



\$2

# The Groton Independent

Vol. 141 No. 52 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2024 ♦ Established in 1889

## Block to be blocked for soccer games; stop sign discussion, sewer system improvement discussion continues

by Elizabeth Varin

Be prepared for traffic cones on West Third Avenue, at least a few more this year.

The City Council agreed to allow a block between the soccer fields and ice skating rink to be closed during high school soccer games.

Discussion came after the council approved a bid in early September to add permanent swinging gates that would be able to block the roadway. However, confusion over pricing had the item back before the council Tuesday.



**Groton Area Superintendent Joe Schwan puts out the cones and bars prior to a soccer game.**

"It's safety for the kids," said Councilman Brian Bahr. "That's the main thing."

The original bid totaled around \$3,600 for two gates, and four gates would be required at the field. That would bring the total more than \$7,000.

However, Groton Area School District Superintendent Joe Schwan said the current measure seems to be working during high school soccer games. He was concerned about closing part of the block would cause some issues.

"I thought, going into it, we would get some negative feedback about parking distance because you can probably park 30 cars on that block, so people having to park further away," he said. "I have not had one negative comment about that since we started with just the few games we've had."

"People prefer that block to be closed, and I think if a car turns down that road, it's going to be a mess," Schwan said. "We've got to stop traffic on the ends. It's going to be more dangerous if people have to back out of there." There was previous discussion of blocking off just 50 feet in the middle of the block.

Schwan said, while having a fence there would be fine, having school staff put out the cones a couple hours before the game has worked well so far.

Council members also expressed concern about the cost of adding a permanent swinging gate.

**Continues on Page 5**



### Homecoming Coronation

**GHS Homecoming King Jaegar Kampa and Queen Gretchen Dinger.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



### Fellowship of Christian Students will donate to Safe Harbor from dunk tank proceeds

Fellowship of Christian Students (FCS) will hold its annual dunk tank at this year's homecoming soccer game Friday Sept 20th before, during and after the game. Student leaders Teagan Hanten, JD Schwan and Ashlynn Warrington (pictured) have chosen Safe Harbor as the recipient to receive half of the proceeds from the event. Participants in the dunk tank this year include Superintendent Joe Schwan, Middle/High School Principal Shelby Edwards, Elementary Principal Brett Schwan, Social Science Teacher Scott Thorson, and Boys' Soccer Coach Ryan Olson. (Courtesy Photo)



### Scavenger Hunt

**Monte Mason helps his grandson, Harrison Morris, with the scavenger hunt in downtown Groton.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



# BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Luke (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What just and devout man held the baby Jesus when Mary and Joseph presented Him at the temple? *Cyrenius, Ham, Simeon, Zera*
3. Which of these books comes before the other three in the Old Testament? *Nahum, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations, Daniel*
4. What sign sealed God's promise not to destroy the earth ever again by a flood? *Solar eclipse, Rainbow, Full moon, Ocean wave*
5. From Proverbs 29, what does the fear of man bring? *A snare, Redemption, Love of life, Death*
6. Whose daughter found the infant Moses in the river? *David, Pharaoh, Solomon, Timothy*

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Simeon, 3) Ecclesiastes, 4) Rainbow, 5) A snare, 6) Pharaoh

Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit [www.TriviaGuy.com](http://www.TriviaGuy.com).

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## It's the guns

When I was in school, it was common for unlocked pickups to be parked in the street, gun racks full. My classmates brought rifles into shop class to refinish the stocks, and we didn't think anything of it. The National Rifle Association (NRA) was where we went to take instruction. And when I was in grade school, I spent summers clearing gophers from my grandpa's pastures. Mostly with traps and snares because Grandpa charged me 2¢ a shell, hit or miss. You might say I learned economics.

My friends hunted. Me, not so much. In fact, the last thing I took out that didn't involve my front bumper, was a coyote. I shot him in my hunter green bathrobe. (Insert Groucho Marx smart-aleck remark here.)

But with the echoes of what appears to be a second assassination attempt on Donald Trump since late July and a school shooting in Georgia two weeks past, there's little humor to be found in the situation. The first attempt on Trump involved an AR-15, and the most recent, a Soviet style AK-47.

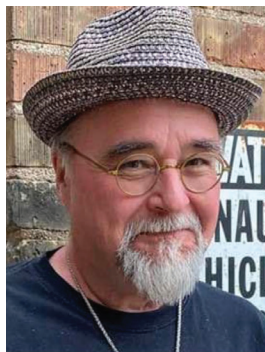
Things have changed from the time California Gov. Ronald Reagan led the fight for gun control to the Brady Act which emerged after John Hinckley shot Reagan in 1981. That was followed up by an AR-15 ban under the Clinton Administration in 1994. Ten years later when it expired, six cities that were studied showed a reduction in automatic weapons deaths.

If there was an outcry after school shootings the first thing you'd hear is the need for mental health care, and that's true. The country is sorely lacking on that account. But, it's become business as usual. Just another day. Just another dead kid.

It's been 25 years since Columbine, and I don't think we can deny the copy-cat aspect of school shooting since then. But how do we explain the dearth of mass murders in other countries? Are they any less addled than we



The members of the Groton Garden Club decorated the downtown light poles this past week. Pictured in front, left to right, are Dhera Hoffman, Pat Larson, Linda Gengerke and Deb McKiver; in back, left to right, are Linda Anderson, Lonnie Hoffman, Becky Aldrich, Eunice McColister, Karen Babcock, Denise Sombke and Ardella Theunissen. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**That's Life**  
by Tony Bender

are? Doubtful. It's the guns. Mostly. The United States has 393 million firearms, about 120 guns for every 100 Americans.

Like me, many of you grew up in a time when guns were a tool. An AR-15, however? It's not particularly accurate, as hunting rifles go. At best, it's for self-defense, or it's what it's commonly called, an assault rifle designed for mass murder. There are about 20 million of them floating around in America. If they were banned or more heavily restricted, we'd still have plenty of firepower. Actually, that's the will of 58% of Americans. The ARA has more power.

Let's start here... The government is not going to take your guns away. They're too much a part of American society, sad as it is to say. But more and more, school shooting after school shooting, Americans are coming around to the idea that semi-automatic (automatic with a bump stock) rifles have little use for true sportsmen.

It was interesting to see the father of the Pennsylvania shooter arrested for providing the AR-15 to his now-deceased son. Maybe that's what it will take. Or maybe every firearm should be insured. I know this... it just can't continue. And imagine, I'm a gun owner who's used them much of his life. Then, consider parents who still have kids in school. What does it feel like sending them off each morning?

I wonder how many school board meetings I've attended during which active shooter protocol is discussed. There are drills. I don't remember if we had nuclear attack drills in grade school but my heart goes out to the kids who have to practice getting shot at and the teachers that must have discussions with their classes about a hard reality no child should have to face.

No matter how you interpret it, the 2nd Amendment isn't going anywhere. However, it's due for a hard look. U.S. Supreme Court Justice Warren Burger once said, "The gun lobby's interpretation of the Second Amendment is one of the greatest pieces of fraud, I repeat the word fraud, on the American people by special interest groups that I have ever seen in my lifetime."

It is.

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## Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

For the first time since 2016, the Minnesota Vikings are 2-0 to start the season after beating the San Francisco 49ers 23-17. This wasn't a fluky win either, the Vikings' offense moved the ball effectively and were able to overcome two turnovers, while the Vikings' defense stood their ground against a dynamic 49ers offense and was able to create two turnovers of their own. Fun fact: in his young career, Brock Purdy has only lost two games against NFC opponents – both are against the Vikings.

The Vikings had 403 yards on offense and a phenomenal 7.5 yards per play, thanks in large part to a 97-yard touchdown from Sam Darnold to Justin Jefferson (the Vikings' 2nd longest offensive touchdown in team history). Against a stingy defense, Minnesota was 7 for 12 on third-down conversions. In week one, the Vikings were balanced and efficient, and that continued on Sunday. They picked up nine first downs through the air and eight on the ground. They also threw the ball 26 times compared to 24 attempts on the ground.

Sam Darnold completed 17 of 26 passes for 268 yards, two touchdowns, and one interception, plus another 32 yards on the ground. The Vikings' offensive line deserves some credit as well, holding up well against the 2022 NFL Defensive Player of the Year Joey Bosa while also opening some running lanes for Ty Chandler (10 carries, 82 yards) and Aaron Jones (9 carries, 32 yards). Justin Jefferson had four catches for 133 yards and a touchdown, Jalen Nailor had three catches for 54 yards and a touchdown, and Aaron Jones had five catches out of the backfield for 36 yards. Jefferson left the game with an injury, and after the game, head coach Kevin O'Connell said it's a quad contusion and Jets will be day-to-day.

The Vikings' offense has looked good through two games, but the defense has been lights out this season. After sacking Daniel Jones five times in week one, the Vikings' defense got to Brock Purdy six times in week two. Pat Jones II might be the team's most improved player, adding another two sacks Sunday, bringing his total to four for the season. Blake Cashman, Andrew Van Ginkel, and Jonathan Greenard also joined in the sack party. The Vikings also had eight tackles for a loss, including two each from Jones II and Van Ginkel. Brian Flores has this Vikings' defense playing at an elite level, and with all the new faces, it's safe to assume that the defense will continue to get better as we get further into the season.

The player of the game on offense was Sam Darnold. His stats might not have been out of this world, but he stepped up in big moments when the team needed it the most. In the fourth quarter, after the 49ers had just driven 99 yards for a touchdown, the Vikings needed a big drive to take time off the clock and put points on the board to make it a two-score game again. Without his top two WRs, Darnold put together a 14-play, 62-yard scoring drive that took nearly seven minutes off the clock. He put the team on his back and was a huge reason the Vikings won this game.

The player of the game on defense was Pat Jones II. After a surprising two-sack game in week one, he followed that up with another two-sack performance. To make it even better, he was matched up against the best left tackle in the NFL (Trent Williams) for most of the game.

Looking ahead, the Vikings remain at home to take on the Houston Texans. C.J. Stroud, who is entering his second season, leads an impressive Texans offense that includes former Vikings Stefon Diggs. On the defensive side of the ball, the Vikings will have to contend with Danielle Hunter, who was signed by Houston this offseason after spending his first eight seasons in Minnesota. This will be another tough game for the Vikings, but if they can play like they did against the 49ers, there's a real chance the Vikings can start the season 3-0. Skol!



# Ringgenberg recognized for 50 years of service

by Dorene Nelson

Dale Ringgenberg recently received a beautiful and amazing thank you gift for 50 years of service as a volunteer firefighter and volunteer rescue squad member.

"For forty-nine years, I worked for Pioneer Ford, starting out by washing cars, changing oil, and doing brake work," Ringgenberg listed. "After several years of working there, I became a certified mechanic."

"When I worked at Pioneer Ford, the fire station was just across the alley from the Ford garage," he said. "We often watched the firemen as they prepared to leave on a call."

"Eventually I was asked to join the volunteer firemen, which I did at the age of twenty-one," he stated. "In 1974 I joined the fire fighters, and ten years later I joined the rescue squad too."

"The City of Groton had two firetrucks, one for the city and one for rural use," Ringgenberg explained. "A 1953 military truck was added and converted into a tanker."

"The firefighters had very basic personal protection equipment (PPE'S) at the time," he stated. "The helmets were plastic, the rubber boots were knee high, and the coat was rubber as well."

"Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) consisted of a rubber face mask with a steel breathing tank on our backs," Ringgenberg listed. "Later in 1986 the equipment was upgraded to a new Chevrolet fire pumper which is still being used by the Bath Fire Department."

"When I first started, the fire equipment had no shelf life so the same items were used year after year," he admitted. "Now the equipment, which has to regularly be updated, has a ten-year shelf life with one person's equipment costing up to \$16,000!"

"Today the city fire department is in a fire district being supported by taxes," Ringgenberg said. "When I was the fire chief in 2000, the budget was \$34,000 a year, insurance included. Today the insurance alone costs the fire department \$21,000 a year!"

"At first used military equipment was purchased because of the high cost involved," he explained. "Even the trucks were purchased from surplus equipment, but refurbishing was needed to meet updated safety standards. The firemen themselves did the necessary refurbishing in their free time!"

"I was a fire fighter for fifty years and on the rescue squad for forty," he said. "I was the fire chief for ten years and am currently on the fireboard where I serve as the treasurer."

"I've done many different jobs in my lifetime, but my favorite is being a mechanic," Ringgenberg admitted. "Currently I drive grain truck for Trey and Harvey Flihs Jr. I also enjoy hunting and fishing."

"I have two children and five grandchildren," Ringgenberg stated proudly. "My daughter has three sons, and my son has two daughters."



**Dale Ringgenberg receives a special thank you for 50 years of services on the Groton Fire and Rescue Department.** (Photo Courtesy Patti Woods)

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦**

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Bit of butter
- 4 "Dream on!"
- 8 Half (Pref.)
- 12 "Kinda" suffix
- 13 Mandolin's kin
- 14 Redact
- 15 LAX info
- 16 Embraces among team members, say
- 18 Mideast peninsula
- 20 "Gee, ya think?"
- 21 Nevada city
- 24 Pansy part
- 28 Floor coverings
- 32 Luau dance
- 33 Paul Newman film
- 34 Refine metal
- 36 Male turkey
- 37 "M\*A\*S\*H" star
- 39 Pub vessels
- 41 Sand castle site
- 43 Clear the decks?
- 44 Gearwheel tooth
- 46 Mary Poppins, e.g.
- 50 Hydrants
- 55 Tic-tac-toe win
- 56 Totals
- 57 Mine, to Marcel

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56						57				58		
59						60					61	

- 58 — de mer
- 59 Sheepish remarks
- 60 Swimmer Biondi
- 61 Moody rock genre
- 8 Sneaky laugh
- 9 Sch. URL ender
- 10 "Top Gun" target
- 11 TGIF part
- 17 Young seal
- 19 Coach Parseghian
- 22 Feeling no pain
- 23 Curved moldings
- 25 Ballet wear
- 26 Sleep like —
- 27 Felonious flights
- 28 Melville captain
- 29 Hold sway
- 30 Icelandic epic
- 31 Whole lot
- 35 Trains, buses, etc.
- 38 Entry
- 40 CEO's deg.
- 42 Jump
- 45 Glitz partner
- 47 Alaskan seaport
- 48 Linguist Chomsky
- 49 Present-day "carpe diem"
- 50 "Terrif!"
- 51 Wyo. neighbor
- 52 Vitamin stat
- 53 Hollywood's Thurman
- 54 Acquired

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Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

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B	A	A	S	M	A	T	T	E	M	O	



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The GHS Band, under the direction of Desiree Yeigh, played prior to the Homecoming Coronation. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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The GHS Homecoming King and Queen are pictured with their parents. With King Jaeger Kampa are Scott and Myndi Kampa. With Queen Gretchen Dinger are Emily and Weston Dinger and Elizabeth Bahr (not pictured Brian Bahr). (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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**GHS Royalty**  
In back, left to right, are Korbin Kucker, Caden McInerney, Christian Ehresmann, Teylor Diegel, Kennedy Hansen, Faith Traphagen, Elizabeth Flihs and Brooklyn Hansen; in front, left to right, are scroll carrier Vic Flihs, King Jaegar Kampa, Queen Gretchen Dinger and scroll carrier Harper Rowen. (Photo by Paul Kosel)


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## The Life of Jackie Hein



Jacqueline Joyce (Jackie) Hein passed away 8/22/24 at her home in St. Anthony, MN.

Jackie was born 5/20/1944 the oldest child of W Robert & Verna (May) Hein. She lived on the farm and attended Andover Grade School and High School graduating as the Valedictorian in May of 1962.

Right after Graduation, she moved to Minneapolis, MN. When she first moved to Minnesota, she lived with her Aunt Elaine and Uncle Bud Braithwaite and their family for about 2 years. She bought her own condo in 1985 and still lived there at the time of her death.

She held a few bookkeeping/accounting jobs before accepting a position at Minnegasco/Centrepoint Energy in 1975 where she worked until she retired in 2015. She also worked part time for many years

at the Good Shepherd Nursing Home in Minneapolis.

She enjoyed traveling during her working years and after her retirement. She also enjoyed trips to see her family in Washington, South Dakota & Illinois. She was an avid reader and enjoyed reading history books. After retirement she would enjoy Friday Night "Happy Hour" with her Mirror Lake Manor Condo friends and other activities including keeping in touch with her friends at Centrepoint Energy. She recently celebrated her 80th birthday with family and friends.

She is survived by her brother Thomas (Susan) Hein of Richland, WA; brother Steve (Ann) Hein of Huron, SD; brother Wayne (Patricia) Hein of Groton, SD; sister-in-law Corinne (the late Robert) Hein of Darien, IL; and Cousin Doug Braithwaite of Willmar, MN. She also leaves behind her nieces & nephews Laura Granschow, Valerie Schnulle, Emily Jensen, Cindy Ward, Angela McCallister, Brian Hein, Christopher Hein, Stephanie Hein, Tricia Keith, Cheryl Johnson, Tamera Locke, Debra Kurth & Jacqueline Hoff. She is survived by many great nieces/nephews, and the Hein/May/Braithwaite cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents, maternal grandparents Richard & Nora May, paternal grandparents Charles & Gertrude Hein, her brother Robert Hein, infant niece Sarah, great nephews Jamal, Samuel & Dylan, great great nephew Stetson, Elaine & Bud Braithwaite, Jim, Dan & Lisa Braithwaite.

A Memorial Service will be held in Minneapolis on 9/28/24 @ 11: AM at the Washburn-McReavy Hillside Funeral Chapel - 2610 19th Ave Minneapolis, MN.

Visitation with the Family will be from 10:00-11:00 prior to the service.

Her wishes were to be cremated and her ashes will be buried after a brief service at Sunset Memorial Gardens Aberdeen, SD on 9/30/24 @ 10:00 AM.

In lieu of flowers please donate to St John's Preschool, Groton, SD, your Church or favorite Charity.

## The Life of Vickie Gooding



Vickie Lynn Gooding passed away peacefully at her home on August 6, 2024. Her family was with her as she said goodbye to her battle with cancer.

Vickie was born August 25, 1950 to Jean and Blaine Sippel. She grew up in Pierpont SD until her Marriage to Don Gooding. They then resided in Bismarck, ND. They had three children Stace, Teresa, and Jessica.

Vickie was employed with Joann Fabrics as Manager until her retirement. Vickie will deeply be missed.

She is survived by her husband, Don Gooding; son, Stace Gooding; daughters, Teresa Wald and Jessica (Josh) Sonn; sisters, Sandy (Tom) Deis and Pam Sippel (Jeff Penney).

Vickie was preceded in death by her father, Blaine Sippel and mother, Jean Sippel Hanson.

Cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life will be held at 2:00 p.m. on September 28th at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton SD.

## City Council

### Continued from front

Seven thousand dollars could buy a lot of gravel for another project at the ice skating rink, said Councilman Kevin Nehls.

While no final vote came for the swinging gates, Mayor Scott Hanlon said, "if anything, we have this thing decided, shutting the whole block."

### Stop sign discussion nixed

Discussion continued about whether a stop sign should be added a couple of blocks east of the high school.

At a meeting earlier this month, the council had discussed whether a stop sign is needed on North Third Street at the intersection of East Fourth Avenue. There is an east-west facing pair of stop signs at the intersection, but not a pair facing north and south.

Mayor Scott Hanlon asked Police Chief Stacy Mayou if he saw a need for the stop signs, to which Mayou replied that he didn't see it as necessary.

"You can't protect everyone all the time from everything," Mayou said, citing the Federal Highway Administration's campaigns to wear seat belts, not drive intoxicated and avoiding distracted driving. "I think if we've got too many stop signs, people are going to start just ignoring them worse than they do now."

"You can put a stop sign on every corner, and you can't guarantee everybody's safety," he said.

Councilman Kevin Nehls added that he worked on that street all last week. While he expected traffic, especially when school got out, he didn't see any issues.

Councilman Brian Bahr motioned to not install a stop sign there, with Nehls seconding the motion and the council unanimously approving not installing a new stop sign.

### City looks to state for sewer system improvement funding

The city is moving forward with asking the state to help fund sewer system improvements.

The City Council voted to submit an application to the state's Department of Natural Resources for funding – either grant or low-interest loan – to replace a lift station, add an additional force main and add a new waste-

water cell to the city's system.

Growth in the city has been hampered by a wastewater system that can't handle much more. The city has also been cited about twice a year for ammonia levels that are too high.

The city is looking to be added to the state water plan, which would allow it to get funding for the improvements. Repairing the Aspen lift station and adding another force main is estimated to cost \$3,892,000. The other project – adding a new wastewater cell and wetlands – is estimated to cost \$2,695,000.

The projects may come with a big increase to resident's wastewater rate. Currently the rate is a flat \$20 plus \$5 per 1,000 gallons per user per month.

To be considered for the grant funding, the city would need to raise its wastewater rate to at least \$70, said April Buller, project manager at IMEG. However, that grant funding is not guaranteed if the city has the recommended wastewater rate. The Department of Natural Resources doesn't have as much money as they have during the past few years as American Rescue Plan funds are gone.

The city could still receive a loan if the wastewater rate isn't that high, she said.

Councilwoman Karyn Babcock was hesitant about that type of rate increase.

"I don't know how we're going to go from \$20 to \$70 on the chance of getting a grant," she said. "I don't know how we're going to do that."

• The city may lose more than \$100,000 from its general fund with a sales tax cut on the November ballot. Initiated Measure 28, which would prohibit food and grocer taxes, could lead to the city losing sales tax revenue, said City Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich. That

could lead to a revenue drop of more than \$100,000 to the city's general fund.

• The city's tax levy this year is \$563,748, according to an ordinance directing the city finance officer certify the amount. The city also has a \$230,000 opt-out request. The total requested is \$793,748 for the general fund.

• A lawn mower, wooden desk, snow plow and speed monitor have joined the city's surplus list. The city is accepting offers for a 2004 Snapper Mower/Bagger featuring a 23 horse powered engine with 1,600 hours (with a \$500 recommended value). A 12-foot heavy duty snowplow with a recommended value of \$900 is also available, as is an older speed monitor trailer, though the council want to see if a surrounding community needs one. A heavy, large wooden desk with drawers and tempered glass protector is also available for free, though it needs to be picked up.

• Mayor Scott Hanlon read a proclamation declaring September 10 as Hunger Action Day in the city of Groton.

**YES ON H**  
TOP 2 OPEN PRIMARIES

## LET ALL VOTERS VOTE!

- 1** All candidates on a single ballot.
- 2** All voters get that ballot.
- 3** Top-two move on to the general election.
- 4** Most importantly, all voters get to vote!

**VOTE YES ON AMENDMENT H BY NOV 5**

Paid for by South Dakota Open Primaries.  
350 S. Main Ave. #501, Sioux Falls, SD 57104





**BATES TOWNSHIP WEED NOTICE:**

OWNERS & TENANTS of Bates Township are hereby notified and required, according to law, to cut all weeds, grass, and trees in road ditches adjacent to their property or tenanted by them within Bates township on or before October 15, 2024 or same will be hired done by the township board and assessed property taxes at the rate of \$300 per half mile.

Bates Township Board of Supervisors reminds all landowners and tenants that the road right-of-way extends 33 feet from the center of the township road. This ditch is to be maintained and mowed. Any crops planted in the road right-of-way will be mowed and charged to the landowner. Landowner is responsible for spraying all noxious weeds.

Bates Township Board of Supervisors  
Betty Geist  
Township Clerk  
Published September 18 and 25, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$18.76 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublishnotices.com](http://www.sdpublishnotices.com). 23690



**Ordway Township Weed Notice**

Snow Removal Notice  
Road ditches in Ordway Township are to be mowed by October 1, 2024. If not completed by that date the landowner will be assessed for the actual cost to complete mowing on real estate taxes.

Snow disposal from private property is not allowed in township ditches. Any snow from private property will be removed by the Township, and the actual cost of removal will be assessed on real estate taxes.

Ordway Township Board of Supervisors  
Mike McHugh, Clerk  
Published September 11 and 18, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$14.38 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublishnotices.com](http://www.sdpublishnotices.com). 23681



Claremont, South Dakota  
C461325-03  
DATE  
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT WITHIN THE CITY OF CLAREMONT, SOUTH DAKOTA

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) conducted a review of a proposal from the city of Claremont for a Storm Sewer and Lift Station Improvements project.

The city of Claremont is proposing to replace and install 1,100 feet of storm sewer pipe in a portion of the community with storm water issues. The town is also proposing to make improvements to the existing sanitary sewer lift station, including new pumps and controls.

The city of Claremont was awarded a \$505,000 Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan, with \$306,000 in principal forgiveness. The loan has a rate of 3.25 percent and a term of 30 years. Current residential water rates are \$51.70 per customer per month for 5,000 gallons usage.

Claremont has pledged a project surcharge to repay the loan. This surcharge will be \$15.65 per user per month.

Listed below are the reasons for granting a categorical exclusion:

- 1. The project is in a sewered community of less than 10,000 persons and is for minor upgrading or minor expansion of existing treatment works.
- 2. The project involves sanitary sewer or storm sewer within the developed portion of the community.
- 3. No comments requiring mitigative action were received from the South Dakota Historical

Society, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, United States Department of Interior, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Natural Resource Conservation Service, or through the public participation process.

The proposed action does not involve any serious local objections, nor does it meet any of the criteria for not granting a categorical exclusion as specified in [Section 6.505(c) (i) through (iii) of 40 CFR Part 6, Subpart E].

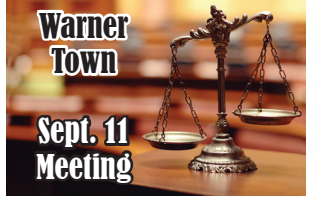
The Claremont Storm Sewer and Lift Station Improvements project will not affect any historical or archaeological resources. The project should have no direct or indirect adverse effects on plant life or wildlife. No other environmentally sensitive issues have been identified in the planning of this project.

The review process did not indicate that significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed project. Consequently, a preliminary decision not to prepare an EIS has been made.

This action is taken on the basis of a careful review of the engineering report, environmental information documents, correspondence with responsible governmental agencies and other supporting data which are on file at the Division of Financial and Technical Assistance, Environmental Funding Program, DANR, Pierre, South Dakota, and are available for public scrutiny at the Claremont city office in Claremont, South Dakota.

Comments supporting or disagreeing with this decision may be submitted to DANRMail@state.sd.us for consideration by DANR after publication of the Categorical Exclusion Determination. After evaluating the comments received, DANR will make a final decision.

Tina McFarling  
Administrator  
Published September 18, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$34.65 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublishnotices.com](http://www.sdpublishnotices.com). 23691



**TOWN OF WARNER MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2024**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Evans, Gaylon Townsend, Stewart Nelson and Nichol Townsend. Also present were Paul T. Vetch, Justin McCord, Linda Johanssen, Barb Breidenbach, Brady Roberts, Bryan Hofer, Peggy Jones and Sherrie Humphries. Dave Fair was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Evans and seconded by Townsend to approve the minutes from the August 14th, 2024 meeting. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: MSC: Evans/Townsend. Checking: Town \$363,962.36; Water \$85,962.33; Sewer \$187,609.21. CDs: Town \$32,529.82; Water \$49,621.04; Sewer \$28,029.36.

BILLS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT: MSC: Townsend/Evans.

AGTEGRA (chemical & fuel) \$598.53, Gas-N-Goodies (fuel) \$89.78, Kessler's (supplies) \$3.49, Post Office (lab test postage) \$73, WEB Water \$5775.03, USDA (loan) \$2083.00.

Auto Value Parts (supplies) \$26.99, Badger Meter (reads) \$11.04, Brown County Treasurer (mosquito spraying) \$450, Dependable Sanitation (garbage) \$2681, Groton Independent (advertising) \$46.63, Light-house Electric (supplies & repairs) \$2543.78, Lynn Aman (CC cleaning) \$75, MAC'S (supplies) \$19.96, Maguire Iron (tower maintenance), Midcontinent (internet) \$293.89, Northwestern Energy (electricity) \$1727.33, SD Dept of Rev/Sales Tax \$188.95, SD Public Health Lab (water test) \$15, Town Water/Sewer \$193.05, TransSource (supplies/parts) \$733.94, US Postal Service (supplies) \$1810.40, Stewart Nelson \$3479.84, Barb Breidenbach \$38.79, Terry Evans \$289.75, Linda Johanssen \$187.47, Justin McCord \$38.79, Gaylon Townsend \$53.56, Nichol Townsend \$720.14, Paul T. Vetch \$38.79, SD Retirement Fund \$524.04, Payroll Taxes \$1198.68.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Peggy Jones and Sherrie Humphries voiced concerns about the condition of neighboring property. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Shop repairs have not been completed. Waiting on contractor. Street repairs could not be completed as planned due to weather. Chip sealing is planned

to be completed on Monday, 9/16/24.

2025 Budget: Final reading approved. MSC Townsend/Evans. General Fund: Expenditure \$264,822; Water Fund: Expenditure \$164,100; Sewer Fund Expenditure \$104,500; Total Expenditure: \$533,422. General Fund: Revenue \$264,822; Water Fund: Revenue \$164,100; Sewer Fund Revenue \$104,500; Total Revenue: \$533,422. 202 City Levy Request is \$90,022.

City Attorney contract was reviewed and approved. MSC: Evans/Townsend  
NEW BUSINESS:  
Planning & Zoning members attended to address property violations in Warner. Letters will be sent out. Also, Bryan Hofer plans to replat his property in order to have two residences.  
Lenny Evangelisto voiced concerns about the neighboring property. The Town of Warner has been trying to get something done with property and will be in contact with the City Attorney.  
Maguire Iron Inspection and Contract were reviewed. No action taken.  
Midcontinent Service Contract renewal was reviewed.  
Delinquencies: Three were noted. Two are already shut off. Notice will be posted on door for the other.  
DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, October 9th, 2024 at 7 PM in the Warner Community Center.  
ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.  
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.  
Dave Fair, Chairman;  
Nichol Townsend, Finance Officer  
Published September 18, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$35.04 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublishnotices.com](http://www.sdpublishnotices.com). 23692

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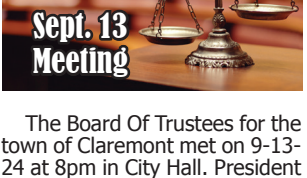
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The next regular meeting will be Monday, October 7 at 7PM.

Motion to adjourn made by Millard/Campbell at 7:41 PM; motion carried.  
M. Heine  
Assistant Finance Officer  
Published September 18, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$27.87 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublishnotices.com](http://www.sdpublishnotices.com). 23695



The Board Of Trustees for the town of Claremont met on 9-13-24 at 8pm in City Hall. President Spencer called the meeting to order with trustees. Thompson and Rasmussen present. Also present was Jordan Allbee of Helms and Associates. Helms will post notice of accepting bid on Storm Sewer project for 2 weeks in local paper. The minutes of the August meeting was accepted on a motion by Thompson and seconded by Rasmussen. On a motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Thompson the following warrants were allowed: General: Full Circle Ag, propane and diesel, 322.19; Br. Co. Treasurer, mosquito spraying, 450.00; JVT, telephoned internet, 140.18; NWE, Street lights, 406.61; NWE, city hall, 118.71; Charla Rye, Printer ink, 86.02; Grand Slam Computers, computer repair, 205.00; GDi, publishing, 33.12; Newman Signs, street signs, 576.34; Chakra Rye, wage 500.00; Gellaus and Gellaus, strobe, 2073.45; Summer Rec, bleachers, 1000.00; Park and Rec, baseball bleachers, Missi Smith, 10.5 hrs mowing, 155.16; WSSW: BDM, water purchase, 10.81.50; NWE, pump house, 655.22; NWE, sewer lift, 59.07; NWE, storm sewer left, 20.08; Ecolab, pest elimination, 190.74; Rural Development, water loan, 576.00; Residents with cars, pickups, boats junk sitting in their yard will receive letter to get this cleaned up by the end of September! With no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Frank and seconded Bob, motion carried

Respectfully Submitted  
CRye F.O.  
Published September 18, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$14.90 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublishnotices.com](http://www.sdpublishnotices.com). 23693

Claremont  
Town  
Sept. 13  
Meeting

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A-9438  
Bids for the construction of

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to the letters sent out regarding nuisance properties. The 3rd Ave asphalt project is underway. WEB Water will be raising rates and the city will need to follow suit. Motion to approve Resolution #2024-1 to increase water rates made by Millard/Campbell, roll call vote had ayes by all; motion carried. The second reading will be September 18 at 7 PM.

NEW BUSINESS  
Motion to approve the first reading of the 2025 appropriation ordinance made by Campbell/Millard, roll call vote had ayes by all; motion carried.

The second reading will be September 18 at 7 PM. The picnic shelter at Simmons Park needs repairing. The city is required to survey the city's pipes as well as the resident's pipes to determine if there are any lead pipes remaining.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, October 7 at 7PM.

Motion to adjourn made by Millard/Campbell at 7:41 PM; motion carried.  
M. Heine  
Assistant Finance Officer  
Published September 18, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$27.87 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublishnotices.com](http://www.sdpublishnotices.com). 23695

Claremont  
Town  
Sept. 13  
Meeting

SECTION 00 11 10 - ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS  
Town of Claremont  
Claremont, South Dakota  
Storm Sewer Improvements  
General Notice  
The Town of Claremont (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:  
Storm Sewer Improvements  
A-9438  
Bids for the construction of

the Project will be received by the City Finance Officer at Claremont Town Hall, 606 6th Ave, Claremont, South Dakota 57432 until, 2:00 p.m. local time on October 2, 2024. At that time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read.  
The Project includes the following Work:  
The project shall consist of improvements to the storm water collection system in Claremont, South Dakota. The improvements will include: installation of new 15" and 18" Storm Sewer Piping, area drain inlets, storm sewer manholes, jack and bore 24" steel casing pipe, storm sewer lift station rehabilitation, and various other items of related construction.

Bids are requested for the following Contract: Base Bid plus Alternates Bid Schedules 1 through 4  
Obtaining the Bidding Documents





**GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NO. 06-6**

**REGULAR MEETING**  
September 9, 2024

President Rix called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the GHS History Conference Room. Members present: Rix, Flihs, Gengerke, Harder, Lerseth-Flihs, Strom and Weismantel. Absent: None. Others present were Supt. J. Schwan, Principal Edwards, and Business Manager Hubsch.

Moved by Gengerke, second by Weismantel, to approve the amended agenda with the addition of first reading of GCDB/GDDB Background Checks (amendment), and GCDB-E(2) Privacy Act Statement. Motion carried.

Pursuant to SDCL 23-3, no potential conflict disclosure was reported.

Moved by Gengerke, second Flihs will approve consent agenda items for August 12, 2024 meeting minutes, and August 2024 financial reports, agency accounts, investments, district bills, transportation reports, and school meal reports. Motion carried.

**GENERAL FUND:** Net Salary – 265,545.40; Benefits-70,978.88; Advanced Auto Parts – parts, 143.20; Allied Climate Professionals – repairs, 8,929.10; Amazon – various supplies, 3,609.82; Damian Bahr – diesel, 32.60; Building Sprinkler – inspection, 725.00; City of Groton – rubble site fees, 20.00; Cole Papers – janitor supplies/copy paper, 2,426.04; Custodial Fund – advanced payments, 23,084.94; Dependable Sanitation – garbage, 1,287.00; Dollar General – supplies, 26.00; Farm

Tire Service – tires, 1,720.82; Groton Area School Food Service – back to school picnic/inservice, 731.99; Groton Chiropractic – DOT Physical, 300.00; Hauff Mid-America – Sports supplies, 2,296.51; Hillyard – janitor supply, 7,004.53; House of Glass – repairs, 323.54; Rebecca Hubsch – title for bus, 16.50; Interstate All-Battery – batteries, 209.00; Locke Electric – repairs, 3,824.22; McLeod's Printing – plan books, 75.80; Menards – supplies, 25.98; Mid-American Research Chemical – garbage bags, 3,432.78; MJ's Sinclair – gas/diesel, 1,262.03; Nasco – classroom supplies, 773.94; Northeast Conference – Dues, 850.00; Northside Implementation – repairs, 5,239.10; Northwestern Energy – utilities, 13.37; S&S Lumber – supplies, 2,824.90; School Specialty – Classroom supplies, 1,413.02; SDASBO – registration, 100.00; Swank Movie Licensing – license, 602.00; Taylor Music – reeds, 30.79; Training Room – athletic supply, 1,880.57; WageWorks – admin fee, 92.00. Total General Fund-\$411,851.37.

**CAPITAL OUTLAY:** Allied Climate Control – HVAC payment request, 36,270.00; Amazon – classroom equipment, 1,945.89; BK Custom T's – kdj banner, 15.00; Builders First Source – flooring, 13,293.90; City of Groton – black dirt, 102.00; Clary Business Machines – laminator, 3,707.13; Cole Papers – mop bucket/dust pan, 381.36; Custodial Fund – equipment, 2,221.97; Dakota Supply Group – toilets, 354.79; Don Donley – Project work, 2,070.00; Easy Vista – LanSchool, 623.70; Eide Bailly – Lanschool, 1,500.00; Elite – cheer uniforms, 1,146.78; Eric Armin – calculators, 2,803.70; Hauff MidAmerica – sports equipment, 2,622.39; Hub City Roofing – elementary roof project, 110,000.00; MindPlay Education – license, 510.00; My Turn Play-systems – wood fiber, 7,214.00; NCS Pearson – AimswebPlus, 1,225.00; Quality Welding – new bleacher hand rails, 1,259.61; Ringneck Construction – side-

walks, 758.23; School Health – PE Equipment, 27.80; SG Consulting – Grammar Gallery, 690.00; Sichmeller Engineering – HVAC engineering, 6,400.00. Total Capital Outlay-\$197,143.25.

**SPECIAL ED:** Net Salary – 32,270.32; Benefits-10,172.25. Amazon Capitol – supplies, 65.48; Avera – PT/OT, 5,229.23; Parent, mileage, 385.14. Total Special Ed-\$48,122.42.

**ENTERPRISE:** Food Service- Net Salary – 3,005.56; Benefits – 1,528.47; Arrowwood Resort – lodging, 423.96; Custodial Fund – refunds, 157.30; East Side Jersey Dairy – milk, 755.47; Meathouse – processing, 886.00; Performance FoodService – food, 8,388.99; US Foods – food, 10,351.78. Total Food Service-\$25,497.53.

**OST - Net Salary – 12,279.56; Benefits – 1,247.09; Amazon – supplies, 14.01; Capitol One – supplies, 136.12; Ken's – snacks, 183.55. Total OST-\$13,860.33.**

**Driver's Ed - Net Salary – 1,048.32; Benefits – 143.11. Total Driver's Ed - \$1,191.43. CUSTODIAL FUND: \$54,498.79**

**RECEIPTS:** Local Sources-53,044.90 Custodial-128,442.31; County Sources – 3,268.15; State Sources – 44,389; Federal Sources – 0.00. Total Receipts - \$229,144.36

Members of the public are allowed five minutes to address the board on any topic of their choice. With no one present, the board continued with the agenda.

Mr. Clocksene presented the food service program overview and highlighted fresh fruits and vegetables and beef to the school program; Mr. Bahr presented the transportation program overview and highlighted routes serviced and fleet updates; and Mr. Scepanski presented the custodial program overview and provided a summer recap.

Moved by Weismantel, second by Harder to approve the adoption of coaching handbook amendments. Motion carried.

Moved by Gengerke, second by Weismantel to approve the

adoption of recommended policy changes: BDDC Agenda Preparation and Dissemination (Amendment), BDDC-E(2) Introduction to Public Forum (New), KLB Public Complaints About the Curriculum or Instructional Materials (Amendment), KLB-E(1) Request for Consideration of Instructional Materials (Amendment), KLB-E(2) Library Materials Opt-Out Form (New), IIAC Library Materials Selection and Adoption (Amendment), JFC Student Conduct (Amendment), JEC School Admissions (Amendment), JOA Student Directory Information (Amendment), DLC Expense Reimbursement (Amendment), DLCR Expense Reimbursements (Delete), DLB Salary Deductions (Amendment). Motion carried.

The following items were discussed in administrative reports: J. Schwan updated the board on Initiated Measure 28 and how this measure could significantly impact tax revenue. The school lobby groups believe that cuts to state funding because of this measure to education could be around 10%. Repairs are needed for the football field lights; an estimate was provided at approximately \$12,000. Other cost proposals for conversion to LED fixtures will be explored. Rooms implementation has a 65% active guardian rate; CJIS Audit and state Special Education Review are currently underway; Mr. Schwan will be traveling to Faulkton to learn about their CTE program and to Pierre for the SASD Professional Services Committee meeting; and ASBSD will be hosting public meetings and will be attending October 2. B. Schwan provided the board with enrollment numbers, homecoming schedule, SLO evaluation groups, registration for staff taking part in the Rethinking the Normal Classroom course offered by NSU, and welcomed fall student teachers.

Edwards reported student enrollment numbers, the homecoming schedule, the completion of the Bertec equipment installation, the distribution of

computers to 6-12 students, the beginning of MAPS testing, and the Student Leadership Summit on September 25. Hubsch reported that the ASB Workers Compensation Payroll audit report was submitted; reviewed budget resolution; Cahill Bauer and Associates will conduct an onsite FY24 audit next month; parent portal usage for meal payments; and will be participating in the SDASBO conference at the end of the month.

Tom Woods addressed the board, requesting permission to look for grant opportunities for the football field. The board agreed to allow Mr. Woods to seek grant opportunities, providing that the administration is kept informed on applications. Moved by Gengerke, second by Flihs, to approve budget amendment #FY25-02. Motion carried.

Board Motion - Adopt Supplemental Budget #FY25-2

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET #FY25-2**

Let it resolved that the school board of the Groton Area School District, in accordance with SDCL 13-11-3.12, and after duly considering the proposed supplemental budget, hereby approves and adopts the following supplemental budget in total:

**APPROPRIATIONS**

		<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	
10-1273-000-120-660	TITLE I 1003 SALARIES.....		\$5,980.00
10-1273-000-210-660	TITLE I 1003 BENEFITS .....		\$533.00
10-1273-000-310-660	TITLE I 1003 PURC. SERVICES ..		\$3,422.00
10-1273-000-411-660	TITLE I 1003 SUPPLIES.....		\$1,935.00
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS.....</b>			<b>\$11,870.00</b>
<b>MEANS OF FINANCE</b>			

		<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	
10-4158-660	TITLE I 1003 GRANT .....		\$11,870.00
<b>TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCE.....</b>			<b>\$11,870.00</b>
<b>Presiding Officer</b>			
<b>Business Manager</b>			

The board conducted a first reading of recommended policy change: DJB Petty Cash Accounts (Amendment), GCDB/GDDB Background Checks (Amendment), GCDB-E(2) Privacy Act Statement.

Moved by Flihs, second by Weismantel, to approve academic lane change for Lindsey DeHoet from MS+15 to MS+30 with a contract to be amended to \$54,447.24 for the 2024-2025 school year. Motion carried.

Moved by Harder, second by Flihs, to approve Maggie Cleveland, part-time student OST worker, for \$12.00/hour. Motion carried.

The next regular school board meeting will be held on October 15 at 7:00 a.m. in the library conference room.

Moved by Gengerke, second Flihs to adjourn at 9:03 pm. Motion carried.

Becky Hubsch, Business Manager

Grant Rix, President  
The addition of signatures to this page verifies these minutes as official.

Published September 18, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$200.29 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23697

**GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 06-6 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Capital Outlay</b>	<b>Special Education</b>	<b>Bond Redemption</b>	<b>Food Service</b>	<b>OST</b>	<b>Driver's Ed</b>	<b>Custodial</b>
<b>1-Aug-24.....</b>	<b>\$1,794,653.99</b>	<b>\$793,985.34</b>	<b>\$401,021.85</b>	<b>\$68.59</b>	<b>\$156,544.46</b>	<b>\$30,015.52</b>	<b>\$20,663.71</b>	<b>\$189,193.53</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>								
<b>Local Sources .....</b>	<b>\$22,433.80</b>	<b>\$1,220.16</b>	<b>\$523.15</b>		<b>\$20,295.20</b>	<b>\$8,572.59</b>		<b>\$128,442.31</b>
<b>County Sources .....</b>	<b>\$3,268.15</b>							
<b>State Sources</b>								
<b>State Aid .....</b>	<b>\$44,389.00</b>							
<b>Wind Farm</b>								
<b>Mentor Teacher Program</b>								
<b>State Apportionment</b>								
<b>State Reimbursements</b>								
<b>Bank Franchise</b>								
<b>Federal Sources</b>								
<b>Sale of Assets</b>								
<b>Due from Govt/Others</b>								
<b>Transfer In/Out</b>								
<b>TOTAL MONTHLY RECEIPTS .....</b>	<b>\$70,090.95</b>	<b>\$1,220.16</b>	<b>\$523.15</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$20,295.20</b>	<b>\$8,572.59</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$128,442.31</b>
<b>FUNDS AVAILABLE.....</b>	<b>\$1,864,744.94</b>	<b>\$795,205.50</b>	<b>\$401,545.00</b>	<b>\$68.59</b>	<b>\$176,839.66</b>	<b>\$38,588.11</b>	<b>\$20,663.71</b>	<b>\$317,635.84</b>
<b>MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS.....</b>	<b>(\$273,165.73)</b>	<b>(\$300,570.92)</b>	<b>(\$12,841.07)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>(\$6,955.76)</b>	<b>(\$14,882.22)</b>	<b>(\$1,191.43)</b>	<b>(\$54,498.79)</b>
<b>JOURNAL ENTRIES.....</b>	<b>(\$58,612.83)</b>	<b>\$101,046.00</b>	<b>(\$37,823.35)</b>		<b>\$10,828.86</b>	<b>\$163.93</b>		
<b>August 31 2024.....</b>	<b>\$1,532,966.38</b>	<b>\$595,680.58</b>	<b>\$350,880.58</b>	<b>\$68.59</b>	<b>\$180,712.76</b>	<b>\$23,869.82</b>	<b>\$19,472.28</b>	<b>\$263,137.05</b>

<b>GENERAL FUND.....</b>	<b>SPECIAL EDUCATION</b>	<b>FOOD SERVICE</b>	<b>OST</b>	<b>Driver's Education</b>
<b>Payroll.....</b>	<b>Payroll</b>	<b>Payroll</b>	<b>Payroll</b>	<b>Payroll</b>
<b>Instruction .....</b>	<b>Instruction</b>	<b>Instruction</b>	<b>Instruction</b>	<b>Instruction</b>
<b>Employee Benefits .....</b>	<b>Employee Benefits</b>	<b>Employee Benefits</b>	<b>Employee Benefits</b>	<b>Employee Benefits</b>
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>\$336,524.28</b>	<b>\$42,442.57</b>	<b>\$4,534.03</b>	<b>\$13,526.65</b>	<b>\$1,048.32</b>
				<b>\$143.11</b>



**Stratford Town Board Meeting**  
September 17th, 2024

6:30pm Prickett called meeting to order with Jark, Schley, and Kwak in attendance.

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Jark, carried, to approve the Aug 20th, 2024 minutes as read.

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Jark, carried, to approve the financials as presented.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Next reservoir burn to be set for winter.

Estimate to repair sewer pump \$2,275. A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Jark, carried, to approve the refurbishing of the pump and keep as a spare.

Discussion about 451 Ash. Tax payer will be contacted and will follow up on communication.

Discussion about road resurfacing. Regular road maintenance to resume and roads will be assessed to prepare for winter.

Discussion about block 22 being declared surplus. A motion was made by Prickett seconded

by Schley, carried; to keep block 22.

Speed limit sign proposed at all city entrances 15mph. City to seek out estimate.

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Schley, carried, to approve the following claims for payment: -General Fund-NWE Bills: (st lts) \$208.69, (ball pk) 16.28, (tennis) 21.61, (st lts) 369.65, (hall) 434.56, (sign) 14.91; James Valley (auto): \$44.42; United Fire (auto): \$673.00; Quickbooks (auto): \$31.86; CNA Surety: \$175.00; Buzz McNeil: \$300.00; \$300.00BC Weed & Pest: \$624.36 (7/19-8/22); FO School Fee: \$75 -Water Sewer Fund-NWE Bills: (2nd st) \$115.17,(p hse) 12.00; Web Water (auto): \$1,860.95 (192,305gal); USDA RD Loan Payment (auto): \$478.00; NESD Loan Payment (auto): \$383.71; Public Health Labs: \$105.00; DPC: \$912.25, \$971.43, \$7,441.85;

**CLOSING:**  
The next board meeting will be held on October 15th, 2024, at 6:30pm at the Town Hall.

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Schley, carried, to adjourn the meeting.

-Anna Kwak, Finance Officer-  
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**Stratford Town Board Meeting**  
May 14th, 2024

Prickett called meeting to order with Jark and Kwak in attendance.

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Jark, carried, to approve the April 9th, 2024 minutes as read.

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Jark, carried, to approve the financials as presented.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Shut off notices sent out with date of 5/29/24 for those >60 days past due.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Code Enforcement Updates: MD property campers one to be cleaned up, one to be removed; abandoned vehicles to be removed; water will not be reconnected until account balance is PIF + camper removed.

Abandoned truck on corner of campbell and 2nd - owners will be given notice to remove.

New property purchases notified to begin mowing, maintain, and remove dwellings.

Jark to get estimates on clean up of 451 Ash to be reviewed at next meeting.

A motion was made by Prickett; seconded by Jark; carried, to approve Robert Kadoun mowing bid for summer 2024.

A motion was made by Prickett; seconded by Jark; carried, to apply for mosquito control grant.

A motion was made by Prickett; seconded by Jark; carried, to implement a 2% delinquent account monthly fee for account balances greater than 60 days past due and a \$25 reconnect/disconnect fee.

Stratford Bar wants to do a car show on the date of the cookoff on July 20th; request to shut down part of main street from stop sign to fire hall and utilize empty lots to divert traffic and parking.

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Jark, carried, to approve The Stratford Bar to close Main Street off for car show on July 20th, 2024.

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Jark, carried, to approve the following claims for payment:-General Fund- -General Fund-

NWE Bills: (st lts) \$188.51, (ball pk) 13.35, (tennis) 20.45, (st lts) 258.99, (hall) 464.18, (sign) 15.39; James Valley (auto): \$43.52; Quickbooks (auto): \$95.58; United Fire (auto): \$574.00; Groton Independent: \$68.28, \$22.08; Locke Electric: \$688.77; Menards: \$25.48; Buzz McNeil: \$200.00 (snow removal); SD Public Assurance Alliance: \$779.58. -Water

Sewer Fund- NWE Bills: (2nd st) \$192.75,(p hse) 19.45; Web Water (auto): \$1,372.38; Public Health Labs: \$30.00; Helms: \$14,033.60; USDA RD Loan Payment (auto): \$478.00; NESD Loan Payment (auto): \$383.71. The next board meeting will be held on June 11th, 2024, at 6:00pm at the Town Hall.

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Jark, carried, to adjourn the meeting.

Anna Kwak

Finance Officer

Published September 18, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$26.77 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23699

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The GHS Seniors painted Main Street Sunday evening. (Photo courtesy Weston Dinger)

## Donovans are Parade Marshals



Dick and Ruby Donovan  
(Photo by Dorene Nelson)

by Dorene Nelson

Dick and Ruby Donovan are familiar faces around the Groton area. Many people either had Dick as a math teacher or as their coach in various sports connected to Groton Area Schools.

Dick, a graduate of Hecla High School, taught math in Groton High School for eighteen years as well as coaching wrestling, football, and track. In addition to his former student's admiration and fond memories, he has also received many honors and awards for his various athletic talents. During his early retirement years, Dick was sought out for help and advice in track and field practices.

"One my favorite memories from high school in Hecla was when we were finally able to beat that Claremont Honkers football team," Dick chuckled. "Those guys had a sixty-two-game winning streak, and we were finally able to take care of that!"

Ruby Donovan is very active in Groton Senior Citizens, currently serving as the vice president. Each year Ruby spearheads the Senior Citizens' City of Groton beautification work. She organizes, purchases, and helps plant the many flowers and bushes located around the Groton Community Center.

Ruby, originally from Rapid City, worked as a department manager for Sears and Roebuck. "I traveled a lot in my various jobs which were mostly in sales," Ruby explained.

Dick had five children, 3 boys and 2 girls, who were all graduates of Groton High School! "Some of my kids even became teachers and coaches, like me!" Dick stated proudly.

Ruby has three children, four grandchildren, and ten great grandchildren while Dick has eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

"Dick and I first met online on a senior citizen website," Ruby explained. "We first met in person in Pierre, since that was half-way for both of us. We have now been married for nine and one-half years."



## Decades Day Winners

It was Decades Day at the middle/high school on Tuesday for homecoming week. Pictured in back, left to right, are Tori Schuster (6), Natalia Warrington (11), Ashlynn Warrington (10), Addison Hoffman (10), Teagan Hanten (10), TC Schuster (9) and Keegan Harry (11); in front, left to right, are Adeline Kotzer (8), Kendyll Kroll (6), Nolan Bahr (7) and Jackson Furman (9); not pictured are Easton Larson (6), Wesley Borg (8) and Abby Yeadon (12). (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



## Pajama Day

Winners of the Pajama Day are pictured above. In back, left to right, are Gage Sippel (12), Keegen Tracy (11) and Becker Bosma (11); in the middle row, left to right, are Emma Kutter (12), Kennedy Hansen (12), Brenna Imrie (10), Avery Crank (10), Kyrie Yeigh (8), Major Dolan (7) and Mya Feser (9); in front, left to right, are Laila Roberts (12), Brooklyn Hansen (12), Rowan Patterson (7), Sam Crank (8) and Knox Mulder (6); not pictured is Ryder Schelle (9). (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



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**GHS**

**50th**

**Class**

**Reunion**

The GHS Class of 1974 will be celebrating 50 years on Friday, September 20, 2024 at the Groton Legion. The evening is open to anyone who would like to come and visit members of the class.



# Groton Area takes down Roncalli in three sets



**Jerica Locke**  
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Groton Area's volleyball team posted a 3-0 win over Aberdeen Roncalli in action played Thursday in Groton. It was Roncalli's only three-set loss this season. Their two losses were in four sets.

The first set was tied 12 times and there were 10 lead changes before the Tigers outscored Roncalli at the end, 5-2, for the win. The Tigers had a six point run in the middle of the second set and posted a 25-15 win. Roncalli led early at 3-0, but once Groton Area got the 4-3 lead, the Tigers never trailed after that in the third set, going on to win, 25-20.

Rylee Dunker finished with 17 kills (30-33), and one block. Chesney Weber had eight kills (21-25), four ace serves, 22 assists, 10 digs and one block. Jaedyn Penning had eight kills (16-17), two ace serves and 17 digs. Faith Traphaen had three kills, Taryn Traphagen had four kills and one block, Laila Roberts had one kills and two ace serves, Elizabeth Fliehs had 14 assists and one ace serve and Jerica Locke had 29 digs.

McKenna O'Keefe led the Cavaliers with nine kills (33-38), Ava Hanson had five kills and two blocks, Morgan Helms had five kills (23-24, one ace serve (11-11) and 12 digs, Kylee Voelleer had one kill, one ace serve and 13 digs, Ava Danielson had seven assists and Kara Olivier had one kill.

The match was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Agtegra, Avantara Groton, Bierman Farm Service, BK Custom T's & More, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Dan Richardt from Groton Ford, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Lounge, Krueger Brothers, R&M Farms/Rix Farms and The Meathouse in Andover.

Groton Area won the junior varsity sets by identical scores of 26-24. Liby Althoff had six kills and two ace serves, McKenna Tietz had five kills and one ace serve, Kella Tracy had five kills, Emerlee Jones had four kills, Talli Wright and Sydney Locke each had one kill and one ace serve and Makenna Krause had two kills and one ace serve.

Sophia Feickert led Roncalli with five kills and one block, Ava Danielson had four kills and two ace serves, Cambry Feickert had two kills and two ace serves, Gabby Thomas and Kara Olivier each had one kill and Ava Meyers had one ace serve.

The junior varsity game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Dorene Nelson.

Roncalli won the C match by identical scores of 25-17.

The Tigers will host Clark/Willow Lake next Thursday.

The varsity game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Agtegra, Avantara Groton, Bierman Farm Service, BK Custom T's & More, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Lounge, Krueger Brothers, R&M Farms/Rix Farms, The Meathouse in Andover. The junior varsity game was also broadcast, sponsored by Dorene Nelson.

- Paul Kosel



**Pictured in back, left to right, are Easton Eckern, Logan Pearson, Keegan Harry, Jacob Tewksbury, Becker Bosma, Carter Simon and Jayden Schwan; in front, left to right, are Jace Johnson, Hayden Harder, Liem Johnson, Treyton Smith, Jarrett Erdmann and Brevin Fliehs.** (Courtesy Photo)

## Groton golfers take first in Groton tournament

Groton Area placed five golfers in the top 15 as the team won the Groton Area Invitational held Thursday at the Olive Grove Golf Course.

Brevin Fliehs took third with a 79, Becker Bosma was sixth with an 81, Carter Simon was seventh with an 82, Logan Pearson was 11th with an 86, Jarrett Erdmann was 13th with an 86, Jace Johnson was 22nd with a 92, Jayden Schwan was 23rd with a 93,

Groton Area won the team title with 328 points followed by Sioux Valley with 334, Aberdeen Roncalli with 335, Milbank with 339, Sisseton had 381 and Redfield had 416.

- Paul Kosel

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
BROWN COUNTY HIGHWAY  
5-YEAR PLAN

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, October 1st in the Brown County Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex,

Aberdeen, SD on the Brown County Highway 5-year Road & Bridge Plan.

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the Brown County Highway 5-year plan.

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor  
Published September 18, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$6.75 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublic-notices.com](http://www.sdpublic-notices.com). 23700

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## Groton Area soccer teams beat Dakota Valley

The boys soccer team won its first game of the season with a 5-2 win over Dakota Valley. Logan Olson scored the first goal on an assist by Ethan Kroll at the 34:35 mark in the first half. Olson scored moments later at the 33:58 mark to make it 2-0, Groton Area. Easton Weber scored with 25:36 left in the first half and Karson Zak scored with 62 seconds left in the half as Groton Area took a 4-0 lead at half time. Dakota Valley's Cardona scored with 37:18 left in the game to make it 4-1. Ethan Kroll scored for Groton Area with 22:49 left to make it 5-1. Yahya Luqman scored for Dakota Valley with 8:51 left in the game for the final score of 5-2.

The girls won their game, 1-0, with the lone goal set up by a corner kick and finished by Laila Roberts with 5:53 left in the game.



**Brooklyn Hansen**  
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

The girls final game of the regular season is October 5 at Garretson. The boys will host Custer on Friday at 4 p.m. and Hot Springs on Saturday at 11 a.m.

Both games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Agtegra, Avantara Groton, Bierman Farm Service, BK Custom T's & More, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Lounge, Krueger Brothers, R&M Farms/Rix Farms, The Meathouse in Andover.

- Paul Kosel



**Karson Zak**  
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

## Girls soccer team beats Vermillion, boys lose their game

Groton Area's soccer teams hosted Vermillion on Saturday with the girls coming away with a 10-0 win with 5:03 left in the game and the boys lost their game, 8-0.

The first eight goals for Groton Area were scored by different players. Rylle Gilbert scored first. Laila Roberts and Kennedy Hansen were hitting ball between themselves when Roberts tried for the score and Gilbert head butted the ball in for the score. The first score happened at the 20:31 mark. Sydney Locke scored with 15:49 left in the first half and Brooklyn Hansen scored with 13:59 left in the half. Groton Area led, 3-0, at half time.

Groton Area increased its intensity in the second half. Kennedy Hansen kicked a penalty kick and Elizabeth Flihs scored at the 37:48 mark. Laila Roberts scored at the 34:34 mark. McKenna Tietz scored at the 31:46 mark. Brenna Imrie scored at the 23:51 mark and Jerica Locke scored at the 21:17 mark. The last two goals were scored by Tietz, one at the 10:40 mark and the game ending mercy rule at the 5:03 mark.

In the boys game, Vermillion's Ian Job scored three goals and had one assist, Kylar Wallin scored once, Teagan Wells scored two goals and Michael Roob and Caleb Chasing Hawk each had one goal.

Both games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Agtegra, Avantara Groton, Bierman Farm Service, BK Custom T's & More, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Lounge, Krueger Brothers, R&M Farms/Rix Farms, The Meathouse in Andover.

- Paul Kosel



**Gage Sippel**  
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Elizabeth Flihs**  
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

## Cross Country Results from Webster Meet

**Girls JV 3K Run:** 12, Sydney Holmes, 17:12.16.

**Girls Varsity 5K Run:** 6, Faith Traphagen, 21:27.98.

**Boys JV 3K Run:** 27, Logan Clocksene, 25:46.62.

**Boys Varsity 5K Run:** 32, Jayden Schwan, 22:00.32.

**Girls 3K Middle School Run:** 8, Andi Iverson, 16:52.27; 28, Rayna Loeschke, 21:08.43.

**Boys 3K Middle School Run:** 8, Grayden Zeck, 14:54.03; 12, Blake Malsam, 15:34.95;



**Jayden Schwan and Kason Oswald jockey for position at the start of the varsity boys run.** (Photo Courtesy Bruce Babcock)

## Redfield Golf Meet

**Team Scores:** Aberdeen Roncalli 307, Wattertown JV 315, Groton Area 316, Sioux Valley 324, Milbank 332, Sisseton 354, Redfield 370.

**Individual Results:** 5, Brevin Flihs, 74; 9, Carter Simon, 77; 12, Logan Pearson, 81; 17, Jace Johnson, 84; 18, Jarrett Erdmann, 85; 25, Jayden Schwan, 88;

## Milbank wins JV Football game on last play

It was the last play of the game when Lance Engebretson scored a two yard touchdown as Milbank won the junior varsity football game, 6-0.

Milbank doubled up on Groton Area in first downs, 10-5.

Groton Area had 15 carries for 101 yards. (Skyler Godel 6-11, Ryder Schelle 5-8, Lincoln Krause 1-2, Brady Small 2-0). Milbank had 29 carries for 135 yards (Zack Karges 13-43, Keaton Johnson 8-51, Lance Engebretson 8-41, 1 TD).

In passing, Bradyn Small completed one of seven passes for 34 yards and one interception. Alex Abeln attempted three passes with one interception. Ryder Schelle had the lone reception for 34 yards.

Lance Engebretson led Milbank, completing two of five passes for eight yards with one interception and Lincoln Holcher attempted two passes. Jason Wiese caught one pass for five yards and Gage Newstrand caught one for three.

Groton Area lost one fumbler and had three penalties for 22 yards. Milbank had no fumbles and had four penalties for 32 yards.

Tackles for Groton Area: Ben Hoeft 7, Skyler Godel 6, Braeden Flihs 5, Isaiah Scepaniak 4 (1 sack), Ryder Schelle 4, Ashton Holmes 3, Alex Abeln 2, Gavin Kroll 2 (1 sack), Brody Lord, Gunner Hardy, John Bisbee, Blake Lord (1 sack) and Hunter Aden each had one tackle.

James Nelson led Milbank with three tackles.

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# Milbank scores last in five touchdown fourth quarter to win



**Karter Moody**  
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

What started out as a defensive struggle in the first half turned into a free for all in the second half as Milbank scored last and posted a 32-28 win over Groton Area.

"It was actually a fun game," said Coach Shaun Wanner. "Both sides played hard and it was a good, hard fought game."

Milbank's first scoring drive started on its second possession with 7:41 left in the first quarter. The Bulldogs had good field position after Groton Area punted on fourth and 13 and Milbank was on the Tiger 47 yard line. Five plays and two first downs later in 80 seconds, Emmett Hanson scored on a 30 yard pass from Brayden Bowsher. The PAT kick by Moises Luna was good and Milbank took a 7-0 lead. That was the first quarter score.

Groton Area had a drive going early in the second quarter, starting on its own 43 yard line. The Tigers got two first downs and were down to the Bulldog 34 yard line. Then things went bad for Groton. It was then second and 25, third and 13 and then Milbank's Braylen Bowsher intercepted the ball.

The Tigers got the ball back with 1:31 left in the half, starting at the Milbank 45 yard line. Groton Area got a first down on third and nine and the ball down to the Milbank 33. Groton Area called time out with 31 seconds left. It was second and six and the Tigers got another first down with 25 seconds left and the ball at the seven yard line. Time was running and the Tigers got the snap off with one second left on the clock. Ryder Johnson connected with Korbin Kucker to score. In the excitement, the ball was spiked and the Tigers were access a penalty for the PAT kick. The kick was wide right by Joao Nunes in his first miss of the season; however, there was a penalty on Milbank so the Tigers had another crack at the PAT. The ball hit the uprights and failed to go through and the half time score remained with Milbank on top, 7-6. "I think there was hesitation on Milbank's side - they didn't think we would get the snap off in time. Ryder and Korbin did a good job with the time. We got up to the line and got the snap off with one second left."

Groton Area had the opening possession of the third quarter. The Tigers started on their own 38 yard line. On second and nine, Groton Area got a first down and the ball on the Milbank 47 yard line. On the next play, Korbin Kucker broke free and dash 47 yards for the touchdown. Ryder Johnson ran in the PAT and Groton Area was on

top, 14-7. That drive went 67 yards in four plays, two first downs and 1:40.

The Tiger defense held Milbank who was forced to punt on fourth and five.

Groton Area started on its own 45 yard line and got a first down with the ball back in Milbank territory on the 43 yard line. The Tigers were third and 15 with a penalty making it third and 20. Teylor Diegel made a big catch, taking the ball from the Groton Area 43 down to the Milbank 33. Milbank's defense prevented the Tigers from gaining any ground and the Groton Area gave up the ball on downs at fourth and 10.

On Milbank's first play on its next possession, Sam Rick caught a pass from Brayden bowser and went 68 yards to score. The PAT kick by Moises Luna was no good leaving Groton Area with a 14-13 lead with 4:07 left in the third quarter.

Groton Area went the wrong way on its next possession, going second and 13, third and 17 and fourth and 23.

Milbank took over on the Tiger 46 yard line and got down to the 15 yard line as the third quarter ended.

Then a wild fourth quarter was about to begin.

Milbank took the ball down to the one yard line and Braylen Bowsher scored on a one yard run. The two point conversion failed and Milbank took a 19-14 lead.

Groton Area took over on its own 38 yard line. Kucker got two first downs and Groton Area was at the Bulldog 23 yard line. On third and 15, Christian Ehresmann would scored on a 28 yard pass play from Korbin Kucker. The PAT pass failed and Groton reclaimed the lead, 20-19, with 9:15 left in the game.

Milbank took over on its own 26 yard line. Then on second and 15, Braylen Bowsher connected with Esteban Abrego for a 79 yard pass play. The PAT pass failed and Milbank took the lead, 25-20, with 8:21 left in the game.

The Tigers took over on its 43 yard line. Kucker got a first down and the ball down to the Milbank 11 yard line. On third and one, Kucker would score on a two yard run. The PAT was good on a pass from Johnson to Ehresmann and the Tigers were back on top, 28-25, with 5:44 left in the game.

Milbank got three straight first downs. A touchdown was negated by a penalty; however, on third and 15, Sam Rick would score on a 32 yard pass play from Bowsher. The PAT kick was good and the Bulldogs were back on top, 32-28, with 2:45 left.

Groton's next possession was stopped on third and 10 when the Emmett Hanson intercepted the ball.

Milbank did not advance and ended up punting on fourth and 11 with 49 seconds left. The punt was blocked and Groton Area took up shop on the Bulldog 32 yard. It was second and 10 with 36 seconds left. Third and 11 with 30 seconds left. Fourth and 11 with 23 seconds left. Groton could not get a first down on the last play and the Bulldogs would win its homecoming game.

The game concluded at 9:50 p.m. "There was a lot of passing and big plays that stops the clock a lot more," Wanner said. Between the two teams, there were 42 passes with the clock being stopped 17 times for incomplete passes. "I saw more positive things than negative in the game," he said. "Now we need to work on the negative to make them better. We're just starting the big stretch of our schedule."

Both teams had 15 first downs. Groton Area had more yards rushing, 121-93, and Milbank had more yards passing, 288-209. "We have a balanced offense," Wanner said. "I love the balance that we had 121 yards rushing and 209 yards passing."

Groton Area carried the ball 28 times for 121 yards and two touchdowns. (Korbin Kucker 14-84, 2 TD; Ryder Johnson 9-10, Keegen Tracy 2-15, Brevin Flihs 1-1, Christian Ehresmann 2-1). Milbank carried the ball 39 times for 93 yards and one touchdown. (Tate Schlueter 13-52, Nollen Shelley 9-47, Braylen Bowsher 12-(-5), Owen Tesch 5-(-1)).

Ryder Johnson completed 15 of 27 passes for 181 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions. Korbin Kucker completed one of four passes for 28 yards and one touchdown. Recivers were Korbin Kucker 6-98, 1 TD; Christian Ehresmann 3-41, Teylor Diegel 3-40, Keegen Tracy 3-32, Brevin Flihs 1-(-2).

Braylen Bowsher completed nine of 11 passes for 288 yards and four touchdowns. Receivers were Sam Rick 4-143, Emmett Hanson 3-61, Esteban Abrego 1-71, 1 TD; Owen Tesch 1-5.

Milbank recovered both of its fumbles.

Groton Area had six penalties for 45 yards while Milbank had eight for 41 yards.

Christian Ehresmann had 17 tackles while Karter Moody had 11, Korbin Kucker and Brevin Flihs each had 10 tackles.

Milbank was led by Tate Schlueter, Mason Allen and Emmett Hanson eight tackles apiece and Jesse Schneck had seven tackles.

Both teams are 2-1 on the season. Groton Area will celebrate homecoming by hosting Deuel on Friday.

"Deuel has a young football team. They have a very good sophomore class that is very athletic."

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Agtegra, Avantara Groton, Bierman Farm Service, BK Custom T's & More, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Lounge, Krueger Brothers, R&M Farms/Rix Farms, The Meathouse in Andover, with Justin Olson, Paul Kosel and Jeslyn Kosel.



**Brevin Flihs**  
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Dear EarthTalk: Is it true that bee populations are healthier in and around organic farms than elsewhere and if so, why?

-- Martin Mason, St. Louis, MO

According to experts from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, bees are responsible for a third of the world's food production. Flowering plants, which make up about 75 percent of agricultural crops, depend on pollinators like bees for seed production, thus ensuring the success of future crop generations. Concerningly, this critical insect faces a multitude of health threats.

Bees are mainly threatened by constant exposure to synthetic pesticides. Neonicotinoids, for example, are common insecticides that affect the receptors in a bee's nervous system. Consuming the nectar of treated plants, even in small amounts, can impair bees' motor skills and foraging behaviors. Other conventional insecticides including diazinon, acephate and pyrethrin are also correlated with declining bee health.

Regardless of whether farms use synthetic pesticides, pests and pathogens such as Deformed Wing Virus are constant threats to bee health. The Varroa mite, which feeds on the blood and bodies of bees, affects nearly every hive in the U.S. As such, colonies untreated by either organic or non-organic beehive-specific pesticides can expect to survive for three years maximum against infestation before collapse.

Farming monocultures also pose a threat to pollinators, as the nutritional makeup of nectar and pollen varies between crops. When bees are exposed to a single crop, they can suffer from malnutrition and weakened immune systems. Monocultures also tend to be heavily affected by parasites.

Starting in 2006, the rate of Colony Collapse Disorder—the sudden flight of honey bees from seemingly healthy hives—has drastically increased to 31 percent of hives annually. Experts haven't yet identified a singular cause, rates trend lower on farms that meet the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) National Organic Program standards, suggesting that organic farms may be healthiest for their pollinators.

Primarily, bees inhabiting organic farms are exposed to fewer toxic substances; USDA's organic standards prohibit the majority of synthetic pesticides and promote integrated pest management (IPM) techniques such as crop rotation which improves upon natural biodiversity. Organic farms also tend to implement more cover crops and multi-functional insectary hedge rows, benefitting bees nutritionally.

While nation-wide all-organic polycultures may be economically infeasible, techniques such as implementing hedge-rows can promote bee health even when coupled with synthetic pesticides. Ultimately, however, an absence of toxic chemicals provides the greatest health benefits; as such, bee populations tend to be healthier in and around organic farms as opposed to conventional farms.

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**Bee populations are healthier in and around organic farms as compared to other locales in agricultural, suburban and urban areas.** Credit: Pexels.com.

## Adoption - "It's Complicated"

My personal connection with adoption began nearly 30 years ago. As my mentor Dr Holm and I hurried to the hospital, he told me about the child he and his wife Joanie had recently adopted.



**Debra Johnston, MD**

Rick loved being a father, even more, it seems to me, than he loved being a doctor. He couldn't quite believe that he got to parent this amazing little person, that he was blessed not just with Joanie and his sons, but with this precious girl who was now their daughter. His besotted delight so moved me that I knew I wanted to adopt, too.

Over the next few years, I witnessed other families grow through adoption. I walked with women as they wrestled with unplanned pregnancies. I watched them grieve the children being raised by other mothers. I read blogs and books by adult adoptees who discussed their joys and their struggles.

Nearly 10 years after that conversation with Rick, my husband and I, too, became part of an adoptive family.

As an adoptive parent, I've often been told how "lucky" my children are. Of course this is flattering: every parent wants to believe they are doing that incredibly difficult job well. However, people aren't usually complimenting us on our parenting. They are frequently responding to a feel good-narrative about the orphan who is now part of a family, with the expectation that we will all live happily ever after.

The reality of adoption is much messier. No child comes to adoption except through loss. At a minimum, that child has lost a parent: to poverty, addiction, mental illness, incarceration, death, or some combination of factors. Even infants experience distress on separation from their biological mothers. Many children have lost more than one parent or caregiver. Some children are in open adoptions and able to maintain a connection with their biologic families, although that connection may be tenuous. More are not. I have never understood how a culture obsessed with genealogy can simultaneously discount the importance to an adopted person of knowing their own genetic heritage.

Around the time I graduated medical school, researchers published a groundbreaking study linking traumatic experiences in childhood to a myriad of significant health and social challenges in adulthood. Subsequent research has born this out. These traumas are common; estimates are that 2/3 of middle class people have experienced at least one. They include abuse and neglect, having a household member who experiences addiction, mental illness, or incarceration, witnessing domestic violence, and the loss of a parent. Additional research has demonstrated the impact of factors outside the home, such as bullying and community violence. The more of these a person experiences, the higher the likelihood that they will suffer, for example, heart disease, suicide, lung disease, mental illness, and even cancer in adulthood.

Adoption, even adoption into a stable, loving, privileged family, doesn't erase the trauma that preceded it. We can't address those wounds if we won't acknowledge them.

Debra Johnston, MD, is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices as a Family Medicine Doctor at Avera Medical Group in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at [www.prairiedoc.org](http://www.prairiedoc.org), Facebook, Instagram, and Threads featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® on SDPB, a medical Q&A show, 2 podcasts, and a Radio program on SDPB, providing health information based on science, built on trust.

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