

The Groton Independent

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Groton Area has three new employees

by Dorene Nelson

The Groton School District has only three new employees this coming school year. They include first grade teacher Jessica Maurer, instrumental instructor Joshua Friez, and maintenance worker Boston Marlow.



Jessica Maurer, a Groton native, is the new first grade teacher. Her colorful classroom is very inviting to these excited students who are eager to learn and do new things.

"I'm a Groton graduate and feel very privileged to be back in my home school," Maurer admitted. "My students are also happy to be here and to learn the many new things that I plan to teach!"

"I graduated from Groton, followed by attending both SDSU and NSU," she said, "but I majored in education at Northern followed by receiving my Master's degree in Instructional Design in eLearning."

"I was a reading tutor at Mike Miller Elementary School in Aberdeen before I was employed at Webster where I taught first grade for four years," Maurer listed. "Now that I teach in Groton, I am especially grate-

ful for being close to work without having to spend extra time driving."

"I find teaching first grade to be very exciting," she admitted. "First graders find almost everything exciting too because it is all so new to them. The favorite activity for this class of first graders is learning how to read!"

"I've spent a lot of time in my classroom, getting it ready and inviting to my students," Maurer smiled. "I use flexible seating in my room so that the students, not in the reading group I'm working with, will be able to find a comfortable cushion, chair, or other spot to enjoy their own reading selection."

"There are two sections of first grade here in Groton," she explained, "with sixteen in my group."

"My husband Evan and I bought our house here in Groton in 2020. He works at 3M in Aberdeen," she explained.



Boston Marlow is the newest member of the Groton Area School Maintenance Team. "I'm originally from Britton, but my wife and I now live here in Groton," he explained. "It's good for me since I work at the school, but my wife also appreciates it since she is close to her job as a nurse at Avera St. Luke's."

"I started working at the school this past spring," Boston said. "I find that the jobs I'm expected to do are not too difficult. When I need help, Ryan Scepaniak, the head of the Maintenance Department, will help me and explain what needs to be done."

"My main area of responsibility is the high school arena and gym," Boston explained. "I do substitute in other areas when needed. I start every morning at 6 A.M. and finish at 2:30 P.M.," he said.

"My job includes cleaning the varsity and junior varsity locker rooms," he listed. "I mop and sweep the floors in both the arena and in the gym."

"When there is an event in the arena, large waste baskets are placed on the steps for the customers to use," Boston stated. "These waste baskets have plastic bags inside that I have to remove and throw into the dumpsters outside the school building."

"There are five full time and two part-time janitors in the two schools," he said. "Even with seven members on the Maintenance Team, everyone is kept busy!"

"Sometimes we are asked to do a unique job that is not usually part of our daily routine," Boston explained. "For example, we recently painted the stripes needed on the football field for this coming Friday night's game."



Joshua Friez, a native of Sioux Falls, is the new 5-12 instrumental band teacher.

"I attended Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls, a school that excels in music education for its students," Friez stated. "I was in All State Band in the eighth grade and again in the twelfth!"

"The education and training that I received there is a significant reason that I majored in music," he admitted. "I prefer to be only a band instructor, not vocal too."

"In 2016 I started my teaching career in Willow Lake where I taught for two years," Friez said. "I was the K-12 vocal and band instructor there, more than I really wanted to tackle in my first job!"

"A top priority for me in my next job was to find a position that 'fit' me, one that I was truly attracted to," he explained. "The size of the music program here in Groton is exactly what I want!"

"Before accepting this position, I took time to evaluate my options," Friez admitted. "I worked at Hy-Vee for a while as well as being a substitute in the Sioux Falls school system and a paraprofessional in Sioux Falls Roosevelt."

"Before accepting the job here, I contacted Desiree Yeigh, last year's band instructor, to get some ideas and tips about the workload and other responsibilities," he said.

"I am certified to teach both instrumental and vocal music," Friez explained, "but band is really my favorite area. If I have a fault, it's probably being overly organized! Checking out the filing system and the color coding that I use should prove that!"

"I decided to apply and was hired in 2025, a position that would be a good fit for me and for my students," Friez admitted. "I consider this job an excellent opportunity and look forward to getting to know my students better."

"I am looking forward to this coming year and getting to know my students better," he said. "There is excellent public support for this program as well as a chance for improving and adding to it each year!"

Per-Pupil Expenditures Show Wide Range Across Area Districts

Special to the Groton Daily Independent via ChatGPT

Newly released figures for the 2023–24 school year show just how much South Dakota's school districts vary when it comes to per-pupil expenditures. According to the South Dakota Department of Education's Statistical Digest, compiled by South Dakota KIDS COUNT and other national data centers, area schools range from under \$10,000 per student to nearly \$15,000.

The statewide average expenditure per student is approximately \$14,200, but many local districts fall below that benchmark.

Local District Totals

Frederick Area School District (06-2) reported the highest per-pupil spending among nearby districts at \$14,988.

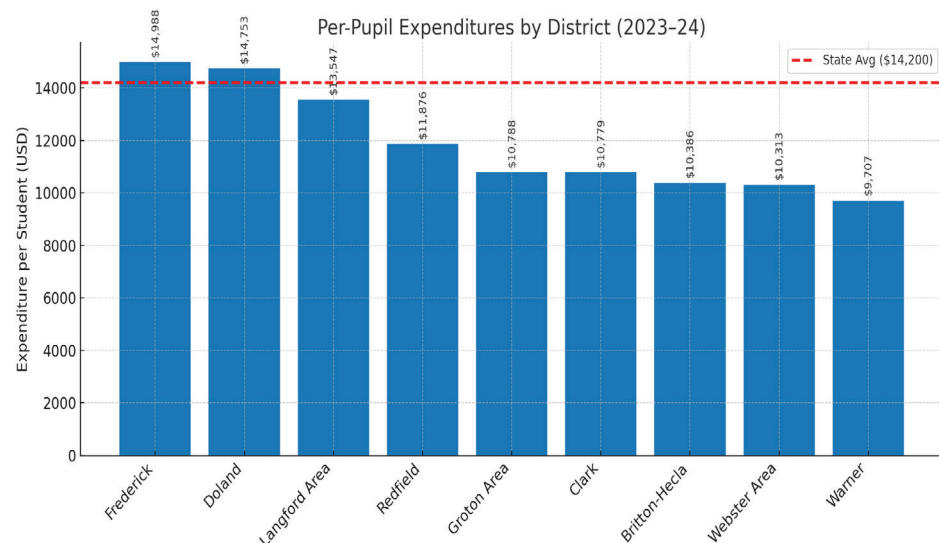
Doland School District (56-2) was close behind at \$14,753.

Langford Area (45-5) also spent well above the state line, averaging \$13,547 per student.

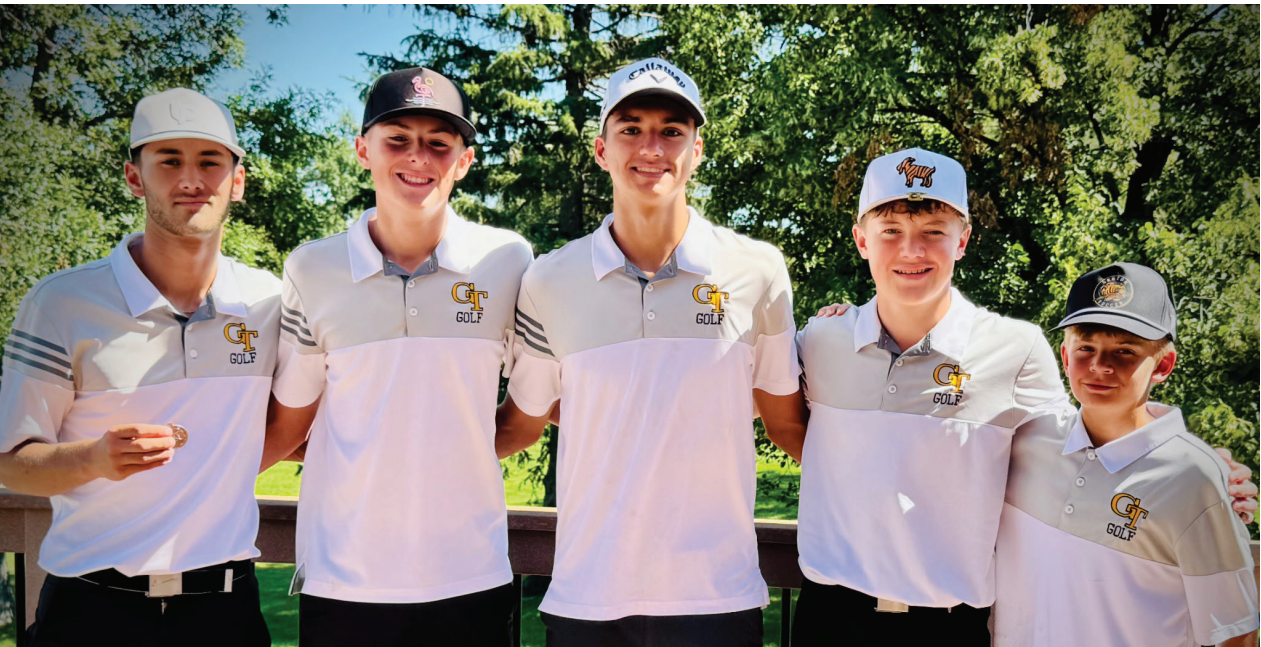
Other districts landed in the \$10,000–\$12,000 range, including Redfield (56-4) at \$11,876, Clark (12-2) at \$10,779, Groton Area (06-6) at \$10,788, Britton-Hecla (45-4) at \$10,386, and Webster Area (18-5) at \$10,313.

Per-Pupil Expenditures by District (2023–24)

This chart shows the per-pupil expenditures for selected South Dakota school districts during the 2023–24 school year. The red dashed line represents the statewide average (~\$14,200).



Boys Golf Team places third at NEC Meet



Pictured left to right are Jarrett Erdmann, Jace Johnson , Jayden Schwan, Liam Johnson and Hayden Harder. (Courtesy Photo)

The Groton Area Boys Golf Team placed third at the Northeast Conference Meet held Tuesday at Lee Park in Aberdeen. Three golfers were medalist: Jace Johnson, Jarrett Erdmann and Liam Johnson.

- Medalist, Jace Johnson receiving 5th with a 77
- Medalist, Jarrett Erdmann receiving 10th with an 88
- Medalist, Liam Johnson receiving 12th with a 93
- Jayden Schwan receiving 16th with a 97
- Hayden Harder receiving 19th with a 101
- Aberdeen Roncalli won the team title with a score of 303 followed by Sisseton with 349, Groton Area 355, Milbank 371 and Redfield with 401.

Yardage	345	500	489	320	180	389	400	177	366	316	360	345	153	335	375	164	463	387	331	2913	6079
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
Par	4	5	5	4	3	4	4	3	4	36	4	4	3	4	4	3	5	4	4	35	71
5. Jace Johnson	4	5	5	5	3	4	4	4	6	41	3	4	3	4	5	4	4	5	4	36	71
10. Jarrett Erdmann	6	7	7	3	3	5	5	3	6	45	5	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	6	43	88
12. Liam Johnson	4	11	7	4	2	4	6	3	7	48	6	4	4	5	7	3	6	4	6	45	93
16. Jayden Schwan	7	7	8	6	4	6	6	3	5	52	6	6	3	6	6	3	6	5	4	45	97
19. Hayden Harder	6	5	6	4	4	6	6	4	5	46	5	8	5	11	4	4	6	6	6	55	101



Homecoming Royalty Candidates

Front row left to right: Jerica Locke, Hannah Sandness, Rylee Dunker, Carly Gilbert, Talli Wright
Back row left to right: Keegen Tracy, Becker Bosma, Gage Sippel, Ryder Johnson, Gavin Englund

- Coronation is Monday, Sept. 1 at 8 p.m.
High school dress up days:
Monday- No School
Tuesday- PJ day
Wednesday- Camo day
Thursday-Class color day
Friday- Black and Gold day
- Elementary dress up days**
Monday- No School
Tuesday- PJ Day
Wednesday- Sports Day – wear your favorite sports clothing
Thursday- Class Color Day
Junior Kindergarten: Yellow
Kindergarten: Red
First Grade: Blue
Second Grade: Green
Third Grade: Orange
Fourth Grade: Purple
Fifth Grade: White
Staff (if you don't have your own class): Pink
Friday- Black and Gold Day

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Tigers Set for Another Exciting Volleyball Season

Groton Area Head Coach Chelsea Hanson can hardly believe it’s here again—volleyball season has arrived. Entering her 12th year at the helm, Hanson says she and her team are ready for the challenges ahead.

“We’re very, very excited to be playing a game,” Hanson said with a smile. “We’ve got a lot of depth. These girls have been playing for a long time, and together they bring nearly 20 years of varsity experience to the floor. That makes our practices super competitive. On any given night, you might see a different lineup, which is exciting.”

Early Start, High Energy

This year, the South Dakota High School Activities Association shortened the preseason requirement from 10 practices to just five before the first match. For Groton, that meant getting locked in quickly.

“We started on the 14th, and here we are 12 days later playing a game,” Hanson explained. “With so many girls balancing both soccer and volleyball, we’ve only had about 16 full practices together. But honestly, I feel like we’re ready to go.”

Building Through Camps and Competition

The Tigers haven’t taken much of a break from volleyball. Over the summer, players competed in league play, a one-day tournament, and Groton’s own intensive week-long camp for grades 7–12.

“That camp is a grind—it’s competitive, every drill is scored, and it’s a love-hate relationship for the girls,” Hanson said. “But it makes them mentally tougher and sets the tone for the season.”

Stiff Competition Ahead

As for the competition, Hanson expects the conference to be tough as usual.

“Hamlin and Roncalli are definitely going to be right there with us at the top,” she said. “We know those two programs well, and they’re always going to make us work.”

Eyeing More Than the SoDak 16

The Tigers have been frequent visitors to the SoDak 16, with Hanson noting the program has reached that stage in nine of her 12 seasons.

“For us, it’s no longer a question of hoping to get there—it’s the expectation,” she said. “Now we’re asking: what are we going to do differently this year to get a different outcome? These girls have the energy, enthusiasm, and leadership to make that happen.”

Excitement All Around

With a strong core of upperclassmen, skilled positions, and plenty of experience, Hanson is optimistic.

“We should have a pretty solid team this year,” she said. “The energy is there, the enthusiasm is there, and the girls are ready. We’re all excited—it’s time to play volleyball.”

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Tigers Open Volleyball Season With Upset Win Over No. 5 Hamlin



Jaedyn Penning gets a good hit in the season opening volleyball match Tuesday in Groton. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Jaedyn Penning added three kills and an ace. Addison Neuendorf paced Hamlin with four kills and an ace serve.

Groton regrouped in the second set, storming out to a 4-0 lead and never looking back in a 25-19 win. Weber and Tevan Hanson each tallied four kills, and Rylee Dunker chipped in three kills. Neuendorf again led Hamlin with five kills, while Addelyn Jensen had two.

The Tigers built on that momentum in the third set. After Hamlin tied it at nine, Groton responded with a 13-9 lead and held steady for another 25-19 win. Weber had three kills and a block, Penning delivered two kills and two ace serves, while Dunker added two kills and a block. Jensen led Hamlin with five kills and a block, while Neuendorf had three kills.

Hamlin came out strong in the fourth, going up 11-8, but Groton answered, tying the set at 14 and then taking control. The Tigers pulled away down the stretch for a 25-18 clincher. Dunker slammed down four kills, Weber recorded three kills and a block, Hanson added three kills, and Penning chipped in three kills. Jensen managed three kills for Hamlin, but the Tigers’ balance proved too much.

Groton head coach Chelsea Hansen said she was proud of her team’s grit, particularly in the deciding set. “We were low on energy, but the girls dug deep and found a way to finish strong. That was a big win to start the year,” she said.

The victory was especially sweet as it came against a ranked opponent. Hamlin, slotted fifth in the preseason Class A poll released this week, came in as the favorite, but Groton flipped the script for one of the opening week’s biggest upsets. For the Tigers, snapping a five-year drought against the Chargers made the night even more memorable.

By the Numbers

Aces: Groton 4 (Penning 3, Dunker 1); Hamlin 7 (Maddy Jutting 3, Ella Smith 2).

Attacks: Groton was 141-of-160 with 51 kills. Weber went 32-of-36 with 12 kills, Penning 39-of-42 with 11 kills, Hanson 22-of-29 with 10 kills, Dunker added 10 kills, Taryn Traphagen 7, and Kella Tracey 2. Hamlin totaled 48 kills, led by Jensen with 14, Neuendorf 10, and Jade Thuwe 7.

Assists: Groton 50 (Weber 30, Tali Wright 9). Hamlin 40 (Issy Stephensen 37).

Digs: Groton 94 (Jerica Locke 21, Penning 21, Weber 13). Hamlin 93 (Neuendorf 24, Jayci Trowbridge 23, Smith 13).

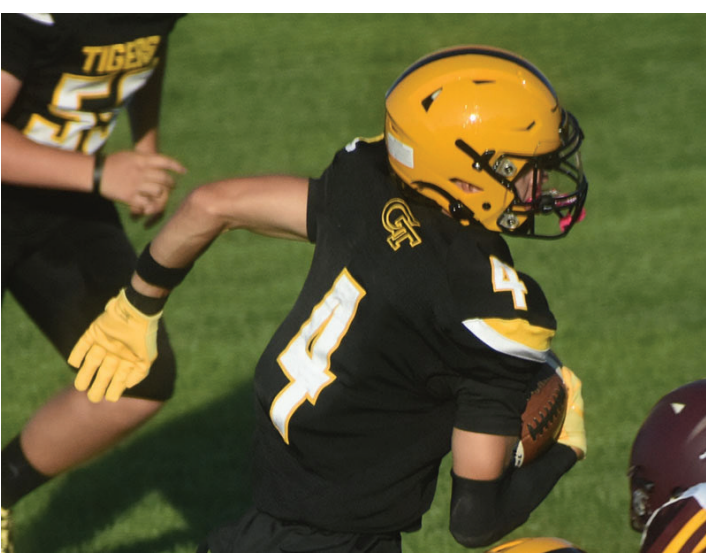
Blocks: Groton 5 (Dunker 1 solo, 3 assists; Weber 2 assists). Hamlin 4.

Subvarsity Matches

In the undercard contests, Hamlin swept the junior varsity match 25-14, 25-23. Groton dominated the C-match, winning 25-10, 25-11. In the junior varsity match, Elizabeth Cole had four kills, Liby Althoff had one kill and two ace serves, Emerlee Jones had two kills and one ace serve, Kinsley ROwen had two kills, McKenna Tietz had one ace serve and adding one kill each were Makenna Krause, Abby Fjeldheim and Addison Hoeft. Kayde Nebel led Hamlin with seven kills and a block while Addelyn Jensen had five kills. In the C match, Rylen Ekern had 15 ace serves and one kill, Addison Hoeft and Neely Althoff each had seven kills and one block, Tori Schuster had three ace serves, Abby Fjeldheim had three kills, Arianna Dinger had one ace serve and Audrey Davis and Brooklyn Spanier each had one kill. Danica Perez led Hamlin with two ace serves.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Ag-tegra, Avantara, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Bierman Farm Service, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Full Circle Ag, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, Groton Legion, Heartland Energy, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Lounge and The MeatHouse. Grandparents sponsored the JV and C matches.

Tigers Dominate in Season Opener, Shut Out Webster 54-0



Ryder Johnson gets a four yard run early in the game. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Freshman Asher Johnson gets ready to pass the ball. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

The Groton Area Tigers opened their football season in emphatic fashion Friday night, rolling past Webster 54-0 in a one-sided contest that ended on the mercy rule.

Both teams struggled to find their footing early, trading punts and turnovers. Groton fumbled twice in the opening minutes, but Webster failed to capitalize, punting the ball away. Momentum shifted late in the first quarter when Karter Moody scooped up a fumble and punched it in from a yard out with 2:36 on the clock. The point-after attempt was blocked, but Groton led 6-0.

Just moments later, Webster coughed up the ball again, and Gavin England

made them pay, returning it for another short touchdown. Asher Johnson connected with Ryder Johnson on the conversion, and suddenly Groton had a 14-0 lead. The Tigers defense wasn’t done—the next Webster possession ended in a safety when quarterback Jaren McCreary was sacked in the end zone. Groton had scored 10 points in just 29 seconds, and closed the quarter ahead 16-0.

Groton wasted no time in the second quarter. On the first possession, Asher Johnson capped a drive with an 8-yard touchdown run and then found Anthony Tracy for the two-point pass to make it 24-0. After a Ryder Schelle interception, Skyler Godel added a 4-yard touchdown run, and Schelle himself ran in the conversion. Minutes later, Keegen Tracy broke loose for an 18-yard score, pushing the advantage to 40-0.

The Tigers continued to pour it on. Another Webster turnover gave Groton the ball at the 7-yard line, and Schelle scored on a one-yard plunge. Johnson again hooked up with Johnson—Asher to Ryder—for the conversion, making it 48-0 before halftime.

The final score came in the third quarter after yet another Webster fumble. Godel finished the short drive with a one-yard run at the 4:28 mark. With a running clock in effect, the Tigers coasted to the 54-0 final.

Groton racked up 12 first downs and 207 total yards of offense, spreading the scoring around. Tracy had three carries for 35 yards and a touchdown, Godel added two scores on 31 yards rushing, Schelle ran for 24 yards and a touchdown, and Johnson tallied 22 yards and another score on the ground. Through the air, Johnson was efficient, completing 10 of 15 passes for 81 yards. Ryder Johnson hauled in five receptions for 26 yards, while Tracy added two catches for 37 yards.

Defensively, the Tigers forced five Webster fumbles, recovering three, and picked off one pass. Moody and England each had a key takeaway, while Jordan Schwan and Schelle each added an interception. Tucker Hardy and Ben Hoeft anchored the defense with five tackles apiece. Moody and Tucker Hardy each had a sack.

Webster, meanwhile, mustered only two first downs and 20 rushing yards on 24 carries. Gage Bumgarn led the way with 22 yards on 12 carries. The Bearcats completed just one pass for three yards and turned the ball over four times.

With the win, Groton opens the season 1-0 and will travel to Mobridge next Friday for a Battle of the Tigers matchup. Webster (0-1) will look to regroup on the road at McCook Central.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Ag-tegra, Avantara, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Bierman Farm Service, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Full Circle Ag, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, Groton Legion, Heartland Energy, John Sieh Agency, Jungle, Krueger Brothers, Poet and The MeatHouse. Justin Olson provided the play-by-play with Jeslyn Kosel running the camera and Paul Kosel with the technology.

- Story compiled by ChatGPT based off of Paper Paul’s notes



The Vikings wrapped up the preseason with a 23–13 loss to the Titans in Nashville. Minnesota finished the exhibition slate 1–2; their only win was the game that J.J. McCarthy started, while Tennessee moved to 2–1. The Titans led 14–3 at halftime and held off a late Vikings push in the fourth quarter.

It was Max Brosmer’s night to open at quarterback with J.J. McCarthy among the starters watching. Brosmer did not waste the opportunity, going 15-of-23 for 161 yards and a third-quarter touchdown to rookie tight end Bryson Nesbit from 21 yards out. Brett Rypien relieved Brosmer and finished 7-of-14 for 62 yards with one interception.

On the ground, Minnesota ran it 22 times for 100 yards. Xazavian Valladay led with 8 carries for 39 yards, followed by Xavier Scott with 5 for 28 and Tre Stewart with 5 for 22.

With several regulars still idle, a handful of receivers made their case. Dontae Fleming caught 2 passes for 53 yards, Nesbit added 2 for 45 and the score, and Jashaun Jones chipped in 4 for 41. Thayer Thomas also grabbed 4 for 19.

Special teams had a little of everything. Will Reichard went 2-for-4 on field goals, including a 58-yarder in the fourth quarter after earlier tries from 63 and 55 came up short and wide left. Tennessee’s Joey Slye answered with a perfect 3-for-3 night that included a 63-yard bomb. Silas Bolden sparked the return game with 2 kick returns for 57 yards, and Xavier Scott added one for 29. Myles Price handled a punt return for 3 yards.

Defensively, the Vikings produced three sacks and five quarterback hits. Austin Keys, Jonathan Harris, and Levi Drake Rodriguez each recorded a sack, while five tackles for loss helped keep things competitive after halftime.

The biggest swing plays went Tennessee’s way. Brandon Allen hit Van Jefferson for a 65-yard touchdown in the second quarter, and Julius Chestnut punched in a 1-yard score to cap a 90-yard drive led by No. 1 pick Cam Ward. Minnesota pulled within 20–13 on Reichard’s long make, but Slye’s late field goal closed the door.

Minnesota opens the regular season on Monday, September 8, at Chicago. Before that, however, looms cut-down day. On Tuesday, NFL teams will cut their roster from 90 to 53. Then, on Wednesday, the roster is tweaked even further, as players that were cut by other teams are claimed, and more players are cut to make room. Well over a thousand players will have their dream of playing in the NFL crushed, while

The Groton Independent

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Some interesting Tidbits about property taxes and schools

Notable District-level Examples

Oglala Lakota County School District (65-1): Receives a large share of its funding from the federal government—approximately 71.4% of its total budget

USAFacts

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Groton Area School District (06-6): Heavily reliant on local funding—around 83.4% of its budget comes from local sources

Ballotpedia

USAFacts

SD Department of Education

According to data compiled for the 2021–22 school year, total public school funding per student (combining local, state, and federal sources) varied widely across districts:

Low end: Around \$11,300 per student in the Baltic School District (49-1)

High end: As much as \$39,100 per student in the Elk Mountain School District (West Custer) (16-2)

USAFacts

To meet budget needs beyond those formulas, many districts use opt-out levies (approved by school boards and potentially voters). This adds to school-related property tax burdens:

In 2024–25, about half of SD’s public students were in districts with an opt-out. On average, opt-out dollars translated to about \$500 per K–12 student, per opt-out year, in those districts

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SD Department of Education

But there’s wide variation: for example, Brookings 05-1 had as little as \$86 per student, while Bowdle 22-1 had nearly \$7,778 per student

Dakota Institute

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

J	A	B		H	E	H		F	A	L	L	S
U	N	O		M	R	I		U	L	E	E	S
M	D	S		O	N	T	H	E	S	I	D	E
P	R	S		S	E	O		U	L			
S	E	A	S		S	R	S		S	T	O	P
				W	E	T		K	D	L	A	N
A	T	R	I	A				R	A	I	T	A
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H	A	L	L		A	C	E		S	A	N	K
				S	W	E	L	L		T	I	E
S	I	D	E	I	S	S	U	E		O	V	A
A	R	I	E	S		A	G	A		L	E	T
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4 ♦ Groton Independent ♦ Wed., Aug. 27, 2025

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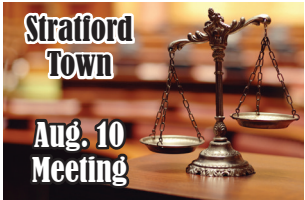
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Stratford Town Board Meeting
Aug 10th, 2025
6:30pm Prickett called meeting to order with Schley, Engelhardt and Kwak in attendance.
A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Schley, carried; to approve the July 15th meeting minutes as read.
A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Engelhardt, carried; to approve the financials as presented.
A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Engelhardt, carried; to approve the following claims for payment: -General Fund- NWE Bills: (st lts) \$329.33, (ball pk) \$12.91, (tennis) \$19.17, (st lts2) \$174.80, (hall) \$322.82, (sign) \$14.73; James Valley (auto): \$44.54; Groton Ind: \$19.31; 26.03 Quickbooks (auto): \$40.36; PDF-Filler (auto): \$20.90; BC Weed & Pest: \$706.92 (6/24-7/17); Cole Paper: \$104.23 (hall supplies); 10607497Brittany Schley: (mow M4) \$1,062.50; (addtl property reconcile) \$320.-Water Sewer Fund-NWE Bills: (2nd st) \$82.58, (p hse) \$12.00; Web Water (auto): \$1,812.99; USDA RD Loan Payment (auto): \$478.00; NESD Loan Payment (auto): \$383.71; Public Health

Labs: \$75.
OLD BUSINESS:
None
NEW BUSINESS:
D. Wiedmeier present to de-test updates to water bill. No official request was made. Action requested: city to resend outstanding invoices to be paid with copy of applicable ordinances.
Community inquiry about floating curb stops; they are under warranty so all at risk locations will be submitted.
Frost free hydrant at elevator to be tested for water source.
Brown County Weed and Pest notified to spray all the way to northeast corner of town.
A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Engelhardt, carried; to approve a \$320 bonus to Brittany Schley for mowing additional properties added to the contract after original bid was submitted. Schley abstained from the vote.
Maintenance: concession stand bathrooms fixed; fascia board to be assessed; picnic tables to be stored; Cistern in front of Prorate will be assessed to determine whether it can be removed.
CLOSING:
Next meeting is scheduled for Sep 9th, 2025 at 6:30pm.
A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Engelhardt, carried; to adjourn the meeting.
-Anna Kwak, Finance Officer
Published August 27, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$23.19 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25954

Peripheral Artery Screening: A Lifesaving Check-Up for Your Circulation

While you've likely had your blood pressure checked in your arm countless times, you may have never had it measured in your leg. Yet this simple and often overlooked screening can be critical for detecting restricted blood flow. If left untreated, inadequate blood flow could lead to serious complications including limb loss, disability or even death.

Many people are unaware of a common and serious condition known as peripheral artery disease (PAD). PAD occurs when the arteries in your legs become narrowed or blocked due to plaque buildup, reducing blood flow to your lower limbs. This condition affects over 8 million Americans and is especially common in those over 60 or with a history of smoking, diabetes or heart disease.

PAD doesn't always come with obvious symptoms, but when it does, they may include leg pain or cramping during walking (called claudication), numbness, cold feet or wounds on the legs or feet that are slow to heal. Unfortunately, because these symptoms can be subtle or mistaken for other issues like arthritis or aging, PAD is often overlooked, until it leads to serious complications like infections, non-healing wounds or even amputation.

PAD can be detected easily and painlessly with a simple screening called the ankle-brachial index (ABI). Although traditionally completed with a Doppler ultrasound, screening can be completed with an automatic blood pressure cuff. The ABI test compares the systolic blood pressure (the first number) in your ankle to the blood pressure in your arm. The whole process takes only a few minutes and can help identify if blood is not flowing properly to your legs.

Health care providers, including physical therapists, are trained to help identify conditions like PAD early. If we detect signs of reduced circulation through an ABI screening, we'll refer you to a medical provider for further evaluation. If PAD is diagnosed, treatment often begins with lifestyle changes like quitting smoking, increasing physical activity (especially walking) and managing other health conditions such as high blood pressure or diabetes. Physical therapy can play a key role in treatment. One of the most effective approaches is supervised exercise therapy, which has been shown to improve walking distance, reduce symptoms and enhance overall cardiovascular health. In a supervised setting, physical therapists guide patients through structured walking programs, gradually improving circulation and tolerance to activity in a safe, monitored environment. In some cases, medications or procedures may be needed to improve blood flow.

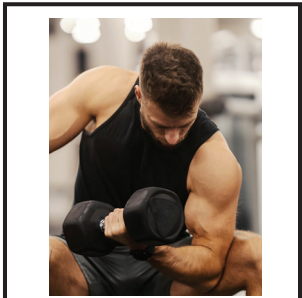
Screening for PAD is especially important because many people don't know they have it until it's advanced. Early detection can prevent serious outcomes and allow you to keep moving and living independently.

If you're over 60, have diabetes, smoke or have a family history of cardiovascular disease, consider asking your health care provider or physical therapist about ABI screening. It's quick, non-invasive and could make a life-saving difference.

Your legs have something important to tell you. Make sure you're listening.

Adam Ladwig, Ph.D., DPT, is an associate professor at the University of South Dakota where he teaches cardiovascular and pulmonary physical therapy as well as differential diagnosis. He has 13 years' experience as a clinician and maintains practice in rural South Dakota.

Jed Droge, DPT, is an assistant professor at the University of South Dakota, where he teaches a variety of subjects, including differential diagnosis, to entry-level physical therapy students. He has 15 years' experience as a clinician, primarily in rural Nebraska. 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



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Jed Droge, DPT

Adam Ladwig, Ph.D., DPT

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Poke
4 Sneaky chuckle
7 Niagara sight
12 Dos preceder
13 X-ray's cousin
14 "— Gold" (Fonda film)
15 Rx writers
16 Salad dressing order
18 7, on older phones
19 Capital of South Korea
20 Salty waters
22 Soon-to-be grads
23 Desist
27 Drench
29 "Constant Craving" singer
31 Places in the heart
34 Indian yogurt dish
35 Wards off
37 However
38 Corridor
39 Expert
41 Foundered
45 "Peachy!"
47 Cravat
48 Tangential topic
52 Eggs
53 Zodiac ram
54 Khan title

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- 55 Rent out
56 "Live at the Acropolis" performer
57 "Way cool!"
58 Vegas opener?
- 8 Gore and Green
9 Floral neckline
10 Guided
11 Compass dir.
17 Corn cover
21 Marble cake pattern
23 Bed boards
24 — chi
25 Toronto's prov.
26 Links org.
28 Have lunch
30 Actress Joanne
31 Sound of relief
32 FDR project
- 33 Seminary subj.
36 Tools with teeth
37 Whale variety
40 Activist Chavez
42 Coral island
43 Skin care brand
44 "Endymion" poet
45 Spanish ayes
46 Pencil filler
48 Utter
49 Glass of public radio
50 Cacophony
51 Still, in verse

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Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.

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AUGUST 19, 2025 – GENERAL MEETING

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None
DISCUSS PURCHASE OF NEW COPIER FOR PUBLIC DEFENDERS’ OFFICE: Brad Borge, Brown County Public Defender, met with the Commission to request purchasing a new copier for his office since the one given to him wasn’t under contract and was told that it is rather expensive to fix if something goes wrong. Pat Wolberg, IT Director, got him a quote from Century Business Products for \$13,391.43 to be like another copier purchased by the Sheriff’s Office. Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve purchasing the copier from Century Business Products for \$13,391.43. The motion passed with 3 votes; Commissioner Wiese abstained due to being employed by Century Business Products.

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR LAWRENCE WELK 70TH ANNIVERSARY: The Brown County Commission was contacted and asked to do a letter of support for the 70th Anniversary of “The Lawrence Welk Show” national debut. Vice-Chairman Gage read the proposed letter of support. Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Dennert to approve and authorize Vice-Chairman Gage to sign the letter of support. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ELM LAKE BRIDGE: Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent, shared with the Commission that S.D. Department of Transportation (D.O.T.) rejected the bid for the Elm Lake Bridge because it was \$2.2 million higher than the Engineer estimated. The bridge will be replaced but looking at different options to lower the costs; one option would be to

shift the bridge 40 feet to the west. The Feds recommend scour protection, which drives up the costs. D.O.T. is going to be replacing the Platte/Winner Bridge, which is a large project, which in turn has a ripple effect so the 6th Ave. Bridge here in Aberdeen has been moved to 2027. Dirk stated they will do an interim fix to the road at Elm Lake until the Bridge project is completed.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent informed the Commission that the James (Jim) River is 32” below crest level and Crow Creek is 60” below crest level. There is water over the road by Pierpont and the golf course in Groton is probably flooded. They will be shooting oil and paving on Co. Rd. 5 then moving to Mansfield. They are still patching and mowing. Dirk shared that Matt Heupel and he were in Pierre for training last week, Matt completed the certification. Commissioner Dinger asked if the Richmond Dam was still on track for Spring of 2026, Commissioner Wiese is also interested in their plans for that. Dirk will check into it because he hadn’t heard anything recently. Commissioner Wiese inquired about the Guardrail at Richmond and Dirk stated that it was completed.

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to approve the General Meeting Minutes of August 12, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve the following claims: Professional Fees: Birmingham & Cwach Law Offices, PLLC \$420.00; Clark Thares \$25.00; Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$3,048.00; Dependable Sanitation \$45,734.00; Dohrer Law Office, PC \$576.00; IMEG Corp \$9,139.00; Kennedy Pier Loftus & Reynolds, LLP \$446.00; Kuck Law Office \$3,006.00; Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC \$2,700.00; Lewis & Clark BHS \$225.00; Lincoln County Auditor \$242.67; Northeastern Mental Health Center \$700.00; Taliaferro Law Firm, PC \$6,408.00; TMS Production Integration \$41,300.00. Publishing: Groton Daily Independent \$252.66; McQuillen Creative Group, Inc \$276.43. Rentals: Pantorium Cleaners Inc \$207.36. Repairs & Maintenance: Ace Refrigeration, LLC \$226.95; B & B Contracting, Inc \$301.02; Dakota Pump LLC \$1,845.00; EcoLab Pest Elimination Division \$127.56; Graham Tire Inc \$189.75; HF Jacobs

& Son Const. Inc \$581.63; J & K Painting \$338.00; Jake’s Heating & Cooling \$144.90; Les Schwab Group Holdings LLC \$370.97; Pantorium Cleaners Inc \$235.96; Pomp’s Tire Service, Inc \$331.88; Quality Welding, Inc \$163.95. Supplies: A-1 Locksmithing \$10.00; AASLH-American Assoc for State & Local History \$237.00; ADAPCO LLC \$3,373.50; Advance Auto Parts \$764.65; Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$1,945.18; Artz Equipment, Inc \$1,477.78; Avera LTC Pharmacy Aberdeen \$1,334.11; Birmingham & Cwach Law Offices, PLLC \$8.73; Cartney Bearing \$206.60; Century Business Products \$547.41; Clarke Mosquito Control Products, Inc. \$382.71; Cole Paper Inc \$1,461.08; Cornwell Drug \$13.79; Crescent Electric Supply Co \$28.93; Dakota Electronics LLC \$634.70; Dakota Oil \$3,477.03; Dakota Supply Group \$46.91; Geffdog Designs \$3,154.18; Graham Tire Inc \$800.38; Hall Sand & Gravel, Inc \$598.10; Hillyard Sioux Falls \$21.05; Intoximeters \$409.75; Jensen Rock & Sand Inc \$59,727.60; Kuck Law Office \$78.78; Les Schwab Group Holdings LLC \$86.96; Lien Transportation Company \$141,300.00; Menards \$133.01; Midstates Group \$348.00; Minn-Kota Communications, Inc \$23,378.28; Nelson Sales & Service, LLC \$29.98; NVC \$32.36; Performance Oil \$29.30; Pomp’s Tire Service, Inc \$603.12; Pro Ag Supply, Inc \$45.73; Runnings \$38.97; Sander’s Sew-N-Vac \$689.24; Taliaferro Law Firm, PC \$72.50; Thomson Reuters – West Payment Center \$2,010.00. Travel & Conference: Derek Hoefert \$20.00; Kent Karlen \$14.00; Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC \$120.00; Steve Westby \$14.00. Utilities: CenturyLink \$496.08; City of Aberdeen Treasurer \$458.49; City of Hecla \$162.44; Dependable Sanitation, Inc \$396.00; Economy Propane, LLC \$864.30; Northern Electric \$93.50; Northwestern Energy \$110.44; NVC \$3,952.50; Verizon Wireless \$600.29. Other: Office of Weights & Measures-SD Dept of Public Safety \$103.00; SD Assoc of County Officials \$944.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

o Resignation of Carlos Caraballo Rodriguez as Brown County Assistant Jail Administrator: FT, effective August 16, 2025. Request to fill.

oHiring of Ian Cole as Brown County 911 Communications Officer: FT, starting wage \$23.04/hr. – effective August 18, 2025.
o Hiring of Abigail Rang as Brown County 911 Communications Officer: FT, starting wage \$23.04/hr. – effective August 25, 2025.
All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
CLAIM ASSIGNMENTS: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, 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 Dennert to approve the following Travel Requests:

Dirk Rogers & Matt Heupel, Highway Department to attend Superintendent Certification & Office Staff Training on August 13, 2025 in Pierre; Mike Scott, Landfill to attend SD Solid Waste Annual Conference on September 10-12, 2025 in Mitchell; Jessica Puente-Castro, Brandon Duxbury, Alaina Perry, Jay Hopkins-Entzel, Marianne Marttila-Klipfel from Dacotah Prairie Museum to attend Tour of Akta Lakota Museum & Cultural Center on August 18, 2025 in Chamberlain. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
OTHER BUSINESS: District 3 Senator, Carl Perry wanted to give a Thank-you to Rachel Kippley and the Fair board for all their hard work and putting together another great Fair, where there is ‘No Parking or

Admission Fee”.
EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to go into Executive Session for Legal per SDCL 1-25-2. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
The Vice-Chairman declared the Executive Session closed with No Action taken.
ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:38 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor
Published August 27, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$82.85 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublishnotices.com. 25953

The Life of Alexander Donley



Alexander Matthew Donley, 32, passed away unexpectedly at his home in Idaho Falls, Idaho, on July 26, 2025.

Alexander Matthew Donley was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts, on October 17, 1992, to Sonda Kay Donley. They lived in Salem, New Hampshire, and then moved back to the Groton/Aberdeen, South Dakota area in 1994. Alex attended K-6th grade at Groton Elementary School. Middle School was an adventure, attended in Southern Utah and Colorado. In 2011, he was a proud recipient of a diploma from Greely West High School in Greely, Colorado. Good grades came easily, especially in Math classes, but woodworking and playing soccer were his favorites. Quite the feat, he made the varsity soccer team as a freshman at Greely West. Alex met Alyssa in high school through their mutual love and involvement in soccer. They were blessed with two beautiful children, Landyn and Scarlett. Alex and Alyssa were fully committed to their children even when they parted ways as companions. Being a father was the most important title Alex held; encouragement in sports was further supported by coaching Landyn’s baseball team and Scarlett’s soccer team. He was their biggest fan on & off the field/court.

After High School, Alex moved to Utah and was able to attend some college courses, of which welding and art classes were his favorite. The majority of his adult life, other than the adventurous year that he spent living out of his camper trailer in Tennessee, was spent in Utah. Most recently, he resided in Idaho Falls while working towards his dream of moving to Minnesota and living on the piece of land that he recently purchased. Tragically, he passed away before he could fully achieve his goal of living out of a 5th wheel camper trailer on his own property and eventually building a home there.

Alex was very creative and loved drawing, woodworking, and welding. Another passion of his was working on, fixing, and customizing vehicles, especially his 2004 Acura RSX. Frequent visits to junk yards, parts stores, online research, phone calls, and a lot of time wrenching were involved.

Having never liked the name Alexander or Alex, a few years ago, he started going by Xander. Problem solved, albeit a little confusing among family and friends.

Xander’s spiritual journey brought him back to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints a few years ago, and he shared that with Landyn and Scarlett. His drive, thirst for knowledge, and growth in the church enabled him to perform Landyn’s and Scarlett’s baptisms. Church meetings, family prayers, scripture reading, time with the missionaries, service projects, and church activities, it was a special time in their lives as a family. He enjoyed participating in Landyn’s young men’s activities, always up for a camping trip or temple outing. Xander played on an adult softball team, an occasional football game, and spent a lot of time with the children at the Clearfield Rec Center.

Xander had several jobs between 2011-2016, experiences that were put to good use when he started his own business in 2016. An enterprising ability allowed him to successfully sustain this business. He enjoyed being a business owner and the flexibility it provided for him to be able to spend more time with his children while working from home. Xander was never afraid to take a chance, expand his product line, or figure out better ways to run the business.

Some favorite activities were soccer, snowboarding, snowmobiling, skateboarding, four-wheeling, camping, and golfing. He loved being able to incorporate his passions to include Landyn and Scarlett, teaching them and participating with them. Xander had a love of singing, music in general, and dabbled in playing the guitar.

A unique way of making people feel seen was one of his many gifts. His energetic smile and bright eyes drew people to him. When talking with Xander, he always had a funny or lighthearted comment ready.

Xander has left a deep void in the lives of all those who loved and knew him. His best traits, qualities, and passions will live on through his children.

Xander is survived by his two children: Landyn and Scarlett Donley; his mother, Sonda Donley; his grandparents: Donald (Joann) Donley of Groton, SD & Donna Prescott of Billings, MT; as well as numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his uncle, Jacob Donley (2024); his great-grandparents, Grandma and Papa Donley, Orville (1988), Edith (2016); Abby (2020).

A Memorial Service will be held at 1:00 p.m., Friday, August 8, 2025, at the LDS Church, 2375 E. 3225 N., Layton, Utah. Cremation is under the care of Coltrin Mortuary, 2100 First Street, Idaho Falls. Condolences are welcome at www.coltrinemortuary.com.

The Life of Keith Lowary



Keith Farrell Lowary, a lifelong resident of Aberdeen, SD, passed away peacefully at the age of 97 on June 13, 2025. Born on September 27, 1927, in Groton, SD, Keith lived a life filled with family, friends, hard work, and a good dose of dry humor.

Keith's life was marked by dedication to his family and a strong work ethic. He was a man of many trades, from owning a hog business to driving an over the road semi-truck for 30 years, and finally, returning to his roots as an agriculture and livestock farmer until the age of 90-ish. He often said, "Your children are really the only thing in the world that you can truly call your own," a testament to his deep love for his family.

He was married twice and is survived by his ex-wife, Virginia. Keith had seven children: Gary, Kim, and Todd from his marriage to Joyce; and Stacey, Sherry, Shanell, and Summer from his marriage to Virginia. He is also survived by 13 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. He shared a special 40+ year relationship with Donna Tichi, whose family considered him a father figure and grandfather. Keith was preceded in death by his first wife, Joyce; his oldest sister, Lucille Sauck; his second oldest sister, Nina Vaughn; his younger brother, Loy Lowary; and his granddaughter, Christine Lowary.

Keith absolutely loved fishing, home cooking, playing cards often with a bit of playful trash talk like "I've got a horse from every stable" and "Give me a card I can use for once", and enjoying coffee with friends at the StarLite (now Marlins). He had a dry wit and enjoyed old spaghetti westerns and the Blues Brothers. He was a man of the salt of the earth, who always wanted to help his neighbors and fellow farmers. He was beloved by all who knew him.

He will be cremated and laid to rest with his parents, Bessie and William, and brother, Loy, at Groton Union Cemetery.

The family extends their deepest gratitude to Hospice care, the compassionate staff at Bethesda Nursing Home, and Richard (Dick) Fry for their exceptional care and unwavering dedication to Keith in his final years. Their kindness made a profound difference.



The girls (above) and boys (below) lineups.
(Photos by Paul Kosel)



Mia Crank
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Ethan Kroll
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Gage Sippel
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Jaedyn Penning
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Sweeps Belle Fourche on the Soccer Field

The Groton Area soccer teams put on a dominating display Thursday, with both the boys and girls squads earning victories over Belle Fourche.

Girls Game

The Lady Tigers lit up the scoreboard with an 8-0 shutout win, overwhelming Belle Fourche with a relentless attack. Groton struck early in the first half as Jerica Locke found the net in the 4th minute and added another just two minutes later off a feed from McKenna Tietz. That gave Groton a 2-0 halftime cushion.

The second half was all Groton, as Locke poured in four more goals to finish with five on the night. She also handed out two assists, setting up teammates along the way. Tietz

added a goal in the 60th minute, while Brenna Imrie and Sydney Locke each found the net late to round out the scoring. Assists also came from Mia Crank and Addison Hoffman.

Groton's explosive second-half surge secured the 8-0 win, giving them strong momentum heading into the weekend.

Boys Game

The boys earned a hard-fought 2-1 victory to complete the sweep. Easton Weber and Karson Zak each tallied goals for the Tigers, with Drake Peterson contributing an assist. In goal, Gage Sippel was outstanding, turning away 16 shots to preserve the win.

Tigers Sweep Cavaliers at NSU Pavilion

Special to the Groton Daily Independent via ChatGPT

The Groton Area Tigers put on a strong showing Saturday, August 23rd, at the Northern State University Pavilion, defeating the St. Thomas More Cavaliers in both girls' and boys' soccer action.

Girls Game: Groton 2, St. Thomas More 0

The Tigers girls struck first midway through the opening half. With 36:57 on the clock, Jerica Locke found the back of the net on a perfect setup from McKenna Tietz, giving Groton a 1-0 advantage. Later in the half, a miscue by the Cavaliers helped the Tigers extend their lead. With 21:53 remaining, a St. Thomas More player attempted to control the ball with her chest, but it ricocheted into her own goal. Locke was credited with the score, and Groton took a 2-0 lead into halftime.

That proved to be all the Tigers needed. Behind a steady defense and sharp goalkeeping, Groton held St. Thomas More scoreless the rest of the way to secure the win. The Tigers improve to 3-1 on the season, while St. Thomas More drops to 2-2. Groton currently holds second place in the state girls' soccer ratings.

Boys Game: Groton 4, St. Thomas More 1

The boys' contest started with the Cavaliers on top after Carter Stamper converted a penalty kick at the 21:16 mark, putting St. Thomas More ahead 1-0. But the Tigers answered before halftime. With 9:24 left in the first half, Carson Zak buried a shot to tie the game, and it stayed knotted 1-1 at the break.

Groton took over in the second half. Logan Olson scored just minutes in, giving the Tigers their first lead at 2-1. Then came one of the plays of the game: with 30:52 left, Zak threw the ball in but hung back as the action moved downfield. When a St. Thomas More defender gained possession, Zak stole it back, turned, and blasted it into the net to extend the lead to 3-1.

The Tigers capped the victory late when Easton Weber scored with 4:58 remaining, sealing a 4-1 win. Groton remains unbeaten at 4-0 on the season, while the Cavaliers fell to 1-1. In the latest state ratings, the Tigers are tied for first place with Vermillion.

Looking Ahead

The Tigers return to action Thursday in Groton. The girls will host Garretson at 4 p.m., followed by the boys' matchup with Freeman Academy at 6 p.m.

The games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Agtegra, Avantara, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Bierman Farm Service, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Full Circle Ag, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, Groton Legion, Heartland Energy, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Lounge and The MeatHouse.



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