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The Groton Independent

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Memorial Day brings up memories, call to thank service members

by Elizabeth Varin

Donald Pasch remembers the day he found out his brother Bill had been killed in action.

"The day they told us was May 12, Mother's Day of '68," he said. "We went into church, came home from church. Mom made dinner. Me and my brother Elroy were out throwing a rubber ball against the barn because baseball was coming up.

"And a green car with white lettering – I can still remember it, still see it – drove in the yard. They told us to come in the house," he said. "And that's when I found out I was a gold star family member."

Donald painted a picture for the crowd gathered Monday at Groton Union Cemetery, exposing the hurt his family felt and the continued impact felt after losing a family member in war.

"For a while I thought he was a POW because you couldn't kill my brother... my big brother," he said, getting choked up.

Pasch, a 1978 graduate of Groton High School, served as guest speaker during the annual Memorial Day Service.

Through his speech, Pasch recalled painful moments that shaped his family after his brother William E. Pasch was killed in action in Vietnam. Bill and his dad Walter got a hunting cabin near Sand Lake, but after Bill died, Walter would go out there to get drunk.

Donald's mother, Lois, had a mental break at one point and was admitted to the St. Luke's mental ward, Donald said. But these were things people didn't talk about back then. It was hard to see the hurt the family was going through.

More than 53,000 U.S. service men were killed in combat during World War I, Pasch said. More than 405,000 U.S. service men died in World War II. More than 36,000 died in the Korean War. More than 58,000 died in the Vietnam War.

"They all had mothers and dads," Pasch said. "Most of all of them had brothers. They're all Gold Star. They all went through what I'm going through. Can you comprehend how many people that is?"

"...We had five in our family. Well... six. But with Bill killed we had five Gold Star family members," he said.

Pasch's message wrapped up with a call for people to thank and respect those who have served in the military.

"Take pride in this place," he said. "Take pride in your country. These people all died for you to all go vote and keep this freedom. So that we can come and do what we're doing right now."

That message resonated with some in the crowd, including Dennis K. Larson. He and his wife have been going to the Memorial Day ceremony for quite a few years. It's a way to honor all the veterans.

Larson said he is grateful for those who have served "to protect our democracy. We wouldn't have it if it wasn't for all the sacrifices all the veterans have done over the years."

Bill Duncan also sees the Memorial Day event as a way to remember those who have served. Duncan, retired pastor from Groton Christian and Missionary Alliance, said he's lived here for more than 40 years, and the list of those who have died in service brings up a lot of familiar names.

"They gave to their country as a part of their military service," he said. "I appreciate that."



Don Pasch was the guest speaker at this year's Memorial Day Program held at the Groton Cemetery. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Groton Legion Commander Bruce Babcock gave the welcome and did the prayers at the service. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Robert Wegner (at the podium) and Doug Hamilton read the list of names of those buried at the Groton Cemetery. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



The Groton American Legion Post #39 did the gun salute. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

The unforgotten

Editor's note: Tony took the Memorial Day weekend off. Here's one of our favorites from 2015.

The intoxicating smell of fresh cut spring grass permeates the senses. Hand shears trim close to the granite markers, wreaths are laid at the graves. American flags adorn other graves. A handkerchief polishes the stone and sweeps away time.

We pause. Reflect. Contemplate. Remember. I worked as a groundskeeper at a cemetery one summer, read the names as I walked by, memorized the names of many children. Parents would arrive regularly to mark some sad anniversary. The slamming of car doors reverberated like unintentional thunder. I would become invisible, a wraith solemnly watching with all the other ghosts in prayerful silence. Empaths, we mourned the living and the dead.

They usually stood, looking small, slumped-shouldered, looking down, not at each other. She might kneel and brush away some dust, and when she rose, his arm might circle her shoulder as she leaned into him.

In time, she would draw a deep breath, the signal that it was time to leave. No words spoken, just plastic flowers left behind in a vase. The rest of the story drives away in the front seat of an aging Buick with protesting springs.

I wonder some days if the earth, every atom and particle, locked in a cycle of life and death, has within it the capacity to feel, or is the universe indifferent to our losses?

Even the elephants weep. They hold the bones of the departed and show their respect. When drought takes the young, the mothers will try desperately to waken the baby for a long while and then finally give up. They will stand there, sometimes for hours, in memoriam. A dog waits at the corner each day or his master to return from work. The man isn't coming back, and the dog must know it by now—maybe this is simply a show of respect. Or hope.

Old soldiers gather at the Legion Hall on Memorial Day, fewer in number than last year, but they stand taller this day than any other. If the sun shines, they smoke Pall Malls and Marlboros, adjust their gear and suck in their paunches. The sunshine seems fitting. And if it rains, it seems appropriate, too.

They keep their thoughts to themselves, don't talk about the wars, the things they've seen, friends they lost. Some things are to be remembered, some things best forgotten. They remind us of the duality of the struggle, that from the contest, honor is born, that light pierces the darkness.

It's a mystery, a miracle, an enigma. It's hard to fathom that the imprint we leave behind, in

ways we cannot predict, endures. Some footprints are deeper than others, but we all leave a mark. Walk through the halls of your school. You may not know the names on these fresh faces, but the features are recognizable. There's a Geiszler... a Dockter... an Ebel... a Delzer... a Heupel. It's in the nose. The angle of the face. The eyes. You can hear it in the laugh. See it in the posture. Look at tintype photographs in the museum and you may see yourself. Bloodlines run strong. There's comfort in this, a sense that things are as they are supposed to be. A continuum.

There were three of us that summer, watchmen of the dead, invisible servants to the living. We dug the graves. Poured cement for the vaults and painted them gold. We set up regal maroon tents and folding chairs, carefully smoothed the green plastic turf that hid the disturbed ground. It had to be perfect.

We waited in the shadows when the shiny black hearses led the somber parades through the cemetery. The arrhythmic beat of car doors, like drummers out of time. Prayers echoed off the statues of angels. Sometimes they were lost to the wind. Sometimes it rained.

In 20 minutes it was over. When they were gone, the tent came down, the sod was rolled back over the scar, and we watered it daily, respectfully, until it took root again. Each day, we plucked away rogue thistles and trimmed unruly branches, never having to be reminded of the sanctity of the task.

Every day was Memorial Day.

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That's Life

by Tony Bender

Championship game. Coming off the hype in 1989, the team was predicted to win 10 games and finish 1st in the NFC Central.

The Vikings never even had a chance to meet those expectations as the team started 1-6 in their first seven games. After climbing back to a 6-6 record in week 13, the Vikings folded completely, losing their final four games to finish 6-10 and in last place in the NFC Central. The disappointing season would see Mike Lynn lose his position as general manager. Thankfully, for Vikings fans, the disappointment would not last for a while as the Vikings would win at least 8 games every season for the remainder of the 1990s decade.

2001 Minnesota Vikings

After losing in two of the previous three NFC Championship games, the Vikings came into the 2001 season with the expectation to compete once again for a chance to play in the NFC Championship game. Before the season, the Vikings were predicted to win nine games and finish tied for 2nd in the NFC Central.

The 2001 season for the Vikings is one everyone would like to forget. During training camp that season, the team had to deal with the sad death of Vikings' offensive tackle, Kory Stringer, caused by a heat stroke during practice. The team was just never the same after that as they went a measly 5-11, after double-digit victory seasons in the prior three seasons. The 2001 season would also see the departure of Dennis Green and Cris Carter, two Vikings legends who led the team to such success in the decade prior.

2010 and 2011 Minnesota Vikings

I thought I would combine the 2010 and 2011 Minnesota Vikings since those seasons happened back-to-back. Both seasons were oddly similar as the Vikings had two old quarterbacks who were past their prime leading their team with Brett Favre in 2010, and Donovan McNabb in 2011.

The 2010 season was one with high expectations. The team had lost a heartbreaker in the NFC Championship game the year prior and brought back virtually the same roster as the year prior. In 2010, the Vikings were expected to win between nine and 10 games but only amassed a 6-10 record, which caused head coach, Brad Childress, to get fired. To make things worse, that was the same season as the Metrodome roof collapse, which happened to be a good representation of how the season went.

The 2011 season did not have the same expectations as 2010, but it had many of the same players. In 2011, the Vikings were predicted to win only seven games. Sadly, the team did not even come close to that as they finished with a 3-13 record, the worst record the Vikings had had since 1984. Surprisingly, the Vikings led the NFL in sacks that season with 50 sacks, thanks to Jared Allen's franchise record of 22 sacks. However, it was not enough as the Vikings still managed to put together the worst season in Vikings' history for the last four decades.

Weekly Vikings Recap - Seasons the Vikings Failed to Meet Expectations

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

Minnesota Vikings Seasons that Failed to Meet Expectations

Discuss Vikings' news

After looking at the Minnesota Vikings' teams that exceeded preseason expectations, last week, let's now look at the Vikings' seasons that greatly failed to live up to the expectations they had going into their respective season.

1990 Minnesota Vikings

The 1990 Minnesota Vikings' season was a continuance of failed expectations for the Vikings from the prior season when the team became "Super Bowl favorites" after making the Herschel Walker trade on October 12, 1989, and yet failed to make it to even the NFC

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We the People

The South Dakota Humanities Council is making available a weekly column -- "We the People" -- that focuses on the U.S. Constitution. It is written by David Adler, who is president of The Alturas Institute, a non-profit organization created to promote the Constitution, gender equality, and civic education.



By David Adler

Is Posting of Ten Commandments in Schools Constitutional?

The continued revival of interest among state legislatures in posting the Ten Commandments in public schools may present to the U.S. Supreme Court an opportunity to reverse yet another decades-old, landmark precedent, this time one that prohibits such displays on grounds that they promote religion in violation of the First Amendment's Establishment Clause.

Although time expired in the legislative session before the Texas House of Representatives could approve a Senate bill to post the Ten Commandments in classrooms, the Longhorn State and several others are likely to pass such bills in the near term, aligning them with a dozen other states, including North Dakota and South Dakota, that already permit displays of the Commandments in public schools.

Posting the Ten Commandments on walls of classrooms was common in American schools before the Supreme Court, in *Stone v. Graham* (1980), declared the practice unconstitutional. The Court, in a 5-4 per curiam decision (an unsigned opinion), struck down a Kentucky statute that required display of the Commandments in every public school classroom.

The Court held that displays of the Ten Commandments serve a "plainly religious" purpose, which ran afoul of the governing "Lemon Test." In *Lemon v. Kurtzman* (1971), the Court held that programs challenged under the Establishment Clause must have a secular purpose. The Court wrote, "The Ten Commandments are undeniably a sacred text in the Jewish and Christian faiths, and no legislative recitation of a supposed secular purpose can blind us to that fact."

Although copies of the Commandments were purchased by private funds, the mere posting provided official state support for religion. Portions of the Ten Commandments could have been regarded as secular in purpose, such as honoring one's parents, killing, adultery, stealing, false witness and covetousness. But other sections are clearly religious in nature: worshipping the Lord God alone, avoiding idolatry, not using the Lord's name in vain, and observing the Sabbath.

Stone v. Graham and its prohibition on the display of the Ten Commandments in public schools remains the law in the United States. Optimism that *Stone* may be reversed, particularly among states that have reintroduced, or will reintroduce, postings of the Commandments, is derived from a particular detail in the Kentucky statute, and two more recent Supreme Court decisions that punctuate the shifting standards in Establishment Clause jurisprudence.

The Kentucky statute required the conspicuous posting in every public schoolroom of a large blowup of the Ten Commandments. The size and projection of the Commandments undercut any hope of "saving" such postings under the Lemon Test.

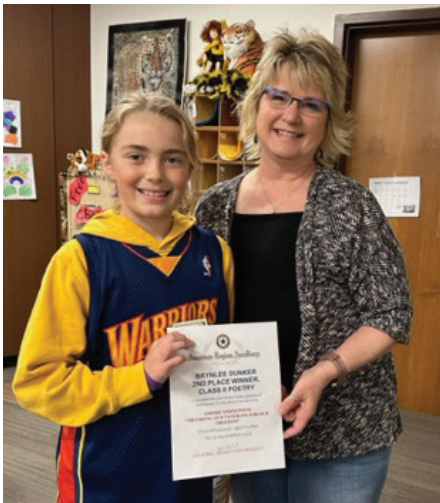
In 2005, in *Van Orden v. Perry*, however, the Court upheld the placement of a six-foot Ten Commandments monument amidst 21 historical markers and 17 other monuments in a 22-acre park surrounding the Texas State Capital in Austin, against an Establishment Clause challenge. Chief Justice William Rehnquist acknowledged the religious nature of the Commandments, "but simply having religious content or promoting a message consistent with religious doctrine does not run afoul of the Establishment Clause." Rehnquist distinguished the "passive" nature of the display, which represented a part of the state's political and legal history, from the conspicuous posting of the Ten Commandments in public schools, at issue in *Stone*, since they "confronted" students.

The Court's ruling in *Van Orden*, then, suggested a strategy to states wishing to permit postings of the Ten Commandments in public schools: Place the Commandments within a display that includes other historical, legal, and cultural documents and milestones, and avoid the conspicuous blowup of the posting that doomed the Kentucky law. This is precisely what the states of South Dakota and North Dakota have done in enacting statutes permitting the "passive" display of the Commandments. The South Dakota law, for example, provides that the Commandments "shall be" presented in the same "manner and appearance generally as other objects and documents displayed," and cannot be "presented or displayed in any fashion that results in calling attention to it apart from the other displayed objects and documents."

Displays of the Ten Commandments in public schools received additional support in the form of the Supreme Court's decision in 2022, upholding the right of a Washington high school football coach to pray on the 50-yard line after games, against an Establishment Clause challenge. In *Kennedy v. Bremerton*, the Court, in a 6-3 opinion written by Justice Neil Gorsuch, held that the coach's prayers were a private expression of his faith and not government endorsement of religion, even though they, like postings of the Ten Commandments, were offered at a state sanctioned event, held on state property, funded by state taxpayers.

The Court's ruling in *Kennedy* sounded the death knell of the Lemon Test and its requirement that laws have a secular purpose. The Supreme Court's evolving Establishment Clause jurisprudence has significantly lowered the wall between church and state and suggests that the North and South Dakota statutes permitting display of the Ten Commandments in public schools, like those across America, will be sustained, if they face legal challenges.

District Level Winners of the American Legion Auxiliary Poem and Essay Contest



Brynlee Dunker
(Photo courtesy Jan Seibel)



Andi Iverson
(Photo courtesy Jan Seibel)



Kaylee Sippel
(Photo courtesy Jan Seibel)



Columbia Fourth Grade Poems
The Columbia Legion Auxiliary presented the awards for the fourth grade poems. Pictured are Lillian Davis, second place; Andi Iverson, first place; and Mya Moody, third place. Presenting the award is Columbia Legion Auxiliary junior member, Ellie Weismantel. (Photo courtesy Cara Dennert)



Columbia Third Grade Essays
Right Photo: The Columbia Legion Auxiliary presented the awards for the third grade essays. Jernie Weig, honorable mention; Giedon Rix, honorable mention; not pictured is Hudson McGannon, first place. Presenting the award is Columbia Legion Auxiliary junior member, Ellie Weismantel. (Photo courtesy Cara Dennert)

Congratulations to the American Legion Auxiliary Essay and Poem winners representing the Columbia and Groton American Legion Auxiliaries at the district level. This year's theme for the essay is "What does patriotism mean to you?" and the poems theme is "Thanking our Veterans for our freedom."

Representing Groton American Legion Auxiliary Unit #39 are Brynlee Dunker, 2nd place Class II poem and Kaylee Sippel, 1st place Class I essay. Representing Columbian American Legion Auxiliary Unit #58 is Andi Iverson, 1st place Class II poem. The first place winners now move onto state level competition. ALA Americanism chairman from the Groton Unit is Jerrie Vedei awarding the winners with a certificate and money.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion Can't Catch Up To Clark/Willow Lake

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion watched the game slip away early and couldn't recover in a 9-6 loss to Clark/Willow Lake Jr. Legion on Sunday. Clark/Willow Lake Jr. Legion scored on a single by Emmerson Larson, a wild pitch during Collin Gaikowski's at bat, and a groundout by Ernie Garcia in the first inning.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion collected 11 hits and Clark/Willow Lake Jr. Legion had five in the high-scoring affair.

Clark/Willow Lake Jr. Legion got things moving in the first inning, when Emmerson Larson singled on the first pitch of the at bat, scoring one run.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion scored four runs in the third inning. Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion batters contributing to the big inning included Gavin Englund, Korbin Kucker, and Caden Mcinerney, all sending runners across the plate with RBIs in the inning.

Josh Kannegieter took the win for Clark/Willow Lake Jr. Legion. The righthander surrendered four runs on nine hits over three and a third innings, striking out six and walking zero. Cooper Pommer threw one and two-thirds innings in relief out of the bullpen.

Nicholas Morris took the loss for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. Morris allowed four hits and six runs over one and one-third innings, striking out two and walking one.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion racked up 11 hits on the day. Jarrett Erdmann, Mcinerney, and Morris each racked up multiple hits for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. Morris, Mcinerney, and Erdmann each managed two hits to lead Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion.

Clark/Willow Lake Jr. Legion saw the ball well today, racking up five hits in the game. Conner Mudgett and Emmerson Larson each had multiple hits for Clark/Willow Lake Jr. Legion. Clark/Willow Lake Jr. Legion tore up the base paths, as two players stole at least two bases. Will Hovde led the way with three.

Groton Legion Post 39 Falls to Watertown Post 17 on Walk-off

Groton Legion Post 39 fell to Watertown Post 17 Legion 6-5 on Tuesday on the final play of the game. The game was tied at five with Watertown Post 17 Legion batting in the bottom of the eighth when Treyton Himmerich singled on the first pitch of the at bat, scoring one run.

Groton Legion Post 39 lost despite out-hitting Watertown Post 17 Legion ten to nine.

Watertown Post 17 Legion knotted the game up at five in the bottom of the sixth inning. An error scored one run for Watertown Post 17 Legion.

After Groton Legion Post 39 scored two runs in the top of the fifth, Watertown Post 17 Legion answered with two of their own. Groton Legion Post 39 scored when Tate Larson's sac fly scored two runs for Groton Legion Post 39. Watertown Post 17 Legion then answered when Himmerich singled on a 1-1 count, scoring one run.

Ryan Roby got the win for Watertown Post 17 Legion. Roby surrendered one run on four hits over three innings, striking out three and walking one. Chase Christanwon threw two innings in relief out of the bullpen.

Cole Simon took the loss for Groton Legion Post 39. The pitcher went two innings, allowing one run on two hits, striking out three and walking one.

Ryan Groeblichhoff started the game for Groton Legion Post 39. Groeblichhoff went five and two-thirds innings, allowing five runs on seven hits and striking out six Dylan Rawdon started the game for Watertown Post 17 Legion. The righty surrendered one run on four

hits over three innings, striking out two

Groton Legion Post 39 racked up ten hits in the game. Brevin Flihs, Cade Larson, Dillon Abeln, and Bradin Althoff all had multiple hits for Groton Legion Post 39. Althoff, Abeln, Larson, and Flihs each collected two hits to lead Groton Legion Post 39.

Watertown Post 17 Legion collected nine hits. Himmerich and Spencer Weintjes each managed multiple hits for Watertown Post 17 Legion. Himmerich went 3-for-4 at the plate to lead Watertown Post 17 Legion in hits. Watertown Post 17 Legion tore up the base paths, as two players stole at least two bases. Himmerich led the way with two.

Groton lost the second game, 10-0, in three innings. Cade Larson had the lone hit for Groton. Watertown scored seven runs in the first inning and three in the third.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U Loses Lead Early in Defeat

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U fell behind early and couldn't come back in a 20-7 loss to Huron Tigers 14U on Tuesday. Huron Tigers 14U took the lead on a walk in the first inning.

Despite the loss, Groton Jr. Teeners 14U did collect four hits in the high-scoring affair. Unfortunately, Huron Tigers 14U had 16 hits on the way to victory.

Huron Tigers 14U got things moving in the first inning. Anderson Porisch drew a walk, scoring one run.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U notched five runs in the sixth inning. Groton Jr. Teeners 14U batters contributing to the big inning included Nick Groeblichhoff, Ryder Schelle, TC Schuster, and Gavin Kroll, who all drove in runs.

Huron Tigers 14U scored eight runs in the seventh inning. The big inning for Huron Tigers 14U came thanks to singles by Teagen Lien, Diego Colon, and Korbin Brock and a home run by Landon Hulst.

Porisch was credited with the victory for Huron Tigers 14U. The righthander went four innings, allowing zero runs on zero hits, striking out eight and walking one. Tyce Huber, Crayton Siedschlag, and Gavin Waldner all put in work in relief out of the bullpen, steering their team towards the victory.

Groeblichhoff started the game for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. The righty lasted four innings, allowing six hits and eight runs while striking out three. Karson Zak and Tristan Mcgannon entered the game as relief, throwing two innings and one inning respectively.

Huron Tigers 14U tallied three home runs on the day. Hulst had a four bagger in the third and seventh innings. Porisch went yard in the third inning.

Kroll, Schelle, Ethan Kroll, and Schuster all had one hit to lead Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. Groton Jr. Teeners 14U tore up the base paths, as five players stole at least two bases. Schuster led the way with two.

Huron Tigers 14U racked up 16 hits in the game. Brock, Cooper Bischoff, Lien, and Hulst each managed multiple hits for Huron Tigers 14U. Brock went 3-for-4 at the plate to lead Huron Tigers 14U in hits. Huron Tigers 14U didn't commit a single error in the field. Colon had seven chances in the field, the most on the team. Huron Tigers 14U stole 21 bases during the game as seven players stole more than one. Davis Chase led the way with four.

Early Lead For Huron Tigers 14U Seals Fate For Groton Jr. Teeners

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U watched the game slip away early and couldn't recover in an 18-1 loss to Huron Tigers 14U on Wednesday. Huron Tigers 14U scored on a double by Anderson Porisch, a walk by Nolan Stahly, a single by Chase Schuchhardt, and a single by Crayton

Siedschlag in the first inning.

The Groton Jr. Teeners 14U struggled to put runs on the board and had a tough time defensively containing Huron Tigers 14U, giving up 18 runs.

Huron Tigers 14U got things started in the first inning when Porisch doubled on a 2-0 count, scoring two runs.

Huron Tigers 14U scored nine runs in the second inning. Huron Tigers 14U big bats were led by Stahly, Jeremy Hofer, Tyce Huber, Schuchhardt, Zach Scheer, and Gavin Waldner, all driving in runs in the inning.

Hofer led things off on the hill for Huron Tigers 14U. Hofer allowed three hits and one run over four innings, striking out nine.

Lincoln Krause was on the pitcher's mound for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. Krause allowed four hits and 12 runs over one inning. TC Schuster, Ethan Kroll, and Kason Oswald each contributed in relief for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U.

Ryder Schelle led Groton Jr. Teeners 14U with two hits in two at bats.

Porisch went 2-for-2 at the plate to lead Huron Tigers 14U in hits. Cooper Bischoff led Huron Tigers 14U with two stolen bases, as they ran wild on the base paths with five stolen bases. Huron Tigers 14U was sure-handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. Porisch had the most chances in the field with eight.

Five RBI Day for Bradin Althoff Brings in Win For Groton Legion Post 39 Over Clark/Willow Lake Senators

Five runs batted in from Bradin Althoff helped lead Groton Legion Post 39 past Clark/Willow Lake Senators 19-2 on Sunday. Althoff drove in runs on a home run in the third, a double in the fourth, and a single in the fifth.

Groton Legion Post 39 secured the victory thanks to 11 runs in the third inning. Ryan Groeblichhoff, Logan Ringgingberg, Cade Larson, Colby Dunker, Dillon Abeln, and Groeblichhoff each drove in runs during the inning.

Groton Legion Post 39 put up 11 runs in the third inning. The offensive firepower by Groton Legion Post 39 was led by Groeblichhoff, Ringgingberg, Larson, Dunker, Abeln, and Groeblichhoff, all knocking in runs in the inning.

Althoff was the winning pitcher for Groton Legion Post 39. The lefty went five innings, allowing two runs on six hits and striking out four.

Lucas Kannegieter took the loss for Clark/Willow Lake Senators. The righthander surrendered 12 runs on nine hits over two and two-thirds innings, striking out one.

Groton Legion Post 39 socked one home run on the day. Althoff put one out in the third inning.

Groton Legion Post 39 totaled 18 hits in the game. Groeblichhoff, Larson, Althoff, Brevin Flihs, Tate Larson, and Ringgingberg all managed multiple hits for Groton Legion Post 39. Groeblichhoff led Groton Legion Post 39 with four hits in five at bats.



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June 1-18 Groton Community Calendar

Thursday, June 1

Senior Menu: Baked cod, macaroni and cheese, spinach salad, fruit cocktail, whole wheat bread.
Emmanuel Lutheran Nigeria Circle, 2 p.m.
CANCELLED: Legion hosts Webster, 6 p.m. (2)
Jr. Teener at Selby, 6 p.m. (2)
U12BB vs. Borge 11 at Aberdeen North Complex, 5:30 p.m. (2)
U8BB R/B hosts Britton, 5:30 p.m. (2)

Friday, June 2

Senior Menu: Bratwurst on bun, sauerkraut, 3 bean salad, chocolate pudding with bananas.
Legion hosts Lake Norden, 5 p.m. (1)
Jr. Legion hosts Lake Norden/Badger, 7 p.m. (1)

Saturday, June 3

Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Legion at Milbank Tourney
Jr. Teener at Moberg, 3 p.m. (2)

Sunday, June 4

United Methodist: Worship with communion: Conde worship, 8:30 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton worship, 10:30 a.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran worship with communion, 9 a.m.
Groton CM&A: Sunday School at 9:15 a.m., Worship Service at 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.
St. John's worship with communion, 9 a.m.; Zion worship with communion, 11 a.m.
Amateurs at Redfield, 7 p.m.
Legion at Milbank Tourney

Monday, June 5

Senior Menu: Ranch chicken breast, boiled potatoes, mixed vegetables, pineapple tidbits, whole wheat bread.
The Pantry, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., community center
Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
Jr. Teener hosts Aberdeen Smitty's, 5:30 p.m. (2)
U10BB R/W hosts Britton, 5:30 p.m. (2)
U8BB Blue hosts Britton, 5:30 p.m. (2)
U10SB at Doland, 7 p.m. (1)
State Golf at Rapid City

Tuesday, June 6

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
Senior Menu: Beef stroganoff, noodles, squash, cookie, apple sauce.
Olive Grove: Ladies League, 6 p.m.
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.
Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
The Pantry, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., community center
Legion hosts W.I.N., 5 p.m. (1)
Jr. Legion hosts W.I.N., 7 p.m. (1)
U12BB at Webster, 6 p.m. (2)
U10BB R/B at Webster, 6 p.m. (2)
U8BB R/B hosts Webster, 6 p.m. (2)
State Golf at Rapid City

Wednesday, June 7

Senior Menu: Meatloaf, scalloped potatoes, creamed peas, honey fruit salad, whole wheat bread.
Olive Grove: Men's League
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

Groton CM&A: Kids' Club, Youth Group and Adult Bible Study begins at 7 pm
Emmanuel Lutheran Sarah Circle, 5 p.m.; Campfire Night, 7 p.m.
Groton Chamber Meeting, noon, at city hall
Jr. Teener hosts Clark, 6 p.m. (2)
U12BB hosts Britton, 5:30 p.m. (2)
U10BB B/W vs. Borge at Aberdeen North Complex, 5:30 p.m. (2)
U8Blue vs. Borge at Aberdeen North Complex, 5:30 p.m. (2)
U8SB hosts Oakes, 5:30 p.m.
U10SB hosts Oakes, 7 p.m.
U18SB vs. Claremont at Aberdeen, 6:30 p.m. (2)

Thursday, June 8

Senior Menu: Beef stew, biscuit, tossed salad, rainbow sherbet, whole wheat bread.
Legion at Redfield, 5:30 p.m. (1)
Jr. Legion at Redfield, 7:30 p.m. (1)
U12BB vs. Hannigan at Aberdeen North Complex, 5:30 p.m. (2)
U10BB R/W vs. Hannigan at Aberdeen North Complex, 5:30 p.m. (2)
U8BB Red vs. Hannigan at Aberdeen North Complex, 5:30 p.m. (2)
U8SB hosts Britton, 5:30 p.m.
U10SB hosts Britton, 6 p.m. (2)
H12SB hosts Britton, 7 p.m. (2)

Friday, June 9

Senior Menu: Chicken pasta salad, grape juice, breadstick, apple crisp.
Olive Grove: Spring Fundraiser, 7 p.m.
Amateurs host Aberdeen, 7 p.m.
Jr. Legion at Moberg, 5 p.m. (2)

Saturday, June 10

Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Legion hosts Milbank, 2 p.m. (2)
U12BB at Sisseton Tourney
U8 R/B Groton Tourney
U10BB W/B at Columbia, 6:30 p.m. (2)

Sunday, June 11

United Methodist: Pastor Brandon and Ashley going away party. Conde worship, 8:30 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton worship, 10:30 a.m.
Groton CM&A: Sunday School at 9:15 a.m., Worship Service at 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.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.
St. John Lutheran worship, 9 a.m.; Zion at 11 a.m.

Monday, June 12

School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Senior Menu: Meatballs, mashed potatoes with gravy, peas and carrots, tropical fruit, whole wheat bread.
United Methodist: PEO meeting (outside group), 7 p.m.
The Pantry, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., community center
1 p.m.: Senior Citizens Meet at the Groton Community Center.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
Legion vs. W.I.N. at Northville, 5 p.m. (1)
Jr. Legion vs. W.I.N. at Northville, 7 p.m. (1)
Jr. Teener hosts W.I.N., 5:30 p.m., (2)
U10BB R/B hosts Webster, 6 p.m. (2)
U8 Blue hosts Webster, 6 p.m. (2)

Tuesday, June 13

Senior Menu: Scalloped potato with ham, beets, sunset salad, cookie, whole wheat bread.
Olive Grove: Ladies League, 6 p.m.; Bridge.
United Methodist: Bible Study with Amanda, 10 a.m.
Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
The Pantry, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., community center
Emmanuel Lutheran: Church Council, 7 p.m.
Legion at Claremont, 6 p.m. (2)
Jr. Teener at Webster, 5:30 p.m. (2)
U8 Red at Britton, 5:30 p.m. (2)
U8SB at Webster, 6 p.m. (2)
U10SB at Webster, 6 p.m. (2)
T-Ball black hosts Columbia, 5:30 p.m.
U10BB R/W hosts Columbia, 6:30 p.m. (2)

Wednesday, June 14

Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, lettuce salad with dressing, mandarin orange salad, whole wheat bread, ambrosia.
Olive Grove: Men's League
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.
Groton CM&A: Kids' Club, Youth Group and Adult Bible Study begins at 7 pm
Legion at Sisseton, 6 p.m. (1)
Jr. Legion at Sisseton, 7:30 p.m. (1)
U12BB hosts Hannigan, 5:30 p.m. (2)
U10BB B/W hosts Hannigan, 5:30 p.m. (2)
U8SB at Claremont, 5:30 p.m.
U10SB at Claremont, 7 p.m. (2)
U18SB vs. Leola Merchants, 6 p.m.; and Claremont, 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 15

Senior Menu: Oven fried chicken, sweet potatoes, mixed vegetables, cookie, dinner roll.
Groton Transit Fundraiser, 5-7 p.m., Community Center
Emmanuel Lutheran: Movie night, 7 p.m.
U12BB at Doland, 8 p.m. (1)
U10BB at Doland, 7 p.m. (1)
U8 Blue at Doland, 6 p.m. (2)
U10SB hosts Doland, 6 p.m. (2)
T-Ball Gold at Doland, 5 p.m.

Friday, June 16

Senior Menu: Taco salad, Mexican rice, breadstick, Lemmon tart bar.
Olive Grove: SDSU Tournament

Saturday, June 17

Groton Triathlon
Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 10 a.m. ago 1 p.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship at Rosewood Court, 10 a.m.

Sunday, June 18

United Methodist: Conde worship, 8:30 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton worship, 10:30 a.m.
Groton CM&A: Sunday School at 9:15 a.m., Worship Service at 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.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.; Worship at Avantara, 3 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran with communion at 9 a.m.; Zion worship with communion, 11 a.m.
Amateurs host Northville, 5 p.m.
Legion at Milbank, 2 p.m. (2)

Dear EarthTalk: I don't get how cryptocurrency is so bad for the environment?
- L.H., via email

Cryptocurrency's impact on the environment is a big cause for concern. While cryptocurrencies (e.g., Bitcoin, Ethereum) offer various benefits, such as decentralized transactions and financial inclusivity, their underlying technology, known as blockchain, has significant environmental drawbacks.

One of the main environmental issues associated with cryptocurrency is its energy consumption. The process of "mining" cryptocurrency involves complex mathematical calculations that require substantial computational power, primarily from fossil fuel sources. The Bitcoin network relies on a consensus mechanism called Proof-of-Work (PoW), which demands vast computational resources that consume more electricity than entire countries like Argentina or Ukraine. As a result, the carbon footprint of Bitcoin alone is substantial, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions and exacerbating climate change.

Furthermore, the energy requirements of cryptocurrency mining have led to the emergence of large-scale mining operations, often located in regions where electricity is cheap and abundant. These mining farms consist of rows upon rows of powerful computers running around the clock, consuming vast amounts of energy. In some cases, they rely on coal-fired power plants, a highly polluting energy source.

Another ecological concern is electronic waste. As mining becomes more competitive, miners require increasingly powerful and specialized hardware. This leads to a constant cycle of upgrading or discarding older equipment. The discarded waste, which contains hazardous materials, poses risks to both the environment and human health. Moreover, the popularity of cryptocurrencies has contributed to a surge in demand for graphic processing units (GPUs) and other hardware, which has led to supply shortages and inflated prices, as well as the creation of new manufacturing facilities. The production of these components requires significant amounts of energy and raw materials, further straining the environment.

It's worth noting that not all cryptocurrencies have the same environmental impact. Some newer cryptocurrencies, such as Ethereum, are transitioning from PoW to a more energy-efficient consensus mechanism called Proof-of-Stake (PoS), which requires validators to hold and "stake" a certain amount of the cryptocurrency, eliminating the need for energy-intensive mining. This transition could potentially reduce the impact of some cryptocurrencies in the future. Another option is the use of renewable energy sources for operations, reducing the



Caption: It is technically possible to convert a gas-powered car to an EV, but not without complications and expense. Credit: Tony Castley, FlickrCC.

industry's carbon footprint. Additionally, more widespread adoption of PoS and other energy-efficient consensus mechanisms could help minimize energy consumption.

Of course, cryptocurrency's recent fall from grace in the wake of crypto giant FTX's late 2022 flame-out might be a good thing for the planet. The moral of the story on the evolution of cryptocurrency is that as we continue to explore and develop new forms of digital currency, it is crucial that we prioritize sustainability and consider the long-term environmental effects of the tools and instruments we are unleashing on the world..

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"Big Pharma has gone fishing"
You are probably familiar with drug commercials. There are all sorts of them showing people being active and smiling as they attend a birthday party, go biking, go surfing, or shopping at a flower shop. At some point they start listing some of the side effects and precautions, including some obvious and some scary statements. "Do not take this medication if you take nitrates for chest pain, do not take this medication if you do not suffer from a disease, or do not take his medication if you are allergic to this medication. Stop taking this medication if you experience headache, dizziness, sudden death, or body odor."

If you think there are more of these commercials now than there used to be, you are correct. In 1997, the FDA relaxed some of the requirements such as listing all possible side effects, as long as they provide a phone number or website to obtain that information. Thus, direct to consumer advertisements have been on the rise ever since. Now, instead of focusing on the education of physicians and other prescribers, the drug companies have greatly increased their budgets on advertising and lobbying. Often they spend more on advertisements than they do on research and development, let alone the actual product.

The research behind how these companies share this information is fascinating. For instance, they know it helps to "water down" bad side effects, such as stroke, with minor side effects, such as body odor. If the list of side effects ends with sudden death, it sounds worse than if it ends with flatulence, so they invest heavily in the research and psychology behind every word in the commercial.

The benefits of direct to consumer advertisements may include increasing public awareness of diseases and treatments, empowering patients to know more about their options. However, these advertisements can lead to increased prescriptions of unnecessary medications, expensive medications, or the preference for an expensive medication over a cheaper one that may be comparable or better. This in turn increases healthcare costs. Meanwhile, the high costs of these advertisements also end up being passed along to people in rising drug prices. Given these concerns, New Zealand and the United States are the only two industrialized nations which allow for direct to consumer marketing by the pharmaceutical industry.

The goal of the weekly Prairie Doc Perspective and the Healing Words Foundation are to enhance health and diminish suffering by communicating useful information, based on honest science, provided in a respectful and compassionate manner. We do not accept any money from the pharmaceutical industry. When hearing about drugs, diets, supplements, or other health information, please consider the source, and talk to your doctor about the risks, benefits, and alternatives.

Andrew Ellsworth, M.D. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices family medicine in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org and on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show based on science, built on trust for 21 seasons, broadcast on SDPB and streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

The Prairie Doc
Based on Science, Built on Trust
Andrew Ellsworth, MD.