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The Groton Independent

Vol. 141 No. 41 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, July 3, 2024 ♦ Established in 1889

Groton to see electrical expenses, new soccer building

Some big expenses may be on the horizon for the city of Groton.

Discussion continued Tuesday evening about replacing electrical and water meters throughout town, with a new deadline coming up.

Technical support for the current electric meter system is going away at the end of 2024, said Electric Utility Supervisor Todd Gay. The meters will still work at that point. However, if there is an issue with the tech or the software to read the meters remotely, the meters would likely have to be read manually by going house-by-house throughout town.

The council had previously discussed replacing electric meters in October during budget priority talks, and the estimate to replace all of the city's electric meters would total more than \$300,000.

Another issue coming soon is that batteries in water meters are dying, and those will probably all be dead in four years, Gay said.

The city could look into a system that would work with both the water and electric meters, he said. That would cut down on the costs of managing two different systems.

Consultants for the city had previously discussed combining the two meters under the same system so there would be a better chance at grant funding. Mayor Scott Hanlon asked if problems with electric/water meters impacts other areas, and if additional grant funding would be available should that happen.

"That's great, but everybody in the country is looking for that piece of pie," Gay said. "Basically if you're not in with a group, they're not going to look at us. We're too small. It's pushed to the bigger, more impacted areas."

Gay added he's looking into a group application with other Heartland Energy users, "but we can't wait until then to find out yes or no and not have a plan if we don't get it."

"I don't want to depend on it, thinking this is going to come through and bank on it and it never happens," he said. "It puts you another two years behind. I'm trying to stay ahead of it."

There may be more demand on the electrical system too with changes to technology. Some vehicle manufacturers have said they will stop making combustion engines within the next 15 years. More electric vehicles would add a load to the current electrical systems.

"It's not going away," he said. "You can't bury your head in the sand."

More electrical expenses possible

Another possible upcoming expense may include a new electrical transformer.

However, more information will be presented to the City Council at future meetings.

The electrical department got a bad sample from the transformer in the south substation, said Electric Utility Supervisor Todd Gay. That sample indicated there may be electrical arcing in the transformer itself. A second sample was taken and sent for testing.

"I don't have enough information," he said, "but it's not looking good."

"Twelve years ago that transformer was \$200,000," he said. "In today's dollars, I would say \$600,000 and two years out."

More City Council on Page 8



The transformer in the south substation is being closing monitored with the oil samples. The initial oil sample sent in recently indicated there could be an issue inside the transformer. Additional oil samples are needed to be done in order to decide the fate of the transformer. If the oil samples come back stable, then it should be okay to operate. However, if there is a negative change in the oil sample, it could indicate that there is arching inside the transformer which could eventually lead to its failure. (Photo

by Paul Kosel)



Class of 1972

The GHS Class of 1972 celebrated its 70th birthday Thursday night at the Groton American Legion. Members of the class present were Diane Henley Schaffer, Linda Dunker Anderson, Gary Weismantel, Holly Schaller Judd, Bryon Baule, Deb Dorfschmidt Woodworth, Rick Zimney, Tami Raap Eberle, Bill Swisher, Doug Abeln and Bob Swisher. Showing up after the picture was Robyn Greene. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Area receives \$244,871 CTE Grant

PIERRE, S.D – In a historic move, the South Dakota Department of Education has awarded 36 grants totaling \$6.4 million to school districts to purchase innovative, industry-grade equipment for career and technical education (CTE) programs.

Groton Area will receive a \$244,871 grant. According to Groton Area Superintendent Joe Schwan, he said the money will be used for additional new equipment in the health science department.

"We gave schools a definite challenge to carefully examine their needs and let us know how we could help truly set their CTE programs up for long-term success. Our districts rose to that challenge. I am excited by the opportunities this grant will afford our students, and in turn our communities and businesses throughout the state," said Secretary of Education Joe Graves.

CTE programs integrate academic knowledge with technical skills, preparing students for careers through hands-on training and industry-aligned curriculum. By emphasizing real-world applications and essential employability skills, CTE equips students with the tools they need for success in both college and the workforce in fields such as agriculture, healthcare, hospitality, engineering, and more.

The scale of this unprecedented, one-time grant opportunity was made possible by funds available to the department through the American Rescue Plan and the federal Perkins grant.

**What's on my mind
Train wreck**

My Great Uncle Fred Spilloway lived to be 103 or 104. We were never exactly sure. But we knew he was sharp as a tack to his last day. Meanwhile, North Dakota voters just passed an age limit for politicians of 80. While that might not have been fair to Fred, after last week's presidential debate, you could see where supporters of the bill are coming from.

Donald Trump, who has been riffing about sharks and boat batteries, might have claimed the prize as worst debate performance ever—he told a documented 30 lies; maybe he's slipping—except Joe Biden is just too competitive. And worse. He was robotic and tongue-tied. Fred would have mopped the floor with both of them. The next day, however, Biden looked great on the campaign trail. How does that happen? Maybe, after two global diplomatic visits and a fundraiser the night before, he just got a good night's sleep.

Now, I've seen what I saw from both candidates before but it's been at the end of the bar. I'm trying to withhold judgement since being president is the most challenging job in the world. You see the before and after pictures. It ages you. The reality, however, is that tasks are delegated, so a good administration is the key for any president.

This is a cautionary tale. We've seen Trump making addled statements daily on the road and we've seen Biden stiff as a 2x4. I don't want to be an agist, but both parties need to produce a more youthful bench.

King of Suck-Up Mountain

Well, Gov. Doug Burgum may go down in state history as the most disappointing politician ever. He quickly managed to alienate just about every faction in the legislature and now his absorption into the MAGA collective—resistance is futile—and his shameless pandering to Trump in his quest to become his running mate, has become a national embarrassment. And in South Dakota, Kristi Noem is mowing down anything that moves in the gravel pit.

Last weekend, Burgum made the national news talk shows, and absolutely refused to answer the question—would he accept the results of the election? His tap-dancing had the talking heads mocking him right into the Monday morning news shows. "Doug Burgum is like Mike Pence without the smoldering sensuality," Rick Wilson, a Republican strategist, said on MSNBC. He also called him the "King of Suck Up Mountain."

Once you look past the frivolity, it's a serious question. Trump is facing indictments for trying to steal the 2020 election with fake electors, a



That's Life
by Tony Bender

siege on the U.S. Capitol, and a recorded attempt to coerce a Georgia official into creating 11,000 votes out of thin air.

Now, I'm a fiscal conservative, a social progressive, and a 100% believer in the Constitution and the electoral process. Casting doubt on the process is dangerous but Burgum can't afford to contradict Trump if he wants to be vice president, even though Homeland Security said, "The November 3rd election was the most secure in American history."

From the time I could read, I consumed history and civics, never imagining our democratic republic could be vulnerable to authoritarianism. Well, if you disenfranchise 81 million voters, it's no longer a free country and your voice has been silenced.

Last weekend, Doug Burgum couldn't bring himself to support the one thing that makes us a free country. Free elections.

Independence Day

Most of my readers know I usually reserve political commentary for my weekly column in Forum Communications newspapers. I prefer to write human interest columns in this paper and the others that have supported me for more than 30 years. But, you can't blithely ignore threats to our democracy.

When I became concerned about a sales job to drum up support for the Iraq War—after all, 9/11 was precipitated by Saudis based in Afghanistan—some publishers abandoned my column. Most hung in there, even those who disagreed with me. Because that's what free speech is all about.

This week we celebrated freedom of speech and the many other freedoms established nearly 250 years ago. Today, more than ever, we need to remember how fragile freedom is.

Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

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Weekly Vikings Roundup
By Jordan Wright

Last week, we broke down the Minnesota Vikings' offensive line – a position that had recently been the team's weak spot but is now one of its strengths. This week, we break down the Vikings' defensive line – a position that has been historically great for the Vikings but is now one of the worst units in the league.

Before we get into the breakdown, it is important to note that Vikings' defensive coordinator Brian Flores was able to cover up this weakness (for the most part) in 2023 and will need to do so again this season. Last year, Flores' defense played 180 snaps without a single defensive lineman on the field, and 143 plays with only one (which combines for nearly a third of the total snaps for the Vikings' defense). Those numbers are unheard of. Unfortunately, it's relatively easy to gameplan against, so Flores will need to have another trick up his sleeve.

Harrison Phillips – The only decent player on the defensive line last year, Phillips played much of the season out of position. He was primarily deployed as the nose tackle, who is usually a massive mountain of a man who can hold the point of attack and absorb double teams. Phillips, while still a large human being, is better suited playing defensive end in the Vikings' 3-4 defense, where he would face

fewer double teams and be able to focus on rushing the passer.

Jerry Tillery – Signed as a free agent this offseason, Tillery is a former 1st-round pick who has potential but hasn't been able to put it all together yet in his career. At this point, he has the highest ceiling among the defensive linemen, and the Vikings are hoping they can unlock it. Tillery spent 3.5 years in a Chargers uniform before spending the last 1.5 seasons with the Raiders. He's started 39 games over the past five seasons.

Jonathan Bullard – Entering his third season with the Vikings, Bullard is hoping that his 21 starts for the team will give him an edge over his fellow defensive linemen. He will likely be given the first crack at making the starting lineup, but he only has two sacks during his time in Minnesota and the Vikings are hoping to get more out of a starting-caliber player. Bullard is entering his ninth season and has played for the Bears, Cardinals, Seahawks, and Falcons.

Jonah Williams – Another free agent addition this year, Williams will be battling for a spot on the Vikings' roster. Luckily for him, aside from Phillips and perhaps Tillery, the rest of the defensive linemen on the roster are in the same boat. Williams spent the past three seasons with the Rams and started 22 games for them at defensive end.

James Lynch – He's listed here simply because the Vikings spent a fourth-round pick on him in 2020. Lynch has only started three games for the Vikings over the past three seasons and will need a strong showing in training camp if he wants to remain on the roster.

Levi Drake Rodriguez – Or simply LDR as the players and coaches like to call him, is a rookie seventh-round pick. He might start the season on the practice squad, but I wouldn't count him out to make the final 53-man roster heading into the season.

Jaquelin Roy – A fifth-round pick for the Vikings in 2023, Roy started one game for the Vikings in his rookie year.

Jalen Redmond – Entering his second season in the NFL, Redmond has yet to see the field because of injuries.

Tyler Manoa – An undrafted rookie free agent, Manoa's best shot to stick in the NFL is on a practice squad.

Taki Taimani – Another undrafted rookie free agent, Taimani is also hoping to land on a practice squad this season.

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Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
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Lincoln Krause's Big Day Propels Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 Past Smittys Jr Legion 2024 Aberdeen

By GameChanger Media

Lincoln Krause collected three hits in five at bats, as Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 defeated Smittys Jr Legion 2024 Aberdeen 15-9 on Monday. Krause singled in the first inning, singled in the second inning, and singled in the fourth inning.

Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 got on the board in the top of the first inning after Gavin Englund walked, Smittys Jr Legion 2024 Aberdeen committed an error, and Kellen Antonsen walked, each scoring one run.

A ground out by Nicholas Morris extended the Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 lead to 4-0 in the top of the second inning.

A double by Jarrett Erdmann extended the Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 lead to 5-1 in the top of the third inning.

Smittys Jr Legion 2024 Aberdeen flipped the game on its head in the bottom of the fourth, scoring six runs on three hits to take a 8-7 lead. The biggest blow in the inning was a double by Cowboy Haskell that drove in two.

Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 tied the game in the top of the sixth thanks to a single by Nick Groeblichhoff, and a walk by Antonsen.

Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 flipped the game on its head in the top of the seventh, scoring six runs on two hits to take a 15-9 lead. The biggest blow in the inning was a single by Groeblichhoff that drove in two.

Antonsen earned the win for Groton Jr. Legion Post 39. The reliever surrendered three hits and two runs over three and one-third innings, striking out three and walking one. Michael Dutenhoffer took the loss for Smittys Jr Legion 2024 Aberdeen. The starting pitcher went three innings, allowing five runs (three earned) on five hits, striking out three and walking three. Groeblichhoff stepped on the hill first for Groton Jr. Legion Post 39. The starting pitcher gave up eight hits and seven runs over three and two-thirds innings, striking out one and walking five.

Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 tallied 14 hits in the game. Krause and Carter Simon each collected three hits for Groton Jr. Legion Post 39. Groeblichhoff led Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 with three runs batted in. The pitcher went 2-for-2 on the day. Englund collected two hits for Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 in two at bats. Antonsen led Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 with three walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, accumulating 10 walks for the game. Krause stole seven bases. Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 stole 10 bases in the game. Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 were sure-handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. Morris had the most chances in the field with six.

Smittys Jr Legion 2024 Aberdeen collected 11 hits in the game. Joe Cogley, Drake Soderlund, Haskell, and Karson Borge each collected two hits for Smittys Jr Legion 2024 Aberdeen. Soderlund, Haskell, Dutenhoffer, and Borge each drove in two runs for Smittys Jr Legion 2024 Aberdeen. Paxton Ewing paced Smittys Jr Legion 2024 Aberdeen with two walks. Overall, the team had patience at the plate, accumulating six walks for the game. Smittys Jr Legion 2024 Aberdeen turned one double play in the game.

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Groton Jr Teeners 14U Defeats Smittys 13/14 2024 Aberdeen On Back Of Clutch Display From Ryder Schelle

By GameChanger Media

Ryder Schelle drove in four runs on two hits to lead Groton Jr Teeners 14U past Smittys 13/14 2024 Aberdeen 15-2 on Monday. Schelle tripled in the fourth inning, scoring three runs, and singled in the third inning, scoring one.

Groton Jr Teeners 14U scored eight runs in the third inning on the way to victory. Alex Abeln singled, scoring one run, Schelle singled, scoring one run, Jordan Schwan tripled, scoring three runs, an error scored one run, and Ethan Kroll grounded out, scoring two runs.

A steal of home by Cash Wagner put Smittys 13/14 2024 Aberdeen on the board in the top of the third.

Groton Jr Teeners 14U scored seven runs on seven hits in the bottom of the fourth inning. TC Schuster drew a walk, scoring one run, Schelle tripled, scoring three runs, Braeden Fliehs singled, scoring one run, Kason Oswald singled, scoring one run, and Kolton Antonsen singled, scoring one run.

Schwan earned the win for Groton Jr Teeners 14U. They gave up four hits and two runs over four innings, striking out eight and walking six. Owen Backous took the loss for Smittys 13/14 2024 Aberdeen. They went three innings, allowing eight runs (five earned) on five hits, striking out five and walking one. Schuster tossed one inning of zero-run ball for Groton Jr Teeners 14U in relief. They surrendered one hit, striking out none and walking none.

Groton Jr Teeners 14U amassed 12 hits in the game. Schelle, Schwan, Abeln, Oswald, and Antonsen each collected two hits for Groton Jr Teeners 14U. Groton Jr Teeners 14U ran wild on the base paths, piling up six stolen bases for the game. Groton Jr Teeners 14U didn't commit a single error in the field. Abeln had the most chances in the field with eight.

Benjamin Golz, Wagner, Colton Hanigan, Backous, and Lane Shultz each collected one hit for Smittys 13/14 2024 Aberdeen. Golz led Smittys 13/14 2024 Aberdeen with one run batted in. The infielder went 1-for-3 on the day. Backous led Smittys 13/14 2024 Aberdeen with two walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, piling up six walks for the game.

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STIP PUBLIC MEETINGS

S.D. Dept. of Transportation has developed a Tentative 2025-2028 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 16, 2024 • 2:00 PM (CDT) | July 18, 2024 • 7:00 PM (CDT)
Meetings will be virtual this year covering the entire state.

For more information and how to participate virtually, please visit <https://dot.sd.gov/projects-studies/planning/tentative-statewide-transportation-improvement-program-stip>

Individuals needing assistance, pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), should contact the SDDOT ADA Coordinator (605-773-3540) two business days prior to the meeting in order to ensure accommodations are available. For any in-person meeting, notice is further given to individuals with disabilities that the meeting is being held in a physically accessible location.

Groton Jr Teeners 14U Surge Past Smittys 13/14 2024 Aberdeen Thanks To Big First Inning

By GameChanger Media

Groton Jr Teeners 14U defeated Smittys 13/14 2024 Aberdeen 17-0 on Monday thanks in part to 15 runs in the first inning. Braeden Flihs drew a walk, scoring one run, Layne Johnson drew a walk, scoring one run, Lincoln Shilhanek singled, scoring two runs, Kason Oswald drew a walk, scoring one run, a wild pitch scored two runs, Ryder Schelle doubled, scoring two runs, Jordan Schwan doubled, scoring one run, an error scored one run, and an error scored two runs.

A wild pitch extended the Groton Jr Teeners 14U lead to 17-0 in the bottom of the second inning.

TC Schuster earned the win for Groton Jr Teeners 14U. The righty surrendered one hit and zero runs over three innings, striking out six and walking none. Cash Wagner took the loss for Smittys 13/14 2024 Aberdeen. The starting pitcher went one-third of an inning, surrendering 11 runs (10 earned) on two hits, striking out one and walking six.

Shilhanek led Groton Jr Teeners 14U with two runs batted in from the number nine spot in the lineup. They went 1-for-2 on the day. Schuster, Flihs, Sam Crank, Shilhanek, Schelle, Shaydon Wood, and Schwan each collected one hit for Groton Jr Teeners 14U. Groton Jr Teeners 14U worked the count all day, piling up six walks. Groton Jr Teeners 14U were sure-handed and didn't commit a single error. Oswald made the most plays with six.

Lane Shultz went 1-for-1 at the plate to lead Smittys 13/14 2024 Aberdeen in hits.

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Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 Walk It Off Against Crusaders

By GameChanger Media

Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 took Sunday's game in dramatic fashion, with a 7-6 walk-off victory over Crusaders. Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 were down 6-5 in the bottom of the sixth inning when Carter Simon singled, scoring two runs.

Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 rallied for the victory despite trailing 5-0 in the fourth.

Crusaders jumped out to the lead in the top of the fourth inning after Broc Bauer singled, scoring one run, Wesley A doubled, scoring one run, and Easton E doubled, scoring three runs.

Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 made the score 7-6 in the bottom of the sixth after an error scored one run, and Simon singled, scoring two runs.

Nicholas Morris earned the win for Groton Jr. Legion Post 39. The starting pitcher allowed 10 hits and six runs (five earned) over six innings, striking out four and walking one. Andrew U took the loss for Crusaders. They went two-thirds of an inning, giving up three runs (zero earned) on zero hits, striking out two and walking one. Trueth C.G. led things off on the hill for Crusaders. They surrendered seven hits and four runs (two earned) over four and two-thirds innings, striking out four and walking five.

Simon drove the middle of the lineup, leading Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 with two runs batted in. The right-handed hitter went 1-for-3 on the day. Gavin Kroll, Lincoln Krause, Karsten Flihs, Simon, Jarrett Erdmann, Alex Abeln, Gavin Englund, and Morris each collected one hit for Groton Jr. Legion Post 39. Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 worked the count all day, collecting six walks. Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 turned one double play in the game.

Crusaders collected 10 hits in the game. A, Mack S, E, and Bauer each collected two hits for Crusaders. E led Crusaders with three runs batted in. The outfielder went 2-for-4 on the day. Crusaders turned one double play in the game.

Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 will travel to Smittys Jr Legion 2024 Aberdeen for their next game on Monday.

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Bradin Althoff Puts On Strong Contact Performance As Groton Post 39 Take The Win Over Clark/Willow Lake Senators

By GameChanger Media

Bradin Althoff collected three hits in six at bats, as Groton Post 39 defeated Clark/Willow Lake Senators 16-4 on Wednesday. Althoff singled in the third inning, singled in the fourth inning, and singled in the seventh inning.

Groton Post 39 opened the scoring in the second after Conner Mudgett induced Nick Morris to hit into a fielder's choice, but one run scored.

Groton Post 39 added to their early lead in the top of the third inning after Clark/Willow Lake Senators committed an error, Gavin Englund walked, Karsten Flihs walked, and Morris hit into a fielder's choice, each scoring one run.

Groton Post 39 scored six runs on five hits in the top of the seventh inning. Nick Groeblichhoff was struck by a pitch, driving in a run, an error scored one run, Flihs singled, scoring one run, Jarrett Erdmann grounded out, scoring one run, Dillon Abeln singled, scoring one run, and Colby Dunker doubled, scoring one run.

Korbin Kucker earned the win for Groton Post 39. The righty surrendered two hits and one run over three and two-thirds innings, striking

out six and walking none. Conner Mudgett took the loss for Clark/Willow Lake Senators. The starting pitcher went two innings, allowing five runs (four earned) on two hits, striking out one and walking four. Abeln pitched one and one-third innings of shutout ball for Groton Post 39 in relief. The right-handed pitcher gave up zero hits, striking out three and walking none.

Groton Post 39 piled up 10 hits in the game. Abeln collected two hits for Groton Post 39 in four at bats. Flihs paced Groton Post 39 with three walks. Overall, the team had patience at the plate, accumulating 10 walks for the game.

Conner Mudgett led Clark/Willow Lake Senators with one run batted in. Michael Severson led Clark/Willow Lake Senators with two hits in two at bats. Clark/Willow Lake Senators had patience at the plate, amassing nine walks for the game. Conner Mudgett and Ernesto Garcia led the team with two walks each.

Groton Post 39 play at home on Friday against Post 9 in their next game.

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Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 Surge Past Britton U16 Teeners Thanks To Big Fourth Inning

By GameChanger Media

Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 defeated Britton U16 Teeners 10-0 on Saturday thanks in part to six runs in the fourth inning. Nicholas Morris singled, scoring two runs, an error scored one run, Nick Groeblichhoff singled, scoring two runs, and Braeden Flihs singled, scoring one run.

Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 got on the board in the second inning after a wild pitch scored one run.

Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 added to their early lead in the bottom of the third inning after Gavin Englund singled, Morris grounded out, and Englund scored after tagging up, each scoring one run.

Jarrett Erdmann earned the win for Groton Jr. Legion Post 39. The starting pitcher gave up zero hits and zero runs over four innings, striking out seven and walking two. Jace Rein took the loss for Britton U16 Teeners. The southpaw went three innings, allowing four runs on one hit, striking out four and walking seven.

Morris drove the middle of the lineup, leading Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 with three runs batted in. The cleanup hitter went 1-for-3 on the day. Karsten Flihs, Flihs, Englund, Groeblichhoff, and Morris each collected one hit for Groton Jr. Legion Post 39. Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 had a strong eye at the plate, collecting eight walks for the game. Lincoln Krause and Flihs led the team with two walks each. Krause and Flihs each stole multiple bases for Groton Jr. Legion Post 39. Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 stole 10 bases in the game. Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 were sure-handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. Flihs had the most chances in the field with seven.

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Powerful Pitching Performance From Gavin Englund Carries Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 Past P-G 16U Teeners 16U

By GameChanger Media

Gavin Englund struck out 13 batters as the right-handed pitcher led Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 past P-G 16U Teeners 16U 8-2 on Saturday. Englund surrendered three hits and two runs over six innings while walking two.

Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 got on the board in the bottom of the first inning after Nicholas Morris singled, and , each scoring one run.

Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 added one run in the second after Gavin Kroll doubled.

Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 added to their early lead in the bottom of the third inning after P-G 16U Teeners 16U committed an error, and Carter Simon hit into a fielder's choice, each scoring one run.

Jye Bailey took the loss for P-G 16U Teeners 16U. They went four and one-third innings, giving up seven runs (six earned) on five hits, striking out four and walking four.

Morris drove the middle of the lineup, leading Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 with two runs batted in. They went 2-for-3 on the day.

Kyler Strand led P-G 16U Teeners 16U with one run batted in. They went 1-for-3 on the day. Asher Kott, Strand, and Carson Vanden Berge each collected one hit for P-G 16U Teeners 16U.

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Bradin Althoff's Clutch Hitting Propels Groton Post 39 To Victory Over Milbank Post 9

By GameChanger Media

Bradin Althoff drove in five runs on two hits to lead Groton Post 39 past Post 9 19-11 on Friday. Althoff doubled in the sixth inning, scoring three runs, and tripled in the second inning, scoring two.

Both offenses were strong at the plate as Groton Post 39 collected 17 hits and Post 9 five in the high-scoring affair.

Post 9 jumped out to the lead in the top of the second inning after Mason Miester drew a walk, scoring one run, and Dillen Scheeley doubled, scoring three runs.

Groton Post 39 flipped the game on its head in the bottom of the second, scoring six runs on five hits to take a 6-4 lead. The biggest blow in the inning was a triple by Brevin Flihs that drove in two.

Post 9 made the score 7-6 in the top of the fourth after an error scored one run, and Reece Rabe doubled, scoring two runs.

Groton Post 39 flipped the game on its head in the bottom of the fourth, scoring five runs on four hits to take a 11-7 lead. The biggest blow in the inning was a double by Carter Simon that drove in two.

Post 9 tied the game in the top of the fifth thanks to a single by Joe Schulte, a walk by Tanner Hallquist, and a double by Rabe.

Groton Post 39 flipped the game on its head in the bottom of the sixth, scoring eight runs on five hits to take a 19-11 lead. The biggest blow in the inning was a double by Althoff that drove in three.

Taylor Diegel earned the win for Groton Post 39. The right-handed pitcher surrendered two hits and seven runs (four earned) over three and one-third innings, striking out three and walking eight. Schulte took the loss for Post 9. They went five and one-third innings, giving up 15 runs (14 earned) on 14 hits, striking out four and walking six. Braxton Imrie tossed two innings of no-run ball for Groton Post 39 in relief. The righty surrendered zero hits, striking out none and walking two.

Groton Post 39 collected 17 hits in the game. Imrie, Groton Post 39's number eight hitter, led the team with four hits in five at-bats. Dillon Abeln, Colby Dunker, and Simon each collected multiple hits for Groton Post 39. Ryan Groeblichhoff led Groton Post 39 with three walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, amassing nine walks for the game. Groton Post 39 turned one double play in the game.

Rabe went 2-for-4 at the plate to lead Post 9 in hits. Dillen Scheeley and Rabe each drove in four runs for Post 9. Jace Jonassen paced Post 9 with three walks. Overall, the team had patience at the plate, accumulating 12 walks for the game.

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Groton Post 39 Firing On All Cylinders Against Milbank Post 9

By GameChanger Media

Groton Post 39 easily dispatched Post 9 on Friday, 10-0.

Groton Post 39 were the first to get on the board in the first when Bradin Althoff singled, scoring one run.

A tag up by Brevin Flihs, an error, and a hit by a pitch helped Groton Post 39 extend their early lead in the third.

Groton Post 39 scored five runs on four hits in the bottom of the fourth inning. Nick Groeblichhoff singled, scoring one run, Gavin Englund singled, scoring one run, Nick Morris drew a walk, scoring one run, Kellen Antonsen singled, scoring one run, and Dillon Abeln drew a walk, scoring one run.

Carter Simon earned the win for Groton Post 39. The starting pitcher

surrendered zero hits and zero runs over four innings, striking out two and walking none. Josh Pederson took the loss for Post 9. The starting pitcher went two and two-thirds innings, giving up five runs (one earned) on two hits, striking out three and walking four.

Antonsen, the number nine hitter for Groton Post 39, led the way with two runs batted in. The outfielder went 1-for-2 on the day. Althoff went 2-for-2 at the plate to lead Groton Post 39 in hits. Morris paced Groton Post 39 with three walks. Overall, the team had patience at the plate, collecting seven walks for the game. Flihs stole two bases. Groton Post 39 were sure-handed and didn't commit a single error. Ryan Groeblichhoff made the most plays with three.

Groton Post 39 play at home on Tuesday against Watertown Post 17 Legion in their next game.

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First-Inning Burst Enough To Lead Watertown Past Groton Post 39

By GameChanger Media

Watertown Post 17 Legion defeated Groton Post 39 16-2 on Tuesday thanks in part to nine runs in the first inning.

Watertown Post 17 Legion jumped out to the lead in the top of the first inning after Kaden Rylance singled, scoring one run, Treyton Himmerich singled, scoring two runs, Dylla singled, scoring two runs, Hayden Ries doubled, scoring two runs, Mitch Olson doubled, scoring one run, and Rylance singled, scoring one run.

Watertown Post 17 Legion extended their early lead with two runs in the top of the third thanks to RBI singles by Rylance and Nathan Briggs.

Watertown Post 17 Legion scored five runs on three hits in the top of the fifth inning. An error scored one run, an error scored one run, Will Engstrom doubled, scoring two runs, and Dylla singled, scoring one run.

Talan Jurgens earned the win for Watertown Post 17 Legion. The righty surrendered six hits and two runs over five innings, striking out two and walking none. Dillon Abeln took the loss for Groton Post 39. The righty went four and two-thirds innings, giving up 16 runs (10 earned) on 14 hits, striking out four and walking one.

Bradin Althoff, Ryan Groeblichhoff, Abeln, Braxton Imrie, Brevin Flihs, and Carter Simon each collected one hit for Groton Post 39. Althoff and Simon each drove in one run for Groton Post 39.

Watertown Post 17 Legion piled up 16 hits in the game. Olson and Rylance were a force together in the lineup, as they each collected three hits for Watertown Post 17 Legion while hitting back-to-back. Rylance and Dylla each drove in three runs for Watertown Post 17 Legion. Dylan Rawdon, Himmerich, and Engstrom each collected multiple hits for Watertown Post 17 Legion. Watertown Post 17 Legion turned three double plays in the game.

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Groton Post 39 Make A Run Against Watertown But Fall Short

By GameChanger Media

Groton Post 39's effort to come back from down seven runs in the fifth inning came up just short, as they fell 7-5 to Watertown Post 17 Legion on Tuesday. Groton Post 39 closed the gap by scoring on a walk, a walk, a walk, a ground out, and a double.

Watertown Post 17 Legion were the first to get on the board in the first when an error scored one run.

A single by Johnathan Lake extended the Watertown Post 17 Legion lead to 3-0 in the top of the second inning.

Watertown Post 17 Legion added one run in the third after Dylla singled.

Hayden Ries earned the win for Watertown Post 17 Legion. The reliever gave up zero hits and one run over one inning, striking out two and walking three. Korbin Kucker took the loss for Groton Post 39. The starting pitcher went three innings, allowing four runs (three earned) on five hits, striking out two and walking four. Nash Berg started on the bump for Watertown Post 17 Legion. The lefty surrendered four hits and three runs (two earned) over five innings, striking out three and walking one.

Brevin Flihs led Groton Post 39 with two hits in four at bats from the leadoff position. Bradin Althoff, Ryan Groeblichhoff, Karsten Flihs, Jarret Erdmann, and Carter Simon each drove in one run for Groton Post 39. Groton Post 39 turned two double plays in the game.

Dylla and Lake were a one-two punch in the lineup, as each drove in two runs for Watertown Post 17 Legion. Treyton Himmerich, Nathan Briggs, and Dylla each collected two hits for Watertown Post 17 Legion. Dylan Rawdon led Watertown Post 17 Legion with four walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, piling up nine walks for the game.

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Miller's Granary transformed into a Home

When looking at a 75 year old granary that's seen better days, most people would tear it down, ignore it, or look the other way! Not Braden Miller: like an artist, he sees what others don't. (#1)

He makes a connection between a lot of random things that the average person would not! In his subconscious he sees more than old wood and a lonely, abandoned building. Braden sees an opportunity and an outlet for his creativity that he learned in his Building Trades classes at Lake Area Technical College.

"The vision I have of transforming this old granary into a new home for my family and me was sparked by the information that I learned about its history," Miller explained. (#2)

"My great grandfather Bing Miller had originally had it built around 1950," he stated. "Ironically the construction crew employed 'Lefty' Krueger, my wife Aubray's great grandfather."

"Perhaps those coincidences helped put the idea in my head to buy this old granary, move it closer to my home, and use the skills I learned in college to transform it into a home for myself, my wife, and our daughter," Miller explained.

"I purchased the granary from my neighbor who had originally bought it at my Grandfather Bing Miller's auction sale," he stated. "So it has come back to its original family."

"The man I bought the granary from had also intended to make it into a home," Miller said. "By using long iron I-Beams, my neighbor moved the granary to his farm where it sat for eighteen years until I decided to purchase it. I then moved it five miles down the road to our pasture along Highway 37 to begin our future home." (#3)

"Putting the building on these iron I-Beams had several advantages. It kept the wood from getting wet and rotting as well as keeping the structure off the ground so that it would be easy to move again. That worked very well since I was able to move it by using the same equipment," he said. (#4)

"The original granary had five bins on one side with four on the other," Miller said. "I've done some preliminary work on it by adding floor joists and a four-foot crawl space." (#5)

"Actually I 'over-built' the building," he explained. "which gives it more strength and stability. To be honest with you, the granary has 'good 'bones.' Its basic structure was what put the idea in my head of making this building into a house," Miller admitted.

"There will be no basement, only a four-foot crawl space," he explained. "I intend to take the old roof completely off and build it eight feet taller with a new roof on top of that."

"Obviously I'll need some help to complete this huge project," Miller smiled, "but it will still take about three more years to complete. In addition to building our new home, I do have to work for a living!"

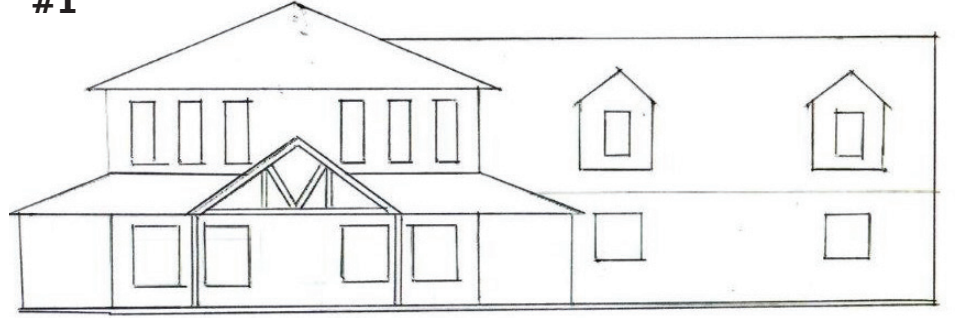
"The completed make-over home will be about 2700 square feet when finished," he explained. "Above the garage I'm planning to put an office."

"My vision for the completed home is four bedrooms and three bathrooms," Miller said. "I can do the construction myself but will need to hire a plumber, an electrician, and an HVAC technician to put in the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning."

"Come and check on my progress," he smiled. "Maybe it'll be done in three years; maybe not!" (#6)

- Dorene Nelson

#1



#6



Pictured are Aubray and Braden Miller along with baby Amelia.

#2



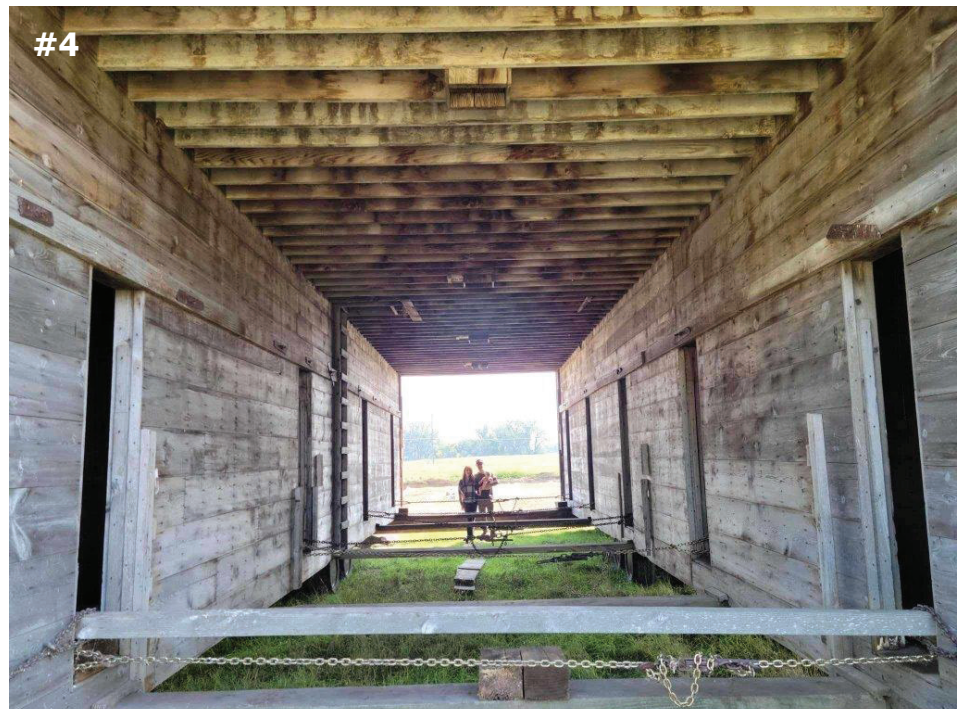
#3



#5



#4



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July Groton Community Center

Wednesday, July 3

Senior Menu: Beef stew, buttermilk biscuit, Waldorf salad, cookie.
Groton Chamber Meeting Noon
Jr. Teeners hosts Aberdeen Smitty's B, 5 p.m. (DH)
Groton CM&A: Family Fun Night, 7 p.m.

Thursday, July 4

Firecracker Couples Golf Tournament, Olive Grove Golf Course, 10 a.m.

Friday, July 5

Senior Menu: Chicken strips, tri-tators, carrots, fruit, whole wheat bread.

Saturday, July 6

Common Cents Community Thrift Store is closed.
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 3:45-4:15 p.m.; SEAS Mass, 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 7

Special Needs Swim, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion: St. John's at 9 a.m.; Zion at 11 a.m.
United Methodist: Worship with communion: Conde at 8:30 a.m.; Groton at 10:30 a.m.; Coffee hour, 9:30 a.m.
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.
Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, July 8

Senior Menu: Beef noodle stroganoff, green beans, vanilla pudding, mandarin oranges, whole wheat bread.
U12 hosts Webster, 6 p.m. (DH)
U10 W/R at Watertown, 6 p.m. (DH)
U8 R hosts Columbia 6 p.m. (1)
T-Ball Black hosts Columbia, 5 p.m.; Gold practice, 6 p.m. on Soccer Complex
Softball at Oakes: U8 at 5 p.m. (1), U10B at 6 p.m. (2)
Jr. Teeners hosts Clark, 5:30 p.m. (DH)
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
Pantry open, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, July 9

Senior Menu: Lemon chicken breast, au gratin potatoes 3-bean salad, pineapple/strawberry ambrosia, dinner roll.
U8 R/B hosts Webster, 6 p.m. (4 games)
Softball at Britton: U8 at 6 p.m. (1), U10G at 6 p.m. (1)
Jr. Legion at Sisseton, 5:30 p.m. (DH)
Jr. Teeners at Miller, 5:30 p.m. (DH)
Emmanuel Lutheran: Council, 6 p.m.
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.
Free SNAP application assistance at Groton Community Center, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Common Cents Community Thrift Store open, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Pantry Open, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Groton Community Center

Wednesday, July 10

Senior Menu: Hamburger cabbage roll hot dish, mixed vegetables, muffin, pears.
U10 R/B at Milbank, 6 p.m. (DH)
T-Ball Black hosts Claremont, 6 p.m.
Jr. Legion hosts Aberdeen Smitty's 16U, 4 p.m. (DH)
Emmanuel Lutheran: Circles meet, 6 p.m. potluck with joint Bible Study
Groton CM&A: Family Fun Night, 7 p.m.

Thursday July 11

Senior Menu: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, oriental blend vegetables, baked apples, whole wheat bread.
Softball at Webster: U8 at 5:30 p.m. (1); U10G at 6:30 p.m. (DH), U12 at 6:30 p.m. (DH)
Softball U14 at Miller, 6:30 p.m. (DH)
Legion at Clark Rotary Tournament
Story Time at Wage Memorial Library 10 a.m.
Groton Lions Club meeting, 6 p.m. 104 N Main

Friday, July 12

Senior Menu: BBQ gilet on bun, scalloped potatoes, tomato spoon salad, watermelon, cookie.

Saturday, July 13

Common Cents Community Thrift Store open, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 3:45-4:15 p.m.; SEAS Mass, 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 14

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m.; and at Zion, 11 a.m.
United Methodist: Worship: Conde at 8:30 a.m.; Groton at 10:30 a.m.; Coffee hour, 9:30 a.m.
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.
Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.
Summer Fest/Car Show at City Pari, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday, July 15

Senior Menu: Chicken Alfredo, broccoli, peaches, whole wheat bread.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
Pantry open, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Groton Community Center
Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Legion at Redfield, 5:30 p.m. (1)
Jr. Legion at Redfield 7:30 p.m. (1)
Softball at Mellette: U10B at 6 p.m. (DH), U12 at 7:30 p.m. (DH)

Tuesday, July 16:

Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, corn, apple crisp, breadstick.
T-Ball B/G Scrimmage, 6 p.m.
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.
Common Centers Community Thrift Store open, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Pantry Open, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Groton Community Center
City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
Legion at Milbank, 5:30 p.m. (DH)
St. John's Lutheran: Quilting, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 17

Senior Menu: Roast turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, 7 layer salad, fruit whole wheat bread.
Pro-Am Tourney at Olive Grove
Legion Auxiliary Salad. Buffet and Dessert Bar, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. American Legion
Groton CM&A: Family Fun Night, 7 p.m.

Thursday, July 18

Senior Menu: Baked cod, parsley buttered potatoes, creamy coleslaw, tapioca pudding mandarin oranges, whole wheat bread.
Legion hosts Clark, 5:30 p.m. (1)
Jr. Legion hosts Clark, 7:30 p.m. (1)
Story Time at Wage Memorial Library 10 a.m.
Middle School (upcoming 6th graders) Moonlight Swim, 8:30-10:30 p.m., Swimming Pool

Friday, July 19

Senior Menu: Ham salad on bun, cauliflower/pea/carrots, salad, fresh fruit, cookie.
Jr. Legion hosts Britton, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

July 12-14: U12 State Tourney at Salem

Saturday, July 20

Common Cents Community Thrift Store open, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 3:45-4:15 p.m.; SEAS Mass, 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 21

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion: St. John's at 9 a.m.; Zion at 11 a.m.
United Methodist: Worship: Conde at 8:30 a.m.; Groton at 10:30 a.m.; Coffee hour, 9:30 a.m.
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.
Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, July 22

Senior Menu: Meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli, acini depepi fruit salad, whole wheat bread.
Softball hosts Warner: U8 at 5:30 p.m. (1), U10B at 6:30 p.m. (DH), U12 at 6:30 p.m. (DH)
Jr. Legion hosts Selby, 5:30 p.m. (DH)
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
Pantry open, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Groton Community Center
Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, potluck at Noon.

Tuesday, July 23

Senior Menu: Baked pork chop, sweet potatoes, vegetable capri blend, applesauce, whole wheat bread.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
Common Cents Community Thrift Store open 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Pantry open at the Groton Community Center, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Legion Regions at Clark

Wednesday, July 24

Senior Menu: Goulash, green beans, pineapple/strawberry ambrosia, whole wheat bread.
Groton Golf Association Fundraiser, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Olive Grove
Legion Regions at Clark
Groton CM&A: Family Fun Night, 7 p.m.

Continues on next page

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Thursday, July 25

Senior Menu: Oven fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, Harvard beets, acini de-pepi fruit salad, whole wheat bread.

Emmanuel Lutheran: WELCA (bring a guest, light supper and guest speaker: Kristi Anderson)

Story Time at Wage Memorial Library 10 a.m.

Summer Downtown Sip & Shop, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Treasures Amidst the Trials, Emmanuel Lutheran, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Legion Regions at Clark

Friday, July 26

Senior Menu: Bratwurst on bun, sauerkraut, 3-bean salad, whole wheat bread.

Ferney Open Golf Tourney, 9 a.m., Olive Grove Golf Course

State Teener Tournament at Garretson

Legion Regions at Clark

Saturday, July 27

Common Cents Community Thrift Store open, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Celebration in the Park, 1 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

State Softball Tournament in Watertown (U10B, U12)

State Teener Tournament at Garretson

Legion Regions at Clark

Catholic: SEAS Confession, 3:45-4:15 p.m.;

SEAS Mass, 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 28

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship 9 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m.; and at Zion, 11 a.m.

United Methodist: Worship: Conde at 8:30 a.m.; Groton at 10:30 a.m.; Coffee hour, 9:30 a.m.

Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.;

SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.

Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.;

worship, 10:30 a.m.

State Teener Tournament at Garretson

Monday, July 29

Senior Menu: Baked fish, oven roasted potatoes pea-cheese salad, fruit, whole wheat bread.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Pantry Open, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Groton Community Center

Tuesday, July 30

Senior Menu: Tater tot hot dish, carrots, peaches, whole wheat bread.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Common Cents Community Thrift Store open, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Pantry Open, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Groton Community Center

Wednesday, July 31

Senior Menu: Ham, au gratin potatoes, creamed cabbage, tropical fruit, whole wheat bread.

Groton CM&A: Family Fun Night, 7 p.m.

Avantara Groton receives AHCA/NCAL Bronze National Quality Award

Avantara Clark, Avantara Groton, Avantara Lake Norden, Avantara Redfield, and Avantara Watertown have been recognized as 2024 recipients of the Bronze – Commitment to Quality Award by the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) for their outstanding commitment to improving the lives of residents through high-quality care. This distinction is the first of three progressive award levels in the AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award Program.

"We are incredibly proud of our teams at Avantara Clark, Groton, Lake Norden, Redfield, and Watertown for their dedication to providing exceptional care. Receiving the Bronze Quality Award is a testament to their hard work and commitment to excellence," said Lydia Nelson, Vice President of Operations. "We look forward to continuing our journey towards even higher standards of care and quality."

Created by AHCA/NCAL in 1996, the National Quality Award Program is a rigorous three-level process judged by trained experts against a set of nationally recognized standards for organizational excellence. These standards, based on the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program, help organizations achieve superior performance to improve the quality of life and care for long-term care residents and staff.

Providers begin the quality improvement process at the Bronze level, where they develop an organizational profile with essential performance elements such as a vision, mission statement, and key strengths and challenges. Bronze applicants must demonstrate their ability to implement a sustainable performance improvement system. Trained examiners review each application to determine if the center has met the criteria demands. As recipients of the Bronze - Commitment to Quality Award, these Avantara facilities can now advance towards achieving the Silver - Achievement in Quality Award criteria.

A subscription to the Groton Independent makes a great gift!

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Weekly SUDOKU
 Answer

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

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!!

What a GREAT turn out at the Transit Fundraiser! Huge Thank You to Dairy Queen, Dacotah Bank, Aberdeen Chrysler, Groton Chamber, Groton Lions Club, Ken's, and all the Monetary Donations!! & ALL the Great Help, the Crew that grilled the meal (rain or shine)!!! We can't say THANK YOU enough for everything!!

We appreciate each and everyone of you for your support of Groton Transit!!

**Have a great summer everyone!!
 Groton Community Transit**

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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

The Declaration of Independence: Celebrating and Redeeming its Solemn Promises

The Declaration of Independence, which Abraham Lincoln referred to as the "sheet anchor of the Republic," set forth the proposition, as he said in the Gettysburg Address, that "the United States was conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." The principle of equality, Lincoln admitted, was "aspirational." Its implementation would await the arrival of America's maturity, that moment when the societal, cultural and political forces would accept the legalization of racial equality. There was no invisible hand that would push the nation across the finish line. As with all great changes in a democracy, leadership was required.

The leadership of congressional Republicans, known and admired as the Radical Republicans, who envisioned, drafted and secured the ratification of the Reconstruction Amendments—the 13th, 14th and 15th—completed the principles set forth in the Declaration of Independence and made them part of the Constitution. The 13th Amendment abolished slavery, the 14th guaranteed equal protection of the law, and the 15th granted voting rights to former slaves.

What Republicans undertook represented a constitutional revolution, for they changed the legal landscape, the nature and face of America. What lay behind this historic achievement, compelling then, as it is now, was the fact that they interpreted the Constitution in light of the Declaration. They embraced the principle that all men are created equal and believed that slaves and free Blacks were men endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, including life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Republicans acknowledged that the Constitution, as it was written in 1787, recognized slavery, which delayed the implementation of the goals, values and principles of the Declaration of Independence. They were, as Lincoln said, "aspirational." The 13th Amendment, as debates in the 39th Congress demonstrated, represented the first, crucial step in "completing" the Constitution, so that it would reflect the egalitarian and animating principles in the Declaration. It extended the right of personal liberty to the newly freedman, which was a function of the principle of equality. The higher, broader purpose was to constitutionalize the Declaration and remove the moral stain from the nation's escutcheon. It remade the Republic in the image of our founding charter.

In the course of debates on the 13th Amendment, the great abolitionist, Sen. Charles Sumner of Massachusetts, eloquently stated: "It is only necessary to carry the Republic back to its baptismal vows, and the declared sentiments of its origins. There is the Declaration of Independence: let its solemn promises be redeemed. There is the Constitution: let it speak, according to the promise of the Declaration."

Sen. Sumner's appeal to the "promise of the Declaration" was echoed by his colleagues throughout the debates. Members invoked the Declaration and the opportunity for the nation to atone for its departure from its principles necessitated, they believed, by the dictates of slavery as a compromise to save the Union. Abolition, it was argued, would suffuse the Constitution with the long delayed fundamental principles of the Declaration: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

For Republicans, the Reconstruction Amendments were seen as a means of removing the exceptions to liberty and equality that were implied, and inflicted, by the slavery provisions in the Constitution. They would restore, moreover, the crucial concept of consent of the governed, which the authors of the Declaration of Independence understood to be the only source of governmental legitimacy. Government by consent of the people, which was grounded on the principle of equality, the foundational premise and promise of the Declaration of Independence, had been eviscerated by slavery. In sum, the Reconstruction Amendments would complete the Constitution by squaring it with the Declaration.

As Americans celebrate the Declaration of Independence in the finest ways—parades, food, fireworks and music—we ought to pause in this time of great political divide and turmoil, and recall what united us, in the beginning. We might focus on the great egalitarian principles set forth in our founding charter and view them, as we should, as the nation's North Star, worthy then of our devotion, and worthy still. Let us listen to the voice of Charles Sumner and reflect on our "baptismal vows."

David Adler is president of The Alturas Institute, a non-profit organization created to promote the Constitution, gender equality and civic education. This column is made possible with the support of the South Dakota Humanities Council, South Dakota NewsMedia Association and this newspaper.

City Council

Continued from front

New building set for soccer fields

The council authorized city staff to purchase a 14 foot by 40 foot building for the soccer fields on the west side of town.

The cost of the building, estimated at \$14,476, will be split between the city (owners of the property), Groton Area School District (which has an agreement to use the facility) and the Groton Soccer Association (which also has an agreement to use the facility).

If the other groups are willing to split the cost for the building, "I think we better jump on it," said Councilman Brian Bahr. "Because we can spend \$5,000 fixing something out there easy."

The city may close the street between the soccer fields and skating rink during games to allow people to cross between the two to utilize the bathroom facilities.

Bahr discussed putting down gravel on the skating pond so the lot can be used for parking during soccer seasons and maybe overflow parking for the baseball complex. That may also help keep the lot in

better shape when it is converted to a skating rink.

City staff plan to run the final building specifications by the soccer association and school district before ordering it.

Bahr added he thinks it's a good idea to let the soccer association decide on a color for the new structure.

"If it's pink, it's your fault," joked Mayor Scott Hanlon to Bahr.

- Road patching is set to start next week. Public Works Coordinator and Street/Water Superintendent Terry Herron told the council that a lot of trench lines have heaved up, and workers are going to cut the asphalt and fill it with gravel to fix it.

- Public works staff spent Tuesday fixing a burnt out pump at the main sewer system lift station. A temporary one was installed, but it will probably be \$8,000 to get the original pump replaced, said Wastewater Superintendent Dwight Zerr. The city's system is also running high, and more rain forecast through the next few days is not going to be good, he said.

- New cameras are coming to City Hall. The council accepted a \$4,249 bid from Burdette Security and Technologies for security cameras in the building, including dome cameras and an outdoor camera.

- A sewer system improvement project is coming before council, possibly as soon as the next council meeting.

- Councilman Kevin Nehls said Police Chief Stacy Mayou is planning to let Avantara Groton set off some ground fireworks later this week. There is no plans for in-the-air fireworks.

- The council approved shifting funds from its contingency account and unassigned fund balance to building inspection, soccer and baseball operations.

- The council gave provisional approval for a special event liquor license. The event, the first Celebration in the Park, will be hosted by the new owner of the Jungle Lanes, Tim Janusz, said city Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich. Concerns were raised about whether Police Chief Stacy Mayou had been asked if he has any issues with the license. The council approved the special event liquor license contingent on the chief's recommendation.

- City offices will be closed July 4 and 5 for the Fourth of July holiday.

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The Life of Marion Jensen



Memorial Services for Marion Howard Jensen, 104, of Conde, will be 10:30am on Saturday, July 20th, at the Conde United Methodist Church. Rev. Rob Moorlach will officiate. The family will have an Inurnment at a later date. Visitation will be held at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton, SD, on Friday, July 19th, from 5-7 pm with a prayer service starting at 7pm.

Marion (MH) was born on May 10, 1920, (the day after Mother's Day), northeast of Conde on the Jensen family farm, to Carl and Esther (Callsen) Jensen. He passed away June 18, 2024, (two days after Father's Day) at Prairie Heights Rehabilitation Healthcare in Aberdeen.

In his 104 years on this Earth, MH lived a full life. Especially in his later years, he enjoyed the re-telling of many adventures and experiences he encountered. In the spirit of his love of reminiscing and storytelling, below is a condensed story of MH's 104 years, one month and one day. Highlights of a life well lived.

He and his brother, Conrad (one year younger), were inseparable pranksters while they were growing up during the 1920s. They gained a neighborhood katzenjammer reputation for mischievousness like the 1920s Katzenjammer Kids comic strip. In 1926, MH lost his birthday money when the Conde bank crashed. The following year, at age 7, he was entrusted to drive a team of horses with a wagon load of wheat from the family farm five miles to the Verdon elevator and return all by himself. By the time he was 10 years old he was driving his dad's 15-30 International tractor on steel wheels.

During the Dirty 30's, he walked or rode his pony to the Jensen Country School and struggled to find his way home on several occasions, due to the dust storms. In his Sophomore year, he began attending Conde High School, graduating in 1938. His employment and education during his teenage years included a summer delivering grasshopper poison to the local Conde farmers. That winter, he attended the National Youth Administration (NYA) Camp at Sand Lake. The next year, he attended auto body school in Fargo, ND, then trained to become a welder at Northern Normal and Industrial College (NSU), Aberdeen. He returned to the family homestead where he farmed with his father until his father's death in 1944 when MH was only 24. He then farmed with his brother, Conrad, for 2 years, at their Uncle Ray Callsen's farm east of Crandall.

MH was united in marriage with Betty Jean Hoops on June 30, 1946, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ferney. After a winter in Arizona, they moved their little farmhouse to East Broadway, Conde in 1948. Continuing to farm in the summers and doing odd jobs in the winters, he started his plumbing, heating and electrical business, Farm and Home Repair, in Conde. He continued to farm and operate Farm and Home Repair until his retirement in 1982.

MH was a member of the United Methodist Church in Conde, where, for decades, he served as a usher for Sunday services and funerals. His plumbing, heating and electrical skills were a valuable help to the church during an extensive remodeling of the old church structure in the early 1950's. He provided those same contracting skills for the current building when it was constructed in 1973-4.

He was passionate about the civic development of Conde, a community the Jensen family had a presence in dating back to 1889. He was a member of the Conde Civic Development Association for many years, as well as the Conde Volunteer Fire Department, Conde Masonic Lodge and Eastern Star. He was a founder of the Andover James Valley Threshing Association (2006 Honored Couple). Additionally, MH was a Conde School District Board Member, Conde City Council Member and Conde Farmers Elevator Board Member. The City of Conde employed him to operate and maintain the Conde Water and Sewer system.

He enjoyed many years of hunting and fishing, including decades of annual treks to the Black Hills, hunting deer with several Conde community leaders and friends, as well as fall pheasant hunting. Together, MH and Betty loved to travel and did so all over North America. Favorite destinations were visits to his sister, Elaine, in Canada, his uncle, Herb, in Louisiana, and an extended trip to Alaska with their friends, Carl and Alice Hanson and Jim and Arlene Peterson.

At age 62, he retired and began his favorite pastime, restoring old tractors, which then turned in to attending auction sales. He also collected Edison cylinder and platter phonographs and many other interesting finds. He sold his tractor collection at auction (2002), and later held an additional auction sale at the Masonic Temple in Conde (which he owned at the time), selling many of his auction finds, as well as the Temple. In June, 2023, MH sold his remaining 11 buildings on 5 properties and their contents, in Conde, which were filled with treasures from his many years of picking.

In his later years, he enjoyed his weekly lunches and marathon Bridge games at the Conde Senior Center, which he generally referred to as the "senile center." His last visit was only about a month ago.

After his wife, Betty, passed away April of 2016, he continued to live in the red family house on East Broadway until January 2022, when, at age 101, he moved into a senior apartment at Derian Living in Aberdeen.

MH instilled a strong work ethic in his children, encouraging them to receive training beyond high school at a profession of their choice; however, "not plumbing". All four children graduated from post-secondary schools. None went into plumbing.

Celebrating his life are his sister, Louise (Delmar) Maeschen of Mitchell, SD; his children: Douglas (Marie) Jensen, Aberdeen, SD; Vicki Sullivan, Alexandria, VA; Randy Jensen, Sioux Falls, SD; and Steve (Mari) Jensen, Young America, MN. Eight grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren: Kara Jensen (David) Zitnick, Maxfield and Julian, Eagan, MN; Karla Jensen, Hazel and Ruby, Littleton, CO; Carl (Kimberly) Jensen, Emma & Noah, Norman, OK; Ashley Sullivan-Freeman (Jon Freeman), Evelyn, Alexandria, VA; Benjamin Sullivan, Arlington, VA; Lyzzy (Wilbur) Cruz, Rosemari, Imogin, Adeline, Santiago, Washington, DC; Sarah (Jason) Hokkanen, Emily, Kyle, Kevin, New Hope, MN; and Cassie (Alex) MacDonald, Olivia, Colin, Young America, MN.

Preceding him in death are his parents, Carl and Esther, his wife, Betty, brother, Conrad, sister, Elaine Houghton and great granddaughter, Theodora Freeman.

The family requests memorials be made for the Conde Methodist Cemetery, %Plains Commerce Bank, PO Box 179, Conde, SD 57434.

Marlene Deloris Schuelke Ahern Coon



A Celebration of Life for Marlene Ahern Coon. 88, will be 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 9th at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Rev. Craig Grams will officiate. Inurnment will follow in Union Cemetery, Groton.

Marlene passed away Saturday, March 16, 2024 at Alive Hospice in Nashville, TN.

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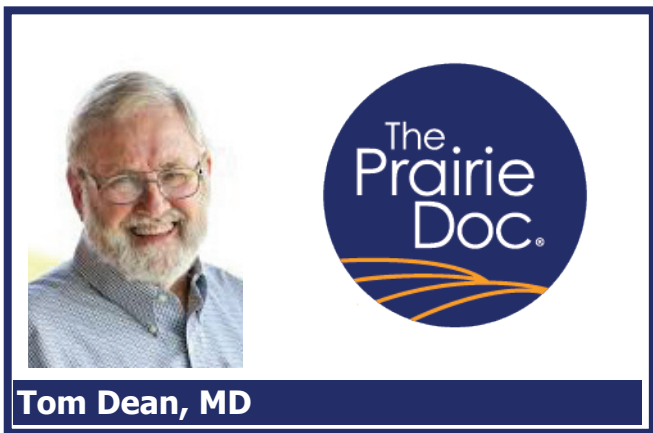
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"What to do about Marijuana?"

There are so many questions. Is it safe? Does pot smoking lead to the use of hard drugs? What is the risk of pot smoking during pregnancy? Does marijuana have medical value in treating disease? Does smoking pot relieve the side effects of cancer treatment?



Tom Dean, MD

On each of these questions we have information – and lots of opinion. The reality is that on none of these questions do we really have clear cut answers. In spite of decades of experience there is still a serious shortage of reliable, scientifically valid research on the effects of marijuana on the human body.

This deficit has resulted primarily from two factors. First, marijuana has been classed by the government as a Schedule I drug, meaning that it does not have a legitimate medical use (same category as heroin and LSD). This means that it has not been readily – or legally - available to medical researchers who are interested in trying to answer these questions. Secondly, the pharmaceutical industry has not shown interest in trying to develop marijuana into a traditional prescription medication.

So what is the public to do, especially when the issue of "legalization" is on the ballot?

Regarding safety, the impression among the public has been that marijuana is relatively safe, safer than alcohol and tobacco. Today we are learning, however, that such impressions are largely unreliable. This is partly because the marijuana on the market today tends to be significantly more potent than what was previously available.

Furthermore, studies are emerging which show that risks are greater than previously recognized. The American Heart Assn. recently published a survey showing marijuana use, especially prolonged use, may be associated with an increased risk of both heart disease and stroke. An article in the Journal of the American Medical Association in 2023 showed that marijuana use during pregnancy, especially if continued throughout pregnancy, was associated with adverse outcomes.

What about "medical" marijuana? As a physician with 40+ years of experience, my impression is that there probably are some medical benefits from the components in marijuana. The problem, and it is a major one, is that here again we have an abundance of claims and very little good science on which to evaluate those claims.

How do we put all of this together? Bottom line – marijuana use may well have some benefits but there clearly are risks – risks that are being more clearly defined and are probably greater than previously appreciated. As all too often happens, the politics has gotten ahead of the science.

Tom Dean, MD of Wessington Springs, South Dakota is a contributing Prairie Doc columnist who has practiced family medicine for more than 40 years. He served as a member of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission. 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 SDPTV most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

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ACROSS

- 1 Old Italian money
- 5 Profs' degrees
- 9 "The Matrix" role
- 12 Caspian Sea feeder
- 13 Mine, in Montreal
- 14 Cleric's garment
- 15 When sports events start
- 17 Avril follower
- 18 Whine
- 19 Representative
- 21 Chicago transport
- 22 Sanctioned by Islamic law
- 24 Pottery oven
- 27 Nourished
- 28 Hotel furniture
- 31 JFK info
- 32 Genetic letters
- 33 "Mayday!"
- 34 Jewels
- 36 Weaponize
- 37 D-Day carriers
- 38 Boredom
- 40 Little — Peep
- 41 Move laterally
- 43 Least possible
- 47 Actor Ferrigno

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- 52 Actress Sedgwick
- 53 Bailiwick
- 54 Cowboys quarterback Prescott
- 55 Peevish fit
- 56 School session
- 5 Sandbox toy
- 6 "Let me think ..."
- 7 Female hare
- 8 Twine fiber
- 9 Anonymous
- 10 Flair
- 11 Life story?
- 16 Website contact no.
- 20 Talk on and on
- 22 Artist Matisse
- 23 Eden evictee
- 24 Beer barrel
- 25 Mineral suffix
- 26 Politico with limited power
- 27 Lady of the haus
- 29 Speck
- 30 Sound from a hot wok
- 35 NBC show since 1975
- 37 Yogurt variety
- 39 Violin parts
- 40 "Don't — stranger!"
- 41 "Citizen Kane" prop
- 42 Greek vowel
- 43 Accomplishment
- 44 French 101 verb
- 45 Crystal gazer
- 46 Streetcar
- 49 Writer Rand
- 50 Hosp. scan

DOWN

- 1 Schleps
- 2 Pakistan neighbor
- 3 "Bohemian Rhapsody" star Malek
- 4 Football team