being goes well beyond little escapes, and even beyond tending to your physical health.

The specifics of true self-care are unique to each individual, because each individual is unique, in their needs, their desires, and their circumstances. You simply can't meditate quality daycare into existence, or a nasty coworker into a team player, or a loved one into sobriety.

Self-care, meaningful self-care, means being able to recognize that you are human, and you have limits and that it's not just ok, it's critical, to acknowledge and respect those limits. The demands vying for your time and energy are endless. Those resources, however, are not. True self-care means standing up for your right to be the one who decides how you will allocate them.

This means setting boundaries, and that's an incredibly difficult thing to do. With those limits will naturally come guilt, because you simply can't do everything for everyone, or even all the things you yourself want to do. No one else can decide where your lines are, and no one else will hold those lines on your behalf.

In order to hold those boundaries, you must be kind to yourself. Most of us have a perpetual self-commentary of criticism that tells us we could do better, we should do better, we aren't enough. Honest self-reflection is important, but why does that so often mean a laser focus on where we fell short, without recognizing how far we came? We internalize the message that if we can't keep up with demands that escalate until we crack, the fault is ours. It's not. To draw these boundaries, and make that self-compassion meaningful, we each must clarify our own values.

Spending our limited energy in ways that conflict with the ideas we hold most dear is the antithesis of self-care. We need a clear idea of what those values are to hold that line. Massages and meal delivery services can be great tools, but the real key to protecting your mental well-being is a lot harder to define and a lot harder to do.

Debra Johnson, M.D. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices family medicine in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org and on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show providing health information based on science, built on trust for 22 Seasons, on SDPB and streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.