



Fines to be imposed on water restriction violators

Fines will be imposed on those not following the water restrictions. The first offense is a warning, then it will be \$50, the third at \$100, the fourth at \$200 and thereafter at \$500 for each offense in the same season.

A permit for new lawns will be available at \$100 for a 30-day permit which is renewable. The permit has to be approved by the council.

Dale Ringgenberg and Vickie Rossow and Jamie Rossow came before the council to discuss their sewer problems. These property owners had plugged sewers which they said was plugged at the main and not their individual service. The council agreed to pay \$935 of Ringgenberg's \$3,000 bill, which also did include some water service work. The council also forgave the \$375 sewer tapping fee. Rossow's bill of \$824.21 will be paid.

Dacotah Bank and SD Fit were designated as official banks and The Groton Independent as the official newspaper.

Kaitlin O'Neill Day is proclaimed for July 18, 2021, which is her birthday as well.

Paul Karst Day is proclaimed for July 30, 2021 during the State American Legion Baseball Tournament.

The new city sign was approved by the council for a cost of \$2,342. It will be paid for with COVID-19 relief funds.

Todd Gay will be offered the electric superintendent job. He is currently the electric superintendent in Winner.



Yard of the Week

The Groton Garden Club sponsors the "Yard of the Week" and this week, the Jerry and Elizabeth Abernathy yard at 108 E 3rd Ave. is the Yard of the Week. Elizabeth Abernathy is pictured above in front of their yard. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Spotlight on Groton Area Staff



Name: Lynette Grieve

Occupation: Title I and RtI Elementary Teacher/PE Teacher

Length of Employment: 38 Years between 5 Schools

At the Groton Area Elementary School, there are teachers who work as a part of educational intervention programs. Educational intervention programs are made for the express purpose of helping students who are struggling with subjects or ideas. Two of these programs are particularly

prevalent; RtI and Title I. RtI stands for Response to Intervention and is for students having trouble with understanding subjects and topics in class. Meanwhile, Title I provides much of the same services for students who are struggling with classwork, but aims to teach students on a more personal level to fill in the gaps of their knowledge. Lynette Grieve oversees teaching English to students who fall into the Title I and RtI programs.

Mrs. Grieve began her career by attending Northern State University, which was called Northern State College when she was attending it. She graduated with two Majors in Elementary Education and Physical Education in 1983. Since then, she has taught in Gan Valley, Harold, her hometown of Wessington Springs, and is currently teaching at Groton. Between these schools, she has had a total of thirty-eight years of experience teaching elementary school students.

As part of her work in the RtI and Title I programs, Mrs. Grieve has taught students from a variety of backgrounds. She has worked with these students to teach them what they need to know for future studies. As a teacher, Mrs. Grieve likes to see students blossom and grow into knowledgeable members of their communities.

In addition to teaching RtI and Title I, Mrs. Grieve coaches the High School Track Team and the 7th Grade Girl's Basketball team. When she is not coaching or teaching, she enjoys her time with her children and grandchildren by watching movies with them. She is also an avid reader of historical non-fiction books.

Editor's Note: This is a continuing series compiled by Benjamin Higgins. Higgins who is working for the Groton Independent through the Project Skills program.



Name: Sydney Kurtz

Position: High School Special Education Teacher

Length of Employment: 2019-Present

As part of Groton Area High School's Special Education program, there are various staff members who assist special needs students with their classwork and studying. Each student has different strengths and weaknesses and may require different tools or strategies to grasp the concepts benign taught

in the classroom. As such, the faculty who work with special needs students must be able to adapt, improvise, and overcome difficulties alongside the student. Sydney Kurtz is a respected member of the faculty who work in the Learning Lab section of the high school. She exemplifies the idea that teachers who work with special needs students, no matter their background or experience, must be able to adapt to whatever roles they take on.

Before working at Groton Area High School, Mrs. Kurtz spent five years working at the Teddy Bear Daycare in Groton. After her work at the daycare, she worked as a nanny for various families for eight years, and spent two years after that as a 7th Grade Special Education teacher at Simmons Middle School. After her work at Simmons, Mrs. Kurtz began her tenure at the Groton Area High School, where she has just finished her third year.

Mrs. Kurtz fills a variety of roles in the school, but there are certain duties she excels with. The primary part of her duties as a Special Education teacher is working with 9th and 10th Grade students who are on an IEP Plan or 504 Plan. She assists these students with daily work from their classes, along with providing the accommodations outlined on their 504 or IEP plan. Mrs. Kurtz also participates in various meetings, works with the 11th grade students in Algebra I, and assists students who are learning remotely by gathering their daily work and streaming their classes to them through Zoom.

When she is not working at school, Sydney spends her free time with her husband and daughter. She also enjoys travelling to the lake, visiting her family in Rapid City, and cheering on her husband while he coaches. Mrs. Kurtz and her husband are excitedly awaiting another child, due to arrive in August.

Editor's Note: This is a continuing series compiled by Benjamin Higgins. Higgins who is working for the Groton Independent through the Project Skills program.

Successful opioid addiction treatment slow to catch on in South Dakota

Danielle Ferguson
South Dakota News Watch

South Dakotans battling addiction to opioids are increasingly relying on medication-assisted treatments to overcome their cravings for the dangerous drugs and to avoid potentially deadly overdoses.

However, access to the life-saving medications is limited in South Dakota and some physicians in the state are reluctant to prescribe the drugs that have shown great promise in overcoming opioid abuse. Meanwhile, addiction experts and some law enforcement officials are trying to break down barriers to wider use of the treatments.

Medication-assisted treatments for addiction use drugs approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to alleviate withdrawal symptoms and relieve cravings resulting from chemical imbalances in the body. As the prescription drug treatments take effect, physical symptoms of addiction will ease, allowing patients to focus on work, relationships and their health. The medications can be taken on a short-term or long-term basis and are increasingly viewed as a successful method of improving the lives and health of people addicted to opioids.

Opioids are a class of addictive drugs that include the illegal drug heroin, synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, and pain relievers legally available by a prescription. Opioids, which have devastated thousands of lives in other states, are not the most widely misused drugs in South Dakota but they are responsible for a majority of fatal overdoses, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Nationally, 70% of all overdose deaths involve an opioid.

While the treatment has been available for decades, access to medication-assisted treatment has gained traction in South Dakota only within the past five years. More than 90,000 drug overdose deaths are estimated to have occurred in the United States from September 2019 to September 2020, the highest number of overdose deaths ever recorded in a 12-month period according to the CDC. Opioid fatalities increased by 55% over the previous 12 months.

South Dakota experienced a more than 20% increase in all drug overdose deaths from 2019 to 2020, according to an emergency health alert from the CDC in December. About half of the 38 states that track synthetic opioid overdoses reported an increase of at least 50% in those overdose deaths from 2019 to 2020, according to the report. The largest increase in opioid abuse was seen in rural counties in western and midwestern states.

Medication-assisted treatment is considered the most effective way to treat addiction, known as opioid use disorder. Evidence has shown medically supervised withdrawal from opioid addiction is safer than the abstinence-only, or cold turkey approach, according to Avoid Opioid SD.

About 90% of patients who receive the treatment remain free from addiction for more than two years, according to the FDA. Nearly 100% of all people who solely go to traditional drug treatment or rehabilitation will relapse, and many overdose because of misjudged tolerance within six months of release.

"A lot of patients have told us it saves their life," said Dr. Dan Felix, a licensed mental



Outpatient therapist Caroline Vernon, left, of the Carroll Institute, therapist Daniel Felix, director of behavioral health, and Dr. James Wilde, who leads the Center for Family Medicine addiction care team, meet with patients receiving medication-assisted treatment for opioid addiction either virtually or in person. Photo: Courtesy of South Dakota State University

health therapist and director of behavioral health at the Sioux Falls Family Medicine Residency program. "It prevents overdose and relapse. We take a de-stigmatized approach to treatment. Come and be the human that you are."

Janine Crowe, a 35-year-old resident of Sioux Falls, was addicted to opioids for more than a decade and could not shake her addiction until she began a treatment plan that included medications to ease her cravings for painkillers.

"It helps me stay sober," said Crowe. "It helped with my anxiety. It got me out of the mind frame of using drugs."

Medication-assisted treatment can be provided by physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners who undergo additional training to be certified with what is called an "X Waiver." Counseling and other care services are usually part of the overall treatment plan, but the medication itself is effective in curbing cravings, Felix said.

Methadone, an opioid, has been used to treat addiction to other opioids for more than 50 years, but it is potent and can only be taken through certified programs. The only facility in South Dakota that can dispense methadone is the Sioux Falls Treatment Center.

Buprenorphine is a more common, safer alternative. It partially activates opioid receptors in the brain, often reducing drug use and protecting patients from overdose by reducing cravings. Buprenorphine, which can be prescribed by a primary care physician, does not put patients in the euphoric and impaired state that makes opioids ripe for abuse.

Some critics of the treatment say it is simply "trading one addiction for another," creating a difficult-to-change negative stigma around addiction treatments that some patients and doctors still cling to, Felix said. That thought can keep patients from seeking help or keep doctors from providing the treatment.

"This is replacing one drug for another; it's replacing one that's going to kill you for one that's going to save your life," Felix said. "People are dying from this epidemic, and we have an amazing cure, yet people are stigmatizing it."

Over the past five years, millions of dollars in federal and state funds have been used to train more health care providers to prescribe appropriate levels of pain medication to avoid addiction. Prevention efforts have been made to educate the public and providers on the

potential for opioid abuse.

Between June 2019 and May 2020, the Center for Family Medicine provided MAT education to 58 medical providers or medical students in South Dakota, 10 of whom eventually obtained waivers required to administer the opioid treatment medications. Each year, about 14 pharmacy students in the state receive the training.

As part of Avera Health's Project ECHO — Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes — the

Center for Family Medicine has provided training to providers from 66 different health care facilities.

More than 950 people have begun a medication-assisted treatment program at one of the three MAT providers in South Dakota, including the Center for Family Medicine, Project Recovery and Lewis and Clark Behavioral Health, according to the 2020 annual report from the state-led Opioid Abuse Advisory Committee. The committee, formed in 2016, has used more than \$24 million in federal funding to expand education and prevention, increase access to treatment, improve data collection and decrease the overall opioid supply across the state.

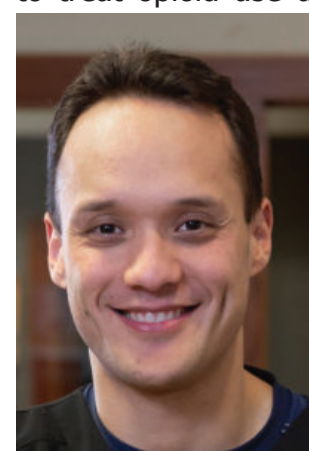
Even with these efforts, advocates say addiction care is still insufficient in South Dakota.

"South Dakota is kind of behind in its addiction care," said Dr. James Wilde, who leads the Center for Family Medicine addiction care team. "They don't treat the underlying reason for why people overdose."

Medication-assisted treatment was made more available last year during the pandemic when the Drug Enforcement Administration allowed providers to prescribe the medications to patients virtually. Normally, patients must be seen in person before being prescribed one of the medications to treat opioid addiction.

That flexibility will likely end when the State of Emergency surrounding the pandemic ends, reinstating a geographic hurdle for addiction patients in rural South Dakota, where care was and is still not as widely available.

In 2016, only about 12 of South Dakota's 66 counties had at least one health care provider who could prescribe the most-used medication to treat opioid use disorder, buprenorphine,



Stephen Tamang

according to the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy. Nationally, fewer than 1 in 10 people have access to this type of care.

"MAT is the gold standard for opioid addiction treatment," said Dr. Stephen Tamang, a family physician for Monument Health and founder of Project Recovery in

Continues on next page

Continued from previous page

Rapid City. "When I started (practicing), there was a big dearth of access here. There were no significant services at all."

Project Recovery, the state's largest telehealth addiction recovery program, was founded in 2017. It has experienced rapid growth in service requests each month over the past year, Tamang said. Project Recovery can diagnose addiction and prescribe medication to patients via telemedicine and provides services to some tribal communities across the state, including those on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

The number of prescriptions doctors give for opioids as a painkiller has been on the decline since 2012, but use and overdoses have been on a steady increase, mostly because of illegal manufacturing and selling. Some drugs sold on the streets are laced with powdered fentanyl, a substance up to 100 times more potent than morphine and usually mixed with other opioids to stretch supply. Humans can die from just 2 milligrams of fentanyl, equivalent to a few grains of salt, according to the DEA.

Law enforcement across South Dakota is seeing more fentanyl in illegal opioid sales. When someone seeking the opioids purchases pills illegally, they could be getting a more potent substance than they expect and accidentally overdose. Law enforcement seized 312 grams of fentanyl in South Dakota in 2020, according to the DEA. That equates to about 156,000 lethal doses.

"A lot of those overdose deaths are attributed to opioids, fentanyl," said Minnehaha County Sheriff Mike Milstead. "That has a huge impact on people's lives and families. A lot of the time, these people aren't trying to kill themselves. These are accidental overdose deaths. It really raises to the level of recognizing it's a serious problem."

The Minnehaha County Jail will soon become the first facility in the state to treat inmates with opioid addiction medications after they arrive. The jail has allowed inmates who are already on the treatment to continue it, and has long allowed pregnant women to start or continue the treatment. Previously, the Yankton County Jail was the only jail that allowed patients to continue on the treatment, according to the Center for Family Medicine.

Everyone who gets booked into the Minnehaha County Jail is screened, said Warden Mike Mattson. There, health care providers can identify who is already on the treatment and who may qualify to start. Once someone is released, case managers will connect them to outside services in the community, Milstead said.

"They're not always Minnehaha County residents," Milstead said. "Fortunately, MAT is expanding the state so we can connect them with more [services] across the state."

Having the treatment in the jail is an opportunity to get help to people who don't normally have access to health care or other basic needs, and provide treatment when they are away from opioids, said Michelle Boyd, Minnehaha County programs and services coordinator.

"The best time to get you into a program and your brain healing is when you don't have access to the drugs," Boyd said. "Being able to get them started on treatment so they can start to feel healed gives them that little boost. Once their head clears and they want their family back, that's the best time that you can give them a good start."

Boyd said she has noticed a recent increase in the number of participants who use medication-assisted treatment and expects that number to continue to rise.

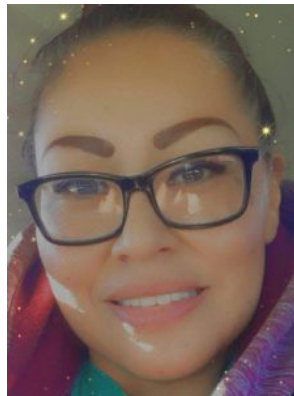
Crowe, the Sioux Falls resident, is now in her last phase of drug court. She heard about medication-assisted treatment through other women who were also staying at the New Start treatment center.

"I said, 'I don't know if I can take this anymore,'" Crowe said. "They said, 'Why don't you try medication?'" I said, "There's medication?"

"This is replacing one drug for another; it's replacing one that's going to kill you for one that's going to save your life. People are dying from this epidemic, and we have an amazing cure, yet people are stigmatizing it."

-- Dr. Dan Felix of the Sioux Falls Family Medicine Residency program

Crowe's addiction to pain pills and methamphetamine started in 2008, after her husband was killed by a relative on the Crow Creek Indian Reservation. She sought mental-health care at an Indian Health Service clinic, but



Janine Crowe

was not provided anti-depressants, she said. She sought comfort at a relative's home. That relative gave her the opioid Darvocet to manage pain from an infected ingrown toenail and Crowe enjoyed the euphoria that came with the pain relief.

"One thing led to another," she said. She went on to try tramatol and eventually moved to oxycodone and methamphetamine.

"I craved them bad," she said. "I woke up and thought about them."

She completed six months of traditional treatment, but relapsed shortly after being released.

"My heart was in it, but I couldn't get the drugs off my mind," she said. "Everything you do is drug-related. The reason you get up is because you're going to look for a drug. Your body language, you're sweaty, you get shaky, kind of like the flu feeling if you don't get it."

She was nervous to try the medication-assisted treatment, but she said it was her "last option."

She went to Falls Community Health and was given Suboxone in the form of a tablet that dissolves under the tongue. Within hours, she noticed her cravings cease and didn't feel the flu-like withdrawal symptoms she would normally feel if she went without using.

"I didn't want tramadol anymore," she said. "I didn't crave anything. A weight was lifted off my shoulders. It was a relief. I take one tablet three times a day."

Crowe now has a job, an accomplishment she would have thought unobtainable two years ago.

"I used to be on the streets, never held a job," she said. "Now I work. I've been sober for almost two years now."

HOW TO FIND HELP FOR ADDICTION

Here are some options to find medication-assisted treatment and other addiction services in South Dakota.

Avoid Opioid SD: <https://www.avoidopioidsd.com/>

Lewis and Clark Behavioral Health, Yankton: Phone: 605-665-4606 or toll free 1-800-765-3382

Website: <https://lewisclarkb.yankton.multipleadmin.com/>

Center for Family Medicine, Sioux Falls: Phone: 605-575-1637 to schedule with Cindy, substance use nurse case manager

Website: <https://centerforfamilymed.org/>

Project Recovery, Rapid City: Phone: 605-340-1234

Website: <http://project-recovery.org/appointments/>

ABOUT

DANIELLE FERGUSON



Danielle Ferguson, Sioux Falls, S.D., is an investigative reporter for South Dakota News Watch. She grew up in Salem, S.D. and previously worked as a watchdog reporter at the Sioux Falls Argus Leader.



Minnehaha County Sheriff Mike Milstead hopes to be expand the use of medication-assisted treatment for opioid addiction at the county jail. Currently, the jail allows people who are already on the treatment regimen to continue the medication while in jail. Photo by Danielle Ferguson, South Dakota News Watch

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STIP PUBLIC MEETINGS

S.D. Dept. of Transportation has developed a Tentative 2022-2025 Four-Year Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The Tentative STIP includes all the state sponsored transportation projects for this time period. Prior to final approval of the STIP by the Transportation Commission, public meetings will be conducted on the following dates to receive public comment on the tentative program.

- July 8, 2021 Ramkota Inn Pierre 7:00 PM (CDT)
- July 13, 2021..... AmericInn Aberdeen..... 7:00 PM (CDT)
- July 14, 2021..... Ramada Airport Sioux Falls..... 7:00 PM (CDT)
- July 15, 2021..... Ramkota Inn Rapid City 7:00 PM (MDT)

Meetings will be in-person and virtual. For more information and how to participate virtually, please visit <https://dot.sd.gov/projects-studies/planning/tentative-statewide-transportation-improvement-program-stip> Any individuals with disabilities who will require a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting should submit a request to the department's ADA Coordinator at 605-773-3540 or 1-800-877-1113 no later than 2 business days prior to the meeting.

LAURA INGALLS WILDER PAGEANT

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Late Score Costs Groton Legion Against Lake Norden

Wednesday's game against Lake Norden (SD) was a heartbreaker for Groton Legion Post #39, as they lost the lead late in a 5-1 defeat. The game was tied at one with Lake Norden (SD) batting in the top of the seventh when Mathew S singled on a 0-1 count, scoring two runs. Lake Norden (SD) got things started in the first inning. Luke S drove in one when S singled. In the bottom of the third inning, Groton Legion Post #39 tied things up at one when Alex Morris singled on a 2-2 count, scoring one run. Nicholai Arbach pitched Lake Norden (SD) to victory. The ace surrendered one run on four hits over seven innings, striking out 11 and walking zero. Chandler Larson took the loss for Groton Legion Post #39. Larson lasted six and two-thirds innings, allowing eight hits and three runs while striking out eight and walking one. Larson led Groton Legion Post #39 with two hits in three at bats. Groton Legion Post #39 was sure-handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. Morris had the most chances in the field with eight. Lake Norden (SD) racked up ten hits in the game. Dawson Noem and Jackson Noem each managed multiple hits for Lake Norden (SD).
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Groton Jr Legion Can't Catch Up To Smitty's Jr. Legion

Groton Jr Legion fell behind early and couldn't come back in a 15-2 loss to Smitty's Jr. Legion on Monday. Smitty's Jr. Legion took the lead on a single in the first inning. The Groton Jr Legion struggled to contain the high-powered offense of Smitty's Jr. Legion, giving up 15 runs. Smitty's Jr. Legion fired up the offense in the first inning. Smitty's Jr. Legion scored two runs when Braxton Kusler singled. Smitty's Jr. Legion scored six runs in the sixth inning. The big inning for Smitty's Jr. Legion came thanks to singles by Drew Salfrank and Casey Vining, a walk by Carter Dingman, a fielder's choice by Woehl, and a double by Brenden Livermont. Lemer earned the win for Smitty's Jr. Legion. The pitcher allowed one hit and two runs over four innings, striking out one. Phillip Zens threw one inning in relief out of the bullpen. Colby D took the loss for Groton Jr Legion. The hurler allowed three hits and three runs over two innings, striking out one. Andrew M went 1-for-3 at the plate to lead Groton Jr Legion in hits. Groton Jr Legion was

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sure-handed and didn't commit a single error. Kaleb H made the most plays with five. Smitty's Jr. Legion racked up 16 hits on the day. Salfrank, Kusler, Vining, Zens, Fischbach, and Livermont all managed multiple hits for Smitty's Jr. Legion. Salfrank led Smitty's Jr. Legion with four hits in five at bats. Smitty's Jr. Legion was sure-handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. Fischbach had

the most chances in the field with five.

Sizzling Summer Sounds

Croak! Sizzling City Summer Sounds

In the Park

Created by Animills © 2021

The frog has four toes on each of his front feet. He has five toes on each of his back feet.
The frog has 18 toes!

Verdon City Annexation Notice

City of Verdon will hold a meeting on July 30th at 9:00am Verdon, requesting annexation of Konkins outlot (40646 148th Street) into in city limits of Verdon SD.
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By Dominique Clare

It is already July, which means that the next month will have a Vikings preseason game. While preseason football is notoriously boring, it's always good to see the new additions early. With how many new additions the Vikings have it will actually be worth watching.

The last week has been relatively quiet for the Vikings. There are still talks of Harrison Smith getting extended, but the biggest news was Vikings popular announcer Paul Allen announcing that Everson Griffen really wants to play for the Vikings again.

While the Vikings should still sign a free agent or two, they are pretty set at defensive end.

This week, we continue our roster breakdown with the defensive line. This is one of the groups I am most excited about. This is going to be a special unit after being a liability for the team last season.

Danielle Hunter (DE)– There isn't any convincing that needs to be done on Danielle Hunter's behalf. The only concern is if he can bounce back to his pre-injury form or not. All reports so far have indicated that Hunter looks good and is expected to have no limitations during camp.

Prior to missing the 2020 season with a neck injury, Danielle Hunter became the youngest player in NFL history to reach 50 sacks. He is a game changer and is enough by himself to completely change the Vikings defensive line. The good news for the Vikings, is that they are getting a lot more back than Danielle Hunter.

Michael Pierce (NT) – During the 2020 NFL Free Agency period, the Vikings brought in Michael Pierce, a big run stuffer from the Baltimore Ravens. Due to COVID-19, Pierce opted out of the 2020 NFL season.

The Vikings really missed Pierce's presence last season. If you don't believe me go watch the game where Alvin Kamara broke the NFL record for touchdowns in a single game. Their interior defensive line was an issue last season, but should be a strength this year.

Dalvin Tomlinson (DT) – Mike Zimmer clearly took his run defense failures personally last season. Despite getting Pierce back, the Vikings still brought in Dalvin Tomlinson. Like Pierce, Tomlinson is a big run stuffer who immediately upgraded the Vikings interior defensive line.

With Pierce and Tomlinson in the middle, it is going to be very hard for teams to run the football. Tomlinson comes to the Vikings

from the New York Giants. Many Giants fans expressed how they were sad to see him go after he signed with the Vikings.

Stephen Weatherly (DE) – Weatherly spent his first 4 seasons with the Vikings. Last season he signed with the Carolina Panthers where he started a career high 9 games. Back with the Vikings he finds himself with the potential for a bigger role.

Many people think the Vikings need to upgrade this position prior to the season starting. I am actually okay with Weatherly. He only has to play slightly above average with Pierce, Tomlinson, and Hunter lined up next to him.

Sheldon Richardson (DT) – Sheldon Richardson is another person who spent time with the Vikings prior to last season and came back to the team. He is an interesting free agent addition to the team. He is good enough to be a starter but the Vikings are so good right now that he finds himself as a backup rotational pierce.

Richardson can also play defensive end, so the Vikings can use him or draw up some packages that utilize him more.

The rest – The Vikings drafted Patrick Jones (DE) this year and DJ Wonnum (DE) last year. Both those young players will provide amazing depth. Don't count either of them out for a starting position either. Wonnum showed some promise last season playing alongside as struggling unit.

Another defensive lineman I'm excited about is Jaylen Twyman. I feel he is going to be a special player. Unfortunately he was recently shot while visiting family in Washington D.C., but is expected to make a full recovery.

dry grass of the adjacent airport alight with a north wind that pushed the flames towards an unsuspecting city.

The late great Jim Howe, his daughter Maureen's boyfriend, and I immediately leaped the barbed wire fence and tore off our shirts to beat the flames out. It was nip and tuck, yet while we were singeing chest hair and eyebrows, Ted cackled like Nero, because the man loves anarchy. Really, he should be locked up.

The next day, when I brought my stinky, sooty, smokey clothes to Carmel's Cleaners, Carmelo Bonomo lifted an eyebrow and shook his head. Apparently, I wasn't the first one in. He should have cleaned them for free, after all we'd saved the whole damn town.

But most prominent in my memories are the adventures I had in Frederick, driving around shooting bottle rockets into each other's car windows and the bottle rocket that went straight down a neighbor's chimney with an explosion that billowed black soot into the air.

There were the escapades with my friend Whitey, who I think got his nickname from his dad, Bob, our baseball coach, probably because he liked Whitey Ford, and also because Whitey had platinum—almost white—hair, and all of Whitey Ford's velocity and none of his control. It was always quiet in center field when Whitey pitched. There were two probable outcomes; he'd strike them out or plunk them in the ribs. Not even the most suicidal of batters, crowded the plate. Whitey always won, though. He was a switch hitter like Mickey Mantle and a pretty good stick, too.

I still don't know for sure why we were friends. He had a mean streak, although the hit batsmen were by accident. He couldn't possibly have hit them on purpose. But about that mean streak, here's an example: One day Gare Bare's dad sent us to retrieve the geese which sometimes wandered too far to down to the Maple River that cut through their property. If you know anything about geese, you know they can't be herded, and they're mean as Whitey's fastball was. You had to catch and carry the geese one at a time. One day, Whitey offered to hold my goose while I crawled over the barbed wire fence, a rare moment of kindness you might imagine, but once I'd straddled the fence, he put a goose up close and it bit me right on the rear. It left a bruise. He wasn't cruel for the sake of cruelty, however. There had to be humor involved.

Another time, when we were lighting off fireworks in the street in front of my house, I knelt down, concentrating deeply, to light a firecracker with a whole string of Black Cats hanging out of my back pocket. Whitey was standing behind me. You see where this is going don't you? Suddenly, my butt exploded. He'd lit them off! It felt like the worst spanking you could imagine, but thankfully it blew the pocket off my jeans. Afterward, my pocket flapped in the wind, attached only by the rivets at the top corners, while Whitey rolled in the grass laughing so hard he hyperventilated.

And there was the day we were shooting off Roman candles when he decided to aim his at me, but his Roman candle didn't shoot straight. Mine did, though, and I began bouncing them off his chest until he retreated. Now, Whitey was fast, a darn fine running back and a good sprinter, but he wasn't fast enough to outrun a Roman candle, and I was merciless, so by the time the thing finally petered out, I'd pretty much burned the white T-shirt off his back. Vengeance was mine.

This is the part where I offer a somewhat sincere disclaimer: Kids, don't try this at home or at least without adult supervision, unless the adult is Whitey. All sorts of bad things could happen. But if you decide to go after Whitey, I'll understand and look the other way. With him if you don't strike first, he will.

© Tony Bender, 2021

Near death experiences on Independence Day

Every Independence Day I reminisce about celebrations past, the fireworks shot from a barge as viewed from Douglas Island with Juneau's mountains and cruise ships providing the backdrop, the most spectacular show I've ever seen. Then there were the fireworks in Frederick, SD, where we'd lean back on the hoods of cars at the ball field, slathered in bug spray, to watch a great small town display that drew hundreds from surrounding towns.

And there was the time at Uecker Yards when Teddy Uecker tried to burn down the City of Hettinger, ND. One of his rockets set the



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President Calvin Coolidge Vacations in South Dakota

President Calvin Coolidge and First Lady Grace Coolidge visited the Black Hills in his area as a Homesteader, Teacher, Friend." He was South Dakota's first congressional district, which covered the state's west river counties, from 1921 to 1933.



In March 1926, Williamson received a telegraph from Francis Case, publisher of the Hot Springs Star, encouraging him to invite Coolidge to the Black Hills.

Williamson did so, and also contacted South Dakota Gov. Carl Gunderson and other officials, urging them to do the same. He arranged for the State Game Lodge in Custer State Park to be the summer White House and for the state's congressional delegation to meet with the president.

"It soon became apparent, however, that the President thought the Hills were too far from Washington for present consideration," Williamson wrote in his autobiography.

The president vacationed in the Adirondack Mountains of New York in the summer of 1926.

Undeterred, Williamson and other South Dakotans turned their focus to the summer of 1927.

"Early in 1927, (South Dakota Senator Peter) Norbeck and I discussed plans of approach to the White House. We felt nothing would be gained by annoying the President with numerous calls," the congressman wrote.

Williamson had photographs of the Black Hills sent to him. He and Norbeck selected two of the best and took them to the White House to give to Grace Coolidge, extending an invitation to come to the Black Hills.

In February 1927, Williamson met with the president to discuss another matter.

"When we had finished, I casually asked if he had made any plans for his next summer's vacation," Williamson wrote.

The president said that he had been pestered with flies and mosquitoes and annoyed by people constantly watching him during a previous summer vacation. When Williamson said that would not happen in the Black Hills, Coolidge replied that he would consider going there.

Williamson and others realized that the president had to be assured that the nation's temporary capital would have sufficient housing for the president's family and staff, a way to ensure the president's safety, and adequate transportation and communications such as telegraph and telephone. They made sure that these items were in place.

In April 1927, Coolidge asked Williamson why he thought the Black Hills would be a good place for him to spend his vacation. That session of Congress had been long and controversial, and the president looked pale and tired, Williamson wrote.

"I waited a moment and then answered by saying, 'That which appeals to me is their restfulness ... The summer days are cool and pleasant, with little wind, and there is a lot of sunshine. They are practically free from flies and mosquitoes and sufficiently remote to discourage prowlers with binoculars. For recreation, there are clear, cold streams well stocked with trout and you will see deer, elk and mountain sheep most anywhere along the roads.'"

The official announcement that President Coolidge would spend the summer in the Black Hills was made on May 31, 1927. The State Game Lodge would be the first couple's residence and the president's office would be Rapid City High School.

The train carrying the president and first lady arrived in Rapid City on June 15.

"Norbeck and I were the only members of the congressional delegation who were in the Hills during the entire summer of 1927. The White House Secret Service headed by (Col. Edmund) Starling would not permit any person or delegation to call on the President that was not sponsored and vouched for by some person or official well known to the Service to be trustworthy and such person had to accompany and remain with the sponsored person or group while with the President. This explains in part why

Senator Norbeck and I were always invited together with our wives, as guests when the President was in attendance at any public gathering while on vacation in the Black Hills."

Many towns in the Black Hills were anxious to have the first couple attend their celebration, and the Coolidges complied with these requests as far as time and their other activities permitted.

That summer, Williamson witnessed the president waving a gigantic cowboy hat to a wildly cheering crowd at the Tri-State Roundup in Belle Fourche and being adopted into the Lakota nation during a ceremony at the Days of '76 celebration in Deadwood. The congressman accompanied the president to the Pine Ridge Reservation, Custer, Newell, Nisland and other places.

The first couple departed for Washington, D.C., on Sept. 9, 1927.

"From all appearances both he and his wife enjoyed their stay in the Black Hills," Williamson wrote in concluding the chapter about the president's vacation. "Certainly they looked happy and fit when they waved good-bye to the crowd at the station at Rapid City."

This moment in South Dakota history is provided by the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation, the nonprofit fundraising partner of the South Dakota State Historical Society at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. Find us on the web at www.sdhsf.org. Contact us at info@sdhsf.org to submit a story idea.



The photograph shows when the Coolidges arrived at the train station in Rapid City in June 1927. From left are Senator Peter Norbeck, President Calvin Coolidge, First Lady Grace Coolidge and U.S. Representative William Williamson.

Photo South Dakota State Historical Society - State Archives

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By Andrew Ellsworth, MD ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

Our Antiviral Founding Father

When the Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776, the American colonies still needed to win the Revolutionary War to truly gain their independence from the British Empire. The war continued another seven years until September 3, 1783. One of the deadliest threats to the Continental Army, however, was not the British Army, it was disease, especially smallpox.

Boston had an outbreak of smallpox in 1775 from British Redcoats arriving to fight the rebellion. George Washington knew very well the dangers of smallpox after having had it himself as a young man, which left scars on his face. To keep his soldiers safe, Washington did not allow anyone from Boston near his troops. Washington wrote to John Hancock, the president of the Continental Congress, that he would "continue the utmost vigilance against this most dangerous enemy." Later, when the British withdrew from Boston, Washington allowed only soldiers with immunity into the city.

Most of the Continental Army had never had smallpox while most of the Redcoats had. This put the Americans at a big disadvantage. An attempt by the Continental Army to take Quebec failed in part because of heavy losses due to smallpox. In fact, General John Thomas died of smallpox in July 1776.

This was before the advancement of vaccinations. However, there was a procedure known as variolation, an early form of vaccination which involved exposing a cut on the recipient's arm to a small dose of the virus, hopefully just enough to trigger immunity without causing severe illness or death. The procedure was illegal in many places including Washington's home state of Virginia.

Washington knew they could not afford to lose more soldiers to smallpox. Thus, despite push back from the Continental Congress, Washington ordered this primitive form of vaccination for the entire army, and by the end of 1777 more than 40,000 soldiers had received it. Infection of the army dropped from 20 percent to one percent and lawmakers repealed bans of variolation for smallpox across the colonies.

George Washington's efforts at quarantine and primitive vaccination helped protect the Continental Army from disease which helped them eventually defeat the British Army and earn independence for the United States of America.

The war on Covid-19 may take several years as well. History shows how vaccination can be a great weapon against disease. Unfortunately, many remain unvaccinated, and hundreds in the U.S. continue to die each day. We need to rally both nationally and locally, to unite our efforts so we can gain our independence from Covid-19.

Andrew Ellsworth, M.D. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices family medicine in Brookings, South Dakota. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit www.prairiedoc.org and follow Prairie Doc® on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show streaming on Facebook and broadcast on SDPB most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

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Late Score Costs Groton Jr. Teeners Against Milbank

Tuesday's game against Milbank was a heartbreaker for Groton Jr. Teeners, as they lost the lead late in a 5-4 defeat. The game was tied at four with Milbank batting in the top of the fifth when an error scored one run for Milbank.

Groton Jr. Teeners lost despite out-hitting Milbank five to three.

Milbank fired up the offense in the first inning, when Gage Anderson grounded out, scoring one run.

Groton Jr. Teeners knotted the game up at four in the bottom of the fourth inning, when an error scored one run for Groton Jr. Teeners.

Josh Pederson took the win for Milbank. The ace lasted two innings, allowing one hit and zero runs while striking out two and walking zero.

Carter Simon took the loss for Groton Jr. Teeners. The pitcher allowed one hit and three runs over two innings, striking out two and walking zero.

Reese Rabe started the game for Milbank. The bulldog allowed four hits and four runs over three innings, striking out three Karsten Flihs started the game for Groton Jr. Teeners. Flihs lasted three innings, allowing two hits and two runs while striking out four

Braxton Imrie went 2-for-3 at the plate to lead Groton Jr. Teeners in hits.

Milbank stole eight bases during the game as two players stole more than one. Pederson led the way with four.

Groton Post #39 Defeats Northville (SD) In A Blow-Out Victory

Groton Legion Post #39 had no trouble on offense today, winning big over Northville (SD) 12-3

Groton Legion Post #39 got things started in the second inning. Cade Larson singled on a 1-2 count, scoring one run.

Groton Legion Post #39 scored five runs in the fourth inning. The big inning was thanks to singles by Pierce Kettering and Chandler Larson, an error on a ball put in play by Jace Kroll and Alex Morris, and a walk by Darien Shabazz.

Morris took the win for Groton Legion Post #39. The righty went two innings, allowing zero runs on zero hits, striking out five and walking one. Larson, Peyton Johnson, and Jackson Cogley all put in work in relief out of the bullpen, steering their team towards the victory.

Josh McQuerrie took the loss for Northville (SD). The hurler went four innings, allowing seven runs on seven hits and striking out seven.

Groton Legion Post #39 had 13 hits in the game. Kettering, Jayden Zak, Shabazz, and Larson each collected multiple hits for Groton Legion Post #39. Larson, Shabazz, Zak, and Kettering each collected two hits to lead Groton Legion Post #39. Groton Legion Post #39 was sure-handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. Larson had the most chances in the field with 11.

Northville (SD) collected five hits. McQuerrie and Ben Fischbach all had multiple hits for Northville (SD).

Groton Post #39 Falls To Northville (SD) After Third Inning Score

Groton Legion Post #39 lost the lead late in a 7-3 defeat to Northville (SD) on Tuesday. The game was tied at one with Northville (SD) batting in the bottom of the third when an error scored one run for Northville (SD).

Groton Legion Post #39 lost despite out-hitting Northville (SD) five to three.

Groton Legion Post #39 got things started in the first inning. Groton Legion Post #39 scored one run when Tate Larson singled.

Northville (SD) evened things up at one in the bottom of the second inning when Carson Gohl grounded out, scoring one run.

Northville (SD) scored three runs in the fourth inning. Northville (SD) offense in the inning was led by Kade Stahl, Ben Fischbach, and Gohl, who all drove in runs.

Fehi pitched Northville (SD) to victory. The ace allowed five hits and three runs over four innings, striking out four.

Jayden Zak took the loss for Groton Legion Post #39. The pitcher surrendered four runs on three hits over two and a third innings, striking out three.

The Groton Independent

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The Life of Lauren Harrison



Lauren Leroy Harrison, 80, of Groton, SD, passed away July 3, 2021 at Avera St. Lukes, Aberdeen, SD.

He was born January 1, 1941 at Leola, SD to Harold and Laura (Bain) Harrison. He grew up on the family farm and attended rural school at the end of their driveway. He graduated from Forbes High School in 1959 and then attended Ellendale State Teacher's College, Ellendale, ND, graduating with his Bachelor's Degree in Teaching. He was united in marriage to Vergene "Jean" Moore on September 17, 1960. Lauren began his teaching career at Kensal, ND teaching there for one year before going to teach and coach at Florence, SD. In 1970, Lauren

and Jean moved to Groton, SD, where he taught business and later computers for 33 years before retiring in 2003. He also helped coach track and football. During the summer months, Lauren worked for the ASCS office in Ellendale.

Lauren was a great outdoorsman; and he loved hunting, fishing and archery hunting. He enjoyed going to the River, where he spent many hours fishing. For many years he went elk hunting with his brother Wayne and brother-in-law, Lyndon in Colorado. He also enjoyed tending to his yard and gardening. He was loyal to his Dairy Queen Coffee Crew. Lauren had a great sense of humor.

He will be forever loved and missed by his wife Jean, of 61 years in September; his brother, Wayne (Priscilla) Harrison; two sisters-in-law, Cecile (Gary) Ringgenberg and Lynette (Loren) Winters; brother-in-law, Lyndon (Claire) Moore; and nieces & nephews, Craig (Nancy) Harrison, Steve (Penny) Harrison, Nancy (Tom) Cutler, Joe (Lori) Harrison, Lee (Laura) Winters, Lindsay (Andrew) Ryan, Ben Moore and Jia Moore. Lauren was preceded in death by his parents, his in-laws, Bud & Violet Moore, an infant daughter, Laurie and a brother, Dale.

There will be a prayer service on Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Home, Groton, SD. His funeral will be Friday, July 9, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church, Aberdeen, SD with one hour visitation prior to the service. Burial will be at the Oakes View Cemetery near Oakes, ND. Lauren's funeral service will be live streamed on the Dahlstrom Funeral Home website www.dahlstromfuneralhome.com on his obituary page.

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