# The Groton Independent Vol. 141 No. 51 & Groton SD & Warfer

Vol. 141 No. 51 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024 ♦ Established in 1889



**Hunger Action Month** 

Members of Enrich Groton gathered at their monthly board meeting held September 10th and acknowledged Hunger Action Day by wearing orange. Pictured here are Enrich Secretary April Abeln, Vice Chairman Topper Tastad, Treasurer Nancy Larsen, Kari Bartling, CCCT Manager Diane Warrington, Pantry Manager Pat Miller and Karyn Babcock (Missing is Chairman Lance Larsen). September is Hunger Action Month and Mayor Hanlon did a proclamation for Hunger Action Day held September 10th. (Courtesy Photo)





#### **New Welcome Banners**

Welcome banners are getting hung in the Groton SD Community! Banners will be placed along Hwy 12 and Main Street with assistance from the Groton Electric Department. The Chamber is fundraising for this project by selling apparel until November 22nd. Inquire at City Hall if interested in supporting this project! (Courtesy Photo)

#### **Fellowship of Christian Students** have kickoff event

On Sunday, Fellowship of Christian Students (FCS) had their kickoff meeting for the year. Students opened up with prayer and announcements into voting for school personnel they would like to see in the Dunk Tank at the soccer game on Homecoming Friday Sept 20th. Next a video was played of American Olympians who were bold in their faith, which led to students holding their own opening ceremonies with the 'flaming torch' to competing in races out on the football field. Medals were handed out at the closing ceremony along with the announcement of who would be in the dunk tank.



Opening Ceremony: students walked out with their team and banners. (Courtesy Photo)



Flaming Torch: Student leader JD Schwan carried out the 'flaming torch.' (Courtesy Photo)

### Football field improvements, potential funding issues discussed at school board meeting

by Elizabeth Varin

What is on your wish list for the football stadium in Groton?

Groton resident Tom Woods asked the Groton Area School District board if he and his wife Patti could explore grant opportunities that could be used to improve the school's football field and track facility.

The impetus for Woods was the crows nest, the area the announcer, media, coaches and others sit during the game. The building is located on the west side of the football field and track.

"Everybody knows what it looks like on the outside. We drive by it all the time," Woods said. "But if you haven't, I would like each and every one of you to go over to the crows nest, go inside, go up the ladder, lift the trap door and just look at where we're asking our volunteers as well as the people who visit our community to go to. ... To put it nicely, it's outlived its usefulness. And to put it bluntly, it's not safe.

"Today I'm here to ask for the board's blessing to research an upgrade to the football field to make it a multi-use facility, as well as the soccer field," he said. "I'm not asking you to approve anything. What I'm simply asking is that on behalf of the school district, my wife, Patti, and I be given permission to research and organize the costs, to apply for grants for improvements. If the board decides to move forward with upgrading those types of things, my wife and I would also like to volunteer to spearhead fundraising support for that as well."

Woods cited some grant opportunities, including one through T-Mobile with a deadline to apply in early October.

Woods said his vision would be to put together a wish list of what the board and community want at the field, get an estimated cost for those projects and see what funding opportunities



The existing crows nest at the football field that has outlived its usefulness. Some media, including GDILIVE.COM, have to sit outside in the fan bleachers on the east side as there is no room in the existing facil-

ity. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

#### Like an Angel

They seemed to know. The swallows began an arial ballet outside my living room window the moment I opened my laptop to mourn. Ten of them, maybe 15 acrobats engaged in a celebration, perhaps. Maybe a tribute.

It transported me back to my grandmother's last day. I was wheeling her along in the sunshine outside of the hospital when a brave sparrow



That's
Life
by Tony Bender

alighted, hopping cheerfully behind us. They're said to be heavenly messengers. Or escorts. In morning, Grandma Spilloway was gone.

Patty was a middle child, "The Quiet Beatle," of the Bender sextet. There were cliques among us kids, matters of age and gender. Sherry and Patty and Scott and Joel. Mike and I were bookends, a decade apart. I'm the oldest. Those natural separations, combined with Patty's quiet demeanor, left us less connected than our other siblings.

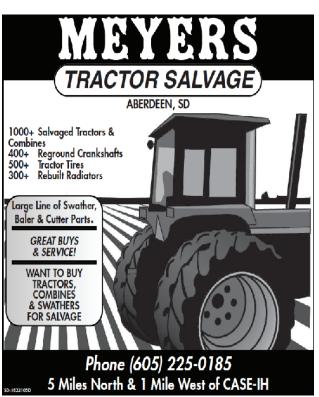
That changed four years ago, when we were both diagnosed with cancer about the same time. Patty with bladder cancer, me, esophageal cancer. We always found a way to hover conspiratorially together every holiday to encourage each other and laugh in our own secret club, thumbing our noses at death. In our texts, we talked about being in the same canoe, paddling like hell. The Defiant Ones.

It's curious that it's only after they're gone that we begin to assess, to piece together the puzzle that our beloved ones were. There were clues along the way that Patricia Jan Roeszler was more than the wallflower she appeared to be.

I've been thinking about that since she graduated to the next dimension, replaying memories of her that appear like flickering film. She was deceptively resolute from the beginning, yet floating serenely in my memory of her in a softball uniform. In my mind, I see her chin thrust forward.

Our's was a law and order supper table. The usual edicts. If you put it on your plate, you ate it. "One of these days you're going to have to eat gopher tails," Dad groused at even a sniff of a cuisine-inspired protest. But when we had





chili, there was always a neat pile of kidney beans subversively stashed beside Patty's bowl. Dad pretended not to notice. She was never challenged. We instinctively recognized her power.

We teased her for years about the volume of her cries as a baby. Her mouth would open, eclipse the rest of her face like a cartoon, and the legend was that when she did, firetrucks would pull up. From as far away as Hecla, even. There's something about genetics. When my daughter India was born 23 years ago, she wailed 45 minutes straight. "Can we put her back?" I asked.

Patty never really got to be a kid. She was a teen bride and a teen mother. I was convinced a wedding at 16 was a bad idea; it felt forced— I was wrong about that—and it led to one of my greatest regrets. I didn't go to the wedding.

Patty and Dennis were married nearly 46 years. The rest of us? Uh, five divorces, among us. To quote a long-forgot ancestor, "You don't always know as much as you think you do."

Mom and I went to see her the day before everyone got back. Dennis and a home hospice nurse were talking in the sun, eyes glistening, leaves gleaming. Flying things swooped through Curacao syrup and marshmallows above. All the things we miss when we're smelling the roses.

She hadn't been responsive for a while. Her room was too dim. I edged the curtain back a couple of inches. Darkness, your time will come. But not yet. Not today.

Mom sat on one side of the bed. I sat on the other, both of us softly stroking her arms, rubbing her shoulders. Weeping.

Occasionally, Patty groaned, trying to fight her way through the fog of dimensions and morphine. Suddenly, with a determined Herculean effort, she sat up abruptly, eyes open wider than possible, searching mine. "What's the matter!" she asked urgently. My eyes were locked with Patty's but I could feel Mom watching. There was an urgency to her question, but I wanted to make sure I answered correctly. I paused for forever. "Nothing, Patty," I said finally, so we could all breathe again. "Everything is exactly the way it's supposed to be."

We let the hospice nurses have their time. The holy ones. The lead nurse told us it could be that night. Maybe a couple days, but not much more. Her son, Chris, and his family would be there the next day, and her soul sister, Sherry. Scott and Mike.

I looked in one last time before we left. The tunnel of light from the window cast a glow on her swept-back hair, and even though cancer had ravaged her body, melted away the pounds, the light revealed reality. She was breathtakingly beautiful.

She looked like an angel.

© Tony Bender, 2024



# Weekly Vikings Roundup By Jordan Wright

Despite fumbling the ball on their first drive of the game, the Minnesota Vikings couldn't have asked for a better start to their 2024 NFL season. In the past, the Vikings rarely dominated against inferior opponents, but on Sunday they went into East Rutherford, NJ and beat the Giants 28-6. This was the first time the Vikings won a game by 17 or more points since week 15, 2019 (for comparison, every other team in the league has at least three wins of 17+ in that time frame).

Sam Darnold had an efficient game, completing 19 of 24 passes for 208 yards, two touchdowns and one interception. And even though there was constant pressure up the middle from Giants' defensive tackle Dexter Lawrence, he was only sacked once. Darnold did exactly what was asked of him, getting the ball out quickly and into the hands of the Vikings' playmakers, plus a few deep shots thrown in there to keep the defense honest.

Aaron Jones proved today he still has plenty left in the tank. He ran for 96 yards on only 14 carries (6.7ypc) and found the endzone in the first quarter. He ran with purpose, lowering his shoulder and fighting for extra yards every run. Jones also caught both passes thrown his way for an additional 15 yards. The Vikings once again have a respectable ground game, which will make life easier for everyone – if teams load the box to stop the run, the Vikings have Justin Jefferson and Jordan Addison who can make defenses pay.

Justin Jefferson had four catches for 59 yards and a touchdown, Jordan Addison had three for 35 yards, and Nailor only had one catch but it was a 21-yard score. With the Vikings up by three scores in the second half, the Vikings didn't need to pass much. However, there is undoubtedly a connection forming between Darnold and Jefferson which should only improve week after week.

The Vikings' offense was efficient, but the defense was suffocating, limiting the Giants to only 136 yards through three quarters. Four players – Pat Jones (2), Harrison Phillips (1), Andrew Van Ginkel (1), and Dallas Turner (1) – combined for five sacks. Harrison Smith added another interception to his Hall of Fame resume (he has 35 now for his career), and newcomer Andrew Van Ginkel had the play of the game when he intercepted Daniel Jones and returned it for a touchdown.

The player of the game on offense was Aaron Jones. His aggressive play style was infectious, and he brings a physicality to the offense that has been missing in recent years. I'm excited to watch him this season, let's just hope he can stay healthy.

The player of the game on defense was Andrew Van Ginkel. He was all over the field Sunday, accumulating four tackles, a sack, and a pick-six that put the game out of reach. Losing Danielle Hunter in the offseason was a blow to the defense, but now the team has three capable pass rushers who can fill that void

Looking ahead, the Vikings have their home opener against the San Francisco 49ers this Sunday at noon. The Giants were a good warm-up, but the 49ers are one of the best teams in the league, so this will be a true test for the Vikings. The key to the game will be Brian Flores' defensive game plan against an offense that features Christian McCaffrey, Deebo Samuel, Brandon Aiyuk, and George Kittle.



#### **Leaving Our Rural Community Better Than We Found It:**

do, leave it better than you found it."

The Call to Action for Every Resident When I was a child, my mom ingrained in me the mantra: "Whatever you



**Paul Jensen** 

DAKOTA

RESOURCES

That statement resonates daily in my work as a community coach with rural leaders. As I help these rural leaders uncover a vision for their community, I often hear the greatest generation reminisce about their community's vibrant past. They express a dream of returning to those days. The reality for most of us, though, is that we never experienced the vibrant community they describe. Instead, as new leaders were handed a community with shuttered Main Street buildings, aging infrastructure, unkempt facilities, and dilapidated houses.

Imagine, however, if each of us committed to leaving our rural community better than we found it. What would we need to do or do differently?

Many of the community and economic development leaders I coach have a vision for their community. They want to leave it better than they found it. They understand that if we want our rural communities not just to survive but to truly thrive, every resident — starting with themselves — must commit to taking positive action. Our actions today will decide the future we choose to create and leave to the next generation of leaders. Here's how each of us can make a meaningful difference, starting today.

First, we must immediately work to reconnect as a community. A thriving rural area is one where neighbors know each other, engage in critical conversations, value collaborative partnerships, and community pride uplifts us all. Isolation weakens us; connection strengthens us. Get involved today — volunteer with a local organization, organize a neighborhood block party, or reach out to someone in need. These acts aren't just nice ideas; they are critical for fostering a sense of belonging and shared responsibility. If we don't engage with each other, we risk losing the bonds that make our community unique and strong.

Second, we must seize every opportunity to promote "possibility thinking." We can do this by creating a community that learns about available resources. The community should also grow our skills and share what we know. Imagine a rural community where each of us contributes to a pool of knowledge, where local innovation thrives, and where every child dreams big because they see opportunity everywhere. We can't build a stronger community if we don't invest in ourselves and our youth.

Third, we must beautify our community. A welcoming environment fosters pride in every resident and visitor. Imagine every street lined with colorful flower beds, parks filled with trees, and public spaces alive with art and creativity. Every one of us can contribute to this vision. Plant a garden in your front yard or around public spaces. Add a fresh coat of paint to a building that needs it. Organize community mural projects that show our shared heritage and values. Host clean-up drives or tree planting days. These efforts don't just make our surroundings more attractive — they inspire a collective sense of care, pride, and respect for

Finally, collaboration is essential, and it starts with you. Think of what we can achieve together: local businesses bustling with support and a network of neighbors working hand in hand for a common cause. Reach out to local organizations, businesses, and leaders today to propose or support projects that benefit a thriving community. Collective action multiplies our efforts and creates lasting impact. We do have the power to leave our community better

than we found it. Our possibility thinking and deliberate efforts can make it a place where the economy is resilient, the spirit of community is unbreakable, and the next generation of leaders will inherit a community they are proud to call home.

The Cómmunity Coach. Having a passion for rural community leadership and development is what drives Paula Jensen's personal and professional life. Paula lives in her hometown of Langford, South Dakota, population 318+. She serves as a Strategic Doing practitioner, grant writer and community coach with Dakota Resources based in Renner, South Dakota Dakota Resources is a mission-driven 501c3 Community Development Financial Institution working to connect capital and capacity to empower rural communities. Contact her at paula@dakotaresources.org. Read more at https://paulajensenblog.

#### **Homecoming Week starts Sept. 16**

Monday, Sept. 16: Cross Country at Webster, 2 p.m.; JV football hosts Milbank, 4 p.m.; Coronation, 7:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, Sept. 17:** Boys golf at Redfield, 10 a.m.; JH football hosts Milbank (7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m.); Soccer hosts Dakota Valley (girls at 4 p.m., boys at 5:30 p.m.)

Thursday, Sept. 19: Boys golf at Hankinson, N.D., (Tiospa Zina hosting), 10 a.m.; Cross Country at Lee Park Golf Course, Aberdeen, 4 p.m.; Volleyball hosts Clark/Willow Lake (7th/C at 5 p.m.l 8th/JV at 6 p.m., varsity to follow); JH football at Britton, 4:30 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 20: Homecoming Parade, 1 p.m.; boys soccer hosts Custer, 4 p.m.; football game hosts Deuel, 7 p.m. (GHS/LHS Bands to unite for playing)

**Saturday, Sept. 21:** JH football jamboree at Webster, 10 a.m.; Boys soccer hosts Hot Springs, 11 a.m.; Volleyball at Hamlin Tournament.

#### **Elementary Dress-up Days**

- Monday (Sept. 16): Pajamā day
- Tuesday (Sept. 17): Class Color day
- Wednesday (Sept. 18): Future Job day (dress like what you want to be when you get older!)
  - Thursday (Sept. 19): Sports/Jersey day
- Friday (Sept. 20): Spirit Day (Groton Tiger/black and yellow gear) Join us in dressing up for the week and spreading the homecoming spirit! Go Tigers!

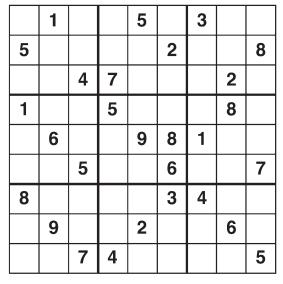
#### MS/HS Dress-up Days

- Monday Pajama Day
- Tuesday Decades 70's, 80's, 90's
- Wednesday Adam Sandler Day
- Thursday Class Color Day
- Friday Spirit Day



## Weekly SUDOKU

#### by Linda Thistle



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!

10

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc

# **King** Crossword

#### **ACROSS** 1 Broadway

- flop
- 5 Foot part
- 9 Urban carrier
- 12 Vivacity, in music
- 13 "Funny!"
- 14 Flamenco cheer
- 15 Rural tourist attractions
- 17 Skier Tommy
- 18 Actress
- Neuwirth
- 19 Serious
- 21 Wide, fancy necktie
- 24 Jazz singer Laine
- 25 Noggin 26 Reeve role
- 30 Einstein's
- birthplace
- 32 Green prefix
- 33 Pudding
- choices 35 Firecracker
- sound 36 Grecian ves-
- sels
- 37 Embedded spies
- 38 Bas-relief medium
- 40 Reed instrument
- 42 Pirates' quaff
  - tain
- 43 Duncan Hines products

12 13 14 15 16 17 19 28 29 25 26 27 30 32 31 33 49 50 52 53

7 "Evita" role

9 Fast-food deal

8 Pesters

- 48 Nest egg letters
- 31 Mini-plateaus 49 Old Italian money
  - 50 Protuberance
  - 52 Flair
  - 53 Toe malady
  - DOWN
  - 2 Granada gold 23 College 3 Russian
  - space station 4 Chocolate-
  - coated treat
  - 5 Melville cap-
  - 6 Demolish
- freshman

21 Border on

- 24 Tax prep pros 26 Brief moments 46 Sch. URL
- 27 Can. neighbor
- 28 Dreaded
- ender
  - 47 Filming site
- © 2024 King Features Synd., Inc. Groton Independent ♦ Wed., Sept. 11, 2024 ♦ 3
- breakout

- 10 Balm ingredi-34 Apr. addressent 51 Mom's mate 11 Tavern order 35 Aircraft manu-16 Bumped into
  - facturer 20 "- the ram-37 May honoree parts ..."
    - 38 Clench 39 Franc replacer

29 Eggy drinks

31 Prop for Mr.

Peanut

- 1 Telly network 22 Actress Ward 40 Gumbo need 41 Existed
  - handout for a 44 Have a cold 45 Tic-tac-toe
    - loser

Answer

Answer

Answer

| Compare |



#### The Groton Independent

21 N Main, Groton 605/397-NEWS (6397) Paul Irvin Kosel, Publisher <u>paperpaul@grotonsd.net</u> ~ 605-397-7460

Tina Kosel, Office Manager <u>office@grotonsd.net</u> ~ 605-397-7285

Notices: <a href="mailto:legals@grotonsd.net">legals@grotonsd.net</a>
News Items: <a href="mailto:news@grotonsd.net">news@grotonsd.net</a>

Deadline to submit items: Noon Monday] Yearly Subscription Rates are listed below. The Groton Independent (USPS# 230-440) is published weekly with its periodicals postage paid at Groton, SD.

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

© 2024 The Groton Independent

# The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition Subscription Form All prices listed include 6.5% Sales Tax

E-Weekly\* .....\$31.95/year

\* The E-Weekly is a PDF file emailed to you each week. It does not grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

Mailing Address:

Citv

State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number

# Groton Daily Independent www.397news.com Subscription Form

This option will grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

■ 1 Month	.\$15.98
■ 3 Months	\$26.63
☐ 6 Months	.\$31.95
□ 9 Months	\$42.60
☐ 12 Months	
Name:	
Mailing Address	

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip Code

State, Zip Code

Phone Number\_\_\_

The following will be used for your log-in information.

Daceword

Password \_\_

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent

P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034

or scan and email to paperpaul@grotonsd.net

# Andover Threshing Show



The start of the James Valley Threshers Show parade in Andover was lead by both Kevin Anderson's 150hp and 110hp Case Steam tractors. The 150 hp is the largest road locomotive that Case built. Kevin Anderson's son Kory built the steam tractor from Case's original plans. Only 9 of the large tractors were ever built by Case. None of the originals survived. (Courtesy Photo Bruce Babcock)



Kevin and Donna Anderson wave to the crowd atop the 150hp Casey steam tractor. The Anderson family of Andover were honored this year for their contributions to the JV Threshers Association.

(Courtesy Photo Bruce Babcock)

CERTIFIED DEALER



Doggie Day at the Pool
Groton Pool Doggie Day on Sunday
afternoon gave dogs the last splash of
summer!

(Courtesy Photos Bruce Babcock)

# **Groton Airport hosts** annual Fly-In Event



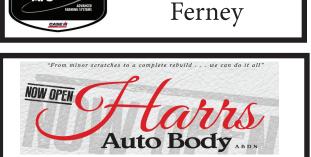
Crowd awaits their turn for the complimentary orientation rides Saturday. (Courtesy Photo Bruce Babcock)



A very good crowd showed up for the annual Fly-In at the Groton Municipal Airport. (Courtesy Photo Bruce Babcock)



Lake Area Tech, Watertown, flew in their powered glider. They offered complementary orientation rides Saturday afternoon. (Courtesy Photo Bruce Babcock)



Harry Implement "Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"

(605) 395-6421

225 Brown County Hwy 19 South Aberdeen: 605/725-4900

# Groton Chiropractic Clinic

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C. 1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204





#### School Board **Continued from front**

are out there. These projects could be done through grants and fundraising, with a minimal impact on taxpayers and school funding.

Business Manager Becky Hubsch asked Woods to make sure and read the fine print in the grant applications. From her experience writing grant applications, there are some pitfalls like matching funds or funding only available to 501c3 nonprofit groups (the school district is not a 501c3 entity, she added).

Board member Marty Weismantel told Woods to make sure school administrators are involved in this process. He also advised that people don't up Woods' offer to climb into the crows nest.

Board Member Deb Gengerke added that she likes the idea of a wish list for the facility to get the ball rolling.

"When you see the whole package number, it's staggering," she said. "But when you break it down... I think that's helpful too."

Board President Grant Rix told Woods that the board seemed to be good with Woods moving forward with the project.

Woods added, "for anything to get done, it takes somebody to want to do it. ... Any extracurricular activities that we can provide these kids so it enhances their learning experience is nothing but positive."

#### Potentially funding impacts of IM 28 discussed

The district is already feeling a pinch due to lower-than-expected enrollment.

Business Manager Becky Hubsch reported the district is down 22 students that officials were expecting to enter kindergarten. That has affected state aid funds, with a projected

\$119,000 drop from the district's expected "no way to recover that revenue," he said. He state aid funding.

There are also some concerns for next year, Superintendent Joe Schwan said. The district impacts specific to the district. is looking at whether a low junior kindergarten enrollment figure will be a low kindergarten a.m. Tuesday, October 15. enrollment number for next year.

ing enrollment is a statewide issue.

this enrollment drop and potential funding isearlier this year to fall back on.

In other action:

- Transportation Director Damian Bahr reported how the current bus and vehicle fleet is doing. Activity trips are going to be challenging this year, he said. It would be nice to get driver exclusively for activities. And the district would help with any training or certifications needed until the fleet is in better shape. A few of the it's helping out." buses the district has with MaxxForce engines are nearing 200,000 miles, and that type of engine gives out around that point.

sues with an upcoming initiated measure. IM anything sold for human consumption except dent Joe Schwan told the board about some for a few exceptions, would potentially be electrical issues impacting the east side light replacement of those funds. The state Legisla- \$12,000, so he said he will look at whether it is measure passes in November, the state would of repairing the issues and having to switch to have to make some big funding cuts, and that LED later on. could mean a 10 percent decrease in state funding for school districts. There would be

added he will come back to the board at its next meeting with information on the potential

- The board's next meeting takes place at 7

- Food Service Director Brandon Clocksene Board member Marty Weismantel said declin- told the board there has already been a beef donation to the school, as well as cucumbers Board President Grant Rix added that with from the farm to school program. Food services is working to get a salad bar at the high sues if Initiated Measure 28 passes, it's a good school, which would be available every day of thing the district has the opt-out approved the week. The department is shorthanded, but the number of students getting breakfast and lunch at school seems to be staying the same. The board asked about what types of produce the district accepts as donations, and Clocksene said any vegetable as long as it's unwashed and unprocessed. Those who would like to donate can reach out to Brandon.Clocksene@k12.sd.us or bring them to the school. Clocksene pointed out that any time the district for the position, he added. Bahr said he hopes receives a donation of enough cucumbers, the to find a new bus for the district to purchase, school saves about \$40 instead of buying them and then to start a rotation of purchasing buses from a supplier. "It's not making a big dent, but

- Maintenance Director Ryan Scepaniak reported that work over the summer went well. Some broken windows are being taken care of, District administration brought up some is- and the district's lawn mower is not the best.

- The district is exploring whether to switch 28, which would prohibit a state sales tax on to LED lighting at the football field. Superintenproblematic for school districts if there is no poles. Fixing those issues is estimated to cost tive Research Council has indicated that if the more prudent to switch to LED lighting instead



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



**By David Adler** 

#### Compelling Reasons to Impose Term Limits on Supreme Court Justices

Plummeting public approval of the U.S. Supreme Court, now at record lows, reflects in part deep-seated concerns about recent rulings that have overturned precedents that protected fundamental rights, as well as an unprecedented ruling— the creation of presidential immunity from criminal prosecution—without foundation in our constitutional architecture. It is also true that the diminished confidence of the citizenry in the nation's highest bench is a function of the ethical lapses of some current Justices. These factors, among others, have accelerated the gathering force of calls for the imposition of term limits on the Supreme Court.

Such proposals are not new, and they are not the exclusive property of either the Right or the Left. Indeed, scholars and commentators representing various platforms have been urging term limits for Justices for at least the past quarter-century. What's different at this juncture, is the chorus of demands for limits emanating from rank-and-file Americans. Beyond that, legislation to limit the years of the Justices has been introduced in Congress and may be considered for further discussion, debate and hearings after the November election. President Joe Biden has endorsed the concept, and various commissions have put forth proposals for term limits.

The idea, as they say, is one whose time has come. Before considering the merits of the concept, let's sweep away some confusion. First, the moniker, "term limits," is a little misleading. The essence of current proposals is not to amend the Constitution, but rather to enact a statute to emphasize "case assignments" for Justices. Justices will serve a fixed term of 18 years on the High Bench, after which they will become a "senior justice." In this capacity, they would continue to serve as Article III judges, enjoying the same salary and benefits which, the Constitution provides, cannot be "diminished during their Continuance in Office," but they would be assigned to lower federal courts and would carry out the duties assigned to them by the active justices. Some Supreme Court Justices—David Souter and Sandra Day O'Connor, for example—volunteered as senior Article III Justices after retiring from the Supreme Court.

Congress, under Article III, section 2, and blessed with approval by the Supreme Court in Stuart v. Laird (1803), possesses broad statutory authority, exercised since the founding period, to regulate the Court's appellate function "with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations" as the Congress shall make." Thus, Congress may limit to 18 years the automatic participation of the justices in appellate cases.

Why 18 years? That is the average length of service on the Supreme Court since the founding period, and it is plenty long for a single justice to exert power which, increasingly, lacks accountability. For Justices appointed since 1990, however, the average is 26 years and climbing. The concern with too many years of service in any governmental position, which was the driving rationale behind Republicans' enthusiasm for the 22nd Amendment that limits presidents to two terms, is the aggrandizement of power, arrogance and lack of accountability.

Near the end of his second term as president, Thomas Jefferson was urged to seek a third term. He declined because, like George Washington, eight years in office was sufficient. He expressed concern that if the services of the president "be not fixed by the Constitution, or supplied by practice, his office, nominally for years, will, in fact, become for life." History, he said, "shows how easily that degenerates into an inheritance." Jefferson believed that a representative government, held to short periods of election, "is that which produces the greatest sum of happiness to mankind,"

What Jefferson said of the presidency and republicanism in general, applies to the length of service on the Supreme Court. A notable feature in the proposal is the assurance that two seats on the Court would open up in each four-year presidential term. This levels the playing field and assures the citizenry of balance on the Court, rather than control or dominance of one party or the other. Some presidents have appointed several justices while others, like Jimmy Carter, had no appointments. The goal, always, should be to appoint men and women of stature, wisdom and experience, rather than younger nominees who might further the policies and preferences of a president for decades. This proposal faces criticisms and objections, which we shall consider next week.

David Adler is president of The Alturas Institute, a non-profit organization created to promote the Constitution, gender equality and civic education. This column is made possible with the support of the South Dakota Humanities Council, South Dakota NewsMedia Association and this newspaper.



SEPTEMBER 3, 2024 - GEN-**ERAL MEETING** 

Meeting called to order by Chairman Sutton at 8:45 A.M. in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. Present were Commissioners Dennert, Fjeldheim, Gage, Sutton, and Wiese. Commissioner Gage led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC

COMMENT: None UTILITIES CERTIFICATE FO SAND LAKE BRIDGE PROJECT: Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent presented the Commission a Utilities Certificate for Project Number BRF6251(00)18-1 PCN 06VK (Sand Lake Bridge) asking them to approve it for moving and or adjusting utilities from Web Water and Northern Valley Telecom at no cost to the State of South Dakota, Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Utilities Certificate. All members present voting aye. Motion carried

SET HEARING DATE FOR HIGHWAY 5-YEAR PLAN/BIG PROGRAM PUBLIC MEETING: Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent asked to have his 5-year plan/Big Program Public Meeting for October 1, 2024. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve and set the hearing date on Tuesday, October 1, 2024 for Highway 5-year plan/Big Program Public Meeting. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

REQUEST FOR PROPOS AL (RFP) FOR INDIGENT COUNSEL/1-YEAR CONTRACT: A discussion was held regarding Brown County wanting to establish a Public Defenders office. It is going to take some time to get this set-up so wanting to post request a proposal for 1-year Indigent Counsel contract. A Draft was presented along with a proposed date of October 11, 2024 for deadline. Chairman Sutton shared they are wanting to have the Public Defenders office up and running by January 2026, will have a Lead Attorney, with 3 additional attorneys under him/her along with 2 Support Staff. They are also wanting to set up a board to oversee the office which will consist of 2 Commissioners, 2 Attorneys and 1 Lay Person that is not an attorney or a county emplovee. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve the proposal for 1-year Indigent Counsel with proposals due on October 11, 2024, All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR FIS-CAL YEAR 2025 PROVISIONAL BUDGET: Time and place, as advertised for public hearing on the 2025 Provisional Budget was held. No one from the public or various departments appeared. Updated budgets for the Public Defenders office. Court Appointed Attorney and State's Attorney office were presented. Commissioner Wiese moved to approve the Provisional Budget with the changes presented, seconded by Gage. All members present Budget will be approved on September 24, 2024.

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

CLAIMS: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims: Insurance: SDPAA \$4,317.41. Professional Fees: Aberdeen Advanced Care Ambulance \$7,125.00; Aberdeen Security & Investigations \$6,958.00; Bill Schaeffer \$15.00; Fox Law Firm, PLLC \$410.00; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church \$3,500.00; Helms & Assoc. \$5,355.20; IMEG \$237.50; Kristi Brandt \$335.10; Lucy Lewno \$60.00; Mark Kat-terhagen \$27.00; Michelle Olson \$50.00; Samantha Olson \$50.00; Sara Zahn \$221.40; Schneider Geospatial, LLC \$2,916.00; SD Dept. of Health \$140.00; SD Dept. of Public Safety \$5,400.00; TMS Production Integration \$7,656.00; Valerie Larson \$42.00; Winona County Sheriff's Office \$80.00; Yankton County Sheriff's Office \$150.00; Yellow Robe Consulting \$1,800.00.

Publishing: Groton Daily Independent \$754.24; McQuillen Creative Group \$494.00; Southwest Messenger Press, Inc. \$103.88. Rentals: Dakota Portable Toilets, Inc. \$20,000.00; DMI \$1,500.00; NB Golf \$24,674.00. Repairs & Maintenance: Artz Equipment \$25.40; Auto Zone \$37.41; Butler Machinery \$557.97; Crawford Trucks & Equipment \$1,173.15; House of Glass \$1,435.00; Hub City Roofing \$1,135.00; Jensen Rock & Sand Inc. \$44,216.95; Lawson Products, Inc. \$41.77; NC Golf \$2.914.69: Pomp's Tire Service \$340.00; Webster Scale \$3,894.85. Supplies: Amazon Capital Services \$324.68; Artz Equipment \$71.84; Avera LTC Pharmacy Aberdeen \$3,528.37; Century Business Products \$7,241.00; Crawford Trucks & Equipment \$1,166.51; Dominoe's Pizza \$80.91; Fox Law Firm, PLLC \$5.69; Graham Tire \$841.48; Great Western Tire \$3,378.16; Jensen Rock & Sand \$32,161.30; LabSource, Inc. \$1,136.62; Lawson Products, Inc. \$494.78; Leidholdt Tool Sales, LLC \$12.63; Live-stock Specialists \$185.00; Lucy Lewno \$2.73; Matheson Tri-Gas \$3,256.55; McDonald's \$398.70; Ménards \$199.79; Performancé Oil \$32.45; Pomp's Tire Service \$373.82; Production Monkeys \$300.00; Russell Beadle Landscaping \$4,243.40; Safety Service \$62,500.00; Sherwin Williams \$332.80; Tyler Technologies \$449.00; Veteran's Information Service \$65.00. Travel & Conference: Legal & Liability Risk Management Institute \$175.00; Lynn Heupel \$307.24. Utilities: AT&T Mobility \$186.49; Midcontinent Communications \$170.11; Montana-Dakota Utilities \$34 30 NWPS \$7,645.49. Others: BCT 7,679.21. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. HR REPORT: Moved by Com-

missioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to acknowledge and approve the following Human Resource Report submitted by Human Resources Director, Allison Tunheim:

 Transfer of Cody Richards from Brown County JDC Sergeant to Brown County Jail Sereant, FT; effective September

• Employment ending for Tyler Nelson, Brown County 911 Communications Officer, FT; effective August 30, 2024. Request to fill.

 Hiring Amanda Brumfield as Brown County Jail/JDC Nurse, FT; starting wage \$3,080.63/ pay period - effective September

All members present voting

aye. Motion carried. LEASE AGREEMENT: Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the following Lease Agreement: South Dakota Trapper's Association to lease the Holum Expo Building on September 13-14, 2024. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

TRAVEL REQUEST: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the following travel request: Scott Madsen, GIS Coordinator to attend ND Geospatial Summit on September 24-26, 2024 in Bismarck, ND. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIM ASSIGNMENTS: Moved Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Auditor Heupel to 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: Chairman Sutton informed the Commission that there will be a Zoom meeting at 11am regarding the engineer findings on the dome of the courthouse and asked who else could attend. Commissioner Wiese agreed to attend the meeting as well since he had recently visited that area.

Chairman Sutton also shared that Mavis Kempf, previous Assistant Welfare Director had passed away and sending their condolences to her family.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: none ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 8:58 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published September 11, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$73.12 and may be viewed free of charge at www. sdpublicnotices.com, 23679



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS -INDIGENT COUNSEL

Brown County hereby requests proposals from attorneys to provide legal services to fulfill Brown County's statutory obligations as set forth in SDCL 23A-40-6 and 23A-40-7 and other such instances in which the appointment of legal counsel at the expense of the County has been mandated by statute. This includes adult criminal cases. juvenile criminal cases, abuse and neglect proceedings, mental illness commitments and alcohol commitments.

It is Brown County's intent to enter into a one-year contract which will commence on January 1, 2025, to minimize the need for conflict counsel, Brown County may contract with one or more attorneys that are not associated with each other.

Sealed proposals shall be received by the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market St., Ste. 1, Aberdeen, SD 57401, no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 11, 2024 to be opened at the Commission meeting on Tuesday, October 15, 2024 . Copies of similar contracts entered into in the past between Brown County and a group of attorneys are available at the Brown County Auditor's Office.

Brown County reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive technicalities, and make a selection deemed to be in the best interest of Brown County, SD.

I. INSTRUCTIONS TO OF-A. All proposals shall be sent

Brown County Auditor 25 Market St., Ste. 1

Aberdeen, SD 57401 B. All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope and clearly marked in the upper left-hand corner "Proposal Indigent De-

fense Contract." C. All proposals shall be received by 5:00 p.m., October 11, 2024. An original and seven copies of proposals must be presented. No faxed, e-mailed, or telephone proposals will be

D. Brown County will attempt to schedule interviews, if it so desires, during the week of October 14, 2024. Attorneys shall take note that Brown County may make its selection based solely upon the written proposal submitted.

E. The attorneys selected will be notified by November 11, 2024. The Brown County Board of Commissioners must approve a contract with the selected attorneys as appropriate. The start date will be January 1,

F. All proposals must include the following information:

1. A proposed annual pay ment amount that shall be paid in equal monthly installments, subject to the terms and conditions of the contract.

2. The amount of monthly payment to be paid to each attorney will be divided among

the attorneys in equal amounts.

3. The name of each individual attorney who proposes to provide indigent defense services and his or her area of responsibility.

4. A statement warranting that each attorney proposed to provide legal services shall be icensed to practice law by the State of South Dakota and be a member in good standing with the South Dakota State Bar Association during the contract term.

5. A statement indicating the attorney's willingness and capability to always maintain professional liability coverage during contract term. In addition, indicate the attorney's willingness and capability to indemnify, defend and hold Brown County harmless for any and all costs, loss and liability for all injury or damage caused in whole or in part by any negligent act or omission of an attorney providing services under the contract or anyone directly or indirectly employed by or contracting with

II. SELECTION CRITERIA

The selection of a service provider will be based upon the ability of the attorneys to best provide adequate legal representation for those individuals who because of social or economic barriers are unable to afford or

written proposal, the qualifications of the specific individuals proposed to provide services, the attorneys experience in similar work, and the competitiveness of the fee amount proposed. Each proposal will be independently evaluated on the abovereferenced factors.

III. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE SELECTION PROCESS

A. Brown County reserves the right to reject any proposals and to waive minor irregularities contained therein.

B. Brown County reserves the right to request clarification of information submitted and to request additional information from any attorney.

C. If Brown County selects a proposal, the County and the selected attorneys will work diligently to enter into a mutually agreed upon contract.

D. In the event a prior selection fails to result in the execution of a contract within thirty days after a proposal has been selected, Brown County reserves the right to enter into contract negotiations with the next most qualified proposal.

Published September 11, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$51.51 and may be viewed free of charge at www. sdpublicnotices.com. 23680



City of Columbia Council Meetng – September 4, 2024 CALL MEETING TO ORDER 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL - Cara Dennert, Corey Mitchell, Jeremy Dosch, Scott Meints, Trevor Meints

Community: Joe Whitlock, Ray Larson, Josh Larson, Isaac Abeln, Sadie Hanna, Tony Bisbee, Collin Eichler

Corey Mitchell called the meeting to order. He called for a motion to approve the agenda. Cara mentioned the addition of a bill from Titan to the proposed agenda. Scott Meints made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All in favor motion carried. Corey Mitchell called for any conflict of interest on agenda items. There were no conflicts. Minutes were handed out from the August 7th meeting. Trevor Meints made a motion to approve the minutes. Jeremy Dosch seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried.

Warrant Vouchers: JVT - fire prevention – 212.85; Jeremy Dosch– Aug. wages -419.99 –; Cara Dennert – Aug wages– 1235.25; GDI – publication -34.22; Dacotah Bank - shop supplies -89.32; Runnings shop supplies – 14.68; Johnson Rock & Gravel - street gravel ,169.56; Quality Quick Print 6x4 plate for park bench – 30.00; Titan – skid steer– 500.00

Scott Meints made a motion to approve the vouchers as corrected. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All were in favor motion carried.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS CORRESPONDENCE: Northwestern Energy- metered rate letter, WEB rate increase letter

UNFINISHED BUSINESS -The council reviewed the new request form from the Columbia Foundation. Joe discussed the options for sewer improvement. The infrastructure of our lagoon system is aging and past its life expectancy. Scott Meints made a motion for Corey Mitchell to sign the state water plan so that it can be sent to NECOG and then on to DENR. Jeremy Dosch seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried.

Nuisances- The council would like to remind residents that the county is having free drop off at the landfill until September 14th. The council also discussed a water issue in a residence.
Streets – There has been

gravel put on N. Lake Blvd. The grader will be called. Scott mentioned that the street signs are in and will be put up soon.

Parks - Payment has been received for a bench in memory of Earl & Marion Daly. There has been a lot of discussion regarding the sprinkler system and irrigation filters. The filters are not taking enough iron out of the water. Water Control has been out to advise on replacement media in each well. We are running out of time to fix this before winter. Jeremy will continue to work with this company and have their work on the system

warrantied. Lagoon/Sewer - The site was

sprayed. There are some trees hat need to be trimmed.

Rubble Site - John Hansen is going to stack the piles before a burn this winter.

NEW BUSINESS - The Columbia Baseball Committee was present to discuss various issues. They have a mower for the outfield. We will be checking to see if our insurance policy covers the shed that it is housed in and the contents of the shed. They figure the cost of the shed and contents to be between \$40-\$45,000. There was discussion about upgrades that need to be done around the fence for weed-The Baseball Committee would also like to mount the old scoreboard in the concession stand area. FINANCIAL REPORT -The

council reviewed the proposed 2025 budget. After discussion, Trevor Meints made a motion to pass the first reading of the 2025 budget ordinance. Scott Meints seconded the motion. All were in favor – motion carried. Second reading will be September 19th at 7:00 p.m. Cara presented bank balances. Trevor Meints made a motion to accept the financial reports as given. Jeremy Dosch seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried.

August 31, 2024, balances: SF - \$ 68,757.64; SF Money Market -\$ 151,435.92.

GF - \$ 146,068.97; GF Money Market - \$50,812.78; CD Money Market - \$ 32,426.29.

- \$ 15,332.98; Cash on hand - \$0

Next City Council Meeting – September 19th – 7:00 p.m. (Second reading of 2025 Budget) Next Regular City Council October 24, 2024 Meeting -7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Cara Dennert, Finance Officer

Published September 11, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$41.67 and may be viewed free of charge at www. sdpublicnotices.com. 23683



September 3, 2024 The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00pm at 120 N Main Street for their first monthly meeting with the followmonitary meeting with the following members present: Babcock, Wells, Nehls, Wambach, and President Bahr presiding. Also present were Attorney Drew Johnson, Douglas Heinrich, Terry Herron, Dwight Zerr, Paul Mosel Herron, Dwight Zerr, Paul Kosel, Ken Hier, Todd Gay, and Elizabeth

Moved by Wambach and seconded by Nehls to approve the addition of discussion regarding the airport and upcoming weekend activities. All members present voted aye.

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

Discussion took place regarding electric metering upgrades. Kosel exited the meeting.

Discussion took place regarding the status of the upcoming wastewater project.

Hier exited the meeting

Discussion regarding the request for a bucket truck to replace the 2007 Ford F55 took place.

Gay exited the meeting.
Moved by Nehls and seconded by Wambach to table the discussion regarding the installation of a stop signs at the intersection of North 3rd Street and East 4th Avenue. All members present voted ave.

Department reports were eviewed and discussed.

Upcoming activities such as the Groton Citywide Rummage Sale and Airport Fly-in/Drive-in event were mentioned.

Moved by Nehls and seconded by Wambach to accept the quote from Schwan Welding in the amount of \$3,642 for the installation of gates to close road off at soccer complex. All members

present voted aye.

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Nehls to table the proclamation for Hunger Action Day. All members present voted ave

Moved by Wells and seconded by Babcock to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Babcock and sec-

onded by Wells to authorize the following bills for payment. All members present voted aye.

Payroll, \$41,239.61, Employee salaries; Executive, \$720.87, Administrative, \$5,061.56,; Public Safety, \$9,630.52, ; Public Works, \$16,485.53, ; Culture

\$730.00, Employee savings; Dacotah Bank, \$3,271.67, With-holding/SS/Medicare; Dacotah Bank, \$50.00, HSA contributions; Aflac, \$435.76, Employee insurance; Colonial Life, \$69.40, Employee insurance; Allied Benefit Systems, \$14,120.45, Employee insurance; Reliance Standard Life Insurance, \$88.10, Em-ployee insurance; Dwight Zerr, \$294.60, Med flex; Chris Theroux, \$250.00, Utility deposit refund; Payment Service Network \$204.75, PSN gateway and e-bill fees; SD Supplemental Retirement, \$290.00, Supplemental retirement; Dennis "Mike" Olson, \$1,063.74, Code enforcement services - 7/12/24 thru 8/29/24; NW Energy, \$563.94, Natural gas service - Pool & PD; Cole Papers, Inc., \$155.04, Garbage bags -City Hall and Parks; The Groton Independent, \$178.10, Publish-ing costs; Pressure Washer entral, \$262.00, 6,000 psi hose - City Shop; Harry Implement, Inc., \$57.30, Repairs to sewer y warming house; Associated Supply Company, Inc., \$600.48, Solinoid valve and water test kit refills - Pool; SD Department of Health, \$117.00, Water and pool testing; Allied Climate Professionals, LLC, \$833.86, Replacement of low water cutoff board City Hall; Anderson Garage Doors, \$150.00, Reinstall cables on hoop barn; Locators & Supplies, Inc., \$116.40, Cemetery marker flags; Verizon Wireless, \$40.01, Wireless router - Rubble Site; J's Superior Cleaning, \$200.00, Commercial cleaning services - City Hall; VESTIS, \$67.26, Rug rent - City Hall; Topkote, Inc., \$92,172.96, 2024 Street Resurfacing project; Irby, Inc., \$3,343.00, Strain insulators, cable positioners, blade cutout barrels: Rubber goods and hot stick testing - Electric Dept.; Dakota Supply Group, \$297.59, Splice kits - Electric Dept.; Nelson Sales and Service, LLC, \$39.90, Sleeve for weed trimmer - Baseball; Runnings, \$54.98, Chainsaw chains Forestry; Jim Lane, \$500.00, Donation for labor at Baseball and Soccer Complex; CJ Lane, \$100.00, Donation for labor at Baseball and Soccer Complex; Steve Rosendahl, \$100.00, Do-nation for labor at Baseball and Soccer Complex; Eide Bailly LLP, \$7,390.00, Final billing for 2022 audit; Dakota Pump & Control, Adult, Dakota Pullip & Collol, \$7,404.59, Repairs to Trailer Park and Aspen Lift Stations; Badger Meter, \$126.12, Cellular service fee - Water Metering; Harve's Sport Shop, \$519.92, Legion baseballs; Dollar General, \$202.50, Candy, bottled water, cleaning supplies, toilet paper, baking soda, garbage bags, batteries, single hole punch, assorted plastic cutlery tiple Depts.; Drew Johnson, \$1,650.00, Legal services - August 2024; Leidholdt Tool Sales, LLC., \$62.45, Chemical pump; S&S Lumber Co., \$1,042.00, Bug spray, painting supplies, new door for PD, weed trimmer line, utiltiy knife, chain oil, nipple, coupler, seal, bolts, lock leverlock for crows nest, basketball nets, spray paint, paint thinner, screws, sprayer, sprinkler, pruner - Multiple Depts.

& Recreation, \$9,341.13, ; US Bank, \$21,426.46, DW #5 loan

payment; US Bank, \$6,734.43,

DW #6 loan payment; Dacotah Bank, \$9,134.06, Withholding/ SS/Medicare; Dakotaland FCU,

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Nehls to adjourn the meeting at 8:19pm. All members

present voted aye. Scott Hanlon, Mayor Douglas Heinrich, Finance

Published September 11, 2024, at the total approximate viewed free of charge at www. sdpublicnotices.com, 23684



Ordway Township Weed No-

Snow Removal Notice Road ditches in Ordway Township are to be mowed by October 2024. If not completed by that date the landowner will be assessed for the actual cost to complete mowing on real estate

Snow disposal from private property is not allowed in town-ship ditches. Any snow from private property will be removed by the Township, and the actual cost of removal will be assessed on real estate taxes.

Ordway Township Board of Supervisors

Mike McHugh, Clerk
Published September 11 and
18, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$14.38 and may be viewed free of charge at www. sdpublicnotices.com. 23681

#### **Groton Chamber of Commerce**

September 4, 2024

#### 12pm City Hall

- Members present: Katelyn Nehlich, Ashley Bentz, April Abeln, Becca Johnson
- Minutes from the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Abeln and seconded by Nehlich. All members present voted aye.
- Treasurer's report was given. Dacotah Bank checking account balance is \$12,042.90 in addition to the \$10,000 CD. The bucks account balance is \$2,289. President Bentz has been added to the accounts and past President Carol Kutter has been removed. The report was approved by Abeln and seconded by Nehlich. All members present voted aye.
- A program from the Jr. Legion State Tourney was passed around showcasing our ad inside the front cover. A \$300 invoice was received from the Groton Baseball/Softball Foundation for the ad plus \$100 for foul ball sponsorship.
- The winner of the Family Fun Fest giveaway basket was Tasha Barrera.
- New welcome banners have been received and paid for. City employees will assist with setup and installation.
- Motion by Abeln and seconded by Nehlich to order 50 white 20oz tumblers with handles from Rustic Cuts at \$32 each. All members present voted aye. Abeln will see about a 15% discount. Tumblers will be for sale at City Hall for \$36 each.
- An email motion was made by Nehlich and seconded by Douglas Heinrich with amendment by Bruce Babcock to extend the shirt deadline to November 22nd. Motion also included a boosted post on Facebook for \$50 for 1 week. All members present voted aye. Abeln will ask for an updated order quantity.
- Motion by Abeln and seconded by Nehlich to have a business storefront decorating contest during Homecoming week. Pictures of businesses will be posted on Facebook with the winner chosen by number of likes. The winner will receive \$50 in bucks. All members present voted aye.
- Advertising in the GDI was discussed. Motion by Abeln and seconded by Nehlich place an ad in the SD and Aberdeen Magazines in the July/August, September/October, and November/December issues for 2025. All members present voted ave.
- Becca spoke about Snow Queen and the expense to send contestants to State and their fundraising efforts. She thanked the Chamber for their help in advertising and encouraged groups to reach out to contestants to volunteer for community exposure. Becca left the
- Motion by Abeln and seconded by Nehlich to donate \$325 to Snow Queen as well as \$100 in Chamber Bucks for their Frosty contest (total State entry is \$650). All members present voted aye.
- Motion by Abeln and seconded by Nehlich to donate \$100 to the

Dacotah Bank.

Confections.

12:00pm

10am-3pm

4-6pm

6:30pm

Festival 10am

or Treat 5:30-7pm

Party 6pm-close

Upcoming events

Carnival of Silver Skates. All members present

voted aye. Check will be ready for pickup at

Bentz will speak with owner Sam Bahr

about a welcome for A Touch Up. New busi-

ness welcomes with also be set up with The

Jungle and possibly the new owner of Kate's

It was mentioned that a post should be

Next Meeting: October 2nd at City Hall at

• 10/05/2024 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park

• 10/11/2024 Lake Region Marching Band

• 10/31/2024 Downtown Trick or Treat

• 10/31/2024 United Methodist Church Trunk

11/16/2024 Legion Post #39 Turkey Party

• 11/28/2024 Community Thanksgiving at

• 12/07/2024 Olive Grove 8th Annual Holiday

the Community Center 11:30am-1pm

done to encourage membership and that dues

notices be printed to mail next meeting.



Town of Westport General Meeting

September 2, 2024

The Town of Westport met on September 2, 2024 with Mitch Wilson, Shane Storm, and Deb Schlosser present. Troy Tschappat was absent.

The following bills were presented:

City General: NW Energyutilities (\$326.58), Stateline Concrete LLC – town hall concrete work (\$8,214.30), Groton Independent- August minutes and water resolution (\$43.33), Deb Schlosser - payroll (\$300.00), Mitch Wilson – payroll (\$750.00), Shane Storm – payroll (\$150.00), Troy Tschappat – payroll (\$200.00)

Sewer: NW Energy-Lift Station utilities (\$44.49)

Water: Core & Main – Sensus annual support (\$3,700.00), Elan Financial Services – supplies (\$57.03), WEB - water, \$2,123.02, Public Health Laboratory – testing (\$30.00)

Motion by Shane Storm, second by Mitch Wilson to pay all

The following deposits were presented:

City General: State of SD (\$4369.91), Brown County Collections (\$444.52), Interest (\$197.08)

Sewer: Resident Payments (\$2228.98)

Water: Resident Payments (\$3343.00)

Old Business: none New Business: none Meeting dismissed at 7:11

Deb Schlosser, Finance Officer Published September 11, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$14.35 and may be viewed free of charge at www. sdpublicnotices.com. 23682

#### **Groton Area netters sweep** Sisseton

Groton Area's vollevball teams swept all three matches in minimum sets in action played Thursday in Sisseton.

Groton Area won the C match, 2-0, won the junior varsity match, 25-15 and 25-12, and won the varsity match 25-9, 25-20 and 25-18.

Sisseton gave Groton Area a little trouble in the second set as it was tied eight times and there were five lead changes. Sisseton had a 17-16 lead before Groton Area



Jaedyn Penning (Photo courtesy Samantha Weber)

scored seven straight points to go on for the win. The Tigers had a 10-point run in the first set.

Rylie Dunker was 18 of 22 in attacks with nine kills. Chesney Weber was 13 of 15 in attacks with eight kills, was 12 of 13 in serves with four ace serves, had 16 assists and seven digs. Taryn Traphagen had seven kills. Faith Trapangen was 12 of 15 in attacks with seven kills. Jaedyn Penning was 15 of 16 in serving with five ace serves, had five kills and 15 digs. Jerica Locke was nine of 11 in serves with three ace serves and had 13 digs. Elizabeth Fliehs had 16 assists and one ace serve. Laila Roberts had two kills and an ace serve and Sydney Locke had two ace serves.

Sisseton was led by Krista Langager with seven kills and one ace serve followed by Kennedy Hanson with three kills and two ace serves, Alexia Quinn had two kills, Tara Nelson and Elliot Hortness each had one kill and one ace serve and Valerie Myrum and Saylor Langager each had one kill.

The match was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Avantara Groton, Bierman Farm Service, BK Custom T's & More, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Lounge, Krueger Brothers, R&M Farms/Rix Farms, The Meathouse in Andover.

The junior varsity match was also broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Adam and Nicole Wright. McKenna Tietz and Liby Althoff each had seven kills and two ace serves, Makenna Krause had six kills, Tali Wright had two kills, one block and one ace serve, Kella Tracy had

Saylor Langager had three kills for Sisseton while Gabby Hanson had one.

- Paul Kosel

two kills and Emerlee Jones had three kills and one block.



The Canadian wildfires are bringing smoke back to South Dakota. Wednesday morning, this photo was taken of the Legion flag at half mast with the red sun and sky. All on Patriot Day. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

#### **Zoellner earns** supreme champion at State Fair Walker Zoellner, Groton FFA, won three

awards at the State Fair held in Huron.

In the Dairy Cattle show division, Zoellner won the Supreme Champion sponsored by Valley Queen Cheese. Zoellner also won the Champion Holstein and was one of the top five showmen.

#### **Netters tame Bearcats in three sets**



**Laila Roberts** (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

The first set was tied six times before the

Groton Areas volleyball

team battled a three-set win over Webster Area in action played Tuesday in

Groton.

Bearcats opened up a five-point lead, including a 20-15 lead. Webster Area trailed, 24-19, when Coach Chelsea Hanson called a time out. "I told the girls that there was nothing to lose and to relax and play. If we lost, we have more sets to play, but I wanted them to go into the second set on a strong momentum." The Lady Tigers took it to hear and scored the

seven points to pull out the 26-24 win.

The second set was tied four times and there were two lead changes before Groton Area got the upper hand and led it, 11-7, and opened up a 16-10 lead. Then Webster Area scored six straight points to make it a one point game, 17-16. Groton went back on top, 22-17, but Webster Area battled back to within one, 23-22, and 24-23, but Groton Area went on to win, 25-23.

The Tigers scored seven straight points early in the third set, taking command early and went on to win, 25-12.

Chesney Weber had the game winning kill in both the first and second sets, and the game winning point in the third set with an ace serve, and led the Tigers with 18 kills (42-47), 11 digs, 10 assists, two ace serves (11-11) and a block. Jaedyn Penning had 11 kills (28-33). "It's unheard of to have two players in double figures in a three set match," Hanson said. Rylee Dunker had five kills (15-19) and two blocks. Jerica Locke had three ace serves (15-16), 26 digs and one kill. Elizabeth Fliehs had 23 assists and three ace serves (12-12). Laila Roberts had an ace serve and 11 digs. Taryn Traphagen and Faith Traphagen each had three kills and Kella Tracy had one kill and one block.

Allison Case each had four kills and 10 digs for Webster Area, Jersey Johnson had 20 digs, Malory Steiner had four kills and one block, Harley Johnson had three ace serves and Karrli Sannes had two ace serves.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Agtegra, Avantara Groton, Bierman Farm Service, BK Custom T's & More, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Lounge, Krueger Brothers, R&M Farms/Rix Farms, The Meathouse in Andover.

Groton Area won the junior varsity match, 25-23 and 25-17. McKenna Tietz and Liby Althoff each had had five kills, Talli Wright had four kills and one ace serve, Sydney Locke had four ace serves, Kella Tracy had two kills, Makenna Krause had three kills and three ace serves and Emerlee Jones had two kills.

Chloe Mammenga led Webster Area with one kill and two ace serves. The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM sponsored by Adam and Nicole Wright.

Webster Area won the C match, 25-22, 12-25 and 15-13.

- Paul Kosel

### **#3 Girls Soccer Teams** beats #1 West Central

The Groton Area soccer teams traveled to West Central on Saturday where the girls won and the boys tied.

Groton Area scored first in the girls game in the 22nd minute with a kick by McKenna Tietz, assisted by Laila Roberts. It was 1-0 at half

West Central equalized off a poor goal kick in the 54th minute. Thirteen minutes later, after a series of positive attacks, Brooklyn Hansen drew a penalty in the penalty area before her twin sister Kennedy took her second penalty of the season and converted it for her second goal of the season and the winner.

Goalie Jaedyn Penning had five saves.

The boys tied with West Central, 2-2. Logan Olson scored both goals.

#### **James Valley Christian beats** Groton Area, 3-2



Karson Zak, Axel Abeln, Logan Olson

(Courtesy Photo)

Groton Area left two points on the field due to technicalities and James Valley Christian went on to win the boys soccer game, 3-2.

The first point the Tigers game up was in the first minute of the game on a penalty kick. The kick was made and it was good; however, the official whistle was not blown so it had to be done over. The second kick did not go in.

The Vikings were guick to respond and scored less than a minute later when Keeghann Hood scored. The Vikings scored again less than a minute later when Isaac Wipf scored. Four minutes later, Kolby VanDerWerff scored for James Valley Christian and it was 3-0, which was the half time score.

Karson Zak would score for the Tigers with 31:32 left in the game to make it 3-1. The Tigers scored again with 19:34 left when the ball bounced off of Easton Weber with Logan Olson tapping the ball in to make it 3-2. Groton Area scored with 12:06 left; however, an off-side call was made and the goal was not good. James Valley Christian would go on to win, 3-2.

- Paul Kosel

#### Gilbert takes second at Redfield **Cross Country Meet**



The 2024 Groton Area Cross Country team poses prior to their first meet in Redfield last Thursday.

L-R Logan Clocksene, Kason Oswald, Grady Zeck, Landon Thornton, Blake Malsom, Sydney Holmes, Ryelle Gilbert, Coach Torrence. (Courtesy Photo Bruce Babcock)

Ryelle Gilbert took second place in the girls junior varsity meet held in Redfield. She ran the 3,000 meter course in 11:46.02. Sydney Holmes placed 35 with a time of 13:59.34.

In the boys 3K junior varsity division, Kason Oswald placed 41st with a time of 12:56.70 and Logan Clocksene placed 67 with a time of 22:06.53.

The middle school Groton Area team placed fourth in a field of 11 teams. Grayden Zeck took 13th place with a time of 7:50.44, Blake Malsam was 22nd with a time of 8:08.75 and Landon Thornton was 32nd with a time of 8:52.25.

Highmore-Harrold won the team title with 18 points followed by Northwestern with 20, North Central 26, Groton Area 51, Dupree 53, Potter County 53, Wolsey-Wessington 72, Frederick Area 73, Miller 77, Mobridge-Pollock 78 and Redfield 110.

- Paul Kosel



The Tiger fans clustered together in the far side bleachers behind their team at the Sisseton football game. (Photo

by Paul Kosel)

#### Tiger gridrion goes 2-0 with defensive win over Webster Area

Groton Area's football team defeated Webster Area in a defensive game all the way to the end, 14-7.

"It's always a battle when we play Webster," said Coach Shaun Wanner. "The last three or four years have been close games and this was no exception."

There were only two first downs in the first quarter. Webster's first possession was stopped by a Christian Ehresmann interception, but then Groton's first possession went from second and 14 to third and 28 and fourth and 41 with two big sacks by Webster Area. Webster Area got a first down on its next drive but then ended up punting on fourth and four. Groton Area did the same thing with a first down and punting on fourth and nine. Webster Area was limited to four touches of the ball before punting.

That set up Groton's next drive with 1:02 left in the first quarter. Keegen Tracy had a 20 yard punt return and the Tigers set up shop at the Webster Area 45 yard line. That drive went the distance of 45 yards in seven lays with three first downs in 3:04 before Korbin Kucker scored on an eight yard run. Joao Nunes kicked the PAT and with 9:58 left in the second quarter, Groton Area took a 7-0 lead.

Webster Area then started its drive at its own 33 yard line. One big first down was recalled due to a penalty, making it third and 22, but then Gavin Witt broke free and dashed for 79 yards after a catch from Ian Lesnar. Bradyn Small kicked the PAT and the game was tied at seven with 7:53 left in the first half. That drive had five plays, one first down and took just under two minutes.

Groton Area would start its next drive on its own 25 yard line. The Tigers had five first downs and was down to the Webster Area three yard line. The Bearcat defense put up a tough fight as Groton Area was second one, third and one and fourth and one. Ryder Johnson would then just get through the corner to score for the Tigers with 1:13 left in the half. Nunes kicked the PAT and Groton Area was back on top, 14-7. That drive went 75 yards in 14 plays with six first downs and it took six and half minutes.

Both teams had one more opportunity before the half expired.

Groton Area had two first downs on the first drive of the second half, only to have Gavin Witt intercept the ball on fourth and four with a three yard return. That set up Webster Area on its own 38 yard line. The Bearcats would gain three first downs. It was then fourth and 11 and a pass was made that was bobbled deep in Groton territory. Pass interference was called on Groton Area and the Bearcats were first and goal at the nine yard line. A couple of big defensive plays by Groton Area forced Webster Area back to fourth and 15 and the final pass was incomplete, stopping the drive.

The Tigers were deep in their own territory, starting at the 15 yard line. This possession started with 1:24 left in the third quarter and went into the fourth quarter. Groton Area had four quick first downs, one including a pass interference call on Webster Area and the Tigers were on the Webster 35 yard line. But on first and 15, Groton Area fumbled the ball and the Bearcats recovered it on their own 38 yard line. Webster Area had two first downs and ended up turning the ball over on downs on fourth and third.

Groton Area had the ball with 5:47 left in the game and started off with a penalty, making it first and 20. The Tigers ended up punting on fourth and 14 and Webster had the ball on its own 44 yard line with 4:15 left in the game. The Bearcats got a first down at the Tiger 39 yard line. It was then second and 15 and third and 20. On fourth and 20, Webster Area went GUN SHOW. September 14-15. Saturday 9-5 for the pass that was intercepted by Ryder Johnson at the Groton Area 20 yard line. From there, it was time management for the Tigers and the game ended with a Groton Area win.

"You have to know your down and distance," Wanner said. "You know they're going to pass and fourth and 20. Ryder came over and said he should have knocked it down instead of intercepting it. By knocking it down, we would have had the ball at the 40 yard line and with the interception, we were at the 20 yard line. Everyone is happy and excited about the interception, but then you realize there is a better play. A play is play, though."

"We have to work on not having so many penalties," Wanner said. "We don't have a lot of plays when you're second and 18 or fourth and 41. It forces us to do something that we really don't want to do. Our juniors and seniors know we shouldn't be getting those penalties." When asked how do you improve on that, Wanner said, "We have this thing on Monday on getting on the line. The number of penalties we have is added on to our conditioning. It's called "Tiger Reminders." We'll clean it up." Groton Area had seven penalties for 62 yards accepting applications for the following posiwhile Webster Area had two for 25 yards.

"One thing we try to do is manage the clock," Wanner said. "We try to balance the number of times we run and pass the ball. You don't want to stop the clock with incomplete passes. We need to shorten our passing attempts."

Groton Area completed seven of 13 passes for 54 yards with one interception (Ryder Johnson 7-12-54-1 Int., Korbin Kucker 0-1) compared to Webster Area's four of 15 for 109 yards and one touchdown (all by Ian Lesnar). On the ground, Groton Area carried the ball 36 times for 135 yards and two touchdowns. Webster Area carried the ball 38 times for 100 yards. Receivers for Groton Area were Brevin Fliehs with four catches for 39 yards, Keegen Tracy with two catches for 16 yards and Conner Glines with one catch for 13 yards. For Webster Area, Gavin Witt had one catch for 79 yards one one touchdown, Tate Mammenga with two catches for 26 yards and Isaac Nelson had one catch for four yards.

Rushers for Groton Area were Korbin Kucker with 20 carries for 97 yards and one touchdown, Keegen Tracy with five carries for 43 yards, Christian Ehresmann had five carries for nine yards and Ryder Johnson had six carries for a minus 14 yards.

On the defensive side, Brevin Fliehs had 11 tackles and one fumble recovery, Christian Ehresmann had 10 tackles and one interception, Tucker Hardy had eight tackles and one sack, Cade McInerney had five tackles and one sack and Ryder Johnson had one interception. For Webster Area, Gage Baumgarn had nine tackles, Jeron McCreary and Michael Dorsett each had seven tackles, Trace Shoemaker had one fumble recovery and Gavin Witt had one interception.

It was a beautiful night for the game with the temperature in the 60s and no wind. There were no leg cramps in this game. Wanner said, "I think they're getting the point to stay hydrated. There were a lot of jars of pickle juice on the bus.'

Groton Area is now 2-0 on the season while Webster Area falls to 1-2. "It's been a while since we've been 2-0," Wanner said. "Even that one year we were 7-1, we lost our first game of the season and then won the next seven. Every game is going to be a battle. By the end of the season, we should be a solid football team.

Groton Area will travel to Milbank on Friday. "We have not played them for four or five only \$150.00. Put the South Dakota Statewide years," Wanner said. "They have a new coaching staff and they're pretty young, but they play a competitive schedule. They lost to Tri-Valley by one one point. Tri-Valley went up form 11B to 11A this year and they're always a tough team."

The injury list has Teylor Diegel cleared to play in the next game, but Nick Morris might have to stay out another week, according to Wanner.



Christian Ehresmann gains a few yards as he powers his way forward. He was given a little push by Lincoln Krause. Also pictured is Tucker Hardy (52). (Photo by Paul Kosel)

#### 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

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

DAKOTA TERRITORY GUN COLLECTORS & Sunday 9-3. Call Gene @ 605-848-2427

#### **AUCTIONS**

INTERSTATE AUCTION CENTER. Accepting consignments for clean farm/construction equipment, and building materials. September 21, 10:00am. 3 miles east of SF, exit 402, Brandon, SD. Listing: auctionzip.com 605-331-4550.

#### **EMPLOYMENT**

FAULK COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT is tions, Full-Time Motor grader Operator and Full/Part - Time Highway Maintenance Position. Call 605-598-6233 more information

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

JACUZZI BATH REMODEL can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 12/29/24.) Call 1-855-578-3126

PORTABLE OXYGEN CONCENTRATOR May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 844-374-3458

DONATE YOUR CAR, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-877-810-1944 today!

#### **NOTICES**

ADVERTISE IN NEWSPAPERS statewide for Classifieds Network to work for you today! (25) words for \$150. Each additional word \$5.) Call this newspaper or 800-658-3697 for details.

Groton Independent ♦ Wed., Sept. 11, 2024 ♦ 9

# ARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: How can homeowners make their homes greener and more efficient to cash in on rebates and incentives available under Biden's Inflation Reduction Act?

Bill O., Dewey, OK

Joe Biden's 2022 Inflation Reduction Act created \$8.8 billion in tax credits and rebates to help lower- and middle-income homeowners contribute to the country's emission reduction goals. As with prior housing policy, the act defines lower- and middle-income Americans as those making 150 percent or less of their Area Median Income, or the midpoint of their local area's income distribution. The bulk of these incentives come from federal tax credits which, like the act's state-based rebates, are available through September 2031, and can be applied retroactively to purchases and installations after August 2022.

The Residential Clean Energy Tax Credit covers up to 30 percent of installation costs for alternative energy sources including solar panels, small wind turbines, geothermal heat pumps and battery storage systems. The \$3,200 Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit, on the other hand, covers upgrades to existing energy sources. The credit can be applied with a cap



Homeowners can claim a tax credit of up to \$8,000 for installing an electric heat pump under the terms of the Inflation Reduction Act. Credit:

FanFan61618, FlickrCC.

of \$1,200 to new windows and skylights (up to \$600), new doors (up to \$500), and improvements to insulation (up to 30 percent). Out of the 23 total states that have applied for rebate program funding, eight have recently been approved: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Indiana, Maine, New Mexico, Rhode Island and Washington. Two more, New York and Wisconsin, have already begun distribution. The Department of Energy expects that several states will join them later in 2024 beginning with the Home Efficiency Rebate Program (HOMES), which will offer rebates of up to \$8,000 and \$4,000 respectively for low- and middle-income households that can cut energy usage by 35

percent or more.

The Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate (HEAR) boasts a cap of \$14,000 in rebates per household and is expected to follow implementation of HOMES. Under HEAR, low and middle income homeowners can expect 50-100 percent point of sale coverage on several appliances including up to \$8,000 for electric heat pumps; \$1,600 for insulation and air sealing; \$2,500 for electric wiring; and \$840 for electric stoves, ovens and heat pump clothes dryers.

Energy upgrades have the potential to save homeowners money far beyond installation. For example, more efficient homes can mean reduced energy bills. Furthermore, green homes can qualify for benefits such as a \$5,000 tax credit if they meet the Department of Energy

Zero Energy Ready Home (ZERH) standards. A qualified home energy auditor can help homeowners looking to cash in on the myriads of incentives determine which upgrades fit best with their homes and budgets.

.. 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.











SMITHFIELD

BONELESS PORKLOIN











BEER



ALWAYS SAVE CEREAL 19.4 – 26.8 Oz. Box

COORS, COORS LIGHT

LIQUOR/BEER

2/\$4

**\$2**99



**\$7**39

#### "Backpacks and Back to School"

School is back in session so it is time for a little pop quiz. What is an item that almost every student carries? If you said backpack you are off to a great start. Do you know



what it takes to be at the head of the class? Let's find out if you are a star student or need to brush up a little on your backpack knowledge.

Most students carry a backpack filled with their books at some point during their school day. Did you know a heavy back pack can cause neck, shoulder, or back pain. Those narrow straps can also compress on nerves in the shoulder leading to arm numbness, tingling, or weakness. Overweight backpacks can also change the center of balance making it easier to trip.

Here is the first quiz question. A student's backpack should not weigh more than what percentage of the student's weight? A) 50%, B) 25%, or C) 15%? Answer: (C) The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that a backpack weigh no more than 15% of a child's weight. For example, a 60 pound child's backpack should weigh no more than 9 pounds.

Next guestion: What is the best way to wear a back pack? A) with one strap slung over one shoulder, B) with both straps used and using any additional chest or waist straps to help distribute the weight, C) dragging on the ground behind? The answer is, of course (B). Injuries are reduced when the backpack's load is distributed across the body. Padded wide shoulder straps help distribute the weight evenly across the shoulders. Chest or waist clips can help take some of that load off the shoulders. There are some backpacks now that have wheels like suitcases. In that case, (C) rolling, not dragging, your backpack behind you may be a better option, but dragging a regular backpack is not a great idea if you want your backpack to last.

Here is the last quiz question. Where should you put the heaviest items in your backpack? A) at the very top of the backpack, B) on one side of the backpack, or C) at the bottom and center of the backpack? The answer is (C) at the bottom and center of the backpack. The load should be closer to the wearer's center of gravity at the small of the back. This helps decrease risk for tripping or falling from the wearer being off balance.

How did you do? Before your student heads off to school, or you head off for a weekend hike, it is important for everyone to consider these wear and safety tips. Hopefully you do not find a forgotten sandwich from last year still stuck in the bottom. With this knowledge your students can be standing tall and proud at the head of the class. Have a great school year by staying safe and healthy out there.

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 and on Facebook, Instagram, and Threads featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show, 2 podcasts, and a Radio program, providing health information based on science, built on trust, on SDPB and streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central and wherever podcast can be found.