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The Groton Independent

Vol. 142 No. 01 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2024 ♦ Established in 1889

FCS raises money for Safe Harbor

Friday had exceptional weather for a dunk tank! FCS (Fellowship of Christian Students) Group moved their annual Homecoming dunk tank fundraiser to the soccer fields to entertain spectators before, during and after the boys' soccer game Friday afternoon. Students lined up to see if they could soak their administrators, while even adults and the younger ones joined in the fun to try their luck. The proceeds from the event were to be split with Safe Harbor and FCS student leaders will present the donation to the non-profit organization in the coming days.



Scott Thorson, Social Science Teacher, falls down into the water after a ball hit the target. (Courtesy Photo)



Superintendent Joe Schwan watches closely as Evalynn Peterson's ball is about to hit the target. (Courtesy Photo)



Alli Iverson smiles after her throw dunked the Boys' Soccer Head Coach Ryan Olson. (Courtesy Photo)



Elementary Principal Brett Schwan kept encouraging students to hit the target during halftime, Owen Sperry, dunk tank volunteer, watches on from behind the tank. (Courtesy Photo)



The Groton Area/Langford Area band (left) and the Groton Area Drum Line (above) performed at the Homecoming Game on Friday. (Photos by Paul Kosel)



Senior golf players were recognized with their parents at the Warner volleyball match on Tuesday. Senior boys are Carter Simon, Logan Pearson, Brevin Flihs and Easton Eckern.

Warner is one of four South Dakota schools selected as Blue Ribbon Schools

Four South Dakota schools have been selected as National Blue Ribbon Schools by the U.S. Department of Education. The award recognizes schools for their excellence in overall academic performance or for their progress in closing the achievement gap among student subgroups.

The South Dakota schools named as National Blue Ribbon Schools are:

Christ the King Elementary, O'Gorman Catholic Schools, Sioux Falls

Lennox Elementary School, Lennox School District

Lincoln Elementary School, Aberdeen School District

Warner High School, Warner School District

Linnox Elementary, Christ the King Elementary, and Warner High School are honored for their high scores in English and mathematics.

Lincoln Elementary is recognized for its progress in closing the achievement gap among student subgroups.

"Blue Ribbon status is awarded to schools that demonstrate commitment to excellence for all students," said Secretary of Education Joe Graves. "The work that is being done at Lennox Elementary, Lincoln Elementary, Christ the King Elementary, and Warner High School is a testament to talented teachers and staff, students who work hard to achieve their potential, and dedicated leadership."

Principals at each Blue Ribbon school cited outstanding teachers and a supportive community as key to their success. With that as the foundation, each school has a unique approach that has brought them to excellence.

Lennox Elementary uses a data-centered approach; data from various assessments equip teachers with an individualized profile of each student, which allows teachers to curate learning experiences to target deficiencies and build on established knowledge.

Lincoln Elementary has instituted math and reading interventions, allowing students to acquire fundamental skills. The school also has a dedicated STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) program, which provides hands-on, project-based learning for all students.

Christ the King Elementary uses data to target learning priorities and combines that with small-group instruction to meet the needs of each student.

Warner High School thrives on a traditional approach to education. Academic offerings are bound to fundamental subjects, which are taught and reinforced by experienced staff who are resolute in their high expectations for all students.

Vikings (knock on wood)

The only thing that makes Minnesota Vikings fans more angsty than losing, is when they're going well, and right now they're the darlings of the NFL. Before I go any further, please get knocking on the oak furniture or get outside and knock on a tree. Make a friend with a woodpecker. The neighbors will understand.

The Vikings are 3-0 after blasting the Houston Texans, the good team from Texas. But, the next time Sam Darnold throws three interceptions, fans will assemble dressed in black to call for third-stringer Brett Rypien to start.

But there's still so much bitterness even though we're undefeated! Fans are experiencing schadenfreude whenever formerly beloved Kirk Cousins loses a game with Atlanta (1-2). Some are mad because he's a smart negotiator with a sharp agent and gets paid a lot. Others feel he should have shown loyalty and stayed in Minnesota. Wait until they find out there's no crying in baseball.

I hate (Twins) baseball berry, berry much Speaking of such... the Twins are rumbling, bumbling, stumbling to an "I can't look" season end. Everything Manager Rocco Baldelli touches seems to turn to pewter. Every call from the bullpen seems to be a suicide mission. Spielberg should direct them.

Maybe other clubs have the same issue, but the Twins could have meetings in the infirmary because that's where most of them are. I'm



That's Life

by Tony Bender

not sure if they need a new manager or an exorcism.

Gus is slowing down and smartening up Well, as he approaches his tenth birthday, Gus the Wonder Pug is thickening up and slowing down, although our leggy boy still has a waist. He no longer has Squirrel the World's Grumpiest Cat to hang with. We lost him last summer at 19. We think. You see, India always tracked his age on a chart on the inside of a kitchen cabinet and confused the categories. Squirrel might have been 19 rabies shots old.

Without his buddy, out of boredom, Gus goes outside much more often. Which means he's getting me in shape. If I'm sure it's not time again, he'll walk away dejectedly from the deck door and stand at the top of the stairs which means if he really does have go, I'm going to end up with a dookie in the entry. Dog Poop Poker. He wins more bluffs than he loses.

A soft landing

The stock market hit new highs last week after The Fed lowered the interest rate by half a point, an indication of increasing confidence in the economy. We've been hearing whispers of a recession for years after the COVID crisis, but that seems much less likely. For young adults, that's great news.

I remember at the end of 1980, the Federal Fund Rate was 20%. A 30-year mortgage was nearly 13%. I was making something like \$2.10 an hour at K-Mart.

My kids, 23 and 28 have borne the brunt of some rocky economic times. The cost of college and housing is challenging, and even though wages are rising, younger Americans are still catching up. So, the rate cut is a promising signal. And for the critics who launched in easier times, don't judge if you see Gen Z splurging on a coffee, or—heavens—a Big Mac.

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

Just when you thought the Vikings couldn't possibly have a better win than the one they had against the San Francisco 49ers, they proceeded to dismantle one of the best teams in the AFC, the Houston Texans, by a score of 34-7.

The first quarter set the tone for the entire game. The Texans got the ball to start the game, and the first play of their opening drive was a holding call on the offensive line. On their second play, C.J. Stroud was intercepted by Kamu Grugier-Hill, who was starting in place of injured linebacker Ivan Pace Jr. Six plays later, Sam Darnold found Justin Jefferson for a six-yard touchdown. On their ensuing drive, the Texans ran 13 plays but ultimately missed a 54-yard field goal, giving the ball back to the Vikings who only needed six plays to find the endzone again, this time an eight-yard pass from Darnold to Aaron Jones.

While the first quarter was non-stop fireworks, the second quarter was full of duds by both teams. Both teams punted the ball three times, and the teams went into halftime with the same 14-0 score.

The Vikings got the ball to begin the second half and drove 77 yards in eight plays – ending the drive with a four-yard touchdown pass from Darnold to Jalen Nailor. Both teams traded punts on their ensuing drives, before the Texans finally showed some signs of life halfway through the third quarter, going 72 yards on seven plays and finally finding the endzone (an eight-yard catch from former Vikings running back Cam Akers). The Vikings responded with a field goal, and the score was 24-7 with a quarter left to play.

Needing to get something going if they were going to have any chance at a comeback, the Texans took to the air to score quickly. Unfortunately for them, that just allowed the Vikings' pass rush to pin their ears back and apply constant pressure to Stroud – which led to a Cam Bynum interception. Nursing a large lead and wanting to kill some clock, the Vikings kept it simple and handed the ball off to Aaron Jones five times, which got them down to the two-yard line. On third and goal, Darnold hit tight end Johnny Mundt for a touchdown, bringing the score to 31-7. The Vikings' defense, which was ferocious all game, smelled blood in the air and went into berserker mode, stopping the Texans' offense twice on fourth downs and the Vikings' offense added a field goal just for good measure.

The 34-7 win was the Vikings' largest margin of victory since December 15, 2019 (at the Los Angeles Chargers).

Sam Darnold completed 17 of 28 passes for 181 yards and four touchdowns. Aaron Jones ran the ball 19 times for 102 yards and had five catches for 46 yards and a touchdown. Justin Jefferson had six catches for 81 yards and a touchdown, and Jalen Nailor added three catches for 31 yards and a touchdown.

As a unit, the Vikings' defense held the Texans to only one touchdown while forcing two interceptions and accumulating five sacks. Jonathan Greenard led the way against his old team, notching three of the five sacks and adding three tackles for a loss. Andrew Van Ginkel and Jalen Redmond each had a sack as well.

Looking ahead, the Vikings travel to Green Bay to battle the 2-1 Packers, who just beat the Tennessee Titans 30-14 without their starting quarterback Jordan Love. Whether or not Love plays next week remains to be seen, but it's the Packers' defense that will be the biggest obstacle to overcome. While the Titans' offense isn't on the same level as the Vikings', the Packers still had eight sacks and two interceptions while limiting Tennessee to only 33 yards on the ground. This will be the 128th time the two teams have met, with the Packers holding a 66-58-3 edge. The Vikings have been the more impressive team so far this season, but anything can happen in these divisional border battles.



Groton Area Superintendent Joe Schwan was busy after the volleyball match painting the GT on the football field for the homecoming game. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The FCCLA group went through the homecoming parade on Friday. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The Groton Garden Club decorated a golf cart for their float entry at the homecoming parade. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Area wins homecoming game over Deuel

Groton Area won its homecoming football game Friday with a 14-9 win over the Deuel Cardinals.

Each team had the ball once in the first quarter with Groton Area having the first possession, only to have it ended with an interception by Gavin Maaland in the end zone. "They took away our passing game," said Coach Shaun Wanner, "so we ended up running it a lot and we moved the ball pretty good."

The Cardinals had the ball for the remaining half of the first quarter and ended up punting on fourth and 11. There were 19 plays in the first quarter.

Groton Area had the ball to start the second quarter, only to fumble the ball on the first play. "It wasn't the start that we wanted," Wanner said. "But our defense limited them to a field goal. When you have as many upper classmen as we have, they don't let things get to them early in the game."

That set up the Cardinals on the Tiger 15 yard line and they eventually ended up kicking a 29 yard field goal by Sean Kormann.

Both teams ended up punting the next possessions away. With 5:10 left in the half, Groton Area set up shop on the Tiger 36 yard line. After three first downs, Christian Ehresmann would catch the pass from Ryder Johnson to score on a 14 yard pass play. Joao Nunes kicked the PAT and Groton was on top, 7-3. That drive lasted nearly five minutes as the Tigers scored with 28 seconds left in the half. There were a total of four first downs and 11 plays for the 64 yard drive.

The score remained, 7-3, Groton Area, at half time.

Deuel's first drive in the second half was stopped when the Cardinals failed to convert on fourth and three at midfield. Groton Area took over on its own 47 yard line.

After three first downs, Ryder Johnson connected with Christian Ehresmann for a five yard pass play to score. Joao Nunes kicked the PAT and Groton took a 14-3 lead. That drive lasted seven minutes, went 53 yards in 14 plays with four first downs.

The last scoring drive of the game started with 4:04 left by the Deuel Cardinals. Starting at the Cardinal 38 yard line, Deuel would march the distance of the field in 13 plays, 62 yards and five first downs as Troy Jenson would score on a three yard pass from Aiden Sievers. The two point conversion attempt failed and it was 14-9 with 32 seconds left in the game, which stood as the final score.

Groton Area had more first downs, 11-8, more yards rushing, 172-40, but fewer yards passing, 90-62.

In rushing, Groton Area carried the ball 34 times for 172 yards (Korbin Kucker 23-113, Ryder Johnson 5-53, Christian Ehresmann 5-20, Keegen Tracy 1-7). Deuel carried the ball 24 times for 40 yards (Gavin Klaus 11-35, Owen Haas 3-4, Carson Marko 1-2, Aiden Sievers 9-(-1)).

In passing, Ryder Johnson completed eight of 12 passes for 60 yards, two touchdowns and one interception. Korbin Kucker completed one of one pass for two yards. Receivers were Christian Ehresmann 4-23, two touchdowns; Teylor Diegel 3-17, Connor Glines 1-16 and Keegen Tracy 1-6. Deuel's Aiden Sievers completed 11 of 18 passes for 90 yards. Receivers were Gabe Sather 7-76, Nolan Gubrud 1-7, Carson Marko 1-5, Gavin Maaland 1-(-1), Troy Jenson 1-3, 1 touchdown.

Groton Area lost one fumble while Deuel had no fumbles. Groton Area had six penalties for 40 yards and Deuel had seven for 45 yards.

Defensive leaders for Groton Area were Christian Ehresmann with 10 tackles and two sacks, Brevin Flihs had seven tackles and one sack, Tucker Hardy had six tackles and one sack and Korbin Kucker and Caleb Mertz each had five tackles. Deuel was led by Gavin Maaland with nine tackles while Carson Marko and Reed VanWormer each had eight.

"Our seniors are leading our program," Wanner said. "They are a tight knit group and they know they don't have another year to play football. It was like Brevin Flihs said, 'I can golf the rest of my life but when football is over, it's over.' And the seniors know that. It can be over in four weeks, five weeks, six weeks. It's up to them."

Groton Area is now 3-1 on the season and will travel to Clark/Willow Lake on Friday. Deuel falls to 1-3 and will host Sioux Valley. "Clark and Roncalli will be the toughest teams coming up," Wanner said. "Clark is a lot like us - they run and pass the ball well. They also have some good sized kids up front. Our juniors have had close games with them the last couple of years and I expect this to be close as well. It's their home-



Groton Tigers faced off with the Deuel Cardinals in last Friday's Homecoming football game. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



There was a huge crowd that attended the homecoming game on Friday.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

coming game so I know what their kids are going through - we're back to a regular routine and I like that."

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, Full Circle Ag, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, Harry Implement, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Lounge, Krueger Brothers, R&M Farms/Rix Farms and The Meathouse in Andover with the team of Justin Olson, Paul Kosel and Jeslyn Kosel. Internet service was provided by JVT.

- Paul Kosel

Groton Area beats Oakes in JV Football

Groton Area's junior varsity team defeated Oakes, 13-10, in action played Monday in Groton.

The Tigers had more yards rushing, 141-55, both teams had six first downs and Oakes had more yards passing, 27-10.

Ball carriers for Groton Area were Ryder Schelle with 12 carries for 115 yards and one touchdown, Skyler Godel with 10 carries for 25 yards and one touchdown and Brady Small had one carry for one yard. Oakes was led by Mathias Dahlstrom with 14 carries for 66 yards.

In passing, Bradyn Small completed two of six passes for 10 yards and Alex Abeln attempted one pass which was intercepted. Receivers were Ryder Schelle and Ben Hoeft each with one catch for five yards. Landon Titus, for Oakes, completed two of eight passes for 27 yards and two interceptions and David Bakke attempted one pass. Mate Dimitov had two catches for 27 yards.

Oakes lost one fumble and Groton had none. Groton Area had two penalties for 10 yards and Oakes had four for 27 yards.

The defense for Groton Area: Isaiah Scepaniak, 9 tackles and two sacks for minus 16 yards; Braeden Flihs, five tackles; Ben Hoeft, four tackles; Skyler Godel, four tackles and one interception; Lincoln Krause, four tackles and one interception; Gunner Hardy, three tackles; Ryder Schelle, three tackles; Blake Lord, two tackles and one sack for minus five yards; Hunter Aden, two tackles, Gavin Kroll, one tackle and one fumble recovery; and having one tackle each were Layne Johnson, John Bisbee and Joao Nunes.

Defense for Oakes: Brody Moore, eight tackles; Elihah Dinger, five tackles; Trey Miles and Mathias Dahlstrom, each with three tackles; Levi Thorpe, two tackles; and one tackle each were Andrew Under, Jacob Ptacek, Dylan Quandt, Joseph Dobitz and Evan Larson.

In the first quarter, Skyler Godel score for Groton Area with a 14 yard run. The kick attempted failed.

Oakes scored on a safety in the second quarter when Elijah Dinger tackled the punter, Skyler Godel, in the end zone.

Groton Area scored in the third quarter on a Ryder Schelle 69 yard run. The PAT kick by Alejandro Jativa was good.

Oakes scored in the fourth quarter on a Landon Titus one yard run. The PAT pass from Landon Titus to Mateo Dimitrov was good.



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Answer

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

6	7	9	3	2	4	8	1	5
3	8	2	5	1	9	7	6	4
5	1	4	7	8	6	3	2	9
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21 N Main, Groton 605/397-NEWS (6397)
Paul Irvin Kosel, Publisher paperpaul@grotonsd.net ~ 605-397-7460
Tina Kosel, Office Manager office@grotonsd.net ~ 605-397-7285
Notices: legals@grotonsd.net
News Items: news@grotonsd.net
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The Life of Lee Hjernstad



Lee Jeffrey Hjernstad, age 39, departed this life, Sept. 19, 2024 in West Fargo, ND. He was born in Aberdeen, SD, on May 10, 1985, to Randall Hjernstad and Wendy Ramberg. Lee was raised in Groton, SD, and attended school there through his junior year. He was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith. Lee graduated from West Fargo High School in 2003; in the following years, he attended semesters at the University of South Dakota and Moorhead State University. He married Melissa Schiller, Oct. 23, 2016, and later divorced.

Lee began working during high school at Aberdeen Health and Rehab. Lee particularly enjoyed working for Industrial Builders and was employed there for 15 years after graduating. He also worked for Midland Door Solutions, Sanford Health, and most recently at Valvoline.

He was an avid reader, spanning all genres, with his most loved series as the Wheel of Time books by Robert Jordan. Lee watched Chicago Bears football, every game during the season, and participated in Fantasy Football. He enjoyed attending movies, with Wes Anderson films being his favorite, concerts, grilling, sports, and spending time with his nephews and nieces. Lee proclaimed himself to be a master at tending bonfires and critiqued others' attempts. His favorite pastimes were hiking and camping. His two dogs, Rupert and Winston, were a central part of his life; Lee took them for walks and played frisbee with them. He prided himself on his fashion sense.

Whether it was playing games or working, Lee always strived to be the best. He had a stubborn streak and often thought he had the answer, defending it to no end. Many times he had the correct answer or solution.

Lee is survived by his mother and stepfather, Wendy and Michael Ramberg; father Randall Hjernstad; brothers Adam Hjernstad, Drew Hjernstad (Stacy); stepsisters and stepbrother Shannon Hjernstad and family, Shelby Hjernstad, Sadie Leicht, Amie Ramberg and family and Brett Ramberg and family; nieces and nephews: Kaleb, Mykah, Collin, Tucker, Ellia, Alyvia, Ashlynn, Regan, Riley, Sydney; and best friend Adam Hansen. He is survived by aunts and uncles Nancy and Wayne Schulz, Judy and Doug Hamaker, James Stearns, Lynn Claeys, Russel and Emily Hjernstad; and many cousins. Also mourning his passing are his beloved dogs, Rupert and Winston.

Those preceding him in death include grandparents Lauren and Maye Glover, Orval and Edythe Hjernstad; uncles Jeffrey Glover, Steven Glover, Laverne Schweer; aunts Kathleen Schweer, Dorothy Glover, Linda Stearns; and cousins Jordan Stearns, Matthew Schweer, and Karen Glover.

Visitation: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 from 7:00 PM until 8:00 PM at West Funeral Home, West Fargo, ND.

Prayer Service: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at 8:00 PM at West Funeral Home, West Fargo, ND.

Memorial Service: Thursday, September 26, 2024 at 1:00 PM at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, West Fargo, ND.

Burial: Family to do the burial at Sunset Gardens, Aberdeen, SD.

The Life of Steven Dixon



A Celebration of Life for Steven Dixon, 66, of Tularosa, New Mexico will be 2:00 p.m., Saturday, October 5, 2024 at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Rev. Yeadon will officiate. Inurnment will follow in Union Cemetery, Groton under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel. A luncheon will follow at the funeral chapel.

Visitation will be held for one hour prior to services at the chapel. Steven passed away September 1, 2024 in Tularosa after a courageous battle with cancer.

Steven Lynn Dixon was born on July 16, 1958 in Aberdeen to Jack and Lillian (Hein) Dixon. He was the first of eight children born to Jack and Lil. He attended school in Aberdeen until 1970 and then spent his middle and high school years in Groton. Steve graduated from Groton High School in 1976. He was united in marriage with Nancy Kern in 1984 and they were blessed with a son, Jacob Isaiah. Steve worked various jobs. He worked as an OSHA Safety Coordinator for Border States Electric in Fargo from 2003-2017. In 2018, Steve married Maria Catalina "Katie" Garcia. They moved to Tularosa, New Mexico in 2019, where he resided until the time of his passing.

Steve enjoyed the outdoors; especially hunting, fishing and camping. He was a strong supporter of Alcoholic Anonymous, having been sober for 46 years. Through AA, he developed many true friendships and was a proud sponsor and advocate.

Celebrating his life is his wife, Katie, his son, Jacob Dixon of West Fargo, ND, many step-children and step-grandchildren, his siblings, Sherry (Rick) Koehler, Patty (Mike Lee) Smith, Jackie (Dennis) Hales, Mike (Karen) Dixon, Dianne (Rick) Schelle, Kelli (Dan) Danburg, Kathy (Jason) Holm, his last surviving aunt and uncle, Nancy & Don Hein and many nieces, nephews and cousins. Steve also leaves behind his faithful dog, Rosie.

Preceding him in death were his parents, both sets of grandparents, one niece, several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

The family prefers memorials in lieu of flowers.

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Netters beat Clark/Willow Lake

It was a slow start for the Tigers, but after pulling off a first set extra points win, Groton Area went on to beat the Cyclones in three sets.

The first set had eight lead changes and was tied 14 times before the Tigers pulled out the 27-25 win. Groton Area never trailed in the second set, winning 25-15. Groton Area led for most of the third set, but the Cyclones did make a late threat. Clark/Willow Lake tied the set at 17 and then took a 22-19 lead. Groton Area called time-out and from there, scored the final six points for the 25-22 win.

Rylee Dunker led Groton Area with 11 kills and three blocks. Chesney Weber had 10 kills and two ace serves. Jaedyn Penning had eight kills and three ace serves. Faith Traphagen had seven kills. Taryn Traphagen had three kills, Kella Tracy had two kills, Laila Roberts had one kill and Elizabeth Flihs and Jerica Locke each had one ace serve.

Shay Michalski had nine kills and one ace serve for the Cyclones while Hannah Heiman had nine kills and three ace serves, Shelby Begeman had eight kills and two block, Tehya Vig had four kills, Zoe Nichols had two kills and Kate Larson and Avery Lee each had an ace.

Clark/Willow Lake won the junior varsity match, 25-21 and 25-17. McKenna Tietz had six kills, Liby Althoff and Makenna Krause each had three kills, Kella Tracy and Emerlee Jones each had two kills, Talli Wright had a kill and an ace serve and Sydney Locke had an ace serve.

Ella Sass led Clark/Willow Lake with six kills. Then five players scored five points with Kelsey Hofer having four kills and one ace serve, Johanna Vandersnick had three kills and two ace serves, Maddie Brenden had two kills and three ace serves, Eliza Larson had four kills, Calla Larson had three kills and Kadee Frankfurth and Peyton Lee each had an ace serve.

The varsity match 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.



Elizabeth Flihs
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

- Paul Kosel



Rylee Dunker
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Volleyball team takes fourth at Hamlin Tournament

Groton Area's volleyball team took fourth place at the Hamlin Tournament held Saturday. Groton Area defeated Tiospa Zina, 2-0, then lost to Dell Rapids, 2-0, and to Castlewood in the third place match, 2-0.

In the first match with Tiospa Zina, Jaedyn Penning and Jerica Locke both racked up eight ace serves for the Tigers. Penning added two kills to her tally. Chesney Weber had five kills while Taryn Traphagen had four, Faith Traphagen and Rylee Dunker each had three kills, Talli Wright had three ace serves, Elizabeth Flihs had two ace serves, Sydney Locke had an ace serve and Kella Tracy had one kill.

Maya Deutsch had two kills for Tiospa Zina while Journee Haley had one kill and Harmony Rodlund had one ace serve.

Set scores were 25-7 and 25-8.

Then the Tigers took on the number one and undefeated Dell Rapids Quarriors. The first set was close all the way to the end with the set being tied 15 times and there were five lead changes with the biggest lead during the match being two points. Groton Area had the 21-20 lead but Dell Rapids battled back to get the 25-23 win. Dell Rapids never trailed in the second set, winning it, 25-15.

Taryn Traphagen had six kills, Faith Traphagen had six kills and one block, Chesney Weber had six kills and one ace serve, Rylee Dunker had two kills and two blocks, Kella Tracy had one kill and Jaedyn Penning had one ace serve.

Madelynn Henry led the Quarriors with 10 kills and one block, Clara Justice had three kills and one ace serve, Karlie Ingalls had four kills, Lauryn Kloth had two kills, one block and one ace serve, Elin Schoenhard had two blocks, two ace serves and one kill, Sophi Randall had two kills and two ace serves and Sylea Sykes had one kill.

In the third place match, the first set against Castlewood was tied five times and there were three lead changes. Castlewood went on to win the first set, 25-19.

Groton Area led in the second set with the help of a seven point rally to take at 13-4, but Castlewood would battle back and would tie the set at 16 and took a 23-19 lead. Groton fought back to make it one point set at 23-22, but Castlewood would win it, 25-22.

Jaedyn Penning led Groton Area with seven kills and two ace serves while Chesney Weber had seven kills, Taryn Traphagen and Rylee Dunker each had three kills and a block, Faith Traphagen had two kills, Kella Tracy had one kill and Sydney Locke and Elizabeth Flihs each had one ace serve.

Cassidy Kirwan led Castlewood with seven kills and two ace serves, Emerson Carter had six kills and a block, Claire Horn had four kills and an ace serve, Ava Ruml had three kills and three blocks, Cyndi Kudrno had one kill and Dayton Knecht had one ace serve.

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

- Paul Kosel



Boys Junior High Golf Meet Olive Grove Golf Course

Pictured left to right are Hayden Harder and Liam Johnson. Johnson placed second with a score of 42. (Courtesy Photo)

Deuel Cross Country Meet

Boys 5K Varsity: 25, Jayden Schwan, 20:05.08; 57, Kason Oswald, 24:09.36

Girls 5K Varsity: 6, Faith Traphagen, 20:46.99; 13, Ryelle Gilbert, 21:24.31

Girls 3K Junior Varsity: 9, Sydney Holmes, 13:49.36

Boys 3K Middle School: 4, Grayden Zeck, 12:44.99; 6, Blake Malsam, 12:57.52; 13, Landon Thornton, 14:27.39

Girls 3K Middle School: 32, Rayna Loeschke, 17:26.20



The high school (left top) and middle school (left bottom) marching bands went through the homecoming parade on Friday. (Photos by Paul Kosel)



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.sdpublicnotices.com. 23690



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

Information and Bidding Documents for the Project can be found at the following designated website: <http://www.helmsengineering.com/biddocs.html>. Bidding Documents may be downloaded from the designated website. Prospective Bidders are urged to register with the designated website as a plan holder, even if Bidding Documents are obtained from a plan room or source other than the designated website in either electronic or paper format. The designated website will be updated periodically with addenda, lists of registered plan holders, reports, and other information relevant to submitting a Bid for the Project. All official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered only through the designated website. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the designated website.

Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the Presidents Executive Order Nos. 11246 as amended, 11518, and 11625 as amended. The requirements for bidders and contractors under these orders are explained in the specifications.

The low responsive bidder will be required to certify to compliance with the American Iron and Steel provision of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014. This certification form may be found on page AIS-21 of the State Revolving Fund (SRF) General Conditions and must

be included in the bid proposal. The low responsive bidder must assure compliance with the requirements of Public Law 115-232, Section 889, Prohibition on Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment.

Please be advised that waivers or exemptions from the American Iron and Steel provision that cite International Trade Agreements DO NOT comply with the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 as it applies to the SRF programs. Claims from suppliers that the American Iron and Steel provision does not apply to certain products based on the International Trade Agreement exemptions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 will not be accepted.

Bidders on this work will be required to comply with Title 40 CFR 33 and Executive Order 12138. The requirements for bidders and contractors under this regulation which concerns utilization of Disadvantaged/Minority Business Enterprises (DBE/MBE) and Women's Business Enterprises (WBE) are explained in the specifications. The goals for DBE/MBE participation are 1% and WBE participation are 4%.

Bidders are also reminded that not less than the minimum wages as determined by the Davis Bacon Act and set forth in the Contract Documents must be paid on this project and that the contractor and/or subcontractor must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

In addition to all of the above listed Federal requirements for work on this project, compliance with the contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, Executive Order 11375, Copeland Act, the Clean Air Act, and Water Pollution Control Act, and subsequent amendments to all of the above will be required of contractors and/or subcontractors performing work on this project.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is: Helms and Associates, 416 Production St. N. Aberdeen, SD 57401. Phone (605)225-1212

Prospective Bidders may obtain or examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office as described below. Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office.

Bidding Documents may be purchased from the Issuing Office during the hours indicated above. Cost does not include shipping charges. Upon Issuing Office's receipt of payment, printed Bidding Documents or electronic documents on compact disk will be sent via the prospective Bidder's delivery service. The shipping charge amount will depend on the shipping method chosen. Bidding Documents are available for purchase in the following formats: Bidding Documents (including Full-Size Drawings (\$100.00) and electronic download of documents (\$20.00). Additionally, upon request, in accordance with South Dakota Codified Law 5-18B-1, one copy of Plans and Specifications shall be furnished, without charge, to each Contractor resident in South Dakota who intends, in good faith, to bid upon the project. Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, including without limitation, nonconforming, nonresponsive, unbalanced, or conditional Bids. Owner also reserves the right to waive all minor Bid informalities not involving price, time, or changes in the Work.

Instructions to Bidders.

For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.

This Advertisement is issued by:

Owner: ...Town of Claremont
By:Jason Lenneman
Title: ..Town Board President
Date:9/18/2024 & 9/25/2024
Published September 18 and 25, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$123.62 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23694



Stratford Town Board Meeting

June 11th, 2024
6:00pm Prickett called meeting to order with Jark, Schley and Kwak in attendance.

A motion was made by Jark, seconded by Prickett, carried; to approve the May 14th, 2024 minutes as read.

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

OLD BUSINESS:
Shut off notices sent out with date of 6/25/24 for those >60 days past due.

Jark estimates on clean up of 451 Ash: \$2,000 to clean up everything but house. Will follow up next month.

Code Enforcement: abandoned truck has been removed from campbell and 2nd.

Mosquito Control will begin soon.

NEW BUSINESS:

WEB Water contract rates increased resulting in a \$0.36 increase per 1,000 gallons as of 10/1/2024. A motion was made by Schley, seconded by Prickett, carried; to update the water consumption charges to \$6.36 per 1,000 gallons starting October 2024.

Discussion about block 20 being declared a surplus property to be sold and developed; will revisit at a later date.

A motion was made by Schley, seconded by Prickett, carried; to hire Shagan Pit to cook meat for 4th of July BBQ.

CITY CLEANUP to be held on Sunday 6/30 at 4:00pm; picnic for volunteers after.

Question raised about getting new street signs.

Water Project Update: Construction in progress on final pits and meter installation. Final list TBA soon.

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Schley, carried; to approve the following claims for payment: -General Fund-NWE Bills: (st Its) \$206.85, (ball pk) 13.36, (tennis) 21.61, (st Its) 283.97, (hall) 283.97, (sign) 15.06; James Valley (auto): \$43.52; United Fire (auto): \$673.00; DPC: \$524.49; Ken's: \$136 (stamps); Quickbooks: \$31.86; -Water Sewer Fund-NWE Bills: (2nd st) \$231.32, (p hse) 13.02; Web Water (auto): \$1,670.36; Public Health Labs: \$45.00; DANR: \$30.00; USDA RD Loan Payment (auto): \$478.00; NESD Loan Payment (auto): \$383.71.

The next board meeting will be held on July 9th, 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 25, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$23.73 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23710

Water project update: discussed dirt pile, will revisit use and repurpose next meeting; discussed potential gravel stock pile and will revisit next meeting.

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Schley, carried; to price out/bid labor on the 4 windows and 1 door on the hall.

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Jark, carried; to approve the following claims for payment: -General Fund-NWE Bills: (st Its) \$183.81, (ball pk) 15.90, (tennis) 21.20, (st Its) 345.69, (hall) 566.01, (sign) 15.05; James Valley (auto): \$44.42; United Fire (auto): \$673.00; Quickbooks (auto): \$31.86; Wal-Mart: \$127.10 (ink); Kadoun (mowing AUG): \$1,000; BC Weed and Pest: \$544.50; Helms Engineering; 15,519.72; Anna Kwak (reimb FO School): \$956.62; DANR: \$30.75; -Water Sewer Fund-NWE Bills: (2nd st) \$127.72, (p hse) 12.00; Web Water (auto): \$1,947.72; USDA RD Loan Payment (auto): \$478.00; NESD Loan Payment (auto): \$383.71; DSG: \$1,718.18; WaterGuy Reimb: \$1,492.98.

The next board meeting will be held on Sept 10th, 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
Published September 25, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$18.76 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23712

Water project update: discussed dirt pile, will revisit use and repurpose next meeting; discussed potential gravel stock pile and will revisit next meeting.

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Schley, carried; to price out/bid labor on the 4 windows and 1 door on the hall.

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The next board meeting will be held on Sept 10th, 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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A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Schley, carried; to adjourn the meeting.

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

Anna Kwak
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A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Schley, carried; to approve payment arrangement request as filed.

Lawn nuisance properties discussed. Policy to be updated and implemented for next mowing season.

\$175 bid to spray city lawn for mosquito control before cookoff this weekend. A motion was made by Jark, seconded by Prickett, carried; to approve the bid and schedule treatment.

City seeking a bid for tree removal on sw corner of 4th and Nelson.

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Jark, carried; to approve the following claims for payment: -General Fund- NWE Bills: (st Its) \$175.80, (ball pk) 13.19, (tennis) 20.33, (st Its) 323.68, (hall) 217.80, (sign) 14.54; James Valley (auto): \$44.42; United Fire (auto): \$673.00; Quickbooks: \$31.86; Heartland H&C: \$295.92; Menards: \$12.09 (cleanup supplies); Wal-Mart: \$21.98 (food for cleanup); Runnings: \$31.51 (4th of July); Ken's: \$131.70 (buns); Kadoun (mowing JUNE): \$1,000; Ken's: \$179.31 (4th pork); -Water Sewer Fund-

NWE Bills: (2nd st) \$116.09, (p hse) 12.00; Web Water (auto): \$1,864.66; USDA RD Loan Payment (auto): \$478.00; NESD Loan Payment (auto): \$383.71; DANR: \$4,791.52 (loan june).

The next board meeting will be held on August 8th, 2024, at 6:30pm at the Town Hall.

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

Anna Kwak
Finance Officer
Published September 25, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$21.80 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23711

Water project update: discussed dirt pile, will revisit use and repurpose next meeting; discussed potential gravel stock pile and will revisit next meeting.

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Schley, carried; to price out/bid labor on the 4 windows and 1 door on the hall.

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

OLD BUSINESS:
City received bid for tree removal on the sw corner of 4th and Nelson - \$600 Matt's Tree Service.

NEW BUSINESS:
Contact city lawyer about updates to administrative policies involving hold harmless clause and liability incidents.

Water project update: discussed dirt pile, will revisit use and repurpose next meeting; discussed potential gravel stock pile and will revisit next meeting.

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Schley, carried; to price out/bid labor on the 4 windows and 1 door on the hall.

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Jark, carried; to approve the following claims for payment: -General Fund- NWE Bills: (st Its) \$183.81, (ball pk) 15.90, (tennis) 21.20, (st Its) 345.69, (hall) 566.01, (sign) 15.05; James Valley (auto): \$44.42; United Fire (auto): \$673.00; Quickbooks (auto): \$31.86; Wal-Mart: \$127.10 (ink); Kadoun (mowing AUG): \$1,000; BC Weed and Pest: \$544.50; Helms Engineering; 15,519.72; Anna Kwak (reimb FO School): \$956.62; DANR: \$30.75; -Water Sewer Fund-NWE Bills: (2nd st) \$127.72, (p hse) 12.00; Web Water (auto): \$1,947.72; USDA RD Loan Payment (auto): \$478.00; NESD Loan Payment (auto): \$383.71; DSG: \$1,718.18; WaterGuy Reimb: \$1,492.98.

The next board meeting will be held on Sept 10th, 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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The next board meeting will be held on Sept 10th, 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
Published September 25, 2024, at the total



September 17, 2024
The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00pm at 120 N Main Street for their second monthly meeting with the following members present: Babcock, Wells, Nehls, Bahr, and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Also present were Attorney Drew Johnson, Douglas Heinrich, April Buller, Ken Hier, Elizabeth Varin, Joseph Schwan, and Stacy Mayou.

Moved by Nehls and seconded by Babcock to approve the agenda with the removal of agenda item #3 regarding sidewalk removal/repair. All members present voted aye.

Public comments were welcomed pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1, but none were received.

Discussion took place regarding the soccer field gate and the updated quote.

Schwan exited the meeting.

Moved by Bahr and seconded by Nehls to not install a new stop sign at the intersection of North 3rd Street and East 4th Avenue. All members present voted aye.

Mayou exited the meeting. Discussion took place regarding the upcoming wastewater project.

Moved by Bahr and seconded by Nehls to authorize the signing of the State Water Plan Application for SD Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources with a corrected description of the wastewater project. All members present voted aye.

Discussion took place regarding the airport survey. IMEG had no update at this time.

Hier and Buller exited the meeting.

Mayor Hanlon signed the proclamation declaring September 10, 2024, as Hunger Action Day in the City of Groton.

Moved by Nehls and seconded by Wells to surplus the following property: 2004 Snapper Mower/Bagger with 23hp engine and 1600hrs, 12ft heavy duty snowplow, large wooden desk with drawers and tempered glass protector, and a speed monitor trailer. Interested parties are to submit bids to City Hall by October 15, 2024, at 5:00pm. All members present voted aye.

The first reading of Ordinance No. 779 - Certifying 2025 City of Groton Property Tax Levy to Brown County was approved on a motion by Wells and seconded by Babcock. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Nehls to approve the August finance report. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Wells to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Bahr to authorize the following bills for payment. All members present voted aye.

Payroll, \$35,832.81, Employee salaries; Administrative, \$4,743.83, ; Public Works, \$14,464.70, ; Public Safety, \$9,853.76, ; Culture & Recreation, \$6,770.52, ; City of Groton, \$647.35, Family crisis utility bill assistance; SD Property Management, \$33,500.00, 2009 Sterling LT9500 w/ accessories - Street Dept.; Terry Herron, \$799.84, Med flex; Branden Abeln, \$92.43, Med flex; SD Retirement System, \$14,774.22, Water services - August 2023; Douglas Heinrich, \$143.29, Med flex; USPS, \$312.41, Utility billing postage; Payment Service Network, Inc., \$204.75, PSN gateway and eBill fees; Kayla Fordham, \$1.00, Utility overpayment refund; SD State Treasurer, \$10,497.75, Sales & Excise Tax for August 2024; WEB Water, \$25,506.13, Water services - August 2024; Dacotah Bank, \$7,829.56, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dakotahland FCU, \$730.00, Employee savings; Dacotah Bank, \$647.90, HSA contributions; Dacotah Bank, \$3,166.45, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dacotah Bank, \$50.00, HSA contributions; Stacy Mayou, \$256.85, Med flex; SD Supplemental Retirement, \$290.00, Supplemental retirement; April Abeln, \$60.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - July/August 2024; Douglas Heinrich, \$60.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - July/August 2024; Kellie Locke, \$60.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - July/August 2024; Paul Kosel, \$60.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - July/August 2024; Landon Johnson, \$60.00, Employee cell phone

reimbursement - July/August 2024; Branden Abeln, \$60.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - July/August 2024; Jesse Anderson, \$60.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - July/August 2024; MTI Distributing, Inc., \$271.35, Parts for soccer field irrigation system; Tritech Software Systems, \$796.46, Annual software fee - Groton PD; EcoLab Pest Elimination, \$117.98, Rubble site rodent control; Fliehs Sales & Service, \$77.74, Belt for mower; Menards, \$73.92, Concrete mix; Farmers Union Co-op Assoc., \$629.30, Fuel purchases - Baseball and Cemetery; Heartland Waste Management, \$10,232.54, Garbage hauling; Schwan Welding & Boiler Repair, \$85.00, Metal rods - City Shop; Geffdog Designs, \$410.55, Rubble site signs & City Hall uniform purchases; WAPA, \$23,367.50, Power services - August 2024; Heartland Energy, \$60,025.50, Power services - August 2024; A&B Business Solutions, \$378.66, Printer lease - City Hall; NW Energy, \$657.72, Natural gas service - Swimming Pool; The Groton Independent, \$68.71, Publishing fees; Thomas Strickland, \$53.10, Uniform purchase - Groton PD; Grand Slam Computers, \$109.00, Nordic backup annual renewal fee; Altec Capital Services, LLC, \$2,189.93, Digger truck lease; Cannon Technologies (Eaton), \$12,493.57, Yukon support x2, meter purchases - Electric Dept.; Irby, Inc., \$2,504.26, Triplex wire, rubber goods testing - Electric Dept.; Runnings, \$426.98, 30-gallon sprayer, Sawzall blades - Multiple Depts.; Follett, \$1,033.83, Annual software fee - Library; Crawford Trucks & Equipment, \$63.78, 2 master disconnect switches - Street Dept.; Dakota Riggers & Tool Supply, \$1,005.46, Rope and pull tape - Electric Dept.; MJ's Sinclair, \$1,726.74, Fuel purchases, light bulb - Multiple Depts.; Ken's Fair Foods, \$2,122.90, Food for resale, fuel, staples, wiper fluid - Multiple Depts.; James Valley Telecommunications, \$832.54, Telephone and internet services; Dacotah Bank Visa, \$2,283.28, Book purchases, flower arrangement, youth activities, taser cartridges, water sample postage, pool sample postage food for resale, Arbor Day Foundation membership, postage, traffic cone barriers, fuel purchases, copy paper, batteries, coffee maker - Multiple Depts.;

Announcement: Pumpkin Fest will be on Saturday, October 5th, 2024, from 10am to 3pm at Groton City Park.

Moved by Bahr and seconded by Bahr to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal matters 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 8:46pm. All members present voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 9:14pm.

Moved by Wells and seconded by Babcock to adjourn the meeting at 9:15pm. All members present voted aye.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor
Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer
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City of Columbia Council Special Meeting
Thursday - September 19, 2024 7:00 p.m.

Call Meeting to Order/Roll Call- Corey Mitchell, Emily Eichler, Jeremy Dosch, Cara Dennert. Trevor Meints & Scott Meints via phone.

Mayor Corey Mitchell called the meeting to order. Minutes from the September 4th meeting were read. Trevor Meints made a motion to accept the minutes. Emily Eichler seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried.

After reviewing the proposed 2025 budget, Emily Eichler made a motion to pass the 2nd reading of the 2025 ordinance budget. Scott Meints seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried.

Mayor Mitchell declared the meeting adjourned.

Next Regular Council Meeting - Wednesday, October 2, 2024 7:00 p.m.

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Notice of Public Hearing for the City of Columbia Wastewater Improvements Project

The City of Columbia is proposing to replace several blocks of sewer lines in town, make repairs to the lift station and construct a new lagoon for the city wastewater system. The City will be submitting a Clean Water Facility Funding Application in an amount up to \$9,750,000 to the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The funding may be awarded in the form of a grant, loan, or a principal forgiveness loan; any portion of the loan that is not forgiven will have a term of up to 30 years at a rate of up to 5%. The amount and source of funds will be determined by the Board of Water and Natural Resources when the application is presented at a scheduled board meeting. The purpose of the public hearing is to discuss the proposed project, the proposed financing, and the source of repayment for the loan. The public is invited to attend and comment on the project.

The public hearing will be held at the City Hall @ 7:00pm on October 2, 2024.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - INDIGENT COUNSEL

Brown County hereby requests proposals from attorneys to provide legal services to fulfill Brown County's statutory obligations as set forth in SDCL 23A-40-6 and 23A-40-7 and other such instances in which the appointment of legal counsel at the expense of the County has been mandated by statute. This includes adult criminal cases, juvenile criminal cases, abuse and neglect proceedings, mental illness commitments and alcohol commitments.

It is Brown County's intent to enter into a one-year contract which will commence on January 1, 2025, to minimize the need for conflict counsel. Brown County may contract with one or more attorneys that are not associated with each other.

Sealed proposals shall be received by the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market St., Ste. 1, Aberdeen, SD 57401, no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 11, 2024 to be opened at the Commission meeting on Tuesday,

October 15, 2024. Copies of similar contracts entered into in the past between Brown County and a group of attorneys are available at the Brown County Auditor's Office.

Brown County reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive technicalities, and make a selection deemed to be in the best interest of Brown County, SD.

I. INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFERORS

A. All proposals shall be sent to:

Brown County Auditor
25 Market St., Ste. 1
Aberdeen, SD 57401

B. All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope and clearly marked in the upper left-hand corner "Proposal Indigent Defense Contract."

C. All proposals shall be received by 5:00 p.m., October 11, 2024. An original and seven copies of proposals must be presented. No faxed, e-mailed, or telephone proposals will be accepted.

III. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE SELECTION PROCESS

A. Brown County reserves the right to reject any proposals and to waive minor irregularities contained therein.

B. Brown County reserves the right to request clarification of information submitted and to request additional information from any attorney.

C. If Brown County selects a proposal, the County and the selected attorneys will work diligently to enter into a mutually agreed upon contract.

D. In the event a prior selection fails to result in the execution of a contract within thirty days after a proposal has been selected, Brown County reserves the right to enter into contract negotiations with the next most qualified proposal.

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D. Brown County will attempt to schedule interviews, if it so desires, during the week of October 14, 2024. Attorneys shall take note that Brown County may make its selection based solely upon the written proposal submitted.

E. The attorneys selected will be notified by November 11, 2024. The Brown County Board of Commissioners must approve a contract with the selected attorneys as appropriate. The start date will be January 1, 2025.

F. All proposals must include the following information:

1. A proposed annual payment amount that shall be paid in equal monthly installments, subject to the terms and conditions of the contract.

2. The amount of monthly payment to be paid to each attorney will be divided among the attorneys in equal amounts.

3. The name of each individual attorney who proposes to provide indigent defense services and his or her area of responsibility.

4. A statement warranting that each attorney proposed to provide legal services shall be licensed to practice law by the State of South Dakota and be a member in good standing with the South Dakota State Bar Association during the contract term.

5. A statement indicating the attorney's willingness and capability to always maintain professional liability coverage during contract term. In addition, indicate the attorney's willingness and capability to indemnify, defend and hold Brown County harmless for any and all costs, loss and liability for all injury or damage caused in whole or in part by any negligent act or omission of an attorney providing services under the contract or anyone directly or indirectly employed by or contracting with the firm.

II. SELECTION CRITERIA

The selection of a service

provider will be based upon the ability of the attorneys to best provide adequate legal representation for those individuals who because of social or economic barriers are unable to afford or secure it. Brown County will consider the completeness of the written proposal, the qualifications of the specific individuals proposed to provide services, the attorneys experience in similar work, and the competitiveness of the fee amount proposed. Each proposal will be independently evaluated on the above-referenced factors.

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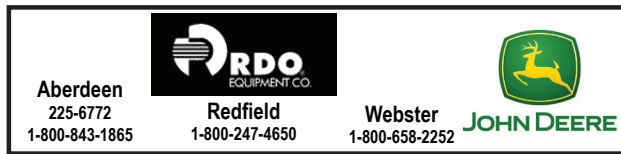
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Published September



September 2024 Groton Area Community Calendar

Tuesday, Oct. 1

Senior Menu: Goulash, green beans, pineapple/oranges, breadstick.
School Breakfast: Scones.
School Lunch: Chicken strips, tater tots
Volleyball at Great Plains Lutheran (5 at 5 p.m., JV at 6:15 p.m., varsity to follow)
Common Cents Thrift Store, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 209 N Main.
Pantry, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Groton Community Center
City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
United Methodist Bible Study, 10 a.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Ladies Aid LWML, 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 2

Senior Menu: Autumn soup, peas, chicken salad croissant, cinnamon apple sauce.
School Breakfast: Oatmeal.
School Lunch: Quesadillas, corn.
Picture Day
Groton Chamber meeting, noon, City Hall
Community Coffee Hour at United Methodist Church, 9:30 a.m.
Groton C&MA: Kids' Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study at 7 pm.
St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.; Sarah Circle, 5 p.m. (elect officers), League, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 3

Senior Menu: Macaroni and cheese with Kielbasa, Normandy blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Biscuits.
School Lunch: Taco burgers, tri tators.
Parent/Teacher Conferences (1:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.)
Cross Country at Sisseton Golf Course, 4 p.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Nigeria Circle, 2 p.m. (elect officers)

Friday, Oct. 4

Senior Menu: Beef stew, carrots, Waldorf salad, sherbet, buttermilk biscuit.
No School - Faculty Inservice
Football hosts Aberdeen Roncalli, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 5

Boys Soccer at Dakota Valley.
Girls Soccer at Garrison, 11 a.m.
Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 209 N Main
Pumpkin Fest, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Gypsy Day Parade in Aberdeen

Sunday, Oct. 6

United Methodist: Worship with communion: Conde worship, 8:30 a.m.; Groton worship, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion: St. John's at 9 a.m., Zion at 11 a.m., Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Pastor at Bethesda, 2 p.m.; Choir, 6 p.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, Oct. 7

Senior Menu: Spanish rice, green beans, vanilla pudding with oranges, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Breakfast sliders.
School Lunch: Beef sticks, mashed potatoes.
JH/JV Football at Aberdeen Roncalli (7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m.)
State Boys Golf at Central Valley Golf Course, Hartford, 10 a.m.
Volleyball at Mobridge: 7/C at 4 p.m., 8th/JV at 5 p.m., Varsity to follow
Pantry, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Groton Community Center
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 8

Senior Menu: Ham rotini bake, capri blend, honey fruit salad, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Pancakes.
School Lunch: Hot dogs, baked beans.
Boys and Girls Soccer Playoffs
State Boys Golf at Central Valley Golf Course, Hartford, 10 a.m.
Common Cents Thrift Store, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 209 N Main.
Pantry, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Groton Community Center
United Methodist Bible Study, 10 a.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Council, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 9

Senior Menu: Ham rotini bake, capri blend, honey fruit salad, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Muffins.
School Lunch: Garlic cheese bread, cooked carrots.
Community Coffee Hour at United Methodist Church, 9:30 a.m.
Groton C&MA: Kids' Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study at 7 pm.
St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 10

Senior Menu: Meatballs, mashed potatoes with gravy, California blend, fruit cocktail, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza.
School Lunch: Chicken nuggets, spudsters.
NEC Cross Country at Webster, 1 p.m.
JH Football at Sisseton, 4 p.m.
Volleyball at Milbank (7th at elementary, 4 p.m.; 8th at armory, 4 p.m.; C at 5:15, JV at 6 p.m. followed by varsity)
Groton Lions Club meeting, 104 November Main, 6 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 11

Senior Menu: Tuna noodle hot dish with peas, mixed vegetables, apple crisp, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Egg wraps.
School Lunch: Pizza, green beans.
Lake Region Marching Festival in Groton, 10 a.m.
Football at Sisseton, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 12

Boys and girls soccer playoffs.
Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 209 N Main

Sunday, Oct. 13

United Methodist: Conde worship, 8:30 a.m.; Groton worship, 10:30 a.m.; No Sunday School; Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Charge Conference, 11:30 a.m.
St. John's Lutheran: St. John's at 9 a.m., Zion at 11 a.m., Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; No Sunday School, Choir, 6 p.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, Oct. 14

No School - Native American Day
Volleyball at Britton (7th at 4 p.m.; 8th/C at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m., varsity to follow)
Pantry, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Groton Community Center
Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m.
United Methodist: PEO Meeting (outside group), 3:30 p.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 15

Senior Menu: Hamburger cabbage hot dish, corn, pears, muffin.
School Breakfast: Egg omelets.
School Lunch: School Lunch Week: Pirate ship tacos with ye fixings.
School Board Meeting, 7 a.m.
JV Football hosts Sisseton, 4 p.m.
Common Cents Thrift Store, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 209 N Main.
Pantry, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Groton Community Center
City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
United Methodist Bible Study, 10 a.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Quilting, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 16

Senior Menu: Chicken tetrazzini, carrots, pineapple, bread stick.
School Breakfast: Cereal.
School Lunch: Chicken pirate, pasta bake.
Community Coffee Hour at United Methodist Church, 9:30 a.m.
Groton C&MA: Kids' Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study at 7 pm.
St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Rosewood Court, 10 a.m.; Confirmation, 4 p.m.; League, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 17

Senior Menu: Baked pork chop, sweet potatoes, capri blend, chocolate pudding with banana, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Pancake on stick.
School Lunch: Flat World on ye bun (hamburgers), fries.
Region 1A Cross Country at Webster, 3:30 p.m.
Volleyball at Deuel (C at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m., varsity to follow)
Emmanuel Lutheran: WELCA, 1:30 p.m. (final packing of LWR kits), potluck.

Friday, Oct. 18

Senior Menu: Scalloped potatoes with ham, peas, Mandarin orange salad, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Egg bake.
School Lunch: Walk the plank crunchers, peas.
Football hosts Baltic, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 19

Boys/Girls Soccer championships
Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 209 N Main, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 20

United Methodist: Conde worship, 8:30 a.m.; Groton worship, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 10 a.m. (practice and snack), Sing in church at 10:30 then dismiss for Sunday School; Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion: St. John's at 9 a.m., Zion at 11 a.m., Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 10:30 a.m., with confirmation/Milestones;

DID YOU KNOW . . .

You can use the GDI Fitness Center by paying by the month and you can cancel any time without penalty. Call/Text Paul at 605-397-7460 for details!

No Sunday School, Choir, 6 p.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, Oct. 21

Senior Menu: Beef noodle stroganoff, mixed vegetables, fruit cocktail, cookie, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: French toast.

School Lunch: French bread pizza, cooked carrots.

Volleyball hosts Langford (7th/8th grade match, 4 p.m., in the Arena; JV at 6 p.m., varsity to follow).

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

Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Christian Literature Circle, 7:30 p.m.

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

Tuesday, Oct. 22

Senior Menu: Creamed chicken, peas and carrots, strawberry ambrosia, buttermilk biscuit.

School Breakfast: Scones.

School Lunch: Sloppy joes, smiley fries.

End of First Quarter

Flu Shot Clinic, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Groton Area Elementary School

Volleyball at Northwestern (*Volley for a Cure) (7th/C at 5 p.m., 8th/JV at 6 p.m., varsity to follow)

Common Cents Thrift Store, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 209 N Main.

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

United Methodist Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 23

Senior Menu: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, oriental blend, apple, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Oatmeal.

School Lunch: Baked potato bar with toppings.

Community Coffee Hour at United Methodist Church, 9:30 a.m.

Groton C&MA: Kids' Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study at 7 pm.

St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 6 p.m. (Service event)

Thursday, Oct. 24

Senior Menu: New England ham dinner, 7 layer salad, peaches, dinner roll.

School Breakfast: Biscuits.

School Lunch: Lasagna bake, garlic toast.

Football Playoffs

Friday, Oct. 25

Senior Menu: Potato soup, ham salad croissant, tomato spoon salad, fruit.

School Breakfast:

Breakfast cookie.

School Lunch: Chicken nuggets, tri taters.

Volleyball hosts Redfield (7th/C at 5 p.m., 8th/JV at 6 p.m., varsity to follow)

Saturday, Oct. 26

State Cross Country at Rapid City

Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 209 N Main

Sunday, Oct. 27

United Methodist: Conde worship, 8:30 a.m.; Groton worship, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran: St. John's at 9 a.m., Zion at 11 a.m., Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with Milestones (Jr. K and Kindergarten), 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir, 6 p.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, Oct. 28

Senior Menu: Tatertot hot dish, green beans, pineapple, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels.

School Lunch: Turkey gravy, mashed potatoes.

Volleyball at Faulkton (JV at 6:30 p.m., varsity to follow)

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

Senior Citizens meet at noon for potluck, Groton Community Center

United Methodist: PEO Meeting (outside group), 7 p.m.

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

Tuesday, Oct. 29

Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, corn, garlic bread, fruit.

School Breakfast: Pancakes.

School Lunch: Pasta with meat sauce, breadstick.

FCCLA Blood Drive, 8 a.m. to Noon

Common Cents Thrift Store, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 209 N Main.

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

United Methodist Bible Study, 10 a.m. (New Christmas Study Begins)

Wednesday, Oct. 30

Senior Menu: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas, pears, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Muffins.

School Lunch: Popcorn chicken, wedge fries.

Community Coffee Hour at United Methodist Church, 9:30 a.m.

Groton C&MA: Kids' Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study at 7 pm.

St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 31

Senior Menu: Chili, cornbread, coleslaw, fruit.

School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza.

School Lunch: Slugs and cheese (Mac and cheese), frog eyes (peas).

Football Playoffs

Downtown Trick or Treat, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

United Methodist Trunk or Treat, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

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by Linda Thistle

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Peron of Argentina
- 4 Siestas
- 8 First light
- 12 Bud
- 13 — Major
- 14 Actor Morales
- 15 German shepherd
- 17 Teen hangout
- 18 Resistance unit
- 19 Church top- per
- 21 British party
- 24 Louvre trea- sures
- 25 Khan title
- 26 The "G" of LGBTQ
- 28 Doesn't buy
- 32 Clothing store section
- 34 Gender
- 36 Stratagem
- 37 Green sauce
- 39 Teeny
- 41 Shriver of tennis
- 42 Rainbow shape
- 44 A Karamazov brother
- 46 Stew flavorer
- 50 Chi follower
- 51 Genesis brother
- 52 Music school concerts

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- 57 Sharif of "Funny Girl"
- 58 Pool unit
- 59 Contain
- 60 Commanded
- 61 Messy room
- 7 Dasher's boss
- 8 Agriculture goddess
- 9 Pronto
- 10 Humpty's perch
- 11 Egyptian river
- 16 Sashimi fish
- 20 Goof up
- 21 Pack (down)
- 22 Curved mold- ing
- 23 Airline to Sweden
- 27 Evergreen type
- 29 Wedding
- 30 Despot
- 31 Big rig
- 33 Bought time
- 35 Deleted
- 38 Tram load
- 40 Realm
- 43 Ersatz choco- late
- 45 Follower (Suff.)
- 46 Wild party
- 47 "Peek- —!"
- 48 Holler
- 49 Disaster aid gp.
- 53 Scoundrel
- 54 Long. crosser
- 55 CIA operative

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Q&A: South Dakota's food tax repeal measure

By **STU WHITNEY**

South Dakota News Watch

Sophie Stoffers carried groceries to her car in a Sioux Falls Hy-Vee parking lot and pondered a question from a reporter.

Would Initiated Measure 28, an effort on the Nov. 5 ballot to eliminate South Dakota's sales tax on food, make life better for her?

"I'm always a fan of saving money," said Stoffers, 24, who recently moved to Sioux Falls and works as an assistant athletic trainer at Augustana University. "But I don't know much about (the measure). I need to hear the pros and cons before voting."

According to U.S. Department of Agriculture data, an average family of four in South Dakota spends about \$1,200 a month on food purchased at a store and prepared at home. Eliminating the 4.2% tax on food would save that household \$50.40 a month, or about \$600 a year.

Stoffers and her boyfriend have noticed grocery bills ticking upward. She'll glance at the receipt on the way out of the store and try to cut back on nonessential items.

But that's a long way from breaking down the ramifications of a sales tax cut on consumables, especially with differing viewpoints of what IM 28 will do.

Opponents pounced on the wording of the measure as broader than just groceries. They said it could cause a budget crunch by preventing the state from collecting sales tax on "consumable" items such as tobacco, toothpaste and toilet paper.

Estimates for the loss of state revenue range from \$124 million to \$646 million annually.

From a consumer perspective, national data shows that while the rate of inflation on food has softened, the price of grocery staples such as beef and eggs increased by 3.2% over the past year.

"This is the right thing to do," said Rick Weiland, co-founder of Dakotans for Health, the petition-gathering group whose tax repeal effort was certified for the ballot with 22,315 signatures.

Assessing that statement means wading through a litany of factors, from legal language and tax policy to the ongoing conflict between a Republican-led Legislature and progressive groups that pursue policy change through citizen initiatives.

Here are the most pressing questions surrounding IM 28 as the November vote approaches:

What's the argument for grocery tax repeal?

Supporters call the measure a long-overdue effort to take the tax burden off low-income families and individuals. South Dakota and Mississippi are the only states that fully tax food without offering credits or rebates.

The basic premise for eliminating the grocery tax is to make it easier for people to put food on the table within the constraints of their household budget.

"The tax is quite regressive," Anna Phillips, an analyst at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in Washington, told News Watch. "If you look at the percentage of household income spent on groceries, low-income earners spend roughly double the percentage of their income that high-income earners do on groceries. So this is going to make more of a meaningful difference to families who are currently struggling to get by."

Feeding South Dakota, the state's largest hunger relief organization, estimates that about 106,000 people in South Dakota, more than 11%, are food insecure, which means they lack reliable access to enough affordable, nutritious food. Of that number, 1 out of 6 are children.

Has this been tried before?

South Dakota's grocery tax has been a target of legislative reform for decades, mostly by Democrats.

In 2004, the South Dakota Democratic Party gathered enough signatures to put a state food tax repeal on the ballot after legislative attempts to eliminate the tax fell short.

Opponents of the effort, including then-Gov. Mike Rounds, warned that passing the repeal would likely reduce the amount of state aid available for schools and health care.

Voters responded to that message and rejected the measure by a margin of 68% to 32%. Later attempts by state legislators to lower the tax on food or exempt groceries from the general sales tax rate also failed.

Weeks before being re-elected in November 2022, Republican Gov. Kristi Noem made a public pledge to preside over "the largest tax cut in state history," a full repeal of the grocery tax. She vouched for its affordability and noted that voters might pass the repeal if lawmakers didn't.

But legislators rejected Noem's proposal during the 2023 session, opting instead to temporarily reduce the overall sales tax rate from 4.5% to 4.2%, with a sunset (or expiration) of 2027.

What's the main argument against it?

There are fiscal consequences to eliminating the tax. Sales taxes are the largest source of state government revenue in South Dakota, one of seven states without a state income tax.

Phillips stressed that, while eliminating the grocery tax is a good way to advance racial and economic equity, states should pursue full repeals with caution due to budgetary impacts.

It's important to remember that state revenue lost from eliminating the grocery tax would be on top of the \$104 million estimated annual revenue loss from the overall sales tax cut passed by legislators in 2023.

So the question becomes: Can South Dakota afford to do this without having to cut important programs elsewhere or adding another tax?

Opponents of the measure answer that with a resounding no, citing what they said are ambiguous and problematic wording in the ballot measure.

The specific language of IM 28 prohibits the state from collecting sales tax on "anything sold for human consumption, except alcoholic beverages and prepared food."

Nathan Sanderson, executive director of the South Dakota Retailers Association, said that wording is so vague that it could prevent the state from collecting sales tax on "consumable" items such as tobacco, toothpaste and toilet paper.

The Legislative Research Council took that a step further in a report to state legislators in July, extrapolating the "human consumption" definition to include propane and motor fuel and services rendered by a plumber or landscaper.

Weiland countered that it was the LRC and attorney general's office that questioned earlier language in IM 28, which led to the current framework. He called for common sense, saying interpretations of the measure should be shaped by the stated intent of petitioners to target taxes on food and drink.

"You don't drink gasoline," Weiland said. "You don't eat services."

What kind of budget crunch are we talking about?

Well, it's complicated.

Not even the LRC, which provides statutory and legal guidance for proposed ballot initiatives, has been consistent on what the impact will be.

Reed Hollweger, who resigned as LRC di-

rector during a meeting of the Legislature's executive board in October 2023, addressed the potential for differing interpretations of "anything sold for human consumption" in a fiscal note sent to the secretary of state as required by law in January 2023.

"For purposes of this fiscal note," he wrote, "the LRC assumes the phrase only includes food items because of the modifying language 'except alcoholic beverages and prepared food' and does not include personal tangible property and services, both of which can also be sold for human consumption. Other assumptions as to the meaning of this phrase may be just as reasonable, if not more so."

With that qualification, the fiscal note said that the state could see a reduction in sales tax revenue of \$123.9 million annually.

Sanderson estimated to News Watch in June that IM 28 would result in a budget downturn of at least \$176 million annually because it would include tobacco products, defined in state law as "any item made of tobacco intended for human consumption."

Then came the kitchen-sink estimate the LRC presented to legislators as an update in July – a worst-case scenario analysis that said the budget impact could soar as high as \$646 million annually.

So which number is right?

The official fiscal note produced by Hollweger uses the \$123.9 million figure, while Attorney General Marty Jackley's ballot statement noted that human consumption "is not defined by state law, but its common definition includes more than just food and drinks."

Jackley's statement also said that "judicial or legislative clarification of the measure will be necessary." That's the one thing that both sides agree upon.

Any judicial review will likely involve trying to find a "harmonious reading" of the conflicting statutes or language, according to Neil Fulton, dean of the University of South Dakota School of Law and former chief of staff to Rounds.

"The goal is to identify the intent of the enacting Legislature, or the people in this instance," Fulton told News Watch. "Commonly, that's found from the text alone because it's free of ambiguity. But if the context or other aspects of the enactment lead to a different reading, or when a statute can be read multiple ways, the guiding star is, 'What did the people intend?'"

How much of a problem is IM 28's wording?

Phillips, the policy analyst, said the measure should have stipulated that the tax rate will be changed to 0% rather than saying the state "may not tax" consumables.

Eliminating the tax entirely would likely put South Dakota out of alignment with the Streamlined Sales Tax Project, a cooperative effort of states, local governments and the business community that standardizes collection of sales tax, she said.

"That agreement makes administration easier across states, both for vendors who have to comply with sales and use taxes as well as tax administrators," said Phillips. "So removing the tax entirely on groceries will take South Dakota out of that agreement, which would be unfortunate."

South Dakota could also lose revenue from the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement, a 1998 pact among 46 states and major cigarette manufacturers as part of litigation for health care costs and deceptive trade practices.

Jackley has said that not taxing tobacco could jeopardize South Dakota's share of that settlement, which amounts to about \$20 million annually.

As for the "anything sold for human consumption" language, Phillips pointed to more specific wording used by Oklahoma legislators in a bipartisan effort to reduce the state's tax

Continues on next page

Continued from previous page

on food and food ingredients to 0% earlier this year.

To stay aligned with the streamlined sales tax, the Oklahoma law defines food and food ingredients as "substances, whether in liquid, concentrated, solid, frozen, dried, or dehydrated form, that are sold for ingestion or chewing by humans and are consumed for their taste or nutritional value."

That's essentially the same standardized language found in South Dakota law, which Hollweger said in a letter to Dakotans for Health in 2022 would "likely apply" to the LRC's original suggested language for the measure.

The Oklahoma law also states that the 0% tax rate does not apply to alcoholic beverages, dietary supplements, marijuana products, prepared food or tobacco.

Phillips said the differences between Oklahoma's law and IM 28 underscore the difficulty of articulating complex tax policy through a ballot measure, which needs to be clear to voters and cannot encompass more than one subject under South Dakota law.

Fixing that language "shouldn't be difficult to do," she said. "I would imagine the Legislature would have a bit of an incentive to do it because they don't want to blow that hole in their budget."

What will legislators do if it passes?

Because IM 28 is an initiated measure, not a constitutional amendment, legislators have more power to craft the policy.

For instance, they can adjust the language to align with the definition found in South Dakota law, removing some of the unintended consequences cited by IM 28's opponents.

"The counter to many of these complaints (about wording) is that the Legislature has eight months to fix it," said Michael Card, an emeritus professor of political science at the University of South Dakota. "Part of this back-and-forth is due to efforts to limit the scope of initiated measures, a fight between the dominant (Republican) party and those who want to change laws through the ballot."

Sanderson responded that even if the language is fixed and IM 28 is sharpened to include only groceries, there are still repercussions on top of the earlier general sales tax cut.

Sales tax receipts declined by 2.6% in fiscal year 2024 after gains of 9%, 12.2% and 12.7% the previous three years, according to the South Dakota Bureau of Finance and Management. That dip reflects the earlier sales tax cut and will require action if the state can't tax groceries or other consumables, he said.

"The problem is that IM 28 doesn't have any mechanism for replacing the lost revenue, so the money's going to have to come from somewhere," said Sanderson, who spearheads a coalition that opposes the measure.

"In order to make that up, they're going to have to raise a tax somewhere. That requires a two-thirds vote of a Legislature in which 94 out of 105 are currently Republicans. Are legislators going to vote for a (sales) tax increase to raise revenue? I don't think so. And that's why we've expressed our concerns that if IM 28 passes, it's going to lead to higher property taxes or an income tax (through ballot measure), because the Legislature is simply not going to vote with a two-thirds majority vote to raise the tax."

Weiland called these claims scare tactics meant to influence voters and take the focus away from the merits of a grocery tax repeal.

He referenced past legislative overrides of resident-led initiatives such as IM 22, a campaign finance and ethics reform package approved by voters in 2016 that was later repealed by lawmakers with an emergency clause that ensured it could not be referred back to the ballot.

"I think every concern that's been raised, if in fact it was a real concern and not a campaign tactic, they could address very simply

in the upcoming legislative session," said Weiland, a former Democratic candidate for U.S. House and Senate. "What I think they're more likely to do is talk about this \$646 million hole in their budget so they can declare a state of emergency and repeal it like they did with IM 22."

Does Gov. Noem support a grocery tax repeal?

Noem personally testified in committee for her 2023 bill to repeal the grocery tax, based on her campaign pledge.

She pointed to double-digit increases in sales tax revenue in 2021 and 2022 and a budget surplus in 2022 of \$115 million, an outlook boosted by COVID-related federal stimulus and inflation-impacted tax receipts.

The bill ultimately failed, but the message was duly noted by Dakotans for Health and other groups that have pushed for eliminating the grocery tax.

"The Republicans' big argument has always been, 'Oh, we don't have the money to repeal the food tax. It will come on the backs of firefighters and teachers, or we'll have to do a state income tax,'" Weiland said. "Well, the governor took all those arguments and threw them in the trash."

But Jim Terwilliger, the governor's budget director, noted that Noem's proposal would have reduced the state's food tax to 0% rather than eliminating it, addressing concerns about compliance with the streamlined sales tax agreement.

The bill's language aligned with state definitions for food and food ingredients and it spelled out exceptions such as alcohol, tobacco and cannabis.

She warned lawmakers of potential budget fallout if voters passed a grocery tax initiative on top of the general sales tax cut, pointing to public support for such a measure.

Terwilliger told News Watch earlier this year that Noem doesn't support IM 28 because of concerns about the wording. He added that the governor "still believes a repeal of the grocery tax is the best tax relief for South Dakota families if it is done in a responsible manner," though she didn't mention the repeal in her 2024 budget message or State of the State address.

Can cities and towns still tax groceries if this passes?

Again, it's complicated. The actual wording of the measure states that "municipalities may continue to impose such taxes."

But opponents, including the South Dakota Municipal League, said eliminating the tax, rather than reducing it to 0%, will render local governments unable to impose the food tax because of South Dakota Codified Law 10-52-2.

That law states that cities and towns can charge a sales tax if the tax "conforms in all respects to the state tax ... with the exception of the rate." Eliminating the tax entirely would create problems with state and local alignment, said Sanderson.

"Cities and towns can only tax the same items as the state," he said. "So despite the language in IM 28, if the state cannot charge a tax on 'anything for human consumption,' neither can a municipality."

Rapid City lawyer Jim Leach, who represents Dakotans for Health, called that a flawed analysis. His contention is that IM 28, if it passes, "becomes the law of South Dakota" and supersedes the existing provisions, "which would allow municipalities to continue to tax food."

Hollweger, in a written statement to News Watch before he resigned, noted that "only

the state was specified" in Dakotans for Health's final submission and that municipalities are not legally defined as agencies of the state. "Therefore, LRC concludes the proposed (ballot measure) would not prevent municipalities from imposing a sales tax on food," he wrote.

Hollweger did not respond to an interview request for this story.

Fulton, the USD law school dean, pointed to a legal principle that says when there is a general statute and a more specific law on the same topic, the more specific statute wins out.

"In this instance, the court would be looking at how IM 28 fits, or doesn't fit, with other taxation statutes and giving the right of way to the more specific statute," he said.

What are the alternatives to grocery tax repeal?

Several states use refunded tax credits for low-income brackets in which consumers pay the full sales tax rate on food but recoup some of those added costs by claiming a credit when they file their taxes.

The benefit of this, Phillips said, is that the relief is targeted toward low-income households, which makes it more efficient. Simply cutting the grocery tax affects these low-income groups as well as higher-earning families that are likely not as reliant on state dollars that could be used for other services.

The downside, she added, is that "people are going to have to know to apply for it, especially if you are dealing with people on very low incomes or fixed incomes who may not even file income taxes."

Even for those who do apply, the relief comes once a year during tax season, Phillips noted.

"If you're a family that's living paycheck to paycheck, you would rather take the benefits (every trip to the store) rather than waiting a year from now and getting it in a lump sum, which is harder to budget for," she said.

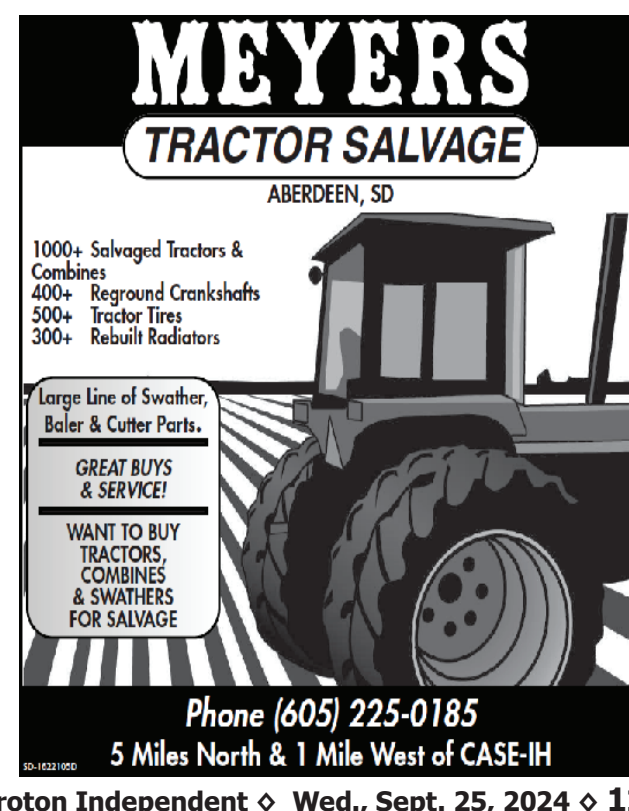
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Boys soccer team beats Custer

The boys soccer team posted a 5-1 win over Custer in action played Friday in Groton.

The Tigers would score first with 34:57 left in the half on a Logan Olson kick assisted by Karson Zak. Olson would score again with 24:41 left in the first on on kick and assist by Easton Weber. Goal keeper Gage Sippel had a long kick that bounced over the defenders and Karson Zak scored with 16:33 left in the half. Zak would score again with 13:55 left in the half to make it 4-0. Custer's Koleden Niemann would score with 3:35 left in the half and the half time score was 4-1.

One goal was scored in the second half and that was by Ethan Kroll with 19:19 left in the game.

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, Full Circle Ag, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, Harry Implement, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Lounge, Krueger Brothers, R&M Farms/Rix Farms and The Meathouse in Andover with the team of Paul Kosel and Jeslyn Kosel. Internet service was provided by JVT.

Groton Area hosts Hot Springs today in an 11 a.m. game.

- Paul Kosel



Groton Area players, including freshman Karson Zak, No. 3, run along the sideline high fiving crowd members after Friday's win against Custer. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Groton Area freshman Karson Zak jumps high to head the ball while Custer sophomore Koleden Niemann tries to kick the ball during Friday's game. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Groton Area freshman Karson Zak and Custer junior Alexander Dinius look toward the ball after a throw in during Friday's game. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Groton Area freshman Karson Zak prepares to kick the ball while Custer junior Alexander Dinius tries to block it during Friday's game. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Groton Area eighth grader Logan Olson stops the ball during Friday's game against Custer. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Groton Area eighth grader Logan Olson and Custer freshman Sylar Dinius try to head the ball drop kicked by Groton goalie Gage Sippel during Friday's game. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



A sign proclaiming the Groton soccer fields as "Tiger Country" was set up near the field during Friday's game against Custer. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

Hot Springs edges Groton Area in boys soccer

Hot Springs took a 2-0 lead at half time and hung on for the 2-1 win over Groton Area in boy soccer action played Saturday in Groton. Will Erickson scored with 15:55 left in the first haf and Azbayar Bayambanorov would score before the half was over with. Easton Weber scored for Groton Area with 24:47 left in the game.

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, Full Circle Ag, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, Harry Implement, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Lounge, Krueger Brothers, R&M Farms/Rix Farms and The Meathouse in Andover. Internet was provided by JVT. Jeslyn Kosel ran the camera.

- Paul Kosel



Groton Area freshman Ethan Kroll, No. 14, celebrates with junior Karsten Flihs, No. 10, after the fifth goal of the game against Custer on Friday. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Groton Area players congratulate eighth grader Logan Olson, No. 16, after a goal during Friday's game against Custer. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Groton Area running back Korbin Kucker, No. 9, attempts a run while Deuel Cardinals players try to catch him during Friday's homecoming game. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Groton Area senior Christian Ehresmann, No. 24, grabs Deuel running back Gavin Kloos, No. 13, after Kloos is handed the ball during Friday's homecoming game. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Groton Area fans cheer along with the cheerleaders during Friday's homecoming game. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Groton Area football players gather after Friday's win against Deuel while Groton fans line up to cheer for the team. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Groton Area senior Christian Ehresmann, No. 24, catches the ball for a touchdown during the Tigers homecoming game against the Deuel Cardinals. Deuel sophomore Axel Gallardo, No. 3, and junior Oliver Fieber, No. 8, attempt to push Ehresmann out of bounds. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Groton Area football players Noah Scepaniak, No. 35; T.C. Schuster, No. 18; Gunner Hardy, No. 55; and more walk through the crowd after Friday's homecoming win against the Deuel Cardinals. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Groton quarterback Ryder Johnson, junior wearing the No. 4 jersey, prepares to catch the snap during the first half of Friday's homecoming game against the Deuel Cardinals. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



St. John's Lutheran Church had the best church float in the homecoming parade. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The eighth grade class took first in the float competition for the homecoming parade. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The freshmen class took second in the float competition for the homecoming parade. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The sophomore class took third in the float competition for the homecoming parade. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



POET (above) and the Groton Vet Clinic (below) tied for best commercial float for the homecoming parade. (Photos by Paul Kosel)



Dear EarthTalk: What's the story with so-called "deadbeat dams" causing ecosystem problems across the country?

- George H., Seattle, WA

The invention of dams was certainly one of humanity's most innovative feats of engineering. Able to harness power from the water currents, reserving water and effectively controlling floods, dams have been crucial to civilizations since 3,000 B.C. Modern dams are made of concrete and steel, built to withstand tons of water pressure. But over time, many dams have fallen into disrepair and no longer serve their intended purposes. These dams lost to time are called "deadbeat dams."

Deadbeat dams disrupt surrounding ecosystems by altering water temperature and hindering fish migration patterns. When dams impede river the flows, water temperatures increase, decimating fish sensitive to temperature changes and prevent fish migrations, further damaging their chances of survival.

Loss of fish populations can devastate the entire surrounding ecosystem as they are the primary food source for many animals including birds and mammals, so they are integral to maintaining balance in the food web. Communities that rely on fish in their diet can also be largely affected. The Kwoneesum Dam was abandoned in the 1980s and has since then obstructed 6.5 miles of the Washougal River, preventing the Native nations' access to the salmon and steelhead population that nourished them for generations.

Effective and safe dam removal is a large and costly challenge, often taking many years and millions of dollars. When removing dams, workers must be careful to ensure debris and sediment from the construction site are not released into the environment, and to test for possible contaminants within the sediment. In 1973, the Fort Edward Dam on New York's Hudson River was removed without its sediments tested for contaminants. According to the Columbia Climate School, this resulted in "tons of sediment laden with toxic PCBs" washing downstream and "affecting human and wildlife health."

Across the U.S., 20,000 of the 90,000 total dams are considered unsafe. But due to logistical and financial difficulties, dam removal has been slow: Since 1912, only 2,000 dams have been removed. In recent years, native communities have made headway in advocating for deadbeat dam removals. Through extensive efforts on their part and that of policymakers, millions of dollars have been raised to fund dam removal across the Pacific Northwest. The Seattle Times reports that, in 2024, \$40 million from a \$75 million Washington state act will go

towards "nine [dam removal] projects led by tribal nations." To ensure the longevity of our precious natural resources, deadbeat dams is an issue we can no longer overlook. Their presence is a constant disruption to nature and to those dependent on nature.

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Defunct old dams can disrupt surrounding ecosystems by altering water temperature and hindering fish migration patterns.

"Menopause"

Menopause is one of those things that, let's face it, will ultimately affect everyone with previously functional ovaries. Unfortunately we don't talk about it enough, which makes it a topic riddled with misin-

formation. So... what is menopause?

Menopause is defined by the permanent cessation of menstrual bleeding for 12 months. This occurs naturally when the ovaries stop reproductive activity and a marked decrease in ovarian hormones (estrogen and progesterone) occurs. Symptoms of menopause are a result of these hormonal changes.

Most women enter menopause "naturally," or just due to aging. The average age of menopause in North America is 51 years, but that can vary by up to 8-10 years on either side. However, menopause can also occur when the ovaries are surgically removed or if a patient needs to take a medication that affects ovarian hormone secretion, for example certain therapies for breast cancer.

Perimenopause refers to the phase, often lasting 1-2 years, before complete cessation of menses in which a person is likely to experience irregularities in menstrual periods (shorter or longer intervals, lighter or heavier bleeding) and sometimes the start of menopausal symptoms like hot flashes. Some patients will experience problematic or heavy perimenopausal bleeding that warrants medical or surgical treatment.

It is worth noting that laboratory testing is not recommended to diagnose menopause in a patient of typical age range with expected menopausal symptoms. In some cases, especially if a patient is younger than expected, limited testing is warranted to rule out other conditions including pregnancy and thyroid disorders.

Some fortunate women experience no significant symptoms of menopause, but the majority will. The most common symptoms of menopause are the infamous vasomotor symptoms (hot flashes and night sweats) and urogenital symptoms (vaginal dryness and sexual dysfunction). The average duration of vasomotor symptoms after menopause is about 7 years, but approximately 10% of women have symptoms lasting more than 10 years.

Decisions around various options for treatment for these symptoms is highly individualized and depends on how symptoms are affecting a given patient's quality of life. Treatment, if warranted, can involve hormonal therapy (replacing estrogen is the most effective way to reduce hot flashes) or various non-hormonal options. This choice necessitates a conversation about an individual's symptom severity and that patient's risk of hormonal therapy, including breast cancer, blood clots, and cardiovascular events.

In summary, menopause is indeed a part of life. However, if you are really suffering with symptoms of menopause, it is worthwhile to talk to your healthcare provider about potential treatment for your symptoms.

Kelly Evans-Hullinger, MD. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices Internal Medicine at Avera Medical Group in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, and on social media. Watch On Call with the Prairie Doc, most Thursday's at 7PM on SDPB and streaming on Facebook and listen to Prairie Doc Radio Sunday's at 6am and 1pm.



Kelly Evans-Hullinger, MD

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