

The Groton Independent

Vol. 141 No. 27 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, March 27, 2024 ♦ Established in 1889



A good sized crowd shows up at the Groton Area opt-out meeting held in the GHS Gym on Tuesday. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

'What do we want our schools to be?' Discussion of opt-out for Groton Area School District continues

A crowd of Groton Area school staff, parents and community members filled a portion of the Old Gymnasium on Tuesday evening in the final meeting to discuss increasing taxes to fund the schools.

Voters will decide on April 9 if they want to allow the district to opt-out of tax levy limitations. The district is requesting a maximum of \$1.25 million per year for the general fund.

Through the last several years, especially since the state rewrote the funding formula for schools, Groton Area has had to transfer capital outlay funds to the general fund to shore up that account. More than 40 school districts in the state utilize this allowable capital outlay flexibility to support their general funds.

However, using those funds to supplement the general fund has made it difficult to maintain district facilities and make necessary improvements, said Superintendent Joe Schwan.

State legislature responsible for Groton's situation

The district was hit hard with the elimination of the Pension Fund levy in 2016 that would help to cover retirement expenses that are now part of the general fund, he said. Additionally, other revenues, like wind farm taxes and utility taxes, have been equalized across the state, reducing the amount of state aid that Groton Area is allocated.

The opt-out would allow the district to preserve programming and remain competitive in the teacher job market, Schwan said.

"We are a locally funded entity, and that's how it's going to be," he said. "Whatever we do or don't do in our district is going to be because of what we (the community) choose to do or not do."

Groton resident Justin Hanson asked if it would be fair to say the district has missed out on \$4 million in capital projects because it has had to transfer that money to the general fund, to which Superintendent Schwan responded "that's a fair statement."

Based on the proposed opt-out of \$1.25 million, the levy impact would vary based on what type of property it is.

- Agriculture land would have a 57 cent levy impact per \$1,000 of taxable valuation
- Owner-occupied property would have a \$1.277 levy impact per \$1,000 of taxable valuation
- Other property such as commercial would have a \$2.642 levy impact per \$1,000 of taxable valuation

The district would not have to request the full \$1.25 million each year, but that would be the cap amount on the additional tax levy.

Nobody on the school board wants to raise taxes, but if the opt-out fails, the district will have to make adjustments to the general fund, of which 80 to 85 percent of the fund is made up by salary and benefits.

"As passionate as people are about this, I think they're just as passionate about giving the best education to our kids," he said. "...It goes back to the issue – we're locally funded. So what do we want our school to be? That's where we're at."

Some in the crowd were concerned with why the opt-out hadn't been brought to a vote sooner. Others, like Groton farmer Doug Sombke, questioned why the state money wasn't being allocated to schools.



Individuals in the group picture include April Abeln, Topper Tastad, Nancy Larsen, Karla Davidson, Jonna Waage, Brittany Eddy, Heidi Locke, Victoria Jorgenson, Pat Miller, Bo Fries, and Diane Warrington. Behind the camera was David Miller.

Easter Food Items Delivered in Groton

Enrich Groton SoDak Inc. volunteers worked alongside Dacotah Bank employees Tuesday morning sorting Easter food items for 52 families in the Groton SD Community. Food will be delivered by the Groton Police Department with all items being purchased by monetary donations as well as Thrivent Action Teams. Each family will receive their food in a reusable bag that can be filled with items from Common Cents for a 10% discount. Reusable bags will also be for sale for \$5 at Common Cents Community Thrift Store starting this Saturday.

Sombke said there is a lot of money available if state legislators want to tap into it. The state education department returned millions to the state's general fund in 2023, and more than \$100 million from the video lottery went back to the state's general fund. There are also a number of businesses that don't pay sales tax or excise tax, which could bring millions to the state.

"You need to talk to your legislators, folks," he told the crowd. "We should have been talking to them right after 2016, and we could have avoided this."

"...I'm not saying that we don't want to fund our schools. No one is saying that," he said. "But this state has so much money, so much

Homsombath assists in the GHS office



Alexandria (Alex) Hombsombath is the new voice on the phone when you call the high school. "This is my third year here, so I'm not really 'new' anymore," she smiled.

When Kathy Harry retired, Melissa Ulmer filled her position for one year. Sue Wattier started the following year without any other help in the office. Then she was

relieved when Alex applied and was hired.

"My husband and I are from St. Cloud, Minnesota, and were looking for new opportunities when we decided to settle here," Hombsombath explained. "We actually live in Ferney so the commute is nice and short!"

"We have an eight year old son who is in the second grade at Groton Elementary," she smiled. "Obviously we come to school together while my husband goes various places for his painting jobs, a business he owns by himself."

"My job here is to cover study halls, substitute in various classrooms when necessary, handle lunch count, and do a variety of other tasks that need to be done on a daily basis," Hombsombath listed.

- Dorene Nelson

- Elizabeth Varin

Snow business

The wind is moaning, the bare trees rocking to and fro, but that's it so far. Dylan and Ben took their computers with them back to Bismarck where they live when they're not in Ashley working at the newspaper.

With a possible Snowmageddon rolling in, we decided to work remotely. Better safe than stupid. The Ashley Tribune has been coming out on a weekly basis for 123 years, and to the best of my knowledge, has never missed a publication. The Wishek Star was interrupted during WWII but has been going weekly since then. It's been nip and tuck a few times. If it can happen, it has.

Through last year's relentless winter, and of course through the COVID years, I swear we worked more from the dining room table than the office. You can do a lot with fiber optics and a generator.

As he left, Dylan expressed skepticism about the possibility of a March blizzard. He was gone before I could mention the March Blizzard of 1966 or the April Blizzard of 1997 when he was just a toddler. After several days of being marooned on the farmhouse we rented south of Hettinger, with no electricity, they finally cleared the roads and a highway patrolman gave us a ride to the motel where we took 45-minute hot showers. The patrolman carried Dylan over a 20-foot snowbank to the road.

It's hard to explain the Blizzard of 1966 without pictures because it seems impossible, other worldly, another planet. I remember our two and a half story home in Edgeley had a snowbank extending from the roof far into the next block. Later, we sledded from the roof.

It was a three-day storm with snowfall totals as great as 38 inches and drifts as high as 40 feet. About 20 people died in the Dakotas and Minnesota. As happened again in 1997, tens of thousands of livestock died. I seem to remember that in the Edgeley area we got 36 inches. Winds gusted to 70 mph, sculpting the snow into huge abstract drifts.

Next door in a small mobile home the two women teachers who lived there—twins, I think—were blocked in with just one man—my dad—and a grain scoop between them and freedom. It must have taken him hours to dig



That's Life

by Tony Bender

out from our front porch before he got to the trailer. No small feat.

We've probably all seen the pictures of people walking on snowbanks level with phone lines, buried freight trains that looked like toys compared to the walls of snow around them. At my grandfather's dairy farm near Gackle, a snowbank reached to the peak of his big barn, again, providing a once-in-a-lifetime sledding opportunity. I marvel that my grandfather cleared the yard with a 1940's era Co-op loader tractor. No cab.

Comparatively, I'm a guy who manages to get my Bobcat buried, and that takes some doing, but he managed with chains on a two-wheel tractor. He was like Evel Knievel with a tractor. He knew exactly the capabilities of his machines. I wouldn't ride with him on the drawbar when he was doing wheelies up a muddy hill. He wasn't showing off. He just knew what he needed to do to make that hill. His motto I think was "Give 'er hell."

I'm still prudent when it comes to winter driving. If it's bad outside, you'll find me at home. In meteorologists I trust. Of course, when we were teenagers, we were out of our minds. We were also tough enough to dig and push Al Cat's '72 Chevy aqua short box truck out of trouble. Not that we didn't have to knock on a farmer's door at midnight now and again to explain why we were four-wheeling section lines. That pickup was pretty good in snow—probably better than the F-150 I drive today—so when we buried it, it was buried.

At least we had four wheel drive. I remember Doug Bra racing his hopped-up bright yellow '63 Chevy Impala across the snow-covered pastures and then cranking the wheel. Cookies! Lord, he was hard on that car. And law enforcement. I don't think I'm exaggerating when I say that he'd tear the transmission out every weekend and spend the next week putting another one in just so he could do it again.

So far, we've had a pretty uneventful winter, and I'm good with that. I've got plenty of snow memories. Don't need no more.

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

Most of the big names are signed to expensive contracts during the first week of free agency, but the second week shouldn't be overlooked. An NFL team will carry 75 players into training camp, before whittling that number down to 53 for the regular season, so

having a quality depth chart can make a big difference. The Vikings prioritized defense in the first week of free agency, and that trend continued into the second week, as all four players the team signed this past week are on that side of the ball.

The biggest pickup this past week was cornerback Shaquill Griffin, who signed a one-year deal. Griffin was a third-round pick for the Seattle Seahawks back in 2017 and made the Pro Bowl in 2019. After four seasons with the Seahawks, Griffin signed a massive contract with the Jacksonville Jaguars. Unfortunately, an injury forced him to miss most of the 2022 season, and Jacksonville cut him the following off-season. Last season Griffin signed with the Houston Texans but was cut midway through the season and was picked up by the Carolina Panthers. Now, Griffin gets a chance to come in and compete for a starting role in Brian Flores' defense.

Jihad Ward is another name Vikings fans will need to learn, as the defensive end/outside linebacker was brought in to add depth. Ward was a second-round pick for the Oakland Raiders in 2016 and started 13 games his rookie season. Since then, however, he has primarily been a backup as he bounced around from team to team – going from Oakland to Indianapolis, then to Baltimore and Jacksonville, before landing with the Giants in 2022 and starting 20 games for them the past two seasons.

Another player the Vikings brought in for depth was linebacker Kamu Grugier-Hill. Just like Ward, Grugier-Hill has played for a lot of different teams since entering the league in 2016. He was drafted by the Patriots in the sixth round but didn't make the final 53-man roster. He was claimed by Philadelphia, where he played for four seasons. In 2020 he played for Miami, Houston in 2021, and spent time in both Houston and Arizona last year. Grugier-Hill will compete with Brian Asamoah for snaps behind (presumed) starters Ivan Pace Jr. and Blake Cashman.

The final new player for the Vikings is defensive lineman Jonah Williams, who went undrafted in 2021 before making his way onto the Rams' roster. Williams didn't start a single game his rookie season (which is understandable for an undrafted player), but he continued to get better and earned six starts in 2022 and 16 starts last season. The defensive line was perhaps the Vikings' weakest link last season, so the team set out to fix it, bringing in Williams, Ward, and Jerry Tillery to battle Jonathan Bullard and Jaquelin Roy for the two open spots on the D-line next to Harrison Phillips.

With free agency entering week three, we won't have many new signings to report, so next week we turn our attention to the other three teams in the NFC North. Which Vikings' rival helped themselves the most so far this offseason, and which team is poised to take a step back? We'll find out next week. Skol!

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Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Two teachers leaving, one changing grade, two being hired

The board approved a slate of employment changes, including two new hires, two resignations and a change of assignment.

Two more teachers will be leaving the district at the end of the 2023-2024 school year. The board approved the resignation of fifth grade teacher Shelby Hendrickson and middle school reading and social studies teacher Rachael Pederson.

Other teachers who submitted their resignations earlier this school year include:

- Elementary special education teacher Sadie Hanna
- Ag instructor Anna Fuhrman
- K-12 vocal music teacher Tanner Pietz
- First grade teacher Julie Milbrandt

The teacher resignations are effective at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

Some of those positions have already been filled for the upcoming school year. Carrie Cole, hired as first grade teacher at the board's March 11 meeting, will move to the fifth grade teaching position.

On Tuesday, the board approved hiring McKayla Johnston as first grade teacher for the 2024-2025 school year. Johnston, who did her student teaching in one of the third grade classes at Groton Area Elementary School, is currently finishing her degree at Northern State University with a double major in elementary and special education.

The board also approved hiring Landon Brown as K-12 vocal music teacher for the 2024-2025 school year. Brown is currently finishing his music education degree at South Dakota State University.

Others hired earlier this year for the 2024-2025 school year include:

- Megan Serr as elementary special education teacher
 - Lindsey Vander Wal as ag education teacher and FFA adviser
- Yet-to-be-filled positions for the upcoming school year include:
- Middle school reading/social studies teacher
 - Sign language interpreter
 - Part-time food service team member
 - Debate adviser
 - Oral interpretation adviser
 - FBLA adviser

Football cooperative discussion nearing completion

Officials from Groton and Langford schools are finalizing discussion about a football cooperative.

Superintendent Joe Schwan said while administrators are not quite ready to bring an agreement to the board, they're close. Another conference call is scheduled for this week to discuss academic eligibility requirements and make sure both schools are utilizing the same rules for their football players.

Another issue that seems to be a sticking point is name recognition. Some Langford representatives want "Langford" to be included in the name of the cooperative. However, Schwan said, Groton didn't change its name when it had a cooperative with Bristol in the 1990s, and it may alienate part of the current Groton Area community to change the name now.

Additional discussion took place about splitting up costs for coaches and other resources.

A conference call is scheduled for Thursday morning between the two districts, and a cooperative agreement may be on the agenda for both boards' April meetings.

In other discussion:

- Kindergarten roundup will take place April 5 at the elementary school for children turning five years old on or before Sept. 1, 2024. Teachers will screen incoming students to assess whether they should go into kindergarten or junior kindergarten.

- Sixth graders will be able to try track and field a year early. The board approved allowing sixth grade participation in track and field, specifically at the junior high level, on a trial basis for the 2024 season. Athletes will have to have a physical and fill out paperwork.

- The board approved having Carla Tracy and Bruce Babcock as volunteer assistant track coaches for the 2024 season.

- First grade teacher Julie Milbrandt and Caitlyn Fischbach presented an overview of the first grade classes. Each first grade class is made up of 20 students. Positive points were made about the math and science curriculums, but changes are coming for science and social studies. The science curriculum the classes currently use is no longer available, so that will be something the district will need to evaluate, Milbrandt said. The social studies curriculum is also very dated, especially compared to new rigorous standards. Elementary Principal Brett Schwan told the school board that the district will have to look at a new science curriculum for next year and social studies for the year after as resources for new social studies standards are not currently available.

- Kindergarten teachers Ann Gibbs and Lindsey DeHoet discussed progress being made in their classes. Strengths for Gibbs class include building up to reading and using centers to allow students to think they're playing while they are really learning so many different things, Gibbs said. One of the favorite things in her class is Dr. Science, where students pick a science experiment, practice it and present it to their classmates. DeHoet added that with so many students – 25 in DeHoet's class and 25 in Gibbs' class – it takes a bit longer to do things, but the students this year are eager learners. There are five sets in twins in kindergarten this year. Both Gibbs and DeHoet praised their paraprofessional aides Elizabeth Bahr and Joni Groeblichhoff respectively.

- Junior kindergarten teacher Ashley Brudvid reviewed the junior kindergarten program. Essentially it is a kindergarten preparation program that allows students to have an extra year to build the foundational skills needed for school, she said. Main goals include introducing students to the classroom environment and master early learning skills.

- Elizabeth Varin



Sixth Graders take first at YMCA Tournament

The Sixth Grade basketball team ended their season Saturday afternoon by winning first place at the YMCA Interstate Basketball Tournament held in Aberdeen.

Pictured in back, left to right, are Coach Tom Tietz, Major Dolan, Trayce Schelle, Axel Abeln, Ryder Schwan and Coach Brett Schwan; in front, left to right, are Liam Lord, Trey Tietz and Asher Zimmerman. Liam Johnson also played the first game of the tourney and was awarded player of the game.



Fifth Graders take second at YMCA Tournament

Pictured in back left to right, are Coach Ryan Tracy, Carter Boerger, Grady Zeck, Ivan Schwan, Ryland Blackwood, Colton Morehouse and Coach Jason Rowen; in front, left to right, are Kinton Tracy, Mason Locke, Hank Hill and Graydn Rowen.

The Groton Area 5th grade team placed second in the Aberdeen Family YMCA 50th Annual Interstate Boys Basketball Tournament held March 22 - 23, 2024.

Ivan Schwan and Kinton Tracy were selected as Most Valuable Players in the four games. The MVP is voted on by the officials. (Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)

**Groton Area Elementary
Kindergarten Roundup (Screening)
for children turning 5 on or before
September 1, 2024
Friday, April 5, 2024**

If your child is currently attending Junior Kindergarten at Groton Area Elementary School, please DISREGARD this notice. Your teacher will be sending information if necessary.

Packets are being or have been sent home with information regarding KG Roundup. These would apply to families who have children eligible for Kindergarten and Junior Kindergarten this coming 2024-25 school year who are not currently enrolled in our school. Please contact the school if you do not receive a packet. We do not have all children in our census. Thank you!!

The Groton Independent
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 News Items: news@grotonsd.net
 Deadline to submit items: Noon Monday]

Yearly Subscription Rates are listed below. The Groton Independent (USPS# 230-440) is published weekly with its periodicals postage paid at Groton, SD.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Groton Independent, PO Box 34, Groton, SD 57445

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MARCH 19, 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 Gage led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: None

BURN BAN: Chairman Sutton shared that he spoke with Scott Meints, Emergency Management Director and his recommendation is to leave the Burn Ban on at least one more week depending on the weather. Chairman Sutton shared that he was contacted by a concerned resident that we didn't follow the ordinance; there is an Emergency Clause that allows for Emergency Situations. Scott Meints commented that he had visited with the Fire Chiefs and since there are no farmers in the field yet and they have no tillage equipment hooked up so they wouldn't be able to give them a hand on a large fire. Commissioner Wiese questioned Scott if Brown County had been over the threshold in the last week; Scott replied that yes Brown County had actually reached the threshold for a couple of days. The burn ban remains in effect.

COMMUNITY HEALTH CONTRACT FOR 2024: A discussion was held regarding the 2024 Community Health Contract regarding the cost and the services provided. A couple of questions were raised such as who all contributes to the Brown County Community Health Center, what services they are providing, etc. so Commissioner Wiese moved to postpone this decision for a week and asked Auditor Heupel to gather more information and see if they'd be willing to come in with an update, seconded by Gage. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

BROWN COUNTY FAIR SANITATION & CLEANING SERVICES: Brown County Fair Board received two proposals for Sanitation and Cleaning Services for the 2024 Brown County Fair: Pam's Cleaning Service for \$20,000.00 and Home Clean Homes by Maria for \$19,000.00. The Brown County Fair Board recommended to accept the quote from Home Clean Homes by Maria. Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Dennert to accept the quote from Home Clean Homes by Maria, which is owned by Elvia Prescott for \$19,000.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the March 12, 2024 General Meeting Minutes. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS: Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims: Professional Fees: CGI, LLC \$537.50; Christy Griffin-Serr Law Office \$8,333.33; Clinical Laboratory of the Black Hills \$2,320.00; Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$8,333.33; Dakotabilities \$1,440.00; Dohrer Law Office, PC \$8,333.33; Faulk County Sheriff's Office \$14,040.00; Fox Law Firm, PLLC \$320.00; Horizon Health Care, Inc \$1,811.43; Jerald M. McNeary \$8,333.33; Jeremy Lund-Siegel Barnett & Schutz, LLP \$8,333.33; John Noyes-Bantz, Gosch & Cremer \$8,333.33; K&S Plumbing \$147.71; Kuck Law Office \$8,333.33; Lewis & Clark BHS \$1,278.00; Mark Katterhagen \$30.00; Northeastern Mental Health Center \$1,664.00; Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association \$1,250.00; Sanford Health Occupational Medicine \$194.00; SD Dept of Revenue \$2,436.51; SDSU Extension \$77.91; Taliaferro Law Firm, PC \$8,384.83; Thurman Law Office \$241.50; Tschetter & Adams Law Office, PC \$6,808.81; Valerie Larson \$30.00; Women's Professional Rodeo Association \$150.00; Yankton County Sheriff's Office \$100.00; Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office \$75.00. Publishing: Groton Daily Independent \$562.45; KSJB/KSJK Radio \$3,000.00. Repairs & Maintenance: Custom Installation Solutions \$806.25; Dakota Doors Inc \$148.98; Double D Body Shop \$355.67; House of Glass \$229.48; Hub City Roofing Inc \$8,500.00; Jason's Electric Inc \$361.93; Newman Signs, Inc \$121.54; Pheasantland Industries \$67.24; Plastic Works \$700.00; Pomp's Tire Service, Inc

\$680.76. Supplies: Advance Auto Parts \$263.28; Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$478.00; Aramark \$123.43; Big State Industrial Supply Inc \$599.20; Century Business Products \$1,106.29; Charm-Tex, Inc \$922.80; Cole Paper Inc \$1,584.37; Fox Law Firm, PLLC \$4.28; K&S Plumbing \$291.84; LabSource, Inc \$664.60; Matthew Bender & Co., Inc \$304.63; Menards \$569.91; Midstates Group \$52.45; Newman Signs, Inc \$1,671.00; NVC \$28.13; Performance Oil \$357.52; Pheasantland Industries \$2,463.00; Plastic Works \$11,750.20; Plumbing & Heating Wholesale, Inc \$1,037.11; Quality Welding, Inc \$50.46; Runnings \$3,451.70; SD Dept of Revenue & Regulation \$5.00; Share Corporation \$105.00; Shop 4-H/ National 4-H Council \$251.55; StopStick, LTD \$604.00; Thurman Law Office \$6.30; True-North Steel \$45,240.00. Travel & Conference: Dennis Feickert \$13.26; Duane Jark \$56.61; Krav Maga Worldwide \$895.00; Lynn Heupel \$83.33; SDACC \$60.00; Troy Knecht \$38.76. Utilities: CenturyLink \$1,233.19; City of Aberdeen Treasurer \$388.58; City of Hecla \$199.63; Dependable Sanitation \$360.00; James Valley Telecommunications \$209.10; Northwestern Energy \$216.74; NVC \$3,319.83; Verizon Wireless \$5,636.51. Others: Clerk of Courts \$91.25; God of Young Trust \$30.00; Safe Harbor \$465.00; SD Dept of Revenue \$834,731.73. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

- Acknowledge the resignation of Allison Campton, Brown County Jail/JDC Nurse, PRN; PT Temporary – effective March 15, 2024.
- Brenda Lyke, Brown County Jail/JDC Nurse, PRN; PT-Temporary will be for Emergency Situations only.
- Hiring of Jennifer Powell as Brown County Jail/JDC Nurse, PRN; PT Temporary – effective March 15, 2024. Approximate time period for assignment is two weeks.
- Appointing the following as Deputy Coroners: Jon Lemke; Mike Hill; Keith Baker; Wes Graff; Brandon Mills; Alternate is Brandon Leslie from Spitzer-Miller Funeral Home. Removal of Gavin Wright.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

TRAVEL REQUESTS: Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve the following travel requests: Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent to attend Superintendents Short Course in Deadwood, SD on March 19 – 22, 2024; Joseph Kretchman with Brown County Sheriff's Office to attend Krav Maga Instructor Training in Sioux Falls, SD on March 25-29, 2024; and Roxy Hilgenberg, Welfare Director along with Lynn Heupel and Dave Enggraf from Auditor's office to attend the Welfare Workshop in Pierre, SD on April 3-4, 2024. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

HUB CITY RADIO FAIR CONTRACT: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the contract with Hub City Radio for Advertising for the 2024 Brown County Fair: \$12,000.00 for Radio; \$3,000.00 for Carnival and \$10,000.00 for Digital for a total of \$25,000.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

SD DOT PAVEMENT MARKING CONTRACT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the SD D.O.T Pavement Marking for State funds to be distributed annually based on the State Certified Road Mileage for County Primary and County Secondary Paved Roads which will be based on the number of pavement miles in said County as compared to the total number of pavement miles statewide, as computed by the State. Chairman Sutton shared that he spoke with Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent and the Superintendents recommended a change in how SD DOT was doing it, same funding of \$500,000.00 but the way it is divided up, went through Highway Commission, and was approved, breakdown is based on per mile paved mile in your county, and Brown County appears to be the largest recipient of the funds. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LEASE AGREEMENTS: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the following lease agreements: John Alberts for lease of Holm Expo Building on April 8, 2024 for a Circus. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LOTTERY PERMITS: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve the date change for lottery permit issued to SPURS Therapeutic Riding Center from December 13, 2024 to December 15, 2024. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

DIVE TEAM UPDATES: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the updated Dive Team volunteers list as follows: Trent Anderson, Casey Bade, Rodney Bade, Clayton Blachford, Cody Bonn, Michael Dunbar, Mike Kost, Dave McGuire, Benden Miller, Brett Toennies and Jason Vilhauer. Team Leaders are Scott Meints and Dave Lonzman. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: Commissioner Wiese questioned District 3 Representative Perry on the wording in SB201, Section 2 – Tax Relief portion on the funding that is suppose to go to the Counties and what the intent of it was: fee per linear foot for operation pipeline – as least 50% of tax relief for property in the county where the CO2 pipeline is located pro rata on a per foot basis to each property in the county upon which the pipeline is installed so question is the pro rata per parcel in the county the pipeline is in or per parcel that the pipeline runs through? Representative Perry believes that is per parcel that the pipeline runs through is the intention, Wiese stated that it is not clear as written. Perry shared SB201 has been approved but there are a lot of people disputing it and there will be a referendum presented on the 25th to put this as a ballot initiative because they believe there are too many loose ends such as this. Commissioner Wiese stated that the County would be responsible for administering that portion of it and it appears to be a little bit ambiguous as to whether or not it is every parcel in the County that the pipeline runs through or every parcel that the pipeline itself runs through, as as Commissioners feel it can be construed either or both ways. Representative Perry commented that Will Mortenson is a Representative of that bill so they could reach out to him; half would go to the Landowner and half would go to the County. The new breakdown is to appease the County for taking away the local control. Commissioner Dennert commented that if you divide it to every landowner; the total tax relief per parcel in Brown County would come to about \$5 per parcel; if divided out per parcel that pipeline is actually running through then it would be more but only affects a handful of people.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, 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.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:38 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor
 Published March 27, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$109.55 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23137

Notice of Hearing upon Application for a Special Event Alcoholic Beverage License

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT The Groton City Council on the 2nd day of April, 2024 at 7:00pm at the Groton City Hall, 120 N Main Street, Groton, South Dakota will meet in regular session to consider a special event alcoholic beverage license for Fireman's Fun Night at Groton Fire Hall, 305 E Railroad Ave, in the City of Groton, South Dakota on April 20, 2024.

Any person interested in the approval or rejection of any such application may appear and be heard.

Dated at Groton, South Dakota this 22nd day of March, 2024.
 Douglas Heinrich, Groton City Finance Officer
 Published March 27, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$8.58 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23138

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Notice of Hearing upon Application for a Special Event Alcoholic Beverage License



NOTICE OF SCHOOL OPT OUT ELECTION

GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6

A School District Opt Out Election will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, in all the voting precincts in the Groton Area School District No. 06-6, South Dakota. If the polls cannot be opened because of bad weather, the election may be postponed one week.

The election polls will be open from seven a.m. to seven p.m. central time on the day of the election.

Proposed \$1,250,000 General Fund Opt Out for ten (10) years.

Yes
 No

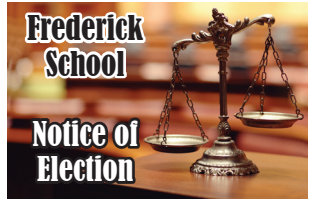
The polling place in each precinct of this district is as follows:
 Andover City Building and Fire Dept. 123 Main St., Andover, SD-Precinct 08
 Bristol Community Center, 86 S. Main St, Bristol, SD -Precinct 05

Columbia American Legion 102 N Broadway St. Columbia, SD-Precinct 13

Groton Community Center 109 N 3rd St., Groton, SD-Precinct 19

Any voter who needs assistance, pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, may contact the school business manager at (605) 397-8381 before the election for information on polling place accessibility for people with disabilities.

Becky Hubsch
 Business Manager
 Published March 27 and April 3, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$28.72 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23139



NOTICE OF SCHOOL OPT OUT ELECTION

FREDERICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 6-2

A School District Opt Out Election will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, in all the voting precincts in School District No. 6-2, Frederick, South Dakota. If the polls cannot be opened because of bad weather, the election may be postponed one week.

The election polls will be open from seven a.m. to seven p.m. central time on the day of the election.

Proposed \$450,000 General Fund Opt Out for five (5) years.

Yes
 No

The polling place in each precinct of this district is as follows:
 Frederick Community Center – Precinct 22
 Westport Town Hall – Precinct 14

Any voter who needs assistance, pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, may contact the school business manager at (605) 329-2355 before the election for information on polling place accessibility for people with disabilities

Shauna Severson
 Business Manager
 Published March 27 and April 3, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$22.63 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23140

King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 20th day of March, 2024 a Verified Petition for minor Name Change has been filed by Heather Kinn (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 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



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



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA COUNTY OF BROWN (SS) IN CIRCUIT COURT FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT A&N 24-4

NOTICE OF CONTINUED ADVISORY HEARING. THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA IN THE INTEREST OF B.N. MINOR CHILDREN, AND CONCERNING KEYAH NGUYEN AND JAVIER REYES, RESPONDENTS. To: Javier Reyes Please take notice and be advised that the above-entitled matter has been scheduled for a CONTINUED ADVISORY HEARING on the 11th day of April, 2024, at the hour of 9:00 a.m. of said day, before the Honorable Circuit Judge Julie Dvorak, at the Brown County Courthouse, Aberdeen, South Dakota. Dated this 25th day of March, 2024

/s/ Karla Nelson, Deputy Brown County States Attorney
Published March 27, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$10.42 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23136



Advertisement for Bids
The City of Groton is seeking proposals for non-alcoholic beverages to be sold at the Groton Baseball Complex and Groton Swimming Pool for the seasons in 2024, 2025, and 2026. These will include carbonated soft drinks and non-carbonated soft drinks, juices, water, tea, and enhanced isotonic drinks.

The drinks must be provided in 16 to 20 oz bottles. The products will be delivered to the Groton Baseball Complex and Groton Swimming Pool. Coolers or vending machines must be provided.

Proposal A is for an exclusive contract for the 3 years.
Proposal B is for a shared contract for the 3 years.
Proposals are due at City Hall, 120 N Main St (PO Box 587) Groton, SD 57445 by April 15, 2024, at 5pm in sealed envelopes marked BID. Contracts will be awarded at the April 16, 2024, City Council meeting.

For any questions, please contact City Hall at 605-397-8422. Published March 20 and 27, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$19.87 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23116



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



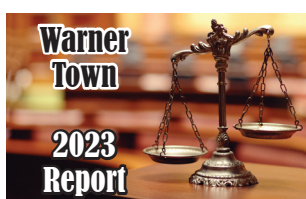
Notice of Intent
Renewal of General Permit for the City of Groton Restricted Use Solid Waste Facility Under the South Dakota Solid Waste Program

The City of Groton, P.O. Box 587, Groton, SD 57445--587, 605-397-8422, currently has a general permit to operate a restricted use solid waste facility authorized by the South Dakota Department of Environmental and Natural Resources Waste Management Program. The facility comprises 9 acres. The legal description of the facility is the NE 1/4 SW 1/4 of Section 30, T123N, R60W, Brown County, SD. The facility is located one-half mile south of town. The city of Groton is both the landowner and operator of the facility.

Waste to be accepted at the facility includes trees and untreated wood waste, yard waste composting, white goods and scrap metal storage, wood ash, concrete, limited construction and demolition debris. The estimated annual tonnage of waste to be accepted and managed at the facility will be less than 500 tons per year.

Additional information about the facility may be obtained from Terry Herron 605-397-7458.

Published March 20 and 27, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$23.18 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23117



Cash in Checking Accounts.....266,242.45
Savings Certificates.....32,287.00
101 FUND CASH BALANCES.....298,529.45
Municipal funds are deposited or invested with the following depositories:
BANK NORTH
2 WEST MAIN ST., WARNER SD 57479

MUNICIPALITY OF WARNER STATEMENT OF FUND CASH BALANCES ALL FUNDS December 31, 2023

General Fund	Water Fund	Enterprise Funds Sewer Fund	Total
266,242.45	97,432.59	169,668.03	533,343.07
32,287.00	49,241.77	27,838.93	109,367.70
298,529.45	146,674.36	197,506.96	642,710.77

MUNICIPALITY OF WARNER STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES ALL FUNDS For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

General Fund	Water Fund	Enterprise Funds Sewer Fund	Total
Receipts (Source):			
311 Property Taxes.....86,173.22			86,173.22
313 Sales Tax.....84,243.03			84,243.03
311-319 Other Taxes.....131.71			131.71
320 Licenses and Permits.....12,442.00			12,442.00
335.1 Bank Franchise Tax.....1,499.32			1,499.32
335.2 Prorate License Fees.....777.15			777.15
335.3 Liquor Tax Reversion.....3,343.74			3,343.74
335.4 Motor Vehicle Licenses (5%).....5,067.24			5,067.24
335.8 Local Government Highway and Bridge Fund.....14,912.81			14,912.81
338.1 County Road Tax (25%).....212.00			212.00
338.3 County Wheel Tax.....228.60			228.60
331-339 Other Intergovernmental Revenue.....1,360.00			1,360.00
341-349 Charges for Goods and Services.....2,500.00			2,500.00
361 Investment Earnings.....1,683.00	82.03	45.96	1,810.99
362 Rentals.....2,315.98	500.00		2,815.98
363-369 Other Revenues.....81,638.96	1,401.86	1,401.86	84,442.68
ENTERPRISE FUNDS			
330 Operating Grants.....	1,730.67		1,730.67
371 Surcharge as Security of Debt.....		43,330.43	43,330.43
372-389 Enterprise Operating Revenue (380).....	137,712.19	58,461.07	196,173.26
Total Receipts.....298,528.76	141,426.75	103,239.32	543,194.83
Disbursements (Function):			
411-419 General Government.....55,048.25			55,048.25
422 Fire.....11,486.49			11,486.49
431 Highways and Streets.....97,657.39			97,657.39
432 Sanitation.....25,008.81			25,008.81
451-459 Culture-Recreation.....127,167.35			127,167.35
490-493 Miscellaneous.....14,576.10			14,576.10
ENTERPRISE FUNDS			
410 Personal Services.....15,003.79		15,003.30	30,007.09
420 Other Expenses.....116,717.05		35,371.52	152,088.57
426 Supplies and Materials.....13,943.93		1,031.51	14,975.44
Total Disbursements.....330,944.39	145,664.77	51,406.33	528,015.49
391.03 Sale of Municipal Property.....1,826.37			1,826.37
441 Debt Service-Principal.....13,985.86		70,286.89	84,272.75
442 Debt Service-Interest.....7,494.14		16,756.47	24,250.61
Subtotal of Receipts, Disbursements and Transfers.....(30,589.26)	(25,718.02)	(35,210.37)	(91,517.65)
Fund Cash Balance, January 1, 2023.....320,489.31	167,973.09	232,171.77	720,634.17
Adjustments:			
Outstanding Checks.....8,629.40	4,419.29	545.56	13,594.25
Restated Fund Cash Balance, January 1, 2023.....329,118.71	172,392.38	232,717.33	734,228.42
FUND CASH BALANCE, December 31, 2023.....298,529.45	146,674.36	197,506.96	642,710.77
Do amounts equal Exhibit 1 Fund Cash Balance? Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Published March 27, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$168.16 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23134

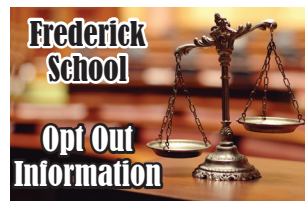


NOTICE OF MEETING OF COUNTY EQUALIZATION BOARD

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 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. 23100



FASD General Fund Opt Out Election

In an upcoming ballot scheduled for April 9, 2024, residents of the Frederick Area School District will be given the chance to express their views regarding a proposed opt-out initiative amounting to \$450,000 over five years. Previously, the Frederick Area School District had approved a \$200,000 opt-out, which is due to expire this year. This vote carries weight due to various factors concerning past budget allocations and the future strategic needs of the district.

SB127 places constraints on teacher compensation, mandating districts to keep pace with yearly increases in state aid funding. Compliance is determined by ensuring that the district's average teacher compensation remains at least 97 percent of the cumulative percentage change in the target teacher salary since fiscal year 2024. Moreover, the bill sets a state minimum teacher salary of \$45,000, which must also mirror annual increments in state aid funding. With our current base teacher salary set at \$41,500, the impact on our district for the forthcoming school year is

evident.
Changes to the capital outlay funding formula contribute to the rationale behind the proposed higher opt-out amount. The capital outlay fund, designated by law to finance the acquisition, lease, or addition of real property, equipment, or software for educational purposes, faces alterations in its funding formula. Previously, the district could roll over the same amount from the previous year, totaling \$366,125. However, this option is no longer viable. According to SDCL 13-16-6, the district can now transfer a maximum of 45% of the total tax revenue for the current fiscal year, resulting in an anticipated transfer of \$263,160 for the upcoming tax year, which is \$102,965 less than the previous year.

The Frederick Area School Board conducts an annual review of the budget. Apart from the initial year, the board has not utilized the entire \$200,000 amount from the previously approved opt-out measure. In the second year, \$100,000 was utilized, followed by \$170,000 in the final year. Furthermore, the past requirement to fully utilize a \$200,000 fund in the first year of opting out has been lifted, allowing for greater flexibility in budget management. The board's intention is to continue this annual budget review and practice of only utilizing what is necessary from the \$450,000 opt-out fund.
The FASD school board emphasizes the importance of transparency by directly involving the public in the vote on this proposed opt-out. This vote carries significant implications for the future trajectory of our school district, emphasizing the critical need for all stakeholders to remain informed and engaged in the decision-making process.
Published March 27, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$29.43 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23142

Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

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Lethargic Light Gray
SDLF-1978

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

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

If you have kids under the age of 6, get them tested for lead with their pediatrician.
Together we'll make SD Lead-Free!



leadfree.sd.gov

childhood **LEAD POISONING** PREVENTION PROGRAM



Groton Independent ♦ Wed., Mar. 27, 2024 ♦ 5



FREDERICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #6-2

Regular Board of Education Meeting
March 11, 2024

A regular meeting of the Frederick Area Board of Education was called to order on March 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. by President Rich Schlosser. Members present were Rich Achen, Jon Ellwein, Alex Hart and Eric Sumption. Also present were Superintendent/9-12 Principal/Athletic Director Jeff Kesters, PreK-8 Principal Jessica Ringgenberg and Business Manager Shauna Severson. Others in attendance: Dan Miller, Tom Grimmond, Troy Millard and Morgan Johnson.

The meeting began with all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

2024-070 Motion by Achen, second by Ellwein to approve the agenda as presented. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

No conflict of interest disclosures.

2024-071 Motion by Ellwein, second by Hart to approve the following consent agenda items. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

a. February 12, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

b. February 2024 Payroll

c. February 2024 Financial Report

d. March 2024 Bills

Financial Report:

General Fund- Checking: Bal 2-1-24: \$424,228.94; Receipts: \$118,697.19; Disbursements: \$203,572.08; Bal 2-29-24 \$339,354.05. Investments: Bal 2-1-24: \$508,110.66; Interest: \$78.33; Bal 2-29-24: \$508,188.99. Ending Fund Balance: \$847,543.04.

Imprest Fund: Bal 2-1-24: \$3,460.12; Receipts: \$1,574.88; Disbursements: \$696.25; Bal 2-29-24 \$4,338.75.

Capital Outlay Fund: Checking: Bal 2-1-24: \$633,468.51; Receipts: \$7,395.28; Disbursements: \$8,200.54; Bal 2-29-24

\$632,663.25. Investments: Bal 2-1-24: \$2,053,800.96. Ending Fund Balance: \$2,686,464.21.

Special Education Fund- Checking: Bal 2-1-24: \$63,569.63; Receipts: \$3,040.57; Disbursements: \$33,193.78; Bal 2-29-24 \$33,416.42. Investments: Bal 2-29-24: \$1,443,913.67. Ending Fund Balance: \$1,477,330.09.

Food Service Fund: Bal 2-1-24: \$16,357.14; Receipts: \$7,233.46; Disbursements: \$15,563.59; Bal 2-29-24 \$8,027.01.

Drivers Ed Fund: Bal 2-29-24 \$.04; Receipts: \$1,750.00; Disbursements: \$0; Bal 2-29-24 \$1,750.04.

Custodial Fund: Bal 2-1-24: \$54,915.50; Receipts: \$6,851.44; Disbursements: \$7,224.04; Bal 2-29-24 \$54,542.90.

Ovid J Stevens Scholarship: Checking: Bal 2-29-24 \$.85. Investments: Bal 2-29-24: \$25,773.29. Ending Fund Balance: \$25,774.14.

Claims approved: General Fund salaries 109,808.30; Special Education salaries 16,847.11; Food Service salaries 4,209.94. EFTPS, federal income tax/Social Security/Medicare 34,545.30; AFLAC, supplemental insurance 1,126.81; American Funds, retirement 638.89; Delta Dental, insurance 2,219.30; Northern Plains Insurance Pool 15,610.47; The Standard, life insurance 242.08; Security Benefits, retirement 2,177.78; Optilegra, vision insurance 470.57; SD Retirement 17,811.12; SD Retirement Supplemental, 3,811.55. Total: \$209,519.22.

Bills approved: General Fund: Aberdeen Awards-fb awards, 160.71; Agtegra-fuel/heating fuel, 9,319.16; Amazon-supplies, 491.81; Bricks TV & Appliance-washing machine labor, 120.00; Brown County Treasurer-bus registration, 28.20; Cahill Bauer & Associates-fy23 audit, 3,450.00; CWD-FFVP, 644.75; Century Business Products-copier coverage, 465.43; Cole Papers-custodial supplies, 1,123.91; Dakota Prairie Museum-art exhibit registration, 75.00; Dallmann, Jennifer-education reimbursement, 60.00; Edutrak-lunch software, 1,880.50; Farmers Union Oil-bus/vehicle maintenance, 276.01; FASD Imprest Fund-misc., 696.25; First National Bank-state bbb tournament

meal money, 2,017.00; GDI News-publishing, 158.11; Hauff Mid America Sports-basketballs, 151.53; Jensen, Nevan-bb liveticket, 30.00; Johnson Controls-heat repair, 963.73; Jostens-yearbook deposit, 1,020.00; JVT-phone, 253.45; JW Pepper-music, 86.99; Ketterling-team photos, 170.00; Little, Jennifer-extra duty-concessions, 20.00; Losure, Erik-liveticket worker, 15.00; MARC-maintenance supplies, 805.32; Merchant Services-cc processing fees, 122.98; Midstates Group-xc banner, 277.00; Midwest Wall Systems-house maintenance, 1,581.00; Montana-Dakota Utilities-utilities, 5,617.00; Morlock, Marty-fuel reimbursement, 40.00; Napa Central-transportation supplies, 57.99; Northern State University-spring 2024 digital textbooks, 473.97; Pantorium Cleaners-supplies, 133.40; Pierson Ford-expedition maintenance, 395.85; Pirate Ship-postage, 11.97; Ringgenberg, Jessica-extra duty concessions, 20.00; Runnings-transportation supplies, 6.99; Schlosser, Andrew-bb liveticket, 15.00; SD FCCLA-SLC registration, 1,765.00; SDIAAA-conference registration, 78.00; Sumption, Austin-bbb ref, 50.00; Sumption, Stacey-extra duty concessions, 20.00; Taylor Music-horn repairs, 150.00; Teachers Pay Teachers-curriculum supplements, 5.00; Top Notch Repair-bathroom maintenance, 300.00; Town of Frederick-utilities, 662.64; USPS-stamps, 68.00; WalMart-title I supplies, 105.15. Capital Outlay Fund: Amazon-books, 106.37; Century Business Products-copier lease, 306.66; Johnson Controls-building efficiency, 17,715.36; MARCO-intercom installment, 13,944.00. Special Education Fund: Avera-OT/PT, 4,675.68; Johnson, Morgan-conference meal money, 60.00; Kesters, Christine-conference meal money, 60.00. Food Service Fund: Amazon-supplies, 15.49; CWD-food/supplies, 4,022.38; Community Store-food, 34.21; FASD Custodial Fund-leftover concessions, 39.34; Pantorium Cleaners-kitchen supplies, 92.35. Imprest Fund: Brown County Sheriff-fingerprints, 100.00; Division of Criminal Investigation-background checks, 216.25; First

National Bank-reimburse admission cash box, 18.00; Haas, Wayne-track/field clinic meals, 46.00; Morlock, Marty-track/field clinic meals, 46.00; NSU-science fair registration, 150.00; SoDak Track Clinic-track/field clinic, 120.00. Custodial Fund: Cash-Wa-concessions, 338.66; Cash-Wa Direct-concessions, 130.60; Hauff Mid-America Sports-gbb warm ups, 60.00; Kens-concessions, 143.33; Kesslers-SADD fundraiser/concessions, 398.38; Target-FBLA week/SADD fundraiser, 158.58; Region 1B BBB (paid by region, but processed through our custodial fund's clearing account): Aberdeen Christian School-region host site, 400.00; Deutsch, Patrick-bbb region official, 273.18; Deutsch, Scott-bbb region official, 236.55; Frericks, Kris-bbb region official, 180.00; Gaikowski, Bryan-bbb region official, 139.68; Holt, Adam-bbb region official, 93.60; Kesters, Christine-bbb region official, 25.00; Kesters-Jeff, bbb region chair, 500.00; Kesters-Zach, bbb region custodian, 50.00; Kurth, Travis-bbb region official, 121.62; Leola School District-bbb region host site, 200.00; Morlock, Marty-bbb region shot clock, 25.00; Paulson, Matt-bbb region official, 235.08; Pearson, Levi-bbb region official, 95.40; Ruesink, Doug-bbb region official, 370.74; Schlosser, Rich-bbb regionclock, 25.00; Severson, Shauna-bbb region treasurer, 100.00; Steinwandt, Tim-bbb region official, 180.00; Veflin, Wade-bbb region official, 219.06; Waage, Tom-bbb region official, 180.00; Warner School District-bbb region host site, 175.00; Waverly-SS-bbb region host site/region gbb admission, 1,109.00; Weismantel, Martin-bbb region official, 111.96; Wilmot School District-bbb region host site, 175.00; Zinter, Tonya-bbb region book, 25.00.

The following reports were presented:
Jeff Kesters: Superintendent/9-12 Principal/Athletic Director
Jessica Ringgenberg: K-8 Principal
Shauna Severson: Business Manager
Achen/Hart: Athletic Co-op
JLG: Building

2024-072 Motion by Sumption, second by Ellwein to approve a CD at Plains Commerce Bank in the amount of \$500,000.00. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

A draft of the Negotiated Agreement/Teacher Handbook was distributed to the board. It will be reviewed once negotiations are complete.

2024-073 Motion by Achen, second by Hart to transfer \$75,000 from Special Education Savings to Checking. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

2024-074 Motion by Sumption, second by Hart to approve the following election workers for the Opt Out Election on April 9, 2024: Frederick- Diane Bruns, Mavis Cox, Deb Gustafson; Westport- Laura Adema, Melissa Ellwein, Lisa Ham; and set the rate of pay at \$200/election day plus mileage, as well as, \$15/hr for any training/set up prior to election day. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

The JLG Agreement was tabled to the regular April board meeting.

2024-075 Motion by Sumption, second by Ellwein to open negotiations for the 2024-25 school year. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

2024-076 Motion by Sumption, second by Achen to approve the resignation of Shauna Severson as Concessions Manager. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

The Board would like to recognize the Leola/Frederick Titans BBB team for advancing to the State Tournament; Sofia Losure and Laura Sumption on being selected as 1st Team All-Lake Region Conference players and Jillian Ellwein on her Honorable Mention selection; Laura Sumption for being selected as the MVP of the conference; Levi Little for being named an Academic All-State for Hockey.

2024-077 Motion by Achen, second by Sumption to go into executive session at 7:23 p.m. for SDCL 1-25-2 (1) Personnel. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

Schlosser declared the board out of executive session at 8:11 p.m.

2024-078 Motion by Hart, second by Achen to adjourn at 8:11 p.m. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Frederick Area Board of Education will be held April 15, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Rich Schlosser, President
Shauna Severson, Business Manager

Published March 27, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$92.44 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23141



This mobile home at the mobile home park on the north edge of Groton was gutted by fire Monday afternoon. The Groton Fire Department responded to the fire call; however, the fire spread quickly and everything inside was burned up. The Reuben Olson family had been living in it for several years. There were no injuries. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Erdmann represents SDSU at Ag Day at the Pavilion



From SDSU: Meet Tessa Erdmann, our 2023 - 2024 CAFES Advocate, who will spend the day representing SDSU's College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences by advocating for the agricultural industry at Ag Day in the Pavilion!

Tessa is a senior agricultural communications student from Groton, SD, with minors in marketing, public relations, social and digital media and professional writing. On campus, she is an active member of Sigma Alpha Sorority, Little International, Alpha Zeta and is a student employee for CAFES marketing and communications.

Ag Day at the Washington Pavilion in Sioux Falls on behalf of SDSU CAFES, where she and other groups of students within CAFES are representing different clubs and organizations on campus.

Ag Day at the Pavilion allows children and families to learn about agriculture's significance in South Dakota and beyond. Throughout the day, Tessa and Ella Stiefvater, CAFES Prexy Council treasurer, will do a soybean activity with the kids.

"This is my second year attending Ag Day in the Pavilion, and I have really enjoyed having the opportunity to connect with kids and advocate for the agricultural industry," said Tessa. "Allowing kids to have a hands-on agricultural opportunity will help them understand our great industry more!"

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Weighing device
- 6 Sitar tunes
- 11 Fearful
- 12 Using the Internet
- 14 Eagles' homes
- 15 Julianne and Demi
- 16 Away from SSW
- 17 Auto style
- 19 Wager
- 20 Food regimen
- 22 Cariou of Broadway
- 23 Visibility hindrance
- 24 Cancel
- 26 Journeys
- 28 Head of st.
- 30 Animal doc
- 31 "Lolita" author
- 35 Summary
- 39 Plow pullers
- 40 Felon's flight
- 42 Sitarist Shankar
- 43 Soccer's Hamm
- 44 Prom duds
- 46 Heavy weight
- 47 E-business
- 49 Boring type
- 51 New citizen, perhaps

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47			48				49		50			
51								52				
	53							54				

- 52 Is anxious about
- 53 Messy places
- 54 Leaks slowly
- 9 Car safety feature
- 10 Allergy season sound
- 11 Hourglass fillers
- 13 "Melrose Place" actor
- 18 "Lion" star
- 21 Yank at
- 23 Misanthrope
- 25 — choy
- 27 " — outta here!"
- 29 Library array
- 31 — plume
- 32 Wise sayings
- 33 "Scram!"
- 34 Preventive shot, in slang
- 36 40 winks
- 37 Sidesteps
- 38 Lipstick shades
- 41 Repairs
- 44 Rent
- 45 Foolproof
- 48 Hollywood trickery (Abbr.)
- 50 Ruby or Sandra

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The Life of Marlene Deloris Schuelke Ahern Coon



A Celebration of Life for Marlene Ahern Coon. 88, will be 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 9th at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Rev. Craig Grams will officiate. Inurnment will follow in Union Cemetery, Groton.

Marlene passed away Saturday, March 16, 2024 at Alive Hospice in Nashville, TN.

Marlene Deloris Schuelke was born July 9, 1935, in Niles, Michigan. She spent her childhood years with her parents Ora and Winifred (Odland) Schuelke and siblings, Linda and Bill, on a farm in Putney Township. She was in 4-H and attended school in Groton.

Marlene married Willis Lee Ahern on December 29, 1951. They lived in the Andover area and had four children, Michael (who died in infancy), Wallace, Richard, and Patti. When the children were young, the family moved to Rapid City, SD. Over the years, Marlene was employed as a retail clerk, a secretary, and at the Pennington County Register of Deeds. Willis passed away in February of 1964.

Marlene married Dwayne LeRoy Coon on May 29, 1965, and together with Dwayne's daughter, Jolene, they became a family of six. Dwayne's work kept him on the road most of the week, so she was frequently running their household on her own. She was delighted when her sister Linda's family moved to the area, and the two families enjoyed five years of socializing and spending holidays together. When her grandchildren were young, she loved spending time with them, sharing her hobbies and interests. She was also a talented decorator, and many people remember her lovely home décor. After retirement, Marlene and Dwayne relocated to Hastings, MN, to be closer to their son, Richard & family.

In 1995, Marlene and Dwayne returned to the Schuelke family farm north of Groton. They were vital to the continued loving care of Marlene's mother, Winifred. It can be challenging to care for a loved one with dementia, but Marlene took on many hours of her care every day. While there were stressful times, too, she spent many a happy morning enjoying coffee and conversation with Winifred and Neola Schuelke. After Winifred passed away in 2002, Marlene and Dwayne continued to live next door to Bill and Eileen, spending many loving hours with their grandchildren, too. The children knew Marlene had a treasure trove of dolls, buttons, and other small toys, and they would while away the afternoon together. She taught generations of kids how to play card games.

In her years living in Groton, she was a member of Putney Ladies' Aid and St. John's Lutheran Church. She also worked as the church secretary St. John's Lutheran Church in Groton, retiring in March 2015 at the age of 80. She loved interacting with the preschool children every day.

In November of 2018, Marlene moved to Nashville, TN where she lived in the home of her daughter, Patti, for the remainder of her life. She enjoyed playing cards, even into her twilight years.

In spite of hardships she endured in her life, Marlene was a brave woman who had a forgiving heart. She remarked that she wasn't one to join things, so she focused her energy on her family members. She was known for her passion for making quilts, sewing, painting, and crafts, and her family members were grateful recipients of many of her projects.

She is survived by her daughters, Patti L. Hergenreder, of Nashville, TN, and Jolene J. (Joseph) Shear, of Clarksville, TN; brother, Bill (Eileen) Schuelke, of Groton, SD; daughters-in-law, Christina A. Ahern, of Cape Coral, FL, and Kristina A. Ahern, of Maiden Rock, WI; five grandchildren, Mikel, Linda, Brianna, Patrishia, and Jamison; and two great-grandchildren, Kaiden and Declan.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husbands, Willis Ahern and Dwayne Coon; sons, Michael Ahern, Wallace Ahern, Richard Ahern; son-in-law Wilbert Hergenreder; and sister, Linda Schuelke Riggs.

The family requests that gifts in lieu of flowers be made to Abe's Garden Community, 115 Woodmont Blvd., Nashville, TN 37205 or online at www.abesgarden.org/givenow.

Groton Prairie Mixed Bowling League Week #18 Results

Team Standings: Shihtzus – 11, Coyotes – 11, Chipmunks- 10, Cheetahs – 7, Jackelopes – 6, Foxes – 3

Men's High Games: Mike Siegler – 230, Brad Waage – 224, John Sippel – 205

Women's High Games: Michelle Johnson – 177, Karen Spanier – 175, Sam Bahr – 167

Men's High Series: Mike Siegler – 569, John Sippel – 567, Brad Waage – 545

Women's High Series: Sam Bahr – 445, Vicki Walter – 444, Karen Spanier – 436

Fun Game: Most 8 Spares - Coyotes with 12!

The Life of Nora Rix



Funeral services for Nora Rix, 93, of Groton will be 11:00 a.m., Thursday, March 28th at St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton. Rev. Jeremy Yeadon will officiate. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held for one hour prior to services.

Nora passed away March 21, 2024 at Angelhaus in Aberdeen.

Nora Anna Lunzman was born on March 11, 1931 in Aberdeen to William and Emilie (Miller) Lunzman. She grew up on a farm near Oberon and attended grade school in Oberon. The family later moved to Aberdeen, where Nora graduated from Central High School. Nora was working at Wheat Growers in

Aberdeen when she met William Rix. They were united in marriage on August 23, 1964 in Aberdeen and together they made their home on the family farm north of Groton.

Nora was member of St. John's Lutheran Church, where she was active in Nursery Circle, Ladies Aid, and Quilter's Club. She and Bill dined frequently at Helen's California Kitchen, where they had their own table. Nora loved children, and doted on her great-nieces and nephews.

Celebrating her life are her nephews, Stuart (Stacey) Nelson of Aberdeen, Roger (Pamela) Rix of Groton, nieces, Elaine (Fred) Wolken of Piedmont, Teresa (Larry) Enze of Sioux Falls and many great-nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her parents, her husband in 2001 and her sister, Irma Nelson.

Casketbearers will be Isaac Nelson, Roger Rix, Jarrett Rix and Grant Rix.

Memorials may be directed to Angelhaus, 1717 East Melgaard Road, Aberdeen, SD 57401 or Rosewood Court, 705 North 6th Street, Groton, SD 57445.

Indoor NSU Track Meet Results

Mens Results

Shot Put - Finals

6. Holden Sippel, 40' 7.75
11. Karter Moody, 37' 2.5
29. Ashton Holmes, 29' 1.25
31. Drew Thurston, 26' 1

Womens Results

55 Meter Dash - Finals

2. Laila Roberts, 7.72
5. Kella Tracy, 8.19
- 55 Meter Dash - Prelims
3. Laila Roberts, 7.93
5. Kella Tracy, 7.94
9. Rylee Dunker, 8.09
24. Jerica Locke, 8.72
29. Kayla Lehr, 8.80
50. Addison Hoffman, 9.42

200 Meters - Finals

2. Laila Roberts, 28.94
5. Rylee Dunker, 29.43
7. McKenna Tietz, 29.61
11. Jerica Locke, 30.90
25. Talli Wright, 32.63
27. Elizabeth Fliehs, 32.78
29. Kayla Lehr, 32.90
41. Hannah Sandness, 35.19

400 Meters - Finals

1. Ashlynn Warrington, 1:11.69
6. Elizabeth Fliehs, 1:14.76

800 Meters - Finals

1. Taryn Traphagen, 2:33.81
2. Faith Traphagen, 2:35.34

1600 Meters - Finals

- 11 Faith Traphagen, DNS

55m Hurdles - Finals

2. McKenna Tietz, 9.73
4. Talli Wright, 11.20
6. Emerlee Jones, 11.57
7. Teagan Hanten, 11.68

55m Hurdles - Prelims

1. McKenna Tietz, 10.03
5. Teagan Hanten, 11.65
6. Talli Wright, 11.68
8. Emerlee Jones, 12.19
9. Hannah Sandness, 12.45

4x400 Relay - Finals

1. Faith Traphagen, Taryn Traphagen, Kella Tracy, Ashlynn Warrington, 4:37.98

Shot Put - Finals

2. Emma Kutter, 31' 4.5
6. Faith Fliehs, 29' 6.5
10. Avery Crank, 26' 3.5
11. Ashley Johnson, 25' 5.5
20. Kayleigh McGannon, 20' 3
21. Emma Davies, 19' 7
24. Emily Overacker, 18' 0.5

High Jump - Finals

7. Emerlee Jones, 4' 6

Long Jump - Finals

4. Laila Roberts, 14' 7.75
12. Anna Fjeldheim, 13' 0
14. Teagan Hanten, 11' 11.75
15. Addison Hoffman, 10' 10.75

Triple Jump - Finals

6. Emerlee Jones, 26' 6.25
7. Teagan Hanten, 25' 6.25



2024 B103 Senior All-Star Game was held Saturday in Sisseton. Groton seniors Emily Clark and Sydney Leicht participated in the 24th annual event. (Courtesy photos)

Regional Destination Imagination Tournament held Saturday in Webster



Extra Xtreme took second place at the Regional Destination Imagination tournament held Saturday in Webster. They competed in the Improv challenge.

Pictured are Calvin Locken, Gideon Rix, Terrence "TJ" Feist and Ayce Warrington. Team manager is Julie Milbrandt with helpers Tracy Rix and Amy Warrington.

(Photo from Groton Destination Imagination Facebook Page)



Merrie Atherton was instrumental in securing the Webster Area School for the East River Destination Imagination Tournament. It was originally scheduled for Tri-Valley, but there was a scheduling conflict. At the last minute, Atherton went to work and got the region moved to Webster.

The State DI Tournament is scheduled for April 6 in Pierre.

Extra Xtreme and The Hedgehogs are both invited to state. The two Rising Stars teams (The Four Friends & The Four Heroes) will not be traveling to Pierre.



The Four Heroes performed in the Early Learning challenge which is non competitive. They also had an extra challenge trying to fit their prop inside the performance area but perseverance got the job done! Team members are Kase Ronning, Jax Ronning, Nova Washenberger and Sunny Washenberger. Team manager is Laura Arth.

(Photo from Groton Destination Imagination Facebook Page)



The Four Friends presented their solution to the Early Learning Challenge today! This team is a non-competitive team. They were all smiles waiting for their instant challenge. Team members are Jorie Locken, KayLynn Furman, Paisley Johnson and Ava Strom. Team manager is Joni Groeblichhoff.

(Photo from Groton Destination Imagination Facebook Page)



The Hedgehogs placed third in the elementary Improv Challenge. Team members are Aryanna Cutler, Taylor Flihs, Aschar Warrington, Quinton Ronning, Freddy Cole and Conrad Rix. Team manager is Julie Milbrandt.

(Photo from Groton Destination Imagination Facebook Page)



Former Groton Area DI team members Nathan Fjelstad and Katie Groeblichhoff took time to volunteer as Appraisers for Saturday's Eastern South Dakota Regional Tournament held in Webster.

(Photo from Groton Destination Imagination Facebook Page)



15 N Main St. - Ste. 101
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Exercise reduces joint pain and helps fight tiredness. - Mayo Clinic

We the People

The South Dakota Humanities Council is making available a weekly column -- "We the People" -- that focuses on the U.S. Constitution. It is written by David Adler, who is president of The Alturas Institute, a non-profit organization created to promote the Constitution, gender equality, and civic education.



By David Adler

Chief Justice Oliver Ellsworth: Impeccable Pedigree for a Supreme Court Appointment

President George Washington's nomination in 1796 of Oliver Ellsworth to serve as the third Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court was met with universal approval. Ellsworth boasted a record of experience that few then, and none since, could match. Above all, Ellsworth was a genuine heavyweight in the Constitutional Convention, among a handful of delegates who spoke frequently and authoritatively and played

a key role in shaping the final version of the Constitution that the American people ratified in 1787-1788.

Washington, who had known Ellsworth since the Revolutionary War and during his representation of Connecticut in the Continental Congress for six years, observed the intellectual powerhouse at work in the Philadelphia Convention throughout the summer of 1787. As President of the Constitutional Convention, Washington observed Ellsworth's skillful negotiation of the Great Compromise that saved the proceedings from collapse, admired his leadership in crafting Article III of the Constitution—the Judiciary Article—and appreciated his espousal of the awesome power of judicial review, an American invention and major contribution to political science and law. Already regarded as one of the nation's ablest attorneys, Ellsworth demonstrated anew his leadership in championing the separation of powers and checks in balances with the insertion of a judicial check on the legislative and executive branches, to ensure that they did not transgress their boundaries. Ellsworth's credentials and qualifications to serve on the nation's High Bench, based on his participation in the Convention alone, were undeniable.

They were further burnished by his effective leadership as a member of the U.S. Senate, at the time of his appointment. Ellsworth had been the principal author of the Judiciary Act of 1789, the first bill passed by the First Congress, and the most important judicial legislation in the nation's history. The Judiciary Article of the Constitution was not self-executing. Without enactment of a statute, the Supreme Court and lower federal courts could not be called into existence. The 1789 Judiciary Act thus created the Supreme Court and set forth its jurisdiction. Ellsworth, along with William Paterson of New Jersey, who had been a delegate to the Convention and was destined for an appointment to the Supreme Court, were the key members of the Senate committee that drafted the bill. The principal draftsman was Ellsworth; indeed, the last drafts of the legislation were in his handwriting. One of his senatorial opponents declared, "this Vile Bill is a child of his."

The Judiciary Act resolved the question of whether there should be inferior federal courts, in their favor. It established the federal judiciary, with a Supreme Court, consisting of six Justices, as the highest court in the land, as well as a two-tiered system of inferior courts, with district courts located in each state at the base, and three circuit courts organized into the eastern, the middle and the southern circuits, each composed of two Supreme Court Justices and a federal district judge. The federal courts were given limited jurisdiction. The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court was provided for in the form that it has retained ever since. Crucial to the authority of the federal courts and the subsequent history of the nation was that the Supreme Court was given appellate jurisdiction not only over the lower federal courts, but also under Section 25 of the Act, jurisdiction over state courts that involved federal questions. The Supreme Court's power to review state court decisions is what has been called "the keystone of the whole arch of federal judicial power." Without it, the Constitution would be left to the interpretations of 50 state supreme courts, plunging the nation into constitutional chaos and crisis.

Sen. Ellsworth's appointment to the Court was a major loss to the Senate. "The appointment of the C.J." John Adams wrote to his wife, Abigail, "was a wise Measure," even though by it, "we loose the clearest head and most diligent hand we had in the Senate."

At the time of his appointment to the Court, Ellsworth was 51 years old. A strong Federalist and devout Calvinist who studied theology before switching to the law, Ellsworth had distinguished himself as a young national leader at the Convention, with the likes of other "youngsters" such as James Madison and Alexander Hamilton, and much was expected of him when he became Chief Justice. But poor health, the relatively light calendar of the Court and his acceptance of a diplomatic assignment to France, while serving on the Court for a little more than three years, left him little time to shape the Court's development, let alone become a distinguished Chief Justice. As Chief, he did try, without much success, to initiate the policy of the Supreme Court handing down per curiam opinions or single decisions, for the entire Court as opposed to the English practice of seriatim or separate opinions by individual justices.

While abroad as part of his diplomatic assignment to end the undeclared war with France (1798-1800), Ellsworth resigned the chief justiceship, citing ill health. The timing of his resignation was politically important to President John Adams, who appointed John Marshall, another staunch Federalist, to succeed Ellsworth. Ellsworth returned to Connecticut, where he lived for seven more years.

Easter Baskets by Tina ~ 605-397-7285



Fire truck Easter basket with a light up cup three mystery eggs, a light up football, a space game, blue peeps bubbles and a blue fan



It has a blue speaker, pink bubbles a blue fan, and stress carrot a stuffed bunny with three clear Easter bunnies with jelly beans inside them



The stuff that's in this basket yellow peeps bubbles a duck puzzle, a stuffed bunny, four mystery colored Easter eggs with prize inside a jump rope, a cup that lights up on top and a pink fan with bubbles in it



The stuff inside it a cup that lights up, a stuffed cow, a bow with a arrow toy, a shooter game, a blue peeps bubble and a green bubble fan



Groton April Calendar of Events

Monday, April 1

NO SCHOOL - Easter Break
Pantry Open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Senior Menu: Sloppy Joe on bun, oven roasted potatoes, broccoli, ice cream sundae, fruit.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study 6:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 2

Senior Menu: Baked pork chops, au gratin potatoes, vegetable capri blend, honey fruit salad, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Cereal.
School Lunch: Chicken strips, fries.
Thrift Store open 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Food Pantry open 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Wage Memorial Library Board meeting, 2 p.m. at the Library
City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Ladies Aid / LWML, 1 p.m.
United Methodist: Bible Study meeting, 11 a.m., Groton Dairy Queen

Wednesday, April 3

Senior Menu: Swiss steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas and carrots, apricots, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: French toast.
School Lunch: Chef salad.
Groton CM&A: Kids' Club, Youth Group and Adult Bible Study begins at 7 pm
Groton Chamber Meeting, Noon at City Hall
Emmanuel Lutheran: Sarah Circle, 5 p.m. ; Confirmation 6 p.m.; League, 6:30 p.m.
United Methodist: Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, April 4

Senior Menu: Cheeseburger quinoa casserole, cheesy breadstick steamed Brussel sprouts, fruit.
School Breakfast: Muffins.
School Lunch: Pasta with meat sauce.
Track at Mobridge 11 a.m.

Friday, April 5

Senior Menu: Spanish rice with hamburger, green beans, vanilla pudding with mandarin oranges, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Bagel bites.
School Lunch: Hamburgers, fries.

Saturday, April 6

Thrift Store open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 3:45-4:15 p.m.; SEAS Mass, 4:30 p.m.
Dueling Duo at the Legion 6 p.m.

Sunday, April 7

POPS Concert 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.
Groton CM&A: Sunday School at 9:15 a.m., Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m., SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir, 6 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion at St. John's at 9 a.m. and Zion at 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

Monday, April 8

Senior Menu: Ranch chicken breast, sweet potatoes mixed Monterey blend, applesauce bars, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Pancake on stick.
School Lunch: French bread pizza, cooked carrots.
State Smarter Balanced Testing (EIA/Math: April 8-12, Science (Grade 11) Week of April 15-19 (day TBD)
School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
Pantry Open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Senior Citizen meet at the Groton Community

10 ♦ Groton Independent ♦ Wed., Mar. 27, 2024

Center, 1 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study 6:30 a.m.
High School Baseball: Varsity at Dell Rapids 5 p.m., second game at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, April 9

ELECTION DAY!
Groton Area Opt-Out Election. Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Senior Menu: Lemon baked fish, baked potato with sour cream, California blend vegetables, peach crisp, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Scones.
School Lunch: Chicken patty, fries.
Track at Ipswich, 2:30 p.m.
JH Track at Milbank 4 p.m.
Thrift Store open 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Food Pantry open 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, April 10

Senior Menu: Hamburger on bun, lettuce/tomato/onion, potato salad, fruit, cookie.
School Breakfast: Cereal
School Lunch: Chicken quesadilla, peas.
Groton CM&A: Kids' Club, Youth Group and Adult Bible Study begins at 7 pm
Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 6 p.m.
United Methodist: Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, April 11

Senior Menu: Cheese tortellini Alfredo with diced chicken, green beans, Mandarin oranges, whole wheat. bread.
School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza.
School Lunch: BBQ rib sandwich, tater tots.
Girls Golf at Mobridge.
Track at Milbank, 3:30 p.m.
Groton Lions Club meeting, 6 p.m., 104 N Main St.

Friday, April 12

Senior Menu: Bratwurst on bun, mashed potatoes, sauerkraut, 3 bean salad, chocolate pudding with banana.
School Breakfast: Biscuits.
School Lunch: Grilled cheese, corn.
All-School Play 7 p.m .

Saturday, April 13

ACT Testing at Groton Area
Track at Mobridge 10 a.m.
All School Play 5 p.m.
Thrift Store open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 3:45-4:15 p.m.; SEAS Mass, 4:30 p.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: WELCA Spring Gathering, Our Savior's Lutheran in Redfield 9 a.m.

Sunday, April 14

Groton CM&A: Sunday School at 9:15 a.m., Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m., SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with Milestones (4 yr olds and juniors), 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir 6 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's at 9 a.m. and Zion at 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
High School Baseball in Groton: Varsity: Elkton/Lake Benton at Noon, W-I-N at 4 p.m

Monday, April 15

Senior Menu: Beef tips on rice, mixed vegetables, fruit cocktail, cookie, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels.
School Lunch: Chicken nuggets, diced potatoes.
JH Track at Ipswich 2 p.m.
Pantry Open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Senior Citizen meet at the Groton Community

Center, 1 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study 6:30 a.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Christian Literature Circle, 7:30 p.m.
Groton Area Winter Sports Awards Night, 7 p.m., GHS Arena
State Smarter Balanced Testing: Grade 3-5, Science (Grade 5): Week of April 15-19 (Day TBD), ELA/Math: April 22-26

Tuesday, April 16

Senior Menu: Baked turkey crunch with dressing, Italian blend vegetables, carrot bars, corn muffin.
School Breakfast: Waffles.
School Lunch: Pizza burgers, cooked broccoli.
Track at Britton, 2 p.m.
Thrift Store open 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Food Pantry open 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Quilting, 9 a.m.
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, April 17

Senior Menu: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, Oriental blend vegetables, cinnamon apple sauce, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Egg bake.
School Lunch: tacos.
FCCLA Banquet at GHS Arena Lobby 6 p.m.
Groton CM&A: Kids' Club, Youth Group and Adult Bible Study begins at 7 pm
Emmanuel Lutheran: Pastor at Rosewood Court; Confirmation. 6 p.m.; League, 6:30 p.m.
United Methodist: Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton Ad Council, 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 18

Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, corn, garlic toast, fudge cake squares, fruit.
School Breakfast: pop tarts.
School Lunch: Corndogs, baked beans.
Girls Golf at Milbank, 10 a.m.

Friday, April 19

Senior Menu: Breaded chicken on bun, oven roasted potatoes, peas and cheese salad, honey fruit salad.
School Breakfast: Egg wraps.
School Lunch: pizza, green beans.
JH Track at Groton Area, 2 p.m.

Saturday, April 20

PROM, 8 p.m.
Thrift Store open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 3:45-4:15 p.m.; SEAS Mass, 4:30 p.m.
Firemen Spring Social, 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 21

Groton CM&A: Sunday School at 9:15 a.m., Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m., SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.
Princess Prom, 4:30 p.m., GHS Gym
Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.; Sunday School 10:15 a.m.; Choir 6 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion at St. John's at 9 a.m. and Zion at 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

Monday, April 22

Senior Menu: Meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, Harvard beets, pineapple tidbits, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Oatmeal.
School Lunch: meatballs, mashed potatoes.
School Board meeting 7 p.m.
JH Track at Britton, 3:30 p.m.

Continues on next page

Calendar

Continued from previous page

Pantry Open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Senior Citizen meet at the Groton Community Center with noon potluck
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study 6:30 a.m.
High School Baseball: JV vs. W-I-N at Northville, doubleheader, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 23

Senior Menu: Pork roast, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli and carrots peaches whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Breakfast sandwich.
School Lunch: Hamburgers, tri taters.
Track at Groton Area, 11 a.m.
Thrift Store open 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Food Pantry open 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, April 24

Senior Menu: Turkey sub sandwich, lettuce and tomato macaroni salad, tropical fruit.
School Breakfast: French toast.
School Lunch: Pizza crunchers, corn.
Groton CM&A: Kids' Club, Youth Group and Adult Bible Study begins at 7 pm
Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 6 p.m.
United Methodist: Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.
High School Baseball: Varsity vs. Madison at 7 p.m. in Groton.

Thursday, April 25

Senior Menu: Ham, sweet potatoes, vegetable blend Provence, baked apples dinner roll.
School Breakfast: Muffins.
School Lunch: Chicken strips, waffle fries.
Girls Golf at Redfield 10 a.m.
Middle School Spring Concert 7 p.m.

Friday, April 26

Senior Menu: Taco salad, Mexican rice with beans, breadstick, cherry fluff.
School Breakfast: Bagel bits.
School Lunch: Lasagna, corn, tea buns.
Track at Webster, 1 p.m.

Saturday April 27

Thrift Store open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 3:45-4:15 p.m.; SEAS Mass, 4:30 p.m.
High School Baseball: Varsity vs. Howard at 2 p.m. in Groton.

Sunday, April 28

Groton CM&A: Sunday School at 9:15 a.m., Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m., SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Piano Recital, noon; choir, 6 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's at 9 a.m. and Zion at 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
High School Baseball at Volga. Varsity at 2 p.m., Junior Varsity at 4 p.m.

Monday, April 29

Senior Menu: Baked cod, macaroni and cheese, spinach salad with tomatoes fruit cocktail, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Pancake on stick.
School Lunch: Garlic cheese bread, cooked carrots.
FFA Banquet, GHS Gym, 6 p.m.
Pantry Open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study 6:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 30

Senior Menu: Teriyaki chicken, rice pilaf, cauliflower and broccoli, pineapple strawberry ambrosia whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Scones.
School Lunch: Hot dogs, baked beans.
Track at Milbank, 1:30 p.m.
Elementary Spring Concert, 7 p.m.
Thrift Store open 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Food Pantry open 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Classifieds

and Card of Thanks

The following rates are for Classifieds published in both the Groton Daily Independent and the Groton Independent. Cut rate in half if you just want it in the GDI or just the weekly.
1 Week: \$9 for first 30 words, 20¢/word thereafter
2 Wks: \$17 for first 30 words, 38¢/word thereafter
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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.

NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS located in Isabel, SD has the following positions open: 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 EDMONTON 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.

CITY OF WEBSTER is looking for a Finance officer. Applications/Job description available at City Finance Office. 800 Main Street, Webster, SD 57274, 605-345-3241. EOE.

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Dear EarthTalk: What would a second Trump term in the White House mean for efforts to stave off cataclysmic climate change?

-- George B., Saginaw, MI

For years former President Trump has repeatedly made false claims that climate change is a hoax. His efforts to negate progressive climate change policies were evident in his first term, when he pulled the U.S. out of the Paris climate agreement, rolled back environmental regulation, and relaxed regulations on oil and gas drilling. According to Trump's allies and advisors, a second term for Trump would mean even more extreme environmental policies. While efforts to fight climate change are stronger now than when Trump first attacked them, he can still do substantial damage.

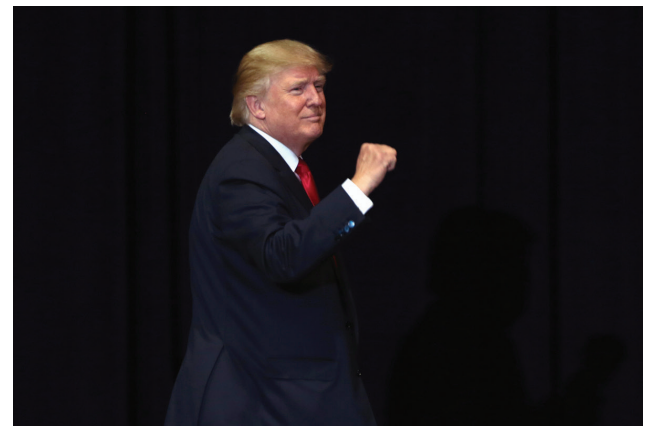
Trump has said that should he become president again, boosting fossil fuels would be one of his top priorities. Trump's allies have said that Trump plans to drive forward fossil fuel production, which would overturn rules made to curb planet-heating emissions. The Trump campaign has also promised to once again pull the U.S. out of the Paris agreement, an act that Biden had reversed earlier in his presidency. Reversing executive orders is surprisingly easy for a newly instated president. On Biden's first day of his presidency, he canceled 11 of Trump's climate-related orders. Trump will certainly move to do the same and undo Biden's climate-related executive orders.

In 2023, Kevin Robert, president of the conservative Heritage Foundation, released a series of policy initiatives called Project 2025 that Trump could take if he wins the presidency again, including reversing climate actions taken by the Biden administration. The project calls for the president to use an executive order to "reshape the U.S. Global Change Research Program and related climate change research programs." The Global Change Research Program was established by Congress in 1990 to coordinate federal research and spending to better understand climate change. The Trump administration already moved to tamper with the Research Program during his first term, and a second term will surely mean further manipulation.

The damage that Trump could do to climate change policy would set the U.S. back years. He believes that climate change should not be a priority and isn't something we should be worried about. He wants to boost the U.S. economy by boosting fossil fuels, when we should be looking for other, clean alternatives.

If Trump is awarded a second term his climate-related policies could add an additional four billion tons of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere by 2030, compared to the Biden administration's existing plans. We would also likely miss our global climate pledge under the Paris agreement by a wide margin. The U.S. should be a leader in climate change policy and we are taking steps toward that goal, but if Trump is elected to a second term, all that work could be flushed down the drain.

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



Donald Trump promises to make the lives of environmentalists & their supporters hell if he wins his bid for a second term in the White House. Credit: Gage Skidmore, FlickrCC.



HAPPY EASTER

Ken's Shell Express of Aberdeen, Groton & Ipswich will be OPEN the following hours on Easter Sunday:

ABERDEEN Shell Express: 6AM-8PM
KEN'S Bottle Shop/Beer Cave: 8AM-1PM
GROTON Shell Express: 8AM-NOON
IPSWICH Shell Express: 8AM-NOON
BRITTON, CLARK & EUREKA STORES WILL BE CLOSED EASTER DAY

APP DEAL OF THE WEEK

Best Choice Shredded Cheese 49¢
 8 Oz. Bag w/\$10 purchase & Ken's App
Requires \$10 additional purchase and use of Ken's App

USDA Choice Domboka Boneless Whole Ribeye \$12.99
Per Lb.

Seasoned Prime Ribeye \$14.99
Per Lb.

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1 Lb. Pkg.

Meat Sugardate Butt or Shank Portion Hams \$1.99
Per Lb.

Dairy Dinner Bell Butter \$3.77
1 Lb. Qtr.

Kretschmar Whole or 1/2 Boneless Ham \$3.99
Per Lb.

Campbell's Cream of Chicken or Mushroom Soup 4/\$5
10.5 Oz. Cans

Frozen Cool Whip Dessert Toppin \$1.77
8 Oz. Tub

Liquor 1800 Ultimate Margarita Ready to Drink All Flavors \$17.99
1.75 LITER

Best Choice Corn, Peas or Green Beans Vegetables 3/\$2
14.5-15 Oz. Cans

Kraft Miracle Whip \$3.99
Sale Price \$4.99 - \$1.00 Digital Coupon Net Price 19-30 Oz. Jar

Household Reynolds Foil \$4.49
50-75 Ft. Each

Folger's Coffee \$6.99
22-25.9 Oz. or 12 Ct. K-Cups

Best Choice Granulated Sugar \$2.99
4 Lb. Bag

Bakery Deli

Kens Bakery Fresh White Dinner Rolls, Tea Buns or Finger Rolls \$2.49
12 Count

Tuna Melt w/ Chips & Drink \$6.29

Ken's Gourmet Coffee

Wind & Willow Cheesecake Mix \$2.00 OFF

Flavor of the Week Fatty's Cheesecake (White, Chocolate, Cheesecake & Amaretto) \$3.49-\$4.49

PRICES GOOD AT ALL KEN'S LOCATIONS: March 24TH THRU March 30TH

Item	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Ken's	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

"Feeling winded?"

"Well, doc," the patient was telling me, "I get winded so easily now. I can hardly go to the mailbox without stopping to catch my breath. It did not used to be that way. Do you think something is wrong?"



Andrew Ellsworth, MD



Many of us have experienced shortness of breath. After a period of inactivity, such as winter or a busy month, when we decide to exercise again, it may be easier to feel winded. That experience can be due to deconditioning, feeling out of shape. A good remedy for that is a gradual increase in exercise, helping us to regain our strength and endurance.

Sometimes we get short of breath for other reasons. A recent infection can be a common cause, giving us a bad cough and leaving us winded for a while. There are several other lung causes like asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, including emphysema and chronic bronchitis, which can leave us short of breath.

However, the feeling of shortness of breath does not necessarily mean there is a problem with the lungs. Shortness of breath can be a symptom of heart disease. A partial or total blockage of an artery in the heart may give someone chest pain, but sometimes shortness of breath could be one of the only symptoms.

One can feel winded from heart failure, when the heart is not pumping as well. As the heart has trouble keeping up, a person can get short of breath from the buildup of fluid, which may cause swelling of the legs and sometimes buildup of fluid in the lungs.

Or, perhaps the shortness of breath is from anemia. If someone is anemic, the hemoglobin level in their blood is low, which reduces the body's ability to carry oxygen throughout the body. Anemia can have a variety of causes, such as blood loss, low iron or other nutritional deficiencies, or problems with the production of blood cells. Blood loss can be caused from anything from heavy periods to a stomach ulcer. Everything that can result in anemia, can result in shortness of breath.

My patient with shortness of breath from walking to the mailbox came in to see me and we did several tests including a chest x-ray, blood tests, and an EKG. Ultimately, we did a stress test and after an angiogram and stent in the heart, he feels much better and is walking a mile or two nearly every day.

It is important to tell your healthcare provider if you are feeling shortness of breath. While it could be due to anything from your heart, your lungs, being out of shape, or even anxiety, please do not ignore your body if you are feeling winded.

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