

# The Groton Independent

Vol. 142 No. 09 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024 ♦ Established in 1889



## Remembering Our American Veterans



by Kaden Kampa

During today's Veterans' Day program, Groton American Legion Auxiliary Post 39 will be honoring brave Groton Area Veterans with Karen Wolter's "Quilts of Honor."

Karen Wolter, a member of Groton American Legion Auxiliary, had a vision a few years ago to honor veterans through her love of quilting. Today we are here to fulfill Karen's mission to honor veterans touched by war with love, prayer, and healing thoughts by presenting them a quilt of honor. We hope that when you need a hug, you will wrap your quilt around yourself, and it will provide you with the comfort and healing that has been sewn into every seam.



**Lloyd Dennert (center) pictured with his great-grandson, Kaden Kampa (left) and Legion Auxiliary member Tami Zimney.** (Photo

by Bruce Babcock)

My name is Kaden Kampa, and I am going to introduce you to my great-grandfather, Lloyd Dennert. Grandpa enlisted in the United States Air Force on December 5th, 1950, during the Korean War. His decision to serve marked the start of an adventurous time in his life. Him, along with three other Columbia residents, enlisted together: Private Wilbur Bohling, Private Donnie Yeske and Private Marlin Weimantel. All four of them rode the train from Sioux Falls to Lackland Airforce Base in San Antonio, Texas for boot camp. At Lackland Lloyd enjoyed marching and attending school. Although his Sargent was tough on him, Lloyd liked him.

From Lackland he got transferred to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tuscan, Arizona due to overpopulation at Lackland. After he was done at Tuscan he went to Francis E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming for power men school where he graduated 1st in his class. He was honorably discharged in 1951 due to family health issues. Lloyd took a lot of pride in his service and would have loved to continue to serve his country.

When Lloyd got home, he started farming, with the help of his father he was able to continue this for 48 years before he handed it down

to his son, where it continues to be handed down generation to generation. After Lloyd retired from farming, he volunteered to truck for Orphan Grain Train until 2011. He put on over 1 million miles and has trucked through every state.

Lloyd has been apart of the Legion Post 58 for 58 years. He has been married to his wife Dorris "Bohling" Dennert for 73 years. They were blessed with 5 children, 14 grandchildren, and 28 great grandchildren, soon to be 30, but as Lloyd says " 2 more in the rack."

Lloyd's favorite memory from service is when he went to meet the general. Lloyd didn't salute him correctly or at the right time. The general told Lloyd "Petty Officer Private Dennert you need more training on when and how to salute, and how to keep your shoes polished."

Advice that Lloyd would give to young adults is to encourage them to join the military because it is a courageous act that provides many benefits in the present day.

To all of Americas Veterans and members of the United States Armed Forces: This Veteran's Day, we salute you and thank you for your service. Great Grandpa, thank you for your service. Please give my great grandpa, Lloyd Dennert, round of applause.

Great Grandpa Lloyd Dennert, on behalf of the community and nation, with our deepest appreciation, we honor your service with this quilt of honor.

**Gary Sombke is featured on page 6. More next week.**

## Combined or separate? City Council asks for numbers to compare meter replacement options

By Elizabeth Varin

The Groton City Council directed staff to seek more bids for new utility meters. Instead of evaluating separate meters for water and electricity, council members requested quotes for combined water-electric meters.

Technology Specialist Paul Kosel, who has been presenting an electric meter replacement project for a few months, told the council he recommends moving forward with a new system, but Electric Superintendent Todd Gay disagreed. Gay said he wanted the council to consider a combined water and electric meter through a different company. The electric meters need immediate attention, and the batteries in the city's water meter have a shelf life that is running out.

If the city will have to make a big investment in the water meter system in three to four years, the council may as well see if it can combine the two meter systems, he said. Current staff who also know the meter systems will also retire or leave the city at some point.

"I'm trying to think down the road, and that's what you pay me for," he said.

Gay presented rough numbers for a new electric metering system from Irby Utilities.

Kosel said the water meters need immediate attention. He had to replace six last week, and there are more on downward slide.

Councilwoman Karyn Babcock asked that Gay and Kosel to put their brains together to find a solution.

"You have to take the personal out of the equation and do what's best for the city," she said. "We need to figure out what's best for everybody."

To Kosel, Mayor Scott Hanlon added, "it's not that your system is not good, but we need to think on that. Everything's changing quick, but if you're not around... I don't know."

Council members directed Kosel to order some replacement water meter modules for immediate repairs, and asked Kosel and Gay to come up with numbers for council members to compare.

### Garage causing code questions

A garage has caused questions about who signs off on building permits.

At Tuesday's meeting, Councilman Brian Bahr asked the council to consider having the contracted code enforcer sign off on building permits. That would allow him to consider if the proposed project falls in line with the city's current building code.

The idea came after the city's Planning and Zoning Commission denied a special exception last week for someone to build a standalone garage.

Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich said he doesn't know if having the code enforcer look through the permit application would have changed the issue at last week's meeting. It would just add another signature to the paperwork, he added.

Bahr asked why the finance officer position signs off on the permits.

**Continues on Page 7**

# Post election

I realize we're in our post-election honeymoon period during which everyone has amnesia or hangovers, and platitudes are the order of the day, but in consideration of journalistic integrity — if we're still doing that — honesty is in order. We can't "sane-tize" this.

This has been the weirdest damn thing. And it may get even weirder.

I went to bed early Election Eve after practicing for the passage of Measure 5 before waking with a start in a sea of Oreo crumbs, clicked on the news, and wondered how I could have been so out-of-touch with half of the country. Like conservatives did in 2020.

My first "World is Gonna End Election" was in 1980, when I convinced two other people — my roommate and his girlfriend — to vote for Ed Clark, a libertarian running with David Koch (Yeah, that Koch brother, but who knew?) Clark promised to legalize marijuana. On the other hand, I was convinced Reagan was going to blow up the world.

Besides, hey, weed.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday morning I hit my snooze bar while my iPhone pinged away with wellness checks. Friends wanted to know



## That's Life by Tony Bender

how I was doing. Just fine. Better than fine. Measure #5 passed, didn't it?

Besides, democracy worked. There will be a peaceful transfer of power. No insurrection. The new/old administration won in an electoral landslide and in the popular vote. Democracy worked in 2016, too, right up to that tourist thing, but after one unsatisfactory term, voters decided to return the reins to the Democratic Party.

Dems, you had your chance. But these voters, they're an impatient lot. Democrats may think they did pretty well, but each party has their own news echo chamber, and that's not what the Republican "news" network was saying. Did I wonder earlier how we could be so out of touch with the other half of the country? That's how. Their perspective is their reality.

That said, I've always believed that we are bound by greater things. Brotherhood, kindness, the rule of law. Those things have historically (but not always smoothly) won out. Now we shall see if everyone still cherishes the U.S. Constitution.

America's democracy has been called a grand experiment, "a Republic if you can keep it." Now, Republicans have the White House, Senate, Supreme Court, and the House.

Democracy was intentionally constructed to have more brakes than acceleration. This is a rare opportunity for any party. We shall see what Republicans do with it. If they're willing to implement Constitutional guardrails from within the party. Whether we're still neighbors instead of enemies of the neighborhood. Whether in four years, voters will be able to judge our progress in a free election.

from the goal line, plus a 40-yard field goal). The Vikings led 16-3 heading into halftime.

Neither team was able to get much going to start the third quarter, combining for three straight punts. After a beautiful punt by Ryan Wright gave the ball back to the Titans at their 2-yard line, the Vikings sold out to stop the run which allowed Titans' QB Will Levis to find WR Westbrook-Ikhine for a 98-yard touchdown. The Vikings responded with a TD drive of their own, with the three-yard pass from Darnold to RB Cam Akers making the score 23-10. The Titans managed another field goal a minute into the fourth quarter, but the rest of the final quarter was scoreless. Down 10 with less than two minutes left in the game, Levis threw a deep pass that was intercepted by Harrison Smith to seal the game. Fun fact: Harrison "The Hitman" Smith is one of only four players all time to have 35+ interceptions and 20+ sacks in their career. The other three are all in the Hall of Fame.

Sam Darnold completed 20 of 32 passes for 246 yards and two touchdowns (and zero interceptions). He also added 18 yards and a TD on the ground. Justin Jefferson led the team with six receptions for 81 yards, Jordan Addison caught three passes for 61 yards, and TE Josh Oliver added another three for 34. The run game was stagnant against the Titans, with Aaron Jones and Cam Akers combining for only 64 yards on 25 carries.

The Vikings' defense gave up that huge 98-yard touchdown but were spectacular otherwise. The run defense was particularly stout, only allowing 33 yards on 19 carries. The team finished with five sacks (Andrew Van Ginkel(2), Pat Jones II (2), and Blake Cashman (1)), and one interception (Harrison Smith).

The player of the game on offense was Justin Jefferson, who now holds the record for most receiving yards through a player's first five seasons — and there are still seven games to go! For comparison:

Justin Jefferson has 6,801 yards in 69 games (98.6 yards per game)

Torry Holt had 6,784 yards in 80 games (84.8 yards per game)

Randy Moss had 6,743 yards in 80 games (84.3 yards per game)

Jerry Rice had 6,364 yards in 76 games (83.7 yards per game)

The player of the game on defense was Andrew Van Ginkel, who led the team with eight tackles, two sacks, and three tackles for a loss. AVG was an unheralded free agent signing, but just might be the most important

player on the Vikings' defense right now.

Looking ahead, the Vikings finish their three-game road trip with a visit to the windy city to take on the Bears, who are 4-6 this season. The Bears lost to the Packers Sunday, 19-20, after a potential game-winning field goal attempt was blocked by Green Bay. The Vikings are the better team in this matchup, but divisional battles are hard to predict. If Vikings' defensive coordinator can confuse the first-overall pick, QB Caleb Williams, the Vikings should be able to get the win. Skol!

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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# Dacotah Bank is Named One of American Banker Magazine's 2024 Best Banks to Work For

In recognition of its dedication to employees and their families, Dacotah Bank has again been named one of the Best Banks to Work For by American Banker! This marks the seventh consecutive year Dacotah Bank has received this honor and is proud to be ranked #52 on this year's list. In the past three years, our rankings have been #31, #28, and #39, demonstrating our commitment to excellence. Dacotah Bank strives to be one of the best banks to work for and an employer of choice throughout our territory. This recognition is a testament to the bank's efforts to center its focus around employees, communities, customers, and shareholders.

"We are proud to have built an inclusive workplace that prioritizes the well-being of our employees and their families. This year, we expanded our benefits to include additional wellness programs and professional development opportunities. These initiatives underscore our commitment to supporting our Dacotah Bank family, who contribute so much to the Company and the communities in which we live and work. Creating a great workplace culture is the best way to retain and recruit employees" said Chairman and CEO Robert Fouberg.

"Dacotah Bank is dedicated to attracting and retaining top talent by focusing on appreciation, investment in our people, and succession planning. The DacotahGrown internship program provides young professionals with hands-on experience within the organization's functions, teams, and culture, and lays the groundwork for their success should they choose to join Dacotah Bank after graduation. The bank's Culture Committee is committed to making Dacotah Bank an employer of choice by prioritizing employee satisfaction and engagement. Through its Give Where We Live program, Dacotah Bank empowers employees to support community organizations that matter to them, enabling them to direct a portion of our bank's contributions. This initiative fosters community engagement and encourages involvement in causes that resonate with all employees. Additionally, Dacotah Bank prioritizes employee growth by offering various leadership and development programs for all staff levels. A comprehensive performance management framework supports ongoing discussions about employee development and career advancement, ensuring a vibrant and engaged workforce.

The Best Banks to Work For program, initiated in 2013 by American Banker and Best Companies Group, identifies, recognizes and honors US banks for outstanding employee satisfaction. Full results of this year's program are available at AmericanBanker.com and in the November issue of American Banker Magazine.

Determining the Best Banks to Work For involves a two-step process. The first step is an evaluation of participating companies' workplace policies, practices, and demographics. In the second step, employee surveys are conducted to directly assess the experiences and attitudes of individual employees with respect to their workplace. The combined scores determine the top banks and the final ranking.

Best Companies Group managed the overall registration, survey process and analysis of the data. They used their expertise to determine the final ranking. The program is open to commercial banks, thrifts, savings banks and other chartered retail financial institutions with at least 50 employees in the United States.

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## Queen of Hearts

The Queen of Hearts drawing was held Thursday with the jackpot at \$6,233. Ticket sales for the week were \$990. The name of Dennis and Shirley Larson was drawn with card number 40 which was the Eight of Hearts. They won the consolation prize of \$99.

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**Notice of Regular Annual Meeting Of Full Circle Ag**

Notice is hereby given that the regular annual meeting of Full Circle Ag, Britton, SD, will be held at the Britton Area Event Center at 1203 3rd St, Britton, SD on Tuesday, November 26th. The meeting will be held at 10:30 am with lunch to follow. The meeting will include the following purposes:

- Review Annual Audit
- Election of Directors
- Any other business to come before the board

This is a very important business meeting of your cooperative; everyone is urged to attend.

- Jason Asche, Secretary

(1113.1120)

**NVC/JVT HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSES**

Groton - Tuesday, Dec. 3rd 10am-4pm  
Redfield - Wednesday, Dec. 4th 11am-2pm  
Aberdeen - Thursday, Dec. 5th 10am-4pm

**DOOR PRIZES - CHRISTMAS TREATS**

Plus register in stores or at [nvc.net](https://nvc.net) for the **12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS!**

Answer

Answers

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Solution time: 21 mins.

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November 12, 2024 – GENERAL MEETING  
Meeting called to order by Chairman Sutton at 8:45 A.M. in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. Present were Commissioners Dennert, Fjeldheim, Gage, Sutton and Wiese. Auditor Heupel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese to approve the agenda, seconded by Gage. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:** Senator Elect, Carl Perry shared with the Commission that Leadership Roles were elected in Pierre, Friday, November 8th. Senator Elect Carl Perry was chosen as Assistant Majority Leader and Representative Brandie Schaeffbauer was elected as Minority Whip. Mr. Perry feels the Leadership will be more County oriented.

**ORDINANCE #283 – FIRST READING:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the First Reading of Proposed Ordinance #283. Applicant Larkota Acres – Briann & Lisa Larson to rezone from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring these parcels into compliance for their current use: Proposed Lots 1 thru 12, "Larkota First Addition" in the N1/2 of the SW1/4 of Section 3-T121N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (38504, 38507, 38512, 38515 & 38518, 38523, 38526, 38529, 38532, 38535, 38538 & 38541 Larkota Drive; Warner Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**QUOTES FOR PORTABLE TOILETS FOR 2025-2027 BROWN COUNTY FAIR:** Rachel Kippley, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager presented the Commission the one quote they received for Portable Toilets from Dakota Portable Toilets, Inc. for the 2025, 2026 and 2027 Brown County Fair and recommended to accept and authorize the Chairman to sign the contract. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to accept the quote from Dakota Portable Toilets, Inc. for the 2025 Brown County Fair for \$20,000.00; 2026 Brown County Fair for \$20,500.00 and 2027 Brown County Fair for \$21,000.00 and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the contract. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**2025 FAIRBOARD APPOINTMENT:** Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the recommendation from the Fair Board and appoint Eric Pigors to the 2025 Brown County Fair Board for his first 3-year term. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**QUOTE FOR GOLF CARTS:** Rachel Kippley, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager presented the Commission a quote from All Season Motorsports and recommended to accept the quote for \$21,363.00 for the 2025 Brown County Fair. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to accept the quote from All Season Motorsports for Golf Carts in the amount of \$21,363.00 to be used at the 2025 Brown County Fair and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the proposal. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**JURASSIC BARK CONTRACT FOR THREE-YEARS:** Rachel Kippley, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager presented the Commission with a contract with Jurassic Bark/Wesley Williams for the 2025, 2026 and 2027 Brown County Fair in the amount of \$9,000.00 each year and asked for approval and authorize Chairman to sign the contract. Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Gage to approve the 3 one-year contracts at \$9,000.00 for 2025, 2026 and 2027 Brown County Fair and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the contracts. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**LUMBERJACK SHOW CONTRACT:** Rachel Kippley, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager presented the Commission with for Lumberjack Show Contract for

the 2025 Brown County Fair in the amount of \$12,000.00 and authorize Chairman to sign the contract. Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the contract with Paul Bunyan Lumberjack Show for the 2025 Brown County Fair for \$12,000.00 and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the contract. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. Rachel shared that they don't know at this point if this will be included in the package ticket deal or not and she also commented that they have been approached about bringing back the Demo Derby on Sundays.

**GRANDSTAND CLEANING CONTRACT:** Rachel Kippley, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager presented the Commission with the Contract for Cleaning the Grandstand & Racetrack Area for the 2025 Brown County Fair in the amount of \$5,600.00 from Darrin Olson, DBA: ACBMSJPK, LLC and authorize Chairman to sign the contract. Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve the contract with Darrin Olson, DBA: ACBMSJPK, LLC for \$5,600.00 to clean the Grandstand & Racetrack Area for the 2025 Brown County Fair and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the contract. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY FOR DUSTIN USSELMAN:** Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the following application submitted by Dustin Usselman for occupancy of Brown County 389th Ave., Section 6-T123N-R63W, Brown County, South Dakota to install sump pump drain from house into ditch. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**SHERIFF DEPARTMENT UPDATE:** Sheriff Lunzman met with the Commission and shared that the 3rd Annual Halloween Passport was a success with over 500 kids coming through for Trick or Treating. He also shared that they may have some CPR Save Awards to present in the coming weeks. Then Sheriff Lunzman started discussing personnel issues, regarding him not receiving a raise this year and he feels that the Commission (Elected Officials) is trying to control another Elected Official (Sheriff) and impede him from doing his job. Sheriff Lunzman asked for a \$12,000.00 raise for himself and Chief Deputy Lemke for taking on the Coroner position, he never received additional compensation when he accepted the appointment of being Coroner. No decision was made at this time.

**2025 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR 4-H EDUCATOR:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between SDSU and Brown County of South Dakota to continue the ongoing MOU relationship in 2025 and the cost share for 2025 will be \$23,050.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**AIR QUALITY PERMIT APPLICATION FOR LANDFILL:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Air Quality Permit Application to renew the existing permit for the Landfill. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**MINUTES:** Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Gage to approve the General Meeting Minutes of November 5, 2024. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the General Election Canvass Minutes of November 8, 2024. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve the following claims: Professional Fees: Birmingham & Cwach Law Office \$322.00; Fox Law Firm, PLLC \$70.00; Helms & Associates \$4,920.82; Houston Engineering, Inc \$28,873.84; IMEG Corp \$1,165.00; Language Line Services, Inc. \$369.81; Liberty Tire Recycling, LLC \$28,882.82; Lucy Lewno \$90.00; Mark Anderson \$500.00; Mark Katterhagen \$15.00; Minn-Kota Communications, Inc \$6,450.00; Sanford Health Occupational Medicine \$1,176.00; Sanford Health

\$2,433.00; Satellite Tracking of People, LLC \$1,881.75; SD Dept of Transportation \$574.70; Valerie Larson \$15.00; Zylstra Investigations \$2,517.50. Rentals: Linde Gas & Equipment Inc \$50.60; Pantorium Cleaners \$207.36; Vestis \$337.10. Repairs & Maintenance: B&B Contracting, Inc \$10,640.33; Butler Machinery Company \$8,624.48; Diesel Machinery, Inc. \$8,000.00; Farm Power Mfg. \$5.00; Gary's Auto Body & Accessories \$912.16; K&S Plumbing, Inc \$577.96; Kone \$2,587.00; Midwest Card and ID Solutions LLC \$1,750.00; Napa Central \$180.49; Olson's Pest Technicians \$260.00; Pantorium Cleaners Inc \$189.32; Pharm-Chem, Inc 1,246.05; Pressure Washer Central \$380.00; RDO Equipment Co \$8,793.26; Safety Service \$3,695.00; Sewer Duck, Inc \$450.00; Sioux Falls Crane & Hoist, Inc \$27.45; Steven Lust Automotive \$3,246.25; Transource Truck & Equipment, Inc \$10,624.16. Supplies: Agtegra Cooperative \$51,997.02; Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$1,031.94; Bimbo Foods USA, Inc \$902.10; Birmingham & Cwach Law Office \$6.46; Century Business Products \$351.45; Christina Flack \$1,138.07; Dakota Doors Inc., \$45.50; Dakota Fluid Power, Inc \$1,224.45; Dakota Oil \$971.60; Diesel Machinery, Inc. \$639.38; East Side Jersey Dairy, Inc. \$1,479.20; Farm Power Mfg. \$67.50; Fire Safety First LLC \$33.00; Fox Law Firm, PLLC \$1.72; Galls, LLC \$6.99; Gary's Auto Body & Accessories \$39.00; Geffdog Designs \$20.00; HF Jacobs & Son Const. Inc \$243.30; Interstate Battery System of South Dakota \$403.90; Jensen Rock & Sand Inc \$142,861.95; Lien Transportation Company \$4,863.05; Linde Gas & Equipment Inc \$114.55; Lucy Lewno \$1.75; Mac's Inc-Capital One Trade Credit \$214.82; Menards \$381.98; Pantorium Cleaners Inc \$32.00; Performance Oil \$59.80; Pressure Washer Central \$262.00; Pro Hydro-Testing LLC \$255.00; RDO Equipment Co \$2,042.75; Rinse & Go Car Wash \$28.00; Runnings \$2,106.23; Safety Service \$37,347.72; Sewer Duck, Inc \$375.00; Sioux Falls Crane & Hoist, Inc; 431.23; Transource Truck & Equipment, Inc \$5,880.06; Tyler Business Forms \$458.43; US Foods \$10,070.87. Travel & Conference: Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center \$2,858.00; Chris Anderson \$60.00; Ron Keller \$481.82. Utilities: City of Aberdeen Treasurer \$1,484.53; Northwestern Energy \$40.90; Town of Frederick \$77.00; WEB Water Development \$114.24. Other: SD Public Assurance Alliance \$310.78; SD Assoc of County Officials \$902.00; SD Dept of Agriculture & Natural Resources \$4,971.51. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**HR REPORT:** Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to acknowledge and approve the following Human Resource Report submitted by Human Resources Director, Allison Tunheim:

Resignation of Dwain Otte, Brown County Highway Truck Driver; FT-effective November 15, 2024. Request to fill.  
Hiring of Justin Roemmick as Brown County JDC Detention Officer, FT; starting wage \$21.29/hr. – effective November 12, 2024.

Hiring of the following as Brown County Jail Detention Officer, FT; starting wage \$21.9/hr-effective November 12, 2024.  
Chantz Burcham  
Alexis Gearey  
Transfer of McKenzie Bierman from Brown County Fair and Park Event Coordinator to Brown County Fair and Park Assistant Manager-moving from hourly to salary; \$2,347.89/pay period-effective December 8, 2024.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.  
**KARTING CLUB LEASE OPTION RENEWAL ADDENDUM:** Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the Lease Option Renewal Addendum with the Aberdeen Karting Club for leasing one-acre of land to the east of the race-track at the Fairgrounds for three-year period commencing on November 1, 2024 and terminating on the 31st of October 2028. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**CLAIM ASSIGNMENTS:** Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Dennert to approve and authorize Auditor Heupel to sign the Claim Assignments against individuals to Credit Collections Bureau for the purpose of collecting liens. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**LANDFILL TONNAGE REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2024:** Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Gage to acknowledge the Landfill Tonnage Report for October 2024. All members present

ent voting aye. Motion carried.  
**ABATEMENTS:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the following abatement: Parcel #21375-Tax Yr. 2022PY2023 \$198.18; Tax Yr. 2023PY2024 \$213.45. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**TRAVEL REQUESTS:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve the following Travel Requests: Randy Zens, Maintenance Dept. to travel to Pierre, SD to pick-up the new county maintenance truck; McKenzie Bierman, Dwight Guthmiller, Katie Moulsoff, Shelly Eisenbeisz, Nancy Radke, Trevor Meints, Greg Markley and Conald Burgard of the Brown County Fair/Fair Board to attend the Heartland Association of Fair, Festivals & Events Convention on November 21-23, 2024 in Minot, ND. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None  
**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to go into Executive Session for Personnel, Legal and Contracts per SDCL 1-25-2. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. The chair declared the Executive Session closed with No Action Taken.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:55 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor  
Published November 20, 2024, at the total approximate cost of 124.17 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23948



**NOTICE SOLID & YARD WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE BROWN COUNTY CONTAINER SITES**

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Court House Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 57401, until 8:45 A.M. on December 3, 2024, at said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read, and considered by the Brown County Board of Commissioners for the "BID ON THE SOLID & YARD WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE FOR THE BROWN COUNTY CONTAINER SITES"

Envelopes containing bids shall be addressed to the Brown County Auditor, Brown County Courthouse Annex, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 57401 and are to be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope: "BID ON THE SOLID & YARD WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE FOR THE BROWN COUNTY CONTAINERSITES" to be opened on Tuesday, December 3, 2024.

**PROPOSAL GUARANTEE:**..... The proposal guarantee required and must accompany each bid is a certified check, cashier's check or back draft. This guarantee must be certified or issued by a national or state bank and payable at sight to Brown County, South Dakota in the amount of five per cent (5%) of the total amount of the bid. In lieu thereof, bidder may furnish a bid bond of ten percent (10%) of the bid, such bond is to be issued, 'by a surety company authorized to do business in South Dakota and payable to Brown County, South Dakota.

Brown County will give notice to the successful bidder that his/her proposal has been accepted, and said bidder shall within ten (10) days thereafter enter into a contract with Brown County, South Dakota. The successful bidder shall also furnish proper certificates of insurance required by Brown County.

The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids that they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County, and to waive any informalities or irregularities therein. Brown County is exempt from all Federal Excise Tax and State Sales Tax.  
Copies of the specifications are on file at the Brown County Auditor's Office and the Brown County Solid Waste Department Office and may be obtained at no charge.

**ATTEST:** Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor  
Published November 13 and 20, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$45.81 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23941

## The Groton Independent

21 N Main, Groton 605/397-NEWS (6397)  
Paul Irvin Kosel, Publisher [paperpaul@grotonsd.net](mailto:paperpaul@grotonsd.net) ~ 605-397-7460  
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Notices: [legals@grotonsd.net](mailto:legals@grotonsd.net)  
News Items: [news@grotonsd.net](mailto:news@grotonsd.net)  
Deadline to submit items: Noon Monday  
Yearly Subscription Rates are listed below.  
The Groton Independent (USPS# 230-440) is published weekly with its periodicals postage paid at Groton, SD.

**Postmaster: Send address changes to Groton Independent, PO Box 34, Groton, SD 57445**

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UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF EDUCATION GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6

REGULAR MEETING November 12, 2024

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

Moved by Weismantel, second by Flihs, to approve the agenda as amended with the additional new business of approval of volunteer weight room coach Quintin Biermann. Motion carried.

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

Moved by Gengerke, Lerseth-Flihs will approve consent agenda items for October 15, 2024 meeting minutes, October 2024 district bills, October 2024 financial report, agency accounts and investments, October 2024 school transportation report, and October 2024 school lunch report. Motion carried.

**GENERAL FUND:** Net Salary 319,817.47; Benefits 83,998.83; Allied Climate Professionals – repairs, 551.02; Amazon – various supplies, 656.32; Brown County Treasurer – mosquito control, 776.16; Cahill Bauer & Associates – audit services, 18,000.00; Capitol One – supplies, 288.54; Jessica Cihak – corsages, 134.42; Cole Papers – janitor supplies, 715.98; Custodial Fund – advanced payments, 12,720.72; Dakota Electronics – radio repairs, 67.00; Dependable Sanitation – garbage, 1,312.50; Farm Tire Services – tires, 1,509.96; Good Shred – shredding service, 43.50; Groton Area School – Imprest AJE Entry, 3,362.52; Harlow's Bus Sales – part, 681.42; Harry Implement – parts, 234.97; Hillyard – janitor supply, 604.91; JW Pepper – music, 269.60; Jeff's District & Drain – plumbing repair, 1,286.00; Jerke Irrigation – winterization, 292.05; Jostens – yearbook deposit/diplomas, 2,530.40; Matheson – IA Supplies, 187.49; Mid-American Research – janitor supply, 1,069.32; Midstates Group – marching band awards,

GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 06-6 FINANCIAL REPORTS							
.....	General Fund	Capital Outlay	Special Ed.	Food Service	OST	Driver's Ed	Custodial
<b>Oct. 1 2024</b> .....	<b>\$1,156,632.30</b>	<b>\$654,884.22</b>	<b>\$292,521.21</b>	<b>\$179,248.14</b>	<b>\$30,114.93</b>	<b>\$20,663.71</b>	<b>\$175,662.18</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>							
<b>Local Sources</b> .....	<b>\$260,430.03</b>	<b>\$82,306.61</b>	<b>\$35,291.49</b>	<b>\$19,433.40</b>	<b>\$4,911.95</b>		<b>\$84,254.05</b>
<b>County Sources</b> .....	<b>\$3,799.32</b>						
<b>State Sources</b> .....							
<b>State Aid</b> .....	<b>\$21,175.00</b>						
<b>Wind Farm</b> .....							
<b>Mentor Teacher Program</b>							
<b>State Apportionment</b>							
<b>State Reimbursements</b>							
<b>Bank Franchise</b>							
<b>Federal Sources</b> .....	<b>\$21,427.00</b>				<b>\$8,780.84</b>		
<b>Sale of Assets</b>							
<b>Due from Govt/Others</b>							
<b>Transfer In/Out</b>							
<b>TOTAL MONTHLY RECEIPTS</b> .....	<b>\$306,831.35</b>	<b>\$82,306.61</b>	<b>\$35,291.49</b>	<b>\$28,214.24</b>	<b>\$4,911.95</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$84,254.05</b>
<b>FUNDS AVAILABLE</b> .....	<b>\$1,463,463.65</b>	<b>\$737,190.83</b>	<b>\$327,812.70</b>	<b>\$207,462.38</b>	<b>\$35,026.88</b>	<b>\$20,663.71</b>	<b>\$259,916.23</b>
<b>MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS</b> .....	<b>(\$509,989.77)</b>	<b>(\$64,955.61)</b>	<b>(\$107,422.76)</b>	<b>(\$31,747.38)</b>	<b>(\$3,184.76)</b>	<b>(\$1,489.91)</b>	<b>(\$67,184.94)</b>
<b>JOURNAL ENTRIES</b> .....	<b>\$2,636.32</b>	<b>(\$64,751.78)</b>	<b>\$166.20</b>	<b>\$46.30</b>			
<b>Oct. 31 2024</b> .....	<b>\$956,110.20</b>	<b>\$607,483.44</b>	<b>\$220,556.14</b>	<b>\$175,761.30</b>	<b>\$31,842.12</b>	<b>\$19,173.80</b>	<b>\$192,731.29</b>

GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL EDUCATION	FOOD SERVICE	OST
<b>Payroll</b> .....	<b>Payroll</b>	<b>Payroll</b>	<b>Payroll</b>
<b>Instruction</b> .....	<b>Instruction</b> .....	<b>Instruction</b> .....	<b>Instruction</b> .....
<b>Employee Benefits</b> .....	<b>Employee Benefits</b> .....	<b>Employee Benefits</b> .....	<b>Employee Benefits</b> .....
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Driver's Education</b>			
<b>Payroll</b>			
<b>Instruction</b> .....	<b>\$0.00</b>		
<b>Employee Benefits</b> .....	<b>\$0.00</b>		
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$0.00</b>		

GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL EDUCATION	FOOD SERVICE	OST
<b>Payroll</b> .....	<b>Payroll</b>	<b>Payroll</b>	<b>Payroll</b>
<b>Instruction</b> .....	<b>Instruction</b> .....	<b>Instruction</b> .....	<b>Instruction</b> .....
<b>Employee Benefits</b> .....	<b>Employee Benefits</b> .....	<b>Employee Benefits</b> .....	<b>Employee Benefits</b> .....
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Driver's Education</b>			
<b>Payroll</b>			
<b>Instruction</b> .....	<b>\$0.00</b>		
<b>Employee Benefits</b> .....	<b>\$0.00</b>		
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$0.00</b>		

498.00; MJ's Sinclair – gas/diesel, 17,650.73; NAPA – parts, 353.45; Northern State University – job fair, 110.00; Northside Implement – repairs, 4,059.49; Northwestern Energy – utilities, 29.48; NSU Finance – 2024 digital textbooks/class, 1,930.95; Pfitzer pest control – services, 127.44; Poppler's Music – music, 10.99; Productivity Plus – part, 84.38; Redfield School – Region 5 Superintendent dues, 30.00; Sharp Automotive – repairs, 2,027.87; Taylor Music – reeds, 124.60; Training Room – athletic tape, 485.52. Total General Fund - \$478,634.00.

**CAPITAL OUTLAY:** A&B Business – Managed Print Agreement, 1,877.89; Amazon – classroom equipment, 313.13; Cole Papers – cordless vacuum, 769.75; Connecting Point – battery cart, 293.00; Custodial Fund – equipment, 2,775.00; Follett Content Solutions – books, 855.66; Hillyard – vacuum, 836.96; US Bank – principal/interest, 452,492.50. Total Capital Outlay - \$460,213.89.

**SPECIAL ED:** Net Salary 48,445.01; Benefits 13,032.12. Avera – PT/OT, 16,743.69; parent – mileage, 956.76. Total Special Ed - \$79,177.58.

**ENTERPRISE:** Food Service Net Salary 9,521.27; Benefits 2,810.34; Bernard Food Industries – food, 1,018.99; Custodial Fund – advanced payments, 18.20; East Side

Jersey Dairy – milk, 1,307.29; Groton Area School – refund, 85.25; Performance Food Service – food, 6,896.27; SD DOE – food, 413.14; US Foods – food, 3,798.04. Total Food Service - \$25,868.79.

OST - Net Salary 2,579.79; Benefits 294.63; Custodial Fund – advanced payments, 311.08. Total OST - \$3,185.50.

Driver's Ed - Net Salary 0.00; Benefits 0.00. NAPA Central – parts for driver's ed car, 115.96. Total Driver's Ed 115.96.

**CUSTODIAL FUND:** \$67,184.94

**RECEIPTS:** Local Sources - 402,373.48 Custodial - 84,254.05; County Sources – 3,799.32; State Sources – 21,175.00; Federal Sources – 30,207.84. Total Receipts – 541,809.69

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

Moved by Weismantel, second by Flihs to adopt the recommended policy changes JFB Education of Homeless Children (amendment), JFB-R(1) Education of Homeless Children – Dispute Resolution Process (new), JFB-E(1) Education of Homeless Children – Dispute Resolution Appeal to the Superintendent (new), JFB-E(2) Education of Homeless Children – Dispute Resolution Appeal to the School Board (new) took place. Motion carried.

The board continued discussion regarding football field complex, and has decided for the facilities and grounds committee to continue this discussion and other facility issues that will need

to be addressed in the future.

The following items were discussed in administrative reports: J. Schwan discussed participating in a free virtual training about Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines. Mr. Schwan is also working through a book study sponsored by the Department of Education with the book Cultivate: Every Student. Every Day. Whatever It Takes, and is working with the administrative team on the book Switch: How to Change Things When Change is Hard. Mr. Schwan thanked 3M for the supplies they donated to the district. All of the supplies will be utilized and the staff was very excited to receive the items. The Department of Education and Department of Health had a joint webinar on the proper protocol for Whooping Cough; and Schwan provided the board with an election recap on who the new legislators were who will represent the district, and informed the board that the Initiated Measure 28 did fail (sales tax on items sold for human consumption). Schwan will participate in the Superintendent's Association Legislative meeting on December 4, gearing up for the upcoming legislative session.

Principal B. Schwan reported on elementary classroom numbers and provided additional dates that OST will be in operation. Schwan will also attend the Title I workshop on November 18th and 19th and has finished the first semester informal observations for the elementary staff. Schwan has also started using social media to share great things taking place in the elementary and reminded that the OST fundraiser is finishing

up. Principal Edwards reported that she has been busy with coaching interviews and teacher evaluations and is just returning from the SHAPE conference. The Veteran's Day program was a success, and 6-12 students took part in an assembly held at the school the week prior. Business manager Hubsch reviewed the final 2024 fiscal audit report with the board and answered previous questions about federal funding, specifically in the Food Service Department.

The board review and acknowledged the FY2024 District Audit Report.

First readings took place of recommended policy changes BB School Board Legal Status (Amendment), BBB School Board Elections (Amendment), GCDB/GDDB Background Checks (Amendment), GCDB-E(2) Privacy Act Statement (Amendment), AFF Complaint Policy for Federal Programs (Delete), AC Nondiscrimination in Federal Programs (Amendment), GBEC Use of Alcohol, Drugs, and Controlled Substances, IGCD Advanced Placement and Dual Credit Courses, DK Payment Procedures, DN School Properties Disposal Procedure, IIA Instructional Material; and job descriptions: Elementary Principal, Food Service Director, and Transportation Director.

President Rix declared the board into a recess at 7:57am. The board reconvened at 8:01am.

Moved by Weismantel and second by Harder to go into executive Session pursuant to SDCL1-25-2(1) at 8:02pm. Motion carried.

President Rix declared the board out of executive session

at 9:12 am.

Moved by Gengerke, second by Lerseth-Flihs in hiring Stacey Wellnitz, Special Education Paraprofessional, at \$17/hour. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, second by Harder, to approve hiring Troy Zoellner as Assistant Wrestling Coach for the 2024-2025 season with a stipend of \$3,744.00. Motion carried.

Moved by Flihs, second by Harder, to approve hiring Chris Ehresmann as JH Wrestling Coach for the 2024-2025 season with a stipend of \$2,340.00. Motion carried.

Moved by Gengerke, second by Weismantel, to approve Teagan Block and Jeremy Krueger as volunteer coaches for wrestling. Motion carried.

Moved by Flihs, second by Strom, to approve Ryan Tracy as a volunteer coach for boys basketball. Six yea, Weismantel nae. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, second by Strom, to approve Justin Hanson as a volunteer coach for girls' basketball. Six yea, Harder nae. Motion carried.

Moved by Gengerke, second by Weismantel, to approve Quintin Biermann as a volunteer weight room coach. Motion carried.

Moved by Gengerke, second Weismantel to adjourn at 9:15 am. Motion carried.

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

Published November 20, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$168.92 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23949



NOVEMBER 14, 2024 – POST-ELECTION AUDIT OF NOVEMBER 5, 2024 GENERAL ELECTION

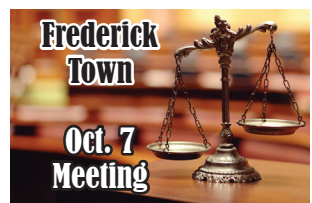
On November 14, 2024 a Post-Election Audit was conducted on the following Vote Centers in Brown County from the General Election that was held on November 5, 2024.

The results of the Post Election Audit are as follows:

Vote Center Columbia:  
The following races were audited:  
Statewide Race: Presidential Candidate  
**Official Canvass Totals:**  
Harris & Walz Electors (DEM) .....55  
Oliver & ter Maat Electors (LIB) ..... 0  
Trump & Vance Electors (REP) .....179  
Kennedy, Jr. & Shanahan (IND)..... 3  
**Post-Election Audit Totals:**  
Harris & Walz Electors (DEM) ..... 55  
Oliver & ter Maat Electors (LIB) ..... 0  
Trump & Vance Electors (REP) .....179  
Kennedy, Jr. & Shanahan (IND)..... 3  
**2nd Race: United States Representative**  
**Official Canvass Totals:**  
Sheryl Johnson (DEM).....43  
Dusty Johnson (REP) .....183  
**Post-Election Audit Totals:**  
Sheryl Johnson (DEM).....43  
Dusty Johnson (REP) .....183  
Lynn Heupel  
Brown County Auditor  
Published November 20, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$23.77 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23950

**Three named to All-Conference Volleyball Team**  
Chesney Weber, Jerica Locke and Rylee Dunker were all named to the Northeast Conference All-Conference Volleyball Team.

Others on the team are Addie Neuendorf, Addie Steffensen and Issie Steffensen from Hamlin, Ava Hanson and Maddie Huber from Aberdeen Roncalli, Heather Storbakken and Abby Lee from Britton-Hecla, Addison Krause and Claire Snaza from Milbank, Shay Michalski from Clark/Willow Lake, Hayden Gall from Redfield, Krista Langager from Sisseton and Mallory Steiner from Webster Area. Tiospa Zina and Deuel did not have anyone on the team.



City of Frederick  
October 7, 2024 Minutes  
Frederick's town board meeting was held Wednesday, October 7, 2024 in the Frederick Community Center beginning at 8:00 PM. Attending the meeting were Chairman Scott Campbell, Board members Jeff Kusters and Troy Millard, and Finance Officer Jennifer Morlock and Assistant Finance Officer Mariah Heine.

Chairman Campbell opened the meeting and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the September meetings were read and approved with a motion by Millard/Kusters; motion carried. The financial statements were reviewed and accepted with a motion by Millard/Campbell; motion carried. The October accounts payable were approved with a motion by Millard/Kusters; motion carried.

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**  
MDU electric BP/Wtr/Mun Bldg/SP/Sts/Swr/EBL \$1,064.71; Badger Meter fees Swr \$134.92; Brown County Sheriff's Office deputy svcs Gen'l \$1,041.67; Brown County Weed & Pest Gen'l \$450; Century Bus Products printer Gen'l \$25; Dickey Co Leader personnel ad Gen'l \$64; Dependable Sanitation Grbg \$1,723; DRN Readitech service FO \$21.04; EFPTS taxes Gen'l/

FO/CC/EBL/Sts/Wtr/Swr/Cmty \$883.53; Farmer's Union gas Gen'l \$365; FDC Gen'l \$1,200; USDA-RD loan Swr \$3,763; J. Morlock wage FO \$1,443.04; JVT Gen'l/Wtr/EBL/FO \$292.84; M. Cox wage EBL \$679.35; M. Heine wage FO \$1,195.64; M. Morlock wage Gen'l \$33.25; O. Morlock wage CC \$21.24; R. Bakeberg supervisor wage Wtr \$230.87; S. Campbell wage Gen'l \$138.52; SD Dept of Rev sales tax Gen'l \$65.78; SD Dept of Health test Wtr \$181; T. Millard wage Gen'l \$92.34; USDA-RD loan Wtr \$475; WEB Water Wtr \$7,398.49; VISA supplies Gen'l \$314.32

**OLD BUSINESS**  
Campbell provided a utility report. The board reviewed the Brown County Sheriff's report. The board discussed repairs needed for the picnic shelter at Simmons Park.

**NEW BUSINESS**  
Motion to accept the third quarter library report made by Kusters/Millard; motion carried. Motion to approve liquor license for the Community Store made by Campbell/Millard; motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be Wednesday, November 6th at 7PM.  
Motion to adjourn made by Kusters/Millard 8:25PM; motion carried.

M. Heine  
Assistant Finance Officer  
Published November 20, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$23.73 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23951



The Board of trustees for the town of Claremont met on 11-12-2024 at 8p.m. in city hall.

President Spencer called the meeting to order with Trustees Rasmussen and Thompson present. On a motion by Thompson and seconded by Thompson the minutes of the October meeting were approved. On a motion by Thompson and seconded by Rasmussen the following warrants were approved: General: JVT, phone and internet, 103.32; Northwestern, street lights, 515.56; Northwestern, city hall, 85.78; Newman Signs, street signs, 204.12; GDI, publishing, 16.00; SDML, work Comp renewal 2025, 467.00; John Deer Financial, payment on tractor, 14712.33; WSSW: Corporate Trust, US Bank, sewer loan payment, 6003.56; BDM, water purchased, 966.95; Northwestern pump power, 63.44; Northwestern New sewer lift, 42.14; Northwestern, storm sewer, 22.94; USDA, Rural Development, water loan, 576.00; Discussion of having the dump burned by the fire department in the future. The hauling of white goods, cement, etc will be tabled till next spring. With no further business before the board a motion was made by Rasmussen to adjourn and

seconded by Thompson. Motion carried.

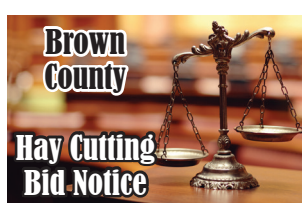
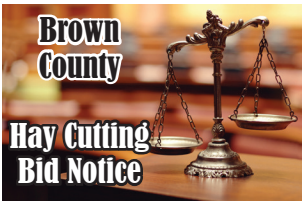
C.Rye Finance Officer  
Published November 20, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$12.42 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23952



**NOTICE OF APPEAL HEARING**  
The Groton City Council will be holding a public hearing on December 3, 2024, at 7:00pm CDT at City Hall, 120 N Main Street, Groton, SD for the appeal of the Groton Planning and Zoning Commission's decision on November 14, 2024, to deny Larry and Kathy Harry a special exception of Part 16, Section 16.0103 of the Groton Zoning Ordinance. The denied application was to allow a secondary structure to be on a separate lot in a Residential (R1) District at 906 N 2nd Street, legally described as Lots 1-2, Block 23, Randalls Addition, City of Groton, Brown County, South Dakota.

Any person wishing to present testimony for or against this appeal may appear in person or by representative at the above time and place.

Douglas Heinrich  
Zoning Administrator  
Published November 20, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$9.81 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23953



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR BROWN COUNTY FAIR CLUBHOUSE (BEER GARDENS) CONCESSIONS DURING THE FAIR**

Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be opened for consideration at 8:45am on Tuesday, December 3, 2024 in the Brown County Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD for the operation of the Brown County Fair Clubhouse, aka Beer Gardens during the week of the Brown County Fair for years 2025, 2026 and 2027.

Contact either the Brown County Auditor's Office, 25 Market Street, Suite 1, Aberdeen, SD 57401; 605-626-7110 or the Brown County Fair Office, 400 24th Ave. NW, Aberdeen, SD 57401; 605-626-7110 for copy of the details to include in the proposal.

Envelopes containing proposals shall be addressed to the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Suite 1, Aberdeen, SD 57401 and are to be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope "Proposal for the Operation of the Brown County Fair Clubhouse, aka Beer Gardens" and received by 8:45am on Tuesday, December 3, 2024.

Brown County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals and to waive any irregularities therein.

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published November 6 and 20, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$26.49 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23922

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS HAY CUTTING ON COUNTY LAND – RICHMOND YOUTH CAMP**

Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be opened for consideration at 8:45am on Tuesday, December 3, 2024 in the Brown County Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD for hay cutting on County Land – approximately 21 acres at Richmond Youth Camp, Sec 24-T124N-R65W; with the minimum bid of \$30.00 per acre. Two additional one-year (1-year) options (2026 & 2027) may be exercised at the discretion of the Brown County Commission, provided written notification is received in the Brown County Auditor's Office by November 1st of the year preceding the option.

Envelopes containing proposals shall be addressed to the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Suite 1, Aberdeen, SD 57401 and are to be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope "Proposal for Hay Cutting at Richmond Youth Camp" and received by 8:45am on Tuesday, December 3, 2024.

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published November 6 and 20, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$22.63 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23921

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS HAY CUTTING ON COUNTY LAND – EAST OF BROWN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**

Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be opened for consideration at 8:45am on Tuesday, December 3, 2024 in the Brown County Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD for hay cutting on County Land – approximately 22 acres at East of Brown County Fairgrounds, Lot 1 1st Replat of Dahme Northview Addn – SE ¼ Sec 1-T123N-R64W; approximately 16 acres at SW ¼ Sec 1-T123-R64W with the minimum bid of \$60.00 per acre. Two additional one-year (1-year) options (2026 & 2027) may be exercised at the discretion of the Brown County Commission, provided written notification is received in the Brown County Auditor's Office by November 1st of the year preceding the option.

All hay bales are to be removed no later than the two weeks preceding the Brown County Fair, which start date changes yearly.

Envelopes containing proposals shall be addressed to the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Suite 1, Aberdeen, SD 57401 and are to be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope "Proposal for Hay Cutting at East of Brown County Fairgrounds" and received by 8:45am on Tuesday, December 3, 2024.

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published November 6 and 20, 2024, at the total approximate cost of \$28.15 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 23920

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**by Jerica Locke**

Gary Sombke enlisted into the United States Air Force in August of 1971 with a group of high school friends because of the ongoing Vietnam Conflict at the time. He received his basic training at Lackland AFB in

Texas and thought it was tough, but he was able to get through it due to being raised a tough farm kid. Joining the Air Force was the first time he had ever been away from home, so it was a little overwhelming at first.

Gary was first stationed in Denver, Colorado for training and education. Eventually, he was deployed near the Mekong River in Nakhon Phanom, Thailand and in Vietnam for a temporary duty. When he returned to the U.S., he was stationed at Pease AFB in New Hampshire. His training focused on electronics and weapons, and he worked on A1 Fighter jets that were used to rescue downed pilots and on military missions as a weapons mechanic.

Some of Gary's most memorable experiences during his service were learning about the cultures and people where he was stationed, having to adjust to the vastly different living conditions of the jungle, using the outdoor toilets and showers, and flying in the refueling jets as they completed midair fueling. He also remembers how at night he could hear bombings in other places and see rockets in the distance. During his service there wasn't much for entertainment, but he does remember seeing a Bob Hope USO show in Udom Thailand.

While serving, Gary would send letters, cassette tapes, and calls to his family and friends in order to stay in touch. He also made many friends and comrades while serving in the Air Force. After his service ended, he reunited with his family and the community. Many things changed in the four years he was gone. Eventually, Gary would go on to get married and have two children, Daughter, Tanea Clocksene husband Josh, and Son, Andrew Sombke, wife Dawn. as well as five amazing grandchildren(Cowan, Dresden, Emma, Harrison, and Hadleigh). Now, in his free time, Gary likes to fish, travel, and spend time with his family.

Gary is a current member of the Veterans of Foreign War and the American Legion. While he served in the military, he learned many values such as loyalty, patriotism, confidence, and cooperation. Gary says the military has had a lifelong positive affect on his life and his family.

Serving in the military, he was able to take advantage of the benefits of the GI bill and attend school for electronics. He was then able to create a forty-year long career working as an electrical lineman, where his military experience served as a solid reference on his resume. Gary says the military is an amazing opportunity to learn a career, receive an education, and to travel the world. He would encourage any young person to enlist.



**Gary Sombke (center) pictured with Jerica Locke (right) and Legion Auxiliary member Tami Zimney.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)

**King Crossword**

- ACROSS**  
1 Clutch  
6 Modern messages  
11 "Queen of Soul" Franklin  
12 Used a modern car service  
14 Irish singer O'Connor  
15 More promising  
16 " – Mine" (Beatles song)  
17 "Zorba the Greek" star  
19 Hit CBS series  
20 Morning droplets  
22 Pump up the volume

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	
11								12				13
14								15				
16				17		18				19		
20			21		22				23			
24				25	26		27					
			28		29		30					
31	32	33				34		35		36	37	38
39				40		41		42				
43				44			45		46			
47			48				49		50			
51							52					
	53						54					

- 23 Bit of dust  
24 Road curves  
26 Test monitor  
28 Wardrobe malfunction  
30 Sharing word  
31 Driving instructor?  
35 Flavor  
39 "Les Etats-"  
40 Hosp. areas  
42 Earth sci.  
43 Astern  
44 "Star Trek" doctor  
46 Computer acronym  
47 Band aide  
49 Fly  
51 Blood givers  
52 Evening prayer  
53 Newbies  
54 Perfume compound  
6 Start playing for pay  
7 Black, in verse  
8 Ballot marks  
9 Lingerie fabric  
10 Handles  
11 Stage comment  
13 Less damp  
18 Little rascal  
21 Feudal farmers  
23 Jazz singer  
Carmen  
25 Use a straw  
27 Ump's call  
29 Method  
31 Sentry  
32 Walking  
33 Lengthy list  
34 Tolkien creature  
36 Abrasion  
37 Horn blower  
38 Gantry of fiction  
41 Italian wine  
44 Surrealist  
Joan  
45 Saint Laurent of fashion  
48 "Le Coq –"  
50 Follower (Suff.)
- DOWN**  
1 Tony winner  
Tammy  
2 Extends, as a  
lease  
3 Devoured  
4 Cager O'Neal,  
for short  
5 City near  
Venice

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# City Council

Continued from front

Heinrich replied that he hadn't signed off on the one presented to the commission. He strictly goes off of existing city ordinance.

"You have to abide by the rules," he said.

The permit to build a secondary building, in this case a garage, before the primary residence, was brought before the planning and zoning commission because the builder wanted a special exemption to build the garage before any other structures on the property, Heinrich said. The planning commission denied the special exemption, and the builder has appealed that decision. The City Council will review the appeal at its December 3 meeting.

## 2025 staff salaries set

The council approved city employee salaries for 2025.

The full-time, non-seasonal employee salaries are set to rise 2.5 percent for a cost-of-living increase, as well as a 2 percent salary increase.

Salaries for elected and appointed positions, like council members, board of equalization members, and planning and zoning commissioners, will stay the same as the 2024 rate.

Salaries that increased include:

- Finance officer salary rising from \$27.79 hourly to \$32 hourly
- Deputy finance officer salary rising from \$28.98 hourly to \$30.28 hourly
- Assistant finance officer salary rising from \$23.97 hourly to \$25.05 hourly
- Public works coordinator/street and water superintendent salary from \$37.02 hourly to \$38.69 hourly
- Wastewater superintendent salary from \$33.09 hourly to \$34.58 hourly
- Assistant street superintendent salary from \$30.75 hourly to \$32.13 hourly
- Technology specialist salary from \$32.38 hourly to \$33.84 hourly
- Electric superintendent salary from \$57.09 hourly to \$59.66 hourly
- Electric lineman salary from \$42.03 hourly to \$43.92 hourly
- Police chief salary from \$36.30 hourly to \$37.93 hourly
- Police officer/assistant chief salary from \$33.05 hourly to \$34.54 hourly
- Level one police officer salary from \$30.89 hourly to \$32.28 hourly
- Level two police officer salary from \$30.16 hourly to \$31.52 hourly

A public works laborer position was added to the 2025 ordinance. That position earns

\$31.35 hourly.

## More funds budgeted for electric meter system replacement

Budget numbers continued to shift as the City Council approved the second and final reading of its 2025 appropriations ordinance.

The City Council asked for a larger amount to be allocated for an electric system upgrade. The total budgeted rose from \$200,000 to \$350,000.

The council also added a \$10,000 line item for the Groton Development Corporation.

"We've got to support them," said Mayor Scott Hanlon. "This committee is working hard to get something going. It's good for the community."

### In other action:

• City electric workers plan to help out a neighboring community. Electric Superintendent Todd Gay asked the council for permission to assist the city of Hecla, who had requested help to move a transformer. The city of Hecla will pay for the Groton utility employees time and expenses. The project is a "piece of cake. It's not hard. It'd be half to three-quarters of a day," Gay said.

• The council put a hold on adding swinging gates next to the soccer field. The proposed gates would swing closed during soccer games and possibly practices to block off West Third Avenue between Garfield Street and North Lincoln Street. Councilman Kevin Nehls said that while he thinks a gate would be "100 percent" safer than using cones to block off the roadway, Groton soccer leaders said they wanted to keep using traffic cones. "I think it's going to be a waste if they don't want it," he said of the cost of the gate. Mayor Scott Hanlon added if they want something later on, city staff can make the fence themselves.

• The council approved the second reading of an ordinance that would allow residents to apply for a "Budget Billing Program." City staff would calculate the monthly average utility cost for that residential household and charge that amount each month to equalize the resident's bill.

• City offices will be closed on November 28 and 29 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

• Mayor Scott Hanlon reminded residents with dogs to get their 2025 dog licenses by Dec. 31, 2024 or they will face a fine.

• The annual holiday lighting contest judging will take place Dec. 19. The top three household light displays will receive either a \$100, \$75 or \$50 utility bill credit.

# Classifieds

## and Card of Thanks

The following rates are for Classifieds published in both the Groton Daily Independent and the Groton Independent. Cut rate in half if you just want it in the GDI or just the weekly.

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**605/397-NEWS (6397)**

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## EMPLOYMENT

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 or call Sara Bauder, (605) 995-7378

Dear EarthTalk: I often find old tennis balls in a nearby park, likely lost by dog owners. What is the collective effect on ecosystems of all these tennis balls?

-- June Jackson, via email

Tennis balls, primarily made from rubber and synthetic materials, do not biodegrade and can persist in the environment for years. Made with a combination of rubber and felt, they contribute both litter and microplastics to our ecosystems.

Natural and synthetic rubber production is resource-intensive, often leading to deforestation and pollution in areas where rubber plantations are cultivated. The manufacturing process also consumes significant energy, and once discarded, tennis balls contribute to growing plastic waste in ecosystems. While some tennis ball recycling initiatives exist, such as efforts to repurpose used balls into playground surfaces or dog toys, the majority still end up in landfills or scattered in natural spaces.

Also, when left in nature, tennis balls can present hazards to wildlife. Animals may ingest pieces of these balls, mistaking them for food. The felt cover on tennis balls can shed fibers over time, especially in wet or harsh conditions, potentially releasing microplastics and other synthetic particles into the soil and waterways. Studies on synthetic materials in the environment have shown that these particles can disrupt soil health and are increasingly found in water systems, where they accumulate and impact marine life.

Fortunately, some manufacturers are developing more eco-friendly alternatives. Wilson Sporting Goods, for example, introduced the Trinit Ball, which is designed to last longer and comes in a recyclable, unpressurized paper container, a step toward reducing both waste and production impacts. However, these sustainable options are not yet widespread in dog toy collections, so responsible disposal and use are still crucial for pet owners who want to minimize their environmental footprint.

If you want to discard your dog's old tennis balls responsibly—or you pick up others' long forgotten ones left behind on walks—take them to a nearby tennis center that hosts a collection bin from RecycleBalls. This innovative company takes apart old tennis balls and repurposes their constituent parts into a wide variety of other applications.

While one or two tennis balls left behind might seem inconsequential, the cumulative impact is not. Retrieving and disposing of used tennis balls properly—or opting for eco-friendlier toys—can help reduce this environmental impact and keep natural spaces cleaner for everyone.



**When your dog's tennis ball gets left behind in the bushes or woods, it can wreak havoc on the surrounding ecosystem.** Credit: Roddy Scheer.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: [question@earthtalk.org](mailto:question@earthtalk.org).

## Caring for Expectant Moms

Lately my teenager has been fascinated by medical dramas. Although my "doctor self" is usually rolling my eyes throughout the program, it's often a good conversation starter.



**Debra Johnston, MD**

One recent show featured a pregnant woman who experienced one medical crisis after another. Her kidneys, liver, and lungs failed in succession as the team raced to identify the underlying obstetrical problem and find a treatment. At the climax of the episode, her heart stopped. Of course, being television, the correct diagnosis was made, the experimental treatment worked, and the episode ended with a perfectly healthy mother at home, holding her perfectly healthy baby.

For all the erroneous and outrageous details that transform bad fictional medicine into good TV, they did get something right. Pregnancy is a dangerous condition. In fact, in America, pregnancy complications account for approximately two percent of all deaths among women between the ages of 20 and 44.

To put the two percent into perspective, consider that pregnancy complications can only happen in the months during and immediately following pregnancy. On average a woman in the United States will birth between one and two children. This means that between the ages of 20 and 44, the risk of pregnancy-related death isn't spread across those 25 years as are the risks of cancer or car accidents. It is concentrated into the relatively few months during which she is pregnant. And for women younger than 20 and older than 44 the risk of pregnancy complications is even greater but, statistically speaking, women in those age groups simply don't have enough babies to categorize pregnancy complications as a major cause of death.

Consider also that death by violence is not counted as a pregnancy complication, even though pregnancy is a significant trigger for violence.

What's more, consider that these risks are not distributed equally between women. Socioeconomic status, education, physical location, and race all impact the likelihood of pregnancy complications, and death from those complications.

Issues that affect pregnant people affect their whole family. In medical school, I was taught "nothing is worse for a fetus than a dead mother." It's hard to disagree.

So, what can we do to make pregnancy safer? The answer to that question is multi-faceted. Access to quality obstetric care is one factor. However, we must also ensure women are as healthy as possible before they conceive. They need good nutrition and safe places to live and work. They need education to know what is normal, and what is not. They and their families need access to psychiatric care to address mental illness and addiction.

It may not make for good TV, but in the real world, the starting place is as basic, and as difficult, as that.

Debra Johnston, MD, is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices as a Family Medicine Doctor at Avera Medical Group in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at [www.prairedoc.org](http://www.prairedoc.org), Facebook, Instagram, Youtube and Threads. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on SDPB or streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB), providing health information based on science, built on trust.



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