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The Groton Independent

Vol. 142 No. 22 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2025 ♦ Established in 1889



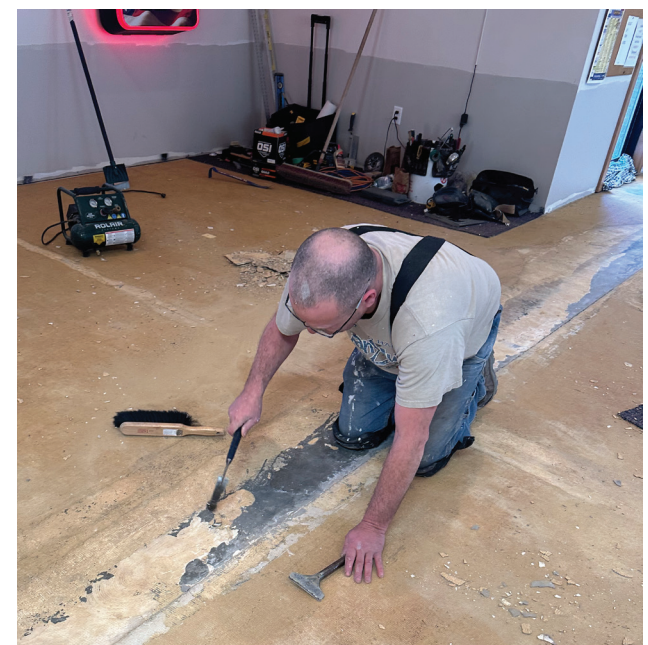
The small group music contest was held recently in Aberdeen. Groton Area's Woodwinds received an Excellent +. In addition, Gretchen Dinger received a perfect score with a Superior +. Rebecca Poor received an Excellent+ on her flute solo. The Woodwinds are pictured above, left to right: Kayla Lehr, Natalia Warrington, Ashlynn Warrington, Gretchen Dinger, Emerlee Jones, Kira Clocksene, Rebecca Poor and Jeslyn Kosel. (Courtesy photo)



Kellie Locke, the librarian at the Wage Memorial Library, puts the final books back on the shelf with the Accelerated Reader Information. Each book has the number of AR points and test number. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The Brass received an Excellent+. Carlee Johnson received a Superior on her French Horn solo. Pictured above are the Brass members, in back, left to right: Logan Clocksene, TC Schuster Jayden Schwan, Brody Lord, Blake Lord, Libby Cole, Kyleigh Kroll, Rylie Rose and Carlee Johnson; in front, left to right, are Isaiah Scepaniack, Jackson Hopfinger, Nathan Unzen, Kason Oswald, Gavin Kroll, Addison Hoffman and Xavier Ellenbecker. (Courtesy photo)



The carpet has been removed at the Groton American Legion and Todd McGannon is getting everything leveled out for the new carpet. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The Percussion received a Superior. Teagan Hanten earned an excellent on her piano solo and Carlee Johnson received a Superior + on her piano solo. The Chamber Choir received an Excellent rating with Rebecca Poor receiving a Superior on her vocal solo.

Pictured left to right are the Percussion members: Axel Warrington, Gentry Pigors, Teagan Hanten, Makenna Krause and Lincoln Krause; not pictured Corbin Weismantel. (Courtesy photo)

Revenue launches 605Drive System

PIERRE, S.D. – The Department of Revenue's Motor Vehicle Division launches their new title and vehicle registration system, 605Drive, on Monday.

Vehicle registration renewals are once again available at DMVNow Kiosks, online, and through county treasurer offices. To access the online platform, visit the Department's website at dor.sd.gov and select "Vehicle Registration and Plates" under Online Services. A new partner service platform will be available for licensed motor vehicle dealers and lenders.

Queen of Hearts

The 17th week of the Queen of Hearts was held Thursday evening. Ticket sales were \$1,110. The jackpot was \$134,413. Ron Worlie's name was drawn (for the second straight week) and he choose card 41 which was the ten of hearts. He won the consolation prize of \$110..

City Council Meeting Postponed

The Groton City Council Meeting scheduled for Feb. 18th was postponed due to lack of quorum. The meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 25, 7 p.m.



John Sippel is measuring for the placement of the bar stand area. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

90th Birthday Celebration



There will be an Open House 90th Birthday Celebration for MaryAnn Wehde on Sat., February 22nd from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. The celebration will be held in the AmericInn Cavalier Room, 301 Centennial St. S., Aberdeen, SD. The family requests in place of gifts that you write down a memory to share. Cards may be sent to 2211 10th Ave. SE, Aberdeen, SD.

Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

With the Super Bowl now in the rearview mirror, the NFL offseason is officially in full swing. For the Minnesota Vikings, that means shifting focus to the 2025 season and evaluating the roster from top to bottom. Which positions are solid heading into next year, and where do they need upgrades? Over the coming weeks, we'll break down each position group, analyzing strengths, weaknesses, and potential moves the team could make to build a contender. Let's dive in.

And before we get too far, I want to mention that the Vikings' head coach, Kevin O'Connell, was named as the 2024 NFL Coach of the Year. This is only the second time a Vikings' coach has won the award (Bud Grant, 1969). The honor was well deserved, as O'Connell took a team that was predicted to be in contention for the number one overall pick and turned them into a team that won 14 games and was in contention for the number one seed in the NFC. Congrats coach!

We start, as we always do, with the most important position on the field: quarterback. Last year, the Vikings drafted J.J. McCarthy with the 10th overall pick, the highest pick the team has ever used on a QB. They also signed Sam Darnold to a one-year deal in free agency, bringing him in to compete with McCarthy and potentially hold down the fort until McCarthy was ready to take the reins. Instead, J.J. was injured in his first preseason game and missed the entire 2024 season.

To the surprise of many, Darnold took his game to another level under the leadership of coach O'Connell. The former 3rd overall pick started all 17 regular season games and com-

pleted 66.2% of his passes for 4,319 yards, 35 touchdowns, and 12 interceptions. Although he faltered down the stretch, Darnold still had a great year and proved he's worthy of being a starting QB in the NFL. Unfortunately for the Vikings, Darnold was only signed to a one-year deal and will be a free agent this offseason.

Normally it would be a given that the top 10 pick would be starting his sophomore season, but McCarthy's injury complicates things. On one hand, he was in the building and learning the Vikings' offense all year, so mentally he should be ready. On the other hand, we have no idea how McCarthy's body will respond after the injury.

Besides Darnold and McCarthy, the Vikings also had Nick Mullens, Brett Rypien, and Daniel Jones in the QB room last season. Mullens and Jones are free agents this offseason, while Rypien has only started four games in his career.

There are several ways the Vikings can address the QB position this offseason, but it all revolves around Darnold. The Vikings could franchise tag him, keeping him under contract for one more season, but this option would cost the team around \$40 million. However, the team could also tag and trade with another team, bringing in much-needed draft picks. The Vikings could also sign him to a multi-year deal, but there is a very good chance another team will offer Darnold considerably more money in free agency, and the Vikings likely don't want to be on the hook for a highly paid QB when they have McCarthy waiting in the wings. The option I believe is the most likely is for the team to sign Daniel Jones to a deal similar to what they gave Darnold in 2024, letting him compete for the starting spot and potentially filling in until McCarthy is ready to start.

U12 BASEBALL STATE TOURNAMENT IN GROTON

THE GROTON BB/SB FOUNDATION IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT GROTON WILL BE HOSTING THE 2025 VFW 12U STATE B TOURNAMENT JULY 11-13. THANK YOU TO JASON HILL FOR PREPARING AND SUBMITTING THE BID AND SERVING AS TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR. ALSO THANK YOU TO COLUMBIA FOR OFFERING TO HOST GAMES.

MORE INFO TO COME... WE'LL SEE YOU THERE!



King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Actress Hatcher
- 5 Slender
- 9 Venomous viper
- 12 — Bator
- 13 Director Wertmuller
- 14 Cutesy- —
- 15 Beau
- 17 "Nova" aier
- 18 Oodles
- 19 Media mogul Winfrey
- 21 Brother of Moses
- 24 Concerning
- 25 Large amount
- 26 Novelty dance at a wedding
- 30 Pampering, for short
- 31 Sri —
- 32 Tokyo's historic name
- 33 Quarantines
- 35 L-Q bridge
- 36 Baseball legend Willie
- 37 Mission man
- 38 Arizona city
- 40 Pants part
- 42 Flamenco cheer
- 43 Exceed
- 48 — -Manuel Miranda
- 49 Clump of grass

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42					43	44				45	46	47
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51					52					53		

- 50 Locks
- 51 Young bloke
- 52 Summers in Paris
- 53 Sciences' partner
- 9 Collar, as a suspect
- 10 Japanese noodles
- 11 Ritzzy
- 16 Director Howard
- 20 Snoop
- 21 Sparkling Italian wine
- 22 Shakespeare title starter
- 23 Advise
- 24 Pen fluids
- 26 Cave creatures
- 27 French article
- 28 Air freshener target
- 29 Vatican VIP
- 31 Infant's outfit
- 34 Napkin's perch
- 35 Green tea variety
- 37 — de deux
- 38 Bridge fee
- 39 Director Kazan
- 40 Ump's ruling
- 41 Tolkien creatures
- 44 Trench
- 45 Off-pierced body part
- 46 Petty peeve
- 47 ER workers

Monitor your water usage!

With the current system the City of Groton has, you can be notified if you have a water leak. Also, with the Eye on Water app, you can monitor your water usage. And the best thing is that it's a free service.

How do you sign up?

You just received your utility bill in the mail.

In the lower left you will see your account number.

First - download the EyeOnWater App on your phone.

Once you have it downloaded, it will ask you for your account number.

Enter the first 12 digits of your account number and then add 201 at the end.

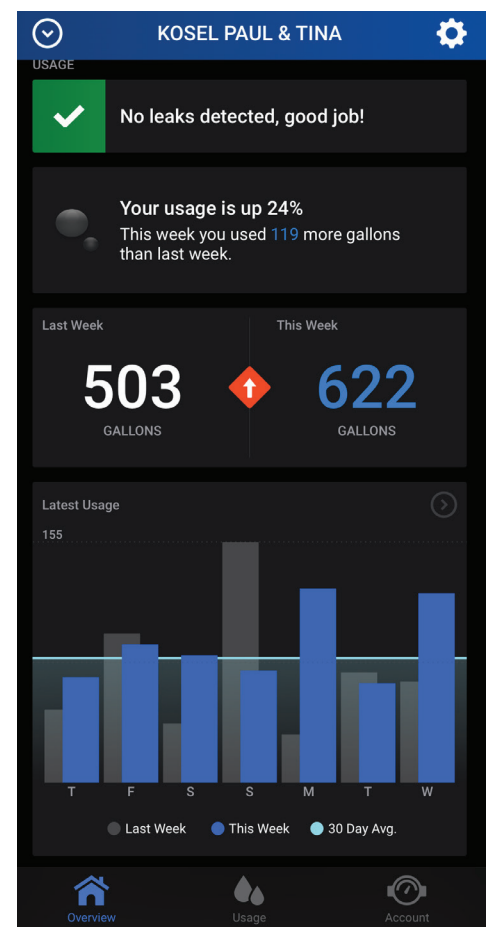
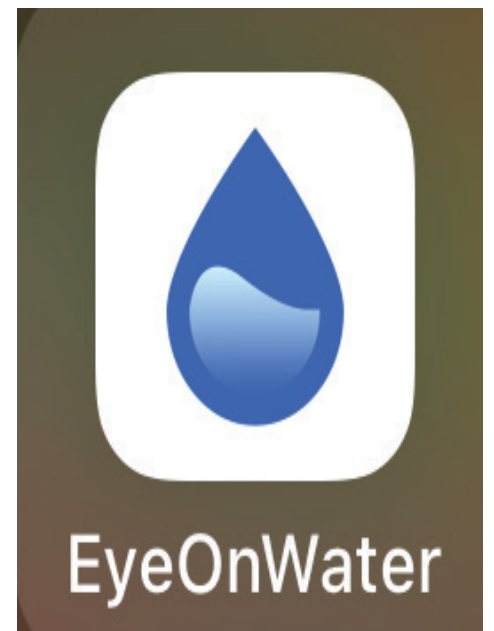
When it asks you for the zip code, enter 57445.

And just like that, you have access to your water usage!

You can add a second account. In the bottom left hand corner, click on Overview, then click on the down arrow in the top left corner. Then on the next screen click on "Link More Accounts." Then enter your information.

If you have problems getting on, just text Paul at 605-397-7460 and he can help you through the process.

It should be noted that you will be notified of a leak only on the account that you have checked in your app.



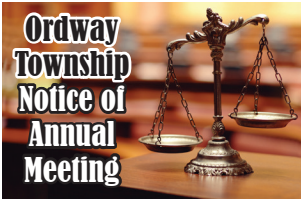
Answer

Answers

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

Solution time: 23 mins.

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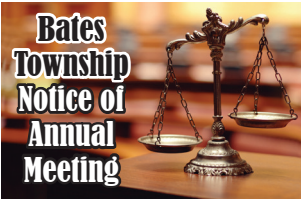
Ordway Township Notice of Annual Meeting

ANNUAL TOWNSHIP MEETING

The Citizens of the Township of Ordway in the county of Brown, South Dakota and who are qualified to vote at the Township election are hereby notified that the Annual Township Meeting for said Township will be held at the offices of Kippley Group, 215 5th Avenue Northwest, Aberdeen, SD, on TUESDAY, the 4 day of March next at 7 o'clock PM for the following purposes: To elect one Supervisor for the term of three years; one Township Clerk and Treasure, each for the term one year; and to do any other business proper the be done at said meeting when convened. In case of inclement weather this meeting will be rescheduled for the following Tuesday at the same place and location.

Given under my hand this 17 day of February A.D. 2025 Mike McHugh, Clerk

Published February 19 and 26, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$18.21 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com 25275



Bates Township Notice of Annual Meeting

BATES TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Bates Township will hold its annual meeting and election on Tuesday, March 4th, 2025 at the home of the Clerk, 14523 409th Ave, Conde.

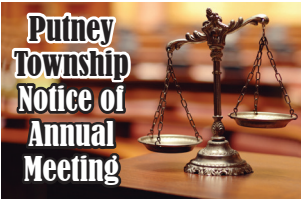
Election of officers and business meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m.

We will be receiving bids for road maintenance and gravel. Please mail bids to

Betty Geist, Bates Township Clerk, 14523 409th Ave., Conde, SD 57434 prior to meeting date.

Betty Geist, Township Clerk

Published February 19 and 26, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$12.69 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25276



Putney Township Notice of Annual Meeting

NOTICE OF CAUCUS AND ELECTION IN PUTNEY TOWNSHIP

Notice is hereby given that the annual Putney Township Caucus and Election of Officers will be held Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at Mark Thompson's Shop.

Caucus at 3 p.m. followed by election of officers.

Sealed bids will be accepted for gravel, loaded and delivered, to designated placed in Putney Township. The township board reserves the right to inspect the gravel before awarding the bid. Bids must be addressed to Mark Thompson, Township Clerk, sealed and plainly marked "Bid for Gravel." Separate bids will be accepted for mowing weeds along road ditches, removal of snow and blading. Bidders are to furnish township with name and address of insurance agent. Bids will be opened by the Board of Supervisors, Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at Mark Thompson's Farm House shop at 3 p.m. The board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Mark Thompson Township Clerk

Published February 19 and 26, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$20.97 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25277

Groton Area Pulls Away Late for 74-43 Win Over Florence-Henry

GROTON - On a frigid Monday night, only the varsity game was played between the Groton Area Tigers and the Florence-Henry Falcons, and the home team delivered a dominant performance down the stretch to secure a 74-43 victory.

The game started as a defensive battle, tied at 2-2 in the early minutes. However, Groton found their rhythm, shooting a red-hot 73% (8-of-11) in the first quarter to take an 18-9 lead. Florence-Henry struggled offensively, making just 3-of-10 shots for 30%.

The Falcons found life in the second quarter, clawing their way back with improved shooting. Led by Carson Vavruska's nine-point effort, Florence-Henry connected on 7-of-12 shots (58%) and trimmed the deficit to just three points at 26-23. Groton cooled off to 40% shooting in the period but managed to take a 32-25 lead into halftime.

Florence-Henry kept the pressure on early in the third quarter, cutting the deficit to 34-29. But Groton responded with a decisive nine-point run late in the period, pushing their lead to 49-36 before finishing the quarter ahead 49-38. The Tigers shot 58% (7-of-12) in the third, while the Falcons managed 42% (5-of-12).

In the fourth quarter, Groton completely took control, closing the game on a dominant 14-0 run. Ryder Johnson led the charge, scoring eight of his game-high 22 points in the final period. By the final buzzer, the Tigers had secured a commanding 74-43 win.

Stat Leaders:

- Groton Area: Ryder Johnson led all scorers with 22 points and added a block. Becker Bosma had a stellar all-around performance, recording a double-double with 14 points, 12 rebounds, five assists, and three steals. Easton Weber knocked down three triples for nine points while adding five rebounds and two assists. Keegen Tracy contributed eight points and four assists, and Gage Sippel finished with six points, four rebounds, and two blocks.

- Florence-Henry: Carson Vavruska paced the Falcons with 15 points, while Ty Berg added 10. Carson Kelly had eight, Logan Koll chipped in six, and both Tucker Keller and Masyn Warne had two.

Groton shot an efficient 72% (26-of-36) on two-pointers and 35% (6-of-17) from beyond the arc while tallying 33 rebounds, 23 assists, and eight steals. Florence-Henry struggled from the field, shooting 34% (16-of-47), and finished with 12 turnovers.

With the victory, Groton improves to 13-5 on the season, while Florence-Henry falls to 11-7. The Tigers will be back in action Friday when they travel to Britton for a doubleheader.

- Story compiled by ChatGPT

- Ryder Johnson 22 points, 3 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 foul, 1 block.
- Becker Bosma 14 points, 12 rebounds, 5 assists, 3 steals, 1 foul.
- Easton Webber 9 points, 5 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal, 1 foul.
- Keegen Tracy 8 points, 1 rebound, 4 assists, 2 steals, 3 fouls.
- Karson Zak 6 points, 2 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 fouls.
- Gage Sippel 6 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 foul, 2 blocks.
- Jaden Schwann 4 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals, 2 fouls.
- Turner Thompson 3 points, 1 rebound, 3 assists, 2 fouls.
- Logan Warrington 2 points, 1 rebound, 1 foul.
- Blake Pauli 1 rebound, 2 assists.

Two Pointers 26 of 36 for 72 percent, Three Pointers 6 of 17 for 35 percent, Free throws 4 of 8 for 50 percent, 33 rebounds, 10 turnovers, 23 assists, 8 steals, 14 fouls, and 3 blocks.

Florence-Henry: Carson Vavruska 15, Ty Bergh 10, Carson Kelly 8, Logan Koll 6, Tucker Keller 2, Masyn Warne 2. Field Goals: 16-47 34%, Free Throws: 3-7, 10 fouls and 12 turnovers.

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



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA COUNRY OF BROWN

)))
SS
IN CIRCUIT COURT
FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
A&N 24-108

NOTICE OF CONTINUED ADVISORY HEARING

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA IN THE INTEREST OF

L. G. AND Z- G. M., MINOR CHILDREN, AND CONCERNING ANGELA TERESA GAUTHIER CARDONA, LOUIS GAUTHIER SR., and ZULMA PROCHE RESPONDENTS.

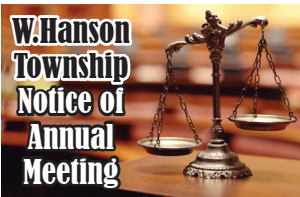
TO: Zulma Proche

Please take notice and be advised that the above-entitled matter has been scheduled for a CONTINUED ADVISORY HEARING on the 5th day of March, 2025, at the hour of 9:30 a.m. of said day, before the Honorable Circuit Court Judge Julie Dvorak, at the Brown County Courthouse, Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Dated this 18th day of February, 2025.

/s/ Karla Nelson, Deputy Brown County States Attorney

Published February 19, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$11.96 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25279



W.Hanson Township Notice of Annual Meeting

NOTICE OF CAUCUS AND ELECTION IN WEST HANSON TOWNSHIP

West Hanson Township will hold its annual caucus, business meeting and election on Tuesday, March 4th at 7:30 PM.

The meeting will be held at the Dirks home, 40305 138th St. There will be an election of one supervisor, clerk and treasurer.

The township will also be

accepting bids for 1,000 yds., more or less, of screened and/or crushed gravel within the township. We will also take bids on the same date for road blading and mowing on township roads and snow removal work. We will also be taking bids on mowing and maintenance of the West Hanson Cemetery. All bids must be accompanied by certificate of contractor's liability insurance. The board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Jennifer Dirks, Township Clerk

Published February 19 and 26, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$17.66 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25278

Hanlon Brothers Gravel Hauling
New & Cleaning of Stockdams with our 60' reach trackhoe
605/395-6531

The Groton Independent
21 N Main, Groton 605/397-NEWS (6397)
Paul Irvin Kosel, Publisher paperpaul@grotonsd.net ~ 605-397-7460
Tina Kosel, Office Manager office@grotonsd.net ~ 605-397-7285
Notices: legals@grotonsd.net
News Items: news@grotonsd.net
Deadline to submit items: Noon Monday
Yearly Subscription Rates are listed below.
The Groton Independent (USPS# 230-440) is published weekly with its periodicals postage paid at Groton, SD.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Groton Independent, PO Box 34, Groton, SD 57445
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Password _____
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Groton, SD 57445-0034
or scan and email to paperpaul@grotonsd.net

Groton Area Dominates Mobridge-Pollock in Basketball Showdown

MOBRIDGE, S.D. - It was a day of fierce competition as Groton Area traveled to Mobridge-Pollock for a full slate of basketball action. The boys' varsity team put on a dominant second-half performance, securing a 64-49 victory, while the girls' varsity team fell short despite a strong second-half push, losing 46-34.

Boys Varsity: Groton Area Pulls Away in the Second Half

The varsity boys' matchup was a battle early, with both teams exchanging leads six times in the first quarter before ending tied at 13. The intensity continued into the second quarter, featuring two more lead changes and three ties before Mobridge-Pollock took a narrow 28-26 lead into halftime.

But Groton Area wasted no time taking control after the break. Becker Bosma came out firing, scoring the first six points of the third quarter off offensive rebounds and a layup, sparking a 32-28 lead. The Tigers of Groton then went on an 11-0 run later in the quarter, pushing their advantage to 48-36. Mobridge-Pollock fought back, cutting the deficit to 10 in the fourth, but that was as close as they would get as Groton Area closed out the 64-49 victory.

Keegen Tracy led Groton Area with 14 points, while Karson Zac (12), Ryder Johnson (11), and Becker Bosma (10) also reached double figures. Bosma grabbed six of the team's 29 rebounds, and Johnson dished out five of the team's 14 assists. Defensively, Johnson and Zac each had three of Groton's seven steals, while Gage Sippel recorded two blocks.

Both teams shot well from the free-throw line, each making 9-of-11 (82%). Groton Area hit 67% of their two-pointers (20-of-30) and 33% from beyond the arc (5-of-15). Mobridge-Pollock shot 40% from the field (16-of-40). Shane Henderson led Mobridge-Pollock with 15 points, while Easton Eisemann added 10.

Girls Varsity: Groton Area Struggles in the Second Quarter

The Groton Area girls' varsity team got off to a solid start but ran into trouble in the second quarter, leading to a 46-34 loss.

Mobridge-Pollock held a narrow 11-8 lead after the first quarter, but Groton's offense went ice cold in the second. They missed all nine of their field goal attempts and struggled from the free-throw line, making just 3-of-12. That allowed Mobridge-Pollock to take a commanding 23-11 halftime lead.

Groton Area showed signs of life in the third quarter, with Kennedy Hansen scoring six points to help trim the deficit to eight at 32-24 heading into the final frame. The Lady Tigers kept the pressure on, cutting the lead to five at 33-28 early in the fourth, but Mobridge-Pollock responded by hitting 8-of-12 free throws down the stretch to seal the win.

Kennedy Hansen led Groton Area with 13 points, while Rylee Dunker pulled down six of the team's 28 rebounds. Taryn Traphagen dished out two of Groton's five assists. The team struggled at the free-throw line, making just 6-of-21 (29%) compared to Mobridge-Pollock's 20-of-29 (68%).

Blake Thompson led Mobridge-Pollock with 16 points, and Tegan Konold added 11.

Boys JV & C Teams Cruise to Victory

Groton Area's junior varsity boys dominated Mobridge-Pollock 66-27. Easton Weber had a stellar performance, scoring 24 points, while Asher Johnson added 12 and Anthony Tracy had 10. The Tigers led 11-6 after one quarter, 28-15 at halftime, and 55-26 after three before enforcing the mercy rule with a 30-point lead.

The C-team followed suit with a commanding 38-15 win. Groton jumped out to a 13-0 first-quarter lead and never looked back, holding a 24-4 halftime advantage before cruising to the finish. Anthony Tracy led with 14 points, while Asher Johnson added 11.

Girls JV & C Teams Shine

The Groton Area junior varsity girls secured a 44-35 comeback victory, overcoming a 33-28 deficit in the fourth quarter with a dominant 9-0 run to close the game. Chesney Weber led the team with 13 points, while McKenna Tietz chipped in 11.

The C-team left no doubt in their matchup, enforcing the mercy rule in the first half on their way to a 49-16 blowout win. Tevan Hansen led all scorers with 14 points, while Ashlynn Warrington added 11. Groton held a commanding 33-3 halftime lead and never looked back.

Final Thoughts

Groton Area's boys' teams put together a strong showing across all levels, highlighted by a key varsity win that improved their record to 12-5. The girls' varsity team will look to bounce back after a tough second quarter cost them against Mobridge-Pollock. With postseason play approaching, both programs are sharpening their play for the final stretch of the season.

- Story compiled by ChatGPT

Boys Varsity: Groton Area 64, Mobridge-Pollock 49

Keegen Tracy: 14 points 2 rebounds 2 assists, 3 fouls 1 block.
 Karson Zak: 12 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists, 3 steals, 1 foul.
 Ryder Johnson: 11 points, 4 rebounds, 3 steals, 2 fouls.
 Becker Bosma: 10 points, 5 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 fouls.
 Turner Thompson: 6 points, 2 rebounds, 2 fouls, 1 block.
 Easton Weber: 5 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 foul.
 Jayden Schwan: 1 rebound.
 Logan Warrington: 2 rebounds.
 2-Pointers: 20-30 67%, 3-Pointers: 5-15, 33%, Free Throws 9-12 75%, 29 rebounds, 15 turnovers, 14 assists, 7 steals, 14 fouls, 4 blocks.
 Mobridge-Pollock: Shane Henderson 15, Easton Eisemann 10,

Shooter Frederick 9, Jackson Eisemann 8, Kale Jnudson 4.

Field Goals: 16-40 40%, Free Throws: 9-11 82%, 14 fouls, 12 turnovers.

Boys JV: Groton Area 66, Mobridge-Pollock 27

Groton Area: Easton Weber, Asher Johnson 12, Anthony Tracy 10, Jace Johnson 9, Jayden Schwan 4, Logan Warrington 3, Ethan Kroll 2, Ryder Schelle 2.

Mobridge-Pollock: Jesse Schneider 8, Kyson Good Shield 7, Dylan Fjeldheim 4, Caige Yellow 3, Maxx Saxon 2, Trueth Crow Ghost 1.

Boys C: Groton Area 38, Mobridge 15

Groton Area: Anthony Tracy 14, Asher Johnson 11, Ethan Koll 8, Jace Johnson 3, Ryder Schelle 2.

Mobridge-Pollock: Tyral Bleye 6, Bryson Andrews 3, Dylan Fjeldheim 3, Andrew Ulmer 2, Trayden Stambach 1.

Girls Varsity: Mobridge-Pollock 46, Groton Area 34

Kennedy Hansen: 13 points, 2 rebounds, 3 steals, 3 fouls.

Rylee Dunker: 5 points, 6 rebounds, 2 steals, 1 foul.

Jerica Locke: 3 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals, 5 fouls.

Brooklyn Hansen: 3 points, 1 rebound.

Faith Traphagen: 3 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal, 1 foul.

Chesney Weber: 3 points, 2 rebounds, 1 steal, 1 foul.

Laila Roberts: 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal, 4 fouls.

2-Pointers: 11-30 37%, 3-Pointers: 2-14 14%, Free Throws: 6-21 29%, 28 rebounds, 21 turnovers, 5 assists, 11 steals, 23 fouls, 1 block.

Mobridge-Pollock: Blake Thompson 16, Egan Konold 11, Brooke Bain 5, Cheyenne Rath 5, Faith Heil 4, Jayda Thompson 3, Jacy Netterville 1, Charley Henderson 1.

Girls JV: Groton Area 44, Mobridge-Pollock 35

Groton: Chesney Weber 13, McKenna Tietz 11, Talli Wright 8, Mia Crank 8, Ashlynn Warrington 4.

Mobridge-Pollock: Shayla Rath 16, Cheyenne Rath 6, Pacey Konold 4, Jayda Thompson 3, Jersey Frederick 2.

Girls C: Groton Area 49, Mobridge-Pollock 16

Groton: Tevan Hanson 14, Ashlynn Warrington 11, Kella Tracy 8, Makenna Krause 5, Emerlee Jones 5, Kinsley Rowen 2, Teagan Hanten 2, Sydney Locke 2.

Mobridge-Pollock: Ava Wolff 4, Marayha Bleye 3, Emma Brown 2, Dawsyn Wientjes 2, Haprer Baumann 2, Candace Hill 2, Avarie Wientjes 1.

All six games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM with Paul Kosel and Jeslyn Kosel. The varsity sponsors were Agtegra, Avantara Groton, Bierman Farm Service, BK Custom T's & More, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Lounge, Locke Electric, Krueger Brothers, R&M Farms/Rix Farms and The Meathouse in Andover. Paul did the boys JV, sponsored by Hefty Seed. Jeslyn did the girls JV, sponsored by Weber Landscaping. The girls C game was sponsored by Locke Electric and the boys C game was sponsored for the grandparents watching.



It was senior recognition day in Mobridge. In addition to recognizing their own seniors they also recognized Groton Area's seniors. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Easton Weber
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Jerica Locke
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

The Life of Mary Flihs



Services for Mary Flihs, 78, of Groton will be 3:00 p.m., Saturday, February 22nd at St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton. Rev. Jeremy Yeadon will officiate. Inurnment will take place in the spring in Union Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held for one hour prior to services at the church.

Mary passed away February 10, 2025 at Bethesda Home of Aberdeen.

Mary Kathryn was born on August 15, 1946 in Sisseton to Phillip and LaVera (Arbach) Seurer. She attended grade school in Sisseton and then graduated from Groton High School in 1964. Mary continued her education at the Aberdeen School of Commerce. She graduated with a one-year degree in business office work and bookkeeping. On November 27, 1965, she was united in marriage with Darrel Marvin Flihs and together they were blessed with two children.

Mary was talented in so many ways. Her ability to work with numbers and finances amazed everyone. Her calculations were

spot on. If she was off one cent, she would start back over and keep working until everything balanced. She never sat still. She was working constantly from Bostwick's, High Grade Oil, Darrel's Sinclair, Eide Helmeke, Fritz's, to Walmart just to name a few. She had a knack with customers far and wide. She taught her children to work hard, build relationships, and above all how to care for others. Mary showed her love and care for others through her gardening, canning, cooking, and baking. Her garden was her sanctuary, and she worked in it tirelessly. She was proud to show it to anyone who was interested. She spent countless hours tending to it to reap what she needed to can for each year. Her cucumbers and beans were picked almost daily to be the perfect size to make her famous canned beans and her prized dill pickles. There was never an August day that the canner wasn't on the stove and clean jars somewhere close by. She loved to bake! She was always baking something and sharing it. Mary's homemade bun recipe was known all over town. It was a special surprise when you were delivered those buns or something that she baked. Customers would come running at Darrel's Sinclair when it was Customer Appreciation Days. Mary made everything and it was all from scratch. Her baking was a part of many family holiday traditions: Christmas, Thanksgiving, graduation parties, birthdays, and baptisms. Her ability to take a recipe to the next level with "a little of this" did not often answer the question, "Do you have a recipe for that?" Mary's wonderful ability in the kitchen was what brought us all together.

Her grandchildren were the apple of her eye. She loved being with them and showing her love for them by taking care of them when needed, for a long weekend, or just spending time with them in the garden. She spent time with them teaching them her ways of picking and gathering. She wanted them to understand the value and great reward you acquire from the garden to the table. Her favorite question to the grandchildren was, "Do you know how much I love you? Big Bunches!" and she would spread her arms as wide as they could go. Mary loved and loved big.

Mary was active in St. John's Lutheran Church and the Legion Auxiliary.

Celebrating her life are her children, Rich and Heather Flihs of Groton, Becky and Eric Larson of Mitchell, grandchildren: Connor Larson, Lauren Larson and fiancé Matthew Billion, Adam Flihs, Anna Flihs, and Samuel Flihs, her brother, Dick & Wava Seurer of Groton and in laws, Carol Seurer, Dick & Judy Flihs, Duane & Rhonda Flihs, Dale & Claire Flihs, Doris Briggs, Diane Hickenbotham, Sharon & Mike Dell and many nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her parents Phillip Seurer and LaVera Skogen, her husband, Darrel in 2012, her brother, Kenny Seurer, and in-laws, Harvey & Bernice Flihs, Carlman Briggs, Arvilla and Alan Gross, Irene Flihs and Betty Ann Flihs.

The Life of Faye Stohr



Services for Faye Stohr, 76, of Aberdeen were held Saturday, February 15th at the Claremont Community Church. The Rev. Rodney Ulmer officiated. Entombment followed in Sunset Memorial Gardens Mausoleum, Aberdeen under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Services were live streamed through the Claremont Church Facebook page.

Faye passed away February 7, 2025 at Primrose Cottages in Aberdeen.

Faye Nereim was born on February 22, 1948 in Aberdeen to Orville and Fern (Sanderson) Nereim. She was raised and attended school in Claremont, graduating in 1966. Faye continued her education at NDSU, later transferring to Northern State where she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Education. Faye used her double major in Math and History as a teacher in Anchorage, Alaska for several years before returning to teach in Hecla. On August 7, 1969, she

was united in marriage with Jeff Stohr in Claremont and together they were blessed with one son, Jacob.

Faye was an active member of the United Methodist Women, where she held many offices including President of the ND/SD UMW. She was involved in the Langford School Board for 18 years, where she also served as President. Faye was a skilled piano player and taught lessons for many years. Faye also enjoyed cross stitching and spending time with her family, especially her grandson.

Celebrating her life is her husband, Jeff of Aberdeen, her son, Jacob (Mattie) Stohr and their son, Maverick of Aberdeen, and her sister, Kaye (Larry) Johnke of Irene.

Preceding her in death were her parents and one sister, Karen Tchida.

Casketbearers were Kevin Tchida, Terry Tchida, Tim Johnke, Brock Johnke, Landra Knodel, Kendall Johnke, Bryce Johnke and Trent Johnke.

Memorials may be directed to the Claremont Community Church Memorial Fund, 201 6th Street, Claremont, SD 57422.

The Life of Lester Herr



Lester Herr, 102, of Bristol, peacefully passed away, February 5, 2025, at Sundial Manor Nursing Home in Bristol.

Memorial services were held Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at Fiksdal Funeral Service. Burial will be at a later date.

Condolences may be sent to Sun Dial Manor, Avera Hospice, or Prairie Mound Cemetery.

Lester Emil Herr was born on June 3, 1922, to Emil and Augusta (Nolte) Herr in Day County, South Dakota. He was baptized and confirmed at Butler Lutheran Church in Butler. He attended school in Butler and graduated from Butler High School in 1940. After his education, he farmed the family farm alongside his father in Valley Township, west of Butler.

On June 18, 1944, he married Virginia Clausen at Butler. The couple made their home and farmed in the Butler area. To this union seven children were born, Shirley, Larry, Linda, Gloria, Gayle, Michael, and Kathryn. Lester faithfully worked the fields farming well into his 90's. Virginia passed in 1990. Lester continued to live on the farm until 2015, when he moved to assisted living in Bristol.

Lester had a daily routine of coffee with his buddies at Bristol and Butler. He enjoyed woodworking and building things. He had an inventive mind, constructing parts for machinery when needed. He enjoyed his farm cats and just tinkering around the farm. Lester was very involved in the community. He was an avid cheerleader for all his grandchildren's and great grandchildren's extra-curricular activities. Lester was a lifelong member of Butler Lutheran Church where he served on the board. He also served on the following boards: Sun Dial Manor, Bristol School, Day County Museum, Day County Hospital, Valley Township, and Bristol Farmers Union. He was also instrumental in the formation of Sun Dial Manor.

Above all else, Lester cherished time with his family. He will be greatly missed by his children, Shirley (Paul) Halvorsen of Webster, SD, Larry (Judy) Herr of Bristol, SD, Gloria (Morris) Forsting of Sioux Falls, SD, Gayle (Steve) Horter of Andover, SD, Michael (Tammie) Herr of Bristol, SD, and Kathryn (Shayne) Schmiegl of Andover, SD, 16 grandchildren, 38 great grandchildren, and 5 great-great grandchildren with one on the way! He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Virginia, infant daughter Linda, grandsons Mark Halvorsen and Matthew Forsting, and sisters Edna Jensen, Eleanore Whitmyre, and Irene Whitmyre.

Service Notice: Leonard Garness

Services for Leonard Garness, 90, of Sun City West, Arizona and formerly of Groton will be 2:00 p.m., Saturday, March 1st at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Rev. Mike Kampa will officiate. Burial with military honors will be held in Union Cemetery, Groton.

Visitation will be held at the funeral chapel on Friday from 5-7 p.m.

Leonard passed away February 14, 2025 at Aria Ranch in Sun City West, Arizona.

Death Notice: Dennis K. Larson

Dennis K. Larson, 84, of Groton passed away February 18, 2025 at his home. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Girls NEC Standings

Hamlin	9-0	16-3
Roncalli	7-2	14-5
Groton Area	7-2	13-6
Milbank	6-3	11-8
Clark/Willow Lake	5-3	10-7
Sisseton	6-4	12-7
Webster Area	4-5	10-9
Deuel	3-6	4-15
Britton-Hecla	2-7	4-14
Tiospa Zina	0-8	6-12
Redfield	0-9	2-17

The girls regions will begin on Tuesday. The number one seed will have the first round bye with the second and third seed teams hosting the first round. Currently, Aberdeen Roncalli and Groton Area are battling out the number one spot with the teams switching places several times. Until the final games are played, we will not know who will be the number one and two seed in Region 1A.

Groton 59, Deuel 30
 Milbank 48, Aberdeen Roncalli 38
 Webster 58, Redfield 36
 Sisseton 55, Clark-Willow Lake 37
 Hamlin 55, Aberdeen Roncalli 35
 Clark-Willow Lake 62, Britton-Hecla 32
 Milbank 50, Sisseton 47

Feb. 13

Sisseton 59, Tiospa Zina 22
 Hamlin 63, Deuel 22

Feb. 18

Hamlin 79, Britton-Hecla 23
 Sisseton 59, Deuel 35
 Tiospa Zina vs. Clark/Willow Lake at Clark (PP)

Feb. 20

Deuel at Roncalli
 Milbank at Webster Area
 Clark/Willow Lake at Hamlin

Feb. 21

Groton Area at Britton-Hecla
 Tiospa Zina at Redfield

Groton Prairie Mixed Bowling Week #13

Team Standings: Chipmunks 18, Cheetahs 15, Shihtzus 13, Jackelopes 12, Coyotes 9, Foxes 5

Men's High Games: Brad Waage 210 & 201, Vern Meyers 203, Butch Farmen 200

Women's High Games: Hayley Johnson 169 & 166, Nancy Radke 166, Sam Bahr 163

Men's High Series: Brad Waage 565, Vern Meyers 556, Butch Farmen 519

Women's High Series: Hayley Johnson 484, Nancy Radke 465, Vicki Walter 462

Week 13 Fun Game – Most Splits – Chipmunks with 15!

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#	Name	Season			Seed Pts
		W	L	PCT	PTS
1	Aberdeen Roncalli	14	5	.737	43.474
2	Groton Area	13	6	.684	43.368
3	Sisseton	12	7	.632	42.316
4	Milbank	11	8	.579	40.632
5	Webster Area	10	9	.526	40.368
6	Britton-Hecla	4	14	.222	37.278
7	Redfield	2	17	.105	35.895

Boys NEC Standings

Hamlin	9-0	17-2
Groton Area	8-1	13-5
Clark/Willow Lake	7-1	14-3
Deuel	6-3	13-6
Roncalli	4-4	7-10
Britton-Hecla	3-6	9-9
Milbank	4-4	8-9
Sisseton	3-7	6-11
Webster Area	2-6	4-13
Tiospa Zina	0-6	2-14
Redfield	0-8	1-16

Groton 75, Deuel 43
 Milbank 48, Aberdeen Roncalli 38
 Clark-Willow Lake 64, Sisseton 31
 Hamlin 65, Aberdeen Roncalli 30
 Clark-Willow Lake 66, Britton-Hecla 36
 Milbank 55, Sisseton 36

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Feb. 13: Hamlin 71, Deuel 24
 Feb. 14: Sisseton 67, Tiospa Zina 50
 Feb. 18

Hamlin 61, Britton-Hecla 16
 Deuel 71, Sisseton 57
 Tiospa Zina vs. Clark/Willow Lake at Clark (PP)

Feb. 20

Deuel at Roncalli
 Clark/Willow Lake at Hamlin

Feb. 21

Groton Area at Britton-Hecla
 Webster Area at Milbank
 Tiospa Zina at Redfield

Feb. 22: Redfield at Webster Area

Feb. 24: Tiospa Zina at Roncalli

Feb. 28: Milbank at Tiospa Zina

#	Name	Season			Seed Pts
		W	L	PCT	PTS
1	Groton Area	13	5	.722	43.278
2	Milbank	8	9	.471	40.118
3	Aberdeen Roncalli	7	10	.412	40.000
4	Britton-Hecla	9	9	.500	39.000
5	Sisseton	6	11	.353	37.941
6	Webster Area	4	13	.235	37.529
7	Redfield	1	16	.059	34.529

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- What does probate really do
- Are trusts something I need
- Asset protection through LLC, LLLC and FLP
- Tax laws and changes
- How titles can cause problems
- Life insurance and long-term care insurance



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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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Dear EarthTalk: Does the rise in diseases like Lyme Disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever mean tick populations are on the rise? Are there eco-friendly ways to control ticks? – J.B. via email

EARTHTALK

behind the knees. Tweezers will do the job to remove a tick, if found. Then, clean the area with rubbing alcohol or soap and water. It is helpful to shower within



The deer tick may not seem very imposing but it can deliver a jolt of Lyme Disease to your system that can be hard to shake for years. Credit: Pexels.com.

Common tick-borne diseases include Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, babesiosis and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. Lyme disease is the most well-known, caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*, and is transmitted by black-legged ticks, commonly known as deer ticks. Unfortunately, these miniscule creatures can be found everywhere, and according to Dr. Ben Beard, from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Risk occurs in backyards, as well as in neighborhood green spaces and public lands used for recreation." Symptoms of Lyme disease can range from a characteristic bullseye-shaped rash to fever, joint pain, and, in severe cases, neurological problems.

In addition to Lyme disease, ticks can spread other diseases. Anaplasma phagocytophilum causes anaplasmosis, which can lead to fever, headache and muscle aches. Babesiosis, another tick-borne illness, involves a parasitic infection that affects red blood cells, leading to fever and fatigue. Rocky Mountain spotted fever, caused by *Rickettsia rickettsii*, can cause severe symptoms like rash, fever and nausea, and can be fatal. According to public health expert Annalies Winny, rising heat and humidity helps ticks thrive in more places for longer periods, and could be contributing factors to the tick's increase.

Ticks become infected with disease-causing microorganisms when they feed on infected animals like deer, rodents or birds. Once infected, they can transmit these pathogens to humans through bites, if attached for a certain period (usually 36-48 hours). Try to avoid tick-prone areas, like tall grasses and wooded environments, especially during warmer months when ticks are most active.

Spending time outdoors is great, but ticks can be a bit of a buzzkill. To protect yourself, apply an EPA-registered insect repellent. Wear long sleeves, pants and socks, and tuck your pants into your socks or boots to keep ticks at bay. Stick to well-cleared trails, as ticks tend to hide in tall grasses and wooded areas. After your outdoor adventure, check your body, especially in the cozier areas such as the armpits or

two hours to wash off any ticks, and wash your clothes in hot water to kill any that might have hitched a ride. If you develop flu-like symptoms, a rash or other signs of illness within a few weeks of a tick bite, consult a healthcare provider. Early treatment with antibiotics is effective in treating many tick-borne diseases, including Lyme disease.

To keep ticks at bay naturally, try using essential oils like lavender, lemon eucalyptus, and tea tree oil, which can be applied to skin or outdoor areas. Diatomaceous earth, a natural powder, can also be sprinkled around your yard to dry out ticks. Planting tick-repelling plants such as rosemary, mint, and geraniums adds another layer of defense. Beneficial nematodes, tiny worms that target tick larvae, can safely be used in gardens. Keeping grass short, wearing treated clothing, and avoiding wooded areas further reduce tick exposure. These eco-friendly methods work together to protect your home and health without harmful chemicals.

Ticks are most active in spring and summer, but they can be found year-round, depending on your location. Ticks can pose a significant threat, so stay vigilant and take proactive measures.

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.

"There are more than ample reasons to be concerned about your vision"

Recently, I had a gentleman come for an annual wellness visit. He hadn't had one for quite some time, and I could tell he was a little uncertain about what to expect. He was patient while we reviewed his family history, and tolerant while we talked about diet and exercise, but he'd had enough when I asked about the last time he'd been to the dentist and the eye doctor. "What is this about?" he asked me, somewhat exasperated. I suppose people don't usually expect to go to their primary care doctor and have her nag them about their teeth or their eyes!

But both teeth and eyes are really important to your overall well being. There is ample evidence linking poor dental health to other issues, like heart disease and preterm births. The eyes provide clues to many systemic diseases, such as autoimmune diseases like rheumatoid arthritis, cancers, various infections, genetic conditions like Marfan's syndrome, and of course more mundane issues like high blood pressure and high cholesterol. Naturally, I harp on people with diabetes to get to the eye doctor almost every time I see them! Diabetes can damage small blood vessels, and in the eye this damage may lead to blindness.

Even if you don't notice any problems with your vision, it's important to see your eye doctor periodically. Diseases like glaucoma can be silent, and the visual loss so gradual that you don't notice it until it is advanced. Glaucoma can be successfully treated, but only if it is detected! Macular degeneration is also silent in the early stages, but can be detected by a careful eye exam by an ophthalmologist or optometrist.

Most of us understand instinctively that we would face additional challenges if we had poor vision. There would be no hopping in the car to drive to the store. There would be no picking up a magazine to leaf through in the waiting room. There would be no recognizing an old friend from across the street. We might not consider that these circumstances contribute to increased social isolation and depression, or increased risk of injuries. Some research links vision loss, like hearing loss, with dementia, although the nature of that relationship isn't clear. Nevertheless, there are more than ample reasons to be concerned about your vision!

In addition to those regular trips to the eye doctor, there are some steps you can take to protect your eyes. Keep your chronic medical conditions, like diabetes and high blood pressure, under control. Don't smoke or vape. Wear sun glasses with UVB protection. Eat lots of fruits and vegetables. Don't drink much alcohol. And of course, protect your eyes from injury: over a million Americans live with significant vision loss in at least one eye because of eye trauma.

My answer to my patient's very reasonable question was simple: anything that impacts your well being deserves consideration from your doctor. And that most definitely includes your eyes!



Debra Johnston, MD

Debra Johnston, MD, is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices as a Family Medicine Doctor at Avera Medical Group in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, Youtube and Threads. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on SDPB or streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB), providing health information based on science, built on trust.



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