

# The Groton Independent

Vol. 142 No. 21 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2025 ♦ Established in 1889

## Brock Abeln completes book inspired by God

by Dorene Nelson

Brock Abeln worked for the City of Groton during the summer when he was in high school. Life changed for him when an accident while cutting down a tree fractured and distorted his spinal cord, causing permanent paralysis from his shoulders down. At that time he was seventeen years old and would be a senior in high school in the fall.

For the past 22 years, Brock has faced more extreme physical issues and crises than most people will in their entire life. Looking back on his past, Abeln decided to share these experiences by writing a book about his life.

"I wrote this book because God told me to!" Abeln explained. "One day while I was on my computer, I heard God's voice say, 'Brock, you need to write a book about your life because it will help other people.'"

"I was very moved by this experience and broke down in tears," he admitted. "I'd never experienced anything like that before. God's voice was so clear it was as if He were in the room with me!"

"I hope my book teaches people that no matter how bad things get, they have to stay positive," Abeln explained. "Unfortunately, they can always get worse!"

"My advice is to stay determined and find ways to persevere! When you do fail, accept the challenge and figure out another way to succeed. Above all, trust in God. Let Him guide you. Dreams do come true," he stated. "I hope that my book inspires people to seize the day and live their lives to the fullest!"

"The human spirit has no limits," Abeln explained. "Sometimes the only thing stopping us from being successful is us, letting our attitude defeat us before we even start."

"I also decided to tackle this task as a way of giving back to the community with the hope of helping people get through any hardship they may face in their own lives," he added. "The community and surrounding areas have given my family and me so much over the years and helped us through some of the toughest times in our lives. We thank them greatly!"

Brock uses his computer with the use of a voice-activated software program and controls his power wheelchair through "sips and puffs" on a straw. With modifications made to his hunting rifle, Brock continues to hunt, ride in his side-by-side/UTV, and live his life as normally as possible!

"I faced many challenges while working on my book, My Journey : Learning to Triumph," Abeln admitted. "Obviously there are always medical issues, but putting this experience down on paper triggered memories that I'd subsequently re-live!"



**Brock Abeln is pictured with the book he wrote.** (Photo by Dorene Nelson)

"I decided to self-publish my book for a few main reasons," Abeln explained. "Using a regular publisher takes longer and is more of a hassle than self-publishing."

"When I first decided to go the self-publishing route, I received some help from a lady in Aberdeen," he said. "She did editing for me and had great advice which encouraged me to continue with this project."

"Most published books have very few photos due to the extra expense involved," Abeln added. "But I wanted lots of photos because I believe they provide the needed evidence and proof that I've actually done what my book says I have!"

"My mom Wynella Abeln did a lot of proofreading for me," he smiled. "She also helped me with word choice and even convinced my high school English teachers to read my 'finished' product before sending it to be printed!"

The books are available at Lori's Pharmacy, Groton; Novel Ideas, South Main Street Aberdeen, across from the Capital Theatre; and on Amazon. There will be a "Meet the Author" on Monday, February 17, at Lori's Pharmacy from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Snacks and coffee will be available.

**MY JOURNEY:  
LEARNING TO TRIUMPH**

How Living with a Spinal Cord Injury Taught Me That  
Nothing is Impossible

**Brock Abeln**



**Aspen Beto played the National Anthem Tuesday night at the boys basketball game.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

## Proposed state legislation a concern for Groton Area School District officials

by Elizabeth Varin

A dense list of 50 bills dealing with everything from property tax changes and school voucher programs to curriculum requirements and displaying the Ten Commandments greeted the Groton Area School District board during Monday's meeting.

Superintendent Joe Schwan provided an update on the numerous education-related bills moving through the South Dakota Legislature. The list only included legislation that would impact the district and that had not already been defeated.

Bills discussed Monday include HB 1138, which would reduce the maximum property tax levy for owner-occupied single-family dwellings. Another pair of bills briefly discussed include House Bills 1171 and 1172, which mandate health curriculum changes that include showing videos of human growth and development in the womb starting as early as third grade, as well as showing videos of chemical and surgical abortions to students in grades nine through 12.

Senate Bill 51, which would have required the display and curriculum inclusion of the Ten Commandments and other documents, was defeated in the House on Monday.

Another bill that would impact the district is Senate Bill 74, which is currently awaiting the Governor's signature. That bill requires the publication and review of open meeting laws in the state.

Senate Bill 55, which revises property tax levies for school districts, is one to keep an eye on, though it won't be discussed until the final week of the legislative session.

# Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

The Kansas City Chiefs entered Sunday's matchup seeking to become the first team in NFL history to win three straight Super Bowls. The Chiefs' streak began with their win over the Philadelphia Eagles in Super Bowl LVII, and it ended Sunday with a 40-22 beatdown by those same Eagles.

The first half was a complete domination by the Eagles. The Eagles got the ball to begin the game and both teams traded punts. On the Eagles' second drive, they responded with a 7-play, 69-yard touchdown drive to go up 7-0. The Chiefs had a three-and-out on their next possession, then the Eagles took the ball and were moving down the field until a Jalen Hurts interception gave the Chiefs some momentum heading into the second quarter.

Instead of continuing the momentum, the Chiefs had another three-and-out to give the ball right back to Philadelphia, who tacked on another three points. Down by 10 points, Patrick Mahomes was sacked twice then threw a pick-six to rookie cornerback Cooper DeJean.

The next three KC drives were a three-and-out, another interception, and a three-and-out to end the half. The Eagles added another TD in the second quarter, making the score 24-0 heading into halftime. The Chiefs had seven drives in the first half, but only had 13 total yards to show for it. It was not going well for the defending champs.

The Chiefs received the second-half kickoff, hoping to get things going. Five plays and 15 yards later they were punting the ball back to the Eagles, who turned it into three points. The Chiefs, feeling like the game was slipping away, went for it on fourth down near midfield but the pass fell incomplete. One play later, Hurts hit Devonte Smith for a 46-yard touchdown, making the score 34-0. With 34 seconds left in the third quarter, the Chiefs finally got some points on the board thanks to a Mahomes 24-yard TD pass to Xavier Worthy, but they failed the two-point conversion, making the score 34-6 going into the fourth quarter.

The Eagles' first drive in the fourth took nearly six minutes off the clock and ended with another field goal. The Chiefs fumbled on the first play of their next drive, giving the Eagles an easy field goal attempt to make the score 40-6. At this point, halfway through the final quarter, the game was decided. The Chiefs found the endzone two more times, but the Eagles had already started getting some backups into the game. The final score?

Philadelphia 40, Kansas City 22.

In this spot I usually talk about the Super Bowl commercials, but to be honest, no commercials really made an impression. It was a down year for commercials, and it seems to be a trend these last few years. This year, a 30-second ad cost \$8 million, so I'm not surprised that bubble seems to have burst.

Looking ahead, we'll start getting into off-season breakdowns next week, taking a look at the Vikings' roster as we head into free agency and the draft. The Vikings have a lot of pending free agents, but they also have a ton of cap space thanks to finally getting Kirk Cousins off the books. It's going to be an interesting offseason for the purple and gold,

so make sure to check back every week for the latest news and notes coming from the land of 10,000 lakes. Skol!

## Conde National League

**Feb. 10 Team Standings:** Braves 31, Giants 24, Cubs 21, Mets 16, Pirates 15 Stoooges 9

**Men's High Games:** Butch Farmen 213, Dalton Locke 191, Dion Bahr 191, Aaron Severson 190

**Men's High Series:** Austin Schuelke 498, Aaron Severson 496, Dion Bahr 476.

**Women's High Games:** Suzi Easthouse 192, Alice Severson 188, Nancy Radke 173.

**Women's High Series:** Suzi Easthouse 495 Alice Severson 492, Sam Bahr 473.

## Groton Prairie Mixed Bowling League

**Week #12 Team Standings:** Chipmunks 14, Shihtzus 13, Cheetahs 11, Coyotes 9, Jackelopes 8, Foxes 5

**Men's High Games:** Tony Waage 219, John Sippel 202, Brad Larson 200

**Women's High Games:** Brenda Waage 166, Vicki Walter 164, Nancy Radke 161

**Men's High Series:** Brad Larson 543, Tony Waage 543, Brad Waage 537, John Sippel 512

**Women's High Series:** Nancy Radke 467, Sue Stanley 425, Alexa Schuring 418

**Week 12 Fun Game - Highest Scratch Series - Jackelopes with 1876!**

## Redfield is the lone winner at the NEC-DAK XII Clash

Redfield, who has yet to win a Northeast Conference game, had a 12-point win over Madison at the NEC-DAK XII Clash. The NEC dropped the other eight games. Those close were Vermillion with a one-point over Sisseton. Sisseton tied the game with 10 seconds left in the game, but committed a foul with 3 seconds left. One of two free throws were made and Vermillion pulled out the one-point win. Groton Area dug a first half hole and was able to get a one-point lead early in the fourth quarter, but was unable to hang on as the Huskies won, 43-37. Canton edged Milbank by five, 52-47, and Dakota Valley beat Hamlin by eight, 63-55.

Game 1 - Redfield 38 Madison 26 - Player of the Game - Charli Jungwirth - Redfield

Game 2 - Lennox 60 Clark/Willow Lake 26 - Player of the Game - Gavyn Herlyn - Lennox

Game 3 - Dell Rapids 60 Deuel 45 - Player of the Game - Rorie Thoreson - Dell Rapids

Game 4 - Vermillion 47 Sisseton 46 - Player of the Game - Kasey Hanson - Vermillion

Game 5 - West Central 67 Webster Area 29 - Player of the Game - Ellie Knight - West Central

Game 6 - Elk Point/Jefferson 43 Groton Area 37 - Player of the game - Bentlee Kollbaum - EPJ

Game 7 - Tri-Valley 66 Rapid City Christian 62 OT - Player of the game - Izzy Davie - TV

Game 8 - Sioux Falls Christian 64 Aberdeen Roncalli 42 - Player of the Game - Ruth Dvoracek - SFC

Game 9 - Canton 52 Milbank 47 - Player of the Game - Jenna VanderWeerd - Canton

Game 10 - Dakota Valley 63 Hamlin 55 - Player of the Game - Ella Otten Dakota Valley

**90th Birthday Celebration**

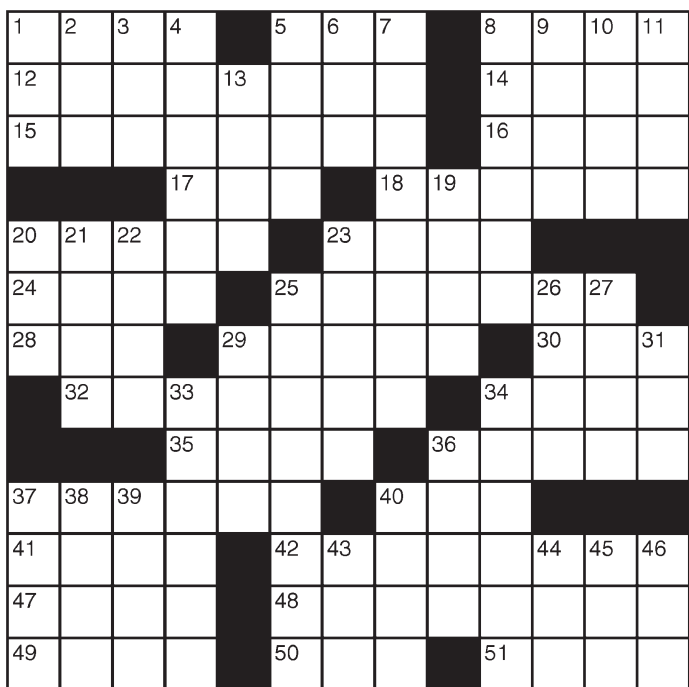


There will be an Open House 90th Birthday Celebration for MaryAnn Wehde on Sat., February 22nd from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. The celebration will be held in the AmericInn Cavalier Room, 301 Centennial St. S., Aberdeen, SD. The family requests in place of gifts that you write down a memory to share. Cards may be sent to 2211 10th Ave. SE, Aberdeen, SD.

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Water, in Mexico
- 5 Sprite
- 8 Pedestal
- 12 Like holiday decorations
- 14 Ogled
- 15 D.C. veteran
- 16 Ms. Moore
- 17 Pentagon gp.
- 18 Mild cheese
- 20 Singer Mann
- 23 " - Las Vegas"
- 24 Not that
- 25 Verbal attack
- 28 Yr. parts
- 29 Some latte sizes
- 30 Cut the lawn
- 32 Italian corn-meal recipe
- 34 Race finish
- 35 Rapsallions
- 36 Word list, for short
- 37 Goldberg on "The View"
- 40 - Lingus
- 41 Honker
- 42 Refines
- 47 Duel tool
- 48 Investigates
- 49 Holler
- 50 "Mayday!"
- 51 Taxpayer IDs



### DOWN

- 1 Venomous viper
- 2 Earth (Pref.)
- 3 "Friendly skies" co.
- 4 Stage com-ments
- 5 Oklahoma city
- 6 Fond du -
- 7 Fleet of ships
- 8 Pandemon-ium
- 9 Pro votes
- 10 Big rig
- 11 Tend texts
- 13 Oklahoma tribe
- 19 Currier's part-ner
- 20 \$ dispenser
- 21 Denny's rival
- 22 Japanese soup
- 23 Battery mea-sures
- 25 Primitive flutes
- 26 Apple desk-top
- 27 Club in a Manilow song
- 29 Office part-timer
- 31 Charlotte's creation
- 33 Toy train maker
- 34 Sculpted trunks
- 36 Bridal cover
- 37 Curds' part-ner
- 38 Great expect-ation
- 39 Hurler
- 40 Swiss peaks
- 43 Tic-tac-toe loser
- 44 Storefront sign abbr.
- 45 Poetic dusk
- 46 Hot wok sound

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Weekly SUDOKU

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

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!

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

# Groton Area Lady Tigers Fall in Hard-Fought Battle Against Elk Point-Jefferson



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

Madison, SD - In a clash of conference powerhouses, the Groton Area Lady Tigers fought valiantly but ultimately fell short in a 43-37 battle against the Elk Point-Jefferson Huskies on Saturday. The game, filled with momentum swings and dramatic rallies, kept fans on the edge of their seats until the final buzzer.

The opening quarter saw a back-and-forth exchange, with the lead changing hands three times before the Huskies gained control. Elk Point-Jefferson capitalized on a strong run, scoring 10 consecutive points to build an 11-5 lead at the end of the first quarter. Their hot streak continued into the second

quarter, stretching the margin to 16-5. At one point, Groton trailed 22-7, struggling to find an offensive rhythm against the Huskies' tough defense.

However, the Lady Tigers refused to go down without a fight. A late push before halftime trimmed the deficit to 22-9, and coming out of the break, Jerica Locke gave Groton an immediate spark. Her deep three-pointer set the tone for a strong third quarter, where the Tigers clawed their way back into the game with a 13-6 run. Groton was aggressive at the free-throw line, sinking 8 of 10 attempts in the third quarter alone. By the end of the period, they had closed the gap to just five points, trailing 32-27.

With momentum shifting, sophomore Taryn Traphagen ignited the offense in the fourth quarter. She knocked down back-to-back three-pointers, electrifying the Groton bench and giving the Tigers their first lead since the opening minutes at 33-32 with just under five minutes remaining. But the Huskies had an answer. Elk Point-Jefferson countered with three clutch three-pointers from three different players, regaining the lead in the final minutes.

Despite their efforts, Groton was unable to complete the comeback. With the Huskies leading 38-37 and under three minutes to play, Elk Point-Jefferson executed down the stretch, closing the game on a 5-0 run to seal the 43-37 victory.

Traphagen led the Tigers with 11 points, while Jayden Penning controlled the boards with eight rebounds. Locke dished out three assists, and Kennedy Hansen provided a defensive spark with three steals. Shooting woes plagued the Tigers throughout the game, as they converted just 19% of their two-point attempts (5-for-26) and 29% from beyond the arc (5-for-17).

Elk Point-Jefferson's Bentlee Kollbaum proved to be the difference-maker, leading all scorers with 17 points and earning Player of the Game honors. Ashley Brewer added 10 points for the Huskies, who improved to 14-3 on the season.

With the loss, Groton Area drops to 12-5 but will look to bounce back quickly traveling to Great Plains Lutheran in Watertown on Monday. Despite the setback, the Lady Tigers showed resilience and fight, setting the stage for an exciting final stretch of the season.

- Story compiled by ChatGPT

Taryn Traphagen: 11 points, 1 rebound, 1 foul.  
 Jerica Locke: 9 points, 6 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal 4 fouls.  
 Faith Traphagen: 7 points, 5 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal, 3 fouls.  
 Jaedyn Penning: 4 points, 8 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 fouls.  
 Kennedy Hansen: 4 points (4-4 in free throws), 3 rebounds, 3 steals, 3 fouls.  
 Rylee Dunker: 2 points, 1 rebound, 2 steals, 2 fouls.  
 Laila Roberts: 1 foul.  
 Chesney Weber: 1 rebound, 1 foul.  
 2-Pointers: 5-26 19%, 3-Pointers: 5-17 29%, Free Throws: 12-18 67%, 25 rebounds, 15 turnovers, 6 assists, 7 steals, 17 fouls.

Elk Point-Jefferson: Bentlee Kollbaum 17, Ashley Brewer 10, Cera Schmitz 9, Kaitlyn VanRoekel 8.

Field Goals: 14-40 35%, Free Throws: 7-13 54%, 17 fouls and 10 turnovers.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM and simulcast over Madison's Hudl stream, 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, Locke Electric, Krueger Brothers, R&M Farms/Rix Farms, The Meathouse in Andover. Paul Kosel and Jeslyn Kosel were on hand for the action.



**Head Coach Matt Locke talking with his team during the time-out with Trent Traphagen giving suggestions.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

## Groton Area grapplers have clean sweep at Lyman Quadrangular

Groton Area's wrestling squad posted three dual wins at the Lyman Quadrangular, picking up 15 wins on the mat and 16 forfeit wins.

### Groton Area 54, Bennett County 18

Groton Area had seven forfeit wins and two match wins en route to a 54-18 win over Bennett County. Having forfeit wins were Donavon Block, Walker Zoellner, Ben Hoeft, Korbin Kucker, Isiah Scepaniak, Charlie Frost, Gavin Englund and Wyatt Hagen.

Getting the wins on the mat were Ben Hoeft with a pin over Jordan Risse in 2:33 at 165 pounds, and Keegan Kucker at 113 pounds with a pin over Ruger Smokov in 1:50.

Kyson Kucker, 120, lost by a technical fall to Maddux Risse, 18-0, in 2:38.; Lincoln Krause, 126, lost by a decision to Rhyder Harris, 17-12; Chris Schwab, 138, lost by a technical fall to Lyle Noell, 17-2, in 2:24; and Kason Oswald, 144, lost by a technical fall to Gavin Risse, 17-2, in 1:42.

### Groton Area 66, Marion/Freeman 16

Groton Area had six forfeit wins and won five matches on the mat with pins as the grapplers defeated Marion/Freeman, 66-16.

Picking up forfeit wins were Kyson Kucker, Chris Schwab, Ben Hoeft, Korbin Kucker, Isiah Scepaniak and Charlie Frost.

Getting wins were Gavin Englund, 285, with pin over Raymond Arnold, 0:39; Wyatt Hagen, 106, with a pin over Josh Oleson, 1:52; Keegan Kucker, 113, with a pin over David Wollmann, 2:30; Kason Oswald, 150, with a pin over Thomas Ding, 0:22; and Walker Zoellner, 157, with a pin over Hunter Spangler, 1:27.

Lincoln Krause, 126, lost by a technical fall to Logun Pankratz, 15-0, in 2:26; and Donavon Block, 132, lost by technical fall to Keaton Preheim, 15-0, in 2:21.

### Groton Area 68, Lyman 12

Groton Area had three forfeit wins, won six matches via a pin and two more with major decision as the wrestlers defeated Lyman, 68-12.

Winning by forfeits were Donavon Block Chris Schwab and Charlie Frost. Collecting wins with a pin were Keegan Kucker, 113, over Lief Henriksen, 2:32; Kyson Kucker, 120, over Callen Gran, 1:15; Walker Zoellner, 150, over Skyler Langenbau, 3:27; Christian Ehresmann, 157, over Braydon Oldenkamp, 1:46; Ben Hoeft, 165, over Julian Hickey, 0:36; Korbin Kucker, 175, over Bennett Kinsley, 2:15; and Gavin Englund, 285, over Desmerius McGhee, 3:35. Winning with a major decision were Wyatt Hagen, 106, over Ryatt Knippling, 19-6; and Lincoln Krause, 126, over Lane Coleman, 15-3.

Kason Oswald, 144, was pinned by Lane Olivier, 1:40; and Isiah Scepaniak, 190, was pinned by Maverick Johnson, 1:31.

## Krueger takes first at Big Dakota Conference Tournament

Liza Krueger picked up two pins and one decision to take first place at the Big Dakota Conference wrestling tournament. She defeated Marlee Miller, Ellendale/Edgeley/Kulm, 10-3; she pinned Timber Hanson, Stanley County 2:59; and she pinned Hailey Schafer Miller/Highmore-Harold, 3:18.

15 N Main St. - Ste. 101  
Downtown Groton

Call/Text Paul: 605-397-7460  
Call/Text Tina: 605-397-7285

**Living Heart Fitness Center**

When arthritis tries to slow you down,  
exercise can keep you moving. - Mayo Clinic

Answer

Answers

Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9 in a 9x9 format.

Crossword solution grid with letters A-Z in a 15x15 format.

Solution time: 22 mins.



FEBRUARY 4, 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, Dinger, Gage, Sutton and Wiese. Commissioner Dinger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ORDINANCE #286 - SECOND READING/POSSIBLE ADOPTION: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Gage to adopt Ordinance #286. Applicant Lorin & Julie Fliehs to rezone from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring these parcels into compliance for their current use: Description of property: Proposed Lot 1, "Land J Fliehs First Addition" in the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 22-T125N-R60W of the 5th P.M. Brown County, South Dakota (12105 410th Ave, Claremont Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #287 - SECOND READING/POSSIBLE ADOPTION: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to adopt Ordinance #287. Applicant Jarod & Sarah Bierman to rezone from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring these parcels into compliance for their current use: Description of property: Elsing's Outlot 1" in the SW 1/4 of Section 28-T121N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (37640 147th Street, New Hope Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #288 - SECOND READING/POSSIBLE ADOPTION: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to adopt Ordinance #288. Petitioner James Smith/Owner Thomas Johnson to rezone from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring these parcels into compliance for their current use: Description of property: Lots 1, 2 & 3, "North Warner Homestead Addition" in the NW 1/4 of Section 35-T124N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (38615 38623 & 38645 141st Street, Warner Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR MALT BEVERAGE & SD FARM WINE LICENSE TRANSFERS: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve transfer Ownership for Retail (On-Sale) Malt Beverage & SD Farm Wine from James Ernest Duree Boyden, GT Gaming DBA: Dakota Players Club BC to transfer license located at 5759 E Hwy 12 Suite 2., - Lt. 1B Gossman 1st Addition Kessler's Outlot South 1/2 of 15-123-63 of 5th P.M. Brown County, SD to Stacy Gossman, DBA: Head East located at 5759 E Hwy 12 Suite 2- Lt.1B Gossman 1st Addition Kessler's Outlot South 1/2 of 15-123-63 of the 5th P.M., Brown County, SD. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dinger to approve transfer Ownership for Retail (On-Sale) Malt Beverage & SD Farm Wine from James Ernest Duree Boyden, GT Gaming DBA: Dakota Players Club BC to transfer license located at 5759 E Hwy 12 Suite 3., - Lt. 1B Gossman 1st Addition Kessler's Outlot South 1/2 of 15-123-63 of 5th P.M. Brown County, SD to Stacy Gossman, DBA: West Bound located at 5759 E Hwy 12 Suite 3- Lt.1B Gossman 1st Addition Kessler's Outlot South 1/2 of 15-123-63 of the 5th P.M., Brown County, SD. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve transfer Ownership for Retail (On-Sale) Malt Beverage & SD Farm Wine from James Ernest Duree Boyden, GT Gaming DBA: Dakota Players Club BC to transfer license located at 5759 E Hwy 12 Suite 4., - Lt. 1B Gossman 1st Addition Kessler's Outlot South 1/2 of 15-123-63 of 5th P.M. Brown County, SD to Stacy Gossman, DBA: Up North located at 5759 E Hwy 12 Suite 4- Lt.1B Gossman 1st Addition Kessler's Outlot South 1/2 of 15-123-63 of the 5th P.M., Brown County, SD. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION FOR OPPOSITION TO MANDATORY ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION (MEID) LIVESTOCK TAGS

Commissioner Dennert offered the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION #2025-09 A RESOLUTION FOR OPPOSITION TO MANDATORY ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION (MEID) LIVESTOCK TAGS

OPPOSITION TO Mandatory Electronic Identification (MEID) LIVESTOCK TAGS

WHEREAS: The traceability of livestock program is incremental. USDA APHIS stated on its website, updated October 11th, 2024 after approving the new rule, that it "is committed to implementing a modern system that tracks animals from birth to slaughter, and

WHEREAS: The cost of EID tags disproportionately burdens small and medium sized independent farmers and ranchers. The USDA rule allows large, corporate-owned herds to be grouped and tagged as one group, creating a huge loophole that keep costs low for larger companies, and

WHEREAS: The EID mandate would potentially interfere with price discovery found in traditional markets, thereby furthering vertical integration of the US food supply at the expense of the consumer and independent producer, and

WHEREAS: South Dakota Codified Law 40-3-27 provides for identification of animals and premises involved in animal movement. The Animal Industry Board may develop and implement specific programs for the identification of animals and premises involved in animal movements. Any program implemented pursuant to 40-3-27 to 40-3-29, inclusive, must provide for confidentiality of identification records other than those records requested by law enforcement officers of the state and those records used for mandatory disease control or eradication efforts. A Livestock owner may choose to identify animals using any methods set forth in 9 C.F.R. part 86, as adopted on January 9, 2013, as well as any additional methods that are later approved by the South Dakota Animal Industry Board pursuant to this section, and

WHEREAS: The EID mandate

is far overreaching, intrusive and potentially circumvents privacy laws, threatening the livelihood of independent cattle and bison producers, and

WHEREAS: Independent, family-owned cattle ranches are of paramount importance to our local economy and to the economy as a whole, and

WHEREAS: The comments received by USDA APHIS in the rulemaking process were overwhelmingly against the new rule, and

WHEREAS: America has the safest and highest quality meat in the world using our current, fully functioning and effective traceability system. The mandated rule claims to be about animal health, but does nothing to prevent or treat disease, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The Board of Brown County Commissioners vehemently opposes the implementation of any EID mandate by the USDA, with the suggestion that funds currently earmarked for this program be reallocated to efforts to restore import standards that protect all livestock producers and consumers

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The Board of Brown County Commissioners requests that all elected officials make every effort to block this government overreach by the USDA.

Dated this 4th day of February 2025.

Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dinger.

Roll call vote: Dennert-Aye; Dinger-Aye; Gage-Aye; Sutton-Aye; Wiese-Aye. Resolution Adopted.

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM RESOLUTION:

Commissioner Wiese Offered the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION #2025-10 RESOLUTION FOR APPOINTMENT OF APPLICANT AGENT

FOR THE HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM (HMGP)

WHEREAS, Brown County is submitting a Hazard Mitigation Grant application to the South Dakota Division of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and

WHEREAS, Brown County is Required to appoint an Applicant Agent for the purpose signing documents and assuring the completion of all application documents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Brown County appoints the Emergency Manager as the authorized Applicant Agent.

Dated this 4th day of February, 2025

Seconded by Commissioner Dennert.

Roll Call Vote: Dennert-Aye; Dinger-Aye; Gage-Aye; Sutton-Aye; Wiese-Aye, Resolution Adopted.

DESIGNATION OF APPLICANT AGENT:

Moved by Wiese, Seconded by Dennert to Approve and Authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Designation of Applicant Agent Form listing Scott Meints as the Applicant Agent. All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the following claims: Professional Fees: CGI, LLC \$512.11; Cogley Law Office \$528.00; Dohrer Law Office \$876.00; Environmental Systems Research Institute \$17,600.00; Helms & Associates \$2,220.00; Kuck Law Office \$1,506.00; SD Assoc of County Officials \$100.00; SD Dept of Transportation \$3,943.58; Taliaferro Law Firm, PC \$312.00; Yankton County Sheriff's Office \$50.00. Publishing: Groton Daily Independent \$599.48; McQuillen Creative Group Inc \$154.00. Repairs & Maintenance: Custom Installation Solutions \$50.00; Custom Sheet Metal \$519.50; Gary Fischer \$596.00; K&S Plumbing Inc \$381.09; Lawson Products \$90.10; Motorola Solutions Inc \$43,959.46; Myers Tire-Salt Lake City #20 \$71.64; Precision Kiosk Technologies \$3,000.00. Supplies: Amazon Capital Services \$130.91; Avera LTC Pharmacy \$2,512.40; Century Business Products \$135.72; Cole Papers Inc \$1,200.56; Dakota Electronics, LLC \$1,275.00; Detco \$1,022.61; Emily Jacobs \$81.71; Fastenal Company \$12.48; Great Western Tire \$5,990.34; Hillyard Sioux Falls \$176.09; Howmedica Osteonics Corp \$696.00; K&S Plumbing Inc \$101.77; Karen Swank \$180.00; Kuck Law Office \$55.63; Lang's Audio, TV & Appliance \$115.00; Lawson Products

\$1,301.34; Menards \$365.44; Midstates Group \$39.40; Myers Tire-Salt Lake City #20 \$814.58; Northstar Safety Inc \$144.07; Pantorium Cleaners Inc \$32.00; Performance Oil \$427.38; Pitney Bowes Global Financial Services LLC \$15,000.00; Safe Life Defense \$654.10; Sander's Sew-N-Vac \$299.92. Travel & Conference: Dave Lunzman \$70.00; Property Records Industry Association (PRIA) \$139.00; Trajan LaRocque \$415.97.428 Utilities: AT&T Mobility \$186.97; CenturyLink \$366.84; Midcontinent Communications \$332.04; Montana-Dakota Utilities Co \$63.42; Northwestern Energy \$12,943.94. Other: Area IV Nutrition \$6,000.00; WEX Health Inc \$3,000.00. Machinery & Equipment: Little Falls Machine Inc \$32,910.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

o Acknowledge:
• Resignation of Jordanne DuCheny, Brown County 911 Communications Officer, Full-Time; Effective February 3, 2025. Request to fill

• Transfer of Payton Beidler from Part-Time Brown County Jail Detention Officer to Full-Time Brown County Jail Detention Officer, effective February 2, 2025.

o Approve:
• Request to fill Brown County Highway Mechanic, Full-Time.

• Request to fill Brown County Highway Road & Bridge Crew Leader, Full-Time.

• Adding Lora Schaanaman to the approved volunteers list for work comp purposes.

o Mileage Report:

• Approve personal miles driven for October 2024 as follows: Joshua Matthews 240 miles at \$160.80; Matt Heupel 105 Miles at \$70.35; John Florey 120 miles at \$80.40; Mike Scott 200 miles at \$134.00.

• Approve personal miles driven for November 2024 as follows: Joshua Matthews 204 miles at \$136.68; Matt Heupel 75 miles at \$50.25; John Florey 108 miles at \$72.36; Mike Scott 90 miles at \$60.30.

• Approve personal miles driven for December 2024 as follows: Joshua Matthews 228 miles at \$152.76; Matt Heupel 75 miles at \$50.25; John Florey 102 miles at \$68.34; Mike Scott 140 miles at \$93.80.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LEASE AGREEMENTS: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, Seconded by Gage to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the following Lease Agreements: Great Plains CEF Church (Pastor Neil Hannahs) for lease of Richmond Youth Camp on June 23-28th, 2025; Sheena Rohrbach for lease of parking lots surrounding Gate E on May 30-31st, 2025; Cory Mehlhaff for lease of Richmond Youth Camp on June 28, 2025; CEF of South Dakota (Genda Palmquist) for lease of Richmond Youth Camp on July 20th - 25th, 2025; Brown County 4H for lease of the Akkerman Open Horse Arena on June 17th, 2025 and July 5th-6th, 2025; Aberdeen Home Builders Association for lease of the Holm Expo Building on February 28th-March 2nd, 2025; Liebelt Homes for lease of the Holm Expo Building on March 10th-23rd, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIM ASSIGNMENTS: Moved by Commissioner Gage, 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.

SURPLUS EQUIPMENT: Scott Madsen, GIS Coordinator submitted a request to Surplus HP DesignJet T1300 Plotter in order to sell or dispose of at the landfill. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor submitted a request to surplus a FormaxFD342 Folder, Serial #H101041 to be disposed of at the landfill. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:10 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

David Engraf, Brown County Deputy Auditor

Published February 12, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$134.11 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25255

Hanlon Brothers Gravel Hauling. New & Cleaning of Stockdams with our 60' reach trackhoe. 605/395-6531

The Groton Independent. 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. 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. © 2025 The Groton Independent

The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition Subscription Form. All prices listed include 6.5% Sales Tax. 1 Month \$15.98, 3 Months \$26.63, 6 Months \$31.95, 9 Months \$42.60, 12 Months \$53.25. This option will grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives. Mail Completed Form to: Groton Independent, P.O. Box 34, Groton, SD 57445-0034 or scan and email to paperpaul@grotonsd.net

MEYERS TRACTOR SALVAGE. ABERDEEN, SD. 1000+ Salvaged Tractors & Combines, 400+ Reground Crankshafts, 500+ Tractor Tires, 300+ Rebuilt Radiators. Large Line of Swather, Baler & Cutter Parts. GREAT BUYS & SERVICE! WANT TO BUY TRACTORS, COMBINES & SWATHERS FOR SALVAGE. Phone (605) 225-0185. 5 Miles North & 1 Mile West of CASE-IH.



**NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE #286**  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES AS AMENDED TO REZONE CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that Ordinance #286, An Ordinance Amending Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended to rezone the following described property filed by Lorin & Julie Flihs was duly adopted by the Board of Brown County Commissioners on the 4th day of February 2025 and will become effective on the 22nd of February 2025.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota, that the Petition to Amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances is hereby amended to change the zoning on the following described property from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring these parcels into compliance for their current use:

Description of property: Proposed Lot 1, "L and J Flihs First Addition" in the NE1/4 of the NE1/4 of Section 22-T125N-R60W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (12105 410th Avenue, Claremont Twp.).

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota that the zoning official for the County of Brown is hereby authorized to change the official zoning map for Brown County to reflect this Ordinance.

Passed and adopted this 4th day of February 2025.

Duane Sutton, Brown County Commission Chairman

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Notice of Hearing: January 8, 2025

First Reading: January 21, 2025

Second Reading/Adoption: February 4, 2025

Published: February 12-13, 2025

Effective Date: February 22, 2025

Published February 12, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$21.16 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25256



**NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE #287**  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES AS AMENDED TO REZONE CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that Ordinance #287, An Ordinance Amending Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended to rezone the following described property filed by Jarod & Sarah Bierman was duly adopted by the Board of Brown County Commissioners on the 4th day of February 2025 and will become effective on the 22nd of February 2025.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota, that the Petition to Amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances is hereby amended to change the zoning on the following described property from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring these parcels into compliance for their current use:

Description of property: "Elsing's Outlot 1" in the SW1/4 of Section 28-T121N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (37640 147th Street, New Hope Twp.).

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota that the zoning official for the County of Brown is hereby authorized to change the official zoning map for Brown County to reflect this Ordinance.

Passed and adopted this 4th day of February 2025.

Duane Sutton, Brown County Commission Chairman

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Notice of Hearing: January 8, 2025

First Reading: January 21, 2025

Second Reading/Adoption: February 4, 2025

Published: February 12-13, 2025

Effective Date: February 22, 2025

Published February 12, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$20.85 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25257



**NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE #288**  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES AS AMENDED TO REZONE CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that Ordinance #287, An Ordinance Amending Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended to rezone the following described property filed by petitioner James Smith/Owner Thomas Johnson was duly adopted by the Board of Brown County Commissioners on the 4th day of February 2025 and will become effective on the 22nd of February 2025.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota, that the Petition to Amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances is hereby amended to change the zoning on the following described property from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring these parcels into compliance for their current use:

Description of property: Lots 1, 2 & 3, "North Warner Homestead Addition" in the NW1/4 of Section 35-T124N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (38615, 38623 & 38645 141st Street, Warner Twp.).

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota that the zoning official for the County of Brown is hereby authorized to change the official zoning map for Brown County to reflect this Ordinance.

Passed and adopted this 4th day of February 2025.

Duane Sutton, Brown County Commission Chairman

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Notice of Hearing: January 8, 2025

First Reading: January 21, 2025

Second Reading/Adoption: February 4, 2025

Published: February 12-13, 2025

Effective Date: February 22, 2025

Published February 12, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$21.46 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25258



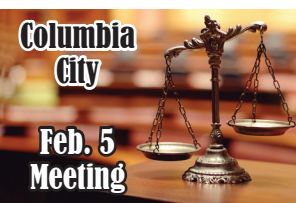
**NOTICE OF VARIANCE HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT The Groton Planning & Zoning Commission will be holding a public hearing on February 24, 2025, at 6:00pm CDT at City Hall, 120 N Main Street, Groton, SD for a variance of Chapter 9, Section 9.0106 of the Groton Zoning Ordinance. This application was made by Charles S. and Sandra L. Dresbach to build a garage within 5 feet of the west lot line in a Residential (R-1) District located at 716 N Main Street, Groton, SD, legally described as Lot 1-2 and N 30' Lot 3 Block 50 of the 2nd Addition, Groton, SD.

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

Doug Heinrich  
Zoning Administrator

Published February 12, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$9.50 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25259



City of Columbia Council Meeting - February 5, 2025

CALL MEETING TO ORDER - 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL - Cara Dennert, Corey Mitchell, Trevor Meints, Emily Eichler, Jeremy Dosch, Scott Meints

Community: Ben Jeffrey, Sam Hoppock

Corey Mitchell called the meeting to order. He called for a motion to approve the agenda. Scott Meints made a motion to approve the agenda. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried. Corey Mitchell called for any conflict of interest on agenda items. Scott Meints said that he will abstain from voting on commitment to confirm participation with the Brown County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. There were no further conflicts.

Minutes were handed out from the Jan. 8th meeting. Emily Eichler made a motion to approve the minutes. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried.

Warrant Vouchers Warrant Vouchers: Web - fire prevention - 54.30; JVT - fire prevention - 213.04; Jeremy Dosch - Jan. wages -444.69-; Cara Dennert - Jan. wages- 1317.60; Corey Mitchell - Jan. wages - 55.69; Dacotah Bank - shop supplies -295.50 ; SDATT - 2025 membership dues - 205.00; GDI - publishing - 88.85; NASASP - membership dues - 39.00; Shane Moser - dump piling work - 2438.78; Runnings - shop supplies - 28.47

Scott Meints made a motion to approve the vouchers. Jeremy Dosch seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE: e-mail Josh Wallberg/breakdown for the 2024 Taxes Payable in 2025; NCOG -2027 Mitigation Plan Grant Application

UNFINISHED BUSINESS- Wastewater and drainage plans for State Water plan - state funding amounts will be announced in March.

Nuisances - The council has been working on getting rid of an abandoned trailer house in town. There have been several complaints regarding dogs/waste on private properties in town. The council is going to consider revamping our current ordinance to make owners more aware of their responsibilities regarding their pets.

Streets - no report

Parks - The council discussed the possibility of putting up permanent illumination of the arch in the park.

Lagoon/Sewer - Delinquent sewer accounts were also discussed. Certified letters will be sent to delinquent sewer accounts over \$100, followed by papers being served and services being disconnected if account balances are not paid up. As stated in our city ordinances, disconnecting and reconnecting services would be paid by the delinquent household.

Rubble Site -The pit has been stacked and is ready for a burn this weekend or next.

NEW BUSINESS - Corey brought up the need for a motion to approve the commitment for participation with Brown County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Trevor Meints made a motion to have Corey Mitchell sign the commitment letter regarding the Hazard Mitigation Plan for Brown County. Emily Eichler seconded the motion. All

were in favor with Scott Meints abstaining from voting. Ben Jeffrey was present to find out what our lawyer advised on the possible deannexation of some land on the northwest edge of town. Corey had talked to Rod Tobin and it didn't sound like a possible option. Patti Daly was present to discuss the possibility of adding a small enclosed area to the new park. There was much discussion about size and location of a building. She is willing to start the grant process to see what money could be gathered to cover the cost of such a facility. She stated that there is a T-Mobile grant for communities less than 50,000 people to receive \$50,000. The council was very interested, but feels very strapped financially with the new parks. Patti will research more grant opportunities. She will bring more information to the March 6th meeting. She also brought up the issue of the park needing more electrical outlets. This caused a few problems during the holiday season and would be used for many events throughout the year. Because Wednesday the 5th is Ash Wednesday, the March meeting will be held on Thursday, March 6th, 2025.

FINANCIAL REPORT - The last individual CD that the city owned became mature. It was put into the CD Money Market account. Cara presented bank balances. She is continuing work on the annual report.

Emily Eichler made a motion to accept the financial reports as given. Jeremy Dosch seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried.

January 31, 2025, balances: SF - \$ 80,424.11; SF Money Market - \$ 152,038.61; GF - \$ 152,014.15; GF Money Market - \$ 51,015.01; CD Money Market - \$ 41,429.31

FIT - \$ 15,617.66; Cash on hand - \$0

Next Regular City Council Meeting - Thursday, March 6, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Cara Dennert, Finance Officer

Published February 12, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$46.91 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25260

City of Frederick February 5, 2024 Minutes

Frederick's town board meeting was held Wednesday, February 5, 2025 in the Frederick Community Center beginning at 7:00 PM. Attending the meeting were Chairman Scott Campbell, Board members Jeff Kosters and Troy Millard by phone, and Finance Officer Jennifer Morlock and Assistant Finance Officer Mariah Heine by phone. Also attending the meeting was Rich Achen.

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

The minutes of the January meeting was read and approved with a motion by Kosters/Millard; motion carried. The financial statements were reviewed and accepted with a motion by Millard/Kosters; motion carried.

The February accounts payable were approved with a motion by Millard/Campbell; motion carried.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE MDU electric BP/Wtr/Mun Bldg/SP/Sts/Swr/EBL \$1,619.60; Badger Meter fees Swr \$136.28; Brown County Sheriff's Office deputy svcs Gen'l \$1,041.67; Century Bus Products cop-

ies Gen'l \$25; DANR dues Wtr \$250; Dependable Sanitation Grbg \$1,621; DRN Readitech service FO \$21.07; EFPTS taxes Gen'l/FO/CC/EBL/Sts/Wtr/Swr/Cmy \$893.12; Farmer's Union Oil propane Gen'l/EBL \$332.77; FDC Gen'l \$1,200; GDI minutes Gen'l \$48.56; J. Kosters wage Gen'l \$46.17; J. Morlock wage FO \$1,512.30; JVT Gen'l/Wtr/EBL/FO \$294.53; M. Cox wage EBL \$713.03; M. Heine wage FO \$1,264.90; R. Bakeberg supervisor wage Wtr \$230.87; S. Campbell wage Gen'l \$69.26; SD Dept of Rev sales tax Gen'l \$62.92; T. Millard wage Gen'l \$46.17; USDA-RD loan Wtr \$475; USDA-RD loan Swr \$3,763; WEB Water Wtr \$5,834.32; VISA supplies Gen'l \$126.21

OLD BUSINESS

Campbell provided a utility report. The board discussed a possible future project to improve old water lines that are causing expensive water leaks. The board reviewed the Brown County Sheriff's report.

NEW BUSINESS

There is a board vacancy open for a 3-year term. Petitions are to be returned by 5:00PM on February 28, 2025. The planning and zoning committee discussed a proposed replat. Motion to approve replat of the Schlosser-Sumption 3rd edition made by Campbell/Kosters; motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, March 3rd at 7PM.

Motion to adjourn made by Kosters/Millard at 7:52PM; motion carried.

M. Heine

Assistant Finance Officer

Published February 12, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$24.56 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25261



**NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS**

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Brown County Courthouse Annex, 25 Market Street, Suite 1, Aberdeen, South Dakota; until the hour of 8:45 A.M. on February 18, 2025, at said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read, and considered by the Brown County Board of Commissioners for: Project to Build a 5,000 square foot Small Animal Barn at the Brown County Fairgrounds, 400 24th Ave NW, Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Envelopes containing bids shall be addressed to the following: Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street Suite 1, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401 and be marked on the envelope with "Brown County Fairgrounds-Small Animal Barn" to be opened on February 18, 2025.

PROPOSAL GUARANTY: No proposal will be considered unless accompanied by a certified check, a cashier's check or bank draft, for 5% of the amount of the bid, such check to be issued by either a state or a national bank and payable to Brown County, or in lieu thereof a bid bond for 10% of the amount of the bid, such bond to be issued by a surety company authorized to do business in South Dakota and payable to Brown County.

PERFORMANCE BOND: Brown County will give notice to the successful bidder that the proposal has been accepted and said bidder shall within ten (10) days thereafter enter into a contract with Brown County and furnish a performance bond in an amount equal to the contract price.

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 and State Sales Tax.

Job must be completed by July 31, 2025.

Copies of the specifications can be obtained at no charge and are on file at the following locations:

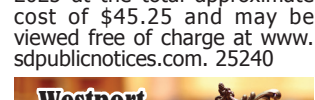
• Brown County Website: Brown.SD.US

• Brown County Fair Office: 400 24th Ave. NW, Aberdeen, SD 57401. Phone: 605-626-7116

• Brown County Auditor's Office: 25 Market Street, Ste. 1, Aberdeen, SD 57401. Phone: 605-626-7110

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published February 5 and 12, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$45.25 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25240



Town of Westport General Meeting

February 3, 2025

The Town of Westport met on February 3, 2025 with Mitch Wilson, Shane Storm, Troy Tschappat, and Deb Schlosser present.

The following bills were presented:

City General: NW Energy-utilities (\$711.19), Groton Independent: January minutes and Board vacancy notices (\$32.84), Dakota Supply Group-kitchen heater and electric supplies (\$210.75), Elan Financial Services-tax filing (\$5.58), Performance Oil - town hall propane (\$486.40)

Sewer: NW Energy-Lift Station utilities (\$62.93)

Water: Public Health Laboratory-water testing (\$15.00), WEB-water (\$2,218.40).

Troy Tschappat motioned, second by Shane Storm to pay all bills.

The following deposits were presented:

City General: State of SD (\$14,032.65), Brown County Collections (\$742.28), Interest (\$118.98), John Badgley-donation (250.00)

Sewer: Resident Payments (\$2897.78)

Water: Resident Payments (\$4346.67)

Old Business: none.

New Business: The insurance policy with South Dakota Public Assurance was reviewed. Shane Storm motioned, second by Troy Tschappat to approve the 2025 renewal policy. Motion by Troy Tschappat, second by Shane Storm to sign the Brown County Mitigation Plan. Work will be done this spring or summer for a house to house inspection of curb stops/water shut off. A resident contacted Mitch about a possible water meter issue in that home. The resident will be directed to attend a town board meeting to discuss the issue.

Meeting dismissed at 7:48 p.m.

Deb Schlosser, Finance Officer

Published February 12, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$17.38 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25262



The Towers, LLC proposes to build a 125-foot monopole communications tower at the approx. vicinity of S Wilson St., Aberdeen, Brown County, SD 57401, Lat: 45-27-35.11, Long: -98-27-43.48.

Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Alaina, a decamossalles@trileaf.com, 1821 Walden Office Sq., Ste 500, Schaumburg, IL 60173, 630-227-0202.

Published February 12, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$6.13 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25264

**GROTON**  
Ford  
605/397-2311  
[www.grotonford.com](http://www.grotonford.com)

**Groton Chiropractic Clinic**  
Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.  
1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204



**1900 ANTIQUE PARLOR STOVE**

Located in 1906 home of city founder George Lemmon.

2010 appraised value: \$6,000

Will go to highest offer on February 28, 2025.

Inspect at 507 W. 3rd Ave., Lemmon SD

CONTACT JAMES STOCK

PH: 702-274-5400

EMAIL: stockenter@aol.com

# Groton Area Tigers Dominate in Four-Game Sweep Over Deuel Cardinals

The Groton Area Tigers put on a show in their latest basketball matchup, securing victories in all four games against the Deuel Cardinals. Both the boys' and girls' varsity teams enforced the mercy rule en route to commanding wins, while the junior varsity squads also came out victorious.

## Boys' Varsity: Groton Cruises to 75-43 Victory

The Deuel Cardinals started strong, taking an early 13-12 lead, but the Tigers responded quickly, regaining control at 15-13 and extending their advantage to 22-18 by the end of the first quarter. A dominant 11-2 run before halftime gave Groton a comfortable 42-26 lead at the break. The Tigers continued their relentless attack in the third quarter, outscoring Deuel 18-11 to hold a commanding 60-37 lead. With 3:41 left in the game, Groton extended its lead to 70-40, triggering the mercy rule and a running clock. The Tigers closed out the game with a 75-43 victory.

Ryder Johnson led all scorers with 25 points, while Keegen Tracy added 16, Karson Zac chipped in 14, and Gage Sippel finished with 10. Turner Thompson led the rebounding effort with seven boards as the Tigers collected 31 rebounds overall. Johnson, Sippel, and Becker Bosma each secured six rebounds. Groton moved the ball efficiently, recording 16 assists, with Bosma and Zac contributing four each. On defense, Johnson and Zac had two steals apiece, while Johnson, Sippel, Thompson, and Zac combined for six blocks.

The Tigers shot an impressive 69% on two-pointers (24-of-34) and hit 40% from beyond the arc (6-of-15). At the free-throw line, they finished 9-of-13 (69%). Deuel's offense struggled against Groton's defense, shooting just 32% from the field (15-of-47) and 52% from the line (10-of-19). Gabe Sather led the Cardinals with 18 points, while CCaden Finnesand added 13.

With this win, Groton improved to 10-4 on the season, while Deuel fell to 10-5.

## Girls' Varsity: Lady Tigers Enforce Mercy Rule in 59-30 Win



**Taryn Traphagen**  
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

The Deuel Cardinals got off to a quick 4-0 start, but Groton wasted no time taking over, outscoring their opponents 18-4 to close the first quarter with an 18-8 lead. The Lady Tigers maintained control, extending their advantage to 28-16 at halftime. A dominant third quarter saw Groton pull ahead 50-22, and with 7:37 remaining in the game, the Tigers hit the 55-22 mark, activating the mercy rule. They cruised to a 59-30 victory.

Rylee Dunker led the scoring with 11 points, while Taryn Traphagen and Kennedy Hansen each contributed 9. Chesney Weber controlled the boards with seven rebounds, while Jaedyn Penning grabbed six. Traphagen and Jerica Locke each dished out three of the team's 13 assists. Locke also led a tenacious defensive effort with five steals, as the Tigers collected 22 total steals. Traphagen recorded two blocks.

Groton shot 52% from inside the arc (22-of-42), 25% from three-point range (4-of-16), and 60% from the free-throw line (3-of-5). Deuel's Camdyn Peterreins led her team with 11 points, followed by Jaycee Hourigan with 10. The Cardinals shot 47% from the field (14-of-30) but struggled from the free-throw line, making just 1-of-4 attempts (25%). Deuel committed 22 turnovers, a number Groton capitalized on throughout the game.

## Junior Varsity Success: Groton Sweeps Lower Levels

The Groton junior varsity squads also secured wins, completing the Tigers' perfect night.

Girls' JV: Groton dominated with a 29-point run that spanned from the first quarter through late in the third, leading to a decisive 51-9 win. Chesney Weber led with 15 points, while McKenna Tietz added 10.

Boys' JV: The Tigers battled through an early 10-8 deficit but took control in the second quarter, leading 23-15 at halftime. They maintained their edge to secure a 40-30 victory. Easton Weber led Groton with 14 points, while Jaxtin Winter paced Deuel with 10.

It was a statement night for the Groton Area Tigers, who showcased their depth and dominance across all levels. With both varsity teams

gaining momentum as the season progresses, Groton will look to continue their winning ways in the coming weeks.

- Story compiled by ChatGPT

## Boys Stats

Ryder Johnson: 25 points, 6 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals, 3 fouls, 2 blocks.

Keegen Tracy: 16 points, 2 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal.

Karson Zak: 14 points, 3 rebounds, 4 assists, 2 steals, 1 foul, 1 block.

Gage Sippel: 10 points, 6 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 foul, 2 blocks.

Becker Bosma: 3 points, 6 rebounds, 4 assists, 1 steal, 3 fouls.

Easton Weber: 3 points, 1 rebound.

Blake Pauli: 2 points, 1 assist, 2 fouls.

Jayden Schwan: 2 points, 1 steal.

Turner Thompson: 7 rebounds, 2 assists, 3 fouls, 1 block.

Logan Warrington: 1 steal.

2-Pointers: 24-34 69%, 3-pointers: 6-15 40%, Free Throws: 9-13 69%, 31 rebounds, 9 turnovers, 16 assists, 8 steals, 13 fouls, 6 blocks.

Deuel: Jaxon Peterreins 18, Caden Finnesand 13, Troy Jenson 3, Kyle Finnesand 3, Sutton Benck 2, Jaxon Peterreins 2, Gavin Maaland 2.

Field Goals: 15-47 32%, Free Throws: 10-19 52%, 10 fouls and 10 turnovers.

## Girls Stats

Rylee Dunker: 11 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 3 steals.

Kennedy Hansen: 9 points, 2 rebounds, 2 steals, 2 fouls.

Taryn Traphagen: 9 points, 2 rebounds, 3 assists, 3 steals, 2 blocks.

Chesney Weber: 8 points, 7 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals, 1 foul.

Brooklyn Hansen: 7 points, 2 rebounds, 2 assists, 3 steals.

Jerica Locke: 7 points, 3 rebounds, 3 assists, 5 steals.

Jaedyn Penning: 4 points, 6 rebounds, 1 steal, 1 foul.

Faith Traphagen: 2 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals.

Mia Crank: 2 points.

Laila Roberts: 3 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal.

Talli Wright: 1 rebound, 1 assist.

2-Pointers: 22-42 52%, 3-Pointers: 4-16 25%, Free Throws: 3-5 60%, 33 rebounds, 15 turnovers, 13 assists, 22 steals, 4 fouls, 2 blocks.

Deuel: Camdyn Peterreins 11, Jaycee Hourigan 10, Alayna Carlson 4, Ella Kerkvliet 2, Graclyn Nielsen 2, Katrina Hagberg 2.

Field Goals: 14-30 47%, Free Throws: 1-4 25%, 7 fouls and 22 turnovers.

Groton won the boys junior varsity game, 40-30. Deuel held a 10-8 lead after the first quarter. Then the Tigers led at half-time, 24-15, and after three quarters, 34-24.

Easton Weber led Groton Area with 14 points followed by Anthony Tracy with nine, Ethan Kroll eight, Jayden Schwan three, and adding two points apiece were Jace Johnson, Logan Warrington and Asher Johnson.

Jaxton Winter led Deuel with 10 points followed by Gavin Maaland and Braxton Winter with seven points each, Grif Nielsen had four and Sutton Bedeck and Kyle Finnesand each had one point.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Hefty Seed.

The Groton Area girls junior varsity team won its game, 51-9, with a 29 point run extending from early in the first quarter to late in the third quarter.

Chesney Weber led the Tigers with 15 points followed by McKenna Tietz with 10, Kella Tracy 9, Talli Wright 5, Makenna Krause 4, Sydney Locke 4, Avery Crank 2 and Mia Crank 2.

Taylor Brown and Ava Fokken each had three points for Deuel while Kaycee These had two and Amelia Giese 1.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Weber Landscaping.

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

# Vermillion's Free-Throw Mastery Lifts Tanagers Over Groton Area

VERMILLION - In a game defined by precision at the free-throw line, the Vermillion Tanagers secured a 75-65 victory over the Groton Area Tigers on Friday night. While the Tigers held the early momentum, Vermillion's consistency at the charity stripe proved to be the difference-maker.

## Strong Start for Groton

After an early 2-2 tie, Groton Area came out firing, taking a 22-14 lead at the end of the first quarter. The Tigers executed well offensively, moving the ball efficiently and knocking down shots from beyond the arc. Ryder Johnson led the charge, providing a steady scoring presence throughout the contest.

However, Vermillion responded in the second quarter, tying the game at 22 before ultimately edging ahead by halftime, 39-33. The Tanagers' ability to get to the free-throw line started to emerge as a major factor, and Groton's foul trouble loomed large.

## Third Quarter Battle

The third quarter was a back-and-forth thriller, featuring three ties and three lead changes. Both teams traded blows in a high-intensity stretch, with Groton determined to stay in contention. As time wound down, Carter Hansen delivered a clutch shot at the buzzer, giving Vermillion a slim 54-51 advantage heading into the final period.

## Free Throws Seal the Game for Vermillion

The fourth quarter belonged to Trey Hansen, who was nearly automatic from the line. Hansen drained 9 of his 11 free-throw attempts in the quarter alone, finishing the game with an impressive 34 points, including 19-of-21 from the stripe. Carter Hansen added another 4-of-6 free throws in the final minutes, ensuring Vermillion kept control.

Groton's foul struggles caught up with them, as they committed 23 team fouls throughout the game. The Tanagers capitalized, making 28 of 35 free throws- an outstanding 80% -which proved to be the decisive factor.

## Individual Performances

Alongside Trey Hansen's dominant 34-point outing, Carter Hansen contributed 17 points. Landon Cerny added 9, Gabe Larson had 8, and Luke Jensen chipped in 7 for the Tanagers.

For Groton, Ryder Johnson delivered a stellar 28-point performance, also dishing out six assists and recording a block. Gage Sippel provided 11 points and four rebounds, while Becker Bosma had 9 points and grabbed a team-high seven rebounds. Karson Zac added 8 points before fouling out with just over five minutes remaining.

The Tigers shot well from the field, going 12-of-22 (55%) on two-pointers and 11-of-28 (39%) from beyond the arc. However, their 8-of-12 performance from the free-throw line (67%) was no match for Vermillion's efficiency.

## JV & C-Team Action

Groton Area found success in the junior varsity matchup, securing a 40-24 victory after a dominant 17-point run that extended from the second to third quarter. Easton Weber led the Tigers with 17 points, while Jayden Schwan and Logan Warrington each added 5.

In the C-team contest, Groton also emerged victorious with a 35-30 win. Asher Johnson paced the Tigers with 12 points, and Anthony Tracy followed with 8.

- story compiled by ChatGPT

Ryder Johnson: 28 points, 1 rebounds, 6 assists, 3 fouls 1 block.

Gage Sippel: 11 points, 4 rebounds, 2 fouls.

Becker Bosma: 9 points, 7 rebounds, 5 assists, 2 fouls.

Karson Zak: 8 points, 2 rebounds, 2 assists, 5 fouls.

Keegen Tracy: 3 points, 1 rebound 5 assists, 1 steal, 4 fouls.

Easton Weber: 3 points, 2 fouls.

Jayden Schwan: 3 points, 2 rebounds, 2 fouls.

Turner Thompson: 1 foul.

Taylor Diegel: 1 foul.



**Gage Sippel**

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

2-pointers: 12-22 55%, 3-pointers: 11-28 39%, Free Throws: 8-12 67%, 17 rebounds, 12 turnovers, 18 assists, 1 steal, 23 fouls, 1 block.

Vermillion: Trey Hansen 34, Carter Hansen 17, Landon Cerney 9, Gabe Larsen 8, Luke Jensen 7.

Field Goals: 20-31 65%, Free Throws: 28-35 80%, 11 fouls, 11 points.

3-Pointers: Groton Area: Ryder Johnson 4, Becker Bosma 3, Keegen Tracy 1, Karson Zak 1, Easton Weber 1, Jayden Schwan 1. Vermillion: Carter Hansen 2, Gabe Larsen 2, Landon Cerney 1, Luke Jensen 1, Trey Hansen 1.

Junior Varsity: Groton Area 40, Vermillion 24.

Groton Area: Easton Weber 17, Jayden Schwan 5, Logan Warrington 5, Ryder Schelle 3, Ethan Kroll 3, Asher Johnson 3, Anthony Tracy 2, Jordan Schwan 2.

Vermillion: Spencer Blanchette 6, Henry Orr 6, Tysen Hovden 5, Cameron Bottolfson 3, Grant Roerig 2, Daxton Christensen 2.

C Game: Groton Area 35, Vermillion 30

Groton Area: Asher Johnson 12, Anthony Tracy 8, Jordan Schwan 6, Ethan Kroll 4, Connor Kroll 3, Jace Johnson 2.

Vermillion: Luca Solomon 10, Tysen Hovden 7, Henry Orr 5, Grant Roerig 2, Daxton Christensen 2, Shane Slattery 2, Cameron Bottolfson 2.

All three games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM. Varsity sponsors were Ategra, 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, Locke Electric, Krueger Brothers, R&M Farms/Rix Farms, The Meathouse in Andover. Hefty Seed sponsored the junior varsity game while the C game was sponsored for the grandparents watching.

## Queen of Hearts

The 16th week of the Queen of Hearts was held Wednesday evening. It was moved up due to a private party in the back room of the Legion scheduled for today. Ticket sales were \$845. The jackpot is \$13,397. Ron Worlie's name was drawn and he choose card 44 which was the seven of hearts. He won the consolation prize of \$84.

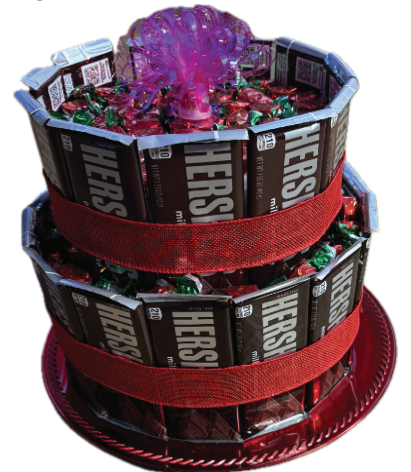
**Tina's Baskets! Text/Call at 605-397-7285 to reserve your basket now. They are going fast! Cash, check or Venmo.**



**2. White vase with sour suckers. \$7.50**



**3. Kit Kat Cake with Valentine suckers on top. \$35**



**4. Hersheys Cake, two tier with strawberry hard candy. \$40**



**7. Valentine container with fake roses and white bears. \$5**



**8. Reeses candy bars with Valentine suckers. \$50**



**9. Heart basket with assorted candy. \$15**



**10. Vase filled with strawberry drops and chocolate rose candy. \$9**



**12. Valentine's love balloon with fake flowers, MMs, skittles. \$15**



**14. Mini chip ahoy's cookies, be mine valentines book, a bear with a love heart on it and some hot wheels in it. \$12**



**15. Bet-sie Voucher book, puppy, mini chocolate hearts. Behind the dog a bag of heart bear gummies and a small box of mix chocolates. \$12**



**Four seniors were recognized at the basketball game Tuesday night. Emily Overacker, Taylor Diegel, Turner Thompson and Blake Pauli.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**GHS senior girls were recognized Thursday night. Pictured are Faith Traphagen, Laila Roberts, Kennedy Hansen, Brooklyn Hansen and Elizabeth Fliehs.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**The Rhythm Roar Drum Line performed at halftime of the girls varsity game Thursday night.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

### Dates Vehicle Owners May Be Impacted By System Updates

PIERRE, S.D. – The Department of Revenue's Motor Vehicle Division will launch a new title and registration system, 605Drive, on February 17, 2025.

The transition to the new system will occur in three phases. Starting on February 7, registration renewals will not be available on mySDCars.gov or at the DMVNow Kiosks. Registration renewals will continue to be available at county offices through 7 PM Central Time on February 13th although we recommend checking with your treasurer's office to see if they have an earlier stop time to work through their end-of-day processes.

Between February 14 – 16, 2025, motor vehicle transactions, including title transfers and registration renewals, will not be available. During that same time, the system transition will also delay a dealership's ability to transfer a title and a financial institution's ability to release liens.

The new system will launch on February 17, 2025. Access to registrations will be available at county treasurer offices, DMVNow Kiosks, and through the new online platform, whose link can be found on the Department's website at dor.sd.gov by clicking "Vehicle Registration and Plates" under Online Services.

The Department recommends vehicle owners who renew in February renew their registration early to avoid any delays.

## Groton Chamber of Commerce

February 5, 2025

12pm City Hall

- Members present: Katelyn Nehlich, Douglas Heinrich, Ashley Bentz, April Abeln, and Hannah Hochstetler

- A Facebook live was posted to announce the winners of the Hwy 12 electronic sign spots. The east side was awarded to Front Porch 605 and the west side to Kolker Law Office.

- Minutes from the previous meeting were approved by Heinrich and seconded by Abeln. All members present voted aye.

- The treasurer's report was given. Dacotah Bank checking account balance is \$23,950.45 in addition to the \$10,000 CD. The bucks account balance is \$2874.80. The report was approved by Abeln and seconded by Heinrich. All members present voted aye.

- A thank you card from Rosewood Court was shared for their 2025 Groton Independent subscription.

- About 60 businesses have paid dues for 2025.

- The Facebook page has become more active again with recent posts about our members.

- Discussion was held on offering \$5 Chamber bucks. A quote was received from Quality Quick Print, but the board decided to stay with continuing just \$10 and \$25 increments.

- President Bentz will be present at the February 18th Council meeting to gift members tumblers and thank them for the 2025 donation.

- Abeln mentioned sponsoring free popcorn at a GHS game.

- Scholarships will be reviewed February 26th at 5:30pm at Topper's store. Pizza will be served. A photo opportunity with winners is scheduled for May 14th at 1:30pm at the GHS library.

- Motion by Abeln and seconded by Heinrich to gift a bike to one lucky winner at the Lions Easter Egg Hunt. Max value to be \$200. All members present voted aye.

- Glacial Lakes advertising for 2025 was shared. No more rack cards are needed. Dakota Broadcasting will again offer radio ads in exchange for their baseball sponsorship.

- Motion by Nehlich and seconded by Abeln to sponsor GDI Live broadcast for post season basketball events. \$25 per event for a maximum of 6. All members present voted aye.

- Motion by Nehlich and seconded by Abeln to donate a shirt to the Spring Vendor Fair giveaway basket. All members present voted aye.

- No new business welcomes have been scheduled.

- Motion by Abeln and seconded by Heinrich to advertise Summer Fest, Pumpkin Fest, both rummage days, the Halloween events, and Family Fun Fest in exchange for Dakota Broadcasting's baseball advertising. All members present voted aye.

- Discussion was held on Hwy 12 electronic sign contracts. It was suggested to ask for a quote for the replacement of all 6 spots for when contracts are complete.

- It was suggested that 2025 members be listed on the Hwy 12 electronic scrolling marquee.

- Next Meeting: March 5th, 12pm at City Hall

Upcoming events  
02/14/2025 Groton Community Blood Drive 8:45am-12pm Community Center

03/02/2025 Pancake Sunday, Historical Society Fundraiser 10am-1pm Community Center

03/22/2025 Spring Vendor Fair at the GHS Gym 10am-2pm



## Girls NEC Standings

Team	W	L	PTS
Hamlin	7-0	13-3	
Roncalli	7-2	11-5	
Groton Area	7-2	13-5	
Milbank	6-3	10-7	
Clark/Willow Lake	5-3	10-6	
Sisseton	4-4	10-7	
Webster Area	4-5	9-9	
Deuel	2-4	3-13	
Britton-Hecla	2-5	4-12	
Tiospa Zina	0-7	6-11	
Redfield	0-8	2-15	

Groton 59, Deuel 30  
 Milbank 48, Aberdeen Roncalli 38  
 Webster 58, Redfield 36  
 Sisseton 55, Clark-Willow Lake 37  
 Hamlin 55, Aberdeen Roncalli 35  
 Clark-Willow Lake 62, Britton-Hecla 32  
 Milbank 50, Sisseton 47

### Feb. 13

Sisseton at Tiospa Zina  
 Hamlin at Deuel

### Feb. 18

Hamlin at Britton-Hecla  
 Sisseton at Deuel  
 Tiospa Zina vs. Clark/Willow Lake at Clark

### Feb. 20

Deuel at Roncalli  
 Milbank at Webster Area  
 Clark/Willow Lake at Hamlin

### Feb. 21

Groton Area at Britton-Hecla  
 Tiospa Zina at Redfield

#	Name	Season			Seed Pts
		W	L	PCT	PTS
1	Groton Area	13	5	.722	43.944
2	Aberdeen Roncalli	11	5	.688	43.750
3	Sisseton	10	7	.588	42.647
4	Milbank	10	7	.588	41.235
5	Webster Area	9	9	.500	40.833
6	Britton-Hecla	4	12	.250	38.500
7	Redfield	2	15	.118	36.412

## Boys NEC Standings

Team	W	L	PTS
Hamlin	7-0	14-2	
Groton Area	8-1	11-5	
Clark/Willow Lake	7-1	14-3	
Deuel	4-2	11-5	
Roncalli	4-4	6-10	
Britton-Hecla	3-5	9-7	
Milbank	4-4	7-9	
Sisseton	2-6	5-10	
Webster Area	2-6	4-12	
Tiospa Zina	0-5	2-13	
Redfield	0-6	1-14	

Groton 75, Deuel 43  
 Milbank 48, Aberdeen Roncalli 38  
 Clark-Willow Lake 64, Sisseton 31  
 Hamlin 65, Aberdeen Roncalli 30  
 Clark-Willow Lake 66, Britton-Hecla 36  
 Milbank 55, Sisseton 36

**Feb. 13:** Hamlin at Deuel  
**Feb. 14:** Tiospa Zina at Sisseton  
**Feb. 17:** Tiospa Zina at Roncalli  
**Feb. 18**  
 Hamlin at Britton-Hecla  
 Sisseton at Deuel  
 Tiospa Zina vs. Clark/Willow Lake at Clark  
**Feb. 20**  
 Deuel at Roncalli  
 Clark/Willow Lake at Hamlin  
**Feb. 21**  
 Groton Area at Britton-Hecla  
 Webster Area at Milbank  
 Tiospa Zina at Redfield  
**Feb. 22**  
 Redfield at Webster Area  
**Feb. 28**  
 Milbank at Tiospa Zina

#	Name	Season			Seed Pts
		W	L	PCT	PTS
1	Groton Area	11	5	.688	43.000
2	Milbank	7	9	.438	40.062
3	Aberdeen Roncalli	6	10	.375	39.938
4	Britton-Hecla	9	7	.562	39.375
5	Sisseton	5	10	.333	38.267
6	Webster Area	4	12	.250	37.438
7	Redfield	1	14	.067	34.333

# Specialized Care in Aberdeen

**Your care team lives in the same community you do, and that means something.** The team at Avera St. Luke's Hospital will be here for you and your family through it all with the latest treatment options. These specialized providers are located right here in Aberdeen.

### This includes local access to:

- Latest diagnostic services and imaging technology
- Clinical trials
- 24/7 Level III Trauma Center
- Specialty services brought to rural facilities
- Outreach and telemedicine services

### Specialty care includes:

- Nephrology
- Urology
- Pulmonology
- Cardiology
- Orthopedics
- Sports Medicine



**Specialized care** is what we do.  
**Compassionate** is who we are.

[Avera.org/StLukes](http://Avera.org/StLukes)

# School Board

## Continued from front

Board President Grant Rix asked why there is so much legislation this year dealing with schools.

Schwan replied that some issues, like "school choice" or voucher programs, have become a national conversation. Some are looking at leveraging federal and state public school funding to go toward voucher programs that allow parents to use public funds to pay for private school or homeschooling.

"One way to make a case for that is to run down public schools," Schwan told the board. "That's one way you can craft an argument."

Two bills – House Bills 1009 and 1020 – have already been sent to the 41st legislative day, essentially killing the bills. However, Schwan said, there are some bills making their way through the state Senate that deal with the same issue.

"The worst part, in my opinion, is all the education bills, they paint us all in a negative light," Schwan said. "They beat up our schools. They beat up our teachers. They beat up our school administrators, beat up our school boards and the counselors."

Even more legislation is based on information heard through the grapevines.

Some legislators have testified about issues based on information one family has told them. They propose legislation about it rather than working with the appropriate board to learn more and potentially solve the issue, Schwan said.

"I just think that's a completely wrong way to go about it," he said. "I mean, we're a very conservative state. We're anti-regulation, right? Generally speaking, we're anti-regulation, stay-out-of-your-business. This is not reflective of that at all. Not at all."

When asked whether there were any particular bills concerning him, board President Rix said school funding is always a concern.

"There are a myriad of things going through the legislature that are concerning, but it's really not worth talking about at this point until they start narrowing them down," he said. "... Until they start dwindling down all the bills that aren't going to make it, it's not worth talking about."

He advises people to keep a record of what's going on in the legislature. If it looks like it's going to affect the Groton school district, reach out to the legislators because they do listen.

Bills on the list presented to the board include HB1019, HB1035, HB1039, HB1040, HB1059, HB1089, HB1092, HB1094, HB1105, HB1119, HB1130, HB1138, HB1171, HB1172, HB1177, HB1180, HB1181, HB1182, HB1183, HB1185, HB1197, HB1200, HB1201, HB1222, HB1224, HB1229, HB1235, HB1239, HB1241, HB1244, HB1254, HB1255, HB1259, SB51, SB55, SB70, SB71, SB74, SB85, SB101, SB113, SB121, SB169, SB190, SB191, SB196, SB207, SB208, SB216 and SB219.

• The board accepted the resignation of Butch Farmen, maintenance team member, quickly followed by a vote to hire Adam Hjermstad as maintenance team member.

• Technology Coordinator Aaron Helvig reviewed recently completed project and discussed some issues looking to the future. Helvig told the board that some of the district's iPads no longer support system upgrades. They are fine for this year, but moving forward, new iPads will need to be purchased. Helvig also pushed for more technology-related classes. There are currently no computer classes offered at the high school level, and the last chance for students to take a computer class is as an elective in eighth grade. He recommended looking into some computer science classes that could be incorporated into the school year.

• Two board members (Nick Strom and Tigh Fliehs) will meet with Superintendent

Joe Schwan to discuss whether the district should contract with LiveTicket.TV to live stream events for the 2025-2026 school year. Currently, the Groton Baseball/Softball Foundation contracts with the company to livestream games during the summer. The contract would require the district to purchase live streaming equipment (estimated to cost about \$6,000), but the district would split advertising revenue with the company.

• Middle school and high school Opportunity Coordinator Jodi Schwan discussed dual credit classes with the board. Of the about 100 juniors and seniors at the high school, 48 are taking dual credit classes (college-level courses that allow students to earn both college and high school credit), and some are taking mul-

iple courses. For the spring semester, one student is taking a class from Dakota State University, 29 are taking classes from Lake Area Technical College, 36 are taking classes from Northern State University, 12 are taking classes from South Dakota State University and five are taking classes from the University of South Dakota.

• Both middle/high school Principal Shelby Edwards and elementary school Principal Brett Schwan noted parent-teacher conferences are Thursday.

• Business Manager Becky Hubsch reminded those in attendance that school board nomination petitions are due by 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28. Three positions are up for election in April.



**Paula Jensen**  
Senior Vice President



## The Community Coach Guest Column Title: From Volunteer to Leader: Building Stronger Rural Communities

Volunteering is a big part of life for most of us living in rural areas. A recent community survey by Dakota Resources and eight rural communities found that about 80% of people believe they need to get involved to help their community succeed. However, what I am hearing from local leaders is, "We need more engaged residents who want to volunteer!"

Volunteering can mean different things: donating money, helping neighbors, taking on leadership roles, or working on community projects. Across the country, the number of people who volunteer formally has been dropping for about 20 years. However, the numbers improved after the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2023, the national volunteering rate was 28%, up from 23.2% in 2021.

Rural America has always been an exception to these trends. In small towns, people rely on each other to create strong, successful communities. South Dakota ranked #6 in the country for formal volunteering, with 37.8% of people volunteering in 2023. This is up from 34.2% in 2021.

Yet, here in South Dakota, we still rank 6th for the highest need for leaders in the country. In our state, about 1 in 15 adults must serve as leaders for nonprofits or local government roles. In smaller counties, the need is even greater—closer to 1 in 7 people. For example, in my home county of 4,390 people, we need about 627 residents to step up into leadership roles.

The challenge is clear: many of the same people are carrying the weight of leadership across multiple organizations. These dedicated leaders, often called the "Same Ten People," are stretched thin. This is where you come in. Have you ever thought about taking on a leadership role in your community? Maybe no one has asked you yet, or maybe you're not sure where to start. The truth is, our communities need you, and your involvement can make a huge difference.

In my work with rural organizations and communities I have seen multiple solutions to meeting the demand for more leaders:

**Community Engagement:** Hosting regular community gatherings to engage residents in naming local priorities can give people a voice and entice them to volunteer for a priority they are passionate about.

**Youth Engagement:** Giving young people leadership opportunities in schools, organizations, and community programs can help create the next generation of volunteers.

**Economic Support:** Offering help, like small stipends, childcare, or recognition programs, can make it easier for people who can't afford to volunteer for free.

**Capacity Building:** Helping local organizations recruit, recognize, train, and keep volunteers can strengthen their ability to serve the community.

**Partnerships:** Creating partnerships between local governments, businesses, and nonprofits can provide more resources and support for volunteer work.

Even though 37.8% of South Dakotans volunteer—a rate higher than most of the country—it's not enough to meet the demand for leadership roles that exist. Small towns and rural areas depend on people like you to step up, lead, and ensure our communities thrive. Without enough leaders, essential organizations and services could fade away.

Leadership doesn't require special skills or years of experience—it requires a willingness to care and take action. Whether it's joining a local board, running for office, or mentoring a youth group, your effort matters. Don't wait to be asked. Look around and see where you can lend your voice, your time, or your skills.

Imagine what your community could be if more people stepped into leadership roles. It starts with you. Reach out to local organizations, talk to current leaders, and find a place where you can make a difference. Our rural communities are strong, but they will only stay that way if we all take part.

The future of our small towns depends on leaders like you. There's no better time to step up, get involved, and make your community a better place—starting today.

*The Community Coach. Having a passion for community leadership and development is what drives Paula Jensen's personal and professional life. Paula lives in her hometown of Langford, South Dakota, population 318+. She serves as a Strategic Doing practitioner, grant writer and community coach with Dakota Resources based in Renner, South Dakota. Dakota Resources is a mission-driven 501c3 Community Development Financial Institution working to connect capital and capacity to empower rural communities. Contact her at paula@dakotaresources.org.*

**Harry Implement**  
"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"

**CERTIFIED DEALER**  
**AFS**  
ADVANCED FARMING SYSTEMS

(605) 395-6421  
Ferney

**W**  
**Weismantel**  
AGENCY

AUTO  
HOME  
FARM  
COMMERCIAL  
CROP

Marty Weismantel  
605/396-7341  
weisag@nvc.net

PROGRESSIVE SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC LIABILITY & PROPERTY POOL GREATAMERICAN NORTH STAR Grifwest SFM

ACCESS TO MANY MORE COMPANIES!



Dear EarthTalk: What's so bad about wood pellet biomass energy anyway? Isn't wood a renewable resource?



-- M. Wilson, Houston, TX

Inch-long, compressed pieces made from pine and hardwood trees are plentiful in the Southeastern region of the United States, which is home to many wood pellet manufacturing companies. According to the Dogwood Alliance, 75 percent of wood pellets produced in the U.S. are sent to be burned in the U.K.

Biomass took off in 2009, after the European Union (EU) created its Renewable Energy Directive, which deemed wood pellets a renewable energy source and, as such, an important energy source. Seth Ginther, executive director of the United States Industrial Pellet Association, believes that wood pellet biomass is a "low-cost, low-carbon alternative," and "helps encourage forest owners to reforest and replant."

That said, many eco-advocates question just how sustainable producing and burning wood pellets really is. A recent report by Chatham House, a London-based think tank, estimates that 17.6 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) were released from burning wood pellets in the U.K in 2019. Also, gathering the wood requires clear cutting of forests, which releases CO2 that had been sequestered in the trees and soil. In the U.S., clear cutting and the making wood pellets produced upwards of 88 million tons of CO2.

Besides the ecological impact, communities living near wood pellet manufacturing centers suffer from constant exposure to thick smoke and toxic pollutants. "Fourteen million people in the United States live within a few miles of bioenergy facilities and breathe potentially harmful toxins and pollutants," says Edi Huno of the National Wildlife Federation. And often, those living right outside these manufacturing centers are communities of color with the majority of residents living below the poverty line.

Added to all this, many don't consider wood pellets renewable resource, which is one that does not exhaust Earth's resources. Trees that are ideal for wood pellets don't quickly regenerate. One idea has been to use fast-growing pine plantations, but they're less biodiverse and

bad at capturing carbon. Burning wood with lower levels of carbon generates less heat, making pine an inefficient source of fuel.

The wood pellet biomass industry continues to grow. That said, many environmental organizations, such as Dogwood Alliance, offer virtual petitions to sign on their respective websites. These petitions will be sent to state senators. By signing your name, you can help save southern forests and communities and keep unsafe levels of carbon emissions out of the atmosphere.



**Just because wood pellets are made from wood doesn't mean they are necessarily carbon neutral.**

Credit: By Tom Bruton, Public Domain.

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).

## Popeye and Testosterone Replacement

A few (or more) years ago, Popeye the Sailor Man was an inspirational cartoon character. When needed, the superhero would quickly swallow some spinach and become strong, able to pack a punch that would defeat any evil villain.

Nowadays, TV and internet commercials are encouraging men to consider testosterone replacement as the way to become stronger. While they are quick to tout the benefits, the risks are important and should not be ignored. Testosterone is the hormone in men that is produced from the testicles. It helps in sexual development in men, libido, erections, sperm production, muscle mass, and bone growth. It counteracts fat mass, stimulates red blood cell production, and plays a role in cognition and mood.

If a man has low testosterone (hypogonadism), determined by at least two early morning fasting blood draws, and they have symptoms of low testosterone, then it is reasonable to consider testosterone replacement therapy. Signs and symptoms of hypogonadism include low libido, decreased erections, loss of body hair, low bone mineral density, gynecomastia (breast development), and small testes.

Symptoms such as fatigue, depression, reduced muscle strength, increased fat mass, and low blood counts can be caused by a wide variety of factors, and should not be reasons alone to consider testosterone replacement.

The best way to increase one's testosterone is through good old diet and exercise. Studies have shown exercise, strength training, and weight loss all help to increase testosterone levels, oftentimes more than testosterone replacement does. Fat produces a hormone called leptin, which counteracts testosterone. Thus, losing fat and gaining muscle naturally increase one's testosterone. Meanwhile, a healthy diet and exercise often boost energy, mood, and overall health.

The most effective method for testosterone replacement is by injection. There are also topical gels and patches. Any over the counter supplement that claims to boost testosterone is misleading and unlikely to have any significant effect on testosterone levels.

Risks of testosterone replacement include prostate cancer, heart attacks, strokes, blood clots, acne, breast enlargement, sleep apnea, aggression, and can contribute to an enlarged prostate, which can cause urinary frequency or even urinary obstruction. While natural testosterone stimulates sperm production, testosterone replacement decreases sperm counts, decreases fertility, decreases testicular size, and decreases natural testosterone production.

Testosterone levels naturally decrease as men get older. While some may advertise testosterone as a "fountain of youth," the benefits are limited in this scenario and the risks increase as men get older. Popeye had the right idea. Putting in the work, and eating some spinach, is likely the better long-term plan.

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



Andrew Ellsworth, MD

# Ken's

## SUPER FAIR FOODS

FOOD FAIR & SHELL EXPRESS

ABERDEEN • GROTON • CLARK • IPSWICH • EUREKA • BRITTON • WWW.KENSSUPERFAIR.COM • FOLLOW US!

See Back Page for our  
Valentine's Day Specials!

See Back Pg for our  
Valentines Sushi  
Platter Special!

EVERY WEDNESDAYS IS \$6 SELECT SUSHI ITEMS

App Deal  
OF THE WEEK!

\$5.49

Lb.

USDA CHOICE DEMKOTA BONELESS SIRLOIN TIP ROAST

\$2.99

1 Lb. Pkg.

FRESH STRAWBERRIES

FREE

With \$10 purchase and Ken's App

PRAIRIE FARMS CREAM CHEESE 8 OZ. BOX

\$1.99

Lb.

BONELESS SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST

\$1.79

Lb.

WHOLESTONE WHOLE BOSTON BUTT PORK ROAST

GROCERY

SKIPPY PEANUT BUTTER 15-16.3 Oz. Jar

\$2.49

GROCERY

HUNT'S SNACK PACK PUDDING 4 CT. PKG.

99¢

DAIRY

BEST CHOICE MILK WHOLE, 2%, 1% OR SKIM 1 GALLON JUG

\$3.49

GROCERY

MALT-O-MEAL CEREALS 23-30 Oz. Bag

\$1.99

GROCERY

CRYSTAL GRANULATED SUGAR 4 Lb. Bag

\$2.99

GROCERY

CHI CHI'S TORTILLA CHIPS 11 Oz. Pkg. or SALSA 16 Oz. Jar

\$2.29

FROZEN

MR. DELL'S HASHBROWNS 30-32 Oz. Bag

\$2.99

HOUSEHOLD

SCOTT COMFORT PLUS BATH TISSUE 12 Roll Pkg.

\$4.99

LIQUOR/BEER

JIM BEAM 7 YR BLACK 1.75 Liter

\$37.99

BAKERY

KEN'S BAKERY FRESH WHITE MOUNTAIN BUNS 12 Count

\$2.99

DELI

CHEESE OF THE WEEK! SMOKED GOUDA

\$9.49

Lb.

SUN 9 AM - 1 PM  
MON-FRI 7 AM - 5 PM  
SAT 8 AM - 2 PM  
Call 605.225.0871

COFFEE • GOURMET DRINKS & FOODS

\$2.00 OFF

FLAVOR OF THE WEEK  
CHOCOLATE COVERED CHERRY

\$3.49-\$4.49

BEER \$18.99

BUSCH LIGHT 20 16.3 FL. OZ. CANS

Like 4

FIND US ON

FOLLOW US ON

PRICES GOOD AT ALL KEN'S LOCATIONS:  
FEB 9 THUR FEB 15

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
9	10	11	12	13	14	15

WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES AND CORRECT TYPOGRAPHICAL AND PICTORIAL ERRORS. NONE SOLD TO DEALERS. SOME ITEMS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE AT ALL STORES. Copyright © 2024 Ken's Advertising, LLC. All Rights Reserved. Written permission is required before use.

12 ♦ Groton Independent ♦ Wed., Feb. 12, 2025