



\$2

# The Groton Independent

Vol. 142 No. 24 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, March 5, 2025 ♦ Established in 1889

## Electric rates increase by 3%, base increases by \$5

The Groton City Council approved the first reading of the electric rates as WAPA is increasing its electric rate. The \$5 base increase to help pay for the metering costs. Those on LIEAP will not have to pay the \$5 increase. Electric rates will see an increase of 3 percent except for dual fuel meters which will see an increase to \$25 (from \$10) for a minimum fee for the months of November through April. Electric rates will increase from 10.7 cents per KWH to 11.0 cents per KWH. Dual Fuel will increase from .05 to .057. Geo rates will increase from .085 to .087. Demand customers will see a KWH increase from .085 to .087. The KW rate will remain unchanged at \$14 per Kilowatt.

Dwight Zerr, sewer superintendent, said, "We're doing well with the sewer end of things. It's pretty dry." He said there are three broken clean-outs and instead of digging up the whole street, they could be repaired for a total of \$18,000.

Terry Herron reported that there was a water break with lead pipe. Looking at getting the chip seal project ready for bid.

Todd Gay reported that he will be meeting with the Hecla City Council to discuss a project that they need help with.

Mike Shilhanek - Vice President of the Groton Development Corporation, came before the council to talk about an activity center. They are looking at getting the property south of the Groton Community Center. It would like a pole barn for an indoor playground. "We think it's a great location in Groton," Shilhanek said. Long term plans could also include having the Thrift Store and Pantry in the facility along with a youth center. He said that in a couple of months they will bring in the day care providers to get their input on it. Councilman Kevin Nehls said, "It's a nice concept."

There was also short discussion of possibly moving the city hall back to the original city hall, but Mayor Scott Hanlon quickly said, "That won't fly. The girls have done a great job with the library and we are not so cramped here. This has been a Godsend for us."

The council approved the transfer of a liquor license of the Red Horse Inn. There is a Contract for deed sale of the Red Horse from Darren and Lisa Locke, dba D & L Enterprises, to Keith Landwehr, dba American Grain LLC.

The baseball scoreboards at Nelson and Falk Fields need some repair work. Councilman Jason Wambach said the controllers need to be replaced which would cost \$2,300 each. Replacement of the scoreboards range from \$4,985 to \$6,560. "I hate to throw \$2,300 at it and still have an old system," Wambach said.

The council approved the purchase of scoreboards similar to the size we have now for \$4,985. If the foundation or Legion want a bigger board, they can chip in the difference.

Garbage bids will be going out for the next three years. This time, there will be no bid for automatic pickup as the city's streets are not capable handling the load. There was discussion if they have a smaller garbage truck to use when there is spring load limits in place.

Bids will also be let for painting the exterior of City Hall.

The council went into executive session for nearly an hour with Kami Lipp and Tricia Keith in attendance.

The second reading of the summer salary ordinance was approved. Applications are open for the summer recreational positions. The assistant part-time swimming pool manager's position was eliminated as the council will go with co-managers.

The equalization meeting is set for March 18th after the regular council meeting.

The council approved for Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich to attend finance officers/human resource school June 10-13 in Pierre.

The council tabled the hiring of summer recreation employees.

## No Groton elections this year

There will be no election this year for either the Groton Area School Board or the Groton City Council. Petitions were due Friday.

For the Groton Area School Board, incumbents Tigh Flihs and Travis Harder turned in petitions while incumbent Deborah Gengerke did not. Samantha Weber turned in her petition and will begin her term in July. All three positions are three-year terms.

Meanwhile on the Groton City Council, incumbent Mayor Scott Hanlon turned in his petition for another three-year term as mayor. On the council, incumbent Karyn Babcock turned in her petition for Ward 3 for a two-year term. Incumbent Shirley Wells did not turn in a petition in Ward 2; however, Michael Shilhanek did and will begin his two-year term in June in Ward 2. Incumbent Kevin Nehls did not take out a petition for Ward 1. Some one will have to be appointed to filled that position for a one-year term.



## Krueger is state champion

Liza Krueger took first place at the State Wrestling Tournament held this past weekend in Rapid City.

Photo courtesy of South Dakota Public Broadcasting.  
©2025 SDPB | Landon DeBoer

## Four musicians selected for Middle School All State Band



Pictured are Novalea Warrington, Aspen Beto, Kyrie Yeigh and Liam Johnson. (Courtesy photo)

Aspen Beto (Clarinet), Liam Johnson (Alto Saxophone), Novalea Warrington (Flute/Piccolo) and Kyrie Yeigh (Clarinet) have been accepted into the 2025 South Dakota Middle School All State Band. This year there was a record breaking of 563 auditions from 82 different schools. Liam and Novalea are both second year members and will be playing in the Honor Band. Aspen and Kyrie are first year members will be playing in the Festival Band.

The South Dakota Music Education Association will present the 2025 SD Middle School All-State Band on Saturday March 8, 2025 in the Mitchell High School Performing Arts Center at 3:00 PM. This concert will feature 200 6th - 8th graders from across the state performing in two bands under the direction of Dr. Kevin Kessler and Dr. Bethany Amundson.

There is a \$5.00 admission fee for the concert. Tickets will be available for purchase at the door the afternoon of the concert. Students 18 and under are free.

The mission of the National Association for Music Education is to advance music education by promoting the understanding and making of music by all. SDMEA is a state affiliate of the National Association for Music Education. With over 400 members, SDMEA is the largest association of instructional musicians in the state catering to the needs of band, choral, general music and orchestral teachers.

## Queen of Hearts

The Queen of Hearts drawing was Thursday night at the Groton American Legion. The jackpot is \$16,519. Ticket sales for the week was \$1,185 with 10% (\$118) going to the consolation winner. The name of Lori Herron was drawn. She had card number 27 and the card was the Ten of Clubs. The Queen of Hearts will now continue into week number 20.

# Liza Krueger is state champion

The state wrestling tournament concluded Saturday with Groton Area's Liza Krueger, sophomore, becoming a state champion at 100 pounds. She pinned Kyra Vandenberg of Belle Fourche in 5:26. Krueger finishes the season with a 46-2 record.

The two senior Doland wrestlers, Kyla Logan at 138 pounds and Reganne Miles at 165 pounds, have been practicing at Groton Area and both placed third.

Two senior boys were also in the finals with Christian Ehresmann placing fourth at 144 pounds and Korbin Kucker winning the seventh place match at 175 pounds.

**G100: Liza Krueger (46-2) placed 1st and scored 28.0 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Liza Krueger (Groton Area) 46-2 won by fall over Vanessa Anderson (Watertown) 29-25 (Fall 2:56)

Quarterfinal - Liza Krueger (Groton Area) 46-2 won by fall over Jewel Gannon (Canton) 25-13 (Fall 3:15)

Semifinal - Liza Krueger (Groton Area) 46-2 won in tie breaker - 1 over Madison Little (Aberdeen Central) 44-10 (TB-1 7-1)

1st Place Match - Liza Krueger (Groton Area) 46-2 won by fall over Kyra Vandenberg (Belle Fourche) 40-4 (Fall 5:26)

**B113: Keegan Kucker (31-12) scored 2.5 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Tayten Kurkowski (Webster Area) 14-8 won by decision over Keegan Kucker (Groton Area) 31-12 (Dec 11-6)

Cons. Round 1 - Keegan Kucker (Groton Area) 31-12 won by tech fall over Brysen Baloun (Parker) 13-22 (TF-1.5 2:35 (16-0))

Cons. Round 2 - Ruger Smokov (Bennett County) 26-14 won by fall over Keegan Kucker (Groton Area) 31-12 (Fall 4:33)

**B132: Donavon Block (29-17).**

Champ. Round 1 - Daniel Dorsy (Mount Vernon/Plankinton/Corsica-Stickney) 43-17 won by fall over Donavon Block (Groton Area) 29-17 (Fall 3:30)

Cons. Round 1 - Kason Barry (Philip/Kadoka Area/Wall) 40-17 won by fall over Donavon Block (Groton Area) 29-17 (Fall 0:43)

**G138: Kyla Logan (37-12) placed 3rd and scored 18.0 team points.**

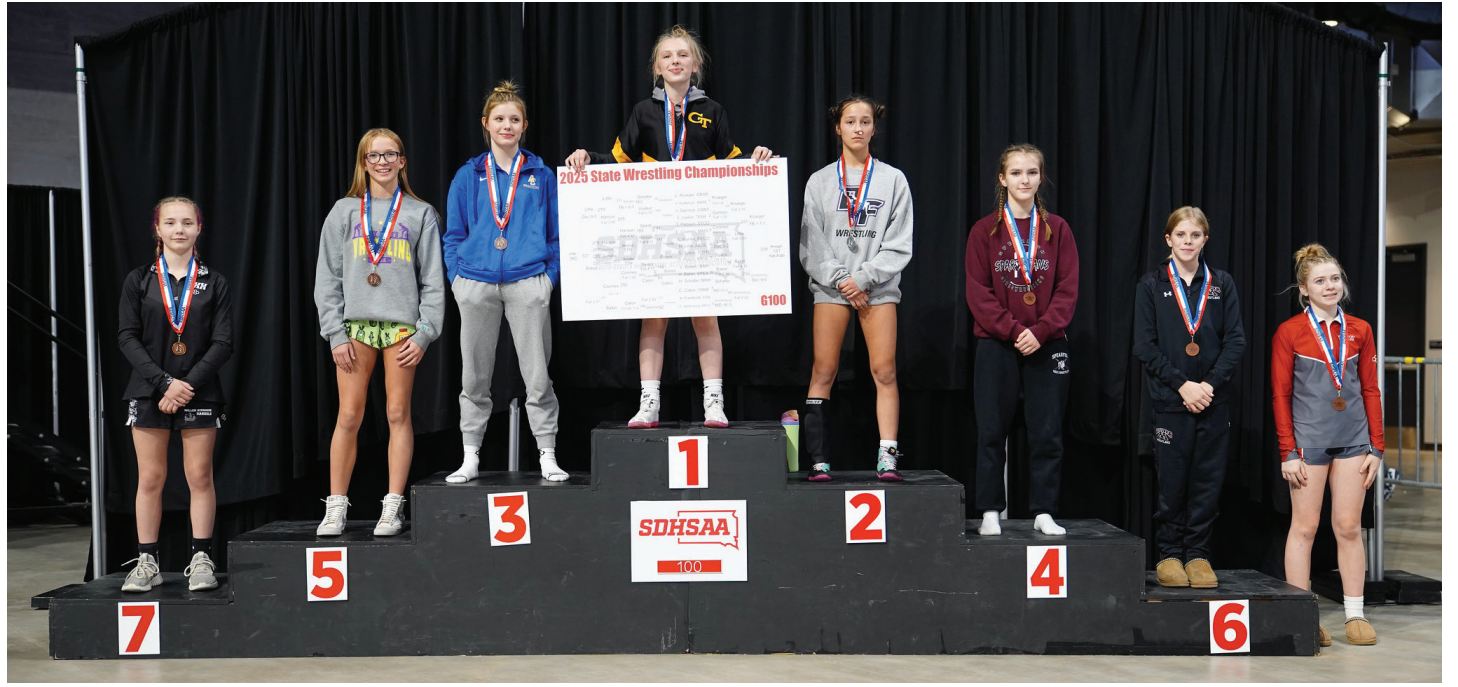
Champ. Round 1 - Kyla Logan (Doland) 37-12 won by fall over Hailey Fortney (West Central) 26-14 (Fall 5:34)

Quarterfinal - Kyla Logan (Doland) 37-12 won by decision over Reese Olson (Beresford/Alcester-Hudson) 41-10 (Dec 9-5)

Semifinal - Kezrey Benning (Pierre T.F. Riggs) 30-4 won by decision over Kyla Logan (Doland) 37-12 (Dec 8-2)

Cons. Semi - Kyla Logan (Doland) 37-12 won by decision over Rakyrah Wallace (Aberdeen Central) 40-18 (Dec 5-3)

3rd Place Match - Kyla Logan (Doland) 37-12 won by fall over Reese Olson (Beresford/Alcester-Hudson) 41-10 (Fall 1:57)



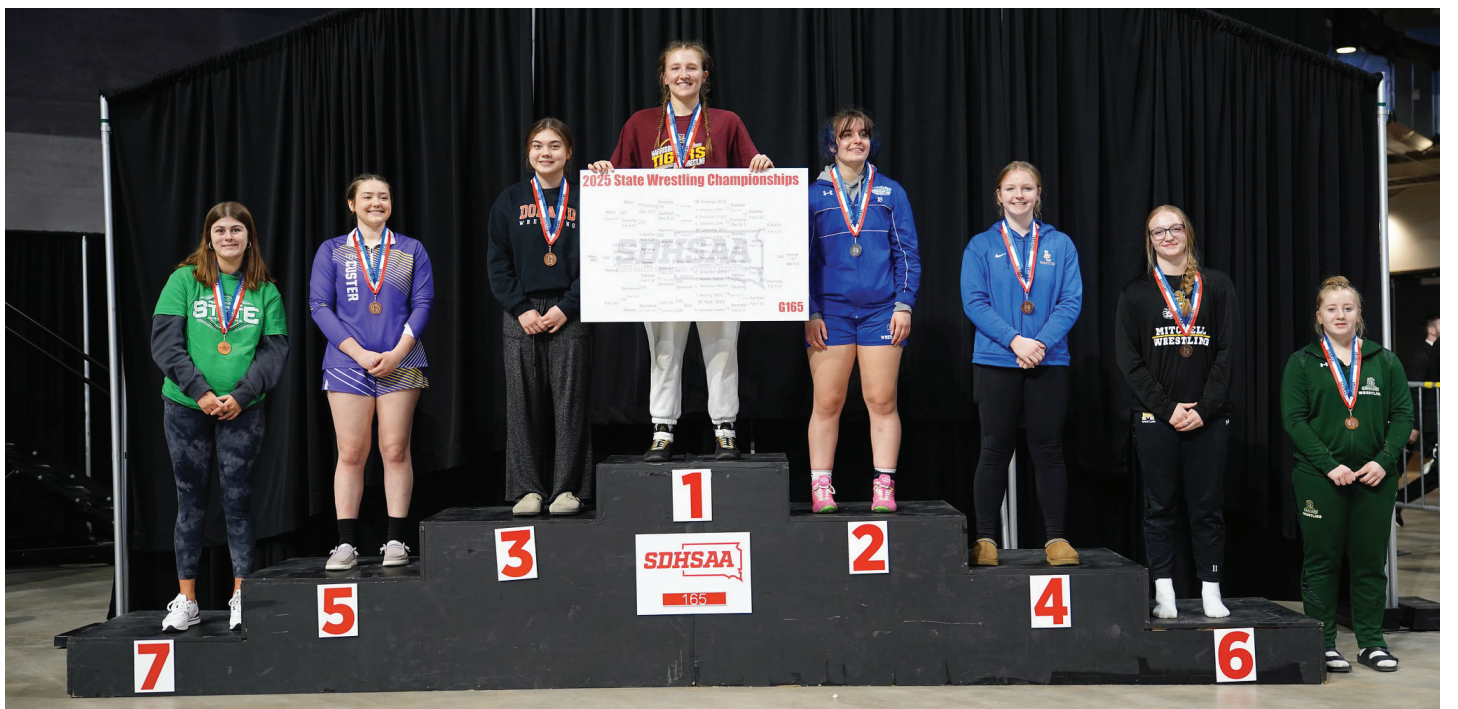
**Liza Krueger, sophomore, is a state champion at 100 pounds.**

Photo courtesy of South Dakota Public Broadcasting. ©2025 SDPB | Landon DeBoer



**Kyla Logan, Doland senior, placed third at 138 pounds.**

Photo courtesy of South Dakota Public Broadcasting. ©2025 SDPB | Landon DeBoer



**Reganne Miles, Doland senior, placed third at 165 pounds.**

Photo courtesy of South Dakota Public Broadcasting. ©2025 SDPB | Landon DeBoer



**Christian Ehresmann, senior, placed fourth at 144 pounds.**

Photo courtesy of South Dakota Public Broadcasting. ©2025 SDPB | Landon DeBoer

**B144: Christian Ehresmann (33-6) placed 4th and scored 17.5 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 33-6 won by major decision over Tel Gropper (Philip/Kadoka Area/Wall) 18-10 (MD 15-1)

Quarterfinal - Kellan Hurd (Miller/Highmore-Harrold) 46-4 won by fall over Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 33-6 (Fall 1:36)

Cons. Round 2 - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 33-6 won by tech fall over Owen Rigg (Elk Point-Jefferson) 19-17 (TF-1.5 1:13 (17-2))

Cons. Round 3 - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 33-6 won by major decision over Bryce Hawkinson (Britton-Hecla) 34-5 (MD 10-2)

Cons. Semi - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 33-6 won by fall over Leighton Sander (Custer) 44-14 (Fall 2:27)

3rd Place Match - Ryken Orel (Winner) 46-7 won by major decision over Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 33-6 (MD 8-0)

**B157: Walker Zoellner (29-12) scored 1.0 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Treyson Richter (Tri-Valley) 39-11 won by major decision over Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 29-12 (MD 13-0)

Cons. Round 1 - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 29-12 won by decision over David Lewis (Custer) 24-27 (Dec 4-0)

Cons. Round 2 - Gage Reichert (Parkston) 38-16 won by fall over Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 29-12 (Fall 1:41)

**G165: Reganne Miles (38-10) placed 3rd and scored 20.0 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Reganne Miles (Doland) 38-10 won by fall over Faith Slavin (Viborg-Hurley/Irene-Wakonda) 23-19 (Fall 1:31)

Quarterfinal - Reganne Miles (Doland) 38-10 won by fall over Jayda Steinke (Pierre T.F. Riggs) 22-15 (Fall 1:28)

Semifinal - Marieda Kalahar (Rapid City Stevens) 41-3 won by fall over Reganne Miles (Doland) 38-10 (Fall 1:25)

Cons. Semi - Reganne Miles (Doland) 38-10 won by fall over Taylor DeJong (Mitchell) 26-15 (Fall 4:19)

3rd Place Match - Reganne Miles (Doland) 38-10 won by decision over Lilly Nelson (Aberdeen Central) 35-14 (Dec 3-0)

**B175: Korbin Kucker (39-6) placed 7th and scored 6.0 team points.**

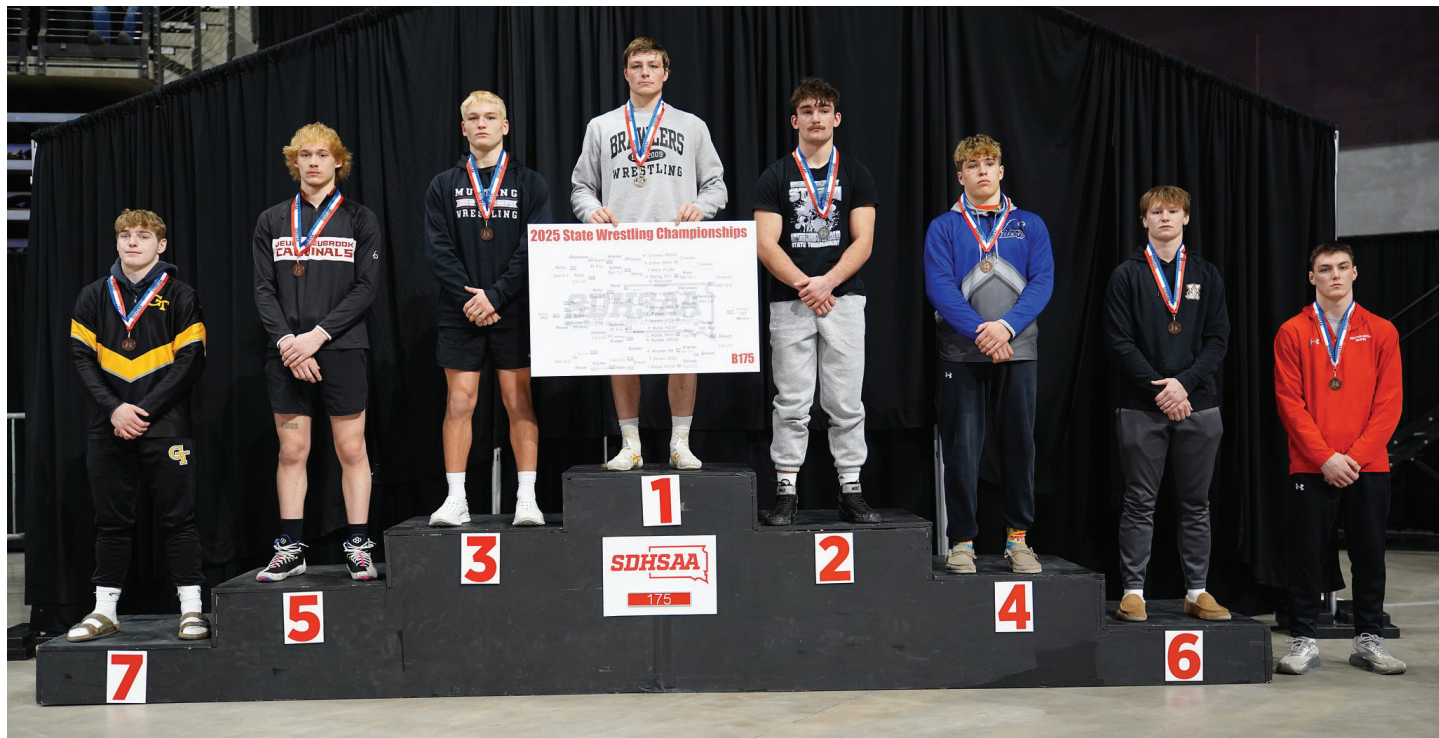
Champ. Round 1 - Kolter Kramer (Parkston) 21-8 won by decision over Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 39-6 (Dec 6-4)

Cons. Round 1 - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 39-6 won by fall over Taylor Snaza (Sisseton) 28-20 (Fall 2:23)

Cons. Round 2 - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 39-6 won by decision over Justin Klein (Flandreau) 43-18 (Dec 10-4)

Cons. Round 3 - Korbin Whiteley (Deuel/Deubrook Area) 27-6 won in tie breaker - 1 over Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 39-6 (TB-1 4-1)

7th Place Match - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 39-6 won by decision over Ben Suther (Britton-Hecla) 38-17 (Dec 7-2)



**Korbin Kucker, senior, placed seventh at 175 pounds.**  
Photo courtesy of South Dakota Public Broadcasting. ©2025 SDPB | Landon DeBoer

**B285: Gavin Englund (30-11).**

Champ. Round 1 - Preston Cavalier (Warner/Northwestern) 43-3 won by fall over Gavin Englund (Groton Area) 30-11 (Fall 0:50)

Cons. Round 1 - Derek Fenenga (Winner) 34-20 won by decision over Gavin Englund (Groton Area) 30-11 (Dec 4-2)

## Conde National League

**March 3 Team Standings:** Braves 39 (winner of second half), Cubs 29, Giants 25, Pirates 22, Stooges 21, Mets 20.

**Men's High Games:** Butch Farmen 213, Skip Kettering 198, Aaron Severson 173.

**Men's High Series:** Butch Farmen 549, Skip Kettering 495, Dion Bahr 479.

**Women's High Games:** Sam Bahr 189, Nancy Radke 177, Suzi Easthouse 171, Sandy Hoops 171.

**Women's High Series:** Sam Bahr 535, Suzi Easthouse 507, Nancy Radke 457.

## School looking at offering LiveTicket.TV

by Dorene Nelson

There may soon be three choices for remote viewing of Groton Area School District sporting events. Two of the three are already available. GDILIVE has been broadcasting local games and events for 10 years. Hudl TV is available for sporting events in the arena. The third option is an offer from LiveTicket.TV.

LiveTicket.TV has contacted the Groton Area School Board with an offer to broadcast the home sporting events. Their offer could include video and commentary recording, if local people do the play-by-play action can be found. There are no subscription fees for the viewers since all costs for this service are covered by corporate sponsors.

The cameras to do this broadcasting will have to be purchased by the school district at a cost of about \$6000; however, the school district would receive revenue from the sponsors which should cover the cost of the cameras. The school currently has revenue from graduated class accounts to cover the start-up equipment expenses. No public tax funds are needed to begin this project.

Large corporation sponsors as well as local supporters pay for the bulk of the cost of LiveTicket.TV. Sponsorships provide ongoing support for the use of the system that produces the broadcasts and to support the student activities that viewers want to see.

There are four tiers of sponsorship for LiveTicket.TV. These increase in number and cost depending upon the areas covered. Currently the Groton Baseball/Softball Foundation has a contract with LiveTicket.TV to broadcast their games in Groton.

Another source of broadcasting sporting events is Hudl TV, already installed in the school, and providing some of the same features that LiveTicket.TV does. The coaching staff uses Hudl recordings to review how their athletes are doing, check on the statistics for each game and player, and for general information on games.

Coaches are also able to view the strategies and statistics from other schools. They can watch videos of other schools and their games and players to get a good idea of what the competition has to offer.

LiveTicket.TV needs sponsorships with half of the revenue being returned to the school district. Most of these sponsors are large, corporate companies.

The broadcasts are only provided for home games since no one hauls the equipment from school to school as is now being done by Paul Kosel. GDILIVE doesn't provide any revenue for the school, but he does devote much of his "free" time to broadcasting local events that are of great interest to local citizens. Kosel also broadcasts all sporting events, whether they are held in Groton or in another town.

In addition to GDILIVE, Kosel also publishes the Groton Independent, a weekly printed newspaper as well as a daily online publication, very rare in towns the size of Groton. Many local events, including school activities, are featured in his newspapers.

GDILIVE charges viewers \$5 per game to watch from the comfort of their home. A \$50 yearly subscription to the Groton Daily Independent includes free viewing of all GDILIVE recordings. GDILIVE is also exploring the option of free viewing on YouTube.

LiveTicket.TV is mainly for sporting events and not for other local school activities such as homecoming coronation, school plays, Veterans' Day programs, Christmas programs, the Ice Carnival, and non-school events like live-streaming funerals and city council meetings. Only Paper Paul covers these special events on GDILIVE. LiveTicket.TV would however be available for broadcasting school board meetings. GDILIVE also broadcasts the school board meetings.

LiveTicket.TV equipment can be used to broadcast any event in the school. The sponsorship agreements require the production of football, volleyball, boys and girls basketball, and wrestling.

If LiveTicket.TV is approved by the school board, the earliest it would be available is in the fall of 2025. Long term goals might include an elective class to teach students how to provide commentary and explanations during the broadcast of the games.

Those individuals who support the addition of LiveTicket.TV to the school's sporting events must consider everything involved. Free viewing of sporting events vs. a local newspaper and coverage of all school and city events, not just sports. Groton can do both!

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Solution time: 25 mins.

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Tina Kosel, Office Manager [office@grotonsd.net](mailto:office@grotonsd.net) ~ 605-397-7285  
Notices: [legals@grotonsd.net](mailto:legals@grotonsd.net)  
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# Groton Tigers Dominate Aberdeen Christian in Convincing Victory

ABERDEEN - The Groton Area Tigers put on a dominant display Friday night at the Aberdeen Civic Center, rolling past the Aberdeen Christian Knights 58-28 in a statement win.

The Tigers wasted no time seizing control, jumping out to a 13-4 lead after the first quarter. Their defensive intensity and rebounding prowess set the tone early, forcing the Knights into difficult shots and capitalizing on turnovers. By halftime, Groton extended its lead to 28-16, and by the end of the third quarter, they had stretched it to 44-25, effectively putting the game out of reach.

## Balanced Attack Leads the Way

Ryder Johnson was a force inside, recording a double-double with 16 points and 13 rebounds. His dominance on the boards helped Groton control possessions and limit second-chance opportunities for the Knights. Karson Zac added 13 points while also dishing out four assists to lead the team in playmaking. Keegen Tracy contributed 11 points, while Becker Bosma had nine points, seven rebounds, and a team-high four steals.

The Tigers were efficient from the field, hitting 21 of 41 shots inside the arc for a solid 51%. While their three-point shooting (4-for-15) was not their strongest suit, their ability to attack the basket and control the paint made up for it.

## Defense and Rebounding Key to Victory

Groton's defensive effort was relentless, forcing 13 turnovers from Aberdeen Christian and converting six of those into 13 points. The Tigers also racked up 10 steals, with Bosma leading the way. Groton's rebounding advantage was evident, as they hauled in 35 total boards, including seven each from Sippel and Bosma.

On the other end, Aberdeen Christian struggled to find an offensive rhythm. Brooks Jett led the Knights with 13 points, but as a team, they shot just 28% (10-for-36) from the field. Their offensive struggles were magnified in the fourth quarter, where they failed to make a single field goal, leading to their lowest-scoring game of the season.

## Groton Sweeps the Night

The Tigers' success wasn't limited to the varsity level, as Groton dominated across all age groups.

Junior Varsity: Groton cruised to a 54-14 victory, with Anthony Tracy leading the charge with 14 points. Jayden Schwan added 10, while Easton Weber chipped in with eight.

Eighth Grade: A 36-20 win showcased the Tigers' depth and future talent.

Seventh Grade: The youngest Tigers secured a 33-17 victory to complete the program sweep.

With this win, Groton Area proved why they are a formidable force this season. Their combination of defensive intensity, rebounding dominance, and balanced scoring makes them a tough matchup for any opponent. Both varsity teams are now 15-5 on the season. Groton Area will host the second round region game on Friday at 7 p.m. The Tigers have a first round bye as the number one seed team in the region.

- Story compiled by ChatGPT

- Ryder Johnson: 16 points, 13 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals, 2 fouls, 1 block.
- Keegen Tracy: 11 points, 1 rebound, 3 assists, 1 steal, 2 fouls.
- Gage Sippel: 5 points, 7 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal, 1 foul.
- Becker Bosma: 9 points, 7 rebounds, 1 assist, 4 steals, 2 fouls.
- Karson Zak: 13 points, 3 rebounds, 4 assists, 1 steal, 1 block.
- Easton Weber: 1 assist.
- Turner Thompson: 2 points, 2 rebounds, 1 foul.
- Jayden Schwan: 1 steal, 1 foul.
- Logan Warrington: 2 rebounds.
- Taylor Diegel: 2 points.
- 2-Pointers: 21-41 51%, 3-Pointers: 4-15 27%, Free Throws: 4-9 44%, 35 rebounds, 6 turnovers, 13 assists, 10 steals, 9 fouls, 2 blocks.

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Aberdeen Christian: Brooks Jett 13, Ellis Russell 6, Grady Jett 5, Dylan Hofer 2, Luke Kaiser 2. Field Goals: 10-36 28%, Free Throws: 6-12 50%, 8 fouls, 13 turnovers.

Groton Junior Varsity: Anthony Tracy 14, Jayden Schwan 10, Easton Weber 8, Ryder Schelle 7, Jordan Schwan 4, Jace Johnson 3, Asher Johnson 2, Ethan Kroll 1. Aberdeen Christian JV: Charles Eichler 9, Daniel Opdahl

3, Owen Russell 1.

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The varsity and junior varsity games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM. Varsity sponsors were 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 and The Meathouse in Andover. Hefty Seed sponsored the junior varsity game. Paul Kosel and Jeslyn Kosel were on hand for the action.





# Sisseton Outlasts Groton in Overtime Thriller to Advance in Region 1A Tournament

GROTON – The second round of the Region 1A girls basketball tournament delivered a game for the ages Thursday night, as Sisseton and Groton battled through four grueling quarters and an overtime period before the Redmen emerged victorious, 52-44.

It was a contest defined by momentum swings, defensive intensity, and clutch performances, with seven lead changes and five ties in the third quarter alone. The Tigers came out strong, jumping to a 7-2 lead before Sisseton settled in. By the end of the first quarter, Groton held a slim 9-8 advantage.

The second quarter saw both teams struggle at times offensively, but Sisseton's more efficient shooting (56% compared to Groton's 27%) helped them gain an 18-17 lead at halftime. The back-and-forth battle continued into the third quarter, with neither team able to maintain control for long. The Tigers clung to a 33-30 lead heading into the final period, but Sisseton remained within striking distance.

The fourth quarter saw both teams dig deep, with defensive pressure ramping up. Groton shot just 15% from the field, but Sisseton also struggled, making only 2 of 7 shots. However, free throws proved to be a major factor, as Sisseton capitalized on Groton's foul trouble, making 7 of 12 attempts from the line.

With Sisseton leading by one with just 6.9 seconds left in regulation, Groton's Rylee Dunker had ice in her veins, hitting one of two free throws to send the game into overtime.

Once the extra period began, Sisseton quickly seized control. Elliott Hortness buried a clutch three-pointer, followed by a Krista Langager basket, giving the Redmen a lead they would never relinquish. Groton struggled offensively in overtime, making just one of six shots, while Sisseton shot 50% from the field and continued to find success at the free-throw line to seal the victory.

Krista Langager led all scorers with 20 points for Sisseton, while Ruby Rice added 11 points, including nine crucial free throws. Saylor Langager also contributed 11 points, helping push the Redmen to the win.

For Groton, Kennedy Hansen led the way with 12 points before fouling out with 38 seconds left in regulation. Taryn Traphagen had a strong all-around game with 10 points and seven rebounds. Chesney Weber came off the bench to provide eight points, while Dunker finished with six points and five rebounds.

Defensively, Groton was relentless, recording 18 steals—six of them from Jerica Locke, who fouled out with 2:07 left in the fourth quarter. However, the Tigers' aggressive style led to 27 team fouls, which Sisseton capitalized on by converting 21 of 33 free throws.

With the win, Sisseton (15-7) punches its ticket to the SoDak 16, while Groton (15-7) sees its season come to a heartbreaking end. Despite the loss, the Tigers showcased resilience, defensive tenacity, and a never-quit attitude that defined their season.

## Groton Area

Jerica Locke: 3 points, 2 rebounds, 3 assists, 6 steals, 5 fouls.

Jaedyn Penning: 3 points, 4 rebounds, 2 steals, 4 fouls.

Kennedy Hansen: 12 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist, 2 steals, 5 fouls.

Brooklyn Hansen: 1 assist.

Rylee Dunker: 6 points, 5 rebounds, 2 steals, 3 fouls.

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

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

Taryn Traphagen: 10 points, 7 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals, 2 fouls.

Chesney Weber: 8 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal, 3 fouls.

2-Pointers: 11-30 37%, 3-Pointers: 4-22 18%, Free throws: 10-15 67%, 29 rebounds, 21 turnovers, 10 assists, 18 steals, 27 fouls, 1 block.

Sisseton: Krista Langager 20, Saylor Langager 11, Ruby Rice 11, Elliot Hortness 5, Piper Langager 2, Tara Nelson 2, Fallon Hawkins 1. Field Goals: 15-38 39%, Free Throws: 21-33 64%, 17 fouls, 22 turnovers.

Record: Groton area 15-7. Sisseton: 15-7.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Bary Keith of Harr Motors, Bierman Farm service, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Farmers Union Coop of Ferney and Conde, Greg Johnson Construction of Bristol, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Dairy Queen, Groton Ford, Hanlon Brothers, John Sieh Agency, Ken's Food Fair, Lori's Pharmacy, Olive Grove Golf Course, Rix Farms/R&M Farms, S & S Lumber, Spanier Harvesting, Sun & Sea Travel, The MeatHouse of Andover and the Weismantel Agency of Columbia. Shane Clark provided the play-by-play, Jeslyn Kosel ran the camera Paper Paul kept the stats and did the technology.

## Groton Prairie Mixed Bowling League Week #15 Results

Team Standings: Jackelopes 3, Cheetahs 3, Coyotes 3, Shihtzus 1, Chipmunks 1, Foxes 1

Men's High Games: Brad Larson 217, Lance Frohling 203, Tony Waage 199

Women's High Games: Vicki Walter 181, Darci Spanier & Sue Stanley 170, Hayley Johnson 163, 161

Men's High Series: Tony Waage 545, Lance Frohling 533, Butch Farmen 528

Women's High Series: Vicki Walter 482, Hayley Johnson 457, Darci Spanier 449

Week 15 Fun Game – Low Series – Foxes with 1617!

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## SDCUC Seeks Farmers for Open District



The South Dakota Corn Utilization Council (SDCUC) is a visionary and influential producer leadership organization in the state. The 9-member Board manages and invests South Dakota's 1-cent per bushel corn checkoff.

The SDCUC is announcing a Director position open in District 5. A SDCUC Director's position consists of a three-year term ending on February 29, 2028.

If you are a corn farmer from District 5 and are interested in seeking a Board seat, you must obtain a nominating petition with the SDCUC office. All nominating petitions must contain at least 15 "participating" corn producer signatures who reside in your district. (A "participating" corn producer produced corn in the state during the current or preceding marketing year.) Both a "participating grower" and eligible candidates who wish to seek a Director's position cannot have requested a checkoff refund since January 2024. Nominating petitions must be returned to the SDCUC office by 5pm on April 7, 2025.

To request a nomination petition please contact the SDCUC office in person at 4712 S. Technopolis Dr., Sioux Falls, SD 57106 or by calling 605.334.0100.

If more than one nominating petition is received by the SDCUC office for any district, an election will be conducted for that district. The election will be held April 25, 2025 by absentee voting.

The counties assigned to District 5 are noted below:

**District 5:** Brown, Campbell, Corson, Harding, McPherson, Perkins, Walworth

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Rug cleaner, briefly
- 4 500 sheets
- 8 Nursery cry
- 12 — -de-France
- 13 "Prometheus" actor Idris
- 14 Tehran's country
- 15 Pottery
- 17 Dweeb
- 18 Ecol. watch-dog
- 19 Church meet-ups
- 21 Mellow yellows
- 24 Calendar abbr.
- 25 Train unit
- 26 Actress Catrall
- 28 Rural build-ings
- 32 Pharmaceut-ical
- 34 Crosses (out)
- 36 Cranny
- 37 "The Stranger" author
- 39 Drone
- 41 Roman 1006
- 42 Judge in 1995 news
- 44 Polite denial
- 46 Height
- 50 Sunbather's goal
- 51 Part of N.B.
- 52 Mob bully

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13				14				
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32			33		34		35		36		
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46	47	48			49		50				
51					52		53			54	55
56					57				58		
59					60				61		

- 56 Composer Stravinsky
- 57 Baltic feeder
- 58 Big bird
- 59 Brady and Hanks
- 60 Scatters seeds
- 61 Filch
- 6 Grade-school basics
- 7 Brick worker
- 8 SUV's kin
- 9 Location
- 10 Crumbly earth
- 11 Common conjunctions
- 16 Mimic
- 20 Male swan
- 21 Outlet letters
- 22 Actress Kate
- 23 Half dozen
- 27 "Whatever"
- 29 Lothario
- 30 PBS science show
- 31 Nonfat
- 33 Fender instru-ments
- 35 Heat source
- 38 "Rugrats" dad
- 40 Engines
- 43 Two-tone cookies
- 45 Scratch
- 46 Tizzy
- 47 Takeout request
- 48 Physics bit
- 49 Within (Pref.)
- 53 Hardly any
- 54 Punk-rock subgenre
- 55 Massage

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## Classifieds and Card of Thanks

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

1 Week: \$9 for first 30 words, 20¢/word thereafter  
 2 Wks: \$17 for first 30 words, 38¢/word thereafter  
 3 Wks: \$24 for first 30 words, 54¢/word thereafter  
 4th consecutive week is free  
**605/397-NEWS (6397)**  
 PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

### CARD OF THANKS

**Thank you to each of you who reached out with your good wishes and memories shared for my 90th Birthday! We had a wonderful day of fun, visiting and making more memories. Thank you for being a special part of my day.**

**MaryAnn Wehde**

### EMPLOYMENT

CUSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT in Custer, SD, has teaching vacancies: Special Education, 8-12 Art, K-8 Music, Agricultural Science. Apply online [csd.k12.sd.us](http://csd.k12.sd.us). Salary DOE. Until filled. 605-673-3154.

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### LAND

IN SEARCH OF PASTURE for 50-300 Pairs. 5th Generation, SD, ranchers looking to expand. Long term lease preferred but would consider short term. Call (605)690-1997

### MISCELLANEOUS

FOR MY RESEARCH on place attachment, I'm surveying South Dakotans to explore the most influential factors in staying or leaving. Please consider taking/sharing at [americanrootsmigration.com](http://americanrootsmigration.com)

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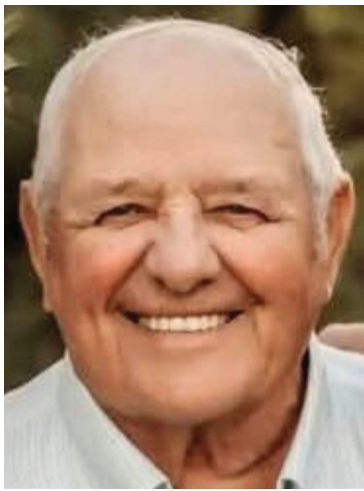
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## The Life of Jerry Bonn



A lifelong farmer, devoted family man, and cherished pillar of the Conde community, Jerry Bonn passed away peacefully on February 26, 2025, at the age of 84.

Services were held Monday, March 3, 2025, at United Methodist Church in Groton, with Rev. Rob Moorlach officiating. Burial followed at Bates-Scotland Cemetery, rural Verdon, under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. The service was live-streamed at [GDILIVE.com](http://GDILIVE.com).

Born on June 12, 1940, in Webster, South Dakota, to Joseph and Nina (Mereness) Bonn, Jerry grew up in Groton, where his passion for farming took root. He spent decades tending the land, earning a reputation as a skilled dairy farmer whose dedication to his craft was matched only by his love for his family. On September 7, 1961, Jerry married Beverly Morehouse in Webster, and together they raised five children on the family farm—a home filled with love, laughter, and the rewards of hard work.

Jerry's life was rich with simple joys. An avid hunter and fisherman, he eagerly hosted family and friends for pheasant season's opening day and cherished fishing trips brimming with camaraderie, good food, and shared stories. His farm shop became a beloved gathering spot, where the aroma of fresh coffee mingled with the warmth of conversation among hunters, neighbors, and loved ones. Each morning, Jerry was a familiar face at Marlins, joining friends for coffee, breakfast, and storytelling—an enduring ritual of connection and laughter.

Known for his playful spirit, quick wit, and welcoming smile, Jerry left an indelible mark on all who knew him. His grandchildren and great-grandchildren brought out his lighthearted side, filling his later years with immense joy. A masterful card player, he excelled at Pinochle, Whist, and Euchre, often delighting in friendly competition.

Jerry's commitment extended beyond his family to his community. He served over 50 years on the Scotland Township Board, a testament to his loyalty and sense of duty. After the passing of his beloved wife, Beverly, on February 7, 2013—following 52 years of marriage—Jerry gradually entrusted the farm to his son, Greg, while finding companionship in his later years with Helen Munger.

Jerry is survived by his children: Jeffrey (Gail) Bonn of Mobridge, SD, and their children, Brett (Abbie) Johnson and their children, Dylin and Max, Jared, and Allie; Patty (Rick) Mattox of Bel Air, MD, and their children, Ryan (Christel), Brent (Lia) and daughter, Isla, Kyle, and Cody; Penny (Michael) Polasky of Brandon, SD, and their children, Kara, Kirstyn(Austin) Ryan, and Kenzie; Greg (Stacey) Bonn of Conde, SD, and their children, Skyler (Tyler) Wadman and son, Emmett, Paityn (Braidon) Craig, and Paxton (Taylor); and Clint (Chris) Bonn of Madison, MN, and their children, Austin, Addyson, Aidyn, and Aaron. He also leaves behind his brother, Ronnie Bonn, and sisters, Audrey Christenson, JoAnn Haar, Joyce Smith, and MaryJo Geffre.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Nina; his wife, Beverly; his brothers, Donnie, Richard, Eugene, and Marvin; and his sisters, Blanche, Marlys, Carol, Lois, and Margery.

Jerry Bonn's legacy—of love, laughter, and an unwavering work ethic—will live on in the hearts of his family, friends, and the community he so dearly cherished.

## Structure Fire in Columbia

Five fire departments battled a structure fire in Columbia Saturday afternoon. A multi building shop structure was reported on fire around 1:30 p.m. Crews from Columbia, Aberdeen Rural, Aberdeen City, Groton, and Claremont were on scene for much of the afternoon. Strong winds worked against fire fighting efforts. 1 minor injury was reported. The Brown County Emergency Management Office and Brown County Sheriff's office also responded.



(Photo from Brown County Emergency Management Facebook Page)



(Photo from Frederick Area Fire & Rescue Facebook Page)



**#1 - Britton-Hecla School District Bri...**

<b>BE</b> 4 Britton-Hecla	<b>51</b>	<b>FINAL</b>
5 Sisseton	<b>49</b>	

**#2 - Aberdeen Catholic Schools**

2 Aberdeen Roncalli	<b>79</b>	<b>FINAL</b>
7 Redfield	<b>34</b>	

**#3 - Aberdeen Catholic Schools**

3 Milbank	<b>54</b>	<b>FINAL</b>
6 Webster Area	<b>20</b>	

**#4 - Groton Area**

1 Groton Area	15-5	<b>3/7</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> <b>CT</b>
<b>BE</b> 4 Britton-Hecla	10-11	



**#5 - Aberdeen Catholic Schools**

2 Aberdeen Roncalli	10-11	<b>3/7</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> <b>CT</b>
3 Milbank	11-10	

**SODAK 16 QUALIFIER**

**SODAK 16 QUALIFIER**

**Seed Points Averages (calculated Mar. 1)**

#1 Groton Area 43.950 - #2 Aberdeen Roncalli 40.650 - #3 Milbank 40.150 - #4 Britton-Hecla 39.600 - #5 Sisseton 38.350 - #6 Webster Area 37.850 - #7 Redfield 35.300

**GDILIVE.COM** Region 1A in Groton **GDILIVE.COM**  
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**7 p.m.**



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**Weekly SUDOKU**

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦**

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Dear EarthTalk: How do environmentalists feel about RFK Jr.'s oversight of health in the next Trump administration, given his background as an environmental activist lawyer?



When Time named Robert F. Kennedy Jr. one of its early 2000s "Heroes for the Planet," the outspoken lawyer was a clear choice for the honor, having gained fame during his fight to protect New York City's water supply. He advocated for "the environment [as] the most important, the most fundamental, civil-rights issue," according to a 2004 interview. Many of Kennedy's views can be summarized in the June 18, 2007 issue of Rolling Stone in which he demanded investment into renewable energy sources, blamed America for its "reckless consumption of oil and coal," and emphasized the need to slow global warming.

Almost twenty years later, as RFK Jr. takes the reins as America's top health official, the same magazine has quoted former friends, colleagues, and family members calling the former 'hero' a "conspiracist" with "dangerous views." The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), a leading environmental non-profit, used the term "one-man misinformation superspreader" to describe its former Senior Attorney, a statement corroborated by former allies who have stated that Kennedy is not an environmentalist, but a "science denier" and a "conspiracy theorist."

Even before his endorsement of President Trump, who has famously called climate change a 'hoax', environmentalists had begun to turn against Kennedy. Liz Barratt-Brown, a senior adviser for NRDC and Kennedy's former coworker, told the New York Times that he had begun drifting away from the environmental movement in the early 2000s when he started spreading unproven theories regarding vaccinations, such as linking vaccines to autism without evidence.

Around the same time that RFK Jr. became invested in the anti-vaccine movement, he opposed the construction of the Cape Wind Project, an offshore wind farm in Nantucket Sound that would have provided roughly 75 percent of the electricity used by Cape Cod, Nantucket, and Martha's Vineyard. Kennedy's position began as an instance of NIMBY-ism, or the "not in my backyard" mentality, as he owned a home nearby

and had cited unsightly aesthetics as a partial reason for his dissent, and has grown in recent years to staunchly oppose all offshore wind.

While offshore wind farms have several disadvantages, they are also a promising source of clean energy; thus, Kennedy's opposition sparked disdain from climate activists like Bill McKibben who claim "he could have used his name and platform" to promote renewable energy. Furthermore, many of Kennedy's reasons for opposition have been proven repeatedly to be rumors. For example, in January 2023, Kennedy adamantly promoted the idea that offshore wind is killing whales despite the claim having been proven unfounded by a variety of organizations including by the Federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

Once a "hero for the planet," many environmentalists now echo Dan Reicher, a former peer and colleague of RFK Jr. and a Stanford University senior energy researcher: "Stay very far away from today's RFK Jr. if you're interested in environmental protection." RFK Jr. has told the Washington Post that he believes he can help sway President Trump's environmental policies. Environmentalists are "deeply skeptical," as less than one month into office Trump has withdrawn the U.S. from the Paris Climate Accords and dismantled a series of environmental policies and funding. It remains to be seen whether the Secretary of Health is successful in turning the tides of the environmental movement back in his favor.



Most environmentalists consider RFK Jr. a former ally and current foe given his flop on environmental issues in recent years. Credit: Gage Skidmore, FlickrCC.

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## "Businesses for Babies"

When businesses support working parents, they're not just boosting their bottom line – they're helping prevent child abuse and neglect. In South Dakota, 72.5% of all children under age six have all available parents in the workforce, making family-friendly workplace policies crucial for our state's families.

The  
Prairie  
Doc®

By Christina Young

Director for the Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment

Research shows that workplace policies like flexible scheduling, paid family leave, and childcare assistance significantly reduce major risk factors for child maltreatment by decreasing parental stress and providing essential economic stability. When parents have the flexibility to attend school events, care for sick children, or work from home when appropriate, it strengthens family bonds and creates more nurturing environments. Access to quality childcare and living wages helps ensure families can meet basic needs without the overwhelming stress that can lead to crisis.

Prevention is far better – and far less costly – than intervention after abuse occurs. Studies show that every dollar invested in prevention can save up to seven dollars in future costs related to child welfare services, healthcare, and criminal justice. By creating supportive work environments, businesses play a crucial role in building the safe, stable, nurturing relationships children need to thrive. These investments in families today help develop healthier communities and a stronger workforce for tomorrow.

The Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment's "Businesses for Babies" campaign highlights South Dakota companies that have adopted family-friendly policies. By showcasing businesses that prioritize family well-being through flexible schedules, parental leave, and childcare support, the campaign aims to inspire more companies to implement similar policies. Together, we can create a business culture that strengthens families and protects our most vulnerable citizens – our children.

Christina Young has been an influential figure in the child welfare field for over a decade, dedicating her career to the well-being of children and families. She directed an in-home family services program covering 30 western counties in Iowa, demonstrating her commitment to community-based support. Christina has a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's in human services administration. 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 (most Thursdays at 7pm on SDPB or streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB), providing health information based on science, built on trust.