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# The Groton Independent

Vol. 142 No. 26 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, March 19, 2025 ♦ Established in 1889

## Groton City Council discusses police presence in schools, weighs utility metering options

by Elizabeth Varin

Discussion at Tuesday’s Groton City Council meeting centered around enhancing police presence in local schools and exploring utility metering solutions.

Groton Area School District Superintendent Joe Schwan thanked the police department for its responsiveness, and also reminded city officials and the police about the district’s open-door policy for law enforcement.

Schwan emphasized the district was not looking at having anything like a school resource officer, but rather encouraged Groton police to swing by the schools more often. He said it helps add to the physical security of the school. It also can help if the school is having an issue, as students and staff would be more used to seeing police in the halls.

With a couple of recent situations, the school could benefit from having more police presence, Schwan said.

The Groton school district went into a “stay-put” lockdown Monday afternoon out of an abundance of caution after a report was received about an upset parent on their way to the high school.

Earlier in the month, district administration sent out an email regarding a threat investigation. The district learned about threatening comments made by a student on Snapchat. District officials worked with law enforcement to make contact with the student and their parent to investigate the statement, which were deemed non-credible.

Councilman Brian Bahr encouraged Groton Police Chief Stacy Mayou to stop by the school more.

Councilman Kevin Nehls also told the superintendent not to hesitate in reaching out to the council or the police chief.

On the utility front, council members delved into specifics of Irby Utility meters, scrutinizing their capabilities and potential integration into city infrastructure.

Irby and meter manufacturer Landis+Gyr presented an overview of their proposal to replace electric meters in Groton. The information presented Tuesday included technology that would have the ability to read both the city’s electric and water meters. However, a water meter would still be required as the proposed options would have a device capable of reading an already-in-place water meter and transferring that data to the city.

The price tag mentioned Tuesday neared half a million, though the project costs could be split up through a couple of city budget cycles.

The scope of work to replace the metering system might be changing, though, as council members asked about the costs of keeping the water and electric meters separate.

The council deferred a decision, opting to wait for a revised quote that excludes water metering components.

### Council approves bids for street work, gravel

The council approved contracting with Jensen Rock & Sand for street resurfacing this year. Jensen had to low bid of \$150,524. Broken out, that bid included \$4.22 per square yard for 2,200 square yards of prime coat, totaling \$9,284. It also includes \$3.21 per square yard for 44,000 square yards of seal coat, totaling \$141,240.

Two other sealed bids were opened Tuesday evening.

Continues on Page 3



### 2025 National Honor Society Inductees

Front row- Hannah Sandness, Rylee Dunker, Mia Crank, Jerica Locke, Carly Gilbert, Jaedyn Penning, Natalia Warrington, and Talli Wright

Back Row- Karter Moody, Ryder Johnson, Logan Warrington, Gage Sippel, and Keegen Tracy (not pictured - Brevin Fliehs)

Induction ceremony will be held Monday, March 24, 2025 @6:00pm in the Library Conference Room.

### Groton Area March Students of the Month



Brooklyn Hansen  
Senior



Mia Crank  
Junior



McKenna Tietz  
Sophomore



Braydn Wipf  
Freshman



Jordan Schwan  
Eighth Grade



Sophia Fliehs  
Seventh Grade



Rylee Stoltenburg  
Sixth Grade

Groton Area School works to ensure that all levels of academic instruction also include the necessary life skills teaching, practicing, and modeling that encourages essential personal life habits that are universally understood to facilitate helping our students become good human beings and citizens.

It is learning with our heads, hearts, and hands to be caring and civil, to make healthy decisions, to effectively problem solve, to be respectful and responsible, to be good citizens, and to be empathetic and ethical individuals.

Students are selected based on individual student growth in the areas of: positive behavior, citizenship, good attendance, a thirst for knowledge, and high academic standards.



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

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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T	R	I	P		S	T	E	P		M	A	P		



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Groton Area places four on All Northeast Conference Teams



Ryder Johnson  
First Team



Jerica Locke  
Second Team



Keegen Tracy  
Second Team



Kennedy Hansen  
Third Team

The Northeast All-Conference Teams have been announced.

On the girls first team are Krista Langager, senior, Sisseton; Addison Neuendorf, junior, Hamlin; Ava Hanson, senior, Roncalli; Isabella Anderson, senior, Milbank; and Addie Steffensen, senior, Hamlin. On the second team are Tyra Berry, senior, Milbank; Brynn Roehrich, sophomore, Clark/Willow Lake; Maddie Huber, senior, Roncalli; Jerica Locke, junior, Groton Area; and Issie Steffensen, sophomore, Hamlin. Third team members are Erin Sannes, senior, Webster Area; Tehya Vig, senior, Clark/Willow Lake; Jo Steffensen, senior, Hamlin; Kennedy Hansen, senior, Groton Area; and Rylee Voeller, junior, Roncalli. The NEC Player of the Year is Krista Langager of Sisseton.

On the boys first team are Easton Neuendorf, senior Hamlin; Ryder Johnson, junior, Groton Area; Evan Stormo, senior, Hamlin; Sullivan Felberg, freshman, Clark/Willow Lake; and Gabe Sather, senior, Deuel. Second team members are Emmerson Larson, junior, Clark/Willow Lake; Jackson Wadsworth, junior, Hamlin; Sam Rick, sophomore, Milbank; Zac VanMeeteren, senior, Hamlin; and Keegen Tracy, junior, Groton Area. Third team members are Aiden Fisher, senior, Roncalli; Ian Lesnar, senior, Webster Area; Troy Jenson, junior, Deuel; Chris Bevers, sophomore, Clark/Willow Lake; and Bo Begeman, sophomore, Clark/Willow Lake. The NEC Player of the Year is Easton Neuendorf of Hamlin.

Youth AAU Region 2  
placers moving on to  
State in Rapid City

Hayden Perkins 1st, 40 lbs, 6U  
Landry Johnson 2nd, 53lbs, 8U  
Kroy Kahli 2nd, 89lbs, 10U  
Samuel Fliehs 1st, 96lbs, 10U  
Keenan Moody 2nd, 127lbs, 12U  
Huntly Overacker 3rd, 100lbs, 12U  
Grayson Warrington 2nd, HWT, 12U  
Preston Hinkleman 2nd, 95lbs 14U  
Taya Morris 1st, 37lbs, 6U  
Veda Stieglemeier 2nd, 76lbs, 8U  
Miakoda Neigel 2nd, 55 lbs, 10U  
Elsy Hagen 3rd, 84lbs, 10U  
Roselyn Block 2nd, 100lbs, 12U

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# GDI

## Living Heart Fitness Center

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Groton School on  
lockdown Monday

Superintendent Joe Schwan issued the following letter to parents on Monday after an angry parent was on the way to the high school:

Dear Parents,

This afternoon at about 1:18 PM, the Groton Area School District went into a "stay-put" lockdown on the advice of the Groton Police Department out of an abundance of caution and having received a report of an upset parent on their way to the high school.

We remained in a "stay-put" lockdown until approximately 1:49 PM when law enforcement made contact with the individual. Law enforcement remained at the school until the situation was resolved. To be clear, the individual did not come to the school today.

The District uses stay-put lockdown for a variety of situations and issues. During this protocol, students and staff "stay put" wherever they are. Teacher continue teaching and classes proceed as normal, and the buildings are secured (all interior and exterior doors are locked).

We are grateful for the cooperation and support of local law enforcement, the Groton Police Department, and the Brown County Sheriffs' office.

Respectfully,  
Joe Schwan  
Superintendent

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City Council
Continued from front

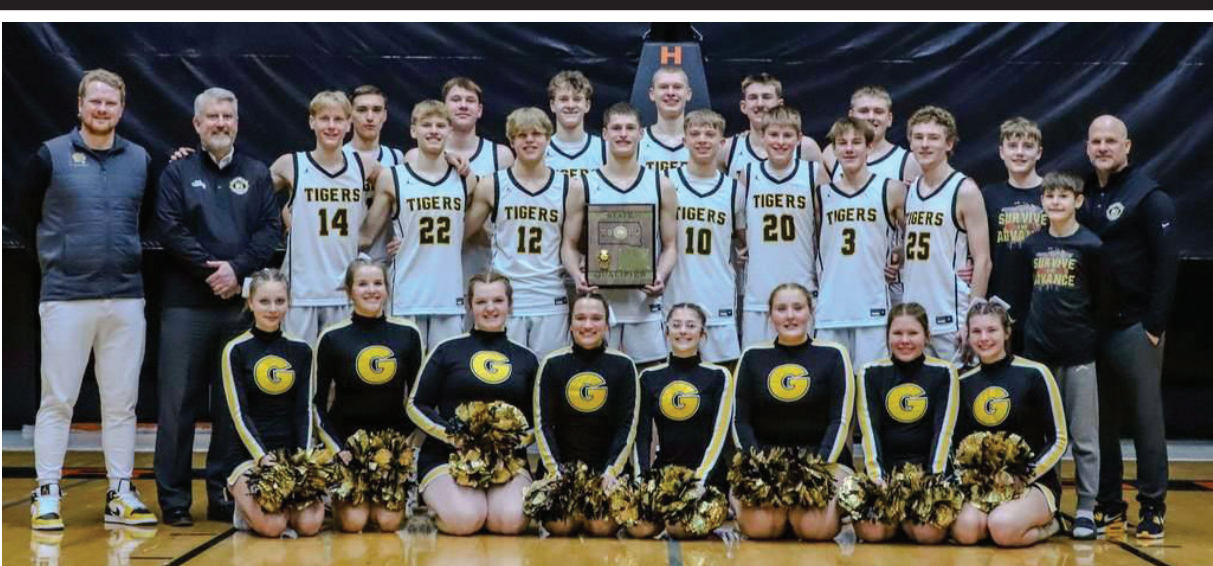
A bid from Midwest Coatings totaled \$171,160, which included \$4.80 per square yard for 2,200 square yards of prime coat, totaling \$10,560, and \$3.65 per square yard for 44,000 square yards of seal coat, totaling \$160,600.

Another bid came in from Bituminous Paving with a total cost of \$162,800. That included \$3 per square yard for 2,200 square yards of prime coat totaling \$6,600. It also included \$3.55 per square yard for 44,000 square yards of seal coat totaling \$156,200.

The council also approved Krueger Brothers Gravel & Dirt's bid to provide gravel at \$21.60 per yard. That bid was the only one the city received for gravel.

The council held a second reading of an ordinance amending the electrical rates. The change includes a 3 percent increase in electric cost as well as a \$5 base bill. The ordinance goes into effect April 1.

- The council approved hiring a swath of seasonal summer staff.
  - Tricia Keith was hired as swimming pool co-manager with 13 years of experience.
  - Karla Pasteur was hired as a lifeguard with 13 years of experience.
  - Kelli Hanson was hired as a lifeguard with 13 years of experience.
  - Cody Swanson was hired as a lifeguard with nine years of experience.
  - Tanae Lipp was hired as a lifeguard with seven years of experience.
  - Anna Fjeldheim was hired as a lifeguard with two years of experience.
  - Abby Fjeldheim was hired as a lifeguard with no previous experience listed.
  - Gretchen Dinger was hired as a lifeguard with three years of experience.
  - Kinsley Rowen was hired as a lifeguard with no previous experience listed.
  - Jayden Schwan was hired as a lifeguard with two years of experience.
  - Rylie Rose was hired as a lifeguard with no previous experience listed.
  - Carly Gilbert was hired as a lifeguard with two years of experience.
  - Gracie Pearson was hired as a lifeguard with no previous experience listed.
  - Samuel Crank was hired as a lifeguard with no previous experience listed.
  - Hannah Sandness was hired as a lifeguard with two years of experience.
  - Rylen Ekern was hired as a lifeguard with no previous experience listed.
  - Matt Locke was hired as baseball coordinator with eight years of experience.
  - Jaclyn Iverson was hired as softball coordinator with two years of experience.
  - Reilly Fuhrman was hired as U12 softball coach with two years of experience.
  - Gavin Englund was hired as a ground-keeper with no previous experience listed.
  - Braxton Imrie was hired as a ground-keeper with two years of experience.
  - Nicholas Groeblichhoff was hired as a groundskeeper with one year of experience.
  - Makenna Krause was hired as a gate-keeper with no previous experience listed.
  - Rebecca Padfield was hired for concessions with nine years of experience.
  - Brian Gravatt was hired as cemetery caretaker with 10 years of experience.
  - Aaron Severson was hired as public works laborer/park caretaker with nine years of experience.
- The council previously approved hiring Kami Lipp as swimming pool co-manager, Aaron Severson as junior legion coach, Sydney Kurtz as U10 softball coach and Kyle Gerlach as junior teenager coach.



Back Row: Jayden Schwan, Turner Thompson, Ryder Johnson, Gage Sippel, Becker Bosma, Logan Warrington
Middle Row: Assistant Coach Jordan Carson, Head Coach Brian Dolan, Ethan Kroll, Karson Zak, Ryder Schelle, Keegen Tracy, Easton Weber, Jace Johnson, Blake Pauli, Teylor Diegel, Manager Major Dolan, Manager Kinton Tracy, Assistant Coach Ryan Tracy
Front Row Cheerleaders: Rylie Rose, Addison Hoeft, Emily Overacker, Paisley Mitchell, Natalia Warrington, Mya Feser, Emma Davies, Breslyn Jeschke. (Photo courtesy Groton Area Facebook Page)

Good Luck Tigers at the State A Tournament!

- Avantara - Groton
Bary Keith at Harr Motors
BaseKamp Lodge
BK Custom T's 'n More
Blocker Construction
Dacotah Bank
Farmers Union Co-op of Ferney/Conde
Fliehs Sales & Service
Greg Johnson Construction of Bristol
Groton American Legion
Groton Chamber of Commerce
Groton Chiropractic Clinic
Groton Daily Independent
Groton Dairy Queen
Hanlon Brothers
Harry Implement
Heartland Energy
- James Valley Telecommunications
John Sieh Agency
Ken's Food Fair
KR Body Shop of Andover
Krueger Brothers
Lori's Pharmacy
MJ's Sinclair
ML Real Estate of Bristol
Northeast Chiropractic Clinic
Olive Grove Golf Course
Poet
Rix Farms / R&M Farms
Ryan Likness Agency
The Meat House of Andover
Weismantel Insurance Agency of Columbia

North Star Athletic Association banner for 2024-25 Men's Basketball Awards. It features five categories: Player (Kose Egbule), Defense (John White, Jr.), Newcomer (Tyler Cregel), Freshman (Lane Tietz), and Coach (Derek Selvig). The banner also includes the North Star logo and the NAIA logo.

Tietz earns Freshman of the Year Award

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Star Athletic Association (NSAA) announced its 2024-25 men's basketball All-Conference teams and postseason awards.

Among those earning an award is GHS alumni Lane Tietz of Dakota State (S.D.). He was selected as the NSAA's Freshman-of-the-Year.

Lane Tietz told the Groton Daily Independent about the challenges he had this year.

"Biggest challenge: It was a lot different learning to play for a coach other than Coach (Brian) Dolan. Learning a new playbook, style, and completely different defense. Going from being the oldest in High School last year to the youngest this year playing against some guys who are 23-24 years old was also challenging.

"After going through a full season of college basketball it made me realize how much Coach Dolan's program prepared me for the next level. I am extremely thankful for how much he pushed me in high school and the things we were able to achieve.

"The support throughout the season from Groton people was amazing, I couldn't have had a better hometown community!"







MARCH 4, 2025 – 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 Gage 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 #289 – SECOND READING/POSSIBLE ADOPTION:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to adopt Ordinance #289. Petitioner Donald Johnston/Owners: Donald & David Johnston 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: Lot 1 & 2, "Johnston Subdivision" in the SE 1/4 of Section 24-T123N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (39996 134th Street & 13385 400th Avenue, Henry Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR TEMPORARY ALCOHOL PERMIT FOR A SPECIAL EVENT:** Time and place, as advertised for Public Hearing for a Temporary Alcohol Permit for a Special Event was held. Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve the following Temporary Alcohol Permit in conjunction with a Special Event for Stacy Gossman, DBA: Big Fella's, Aberdeen, SD for Wedding held at Sumption Farm, Sec 30-T127N-R63 Brown County, SD; effective July 11, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**4-H COMMUNITY BUILDING PRESENTATION:** Becca Tullar, 4-H Advisor and Rachel Kippley, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager met with the Commission to share their plans for a new 4-H Community Building. The building would replace the current Competitive Exhibits Building. Plans include an open space that can be used for 4-H Shooting Sports; club meetings; Fair Board meetings and potential rental space that can hold 400 people; classroom/meeting rooms; kitchen, bathrooms and cold storage. The kickoff will be held during the 2025 Brown County Fair, with hope of ground-breaking in 2026 to be completed by 2027 Brown County Fair. The estimated cost is \$2.5 – 3 million. Commissioner Sutton shared that Roberts and Grant County have recently updated their buildings and asked Becca to spearhead this project. It would be a multi-purpose building that could be used year-round. The Facility would be owned and maintained by the County. Commissioner Gage made a motion for the County to assign \$250,000.00 to the 4-H Community Building, seconded by Wiese. All members present voting aye.

**CONTRACT FOR SMALL ANIMAL BARN:** Rachel Kippley, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager presented the contract with Mega Construction who was awarded the bid for the Small Animal Barn for approval and authorization for Chairman to sign. Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the contract with Mega Construction for \$105,000 plus 10-year Naming Right Sponsorship. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**LOAD LIMITS:** Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent met with the Commission to discuss Load Limits. Dirk recommends that Load Limits go on effective Friday, March 7th.

Commissioner Wiese offered the following Resolution as of March 7, 2025:

**RESOLUTION #2025-14**  
WHEREAS, SDCL 32-22-24 authorizes the proper authority to establish maximum axle and axle group loadings during the period of each year from February 15th to April 30th, inclusive, and  
WHEREAS, SDCL 32-22-24 further provides that if highway and climatic conditions warrant, the proper highway authority may extend the time period mentioned by ordinance or resolution.

WHEREAS, SDCL 32-22-25 authorizes the proper authority to reduce the maximum weight and load of vehicles on specific roads without formal resolution where such road would be damaged

or destroyed by heavy traffic by reason of thawing or excessive moisture.

WHEREAS, SDCL 32-22-25 further provides that notice shall be given by placing proper signage indicating the limitations of the gross weight of the vehicle on such specific roads.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Brown County Commission, per SDCL 32-22-24 extends the seasonal load restrictions established by Brown County Commission in regular session on February 6th (6-ton per axle and 40 MPH for trucks) from February 12th to April 30th or until roads become stable and further authorizes the posting of signage on all roads to be restricted in order to prevent damage or destruction by reason of thawing or excessive moisture.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Brown County Commission requests the South Dakota Department of Public Safety and the South Dakota Highway Patrol to enforce Annual Seasonal Load Restrictions on over weight limits, over width load limits, and speed limits on Brown County Roads during the February/ March/April Spring thaw and breakup period that the roads are posted.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that all Brown County Oil Roads are posted at 6-ton per axle and truck speed of 40 MPH, except for the following:

1. Belt Loop around the City of Aberdeen
2. Road 4 from 24th Ave, North 1.0 mile to CR 13
3. Road 7 from US Highway 281 East 1.0 mile to Barnard and County Road 10
4. Road 9 from US Highway 281 East 1.0 mile to Westport and County Road 10
5. Road 9 from SD Highway 37 East 7.0 miles to Brown/Marshall County Line
6. Road 10 from County Road 13 (Prairiewood Road) South 1.0 mile to Road 15
7. Road 10 from County Road 19 (Melgaard Road) South 1.0 mile to County Road 14W
8. Road 11 from County Road 16 West 10.0 miles to US Highway 281
9. Road 11 .50-mile East of SD Highway 37 to Huffton
10. Road 11 from County Road 16 East 1 mile
11. Road 12 from 24th Ave NE 1 mile to County Road 13
12. Road 12W will not be posted from County Road 19 East to US Highway 281 (2.0 miles)
13. Road 12WA from US Highway 12 North 2.0 miles
14. Road 12WB from US Highway 12 North to County Road 12W
15. Road 13 from County Road 14 West 5.0 miles to US Highway 281
16. Road 14 from 126th St. South 7 miles to US Highway 12
17. Road 14W from US281 East 1.5 miles
18. Road 15 from US Highway 281 East 1 mile to County Road 10
19. Road 15 from 385th Ave East .50 mile
20. Road 15 from County Road 12 (Roosevelt Road) East 1.0 mile to County Road 19
21. Road 16 from the Town of Columbia South 0.5 miles to County Road 11
22. Road 16C from County Road 23 South 1 mile to Stratford
23. Road 19 from the JCT of CR 19 and CR 17 (8th Ave NE) North 1.0 mile to CR 15
24. Road 20 from County Road 9 South .02 miles to the railroad tracks
25. Road 23 from US Highway 281 East 1.0 mile to Warner and County Road 10
26. Road 23 from US Highway 281 West .25 miles
27. Road 23 from Road 16C for 10 miles East to SD Highway 37
28. Road 23B the Town of Ferney West to SD Highway 37
29. Road 27 from SD Highway 281 West 2.0 miles to the town of Mansfield
30. Frederick Main Street from US Highway 281 East 0.5 miles to the Frederick City Limits
31. Road 14W from Road 19, West 2.5 miles – 3 ton per axle

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Brown County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Brown County Highway Department Superintendent to place signage providing adequate notice of the reduced maximum weight of any vehicle on any improved highway of this County which, in his opinion, would be damaged or destroyed by heavy traffic by reason of thawing or excessive moisture until the expiration of the 2025 seasonal load restrictions. SDCL 32-22-25

Seconded by Commissioner Gage.

Roll call vote: Commissioners Dennert-aye, Dinger-aye, Gage-aye, Sutton-aye, Wiese-aye. Resolution adopted.

**AUTHORIZE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN CONTRACT AGREEMENTS**

**FOR HIGHWAY:** Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent, presented the contracts he has received thus far: Gravel Material, Rental Equipment and Bituminous Plant Mix for approval and authorization for the Chairman to sign. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the following contracts received thus far: Gravel Material - LG Everist, Jensen Rock & Sand, H.F. Jacobs & Son Construction, Hanlon Brothers and Hall Sand & Gravel; Bituminous Plant Mix – Jensen Rock & Sand and Lien Transportation; Rental Equipment – Webster Scale, H.F. Jacobs & Son Construction, Hanlon Brothers, Lien Transportation and B & B Contracting. All members present voting aye.

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE:** Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent shared with the Commission that the County received the new Bridge Grant which is 80/20. IMEG is going to start the process for bids but will be extending the completion into 2026. They are still crushing and hauling gravel. Chairman Sutton asked for an update on the guardrail, Dirk has not heard anything at this time. Commissioner Wiese shared that the Legislators approved the Richmond Dam Funding and asked what the plans are for 14; Dirk says it in his plans but just not sure at this time how much will be done: minimum will be the worst part but if time and money allows, they will do more.

**MUSEUM EXPANSION:** Patricia Kendall, Museum Director met with the Commission regarding the Museum Expansion and presented a revised Resolution for discussion. Chairman Sutton stated he appreciates that the Museum Foundation is willing to look at the possibility of expanding and appreciate their support and in the end if it is completed it will be a great addition to the Museum and the Community. Patricia stated that the Foundation will taking on the fundraising and construction while partnering with the County every step of the way. Commissioner Dennert asked how soon she thinks they will meet with the Commission & Foundation for a progress update; Patricia replied this summer; informing the Commission that the Foundation has interviewed and selected a Fundraising Consultant and member of the Foundation and herself have a get to know you meeting this afternoon – it is the Numad Group out of Rapid City, SD and their intentions are to try to keep everything within S.D. but some services are not offered within our State; plan to set an agenda for the next 3 months. Patricia, her staff and the Foundation are ready to go on this expansion project.

Commissioner Wiese moved to approve the following Resolution:

**RESOLUTION #2025-11 (Revised)**

**A RESOLUTION IN APPROVAL OF BROWN COUNTY MUSEUM RENOVATION AND EXPANSION**

WHEREAS, the Dacotah Prairie Museum is owned by Brown County and located at 21 South Main Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota since its opening on October 25, 1970.

WHEREAS, the Dacotah Prairie Museum was formerly the Northwestern Bank, the Haggerty Block, and the Western Union Building constructed from 1888 to 1890 on lots 7 and 8, block 8 of the original plat of Aberdeen.

WHEREAS, the current site of the Dacotah Prairie Museum has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places since December 12, 1976.

WHEREAS, Brown County also owns a parking lot adjacent to the north side of the Dacotah Prairie Museum.

WHEREAS, the Dacotah Prairie Museum Foundation, Inc., an independent nonprofit corporation, owns the collection and otherwise provides support for the museum.

WHEREAS, the Dacotah Prairie Museum Foundation is committed to investigating the possibility of an addition to the Dacotah Prairie Museum for the purposes of expanding educational opportunities as well as to exhibit more of the current collection.

WHEREAS, in order to begin fundraising efforts and planning for expansion the Dacotah Prairie Museum Foundation has asked Brown County to commit to the dedication of the north adjacent parking lot for expansion of the Dacotah Prairie Museum,

WHEREAS, the Dacotah Prairie Museum Foundation acknowledges that this project will lead to changes in parking availability for both the museum and the county offices. The foundation will collaborate with the County Commission to strategically plan for sufficient and accessible parking for both institutions,

WHEREAS, the Dacotah Prairie Museum Foundation will meet

with the County Commission at a mutually agreed frequency to review fundraising and project progress, including financial feasibility studies. If both parties agree that fundraising goals cannot be met, this resolution may be rescinded and deemed void.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Brown County Commissioners does hereby agree to allow for expansion of the Dacotah Prairie Museum into the north adjacent parking lot should adequate funds be raised and as long as such expansion plans and construction do not endanger the Dacotah Prairie Museums status on the National Register of Historic Places.

Dated at Aberdeen, South Dakota, this 4th day of March, 2025.

Seconded by Commissioner Gage.

Roll call vote: Dennert-aye; Dinger-aye; Gage-aye; Sutton-aye; Wiese-aye. Resolution adopted.

**MUSEUM ANNUAL REPORT:** Patricia Kendall, Museum Director gave the Commission an Annual Museum Report for 2024. Some of the highlights shared were they had over 400 classroom visits because they are in each of the schools in the County; new carpet was installed on the first and second floor; Average Daily Attendance was 69.7; had a Children's Traveling Exhibit; took in 3 new collections and currently they are remodeling the SW section on the 1st floor – Squire Gallery. They will be putting in a 1902 Montgomery Ward Buggy that is being donated by Casanova Family, continue the Brown County Town Stories and a birch-bark canoe will join the Red River display that was made by Dick Berreth.

**MINUTES:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the General Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS:** Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims:

Claims: Professional Fees: Aberdeen Cardiology \$16.26; Aberdeen ED \$2,812.25; Aberdeen Imaging \$491.62; Aberdeen Orthopedics \$108.62; Acute Care Aberdeen \$249.91; Avera Medical Group Radiology \$499.17; Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$936.00; Dakota Group LLC \$2,500.00; Dakotabilities \$1,440.00; DEVNET \$3,789.84; Dohrer Law Office, PC \$396.00; East River Psychological Services, PLLC \$1,000.00; Fargo Teleradiology Prof. \$11.00; Helms & Associates \$3,055.00; Horizon Health Care, Inc \$79.94; Jerry McNeary \$1,728.00; Northeastern Mental Health Center \$832.00; Richardson, Wylly, Wise, Sauck & Hieb, LLP \$1,992.50; Sanford Clinic Aberdeen \$79.94; Sanford Health \$252.00; Schneider Geospatial, LLC \$3,060.00; SD State's Attorneys Association \$2,247.04; Zylstra Investigations \$1,620.00; US Bank Visa \$933.76. Publishing: McQuillen Creative Group, Inc \$191.24; US Bank Visa \$362.13. Radios/Rentals: Dakota Electronics LLC \$422.50; US Bank Visa \$285.99. Repairs & Maintenance: BB Sales \$1,237.26; EcoLab Pest Elimination Division \$118.47; Huff Construction Inc \$31,317.00; Interstate Powersystems \$775.00; Jake's Heating & Cooling \$105.00; K&S Plumbing, Inc \$1,231.96; Kone \$2,400.00; Lawson Products, Inc \$143.32; Precision Kiosk Technologies \$3,000.00; Premier Auto \$225.00; Schwan Welding \$9,398.31; US Bank Visa \$5,252.21. Supplies: Aberdeen Chrysler Center \$106.96; Aberdeen Parks, Recreation and Forestry \$20.00; Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$877.89; Century Business Products \$182.68; Great Western Tire \$5,330.88; Lawson Products, Inc \$2,069.97; Menards \$177.61; Midstates Group \$40.00; DSS Imaging – Monte Wahl \$96.00; Myers Tire \$27.06; PharmChem, Inc \$1,151.34; Pitney Bowes Global Financial Services LLC \$4,163.27; Plumbing & Heating Wholesale, Inc \$766.14; Safety Service \$18.72; Schwan Welding \$8,647.54; SD Federal Property Agency \$40.00; Share Corporation \$471.60; South Dakota Law Review \$40.00; US Bank Visa \$8,004.53. Travel & Conference: Blue to Gold, LLC \$495.00; Dave Lunszman \$70.00; McKenzie Bierman \$18.00; Rachel Kippley \$18.00; Stacey Usselman \$18.00; US Bank Visa \$2,045.59. Utilities: AT&T Mobility \$143.74; Montana-Dakota Utilities Co \$88.93; Northwestern Energy \$5,007.25; US Bank Visa \$3,516.52. Others: Grand Jury participants \$18,774.66. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

Allison Tunheim:

o Resignation of Shelley Wilkie, Brown County 911 Communications Officer, FT; effective February 24, 2025. Request to fill.

o Hiring of Holly Chavez-Pinela as Brown County Jail Detention Officer; FT; starting wage \$21.93/hr. – effective March 3, 2025.

o Re-hire of James Bissett as Brown County 911 Communications Officer, FT; starting wage \$23.04/hr. – effective March 3, 2025.

o Promotion of Anthony Sorensen from Brown County Sheriff Deputy to Brown County Patrol Sergeant, FT; starting wage \$33.37/hr. – effective March 2, 2025.

- o Posting for:
- Fairgrounds Seasonal Positions
- Fair Intern Position
- o Job description and title for Bartender.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**LEASE AGREEMENTS:** Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the following Lease Agreements: Brown County 4-H for lease of the Competitive Exhibits Building on May 21, 2025 for Trailer Safety Workshop; Kyle & Kristin Asleson for lease of the Richmond Lake Youth Camp Lodge on June 20-21, 2025 for Family Event. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVE & AUTHORIZE ADVERTISING FOR THE WASTE TIRE REMOVAL BID:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to set hearing date and authorize advertising public hearing to open, read and consider bids for Waste Tire Removal at 8:45 a.m. on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. Specifications may be viewed and obtained at the Brown County Landfill, Brown County Auditor's Office (during normal business hours) or via the Brown County website: [www.brown.sd.us](http://www.brown.sd.us) or [www.publicpurchase.com](http://www.publicpurchase.com). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVE & AUTHORIZE ADVERTISING FOR THE WOOD WASTE GRINDING BID:** Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Dennert to set hearing date and authorize advertising public hearing to open, read and consider bids for Wood Waste Grinding at 8:45 a.m. on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. Specifications may be viewed and obtained at the Brown County Landfill, Brown County Auditor's Office (during normal business hours) or via the Brown County website: [www.brown.sd.us](http://www.brown.sd.us) or [www.publicpurchase.com](http://www.publicpurchase.com). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVE & AUTHORIZE ADVERTISING WEED & PEST CHEMICAL BIDS:** Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to authorize advertising public hearing to open, read and consider bids for weed and pest chemical at 8:45 a.m., on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. Specifications may be viewed and obtained at the Brown County Auditor's Office (during normal business hours) or via the Brown County website: [www.brown.sd.us](http://www.brown.sd.us) or [www.publicpurchase.com](http://www.publicpurchase.com). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None  
**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to go into Executive Session for Personnel and Legal per SDCL 1-25-2. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. The chair declared the executive session closed with no action taken.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:20 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published March 19, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$194.81 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25389



NOTICE OF COUNTY & CONSOLIDATED EQUALIZATION BOARDS MEETINGS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN per SDCL 10-11-25 that the Board of County Commissioners, sitting as a COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION of Brown County, South Dakota will meet in the Commissioner's Chambers in said County on Tuesday, the 8th day of April, 2025 at 11:00 AM for the purpose of reviewing, correcting and equalizing the assessment of said County for the year 2026 and shall continue in session and may adjourn from time to time until all property filed appeals have been determined and equalization is completed but no later than April 29, 2025.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN per SDCL 10-11-71 that the CONSOLIDATED BOARD OF EQUALIZATION of Brown County, South Dakota will meet in the Commissioner's Chambers in said County on Tuesday, the 8h day of April, 2025 at 1:00 PM for the purpose of reviewing, correcting and equalizing the 2025 assessments of said County payable in 2026 and shall continue in session and may adjourn from time to time until all property filed appeals have been determined and equalization is completed but no later than April 29, 2025.

All persons considering themselves aggrieved by said assessment, are required to submit written notice to the Brown County Department of Equalization, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, SD 57401 no later than April 1, 2025.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published March 12 and 19, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$29.25 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25359



NOTICE TO CHEMICAL DEALERS

Sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners, Brown County Courthouse Annex at Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401 until 8:45 A.M. on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read, and considered for furnishing of chemical for the Brown County Weed and Pest Board for 2025.

Proposal Guaranty: No deposit or bond will be required at time of bid opening.

Contract: Brown County will give notice to the successful bidder that his proposal has been accepted and said bidder shall within ten (10) days thereafter enter into a contract with Brown County in accordance with the bid as accepted. Successful bidder shall furnish proper certificates of insurance as required by Brown County. Contract for the chemicals shall be firm and will be in effect for a period of eight months from April 1 to November 30, 2025.

Sealed envelopes containing bids shall be addressed to Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Ste 1, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401, and be marked "Chemical Bid for Brown County Weed and Pest Board" and to be opened at 8:45 A.M. on Tuesday, March 25, 2025. The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County.

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

Specifications are on file and may be obtained at no charge at the office of the Brown County Auditor and the Brown County Weed and Pest Office or can be found on the following websites: [brown.sd.us](http://brown.sd.us) or [publicpurchase.com](http://publicpurchase.com).

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published March 12 and 19, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$35.87 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25360





NOTICE TO WASTE TIRE CONTRACTORS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Court House Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 57401, until 8:45 A.M. on March 25, 2025, at said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read, and considered by the Brown County Board of Commissioners for the 2025 BROWN COUNTY WASTE TIRE CLEANUP.

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, Brown County Courthouse Annex, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 57401, and are to be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope: "2025 BROWN COUNTY WASTE TIRE CLEANUP", to be opened on March 25, 2025 at 8:45 A.M.

The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids that they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County, and to waive any informalities or irregularities therein.

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

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. 25361



MARCH 11, 2025 – GENERAL MEETING

Meeting called to order by Vice-Chairman Gage at 8:45 A.M. in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. Present were Commissioners Dennert, Dinger, Gage, and Wiese. Commissioner Sutton was absent. Commissioner Wiese led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: None

2024 PAY 2025 REAL ESTATE TAX NOTICE: Taylor Newton met with the Commission asking for an adjustment on his 2024 pay 2024 Real Estate Tax Bill because they are being taxed at the rate for Non-Owner Occupied instead of Owner Occupied which is about a \$2,500.00 difference. Taylor stated this is their primary residence and has been since purchased it in 2023. Commissioner Wiese asked if he has filed the paperwork for change in status. Taylor replied 'No' because didn't know what the paperwork is, he is part of Aberdeen Homes, LLC and that is the name on the property, so he understands how it was missed and shared that Equalization office has corrected it going forward. Taylor said that Gene mentioned the paperwork when he visited with him. Gene Loeschke, Director of Equalization asked if they did the closing with a Title Company and Taylor stated they did not, they did it with an attorney. Gene that the Title Companies will make sure that form gets filed, also when file Deed you file a Certificate of Value and you have an opportunity to complete the Owner-Occupied status on the that as well and it was left blank on this one also; and then when the Assessment notices come out, there is a disclaimer that states to check your owner-occupied status. Gene shared the deadline is March 15th because they need to turn their assessments

into the State in May so anytime between there, they can make changes but once he submits his report to the State it is set. Taylor shared he has never seen these forms before. Commissioner Wiese stated that the Commission has set a precedent, even though we don't like the process, but it was set up 30-years ago by Governor Janklow and the legislature at that time that you need to file the form, or you don't get the reduction. The issue is that the numbers are run and its past the deadline, the mill levies are set by the values to get the amount of taxes to be collected, if an abatement is granted that is money that is not given to the school system and other entities. After further discussion, no action was taken. Gene restated for those in the room and those listening to check your assessment notices, you have until March 15th to file the form.

QUOTES FOR BURNER REPLACEMENT FOR BOILER: Judy Dosch, Building Superintendent provided the Commission with three quotes for Gas Burner Replacement to the Boiler. Quotes are as follows: Plains Mechanical Services at \$23,405.00; American Boiler Co. at \$28,354.00 and Schwan Welding for \$27,935.00 or and option for Oil & Gas Burner Replacement at \$33,085.00. Judy's recommendation was to go with the quote from Plains Mechanical Services. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to accept the quote from Plains Mechanical Services for \$23,405.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CHANGE ORDER FOR TUCK-POINTING: Judy Dosch, Building Superintendent presented a change order for the Tuck-pointing Project, which lowers the billing by \$14,500.00; leaving the updated total to \$838,305.00. Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Vice-Chairman Gage to sign the Change Order to reduce the final cost by \$14,500.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH OF APRIL: Judy Dosch, Building Superintendent informed the Commission that Safe Harbor reached out because April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, so they wanted to ask to have the Courthouse lit up with Teal for the month of April. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to light up the Courthouse house in Teal for the month of April for Child Abuse Prevention Month. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ABERDEEN LEADERSHIP CLASS PROJECT – BIKE PARK: Amber Schwab, Leadership Aberdeen and McKenzie Bierman, Fair/Fairgrounds Assistant Manager met with the Commission and presented a proposal for a Bike Park, that is the project that the current Leadership Aberdeen Class through the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce. Those enrolled get to tour businesses and build partnerships and do a community project. This current class, which McKenzie is partaking in, designed a Bike Park. They had 10 sites and narrowed it down to 2 at the Brown County Fairgrounds. There are three phases to the project: Phase I includes a bike park with obstacles, trails, etc. and they would like to lease 3.4 acres at the Fairgrounds in the SE corner near the maintenance shop. They have been in contact with Insurance Plus to get insurance coverage. Phase II includes expanding trails and Desmond with Dakota Outdoors and 60 others have a Mountain Bike Club that just became a 501c and they would be willing to be in charge of the upkeep and maintenance of the park. Phase III would add a Pump Track. Commissioner Wiese commented that due to the wetlands in the area they chose for Phase I, the County will need to look into it more and contact Lonny Anderson regarding the EPA Regulations. Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent said he would be willing to reach out to Lonny Anderson since already working with him on a couple of other projects. Moved by Commissioner Dinger moved, Wiese seconded a motion for support of the Bike Park at the Brown County Fairgrounds in the SE Corner. All members present voting aye.

2025 REPLACEMENT/MAJOR REHABILITATION BRIDGE IMPROVEMENT GRANT: Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent met with the Commission and presented them with the 2025 Replacement/Major Rehabilitation Bridge Improvement Grant to complete the Sand Lake Bridge, which is an 80/20 Grant. Moved by Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Vice-Chairman Gage to sign the 2025 Replacement/Major Rehabilitation Bridge Improvement Grant with the S.D. Department

of Transportation. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. Dirk shared that depending on what funding he has available they may pave the road on each side of the Sand Lake Bridge but staying back 200 ft. on each side. He also informed them that Hwy. 10 will be closed starting on Monday, March 17th because S.D. DOT will be doing the Houghton Bridge, detours will be on Hwy. 281 or Hwy. 37, they will have this reopened before they close 16 to do the Sand Lake Bridge (north of Columbia).

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the General Meeting Minutes of March 4, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims/payroll: Claims: Professional Fees: Aberdeen Cardiology \$16.26; Aberdeen ED \$2,812.25; Aberdeen Imaging \$491.62; Aberdeen Orthopedics \$108.62; Acute Care Aberdeen \$249.91; Avera Medical Group Radiology \$499.17; Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$936.00; Dakota Group LLC \$2,500.00; Dakotabilities \$1,440.00; DEVNET \$3,789.84; Dohrer Law Office, PC \$396.00; East River Psychological Services, PLLC \$1,000.00; Fargo Teleradiology Prof. \$11.00; Helms & Associates \$3,055.00; Horizon Health Care, Inc \$79.94; Jerry McNeary \$1,728.00; Northeastern Mental Health Center \$832.00; Richardson, Wyly, Wise, Sauck & Hieb, LLP \$1,992.50; Sanford Clinic Aberdeen \$79.94; Sanford Health \$252.00; Schneider Geospatial, LLC \$3,060.00; SD State's Attorneys Association \$2,247.04; Zylstra Investigations \$1,620.00; US Bank Visa \$933.76. Publishing: McQuillen Creative Group, Inc \$191.24; US Bank Visa \$362.13. Radios / Rentals: Dakota Electronics LLC \$422.50; US Bank Visa \$285.99. Repairs & Maintenance: BB Sales \$1,237.26; EcoLab Pest Elimination Division \$118.47; Huff Construction Inc \$31,317.00; Interstate Powersystems \$775.00; Jake's Heating & Cooling \$105.00; K&S Plumbing, Inc \$1,231.96; Kone \$2,400.00; Lawson Products, Inc \$143.32; Precision Kiosk Technologies \$3,000.00; Premier Auto \$225.00; Schwan Welding \$9,398.31; US Bank Visa \$5,252.21. Supplies: Aberdeen Chrysler Center \$106.96; Aberdeen Parks, Recreation and Forestry \$20.00; Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$877.89; Century Business Products \$182.68; Great Western Tire \$5,330.88; Lawson Products, Inc \$2,069.97; Menards \$177.61; Midstates Group \$40.00; DSS Imaging – Monte Wahl \$96.00; Myers Tire \$27.06; PharmChem, Inc \$1,151.34; Pitney Bowes Global Financial Services LLC \$4,163.27; Plumbing & Heating Wholesale, Inc \$766.14; Safety Service \$18.72; Schwan Welding \$8,647.54; SD Federal Property Agency \$40.00; Share Corporation \$471.60; South Dakota Law Review \$40.00; US Bank Visa \$8,004.53. Travel & Conference: Blue to Gold, LLC \$495.00; Dave Lunzman \$70.00; McKenzie Bierman \$18.00; Rachel Kippley \$18.00; Stacey Usselman \$18.00; US Bank Visa \$2,045.59. Utilities: AT&T Mobility \$143.74; Montana-Dakota Utilities Co \$88.93; Northwestern Energy \$5,007.25; US Bank Visa \$3,516.52. Others: Grand Jury participants \$18,774.66.

Payroll: Commission \$4,896.51; Elections \$1,948.92; Auditor \$10,592.62; Treasurer \$18,279.20; SA \$36,628.31; Maintenance \$12,463.55; Assessor \$16,592.83; Register of Deeds \$10,905.91; VSO \$4,741.87; GIS \$2,946.49; IT \$9,855.68; HR \$5,419.29; Sheriff \$54,770.57; Jail \$77,173.20; Coroner \$1,250.00; Court Security \$8,203.43; JDC \$35,807.30; Welfare \$2,604.27; Museum \$12,997.52; Parks/Fairgrounds \$6,720.69; Fair Board \$3,626.67; 4-H \$877.19; Weed \$3,317.27; Planning & Zoning \$8,116.94; Highway \$49,559.48; Dispatch \$41,514.69; Emergency \$5,335.91; 24/7 Sobriety \$2,619.73; Landfill \$19,521.27; Meal Benefits \$70.00; FICA \$27,919.37; Medicare \$6,529.53; Discovery-HSA \$2,775.29. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

o Employment ending for Brian Wagemann, Brown County Highway Truck-Driver; FT – effective March 6, 2025. Request to fill.

o Transfer of Savanna Simon from Brown County Jail Detention Officer to Brown County JDC Detention Officer; FT – effective February 2, 2025.

o Transfer of Payton Beidler from FT Brown County Jail De-

tention Officer to PT Brown County Jail Detention Officer – effective March 2, 2025.

o Promotion of Jerome Akin from Brown County Highway Truck Driver to Brown County Highway Mechanic, FT; starting wage \$24.21/hr. – effective March 2, 2025.

o Hiring of Ricci Simon as Brown County Beverage Operations Superintendent, PT; starting wage \$19.00/hr. – effective March 13, 2025.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LANDFILL TONNAGE REPORT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to acknowledge the Landfill Tonnage Report for February 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

TRAVEL REQUESTS: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Travel Requests: Mike Scott from Landfill to attend Solid Waste Facility Open House, Federal Surplus in Huron, SD on March 5, 2025; Lynn Heupel, Auditor to attend Lake Region District Meeting in Day County on March 20, 2025; Lynn Heupel, Auditor/Welfare to attend Welfare Workshop in Pierre, SD on April 2-3, 2025; Lynn Heupel, Auditor to attend Spring Workshop in Pierre, SD on May 13-15, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ABATEMENTS: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to approve the following abatement for Tax Yr. 24PY25: Parcel #29931 - \$5.79. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FACILITY USE AGREEMENT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve and authorize Vice-Chairman Gage to sign the Facility Use Agreement with St. Mark's Episcopal Church for use of the Basement gathering area for facilitation of The Prospering Ones/Oyate Court Council and Programming from April 1, 2025 to July 1, 2026 at the cost of \$500.00/month. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:52 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published March 19, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$122.52 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25390



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

SEAMLESS  
GUTTERS  
GUTTER GUARD

CALL 605-291-9053

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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ANNUAL REPORT FOR BROWN COUNTY AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED December 31, 2024					
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS--MODIFIED CASH BASIS					
	Road and Bridge	401 - BOND	Other	Total	
	Fund	Fund	Governmental	Governmental Funds	
Beginning Balance	85,596.41	3,108.59	1,088,449.93	22,217,954.03	
Revenues and Other Sources (minor level):					
Taxes:					
Current Property Taxes.....	0.00	959,018.34	0.00	17,990,870.40	
Delinquent Property Taxes.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	107,796.38	
Penalties and Interest .....	0.00	0.00	0.00	35,352.23	
Mobile Home Tax.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	864.39	
Wheel Tax.....	825,055.48	0.00	0.00	825,055.48	
Tax Deed Revenue.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,996.01	
Licenses and Permits .....	2,670.00	0.00	7,320.00	157,125.24	
Intergovernmental Revenue: .....					
Federal Grants.....	33,002.75	0.00	99,432.36	651,769.23	
Federal Shared Revenue.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	16,926.60	
Federal Payments in Lieu of Taxes.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	268.00	
State Grants.....	1,966,926.06	0.00	84,060.13	2,078,686.19	
State Shared Revenue.....	4,071,263.93	0.00	698,509.36	5,369,478.94	
Other Payments in Lieu of Taxes .....	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,430.33	
Other Intergovernmental Revenue.....	0.00	0.00	453,000.00	453,000.00	
Charges for Goods and Services:					
General Government.....	0.00	0.00	20,227.49	873,715.65	
Public Safety .....	0.00	0.00	85,466.50	757,021.94	
Public Works .....	914,231.98	0.00	0.00	914,231.98	
Health and Welfare.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	71,030.31	
Culture and Recreation.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,718,614.75	
Conservation of Natural Resources.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	49,497.57	
Other Charges.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,374.09	
Fines and Forfeits:					
Fines .....	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,110.12	
Costs .....	0.00	0.00	0.00	43,841.01	
Miscellaneous Revenue and Other Sources:					
Investment Earnings.....	48,421.01	1,718.89	17,232.15	502,213.49	
Rent .....	251.88	0.00	0.00	173,927.00	
Contributions and Donations .....	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,653.00	
Other Miscellaneous Revenue .....	6,521.08	0.00	1,779.97	44,668.17	
Insurance Proceeds .....	5,122.24	0.00	0.00	14,823.01	
Sale of County Property .....	54,910.35	0.00	0.00	55,733.75	
Total Revenue and Other Sources .....	7,928,376.76	960,737.23	1,467,027.96	32,943,075.26	
Expenditures and Other Uses (subfunction level):					
Legislative.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	253,531.86	
Elections.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	199,190.33	
Judicial System.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	61,249.09	
Financial Administration .....	0.00	0.00	0.00	971,995.77	
Legal Services .....	0.00	0.00	20,282.31	2,228,469.91	
Other General Government.....	0.00	0.00	21,117.66	3,449,130.25	
Law Enforcement.....	0.00	0.00	151,678.94	7,178,930.70	
Protective and Emergency Services.....	0.00	0.00	1,649,956.76	1,666,956.76	
Highways and Bridges.....	11,616,398.69	0.00	0.00	11,616,398.69	
Economic Assistance.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	105,571.50	
Health Assistance .....	0.00	0.00	0.00	21,293.00	
Social Services .....	0.00	0.00	11,193.17	11,193.17	
Mental Health Services.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	199,837.32	
Culture .....	0.00	0.00	0.00	476,407.24	
Recreation .....	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,348,401.44	
Soil Conservation.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	310,214.86	
Urban Development.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	685,063.04	
Debt Service .....	0.00	903,956.85	0.00	903,956.85	
Total Expenditures and Other Uses .....	11,616,398.69	903,956.85	1,854,228.84	32,687,791.78	
Transfers In (Out).....	4,251,293.65	0.00	684,185.20	0.00	
Special Items (specify).....	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Extraordinary Items (specify).....	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Increase/Decrease in Fund Balance.....	563,271.72	56,780.38	296,984.32	255,283.48	
Ending Fund Balance:					
Restricted .....	231,883.27	59,888.97	1,316,572.27	2,117,920.04	
Assigned.....	416,984.86	0.00	68,861.98	15,068,356.84	
Unassigned .....	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,287,309.27	
Total Ending Fund Balance .....	648,868.13	59,888.97	1,385,434.25	22,473,586.15	
Governmental Long-term Debt .....				2,284,280.50	
PROPRIETARY FUNDS--MODIFIED CASH BASIS					
504 - Landfill					
Fund					
Beginning Balance .....	6,250,229.38				
Revenues .....	4,199,211.77				
Expenses .....	3,566,130.13				
Transfers In (Out).....	0.00				
Ending Balance:					
Restricted For:.....					
Landfill Closure and Post Closure Costs .....	1,894,495.06				
Unrestricted .....	4,988,815.96				
Enterprise Long-term Debt .....	1,894,495.06				
The preceding financial data does not include fiduciary funds or component units. Information pertaining to those activities may be obtained by contacting the County Auditor at (605) 626-7110.					
Published March 19, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$222.60 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25392					



TOWN OF WARNER  
MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY,  
MARCH 12th, 2025  
MEMBERS PRESENT: Gaylon  
Townsend, Dave Fair, Terry Ev-  
ans, Stewart Nelson and Nichol  
Townsend.  
APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A  
motion was made by Townsend  
and seconded by Evans to ap-  
prove the minutes from February  
12th, 2025 meeting. Motion  
carried.  
FINANCIAL REPORTS: MSC:  
Evans/Townsend. Checking:  
Town \$312,336.63; Water  
\$93,541.78; Sewer \$173,292.12.  
CDs: Town \$32,978.33; Water  
\$50,140.44; Sewer \$28,375.31.  
BILLS APPROVED FOR PAY-  
MENT: MSC: Fair/Evans.  
AVG (antivirus) \$64.77, Gas-  
N-Goodies (gas) \$108.43, WEB  
Water \$4843.50, USDA (loans)  
\$2083.00, AGTEGRA (fuel)  
\$37.49, Amy Scepianiak (sewer  
reimbursement) \$393.06, Auto  
Value (supplies) \$427.98, Bad-  
ger Meter (Feb. reads) \$12.88,  
Cole Papers (supplies) \$522.09,  
Dakota Pump (annual contract)  
\$1068.75, Dependable Sanita-  
tion (garbage) \$2625, Groton In-  
dependent (advertising) \$36.98,  
**6 ♦ Groton Independent ♦ Wed., Mar. 19, 2025**

Jensen Rock & Sand (supplies)  
\$214.29, Lynn Aman (CC clean-  
ing) \$75, MACS \$167.67, Mid-  
continent \$297.79, Northwest-  
ern Energy \$3122.26, SD Dept  
of Rev/Sales Tax \$169.19, SD  
Public Health Lab \$15, Town  
Water/Sewer \$186.13, PAYROLL:  
Stewart Nelson \$3578.20, Barb  
Breidenbach \$46.17, Terry Evans  
\$55.41, Dave Fair \$64.64, Linda  
Johannsen \$190.24, Justin Mc-  
Cord \$46.17, Gaylon Townsend  
\$46.17, Nichol Townsend  
\$499.15, Paul T. Vetch \$46.17,  
SD Retirement Fund \$539.76,  
Payroll Taxes \$1158.60.  
PUBLIC COMMENTS: None  
UNFINISHED BUSINESS:  
Trustee Vacancy: A petition  
was received from Terry Evans.  
There will be no election. Oath  
of Office was taken by Evans for  
a three-year term.  
Equalization meeting will be  
Monday, March 17th between  
the hours of 7PM and 8PM at  
the Warner Community Center. A  
letter of intent to appeal is due to  
a board member or the Finance  
Officer by Thursday, March 13th,  
2025. Nichol Townsend, Finance  
Officer-P.O. Box 301-Warner,  
SD 57479  
NEW BUSINESS:  
2024 Annual Financial Report  
was reviewed. It will be pub-  
lished and sent to the SD Legisla-  
tive Audit as required.  
Planning & Zoning minutes  
were discussed. Dave will con-  
tact county regarding jurisdiction  
radius. No action taken.

Potential purchase of 116 NW  
1st Street Property by private  
buyer was discussed. Per loan  
agreements and city ordinances,  
late fees will not be waived.  
MSC: Evans/Fair  
2024 Drinking Water Report is  
available to view upon request at  
the Warner City Office. A copy  
has also been posted at the  
Warner Post Office. A link to the  
report will be included on the  
April utility bills.  
Delinquencies: 9 were noted  
and notices will be posted on  
doors. Two have been shut off.  
DATE OF NEXT MEETING:  
April 9th,2025 at 7 PM at the  
Warner Community Center.  
ADJOURNMENT: There being  
no further business, the meeting  
was adjourned at 8:10PM.  
This institution is an equal op-  
portunity provider and employer.  
Dave Fair, Chairman; Nichol  
Townsend, Finance Officer  
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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  
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PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

**AUCTIONS**  
INTERSTATE AUCTION CENTER. March 22,  
10:00am. Spring consignment auction. Clean  
farm and ranch equipment. 3 miles east of SF,  
exit 402, Brandon, SD. Full listing: auctionzip.  
com, 605-331-4550

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Wessington Springs. CDL required or obtained.  
Applicant must be able to become certified in  
water/sewer. Excellent benefit package. Ap-  
plications are available at City Hall PO Box 443  
Wessington Springs, SD 57382 605-539-1691.  
Cityofwessingtonsprings.com. Application due  
April 7th, 2025. EOE.

**LAND**  
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Long term lease preferred but would consider  
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## State Robotics Championships – VEX Robotics at SDSU

This year's SD VEX State Robotics Championship was held at the SDSU Campus in Brookings, SD. Twenty Teams across the state competed. Not only was this the first competition held on the college campus, it was the first time our students participated with the fields of play being elevated. Another new feature was instead of the 6-7 rounds of qualifications, State was 10 rounds plus the final rounds to determine the winner. The Team Gladiators made it to the final round, with a rematch of Gladiators and Vexinators from Mitchell fighting for the VEX World Qualifying Spots against Islanders and Phoenix Rising from Harrisburg. Even though they were close matches – Harrisburg did bring home the win. Overall, these 12 Groton Robotics students worked hard this season, and we are excited for the new game to come out for the 2025-2026 season after World's in early May!

9050F – Gladiators: Garrett Schultz, Lead; Jameson Penning, Haden Harder, Rylee Hofer

Qualifier Ranking – 3rd out of 20. (7 Wins/3 Losses) Won Quarter Finals, Semi Finals, Lost in the Championship 23 to 33 and 29 to 34. (Best 2 out of 3)

9050E – Galaxy: Axel Warrington & Corbin Weismantel, Co-Lead; Ilyanna Dallaire & Ayce Warrington

Qualifier Ranking – Rank 13th out of 20. (5 Wins/5 Losses), Won Quarter Finals, Loss in Semi Finals 24 to 44.

9050B – Gearheads: Logan & Kira Clocksene, Co-Lead; Peyton Padfield & Emmett Zoellner

Qualifier Ranking – Rank 15th out of 20 (3 Wins/3 Losses) Loss in Quarter Finals 6 to 29.

## Weekly Vikings Roundup: Free Agency Recap

By Jordan Wright

The Minnesota Vikings won free agency. There are usually no “winners” and “losers” in free agency, but this year is different. This is the first time in a long time that the Vikings shored up every weakness on the roster, leaving the team in a position to draft the best player available during next month's draft. It's entirely possible the free agent signings don't pan out, but for today, we can all be excited about the new players Vikings' GM Kwesi Adofo-Mensah brought in.

The two biggest weaknesses on the Vikings' roster were the offensive and defensive lines, specifically the interior of those lines. So what did Kwesi do? He went out and signed four players who will play in and significantly beef up the trenches.

Jonathan Allen and Javon Hargrave, defensive tackles

Jonathan Allen was the first free agent the team brought in. The former Washington Commander is a former Pro Bowler and team captain who instantly becomes one of the Vikings' best DTs since the Williams Wall days. Hargrave comes from San Francisco and pairs up with Jonathan Allen and Harrison Phillips to give the Vikings one of the best defensive lines in the NFL.

Ryan Kelly, Will Fries, and Justin Skule, offensive line

Ryan Kelly, the former Indianapolis Colt, is a four-time Pro Bowler who will likely replace Garrett Bradbury at center, giving the Vikings something they haven't had in a long time: a physical center who can hold up against bigger defensive tackles. Will Fries also comes from the Colts, where he played right guard next to Kelly for many seasons. He was regarded by many as the best guard available in free agency, and his immediate chemistry with Ryan Kelly shouldn't be overlooked. Justin Skule was brought in to be the team's top backup offensive tackle. The Vikings now have one of the best offensive lines in the NFL.

Byron Murphy Jr., Isaiah Rodgers, Theo Jackson, and Tavierre Thomas, defensive secondary

The Vikings had a ton of players hitting free agency in their secondary. Cam Bynum signed a huge deal in Indianapolis, so the Vikings re-signed safety Theo Jackson to fill the void. Jackson, along with Joshua Metellus and returning Harrison Smith, give the Vikings a good blend of experience and youth at safety. Byron Murphy had a great season in 2024 and was one of the top cornerbacks in free agency, but the Vikings didn't let him get away. The team also signed Isaiah Rodgers and Tavierre Thomas to help fill out the CB group. I expect the Vikings will still bring in another CB or two, possibly through free agency or the draft.

Aaron Jones and Jordan Mason, running backs

One of the first moves the Vikings made this offseason was to bring Aaron Jones back on a two-year deal. To complement Jones, the Vikings traded with the 49ers to acquire RB Jordan Mason, who will split carries with Jones to form an excellent one-two punch in the backfield.

The Vikings also added linebacker Eric Wilson, who was drafted by the Vikings and now returns to add some depth at the position. The team also re-signed punter Ryan Wright.

Looking ahead, the Vikings will undoubtedly bring in a few more free agents before shifting gears towards the draft. Check back next week as we break down any new signings while also continuing our roster breakdown as we prepare for the draft. Skol!

## “Learning to Perceive: Visual Thinking Strategies in Medical Education”

Effective medical diagnosis depends not just on looking, but on truly perceiving. Recognizing this, many medical training programs have adopted Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) discussions about art to enhance students' skills in nuanced observation, inference, and communication. In 2004, Harvard Medical School pioneered use of VTS within medical education to refine the diagnostic and interpersonal skills of future healthcare professionals. Now, VTS is embraced in over 30 medical schools.

Through inquiry-based, participant-centered VTS discussions about art, medical students learn to slow down, look carefully, analyze details, and refine their diagnostic reasoning. During the exercise, participants focus on an artwork while discussing their observations. The facilitator begins with: “What's going on here?” Seeks evidence by asking: “What do you see that makes you say that?” Then, spurs the participants with: “What more can we find?” The facilitator remains neutral, paraphrases comments, and points to the artwork to guide discussion. Without authoritative guidance, participants explore multiple interpretations freely. The conversation often lasts 20 minutes per artwork. (Conversely, most museum visitors spend 30 seconds or less with a piece.)

A 2020 study at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, along with others, found that students who participated in VTS showed significantly improved observational abilities compared to peers who had not engaged with the program. By examining and discussing artwork through VTS, participants sharpen their ability to notice small but significant details and interpret ambiguous visual information, a process that mirrors patient assessments, where attentiveness and contextual understanding are key. For example, learning to analyze visual cues that might indicate emotions may enhance healthcare professionals' abilities to interpret patients' nonverbal cues, leading to more compassionate and attentive interactions.

VTS discussions engage participants in collaborative analysis, fostering both clear articulation of observations and active listening to others' perspectives. A systematic review of studies regarding VTS in medical education, published in BMC Medical Education (2023), found that engaging in VTS improved medical students' observation skills and enhanced their abilities to express their findings concisely and confidently. Further, VTS participants also support their interpretations with evidence—a critical skill in patient care, where diagnoses must be explained with clarity and justification. The structured discussion format of VTS also encourages strong communication, as well as co-operative analytical skills, which are essential for collaborative work within healthcare teams.

Attuning to a patient's needs requires careful observation, but diagnosing complex cases also demands the ability to navigate uncertainty. Patients may present with overlapping or unclear symptoms, and medical professionals must carefully weigh multiple possibilities. VTS trains students to tolerate ambiguity by prompting them to analyze complex images without immediate resolution. Further, the process fosters active listening to alternative interpretations offered by others, often leading participants to refine their own thoughts. This practice fosters adaptability, allowing future medical professionals to confidently refine their assessments rather than defaulting to initial impressions.

By engaging with works of art in VTS discussions, medical students and practitioners develop sharper attention to detail, improved communications, and increased empathy. Ideally, this reflective approach extends into clinical practice, allowing healthcare providers to take a more holistic view of their patients, ask insightful questions, thoroughly evaluate symptoms before reaching a diagnosis, and communicate thoughtfully with patients and families.

*Donna Merkt is a certified VTS facilitator and has practiced VTS for more than 15 years, during which she's led VTS conversations with thousands of students and adults, and trained numerous educators and medical professionals to use the method. She currently serves as director of the South Dakota Art Museum at South Dakota State University. 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 and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB), providing health information based on science, built on trust.*



**By Donna Merkt, director of the South Dakota Art Museum at South Dakota State University**



Dear EarthTalk: Are prairie dogs threatened or endangered these days? – Joseph P., via email



Prairie dogs play a key role in grassland ecosystems but encounter many threats. These cute 18” tall tan rodents live in small pockets of habitat across 10 western U.S. states: Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Wyoming. However, they are now extinct in Arizona. Roughly half of the U.S. population is in South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming. As keystone species —those whose presence is critical for the balance and health of their ecosystems— they support more than 130 other species such as burrowing owls and black-footed ferrets.

Habitat loss is one of the most noteworthy threats. Urban development, agriculture and land conversion have dramatically reduced habitats. This leaves fragmented areas that make it hard for populations to thrive. Climate change further compounds thing by altering grassland ecosystems: Rising temperatures and prolonged droughts reduce food and water availability, further impacting prairie dogs and the species that depend on them. “Everything that was in the southern part of their range is kind of lopped off, and you’re really seeing almost Colorado become the central core part of their range and then shifting north,” says Sterling Krank, Prairie Dog Coalition Director at The Humane Society of the United States.

Another challenge is sylvatic plague, a disease transmitted by fleas that has wiped out large colonies. Also, prairie dogs are viewed as pests by farmers and ranchers. This leads to poisoning and other eradication efforts. “Prairie dogs, once one of the most abundant animals on the prairie, now occupy two percent of their historic range,” reports Christine Peterson in High Country News.

Prairie dogs aren’t federally recognized as endangered. But activists are working to conserve them, launching a wide range of initiatives including habitat restoration, vaccination efforts against the plague, and public awareness programs. These initiatives have brought achievements. But difficulties remain.

Anybody can help safeguard prairie dogs and their habitat. Supporting groups such as Defenders of Wildlife and the Prairie Dog

Coalition aids in financing habitat restoration and disease prevention initiatives. Promoting sustainable methods that protect grasslands and reduce human-wildlife conflicts is another way to help. Raising awareness about the ecological importance of prairie dogs and taking part in citizen science initiatives to track their populations are additional methods to help in their conservation.

Prairie dogs may not hold endangered status at the moment, but their decreasing populations and the dangers they encounter highlight the necessity for intervention. Assisting conservation efforts and adopting sustainable methods is one approach to help guarantee the survival of these species and uphold the balance of North America’s grassland ecosystems.

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).



**Conservationists would like to see the prairie dog granted at least threatened status under the Endangered Species Act.** Credit: pexels.com.

## Groton Prairie Mixed Bowling League

Team Standings: Jackelopes 9, Coyotes 8, Cheetahs 7, Chipmunks 7, Shihtzus 3, Foxes 2

Men’s High Games: Lance Frohling 205, Butch Farmen 194, Dion Bahr 192

Women’s High Games: Brenda Waage 187, Sam Bahr 184, Darci Spanier 170

Men’s High Series: Butch Farmen 543, Lance Frohling 539, Dion Bahr 532

Women’s High Series: Brenda Waage 450, Sam Bahr 447, Sue Stanley 425

Week 17 Fun Game – 8 Spares – Coyotes with 12!

## Queen of Hearts

The 21st Week of the Queen of Hearts was held Thursday at the Groton American Legion. Ticket sales for the week were \$1,180. The jackpot was \$18,846. The name of Luke Leshar was drawn. He picked card number 35 which was the 4 of Hearts. He won the consolation prize of \$118. The game goes on!

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Huck's raft-mate
- 4 Peeve
- 8 "Phooey!"
- 12 Docs' bloc
- 13 List-ending abbr.
- 14 Bassoon's kin
- 15 Dyeing vessel
- 16 Video-streaming brand
- 17 Radiate
- 18 Vulnerable spots
- 21 Physique
- 22 Youngster
- 23 "Taste!"
- 26 Chaps
- 27 Brit. sports cars

- 30 Stretches (out)
- 31 Polite address
- 32 Hawaiian coast
- 33 Speck
- 34 Aunt, in Mexico
- 35 Nodded off
- 36 Cyndi Lauper's " — Bop"
- 37 Tennis feat
- 38 Spinning disks used by ceramic artists
- 45 Latin love
- 46 Authentic

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			

- 47 Tic-tac-toe loser
- 48 Hindu royal
- 49 Bern's river
- 50 — carte
- 51 Journey
- 52 Dance move
- 53 Tourist's chart

- 8 Thesaurus compiler
- 9 Competent
- 10 Hammer or sickle
- 11 Gives a darn?
- 19 Nile wader
- 20 Sweetie
- 23 "Dilbert" engineer
- 24 MGM rival
- 25 Still
- 26 Soccer's Hamm
- 27 "The Simpsons" barkeep
- 28 Econ. statistic
- 29 Plopped down

- 31 Western ranges
- 32 Swiss artist Paul
- 34 "That'll be — day!"
- 35 Drag
- 36 Vegas area
- 37 Cognizant
- 38 Fraction
- 39 Sharif of film
- 40 Author Morrison
- 41 Pants part
- 42 Physical
- 43 Classic Kinks song
- 44 Bath bar

### DOWN

- 1 Coffee, slangily
- 2 Apple since 1998
- 3 Calc. or trig
- 4 Red wine
- 5 " — you so!"
- 6 Bogus
- 7 Befuddle

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19-21 Oz.

**\$2.99**

**FROZEN**

**BLUE BUNNY PREMIUM ICE CREAM**  
46-48 Oz. Tub

**\$2.99**

**LIQUOR/BEER**

**CROWN ROYAL, CROWN APPLE, VANILLA OR PEACH**  
1.75 Liter

**\$47.99**

**BAKERY**

**KEN'S BAKERY FRESH PUMPERNICKEL RYE BREAD**  
1 Lb. Loaf

**\$3.99**

**DELI**

**CHEESE OF THE WEEK! KERRYGOLD AGED CHEDDAR CHEESE**  
7 Oz. Pkg.

**\$5.99** Each

SUN 9 AM - 1 PM  
MON-FRI 7 AM - 5 PM  
SAT 8 AM - 2 PM  
Call 605.225.6671

**GOURMET VILLAGE BURGER SEASONINGS**

**FLAVOR OF THE WEEK HOT COCOA**

**50% OFF**

**BEER**

**BUSCH LIGHT**  
30 Pk. 12 Oz. Cans

**\$18.99**

\*Limit 4

COFFEE • GOURMET DRINKS & FOODS

**\$1.00 OFF**

**\$3.49-\$4.49**

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