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The Groton Independent

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Hearnen celebrates 101st Birthday

by Dorene Nelson

William Hearnen celebrated his 101st birthday on July 24, at Avantara Nursing Home in Groton. Originally from the Conde, SD, area, William had been a farmer all of his life with his son Bill now taking over for him. "We have four children, three girls and one boy. Two of the girls are twins," he explained.

"I was in the United States Army and served during World War II where I was stationed in many countries, including Germany, France, England, and other European places," Hearnen listed.

"Although I'm from Conde, I attended high school for two years in Brentford before finishing high school in Conde," he said.

"As a farmer I had many jobs such as milking cows and cleaning barn," he smiled. "We raised pigs and chickens as well as various field crops."

"My wife and I have shared a room here in Groton since 2023. Not only is today my birthday, but Patsy and I recently celebrated our seventy-ninth wedding anniversary on July 1st," Hearnen smiled.

"The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 17 and its Auxiliary from Aberdeen honored me for my 101st birthday," he said. Attending Bill's party were Al Ochsner, Chaplain, and Dennis Nelson, Commander. They visited with Bill and presented him with a VFW coin.

Auxiliary members Phyllis Donat, Darnell Bohlander, and Rae Nelson also joined the celebration by serving root beer floats and cookies. Dolly Schmidt of the Auxiliary played the portable electric piano to allow for group singing and, of course, "Happy Birthday, Bill."



Groton Locke Electric Amateurs head to state

In back, left to right, are Ty Sieber, Dylan Frey, Brian Hansen, Spencer Locke, Cade Larson, Ryan Groebelinghoff, Jonah Schmidt and Bradin Althoff; in front, left to right, are Batboy Granger Hansen, Austin Jones, Carlos Camacho, William Richter and B.J. Richter. The State Class B Tournament is held in Brandon August 6-17. (Photo from Groton Amateur Baseball Facebook Page)

City Council approves bid for baseball complex concession stand, discusses traffic control concerns

By Elizabeth Varin

Construction, public safety and corn stalks?

The Groton City Council discussed a variety of topics at Tuesday's meeting, including city construction projects, traffic control concerns and swimming pool concerns.

A new concession stand and bathroom facility will soon take shape at the city's baseball complex after the council awarded bids for the project.

Blocker Construction will build the structure for \$75,004.21. Allied Climate Professionals (owned by Councilman Kevin Nehls) will provide HVAC installation services for \$40,312.32 and plumbing services for \$21,428.61. Locke Electric will do electrical work for \$12,000. Bahr Spray Foam (owned by Councilman Brian Bahr) will spray foam the building for \$9,952. S&S Lumber Company will provide materials for \$54,822.78.

Both Nehls and Bahr abstained from the vote due to conflicts of interest.

The total project is estimated to cost \$213,519.92, though some costs may drop as the supplies list included insulation, but spray foam insulation will be used instead.

Earlier in the meeting the fate of the current structure was discussed. Darrell Hillestad discussed plans to move the building to the Groton Airport. He told the council the longer he can wait to move the structure, the better it would be for him as he is waiting on the FAA to give the OK to pour a concrete foundation at the airport.

"If I can get a little more time, that would be good," he said. "But if you're ready to get it out of there, I'll get it out of there. I'll work with you."

Most of the equipment has been removed except for a water heater and air conditioning system, said Jarod Fliehs, Groton Baseball/Softball Foundation vice president. Utilities will also have to be shut off for the building before it is moved.

Fliehs said he would contact the contractor about the time frame for construction and when the current structure would need to be removed.

\$45,000 construction concern

One city construction project has stalled after a \$45,000 payment.

Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich told the council he has not been able to get in contact with Dakota Roofing about roof repairs to nine city structures.

The council awarded roof repair work to Dakota Roofing during its Feb. 25 meeting. The contractor was supposed to repair hail damage on the cemetery repair shop, police department, city shop, community center, park restroom, park picnic shelter, pool bathhouse, pool gazebo and pool storage shed. Dakota Roofing's bid totaled \$99,985.

Heinrich said he hasn't been able to get in contact with the contractor and there have been a lot of rumors about them going out of business. At this point, Heinrich said, he has informed the South Dakota Public Insurance Alliance about the issues.

City Attorney Chad Locken advised asking the insurance company how they would prefer to handle the situation.

Continues on back page



Bill & Patsy
Wedding day



Bill and Edward



Bill & patsy

Groton Area Back To School Information

GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 06-6 Groton Area School District 06-6 – “Mission Statement”

Each school will foster a school climate conducive to learning by encouraging good behavior and citizenship, good attendance, a thirst for knowledge, and high academic standards. Teachers will employ strategies and approaches to instruction to meet the needs of all children assigned to them. With proper motivation and instruction, all children can learn!

Teacher Qualifications

All teachers of core academic subjects must hold at least a bachelor’s degree, have full state certification, and demonstrate knowledge in the core academic subject they teach. For information regarding the qualifications of your child’s teachers, you may contact the superintendent’s office at 397-2351.

Registration and Schedule Changes

Anyone new to the District should contact the respective building principal(s) as soon as possible.

Shelby Edwards, 6-12 Principal: 605-397-8381, Shelby.Edwards@k12.sd.us

Brett Schwan, Elementary Principal: 605-397-2317, Brett.Schwan@k12.sd.us

Middle School and High School Schedule changes can be made on Tuesday, August 12 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

School Supply Lists

Students’ school supply lists for the elementary school (preschool – grade 5) are posted on the District’s web site at www.grotonarea.com under the District Info Heading. Students in the middle school (grades 6-8) will be required to have the same color notebook, folder, and book cover for each class. Math will be green; English, blue; reading, red; science, purple; and social studies, black. The students can choose their own colors for PE, art, health, and computer classes.

Elementary Open House – Monday, August 18, 2025

Groton Area Elementary is hosting a Welcome Back Open House on Monday, August 18, 2025 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Students and their families are invited to come and see their classrooms, meet the teachers, drop off supplies, and ask questions.

6th Grade Welcome Walk – Monday, August 18, 2025

Groton Area Middle School is hosting a 6th Grade Welcome Walk on Monday, August 18, 2025 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Students and their parents are invited to come get a class schedule and other important information from the school office, find the student locker and classrooms, and begin to learn the new building. 6th grade students and parents are invited to a brief meeting with Ms. Edwards, 6-12 Principal, in the GHS Gymnasium at 4:30 PM.

Tablet PCs or Ipads Issued to All Students

Prior to being issued their tablet PC, students and their parents must sign and return the following documents: Laptop Computer Protection Agreement, the Student Pledge, E-mail Acceptable Use Agreement, the Groton Area School District Network/Internet agreement, and the Parental Consent to Publish Student Photos/Work. Required forms can be picked up in the School Office or will be sent home with students on the first day of classes.

First Day of School – Tuesday, August 19, 2025

The first day of school is on Tuesday, August 19. Buses will run and school lunch will be served. Each route driver will contact parents to confirm bus arrival times. Other bus route questions may be referred to Transportation Director, Damian Bahr, at (605) 397-8117. The GRASP (OST) program at the elementary school will be available on the first day of school.

Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten

The District offers all-day, every day kindergarten classes. Children may enter kindergar-

ten if they are 5 years of age on or before September 1 of the year in which they are to enter school. The District offers a junior kindergarten program each day from 12:15PM – 3:22 PM for students that are eligible to attend kindergarten, but are not quite ready for kindergarten. Students enrolling in first grade must be 6 years of age on or before September 1 of that school year.

Non-Resident Enrollment

For out-of-district students, applications to open enroll may be accepted throughout the school year in accordance with state law. Applications are available from any school district administrative office. All open enrollment requests and related questions should be referred to School Superintendent, Joe Schwan, at (605) 397-2351.

2025-2026 School Hours

Groton Area Elementary: 8:15 AM-Arrival Time (Supervision)

8:21 AM – 3:22 PM Classes in Session

Groton Area MS/HS: 8:25 AM- First Bell

8:30 AM – 3:30 PM Classes in Session

GRASP (OST) Program

The GRASP program services children in junior kindergarten through grade five with before and after-school homework help, supervised learning activities, and snacks. The GRASP program will be held in the Groton Area Elementary School from 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM and 3:22 PM – 6:00 PM each day that school is in session. Rates are \$3.00 per hour, per child. Any OST questions or registrations may be directed to Elementary Principal/OST Director, Mr. Brett Schwan, at (605) 397-2317.

K-12 Breakfast and Lunch Program

The Groton Area School District participates in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. Guidelines for 2025-2026 applications for free and reduced priced meals are being mailed out the week of August 11, 2025. Parents are encouraged to apply for free and reduced priced meals if there is a possibility they may qualify.

The school provides breakfast and lunch for all students each day school is in session. All meals are on a cash basis (i.e. pay as you go), while recognizing the provisions for free and reduced price meals. Prices are as follows:

Groton Area Elementary:

Daily Breakfast \$2.85

Daily Lunch \$3.60

Prices for second servings at the elementary are \$2.00.

Groton Area Middle School/High School:

Daily Breakfast \$3.35

Daily Lunch \$4.10

Prices for second servings at the middle/high school are \$2.00.

Activity Tickets

Activity tickets are intended to admit all students to regularly scheduled home activities or events, with about the only exceptions being tournaments and the Pops Concert. Students in grades 1-5 may purchase an activity ticket, if they wish. All students who participate in activities for which an activity stipend is paid are required to purchase an activity ticket as a condition of participation since they are the primary beneficiaries of the activity programs. For example, staff activity stipends include: all sports, marching band, forensics, cheerleading, drama, oral interp, DI, FFA, FCCLA, HOSA etc.

Activity Ticket prices for 2025-2026 are as follows:

Grades 1-5 \$25.00

Grades 6-12 \$30.00

Adults \$45 (10 events)

Adults – All Events \$75.00

Admission Prices:

Adults = \$5.00; \$6.00 for double headers

Students, Grades 1-12 = \$4.00

School Cancellations

All school cancellations or early dismissals due to inclement weather or emergencies will be sent out via the Apptegy Messenger System. Within minutes, Apptegy automatically sends a pre-recorded message to every recipient on a selected list. Parents will be asked to provide phone numbers and e-mail addresses (when available) to the school so that a selected calling list can be created. Emergency cancellations will be broadcast over TV stations

KSFY, KDLT, and KELO as well as the District Facebook page and website, www.grotonarea.com, and by push notifications on the District app (Groton Area Tigers, SD).

Groton Area Tigers, SD Mobile App

The Groton Area School District has a mobile application available for both Apple and Android devices. Search “Groton Area Tigers, SD” in your app store and download the free app. Be sure to set up the app to allow push notifications to receive timely and important updates from your child’s school. The app includes event calendars, athletics schedules, staff contacts, school menus, access to up-to-date news and information and access to archived documents. We will continue to utilize the “Rooms” feature within the Groton Area Tigers Mobile App to facilitate communication between school staff and families during the upcoming school year.

Immunization Requirements (SDCL 13-28-7.1)

State law requires that any pupil entering school or an early childhood program in the state shall, prior to admission, be required to present the appropriate school authorities certification from a licensed physician that the new child has received or is in the process of receiving adequate immunization against poliomyelitis, diphtheria, pertussis, rubeola, rubella, mumps, tetanus, and varicella, according to recommendations provided by the Department of Health. The Department of Health may modify or delete any of the required immunizations. As an alternative to the requirement for a physician’s certification, the pupil may present:

1) Certificate from a licensed physician stating the physical condition of the child would be such that immunization would endanger the child’s life or health; or

2) A written statement signed by one parent or guardian that the child is adherent to a religious doctrine whose teachings are opposed to such immunization; or

3) A written statement signed by one parent or guardian requesting that the local health department give the immunization because the parents or guardians lack the means to pay for such immunization.

Students enrolling in 6th grade are required to get one dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap) vaccine and one does of Meningococcal vaccine on or after their 11th birthday.

Harassment and Bullying Policies

The district has harassment & bullying policies in place in both buildings. Bullying among students can be defined as intentional, repeated hurtful acts, words or other behavior, such as name-calling, threatening and/or shunning committed by one or more students against another. This definition also includes “cyber-bullying” which is the sending or posting of cruel or harmful texts or images using the Internet or other digital media such as cell phones, etc. For a complete copy of the district’s harassment or bullying policy, please contact the building principal.

Grievance Procedure

In an effort to maintain effective communications, if you have a particular concern about your child’s progress or about what is happening on the bus, at school, in a class or activity, first discuss it with the driver, teacher, or director of the activity. If your concern or grievance remains unresolved at that level, or if there is a need to share your concern, contact the principal in charge of the school in which your child attends. If the concern/grievance remains unresolved at that level, contact the superintendent. If school policy is at issue or if the concern grievance remains unresolved, you may request that the superintendent include the subject on the school board meeting agenda. To maintain confidentiality, student matters may be confined to an “executive session” with the Board and administration.

Complaint Policy for Federal Programs and Homelessness Policy

A parent, student, employee, or district stakeholder who has a complaint regarding the use of federal funds and is unable to solve the issue, may address the complaint in writing to the district’s superintendent. Disputes

addressing the enrollment, transportation, and other barriers to the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness are also addressed under this procedure. For a copy of the complete policy, contact the school superintendent or refer to the District web site.

Child Find

Parents or guardians are to be informed that the Groton Area School District 06-6 continuously conducts a “Child Find” search to identify and evaluate District children ages 0-21, with special education needs. Persons who know of a child with un-served education needs may refer the child, by name, to the appropriate building principal. With the parent or guardian’s consent, an evaluation will be made. After the evaluation has been completed, a placement committee will meet with the parent or guardian to determine if special assistance is needed.

Title I

The federal government provides funding to states each year for Title I services. The goal of Title I is to provide extra help in math and reading for eligible students. Students are selected for the program based on information provided by classroom teachers, parents, and achievement test results. Title I services in our district are provided to students in grades K-5, with a strong emphasis on students in grades K-3.

Title I Right to Know – Teacher Certification

As a parent or guardian of a student attending a school that is receiving Federal Title I dollars (Groton Area Elementary), you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the teacher(s) and instructional paraprofessionals who instruct your child. We are happy to provide this information to you. At any time, you may ask:

1. Whether the teacher met state qualifications and certification requirements for the grade level and subject he/she is teaching; 2. Whether the teacher received an emergency or conditional certificate through which state qualifications were waived, and; 3. What undergraduate or graduate degrees the teacher holds, including graduate certificates and additional degrees, and major(s) or area(s) of concentration.

You may also ask whether your child receives help from a paraprofessional. If your child receives this assistance, we can provide you with information about the paraprofessional’s qualifications.

Federal Compliance Notice

Students, their parents, and employees of the Groton Area School District #06-6 are hereby notified that this school district does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, national origin, color, age, disability or religion in employment practices and educational activities. To ensure compliance with Section 427 of GEPA, effective steps shall be taken to remove potential barriers so as to ensure equity of access and participation in grant programs and to achieve high standards. Any person having inquiries concerning compliance or application of Title VI, Affirmative Action, Title IX, Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act is directed to contact Federal Program compliance coordinator, Joe Schwan, Superintendent, Groton Area School District 06-6, Phone 397-2351 or, Department of Education, Civil Rights Office, 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, MO 64114; Phone: (816) 268-0550; TTD (800) 4370-0833; FAX: (816) 823-1404; Web link: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html?src=mr>

FERPA Notification of Rights

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day the Groton Area School District receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for

access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the Groton Area School District to amend a record should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the school board. A school official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of the school who performs an institutional service of function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the Groton Area School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Protection of Pupil Rights (PPRA) Notification

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232h, requires Groton Area School District to notify you and obtain consent or allow you to opt your child out of participating in certain school activities. These activities include a student survey, analysis, or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following eight areas ("protected information surveys"):

- 1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
- 2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
- 3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
- 4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
- 5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- 6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
- 7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student's parent; or
- 8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

This parental notification requirement and

opt-out opportunity also apply to the collection, disclosure or use of personal information collected from students for marketing purposes ("marketing surveys"). Please note that parents are not required by PPRA to be notified about the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions. Additionally, the notice requirement applies to the conduct of certain physical exams and screenings. This includes any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student. This does not include hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required by State law.

For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, the Groton Area School District will provide parents, within a reasonable period of time prior to the administration of the surveys and activities, notification of the surveys and activities, an opportunity to opt their child out, as well as an opportunity to review the surveys. (Please note that this notice and consent/opt-out transfers from parents to any student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.)

Student Directory Information

The Groton Area School District routinely discloses names, addresses, and telephone numbers to the South Dakota Board of Regents, South Dakota Technical Institutions, and upon request, to military recruiters, subject to a parent's or eligible student's request not to disclose such information without written consent. Parents or eligible students who wish to opt-out of the disclosure of this information may contact the school office for the appropriate document or may obtain it here: <https://bit.ly/3fFyC58>

Notice of Nondiscrimination

Applicants for admission and employment, students, parents, employees, and all professional organizations holding negotiated agreements or professional agreements with the school district are hereby notified that this district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, pregnancy, disability or age in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities. The Groton Area School District provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

Title IX

The Groton Area School District has appointed Becky Hubsch, Business Manager, as it's Title IX Coordinator:

Becky Hubsch
502 N 2nd Street
PO Box 410
Groton, SD 57445
Becky.Hubsch@k12.sd.us

Section 504

Section 504 is the part of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that applies to persons with disabilities. Section 504 is a civil rights act that protects the civil and constitutional rights of persons with disabilities. It states that no person with a disability can be excluded from or denied benefits of any program receiving federal financial assistance. Section 504 and special education are two separate services.

Notification of Asbestos in School Building(s)

In compliance with the Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools Rule, the Groton Area School District had its school buildings inspected on 1/24/2023 by an asbestos inspector, accredited by the state of South Dakota. During that inspection, areas of suspected asbestos (ACBM) were identified and inspected. The Groton Area School District has an Asbestos Management Plan which provides information on the periodic monitoring of the condition of asbestos (ACBM) remaining in the school buildings. Anyone that would like to see the Asbestos Management Plan can contact a building principal or superintendent.



As the 2025 NFL season draws closer, the Minnesota Vikings find themselves in a rare position: built to win now, yet still developing key young talent across the roster. With training camp on the horizon and a deep, competitive team in place, I'll be breaking down each position group over the next seven weeks to get a clearer picture of who's locked in, who's on the bubble, and who could surprise us this summer. We'll start at quarterback and work our way through the entire roster, ending with the secondary just before the first preseason game kicks off.

If you've stuck with this roster breakdown series, then I'll have you know today is a special day. No, I'm not just talking about the fact that we'll be covering the safety position (even though this will be an interesting position to keep an eye on this season), and the special teams. No, today is a special day because it's the last offseason article of 2025! Next week, I'll have a recap of the Vikings' first preseason game, which they'll play this Saturday against the Houston Texans. But, before we get into that, let's finish the roster breakdown.

Starting Safeties
Harrison Smith – Of course I'm going to start this article with Harrison Smith. Heading into his 14th season, the 36-year-old Smith is still playing at a high level. He's a six-time Pro Bowler and All-Pro who is one of only six defensive backs to record over 35 INTs and 20 sacks. He's one of the best safeties in the history of the NFL, and in my opinion, deserves a spot in the Hall of Fame.

Joshua Metellus – The jack-of-all-trades safety was given an extension last week that will keep him in purple and gold for the foreseeable future. Metellus lines up at nearly every position on defense and is a true wild card in Brian Flores' defense.

Backup Safeties
Theo Jackson – A 6th-round pick by the Tennessee Titans in 2022, the Vikings plucked Jackson off their practice squad that same year. The coaching staff has raved about him this offseason and also rewarded him with a three-year contract extension. The Vikings play a lot of three-safety lineups, so Jackson should see the field plenty in 2025.

Jay Ward – A 4th-round pick by the Vikings in 2023, Ward is another young player the coaches have been impressed with this offseason. He'll be competing with Jackson for the primary backup role.

The Groton Independent

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On The Bubble
Gervarrius Owens (a seventh-round pick by the Giants in 2023) and Mishael Powell (an undrafted rookie) are both competing for a spot on the Vikings' practice squad. The Vikings had five safeties on the opening day roster last season, so it's possible one of these two players makes the 53-man roster. However, if I had to guess, the Vikings will use that fifth spot on a different position.

Special Teams
Kicker – Will Reichard is entering his second season as the Vikings' kicker. He was looking great before an injury derailed his promising rookie campaign, so hopefully he can regain his confidence and get back on track.

Punter – Ryan Wright had a great rookie season, averaging 42.3 net yards per punt and only allowing one of 73 punts to roll into the end zone for a touchback (1.4%). Unfortunately, those numbers have gotten worse every season since. I'm surprised the Vikings haven't brought in another punter this offseason to compete with Wright.

Long Snapper – Andrew DePaola is the best long snapper in the NFL. He's been to three straight Pro Bowls and made three straight All-Pro lists (1st team in 2022 and 2024, 2nd team in 2023).

Looking ahead, the Vikings' first preseason game is this Saturday at 3 p.m. (CT) as they host the Houston Texans. While this is only a preseason game, it will be the first time we can watch our favorite team this season as they embark on their journey to capture that elusive Super Bowl trophy. Skol!

The Groton Independent

Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

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Ferney



Dive Team sweeps bottom of pool looking for glass

The Groton Dive Team got wind of the situation at the Groton Swimming Pool and came to the rescue in helping in a search mission for glass in the deep end. Earlier this week, a swimmer was wearing goggles that contained glass and when he jumped in the water, the goggles shattered sending chunks of glass to the deep end. For safety concerns, the deep end was then blocked off. Groton lifeguards worked diligently going to the bottom looking for glass each day. The dive team from the Groton Fire Department of Michael Dunbar, Cody Bonn and Tom Bentz offered their services to search for glass at the bottom of the pool. All they came up with was two pieces of glass (and a gem!). Pool Manager Kami Lipp said, "Our kids did great looking for glass." The services of the dive team was greatly appreciated.



The dive team did find two pieces of glass at the bottom of the pool.



The Groton Dive Team of Tom Bentz, Cody Bonn and Michael Dunbar were getting ready for a search mission of glass at the bottom of the Groton Swimming Pool. (Courtesy Photos)

Speed Limit Reduced around Bath

As of Aug. 4, 2025, the speed limit on U.S. Highway 12 east of Aberdeen has been reduced to 55 mph for about four miles, ending just past Bath.

This change follows last fall's reconstruction on Highway 12 and multiple requests from local businesses, residents, and government entities for a speed study. The SDDOT evaluated traffic volumes, speeds, road layout, turning movements, crash history, and access points. The results recommended lowering the speed limit to improve safety.

The change was reviewed by law enforcement, approved by the Transportation Commission, and went through a public comment period with no objections.

Speed limit adjustments like this are common as rural areas grow and see more turning traffic and access points, which increase crash risk.

Thanks to all commuters for following the new speed limit. The change adds only about 40 seconds to your trip. Your questions and feedback are always appreciated—our top priority is getting everyone home safely every day.

Groton Area Senior Citizens

July 14 Groton Seniors met for a meeting and cards. Twelve members were present. President Ruby Donovan opened the meeting with allegiance to the flag Secretary and treasurer read their report they were both accepted. A new member joined Terry Leety. Meeting was adjourned and cards were played. The winner of the games of Pinochle- John Aldrich, Wrist- Tony Goldage, Canasta- Pat Larson and Bev Sombke. Door prizes Ruby Donovan, Darlene Fischer, Bev Sombke. Lunch was served by John Aldrich.

July 21

Groton Seniors met to play cards. Ten members were present. President had the flag pledge. Had a short meeting. Meeting adjourned. Cards were played. The winners Pinochle-Don Hoops, Whist- Darlene Fischer, Canasta- Bev Sombke. Door prizes Elda Stange, Eunice McColistor Darlene Fischer. Lunch was served by Darlene Fischer.

July 28

Groton Seniors met for their pot luck dinner. Eleven members were present. President had the flag pledge and table prayer. Bingo was played after dinner David Kleinsausser won black out. Cards were played after bingo. Door prizes Pat Larson, Tony Goldage, Dick Donovan. Birthday cake and ice cream was served before going home. Decorated cake was baked by Bev Sombke.

15 N Main St. - Ste. 101
Downtown Groton

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Living Heart Fitness Center

When arthritis tries to slow you down,
exercise can keep you moving. - Mayo Clinic

Celebration in the Park Held Saturday



Jeff Howard presents the first place award (for the second consecutive year) to Wilbur's Last Stand team of Brett Anderson, Jon Cutler and Blaine Snyder.



Jeff Howard (who donated all of the ribs for the event), presented the third place award to Cody Keller.



Jeff Howard presented the second place award to Grant Rix and Tony Garcia.



Jeff Howard presented the The People's Choice Award went to the Wilbur's Last Stand team of Jon Cutler, Blaine Snyder and Brett Anderson.





JULY 29, 2025 – GENERAL MEETING

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

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent, informed the Commission that the gates are currently closed. The James River has gone up 21 inches; being 81” below the crest and Crow Creek is 83” below the crest. They are keeping an eye on both of them.

FY2026 PROVISIONAL BUDGET: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Gage to approve FY2026 Provisional Budget and to authorize advertising public hearing for September 2, 2025 for the purpose of considering the foregoing Provisional Budget for the fiscal year of 2026 and the various items, schedules, amounts and appropriations set forth therein and as many days thereafter as is deemed necessary until the final adoption of the budget. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #304 – SECOND READING/POSSIBLE ADOPTION: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to adopt Ordinance #304. Applicant Dawn Weismantel to rezone from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring these parcels into compliance for their current use: Description of property: Proposed Lots 1 & 2, "Weismantel Farm First Addition" in the E 1/2 of the NE 1/4 of Section 33-T126N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (11747 397th Avenue; Shelby Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #305 – SECOND READING/POSSIBLE ADOPTION: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to adopt Ordinance #305. Applicants Earl & Amanda Maier to rezone from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its current use: Description of property: Proposed Lot 1, "Maier's First Addition" in the SW 1/4 of Section 17-T126N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (11450 389th Avenue; Brainard Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #306 – SECOND READING/POSSIBLE ADOPTION: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to adopt Ordinance #306. Applicant Matthew Olsen to rezone from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring these parcels into compliance for their current use: Description of property: Lots 2A & 2B, "Lockheed Replat of Lot 2 of 2nd Subdivision of O'Dea's Outlot 1" in the SW 1/4 of Section 34-T122N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (38518 & 38534 142nd Street; Warner Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the General Meeting Minutes of July 22, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dinger to approve the following claims/payroll: CLAIMS: Professional Fees: Angel Feiock \$100.00; Becky Erickson \$40.00; Brick's TV and Appliance \$2,456.25; Christy Griffin-Serr Law Office \$3,450.00; Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$5,436.50; Dependable Sanitation, Inc \$43,833.33; Dohrer Law Office, PC \$2,688.00; Kuck Law Office \$7,866.00; Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC \$2,670.00; Rochelle Jensen \$80.00; Saber Shred Solutions \$7,344.48; Taliaferro Law Firm, PC \$2,622.00; Tayler Bell \$199.75; Tyler Technologies, Inc \$6,483.00; Yellow Robe Consulting \$1,800.00; US Bank \$139.09. Publishing: Mcquillen Creative Group, Inc \$1,250.42; Midstates Group \$6,246.06; US Bank \$300.00. Rentals: Pantorium Cleaners Inc \$207.36. Repairs & Maintenance:

Electrical Engineering & Equip \$642.54; Huff Construction Inc \$26,391.00; Jake's Heating & Cooling \$1,688.75; K&S Plumbing, Inc \$1,843.30; Leidholt Electric, LLC \$290.82; Mack's Auto, Inc \$272.00; Meyers Tractor Salvage, LLC \$110.00; Ultimate Upholstery Solutions, LLC \$540.00; Wally's Skidsteer Service \$ 958.80; US Bank \$3,028.80. Supplies: Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$3,130.17; Auto Zone, Inc \$67.56; Avera LTC Pharmacy Aberdeen \$656.63; Cartney Bearing \$74.04; Central Network Retail Group LLC \$35.04; Century Business Products \$627.62; Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$65.60; Cole Paper Inc \$935.94; Farm Power Mfg \$1,537.34; FedEx \$24.93; Graham Tire Inc \$167.00; Hillyard Sioux Falls \$342.67; Integrated Weed Control Inc \$2,000.00; Jensen Rock & Sand Inc \$28,149.30; Kuck Law Office \$167.04; Leidholdt Tool Sales, LLC \$17.08; Lien Transportation Company \$68,342.40; Mack's Auto, Inc \$38.00; Menards \$874.73; Midstates Group \$52.45; Performance Oil \$445.36; Runnings \$194.54; Safe Life Defense \$720.10; Safety Service \$440.20; Titan Machinery \$8.99; Ultimate Upholstery Solutions, LLC \$359.50; US Bank \$9,493.36. Travel & Conference: Bryan Gordon \$14.00; Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$420.00; Joe Kretchman \$14.00; Neil Bittner \$14.00; Patricia VanMeter \$84.00; Scott Kolb \$14.00; SDSU Extension \$180.00; US Bank \$3,960.00. Utilities: Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$58.43; City of Aberdeen Treasurer \$1,824.73; Montana-Dakota Utilities Co \$38.22; Northwestern Energy \$7,563.02; Sewer Duck, Inc \$458.00; US Bank \$3,285.55. Machinery & Equipment: Karl Chevrolet \$157,392.60. PAYROLL: Commission \$4,896.51; Elections \$1,936.80; Auditor/Welfare \$11,854.97; Treasurer \$18,666.81; SA \$36,551.63; Public Defender \$5,384.61; Maintenance \$12,208.87; Assessor \$16,581.76; Register of Deeds \$10,905.91; VSO \$4,728.51; GIS \$2,946.49; IT \$10,005.68; HR \$5,419.29; Sheriff \$60,609.57; Jail \$71,999.63; Coroner (Voucher) \$750.00; Court Security \$6,114.08; JDC \$29,593.23; Museum \$13,397.80; Parks/Fairgrounds \$10,616.08; Fair Board

\$4,696.97; 4-H \$1,677.39; Weed \$6,146.25; Planning & Zoning \$8,253.92; Highway \$59,011.39; Dispatch \$34,332.89; Emergency \$5,266.20; 24/7 Sobriety \$2,724.63; Landfill \$18,197.26; Mileage Benefits \$1,343.30; Meal Benefits \$296.00; FICA \$28,132.20; Medicare \$6,579.30; HSA \$2,309.44; Health Insurance-Wellmark BCBS \$134,004.11; Dental Insurance-Delta \$9,430.44; Life Insurance-Dearborn \$1,106.70; Retirement-SDRS \$61,371.68. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

- o Resignation of Stacey Usselman as Brown County Fair/4-H Office Administrative Assistant, FT; effective August 17, 2025. Request to fill.

- o Job description, title, and grade for Paralegal to be placed at grade 15 with Senior Level qualifications to be placed at grade 16.

- o Hiring of Terrance Dosch as Brown County Fairgrounds seasonal worker, PT; starting wage \$14.50/hr. – effective July 24, 2025.
- o Hiring of Hope Conn as Brown County Jail/JDC Nurse, PRN; effective – July 25, 2025.
- o Hiring of Christal Burckhard as Brown County Public Defender Chief Paralegal, FT; starting wage \$29.49/hr. – effective August 4, 2025.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

AUDITOR'S REPORT OF ACCOUNT FOR JUNE 2025: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to approve the Auditor's Report of Accounts for June 2025: Total Cash and Checks on Hand \$7,700.00; Total Checking Account Balances \$22,593,180.13; Total Savings Account Balances \$2,465,447.42; Total Certificates of Deposit \$11,202,175.24; Grand Total Cash & Balances: \$36,268,502.79. General Fund Cash & Investment Balances by Funds: General Fund \$16,746,350.27; Road & Bridge Fund \$7,290,131.73; Road & Bridge Fund-Restricted \$231,883.27; 911 Service \$1,088,564.94; Emergency & Disaster \$131,752.30; Domestic Abuse \$1,010.29; Fed-

eral/State Grant \$32.11; SA Grants \$114,872.01; Truancy Court \$110.99; 24/7 Sobriety \$110,350.01; ROD M&P \$89,651.16; Rural Access Infrastructure \$559,577.54; TIF Debt Service \$76,292.73; Landfill + Cash Change \$7,459,873.53 Landfill-Restricted \$1,894,495.06; Trust & Agency Funds \$2,599,933.18; Grand Total General Fund Cash & Investments \$36,268,502.79. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

TRAVEL REQUESTS: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the following travel requests: Mariann Malsom, Register of Deeds to attend the SDACO Fall Convention in Pierre on September 8-9, 2025; Jessica Puente-Castro, Brandon Dux-

bury, Alaina Perry & Jay Hopkins-Entzel, Dacotah Prairie Museum to attend the Tours of SD State Historical Society Museum & SD Discover Center in Pierre on July 28, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to go into Executive Session for Personnel per SDCL 1-25-2. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

The Chair declared the Executive Session closed with No Action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 8:55 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

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Classifieds and Card of Thanks

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

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

2 Wks: \$17 for first 30 words, 38¢/word thereafter

3 Wks: \$24 for first 30 words, 54¢/word thereafter

4th consecutive week is free

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AUCTIONS

INTERSTATE AUCTION CENTER: Aug 9, 10:00am. 3 Miles East of SF, exit 402, Brandon, SD. Heavy machinery consignment: construction, farm, lawn... Full listing: auctionzip.com 605-331-4550.

Appendix D2: Means of Finance

PROVISIONAL BUDGET FOR **BROWN** COUNTY, SD
For the Year January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026

Budget

Governmental Funds												
	General Fund	County Road and Bridge Fund	E-911 Fund	EM Fund	Domestic Abuse Fund	SA Grants Fund	24-7 Fund	M&P Fund Fund	Opioid Settlement Fund	Rural Infrastructure Fund	Debt Service Fund	Landfill Fund
Cash Balance Applied	19,403,691	1,844,000	416,311	(0)	1,900	-	22,436	26,500	25,000	360,000	0	2,563,659
311 Current Property Tax Amount	18,941,127	2,860,527									904,074	
Less current uncollected												
Less 25% to Cities	(22,171)	(715,132)										
311 TIF Property Taxes												
312/319 - Other Taxes	-	760,000										6,000
NET TOTAL TAXES	18,918,956	2,905,395	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	904,074	6,000
320 Licenses & Permits	95,500	2,500			6,500							
330 Intergovernmental Revenue	424,000	4,195,000	1,100,000	60,000	1,100	22,090	5,000					
340 Charges for Goods & Services	2,015,963	-			2,500		70,000	15,000				2,500,000
350 Fines & Forfeits	16,500	-										
360 Miscellaneous Revenue	155,500	1,500		1,500								
370 Other Financing Sources	(8,538,797)	7,831,483	400,000	250,014			75,000	1,000				1,046,930
TOTAL OTHER REVENUES	(5,831,335)	12,030,483	1,500,000	311,514	10,100	22,090	150,000	16,000	-	-	-	3,546,930
SUBTOTAL (Cash + Taxes + Other Rev)	32,491,313	16,779,878										
Less 5% (SDCL 7-21-18)	1,624,566	838,994										
NET MEANS OF FINANCE	30,866,747	15,940,884	1,916,311	311,514	12,000	22,090	172,436	42,500	25,000	360,000	904,074	6,116,589
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	30,866,747	15,940,884	1,916,311	311,514	12,000	22,090	172,436	42,500	25,000	360,000	904,074	6,116,589

ADOPTION OF PROVISIONAL BUDGET FOR **BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, will meet in the Courthouse at 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota on **Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 8:45 a.m.** for the purpose of considering the foregoing Provisional Budget for the year **2026** and the various items, schedules, amounts, and appropriations set forth therein and as many days thereafter as is deemed necessary until the final adoption of the budget on the **23rd day of September, 2025**. At such time any interested person may appear either in person or by a representative and will be given an opportunity for a full and complete discussion of all purposes, objectives, items, schedules, appropriations, estimates, amounts and matters set forth and contained in the Provisional Budget.

Lynn Heupel, County Auditor
Brown County, South Dakota

Published August 6, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$125.75 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25840



Proprietary Funds

	Solid Waste Fund
Net Position, January 1	6,250,229.38
Estimated Revenue	3,552,930.00
Less Expenses	(6,116,589.00)
Net Position, December 31	3,686,570.38

State Legion Tournament

Groton Legion Post 39 Falls To Parkston Sr. Legion Post 194

By GameChanger Media

Groton Legion Post 39 was eliminated from the State Tournament on Monday with an 11-6 loss to Parkston Sr. Legion Post 194. Dakota Valley handed Dell Rapids its first loss, 14-8. Parkston then eliminated Dakota Valley, 1-0. In the championship game, Dell Rapids defeated Parkston, 11-0.

Parkston Sr. Legion Post 194 got on the board in the top of the first inning after Carter Sommer doubled down the left field line, Kash Neugebauer singled down the left field line, and Groton Legion Post 39 committed an error, each scoring one run.

Groton Legion Post 39 made the score 4-3 in the bottom of the third after Carter Simon homered to left field, scoring three runs, and Braxton Imrie singled, scoring one run.

Groton Legion Post 39 committed an error, which helped Parkston Sr. Legion Post 194 tie the game at four in the top of the fourth.

In the bottom of the fourth inning, Groton Legion Post 39 went back into the lead after Brevin Fliehs singled to center field, and Taite Klumb balked, each scoring one run.

Mason Jervik grounded out, which helped Parkston Sr. Legion Post 194 tie the game at six in the top of the fifth.

Groton had the bases loaded and one out in the bottom of the sixth inning, but was unable to capitalize on the opportunity.

Then Parkston Sr. Legion Post 194 flipped the game on its head in the top of the seventh, scoring five runs on two hits to take the lead, 11-6. The biggest blow in the inning was a single by Neugebauer on an 0-2 count that drove in two.

TC Schuster began the game for Groton Legion Post 39. The hurler gave up seven hits and six runs (five earned) over five and one-third innings, striking out five and walking five. Carson Bueber started on the mound for Parkston Sr. Legion Post 194. The pitcher gave up five hits and four runs (three earned) over two and one-third innings, striking out two and walking three.

Groton Legion Post 39 piled up nine hits in the game. Simon provided pop in the middle of the lineup, and led Groton Legion Post 39 with three runs batted in. The infielder went 2-for-4 on the day. Teylor Diegel led Groton Legion Post 39 with three hits in four at bats from the leadoff position. Gavin Englund collected two hits for Groton Legion Post 39 in two at bats. Fliehs led Groton Legion Post 39 with two walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, collecting seven walks for the game.

Parkston Sr. Legion Post 194 amassed 10 hits in the game. Sommer led Parkston Sr. Legion Post 194 with three runs batted in. The infielder went 3-for-5 on the day. Neugebauer collected two hits for Parkston Sr. Legion Post 194 in three at bats. Neugebauer led Parkston Sr. Legion Post 194 with two walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, piling up eight walks for the game. Parkston Sr. Legion Post 194 ran wild on the base paths, amassing six stolen bases for the game.

Carter Simon Drives In 4 To Lead Groton Legion Post 39 Past SMFC Sr. Legion Post 152 79ers

By GameChanger Media

Carter Simon drove in four runs on four hits to lead Groton Legion Post 39 past Scotland/Menno/Freeman Canistota Post 152, 16-11 on Sunday in the State American Legion Baseball Tournament being played in Milbank. In the sixth inning, Simon hit a grand slam to left field.

Groton Legion Post 39 collected 15 hits and SMFC Sr. Legion Post 152 79ers had seven in the high-scoring affair.

Groton Legion Post 39 got on the board in the top of the first inning after Korbin Kucker tripled to left field, and Brevin Fliehs singled to center field, each scoring one run.

Groton Legion Post 39 scored six runs on six hits in the top of the second inning. Karsten Fliehs hit a sacrifice fly, scoring one run, Kucker doubled, scoring one run, Fliehs singled, scoring two runs, and Gavin Englund doubled, scoring two runs.

SMFC Sr. Legion Post 152 79ers scored six runs on four hits in the bottom of the second inning. Rocky Ammann doubled, scoring one run, Trent Guthmiller drew a walk, scoring one run, Bryce Sattler singled, scoring one run, and Kory Keppen singled, scoring three runs.

Groton Legion Post 39 added one run in the third after Kucker hit a sacrifice fly.

SMFC Sr. Legion Post 152 79ers flipped the game on its head in the bottom of the third, scoring five runs on three hits to take the lead, 11-9. The biggest blow in the inning was a single by Keppen that drove in two.

An error gave Groton Legion Post 39 the lead, 12-11, in the top of the fifth.

Alex Abeln pitched five and two-thirds innings in relief for Groton Legion Post 39. The reliever gave up three hits and five runs (zero earned) while, striking out seven and walking one. Englund stepped on the mound first for Groton Legion Post 39. The pitcher gave up four

hits and six runs (five earned) over one and one-third innings, striking out two and walking two. Tannen Auch led things off on the mound for SMFC Sr. Legion Post 152 79ers. The righty surrendered four hits and four runs over one inning, striking out none and walking one.

Groton Legion Post 39 amassed 15 hits in the game. Braxton Imrie, Fliehs, and Kucker each collected multiple hits for Groton Legion Post 39. Groton Legion Post 39 had a strong eye at the plate, amassing nine walks for the game. Imrie, Fliehs, and Teylor Diegel led the team with two bases on balls each.

Keppen led SMFC Sr. Legion Post 152 79ers with four runs batted in. The first baseman went 2-for-4 on the day. SMFC Sr. Legion Post 152 79ers turned one double play in the game.

In other games, Dakota Valley eliminated Winner/Colome, 4-2; and Dell Rapids edged Parkston, 9-8. Dell Rapids remains the only undefeated team left with Dakota Valley and Groton both having one loss.

C/WL Legion Unable To Overcome Groton Legion Post 39’s Late-Game Surge

By GameChanger Media

Groton Legion Post 39 defeated Clark/Willow Lake, 4-3, on Saturday after taking the lead late in the game. Groton Legion Post 39 was down 3-2 in the top of the fifth inning when Gavin Englund singled, scoring two runs.

Groton Legion Post 39 opened the scoring in the second after Nick Morris doubled, scoring one run.

C/WL Legion took the lead, 3-1, in the bottom of the second thanks to singles by Collin Gaikowski, and Cooper Pommer.

Jarrett Erdmann started the game for Groton Legion Post 39. The left-handed pitcher gave up three hits and three runs over six innings, striking out eight and walking six. Charlie Luvaas stepped on the hill first for C/WL Legion. The starter surrendered five hits and four runs over four and one-third innings, striking out four and walking three. Brevin Fliehs pitched one inning of shutout ball for Groton Legion Post 39 in relief. The pitcher surrendered one hit, striking out none and walking none.

Englund drove the middle of the lineup, leading Groton Legion Post 39 with two runs batted in. Englund went 1-for-4 on the day. Carter Simon went 2-for-3 at the plate to lead Groton Legion Post 39 in hits. Groton Legion Post 39 turned two double plays in the game.

Cooper Pommer went 1-for-3 at the plate and led the team with two runs batted in. Watson Grantham went 2-for-4 at the plate to lead C/WL Legion in hits. Josh Kannegieter led C/WL Legion with two walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, piling up six walks for the game. C/WL Legion didn’t commit a single error in the field. Watson Grantham had the most chances in the field with six.

Clark/Willow Lake was eliminated from the State B Tournament in Milbank. Groton advances, playing 30 minutes after the noon game on Sunday. Dakota Valley eliminated Milbank, 9-1. In the championship semifinals, Dell Rapids defeated Winner/Colome, 1-0, and Parkson defeated Scotland/Menno/Freeman Canistota Post 152, 5-2.

Groton Legion Post 39 Loses To Winner/Colome Legion

By GameChanger Media

Groton Legion Post 39 could not keep pace with Winner/Colome Legion 5-0 on Friday.

Winner/Colome Legion got on the board in the top of the second inning after Zachary Olson hit a sacrifice fly, Groton Legion Post 39 committed an error, and Groton Legion Post 39 committed an error, each scoring one run.

Winner/Colome Legion added one run in the third after Konner Osborn grounded out.

Nick Morris began the game for Groton Legion Post 39. The starting pitcher allowed five hits and five runs (three earned) over seven innings, striking out two and walking four. Dylan Brandis stepped on the hill first for Winner/Colome Legion. The right-handed pitcher surrendered three hits and zero runs over five innings, striking out one and walking one.

Leadoff hitter Teylor Diegel led Groton Legion Post 39 with two hits in two at bats.

Ryder Halligan led Winner/Colome Legion with two hits in three at bats. Olson and Halligan each drove in one run for Winner/Colome Legion. Halligan stole three bases. Winner/Colome Legion ran wild on the base paths, collecting six stolen bases for the game. Winner/Colome Legion were sure-handed in the field and didn’t commit a single error. Olson had the most chances in the field with five.

In the first round of the State Legion Class “B” Tournament being played in Milbank, Dell Rapids defeated Clark/Willow Lake, 1-0; Parkston defeated Dakota Valley, 7-5; Winner/Colome defeated Groton, 5-0; and Scotland/Menno/Freeman/Canistota Post 152 79ers defeated Milbank, 8-2.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U Walk It Off Against Flandreau 14U

By GameChanger Media

It came down to the wire on Sunday at Salem, as Groton Jr. Teeners 14U grabbed the victory in walk-off fashion, 3-2, over Flandreau 14U in region competition. The game was tied at two in the bottom of the ninth when a dropped third strike scored one run.

The pitching was strong on both sides. Groton Jr. Teeners 14U pitchers struck out seven, while Flandreau 14U sat down four.

Flandreau 14U got on the board in the third inning after Estephan Nelson grounded out, scoring one run.

Zach Fliehs singled down the right field line on an 0-2 count, which helped Groton Jr. Teeners 14U tie the game at two in the bottom of the seventh.

Wesley Borg earned the win for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. The starter gave up two hits and two runs over seven and one-third innings, striking out five and walking three. Landon Preheim took the loss for Flandreau 14U. The righty went eight and one-third innings, allowing three runs (zero earned) on eight hits, striking out four and walking none. Kolton Antonsen collected the save.

Fliehs led Groton Jr. Teeners 14U with one run batted in. The third baseman went 1-for-4 on the day. Antonsen and Jordan Schwan each collected two hits for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. Schwan stole two bases. Groton Jr. Teeners 14U turned one double play in the game.

Trevor Peters and Preheim each collected one hit for Flandreau 14U. Brody Johnson and Nelson each drove in one run for Flandreau 14U. Peters stole two bases.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U Fall To Salem Cubs 14U Despite Strong Effort From Trayce Schelle

By GameChanger Media

Trayce Schelle collected three hits in three at bats, but Groton Jr. Teeners 14U lost to Salem Cubs 14U 9-6 on Sunday at Salem. Salem advances to the state tournament with the win. Schelle doubled in the sixth inning, singled in the first inning, and singled in the third inning.

Salem Cubs 14U got on the board in the top of the first inning after Noah Durfee singled down the right field line, and Groton Jr. Teeners 14U committed an error, each scoring one run.

Salem Cubs 14U extended their early lead with two runs in the top of the second thanks to RBI singles by Derek Durfee and Caleb Hoffman.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U flipped the game on its head in the bottom of the sixth, scoring six runs on four hits to take the lead, 6-5. The biggest blow in the inning was a double by Schelle that drove in two.

Salem Cubs 14U took the lead in the top of the seventh inning after Bennett Graff laid down a sacrifice bunt, , Groton Jr. Teeners 14U committed an error, and Jacob Wiebersick singled down the right field line, each scoring one run.

Graff earned the win for Salem Cubs 14U. The pitcher surrendered one hit and zero runs over two innings, striking out one and walking one. Kolton Antonsen took the loss for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. The pitcher went six innings, surrendering six runs (five earned) on eight hits, striking out two and walking two. Easton Meyer opened the game for Salem Cubs 14U. The starting pitcher surrendered eight hits and six runs (five earned) over five innings, striking out three and walking three.

Antonsen and Schelle each drove in two runs for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. Jordan Schwan collected two hits for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U in four at bats. Schelle stole two bases. Groton Jr. Teeners 14U stole seven bases in the game.

Salem Cubs 14U piled up 10 hits in the game. Salem Cubs 14U's Wiebersick, the number nine hitter, led Salem Cubs 14U with three hits in four at bats. Durfee led Salem Cubs 14U with two runs batted in. The right-handed hitter went 1-for-4 on the day. Durfee collected two hits for Salem Cubs 14U in four at bats. Bridger Erickson stole two bases.

Jonah Schmidt Drives 4 Runners Home In Groton Locke Electric Victory Over Faulkton Hitmen Amateurs

By GameChanger Media

Jonah Schmidt drove in four runs on one hit to lead Groton Locke Electric past Hitmen Amateurs 11-10 on Thursday at Faulkton. In the seventh inning, Schmidt hit a grand slam to left field.

Bats blistered as Groton Locke Electric collected 13 hits and Hitmen Amateurs tallied seven in the high-scoring game.

Hitmen Amateurs got on the board in the top of the first inning after Beau Kirsch doubled, scoring one run, and an error scored two runs.

Hitmen Amateurs added one run in the third after Blaze Herdman grounded into a fielder's choice.

Layne Cotton hit a solo home run to right field in the top of the ninth for the Hitmen Amateurs.

Groton Locke Electric tied the game in the bottom of the ninth thanks to a double by Ty Sieber, and an error.

Schmidt stepped on the hill first for Groton Locke Electric. The starter allowed one hit and four runs (two earned) over two innings, striking out three and walking 10. Jett Kleinsasser led things off on the mound

for Hitmen Amateurs. The hurler allowed six hits and one run over six innings, striking out seven and walking two. Ryan Groeblichhoff and BJ Richter each appeared in relief for Groton Locke Electric.

Groton Locke Electric amassed 13 hits in the game. Sieber and Ben Althoff each collected five hits for Groton Locke Electric. Brian Hansen collected two hits for Groton Locke Electric in six at bats. Groton Locke Electric turned two double plays in the game.

Cotton provided pop in the middle of the lineup, and led Hitmen Amateurs with three runs batted in. The number three hitter went 2-for-6 on the day. Herdman paced Hitmen Amateurs with four walks. Overall, the team had patience at the plate, tallying 17 walks for the game.

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Breaking the Silence: Ending the Stigma Around Addiction and Mental Health

In South Dakota and across the whole United States, addiction and mental health struggles touch every community. Yet far too often, people suffer in silence—not because help isn't available, but because stigma keeps them from reaching for it.

Stigma shows up in many forms. It's the harmful comments we hear about people who use substances. It's the judgment directed at those struggling with depression, anxiety or trauma. It's even the quiet self-blame people carry, believing they should be able to "snap out of it" or that asking for help makes them weak.

Social stigma is deeply embedded in our systems and culture. It can show up in the way medical professionals talk about patients, in media portrayals that dehumanize or in policies that punish rather than support. When people internalize these messages, they may avoid seeking care altogether—also known as label avoidance. They fear being labeled as "addicts" or "crazy," and would rather struggle alone than face the shame and judgment that too often follows disclosure.

This silence can be and is deadly. Addiction is a treatable health condition. Mental health challenges are human, not moral failings. But when stigma gets in the way, it cuts people off from connection, care and healing.

So how do we fight it?

We lead with compassion. We create spaces where people are met with dignity, not dismissal. We challenge our own biases and educate ourselves on the realities of addiction and mental health. We tell the truth: recovery is possible, and people are so much more than their struggles.

At the University of South Dakota, the Department of Addiction Counseling & Prevention is committed to changing the narrative. Our students and faculty work to educate, advocate and care for people across the region—whether in treatment settings, prevention programs or community outreach efforts.

To help make that shift, faculty members in the department are using a grant to provide prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery services for those individuals with substance use disorders who are involved with the courts. The \$2 million grant will integrate:

- Integrated Peer Support Services: The grant funds peer support specialists to work directly with Drug Court participants, offering lived experience guidance, accountability and recovery support.
- Wraparound Care Model: Emphasizes coordinated care—connecting participants to medical, behavioral health, housing and employment resources.
- Focus on Sustainability: Aims to increase the number of billable services and set up systems for long-term sustainability beyond the grant period.
- Data-Driven Outcomes: Includes metrics for reducing recidivism, increasing treatment engagement and improving participant stability.

We believe that no one should be ashamed to ask for help. Everyone deserves access to care, and everyone deserves to be treated with humanity.

Ending stigma won't happen overnight, but it starts with all of us. We can speak up when we hear harmful language. We can be a listening ear. We can make room for people to show up exactly as they are—and meet them with respect.

Let's be a community where no one has to hide their pain. Let's create a South Dakota where people feel safe to heal.

Melissa Dittberner, or "Dr. Mo" as she is known to her students, is a professor in the Addiction Counseling & Prevention Department at the University of South Dakota. She has a Ph.D. in counseling and psychology in education, master's degree in addiction studies and a bachelor's degree in health sciences. She does research on college students' substance use, pedagogy, addiction and harm reduction. Not only is she very passionate about drug and alcohol prevention, helping skills and Telehealth technology, she has also worked on many grants surrounding substance use disorders. Dr. Mo is also a certified prevention specialist. In addition to her work at USD, she's also worked with communities across the state to create addiction prevention programs like Straight Up Care Telehealth and Midwest Street Medicine. 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 and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB), providing health information based on science, built on trust.





By David Adler

For Whom Do the Justices Write? Searching for Transparency

Calls for greater transparency in the work of the U.S. Supreme Court—from scholars, media, and the Justices themselves—reflect declining public confidence in the Court, particularly considering the High Bench’s increasing use of the emergency docket. Justice Elena Kagan recently told a judicial conference: “Courts are supposed to explain things, to litigants, to the public generally. As we have done more and more on the emergency docket, there becomes a real responsibility to explain things better.”

Since the Court is a secretive institution, what little Americans know, and understand, about the Court and the Constitution is gleaned, primarily, from its rulings and opinions. In 1968, in a rare television interview, Justice Hugo Black answered Martin Agronsky’s question: “Do you think Americans understand the Constitution?” Black replied: “No, I think most of them do not.” Explaining more is something that the justices should do in their role as constitutional

educators. They occupy a unique perch, a natural pulpit, in the world of American Constitutionalism, and should, in their opinions, more fully elaborate on the meaning of the Constitution—what Thomas Jefferson called “the text of civil instruction.”

In the short term, confidence in the Supreme Court is often a function of its decisions, since citizens are likely, at least initially, to judge rulings based on outcomes and whether they align with their politics and ideology. In the long term, however, confidence in the Court as an institution turns on the persuasiveness of its opinions and whether its reasoning is tethered to the text of the Constitution and precedent. The “long term” trust in the Court is what we aspire to in our constitutional democracy, a belief that the Court, regardless of the Justices’ own biases—political, ideological, and religious—is chiefly concerned with its duty to police constitutional boundaries, uphold the Bill of Rights, and defend the rule of law.

The Court is its own worst enemy when it renders decisions that provide little in the way of its reasoning, as it often does in cases on the emergency docket. When the Court fails to explain its reasoning or writes in a way that is inaccessible to a general readership, then the public is confused and less likely to trust the Court. These concerns reflect an enduring question: For whom does the Court write? In 1819, Chief Justice John Marshall explained that opinions should be written to be understood by the public. Marshall sought clarity and simplicity. While cases sometimes reflect complex issues, justices should strive to make their reasoning clear. If they write solely for the immediate litigants and employ centuries-old, arcane Latin phrases without explanation of their meaning in plain English, they are ignoring the audience for whom the Constitution was written: We the People. Indeed, Justice Black was fond of reminding listeners that the Constitution was written not for the president, Congress, or the courts, but for the people, whose ratification authority, exercised in the state conventions, to borrow from James Madison, “breathed life into the Constitution.”

Supreme Court rulings without adequate explanations of the justices’ reasoning serve little purpose in a constitutional democracy in which reasoned persuasion should be our governing currency. Inadequate expressions of the reasoning undergirding conclusions resemble pronouncements from imperious leaders who are indifferent to public understanding, leaving readers to guess at the motives behind a decision, which inspires not trust and confidence, but rather confusion and cynicism.

Thomas Jefferson, an eloquent idealist, but also a savvy realist, could, for effect, make the case for a cynical view of the Court’s work and why the remedy is transparency. The justices, he said, “consider themselves secure for life; they skulk from responsibility to public opinion. An opinion is huddled up in conclave, perhaps by a majority of one, delivered as if unanimous, and with the silent acquiescence of lazy or timid associates, by a crafty chief judge, who sophisticates the law to his mind, by the turn of his own reasoning.”

In 1913, Justice Louis Brandeis, who will forever be remembered for his elegant writing and painstakingly thorough opinions that opened a window to the reasoning of the Court, wrote that “sunlight was the best of disinfectants” for a democracy that seeks public understanding of the process of governance, which certainly includes the courts. America is better served, not by judicial mystery, but by judicial transparency.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 "Pygmalion" writer
- 5 Grocery
- 9 Blue
- 12 Actress Skye
- 13 From the U.S.
- 14 Swiss canton
- 15 Provisional
- 17 Erin Burnett's channel
- 18 Morsels
- 19 French school
- 21 Speed reader?
- 24 Swiss artist Paul
- 25 Borodin's "Prince —"
- 26 Remorseful
- 30 Hardly any
- 31 Loses color
- 32 Conk out
- 33 Octopus arm
- 35 Hair goops
- 36 Comic Jay
- 37 Ranch visitors
- 38 Salesperson's goal
- 40 Tiny amounts
- 42 Italian article
- 43 Able
- 48 Toss in
- 49 Historic times
- 50 Acknowledge
- 51 Coifs
- 52 First-rate

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42				43	44					45	46	47
48				49					50			
51				52					53			

- 53 Actress Farmiga

DOWN

1 Perch

2 Garden tool

3 Raggedy doll

4 Luxury hotel amenity

5 Actor Dillon

6 "Lucky Jim" author

7 Speed (up)

8 Vine-supporting frame

9 Came after
- 10 "Rule, Britannia!" composer

11 Eat in style

16 Vacuum's lack

20 Even so

21 Falling-out

22 Pulitzer winner James

23 File transfers

24 Elbow counterpart

26 Designer Rabanne

27 Right angle

28 Cleopatra's river
- 29 Hardy heroine

31 Cure-all

34 Hanoi holiday

35 Composer Mahler

37 HST follower

38 Campus area

39 Nullify

40 IRS enforcer

41 Church section

44 Acapulco gold

45 Cain's mom

46 Neither mate

47 Former Delta rival

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FUNDRAISER EVENT DAY SATURDAY, AUGUST 9TH, 2025 RESTORE OUR HERITAGE



Municipal Building

Join us for a fun-filled day at our **Municipal Building Restoration Fundraiser!** Participate in a poker run, enjoy delicious food from a food truck, listen to live music from two local bands, and bid on amazing items at our live auction. Your support helps preserve our community's heritage and brings us one step closer to restoring our beloved building. Come make a difference! Support our community and have fun!

EVENT SCHEDULE

2:30pm - Poker Run Registration at Conde Park (ATV, UTV, Motorcycle, Car, Golf Cart, Bicycle...Whatever you want to ride!)
Ride begins at 3:00pm and ends at 5:00pm with 4 stops in town

2:30pm - 12:30am - Food Truck (Burgers, Roast Beef Sandwiches, Brats, Hot Dogs, Potato Salad, Macaroni Salad and Chips served by Trixy Schwabe)

6:00pm - 8:30pm - Music by Bob Styles

9:00pm - 12:00am - Music by The Barstool Prophets

**The Live Auction will be held at 8:30 **

Dear EarthTalk: Is it true the northern lights will be more intense over the next 50 years, and if so, why? Will this have any negative effect on our environment? -- H. Binger, via e-mail

The northern lights are considered one of nature’s most spectacular displays. These lights are mainly seen from high-latitude areas near the Arctic and occur when the Sun releases charged particles during solar winds. These particles move closer to Earth, and are drawn toward its magnetic poles and collide with oxygen and nitrogen atoms. When these atoms return to their regular state, they create these lights.

Scientific observations have pointed to more intense northern lights occurring in the next several decades, due to increased solar activity. In its 11-year cycle, the Sun transitions between low and high activity periods, or solar minimum and maximum. Because the sun is currently nearing its solar maximum, the efflux of solar energy leads to more recurring, stronger flares that interact with Earth’s atmosphere and create heightened auroras. “During solar geomagnetic storms, there’s a lot more of these energetic charged particles in the space around Earth, so we see a brightening of the northern lights and the region over which you can see them spreads out to include places like the lower 48 states that usually don’t see this display,” says Scott England, a professor at Virginia Tech.

Through geomagnetic storms, auroras can also heat the Earth’s upper atmosphere, causing it to expand and potentially increase atmospheric drag on satellites. The influx of energized particles can also cause disturbances in the ionosphere that lead to signal loss and issues in radio communication and GPS systems. Moreover, as a result of climate change, increasing cloud cover and weather changes, auroras may also decrease in visibility, even if they occur more frequently. Geomagnetic storms can induce electrical currents that damage power lines and have implications for the power grid, including blackouts. Increased aural activity may also cause decreased efficiency in long-distance and emergency communications because of its disruptive effects on high-frequency radio signals.

The U.S. Geological Survey reports that a severe solar storm could disrupt the nation’s power grid for months, potentially leading to widespread blackouts. The resulting damage and disruption from such an event could cost upwards of \$1 trillion, with a full recovery taking months if not years.

To combat the implications of intense northern lights, government agencies can improve protections in power grids and warning systems that caution against solar storms. Infrastructure companies can also build radiation-resistant satellites that remain in orbit and avoid polar routes during high solar activity.



People across the Northern Hemisphere as far south as the southern U.S. have been able to see the northern lights in recent years due to increase solar storms. Credit: Pexels.com.

A subscription to the Groton Independent makes a great gift! 605-397-7460

Senior Citizens can get a gym membership at GDI Living Heart Fitness Center for just \$20 a month. Contact Paul 605-397-7460 or Tina at 605-397-7285.

Weekly SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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This notice is hereby given that the persons or entities listed below have uncashed capital credit checks issued in 2018. In accordance with the bylaws (Article VIII Section 8.2), the amounts of these uncashed checks will be forfeited to James Valley Cooperative Telephone Company six months after the date of publication of this notice unless money is claimed and proper evidence of ownership is submitted to James Valley Cooperative Telephone Company within the six month period. Any persons knowing the current address of the persons listed below, please contact James Valley Cooperative Telephone Company, PO Box 260, Groton, SD 57445 or call 800-556-6525.

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Ag Services Inc
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Anderson, Amy
Aslesen, Betty
Bertelson, Alice
Blekestad, Nicole
Braun, Virgil & Myrna
Briggs, Rick
Brown, Tom
Burgess Country Cafe
Burgess, Wendell & Jeanie
Callies, Steve & Lindsey
Campbell, Christopher
Campbell, Fred
Christenson, Mark
Collman, Richard F & Katherine
Dailey, Kristi
Dement, Susan
Dillon, Larry & Pam
Farmers State Bank - Fdic
Sr25195
Fdic-Sr 59447
Figueroa, Jose Ricardo & Jessica
Frohling, Ken & Claire
Frohling, Ryan
Fuller, Ruby
Gemmell, Cindy
Gleason, Edward & Angela
Gould, Rosemary
Grandpre, Steve
Heer, Dawn

Hiepler, Ann
Hoefener, Colin Burrer & LeAndra
Hossle, Kalli
Hughes, Sid
Hyatt, Kim Kipp & Harley
Jackson, Robert
Knapp, Tim
KQKD
Kraai, William
Lechner, Jamie
Lechner, Kevin L & Jamie
Lehr, Sharon
Likness, Linea
Lindgren, Dennis
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Loof, Christopher
Lynch, Rachel
Mayou, Stacy & Teresa
McKnight, Glenna B & Steven B
Moerke, John
Neuhardt, James J
Ott, Orville
Otteson, Kern
Paul, Herb
Phillips, Keith
Pigors, Jeanette M
Plymell, Clark & Charli
Rasmussen, Donna
Rock III, W H
Rock, Mathieu & Marisue
Rossow, Harold & Faye
Roth, Karla
Rude, Duane
Rusty's Bar & Grill
Sanchez, Mary Jane
Schmit, Carole
Schram, Norma
Simmons, William & Judith
Stone, Shane
Stuart, Rick & Dana
Synoground, David
Taylor, Caryl
Thome, Joseph
Tom's Greenhouse Inc
Trautman, Judy
Tullis, Kristi
Tunheim, Nathan & Allison
Ullenberg, Beth
Vasquez, Sara
Veith, Jay & Mindy
Wald, W Mark
Waldner, Brant
Waldner, Kordell
Wehausen, Brian
Williams, Josiah & Tina
Wood, Ervin & Shirley
Woolery, Dennis J
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30th ANNIVERSARY **Saturday, Aug. 9th**

AMERICAN LEGION POST #39

**Come and help us celebrate the
“30th Anniversary of the
Groton Legion Lounge and Hall”**

5-7 p.m.
**free supper
until gone**
(Cody Keller's famous BBQ!)

HAPPY HOUR! **5-7 p.m.**

9 p.m.
**Music on the patio with
Lizzy Hofer**

LIZZY HOFER

Continued from front



Walking Taco and a drink
Free Will Donation
 Proceeds go to Groton's Angel Tree
 15 N Main, St. #103
 Groton Daily Independent
 Suggested Donation: \$5

Family Fun Fest -Thursday, Aug. 7 ~ 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.