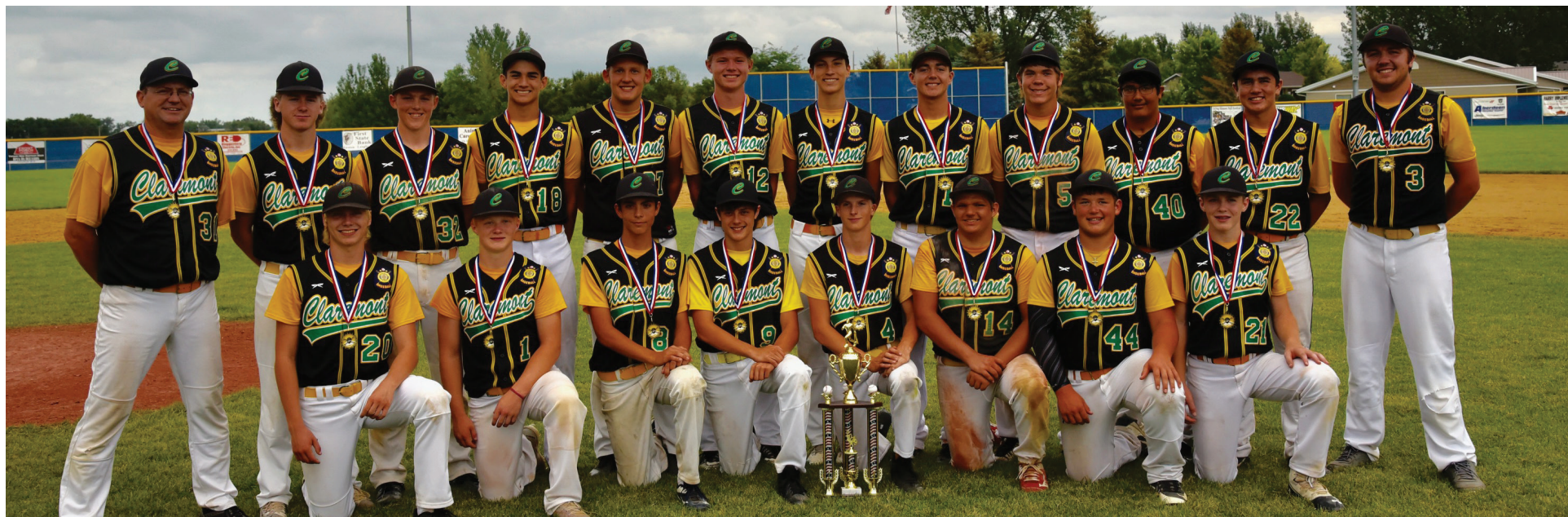


THE Groton Independent

South Dakota
Growing Families & Opportunities

Vol. 136 No. 51 ◊ Groton, South Dakota ◊ Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2019 ◊ Established in 1889



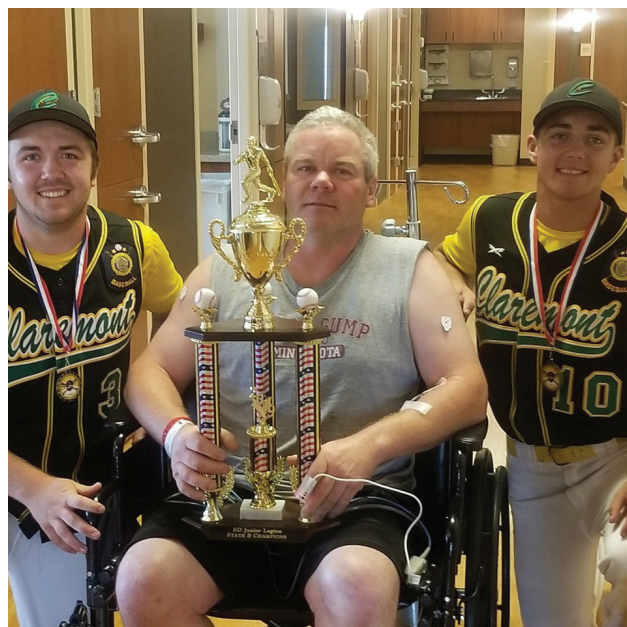
State B Jr. Legion Champions - the Claremont-Britton Honkers!

Front row -- Ben Gustafson, Benton West, Aden Godel, Kash Cutler, Cody Blanchard, Boston Marlow, Jordan Dawson, Jesse Keough
Back row -- Coach Joe Gustafson, Connor Smith, Will Cutler, Zander Widener, Bryce Peterson, Kade Larson, Nico Alvarez, Colin Frey, Austen Wieser, Danny Feist, Cole Bisbee and Coach Dylan Frey.

Not pictured -- head coach Mike Frey (hospitalized day 2 and 3 of the tourney with blood clots in lungs and leg). (Photo by Jen Gustafson)



Emily Sternhagen sang the National Anthem. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Dylan Frey (left) and Colin Frey (right) are pictured with their dad and coach, Mike Frey, in the hospital in Aberdeen. (Photo from Mike's Facebook Page)



Groton's Chandler Larson was selected as the State Tournament Most Valuable Player. He was presented with the award by State Legion Commissioner Paul Karst. Larson had a .333 batting average, 1000% fielding percentage, seven assists and four hit shut outs. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



State B Jr. Legion Runner Up - Groton Post #39

In back, left to right, are Coach Dalton Locke, Evan Nehls, Peyton Johnson, Jace Kroll, Tristan Traphagen, Lucas Simon, Chandler Larson, Darien Shabazz, Alex Morris and Coach Kevin Nehls; in front, left to right, are Pierce Kettering, Riley Thurston, Jayden Zak, Lee Iverson, Kaden Kurtz, Doug Heminger, Lane Krueger, Anthony Schinkel and Jackson Cogley.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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 Notices: legals@grotonsd.net
 News Items: news@grotonsd.net
 Deadline to submit items: Noon Monday]Yearly Subscription Rates: 12 Month Rate: \$39 (includes tax)
 The Groton Independent (USPS# 230-440) is published weekly with its periodicals postage paid at Groton, SD.
 Postmaster: Send address changes to Groton Independent, PO Box 34, Groton, SD 57445

AUCTIONS

INTERSTATE AUCTION CENTER. Saturday, August 17 10:00 AM. Machinery consignment auction. 3 miles east of Sioux Falls, exit 402. 605-331-4550. Visit our website auctionzip.com.

Getting ready for school

School officials are getting everything fine tuned for the August 22nd start of the 2019-20 school year. The back-to-school picnic will be held August 20th starting at 5 p.m. at the elementary school commons. Sixth grade orientation will be held at the MS/HS at 6 p.m. The portal for students to get access to their class schedule will be opened on August 16th.

Nearly all positions are filled. Assignment changes have Ashley Seeklander as K-12 school counselor, Jodi Schwan as opportunity coordinator, Melissa Ulmer as high school office and study hall, Matt Locke as head girls' basketball coach, Becky Erickson as eighth grade girls' basketball coach, and Jodi Schwan as student council advisor. New staff include Tasha Dunker as elementary librarian, Linda McInerney as route 1 (Claremont) bus driver, Brian Dolan as athletic director and head boys' basketball coach, Seth Erickson as assistant football coach and Trent Traphagen as assistant girls' basketball coach. Positions still open are yearbook and assistant boys' basketball coach. Volunteer coaches approved at the meeting Monday were Craig Sternhagen for boys soccer and Sarah Schuster for volleyball.

Faculty in-service is scheduled for August 20 and 21.

Work on the boiler replacement is underway with the old one being removed today (Aug. 13). The burner for the new boiler has arrived and the vessel is scheduled to be here in about three weeks.

The elementary tuckpointing project is running behind. Superintendent Joe Schwan talked with Greg at Midwest Masonry and reported that they will be on site within the next week. Work in the playground area will be done first and the remainder of the work done during times when it does not pose a distraction to classrooms.

Elementary Principal Brett Schwan reported on the proposed enrollment numbers with second grade seeing an uptick from 39 to 45 students. The board also approved the earlier start time of junior kindergarten from 12:30 p.m. to 12:15 p.m. which will be equal to adding 14 days of learning during the school year. Tasha Dunker was hired as elementary librarian as Melissa Ulmer will move to administrative assistant, replacing retired Kathy Harry. Superintendent Schwan reported there were 23 applicants for that position.

Meanwhile high school principal, Kiersten Sombke, had several handouts she presented to the board from sixth grade orientation, the comfort closet, graduation requirements and dual credit listings. Class schedule change day is August 19 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Kristen Gonsoir was one of 25 teachers from around the United States chosen to participate in the Japan-US Information and Communication Technology Teacher Exchange Program in Hilo, Hawaii. The event ran August 4-10.

It was also reported that 40 athletes reported for the first day of football practice.

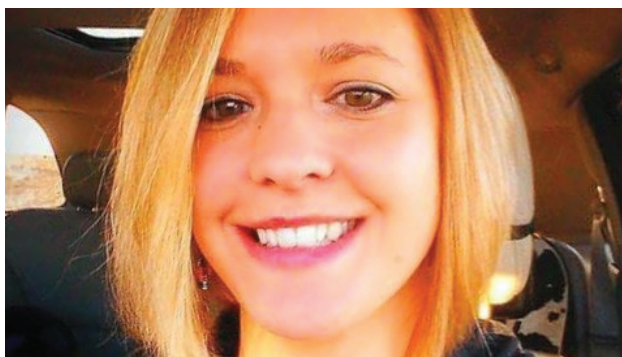
And speaking of sports, Superintendent Schwan reported that Athletic Director Brian Dolan has been working with Avera in securing athletic training services here in Groton. "We're excited to have someone here at home events for athletic services," Schwan said. The service will cost \$9,000 for the year which will include home event coverage and summer acceleration program. Schwan said the fees charged for the summer acceleration program will help defray the cost of the entire service. The board approved the contract.

DAMAGING DEBT: Three S.D. grads share stories of struggling to pay college costs

By: Nick Lowrey

Thousands of South Dakota residents are living under a cloud of uncertainty and worry created by outstanding loans acquired in order to get a higher education. The high monthly payments and seemingly insurmountable principal amounts carry an emotional toll, but also limit their ability to live out their dreams and plan for the future.

As part of a special report on the high levels of student debt carried by many people across the state, South Dakota News Watch spoke with three college graduates who are struggling to pay off loans and live prosperous lives. Here are their stories.



Brooke Moeller

'I didn't know it would be like this...'

In 2012, Brooke Moeller was about five months into her job as a practicing chiropractor in Chamberlain when she was told she would probably never get her student loans paid off.

Moeller had recently graduated from Northwestern Health Sciences University in Bloomington, Minn., and opened her own clinic called Inspire Chiropractic. When she started, Moeller said she was one of two chiropractors in a 50-mile radius of Chamberlain and averaged seven new patients a week.

Moeller wasn't married, didn't have children and was renting a trailer home for \$550 per month. She'd also paid about \$1,500 every month toward the roughly \$200,000 in student loans she took out to become a chiropractor. As a big believer in financial responsibility and paying back what she owed, Moeller called her loan servicer, Nelnet, to check on her loan's status and the progress she made toward repayment.

The customer service rep said that after five months and \$7,500 worth of payments, Moeller had knocked only \$700 off her loan's principal balance.

"That was when I pretty much broke down," Moeller said.

Part of the problem was that while Moeller was in school, the federal government took over a larger portion of the student loan market. In the process, interest rates shot up, Moeller said, and made her schooling far more expensive. Already tens of thousands of dollars in debt, Moeller didn't have much choice other than to finish her program and hope to make enough money after graduating to pay off her debt.

She would have needed to pay more than \$12,000 per year just to keep up with the 6.8 percent interest rate on her loans. Moeller was paying for building space and expensive chiropractic equipment — all of which she had to finance through a small business loan to get started — in addition to chipping away at her student debt. She couldn't pay her debt off without the business, so Moeller felt stuck

and looked for alternatives.

Like nearly 8 million other Americans, Moeller entered into an income-based repayment plan and has been making payments ever since.

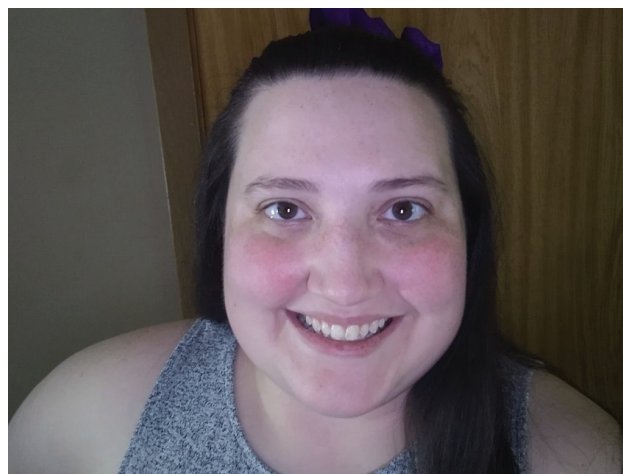
Now 34 and married with two children, Moeller is making payments on her loans and hoping they'll be forgiven. Income-driven repayment plans allow borrowers to avoid default on their loans by making smaller monthly payments based on the portion of their annual income that is 150 percent of the federal poverty line. Such payments often don't result in a loan ever being paid off. Part of the agreement borrowers make when they enter such a plan is that after 20 or 25 years of making payments, the government will forgive the loan and tax the borrower on the amount forgiven as if it were income.

Moeller said she's trying to save money for the \$60,000 to \$70,000 tax bill she is likely to face if her loans are forgiven in 2036 as she was promised, but she'd much rather pay the loans off early.

"By all means I'm very much a Republican. I'm not asking for school to be free, I'm not," she said. "I think that we should pay for our schooling. But good God, when the job doesn't pay for the schooling it took to get the job, there's something wrong."

Together Moeller and her husband average about \$75,000 a year in taxable income, about \$20,000 more than the median income in Chamberlain. But because of her student debt, Moeller said, she has no retirement savings and can't put any money away for her own children's college expenses. The debt is a constant source of anxiety, and it weighs on just about every decision she makes, Moeller said.

"There are times in my life when I say maybe I should have gone and done something I would have hated just so I wouldn't have this burden," she said. "But I didn't know; I didn't know that it was going to be like this."



Valerie Scott

'I signed on the dotted line'

Valerie Scott was a typical 18-year-old high school graduate in 2008 looking for place to get a quality education.

She enrolled at what is now Augustana University, a private school in Sioux Falls. Finding the money to pay for the school wasn't a problem. The university's financial aid office found Scott a \$19,000 annual scholarship and she had qualified for the \$5,000 South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship for high-performing students.

With those scholarships, Scott ended up paying about half of the cost of her four years at Augustana out of her own pocket, about \$84,000 in all. Most of that was paid for through \$67,800 in federal and private student loans. Augustana's financial aid department

didn't provide much help or education about taking on debt, Scott said.

"My dad advised me, more or less, and I called them and said 'give me money' and they said 'how much?'" Scott recalled. "And I signed on the dotted line."

Augustana University's financial aid counseling program is supposed to kick in the first time a prospective student arrives on campus for a tour. Often that happens when the student is a junior in high school, said Adam Heintz, Augustana director of admissions.

Those initial conversations are all about finding ways to pay tuition through grants and scholarships, said Financial Aid Director Tresse Evenson.

Before taking out federal loans, students are required to take an online loan counseling course, and Augustana financial aid directors will talk to students directly about private loans if the interest rate is too high, Evenson said.

Augustana also holds a couple of loan exit counseling sessions every year for graduating seniors and offers a personal finance course every January, Evenson said. Students can set up individual appointments for loan counseling as well, she said.

After graduating in 2012 with a double major in German and Spanish, Scott didn't have much in the way of a career plan and struggled to find a good job. As the six-month grace period on her loans came to an end, she rushed to find any position she could in order to start making payments. Scott's first job out of college was cutting up fruit and vegetables in the back of a grocery store. She remembers it as a tough time financially.

"Since I worked in the back and it was in a food-prepping station, I saved money by not buying meals for the shifts I worked and snacking on something I was cutting up as I worked," she recalled. "We could also buy 'expired' products from our department at a discount if the manager marked them down, so I would try to get a salad for my home meals."

Scott kept her spending down and made sure she set money aside after paying rent and utilities.

"I put the rest of every paycheck toward my student loans with the intention of paying off what I could as fast as possible," Scott said.

Eventually, some of Scott's friends from college helped her find a job in medical billing. Scott, now 29, said she spends at least one-third of her monthly income to repay student loans and sometimes she commits half her income or more to pay down her loans.

In the seven years since she left college, Scott said she's made more than \$42,000 in payments on her student loans. She's got about \$3,000 left to pay on her federal loans and roughly \$32,000 left to pay on private loans.

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Sara Carlson and her daughter, Danica Fillbrandt

'Transfer schools ... or be homeless'

Sara Carlson of Brookings started her pursuit of a bachelor's degree at Concordia College, a private school in Moorhead, Minn., in 2008. Within a year she'd used all of her college savings and had taken out a loan from the school to help pay tuition. But she also found the school isolating and suffered mentally. Carlson left the school and went home to Brookings to live with her mother, a high school Spanish teacher.

"I came home with nothing," Carlson said.

She had originally planned to just drop out of college and start working. But Carlson's mother refused to let her go without a degree if she could help it. Carlson's mother told her she'd be thrown out of the house if she didn't go back to school.

"It was transfer schools and go to the public school that was more affordable and live off loans for a while or be homeless," Carlson recalled.

She enrolled at South Dakota State University in 2009, majoring in graphic design. Statistically speaking, Carlson made the right decision. College graduates can expect to make 80 percent more income over their lives than non-graduates, according to national statistics. But much of the so-called "college premium" might be due to falling incomes for non-graduates, according to a 2018 study by the Roosevelt Institute, a liberal think tank.

That study, called "The Student Debt Crisis, Labor Market Credentialization and Racial Inequality," found that despite increased numbers of college graduates in the United States, wages haven't actually increased very much. Instead, the study's authors concluded, more employers are requiring college degrees for jobs that historically didn't need them, which probably means high school graduates are making less than they used to.

Carlson graduated in the fall of 2011, one semester early, with more than \$30,000 in student debt. At that year's interest rate of 6.8 percent, she'll end up paying closer to \$50,000 for her education. Carlson said she looked for graphic design jobs but couldn't find any near her family and friends. It was a support system she says she needed.

Eventually, Carlson found a job as a cashier at the Runnings department store in Brookings. She has worked her way up to a management position — a job she didn't need a degree for — and makes a bit more than \$34,000 per year. She's been paying \$260 per month on her student debt since 2012.

After finding a steady job, Carlson said she tried to buy a home. She went so far as to apply for an income-based repayment plan for her student debt and could have had her monthly payments reduced to zero. But banks still wouldn't give her a home loan, she said.

In 2015, Carlson got engaged and was able to buy a home with her husband-to-be. They had a child. Then the relationship soured and now she's filed for divorce. She doesn't know how she'll make ends meet once the divorce becomes final.

Carlson said she had to borrow money from her parents to start her divorce and is hoping that her ex-husband will keep their daughter

on his health insurance. Even then, she said, finances remain extremely tight and she often comes up short each month.



ABOUT NICK LOWREY

Nick Lowrey, based in Pierre, S.D., is an investigative staff reporter for South Dakota News Watch. A South Dakotan for more than 20 years, he is a former editor of the Pierre Capital Journal.

S.D. journalism community mourns the loss of Maricarrol Kueter, founding editor of South Dakota News Watch



Maricarrol Kueter, a South Dakota native, longtime leader in the state journalism industry and founding executive director and editor of South Dakota News Watch, died on Aug. 10 after a long battle with cancer.

Throughout her fight, Maricarrol, 63, had the strong support of her close family and friends, which included many people in the South Dakota journalism community. She was revered for her knowledge, judgement, strength of character and kindness.

Kueter formerly served as executive editor of the Argus Leader of Sioux Falls; later, she became a major player in the development of South Dakota News Watch, the state's only independent non-profit journalism organization. As the first editor and director of News Watch, Maricarrol shepherded through a wide range of articles that exposed significant issues to state residents, and also was a prominent voice in the formation and growth of the organization. Her work at News Watch and over her entire career helped inform people and improve the lives of South Dakotans.

The sadness over her passing was noted in a social media posting by Jack Marsh, co-chair of South Dakota News Watch and a longtime colleague of Maricarrol. Marsh called Maricarrol "a treasured colleague and friend."

Marsh said that Maricarrol's "love of community and passion for truth were an example to others. The successful launch of News Watch is largely due to her professionalism and commitment to excellence."

Bart Pfankuch, content director for News Watch, who worked under Maricarrol's tutelage for nearly two years, said he was honored to work with such a great editor and outstanding individual. Pfankuch said he now fully understands why so many South Dakota journalists hold Maricarrol in such high regard.

"As both a journalist and as a human being, I will strive every day to be more like Maricarrol," he said. "Her wisdom, toughness, smarts and kindness are models for us all. We all will miss her deeply, but stand ready to carry on her tradition of excellence in our field."

ARGUS LEADER HONORS MARICARROL

The following is a column published on Aug. 10, 2019 by longtime Sioux Falls Argus Leader writer and editor Stu Whitney, who reflected on the loss of Maricarrol shortly after her death. It is published here with permission from the Argus Leader.

BY STU WHITNEY

Maricarrol Kueter was a journalist.

That might seem an obvious appraisal of someone who helped guide the Argus Leader newsroom for a quarter-century, but the simplicity of the statement is the point.

In an age when media personas are fueled by self-promotion and sensationalism, Kueter's stoic leadership stands as a lesson for us all.

She and I arrived at Argus Leader at roughly the same time, with much different approaches. I was a brash young sportswriter from Michigan looking to make my mark and ruffle feathers. She was an assistant news editor from a farm near Humboldt who wanted to serve the community and help her reporters shine.

Maricarrol's feel for South Dakota and its unique sensibilities served her well. Her knowledge of what was news and how to report it responsibly helped her move through the ranks to executive editor, the role she held when she retired from the Argus Leader in 2015.

It's rare for editors — almost always former reporters or columnists — to leave their ego at the door, but she did it with ease. Her unobtrusive style allowed her to elevate writers and spotlight them when warranted, and their natural response was to trust and respect her.

I remember working on lengthy projects in both news and sports where Kueter served as overseer. She helped with working sources and pulling different threads, but there would always come a time when she would look up and say, "OK, Stu, well, by the end of the week we need to see some copy." That meant it was time to start digging in.

Quiet by nature, she would lord over editors' meetings with a subtle hand, listening to voices rise and fall as they lobbied for a certain story or approach. As egos clashed and ideas collided, she would take it all in and calmly but firmly render a verdict for how we would proceed. I don't recall anyone ever firing back at her in disagreement.

Maricarrol passed away Saturday after several days in hospice care, where she was surrounded by family and friends. Her legacy as a trailblazing journalist and newsroom leader in South Dakota probably isn't a story that she feels needs to be told.

When she retired four years ago, we had a newsroom gathering to honor her contributions, but Maricarrol didn't want to make a fuss. We told stories and laughed and hugged and she went to other pursuits, including some very fine work with South Dakota News Watch.

"I don't know when exactly it happens in your career," she wrote in her farewell column, "that moment when you stop thinking about what you want to be and start thinking about what you have been."

Maricarrol wanted to be a journalist. She was a damn good one. I miss her support and guidance. I miss her professionalism in the face of daunting industry challenges. Heck, I'll miss her at our fantasy football draft, where she always came prepared.

Mainly, I find myself wanting to share a basic truth that she would not want to be told: She was one of the best we ever had.

Argus Leader Media columnist Stu Whitney can be reached at stwhitney@argusleader.com.

Championship: Honkers win State Jr. Legion Title

Groton Post 39 Fall Short To Claremont/Britton Post 262 , 5-4

Groton Post 39 opened up scoring in the second inning when Darien Shabazz grounded out, scoring one run.

Claremont/Britton Post 262 took the lead for good with four runs in the third inning. In the third Shabazz induced Boston Marlow to hit into a fielder's choice, but one run scored and Nico Alvarez singled on a 0-1 count, scoring two runs.

Zander Widener pitched Claremont/Britton Post 262 to victory. He went four innings, allowing three runs on two hits and striking out four. Austen Wieser threw three innings in relief out of the bullpen.

Shabazz took the loss for Groton Post 39. He went two innings, allowing five runs on one hit and striking out two.

Jackson Cogley, Alex Morris, and Chandler Larson each collected one hit to lead Groton Post 39. Groton Post 39 tore up the base paths, as two players stole at least two bases. Shabazz led the way with two.

Claremont/Britton Post 262 was sure-handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. Benton West had the most chances in the field with five.

Third Place: Wagner Defeats Winner In Low-Scoring Affair

Both teams were strong on the hill Sunday, but Wagner Post 11 defeated Winner Post 169 3-1. Wagner Post 11 pitchers allowed just seven hits to Winner Post 169 .

Wagner Post 11 grabbed an early lead. Wagner Post 11 scored on a single by Lincoln Thury and a single by Anthony Bruguier in the second inning.

Wagner Post 11 pulled away for good with two runs in the second inning. In the second Thury singled on a 0-1 count, scoring one run and Bruguier singled on the first pitch of the at bat, scoring one run.

Malcolm Janis was the winning pitcher for Wagner Post 11. He surrendered zero runs

on five hits over six innings, striking out three and walking zero.

Evan Farner took the loss for Winner Post 169 . He allowed five hits and three runs over six innings, striking out six.

Nolan Dvorak started the game for Wagner Post 11. He went one inning, allowing one run on two hits and walking one

Wagner Post 11 tallied five hits on the day. Thury and Bruguier all collected multiple hits for Wagner Post 11. Bruguier and Thury each collected two hits to lead Wagner Post 11.

Joey Cole led Winner Post 169 with two hits in four at bats.

Fifth: Redfield Fights Back In Loss To Lennox

Redfield Post 92's effort to come back from down six runs in the first inning came up just short, as they fell 9-8 to Lennox Post 174 on Sunday. Redfield Post 92 scored six runs in the failed comeback. Peyton Osborn, Camden Osborn, Christian Deyoung, Seth Siebrecht, Osborn, and Easton Millar came through with RBIs to lead the rally.

Redfield Post 92 collected eight hits and Lennox Post 174 had nine in the high-scoring affair.

Lennox Post 174 got things moving in the first inning. Lennox Post 174 scored one run when Peyton Eich singled.

In the bottom of the third inning, Redfield Post 92 tied things up at six when Siebrecht grounded out, scoring one run.

Lennox Post 174 pulled away for good with two runs in the fourth inning. In the fourth Eich singled on a 1-0 count, scoring one run and Gavin Sanculi grounded out, scoring one run.

Redfield Post 92 tallied five runs in the third inning. The big inning was thanks to a single by Osborn, a groundout by Siebrecht, and a fielder's choice by Deyoung.

Tanner Miller led the Lennox Post 174 to victory on the pitcher's mound. He went five and two-thirds innings, allowing six runs on eight hits and striking out five. Conner Eich threw one and one-third innings in relief out of the bullpen.

Osborn took the loss for Redfield Post 92. He surrendered nine runs on nine hits over six and a third innings, striking out four and walking one.

Redfield Post 92 tallied eight hits on the day. Osborn and Osborn all had multiple hits for Redfield Post 92. Osborn and Osborn each collected two hits to lead Redfield Post 92.

Lennox Post 174 scattered nine hits in the game. Eich, Ty Spieler, and Brandon Fodness each collected multiple hits for Lennox Post 174 . Eich led Lennox Post 174 with three hits in four at bats. Spieler led Lennox Post 174 with two stolen bases, as they ran wild on the base paths with seven stolen bases.

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With Alex On The Mound, Groton shuts Out Winner

Alex Morris shut down Winner Post 169 , throwing a complete game shutout and leading Groton Post 39 to a 1-0 victory on Saturday

The pitching was strong on both sides. Morris struck out 12, while Jacob Beckers sat down five.

A single by Aaron Gilchrist in the first inning was a positive for Winner Post 169 .

Morris earned the win for Groton Post 39. He lasted seven innings, allowing five hits and zero runs while striking out 12.

Beckers took the loss for Winner Post 169 . He went six innings, allowing one run on five hits and striking out five.

Darien Shabazz went 2-for-2 at the plate to lead Groton Post 39 in hits. Groton Post 39 didn't commit a single error in the field. Kaden Kurtz had the most chances in the field with 11.

Winner Post 169 totaled five hits. Adam Bohnet and Evan Farner all had multiple hits for Winner Post 169 .

Claremont/Britton Captures Lead Early To Defeat Wagner

Wagner Post 11 fell behind early and couldn't come back in a 1-0 loss to Claremont/Britton Post 262 on Saturday. Claremont/Britton Post 262 took the lead on a single in the second inning.

The pitching was strong on both sides. Claremont/Britton Post 262 pitchers struck out one, while Wagner Post 11 sat down five.

In the second inning, Claremont/Britton Post 262 got their offense started when Ben Gustafson singled on the first pitch of the at bat, scoring one run.

A single by Malcolm Janis in the first inning was a positive for Wagner Post 11.

William Cutler was the winning pitcher for Claremont/Britton Post 262 . He surrendered zero runs on four hits over seven innings, striking out one.

Dustin Honomichl took the loss for Wagner Post 11. He lasted seven innings, allowing five hits and one run while striking out five.

Honomichl went 2-for-3 at the plate to lead Wagner Post 11 in hits.

Claremont/Britton Post 262 tallied five hits on the day. Benton West and Boston Marlow each collected multiple hits for Claremont/Britton Post 262 . Claremont/Britton Post 262 was sure-handed and didn't commit a single error. Gustafson made the most plays with 12.

Elk Point/Jefferson Falls To Redfield In Low-Scoring Affair

Both teams were strong on the hill on Saturday, but Redfield Post 92 was just a little bit stronger at the plate in a victory over Elk Point/Jefferson Post 134 on Saturday. Skyler Swatek started the game for Elk Point/Jefferson Post 134 and recorded 15 outs.

Peyton Osborn pitched Redfield Post 92 to victory. He surrendered zero runs on zero hits over five innings, walking zero.

Swatek took the loss for Elk Point/Jefferson Post 134 . He lasted five innings, allowing two hits and one run while striking out five.

Redfield Post 92 didn't commit a single error in the field. Seth Siebrecht had seven chances in the field, the most on the team.

W.I.N Drops Game To Lennox After Late Score

W.I.N Post 137 stayed in it until the end, but Lennox Post 174 pulled away late in a 3-2 victory on Saturday. The game was tied at two with Lennox Post 174 batting in the top of the fifth when Brandon Fodness doubled on a 3-1 count, scoring one run.

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The pitching was strong on both sides. Lennox Post 174 pitchers struck out six, while W.I.N Post 137 sat down four.

In the first inning, Lennox Post 174 got their offense started when Carter Van Houten singled on a 0-1 count, scoring one run.

Peyton Eich earned the win for Lennox Post 174 . He allowed one hit and zero runs over three innings, striking out six and walking one.

Joshua McQuarie took the loss for W.I.N Post 137. He lasted five innings, allowing seven hits and three runs while striking out four.

Gavin Sanculi started the game for Lennox Post 174 . He went two innings, allowing two runs on two hits

Sawyer Stroschein, Benjamin Fischbach, and Kyle Stahl each collected one hit to lead W.I.N Post 137.

Lennox Post 174 had seven hits in the game. Eich and Van Houten all collected multiple hits for Lennox Post 174 .

Pitching By Chandler Shuts Out Redfield, Groton Takes The Win

Chandler Larson shut down Redfield Post 92, throwing a complete game shutout and leading Groton Post 39 to a 5-0 victory on Saturday. Groton Post 39 got on the board in the first inning when Pierce Kettering singled on a 0-1 count, scoring one run.

A single by Christian Deyoung in the first inning was a positive for Redfield Post 92.

Larson took the win for Groton Post 39. He lasted seven innings, allowing four hits and zero runs while striking out six and walking one.

Deyoung took the loss for Redfield Post 92. He surrendered five runs on nine hits over five and a third innings, striking out three.

Groton Post 39 tallied nine hits. Darien Shabazz and Peyton Johnson all had multiple hits for Groton Post 39. Shabazz went 3-for-3 at the plate to lead Groton Post 39 in hits.

Deyoung led Redfield Post 92 with two hits in three at bats.

Winner Grabs Lead In Fifth Inning To Defeat Elk Point/Jefferson

Winner Post 169 stole the lead late and defeated Elk Point/Jefferson Post 134 5-4 on Saturday. The game was tied at four with Winner Post 169 batting in the bottom of the fifth when Adam Bohnet singled on a 0-1 count, scoring one run.

Elk Point/Jefferson Post 134 got on the board in the first inning when Andrew Nearman doubled on a 0-1 count, scoring one run.

Winner Post 169 scored three runs in the fourth inning. Bohnet and Landon Thieman each had RBIs in the big inning.

Kameron Meiners got the win for Winner Post 169 . He lasted seven innings, allowing five hits and four runs while striking out two and walking zero.

Noah Larson took the loss for Elk Point/Jefferson Post 134 . He went two innings, allowing five runs on five hits and striking out one.

Tyler Goehring started the game for Elk Point/Jefferson Post 134 . He lasted four innings, allowing one hit and zero runs while striking out nine

Bohnet went 2-for-3 at the plate to lead Winner Post 169 in hits.

Nearman led Elk Point/Jefferson Post 134 with two hits in four at bats.

Wagner Takes Victory Over Lennox , 8-3

Wagner Post 11 scores more runs than Lennox Post 174 , takes victory on Friday to the tune of 8-3

Wagner Post 11 scored five runs in the sixth inning. Jaydan Aungie, Dustin Honomichl, Nolan Dvorak, Riley Ruchtaeschel, and Aydan Bruguier all moved runners across the plate



Pierce Kettering wheeled to first base as he tried to outrun the throw to first baseman Ben Gustafson. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

with RBIs in the inning.

Dvorak took the win for Wagner Post 11. He lasted three and a third innings, allowing one hit and zero runs while striking out two and walking one. Anthony Bruguier and Aungie entered the game out of the bullpen and helped to close out the game in relief.

Ty Spieler took the loss for Lennox Post 174 . He went six innings, allowing eight runs on seven hits and striking out five.

Malcolm Janis went 2-for-2 at the plate to lead Wagner Post 11 in hits. Wagner Post 11 stole six bases during the game as two players stole more than one. Preston Nedved led the way with two.

Lennox Post 174 scattered eight hits in the game. Brandon Fodness and Cole Benning each had multiple hits for Lennox Post 174 .

Claremont/Britton Victorious W.I.N Thanks To Fourth Inning Boost

Four runs in the fourth inning led Claremont/Britton Post 262 past W.I.N Post 137 7-1 on Friday. Claremont/Britton Post 262 big bats were led by Zander Widener and Colin Frey, who each had RBIs in the inning.

Claremont/Britton Post 262 got things moving in the second inning, when Connor Smith singled on a 3-2 count, scoring one run.

Claremont/Britton Post 262 tallied four runs in the fourth inning. The rally was led by Frey and an error on a ball put in play by Widener.

Frey earned the victory on the hill for Claremont/Britton Post 262 . He surrendered zero runs on three hits over six and a third innings, striking out 11. Danny Feist threw two-thirds of an inning in relief out of the bullpen.

Benjamin Fischbach took the loss for W.I.N Post 137. He allowed three hits and seven runs over four innings, striking out three.

Nico Alvarez, Frey, Benton West, and Smith all had one hit to lead Claremont/Britton Post 262 . Claremont/Britton Post 262 stole nine bases during the game as three players stole more than one. Jesse Keough led the way with two.



The Karsts stand by the entrance sign at Locke-Karst Field in Groton. Paul Karst had coached for many years in Groton alongside fellow coach the late Ervin Locke, Jr. The team is named after both of those coaches. Pictured are Derek Karst, Paul Karst and Dan Karst. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Zander Widener winds up for a pitch for Claremont-Britton. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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There was a large crowd on hand for the state championship game between Groton and Claremont-Britton. As Dave Carson said, "It was a nice venue for the kids to play in front of a large crowd." (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Sometimes words are hard to come by, but for Joni Groeblichhoff, she said it best with the following post she had on her Facebook page:

Anyone who knows me, knows that I love the game of baseball. For the past three days I've spent my time at the baseball field in Groton where they hosted the State B Jr Legion tournament. I watched eight different teams from around the state compete for a shot at a state title.

In the end, the two teams in the championship game were both from the northeast corner of the state. Groton versus Claremont/Britton. Both teams have a strong long standing tradition of baseball players and teams. As I sat among fans from both teams, I felt a real sense of pride. Pride in hailing from a small town who loves baseball, pride in knowing that the players are out there on that field ready to give it their very best attempt or maybe sitting on the bench in the dugout cheering on their teammates and giving support.

Among the sea of Groton red to my left and Honker green to my right, I was in the middle and could hear the fans from one team and then the next when a strike was thrown or a good play was made.

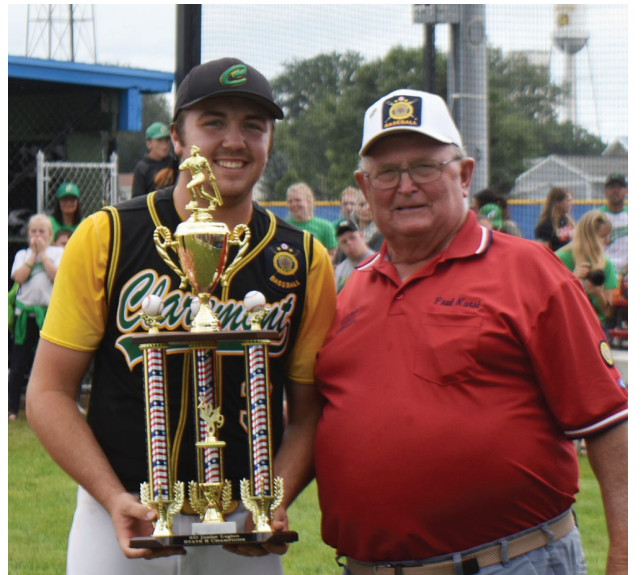
It was a hard fought battle. One team would walk away victorious. One team would feel defeat. In the end, it came down to one run that would end the game and the Honkers walked away with the state title. But you see, no matter who would have won, the players, coaches, fans and community would be proud of their team. They ARE proud of their team, whether they won or whether they got 2nd place.

"Life is a game we all try to play.

Some give up on it, some toss it away.

But the winner is one who may stumble and fall, and still find a way to handle it all."

I couldn't think of a better way to spend one of my final weekends of summer, than to take in the sights and sounds of the ballpark.



Dylan Frey accepted the State Junior Legion Baseball championship trophy from Legion Commissioner Paul Karst. Frey's dad, Mike, is the head coach but ended up the hospital with some blood clots the day before. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Zander Widener starts celebrating as Jesse Keough made the catch deep in center field to end game and give Claremont-Britton the state championship title. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The view of the crows nest and the home dugout. New dugouts will be installed next year. They will be like the ones on the smaller fields except twice as big. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Wyatt Locke, Aaron Severson and Tate Larson were among the grounds keepers touching up the infield after the third inning. Doug Hamilton said that the grounds crew did a "phenomenal" job. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The Groton American Legion Post #39 presented the colors during the playing of the National Anthem. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Paul Karst greeted the teams and led them in the Legion baseball code to start out the game. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Peyton Johnson winds up for a pitch for Groton. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Groton Coach Dalton Locke (left) accepts the State B Junior Legion Runner-up Trophy from Legion Commissioner Paul Karst. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



This is a pretty neat view taken by a drone at the opening ceremony of the State American Legion Class "B" Junior Legion Tournament held this past weekend in Groton. (Photo from Groton Baseball/Softball Foundation Facebook page)



Darien Shabazz makes the catch in center field for Groton. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Danny Feist was warming up in case he had to come in to pitch towards the end of the game for Claremont-Britton. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Boston Marlow was having cramps so Jen Gustafson was helping him loosen up. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Dylan Frey was on the phone with his dad and head coach, Mike Frey. Mike was admitted to the hospital on Friday after he was diagnosed with blood clots in his lungs and legs. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Groton's Jackson Cogley successfully steals second base in front of Claremont-Britton's second baseman. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Colin Frey steals home just in front of the tag by Groton's catcher Kaden Kurtz. The score tied the game at two in the top of the third inning. (Photos by Paul Kosel)



Lane Krueger makes the catch for Groton. (Photo by Paul Kosel)





Flihs has Yard of the Week

Loren and Julie Flihs at 511 N. 5th Street in Groton was chosen as last week's Yard of the Week, chosen and sponsored by the members of the Groton Garden Club. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Rosewood Court has Yard of the Week

Yard of the Week for the week of July 29 was Rosewood Court. Residents pictured are Linn Wellman, Corrine VanderVorst and Toni Winther. The Yard of the Week is picked by members of the Groton Garden Club. (Photo by Alyssa Sippel)

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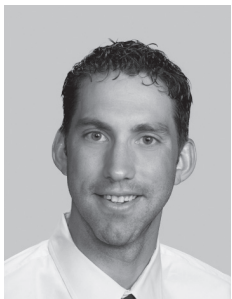
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