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# The Groton Independent

Vol. 141 No. 29 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, April 10, 2024 ♦ Established in 1889

## Groton, Frederick school patrons approve general fund opt outs

Both Groton Area and Frederick Area voters went to the polls on Tuesday for General Fund Opt Outs. Patrons of the Groton Area School District voted overwhelming in favor of the opt-out which will help keep programs at the school stable. The measure passed, 567-275 with a 67 percent favorable vote. It passed at the Andover precinct 35-24, the Groton precinct 424-128 and the Columbia precinct 53-20. The Bristol precinct had more no votes, 103-55. Thirty-three percent of the total patrons showed up at the polls on Tuesday. The vote will allow the school board to ask for up to \$1.25 million extra in each of the next 10 years. Frederick Area voters passed its \$450,000.00 General Fund Opt Out for five Years by an 85-67 vote. The vote totals in both districts are unofficial and will be officially tallied at their respective next board meetings.

## Groton Area School Board approves Langford football co-op, initial changes to student handbook

The Groton Area football team will look a bit different next year if state athletic officials approve applications for Groton Area and Langford Area to form a co-op.

The Groton Area School Board voted Monday to approve an application for cooperative sponsorship of activities. The application will now head to the South Dakota High School Activities Association for their vote.

The two-year cooperative has been under discussion for years, but earlier this school year, Langford Area officials rekindled talks to co-op based on low male enrollment numbers that wouldn't allow Langford to field a varsity football team.

The Langford Area School District was also scheduled to vote on an application of its own to send to the high school activities association for a vote at the SDHSAA annual meeting later this month.

The Groton Area School District only made one change to the cooperative agreement presented to the school board at its last meeting, said Superintendent Joe Schwan. That change would have Groton Area host an end-of-season awards event and cover the costs associated with that event.

Groton Area will still employ a head coach and two assistant coaches, while Langford Area would hire one assistant coach. Practices and home football games will still take place at Groton Area's Doney Field.

### Changes proposed for middle school/high school student handbook

Some changes are coming for the middle school/high school.

The school board reviewed revisions to the student handbook.

A lot of the changes include updating language, including removing restrictions of old technology like pagers and Walkmans, said Middle School/High School Principal Shelby Edwards. Restrictions on cell phones have also been changed to be at teachers' discretion.

One larger change, though, is the additional of a food and drink policy.

"Students are allowed to have water with them in class and in the hallways," reads the policy addition. "Other food and drink will not be allowed in the classroom with the exception of special activities.

"Energy drinks will not be allowed in the school at any time. Students will be asked to dispose of the drink immediately."

Vending machines in the school have already been changed to only have water, Edwards said. The change allows the district to better align itself with its health policy.

"It makes a sticky mess, and it's a health issue," Edwards told the board.

There will also be restrictions on food in the classroom.

"Students will not be able to bring food

from the cafeteria or off campus lunch into the classroom," reads the updated policy. "All food must be consumed prior to returning to the classroom."

The policy update is set for a second reading before going into place. The second reading will take place at the board's next meeting.

### Last day of 2023-2024 school year set

There is an end in sight for the 2023-2024 school year.

The school board confirmed Wednesday, May 15, as the last student-contact day for the current school year.

There has been one snow day and two late starts this academic year, said Superintendent Joe Schwan. May 15 will be the last student-contact day at school, with faculty in-service the day after.

- The school district has purchased a replacement for the van that had been stolen earlier this year in Sioux Falls. Superintendent Joe Schwan said he got a call at the State A Basketball Championship that an individual had been found who had been in possession of the van. However, it can't be proven whether that individual stole the vehicle. School board member Tigh Flihs asked if the district had found a similar van to the one that had been replaced. Schwan said yes, adding that administration had asked dealers about finding a newer van, but the district would have been on a two-year waitlist. That left purchasing a used vehicle.

See School Board on Page 3

## Groton Area March Students of the Month



Lydia Meier Senior



Brooklyn Hansen Junior



Jerica Locke Sophomore



Kella Tracy Freshman



Ryder Schelle Eighth Grade



Kolton Antonsen Seventh Grade



Ryder Schwan Sixth Grade

Groton Area School works to ensure that all levels of academic instruction also include the necessary life skills teaching, practicing, and modeling that encourages essential personal life habits that are universally understood to facilitate helping our students become good human beings and citizens.

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

Students are selected based on individual student growth in the areas of: positive behavior, citizenship, good attendance, a thirst for knowledge, and high academic standards.

## Sisters are doing it for themselves



### That's Life by Tony Bender

Title IX became law in 1972. Half a century later, here we are. The intent of Title IX was to ensure equal opportunities for all students, including athletes, but it took 10 years for women to have their own national basketball tournament.

Like millions of other Americans, I was captivated by the NCAA Women's Basketball Finals, specifically Caitlin Clark and her Iowa Hawkeyes. So what do we find so compelling? Easy. The quality of the game. The passion of the players and coaches. The intensity and big plays under big pressure. The drama.

More than most games, basketball at its best is fluid, smart and artistic, and that's what makes Iowa especially compelling. In the same way that Nikola Jokic conducts the Denver Nuggets, Caitlin Clark directs a symphony. Both make those around them better.

March Madness has produced many epic men's teams with fascinating characters but the last tournament that produced this kind of interest and adrenaline for me was in 1983 when my friends Tim Ost and Jamestown College Men's Basketball Coach Jay Pivic and I watched Jim Valvano's North Carolina State Wolfpack complete a series of miracles with yet another miracle.

Television ratings and ticket prices for the women's NCAA Tournament exceeded that of the men's division for one reason—the storyline is better. What's made Caitlin Clark so compelling is not Superwoman physical ability and her ice-blooded ability to hit big shots in big moments, it's her ability to see and understand the floor and the game itself better than anyone in the arena. The ability to make the right pass, the right shot, a joyful, unflappable assassin. It's incredibly rare. Larry Bird had it. Michael Jordan. Steph Curry. And a rarified few others. Now Caitlin Clark. (Undeclared South Carolina defeated Iowa in the championship.)

We've long had individual women champions. Babe Didrikson. Wilma Rudolph. Billie Jean King. But the evolution of women's team sports was plodding. It wasn't a lack of talent. It was a lack of investment by schools, and without that framework, women athletes had little reason to practice the skills needed for team sports.

Most didn't grow up dribbling and shooting, so when women's teams were accorded the same opportunities to play by the same rules, and not an abbreviated half-court game as in the past, it was often, well... not good.

As a newspaperman and sportswriter, I was badgered by female employees to give them absolute equal coverage. A team doesn't have to win to be interesting, but it helps. Winning teams, male or female, always get more column inches. You can't force interest. Interest is earned.

The early outlier with team sports, as a matter of circumstance, was women's baseball during WWII, but they were in skirts—skilled players in skirts, but sex sells. Today, college fast pitch softball is a fantastic watch with reflexive athletic plays that would get Brooks Robinson's attention.

Lest you think I'm a misogynist, I'll say again, my mother was liberated before Gloria Steinem burned a bra. I did dishes, washed my own uniforms, and wouldn't in any way shape or form have suggested that women were inferior, as evidenced by my survival.

I lived and breathed baseball, but boys my age were scarce when I wanted a game of catch. My sister Sherry is a year and a half younger, but grew up catching fastballs from me. I gave no quarter. She'd sometimes go inside to ice her hand, but always returned.

When she joined a softball team, I expected her to be great. And she was. We both played centerfield but she looked better doing it. Swift and graceful. I had good wheels, so when I was goaded into a race on the church steps by Gus Speidel, I fully expected to win.

I began lacing up my spikes but there was a protest led by Gus. Everyone wanted Sherry to win, so I lost that argument. It was 385 feet from the centerfield fence to home plate. I was 20 feet behind, spinning my wheels, throwing up grass, before I started moving. Somewhere between second base and pitchers mound, I caught her.

But. She. Would. Not. Lose. She had me by a nose at home plate as Gus crowed like a rooster. It cost me a dollar.

I had mixed emotions. I'd received my come-uppance and didn't much care for that, but I was proud of her. When I watched her play, gliding like a gazelle, making tough catches look easy, I knew I had something to do with it.

Women athletes haven't "arrived." They're continuing to arrive. They've earned their place at center court.

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## Weekly Vikings Roundup By Jordan Wright

For years, fans have been calling for the Vikings to draft a quarterback in the first round. Kirk Cousins was a very good quarterback during his time in Minnesota, but the Vikings decided to let him walk this offseason due to his age and price tag. With Cousins gone, and the draft having six quarterbacks who could potentially be drafted in the first round, all signs are pointing to those fans to finally get

their wish.

Since quarterback is undoubtedly the most important position in football, let's take a look at the QBs in the 2024 NFL draft. There are two tiers of quarterbacks available in the first round, with Caleb Williams, Drake Maye, and Jayden Daniels making up the top tier, and JJ McCarthy, Bo Nix, and Michael Penix Jr. in the second tier.

Caleb Williams – Unquestionably the top quarterback in the draft, Williams is a lock to go number one to Chicago. The Bears have never had a 4,000-yard passer in their century-long history, but they've never had a QB as talented as Williams (scouts have compared him to Patrick Mahomes and Aaron Rodgers).

Drake Maye – After Williams, there is debate as to who is the second-best quarterback in the draft, Drake Maye or Jayden Daniels. Ultimately, it will come down to what type of offense Washington wants to run (they hold the second overall pick). Maye is a big, mobile quarterback with a cannon for an arm, similar to Justin Herbert or Josh Allen. Out of all six quarterbacks with first-round grades, Maye had the least amount of talent around him in college. He is also the youngest of the top-tier QBs. Whichever team drafts him will be betting on potential, but Maye has shown enough flashes to be worthy of a top-3 pick.

Jayden Daniels – The reigning Heisman winner, Daniels is another player whose potential is through the roof. He can make every throw on the field, and has been given top honors by Pro Football Focus in throws past the sticks, deep passing, first-and-second-down throws, and throws outside the numbers. However, his greatest strength is his mobility. He ran for 1,134 yards and 10 touchdowns last season, to go along with his 3,812 passing yards and 40 touchdowns (and only four interceptions). Daniels' pro comparison is Lamar Jackson but will need to go to a team that can build a game plan around him.

J.J. McCarthy – The top three quarterbacks will likely go in the top three picks of the draft, but the players in the second tier could be drafted anywhere from fourth overall to the second round. McCarthy did not have gaudy stats, as he was rarely asked to carry a Michigan team that just won the Championship. I think McCarthy belongs at the bottom of this tier, but he has been driving up draft boards over the past few weeks, and it's looking like there is a good chance he's the fourth quarterback off the board. His arm is good enough. His mobility is good enough. His pro comparison is all over the board, from Alex Smith to Daniel Jones.

Bo Nix – The record holder for NCAA completion percentage, Nix played incredibly well in Oregon's system that relied on pre-snap reads and pinpoint accuracy. He completed 77 percent of his throws for 4,508 yards, 45 touchdowns, and only three interceptions, plus another six touchdowns on the ground. Nix wasn't asked to throw deep very often, but he's more than capable of it when needed. According to PFF, Nix got top grades in throws under pressure, throws against the blitz, throws past the sticks (he tied Jayden Daniels with a 94.8 grade), intermediate passing grade, first-and-second-down throws (again tied with Daniels with a 91.3 grade), third-and-fourth-down throws, and throws outside the pocket. Phew. That is one heck of a list. If the Vikings can't move up and get one of the top three QBs, Nix is my choice in the second tier.

Michael Penix Jr. – The question with Penix isn't his ability, it's his availability. He began his college career at Indiana but only played in 21 games over his four seasons with the Hoosiers because of four season-ending injuries. He transferred to Washington in 2022, and he finally started showing his potential. Penix is more of a modern-day pocket passer, and while he has adequate mobility, his real strength is standing in the pocket and making plays. If he can stay healthy, he has all the tools to succeed in the NFL.

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by Linda Thistle

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate    ◆◆ Challenging  
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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## School Board

Continued from front

• A total of 32 students have been signed up for kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year. Another dozen have signed up for junior kindergarten. Principal Brett Schwan said he anticipates that number going up before school starts in August.

• The board approved an administrative rule waiver application to allow high school credits to be earned before ninth grade. The waiver allows eighth graders that are ready to take Algebra 1 classes for credit, said Middle School/High School Principal Shelby Edwards. The waiver needs to be submitted to the state Department of Education every five years.

• Elementary School Principal Brett Schwan updated the board on upcoming events and field trips. Bramble Park Zoo will visit the school May 7, and Images of the World will have an assembly May 9. May 10 marks the Track and Field day for the elementary school. Field trips are set to start April 23 and last through early May.

• The board approved the resignation of Rita Kampa, cook and maintenance team member, from her maintenance team role, effective at the end of the 2023-2024 school year. Kampa still plans to work food service hours, Superintendent Schwan said.

- Elizabeth Varin

## State FFA

### Degrees Awarded

BATH, S.D. – 319 South Dakota FFA members will be recognized for receiving their State FFA Degree at the 96th South Dakota State FFA Convention, Friday April 19th, 2024, at 4:00 pm. Join us in helping them celebrate! You can also watch the convention live at [www.sdaged.org](http://www.sdaged.org), [Newscenter1.tv](http://Newscenter1.tv), and [ConnectCenter1.tv](http://ConnectCenter1.tv) and KAUN TV stations.

The State FFA Degree is the highest degree of membership conferred by the South Dakota FFA Association. The requirements for this degree include:

- Having earned and productively invested at least \$1,000 or worked at least 300 hours in excess of scheduled class time, or a combination thereof, in a Supervised Agricultural Experience program.
- Demonstrated leadership ability by performing ten procedures of Parliamentary Law, giving a six-minute speech on an agriculture or FFA-related topic, and serving as an officer, committee chairperson, or participating member of a chapter committee.
- Have completed at least 25 hours of community service.

As a special project of the SD FFA Foundation, South Dakota FFA members will receive the golden charm of the State Degree and a framed certificate, thanks to the following sponsors: Todd & Barbara Powell; Barry & Jenny Jacobson; The Jacobson Group, LLC; West Central FFA Alumni; Rechelle & Eric Dissing; Dan Streff Family; Sandy Osterday; CharLee Bachman; Kent Buchholz; Noelle & Andrew Swanson; Kevin & Amber Blagg; Steven Zemlicka; Myles & Mercedes Snedeker; Red River Farm Network; Dacotah Diamond Auctions and Equipment; Jeff & Beth Vanderwal; Peterson Livestock; First PREMIER Bank; Lance & Shirley Howe; Wyatt & Zana DeJong; Dani Herring; Stella Nagel; Olson Family; Brad & Trixie Grill; Dawnwind Dairy Goats and Wendy Mortenson Agency.

Those from Groton Area receiving their awards are Cadence Feist, Faith Flihs, Layne Hanson, Jayla Jones, Hannah Monson, Logan Ringgenberg, Emma Schinkel, Ashlyn Sperry, Lexi Osterman and Ava Wienk.

## Groton Chamber of Commerce April Meeting

April 3, 2024

12pm City Hall

• Individuals present: Carol Kutter, Douglas Heinrich, Topper Tastad, Ashley Bentz, April Abeln, Paul Kosel, Katelyn Nehlich, and Hannah Gruenwald

• Minutes from the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Heinrich and seconded by Kutter. All members present voted aye.

• Treasurer's report was given. Dacotah Bank checking account balance is \$41,878.50. \$2169.80 is in the Bucks account. The report was approved by Abeln and seconded by Kutter. All members present voted aye.

• A thank you note from Table Talks was received.

• Per last meeting, the Chamber has entered into an agreement with the Groton Transit for a ¼ size advertisement on the passenger door of their #4 white van. The agreement will be a 1-year contract for \$360 with the contract renewing yearly.

• Arrangements will be made to send Chamber rack cards with an Aberdeen individual to the Lit Drop in Watertown.

• 2024 Scholarship winners were Claire Heinrich, Emily Clark, and Ashlyn Sperry. A photo opportunity with the recipients is scheduled for May 9th from 1:30-2:30pm at the GHS library.

• The bike winner at the Easter Egg Hunt was Briggs Sperry. His mom has been contacted to submit a receipt to Treasurer Katelyn.

• Members that RSVP'd to the SDML District 6 meeting have been registered. The event is to be held April 10th at the Groton Legion with social hour starting at 6pm, dinner at 6:30pm, with a program at 7pm. Set up will take place that day at 2pm for anyone that is able to help. Each place setting will have a welcome sheet with 2024 events, a Chamber tumbler, as well as a Groton pen.

• Tastad gave an update on the Main Street benches with a completion date of May 1.

• Kosel will reach out to Main Street businesses about watering the Chamber planters.

• Fundraising options were discussed as well as fundraising ideas.

• Motion by Kutter and seconded by Heinrich to publish a ½ page in the Glacial Lakes Guide. All members present voted aye.

• Donations were discussed.

• A welcome may be scheduled with MGGQ Sunset once her Facebook page is created and the business is more established. Baked with Grace, owned by Karly Metzinger, is also a new business in Groton as well as Tiger Tots Child-

care owned by Jamie Krueger. Abeln will reach out to Jamie.

• Beauty Brew Boutique has been asked to be part of the Glacial Lakes and Prairies Coffee Bracket Challenge. Be sure to watch Facebook for details.

• Next Meeting: May 1st, 2024, at City Hall at 12:00pm

#### Upcoming events

• 04/12/2024 Last day to register online for Baseball, Softball and T-ball

• 04/13/2024 Front Porch 605 Spring Shop Hop 9am-6pm

• 04/14/2024 Front Porch 605 Spring Shop Hop 12-4pm

• 04/17/2024 Beginners Chunky Hand-Knit Blanket Class 5:30-8:30pm

• 04/20/2024 Firemen's Spring Social at the Fire Station 7pm-12:30am

• 04/21/2024 Princess Prom at GHS Arena 4:30-8pm

• 05/04/2024 Lion's Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm (listings due 04/24/24)

## Groton Prairie Mixed Bowling League Week #20 Results

**Team Standings:** Shihtzus – 15, Coyotes – 15, Chipmunks- 14, Cheetahs – 13, Jackelopes – 10, Foxes – 5

**Men's High Games:** John Sippel – 196, Tony Waage – 188, Brad Larson – 181

**Women's High Games:** Nancy Radke – 189, Vicki Walter – 178, Sue Stanley – 166

**Men's High Series:** John Sippel – 514, Mike Siegler – 508, Tony Waage – 501

**Women's High Series:** Sam Bahr – 455, Sue Stanley – 452, Nancy Radke – 451



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Thank You

THE GROTON AREA SCHOOL BOARD WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE TO THE GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT PATRONS FOR YOUR CONTINUED INVESTMENT IN OUR STUDENTS, STAFF, AND COMMUNITIES!



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APRIL 2, 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, Gage, Sutton, and Wiese. Commissioner Fjeldheim was absent. Commissioner Wiese led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**EQUALIZATION DIRECTOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE:** Gene Loeschke, Director of Equalization (DOE) met with the Commission to give his Annual Conference as per SDCL 10-3-14. Gene shared that for the City of Aberdeen the median is sitting at 87%. They have done some computer updates to the Taxation System are able to transfer information from CAMA system into the software which eliminates some opportunities for errors; they have four months of transfers completed as well. Gene shared they have had a few Omits going from Exempt status to Taxable Properties. Equalization Board meetings will start on April 9th: County Equalization will meet in the morning and Consolidated will be in the afternoons. Commissioner Wiese thanked Gene for being pro-active and assisting the public with their questions and concerns to better understand how the system or process works.

**DISCRETIONARY ABATEMENT:** Aberdeen City Attorney, Ron Wager; Aberdeen City Finance Officer, Jordan McQuillen and Aberdeen City Manager, Robin Bobzien met with the Brown County Commissioners to explain why they approved the abatements on two properties for Discretionary Formula. Mr. Wager explained that they wanted to explain the process the City Council goes through when dealing with a TIF; the discuss is regarding TIF 35, Dakota Estates abatement request. He stated that typically the discretionary formula would come up during a project plan and typically the developer would waive the discretionary formula. With the TIFs what has happened in the past is the Developer would volunteer to waive the discretionary formula. TIF 35 Developer had in their project plan what the City Council considered private improvements and after much discussion with Public Works Director, City Engineer and the City Manager the Developer was encouraged to look into adding some public improvements, such as road extensions to serve the development and to include that cost under the TIF. Initially when it came to the City Council, they denied this TIF on December 6th and encouraged the Developer to return with an alternative proposal. The Developer came

back and said they would do the public improvements: road extensions and water main loop but also proposed that it not be required to waive the discretionary formula for assessed value because of the reduction in reimbursable project costs, that even with the discretionary formula on assessed value, positive tax increment will pay off the TIF in 12-13 years, the City Council then approved TIF 35 on December 20th. Mr. Wager explained the Request for Council Action documents that he shared with the Commissioners along with red line of the Resolution Number 21-11-02R. They came to the Commission today to share that the discretionary formula was a discussed item, after receiving the abatement application from the Assessor's Office, Jordan took his time and went through this and the determined the city would support the abatement request and gave formal approval on March 25th at the City Council meeting. Gene Loeschke, DOE asked if he could offer a suggestion on the verbiage regarding the discretionary so that is clearer going forward, Mr. Wager said that is something they can do going forward. Mr. Wager complimented Gene, sharing that Gene does an excellent job communicating with the city. Commissioner Wiese asked to clarify his understanding that the application for the discretionary formula was missed at the time that would have taken that off the valuation, taking it from the County revenue stream; now asking for an abatement which means a refund from County revenue and not have the opportunity to recoup it. Gene Loeschke, DOE stated that is correct, they are looking at a partial completion of property in 2023 payable in 2024, so when the tax bill came out in 2024 that's when it came about that the Developer thought/assumed they would not have a full tax bill due to partial completion and the discretionary formula would be in place. Mr. Wager stated that they are not going to allow the option anymore and clean up the verbiage and when Commissioner Gage came and talked to the Council there were a lot of points taken to clean things up and be more concise on how they approach TIFs; they are doing some reclassifications on some of the TIFs and the State has been receptive to the reclassifications. Chairman Sutton stated that it kind of sent up a red flag because it has always been discretionary or the TIF, this is the first time the County has encountered they are asking for both, from the County's standpoint it is a double hit; the TIF delays the tax revenue the County receives, and now it is approximately \$80,000.00 they want refunded. Chairman Sutton shared they are going to visit with the State's Attorney before taking final action on this but appreciated the City coming over to share their position on this. Commissioner Gage shared that besides cleaning up the verbiage the County has to build a mechanism to process this type of abatement, which is going to take time away from regular County staff duties between Auditor's office, Assessor's office and IT for programming and the County is left holding the bag, which is something he has an issue with when it comes to TIFs but he appreciates them explaining how and why this one got through. Gene Loeschke explained that normally with an abatement comes through you abate all the entities on the tax bill, and a TIF the amount that would be abated is the amount of the increment that goes to the TIF itself, right now our tax

system is not set-up to refund money for one specific part of the apportionment and replenish that because this is nothing that has never came up before so our IT department will have to develop something. Commissioner Wiese added provided we approve the abatement.

**DACOTAH PRAIRIE MUSEUM ANNUAL REPORT:** Patricia Kendall, Director of Decotah Prairie Museum gave the Commissioners her Annual Report. She shared some highlights: they had a record-breaking attendance last year which was due to the Thomas & Friends exhibit; they won the Abby Award for Community Involvement Non-Profit; had first ever Pickle Ball Fund-raiser Tournament; Holiday Open House also had record-breaking attendance. Patricia shared an overview of the Education department – they have visited 373 classrooms and collaborated with 7,280 students last year in Brown County. They continue having school tours, which will begin in about two-weeks. Collection department handles the artifacts; they received donations from Hub City, Presentation College and Presentation Convent; also, they have all the Aberdeen Insider publications in their collections. They are extending their Outreach program in the Community, currently there are exhibits at the Airport, Aberdeen Chamber but currently working on doing exhibits at the Depot and Dakotaland Federal Credit Union; BBQ Twist has some of their photos on display. The Decotah Prairie Museum Foundation awarded Scholarships for the first time in 2023 to Brown County students that are attending an accredited 2-4-year School or University in the State; there were 8 recipients. This year they have 13 applications for 8 scholarships. Commissioner Wiese commented that the volunteers at the Museum do a great job, also. Patricia commented that they couldn't do what they do without the volunteers and staff they have, she is very appreciative of all of them.

**AUDIT ENTRANCE CONFERENCE:** Jason Hill, SD Department of Legislative Audits met with the Commission for Entrance Conference for the Audit being conducted for fiscal year 2022 and 2023.

**PLANNING GROUP – FACILITY USE AGREEMENT:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to postponed this for a week due to Kelsi Vinger, State's Attorney Grant Coordinator unable to attend today. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve the following applications submitted by Northern Electric for occupancy of Brown County Highway Right of Ways to bore pits at toe on in-slope both sides and bore highway: Highway #23 in Sec 7-T125-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, SD; Highway #7 in Sec 15-T126N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, SD; Highway #7 in Sec 7-T126N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, SD; Highway #6 in Sec 12-T126N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, SD; Highway #7 in Sec 8-T126N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, SD and Highway #6 in Sec 10-T125N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, SD. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE:** Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent gave the Commissioners a Department Update. Dirk shared that this week they are starting spring work on County Rd. 21 between Hwy. 16 & 18. They are done with crushing and depending on the temperatures will determine the load limits. Commissioner Wiese asked for a status update on the Guard Rail at Richmond Lake; Dirk informed him that the SD DOT has it figured in the STP but looking at alternative design. Commissioner Sutton asked about the status of Elm Lake Road, Dirk shared that it is complete, and he sent in the paperwork for reimbursement. They may question some of the Engineering costs, but they were able to cut 3.4 million dollars on the total cost by doing it the way they did.

**MINUTES:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the March 26, 2024 General Meeting Minutes. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS/PAYROLL:** Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Claims: Insurance: SD Public Assurance Alliance \$688.11. Professional Fees: Bill Schaeffer \$18.00; Civil Solutions LLC \$1,197.20; Dakota Trails Investigation \$943.02; Fox Law Firm, PLLC \$170.00; Helms & Associates \$1,922.40; Mark Katterhagen \$18.00; Sanford Health \$65.40; SD Dept of Transportation \$88.50; Zylstra

Investigations \$962.50. Publishing: Groton Daily Independent: \$166.87. Repairs & Maintenance: Custom Installation Solutions \$375.00; Hoven Auto Repair, Inc \$4,766.90; K&S Plumbing, Inc \$88.78; Lawson Products, Inc \$51.51; Olson's Pest Technicians \$250.00; Weismantel Rent-All \$3,160.00; Wright & Sudlow \$22,290.00. Supplies: A&B Business Solutions \$716.32; Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$165.34; Bakken Building Maintenance \$500.00; Burdette Security & Technologies, LLC \$360.00; Cole Paper Inc \$421.07; Dakota Electronics \$183.00; Dakota Supply Group \$669.69; Farm Power Mfg. \$14.74; Fox Law Firm, PLLC \$2.14; Galls, LLC \$560.00; Lawson Products, Inc \$610.21; Leidholdt Tool Sales, LLC \$68.85; Safe Life Defense \$80.49; Stan Houston Equipment Company, Inc \$28.00; Thee Glass Doktor, LLC \$565.34. Travel & Conference: Doug Fjeldheim \$185.64; Drew Dennert \$684.92; Duane Sutton \$134.64. Utilities: AT&T Mobility \$185.09; CenturyLink \$305.67; CenturyLink-Lumen \$199.89; Dependable Sanitation, Inc \$172.00; Midcontinent Communications \$153.07; Montana-Dakota Utilities Co \$52.69; Northwestern Energy \$296.10. Machinery & Equipment: RDO Equipment Co \$465,421.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

- Acknowledge the resignation of the following and request to fill them:
  - o Jeremias Vega IV, Brown County Jail Detention Officer, FT – effective March 27, 2024.
  - o Makayla Jenniges, Brown County Jail Sergeant, FT – effective April 14, 2024.

- Employment ending for Molly McClellan, Brown County Jail Detention Officer, FT – effective March 27, 2024. Request to fill.

- Approve the hiring of Jeffrey Leinen as Brown County Jail Detention Officer, starting wage \$21.29/hr. – effective April 2, 2024.

- Approve the extension of the following Brown County Jail/JDC Nurse, PRN, PT Temporary for an additional approximate two-week time period assignment – effective March 29, 2024:
  - o Brenda Lyke
  - o Lori Wipf
  - o Jennifer Powell

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2022 & 2023:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve the Annual Reports for Fiscal Year 2022 & 2023. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**2023 CORRECTIONS TO LANDFILL CHARGE ACCOUNTS:** Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to acknowledge and approve the 2023 Corrections to Landfill Charge Accounts for Ticket #'s as follows: # 824254 on May 26th; #830213 & #831556 on July 21st; #841780 on November 3rd; and #845455 on December 15th. Waived late fees on account for Pomp's Tire services from November 21st. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**TRAVEL REQUESTS:** Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following travel request: Brandon Mills, Sheriff's Office to attend Advanced Search & Seizure, Advanced Traffic Stops & Advanced Criminal Investigations on August 21-23, 2024 in Pierre, SD. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Auditor Heupel asked the Commission who was going to attend the Consolidated Equalization meetings – it will be Commissioners Sutton, Gage and Dennert.

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

**ABATEMENTS:** Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to deny the abatements since to Brown County did not pass a Resolution in 2022 for discretionary formula for housing types of structures, so no discretionary formula to apply to properties. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Sutton to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:53 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published April 10, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$136.87 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 23194

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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](http://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](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 23105



City of Columbia Council Meeting - April 3, 2024  
**CALL MEETING TO ORDER - 7:00 p.m.**  
**ROLL CALL -** Cara Dennert, Corey Mitchell, Trevor Meints, Emily Eichler, Jeremy Dosch, Cole Kampa  
 Community: Rod Tobin, Julie Voeller, Scott Meints, Cody Roettele, Collin Eichler, Tony Bisbee  
 Corey Mitchell called the meeting to order. He called for a motion to approve the agenda. Trevor Meints made a motion to approve the posted agenda. Jeremy Dosch seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried. Corey Mitchell called for any conflict of interest on agenda items. There were no conflicts. Minutes were passed out on the March 6th meeting. Cole Kampa made a motion to approve the minutes. Emily Eichler seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried. Minutes were also passed out from the March 19th meetings. Trevor Meints made a motion to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting regarding the vacation of the alleyway as presented. Cole Kampa seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried. Emily Eichler made a motion to accept the minutes of the Equalization Meeting as presented. Jeremy Dosch seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried. Cole Kampa made a motion to accept the minutes of the Annual Report meeting as presented. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried.

Warrant Vouchers: : JVT - fire prevention - 202.10; Web Water - fire prevention - 50.34; Northwestern Energy - electricity - 2074.23; Code Enforcement - ordinance reports - 557.10; Jeremy Dosch- March wages & 1st Quarter Wages -419.99 +

296.46; Cara Dennert - March wages- 1235.25; Runnings - shop supplies - 115.12; Menards - shop supplies - 18.17; SD Unemployment Insurance - insurance -31.82 ; Corey Mitchell - 1st Quarter Wages - 340.34; Cole Kampa - 1st Quarter Wages - 255.29; Emily Eichler - 1st Quarter Wages - 296.46; Trevor Meints - March & 1st Quarter Wages - 380.46; GDI - publication - 211.49 ; Dakota Resources - 2023 contract - 913.00; United States Treasury - 1st quarter taxes - 1984.48; Dacotah Bank - shop supplies - 75.02 Cara pointed out that in Jeremy's listed salary was missing his first quarter wages of 296.46 Emily Eichler made a motion to approve the vouchers as corrected. Cole Kampa seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried.

**COMMUNITY COMMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE:**  
**UNFINISHED BUSINESS -** The ballpark lease contract was discussed. Corey asked for a motion to accept the ballpark proposed contract. Trevor Meints made a motion to accept the contract as proposed. Cole Kampa seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried. Those in attendance from the committee and the city council signed the lease. Julie was present to discuss the trees by her residence. The ordinances were discussed regarding trees in regards to private property. Rod Tobin is going to look into whether the street they reside on is regarded as a section line which may change how things are handled.

**Nuisances -** There were some report updates from Code Enforcement.

**Streets -** Trevor has marked a few spots for gravel. The streets need blading, but they are too soft currently. There was discussion on moving the radar/speed limit sign further to the south. Dirk Rogers from the county has been contacted about changing the speed limit after the bridge heading north to slow traffic down before the parks. That is a process that will be handled in future meetings. He said that he would be willing to put up big yellow pedestrian signs by the ball park. There was discussion that maybe a LED lit sign could be installed with grant opportunities.

**Parks -** Emily is still trying to find someone interested in running Summer Rec.

**Lagoon/sewer -** Jeremy reported that we might need to do a discharge or exchange between lagoons after the snow is completely gone. He will be in contact with the state regarding that process.

**Rubble Site -** The site is needing to be burned.

**NEW BUSINESS -** nothing

**FINANCIAL REPORT -** Quarterly 941 taxes were completed. Cara presented bank balances. Cole Kampa made a motion to accept the financial reports as given. Emily Eichler seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried.

**SF -** \$71,288.64; **SF Money Market -**\$150,835.96; **GF -** \$159,894.36; **GF Money Market -** \$50,611.47; **CD Money Market -** \$32,297.82; **FIT -** \$15,016.74; **Cash on hand -** \$0

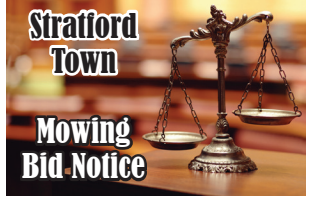
Mayor Corey Mitchell declared the meeting adjourned.

**Next City Council Meeting -** May 1, 2024 7:00 p.m.  
 Submitted by Cara Dennert, Finance Officer  
 Published April 10, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$44.98 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 23195



Stratford Town Board Meeting March 12th, 2024  
 Prickett called meeting to order with Schley, Jark, and Kwak in attendance.  
 A motion was made by Jark, seconded by Schley, carried; to approve the Feb 13th, 2024 minutes as read.  
 A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Schley, carried; to approve the Feb 27th, 2024 minutes as read.  
 A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Jark, carried; to approve the financials as presented.  
**OLD BUSINESS: NONE**  
**NEW BUSINESS:**  
 Letters to be mailed out by

3/15 for past due accounts including shut off dates.  
 Sewer system compliance update from Schley; maintenance scheduled.  
 Schley investigated water leak in town after notice from WEB.  
 A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Schley, carried; to approve Rural Water Association membership of \$250.  
 A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Jark, carried; to approve working with Premier Tax to get payroll taxes up to date for 2023-2024.  
 A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Schley, carried; to send Kwak to finance officer school in June, 2024.  
 A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Schley, carried; to approve the following claims for payment:-General Fund- NWE Bills: \$513.33, 23.20, 20.16, 277.27, 934.95, 16.40; James Valley (auto): \$43.67; Quickbooks (auto): \$95.58; United Fire (auto): \$574.00; Cole Papers: \$106.62;  
 Groton Independent: \$16.00; DSG: \$18.35; Heartland Heating & Cooling: \$1,186.47; JK Reif Construction: \$1,209.98; Storage Unit Annual Fee: \$550.00; Finance Officer Association Dues: \$40;  
 SD Mun League: \$25 (dist meet vern); Pdf Filler: \$0.95; 1.00. -Water Sewer Fund- NWE Bills: \$151.11, 29.80; Web Water (auto): \$1,289.96; Public Health Labs: \$30; USDA RD Loan Payment (auto): \$478.00; NESD Loan Payment (auto): \$383.71;  
 Equalization meeting will be held March 18th, 2024, at 6:00pm at the Town Hall.  
 The next board meeting will be held on April 9th, 2024, at 6:00pm at the Town Hall.  
 A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Schley, carried; to adjourn the meeting.  
 Anna Kwak Finance Officer  
 Published April 10, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$22.08 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 23198



Town of Stratford  
 Accepting Mowing/Weed Trimming Bids  
 Written/electronic bids to be received no later than: 5:00 PM, April 25th, 2024 Submit bids to community hall drop box, email, or by mail to:  
 Town of Stratford Attn: Mowing Bids 293 Rondell Ave Stratford, SD 57474  
 Regular mowing and weed tripping upkeep to be monitored/assessed weekly:  
 1. Ball Park and picnic area  
 2. City Park  
 3. Lots West of the old fire hall  
 Bids will be opened on April 26th, 2023 at 12:00pm at the Community Hall.  
 Anna Kwak, Finance Officer stratford1906@gmail.com  
 Published April 10, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$8.28 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 23199



NOTICE OF VARIANCE HEARING  
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Groton Planning & Zoning Commission will be holding a public hearing on April 22, 2024, at 6:00pm CDT at City Hall, 120 N Main Street, Groton, SD for a variance of Chapter 11, Section 11.0106 of the Groton Zoning Ordinance. This application was made by Dale Ringgenberg to move in a shed within 1 foot of the north lot line in a Residential District (R-3) at 17 N 4th Street, Groton, SD, legally described as N 46' of Lt 18 and Lt 19, Bk 39 of the 1st Addition.  
 Any person wishing to present testimony for or against this variance may appear in person or by representative at the above time and place.  
 Doug Heinrich  
 Zoning Administrator  
 Published April 10, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$9.20 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 23197



Town of Westport General Meeting  
 April 1, 2024  
 The Town of Westport met on April 1, 2024 with Doreen Hertel, Mitch Wilson, Shane Storm, Larry Schmit, and Deb Schlosser present.  
 The following bills were presented:  
 City General  
 NWPS (\$632.40), Groton Independent (\$22.63), Elan Financial Services (\$903.04), B & B Contracting (\$276.25), Justin Ellefson (\$1500.00 - fire-works donation), US Treasury (\$599.06), SD Unemployment Insurance Division (\$9.46)  
 Sewer  
 DANR (\$9,310.01), NWPS (\$63.01)  
 Water  
 Public Health Laboratory (\$30.00), WEB (2,123.30)  
 Larry Schmit made motion to pay all bills, second by Shane Storm.  
 The following deposits were presented:  
 City General  
 State of SD (\$1,803.95), Brown County Collections (935.84), Interest (195.44)  
 Sewer  
 Resident Payments (2,785.92)  
 Water  
 Resident payments (4,208.89)  
 Old Business:  
 Shane Storm motioned, second by Larry Schmit to table bids for front of Town Hall.  
 New Business:  
 Recommendations from Insurance audit were reviewed.  
 Deb Schlosser, Finance Officer  
 Published April 10, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$14.07 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 23196

## Queen of Hearts

The fifth week of the Queen of Hearts drawing was held Thursday night. The jackpot was \$7,345. Ticket sales for the week were \$1485 with 10 percent of that as a consolation prize. Lisa Adler got the consolation prize of \$148.

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### King Crossword - Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

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

### Weekly SUDOKU - Answer

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

## Wage Memorial Library receives Stephanie Miller-Davis Library Summer Reading Grant Program

Pierre, S.D.- The Stephanie Miller-Davis Library Summer Reading Grant Program is now in its fifth year of supporting summer reading programs in small rural communities in partnership with the South Dakota Community Foundation (SDCF) and the South Dakota State Library (SDSL). The program to date has distributed nearly \$200,000 to libraries in rural communities across South Dakota.

Stephanie loved books. She started her legacy by donating children's books and bookcases to the school library in her hometown of Murdo, SD. She wanted to provide the children in the community the books she longed to read as a child growing up on the South Dakota prairie.

"My mother would be so excited to see the impact this money is having on so many kid's lives," said Stephanie's daughter Kate Davis. "Access to books was a passion of hers and she would have loved to support the work of so many parents, teachers, librarians, and other community members in towns across South Dakota," added her daughter Anne Franz.

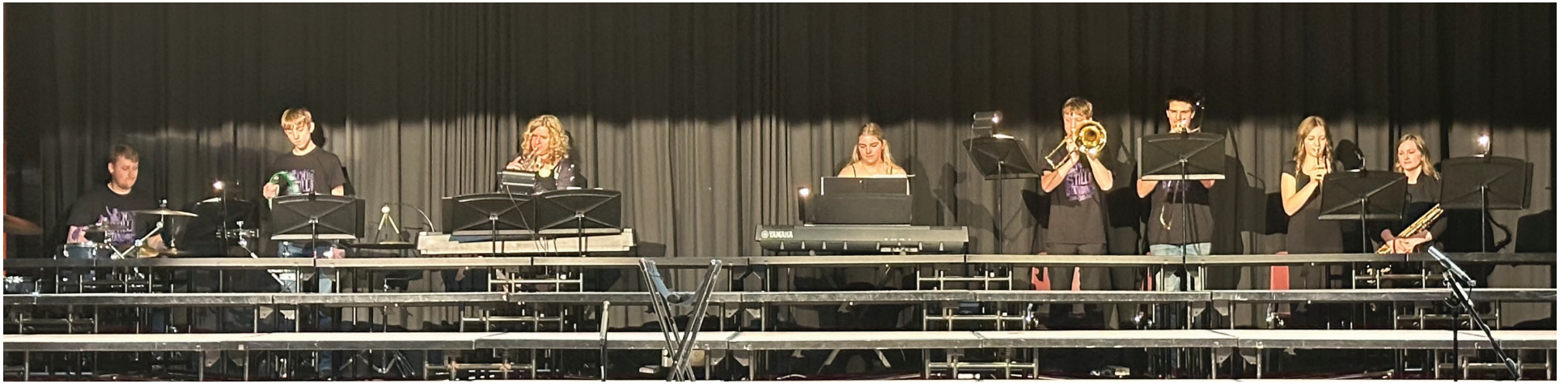
"The South Dakota Community Foundation is proud to partner with the Stephanie Miller-Davis family as they perpetuate their mother's passion and investment in early childhood literacy across South Dakota," said Jeff Veltkamp, SDCF Director of Development. "I think Stephanie would be very proud to see her daughters continuing her investment in children."

SDCF works to support philanthropy in South Dakota by connecting donors with causes they care about and providing expertise in managing charitable funds. SDCF administers over 1,200 funds benefiting thousands of wonderful causes every year. To learn more about charitable opportunities through SDCF, please visit [SDCommunityFoundation.org](http://SDCommunityFoundation.org) or call 800.888.1842.

The South Dakota State Library (SDSL) is a division of the South Dakota Department of Education. The State Library supports local libraries and works to build capacity within the state's public and school libraries, which successfully reached the goal of 100,000 South Dakota children participating in summer reading programs in 2021. The State Library encourages families to visit their local library, get involved in events and activities and keep growing readers. To learn more, please visit <https://library.sd.gov/>.

In 2024, each of the following libraries were awarded \$1,500 to support their summer reading programs:

- Alcester Community Library
- Armour-Carnegie Public Library
- Bison Public Library
- Britton Public Library
- Canton Public Library
- Emil M. Larson Public Library (Clark)
- Evelyn Lang Public Library (Springfield)
- Freeman Public Library
- Grant County Public Library (Milbank)
- Gregory Public Library
- Jackson County Library (Kadoka)
- Langford Public Library
- Lennox Community Library
- M. P. Beebe Memorial Library (Ipswich)
- Parker Public Library
- Parkston Public Library
- Piedmont Valley Library
- Redfield Carnegie Library
- Tripp County Library - Grossenburg Memorial (Winner)
- Viborg Public Library
- Wage Memorial Library (Groton)
- White Lake Community Library
- Wilmot Public Library
- Woonsocket Community Library



**This is the pit crew for the show choir. Tanner Shultis on trap set, Blake Lord on aux. percussion, Desiree Yeigh on bass keyboard, Emily Clark on piano, Brody Lord and Logan Clocksene on trombone, Kyleigh Kroll on trumpet and Cadence Feist on alto/tenor sax.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**The boys group (above) and the girls group (right) each had a musical selection in the show choir performance.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**The show choir, as a whole, performed five selections at the end of the POPS Concert.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Anna Bisbee sang, "How Great Thou Art"** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Carlee Johnson played, "Intermezzo No. 1."** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**The masters of ceremony were seniors Emily Clark, Anna Bisbee, Cadence Feist and Camryn Kurtz.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Natalia Warrington sang, "Speechless."** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Emily Clark played a piano solo entitled, "Redemption."** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**The Chamber Choir sang "Flowers."** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**The High School Choir sang, "Viva La Vida."** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**The Flex Band performed, "The Best of Queen," "Sweet Georgia Brown" and "Megalovania."** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Rebecca Poor played and sang, "Unopened Windows." (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Camryn Kurtz sang, "Vienna." (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The high school drumline performed, "Take out the trash." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM Video)

## Girls Sprint Medley Relay Team take first at Mobridge

The first outdoor track meet was held Thursday at Mobridge where the Groton Area girls took first place in the Sprint Medley Relay event. Placing second were the boys 3200m relay team, and McKenna Tietz in the 100m hurdles.

Those in third place were the boys 400m relay team, the boys 800m relay team, the boys sprint medley relay team, the girls 400m relay team and the girls 800m relay team.

In fourth place were Talli Wright in the 100m hurdles, McKenna Tietz in the 300m hurdles and Emma Kutter in the shot put.

Fifth place finishers were Emerlee Jones in the 300m hurdles, in the high jump and in the triple jump.

Holden Sippel placed sixth in both the shot put and the discus and Kayla Lehr took sixth in the 400m dash.

In seventh place were Teagan Hanten in the 100m hurdles and Talli Wright in the 300m hurdles and Hanten placed eighth in the triple jump.

## 2024 POPS Concert



Anna Bisbee and Divya Pelmelay sang a duet entitled, "Yang Patah Tumbuh, Yang Hilang Berganti." (Photo by Paul Kosel)

### Boys Division

#### 1600 Meters Varsity - Finals

21. Garrett Schultz, 6:21.84

#### 4x100 Relay Varsity - Finals

3. Colby Dunker, Blake Pauli, Lane Tietz, Gage Sippel, 48.36

#### 4x200 Relay Varsity - Finals

3. Gage Sippel, Blake Pauli, Lane Tietz, Colby Dunker, 1:40.95.

#### 4x800 Relay Varsity - Finals

2. Blake Pauli, Jayden Schwan, Garrett Schultz, Gage Sippel, 9:22.16.

#### SMR 1600m Varsity - Finals

3. Colby Dunker, Jayden Schwan, Lane Tietz, Blake Pauli, 4:07.88.

#### Shot Put Varsity - Finals

6. Holden Sippel, 39' 3

19. Ashton Holmes, 29' 9

27. Drew Thurston, 25' 9

#### Discus Varsity - Finals

6. Holden Sippel, 115' 10

23. Ashton Holmes, 69' 11

25. Drew Thurston, 69' 1

### Girls Division

#### 100 Meters Varsity - Finals

13. Elizabeth Flihs, 15.41

25. Kayla Lehr, 16.08

29. Hannah Sandness, 16.42

#### 400 Meters Varsity - Finals

6. Kayla Lehr, 1:09.39

#### 100m Hurdles Varsity - Finals

2. McKenna Tietz, 19.38

4. Talli Wright, 20.76

7. Teagan Hanten, 22.01

#### 300m Hurdles Varsity - Finals

4. McKenna Tietz, 55.74

5. Emerlee Jones, 56.07

7. Talli Wright, 58.83

#### 4x100 Relay Varsity - Finals

3. Laila Roberts, Rylee Dunker, McKenna Tietz, Faith Traphagen, 55.50.

#### 4x200 Relay Varsity - Finals

3. Laila Roberts, Rylee Dunker, McKenna Tietz Taryn Traphagen, 1:54.75.

#### SMR 1600m Varsity - Finals

1. Laila Roberts, Rylee Dunker, Taryn Traphagen, Faith Traphagen, 4:38.45.

#### Shot Put Varsity - Finals

4. Emma Kutter, 30' 11

33. Emma Davies, 18' 10

#### Discus Varsity - Finals

15. Emma Kutter, 71' 9

32. Emma Davies, 40' 9

#### High Jump Varsity - Finals

5. Emerlee Jones, 4' 4

#### Long Jump Varsity - Finals

9. Laila Roberts, 13' 11

21. Teagan Hanten, 11' 4

#### Triple Jump Varsity - Finals

5. Emerlee Jones, 28' 8

8. Teagan Hanten, 26' 10.75



## Girl Scouts donate to The Pantry

Groton Girl Scout Troop #40249 along with several area businesses donated over 100 boxes of Girl Scout cookies to The Pantry on Tuesday. Pictured here are some of the troop members along with Enrich Groton SoDak Inc. volunteers. Cookies were also donated to troops overseas.

From left to right: Isabella Daly, Hallie Perkins, April Abeln, Topper Tastad, Nancy Larsen, Diane Warrington, Pat Miller and Rosalyn Block. (Courtesy Photo April Abeln)

## Girls Golf Schedule

Thursday, April 11: Mobridge-Pollock Invitational

Thursday, April 18: Milbank Invite, 10 a.m.

Thursday, April 25: Redfield Invite, 10 a.m.

Thursday, May 2: Aberdeen Roncalli Invite at Lee Park Golf Course, 10 a.m.

Monday, May 6: Groton Invitational, 10 a.m.

Monday, May 13: NEC at Redfield, 10 a.m.

Thursday, May 16: Sisseton Invite, 10 a.m.

Thursday, May 23: Regional Meet at Groton, 10 a.m.

June 3-4: State at Bakker Crossing Golf Course, Sioux Falls

## Spring Baseball Schedule

Monday, April 8: Varsity at Dell Rapids, 5 p.m.; second game TBD, 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 14: Varsity Groton Invite: Elkton/Lake Benton at noon; W-I-N at 4 p.m.

Monday, April 22: JV Double Header at Northville, vs. W-I-N, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 24: Varsity: Madison at Groton, 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 27: Varsity: Howard at Groton, 2 p.m.

Sunday, April 28: at Volga: Varsity at 2 p.m., JV at 4 p.m.

Saturday, May 4: Redfield at Groton: Varsity at 1 p.m., JV at 3 p.m.

Sunday, May 5: Varsity at Bryant: vs. O-R/R/A at 2 p.m., vs. Hamlin Area at 4 p.m.

May 19-23: Regional at highest two seeds.

May 31-June 1: State B Tournament at Augustana University, Sioux Falls

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## The Life of Mary Anne Clark



Funeral Services for Mary Anne Clark, 92, of Groton were held Friday, April 12, 2024 at the Presbyterian Church in Groton. Rev. Terry Kenny officiated. Burial will follow at a later date in Huffton Cemetery.

Mary Anne passed away on April 1, 2024 in Aberdeen, SD.

Mary Anne was born in Bristol, South Dakota to John and Lena Erwick, Norwegian immigrants, on June 30, 1931. She grew up in Bristol and graduated from Bristol High School in 1950. She went on to school at the Aberdeen School of Commerce where she excelled in secretarial skills. She then worked for Loel Lust Chevrolet where she ended up meeting her husband, John M. Clark, in the spring of 1958. They knew pretty quickly that they wanted to get married, and were married on December 6, 1958. They lived in Groton where they farmed and raised their family. She was a wonderful helpmate to her farmer husband and she kept a beautiful, organized and

welcoming home. Later in life they moved to the country where John enjoyed collecting toy John Deere tractors and she took up doll making.

Mary Anne was a loving wife, mother and grandmother. She was active in the First Presbyterian Church and P.E.O. Putney Ladies Aid and enjoyed her Wednesday morning coffee group with her many friends. Recently she has enjoyed the Monday morning coffee group, too.

Mary Anne was very artistic and creative. She had many passions that she was good at, including cooking, baking, sewing, doll making, drawing and painting.

Mary Anne was kind and generous and lived her life to the fullest!

She is survived by her daughter, Jill (Dennis Gallaher) of Eden Prairie, MN, her son John Timothy (Kelly Cutler Clark) of Groton, two grandsons, Patrick and Timothy Gallaher of Eden Prairie, MN, and one granddaughter, Kennedy Clark Sweeter (Grant Sweeter) of Dell Rapids, SD, and many nieces, nephews and cousins. She is preceded in death by her parents, husband and brother, James Erwick.

*Open House  
Bridal Shower*  
honoring  
**Jessica Bjerke**  
Saturday, April 20, 2024  
1:00pm - 3:00pm  
Olive Grove Golf Course  
*Registered at Target and Amazon*

## Death Notice: Daniel Johnson

Daniel Johnson, 65, of Groton passed away April 9, 2024 surrounded by family at his home. A private celebration will be held at a later date. Inurnment will take place in Union Cemetery, Groton under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

## Schwan is triple winner at Milbank Junior High Meet

The junior high track meet was held Tuesday in Milbank with Jordan Schwan being a triple winner on the day. Schwan won the 100m dash, the 400m dash and was on the winning 400m Relay team with teammates Owen Sperry, Ryder Schelle and Jace Johnson. Anthony Gilmore won the 200m dash.

In the girl's division, MaKenna Krause took first in the 100m dash and Ryelle Gilbert won the 400m dash.

### Boys Results

#### 100 Meters 8th Grade - Finals

5. Owen Sperry, 13.10

#### 100 Meters 7th Grade - Finals

1. Jordan Schwan, 12.71

2. Anthony Gilmore, 13.25

10. Ryder Schwan, 13.89

40. Eli Heilmann, 16.43

#### 200 Meters 8th Grade - Finals

5. Owen Sperry, 27.59

#### 200 Meters 7th Grade - Finals

1. Anthony Gilmore, 27.20

2. Ryder Schwan, 28.44

8. Kyson Kucker, 29.45

12. Keegan Kucker, 31.28

32. Eli Heilmann, 37.41

#### 400 Meters 7th Grade - Finals

1. Jordan Schwan, 1:04.17

3. Keegan Kucker, 1:07.00

6. Kyson Kucker, 1:08.16

#### 800 Meters 8th Grade - Finals

5. Kason Oswald, 2:48.75

#### 1600 Meters 8th Grade - Finals

4. Jace Johnson, 5:59.34

9. Kason Oswald, 6:49.38

#### 4x100 Relay 8th Grade - Finals

1. Owen Sperry, Ryder Schelle, Jace Johnson, Jordan Schwan, 51.30

#### Shot Put - 8lb 8th Grade - Finals

9. Lane Johnson, 26' 4"

#### Discus - 1kg 8th Grade - Finals

9. Lane Johnson, 68' 6.5"

### Girls Results

#### 100 Meters 8th Grade - Finals

1. MaKenna Krause, 14.37

8. Kinsley Rowen, 15.30

17. Gracie Pearson, 16.38

18. Ella Kettner, 16.41 (0.0)SR

19. Audrey Davis, 16.48

#### 100 Meters 7th Grade - Finals

3. Madison Little, 14.75

17. Aurora Washenberger, 16.09

23. Rowan Patterson, 16.71

33. Andi Gauer, 18.14

34. Ilyanna Dallaire, 18.68

#### 200 Meters 7th Grade - Finals

7. Madison Little, 31.04

19. Aurora Washenberger, 34.28

27. Rowan Patterson, 35.41

31. Andi Gauer, 38.64

34. Ilyanna Dallaire, 44.24

#### 400 Meters 8th Grade - Finals

1. Ryelle Gilbert, 1:11.71

5. Rylie Rose, 1:22.00

#### 800 Meters 7th Grade - Finals

4. Sydney Holmes, 3:21.33

#### 1600 Meters 8th Grade - Finals

2. Ryelle Gilbert, 6:01.53

#### 1600 Meters 7th Grade - Finals

5. Sydney Holmes, 7:22.40

#### 100m Hurdles - 30" 8th Grade - Finals

6. Ella Kettner, 21.38

#### 100m Hurdles - 30" 7th Grade - Finals

4. Tevan Hanson, 20.86

#### 4x100 Relay 8th Grade - Finals

5. Kinsley Rowen, Tevan Hanson, Ella Kettner, Abby Fjeldheim, 1:02.31

#### Shot Put - 6lb 8th Grade - Finals

11. Libby Cole, 25' 7"

16. Audrey Davis, 22' 5.5"

19. Kyleigh Kroll, 20' 3"

#### Shot Put - 6lb 7th Grade - Finals

2. Abby Fjeldheim, 25' 6"

15. Adeline Kotzer, 17' 10"

#### Discus 8th Grade - Finals

12. Libby Cole, 57' 7.5"

18. Kyleigh Kroll, 45' 4"

#### Discus 7th Grade - Finals

12. Adeline Kotzer, 28' 2.5"

#### High Jump 8th Grade - Finals

5. Addison Hoeft, 3' 6"

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Flair
- 5 Enterprise letters
- 8 Stuffing herb
- 12 Taunt
- 13 Aussie hopper
- 14 Hockey legend Phil, to fans
- 15 Home of the Packers
- 17 Compared to
- 18 Congeal
- 19 Sturdy tree
- 20 Spassky's game
- 21 — -Manuel Miranda
- 22 Huge
- 23 Bottom
- 26 Fear-stricken
- 30 "E Pluribus —"
- 31 Blue hue
- 32 Lighten
- 33 Arty area
- 35 Hinder
- 36 Sailor
- 37 Soda container
- 38 Norwegian inlet
- 41 "It's c-c-cold!"
- 42 Right angle
- 45 Actress Russo
- 46 Chinese brew
- 48 Diminutive suffix

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15				16					17			
18				19				20				
			21				22					
23	24	25				26				27	28	29
30					31				32			
33				34				35				
			36				37					
38	39	40				41				42	43	44
45					46				47			
48					49				50			
51					52				53			

- 49 Mosquito barrier
- 9 Tennis champ Arthur
- 10 Transcript stats
- 11 Eternities
- 16 Dark film genre
- 20 Spy org.
- 21 Color named for a fruit
- 22 Journalist Nellie
- 23 Gist
- 24 Year in Spain
- 25 "Gee, ya think?"
- 26 Alias abbr.
- 27 Yoga pad
- 28 Jargon suffix
- 29 Aachen article
- 31 Bro or sis
- 34 '60s chic
- 35 Challenge
- 37 El Greco's birthplace
- 38 Gratis
- 39 Joan of rock
- 40 Aware of
- 41 Author Harte
- 42 To be, in Toulon
- 43 Some July babies
- 44 Endure
- 46 Wildebeest
- 47 Up-to-date

### DOWN

- 1 Omelet needs
- 2 Old Italian money
- 3 Help a crook
- 4 Born abroad?
- 5 City-related
- 6 Drench
- 7 Sauce source
- 8 "The Italian

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## School Play this weekend

The All School Play is set for this weekend in Groton. The play, "Peter Pan & Wendy" will be performed Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 5 p.m. with a free will offering at the door.

Front Row L-R: Libby Johnson, Gracie Borg, TJ Feist, Kylie Borg, Josie Lord, Callie Herrick, Ayce Warrington, Kendyll Kroll, Tori Schuster, (Not pictured Feddy Cole, Ivy Cole, Kaelynn Furman

Middle Row L-R: Aspen Beto, Novalea Warrington, Madison Herrick, Wesley Borg, Kyleigh Kroll, Tenley Frost, Libby Cole, Layne Johnson, T.C. Schuster, John Bisbee, Kinzleigh Furman

Back Row L-R: Abby Yeadon, Gentry Pigors, Divya Pelmelay, Natalia Warrington, Anna Bisbee, Camryn Kurtz, Gavin Kroll, Mya Feser, Addison Hoeft, Blake Lord, Brody Lord, Emily Clark, Axel Warrington. (Courtesy Photo Amanda Bisbee)



The Groton Area varsity track hurdlers attended the NSU Track Hurdling Clinic on Monday. The clinic was conducted by NSU student athletes Renea Taylor, 2 x All American, from Okanogan WA and Joel Matehs, standout junior NSU hurdler, from Rugby ND. Pictured L-R Joel Matehs NSU, Tristan McGannon, Hannah Sandness, Emerlee Jones, Teagan Hanten, Talli Wright, McKenna Tietz, and Renea Taylor NSU. (Courtesy Photo Bruce Babcock)

## Competitive game ends in walkoff as Groton Area falls to Dell Rapids

A walk-off left Groton Area Tigers Varsity on the wrong end of a 5-4 defeat to Dell Rapids Varsity Quarriers on Monday. The game was tied at four in the bottom of the seventh when Jack Henry singles, scoring one run.

Groton Area Tigers Varsity lost despite out-hitting Dell Rapids Varsity Quarriers six to five. Carter Simon led Groton Area Tigers Varsity with two hits.

Groton Area Tigers Varsity got on the board in the first inning after an error scored one run. Henry hit into a fielder's choice, which helped Dell Rapids Varsity Quarriers tie the game at one in the bottom of the first.

A sacrifice bunt by Sutton Williams gave Dell Rapids Varsity Quarriers the lead, 2-1, in the bottom of the second.

Bradin Althoff grounded out, which helped Groton Area Tigers Varsity tie the game at two in the top of the third.

Dell Rapids Varsity Quarriers took the lead, 4-2, in the bottom of the third thanks to two errors.

Groton Area Tigers Varsity tied the game up in the top of the sixth thanks to two singles. Groton Area Tigers Varsity tied the game at four on a single by Nick Morris.

Lincoln Fersdahl earned the win for Dell Rapids Varsity Quarriers. They surrendered two hits and four runs (two earned) over five and one-third innings, striking out six and walking two. Dillon Abeln took the loss for Groton Area Tigers Varsity. The righty went six and one-third innings, allowing five runs (one earned) on four hits, striking out five and walking two.

Simon, Morris and Althoff each drove in one run for Groton Area Tigers Varsity.

Henry drove the middle of the lineup, leading Dell Rapids Varsity Quarriers with two runs batted in. The number three hitter went 1-for-4 on the day. Tad Tjaden, Mason Stubbe, Drake Eastman, Henry, and Carson Maeschen each collected one hit for Dell Rapids Varsity Quarriers. Dell Rapids Varsity Quarriers turned one double play in the game.

Groton Area lost the second game, 10-0.

## Classifieds and Card of Thanks

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

1 Week: \$9 for first 30 words, 20¢/word thereafter  
 2 Wks: \$17 for first 30 words, 38¢/word thereafter  
 3 Wks: \$24 for first 30 words, 54¢/word thereafter  
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## AUCTIONS

INTERSTATE AUCTION CENTER. April 20, 10:00am. 3 miles east of SF, exit 402, Brandon, SD. Accepting consignments for building materials, construction equipment, and farm machinery auction. Full listing: auctionzip.com, 605-331-4550.

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## LIVESTOCK

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Dear EarthTalk: Why is protecting the greater sage grouse such a hot button issue across the American West? -- P.L., Salt Lake City, UT

The greater sage grouse, best known for its unusual mating dance and bulky, turkey-like appearance, has long been an emblem of the American West. However, researchers have found that this iconic bird species is in jeopardy. The effects of climate change and habitat destruction have caused greater sage grouse populations to decline by 80 percent since 1965 and by 40 percent since 2002—and they will likely continue to decline if proactive conservation practices are not implemented to protect their habitats within the bioregion often referred to as the “sagebrush sea.”

But this issue extends well beyond protecting the greater sage grouse, as the health of sage grouse populations is a direct indication of their habitat’s health. The sagebrush sea is a critical bioregion that used to cover the vast majority of the American West, but millions of acres of sagebrush have become inaccessible to the greater sage grouse and hundreds of other native wildlife species. Large areas of sagebrush have been destroyed or fragmented for the sake of continued oil drilling, mining and other human development. The habitat has also been harmed by wildfires and invasive grasses such as cheatgrass, which can overgrow sagebrush. The decline of these habitats has dire consequences for cattle farmers and ranchers across the region as well, since they need healthy land for their livestock.

The best way to help sage grouse and their habitats is to put more restrictive policies on what can be done in those areas, and to replace previously destroyed or fragmented habitats whenever possible. A federal plan designed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to accomplish these goals has been in the works since 2015, but it was delayed due to the Trump administration’s heavy emphasis on energy development. Although the plan has finally been completed and approved by the Biden administration, many conservationists and scientists still feel that it needs work before being implemented.

A group of scientists recently stated in a public letter that the plan would likely “have severe consequences for sage grouse” in its current form. Specifically, they are concerned that the BLM’s proposal would still allow for mining and some forms of energy development within sage grouse habitat, and would not plan to restore any destroyed land. As a result, many feel that the current plan will not do enough to save the greater sage grouse or their habitat, and may serve to harm some landowners as well.

Western citizens and land stewards have a lot to gain if the greater sage grouse is protected. However, the government is still aiming for a proposal that can serve as a compromise between these citizens and the corporate and federal groups who want to prioritize energy development in these areas. The resulting friction between these two groups is practically unavoidable. If you would like to speak out on this issue, the BLM’s current proposal is available online and open to public comment until June 13th, 2024.

.. 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](mailto:question@earthtalk.org).



**The effects of climate change & habitat destruction have caused greater sage grouse populations to decline by 80 percent since 1965.**

Credit: Andrew Perilloux, Unsplash.

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## “Pain - It’s No Joke”

There is an old joke where a man walks into his doctor’s office and says, “Doc, it hurts every time I do this. What should I do? To which the doctor replies, “Simple, don’t do that!” While the advice seems trite and maybe even



insulting, like most jokes, there is some truth in it. Pain is one of the ways your body tries to protect you from even worse injury. Pain tries to keep you from walking on a sprained ankle or lifting things with a broken arm. In those cases, the advice from the doctor is accurate.

We cast broken bones to immobilize them, and use splints or slings to rest muscle strains or sprained tendons. In these cases, excessive movement can make injuries worse. That break could go from well aligned, where the bone can heal on its own, to displaced where the broken fragments are now too far apart to heal and reattach properly. This could mean the difference between just having a splint or cast, to needing surgery with plates, pins, or screws to realign and stabilize the broken pieces of bones.

People who have decreased sensation due to neuropathy also are at risk for having something minor become a major injury. In neuropathy, the nerves do not send a signal when a pebble is caught in your sandal. That small pebble could continue to rub throughout the day and lead to a large blister or even an ulcer. Neuropathy can also cause pain on its own as misfiring nerves cause pins and needles or a burning sensation, even when there is no external cause for the pain.

Another condition called Reflexive Sympathetic Dystrophy, or RSD, is where the nerves are stuck in a loop sending pain signals to the brain long after the initial injury occurred. This is a very difficult condition to treat. Fibromyalgia also is a condition where widespread pain occurs with no obvious external cause. For these people, the advice from the joke is not helpful. The typical pain medications used for broken bones or sprained ankles are also less effective. For patients with RSD or fibromyalgia, light activity with guidance from a physical therapist can sometimes help with their pain. However, too much activity can flare their condition and leading them to need hours or days to recover back to their baseline.

Unfortunately, sometimes pain cannot be completely removed or fully treated. The goal then changes from trying to remove the pain, to trying to remove the suffering associated with the pain. Ways of dealing with chronic pain need to be explored, such as chronic pain support groups or counseling. Pain specialists can also be a good resource for these people, as they have more pain interventions than a primary care physician. So the next time you have pain, don’t be afraid to talk about it with your doctor, because living with pain is no joke.

Jill Kruse, D.O. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices as a hospitalist in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at [www.prairiedoc.org](http://www.prairiedoc.org) and on Facebook and Instagram featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show providing health information based on science, built on trust, on SDPB and streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.