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# The Groton Independent

Vol. 141 No. 39 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, June 19, 2024 ♦ Established in 1889

## Groton school board member to lead SDHSAA board

By Dana Hess For the S.D. NewsMedia Association



**Marty Weismantel**  
(GDI File Photo)

PIERRE — A Groton school board member and Watertown's school superintendent are the new leaders of the South Dakota High School Activities Association board of directors.

Mary Weismantel of Groton will be the chairman of the board the next time it meets in August. Two seats on the board are reserved for school board members. Weismantel is the board of education representative for small schools.

Jeff Danielsen, the Watertown superintendent, will serve as the vice chairman. SDHSAA organizes schools in four divisions, from largest to smallest. Danielsen is the board representative from Division II.

For a while, the board that Weismantel leads will be short-handed. At its meeting on Wednesday, June 12, the board accepted the resignation of Eric Denning of Mount Vernon, the Division IV representative. Seven board positions rotate between superintendents, high school principals and activities directors. During the current cycle, Denning's board position must be filled by an activities director. He has accepted a position as a principal in Dell Rapids.

SDHSAA Executive Director Dan Swartos said the board will accept nominations for the Division IV representative at its August meeting with the new board member likely to be seated at the November meeting.



## Bench Restoration Project

The Groton Chamber's Bench Restoration Project has been completed!

Their bench restoration project was paid for partly by a shirt fundraiser last year as well as Treasurer Katelyn's Give Where You Live Dacotah Bank donation.

Topper Tastad rescued and refurbished 10 benches that are now on Groton's Main Street. (See benches on Page 9)

## Airport, soccer field discussion continues

What's in store for the city's airport?

Airplane hangars. Solar runway lights. Contracts for use of the runway. But some of those improvements may not be immediate.

The Groton City Council received an update on the airport located north of town during Tuesday's council meeting.

Darrell Hillestad asked the council to allow him to work with IMEG and City Attorney Drew Johnson on a couple of projects, including figuring out plans for hangar spaces and agreements for crop dusters to use the runway.

There have been a few requests from individuals to use the runway for agriculture purposes, but there currently isn't any type of agreement for that usage, Hillestad said. That could lead to damage to the runway.

"It's a nice airport, and I want to keep it that way," he said. "It's something we can't ignore."

Hillestad suggested a \$2,500 fee for a contract, with 25 cents paid per acre they spray. If the individuals doesn't do any damage at the runway, they could get \$2,000 back.

However, he added, any contract will go back before the council before being approved.

Some improvements may take longer, as Hillestad said he's been told any hangar construction has to be approved by the federal government, so it probably won't happen quickly.

A temporary trailer house has been placed at the airport for meetings or to get out of the sun, he said.

### Soccer field building being priced out

Soccer field building being priced out

The city plans to work with the school district and Groton Soccer Association on options for a new building at the soccer fields on the west side of town.

The current sheds at the soccer fields are damaged and need to be fixed and/or replaced. Whitney Sombke with the soccer association asked about a timeframe on getting a new building or repairs as there is a youth soccer camp scheduled for late July. She added the soccer association is happy to contribute.

Councilman Brian Bahr asked to look for pricing on prebuilt buildings so the city, school district and soccer association can discuss a new building.

Referencing some pre-built building prices, Bahr added, "\$6,600 bucks is a lot of money, but it's for the kids."

- Elizabeth Varin

## Groton teams kick off baseball, softball seasons with full day of games

Groton was down by two runs at the bottom of the seventh.

A base hit, a dropped third strike, two walks, a fly to short center and a bunt brings the score to 3-3 in the Junior Legion game against W.I.N.

In front of a full crowd in the stands, No. 23 Alex Abeln stepped up to the plate. The defensive substitute was in his second game of the day, playing catcher during the Junior Teeners game against the Redfield Flickertails.

In the final moments of the Junior Legion game, No. 17 Nicholas Morris was on third, No. 4 Carter Simon was on second and No. 0 Jarrett Erdmann as on first. At home base, Abeln swung on the first pitch.

Strike.

Continues on Page 12



## Tree planted in memory of Janice Fliehs

Members of the Groton Garden Club planted a tree at the Groton Baseball Complex in memory of Janice Fliehs. Pictured in back, left to right, are Linda Anderson, Shirlee Briggs (Janice Fliehs' daughter), and Deb McKiver; and in front are Pat Larson Denise Sombke and Becky Aldrich. (Courtesy Photo)



Nicholas Groeblichhoff, Braxton Imrie and Alex Abeln are pictured on the left as they helped plant the tree for the Groton Garden Club. (Courtesy Photos)

# That Dad Thing

In the three-plus decades I've been writing columns, I wonder if I've ever written a Fathers Day column before the holiday. Well, why mess with tradition?

Maybe it's the writer gene in me, but I was born an observer, and I saw the differences in the way my grandparents parented, how my father learned from them, and me from him. They loved their kids but any shows of affection were understated. But each generation evolves.

I have a sense that Dad was a bit spoiled, or at least didn't want for much. He had cars! I had to carjack our '67 Chevy station wagon. It had a 396, laid rubber, and though sluggish off the line, could take most of the sports cars in town.

I was the first of six kids. Before we go on, it's my observation that kids are who they're going to be when they're born, so my folks would have been better off if the eldest was someone civilized and smart like my sister Sherry. Instead they got a respectful renegade—a psychiatric term, I'm sure.

I was going to break the rules, accept the punishment—often two weeks of being grounded—and then I'd do it again. My parents were horrified at the thought of having six of me, but they needn't have worried, only Joel, the second to last, was a rebel. Such a snotty teenager he even managed to offend me. I think part of the reason he got away with more is because they were flat-out pooped by then.

I think if I had been a young father when Dylan was born, I think I would have gone the drill sergeant way. However, it was obvious very early that he was, as the Lakota call them, Heyoka, a contrarian. Dylan sometimes makes an attempt to contradict that description to which I respond, "Dylan, you crawled backwards!" He was noisy and energetic, a typical boy in that regard, and he tallied so many stitches, I once got a call from Child Protective Services after Dylan had smacked his forehead on the kitchen counter overhang at full speed. They wanted an explanation.



## That's Life

by Tony Bender

"He's a boy," I said.

The standard discipline tact—"Because I said so."—wouldn't have worked on Dylan. Reason worked. A conversation, an explanation, did.

Now, India... sweet, little, smiley India, was a different case. Defiant. Stubborn. Petulant. If I ever won a match it could be attributed to her benevolence. She still scares me.

I wonder about the strategies and genetics of those who preceded us. Grandpa Bender was easy-going, good-humored and rarely lost his temper. Grandpa Spilloway was stoic but when he was unhappy with you, his steely gray Russian eyes demanded attention.

Years ago, when I was working radio, a sometimes tense occupation, I threw a recorded "cart" against the wall that was advertising something that had already happened, and as tape unfurled like a New Years celebration, I stomped out of the studio spewing expletives. Everyone scattered. Even the General Manager ducked into his office.

"Curious," I thought, as I strode back into the studio and caught my reflection in the glass. Those eyes. That steely Russian look. I was looking at my grandpa. Ah. I'll confess that I've used that look as necessary ever since. It moves mountains. Slays dragons.

Sometimes I hear my father if I snort when I laugh. It's hard to believe I'm older than he ever got to be. The dynamic of fathers and sons changes, and I regret that I lost him when we were just becoming friends, a relationship that was man-to-man. I remember especially one day we cruised the backroads looking at towering cornstalks, just talking, laughing, and getting to know sides of each other that had been hidden.

I doubt he knew how much of him was in me, in the way I approached the world. Like all fathers do, he worried about me, my willingness to take career chances, my defiance.

"Sometimes you have to put up with some s—t," he told me once.

"Oh, yeah," I responded, "When exactly did you ever do that?"

For better or worse, my kids will take the lessons I didn't even know I was teaching and build on them. They'll be better at parenting than I've been. Exactly as it should be.

When I congratulate a new father I invariably say, "It's the best job in the world."

© Tony Bender, 2024

has had contact with a player before they were supposed to, and while most of the time the punishment was a fine and a forfeiture of draft picks, there are instances where the affected team received the forfeited draft pick as compensation. There was never a doubt that the Falcons had tampered with Cousins, the only question was whether the Vikings would receive any compensation. Last Friday, the league announced they had finished the investigation and found two additional instances of tampering. Unfortunately for the Vikings, the NFL did not award any compensation – instead, Atlanta was fined and had a fifth-round pick taken away. It was, at most, a slap of the wrist. I expect most teams now feel emboldened to tamper because even if they are caught, there won't be any serious consequences.

Ok, back to our regularly scheduled programming.

The Vikings currently have six tight ends on the roster. Last season the Vikings kept four tight ends on the roster, and with T.J. Hockenson possibly starting the season on the Physically Unable to Perform (PUP) list, it's possible that only one of the TEs on the roster will be cut before the start of the regular season.

T.J. Hockenson – Unquestionably the player at the top of the TE depth chart, Hockenson has been one of the best tight ends in the league since being drafted eighth overall in 2019. Unfortunately, Hockenson was injured in the week 16 matchup against his former team (Detroit Lions), and there is currently no timetable for his return. If I had to guess, I think Hockenson will do everything he can to return to the lineup following the Vikings' week 6 bye, especially considering the Vikings play the Lions in week 7.

Josh Oliver – Signed as the TE2 last offseason, Oliver will likely begin the season on top of the depth chart. Although he's capable of catching passes, Oliver was signed to a lucrative deal because of his blocking abilities. Will Oliver be able to elevate his game and become a reliable pass catcher for Sam Darnold and/or J.J. McCarthy?

Robert Tonyan – An under-the-radar free agency signing, Tonyan was brought in to help fill the pass-catching void that was created by Hockenson's injury. The 30-year-old TE spent his first five seasons in Green Bay before playing in Chicago last season.

Johnny Mundt – An undrafted player out of Oregon, Mundt spend his first five seasons with the Los Angeles Rams before following head coach Kevin O'Connell to Minnesota. After Hockenson went down in week 16, Mundt saw the biggest increase in playing time and impressed the Vikings so much the team signed him to an extension this offseason.

Nick Muse – A seventh-round draft pick by the Vikings in 2022, Muse has mostly played special teams up to this point in his brief career. Last week it was announced that Muse had recently had knee surgery to "clean up" some issues, but he should be ready to go once training camp rolls around next month.

Trey Knox – Although he was undrafted, Knox was given a hefty signing bonus when he signed in Minnesota, so the Vikings must think he has some serious potential. He began his college career as a wide receiver before transitioning to tight end, so Knox is already a capable pass-catching threat. If he can improve his blocking abilities by adding weight and getting stronger, Knox could develop into a solid TE in the NFL.

## Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

As we continue to evaluate the Minnesota Vikings' roster for the upcoming season, we turn our attention to the tight end position. Before we get into it, however, let's talk for a moment about the tampering charges that were being investigated by the NFL this offseason.

The investigation began after Kirk Cousins made some troubling comments during his introductory press conference in Atlanta. Cousins spoke about how he was in touch with the Falcons' coaching and equipment staff before the official start of free agency, which is against the tampering rules set forth by the NFL. This isn't the first time a team

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**JUNE 11, 2024 – GENERAL MEETING**

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

**ABERDEEN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (ADC) PRESENTATION:** Tim Hanigan, current Chairman of the ADC Board and Taylor Hanson, VP of Development with Aberdeen Development Corporation met with the Commission. Tim Hanigan shared that Michael Bockorny, current CEO is leaving at the end of the year, and Tim will be replacing him as CEO on October 1st. Mr. Hanigan stated that ADC will be requesting to increase their budget request from \$15,000.00 in 2024 to \$25,000.00 for 2025. Mr. Hanigan shared that they have four pillars, these funds are used for following three of the four: Recruiting New Businesses; Retention and Expanding Current Businesses; Help Develop Entrepreneurship. Lobbying is the fourth pillar, but they don't use these funds for this, but if there is a way they can assist the County, they are willing to do so. The Development Corporation is currently working on trying to recruit businesses to move into the Molded Fiber Glass and Banner buildings. They recently did a survey of the community and are going to work on bringing a Fast-Food Chicken restaurant and a Tropical Smoothie Café to Aberdeen.

**AVERA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & ADDICTION CARE SERVICES:** Jessi Paysen and Jodi Hepperle with Avera Behavioral Health & Addiction Care Services met with the Commission to discuss the services they provide, and request for subsidize financial support of \$25,000.00 for 2025 Budget, which is the same as last year. They help people with Alcohol, Drug and Gambling addictions, number of cases have fluctuated over the past year. The number of referrals they can take has been affected due to staffing issues. They did pause the Residential Intensive Methamphetamine Program so currently doing it as an Outpatient Service. Commissioner Fjeldheim asked how they are going about recruiting. Jessi shared that is a challenging field, there are not as many people going into Chemical Dependency and another challenge is some practitioners are going into their own private practice for Mental Health. She shared they go to Northern State University and use Indeed to recruit. A discussion was held regarding possible usage of the Opioid Grant Funds the County has received.

**TEMPORARY SPECIAL EVENT ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARING:** Time and place, as advertised to consider applications for a Temporary Special Event Alcohol License. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize Vice-Chairman Fjeldheim to sign the following application: Richmond Lake Association, Aberdeen, SD for Poker Run to be held at the Richmond Pavilion, Richmond Resort Outlot 2 in the NE 1/4 Section 25-T124N-R65W Brown County, SD. Temporary Special Event Alcohol License will be effective July 20, 2024. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**ALCOHOL LICENSE TEMPORARY PERMIT FOR SPECIAL EVENT:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize Vice-Chairman Fjeldheim to sign the following Alcoholic Beverage Temporary Permit for Special Event to Stacy Gossman, DBA: Flying Pig at the Brown County Fairgrounds Clubhouse for Dacotah Bank Employee Appreciation Banquet on June 22, 2024. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR COURT APPOINTED ATTORNEYS:** Discussion was held on the Request for Proposals for Court Appointed Attorneys. It was decided to request a preference of a two- or three-year con-

tract. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve and authorize advertising the RFP for Court Appointed Attorneys to be submitted by July 1, 2024. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**MINUTES:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the June 4, 2024 General Meeting Minutes. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Gage to approve the June 7, 2024 Primary Election Canvass Minutes. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS:** Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to approve the following claims: Professional Fees: Aberdeen ED \$2,818.50; Avera St. Luke's Hospital \$6,242.88; Certified Languages International LLC \$828.30; DEVNET \$10,480.78; Faulk County Sheriff's Office \$16,740.00; Kristi Brandt \$265.40; Lara Nelson \$1,200.00; Lauren Nikolas \$2,500.00; LexisNexis Risk Data Mgt, LLC \$200.00; Manaja Hill \$680.00; Northern Plains Animal Health \$180.03; Richardson, Wylly, Wise, Sauck & Hieb, LLP \$1,253.50; Sanford Health Occupational Medicine \$516.00; Satellite Tracking of People, LLC \$1,943.25; SDHSC \$600.00; Sewer Duck, Inc \$85.00; Taliaferro Law Firm, PC \$72.50; Thomson Reuters-West Payment Center \$291.80; Yankton County Sheriff's Office \$50.00; Yellow Rob Consulting \$1,500.00. Publishing: Groton Daily Independent \$740.91; Mobridge Tribune \$43.05. Rentals: Linde Gas & Equipment Inc \$50.60; Pantorium Cleaners Inc \$259.20. Repairs & Maintenance: Butler Machinery Company \$1,430.91; Dakota Doors Inc \$46.56; Dakota Fluid Power, Inc \$119.75; Dakota Supply Group \$240.94; Diamond Mowers LLC \$1,878.58; Diesel Machinery, Inc \$8,445.87; D-K Diesel Injection, Inc \$1,327.05; Hanlon Brothers, LLC \$4,830.00; Hoven Auto Repair, Inc \$305.76; Kirk's Auto \$121.94; Napa Central \$130.12; Olson's Pest Technicians \$250.00; Pantorium Cleaners Inc \$222.90; Pierson Ford Lincoln, Inc \$3,071.34; PowerPlan \$4,457.26; Precision Kiosk Technologies \$2,700.00; RDO Equipment Co \$7,177.52; Runnings \$181.35; Steven Lust Automotive \$277.69; Transource Truck & Equipment, Inc \$10,348.28. Supplies: Agtegra Cooperative \$48,734.13; Amazon Capital Service, Inc \$97.50; Auto Value Aberdeen \$50.94; Bimbo Foods USA, Inc \$706.80; Butler Machinery Company \$243.40; Century Business Products \$351.76; Crawford Trucks & Equipment \$4,480.64; Dakota Doors Inc \$2,282.50; Dakota Fluid Power, Inc \$1,431.87; Diamond Mowers LLC \$163.75; Diesel Machinery, Inc \$6,907.88; D-K Diesel Injection, Inc \$930.00; East Side Jersey Dairy Inc \$1,034.28; Farm Power Mfg. \$27.60; Gefdog Designs \$1,072.36; GovConnection, Inc \$798.01; HF Jacobs & Son Const. Inc \$10,695.37; Hoven Auto Repair, Inc \$56.00; Interstate Battery System of South Dakota \$535.70; Jensen Rock & Sand Inc \$39,695.75; Karl Emergency Vehicles \$18,547.92; Kessler's \$105.37; Kirk's Auto \$11.76; Mack's Auto, Inc \$1,708.00; Mac's Inc-Capital One Trade Credit \$230.66; Menards \$103.99; Midwest Pump & Tank \$318.00; Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board \$44.10; PharmChem, Inc \$1,214.10; Premier Southern Ticket \$870.06; RDO Equipment Co \$1,916.40; Runnings \$242.43; Safety Service (\$325.00); Schwann Welding \$1,987.15; Share Corporation \$847.80; Sioux Falls Crane & Hoist, Inc \$1,240.10; Steven Lust Automotive \$44.95; Transource Truck & Equipment, Inc \$5,780.92; Tri-State Water \$35.00; US Foods \$10,359.18; WEB Water Bottling Company \$45.75. Travel & Conference: Janel Hettich \$26.83; Kelsi Vinger \$160.14; Lynn Heupel \$85.27; Property Records Industry Association (PRIA) \$139.00. Utilities: City of Aberdeen Treasurer \$1,427.40; Northwestern Energy \$11,108.69; State of South Dakota PMB 0112 \$168.46; Town of Frederick \$77.00; WEB Water Development Association, Inc \$118.68. Machinery & Equipment: Safety Service \$48,500.00. Others: SD Dept of Agriculture & Natural Resources \$4,569.09. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**LANDFILL TONNAGE REPORT:** Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to acknowledge the Landfill Tonnage Report for May 2024. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**TRAVEL REQUESTS:** Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Travel Requests: Dirk Rogers & Matt Heupel, Highway Dept. to attend Summer Meeting on June 12-14, 2024 in Pierre, SD; Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent to attend Transportation Hall of Honor Selection Committee Meeting on June 18, 2024 in Pierre, SD. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent wanted to comment regarding his 2025 Budget request with the Commissioners since there are other requests coming in. Dirk shared that what he put it was a little aggressive but a workable program for 2025, which was 15 million then he cut 2 million out that is all road work. Dirk understands the Commission is going to have a tough time deciding between people or road work; he sent in a budget that was already pre-cut and assuming it will be cut some more, so just ask the Commissioners to keep these things in mind as working their way through all the budget requests for 2025.

**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.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:08 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**ATTENTION TAXPAYERS: NOTICE TO IMPOSE A COUNTY LEVY FOR MAINTENANCE, REPAIR & CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS & BRIDGES (RESERVE FUND)**

Commissioner Dennert offered the following Resolution: **RESOLUTION #31-24 RESOLUTION TO CREATE A COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE LEVY** THE GOVERNING BOARD OF BROWN COUNTY, SD desires to properly maintain, repair, construct and reconstruct and improve roads and bridges in Brown County in order to benefit and preserve the welfare of Brown County residents and taxpayers in the long term. Law now permits the governing board of said entity to establish a tax amount which may be levied, and such amount can increase each year with the amount of inflation and new construction. All property within the county must pay the Road & Bridge Levy. However, 25% of the taxes generated by the property within a city will be remitted back to that city for their own bridge and street purposes. Therefore, the board does now establish a base property tax in the amount of \$2,167,872.79 (.40/1000) starting with calendar year 2024 taxes payable in the calendar year 2025. This action has been taken by the board and approved by at least two-thirds vote of the board.

This decision may be referred to a vote of the people upon a petition signed by at least five percent of the registered voters in the district and filed with the governing body within twenty days of the first publication of

\$22.34/hr. – effective June 17, 2024.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**LEASE AGREEMENTS:** Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Vice-Chairman Fjeldheim to sign the following Lease Agreements: Seth Black or Kimberly Dillavou for lease of the Richmond Lake Youth Camp on July 20, 2024 for a Wedding; Northern Electric for lease of the Fairgrounds Parking Lot adjacent to the Odde Ice Arena on June 11, 2024 for Annual Meeting Event. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**LANDFILL TONNAGE REPORT:** Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to acknowledge the Landfill Tonnage Report for May 2024. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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This decision may be referred to a vote of the people upon a petition signed by at least five percent of the registered voters in the district and filed with the governing body within twenty days of the first publication of

this decision.

Unless this action is referred to a vote of the people and reversed by such vote, this resolution authorizes the county auditor to spread a levy to raise tax dollars in the above stated amount, allowing for percentage increases from inflation and new construction in subsequent years.

Dated this 18th day of June, 2024.

Seconded by Commissioner Wiese.

Roll call vote: Dennert-aye; Fjeldheim-aye; Wiese-aye; Gage-aye; Sutton-aye. Resolution adopted.

Duane Sutton, Board Chairman

Doug Fjeldheim, Board Vice-Chairman

Mike Gage, Board Member

Drew Dennert, Board Member

Mike Wiese, Board Member

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**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

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.

Brown County prefers to enter into either a two- or three-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 8:00 a.m., Monday, July 1, 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 OFFERORS**

A. All proposals shall be sent to:

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 Defense Contract."

C. All proposals shall be received by 8:00 a.m., July 1, 2024. An original and seven copies of proposals must be presented. No faxed, e-mailed, or telephone proposals will be accepted.

D. Brown County will attempt to schedule interviews, if it so desires, during the week of July 8th. 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 July 30, 2024. The Brown County Board of Commissioners must approve a contract with the selected attorneys as appropriate. The start date will be January 1, 2025.

F. All proposals must include the following information:

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

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

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 licensed 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 capa-

bility 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 the firm.

**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 secure it. Brown County will consider the completeness of the 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 above-referenced 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 June 19 and June 26, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$88.85 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23377



Notice of Audit of the Fiscal Affairs of Groton Area School District No. 06-6

Notice is hereby given that the records and books of account of Groton Area School District No. 06-6 of Brown County, South Dakota, have been audited by Eide Bailly LLP for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, and that a detailed report thereon is filed with the governing board, the Business Manager, and the Department of Legislative Audit, 427 South Chapelle, Pierre, South Dakota, for public inspection.

The following findings and recommendations referred to in the report are hereby published in compliance with the provisions of SDCL 4-11-12:

**Current Audit Findings and Recommendations**

Finding 2023-001 – Preparation of Financial Statements, Footnotes and Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA) including Significant Audit Journal Entries

Criteria: The Groton Area School District 06-6's (School District) internal control structure should be designed to provide for the preparation of the financial statements, footnotes, and the SEFA, which includes having an adequate system for recording and processing entries material to the financial statements being audited in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Condition: The School District requested the external auditors to assist in the preparation of the financial statements and related footnotes along with assistance in preparing the SEFA for the year ended June 30, 2023. As part of the financial statement preparation process, we proposed material audit adjustments that were not identified as a result of the School District's existing internal controls and, therefore, result in a misstatement of the School District's financial statements.

Cause: The limited size of the School District's staff and resources causes the inability to prepare the financial statements,

footnotes and SEFA and could cause the need for auditors to propose material journal entries.

Effect: This condition may affect the School District's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statements.

Recommendation: This circumstance is not unusual in an organization of this size. It is the responsibility of management and those charged with governance to make the decision whether to accept the degree of risk associated with this condition because of cost or other considerations. Also, a thorough review of the transactions in each fund should take place prior to the beginning of the audit, to ensure generally accepted accounting principles have been followed for each fund type, especially for transaction types infrequent in occurrence.

Views of Responsible Officials: Management agrees with the finding.

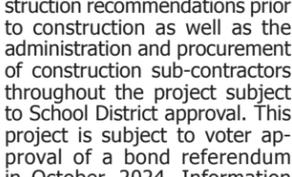
Published June 19 and June 26, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$57.44 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23378



Frederick Area School District requests Statements of Qualifications to provide Construction Management at Risk (CMAR) services for a proposed new construction project of a replacement high school addition to their school facility in Frederick, SD. The total project cost is budgeted between \$9.8 to \$14.9 million. The School District desires to have construction begin the Spring-Summer 2025 with completion by the start of school in the Fall of 2026. The selected CMAR will participate in design with the School District and JLG Architects and will provide estimating services and construction recommendations prior to construction as well as the administration and procurement of construction sub-contractors throughout the project subject to School District approval. This project is subject to voter approval of a bond referendum in October, 2024. Information packets outlining the project and requirement for qualifications / submittal can be obtained by contacting:

Jeff Kusters, Superintendent  
Frederick Area Public School District  
202 East Main St.  
Frederick, SD 57441  
Phone: (605)329-2145 Email: jeff.kusters@k12.sd.us  
The deadline for submittals is Tuesday, June 25th at 12:00 pm CT.

Published June 19, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$14.41 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23379



Week 15 of the Queen of Hearts drawing was held Thursday with the jackpot of \$22,614. Ticket sales for the were \$1,820. The name drawn was Denise Raap with chose card number 14, it was the Ace of Clubs. She won the consolation prize of \$182.

**King Crossword – Answers**

Solution time: 23 mins.

E	A	R	L	P	H	O	H	T	T	P
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C	A	R	L	E	M	T	S	T	A	R
O	N	E	S	H	A	Y	A	U	T	O

# The Groton Independent

21 N Main, Groton 605/397-NEWS (6397)  
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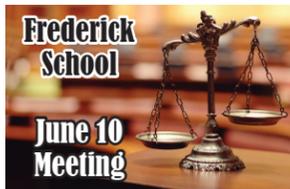
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FREDERICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #6-2  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
June 10, 2024

A regular meeting of the Frederick Area Board of Education was called to order on June 10, 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 Kusters and Business Manager Shauna Severson.

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

2024-112 Motion by Achen, second by Hart to approve the agenda as presented. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

No conflict of interest disclosures.

Motion 2024-113 Motion by Ellwein, second by Achen to approve the following consent agenda items. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

a. May 13, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

b. May 29, 2024 Joint Coop Meeting Minutes

c. May 2024 Payroll

d. May 2024 Financial Report

e. June 2024 Bills

Financial Report:  
General Fund- Checking: Bal 5-1-24: \$225,299.85; Receipts: \$348,453.85; Disbursements: \$243,972.37; Transfers to other funds: \$12,258.00; Bal 5-31-24: \$317,523.33. Investments: Bal 5-1-24: \$547,234.10; Interest: \$26,568.13; Bal 5-31-24: \$573,802.23. Ending Fund Balance: \$891,325.56.

Imprest Fund: Bal 5-1-24: \$2,372.00; Receipts: \$2,663.00; Disbursements: \$4,379.25; Bal 5-31-24: \$655.75.

Capital Outlay Fund: Checking: Bal 5-1-24: \$650,792.64; Receipts: \$216,571.95; Disbursements: \$4,089.66; Bal 5-31-24: \$863,274.93. Investments: Bal 5-1-24: \$2,053,800.96. Ending Fund Balance: \$2,917,075.89.

Special Education Fund- Check-

ing: Bal 5-1-24: \$81,301.17; Receipts: \$74,024.75; Disbursements: \$30,315.43; Bal 5-31-24: \$125,010.49. Investments: Bal 5-31-24: \$1,368,913.67. Ending Fund Balance: \$1,493,924.16.

Food Service Fund: Bal 5-1-24: (\$1,754.35); Receipts: \$6,471.40; Disbursements: \$10,519.15; Transfer from General Fund: \$10,000.00; Bal 5-31-24: \$4,197.90.

Drivers Ed Fund: Bal 5-1-24: (\$522.96); Disbursements: \$67.97; Transfer from General Fund: \$2,258.00; Bal 5-31-24: \$1,667.07.

Custodial Fund: Bal 5-1-24: \$67,977.45; Receipts: \$13,278.10; Disbursements: \$22,217.50; Bal 5-31-24 \$59,038.05.

Ovid J Stevens Scholarship: Checking: Bal 5-1-24: \$.85; Disbursements: \$3,000.00; Transfer from Savings: \$3,000.00; Bal 5-31-24 \$.85. Investments: Bal 5-1-24: \$25,773.29; Transfer to Checking: \$3,000.00; Interest: \$263.54; Bal 5-31-24: \$23,036.83. Ending Fund Balance: \$23,037.68.

Claims approved: General Fund salaries 120,082.82; Special Education salaries 17,875.87; Food Service salaries 3,407.64. EFTPS, federal income tax/Social Security/Medicare 40,302.01; 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, retirement 2,177.78; Optilegra, vision insurance 470.57; SD Retirement 20,102.32; SD Retirement Supplemental, 4,721.21. Total: \$228,978.97.

Bills approved: General Fund: A&M Products Company-bb region trophies, 141.00; Aberdeen Awards-xc awards, 135.00; Aberdeen School District-atec, 5,916.21; Agtegrafuel, 3,038.83; Allianz Travel Insurance-nationals travel insurance, 377.04; Allegiant-national fbla travel, 1,932.00; Amazon-supplies, 311.24; American Red Cross-hs certifications, 570.00; Best Western Ramkota-SF- principal travel, 214.00; Century Business Products-copier overage, 310.23; Cenex-fuel, 135.00; Churchill, Manolis, Freeman, Kludt & Burns-legal advice, 2,203.60; Cole Papers-custodial supplies, 395.97; Dakota

Outdoors-weight room maintenance, 1,208.00; Dakota Supply Group-air filters, 842.53; Delta Airlines-national fbla travel, 3,152.80; Farmers Union Oil-bus maintenance, 104.99; FASD Imprest Fund-misc., 4,379.25; FCCLA-nlc registration, 585.00; GDI News-publishing, 115.07; Hamlin School-region 1b golf share, 23.10; Hub City Radio-radio ads, 1,150.00; JVT-phone, 238.07; Kens-build your base, 152.56; Ketterling-track pictures, 62.50; Menards- supplies, 410.45; Merchant Services-cc processing fees, 64.17; Mid-American Research Chemical-maintenance supplies, 2,310.42; Midstates Group-music/track awards, 183.00; Montana-Dakota Utilities-utilities, 4,030.27; Pantorium Cleaners-supplies, 121.40; Pirate Ship-postage, 15.47; Prorate Services-dot test, 82.37; Ramada-state track travel, 3,815.76; Rinse & Go-bus cleanings, 40.50; School Specialty-table, 389.21; SNA-school nutrition registration, 336.00; Target-supplies, 11.67; Titan Machinery-grasshopper service/supplies, 758.05; Town of Frederick-utilities, 662.79; USPS-annual box renewal, 154.00; WalMart-supplies, 177.79; Zinter, Tonya-education reimbursement, 60.00. Capital Outlay Fund: Century Business Products-copier lease, 306.66; Dakota Outdoors-treadmill, 3,049.40; Discovery Education-science curriculum, 24,540.00; MARCO-outdoor bells, 4,356.38; Precision Floors & Interiors-carpet/labor, 2,520.00; Savvas-science/econ curriculum, 31,693.96. Special Education Fund: Aspire-non hcbs services, 1,106.70; Avera-OT/PT, 2,013.14. Food Service Fund: Anderson, Melissa- lunch refund, 84.35; CWD-food, 114.58; Flynn, Todd-lunch refund, 7.05; FASD-move lunch refund for textbook fee, 33.00; Himanga, Bruce-lunch refund, 12.70; Lickfelt, Lance-lunch refund, 75.20; Morlock, Marty-lunch refund, 33.75; Pantorium Cleaners-supplies, 104.35; Sumption, Stephanie-lunch refund, 97.85; Tschosik, Paula-lunch refund, 28.95; Wilson, Mitchell-lunch refund, 143.20. Drivers Education Fund: Agtegra-fuel, 95.25. Imprest Fund: Brown County Sheriff-fingerprints, 20.00; Cattail Crossing Golf Course-pre-region/region golf registration, 220.00; Division of Criminal Investigation-back-

ground check, 43.25; Ellendale School-track meet registration, 165.00; Eureka Golf Course-golf meet registration, 25.00; First National Bank-state track meal money, 2,916.00; Rolling Hills Golf Club-lrc golf meet registration, 110.00; Sisseton School District-track registration, 200.00; Split Rock Country Club-golf meet registration, 90.00; Warner School-track meet registration, 200.00; Waubay School-track meet registration, 200.00; Webster Area School-track/golf meet registrations, 190.00. Custodial Funds: Aberdeen Awards-lrc track awards, 1,716.19; Amazon-bbb supplies, 35.54; Arneson, Chloe-Alex Bowman memorial scholarship, 1,500.00; Bauer, Dave-lrc track worker, 300.00; Boston Fern-grad flowers/teacher slush, 126.75; Breakdown Sports-bbb camp, 1,440.00; BSN Sports-fb jerseys, 1,088.20; Cox, Shanda-Ovid Stevens scholarship, 1,000.00; Diamond Dry Cleaning-grad gowns cleaning, 82.50; Donat, Eric-lrc track worker, 327.54; Duenwald Transportation- music trip transportation, 4,925.00; Ellwein, Jocelynn-Ovid Stevens scholarship, 1,000.00; First National Bank-band trip meal money, 2,272.00; FBLA-national fbla, 1,000.00; Great Shots-music trip, 880.47; Kesslers-slc food/water, 31.96; Midwest Inn-music trip travel, 2,979.92; MB, LLC-bbb camp shirts, 160.08; Mehlhaff, Katelyn-Bernice Rollo memorial scholarship, 1,500.00; Morlock, Marty-state track meal reimbursement, 355.37; Omaha Zoo-music trip, 206.50; Pashen, Brock-bbb warmups, 340.85; Sumption, Brayden-Sam Kenner memorial scholarship, 750.00; Sumption, Laura-Ovid Stevens scholarship, 1,000.00; Sumption, Morgan-Mark Nuese memorial scholarship, 750.00; WalMart-grad baskets, 25.45.

The following reports were presented:

Jeff Kusters: Superintendent/9-12 Principal/Athletic Director

Shauna Severson: Business Manager – Pay periods will now run from the first of the month to the last day of each month and be paid out the following month on the 15th (or before if weekend/holiday) beginning June 2024 payroll.

Achen/Hart: Building – The need for a Construction Manager was discussed; the board would like RFQ sent out.

The FY2025 budget was discussed.

The Regular/Re-Organizational July 2024 Meeting will be moved to Friday, July 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

2024-114 Motion by Achen, second by Ellwein to approve the transfer of \$14,512.00 from General Fund Checking to Savings. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

2024-115 Motion by Sumption, second by Hart to renew Property/Liability, Crime, Cyber Insurance through ASBSD for 2024-2025. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

2024-116 Motion by Sumption, second by Achen to offer and approve 2024 Summer Grounds Maintenance Contract to Dana Maunu. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

2024-117 Motion by Achen, second by Hart to set a Special Fiscal Year 2024 Closeout Meeting for June 27, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

2024-118 Motion by Achen, second by Ellwein to set the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Hearing for July 12, 2024 at 6:45 p.m. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

2024-119 Motion by Achen, second by Hart to approve the following open enrollments: 2425-5, 2425-6 and 2425-7. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

2024-120 Motion by Ellwein, second by Sumption to declare the following surplus: Probook 450 G6 Touchscreen (\$50 value), Sony Vtel TV (\$0 value), Panasonic VCR (\$0 value) and Recumbent Bike-Stairmaster (\$0 value). All voted Aye. Motion carried.

The action item, Construction Manager, was tabled.

The Board would like to recognize the following track participants on placing at state: Boys 4x800 Relay (6th Place) and 4x400 Relay (7th Place)-Noah Kippley, Gavin Nickelson, Brayden Sumption, Milo Sumption; Girls 4x800 Relay (5th Place) and Medley Relay (7th Place)-Jillian Ellwein, Sofia Losure, Laura Sumption and Morgan Sumption; Morgan Sumption 6th Place in the 800.

2024-121 Motion by Achen, second by Hart to adjourn at 7:32 p.m. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

Rich Schlosser, President  
Shauna Severson, Business Manager

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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 — of
- Sandwich
- 5 Saigon soup
- 8 URL opener
- 12 Coagulate
- 13 Charged bit
- 14 Pitcher
- Hershiser
- 15 Romantic
- appointments
- 17 Skater
- Lipinski
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- briefly
- 19 Ozone, for
- one
- 20 Governing
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- 21 That chap's
- 22 — -Magnon
- 23 "Evita" sur-
- name

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- 31 Chum
- 32 Cowgirl's
- footwear
- 33 Spider's traps
- 35 Baby collie
- 36 Owns
- 37 Prohibit
- 38 Sound of
- Washington
- 41 Flushed
- 42 Aunt, in
- Acapulco
- 45 Skin soother
- 46 Donna
- Summer hit
- song
- 48 Sagan or
- Sandburg

- 49 Ambulance
- VIP
- 50 Luminary
- 51 Singles
- 52 Horse chow
- 53 Prefix with
- pilot
- 8 Frank holder
- 9 Streetcar
- 10 Actress
- Hatcher
- 11 Scheme
- 16 Opposite of
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- Golden Girls"
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- Italia
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- screening org.

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- 5 Pocket
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- song
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- Sandburg

- 21 Toy car brand
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- 28 Pinnacle
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**UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF EDUCATION GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6 REGULAR MEETING June 10, 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 (7:24pm), Gengerke, Lerseth-Flihs, Pharis, Rix and Weismantel. Absent Harder. Others present were Supt. J. Schwan, Principal Schwan, and Business Manager Hubsch.

Moved by Rix, second by Pharis, to approve the agenda with amendments of approving the elementary science curriculum and the resignation of Chris Kucker as a girls' soccer coach. Motion carried.

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

Moved by Weismantel, second Rix to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: District minutes of May 13, 2024, school board meeting, May 2024 district bills, financial report, custodial accounts, investments, school lunch report, and transportation report. Authorize request for 2024-25 newspaper quotes with due date of 4:00pm on July 8, 2024. Authorize request of 2024-25 energy quotes(gas/deasil) with due date of 4:00 pm on July 8, 2024/ Motion carried.

**GENERAL FUND:** Net Payroll - 309,039.77; Benefits - 91,778.13; Aberdeen Awards - track & field ribbons, 875.00; Aberdeen Lawn Care - lawn care, 675.00; Advance Auto Parts - parts, 648.17; Allied Climate Professionals - repairs, 290.82; Amazon - supplies, 318.22; Automatic Building Control - janitor supply, 105.00; Bahr's Jungle Lanes - K-5 reading prizes, 180.00; Teagan Block - wrestling fundraised \$, 300.00; Capitol One - supplies, 425.41; Churchill, Manolis, Freeman, Kludt, Shelton - legal fees, 168.10; Custodial Fund - advanced payments, 35,560.91; Dakota Supply Group - bulbs, 864.87; Dependable Sanitation - garbage, 1,287.00; Dollar General - FACS supply, 5.00; Full Circle Ag - DEF Gallons, 89.55; Good Shred - shredding, 43.50; Greg's Repair - repairs, 196.56; Groton Area School - FACS milk, 8.00; Groton Chiropractic Clinic - DOT Physical, 100.00; Groton Daily Independent - legal publishing, 32.56; Joel Guthmiller - golf meals, 87.46; Harry Implement - part, 9.31; Aaron Helvig - track meals, 117.43; Hillyard - janitor supply, 5,030.55; House of Glass - keys, 138.73; Interstate All Battery - battery, 39.00; JW Pepper - music, 37.49; Locke Electric - repairs, 2,514.28; McLeod's Printing - checkblanks, 398.80; Midstates Group - apparel, 2,627.50; Mid-American Research Chemical - janitor supply, 1,676.36; Northside Implement - repairs, 3,246.34; Northwestern Energy - utility, 1,451.07; Olive Grove Golf Course - region cart used, 90.00; Petty Cash, Kristi Peterson - state golf meals/sunshine cash, 338.00; Prorate Services - DOT testing, 265.00; Alexandra Schuring - region chair, 75.00; Wyatt Turnquist - wrestling fundraised

\$, 300.00; Wageworks - admin fee, 92.00; Shaun Wanner - track meals, 56.62. Total General Fund - \$461,582.51. **CAPITAL OUTLAY:** A&B Business - managed print agreement, 1,321.90; Allied Climate Professionals - boiler & materials, 35,969.45; Amazon - tool kit/equipment, 91.85; CDWG - ESSER III charge tower, 5,832.08; Custodial Fund - advanced payments, 592.92; Marco - 3 Multi-Touch Displays - 6,750.00; Riverside Technologies - Computers & Bags, 26,300.00. Total Capital Outlay - \$76,858.20. **SPECIAL ED:** Net Payroll - 52,323.88; Benefits - 13,599.04; Custodial Fund - advanced payments, 18,528.46; Schwab Audiology - speech services, 178.00; Groton Area parent - mileage, 214.20; Groton Area parent - mileage, 244.80. Total Special Ed - \$85,088.38. **FOOD SERVICE:** Net Payroll - 8,379.32; Benefits - 3,063.22; Amazon - alarms, 313.92; BIMBO Bakery - food, 85.56; Groton Area family, lunch refund, 195.15; East Side Jersey Dairy - milk, 340.28; Groton Area Family - lunch refund, 259.10; Groton Area School - transfer to fine, 81.85; Groton Area family - lunch refund, 70.25; Groton Area Family - lunch refund, 3.77; Groton Area Family - lunch refund, 95.75; Groton Area family - lunch refund, 3.30; Groton Area family - lunch refund, 114.84; Groton Area family - lunch refund, 1.00; Groton Area Family - lunch refund, 138.95; Groton Area Family - lunch refund, 3.75; Groton Area family - lunch refund, 40.25; Groton Area family - lunch refund, 3.65; Groton Area family - lunch refund, 124.40; Groton Area family - lunch refund, 22.95; Groton Area family - lunch re-

fund, 5.75; US Foods - food/hot serving table, 4,655.35. Total Food Service - \$18,002.36. **OST:** Net Payroll - 3,291.04; Benefits - 884.12; Capitol One - snacks, 124.21; City of Groton - 2 swimming passes, 130.00; Dollar General - snacks, 635.65. Total OST - \$5,065.02. **DRIVERS ED:** Net Payroll - 0.00; Benefits - 0.00. Total Driver's Ed: \$0.00. **CUSTODIAL FUND:** 63,651.54. **RECEIPTS:** Local Sources, Taxes - 2,055,733.41; Local Sources, Other -309,925.65; County Sources - 3,370.08; State Sources - 27,094.00; Federal Sources - 102,708.51. Total Receipts - 2,498,831.65. 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. Superintendent report from J. Schwan attended the City Council Meeting on May 21st with a discussion of the Soccer Complex and buildings. The food service review is complete with a letter received on June 6 stating that the review has been closed. The administration has been researching Aptegy Rooms as a tool for instructors and coaches to use to communicate with families. Mr. Schwan will be attending professional development at NSU on Rethinking Normal. The business manager report from B. Hubsch included an overview of the 2023 audit and the debt payoff, the need to complete a single audit for FY 2023 because of meeting the federal funding threshold of revenue, and informed the board on moving forward with Infinite Campus as the new food service program and software to take

online payments. ....Moved by Rix, second by Pharis, to approve Fiscal Year 2023 audit. Motion carried. ....Moved by Pharis, second by Flihs, to approve pre-authorization to the business manager to make district payments of \$149,626.00 to EMC Insurance and \$7,753.68 to TMS on July 1, 2024. Motion carried. Moved by Pharis, second by Weismantel, to adopt Supplemental Budget #FY24-02. Motion carried. Moved by Pharis, second by Weismantel, to approve the transfer of fundraised funds to appropriate custodial club accounts. Motion carried. Moved by Weismantel, second by Flihs, to approve the resignation of Chris Kucker, Girls' Soccer Coach. Motion carried. Gengerke called for a recess at 7:45 pm. The Board reconvened at 7:48 pm. Motion by Weismantel, second by Rix, to enter into executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) for personnel at 7:48 pm. Motion carried. The Board came out of executive session at 9:15 pm. Moved by Weismantel, second Rix to approve off-staff coaching agreements for the 2024-2025 school year, with salary to be published in July. Motion carried. Moved by Rix, second Pharis to adjourn at 9:16 pm. Motion carried. Becky Hubsch, Business Manager Deborah Gengerke, President The addition of signatures to this page verifies these minutes as official. Published June 19, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$192.13 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23381

Landon Brown, Show Choir Director, for the 2024-2025 school year. Motion carried. Motion by Rix, second by Pharis, to approve hiring Jennifer Kunze, Special Education Paraprofessional, for the 2024-2025 school year at \$15.33/hour. Motion carried. Motion by Pharis, second by Rix, to approve hiring Aleshia Ambright, Special Education Paraprofessional, for the 2024-2025 school year. Motion carried. Motion by Rix, second by Pharis, to approve the resignation of Chatterida Sukhmon, Special Education Professional. Motion carried. Motion by Weismantel, second by Flihs, to approve the resignation of Chris Kucker, Girls' Soccer Coach. Motion carried. Gengerke called for a recess at 7:45 pm. The Board reconvened at 7:48 pm. Motion by Weismantel, second by Rix, to enter into executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) for personnel at 7:48 pm. Motion carried. The Board came out of executive session at 9:15 pm. Moved by Weismantel, second Rix to approve off-staff coaching agreements for the 2024-2025 school year, with salary to be published in July. Motion carried. Moved by Rix, second Pharis to adjourn at 9:16 pm. Motion carried. Becky Hubsch, Business Manager Deborah Gengerke, President The addition of signatures to this page verifies these minutes as official. Published June 19, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$192.13 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23381

**GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 06-6 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

	General Fund	Capital Fund	Special Education	Bond Redemption	Food Service	OST	Driver's Ed	Custodial
<b>May. 1, 2024</b> .....	<b>\$555,896.97</b>	<b>\$995,758.65</b>	<b>\$275,960.97</b>	<b>\$64.54</b>	<b>\$183,783.99</b>	<b>\$32,115.08</b>	<b>\$28,838.33</b>	<b>\$198,140.09</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b> .....								
Local Sources.....	\$1,062,320.37	\$709,226.67	\$304,107.24		\$8,245.92	\$9,275.90		\$97,794.47
County Sources.....	\$3,370.08							
State Sources.....								
State Aid.....	\$27,094.00							
Wind Farm.....	\$174,688.49							
Mentor Teacher Program.....								
State Apportionment.....								
State Reimbursements.....								
Bank Franchise.....								
Federal Sources .....	\$93,139.00				\$9,569.51			
Sale of Assets.....								
Due from Govt.....								
Transfer In/Out .....								
Escrow-BAB US Bank (not included in bottom total).....	\$5,407,841.82							

<b>TOTAL MONTHLY RECEIPTS</b> .....	<b>\$1,360,611.94</b>	<b>\$709,226.67</b>	<b>\$304,107.24</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$17,815.43</b>	<b>\$9,275.90</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$97,794.47</b>
<b>FUNDS AVAILABLE</b> .....	<b>\$1,916,508.91</b>	<b>\$1,704,985.32</b>	<b>\$580,068.21</b>	<b>\$64.54</b>	<b>\$201,599.42</b>	<b>\$41,390.98</b>	<b>\$28,838.33</b>	<b>\$295,934.56</b>
<b>MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS</b> .....	<b>(\$497,482.39)</b>	<b>(\$62,137.04)</b>	<b>(\$149,208.28)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>(\$31,115.71)</b>	<b>(\$5,080.51)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>(\$63,651.54)</b>
<b>JOURNAL ENTRIES</b> .....	<b>(\$340,924.51)</b>				<b>\$516.92</b>	<b>\$77.14</b>		<b>\$5,942.45</b>

<b>May. 31 2024</b> .....	<b>\$1,078,102.01</b>	<b>\$1,642,848.28</b>	<b>\$430,859.93</b>	<b>\$64.54</b>	<b>\$171,000.63</b>	<b>\$36,387.61</b>	<b>\$28,838.33</b>	<b>\$238,225.47</b>
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GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL EDUCATION	FOOD SERVICE	OST	Driver's Education
Payroll.....	Payroll	Payroll	Payroll	Payroll
Instruction..... \$309,039.77	Instruction \$52,323.88	Instruction \$8,379.32	Instruction \$3,291.04	Instruction \$-
Employee Benefits..... \$91,778.13	Employee Benefits \$13,599.04	Employee Benefits \$3,063.22	Employee Benefits \$884.12	Employee Benefits \$-
Supplies, Utilities, Etc. .... \$96,664.49	Supplies, Etc. \$14,784.55	Food, Supplies, Etc. \$19,673.17	Supplies, Etc. \$905.35	Supplies, Etc. \$0.00
<b>Total..... \$497,482.39</b>	<b>Total \$80,707.47</b>	<b>Total \$31,115.71</b>	<b>Total \$5,080.51</b>	<b>Total 0.00</b>

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 1 Week: \$9 for first 30 words, 20¢/word thereafter  
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**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

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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# First-Inning Burst Enough To Lead American Legion Post 77 19U Past Groton Post 39

By GameChanger Media

Chippewa Falls Post 77 19U scored nine runs in the first inning, which helped them defeat Groton Post 39 13-3 on Tuesday in the Battle of Omaha Tournament.

Groton Post 39 were the first to get on the board in the first when Carter Simon drew a walk, scoring one run.

American Legion Post 77 19U flipped the game on its head in the bottom of the first, scoring nine runs on five hits to take a 9-1 lead. The biggest blow in the inning was a double by Brayden Hagmann that drove in three.

American Legion Post 77 19U added to their early lead in the bottom of the second inning after Parker Krizan singled, and Brecken Boisvert scored after tagging up, each scoring one run.

American Legion Post 77 19U added to their early lead in the bottom of the third inning after Krizan singled, and Brady Smith hit into a fielder's choice, each scoring one run.

Carter Berg earned the win for American Legion Post 77 19U. They surrendered two hits and three runs (two earned) over three innings, striking out two and walking six. Kellen Antonsen pitched three innings in relief for Groton Post 39. The reliever allowed three hits and two runs (one earned) while, striking out one and walking none. Jarret Erdmann took the loss for Groton Post 39. The reliever went two-thirds of an inning, giving up four runs (three earned) on three hits, striking out none and walking four. Gavin Englund began the game for Groton Post 39. The starting pitcher allowed three hits and seven runs over one-third of an inning, striking out none and walking four.

Bradin Althoff, Colby Dunker, and Teylor Diegel each collected one hit for Groton Post 39. Simon led Groton Post 39 with one run batted in. Ryan Groeblichoff paced Groton Post 39 with two walks. Overall, the team had patience at the plate, accumulating six walks for the game.

Hagmann went 3-for-4 at the plate to lead American Legion Post 77 19U in hits. Krizan, Smith, Lucas Logslett, and Hagmann each drove in two runs for American Legion Post 77 19U. American Legion Post 77 19U had patience at the plate, accumulating eight walks for the game. Ethan Sowieja and Ian Denning led the team with two bases on balls each. American Legion Post 77 19U turned one double play in the game.

Groton Post #39 will play Perham Buzz U18 at 10 a.m. today in the final day of the Battle of Omaha Tournament.

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## Groton Jr Teeners Claw Back, But Fall Just Short Against Clark Area

By GameChanger Media

Groton Jr Teeners 14U's effort to come back from down five runs in the fourth inning came up just short, as they fell 10-8 to Clark Area on Monday. Groton Jr Teeners closed the gap by scoring on a single, a ground out, a ground out, a double, and a balk.

Groton Jr Teeners lost despite out-hitting Clark Area eight to three. Ethan Kroll led Groton Jr Teeners with two hits.

Clark Area got on the board in the top of the first inning after Kaden Wookey walked, Miles Olson walked, Charlie Luvaas was struck by a pitch, and Clark Area scored on a passed ball, each scoring one run.

Clark Area added one run in the second after Olson walked.

Clark Area added to their early lead in the top of the third inning after Maverick Clausen grounded out, and Cade Gaikowski walked, each scoring one run.

Groton Jr Teeners tied the game in the bottom of the sixth thanks to a ground out by TC Schuster, a double by Zach Flihs, and a balk.

In the top of the seventh, Clark Area broke up the tie when Luvaas doubled, scoring one run. Then a walk by Benny Pommer followed to extend the lead to 10-8.

Gaikowski earned the win for Clark Area. They surrendered one hit and three runs (two earned) over two innings, striking out three and walking three. Kroll pitched five innings in relief for Groton Jr Teeners 14U. The righty surrendered two hits and three runs while, striking out one and walking six. Jordan Schwan took the loss for Groton Jr Teeners 14U. The starting pitcher went two innings, allowing seven runs (five earned) on one hit, striking out three and walking eight. Olson stepped on the hill first for Clark Area. The right-handed pitcher surrendered seven hits and five runs (three earned) over five innings, striking out four and walking six.

Kroll seized on their opportunities, leading Groton Jr Teeners with three runs batted in from the number seven spot in the lineup. They went 2-for-4 on the day. Groton Jr Teeners had patience at the plate, amassing nine walks for the game. Braeden Flihs, Shaydon Wood, and Kason Oswald led the team with two bases on balls each. Groton Jr Teeners ran wild on the base paths, collecting seven stolen bases for the game. Groton Jr Teeners turned one double play in the game.

Isaac Johnson, Luvaas, and Clausen each collected one hit for Clark Area. Olson, Luvaas, and Clausen each drove in one run for Clark Area. Clark Area had a strong eye at the plate, accumulating 14 walks for

the game. Gaikowski and Pommer led the team with three walks each. Wyatt Schlagel, Gaikowski, Clausen, and Pommer each stole multiple bases for Clark Area. Clark Area ran wild on the base paths, amassing 11 stolen bases for the game.

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## Groton Jr Teeners Loses Despite Out Hitting Clark Area

By GameChanger Media

Groton Jr Teeners fell 9-7 to Clark Area on Monday despite out-hitting them eight to seven. TC Schuster, Ethan Kroll, and John Bisbee each collected two hits for Groton Jr Teeners 14U.

Clark Area opened the scoring in the first after Miles Olson drew a walk, scoring one run.

A dropped third strike extended the Clark Area lead to 3-0 in the top of the second inning.

Groton Jr Teeners flipped the game on its head in the bottom of the third, scoring five runs on three hits to take a 5-3 lead. The biggest blow in the inning was a single by Kroll on an 0-2 count that drove in three.

Clark Area took the lead in the top of the fifth inning after Logan Foster singled, Benny Pommer singled, Foster scored after tagging up, Ethan Zemlicka walked, and Cade Gaikowski grounded out, each scoring one run.

Maverick Clausen earned the win for Clark Area. The reliever gave up three hits and zero runs over one and one-third innings, striking out two and walking none. Braeden Flihs took the loss for Groton Jr Teeners 14U. They went one-third of an inning, surrendering four runs (three earned) on two hits, striking out none and walking one. Schuster stepped on the bump first for Groton Jr Teeners 14U. The righty gave up five hits and five runs (three earned) over four and one-third innings, striking out five and walking seven. Jaden LaPlante stepped on the mound first for Clark Area. They gave up five hits and seven runs (three earned) over three and two-thirds innings, striking out five and walking five.

Kroll went 2-for-3 at the plate as they led the team with two runs batted in.

Kaden Wookey led Clark Area with two hits in three at bats. Isaac Johnson, Foster, and Carson Kelly each drove in one run for Clark Area. Zemlicka paced Clark Area with three walks. Overall, the team had patience at the plate, collecting eight walks for the game. Kelly stole two bases. Clark Area ran wild on the base paths, amassing six stolen bases for the game.

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## Groton Post 39 Stymied By Reno A's

By GameChanger Media

Groton Post 39 couldn't keep up with Reno A's and fell 12-2 on Monday in the Battle of Omaha Tournament.

Reno A's got on the board in the first inning after Keenan Dolan doubled, scoring two runs.

Reno A's added one run in the second. Durst Jaxsyn doubled, making the score 3-0.

Reno A's added one run in the third. Nate Lemieux scored after tagging up, making the score 4-0.

Wade Huntsman earned the win for Reno A's. They gave up three hits and two runs over five and one-third innings, striking out 10 and walking none. Nick Morris took the loss for Groton Post 39. The reliever went two and one-third innings, giving up four runs on five hits, striking out two and walking two. Ryan Groeblichoff stepped on the hill first for Groton Post 39. The righty gave up nine hits and eight runs over three and two-thirds innings, striking out two and walking two.

Dillon Abeln and Brevin Flihs were a force together in the lineup, as they each collected two hits for Groton Post 39 while hitting back-to-back. Bradin Althoff and Abeln were a one-two punch in the lineup, as each drove in one run for Groton Post 39.

Reno A's tallied 14 hits in the game. Kyle Glenn led Reno A's with three runs batted in. The second baseman went 2-for-4 on the day. Dolan led Reno A's with three hits in four at bats. Dalton Pingree, Jaxsyn, and Nate Lemieux each collected multiple hits for Reno A's. Reno A's were sure-handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. Aiden Cruz had the most chances in the field with seven.

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## Groton Post 39 Lose To Mpls Northside Legion 2024

By GameChanger Media

Groton Post 39 fell to Mpls Northside Legion 2024 5-3 on Monday in the Battle of Omaha Tournament.

Groton Post 39 jumped out to the lead in the top of the first inning after Nik Nordeen induced Bradin Althoff to hit into a fielder's choice, but one run scored, and Colby Dunker homered to left field, scoring two runs.

Mpls Northside Legion 2024 made the score 5-3 in the bottom of the fifth after Dillon Abeln induced Lewis Kvan to hit into a fielder's choice, but three runs scored, and an error scored one run.

Nordeen earned the win for Mpls Northside Legion 2024. The righty allowed four hits and three runs over seven innings, striking out nine and walking two. Abeln took the loss for Groton Post 39. They went six innings, giving up five runs (two earned) on seven hits, striking out six and walking none.

Dunker provided pop in the middle of the lineup, and led Groton Post 39 with two runs batted in. The right-handed hitter went 1-for-3 on the day. Abeln, Dunker, Jarret Erdmann, and Teylor Diegel each collected one hit for Groton Post 39.

Kvan led Mpls Northside Legion 2024 with one run batted in. Leadoff hitter Luis Gutierrez led Mpls Northside Legion 2024 with three hits in four at bats. Mpls Northside Legion 2024 turned one double play in the game.

Next up for Groton Post 39 is a game at American Legion Post 77 19U on Tuesday.

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## Walk-Off Seals The Deal In Groton Post 39 Victory Over Lake Norden

By GameChanger Media

Groton Post 39 took Friday's game in dramatic fashion, with a 6-5 walk-off victory over Lake Norden. The game was tied at five in the bottom of the eighth when Bradin Althoff singled, scoring one run.

Lake Norden got on the board in the top of the first inning after an error scored one run, and Ryker Warrington singled, scoring two runs.

Groton Post 39 jumped back into the lead in the bottom of the second inning after Ryan Groeblichhoff singled, Brevin Fliehs walked, Dillon Abeln walked, and Colby Dunker walked, each scoring one run.

Jameson Neible was struck by a pitch, which helped Lake Norden tie the game at four in the top of the third.

A ground out by Aiden Abraham gave Lake Norden the lead, 5-4, in the top of the fourth.

Braxton Imrie singled, which helped Groton Post 39 tie the game at five in the bottom of the fifth.

Groeblichhoff pitched three innings in relief for Groton Post 39. The reliever gave up one hit and zero runs while, striking out three and walking one. Abeln started the game for Groton Post 39. The right-handed pitcher surrendered six hits and four runs (two earned) over two and one-third innings, striking out four and walking one. Lane Tvedt stepped on the bump first for Lake Norden. The starting pitcher surrendered three hits and four runs (two earned) over four innings, striking out two and walking eight.

Althoff, Groeblichhoff, Imrie, Karsten Fliehs, Fliehs, and Carter Simon each collected one hit for Groton Post 39. Althoff, Abeln, Imrie, Dunker, and Fliehs each drove in one run for Groton Post 39. Groton Post 39 had a strong eye at the plate, collecting eight walks for the game. Abeln and Dunker led the team with two bases on balls each. Groton Post 39 turned one double play in the game.

Warrington provided pop in the middle of the lineup, and led Lake Norden with two runs batted in. The first baseman went 2-for-5 on the day. Abraham and Warrington were a force together in the lineup, as they each collected two hits for Lake Norden while hitting back-to-back.

Groton Post 39 will travel to Battle of Omaha for their next game on Monday.

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## Big First Inning Leads Groton Jr Teeners 14U Past VFW Post 4690

By GameChanger Media

Groton Jr Teeners 14U defeated Webster VFW Post 4690 13-3 on Thursday thanks in part to 10 runs in the first inning. TC Schuster drew a walk, scoring one run, Jordan Schwan drew a walk, scoring one run, a wild pitch scored two runs, John Bisbee drew a walk, scoring one run, an error scored one run, an error scored three runs, and Ryder Schelle singled, scoring one run.

Groton Jr Teeners 14U extended their early lead with two runs in the top of the second thanks to RBI walks by Ethan Kroll and Shaydon Wood.

Kason Oswald earned the win for Groton Jr Teeners 14U. They allowed one hit and three runs (two earned) over three and two-thirds innings, striking out seven and walking five. Zayden Finch took the loss for VFW Post 4690. The righty went three innings, allowing one run on four hits, striking out three and walking two. Hudson Lesnar led things off on the hill for VFW Post 4690. They gave up three hits and 12 runs (six earned) over one inning, striking out two and walking eight. Sam Crank appeared in relief for Groton Jr Teeners 14U.

Kroll led Groton Jr Teeners 14U with three runs batted in from the number eight spot in the lineup. Schelle went 2-for-2 at the plate to lead Groton Jr Teeners 14U in hits. Groton Jr Teeners 14U had a strong eye at the plate, amassing 10 walks for the game. Wood and Bisbee led the team with two free passes each. Alex Abeln stole two bases.

Dylan Rasmus and Finch were a one-two punch in the lineup, as each drove in one run for VFW Post 4690. Lesnar led VFW Post 4690 with one hit in two at bats. VFW Post 4690 turned one double play in the game.

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## Jordan Schwan Drives 4 Runners Home In Groton Jr Teeners 14U Victory Over VFW Post 4690

By GameChanger Media

Jordan Schwan drove in four runs on four hits to lead Groton Jr Teeners 14U past VFW Post 4690 16-4 on Thursday. Schwan hit an inside the park home run in the second scoring three, doubled in the third scoring one, and singled in the fourth scoring one.

Groton Jr Teeners 14U got on the board in the top of the second inning after Sam Crank doubled, scoring two runs, Ethan Kroll doubled, scoring one run, Alex Abeln doubled, scoring one run, Schwan hit an inside the park home run, scoring three runs, and Shaydon Wood drew a walk, scoring one run.

Groton Jr Teeners 14U added to their early lead in the top of the third inning after TC Schuster singled, Schwan doubled, Layne Johnson singled, Braeden Fliehs was struck by a pitch, Kolton Antonsen singled, and Wood grounded out, each scoring one run.

Antonsen earned the win for Groton Jr Teeners 14U. The starting pitcher surrendered six hits and three runs (two earned) over three innings, striking out two and walking four. Dylan Rasmus took the loss for VFW Post 4690. They went two innings, surrendering 11 runs (six earned) on 10 hits, striking out none and walking four. Crank appeared in relief for Groton Jr Teeners 14U.

Groton Jr Teeners 14U collected 16 hits in the game. Schuster, Johnson, Abeln, and Kason Oswald each collected multiple hits for Groton Jr Teeners 14U. Groton Jr Teeners 14U had patience at the plate, collecting six walks for the game. Groton Jr Teeners 14U turned one double play in the game. Groton Jr Teeners 14U were sure-handed and didn't commit a single error. Antonsen made the most plays with three.

Silas Simonson, Rasmus, Tucker Acree, Zayden Finch, Karstyn Schlecter, and Chase Gregorson each collected one hit for VFW Post 4690. Simonson and Finch each drove in one run for VFW Post 4690. VFW Post 4690 had patience at the plate, piling up six walks for the game. Rasmus and Hudson Lesnar led the team with two bases on balls each.

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## Braeden Fliehs A Difficult Out As Groton Jr Teeners 14U Defeat Watertown White Sox 14U

By GameChanger Media

Braeden Fliehs collected three hits in three at bats, as Groton Jr Teeners 14U defeated Watertown White Sox 14U 25-1 on Wednesday. Fliehs singled in the second inning, doubled in the third inning, and singled in the third inning.

Groton Jr Teeners 14U got on the board in the top of the first inning after Fliehs was struck by a pitch, Kolton Antonsen singled, and Zach Fliehs was struck by a pitch, each scoring one run.

Groton Jr Teeners 14U scored 11 runs on seven hits in the top of the second inning. John Bisbee singled, scoring one run, Fliehs singled, scoring two runs, an error scored one run, Shaydon Wood drew a walk, scoring one run, Ethan Kroll drew a walk, scoring one run, TC Schuster doubled, scoring two runs, Ryder Schelle doubled, scoring two runs, and Layne Johnson singled, scoring one run.

Groton Jr Teeners 14U added to their early lead in the top of the third inning after Antonsen singled, Wood walked, Kroll was struck by a pitch, Schuster singled, Bisbee singled, Johnson singled, Sam Crank singled, Fliehs singled, Antonsen walked, Fliehs walked, and Wood grounded out, each scoring one run.

Lincoln Shilhanek earned the win for Groton Jr Teeners 14U. They gave up one hit and one run over three innings, striking out two and walking two. Case Hulscher took the loss for Watertown White Sox 14U. The right-handed pitcher went two innings, allowing 14 runs (six earned) on nine hits, striking out two and walking six.

Groton Jr Teeners 14U tallied 16 hits in the game. Antonsen seized on their opportunities, leading Groton Jr Teeners 14U with four runs batted in from the number seven spot in the lineup. They went 2-for-3 on the day. Johnson, Fliehs, and Bisbee each collected three hits for Groton Jr Teeners 14U. Schuster collected two hits for Groton Jr Teeners 14U in four at bats. Shilhanek paced Groton Jr Teeners 14U with three walks. Overall, the team had patience at the plate, collecting 12 walks for the game. Shilhanek and Fliehs each stole multiple bases for Groton Jr Teeners 14U. Groton Jr Teeners 14U ran wild on the base paths, accumulating seven stolen bases for the game.

Grant Mayo went 1-for-1 at the plate to lead Watertown White Sox 14U in hits.

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# Groton Jr Teeners 14U Defeat Watertown White Sox 14U Behind Strong Performance From Alex Abeln

By GameChanger Media

Alex Abeln struck out 10 batters as the right-handed pitcher led Groton Jr Teeners 14U past Watertown White Sox 14U 21-2 on Wednesday. Abeln gave up one hit and two runs over four innings while walking one.

Abeln collected three hits in four at bats in the win. Abeln singled in the first inning, singled in the second inning, and singled in the fourth inning.

Groton Jr Teeners 14U got on the board in the top of the first inning after Ryder Schelle hit a sacrifice fly, scoring two runs, John Bisbee singled, scoring one run, and Kolton Antonsen drew a walk, scoring one run.

Groton Jr Teeners 14U added to their early lead in the top of the second inning after Schelle doubled, and Watertown White Sox 14U committed an error, each scoring one run.

Groton Jr Teeners 14U scored 15 runs on four hits in the top of the fourth inning. An error scored one run, Braeden Flihs singled, scoring one run, Jordan Schwan doubled, scoring one run, Ethan Kroll drew a walk, scoring one run, Antonsen drew a walk, scoring one run, Kason Oswald drew a walk, scoring one run, Abeln drew a walk, scoring one run, an error scored one run, Layne Johnson drew a walk, scoring one run, Flihs drew a walk, scoring one run, Schwan doubled, scoring two runs, an error scored one run, an error scored one run, and Oswald drew a walk, scoring one run.

Grant Mayo took the loss for Watertown White Sox 14U. The righty went three and one-third innings, allowing 11 runs (nine earned) on 10 hits, striking out two and walking three.

Groton Jr Teeners 14U piled up 11 hits in the game. Schwan led Groton Jr Teeners 14U with three runs batted in. The outfielder went 2-for-2 on the day. Flihs collected two hits for Groton Jr Teeners 14U



**Starting pitcher TC Schuster against a Clark Junior Teeners batter in the second game of Monday's double header.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



**Zach Flihs scores on a TC Schuster's deep hit into left field.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



**Braeden Flihs pitching in relief in 5th inning in second game.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



**Shaydon Wood batting in the 5th.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)

in three at bats. Antonsen led Groton Jr Teeners 14U with three walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, collecting 12 walks for the game. TC Schuster, Schwan, Abeln, and Flihs each stole multiple bases for Groton Jr Teeners 14U. Groton Jr Teeners 14U ran wild on the base paths, amassing 13 stolen bases for the game.

Levi Brownlee led the team with one run batted in. Dray Dahlgren led Watertown White Sox 14U with one hit in one at bat.

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## Groton Post 39 Fall After Strong Showing By Perham Buzz U18 Legion

By GameChanger Media

Groton Post 39 couldn't keep up with Perham Buzz U18 Legion and fell 8-2 on Wednesday in the Battle of Omaha Tournament.

Groton Post 39 got on the board in the top of the third inning after Colby Dunker hit a sacrifice fly, and Ryan Groeblichhoff grounded out, each scoring one run.

Perham Buzz U18 Legion made the score 4-2 in the bottom of the third after Evan Kovash doubled, scoring two runs, Ashton Detloff hit a sacrifice fly, scoring one run, and Bradyn Anderson hit a sacrifice fly, scoring one run.

Brevin Flihs started on the mound for Groton Post 39. They surrendered five hits and six runs (four earned) over four innings, striking out three and walking two. Anderson opened the game for Perham Buzz U18 Legion. The righty gave up three hits and two runs over three innings, striking out two and walking three.

Dunker went 1-for-2 at the plate as the left fielder led the team with one run batted in. Dunker, Gavin Englund, Flihs, and Carter Simon each collected one hit for Groton Post 39. Bradin Althoff led Groton Post 39 with two walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, accumulating seven walks for the game.

Kovash drove the middle of the lineup, leading Perham Buzz U18 Legion with two runs batted in. The third baseman went 3-for-4 on the day. Perham Buzz U18 Legion were sure-handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. Blaz Schmidt had the most chances in the field with 10.

Groton Post 39 will travel to Northville Tournament for their next game on Saturday.

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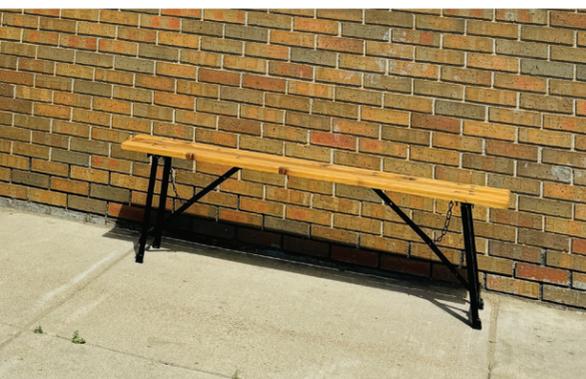
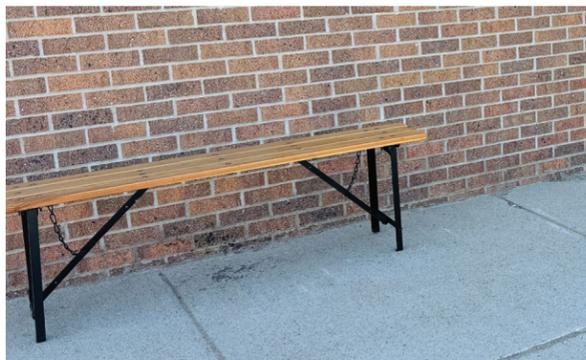
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Pictured here are the benches placed along Main Street. (Courtesy Photos April Abeln)



**65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Don and Nancy Hein will celebrate their 65th Wedding Anniversary on July 3, 2024. Greetings may be sent to 918 Arbor Lane #46, Aberdeen SD 57401.

All of the public notices now appearing in the Groton Independent are posted on-line at **sdpublicnotices.com**. There are a number of search options available. To see the notices published in the Groton Independent, select **GROTON INDEPENDENT** and then search.

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### Rumble in the Jungle set for Monday and Tuesday

The first Rumble in the Jungle boys basketball team camp will be held Monday and Tuesday in Groton. It is scheduled to be an annual event. The public can come and watch - there is a \$5 admission fee. Tuesday will be bracket play with that schedule being released on Monday.

**Monday, June 24**

Time	Court #1	Court #2
Noon	Groton vs. RC Christian	Viborg-Hurley vs. Mobridge
1:00 p.m.	Dawson-Boyd vs. Lennox	Dakota Valley vs. Ab. Christian
2:00 p.m.	Groton vs. Viborg-Hurley	Mobridge vs. RC Christian
3:00 p.m.	Dawson vs. Dak. Valley	Lennox vs. Aberdeen Christian
4:00 p.m.	Groton vs. Mobridge	Viborg-Hurley vs. Ab. Christian
5:00 p.m.	Dawson vs. RC Christian	Lennox vs. Dakota Valley
6:00 p.m.	Situational Tournament	Situational Tournament

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# We the People

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



## Image Management Must Be a Priority for the Justices

The defining characteristic of the American experience is the premise of law as a check on governmental power. Challenged throughout our history and subjected to stresses and strains inflicted by indifference, partisanship and political affiliations that prefer the ends-justify-the-means philosophy, the premise remains an ideal, though its fibers are frayed.

The institution that most nearly embodies this ideal is the U.S. Supreme Court, the history of which is the story of how a few men and women, when at their best, have exercised their authority to uphold the rule of law in American life.

In those moments, when the justices deliver rulings that defend our cherished right and liberties and maintain the doctrines of separation of powers and checks and balances—critical to constitutional equilibrium—the Court is exalted by commentators as the conscience of the nation, an institution that has fulfilled the aims and purposes of those who wrote our Constitution.

When the Court extols the virtues of equal protection of the law and due process of law and avoids strident tones free of individual preferences—social, political and otherwise—its behavior is suggestive of Alexander Hamilton's representation of the judiciary as an impersonal vessel through which the Constitution speaks, rather than a forum for individual justices to promote their own political goals and agendas.

At that moment, warnings from the pens of some founding era writers who opposed the awesome power of judicial review, such as Robert Yates, writing under the pseudonym, "Brutus," who feared that the power would lead the Justices to "feel themselves independent of Heaven itself," strike us as an exercise in exaggeration.

Management of the Court's image has been left, chiefly, to the Justices themselves. The Justices are their own worst enemies when they fail to withdraw from cases when recusal is plainly required, accept millions of dollars in unreported gifts and luxurious vacations from billionaires who would influence the direction of the Court, overturn precedents protective of fundamental rights that are as sturdy as giant oaks and unwisely reveal their political views in speeches and comments to reporters, accompanied by warnings that liberals are threats to freedom of speech and religion.

Each act, by itself, would be sufficient to persuade the citizenry that Brutus, not Hamilton, had the better view of what the Court might become. If enough Americans embrace the warnings of Brutus, rather than the assurances of Hamilton, then the all-important mystique of the Court as a law court, rather than a political court, will have been pierced and perhaps shredded.

Justice Louis Brandeis, one of the greatest in the Court's history, used to say that what the Court did not do was often more important than what it did do. Thus, the Court has refrained from issuing advisory opinions, avoided comments on pending cases and generally abstained from offering sharp public critiques of previous decisions, all of which would lend credence to Brutus's predictions about the High Tribunal. Regardless of Brutus's characterizations, Americans, informed by insightful judicial studies and commentary on the work of the Court, are not going to mistake the Supreme Court for the Delphic Oracle. At this juncture, the Court must labor to restore public trust.

There is a role for common sense among the justices. Those who desire the lifestyle of the rich and famous probably should decline a Supreme Court appointment at the "paltry" salary of \$275,000 a year and virtual guarantees of hundreds of thousands of dollars in book royalties, if their thing is travel by private jets and yachts. They should find a different job, one that will support those extravagant tastes. Two centuries ago, attorneys in line for a seat on the Court declined offers of appointment in favor of jobs that were more lucrative. Those were wise choices by wise men who understood that life requires choices.

The Court is under intense scrutiny today, as it should be, but it has always drawn criticism. Horace Greeley, the famous New York antislavery newspaper editor, once wrote that he would just as soon trust the judgment of his dog than that of Chief Justice Roger Taney. Management of the Court's image should be a priority for the justices, if they hope to regain the confidence of the American people.

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

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**Let's Get Together**

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What's the Reason for the Event?

- CONGRATULATIONS
- BIRTHDAY
- HOLIDAY
- ANNIVERSARY
- WEDDING

Which Activities?

- Pin the Tail on the Donkey
- balloon pop
- dance contest
- scavenger hunt
- egg + spoon race

What Will You Have for Food and Drinks?

Party or Event Planning

Where Will the Party Be?

If you want to:

- host where you live and where you can have a great time
- enjoy an outdoor wintertime activity
- help your party pals cool off when it is hot
- go to a place for fun rides and games
- have everyone enjoy a competitive indoor game
- use a place outdoors where you can play all sorts of homegrown games

- bowling alley
- amusement park
- ski mountain
- pool
- your home
- backyard

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Answer

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

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## Let's Get Together

Have you ever planned a party? Setting up a birthday party can be as easy as calling, texting or emailing some friends and inviting them to a certain place at the same time. All you really need to celebrate a birthday is a cake or even cupcakes – and, of course, the person whose birthday is being celebrated! This low-cost, fun time needs only a little planning.

On the other hand, if you want a larger party you'll need to plan, decide on a budget and do more work to get everything running smoothly. No matter what kind of party you choose to throw, this week's puzzles will help you learn "How to Plan a Party or Event!"

Read the clues to fill in the puzzle with the things you need to think about when planning a party, event or get-together:

1. What is the \_\_\_\_\_ for the party or get-together: birthday, holiday?
2. Figure out a fun subject or \_\_\_\_\_ for your party: pirates, dinosaurs, cartoons, princesses, robots or animals.
3. Decide on the kind of party or its \_\_\_\_\_: luncheon, picnic, tailgating.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ will your party be held: beach, backyard, park, arcade?
5. Think of the cost and set a \_\_\_\_\_ to cover food, drinks, decorations.
6. Who and how many \_\_\_\_\_ will you invite: family, friends, neighbors?
7. What sort of refreshments or \_\_\_\_\_ do you want to offer your guests: taco buffet, hot dogs, ice cream, cake? It's up to you!
8. What kinds of \_\_\_\_\_ will you do: horseshoes, bounce house, swimming, pin the tail on the donkey, races?
9. What kinds of \_\_\_\_\_ do you want to spice up your party: streamers, balloons, lanterns, centerpieces?
10. Make sure you finish the \_\_\_\_\_ before your guests arrive.



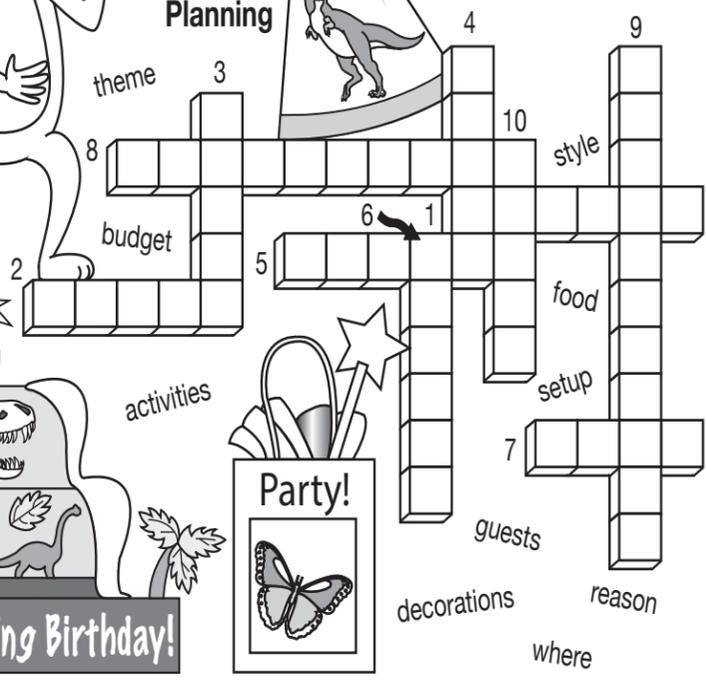
Remember the extras like ice for drinks – and good music.

### What's the Reason for the Event?

Fill in the blanks to name some:

1. CON \_ RAT \_ LAT \_ ONS
2. B \_ R \_ H \_ A \_
3. H \_ LI \_ AY
4. AN \_ I \_ E \_ \_ A \_ Y
5. \_ EDDIN \_

### Party or Event Planning



Have A Roaring Birthday!

### What Kind of Party?

Find and circle these parties:

sleepover or camping

tea or luncheon

surprise dance party

indoor party

photo party

pool party



### Decorations

Find and circle these decorations:

party hats lanterns

banners balloons

noisemakers

streamers

confetti

### Which Activities?

Fill in the names of activities:

- A. Pin the Tail on the \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ pop
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ contest
- D. scavenger \_\_\_\_\_
- E. egg + \_\_\_\_\_ race

hunt dance Donkey spoon balloon

### What is Your Budget?

Fill in these smart money tips:

1. Ask Mom or Dad to set a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Ask everyone to bring a \_\_\_\_\_ to share.
3. Do extra \_\_\_\_\_ to earn spending money.
4. Save your \_\_\_\_\_ for awhile.
5. Compare \_\_\_\_\_ when you shop.

prices allowance chores budget treat

### Where Will the Party Be?

Below are some ideas for places to hold a party. Match what you would like to do to the place where you can go to do it.

If you want to:

1. host where you live and where you can have a great time even if it rains
2. enjoy an outdoor wintertime activity
3. help your party pals cool off when it is hot
4. go to a place for fun rides and games
5. have everyone enjoy a competitive indoor game
6. use a place outdoors where you can play all sorts of homegrown games

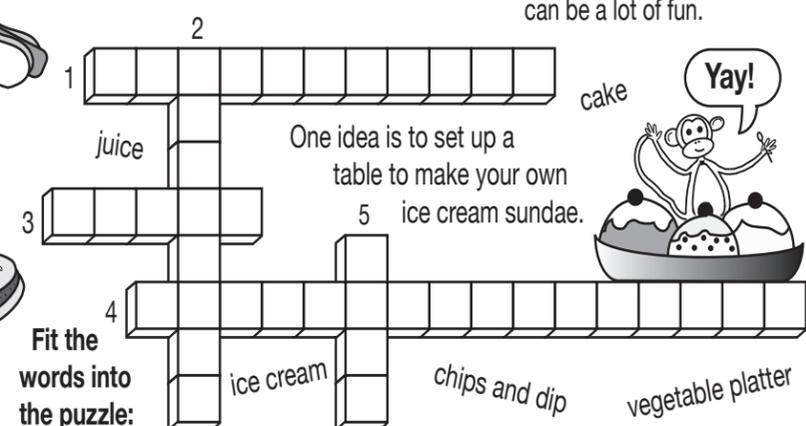


- A. bowling alley
- B. amusement park
- C. ski mountain
- D. pool
- E. your home
- F. backyard

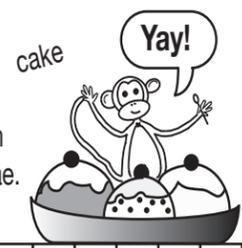


### What Will You Serve Your Guests?

This part of party planning can be a lot of fun.



Fit the words into the puzzle:



Newspaper Fun! Created by Animills LLC © 2024



**From left: Groton Baseball/Softball Foundation members Adrienne Flihs, Softball Coordinator Jackie Iverson, Jessica Kroll and Doug Hamilton congratulate senior players before the Legion game on June 8. Players include Braxton Imrie with parents Mike and Dawn Imrie, Colby Dunker with parents Craig and Tasha Dunker, Ryan Groeblinghoff with parents Matt and Joni Groeblinghoff, Bradin Althoff with parents Scott and Dana Althoff and Dillon Abeln with parents Isaac and Nikki Abeln.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Groton Junior Legion's Jarrett Erdmann catches a fly ball during Saturday's game against W.I.N.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Groton Junior Legion's Nicholas Groeblinghoff tags W.I.N. runner Braydn Kroll after Groton catcher Karsten Flihs chased him to third during Saturday's game.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Groton Junior Legion's Jarrett Erdmann hits the ball during Saturday's game against W.I.N.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

## Baseball

### Continued from front

On the second pitch, Abeln swung and lifted the ball to right field.

"It felt good off the bat," he said after the game. "I just waited for a good pitch."

After a tense second, the ball falls to the ground and Nicholas Morris raced to home plate, scoring the winning run and bringing a close to the Junior Legion game.

That was just one of the moments that made up the Groton Inaugural Day of Baseball/Softball.

"It's amazing," Abeln said. "There are so many people out here, a lot of supporters and stuff."

For more than twelve hours on June 8, baseballs and softballs flew at the baseball complex in Groton. Fourteen games – nine baseball and five softball – and a home run derby filled the day with activities and fun.

The event provides an opportunity to show off the baseball complex facilities and showcase the Groton teams too, said Mike Imrie with the Groton Baseball/Softball Foundation.

"Just come out to the ball park," he said. "There's a lot of good baseball being played out here. Enjoy yourself. ...We have many more games throughout the summer."

Foundation Vice President Jarod Flihs added, "We plan on doing this next year."

June 8 served beautiful weather for the first year.

"You couldn't have asked for a better day," said Softball Coordinator Jackie Iverson. "We have our city and community invest so much in our baseball program. It's just a day to celebrate a great, great ballpark, a great community, and to bring people in to see how great our ballpark is and get the kids playing,"

Softball specifically is a growing sport in Groton.

"We've had bigger numbers than we've ever had," she said. "Every year our program is growing. We have a U8 team. We have two different U10 teams. We have U12, U14 and U18. ..."

"I grew up playing softball since I was little, and I still play on a women's league," Iverson said. "I love that it can be a lifelong sport. It can be something the girls can play now. They can play intramurals and college. They can play co-ed tournaments. They can play as they're adults."

The June 8 inaugural day of baseball/softball was all about celebrating the sport at the ballpark. And for some, it was an all-day and family-filled event.

"We came here at like 8 a.m.," said T.C. Schuster, who played shortstop in the Junior Teeners game and as a substitute for the Junior Legion game. "We've been watching my sister play. I played two games. And there's so many people that we know."

"It's fun to just come and watch baseball all day and be in this environment," he said. "There's tons of people here. The parking lot was packed, so you had to park on the street if you wanted to get anywhere. ... Me and my buddy, we had a 4-wheeler. There wasn't space to park a 4-wheeler. It was crazy."

Schuster had his own moment of glory at the end of the Junior Teeners game.

Redfield had scored three in the top of the seventh inning, bringing the score to Redfield 4, Groton 3. Schuster smacked a ball to the Redfield third baseman, who threw it to first. But a missed catch allowed Schuster to race

to second and got teammate Alex Abeln home to tie the game.

As center fielder Jordan Schwan readied for the pitch, the ball flew to the catcher's right and back to the backstop. Schuster took off toward home plate.

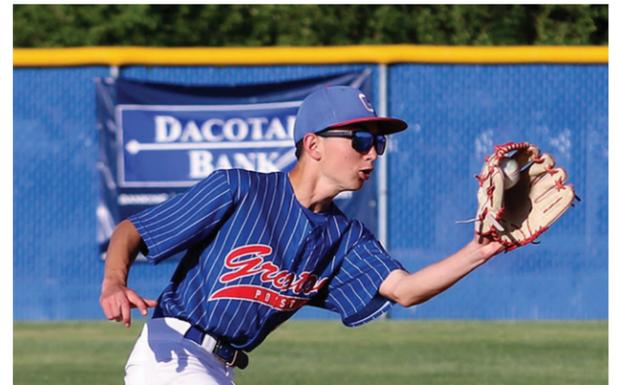
"That was awesome," he said. "I didn't even realize that that was to win the game. (The coach) told me to go on a fastball, so I went. I wasn't expecting to go head first, but it happened, and it was fun."

The Junior Teeners beat the Redfield Flickertails 4-3.

- Elizabeth Varin



**Groton Junior Legion's Nicholas Groeblinghoff preps for a ground ball during Saturday's game.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Groton Junior Legion's Kellen Antonsen catches a ball at second base during Saturday's game.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Groton Legion pitcher Ryan Groeblinghoff throws a pitch during the first inning of Saturday's game against W.I.N.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Kolton Antenson pitches during the Junior Teeners' game against Redfield on Saturday afternoon.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Groton Junior Teeners' Alex Abeln celebrates after the umpire calls the Redfield player out during Saturday's game.**

(Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Groton Baseball/Softball Foundation Board Member Mike Imrie reads out the line up for the Junior Legion game against Warner, Ipswich, Northwestern on Saturday afternoon.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Groton Junior Teener's Lincoln Shilhanek gets in front of the ball hit by Redfield David Bixler during the Saturday afternoon game.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Groton Junior Teeners' Jordan Schwan smacks the ball during Saturday's against Redfield.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Groton Junior Legion pitcher Nicholas Morris throws a strike during Saturday's game against W.I.N.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



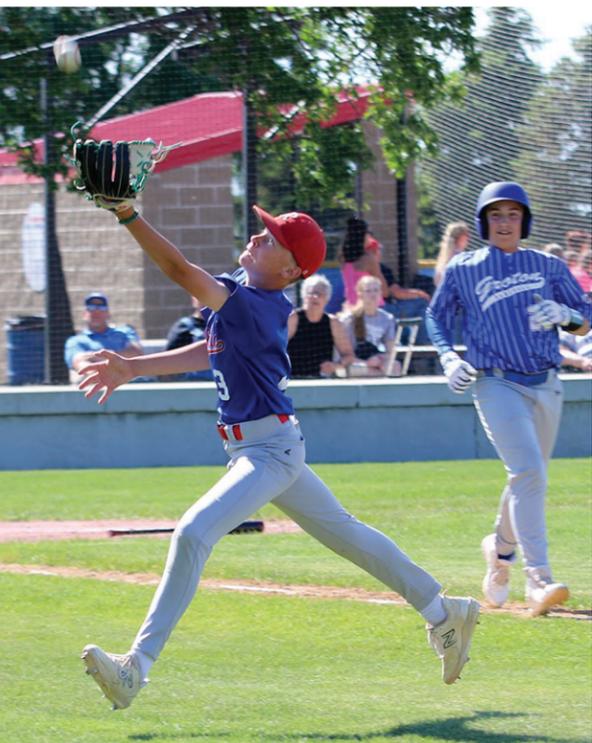
**Groton Junior Teeners' coach Spencer Locke speaks with players gathered on the pitchers mound during Saturday's game against Redfield.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Groton Junior Teeners' Jordan Schwan slides into second safe during Saturday's against Redfield.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Groton Junior Legion's Nicholas Morris throws a pitch while W.I.N. player Lincoln Kroll leads off and Groton's Gavin England stands on first during Saturday's game.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Redfield Junior Teeners' Jackson Rude runs to catch a foul fly ball hit by Groton's Lincoln Shilhanek during Saturday's game.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Groton Softball Coordinator Jackie Iverson tosses the ball during Saturday's home run derby, part of the inaugural Baseball/Softball day in Groton.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Groton Junior Legion catcher Karsten Flihs chases down W.I.N. runner Braydn Kroll during Saturday's game.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

Dear EarthTalk: Do you have any tips on how to deal with climate anxiety? – J.J., Brea, CA  
 Climate anxiety, also known as eco-anxiety, is the chronic fear of environmental doom. It is becoming increasingly prevalent as the impacts of climate change become more evident and the urgency of the crisis grows. Addressing climate anxiety is crucial not only for maintaining mental health but also for ensuring effective climate action. When individuals are paralyzed by fear, they are less likely to engage in the proactive behaviors necessary to combat climate change.

Climate anxiety manifests through various psychological and physical symptoms, including persistent worry, sleep disturbances, a sense of helplessness, and even physical symptoms like heart palpitations and headaches. Recognizing these symptoms is the first step towards managing them effectively.

Art therapy is a unique way to cope with climate anxiety. Engaging in creative expression can help people process their emotions and reduce anxiety. According to Yale Climate Connections, art therapy allows individuals to visualize their fears and hopes, providing a cathartic release of pent-up emotions. "Art offers a way to express the inexpressible," notes the article, highlighting its therapeutic potential.

Techniques such as mindfulness and meditation are effective in grounding individuals and reducing anxiety. Practicing mindfulness helps individuals stay present and reduces the constant worrying about the future. This practice can be as simple as focused breathing exercises or guided meditation sessions.

Being part of a community can significantly reduce feelings of helplessness associated with climate anxiety. According to researchers at the University of Colorado, engaging in collective action can provide a sense of purpose and solidarity. Participating in local environmental or community projects can help one feel they are contributing to a larger cause, thus mitigating feelings of isolation and powerlessness.

Adopting eco-friendly habits can help, too. Reducing waste, conserving energy and buying sustainable products can provide a sense of purpose. Staying informed and engaging in advocacy can also help. Being informed allows one to make good decisions and contribute to meaningful change. Advocacy work like writing, speaking or participating in demonstrations, can provide a sense of purpose and hope.

Also, don't be afraid to seek professional help, which can be crucial for those severely affected by climate anxiety. Therapists and counselors can provide coping strategies and emotional support. The World Economic Forum emphasizes the importance of finding climate-aware therapists specializing in eco-anxiety. These professionals understand the unique stressors associated with climate change and can offer tailored support. By managing our anxiety and participating in collective action, we can contribute to a healthier planet and a more hopeful outlook.

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)



**There are many tools we can use to help ground us during times of despair when we contemplate the severity of the climate crisis.**

Credit: Pexels.com.

## "Prescriptions for Parks"

Doctors write prescriptions for medications all the time. However, have you ever heard of a doctor prescribing a walk in the park? While this prescription will not fit in a bottle, it can pack some powerful health benefits. It may sound strange, but doctors actually can prescribe time outdoors to their patients with the help of a national program, ParkRx.org. This free online program can help a patient track their outdoor activity and discuss more outdoor exercise options with their doctor.

In South Dakota, health care providers can contact the Department of Health to get a "Park Prescription" pad that is redeemable for a free 1 day pass to any South Dakota State Park or a discounted annual pass. Minnesota, Iowa, Wyoming, Montana, and Nebraska all have "Walk with a Doc" programs where you can meet at a public location to walk with a doctor and other health-minded individuals. Spending time in nature has been proven to help both physical and mental health.

A review of 20 medical trials of participants who spent time in a forest environment found that their blood pressure was significantly lower after being in a forest than it was in a non-forest environment. Additionally, this improvement lasted for several days after being in the wooded area. These participants did not need to go for hikes, simply walking in, sitting in, or viewing the forest was able to give the participants lower blood pressures. This worked both for people with high blood pressure and normal blood pressure. It also showed improvement regardless of age as children, young adults, and older adults all had similar findings.

One study found that children who spend more time outdoors have reduced rates of nearsightedness. Children who spent more time outdoors also have a lower risk of developing asthma according to another study. Increasing outdoor play also decreases BMI in preschoolers and lowers obesity in adults.

Time outside has also been shown to be associated with improved sleep and sleep quality. Spending time outdoors has been linked to improving the immune system and decreasing stress. While spending time in State Parks and Forests is beneficial, even walking around the local neighborhood and being in an outdoor "green space" has shown to have health benefits.

Of course, no medication is without side-effects. The great outdoors has bugs, you can get sunburned or there are uneven surfaces and loose gravel. So when you are going outside, remember to use sunscreen or wear a wide-brimmed hat and have bug repellent if going into areas where there are mosquitoes and ticks. It is also important to have proper fitting shoes for your adventures to prevent blisters and slips or falls. With all the benefits of spending time outdoors, it just makes sense that doctors should write prescriptions for outdoor activities. So get out into nature to stay 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](http://www.prairiedoc.org) and on Facebook and Instagram featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show providing health information based on science, built on trust, on SDPB and streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.



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**USDA Choice Demkota Boneless Top Sirloin Steak**  
Per Lb. **\$7.99**

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**Washington Red Cherries**  
Per Lb. **\$2.99**

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