

The Groton Independent

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Groton school board hears weight room proposal, future project updates

by Elizabeth Varin

Weight room improvements and expanded activities took the stage at Monday's school board meeting.

The Groton Area board heard a presentation from community members working to upgrade the school's weight room, a project that has gained momentum in recent weeks.

Seth Erickson and Quinton Biermann presented plans to update the aging equipment as well as the room as a whole. Community members, including Erickson, Biermann, Justin Hanson and board member Tigh Flihs, began fundraising for the improvements a couple of weeks ago, and already are nearing \$55,000 in donations.

Erickson presented a layout designed with help from Push Pedal Pull that included new weight racks, fan bikes, a treadmill, leg press machine, plyometrics, storage for additional equipment and a seven-and-a-half foot by about 48 foot section of turf down the middle of the room. Some of the equipment in the weight room has been there for almost 20 years, and it just needs to get updated.

"We're going to be able to do this top to bottom brand new," he said. "It's just going to make it a better, safer weight room."

Biermann added the Groton facility is well behind what other schools and gyms in the area have. However, the proposal would bring it up to that level.

Board member Flihs added the district has only spent about \$3,400 on the weight room in the last decade. Now, with the private donations, the district could maybe even get some outdoor equipment for weight training.

While the effort was met with enthusiasm, board member Heather Lerseth-Flihs urged caution. She emphasized the need for a strategic approach to facility improvement, noting that discussion had taken place in the fall about renovating the football field. She encouraged the board to carefully prioritize projects to ensure long-term benefits.

"I just would like to make sure we're intentional about the projects we decide to move forward with," she said. "...I don't want the community thinking, 'Oh. You were really excited about the football field. Now you're really excited about this project.' I just want us to be intentional about the project the board asks for funds for."

Flihs said it wasn't really the board requesting private donations, but rather a grassroots effort. Hopefully if this project is done, people will see it and get excited for further improvements at the school.

In other business, Superintendent Joe Schwan told the board about a recent meeting with Langford school officials about potentially expanding the schools' cooperative agreement.

Fall 2024 was the first year of a cooperative agreement between the two districts for a combined football team. Schwan and Athletic Director Alexa Schuring met with Langford officials about other cooperative opportunities. Options include show choir, boys and girls soccer and cross country, Schwan said. Langford officials planned to speak with their students about activities they are interested

Boys are State A Bound!

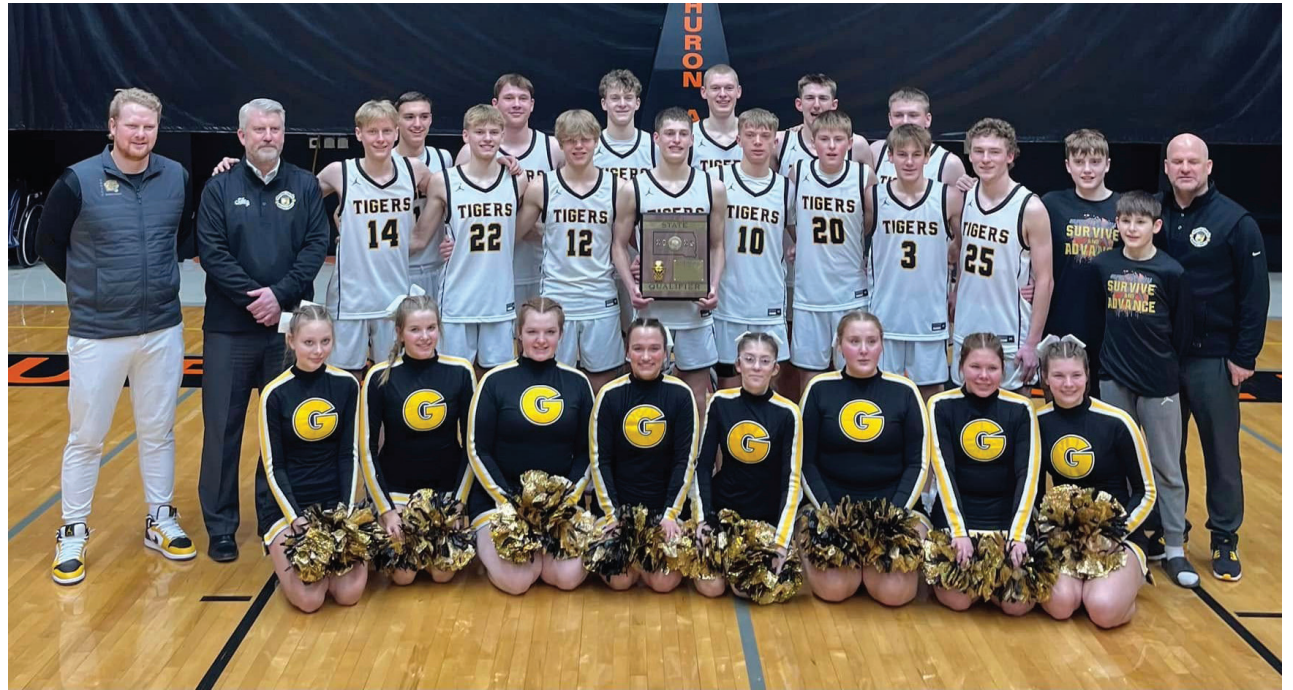


Photo from Jennifer Schelle's Facebook Page

The Groton Area boys basketball team defeated Winner, 51-38, in the SoDak16 held Tuesday in Huron to advance to the State A Tournament. The State A will be held March 20-22 in Sioux Falls. Groton Area, the number eight seed, will play top seed Sioux Falls Christian on March 20th at noon.

Three Northeast Conference and three Dak12 teams are in the state tournament this year. #4 West Central plays #5 Lennox at 1:45 p.m.; #2 Hamlin takes on #7 Hill City at 6 p.m. and #3 Rapid City Christian takes on #6 Clark/Willow Lake.



White-Out!

The Groton student section wore white for the game Tuesday as it was a white-out night for the Tigers. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

in moving forward with.

"We'll see what kinds of interest they have and look into the logistics," Schwan said. "It's just a conversation at this point."

Groton officials have also been asking their students about potential new activities.

Schwan presented recent survey data from students indicating potential interest in bringing e-gaming, softball and Educators Rising chapters to the school.

Superintendent Schwan also reported to the board where the district is at in discussions of improvements at the football field.

"This isn't a plan by any means," he told the board. "This is just to let you know of the proposals coming in."

Two estimates have been received for converting the lighting to LED. One totals more than \$129,000, while the other estimates a cost between \$130,000 and \$140,000.

Two estimates have also been received to build a new crow's nest. Those include one for \$222,684 for a crow's nest on the east side of the field on the bleachers. The other totaled \$173,934 for a concrete pad and a structure on the west side of the field.

Other improvements options include bringing in turf for the field or reseeding it.

- First grade teacher McKayla Hanson submitted her resignation effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

- No school board election will take place this spring as only three people submitted paperwork for three positions on the board. Tigh Flihs and TJ Harder will continue their tenure on the board, while newcomer Samatha Weber will join the board in July for a three-year term.

- Fees for driver's education courses will stay the same for this year. Last summer, the district brought in more money than they spent on driver's education courses, leading to the decision to keep those fees steady at \$290 per student to take the summer course.

Queen of Hearts

Week Number 20 of The Queen of Hearts drawing was held Thursday with the jackpot at \$17,666. Ticket sales for the week were \$1,265. The name of Alvina Johnson was drawn and she picked card number 49 which was the Jack of Hearts. She won the consolation prize of \$126.

Groton Area Dominates Britton-Hecla to Secure Spot in SoDak 16

The Groton Area Tigers punched their ticket to the SoDak 16 in commanding fashion, rolling past Britton-Hecla 60-29 in a dominant performance Friday night.

From the opening tip, Groton set the tone with near-perfect shooting. The Tigers lit up the scoreboard in the first quarter, hitting an incredible 10 of 11 field goals (91%) to storm out to a 22-7 lead. Meanwhile, Britton-Hecla struggled to keep possession, committing six turnovers, three of which Groton converted into seven points.

The Tigers didn't slow down in the second quarter, continuing their efficient shooting by knocking down 9 of 16 attempts (56%). Britton-Hecla managed just 4 of 13 (31%) in response. By halftime, Groton had built an overwhelming 46-15 lead, activating the state's 30-point mercy rule and ensuring a running clock in the second half.

Even with the game all but decided, Groton maintained its energy, outscoring Britton-Hecla 11-4 in the third quarter to extend the lead to 57-19. The Tigers cruised through the final period, wrapping up the night with a 60-29 victory.

Balanced Scoring Fuels Groton's Win

Becker Bosma led the way for Groton with 15 points, followed by Ryder Johnson with 11. Gage Sippel added 8, Keegen Tracy 7, Karson Zac 6, Turner Thompson 5, Easton Weber 3, Jayden Schwan 3, and Teylor Diegel 2.

As a team, Groton shot efficiently, hitting 17 of 27 (63%) on two-pointers and 7 of 18 (39%) from beyond the arc. At the free-throw line, the Tigers were 5 of 9 (56%).

Groton controlled the boards with 26 total rebounds, led by Johnson with 8 and Sippel with 7. The Tigers also showcased strong passing with 20 assists, including 6 from Tracy and 4 from Bosma. Defensively, they collected 12 steals—4 by Johnson and 3 by Sippel—and registered 2 blocks.

Britton-Hecla's Effort Falls Short

Britton-Hecla was led in scoring by Graham Fosness, who finished with 10 points. Jaxon Zuehlke added 6, Chaz Vietor 4, William Richter 3, Daniel Person 3, Benjamin Folkman 2, and Jace Rein 1.

The Braves struggled offensively, shooting just 28% (11 of 40) from the field. From the free-throw line, they were 4 of 8 (50%). Britton-Hecla also battled turnover woes, committing 14 in total.

With the win, Groton Area improves to 16-5 on the season and advances to the SoDak 16, where they will fight for a spot in the state tournament. Britton-Hecla concludes its season with a 10-12 record.

- Story compiled by ChatGPT

Ryder Johnson: 11 points, 8 rebounds, 2 assists, 4 steals, 1 block.

Keegen Tracy: 7 points, 6 assists, 2 fouls.

Gage Sippel: 8 points, 7 rebounds, 1 assist, 3 steals, 1 block.

Becker Bosma: 15 points, 5 rebounds, 4 assists, 1 steal.

Karson Zak: 6 points, 1 rebound, 2 assists, 2 fouls.

Easton Weber: 3 points, 1 assist, 1 steal.

Turner Thompson: 5 points, 2 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 fouls.

Jayden Schwan: 3 points, 1 steal, 2 fouls.

Logan Warrington: 1 rebound, 1 steal, 2 fouls.

Jace Johnson: 1 rebound, 1 steal, 2 fouls.

Ethan Kroll: 1 assist.

Ryder Schelle: 1 rebound, 1 foul.

Teylor Diegel: 2 points.

Blake Pauli also played.



Groton Area seniors Blake Pauli, Teylor Diegel and Turner Thompson hold up the SoDak16 ball as the Tigers defeated Britton-Hecla, 60-29. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The boys basketball team was stretching out prior to the warmups. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

2-Pointers: 17-27 64%, 3-Pointers: 7-18 39% (Tracy 1, Bosma 1, Zak 2, Weber 1, Thompson 1, Schwan 1), Free Throws: 5-9 56%, 26 rebounds, 9 turnovers, 20 assists, 12 steals, 13 fouls, 2 blocks.

Britton-Hecla: Graham Fosness 10, Jaxon Zuehlke 6, Chaz Vietor 4, William Richter 3, Daniel Person 3, Benjamin Folkman 2, Jace Rein 1. Field Goals: 11-40 28%, Free Throws: 4-8 50%, 10 fouls, 14 turnovers.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Bierman Farm service, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Farmers Union Coop, Greg Johnson Construction, 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, S & S Lumber, Spanier Harvesting, The MeatHouse, Weismantel Agency. Paul Kosel and Jeslyn Kosel were on hand for the action.



The Groton Area Dance team performed at half time of the boys basketball game Friday night. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Area Punches Ticket to State with Statement Win Over Winner



Seniors Teylor Diegel, Turner Thompson and Blake Pauli get the SoDak16 plaque as the Tigers celebrate the win. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

HURON—The Groton Area Tigers are heading back to the State A Boys Basketball Tournament after a gritty 51-38 victory over the Winner Warriors in the SODAK 16 showdown Tuesday night.

The game, played in front of an electric crowd in Huron, started as a back-and-forth battle. The lead changed hands three times in the first quarter before Winner managed to hold a slim 9-6 advantage heading into the second. However, Groton Area wasted no time regaining control. A quick basket by Gage Sippel with an assist by Karson Zak put the Tigers up 10-9 early in the second quarter, setting the tone for what would become a dominant second-half performance.

Winner's big man, Shawn Hammerbeck, was a force in the first half, scoring 12 points and helping the Warriors stay within striking distance. By halftime, Groton Area clung to a narrow 17-15 lead, with both teams bracing for a physical second half.

The third quarter, however, was all Groton Area. The Tigers came out of the locker room with renewed intensity, scoring 10 unanswered points to open up a 27-17 lead. The defensive effort by Sippel was nothing short of exceptional, as he completely neutralized Hammerbeck, holding him scoreless from the field in the final two quarters. Hammerbeck managed just one free throw after halftime.

The Tigers continued to build momentum, closing the third quarter with a 33-23 lead. A crucial 8-0 run spanning the final moments of the third and the opening minutes of the fourth quarter extended their advantage to 42-23, all but sealing the game.

Offensively, Groton Area caught fire in the second half. Keegen Tracy scored all nine of his points after the break, while Ryder Johnson added seven of his nine. Becker Bosma led the Tigers with 15 points, including 13 in the second half, while Zac also delivered with 13 points of his own. Sippel contributed across the board, pulling down a team-high 10 rebounds, blocking three shots, and notching three steals.

Winner fought hard, with Carter Craven doing everything he could to keep the Warriors in the game. He scored 14 of his team-high 17 points in the second half, but the deficit proved too large to overcome. Hammerbeck finished with 13 points and seven rebounds, while Aidan Schroeder added six points.

Statistically, the game was even in many ways. Both teams had 14 turnovers, and Winner won the rebounding battle 26-23. However, Groton Area's defensive adjustments and second-half scoring explosion made the difference. The Tigers shot 52% from two-point range (16-for-31) and 38% from beyond the arc (5-for-13), with Bosma knocking down two triples. Winner, meanwhile, struggled from the field, hitting just 35% of their shots (15-for-43).

With the win, Groton Area improves to 17-5 on the season and will enter the State A Tournament as the No. 8 seed. Their reward? A matchup with powerhouse No. 1 seed Sioux Falls Christian at noon on Thursday, March 20.

For now, though, the Tigers will savor this victory—a testament to their grit, teamwork, and second-half dominance. The road to a championship won't be easy, but Groton Area has already proven they belong among the state's best.

- Story compiled by ChatGPT

- Ryder Johnson: 9 points, 1 assist, 4 fouls, 1 block.
- Keegen Tracy: 9 points, 2 assists, 1 steal, 3 fouls, 3 blocks.
- Becker Bosma: 15 points 7 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal, 1 foul.
- Karson Zak: 13 points, 3 rebounds 4 assists, 1 steal, 1 foul, 1 block.
- Easton Weber: 2 rebounds, 1 assist.
- Turner Thompson: 1 assist.
- Logan Warrington: 1 rebound.
- Teylor Diegel, Blake Pauli and Jayden Schwan also played.

2-Pointers: 16-31 52%, 3-Pointers: 5-13 38%, Free Throws: 4-9 44%, 23 rebounds, 14 turnovers, 13 assists, 6 steals, 12 fouls, 5 blocks.

Winner: Carter Craven 17, Shawn Hammerbeck 13, Aidan Schroeder 6, Ryder Halligan 2. Field Goals: 15-43 35%, 3-Pointers: 2-13 15%, Free Throws: 6-9 67%, 26 rebounds, 13 fouls, 2 assists, 14 turnovers, 2 blocks, 7 steals.

Record: Groton Area 17-5, Winner: 16-6.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Bierman Farm Service, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Farmers Union Coop, Ferney and Conde, Greg Johnson Construction, Bristol, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Dairy Queen, Groton Ford, Hanlon Brothers, Groton and Verdon, John Sieh Agency, Ken's Food Fair, Lori's Pharmacy, Olive Grove Golf Course, Rix Farms/R&M Farms, S & S Lumber, Spanier Harvesting, The MeatHouse, Andover, Weismantel Agency, Columbia. Paul Kosel and Jeslyn Kosel were on hand for the action.



Ryder Johnson
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Keegen Tracy
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Solution time: 26 mins.

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The Life of Deloris Sombke



Deloris Eileen Sombke, 88, of Indianapolis, passed away peacefully March 11, 2025. She was born February 1, 1937 in Ferney, South Dakota to Clarence and Flora (Erdmann) Sombke. Deloris graduated from Groton High School in Groton, South Dakota. She attended Concordia Teacher College in Seward, Nebraska, obtaining her teacher's certificate and began her teaching career at Zion Lutheran School in Tobias, Nebraska. She continued her education at Seward, receiving her Bachelor of Science in Education in 1964. In 1960 she began teaching at Calvary Lutheran School in Lincoln, Nebraska. Deloris came to Indianapolis in August of 1966, to teach at Trinity Lutheran School where she continued until she retired in 2002. Deloris received her

Master's Degree in Education from Butler University in 1976.

Deloris loved the Lord, and was active at Trinity Lutheran Church. Over the years she taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. She was also involved with the Youth Group, LWML, Trinity Business Women, Single Sisters, CART, Wednesday Women's Bible Study, Circle, and Friendship Bible Study. She was also an excellent Prayer Warrior.

Visitation will be Friday, March 14, 2025 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 15, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. until the time of service at 10:00 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 8540 East 16th Street, Indianapolis.

Deloris was preceded in death by her parents; and her brothers, Harlowe, James and Eugene Sombke. She is survived by her sisters, Janise Mahon, Norma Wacholz, Beverly Hite, and Bette Martin; sister-in-law, Esperanza Sombke; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions are suggested to Trinity Lutheran Church or School. Final care and arrangements are entrusted to Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel. www.shirleybrothers.com

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Groton Chamber of Commerce

March 5, 2025

12pm City Hall

- Members present: Katelyn Nehlich, Douglas Heinrich, Ashley Bentz, and April Abeln
- 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 about \$1,800. More members have paid dues than last year. The report was approved by Abeln and seconded by Heinrich. All members present voted aye.
- A thank you note was received from Taryn Thompson for Snow Queen.
- Discussion was held on sponsoring popcorn during the GHS football season.
- Discussion was held on electronic sign contracts for 2026 as well as updating it with our 2025 winners.
- Scholarship winners are Axel Warrington, Emma Kutter, and Gretchen Dinger. Meet and greet is May 14th at 1:30pm at the GHS library.
- Bentz visited the City Council members at their last meeting and gifted them with tumblers. It was suggested that a different gift be given next year.

Motion by Abeln and seconded by Heinrich to publish a 1/2 paid ad in the Yellowstone Trail Guide. All members present voted aye.

Motion by Nehlich and seconded by Heinrich to advertise 4 years at the ballfield for \$750. All members present voted aye. Discussion was also held on advertising at the swimming pool, but the board passed.

Motion by Abeln and seconded by Heinrich to donate \$200 to the Groton BB/SB Foundation's Dueling Duo fundraiser. All members present voted aye.
 Motion by Heinrich and seconded by Abeln to donate \$100 in Chamber Bucks to the Fireman's Social. All members present voted aye.

Other possible donations to the Yelduz Shrine for circus tickets and to Princess Prom will be discussed at the next meeting.

Possible next business welcomes include the new owners of the Red Horse and Saleen Waldner, who may be opening a business in the prior Farmers Union Insurance building.

Next Meeting: April 2nd, 12pm at City Hall
 Many spring events are scheduled. The Chamber has donated a shirt to the vendor fair and a free bike to the Lions Easter Egg Hunt. Eggs for that event are being packed March 13th at 6pm at Topper's building on Main Street, all are invited to attend.

It was suggested our meeting agendas be posted on Facebook to encourage attendance and to post our 2025 meeting dates.

Upcoming events

- 03/22/2025 Spring Vendor Fair 10am-2pm GHS Gym
- 03/22/2025 Common Cents Extended Hours 10am-2pm
- 04/05/2025 Dueling Duo Baseball/Softball Fundraiser 6-11:30pm Legion Post #39
- 04/06/2025 Pancake Sunday, Historical Society Fundraiser 10am-1pm Community Center
- 04/12/2025 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt 10am City Park (Saturday a week before Easter)
- 04/12/2025 Firemen's Spring Social at the Fire Station 7pm-12:30am (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 04/25/2024 Front Porch 605 Spring Shop Hop 12-5pm
- 04/26/2025 Front Porch 605 Spring Shop Hop 9am-3pm
- 05/03/2025 Lion's Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm (1st Saturday in May)

Groton Prairie Mixed Bowling League Week #16 Results

Team Standings: Cheetahs 6, Jackelopes 5, Chipmunks 4, Coyotes 4, Foxes 3, Shihtzus 2
 Men's High Games: Butch Farmen 226 & 188, Austin Schuelke 202, Larry Frohling 182
 Women's High Games: Nancy Radke 183, Vicki Walter 172, Shirlee Frohling 167
 Men's High Series: Butch Farmen 582, Austin Schuelke 524, Brad Waage 522

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Groton City
Chip Seal

INVITATION TO BID
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT The Groton City Council of the City of Groton, South Dakota, will open bids for the 2025 resurfacing of City Streets on March 18, 2025, at 7:00pm (local time) at City Hall, 120 N Main Street, Groton, SD. Received sealed bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The work on this project includes the following:
• Approximately 44,000 square yards of bituminous seal coat.
• Approximately 2,200 square yards of bituminous prime coat.
All work areas are located within the city limits of Groton, SD.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:

City Hall, 120 N Main Street, Groton, SD 57445

The approximate quantities mentioned above are subject to increase or decrease. Questions or requests for further information should be directed to the City Finance Office, 605-397-8422, PO Box 587, Groton, SD 57445.

The City reserves the right to refuse any or all bids, to waive any informalities in the bidding and to award the contract in the best interests of the City of Groton, SD.

February 6, 2025
Published March 5 and 12, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$24.84 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25325



Putney Township
Equalization Notice

Putney Township equalization will be at Mark Thompson's shop on Monday, March 17, 5 p.m. Prior notification to the clerk is required.

Published March 5 and 12, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$5.86 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25328



Henry Township
Equalization Notice

Henry Township
March 17, 2025
Equalization Notice

Notice is hereby given that the governing body section will serve as review board of Henry Township Brown County. They will be meeting at 7 p.m., Monday, March 17, 2025, at Doug Abeln's Seed Company Office for the purpose of reviewing and correcting of the assessment set of the tax districts for the year 2025. All persons considering disputing their assessments are requested to notice the clerk of the board in writing no later than March 14, 2025. Hearings are by appointment only.

Darlene Sass
Henry Township Clerk
13120 403rd Ave.

Groton, SD 57445
Published March 5 and 12, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$15.45 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25327



Brown County
Wood Waste Notice

2025 WOOD WASTE GRINDING FOR THE BROWN COUNTY LANDFILL

Sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Courthouse Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401 until the hour of 8:45 AM. Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read and considered by the Brown County Board of Commissioners regarding 2025 WOOD WASTE GRINDING for the Brown County Landfill.

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

Envelopes containing bids shall be addressed to the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Brown County Courthouse, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 57401 and are to be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope "BID ON 2025 WOOD WASTE GRINDING FOR THE BROWN COUNTY

LANDFILL". To be opened on Tuesday, March 25, 2025. The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to accept the bid that they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County.

Brown County is exempt from all Federal Excise Tax and State Sales Tax.

Specifications and notice to bidders are on file in the Brown County Auditor's Office and the Brown County Landfill and may be obtained at no charge or can be found on the following websites: brown.sd.us and publicpurchase.com.

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published March 12 and 19, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$33.66 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25351



Brown County
Johnston Rezoning

NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE #289
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES AS AMENDED TO REZONE CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that Ordinance #289. An Ordinance Amending Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended to rezone the following described property filed by petitioner Donald Johnston, Owners: Donald & David John-

ston was duly adopted by the Board of Brown County Commissioners on the 4th day of March 2025 and will become effective on the 1st day of April, 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: Lot 1 & 2, "Johnston Subdivision" in the SE1/4 of Section 24-T123N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (39996 134th Street & 13385 400th Avenue, Henry 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 March 2025.

Duane Sutton, Brown County Commission Chairman
ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

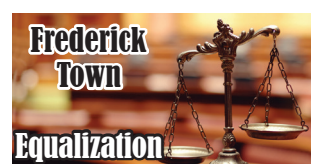
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Frederick Town
Equalization Notice

Town of Frederick
Equalization Meeting Notice
PUBLIC NOTICE TO FREDERICK PROPERTY OWNERS

Notice is hereby given that the Frederick Town Board, sitting as the Local Board of Equalization, will meet at the Frederick Community Center for the purpose of reviewing, correcting and equalizing the assessment of property on March 17, 2025 at 7:00 PM.

Appeals must be submitted in writing with supporting documentation by 5:00 PM Friday, March 21, at the Frederick Community Center or mail appeals to the Frederick Finance Officer, PO Box 546, Frederick, SD, 57441.

Those appealing will be notified of their scheduled time to meet with the board. Contact Finance Officer at 605-329-2242 with any questions.

Jennifer Morlock
Frederick Finance Officer

Published March 5 and 12, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$17.10 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25324

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

The NFL offseason isn't really an offseason. As soon as the last whistle blows in the Super Bowl, teams turn the page and start looking towards the next season. The annual combine happens in late February, free agency begins in March, the Draft is in April, then mini camps and training camps – and before you know it, August is here and we're watching preseason games. Just like NFL teams, we're looking at the team's roster, evaluating last year, and keeping an eye on how they can improve it. This week we are focusing on the offensive line.

Offensive Tackle

The Vikings have two of the best offensive tackles in the league. Left tackle, one of the most important positions in football, is held down by Christian Darrisaw, who was playing at an All-Pro level until his injury forced him to miss half the season. Darrisaw signed a four-year extension last offseason, so he isn't going anywhere anytime soon.

The other bookend of the offensive line, right tackle Brian O'Neill, is also one of the best players at his position. He is signed through the 2026 season, but he has huge cap hits the next two seasons (\$26M and \$23M). I don't anticipate O'Neill leaving any time soon, but I wouldn't be surprised if the Vikings reworked his contract to bring those cap hits down.

Interior Offensive Line

While the Vikings have excellent tackles, the interior of the offensive line is a huge liability. Blake Brandel was signed to be the team's starting left guard. He was... ok last season. Because his cap hits are so low (roughly \$4M this season and next), it's unlikely the team will replace him this offseason.

Garrett Bradbury is entering the final year of a three-year extension he signed in 2023. The best and worst thing about Bradbury is that he's an athletic center. He's able to get to the second level to block linebackers in the run game, but he's easily dominated by bigger defensive tackles.

Ed Ingram started the 2024 season as the starter at right guard but was replaced midseason by Dalton Risner. Although he was a slight upgrade over Ingram, Risner is a free agent this offseason and is unlikely to be back unless he agrees to be a backup.

Walter Rouse (OT) and Michael Jurgens (OG) were both drafted last year, and while it's possible they make huge progress this offseason, they will likely be the team's backups once again in 2025.

So what can the Vikings do to improve the offensive line? That's where it gets tricky. There are a few options in the draft, but the team doesn't have many picks this year. Plus, offensive linemen usually take a few years to adjust to the NFL, and the Vikings need help now, not in two or three years.

My best guess is the team improves the o-line through free agency. There are some solid play-

ACROSS

- 1 Solo of "Star Wars"
- 4 Dandy guy
- 7 Sir's counterpart
- 12 Coach Parseghian
- 13 Lab eggs
- 14 Mountain crest
- 15 Roulette bet
- 16 "Absolutely not!"
- 18 Genetic letters
- 19 Long journeys
- 20 Informal pronoun
- 22 JFK's predecessor
- 23 Slightly wet
- 27 Id counterpart
- 29 Small burger
- 31 Majestic
- 34 Paris school
- 35 Diocese part
- 37 Iota
- 38 Tennis score
- 39 Author Umberto
- 41 Slightly open
- 45 Stand-in
- 47 Japanese sash
- 48 "Absolutely not!"
- 52 Eggy quaff
- 53 Love, Italian-style

King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13			14				
15			16		17					
18			19							
20			21		22		23	24	25	26
			27	28		29	30			
31	32	33				34				
35				36		37				
38				39	40		41	42	43	44
				45			46	47		
48	49	50	51					52		
53					54			55		
56					57			58		

DOWN

- 1 Wizard Potter
- 2 Sports venue
- 3 Tennis star Rafael
- 4 Type choice
- 5 Go too far
- 6 Macadamized
- 7 Earth's neighbor
- 8 Common verb
- 9 "Lion" actor Patel
- 10 Chowed down
- 11 Sea, to Henri
- 17 Stretches (out)
- 21 Bolshevik leader
- 23 Formal decrees
- 24 Fuss
- 25 Singer Torme
- 26 Season opener?
- 28 Dept. store inventory
- 30 Luau souvenir
- 31 Transcript no.
- 32 "Awesome!"
- 33 "Entourage" role
- 36 Olympian queen
- 37 Freight train unit
- 40 Homebuyer's option
- 42 Singer Nick
- 43 Home
- 44 Star in Orion's foot
- 45 "Close one!"
- 46 Holler
- 48 "Terrif!"
- 49 Author Tan
- 50 Heavy weight
- 51 —Magnon



House comes down

The former Teddy Bear Day Care house was torn down on Monday. The property was recently purchased by Mark and Kelly Abeln. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

South Dakota State announces summer, fall 2024 graduation list

BROOKINGS, S.D. (03/06/2025)-- The following students graduated after the summer and fall 2024 semesters at South Dakota State University. Nearly 950 students completed all requirements for a degree and/or certificate program, and those requirements have been verified by the appropriate college.

Overall, students from 36 states and 23 nations graduated following the summer and fall 2024 semesters.

Nearly 40 students received two or more degrees or certificates from a college.

Faith Bader of Groton, South Dakota (57445), graduated with a Doctor of Pharmacy from SDSU's College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions.

Tessa Erdmann of Groton, South Dakota (57445), graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science from SDSU's College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences.

Chantalle Galbavy of Groton, South Dakota (57445), graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from SDSU's College of Nursing.

Hailey Monson of Groton, South Dakota (57445), graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from SDSU's College

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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: Why is the Great Salt Lake shrinking so much and can it be saved? – E.T., via email

EARTHTALK

Utah's Great Salt Lake is the largest saltwater lake in the Western Hemisphere. It is a remnant of Lake Bonneville, which dried up 14,000 years ago due to extreme drought. It contributes \$1.9 billion annually to Utah's economy and provides 7,700 jobs. Over 10 million birds rely on this lake for their survival.

Apart from natural fluctuations, the Great Salt Lake's water level has dropped continuously since 1870, mainly due to the desiccation of the lake in the diversion of upstream water. The Great Salt Lake gets most of its water from the Bear, Weber and Jordan rivers, but now a significant portion of water is being diverted for agricultural and industrial use. Climate change and increase in temperature are also contributing to the Great Salt Lake's desiccation. Due to temperature increases, the rate of evaporation has also increased, impacting the salinity of the lake. Agriculture dominates water use by 74 percent, nine percent by mineral extraction, nine percent by industrial use and eight percent by evaporation.

"The lake has a lot of social and economic relevance for the region and Utah," says Siiri Bigalke, a climate scientist at Portland State University who has studied recent volume levels of the Great Salt Lake. Indeed, the cost of the Great Salt Lake drying—including loss of mineral extraction, landscape mitigation costs, the loss of lake recreation and economic value, the loss of brine shrimp, health costs, and impacts to ski resorts—could total as much as \$2.17 billion per year. The decline in Great Salt Lake water levels could kill some 6,500 jobs, most of which stem from a loss of mineral extraction output. Researchers say the tax rate in Utah would have to increase by more than 50 percent to make up for these potential losses.

The desiccation of the Great Salt Lake will lead to air and water pollution, a decline in agricultural productivity, loss of industry, and economic devastation. Even if the lake is not completely lost, the shrinkage can expose lakebed sediments containing heavy metals and organic

pollutants which could significantly deteriorate air quality.

To save the lake, a minimum streamflow of 2.5 million acre-feet per year must be maintained. Ensuring that river flow remains at or above this threshold is essential for stabilizing the lake's water levels. Water flow to upstream farms should be limited. Local governments should coordinate with state and federal programs to expand water conservation awareness. You can get involved by creating and sharing media on this issue to raise awareness. Additionally outdoor vegetation should be converted to drought tolerant to conserve water.



The Great Salt Lake's overall water level has been dropping since 1870 due to naturally occurring desiccation but also due to the diversion of upstream water by farmers and other human consumers. Credit: Pexels.com

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.

"Those Dirty Rotten Scoundrels"

The phone rang, and I answered it because the call was from a nearby community. No big surprise that the caller was obviously not from anywhere near, and the caller was asking for a donation for some organization in which I had no interest. I said, in a kindly tone, "No thank you," and hung up. They will never end the call. YOU MUST HANG UP.



By the late Richard P. Holm, MD

Financial abuse by telephone or internet has been called "the crime of the 21st century." People of all ages are at risk, but scammers commonly target the elderly. Those of us past 65 are more often home to answer the phone, are apt to stay on the line longer and are less likely to report a crime. Making all of this worse, telemarketing crime is challenging to prosecute and, therefore, inviting to criminals.

There are plenty of bad guys out there. The National Council on Aging has written a compendium of common fraudulent traps that can result from telephone calls or internet messages. Here are some:

- Callers may pose as Medicare representative to obtain your personal numbers for the purpose of billing Medicare for bogus services. Remember, U.S. Government agencies will NEVER initiate a call.
- Because of outrageous prices for drugs, people are lured to purchase less expensive prescriptions from internet and out-of-country pharmacies. Beware that doses of drugs may be different than desired, and sometimes unsafe substances are added.
- Callers may be selling false or dangerous anti-aging products and claim reduced wrinkles or bags under eyes. Don't trust them. Talk to your doctor.
- Con-artists may promise to split a large sum of money with you, provided you first agree to send a "good faith" donation to help cover shipping costs. Don't believe it.
- "Hi Grandma, do you know who this is?" Never give out the name of a family member on an unsolicited call. They usually ask you for money for a fake emergency or rescue. Always check by calling family first.
- Especially after a major disaster, callers ask for "rescue money" to help those harmed which, of course, goes to the scammers, not those in need.
- Fake investment plans are everywhere. Strangers calling or emailing you with a great investment opportunity, should not be trusted, especially if it sounds too good to be true.

Take home message: Don't respond to calls or emails from strangers selling or pushing you into something. Don't donate to causes that you didn't initiate. Beware of scammers. In a kindly tone, say, "No thank you," and JUST HANG UP.

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