



\$2

# The Groton Independent

Vol. 141 No. 30 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, April 24, 2024 ♦ Established in 1889



## Land of the Queens!

Four queens showed up at the Princess Prom held Sunday at the GHS Gym. Left to right they are Anna Fjeldheim, Homecoming Queen; Anna Bisbee, Miss Wolf Pack's Teen; Faith Flihs, Groton Senior Snow Queen; and Emma Schinkel, Carnival of Silver Skates Queen. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

## Groton Area plans to improve elementary attendance

A new plan seeks to improve school attendance. The Groton Area School Board approved a school success action plan at Monday's meeting. The plan has been in the works since the first semester.

Groton Area Elementary School was identified for "targeted support and improvement" based on data from the 2022-2023 school year. That support is geared toward improving attendance for Hispanic/Latino and English learner students at the elementary school.

The action plan would create a professional development plan for teachers, push the administration to share district-wide goals with those teachers, allow the teachers to implement meaningful learning experience and work toward student achievement and attendance improvement.

"Essentially, if we can get the teachers' some relative teaching strategies and training, hopefully the students will be more motivated," said elementary Principal Brett Schwan.

The district is looking at changes to faculty in-service teacher development to help accomplish those goals, including working with teacher education faculty at Northern State University. The theme for that professional development is "Why don't students like school?"

Additional training in February 2025 will focus on utilizing technology in the classroom to capture students' interests.



Groton Area fourth graders pose after finishing going from table to table at the Fourth Grade Ag Fair. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Members of the Groton Area FFA Chapter pose after the last group makes their way through the barn at the Fourth Grade Ag Fair. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Fourth graders from Aberdeen and Groton learned different agriculture-based lessons during the Fourth Grade Ag Fair. The Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce partners with Groton FFA to put on the event, which aims to teach fourth grade students about the importance of agriculture in their daily lives. The annual event took place Tuesday at the Brown County Fairgrounds. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

A hop, step and jump to new pits?

Assistant Track Coach Lynette Grieve, who was at Monday's meeting to present a physical education program overview, told the board there are issues with areas at the track.

"Our long- and triple-jump pits are in the pits," she said. "They are the worst in our conference."

Students from other schools don't even want to jump into those pits, she said. And there are problems with the sand in the pits as well.

Some students and staff have found things such as nails and broken glass in the pits in the last few years, she said. Those items were brought in in the gravel used to fill the pits.

This year, Grieve and volunteer assistant track coach Carla Tracy have brought in bags of sand from S&S Lumber to top off the pits in order to avoid that.

The pits need a barrier on the sides to keep the sand from going into the grass, Grieve said. It would be a band-aid for now, but something needs to be done about them.

- The school board approved the second reading of changes to the middle/high school student handbook. Some changes include removing outdated information and banning drinks other than water in the hallways and classrooms. The handbook is for the 2024-2025 school year.

- The district is seeking bids for another phase of roof replacement. The roof on the northeast portion of the elementary school is the last section that needs to be replaced after other portions were worked on through the last three years, said Superintendent Joe Schwan. Sealed bids will be opened at 2 p.m. Monday, May 13 ahead of the school board's meeting that night.

- Music, art and health teachers presented an overview of their programs to the board.

  - K-12 Vocal Music Teacher Tanner Pietz told the board there is a lot of talent within the classes and groups he teaches. His focus since starting in December has been building the foundations of music and choral singing. Pietz said the district could consider adding an alternate class to fill the fine arts credit at the high school, as well as having grades in high school band, choir and other arts classes apply to a student's grade point average.

  - Instrumental Music Teacher Desiree Yeigh told the school board that the fifth grade band and middle school band have grown since last year. The fifth grade band had 26 students during the 2022-2023 school year, but has since grown to 33 students for the 2023-2024 school year. The middle school band grew from 33 in the 2022-2023 school year to 49 in the 2023-2024 school year. The high school band dropped from the 2022-2023 total of 35 students down

See School Board on Page 11

# Not a statistic

I empathized with Princess Kate when she was essentially forced to announce her cancer diagnosis. It came not too long after a similar announcement from King Charles III. It doesn't matter who you are, cancer is the great equalizer. One in two people will get a cancer diagnosis in their lifetime. We're living longer so cells have more time to mutate. Diagnoses are better; that's part of it. Chemicals, plastics, and preservatives probably aren't helping.

We'll beat it, though.

Anyone who's had a doctor look you in the eye with the bad news, gets it. If you're a private person, especially one with kids, first of all, you want to protect them as long as you can—at least until you have a clear medical path forward. The hope part.

"I'm not a statistic," I told my kids four years ago, after my diagnosis of esophageal cancer. We'd caught it relatively early. The cause? Acid reflux. Who knew?

I would've kept it private but there were factors that made it impossible. For one, it's impossible to go for treatment without running into someone you know. It's sadly eye-opening. "You, too, huh?" Word gets out.

The far braver individuals are open about their journey. Journey, they call it, and it is. It takes courage to be vulnerable.

The biggest reason I didn't want my diagnosis on the streets was I didn't want to be the focus of a death watch. I've heard people discuss others. "Oh, he doesn't look good. He won't be around long." It's not intentionally malicious, but it's negative, and negative energy I don't need.

I'm a great believer in positive energy. Prayers. I'm not a statistic. If the negativity was out there, positivity eclipsed it. In area churches, prayers were said for me. Pray for the heathen!

It was powerful medicine.

The plan was to do radiation and chemotherapy and then an esophagectomy. It's a major surgery involving a lot of tubes. When I woke up... well, I've seen less complicated plates of spaghetti.

I couldn't just disappear from the opinion pages for months without some kind of explanation, so I used the opportunity to explain what was happening and urged anyone with acid reflux to get it checked. Many people told me they did just that.

The good news is cancer treatment has evolved in leaps and bounds since I lost my father to colon cancer 31 years ago. I was fortunate. I happened to fall into a 6-week window during which I was eligible for newly-approved immunotherapy. It worked.

Still... "You're going to have setbacks," my



## That's Life

by Tony Bender

first oncologist told me. Fair enough. Better to go in with your eyes wide open and a certain amount of pragmatism. Hurdles, I call them.

I've had two reoccurrences. In each case, a barrage of chemo, radiation, and other treatments beat it back. And positive thinking. I go into treatments thinking one thing: "Good, we're killing cancer cells."

It's a balancing act. Kill the cancer cells without killing you. In both cases, treatment knocked me out for months. The last recurrence was in July. Three tiny spots, but we hit it hard. The last two scans, plus a colonoscopy and an endoscopy showed, in medical nomenclature, "no evidence of cancer." There are no sweeter words.

In the beginning, I was anxious about tests. As if not knowing would make it go away. Now, I embrace them because if there's a hurdle there, I want to know. And take it on.

The side effects can be relatively mild or they can be debilitating. In my case, the last round has been challenging, so I've been AWOL quite a bit. And incommunicado. During my esophagectomy, the surgeons damaged a nerve and paralyzed a vocal cord.

Normally, I can work with it, but the very treatments that have kept my scans clean, irritate my throat, so many days, I just can't talk. So, if I don't pick up, that's why. Hurdles.

I was chided by a friend for not providing updates. "I don't want people to worry," I said. After all, I don't dwell on it. "But, people care," she reminded me. That's fair. So there you go, friends. The update. I remain optimistic. As I write this, I feel great. To my friends fighting the fight, well, we're in the same boat, paddling like hell, and I'm pulling for you.

The reality is, everyone, from the day we're born, we're all buying time. And as time goes on, we become more aware.

Think positive. And remember, we're not statistics.

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## Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

**Draft week is here!**

As many of you know, the NFL draft is one of my favorite times of the year. I like to compare it to Christmas morning because we can see the gifts under the tree (draft picks), but we don't know what's in them. Will it be the shiny new toy we've been begging Santa for (a new quarterback)? Or will it be boring but useful like some new socks and underwear (a kicker in the middle rounds)? We won't know until we open the presents – but luckily for us, we only have a few more days to wait.

In my previous articles, I tossed out a few names to familiarize yourself with. Today I'll be doing a mock draft of the first five rounds, (since the 6th and 7th rounds are usually players who may not even make the team). I'll be using Pro Football Network's mock draft tool, which I highly recommend checking out yourself, as it has a ton of great features and doesn't cost anything. Just remember, take this all with a grain of salt. The draft is a crapshoot and trying to predict what happens is virtually impossible.

In this mock draft, I traded for the third pick before the draft even started. I firmly believe the six projected first-round quarterbacks fall into two tiers – with Caleb Williams, Jayden Daniels, and Drake Maye in tier one, and JJ McCarthy, Bo Nix, and Michael Penix Jr. making up tier two. By trading into the top three, I guarantee that one of those top-tier QBs will be available. Unfortunately, the cost to trade up from 11 to 3 is steep. New England would settle for nothing less than three first-round picks (11, 23, and next year's 1st), but I got them to toss in a couple of mid-round picks (68 and 103) to go along with the third overall which helped balance the trade.

With the third overall pick in the 2024 NFL Draft, the Minnesota Vikings select... nobody. Caleb Williams and Drake Maye went first and second, respectively, leaving Jayden Daniels available with our pick. As I was getting ready to make the pick, the LA Chargers called, offering picks 5 and 37 for 3 and 68. I knew the Chargers weren't going to take a QB, but it was still a gamble because a QB-needy team could have moved up to number four and swiped Daniels from us. Luckily the gamble paid off and two receivers were drafted at three (Marvin Harrison Jr.) and four (Rome Odunze). And so...

With the fifth overall pick of the 2024 NFL Draft, the Minnesota Vikings select Jayden Daniels, quarterback, LSU. I'm beyond excited. Daniels is the most recent Heisman winner, throwing for 3,812 yards and 40 touchdowns plus 1,134 yards and 10 touchdowns on the ground. He has an incredibly high ceiling as long as the team builds their offense around him, similar to Lamar Jackson in Baltimore.

With the 37th pick, the Vikings draft Byron Murphy II, defensive tackle from Texas. The Vikings are able to upgrade the defensive line by adding Murphy, who many consider to be a first-round caliber player.

With the 103rd pick, I chose Jermaine Burton, wide receiver, Alabama. I was hoping Johnny Wilson would make it this far, but he's off the board so I went with plan B. Burton has elite speed and can take the top off opposing defenses. He'll make a great WR3.

With the 108th pick, I wanted to fill what I feel is the last remaining hole on the Vikings' roster, so I drafted Tanor Bortolini, the center from Wisconsin. Bortolini can also play guard and will get a chance to compete for a starting spot on the Vikings' offensive line.

For pick 129, I had my eyes on a few different players. There were two pass rushers I liked (Jalyx Hunt and Jonah Elliss), and a couple of cornerbacks (Cam Hart and Khyree Jackson). Unfortunately, all four players were drafted right before our pick, forcing me to change my strategy and grab the highest remaining player on the board. So, with the 129th pick, the Vikings take Javon Bullard, safety, Georgia. With Harrison Smith nearing the end of his career, the Vikings need a plan to replace him. Hopefully, this Georgia safety works out better than the last one the Vikings drafted.

With the 157th pick, I went with Ray Davis, running back, Kentucky. I expect the Vikings to take a running back at some point in the draft, considering Aaron Jones is only signed to a one-year deal.

And with the final pick of this mock draft I go with another offensive lineman - Matt Goncalves, tackle from Pittsburgh. He adds some depth to the o-line and can play both left and right tackle.

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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**UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF EDUCATION GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6 REGULAR MEETING April 8, 2024**

President Gengerke called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Groton Area High School Library Conference Room. Members present: Flihs, Gengerke, Harder, Lerseth-Flihs, Pharis, Rix and Weismantel. Absent none. Others present were Supt. J. Schwan, Principal Edwards, Principal Schwan, and Business Manager Hubsch.

Moved by Pharis, second Weismantel to approve the agenda with amendments of declaring library surplus property at no value, Memorandum of Understanding with South Dakota Department of Education regarding the state Dual Credit Program, period of July 1, 2024-June 30, 2027, resignation of Rita Kampa from Maintenance Team duties at the end of 2023 2024 school year, and confirm

May 15 as last student contact day for the 2023-24 school year. Motion carried.

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

Moved by Flihs, second Pharis to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: District minutes of March 11, 2024, school board meeting, March 19, 2024, special school board meeting, March 26, 2024 school board meeting, and March 2024 district bills. Motion carried.

**GENERAL FUND:** Net Payroll - 297,026.60; Benefits - 80,492.60; Allied Climate Professionals - repairs, 7,564.93; Amazon - supplies, 777.97; AS-BSD - registration, 30.00; Cole Papers - janitor supply/paper, 2,353.73; Custodial Fund - advanced payments, 58,156.90; Darrels Sinclair - tire repair, 22.49; Dependable Sanitation - garbage, 1,287.00; Geffdog Designs - BBB shirts, 646.37; Good Shred - shredding service, 43.50; Greg's Repair - repairs, 55.00; Groton Daily Independent - legal publishing, 211.45; Groton Rescue Squad - annual donation, 500.00; JW Pepper - music, 48.20; Matheson Tri-Gas - supplies, 290.22; Mid-American Research Chemical - janitor supply, 1,643.86; Northside Implement - repairs, 1,613.71; Otis Elevator Company - main-

tenance contract, 1,486.68; Prorate Services - DOT testing, 75.00; SASD - dues, 1,407.00; School Specialty - cardstock, 80.00; Sewer Duck - HS sewer lines, 642.50; Taylor Music - repairs/supplies, 397.99. Total General Fund - \$456,853.70.

**CAPITAL OUTLAY:** A&B Business - managed print agreement, 3,127.89; Amazon - welding glasses/helmet, 324.15; Custodial Fund - advanced payments, 1,178.00; Hauff Mid-American Sports - track equipment, 765.00.

Total Capital Outlay - \$5,395.04.

**SPECIAL ED:** Net Payroll - 47,553.46; Benefits - 14,246.13; Custodial Fund - advanced payments, 21.24; Judy or Gene Williamson - mileage, 642.60; Nikki Wright - mileage, 306.00. Total Special Ed - \$62,769.43.

**FOOD SERVICE:** Net Payroll - 8,508.71; Benefits - 2,726.59; BIMBO Bakery - food, 212.04; Custodial Fund - advanced payments, 649.00; East Side Jersey Dairy - milk, 902.18; Performance Foodservice - food, 7,773.06; SD DOE - food, 1,052.00; US Foods - food, 1,788.55. Total Food Service - \$23,612.13.

**OST:** Net Payroll - 3,212.66; Benefits - 418.31; Total OST - \$3,630.97.

**DRIVERS ED:** Net Payroll -

0.00; Benefits - 0.00. Total Driver's Ed: \$0.00.

**CUSTODIAL FUND:** 94,159.40. **RECEIPTS:** Local Sources, Taxes - 212,128.04; Local Sources, Other -137,047.91; County Sources - 2,872.25; State Sources - 27,094.00; Federal Sources - 123,274.15. Total Receipts - 502,416.35.

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

Moved by Weismantel, second by Rix to approve the March 2024 financial report, custodial accounts, and investments. Motion carried.

Moved by Rix, second by Harder to approve the March 2024 school lunch report. Motion carried.

Moved by Pharis and Second by Harder to approve the March 2024 school transportation report. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, second by Harder to approve SDHSAA Athletics cooperative with the Langford School District in the sport of football. Motion carried.

B. Schwan reported that the KG roundup was concluded and currently has 32 students signed up for kindergarten; CNA Target and Support Improvement are

working on their action plan for next year, state testing will begin next week, and updated the board on where students will be going for field trips.

S. Edwards reported state testing will be happening this week, prom is scheduled for April 20 with the post-prom being held at the YMCA; students are completed being registered for 24-25 classes, and seniors' last day will be May 3.

Moved by Harder, second by Flihs, to approve District Membership Agreement for North Central Special Education Cooperative. Motion carried.

Moved by Harder, second by Pharis, to approve Administrative Rule Waiver Application from ARSD 24:43:11:01 to allow High School Credit before Grade 9 (Algebra I). Motion carried.

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

First reading of the recommended changes to MS/HS Student Handbook.

Moved by Weismantel, second by Lerseth-Flihs, to declare library items as surplus property with no value for disposal. Motion carried.

Moved by Pharis, second by Harder, approve Memorandum of Understanding with South

Dakota Department of Education regarding the state Dual Credit Program for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, second by Rix, approve resignation from Rita Kampa, Maintenance Team duties, at the end of the 2023-2024 school year. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, second by Flihs, to approve the confirmation of Wednesday, May 15 as the last student contact day for the 2023-2024 school year. Motion carried.

Motion by Rix, second by Pharis to enter into executive session pursuant SDCL 1-25-2(4) for negotiations at 7:39 pm. Motion carried.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:45 pm.

Moved by Weismantel, second Rix to adjourn at 8:46 pm. Motion carried.

Becky Hubsch, Business Manager Deborah Gengerke, President

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

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GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 06-6 FINANCIAL REPORTS								
	General Fund	Capital Outlay	Special Ed.	Bond Redemption	Food Service	OST	Driver's Ed	Custodial
<b>MAR. 1 2024.....</b>	<b>\$1,168,931.46</b>	<b>\$771,001.10</b>	<b>\$343,004.49</b>	<b>\$64.54</b>	<b>\$185,400.39</b>	<b>\$29,000.91</b>	<b>\$18,108.33</b>	<b>\$216,482.96</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>								
Local Sources .....	\$126,016.19	\$81,216.30	\$34,930.09		\$12,598.61	\$4,810.48		\$89,604.28
County Sources .....	\$2,872.25							
State Sources								
State Aid.....	\$27,094.00							
Mentor Teacher Program								
State Apportionment								
State Reimbursements								
Bank Franchise								
Federal Sources .....	\$10,001.00	\$104,543.00			\$8,730.15			
Sale of Assets								
Due from Govt								
Transfer In/Out								
<b>TOTAL MONTHLY RECEIPTS .....</b>	<b>\$165,983.44</b>	<b>\$185,759.30</b>	<b>\$34,930.09</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$21,328.76</b>	<b>\$4,810.48</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$89,604.28</b>
<b>FUNDS AVAILABLE.....</b>	<b>\$1,334,914.90</b>	<b>\$956,760.40</b>	<b>\$377,934.58</b>	<b>\$64.54</b>	<b>\$206,729.15</b>	<b>\$33,811.39</b>	<b>\$18,108.33</b>	<b>\$306,087.24</b>
<b>MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS.....</b>	<b>(\$460,387.34)</b>	<b>(\$39,045.58)</b>	<b>(\$80,574.47)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>(\$26,935.26)</b>	<b>(\$4,723.85)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>(\$94,159.40)</b>
<b>JOURNAL ENTRIES.....</b>	<b>\$3,661.33</b>		<b>\$1,368.30</b>		<b>\$748.43</b>	<b>\$107.25</b>		
<b>MAR. 31, 2024 .....</b>	<b>\$878,188.89</b>	<b>\$917,714.82</b>	<b>\$298,728.41</b>	<b>\$64.54</b>	<b>\$180,542.32</b>	<b>\$29,194.79</b>	<b>\$18,108.33</b>	<b>\$211,927.84</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND.....</b>		<b>SPECIAL EDUCATION</b>		<b>FOOD SERVICE</b>		<b>OST</b>		<b>Driver's Education</b>
Payroll.....		Payroll		Payroll		Payroll		Payroll
Instruction .....	\$297,026.60	Instruction	\$47,553.46	Instruction	\$8,508.71	Instruction	\$3,212.66	Instruction
Employee Benefits .....	\$80,492.60	Employee Benefits	\$14,246.13	Employee Benefits	\$2,726.59	Employee Benefits	\$418.31	Employee Benefits
Supplies, Utilities, Etc. ....	\$82,868.14	Supplies, Etc.	\$18,774.88	Food, Supplies, Etc.	\$15,699.96	Supplies, Etc.	\$1,092.88	Supplies, Etc.
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$460,387.34</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$80,574.47</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26,935.26</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,723.85</b>	<b>Total</b>
								<b>\$0.00</b>
								<b>0.00</b>



**UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF EDUCATION GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6 SPECIAL MEETING April 17, 2024**

President Gengerke called the meeting to order at 4:41p.m. at the Groton Area High School Library Conference Room. Members present: Flihs, Gengerke, Harder, Lerseth-Flihs, Pharis, Rix. Absent Weismantel. Others present were Supt. J. Schwan, and Business Manager Hubsch.

Moved by Harder, second Pharis to approve the agenda as proposed. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Rix, second by Harder to enter into executive session pursuant SDCL 1-25-2(4) for negotiations at 4:42 pm. Motion carried.

The Board came out of executive session at 6:28 pm.

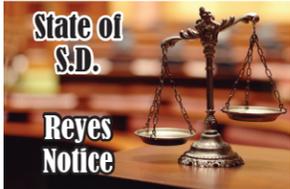
Moved by Rix, second Pharis to adjourn at 6:28 pm. Motion carried.

Becky Hubsch, Business Manager

Deborah Gengerke, President

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

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**STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA COUNTY OF BROWN ) SS IN CIRCUIT COURT FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT A&N 24-4 NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ADJUDICATORY ORDER**

(As to Respondent Mother) THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA IN THE INTEREST OF B.G.N., MINOR CHILD, AND CONCERNING KEYAH MARIE NGUYEN AND JAVIER REYES, RESPONDENTS.

TO: Javier Reyes YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an Adjudicatory Order as to Respondent Mother, and affecting your parental rights dated the 11th day of April, 2024, and filed the 22nd day of April, 2024, has been entered in this matter. (This is an intermediate order which is subject to intermediate appeal with the permission of the Court according to the rules of procedure governing civil appeals.)

Dated this 22nd day of April, 2024.

Deputy State's Attorney Karla Nelson

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Groton Independent ♦ Wed., April 24, 2024 ♦ 3

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FREDERICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #6-2  
 Regular Board of Education Meeting  
 April 15, 2024

A regular meeting of the Frederick Area Board of Education was called to order on April 15, 2024, at 7:00 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 Kosters, PreK-8 Principal Jessica Ringgenberg and Business Manager Shauna Severson. Others in attendance: Lee Dobrinz, Tom Grimmond, Troy Millard and Deputy Hill.

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

2024-083 Motion by Achen, second by Sumption to amend the agenda to include Open Enrollment 2425-4. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

No conflict of interest disclosures.

Motion 2024-084 Motion by Hart, second by Ellwein to approve the official canvass of the \$450,000 General Fund Opt Out election which was held on April 9, 2024 with the following results: Frederick Precinct: Yes-60, No-40; Westport Precinct: Yes-25, No-27; Total: Yes-85, No-67. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

There were 709 registered voters in the Frederick Area School District 6-2 when registration closed; 152 people voted in the election which was 21.4% of the registered voters; ballots spoiled, rejected, or uncounted-1. The total cost of the election was \$1,595.20.

2024-085 Motion by Achen, second by Sumption to approve the following consent agenda items. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

a. March 11, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes  
 b. March 2024 Payroll  
 c. March 2024 Financial Report  
 d. April 2024 Bills  
 Financial Report:  
 General Fund- Checking: Bal 3-1-24: \$339,354.05; Receipts: \$129,465.19; Disbursements: \$185,530.21; Bal 3-31-24 \$283,289.03. Investments: Bal 3-1-24: \$508,188.99; Interest: \$2,013.89; Bal 3-31-24: \$510,202.88. Ending Fund Balance: \$793,491.91.

Imprest Fund: Bal 3-1-24: \$4,338.75; Receipts: \$0; Disbursements: \$129.00; Bal 3-31-24 \$4,209.75.

Capital Outlay Fund: Checking: Bal 3-1-24: \$632,663.25; Receipts: \$34,069.08; Disbursements: \$32,072.39; Bal 3-31-24 \$634,659.94. Investments: Bal 3-1-24: \$2,053,800.96. Ending Fund Balance: \$2,688,460.90.

Special Education Fund- Checking: Bal 3-1-24: \$33,416.42; Receipts: \$13,853.64; Disbursements: \$27,733.44; Bal 3-31-24 \$19,536.62. Investments: Bal 3-31-24: \$1,443,913.67. Ending Fund Balance: \$1,463,450.29.

Food Service Fund: Bal 3-1-24: \$8,027.01; Receipts: \$6,406.35; Disbursements: \$9,663.28; Bal 3-31-24 \$4,770.08.

Drivers Ed Fund: Bal 3-31-24 \$1,750.04

Custodial Fund: Bal 3-1-24: \$54,542.90; Receipts: \$21,657.18; Disbursements: \$10,183.63; Bal 3-31-24 \$66,016.45.

Ovid J Stevens Scholarship: Checking: Bal 3-31-24 \$85. Investments: Bal 3-31-24: \$25,773.29. Ending Fund Balance: \$25,774.14.

Claims approved: General Fund salaries 87,433.53; Special Education salaries 16,227.00; Food Service salaries 3,436.58. EFTPS, federal income tax/Social Security/Medicare 28,396.60; 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 243.28; Security Benefits, retire-

ment 2,177.78; Optilegra, vision insurance 470.57; SD Retirement 15,651.32; SD Retirement Supplemental, 3,811.55. Total: \$177,443.68.

Bills approved: General Fund: Aberdeen Awards- gbb awards, 60.00; Adema, Laura-election worker/mileage, 222.47; Agtegra-fuel, 3,183.65; Amazon-supplies, 311.31; American Red Cross-first aid/cpr training, 1,102.00; Beef Logic-build your base, 178.12; Best Western Ramkota-Aberdeen-state bbb travel, 3,975.72; Best Western Ramkota-SF-AD/state fbla travel, 1,859.98; Bruns, Diane-election worker/mileage, 230.27; Caseys-fuel, 28.21; CWD-FFVP food/supplies, 1,201.65; Century Business Products-copier overage, 337.92; Cole Papers-custodial supplies, 1,152.41; Community Store-supplies, 61.14; Cox, Mavis-election worker, 207.50; Ellwein, Melissa-election worker/mileage, 229.21; Imprest Fund-misc., 525.25; Flying J-fuel, 60.99; GDI News-publishing, 76.34; Glazier Clinics-fb software, 95.00; Ham, Lisa-election worker, 211.25; JVT-phone, 246.39; Jostens-diplomas/medals, 249.60; JW Pepper-music, 43.50; Kesslers-hs nutrition supplies, 111.74; McLeods-election supplies, 90.66; Merchant Services-cc processing fees, 138.18; Midstates Group-23-24 bbb banner/bb trophies, 511.40; Montana-Dakota Utilities-utilities, 5,342.92; Pantorium Cleaners-supplies, 133.40; Prorate Services-DOT testing, 81.70; SASD-admin memberships, 1,505.00; Severson, Shauna-fuel, 55.41; Shutterfly-bbb pictures, 6.16; State of SD-medicaid admin fee, 24.00; Sumption, Stacey-fuel, 105.68; Teachers Pay Teachers-curriculum supplements, 12.48; Thomas, Tamara-election worker, 207.50; Town of Frederick-utilities, 636.23; USD- education reimbursement, 40.00. Capital Outlay Fund: Century Business Products-copier lease, 306.66; Johnson Controls-library entry heater, 3,517.29; MARCO-intercom installment, 9,369.75. Special Education Fund: Aspire-HCBS, 158.10; Avera-OT/PT, 3,863.93; Sheraton-sped conference travel, 243.05. Food Service Fund: CWD-food/supplies, 8,866.99; Community Store-food, 34.34; Pantorium Cleaners-kitchen supplies, 92.35. Imprest Fund: Brown County Sheriff-fingerprints, 20.00; Division of Criminal Investigation-background checks, 43.25; Kosters, Jeff-AD conference meals, 92.00; NSU-track meet registration, 300.00; Region Music Contest-large group registration, 70.00. Custodial Fund: Aberdeen Christian School-region 1b bbb share, 116.93; Amazon-fbla donation for slc, 95.96; Andersons-prom, 233.91; Best Western Ramkota-Aberdeen-bbb hospitality room, 1,561.69; Britton/Hecla School-region 1b bbb share, 116.93; Coca-Cola-concessions, 253.50; Community Store-concessions, 32.12; Frederick Area School-region 1b bbb share, 117.89; Hitchcock/Tulare School-region 1b bbb share, 116.93; Kens-bbb state tourney food, 104.06; Kesslers- concessions, 51.90; Kountry Kakes- bbb state tourney food, 110.00; Kristi's Cakes-bbb state tourney food, 75.02; Langford Area School-region 1b bbb share, 116.93; Menards-prom, 35.66; Northwestern Area School-region 1b bbb share, 116.93; Pizza Ranch-LRC meeting, 159.07; SDHSA-region 1b bbb share, 5,624.80; Sumption, Steph- bbb state tourney food/supplies, 457.29; Walmart-prom, 108.43; Warner School-region 1b bbb share, 116.93; Waverly/South Shore School-region 1b bbb share & plaque, 181.93; Wilmot School-region 1b bbb share, 116.93; Worlds Finest Chocolate-music fundraiser, 1,552.75.

The following reports were presented:  
 Jeff Kosters: Superintendent/9-12 Principal/Athletic Director  
 Jessica Ringgenberg: K-8 Principal  
 Shauna Severson: Business Manager  
 Sumption: NCSEC  
 Achen/Hart: Athletic Co-op and Building with JLG/Colliers  
 2024-086 Motion by Sumption, second by Hart to approve

the JLG Architects Agreement. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

2024-087 Motion by Achen, second by Sumption to approve Resolution 2024-002 - 2024-25 SDHSA Membership Resolution. Upon roll call, all present voted Aye. Motion carried.

By resolution, the School Board of Frederick Area School District has authorized membership in the SDHSA for the high school under its jurisdiction as hereinafter listed: Frederick Area. This is to be for the period which begins July 1, 2024 and ends on June 30, 225 with the supervision, control, and regulation of any and all high school interscholastic activities being delegated to said Association.

In addition, the above-mentioned School Board has ratified the Constitution, By-Laws, and rules of the SDHSA as of July 1, 2024 and agrees to conduct its activities programs within the framework of these instruments.

2024-088 Motion by Achen, second by Ellwein to approve the 2024-25 NCSEC District Membership Agreement. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

2024-089 Motion by Ellwein, second by Achen to adopt the ASBPT Workers' Compensation Fund Participation Agreement present and approve the Resolution. Upon roll call, all voted Aye. Motion carried. Resolution will be filed in the business office.

2024-090 Motion by Achen, second by Sumption to accept the following resignations: Shauna Severson-Certified Teacher; Bryson Thorpe-JH BBB. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

2024-091 Motion by Sumption, second by Ellwein to approve Title I Certified Teacher Contract offered to Sadie Hanna for the 2024-25 school year. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

2024-092 Motion by Achen, second by Sumption to approve the following open enrollments: 2425-1, 2425-2, 2425-3 and 2425-4. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

2024-093 Motion by Hart, second by Sumption to approve Policies AEA, GBM with regulations and KL with three exhibits. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

The Board would like to recognize FBLA for their success at state and Kalyce Achen, Noah Kippley, Sofia Losure Maddie Sumption, Milo Sumption and Morgan Sumption for advancing to Nationals; Brayden Sumption for being selected to the Class B All-State Third Team and Noah Kippley-Honorable Mention; Frederick Band on scoring a Superior Rating during the Large Group Contest at NSU; Science Fair participants: Andrew Schlosser-Lemelson Early Inventor \$100 Award and 1st Place Chemistry Project, Jillian Ellwein/Howard Sumption-2nd Place Team Project, Milo Sumption-2nd Place Physics/Earth Science Division, Erik Losure-Honorable Mention and Kalyce Achen/Braelyn White-Honorable Mention; Quiz Bowl team on 1st Place: Katie Bretsch, Jayden Ellwein, Andrew Schlosser, Howard Sumption; Noah Kippley and Brayden Sumption for being named to the 1st Team All-LRC, Gavin Nickelson and Milo Sumption-Honorable Mentions; and Brock Pashen for being named Region 1 Boys' Basketball Coach of the Year.

2024-094 Motion by Sumption, second by Achen to go into executive session at 8:25 p.m. for SDCL 1-25-2 (1) Personnel and SDCL 1-25-2 (4) Negotiations. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

Schlosser declared the board out of executive session at 9:20 p.m.

Motion 2024-095 Motion by Hart, second by Sumption to approve the 2024-2025 Negotiated Agreement. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

Motion 2024-096 Motion by Sumption, second by Hart to offer 2024-2025 Certified Contracts to the following staff members: Jennifer Anliker, Crystal Arthurs, Janelle Barondeau, Jennifer Dallmann, Ashley Gibbs, Sadie Hanna, Morgan Johnson, Christine Kosters, Sharon Langley, Jennifer Little, Melissa Meidinger, Marty Morlock, Brock Pashen, Jennifer Pashen, Caitlin Podoll, Ashley Schmidt, Sarah Sumption, Maggie Ulmer and Tonya Zinter. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

Motion 2024-097 Motion by Achen, second by Ellwein to offer the following 2024-2025 Non-Certified Employee Work Agreements: Rich Bakeberg-Transportation, Mark Christian-son-Transportation, Michelle Dosch-Paraprofessional, Misty Dosch-Paraprofessional, Janet Elsen-Paraprofessional, Kristi Feil- Assistant Custodian, Ashley Gunther-Assistant Cook,

Faye Gunther-Head Cook, Jeff Kosters-Transportation, Zachary Kosters-Head Custodian, Marty Morlock-Grounds Maintenance, Tanya Pies-Paraprofessional, Lance Podoll-Transportation, Traci Reineke-Paraprofessional, Keith Underberg-Transportation, Amanda Wolbeck-Paraprofessional/Library. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

Motion 2024-098 Motion by Hart, second by Ellwein to offer the following 2024-2025 Administrative Contracts: Julie Brotzel-Technology Coordinator, Christine Kosters-Special Education Director, Jeff Kosters-Superintendent/9-12 Principal/Athletic Director/Transportation Director, Jessica Ringgenberg-PK-8 Principal, Shauna Severson-Business Manager, Stacey Sumption-Administrative Assistant. Achen, Ellwein, Hart, Schlosser voted Aye, Sumption abstained. Motion carried.

Motion 2024-099 Motion by Sumption, second by Achen to offer 2024-2025 FASD Coaching and Extra-Curricular Contracts to the following: Crystal Arthurs-FCCLA Advisor, Janelle Barondeau-Head Cross Country/Assistant Track, Wayne Haas-Assistant Track, Jeff Kosters-Head Golf/Drivers Education, Marty Morlock-Head Track, Brock Pashen-Yearbook Advisor, Megan Russo-Assistant Track, Shauna Severson-FBLA Advisor, Sarah Sumption-Assistant Cross Country/Science Fair. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

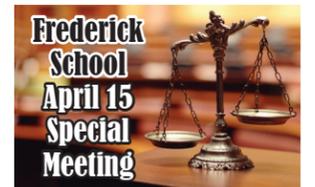
Motion 2024-100 Motion by Hart, second by Sumption to offer 2024-2025 Leola/Frederick Co-op Coaching Contracts to the following: Jeff Kosters-Head Football/Head Girls Basketball, Marty Morlock-JH Football, Don Nickelson-JH Boys Basketball, Brock Pashen-Head Boys Basketball, Troy Podoll-JH Girls Basketball, Alex Sumption-Assistant Boys Basketball, Sarah Sumption-Assistant Girls Basketball, Warren Sumption-JH Boys Basketball. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

2024-101 Motion by Achen, second by Ellwein to adjourn at 9:22 p.m. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Frederick Area Board of Education will be held May 13, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Rich Schlosser, President  
 Shauna Severson, Business Manager

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FREDERICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #6-2  
 Special Board of Education Meeting  
 April 15, 2024

A special meeting of the Frederick Area Board of Education was called to order on April 15, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. by President Rich Schlosser. Members present were Rich Achen, Jon Ellwein, Alex Hart and Eric Sumption. Others present were Superintendent/9-12 Principal/Athletic Director Jeff Kosters, K-8 Principal Jessica Ringgenberg and Business Manager Shauna Severson. Guests present: Crystal Arthurs and Sandy Arseneault.

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

Motion 2024-079 Motion by Achen, second by Sumption to approve the agenda as presented. All voted aye, carried.

No conflict of interest disclosures.

Motion 2024-080 Motion by Hart, second by Sumption to go into executive session at 5:31 p.m. for SDCL 1-25-2 (1) Personnel. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

Schlosser declared the board out of executive session at 6:43 p.m.

Motion 2024-081 Motion by Achen, second by Sumption to reimburse Crystal Arthurs 4.5 days of PTO. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

Motion 2024-082 Motion by Sumption, second by Ellwein to adjourn at 6:43 p.m. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

Rich Schlosser, President  
 Shauna Severson, Business Manager

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APRIL 16, 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 Sutton 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

ORDINANCE #267 - FIRST READING: Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Gage to approve the First Reading of Proposed Ordinance #267. Applicant Trevor Zeck requesting to rezone from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for their current use: "T. Zeck Outlot A" in the SW 1/4 of Section 25-T123N-R62W of the 5TH P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (13451 400th Ave., Henry Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

SD STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY GRANT: Brown County received an award letter from SD State Historical Society with a matching grant of up to \$20,000.00 from the Deadwood Fund to put towards the Tuckpointing Project. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve & authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Deadwood Grant Agreement forms for the SD State Historical Society Grant for the Tuckpointing Project. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

JR. FAIRBOARD MEMBERS: The Brown County Fair Board recommended to appoint the following 10 young people to the Brown County Junior Fair Board: Noah Kippley, Titus Kippley, Amara Klipfel, Izzy Loecker, Payton Mitchell, Gentry Pigors, Emily Tullar, Sascha Usselman, Sarai Washegesic and Ava Wienk. Moved by Commissioner Wiese to approve the Junior Fair Board members listed above, seconded by Dennert. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the April 9, 2024 General Meeting Minutes. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve the April 9, 2024 Brown County Board of Equalization Meeting Minutes. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Gage to approve the April 9, 2024 Consolidated Board of Equalization Meeting Minutes. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS: Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Gage to approve the following Claims/Payroll:

Claims: Insurance: SD Assoc of County Commissioners \$2,949.00. Professional Fees: CGI, LLC \$178.75; Christy Griffin-Serr Law Office \$8,333.33; Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$8,333.33; Dakota Group LLC \$5,100.00; Dean Schaefer Court Reporting \$306.00; Dependable Sanitation \$26,098.20; Dohrer Law Office, PC \$8,333.33; Faulk County Sheriff's Office \$16,740.00; Jerald M. McNeary \$8,333.33; Jeremy Lund-Siegel Barnett & Schutz, LLP \$8,333.33; John Noyes - Bantz, Gosch & Cremer \$8,333.33; Kelli Lardy \$60.45; Kristi Brandt \$207.00; Kuck Law Office \$8,333.33; LexisNexis Risk Data Mgt, LLC \$200.00; Sanford Health \$2,497.00; Sara J. Zahn \$100.00; SD Dept of Health \$1,915.00; Siegel, Barnett & Schutz \$2,385.00; Taliaferro Law Firm, PC \$8,333.33; Yankton County Sheriff's Office \$100.00; Youngberg Law, Prof. LLC \$264.50; Zylstra Investigations \$1,275.23. Publishing: Black Hills Pioneer \$15.04; Groton Daily Independent \$315.93; Moberg Tribune \$31.89; Todd County Tribune/Mellette County News \$48.92. Rentals: Aramark \$399.50. Repairs & Maintenance: Aberdeen Chrysler Center \$258.90; Crawford MS&F \$380.00; Custom Installation Solutions \$431.25; Dakota Supply Group \$940.27; Hoven Auto Repair, Inc \$28.00; Meister Mowing LLC \$1,045.00; Pierson Ford Lincoln, Inc \$1,450.93; Schwan Welding \$1,296.00; Sewer Duck, Inc \$2,034.00; Steven Lust Automotive \$175.62; Thee Glass Doktor, LLC \$150.00. Supplies: Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$137.80; Century

Business Products \$953.75; Charm-Tex, Inc \$406.80; Cole Paper Inc \$213.48; CommTech Inc \$450.00; Crawford MS&F \$22.80; Dakota Oil \$157.10; Geffdog Designs \$2,319.40; Hoven Auto Repair, Inc \$81.00; Jeff Leinen \$68.94; Kessler's \$228.41; L.G. Everist, Inc \$15,580.04; Matthew Bender & Co., Inc \$98.08; Menards \$322.00; Midstates Group \$1,960.00; Nicole Volk \$16.90; Performance Oil \$203.25; PharmChem, Inc \$607.05; Pierson Ford Lincoln, Inc \$36.00; Plumbing & Heating Wholesale, Inc \$1,036.46; Pomp's Tire Service, Inc \$133.42; Runnings \$902.84; Sander's Sew-N-Vac \$104.97; Steven Lust Automotive \$34.95; Thee Glass Doktor, LLC \$358.85; Titan Machinery \$308.70. Travel & Conference: Aaron Gasser \$162.18; Candace Rohrbach \$160.14. Utilities: CenturyLink \$1,228.22; City of Aberdeen Treasurer \$362.00; City of Hecla \$214.16; Dependable Sanitation \$360.00; James Valley Telecommunications \$209.10; Northern Electric \$86.00; Northwestern Energy \$34.54; NVC \$3,492.20; State of South Dakota PMB 0112 \$177.04; Verizon Wireless \$1,695.57. Machinery & Equipment: SD Federal Property Agency \$13,000.00. Others: Richard Kirkgasler \$15.00; Safe Harbor \$440.00; SD Dept of Revenue & Regulations \$8,136.32. Payroll: Commission \$4,753.89; Elections \$1,834.40; Auditor \$9,850.83; Treasurer \$17,246.54; SA \$34,878.96; Maintenance \$11,921.63; Assessor \$15,423.43; Register of Deeds \$10,406.84; VSO \$4,491.56; GIS \$2,790.90; IT \$9,172.67; HR \$4,960.64; Sheriff \$53,354.96; Jail \$77,452.41; Coroner \$829.37; Court Security \$8,646.65; JDC \$34,103.93; Welfare \$2,466.75; Museum \$11,248.89; Parks/Fairgrounds \$5,191.94; Fair Board \$4,336.34; 4-H \$830.79; Weed \$1,117.37; Planning & Zoning \$8,611.79; Highway \$60,021.46; Dispatch \$35,117.14; Emergency \$5,208.67; 24/7 Sobriety \$2,891.02; Landfill \$18,610.82; FICA \$27,240.18; Medicare \$6,370.82 and Discovery (HSA) \$1,739.78. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

- Transfer of Kandi Shantz from PT Brown County Jail Detention Officer to PT Brown County Jail Control Room; starting wage \$19.29/hr.; effective April 5, 2024.
- Hiring of Beth Torrence as Brown County 911 Communications Officer, FT; starting wage \$22.37/hr.; effective April 22, 2024.

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: Jimmi Lawrence for lease of the Club House on September 21, 2024 for a Wedding; Brown County Auditor's Office for lease of the Richmond Lake Youth Camp Lodge on June 17, 2024 for the Lake Region Meeting. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

TRAVEL REQUESTS: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the following travel request: Aaron Walberg & Jesse Milbrandt, Veteran's Service Office to attend the SD-DVA Mini Conference on April 24-25, 2024 in Sioux Falls, SD. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

OTHER BUSINESS: Commissioner Wiese wanted to give an acknowledgement to Brown County Communications on National Public Communications Week; the staff of our Telecommunications Center that work with our local Law Enforcement and Fire Suppression people that help serve our citizens.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage 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.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:50 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor  
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April 16, 2024

The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00pm at 120 N Main Street for their second monthly meeting for the following members present: Bahr, Babcock, Wambach, Wells, Nehls, and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Also present were Attorney Drew Johnson, Douglas Heinrich, Elizabeth Varin, and Shannon Broderson.

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Wambach to approve the agenda with the removal of cemetery road discussion and the addition of a legal matter to discuss in Executive Session. All members present voted aye.

Public comments were welcomed pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1, but none were received.

Two bids were received for the three-year soda contract from Pepsi and Coca-Cola for 2024, 2025, and 2026. Moved by Nehls and seconded by Bahr to accept the exclusive three-year contract with Coca-Cola contingent upon discussion with Chuck Padfield. All members present voted aye.

Broderson exited the meeting. The March finance report was approved on a motion by Babcock and seconded by Wells. All members present voted aye.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Wells and seconded by Wambach. All members present voted aye.

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

Payroll, \$28,506.54, Employee salaries; Administrative, \$4,743.83; Executive, \$277.05; Public Safety, \$10,941.71; Public Works, \$12,543.95; Reliance Standard Life Insurance, \$82.70, Employee insurance; WEB Water, \$19,723.68, Water services - March 2024; Payment Service Network, Inc., \$200.75, PSN online module fee - March 2024; SD Retirement System, \$13,463.44, Employee retirement; SD State Treasurer, \$8,835.46, Sales and Excise Tax - March 2024; USPS, \$296.86, Utility billing postage; Dacotah Bank, \$5,739.39, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dakotaland FCU, \$730.00, Employee savings; Dacotah Bank, \$647.90, HSA contributions; Dacotah Bank, \$3,680.06, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dacotah Bank, \$50.00, HSA contributions; Groton American Legion Post 39, \$150.00, SDML District 6 Annual Meeting room rental fee; Core & Main, \$6,428.83, Supplies for Water Dept. - valves, adapters, couplings, valve box, meter copperhorns; Geffdog Designs, LLC, \$1,917.84, Uniform purchases - City Hall; Dave's Marine, Inc., \$729.00, 6' bench in memory of Doug Ehrenberg; Groton Daily Independent, \$279.06, Publishing fees; A&B Business Solutions, Inc., \$362.24, Printer lease - City Hall; Cole Papers, Inc., \$132.41, Paper towels - Police Dept.; Heartland Energy, \$46,081.13, Power services - March 2024; WAPA, \$26,054.69, Power services - March 2024; SD 811, \$8.40, Message fees - Jan thru March, 2024; Aramark, \$67.26, Rug rent - City Hall; Irby, Inc, \$4,679.58, Connectors, washers, crossarm pins, FR jeans, socket set, blower, crimper, driver bit set, drill bit set - Electric Dept.; SD Supplemental Retirement, \$290.00, Supplemental retirement; Dakota Pump & Control, \$2,240.40, Repairs to Hanlon Lift impellers; Ken's Fair Foods, \$322.53, Fuel, bottled water, foam cups - Multiple Depts.; MJ's Sinclair, Inc., \$1,140.26, Fuel purchases - Multiple Depts.; Dacotah Bank Visa, \$3,339.47, Ink stamper, car seat covers, keyboard tray, paper, highlighters, tape, white out, sewer sample postage, water sample postage, annual electric conference registration, rubber goods testing postage, wheel brush, mouse pads, office chair, planner, District 6 Annual Meeting attendee registration, fuel purchases, stamps for mass mailing; Custom Installation Solutions, \$510.00, Installation of radar equipment into 2023 PD Tahoe; Karl Emergency Vehicles, \$14,602.95, Upfitting of 2023 PD Tahoe; James Valley Telecommunications, \$779.72, Telephone and internet services; Runnings, \$59.99, Trailer jack - Street Dept.; Farmers Union Co-op, \$1,650.00, Diesel fuel - Street Dept.; SD Gov't Finance Offices

Assoc., \$75.00, 2024 FO School registration; SD Gov't Human Resources Assoc., \$50.00, 2024 HR School registration; SDPAA, \$153.57, Coverage addition of 2024 Case Loader; Colonial Research Chemical Corp., \$969.74, Swimming pool cleaner; Altec Capital Services, LLC, \$4,598.85, Digger truck lease - 2 payments; Leidholdt Tool Sales, LLC, \$56.65, Ratchet set - City Shop; Harry Implement, Inc., \$67.69, Hydraulic hoses - Street Dept.; Menards, \$1,587.78, Storm siren batteries and concrete sealer - Multiple Depts.; NW Energy, \$45.37, Natural gas service - Water Tower; Heartland Waste Management, \$10,144.20, Garbage hauling; Branden Abeln, \$280.90, Employee meal and mileage reimbursement - Water Distribution Class in Mitchell, SD.

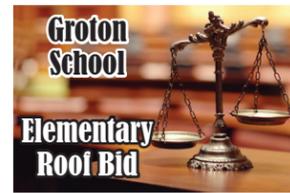
Moved by Nehls and seconded by Babcock to authorize Douglas Heinrich to attend Human Resources School and Finance Officer School from June 10 - 14, 2024, in Spearfish, SD. All members present voted aye.

Varin exited the meeting. Moved by Wambach and seconded by Wells to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal matters 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 7:35pm. All members present voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 8:24pm.

Moved by Bahr and seconded by Babcock to adjourn the meeting at 8:25pm. All members present voted aye.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor  
Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer

Published April 24, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$50.22 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23224



Invitation for Bids

The Board of Education of Groton Area School District No 06-6 of Brown County, South Dakota requests sealed bids for roof replacement of a portion of its Elementary School facility.

For an on-site review of the facility and the complete scope of work expected to be completed by September 1, 2024, contact head custodian Ryan Scepaniak at (605) 397-8381.

A bid bond shall be provided as allowed by SDCL 5-18A-35. The bid bond may be in the form of a certified check, cashier's check, or bank draft. The bid bond is to be in an amount equal to 5% of the amount bid and the check is to be certified and/or issued by either a state or national bank and made payable to Groton Area School District No 06-6.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Address bids to:  
Business Manager  
Groton Area School District  
06-6

PO Box 410  
Groton, SD 57445

Mark envelopes: "Roof Bid"  
Bids are due and will be opened at 2:00 PM on Monday, May 13, 2024 at the Groton Area High School Conference Room for examination and recommendation to the Board of Education at their regular meeting on Monday, May 13, 2024 at 7:00 PM.

Published April 24 and May 1, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$25.94 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23225

## Queen of Hearts

The seventh week of the Queen of Hearts drawing was held Thursday night. The jackpot was \$9,852. Ticket sales for the week were \$1,580 with 10 percent of that as a consolation prize. Brooks Kleffman got the consolation prize of \$158. Her number was 47 with the seven of spades.

## 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
  - 4th consecutive week is free
- 605/397-NEWS (6397)**  
PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

## AUCTIONS

INTERSTATE AUCTION CENTER. Annual Spring Lawn Mower, Garden Equipment, Recreational and Sports Auction! May 4, 10:00am. 3 miles east of SF, exit 402, Brandon, SD. Full listing: auctionzip.com, 605-331-4550.

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# 2024 Junior-Senior Prom ~ Under the City Lights



**Junior Class President  
Gretchen Dinger escorted by  
Christian Ehresmann.**



**Senior Class President  
Hannah Monson escorted by  
Aeydon Johnson.**



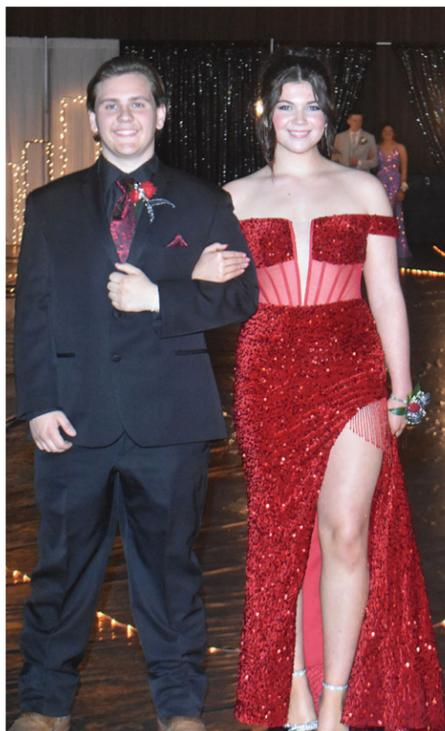
**Emily Clark  
escorted by Jayden  
Schwan.**



**Shea Jandel  
escorted by Payton Mitchell.**



**Claire Heinrich  
escorted by David Van-**



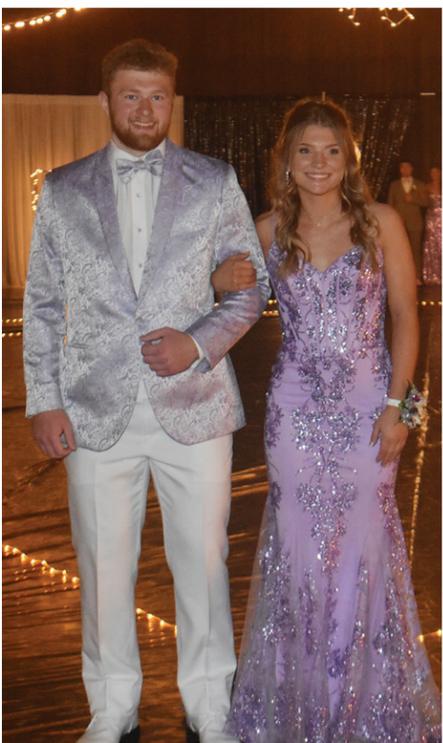
**Paisley Bray  
escorted by Drew Thur-**



**Cadence Feist escorted by  
Blake Lord.**



**Ashley Johnson escorted  
by Logan Warrington.**



**Carly Guthmiller escorted  
by Holden Sippel.**



**Sydney Leicht escorted by  
Dillon Abeln.**



**Faith Traphagen escorted by  
Colby Dunker.**



**Ashlyn Sperry escorted by  
Michael Powers Dinger.**



Rylee Dunker escorted by Turner Thompson.



Hannah Sandness escorted by Kellen Antonsen.



Taryn Traphagen escorted by Blake Pauli.



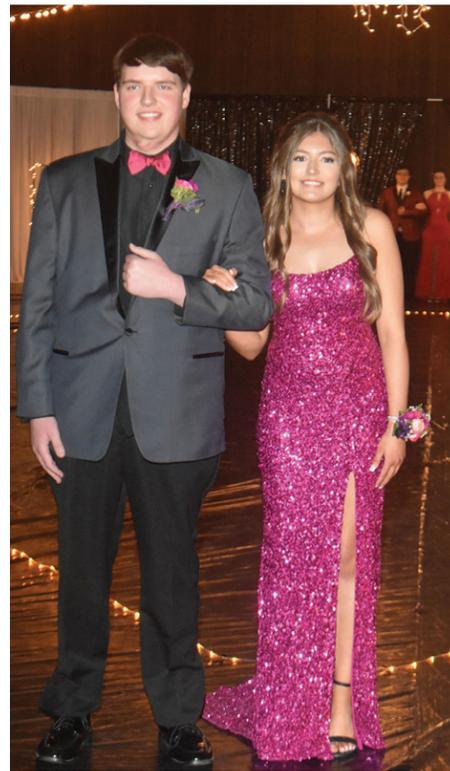
Addison Wade escorted by Tristan Kampa.



Brooklyn Hansen escorted by Ryder Johnson.



Anna Fjeldheim escorted by Korbin Kucker.



Talli Wright escorted by Logan Pearson.



Cadance Tullis escorted by Jaeger Kampa.



Camryn Kurtz escorted by Gavin Kroll.



Rebecca Poor escorted by Axel Warrington.



Anna Bisbee (right) and her friend, Mikayla Browning.



Addison Evans escorted by Logan Ringgenberg.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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**Abby Jensen escorted by Jordan Grieben.**



**Karrah-Jo Johnson escorted by Daniel Feist.**



**Laila Roberts escorted by Isaak Hunter.**



**Kennedy Hansen escorted by Taylor Diegel.**



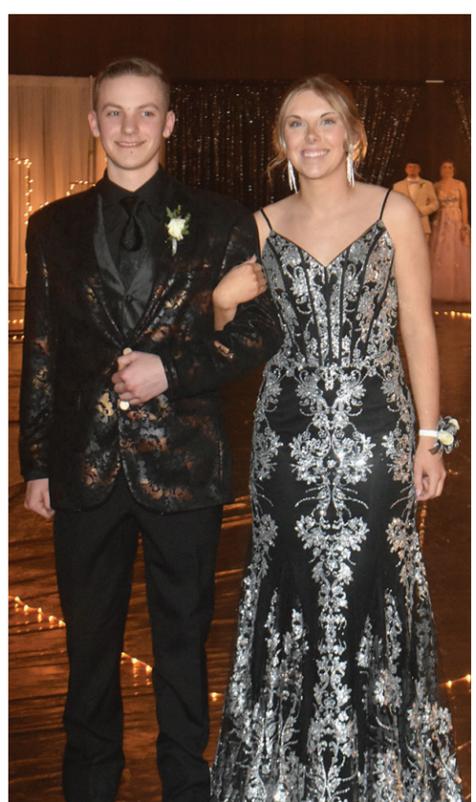
**Karsyn Jangula escorted by Gavin Englund.**



**Carly Gilbert escorted by Easten Ekern.**



**Morgan Sumption escorted by Braxton Imrie.**



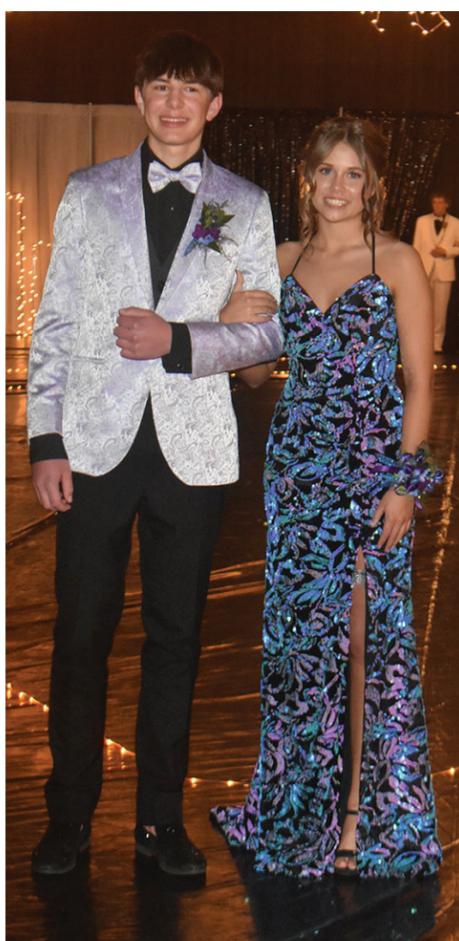
**Emma Schinkel escorted by Layne Hanson.**



**Taylor Thorstenson escorted by Kaden Kampa.**



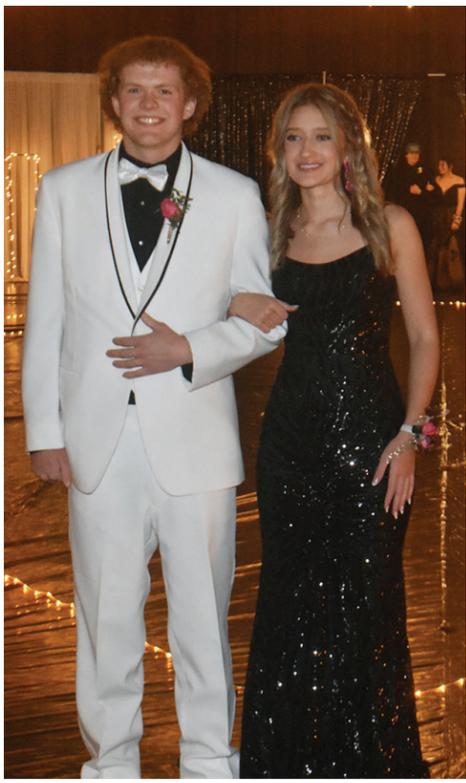
**Ella Bray escorted by Nick Morris.**



**Jaydin Stiles escorted by Carter Simon.**



**Faith Flihs escorted by Alexander Rupp.**



**Brenna Imrie escorted by Caden McInerney.**



**Karlie McKane escorted by Tristin McGannon.**



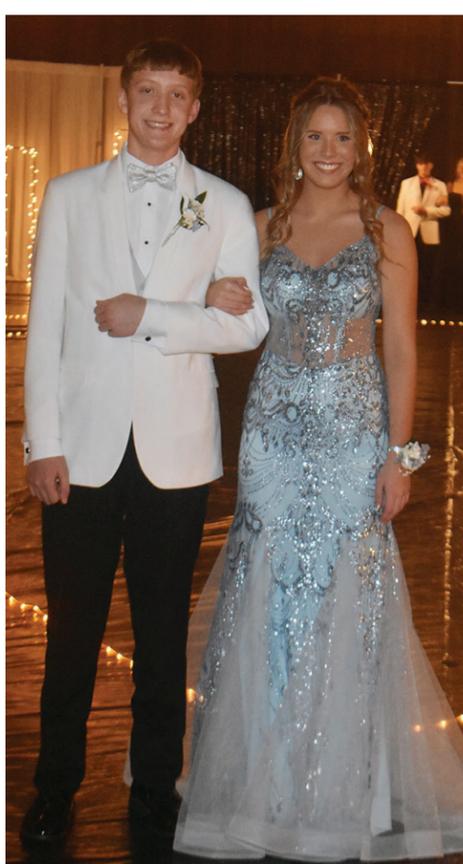
**Kayleigh McGannon escorted by Dreston Dennert.**



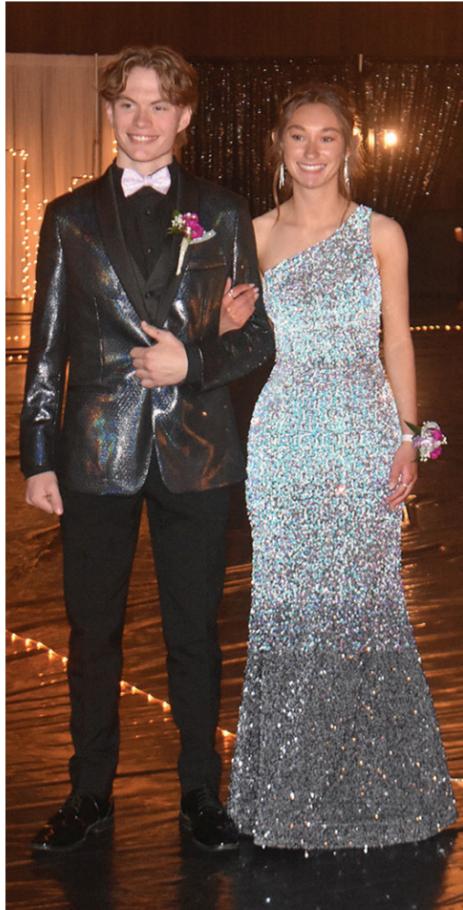
**Sahrara Pardick escorted by Corbin Weismantel.**



**Elizabeth Flihs escorted by Lane Tietz.**



**Lydia Meier escorted by Brody Lord.**



**Kayla Lehr escorted by Kalen Godel.**



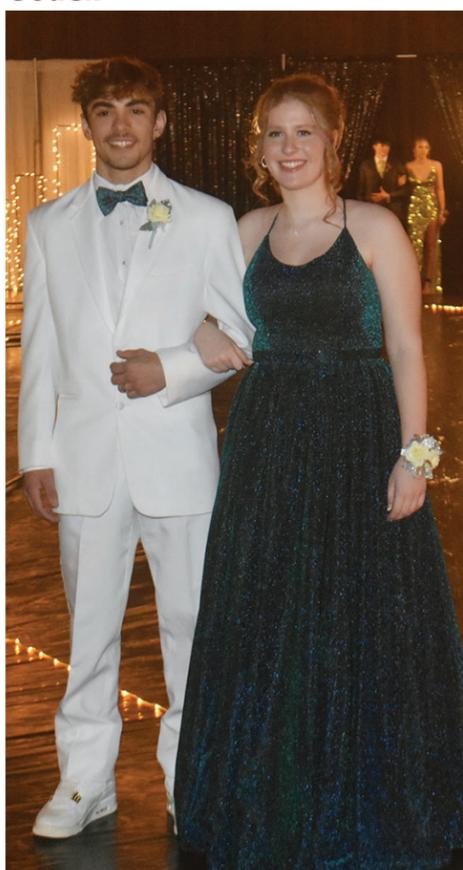
**Emma Kutter escorted by Cason Okroi.**



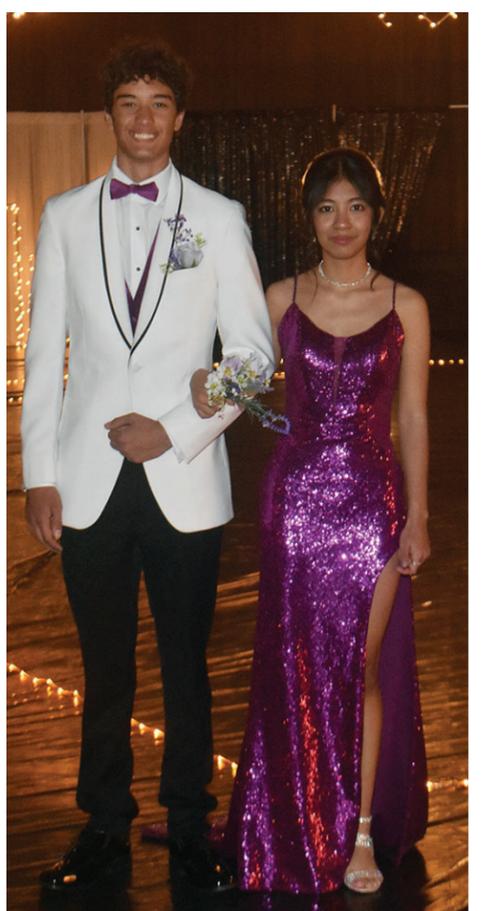
**Ava Wienk escorted by Dylan Wald.**



**Emily Overacker escorted by Carson Herrick.**



**Abby Yeaton escorted by Skyler Godel.**



**Divya Pelmelay escorted by Julian Rodriguez.**



**Shaela McGannon escorted by Carter Williams.**

## Guthmiller wins at Milbank Tournament

Carly Guthmiller won the Milbank Invitational golf tournament held Tuesday. She outdistanced the runner-up by three strokes to win with a score of 89. Carlee Johnson also medaled with a seventh place finish and a 100 score. Carly Gilbert was 12th with a 108, Mia Crank was 23rd with a 125, Rylie Rose was 24th with a score of 125 and Claire Schuelke placed 25th with a score of 130.

Madison won the meet with a 384 followed by Aberdeen Roncalli with 402, Groton Area with 422, Sioux Valley with 460 and Milbank with 469.

## Tracy is double winner at Rob Luecke Track Meet

Groton placed first in three events at the Rob Luecke Track Meet held Tuesday in Groton. Tracy won both the 100m and 200m dash while the girls 800m relay team also took first.

### Mens Results

**100 Meters:** 1. Keegen Tracy, 11.23, 11. Lane Tietz, 11.94

**200 Meters:** 1. Keegen Tracy, 24.64, 11. Gage Sippel, 26.70

**300m Hurdles:** 14. Tristin McGannon, 53.28

**4x100 Relay:** 9. Colby Dunker, Gage Sippel, Lane Tietz, Tristin McGannon, 50.13

**4x200 Relay:** 7. Colby Dunker, Gage Sippel, Tristin McGannon, Blake Pauli, 1:43.69

**SMR 1600m:** 5. Lane Tietz, Colby Dunker, Keegen Tracy, Blake Pauli, 3:56.81

**Shot Put:** 2. Logan Ringgenberg, 41-06.75, 5. Holden Sippel, 39-03.25, 10. Karter Moody, 36-04.00, 31. Drew Thurston, 24-08.50

**Discus:** 5. Logan Ringgenberg, 123-07, 6. Holden Sippel, 121-10, 16. Karter Moody, 96-02, 30. Drew Thurston, 69-00

**Javelin:** 2. Colby Dunker, 132-01, 13. Karter Moody, 102-05, 17. Holden Sippel, 96-09, 19. Drew Thurston, 91-06, 28. Logan Ringgenberg, 65-07

**Triple Jump:** 16. Tristin McGannon, 30-06.00

### Womens Results

**100 Meters:** 6. Laila Roberts, 13.34, 7. Rylee Dunker, 13.38, 23. Elizabeth Fliehs, 14.44, 27. Kayla Lehr, 14.61

**200 Meters:** 3. Laila Roberts, 29.54, 8. Elizabeth Fliehs, 31.08, 21. Kayla Lehr, 32.78

**400 Meters:** 8. Ashlynn Warrington, 1:11.36, 10. Elizabeth Fliehs, 1:13.63

**800 Meters:** 2. Faith Traphagen, 2:41.19

**100m Hurdles:** 2. McKenna Tietz, 17.94, 10. Talli Wright, 18.88, 16. Emerlee Jones, 19.69 18. Hannah Sandness, 20.15, 22. Teagan Hanten, 20.52

**300m Hurdles:** 4. McKenna Tietz, 53.83, 5. Emerlee Jones, 54.14, 9. Talli Wright, 56.04, 16. Teagan Hanten, 1:00.83, 19. Hannah Sandness, 1:08.44

**4x100 Relay:** 12. Laila Roberts, Rylee Dunker, McKenna Tietz, Jerica Locke, 1:01.63

**4x200 Relay:** 1. Laila Roberts, Rylee Dunker, Jerica Locke, Kella Tracy, 1:54.84

**4x800 Relay:** 3. Taryn Traphagen, Faith Traphagen, Kella Tracy, Ashlynn Warrington, 10:23.45

**SMR 1600m:** 4. Kella Tracy, Rylee Dunker, Jerica Locke, Taryn Traphagen, 4:52.35

**Shot Put:** 5. Emma Kutter, 31-01.00, 16. Faith Fliehs, 26-06.50, 24. Avery Crank, 24-07.75, 38. Emma Davies, 19-02.00

**Discus:** 12. Faith Fliehs, 84-10, 13. Emma Kutter, 80-04, 25. Avery Crank, 68-05.50, 39. Emma Davies, 46-00

**Javelin:** 4. Avery Crank, 80-07, 13. Ashley Johnson, 64-00, 14. Emma Kutter, 63-01, 17. Abby Yeadon, 35-04, 18. Emma Davies, 31-07

**High Jump:** 9. Emerlee Jones, 4-02.00

**Long Jump:** 24. Teagan Hanten, 11-05.75

**Triple Jump:** 12. Emerlee Jones, 28-00.00, 15. Teagan Hanten, 27-01.50

## Groton Area Tigers JV Come Up Short Against W.I.N. Jr Varsity

Groton Area Tigers JV could not keep pace with W.I.N. Jr Varsity 7-4 on Monday.

W.I.N. Jr Varsity jumped out to the lead in the top of the fourth inning after Tristan Gosch singled, scoring one run, Alec Mikkelsen drew a walk, scoring one run, and Jacob Schmidt tripled, scoring three runs.

Mac Heinz earned the win for W.I.N. Jr Varsity. They gave up one hit and zero runs over three innings, striking out seven and walking four. Alex Abeln took the loss for Groton Area Tigers JV. The starting pitcher went three and two-thirds innings, giving up four runs on seven hits, striking out three and walking four.

Isaiah Scepaniak went 1-for-2 at the plate as the outfielder led the team with two runs batted in. Nick Groeblichhoff went 2-for-2 at the plate to lead Groton Area Tigers JV in hits. Groton Area Tigers JV had a strong eye at the plate, amassing six walks for the game. Groton Area Tigers JV ran wild on the base paths, accumulating four stolen bases for the game.

W.I.N. Jr Varsity amassed 12 hits in the game.

Schmidt, TJ Wiedebush, Lincoln Kroll, and Gosch each collected two hits for W.I.N. Jr Varsity. Schmidt led W.I.N. Jr Varsity with three runs batted in. The infielder went 2-for-4 on the day. Braydon Kroll led W.I.N. Jr Varsity with three walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, collecting nine walks for the game.

## Groton Area Tigers JV Surge Past W.I.N. Jr Varsity Thanks To Big Second Inning

Groton Area Tigers JV scored six runs in the second inning, which helped them defeat W.I.N. Jr Varsity 8-1 on Monday. Lincoln Krause singled, scoring one run, Karsten Fliehs drew a walk, scoring one run, Jarrett Erdmann doubled, scoring two runs, and Isaiah Scepaniak singled, scoring two runs.

Groton Area Tigers JV got on the board in the bottom of the first inning after Fliehs singled, and Braden Fliehs walked, each scoring one run.

TC Schuster earned the win for Groton Area Tigers JV. They surrendered six hits and one run (zero earned) over five innings, striking out seven and walking two. Lincoln Kroll took the loss for W.I.N. Jr Varsity. The lefty went one and one-third innings, allowing seven runs on two hits, striking out three and walking seven.

Krause, Fliehs, Scepaniak, and Erdmann each collected one hit for Groton Area Tigers JV. Scepaniak and Erdmann each drove in two runs for Groton Area Tigers JV. Alex Abeln led Groton Area Tigers JV with two walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, accumulating eight walks for the game.

### King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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



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Mac Heinz led W.I.N. Jr Varsity with one run batted in. The infielder went 1-for-2 on the day. Leadoff hitter Kroll led W.I.N. Jr Varsity with two hits in three at bats.

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# School Board

Continued from front

to the 2023-2024 total of 27 students. Part of the drop was because of a large group having graduated in 2023. However, the high school band will have close to 40 next year. Many individuals and ensembles have earned excellent and superior ratings at regional competitions. Yeigh also told the board that it has been difficult to schedule individual lessons because of the large number of students playing instruments. She asked the board to consider finding a part-time lesson teacher. She also told the board she is concerned about the future of the show choir due to a decline in the number of students. Yeigh floated the idea of partnering with Langford for that program.

o Art Teacher Janene Harry reviewed changes and progress made in the arts program. A special-needs art class was added this year, and the district is looking at making it a continuing venture. In addition, middle school and high school arts students made Christmas cards for regional nursing homes. Students made close to 100 cards, each with messages from students. Staff at those facilities told Harry that residents really appreciated it, and for some residents, it was the only card they got during the holiday. There are two more chances for people to see the students' art work, during the middle school spring concert on April 25 and the high school spring concert and award night on May 2.

o K-12 Physical Education/Health Teacher Kyle Gerlach told the school board he is going back over lessons from earlier in the school year to see how well elementary students are retaining the information. For health classes, he has spent significant time covering emotional and mental health. Gerlach has been working with K-12 School Counselor Emily Neely to address suicide prevention and bullying with ninth graders, and has been utilizing lessons and videos to review topics such as emotions

and tobacco/alcohol abuse. Gerlach added he is somewhat limited at the elementary school because of space. The middle/high school classes will also need updated textbooks that address issues such as vaping, cyber bullying and more.

o Physical Education Teacher Lynette Grieve told the board she works with junior kindergarteners, kindergarteners, first graders and second graders on balance, exercise, flexibility, agility, muscle strength and more. She works on two- to three-week units that cover things like kickball, Frisbee, soccer, team dodgeball, corner kick ball, amoeba tag and more. She added it's amazing how many students don't know what a somersault is.

o Athletic Director Alexa Schuring discussed what has been going on since she took over the director position at the beginning of the school year. There were 43 football players, 10 boys golfers, 17 boys soccer players, 18 girls soccer players, ten cross country runners, 51 volleyball players, 12 cheerleaders, 38 girl basketball players, 32 boys basketball players, 27 wrestlers, 38 female track athletes, 27 male track athletes and eight girl golfers. "I am very proud of what our athletes and coaches have accomplished," she said. That includes showings at state championship tournaments, the first Groton Area Spirit of Su Award winner and the Spirit of Six winners. Schuring added that she's gone back to having athletic award nights, including one in the fall and one earlier this month for winter sports. That way, she said, all the athletes can be recognized. "Overall I love my position," she said. "Some days it's a lot, but overall I'm very grateful."

• The school board approved the agreement negotiated with the Groton Teachers Association and issued teacher contracts. Signed contracts are due back to the district by Friday, May 3.

• The school board approved a canvass of votes for the district opt-out election held April 9. More than 2,500 voters are regis-

tered within the district boundaries, and 842 votes were cast for the opt-out election.

- Elizabeth Varin

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 "House" actor Omar
- 5 Nick and Nora's dog
- 9 Mountain pass
- 12 Mend socks
- 13 "— to differ!"
- 14 Flamenco cheer
- 15 Marmaduke, for one
- 17 Allow
- 18 Realm
- 19 Protuberances
- 21 French article
- 22 Filled fully
- 24 Gear teeth
- 27 Understood
- 28 Hoodwink
- 31 Scary cry

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
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54				55					56		

- 53 Taj Mahal site
- 54 Unwell
- 55 Melville mariner
- 56 Detergent
- 9 Pricey powder
- 10 Sheltered
- 11 Favorites
- 16 Three, in Rome
- 20 British ref. work
- 22 To date
- 23 Perched on
- 24 "NCIS" ainer
- 25 Sound of delight
- 26 Bargain
- 27 Mentor
- 29 Zadora of "Hairspray"
- 30 Roswell visitors
- 35 Slugger Williams
- 37 Bamboo eaters
- 39 Molten rock
- 40 Some
- 41 LP player
- 42 Israeli airline
- 43 Basra resident
- 44 Shakespeare villain
- 45 Actress Sedgwick
- 46 Pronto
- 49 — -di-dah
- 50 Mouths (Lat.)

### DOWN

- 1 Rim
- 2 Italian cheese, for short
- 3 Ready, as for surgery
- 4 Slowpokes
- 5 Staffer
- 6 Govt. loan agcy.
- 7 Toe count
- 8 Represent-ative

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# Groton Citywide 2024 Spring Cleanup

## April 27-May 3

**ALL ITEMS NEED TO BE DROPPED OFF BEFORE 10AM ON 5/3/24!!**



Bring anything you wish to dispose of to the City Shop-10 E Railroad Ave starting April 27<sup>th</sup>.

Please place items in the appropriate pile.

**RESIDENTIAL ONLY!!**

Keep Metal, Tires, Paint, Batteries & Chemicals Separate

Pickup can be arranged for Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup> to Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> ENDING AT 10AM by calling City Hall 605-397-8422.

### GROTON HISTORIC JAIL RESTORATION BENEFIT BRUNCH



### SUNDAY, APRIL 28TH 8AM-1PM COMMUNITY CENTER

## SEE TOBACCO TO EXTINCTION.

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- Assistive Technology\*

\*Services vary depending on where you transition

Dear EarthTalk: Woe the pancakes! Is maple syrup really at risk due to global warming?  
-- B. Simmons, Middlebury, VT

Maple syrup, that staple of the American breakfast table, is not only a cherished product across North America, but also plays a significant role in the economies of Quebec and Vermont. This industry generates hundreds of millions of dollars yearly and supports thousands of livelihoods. But its very foundation is under threat from global warming. The disruption in the switch between cold nights and warm days of early spring, crucial for sap flow, poses a severe challenge to the industry's future.

The organization, Audubon Vermont tells how "a warming climate also presents challenges in shortening the length of the sugaring season"—a critical period for syrup production. This shift not only affects the timing but also threatens to make annual production levels unpredictable. For one, studies project that by the end of the century, the sugaring season could start up to a month earlier, with significant variability in production especially affecting regions at the southern and northern limits of maple tree ranges.

The warming climate is not just affecting the timing of sap flow, but also its quality. As maple trees undergo warmer temperatures and extended growing seasons, they consume more sugar for growth, potentially reducing the sap's sugar content. This necessitates more sap to produce the same amount of syrup, thus increasing effort and resources needed for production. Also, the changing climate may pave the way for invasive species that threaten maple trees, further complicating the challenges.

The impacts of climate change on maple syrup production are not uniform across North America. "Folks who retrieve sap from maple trees in the far Northeastern region will get a longer sap flow season while those in the Southeastern regions will see a reduction," says David Cleaves, Climate Change Advisor for the U.S. Forest Service. This geographic shift underscores the need for flexible and adaptive management strategies to sustain the industry with the changing climate conditions.

Despite these prevalent challenges, there is hope through adaptation and innovation. Ensuring the health of maple forests and maintaining tree diversity are pivotal strategies. Innovations in sap collection technology, for example, are allowing for sap gathering at less-than-optimal temperatures, showcasing the industry's resilience and adaptability.

Beyond the challenges posed by climate change, the industry also faces threats from environmental degradation and economic factors that could further jeopardize its sustainability. Economically, the industry must contend with fluctuating market demands and the risk of cheaper, synthetic alternatives undermining traditional maple syrup. Additionally, the labor-intensive nature of sap collection and syrup production may face challenges in attracting and retaining the necessary workforce. These multifaceted threats require an innovative approach to safeguard the industry, emphasizing not only climate adaptation but also environmental conservation and economic resilience.

.. 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).



**Global warming has thrown seasonal predictability out of whack and the maple syrup "industry" is reeling...** Credit: Pexels.com.

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## "Dry skin? Join the club"

An exceedingly common question I get in clinic, especially in the heart of a South Dakota winter, is how to remedy dry skin. And the questions aren't just in clinic; my own kids, family, friends, everyone seems to have an occasional problem with dry and irritated skin.

Dry skin is something we are all familiar with; if your dry spots come with a rash or anything else unusual, it may be worth showing it to your primary care provider, as it could be something else entirely. Eczema, a common inflammatory skin condition, often goes along with and is made worse by dryness.

Soothing your dry skin doesn't have to be fancy or expensive. There are a handful of tricks we can all use to help ourselves when it comes to dryness. The first advice is to avoid things that cause your skin to become drier. For many, that means to bathe less. That's right; I said it: bathe less.

Every time you bathe or shower, it washes away natural oils on the skin. Often our instinct when our skin becomes irritated is to wash it more, but in this case more is not better. Of course, I'm not asking you to forego hygiene entirely. But most people can probably bathe every other or every third day. This is especially true of babies and kids who struggle with eczema – cut down the daily baths.

When we do bathe or shower, we can modify factors that will worsen dry skin. The hotter the water, the drier the skin afterward, so try lowering the temperature a bit. Less time spent in the bath or shower can help. And be mindful of the soap or cleanser you use – to reduce dryness, use less soap and a gentler soap. For kids who love the tub, skip the bubble bath and just put some gentle soap on a washcloth at the end of the bath when it is time to wash up.

After that bath or shower, how do you choose from the hundreds of creams or lotions out there claiming to soothe dry skin? The dermatologists I know love products with petroleum jelly (i.e. Vaseline®) for dry skin; remember, I said this didn't need to be fancy! Stick with fragrance-free products and keep it simple. Whatever you choose, slather it on as soon as the skin is dry.

Dry skin affects many of us, but I hope these tips will help the next time you find yourself irritated with this common condition.

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



**Kelly Evans-Hullinger, MD**