



\$2

The Groton Independent

Vol. 143 No. 02 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025 ♦ Established in 1889



Representatives from T-Mobile were on hand Tuesday evening to present the \$5,000 Friday Night 5G Lights award to the Groton Area School. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Babcock VCSU Receives Alumni Service Award

The Alumni Service Award was adopted by the Valley City a State University Alumni Association to recognize alumni or university friends who have attained exceptional achievement in their careers and have made significant contributions to the University through dedicated service, promotion, financial support or other efforts. This year's recipient is Bruce Babcock '78 from Groton, S.D.

Word has been received that Virginia Spencer has died. Paul Kosel bought the Groton Independent from the Spencers on October 1, 1986. A service will be held later in October at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel in Groton.

GROTON Chamber Of Commerce



Support the Playground Upgrade! Donate through Venmo @GrotonChamber or drop off contributions at City Hall & Dacotah Bank.

Classifieds and Card of Thanks

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

- 1 Week: \$9 for first 30 words, 20¢/word thereafter
 - 2 Wks: \$17 for first 30 words, 38¢/word thereafter
 - 3 Wks: \$24 for first 30 words, 54¢/word thereafter
 - 4th consecutive week is free
- 605/397-NEWS (6397)**
PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

AGRICULTURE

ATTENTION FARMERS seeing white mold in your fields? Noticing SDS? Share your location and enter to win FREE soybean seeds for 2026. Call Emily 605/290-8383

EMPLOYMENT

FAULK COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT is accepting applications for the following position: Full/Part-Time Highway Maintenance Position. Pay \$24-25/hr. Depending on DOE. Call 605-598-6233 for more information.

FOR SALE

HOUSE FOR SALE in Gettysburg. Great hunting getaway. 75'x140' lot, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$50,000, will consider offers. Call/text Bill Fischer 605-769-2004. Pics on Zillow.com

LAND

IN SEARCH OF PASTURE for 50-300 Pairs. 5th Generation, SD, ranchers looking to expand. Long term lease preferred but would consider short term. Call (605)690-1997

MISCELLANEOUS

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2 ♦ Groton Independent ♦ Wed., Oct. 1, 2025



SEPTEMBER 23, 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 Wiese 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: Joe Kraft, Equalization Appraiser and Mike Herman, Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve (ESGR) Area Volunteer presented Gene Loeschke, Director of Equalization with The Patriot Award from The Secretary of Defense, for his support of Joe, who is a service member and his family.

DISCUSS ANNEXATION OF FAIRGROUNDS: Chairman Sutton shared that the County Commission has been in extensive talks with Mayor Schaubman and the City Council regarding Annexing in the Fairgrounds. This would be a benefit for the City of Aberdeen and Brown County. Sutton explained that the City of Aberdeen will pass an Ordinance, Ron Wager, City Attorney, has drafted a contract that has been reviewed by the State's Attorney, and it allows the County to deannex if the process doesn't work out. The Contract will need to be approved by the Aberdeen City Council, Brown County Commission and Fair Board; then signed by the Mayor of Aberdeen, Chairman for Commission and President of the Fair Board. The City of Aberdeen will not be able to enforce City Ordinances at the Fairgrounds. The Fairgrounds will continue to be managed and controlled by the County, including alcohol licenses. The City of Aberdeen will be able to charge an additional 2-3% Sales Tax, which would be returned to the County on a Quarterly Basis and be put into the Fairgrounds Improvement Fund, estimating \$120 to \$150 thousand. Chairman Sutton also stated that they have had conversations with the Department of Revenue, and they don't have any opposition to this agreement.

Commissioner Dinger asked Rachel Kippley, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager, to share what the funds would be used for. Rachel stated she developed a Strategic Plan, which includes the new 4-H Building; Grandstand within 5 years and then roads and parking lots. Commissioner Wiese added that the Grandstand would include new restrooms as well. He feels the shared revenue will be beneficial to the entire region and personally appreciates the city for their willingness to do this.

Mayor Schaubman informed everyone that the Aberdeen City Planning and Zoning need to sign-off on this as well, they will be holding a special meeting on September 30th to pass the Ordinance. Then the City Council will act on the Ordinance. After that process the City Council will proceed with the contract.

APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the following application submitted by West Lake, LLC for occupancy of Brown County Highway 12W in Section 15-T123N-R64W, Brown County, South Dakota to clean out/excavate sediment from culvert invert; to be completed to pre-existing grades and widths. Road Closure and Corp of Engineers comms are the responsibility of the Owner. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent, informed the Commission that they have about 2 ½ weeks left of paving at Mansfield, then will go the

Bridge on 21, which will be followed by doing the North Parking Lot across from the Courthouse. Dirk shared he will need to visit with the city through regarding the entrance. Depending on the weather, they want to work on road going into Warner off 281 and Fairgrounds Road. They still have about 30 miles of striping to as well.

Dirk commented on the Drain Tile project at the Fairgrounds; he feels the outlet needs to go further to the East. He also shared that the James River is settling a little, currently at 33' below crest and Crow Creek is at 30". The gates are wide open. Dirk gave an update on the Training he attended last week, as well.

Commissioner Dinger asked if there were any updated on the Richmond Dam project. Dirk said he had not heard anything. Commissioner Dennert shared that he was informed that the water levels will be lower than anticipated.

ADOPT FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET: Auditor Heupel shared that she made some adjustments to the Mental Health Board Budget, because the County is looking at having a Mental Health Board again. So that budget would go from \$40,000.00 to \$56,400.00. Commissioner Gage stated this would save the County because the number of transports would go down; individuals would have a shorter stay in jail and would better serve the Community. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve this change with a new total budget of \$56,706,545.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. Auditor Heupel informed the Commission she will make the changes and present the Resolution next week.

APPROVAL OF BUDGET ADJUSTMENT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve the following Budget Adjustment for the State's Attorney 2025 Budget: 101.5.151.42221 – Competency Evals for \$5,000.00; 101.5.151.42222 – Psychological Evals for \$5,000.00 from 101.5.151.42204 – Psych/Sexual Evals for \$10,000.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Gage to approve the General Meeting Minutes of September 16, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims/payroll: Claims: Insurance: SD Assoc of County Commissioners \$21,569.00. Professional Fees: Alesha Stadel \$50.00; Ashley Seeklander \$50.00; Carrie Hansen \$50.00; Christy Griffin-Serr Law Office \$1,350.00; Credit Collections Bureau \$21.34; Dakota Group LLC \$5,664.07; Dohrer Law Office, PC \$1,440.00; Doreen Sperry \$50.00; Faulk County Sheriff's Office \$3,420.00; Florence Kraus \$50.00; Karin Sue Bartell \$50.00; Kristi Brandt \$42.50; Kuck Law Office \$4,020.00; Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC \$4,740.00; Lewis & Clark BHS \$225.00; Linda Huettl \$50.00; Priority Dispatch Corp \$245.00; Rosalie Schumacher \$50.00; Sanford Health Occupational Medicine \$96.00; Sanford Health \$675.00; SD Dept of Health \$2,235.00; Shirelle Stadel \$50.00; Wendy Brunos \$50.00; Yankton County Sheriff's Office \$50.00; US Bank \$130.00. Publishing: Aberdeen Catholic School System \$425.00; Dakota Broadcasting, LLC \$1,960.00; McQuillen Creative Group, Inc \$926.45; US Bank 300.00. Repairs & Maintenance: EcoLab Pest Elimination Division \$100.00; Jason's Electric Inc \$2,265.09; LyCox Enterprises Inc \$1,350.00; Pierson Ford Lincoln, Inc \$5,211.66; US Bank \$6,353.01. Supplies: Advance Auto Parts \$286.14; Agtegra Cooperative \$2,115.67; Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$1,016.36; Avera LTC Pharmacy Aberdeen \$1,151.17; Central Network Retail Group LLC \$30.87; Century Business Products \$57.54; Cole Paper Inc \$695.10; Dakota Electronics LLC \$55.00;

Dakota Oil \$4,025.70; Farm Power Mfg. \$162.11; Gefffod Designs \$28.06; GovConnection, Inc \$182.70; Jebro Inc \$60,632.54; Josh Lee \$394.96; Ken's SuperFair Foods \$504.45; Lien Transportation Company \$18,612.00; Marco Technologies, LLC \$575.86; Menards \$191.32; Network Center, Inc \$215.00; NVC \$34.16; Performance Oil \$596.46; Pierson Ford Lincoln, Inc \$865.12; Sherwin Williams \$33.88; Stan Houston Equipment Company, Inc \$157.59; Steven Lust Automotive \$95.80; Titan Machinery \$210.75; US Bank \$21,153.89. Travel & Conference: Aaron Walberg \$415.40; Carrie Hansen \$60.06; Carrie Weisenberger \$51.24; Dale Kurth \$167.58; David North \$157.08; Gene Loeschke \$485.60; James Meyers \$31.50; JDHQ Hotels LLC \$660.00; Jesse Milbrandt \$415.40; Joe Kraft \$485.60; Karin Sue Bartell \$59.36; Kent Karlen \$14.00; Kuck Law Office \$162.16; Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC \$80.00; Linda Marcuson \$14.00; Michael Gage \$235.00; Northeast South Dakota Family Violence Prevention Conference \$475.00; Patrick Keatts \$33.88; Paul Johnson \$138.18; Rosalie Schumacher \$85.68; Sarah Swenson \$485.60; Scott Kolb \$14.00; Stan Beckler \$27.30; Stephanie Morgan \$485.60; US Bank \$3,083.41. Utilities: CenturyLink \$568.95; City of Aberdeen Treasurer \$3,955.72; Dependable Sanitation, Inc \$580.00; Northwestern Energy \$1,143.82; NVC \$3,868.56; T-Mobile USA Inc \$2,184.00; US Bank \$4,234.71. Other: LyCox Enterprises Inc \$24,845.00. Payroll: Commission \$4,896.51; Elections \$1,936.80; Auditor/Welfare \$11,393.91; Treasurer \$18,764.33; SA \$35,664.23; Public Defender \$9,778.21; Maintenance \$12,893.75; Assessor \$16,602.31; Register of Deeds \$10,905.91; VSO \$4,628.31; GIS \$2,946.49; IT \$10,005.68; HR \$5,490.98; Sheriff \$63,215.01; Jail \$77,167.36; Coroner (Voucher) \$1,000.00; Court Security \$7,357.25; JDC \$33,323.77; Museum \$12,690.10; Parks/Fairgrounds \$8,568.93; Fair Board \$2,749.45; Weed \$5,852.33; Planning & Zoning \$8,062.17; Highway \$56,233.98; Dispatch \$41,114.82; Emergency \$5,498.56; 24/7 Sobriety \$2,460.95; Landfill \$22,219.00; Meal Benefits \$104.00; FICA \$29,212.96; Medicare \$6,832.11; HSA \$2,309.40. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

- o Hiring of Misty Dosch as Brown County Fair/4-H Administrative Assistant; FT – starting wage \$20.87/hr. – effective September 26, 2025.

- o Return of Sarah Hartje as Brown County Fair Event Coordinator; FT – starting wage \$25.43/hr. – effective October 27, 2025.

- o Payment of retirement award for Daniel Schlosser in the amount of \$150.00 before taxes, and the requirement was met.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIM ASSIGNMENTS: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert 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.

ZONING ORDINANCES – SET HEARING DATE/AUTHORIZE ADVERTISING: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to set hearing date and authorize publication for the first reading of the following zoning ordinances to be held on October 14, 2025 in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota. Proposed Ordinance #311, applicant David Sieh for the purpose of rezoning the following property from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its future use. Description of property: Proposed Lot 1, "Sieh Family First Addition" in the SE1/4 of Section 13-T125N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (39970 121st Street; Columbia Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

MOHR FIRST ADDITION TO COLUMBIA PLAT:

RESOLUTION #2025-42
It was moved by Commissioner Dennert and seconded by Dinger and motion carried that the plat as shown hereon and as described on the accompanying

play of "MOHR FIRST ADDITION TO COLUMBIA" in the NE ¼ of Section 29, Township 125 North, Range 62 West of the 5th P.M., in Brown County, South Dakota, be approved an accepted an the County Auditor is hereby instructed to endorse on such plat a copy of this resolution and to certify the same. All members present voting aye. Resolution adopted.

CHRISTIANSON FIRST SUBDIVISION PLAT:

RESOLUTION #2025-43

Commissioner Gage brought the following Resolution "Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "CHRISTIANSON FIRST SUBDIVISION in the SW ¼ OF SECTION 15-T126N-R63W of the 5TH P.M., Brown County South Dakota" having been examined, is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL 11-3, and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Dinger. All members present voting aye. Resolution adopted.

LOWARY FAMILY FIRST ADDITION PLAT:

RESOLUTION #2025-44

Commissioner Dennert brought the following Resolution "Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "LOWARY FAMILY FIRST ADDITION in the ne ¼ OF SECTION 27-T123N-R64W of the 5TH P.M., Brown County South Dakota" having been examined, is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL 11-3, and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Wiese. All members present voting aye. Resolution adopted.

SUMPTION OUTLOT PLAT:

RESOLUTION #2025-45

Commissioner Gage brought the following Resolution "Be it resolved by the County Commission of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "SUMPTION OUTLOT in the se ¼ OF SECTION 33-TOWNSHIP 128 NORTH, RANGE 64 WEST of the 5TH P.M., Brown County South Dakota" having been examined, is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-3, and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Dinger. All members present voting aye. Resolution adopted.

SIEH FAMILY FIRST ADDITION PLAT:

RESOLUTION #2025-46

Commissioner Gage brought the following Resolution "Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "SIEH FAMILY FIRST ADDITION in the se ¼ OF SECTION 13-T125N-R62W of the 5TH P.M., Brown County South Dakota" having been examined, is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL 11-3, and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Dennert. All members present voting aye. Resolution adopted.

KEATTS NINTH SUBDIVISION TO RICHMOND LAKE PLAT:

RESOLUTION #2025-47

Commissioner Dinger brought the following Resolution "Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "KEATTS NINTH SUBDIVISION TO RICHMOND LAKE in the W ½ OF NW ¼ OF SECTION 23-T124N-R65W of the 5TH P.M., Brown County South Dakota" having been examined, is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL 11-3, and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Wiese. All members present voting aye. Resolution adopted.

OTHER BUSINESS: Chairman Sutton shared that the Brown County Courthouse will be lit up in purple the month of October for Awareness of Domestic Violence and in November it will be lit up in Green in support of Operation Green Light for Veterans.

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 9:58 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published October 1, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$146.76 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublic-notices.com. 26060

Groton Chiropractic Clinic

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



West Hanson Township Mowing Notice

All road right of ways in West Hanson Township must be cut by October 15th. Mowing must extend from the road edge to the field edge or fence line. The Township will cut the right of ways not cut with cost charged to the landowner. The charge of \$150 per lot. \$250 per half mile and \$500 per mile will be charged to the landowner. Per Certified Law 31-32-2 the owner or occupant of any abutting or adjoining upon township roads shall cut, remove or destroy, or cause to be cut any grass, weeds, trees and brush growing in the right of way of such roads.

Jennifer Dirks, Clerk West Hanson Township
Published twice on Sept. 25 and Oct. 2, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$14.13. 26030



Henry Township owners and tenants of Henry township are hereby notified and required according to law, to cut all weeds in road ditches adjacent to their property or tenanted by them within said township on or before October 15, 2025 or someone will be hired by the township board and \$250.00 per half mile charged to abutting property. By order of the township board
Darlene Sass
Township Clerk
Published October 1 and 8, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$10.75 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26062



NOTICE

An application has been made by David Sieh to the Brown County Board of Commissioners for a change of zoning. Hearing to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota on October 14, 2025 for the purpose of rezoning the following property from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its future use.

Description of property: Proposed Lot 1, "Sieh Family First Addition" in the SE1/4 of Section 13-T125N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (39970 121st Street; Columbia Twp.).

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the amendment to the Second Revision Brown County Ordinances pertaining to rezoning the property described. At conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt the first reading of Ordinance No. 311.

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor
Published October 1, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$12.57 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com.

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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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Evelyn Grace Moll

Evelyn Grace Moll was born at 8:46 a.m. on Sept. 20, 2025 at Provo, Utah. She weighed 6 lbs., 7 oz. and was 18.5 inches long. Parents are Julianna and Isaac Moll of Provo, Utah. Grandparents are Paul and Tina Kosel of Groton, and Suzanne and Cameron Moll, Sarasota, Fla. Great-Grandparents are Milton and Shirley Kosel, Sioux Falls; Bonnie and Ron Buechler, Mobridge; Kraig and Nelleen Moll, Spring Branch, Texas; and Love Brouse from Florida.

First Lutheran Church Votes to Begin Process of Leaving ELCA

Sioux Falls, SD — First Lutheran Church of Sioux Falls, one of the city's largest and most historic congregations, took a significant step toward leaving the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) this past Sunday. Congregation members voted 360–170 in favor of a resolution to terminate affiliation, exceeding the two-thirds threshold of 354 votes by six.

The vote follows months of study, listening sessions, and work by a Church Governance Task Force that examined theological and legal implications of continued ELCA membership. Church leaders cited concerns about recent and proposed ELCA governance changes, including limits on congregational control, property issues, and language that could affect pastors' public speech and congregational autonomy.

First Lutheran also consulted the Lutheran Congregational Support Network (LCSN), which assists churches in evaluating ELCA policies and, if needed, navigating disaffiliation.

This first vote is just the initial step in a two-vote process required by ELCA rules. A second vote, to be held at least 90 days later, must also pass with a two-thirds majority before the congregation can officially disaffiliate.

According to The Christian Post, about half a dozen South Dakota congregations have recently pursued or pledged to pursue similar exits, signaling a broader regional trend. First Lutheran has not announced whether it would join another Lutheran body or remain independent after disaffiliation.

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The Long Term Care Ombudsman Program is actively seeking caring, responsible volunteers to help support and advocate for older adults.



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 "Frozen" character
- 5 Droop
- 8 Aspiring atty.'s exam
- 12 Former Italian money
- 13 — Beta Kappa
- 14 Off-roaders, for short
- 15 Grand tale
- 16 Trail the pack
- 17 Clench
- 18 Garden pavilion
- 20 "Reckon so"
- 22 Asian holiday
- 23 Busy insect
- 24 Dick Tracy's love

- 27 Russian horsemen
- 32 "Breaking Bad" network
- 33 Ad —
- 34 Smack
- 35 Seller
- 38 Ballyhoo
- 39 Put on TV
- 40 Ecol. watchdog
- 42 Oscar contenders
- 45 Roast hosts
- 49 Salt formula
- 50 PC key
- 52 Hardy cabbage
- 53 Fed. workplace monitor

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- 54 Fan's cry
- 55 Wicked
- 56 Unfavorable votes
- 57 Journalist Nellie
- 58 Coral formation
- 6 "Caught ya!"
- 7 Leslie Caron role
- 8 California's — Beach
- 9 Spandex-like
- 10 Rara —
- 11 Recipe amts.
- 19 Exist
- 21 Petrol
- 24 Light touch
- 25 Big bird of Australia
- 26 Sore, as a throat
- 28 Odometer start
- 29 Like some owls
- 30 Half a ton
- 31 Fr. holy woman
- 36 Orchestral strings
- 37 Goof up
- 38 Website invader
- 41 Downing Street VIP
- 42 Shortly
- 43 Juanita's home
- 44 Belgrade resident
- 46 Roof edge
- 47 Writer Wiesel
- 48 Ego
- 51 Pitcher Maglie

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The Minnesota Vikings’ trip to Ireland ended in disappointment, as they fell to the Pittsburgh Steelers 24-21. This game was decided before the two teams ever took the field, thanks to every media outlet confidently proclaiming that the Vikings would easily win this game. As any true Vikings fan knows, the Vikings are almost guaranteed to lose any game where they are big favorites.

The Steelers got the ball to start the game, went backwards, then punted. The Vikings went 51 yards in 11 plays on their opening drive but had to settle for a field goal. Pittsburgh responded with a touchdown drive to make the score 3-7 at the end of the first quarter.

Things started going off the rails in the second quarter, which started with a Vikings punt. One play later, Aaron Rodgers hit D.K. Metcalf for an 80-yard touchdown, extending Pittsburgh’s lead to 3-14. Minnesota actually had a decent drive on their next possession, but a Carson Wentz interception brought it to an abrupt end. The best play for the Vikings in the first half happened on the next Steelers’ drive, when Isaiah Rodgers blocked a field goal attempt, which the Vikings turned into a field goal of their own to make the score 6-14 heading into halftime.

Both teams traded three-and-outs to begin the second half. On their second possession of the third quarter, Carson Wentz threw another interception, which led to a Pittsburgh touchdown, extending their lead to 6-21. The Vikings responded by going backwards nine yards then punting, and suddenly we were into the fourth quarter.

PIT kicked a field goal to begin the fourth quarter, making it a three-score game. The Vikings finally started to show some signs of life in the fourth quarter, putting together two touchdown drives – one for 70 yards, the other for 99 yards – making the score 21-24. A Steelers three-and-out on their next possession gave the Vikings the ball at their 20-yard line with a minute left on the clock. Minnesota couldn’t make magic happen, and an incomplete pass on fourth down put the final nail in the coffin.

Carson Wentz completed 30 of 46 passes for 350 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions. He also took six sacks and had a drive-altering intentional grounding penalty on the Vikings’ final possession.

Jordan Mason could only muster 57 yards on 16 carries. Justin Jefferson led the team with 10 catches for 126 yards. Jordan Addison, reinstated after his three-game suspension, caught four passes for 114 yards, highlighted by an 81-yard reception in the fourth quarter, though he was surprisingly caught from behind at the one-yard line by a linebacker

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There is plenty of blame to go around, but in my opinion, the biggest reason for the loss was the Vikings’ defense. They failed to force a single turnover, allowed Aaron Rodgers to complete 18 of 22 passes, and gave up 4.5 yards per carry on the ground.

I thought about not including a player of the game, but I’d be remiss to not mention Jalen Redmond, who was the only Vikings defender who did anything productive Sunday. The Vikings had two sacks (both by Redmond), four tackles for a loss (two by Redmond), and three QB hits (two by Redmond).

J.J. McCarthy might be the biggest benefactor from Sunday’s game, because it’s clear that Wentz is not going to keep McCarthy out of the lineup once he returns from injury.

Looking ahead, the Vikings will remain overseas and prepare to face the Cleveland Browns in London. The game will be another 8:30 am kickoff.

Groton Sports Weekly Roundup

Golf

Jace Johnson earned his fourth trip to the State Class A Boys Golf Tournament with a 10th-place finish at the Region 1A meet on Monday. Johnson shot an 87 on the par-71 course, comfortably qualifying among the top 19 golfers. Other Groton competitors included Liam Johnson (97), Jarrett Erdmann (99), Haden Harder (109), and Jayden Schwan (111). The State Tournament will be held October 6–7 in Vermillion.

Volleyball

The Groton volleyball team bounced back from a tough loss to Warner with two dominant sweeps. On Thursday, the Tigers rolled past Tiospa Zina in straight sets (25-12, 25-12, 25-8), improving to 8-3. Jaedyn Penning (8 kills, 7 aces, 4 digs) and Tevan Hanson (10 kills) led a balanced attack, while Chesney Weber set the pace with 26 assists. Coach Chelsea Hanson praised the team’s focus and mental toughness throughout the match.

Groton followed up on Tuesday with a commanding 3-0 win over Great Plains Lutheran (25-8, 25-17, 25-15), moving to 9-3 overall. Rylee Dunker (9 kills), Taryn Traphagen (8 kills, 2 blocks), and Penning (6 aces, 15 digs) highlighted a well-rounded team performance. The Tigers also swept the JV and C-squad matches.

Soccer

It was a week of ups and downs for Groton soccer. On Saturday, both the boys and girls dropped hard-fought 1-0 contests to West Central. But Monday night brought redemption as the Tigers swept Dakota Valley.

The girls stunned the state’s No. 1 Panthers with a 1-0 victory, thanks to Sydney Locke’s goal off a corner kick from Taryn Traphagen with just over eight minutes left. Head coach Matt Baumgartner praised his team’s defensive discipline and energy.

The boys followed with a 3-0 shutout, fueled by two penalty-kick goals from Karson Zac and a late strike from Logan Olson. Coach Ryan Olson credited both the hustle that drew the penalties and the defense that preserved the clean sheet. Both squads now enter the final week of the regular season with momentum heading into the Oct. 7 playoffs.

Football

Groton fell 20-7 to Clark-Willow Lake on Friday despite a gritty effort. Freshman quarterback Asher Johnson scored his first career rushing touchdown in the second quarter to put the Tigers ahead early, but the Cyclones responded with two touchdowns from Jakob Steen and another score in the second half to pull away.

Coach Shaun Wanner praised his team’s fight, noting that “just a couple big plays got us,” while statistician Tom Woods reminded fans that the lessons of perseverance are as valuable as wins. Groton, now 1-5, heads into a rivalry matchup with Aberdeen Roncalli this week.

Cross Country

The Tigers hosted the Olive Grove Golf Course meet on Monday. Ryelle Gilbert led the girls’ varsity with a 6th-place finish (21:25.66), while Riley Shellenberger took 12th in the boys’ varsity race (20:11.70). Sydney Holmes placed 3rd in the JV girls’ race, and in middle school competition, Avery Huber won the girls’ division in 14:06.68. Several other young Tigers also posted top-15 finishes, showing depth across the program.

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Upcoming Events

Thursday, October 2nd:

Senior Menu: Chicken rice casserole, California blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Cereal.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Nigeria Circle, 2 p.m.
School Lunch: Lasagna bake, peas.
- Cross Country @ Sisseton (4pm)
- JH VB vs. Milbank (7th grade @ 4pm, 8th grade @ 5pm)
- Girls Soccer @ Watertown (6pm)

Friday, October 3rd:

Senior Menu: Hamburger cabbage roll hotdish, mixed vegetables, pears, cornmeal muffin.
School Breakfast: Egg wraps.
School Lunch: Chicken fajita, santa fe corn.
- Football @ Roncalli (Dacotah Bank Stadium - 7pm)

Saturday, October 4th:

- Volleyball @ Redfield Tournament (9am vs. Redfield, 10am vs. North Central, 12pm vs. Madison, 3pm vs. Timber Lake)

Sunday, Oct. 5

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday School 10:15 a.m.; Choir 6 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion at St. John's, 9 a.m., and Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
United Methodist: Worship with communion at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.
Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m. 5th Grade GBB, 4 p.m.
2nd Grade GBB Practice, 4 p.m.
Dance Team Practice, 5 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 6

Senior Menu: Sweet and sour pork, steamed rice, carrot and broccoli medley, corn, honey fruit salad.
School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels.
School Lunch: Oriental chicken, rice.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Ladies Aid LWML, 1 p.m.
State Golf Tournament in Vermillion
MS Football vs. Roncalli in Groton (7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m.; JV at 6 p.m.)
4th Grade GBB, 4 p.m.
Volleyball hosts Mobridge-Pollock (Gym: 7th-4, 8th-5; Arena: C-4, JV-5, V-6:15).

Tuesday, Sept. 7

Senior Menu: Meat loaf, baked potato, anti-gua blend, fruited Jello, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Breakfast sliders.
School Lunch: Tater tot hot dish, mixed vegetables.
State Golf Tournament in Vermillion
First Round Soccer Playoffs
First Grade GBB, 3:30 p.m.
Fifth Grade GBB, 4:15 p.m.

The Life of MaryAnn Wehde

The funeral service for MaryAnn Wehde, 90, of Aberdeen, SD, will be 11:00am, Monday, October 6, 2025, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, with Pastor Matt Spoden officiating. Burial at Sunset Memorial Gardens. MaryAnn died Monday, September 29, 2025, at Bethesda Home of Aberdeen.

Visitation will be 4:00-6:00pm, Sunday, followed by a prayer service at 6:00pm at Spitzer-Miller Funeral Home, 1111 South Main Street.

MaryAnn Fjelstad was born February 26, 1935, to Magnus and Eva (Hoybak) Fjelstad, in Aberdeen, SD. She attended grade school at Henry Neill in Aberdeen and graduated from Aberdeen Central High School. She went on to attend Northern Normal School (now Northern State University) and taught in a one room school.

MaryAnn married Lyle Ellingson on February 8, 1955, in El Paso, TX, and they lived on a farm near Stratford, SD. MaryAnn was the bookkeeper for the Sinclair Service Station they owned in Conde, SD. She also worked as bookkeeper for Northwestern Public Service in Conde, then Browns Fertilizer Plant. She later worked for Graham Tire and Aman Collections in Aberdeen.

MaryAnn was a good seamstress and made clothes and suits for her family. She also enjoyed needlework, embroidery and quilting. She was a fanatic with her crossword puzzles. She was a great cook and had a great sense of humor. MaryAnn was a humble woman. MaryAnn married Robert 'Bob' Wehde on December 14, 1991. Together, they spent winters in Arizona. She taught Sunday School at the United Methodist Church in Conde and later she helped with meals and gatherings at the United Methodist Church in Groton. One of her specialties was making lefsa. She loved spending time with close friends. MaryAnn loved and supported her grandchildren, and even at 90 years old, would sit on the floor and play with her great-grandchildren.

Grateful for having shared MaryAnn's life are her children: Terry (Susan) Ellingson, Vicki (Doug) Bierschbach, and Craig (Marilee) Ellingson and grandchildren: Scott Ellingson, Ryan (Becky) Ellingson, Chad (Haley) Ellingson, Sarah (Darin) Lowe, Steven Bierschbach, Shelly (Daan) Engels, Eric (Tava) Ellingson, Shayne (Sabryna) Ellingson, Chayce (Stephanie) Ellingson, and Bryan (Melissa) Collins; twenty-five great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Preceding MaryAnn in death are her parents Magnus & Eva Fjelstad; stepmother Maude (Bates) Fjelstad; husbands: Lyle Ellingson and Robert Wehde; brother Earl Fjelstad; stepsister Darlys (Bates) Murray; and stepson Ronald Wehde.



Wednesday, Sept. 8

Senior Menu: Oven fried chicken, sweet potatoes, green beans, pears, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Omelets.
School Lunch: Pasta primavera, cooked carrots.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:30 pm.
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, 5:30 p.m.
Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.
Fourth Grade GBB, 3:30 p.m.
Sixth Grade GBB, 6 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 9

Senior Menu: Baked fish, au gratin potatoes, 3-bean salad, peach cobbler, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Biscuits.
School Lunch: Sloppy joe, tri taters.
Flu Shot at Groton Area, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Northeast Conference Cross Country Meet, 1 p.m. at Webster
Parent-Teacher Conferences, 1:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Third Grade GBB, 5 p.m.
Third through Sixth Grade GBB Skills, 6 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 10

NO SCHOOL
Senior Menu: Creamed chicken over biscuits, peas and carrots pineapple..
Lake Region Marching Festival, 10 a.m.
JV Football vs. Sisseton at Langford, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 11

Second Round Soccer Playoffs
Junior High Volleyball Tournament at Warner

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

O	L	A	F	S	A	G	L	S	A	T
L	I	R	A	P	H	I	A	T	V	S
E	P	I	C	L	A	G	G	R	I	P
G	A	Z	E	B	O	I	G	U	E	S
	T	E	T		A	N	T			
T	E	S	S	C	O	S	S	A	C	K
A	M	C		H	O	C		H	I	T
P	U	R	V	E	Y	O	R		H	Y
	A	I	R		E	P	A			
A	C	T	O	R	S	E	M	C	E	E
N	A	C	L		E	S	C		K	A
O	S	H	A		R	A	H		E	V
N	A	Y	S		B	L	Y		R	E

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EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: Why do eco-advocates consider backyard gardens so crucial to conservation?
-- Paul Murphy, Butte, MT

Backyard gardens might seem like just a hobby or a way to make a home look nice, but they actually play a much bigger role in conservation. As cities expand and natural habitats shrink, small green spaces like home gardens can provide essential food and shelter for wildlife. This idea falls under garden ecology. This is a field that looks at how gardens function as ecosystems. Homeowners can make a real difference in supporting biodiversity by choosing the right plants and maintaining these spaces with care.

Backyard gardens help is by supporting pollinators like bees, butterflies and birds, all which rely on plants for food. In return, they help plants reproduce. “Urban gardens can act as mini-refuges for pollinators, especially in places where natural habitat is disappearing,” says Dr. Susannah Lerman, research ecologist with the U.S. Forest Service. First of all, without enough green spaces, pollinator populations decline. This then affects everything from wild plant growth to food production. Gardens also create small patches of habitat that



Backyard gardens are increasingly important in supporting wildlife and promoting biodiversity through careful plant selection. Credit: Pexels.com.

connect larger green spaces. This makes it easier for wildlife to move around safely.

Not all plants offer the same benefits. Native plants that naturally grow in a specific area are the best choice for conservation gardening. They require less water and maintenance since they’re adapted to local conditions, and they provide the right food and shelter for local wildlife. On the other hand, non-native or ornamental plants look nice but can do more harm than good, aggressively taking over native habitats.

Garden ecology research also shows that diverse gardens help improve soil health and support a wider variety of species. A mix of trees, shrubs, and flowers at different heights can create a more balanced ecosystem. The more plant diversity a garden has... the more kinds of insects, birds, and small mammals it can support. Some homeowners even participate in citizen science projects e.g. they can track the species that visit their yards to contribute to conservation research.

Making a garden more wildlife-friendly doesn’t require a complete overhaul. One can start by planting a few native species, reducing pesticide use, and letting part of their yard grow more naturally. Even small changes can make a difference. For example, leaving fallen leaves for insects to hide in or providing a water source for birds. Backyard gardens may not seem like much, but when enough people take the right steps they become an important part of conservation efforts.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

Beyond the Baseline: Understanding Tennis Elbow

A few years ago, I was helping with my son’s baseball team. One day, for a routine practice, my role was to hit fly balls for the boys to catch. While I was confident at hitting fly balls, to make things easier for me, I was handed a racquet that, with a fairly easy

swing, would launch the baseballs out to the boys. However, after 20 minutes, my elbow was getting sore. More groups of boys needed to rotate through and catch fly balls, so I kept at it. I swung the racquet and the baseballs flew to the outfield over and over. In the end, after less than an hour, my elbow was shot.

I was experiencing lateral epicondylitis, or tennis elbow. It hurt on the lateral, or outside, part of my elbow, and while it did not hurt that bad, it was almost debilitating for certain movements. I took some ibuprofen, avoided certain activities, and needed to give it time to heal.

Lateral epicondylitis, which now could also be called “pickleball elbow” with the big increase in pickleball players, is an over-use injury of the tendons at the elbow. Caused by any repetitive use of the forearm muscles, microscopic tears can form which cause pain at the insertion where the tendons attach to the bone at the elbow, known as the lateral epicondyle. The cause is not just limited to sporting activities. Manual laborers, painters, gardeners pulling weeds, musicians, and anyone doing an activity repetitively and more than their body is used to doing, can be susceptible to this injury. Golfers can experience a similar injury, but one that affects the inside part of the elbow, causing medial epicondylitis.

One of the keys to recovery is paying attention to your body and avoiding activities that cause the pain. Pushing through may make it worse and make recovery last longer. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatories such as ibuprofen may help with the pain, as well as icing, stretches, and physical therapy. Some people may find benefit from using a brace wrapped around the forearm muscles, taking pressure off of the tendons. Rarely, steroid injections or an injection of plasma-rich protein may be used, although these are not without some risk. Other treatments can also include ultrasound and shock wave therapy.

Thankfully, most cases will subside on their own with time. However, it can take a lot of time, oftentimes several months and possibly up to two years. In very rare cases, surgery to remove damaged tissue may be an option.

In my case, the pesky elbow pain lingered for at least six months. This was all because of less than an hour of using a racquet that I refuse to ever use again. I am happy to hit fly balls and I still do, but give me the baseball bat, please.

Dr. Andrew Ellsworth is a Family Medicine Physician at Avera Medical Group Brookings in Brookings, SD. He serves as one of the Prairie Doc Volunteer Hosts during its 24th Season providing Health Education Based on Science, Built on Trust. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Tik Tok. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on SDPB, YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).



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