

The Groton Independent

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School board considers shift from show choir to musical production

By Elizabeth Varin

The Groton Area High School show choir team may be taking its curtain call, but if so, a new opportunity for students is waiting in the wings.

At Monday night's school board meeting, members discussed the possibility of replacing the high school show choir team with a musical production. The change is being considered as a way to involve more students, offering a shorter time commitment and a wider variety of roles both on and off the stage.

This year's group included 14 members (one sixth grader, one seventh grader, three eighth graders, one freshman, one sophomore, two juniors and five seniors), said Landon Brown, K-12 vocal music teacher and show choir director. More than a third of the group is graduating, which would make it more of a small group rather than a choir.

Students have expressed concern about how much of a time commitment the show choir is, as practices begin in the fall and performances takes place in the spring. There are also not a lot of performances possible. This year's group performed at a competition in Aberdeen and during the Pops Concert.

Brown proposed putting on a musical next year as an alternative. Not only would a musical be less of a time commitment for students, but the show could also be tailored to those interested, he said. If more students are interested in dancing, the show could include more of that. If there are more girls interested than boys, there are shows that would feature those interested.

"I want to get as many people involved to make it a productive experience," he said. "I just want to do what will benefit the most students."

Board members recalled the strong show choir program at Groton about a decade ago. Groton was named Class A champions at the first South Dakota High School Activities Association State Show Choir Competition in 2016. Back then, there were about 40 students involved in two school show choirs, said board member Marty Weismantel. Since then, though, interest has died down.

"This isn't something new for people who have followed show choir," he said. "It's been on life support."

Board member Heather Lerseth-Fliehs asked if talks about expanding the district cooperative agreement with Langford could include show choir. Superintendent Joe Schwan said talks about the co-op expanding have stalled for now. He added, though, that programs that are discontinued can be very hard to bring back.

Board members asked Brown to put out a sign-up sheet to see how many students would be interested in being involved in a musical. However, most indicated support of having an activity that would involve not only singers, but a wide variety of students.

"I think it would be a good idea to try something different," said Tigh Fliehs.

A final decision on the future of the show choir was not reached, as the board waits to see if students would want to participate in a musical show instead.

Negotiated contracts approved

In other business, the board approved negotiated contracts for teachers and staff. The teacher contract includes a 2.5 percent salary increase for

Continues on back page



Girl Scouts donate to The Pantry

On Monday, Groton Girl Scout Troop #40249 generously donated several boxes of Girl Scout cookies to The Pantry - Groton, SD, spreading a little sweetness. The team at Enrich Groton SoDak Inc. is incredibly grateful for this thoughtful gesture.

Pictured L to R: Senior Citizen member Dave Kleinsasser, Enrich volunteers Steve and Sandy Dresbach, Enrich board members Nancy Larsen, Diane Warrington, April Abeln, and Topper Tastad, Girl Scout members Rosalyn Block, Isabella Daly and Hallie Perkins. (Courtesy Photo April Abeln)



Legion Post member Ben Smith, with a warm smile, greets customers at the door as they arrive at the door prize table during the Groton American Legion grand reopening.

(Photo by Bruce Babcock)

Babcock re-elected as Legion Commander

The Groton American Legion Post #39 held its election of officers on Monday. Bruce Babcock as re-elected as commander, Aaron Grant as vice commander, Brent Wienk as finance officer, Ben Smith as adjutant and Steve Dresbach as chaplain.



Sawyer Kappes was the winner of the bike giveaway, sponsored by the Groton Chamber. She won it at the Easter Egg Hunt held Saturday at the City Park.. (Photo by April Abeln)

Tracy is triple winner at Ipswich; Pauli is winner in two events

The Groton Area boys track team won five events at the Ipswich Early Bird Track meet held Friday. The boys team placed third behind North Central with 105 points, Ipswich with 91 and Groton Area with 85.

Keegen Tracy won the 100m dash, the 200m dash and the 400m dash. Blake Pauli won the 800m run and was also on the winning 4x800m relay team with teammates Jayden Schwan, Jace Johnson and Tristin McGannon.

Laila Roberts placed second the 400m dash and Jayden Schwan placed second in the 1600m run.

Boys Results

100 Meters: 1. Keegen Tracy, 11.25; 13. Brevin Fliehs, 12.07; 46. Ryder Schelle, 14.88

200 Meters: 1. Keegen Tracy, 23.86

400 Meters: 1. Keegen Tracy, 52.42; 8. Jordan Schwan, 1:00.74

800 Meters: 1. Blake Pauli, 2:07.87

1600 Meters: 2. Jayden Schwan, 4:59.74; 8. Jace Johnson, 5:24.46

3200 Meters: 2. Jayden Schwan, 11:36.70

300m Hurdles - 36": 9. Tristin McGannon, 50.12

4x100 Relay: 4. (Brevin Fliehs, Ryder Schelle, Jordan Schwan, Ethan Kroll), 47.99

4x200 Relay: 4. (Ryder Schelle, Jordan Schwan, Brevin Fliehs, Keegen Tracy), 1:41.92.

4x800 Relay: 1. (Blake Pauli, Jayden Schwan, Jace Johnson, Tristin McGannon), 8:49.17

Shot Put - 12lb: 10. Karter Moody, 38-07.00

Discus - 1.6kg: 18. Karter Moody, 98-07

Javelin - 800g: 21. Karter Moody, 92-04

Long Jump: 5. Ethan Kroll, 18-11.75

Triple Jump: 6. Ethan Kroll, 35-05.50; 9. Tristin McGannon, 31-01.75

Girl's Results

100 Meters: 5. Laila Roberts, 13.49

400 Meters: 2. Laila Roberts, 1:04.50

100m Hurdles - 33": 12. Hannah Sandness, 20.46

300m Hurdles - 30": 8. Hannah Sandness, 1:02.30

Groton Area Tigers Varsity Fall After Big Comeback By W.I.N. Varsity

By GameChanger Media

Despite leading by as many as four runs, Groton Area Tigers Varsity fell to W.I.N. Varsity 8-5 on Thursday.

Groton Area Tigers Varsity lost despite out-hitting W.I.N. Varsity six to three. Karsten Fliehs and Nicholas Morris each collected two hits for Groton Area Tigers Varsity.

W.I.N. Varsity opened the scoring in the first after Mac Heinz doubled, scoring one run.

Groton Area Tigers Varsity took the lead, 3-1, in the bottom of the first thanks to doubles by Fliehs, and Morris.

Groton Area Tigers Varsity added to their early lead in the bottom of the second inning after Brevin Fliehs grounded out, and Fliehs singled down the left field line, each scoring one run.

W.I.N. Varsity flipped the game on its head in the top of the fourth, scoring six runs on two hits to take the lead, 8-5. The biggest blow in the inning was a double by Chays Mansfield on a full count that drove in two.

Devon Fischbach earned the win for W.I.N. Varsity. The starter allowed six hits and five

by Dorene Nelson

Groton Area High School offers a variety of business classes. One of these classes, School Internship, offers seniors the opportunity to work in various local businesses of their choice.

The purpose of this internship is to teach students responsibility by working for someone other than their family. It helps them learn how to work with the public and with customers who might not be all that agreeable at times.

Internships could also help students decide on a part-time job while they are in college or maybe even help them choose a future occupation.

Brittany Hubbart, a Science and Health Science teacher, organized this experience for the 15 students enrolled in her School Internship class.

Local business owners, farmers, and day care providers welcome the students' help. The Internship class is open only to seniors who have to find their own sponsor for their workplace.

All students must be at their chosen place of work during the last period of the school day. The student interns must contact the place they would like to work and have their own personal transportation. The following brief articles are from five of the intern students in her class.

Hansen interns at Groton Area Kindergarten

Kennedy Hansen, daughter of Craig and Stacy Hansen, Aberdeen, is interning in the kindergarten class taught by Ann Gibbs. Kennedy and her twin sister both play basketball and soccer.

"I've been interning in this kindergarten class all year and have really enjoyed the experience," Kennedy stated. "I've gotten to know the kids as well as learn what to do in the classroom and how to do it."

"Mrs. Gibbs is a great teacher for me to learn from," Kennedy explained. "She sets high standards in her classroom and uses what I call 'old fashioned' educational techniques."

"The hardest part of being a kindergarten teacher is getting the little kids to listen to me and then to actually do what I want them to," she smiled. "My favorite part of this internship is getting to know these little children and making a connection with them."

"I plan to attend college at Jamestown University and play soccer. However my main goal in attending college is to become a kindergarten teacher," she smiled. "I really love these little kids!"



Kennedy Hansen

runs (four earned) over five innings, striking out five and walking five. Morris pitched four innings in relief for Groton Area Tigers Varsity. The righty allowed zero hits and zero runs while, striking out three and walking two. Gavin Englund started the game for Groton Area Tigers Varsity. The pitcher gave up one hit and three runs over three innings, striking out two and walking five. Lincoln Kroll earned the save.

Fliehs and Morris each drove in two runs for Groton Area Tigers Varsity. Lincoln Krause paced Groton Area Tigers Varsity with two walks. Overall, the team had patience at the plate, piling up seven walks for the game.

Heinz drove the middle of the lineup, leading W.I.N. Varsity with three runs batted in. The right-handed hitter went 1-for-4 on the day. Mansfield, Alec Mikkelson, and Heinz each collected one hit for W.I.N. Varsity. W.I.N. Varsity had a strong eye at the plate, amassing nine walks for the game. Fischbach and Drew Bakeburg led the team with two walks each. W.I.N. Varsity turned one double play in the game.

Next up for Groton Area Tigers Varsity is a game at Madison/Chester Varsity 2024 on Friday.

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Groton Area Tigers JV Firing On All Cylinders Against W.I.N. Baseball JV

By GameChanger Media

Groton Area Tigers JV easily dispatched W.I.N. Baseball JV on Thursday, 6-0.

Groton Area Tigers JV got on the board in the first inning after Isaiah Scepaniak singled, scoring three runs.

Groton Area Tigers JV added to their early lead in the bottom of the third inning when Jordan Schwan doubled, scoring two runs, and a wild pitch scored one run.

Alex Abeln earned the win for Groton Area Tigers JV. The right-handed pitcher allowed four hits and zero runs over three and two-thirds innings, striking out nine and walking three. #25 took the loss for W.I.N. Baseball JV. The starter went two innings, surrendering six runs (five earned) on three hits, striking out four and walking four. Lincoln Shilhanek pitched one and one-third innings of scoreless ball for Groton Area Tigers JV in relief. The righty allowed one hit, striking out none and walking one.

Schwan and Scepaniak each drove in two runs for Groton Area Tigers JV. Groton Area Tigers JV had patience at the plate, tallying six walks for the game. Groton Area Tigers JV were sure-handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. John Bisbee had the most chances in the field with nine.

#11 went 2-for-3 at the plate to lead W.I.N. Baseball JV in hits.

Groton Area Tigers JV play at home on Sunday against SBW JV Baseball in their next game.

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Chelsea Hanson named to Aberdeen Central Hall of Fame

The Aberdeen Public Schools Foundation has announced the Aberdeen Central High School Hall of Fame Class of 2025 for Athletics:

Jared Hannigan, Class of 2010 – A role model and elite athlete, Hannigan excelled on and off the field as quarterback for the Golden Eagles. He earned honors as Mr. Basketball, Spirit of Su, Class AA Player of the Year, and Gatorade Player of the Year, and was a three-time state champion in the long jump.

Chelsea (Brandlee) Hanson, Class of 2005 – A volleyball and basketball standout athlete, Hanson was the heart and soul of her teams at Aberdeen Central. In 2004, she set and still holds the State Volleyball record for Most Aces in the State Tournament (across all classes). She completed her volleyball career at CHS with over 1,000 kills.

Douglas Woodruff Smith, Class of 1962 – No one else has had more impact on the quality and quantity of tennis in Aberdeen. Smith's continued commitment to mentoring, education, and leadership has shaped the sport of tennis at the local, state, regional, and national levels. He has positively influenced the lives of thousands of young people and led them to many state championships.

These individuals will be inducted into the Aberdeen Central High School Hall of Fame at a banquet on September 27, 2025, in conjunction with Aberdeen Central High School Homecoming festivities. Tickets will go on sale for the event in July.



Chelsea Hanson

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

With the NFL Draft fast approaching, all eyes turn to team front offices as they finalize their boards and prepare to shape the future of their franchises. For the Minnesota Vikings, this year's draft carries added intrigue—and pressure. With multiple key positions still in flux and rumors swirling about potential trades, general manager Kwesi Adofo-Mensah and head coach Kevin O'Connell have pivotal decisions to make. As the first round of the NFL draft approaches on Thursday, April 24th at 7 pm central time, we'll dive into the biggest needs, top prospects, and potential draft-day scenarios that could define the Vikings' 2025 season and beyond.

Thanks to an aggressive approach in free agency, the Vikings enter the draft without a long list of glaring needs. Key additions on both sides of the ball have helped solidify the roster, giving Minnesota some flexibility in how they approach their picks. That said, no team is ever truly "set," and there are still a few spots where depth would still be valuable—especially with the grind of a 17-game season and the ever-present risk of injuries. Cornerback remains the clear priority, and beyond that, the Vikings could use depth just about everywhere.

Given general manager Kwesi Adofo-Mensah's history of trading down to stockpile draft capital, it wouldn't be a surprise to see the Vikings move back from pick No. 24—especially with a limited number of selections this year. Even if the team stays put at pick No. 24, several intriguing cornerback prospects could be in play.

Will Johnson, Michigan

Johnson is a long, athletic cornerback with elite foot quickness, fluid hips, and the ability to play both outside and in the slot. He shines in off coverage, using his sharp instincts and strong ball skills to consistently make plays—highlighted by nine career interceptions and three pick-sixes. Johnson's size and length allow him to match up with bigger receivers, and he's capable of rerouting opponents in press-man coverage. While questions about his deep speed and physicality against the run remain, his smooth movement and playmaking instincts give him a high ceiling, particularly in zone-heavy or hybrid defenses. Injuries limited him in 2024, including turf toe and a hamstring that kept him out of Michigan's pro day, but when healthy, Johnson looks like a potential difference-maker at the next level.

Maxwell Hairston, Kentucky

Hairston is a fast, feisty corner with elite athleticism and top-tier straight-line speed, posting a 4.28-second 40-yard dash at the combine. His burst and agility are evident in off-coverage, where he closes quickly and has a knack for jumping routes. Hairston tied Kentucky's school record with three career pick-sixes and consistently shows playmaking instincts. Though undersized for a true press-man corner, he uses a one-hand jam and mirrors receivers well thanks to his quick feet and fluid hips. He's willing in run support and flashes as a blitzer, but needs to clean up hand usage downfield and continue developing his processing in zone. Hairston may begin his career as a CB2, but his speed, ball skills, and big-play ability give him intriguing upside as a long-term contributor in the secondary.

Benjamin Morrison, Notre Dame

Morrison is a smooth, intelligent cornerback with strong ball production and impressive versatility. He thrives in press-man coverage thanks to his fluid hips, clean transitions, and ability to stay glued to routes. With nine interceptions over two seasons, he's proven he can make plays on the ball in both off and zone coverage. Despite having shorter arms, he's capable of rerouting receivers in press-man looks and brings physicality to run support. Morrison's positional flexibility—playing both outside and over the slot—makes him even more valuable. He's a technically sound tackler who gives consistent effort, though he'll need to bounce back from a season-ending hip injury that cut short his 2024 campaign. If healthy, Morrison has all the tools to become a quality starting cornerback in virtually any scheme.

Shavon Revel, East Carolina

Shavon Revel is an intriguing prospect with the physical tools to develop into a starting press-man corner in the NFL. Standing tall with ideal length and speed, he can reroute receivers at the line and match up with them downfield. Revel flashes the ability to stay in phase with vertical routes and shows good vision in zone coverage, though his technique and anticipation still need refinement. He's capable of recovering when out of phase, using his physicality to close gaps and compete for 50-50 balls. However, his upright stance in press-man coverage and

tendency to allow separation can be concerning, especially when defending the deep ball. A torn ACL in September limited him to just three games in 2024, but his raw explosiveness, length, and competitive drive make him an enticing prospect with significant upside.

Next week we will scour NFL mock drafts to find the commonly mocked players to the Vikings, with a breakdown of each player. As the draft day approaches, we'll continue to break down potential fits for the Vikings, so stay tuned for more insights. Skol!

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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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Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

Solution time: 25 mins.

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City Council reviews 2024 finances, holds off on \$1M+ engineering service contract

By Elizabeth Varin

The city of Groton saw a boost in general sales and use tax revenue in 2024, according to the annual report reviewed during Tuesday evening’s city council meeting

While much of the yearly financial summary for the city was similar to years past, there was a notable jump in the general sales and use tax revenue, said city Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich. The 2024 total was \$930,815, compared to \$812,651 in 2023.

“Much of that is likely due to that large baseball tournament we had last year” he said. “That was when we saw a pretty good uptick in concession sales and things like that.”

Many of the rest of the financials stayed consistent with previous years, Heinrich said.

In 2024, the city brought in \$2,127,199 in general fund revenue, according to the report. The largest funding source was the general sales and use tax, followed by property taxes (\$772,129), culture and recreation (\$147,000), and shared state revenue (\$105,318).

The city spent \$1,966,362 in general fund expenses, with the top spending categories including highways and streets (\$556,492), police (\$475,828), financial administration (\$411,051), and recreation (\$377,409).

The city ended the year with a surplus of about \$109,000 in its checking account.

In other business, the council reviewed the projected engineering and management costs for the upcoming sewer system improvement project.

The city plans to replace a lift station, increase the force main size and create a new wastewater collection system in the projected \$6.587 million project.

The engineering proposal from IMEG Corp. included a \$490,000 fixed fee for work during the survey, design and bidding phase, and a \$645,000 fixed fee for construction administration and observation.

The engineering fees were included in the funding request for the sewer system improvement project, said April Buller, project manager at IMEG.

The city was notified earlier this month that the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources had recommended funding the Groton project through a \$4.587

million loan from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund at 3.75 percent for 30 years and an up to \$2 million grant.

Council members hesitated with the large total presented Tuesday.

“It’s a large sum of money,” commented Councilman Brian Bahr.

No decision was made Tuesday, as the council plans to have a vote about the engineering contract at its May 6 meeting, scheduled to take place at the community center to answer any questions residents may have about the project.

“Maybe we’ll wait until then to sign it (the engineering agreement),” said Mayor Scott Hanlon. “But it is what it’s going to be.”

Council members also discussed the city’s dual fuel ordinance.

Dual fuel refers to residences where heat is primarily from electric sources with a fossil fuel backup.

With a recent ordinance change, the minimum charge for those with the dual fuel meters will increase from \$10 per month to \$25 per month. Technology Specialist Paul Kosel told the council he plans to start letting those customers with the dual meters know that the rate will go up in the fall, but that increase could be avoided if the residents hire an electrician to redirect the electric lines to the residents’ other electric meter.

The more than 125 homes with the dual fuel meters could decide to keep with the current system. However, Kosel said, the base fee will be increasing.

Councilman Kevin Nehls asked for more time to review the ordinance and dual fuel system. It could be a headache for those who would see a bill increase. Additionally, local electricians would be swamped with that work.

- The council approved hiring three more seasonal summer staff.
 - Rylen Ekern was hired as a gatekeeper with no previous experience listed.
 - Tenley Frost was hired as a gatekeeper with no previous experience listed.
 - Sydney Kurtz was hired as the day softball coach with no previous experience listed.
- Rylen Ekern had previously been hired as a lifeguard, but was not old enough for

Groton Citywide

2025 Spring Cleanup

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that position. Ekern then reapplied for the gatekeeper position and was hired Tuesday night.

- The Groton City Wide Cleanup is scheduled for April 28 through May 2.
- The council approved a resolution to increase rates for its garbage removal services. Heartland Waste’s bid increased from its previous contract, which prompted the solid waste rate to go up.

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Groton Area Tigers JV Secure Win Against SBW JV Baseball

By GameChanger Media

Groton Area Tigers JV were triumphant over SBW JV Baseball 5-0 on Sunday. An error put Groton Area Tigers JV on the board in the bottom of the second. Groton Area Tigers JV added to their early lead in the bottom of the third inning after Isaiah Scepaniak grounded out, and SBW JV Baseball committed an error, each scoring one run. TC Schuster earned the win for Groton Area Tigers JV. The pitcher gave up one hit and zero runs over five innings, striking out eight and walking none. Emmett Symens took the loss for SBW JV Baseball. The starter went two innings, giving up two runs (zero earned) on one hit, striking out five and walking three. Braden Fliehs and Alex Abeln each collected one hit for Groton Area Tigers JV. Kason Oswald and Scepaniak were tough to handle back-to-back in the lineup, as each drove in one run for Groton Area Tigers JV. Groton Area Tigers JV were sure-handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. Oswald had the most chances in the field with nine. Symens led SBW JV Baseball with one hit in two at bats.

Walk-Off Seals The Deal In Groton Area Tigers JV Victory Over SBW JV Baseball

By GameChanger Media

Groton Area Tigers JV took Sunday's game in dramatic fashion, with a 12-11 walk-off victory over SBW JV Baseball. The game was tied at 11 in the bottom of the fifth when Kolton Antonsen drew a walk, scoring one run. Both offenses were strong at the plate as Groton Area Tigers JV collected 10 hits and SBW JV Baseball eight in the high-scoring affair. SBW JV Baseball got on the board in the top of the first inning after

Groton Area Tigers JV committed an error, Bryson Hanson walked, and Justin Muehler singled to left field, each scoring one run. Groton Area Tigers JV tied the game in the bottom of the second thanks to an error, a walk by Noah Scepaniak, and a hit by a pitch. In the top of the third, SBW JV Baseball broke up the tie when an error scored one run. Then a ground out by Hanson followed to extend the lead to 6-3. Groton Area Tigers JV tied the game in the bottom of the third thanks to a triple by TC Schuster, a single by Jordan Schwan, and an error. SBW JV Baseball jumped back into the lead in the top of the fourth inning after Carter Grobe singled down the left field line, Karter Deutsch singled down the left field line, and , each scoring one run. In the bottom of the fifth inning, Groton Area Tigers JV went back into the lead after Schuster tripled to center field, Schwan tripled down the right field line, Zach Fliehs singled to center field, Wesley Borg walked, and Antonsen walked, each scoring one run. Kason Oswald started on the bump for Groton Area Tigers JV. The hurler allowed five hits and eight runs (three earned) over two and one-third innings, striking out one and walking three. Luke Nielsen stepped on the bump first for SBW JV Baseball. The right-handed pitcher gave up one hit and three runs (two earned) over one and one-third innings, striking out two and walking four. Borg appeared in relief for Groton Area Tigers JV. Groton Area Tigers JV piled up 10 hits in the game. Schuster, Fliehs, and Schwan each collected two hits for Groton Area Tigers JV. Schuster, Antonsen, and Fliehs each drove in two runs for Groton Area Tigers JV. Scepaniak paced Groton Area Tigers JV with three walks. Overall, the team had patience at the plate, amassing nine walks for the game. Groton Area Tigers JV turned one double play in the game. Nielsen and Muehler each collected two hits for SBW JV Baseball. Deutsch, Hanson, Grobe, Emmett Symens, and Muehler each drove in one run for SBW JV Baseball. Deutsch stole two bases. Copyright © 2025 GameChanger Media, Inc. All rights reserved. Any reuse or republication of this story must include the preceding attribution and is subject to the Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc. Terms of Use, License Agreement, and Privacy Policy.



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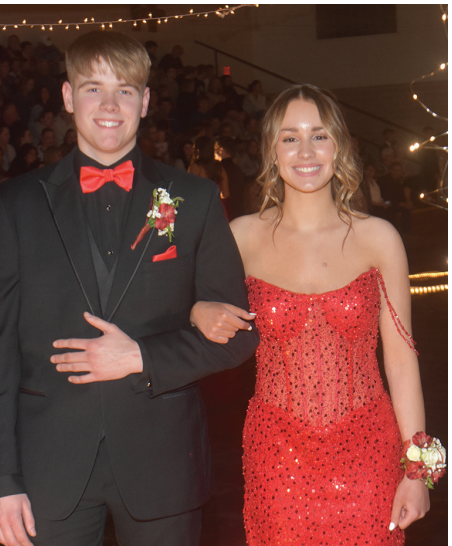
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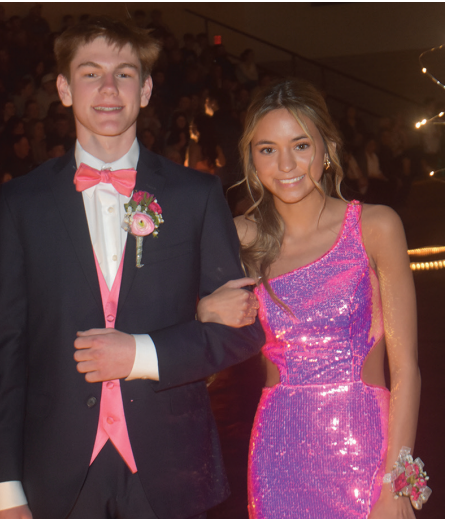
Junior Class President Olivia Stiegelmeier escorted by Daniel Person. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



London Bahr escorted by Ben Hoeft. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Abby Yeadon escorted by Skyler Godel. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

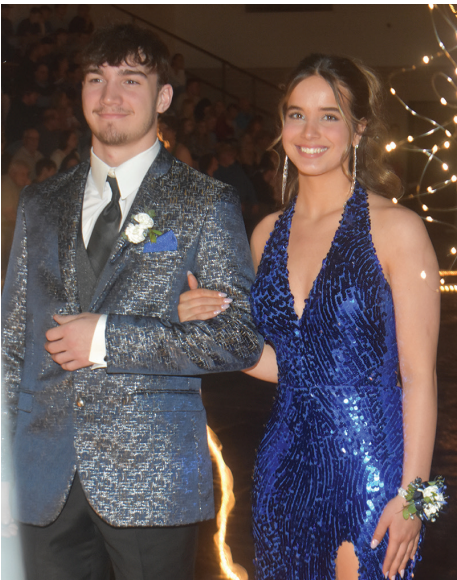


Olivia Deutsch escorted by Blake Pauli. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Cambria Bonn escorted by Hunter Kern. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

**GHS Junior-Senior Prom 2025
The Golden Hour**



Senior Class President Gretchen Dinger escorted by Christian Ehresmann. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Jaedyn Penning escorted by Karter Moody. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Brooklyn Hansen escorted by Ryder Johnson. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Paisley Mitchell escorted by Jaeger Kampa. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Cambria Bonn escorted by Hunter Kern. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Paisley Bray escorted by Drew Thurston. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Mia Crank excorted by Brody Lord. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Jaydin Stiles escorted by Carter Simon. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Brenna Imrie escorted by Kellen Antonsen. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Addison Hoeft escorted by Bradyn Wienk. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Halee Harder escorted by Payton Mitchell. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Carly Gilbert escorted by Blake Lord. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Kella Tracy escorted by Turner Thompson. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Reganne Miles escorted by Christopher Schwab. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Avery Crank escorted by Jacob Tewksbury. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Taylor Thorstenson escorted by Kaden Kampa. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Ashley Johnson escorted by Gavin Kroll. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



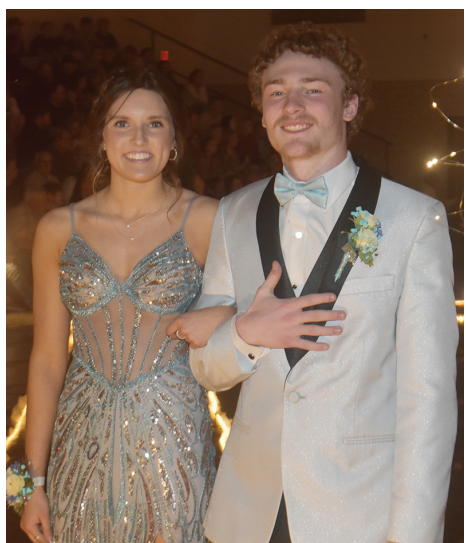
Rylee Dunker escorted by Gage Sippel. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Emma Davies escorted by Keegan Mix. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)



Hannah Sandness escorted by Lincoln Krause. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



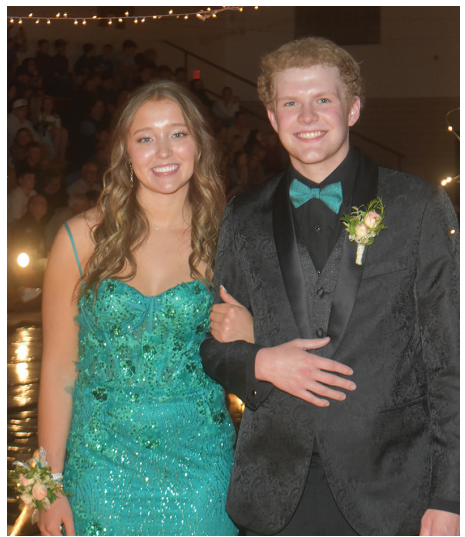
Kennedy Hansen escorted by Teylor Diegel. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Jerica Locke escorted by Keegen Tracy. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



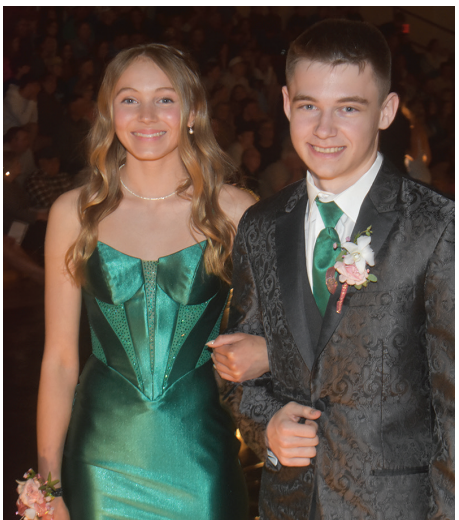
Laila Roberts escorted by Becker Bosma. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Harley Johnson escorted by Caden McInerney. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Kyleigh Kroll escorted by Karsten Jeschke. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



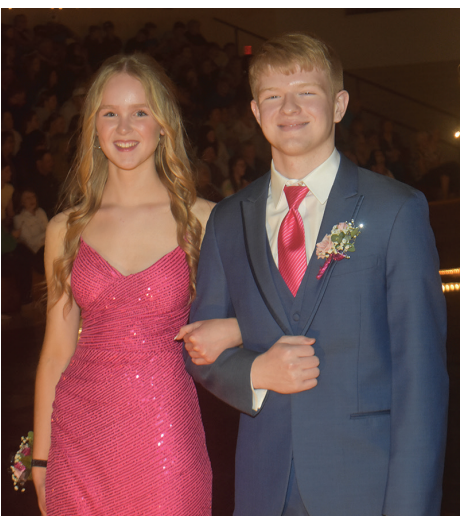
Makenna Krause escorted by Drake Peterson. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Ashlynn Warrington escorted by Jayden Schwan. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Elizabeth Fliehs escorted by Jace Johnson. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Teagan Hanten escorted by Nathan Unzen. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



McKenna Tietz escorted by Logan Pearson. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Gentry Pigors escorted by Axel Warrington. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Left: Natalia Warrington escorted by Carter Kraft. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



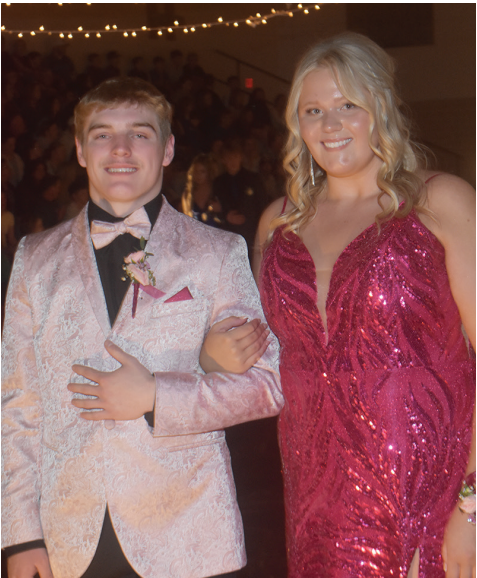
Right: Kayla Lehr escorted by Kalen Godel. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Gracelynn Decker escorted by Charlie Frost. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Emerlee Jones escorted by Easten Ekern. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Emma Kutter escorted by Korbin Kucker. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Macee Holocomb escorted by Garret Schultz. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Ashlyn Feser escorted by Micah King. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Talli Wright escorted by Logan Warrington. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Autumn Wegleitner escorted by Keegan Harry. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Raelee Lilly escorted by Micahel Opp. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



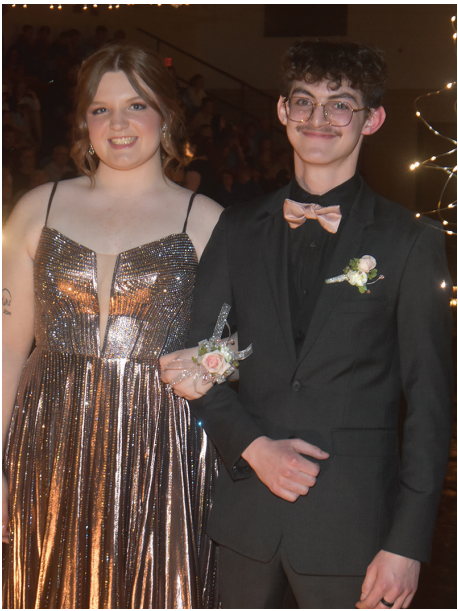
Ella Bray escorted by Nick Morris. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Karrah-Jo Johnson escorted by Zach Murray. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Faith Traphagen escorted by Ethan Kroll. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Emily Overacker escorted by Zachary Sidoti. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Jeslyn Kosel and Rebecca Poor. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The seniors. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Graduates of the 12th class of the South Dakota Agricultural and Rural Leadership Program include, (left to right): Mariah Kessler, Sioux Falls; Carson Stange, Stratford; Hailey Bies, Fairburn; Russell Samson, Aberdeen; Taylor Sumption, Frederick; Frank Kralicek Jr., Yankton; Justin Boerboom, Whitewood; Luke Henrich, Milbank; Kevin Blagg, Salem; Elliot Kinnander, Watertown; Rhett Miller, Sioux Falls; Lane LeBrun, Dell Rapids; Erick Roskens, Emery; Jenna Adamson, Chamberlain; Tyler Samuelson, Platte; Melisa Goss, Hartford; Willie Hinker, Canton; Kiera Leddy, Aberdeen; Johnathon Noonan, Howard; Tina Erickson, Sioux Falls; Tami Biskeborn, Mitchell; Kaleb Bowman, Aberdeen; Dani Herring, Rapid City; Nicolas Passone, Brookings; Kim McGraw, Clark; Sienna Mayer, Sioux Falls; Philip De Groot, Sioux Falls; Andrew Wiebenga, Yankton. (Courtesy Photo)

South Dakota Agricultural and Rural Leaders Graduate from 18-month Program

The South Dakota Agricultural and Rural Leadership Program (SDARL) graduated 29 leaders in Class XII during a ceremony held in Baltic, SD, on March 30. The event was the culmination of an 18-month leadership development journey that began in November 2023.

“We’re confident that these new graduates will continue the tradition of leadership in their communities and throughout the state,” noted SDARL Program Director Jennifer Henrie. “They have demonstrated solid personal and professional growth through the program.”

The SDARL leadership program is a series of educational seminars that includes meetings in communities across South Dakota, one week in Washington, D.C., and an international study seminar. Class XII studied agriculture and rural issues in Argentina. Participants develop the skills, knowledge, and character necessary to serve in leadership roles in their communities. The seminar content includes improving public speaking, networking, broadening understanding of diverse cultures, studying local economic development, and increasing knowledge of state, local, national, and international issues affecting the state’s most essential industry – agriculture.

“The program is made possible through a funding structure that includes a fee paid by participants, and investments from our alumni, corporations, and associations who share our passion for strong leadership in the state,” said Janelle Booth, SDARL CEO. “Because we receive no direct state or federal funding, we’re grateful to our funding partners who make this experience possible.”

SDARL graduates serve as leaders in many capacities, including past Secretaries of Agriculture, presidents and executive officers of statewide commodity groups, legislators, county commissioners, and in numerous local, state, and national association and business positions. Every day the 355 graduates of the SDARL program have a positive and profound impact on agriculture and rural communities throughout the state.

The SDARL Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation, is the management and funding organization for the program. SDARL is currently accepting applications for the next leadership class through May 2, and participants will be selected in July 2025. For more information, visit the SDARL website at www.sdagleadership.com.

Easter Egg Hunt



Volunteers during the Groton Lion’s Annual Easter Egg hunt. L-R Topper Tostad, Karyn Babcock, Travis McGannon, and Mayor Scott Hanlon. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



Officer Tommy Strickland pictures with a few kiddos after the Easter Egg Hunt. (Photo by April Abeln)



Groton Lions Club decorates the City Park on Saturday morning, April 12th. (Photo by Karyn Babcock)

Groton American Legion holds grand reopening event



The Groton American Legion Lounge hosted a grand reopening celebration with a large turnout. The Legion had recently completed a successful remodel of the lounge. (Photos by Bruce Babcock)



Auxiliary members L-R Jan Seibel and Meri Erickson poise with Legion member Brent Wienk. The auxiliary was in charge of the great food that was served. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)

48th Annual

KINGSWOOD RUMMAGE SALES

Southwest Sioux Falls, SD

Wed.-Fri., April 30-May 2 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM	Sat. May 3 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
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THE DAYS AND HOURS INDIVIDUAL SALES ARE OPEN WILL VARY. FOR A LISTING OF RUMMAGES GO TO: www.kingswoodrummage.com/listings, AVAILABLE ON APRIL 26.

Kingswood Boundaries: SW Sioux Falls, between I-29 on the East and the Tea-Ellis Road on the West, 12th Street on North and 57th Street on South



April 8, 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 Gage to approve the agenda with the change of moving the HR Report after executive session. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: None

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT GRANT: Mike Scott, Landfill Manager met with the commission to give an update of the Solid Waste Management Grants. Brown County was awarded 2 Solid Waste Management Grants. One of the grants, that was awarded, will be used for Cell 5 Construction, which will be starting in 2026. The other grant awarded will be used for purchase of a Landfill Compactor.

QUOTES FOR LANDFILL COMPACTOR: Mike Scott, Landfill Manager presented the Commission quotes for a new compactor for the Landfill. 2 quotes presented were from SourceWell for a Butler/Cat 826 in the amount of \$1,030,000.00 and TranSource for a Bomag 773 RB-5 in the amount of \$883,450.00. The last Compactor purchased was a Bomag in 2019 for \$678,949.00, and the Bomag Compactor has been determined to be a better build for the Landfill use. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to award TranSource for a Bomag 773 RB-5 in the amount of \$883,450 with \$176,690 to be used from the Solid Waste Management Grant that was awarded to Brown County. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CHANGE ORDER FOR BUILDING RESTORATION CORPORATION: Approve and Authorize the Chairman to sign Change Order from Building Restoration Corporation: repair and weld (4) plates to vertical steel column #1 & #2 at belfry level making change order total \$1,712.00 for an updated contract amount of \$840,017.00. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Change Order for total of \$1,712.00, updating the contract total to \$840,017.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HEALTH EQUITY CONTRACT: Approve and Authorize Allison Tunheim, HR Director, to sign the 2025 Health Equity Contract Agreement regarding the County HSA/FSA/Cobra. Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve and authorize the HR Director to sign the 2025 Health Equity Contract. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to approve the General Meeting Minutes of April 1, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims/payroll: Claims: Professional Fees: Aberdeen Fire Rescue \$344.00; Bricks's TV & Appliance \$1,562.50; Brown County Fair Foundation \$1,130.48; Christy Griffin-Serr Law Office \$390.00; Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$420.00; Dohrer Law Office, PC \$3,420.00; Helms & Associates \$38,633.56; Kristi Brandt \$195.50; Kuck Law Office \$312.00; Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC \$1,410.00; PharmChem, Inc \$1,278.00; Sanford Health \$672.00; Satellite Tracking of People, LLC \$1,430.00; SD Dept of Public Safety \$6,150.00; Taliaferro Law Firm, PC \$5,028.00; Valstone Corporation Inc \$5,300.00; Yellow Robe Consulting \$1,800.00. Publishing: Groton Daily Independent \$169.27; McQuillen Creative Group, Inc \$214.45. Rentals: Linde Gas & Equipment Inc \$52.34. Repairs & Maintenance: Auto Glass Solutions \$486.00; Auto Value Aberdeen \$19.95; Axon Enterprise, Inc. \$19,000.20; Building Restoration Corp. \$205,426.10; Butler

Machinery Company \$4,289.29; Crawford M S & F Inc \$430.00; Custom Installation Solutions \$336.00; Dakota Doors Inc. \$3,957.21; Dakota Fluid Power, Inc. \$10.00; Dakota Supply Group \$57.33; Diesel Machinery, Inc. \$90,201.37; Double D Body Shop \$5,472.48; EcoLab Pest Elimination Division \$132.12; Graham Tire Inc \$62.64; House of Glass \$213.42; Jake's Heating & Cooling \$233.98; K&S Plumbing, Inc \$294.02; KONE \$1,432.73; Liedholt Electric, LLC \$1,061.14; Mid Dakota Equipment Sales & Service \$1,464.23; Olson's Pest Technicians \$455.00; Pierson Ford Lincoln, Inc \$1,377.06; Precision Kiosk Technologies \$3,000.00; RDO Equipment Co \$4,427.73; Safety Service \$1,423.06; SD Dept of Public Safety \$2,840.00; Transource Truck & Equipment, Inc \$51,389.47. Supplies: Agtegra Cooperative \$46,303.71; Amazon Capital Services, Inc. \$4,668.14; American Alliance of Museums \$300.00; American Solutions for Business \$2,678.00; Auto Value Aberdeen \$1,628.69; Bimbo Foods USA, Inc. \$671.85; Brown County Fair Foundation \$1,230.00; Brown County Sheriff's Office \$25.00; Buckstaff Public Safety \$558.32; Butler Machinery Company \$1,706.93; Cartney Bearing \$23.97; Central Network Retail Group LLC \$706.30; Century Business Products \$300.64; Christina M. Flack \$830.98; Coca-Cola Bottling Company High Country \$333.00; Cole Paper Inc. \$1,543.64; Crawford M S & F Inc. \$25.80; Dakota Fluid Power, Inc. \$3,810.46; Dakota Mailing & Shipping Equipment \$315.72; Diesel Machinery, Inc. \$5,471.88; East Side Jersey Dairy Inc \$904.40; Ellwein Brothers Inc \$5,766.35; FedEx \$29.07; HF Jacobs & Son Const Inc \$119,284.68; IntelliPay \$95.00; John Peterson \$12.62; Johnson Bros of South Dakota \$718.20; Kuck Law Office \$10.59; Menards \$135.43; Midstates Group \$756.10; Olson's Pest Technicians \$569.62; Pantorium Cleaners Inc. \$92.00; Pierson Ford Lincoln, Inc \$243.90; Plumbing & Heating Wholesale, Inc \$73.81; RDO Equipment Co \$969.50; Republic National Distributing Co, LLC \$500.25; Runnings \$1,086.93; Sander's Sew-N-Vac \$209.94; SDSU Extension \$35.00; Share Corporation \$289.20; Taliaferro Law Firm, PC \$51.50; Transource Truck & Equipment, Inc \$1,947.11; Tri-State Water \$35.00; US Foods \$10,087.29. Travel & Conference: Axon Enterprise, Inc. \$209.31; Kyler Dinger \$198.32; Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC \$120.00; Lynn Heupel \$256.37; Northeast South Dakota Family Violence Prevention Conference \$1,500.00; The Lodge at Deadwood \$210.00. Utilities: AT&T Mobility \$86.46; Century-Link \$420.84; City of Aberdeen Treasurer \$1,245.77; Jake's Heating & Cooling \$935.92; Midcontinent Communications \$155.37; Northwestern Energy \$11,109.77; WEB Water Development Association, Inc \$122.28. Others: SD Dept of Agriculture & Natural Resources \$4,488.72.

Payroll: Commission \$4,896.51; Elections \$1,936.80; Auditor \$8,047.54; Treasurer \$18,180.79; SA \$36,687.59; SVAWA \$0.00; Maintenance \$12,525.87; Assessor \$16,581.76; Register of Deeds \$10,905.91; VSO \$4,741.87; GIS \$2,946.49; IT \$9,855.68; HR \$5,419.29; Sheriff \$50,511.06; Jail \$69,003.85; Coroner \$0.00; Court Security \$6,269.32; JDC \$33,340.89; Welfare \$2,604.27; Museum \$12,897.77; Parks/Fairgrounds \$7,034.19; Fair Board \$3,626.68; 4-H \$877.18; Weed \$1,529.67; Planning & Zoning \$9,634.07; Highway \$53,763.66; Dispatch \$38,801.96; Emergency \$5,498.56; Truancy Court \$0.00; States Attorney Grants \$0.00; 24/7 Sobriety \$2,588.96; Landfill \$18,106.02; Meal Benefits \$166.00; FICA \$26,683.31; Medicare \$6,240.43; Discovery-HSA \$2,572.22. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

TRAVEL REQUESTS: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve the following travel requests: Allison Tunheim, HR Office to attend SoDak SHRM State Conference on April 29- May 2, 2025 in Rapid City, SD; Bryan Gordon and Josh Lee, Sheriff's Office to attend the Advance Search & Seizure, Traffic Stops and Criminal Investigations Conference on September 23-25, 2025 at the SD Law Enforcement Training Academy in Pierre, SD; Jesse Milbrandt, Veterans Service Office to attend the SD Department of Veterans

Affairs Mini Conference in Sioux Falls, SD on May 8, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

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

LEASE AGREEMENT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the following lease agreements: Aberdeen Area Horsemen's Association to lease Akkerman Open Horse Arena on June 1, June 22, July 13, August 3, and August 16, 2025; Big Bucks Pro Rodeo LLC to lease the Holum Expo Building and Expo Addition April 11-12, 2025 for the Bull-O-Rama. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

AUDITOR REPORT OF ACCOUNTS FOR FEBRUARY 2025: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve the Auditor's Report of Accounts for February 2025: Total Cash and Checks on Hand \$7,700.00; Total Checking Account Balances \$21,306,669.86; Total Savings Account Balances \$1,190,447.42; Total Certificates of Deposit: \$10,173,681.71; Grand Total Cash and Balances: \$32,678,498.99. General Fund Cash & Investment Balances by Funds: General Fund \$19,583,424.10; Road & Bridge Fund \$954,301.36; Road & Bridge Fund-Restricted \$231,883.27; 911 Service \$846,463.78; Emergency & Disaster \$38,912.43; Domestic Abuse \$462.29; Federal/State Grant \$32.11; SA Grants \$123,282.27; Truancy Court \$135.68; 24/7 Sobriety \$21,477.29; ROD M&P \$89,032.52; Rural Access Infrastructure \$559,577.54; TIF Debt Service \$59,888.97; Landfill + Cash Change \$6,966,478.78; Landfill-Restricted \$1,894,495.06; Trust & Agency Funds \$3,435,029.87; Grand Total General Fund Cash & Investments \$32,678,498.99. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT (LEMPG): Moved by Commissioner Wiese seconded by Dinger to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the 2nd Quarter Report for LEMPG Grant. 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.

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

- Resignation of Candace Rohrbach, Brown County 911 Shift Supervisor, FT; effective April 22, 2025. Request to fill.
- Resignation of Sara Eilers, Brown County Jail Detention Officer, FT; effective March 31, 2025. Request to fill.
- Hiring of Heather Wilkinson, Brown County 911 Communications Officer, FT; starting wage \$23.04/hr. – effective April 14, 2025.
- Hiring of Heather Ramsay, Brown County Deputy Treasurer, FT; starting wage \$20.87/hr. – effective April 8, 2025.
- Adding the following volunteer bartenders to the approved volunteers list for work comp purposes:
 - oJoe Akkerman
 - oPearl Holt
 - oJames Meyers
 - oMike Keller
 - oLandon Wolf
 - oVicci Stange
 - oChad Locken
 - oBrit Locken
 - oJennifer Law
 - oTom Carlson
 - oLori Gibson
 - oMarilyn Markley
- Update Sheriff's Office Job Description, title and grade for Office Manager to be placed at Grade 19.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:13 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
Sara Swisher, Brown County Chief Deputy Auditor

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APRIL 8, 2025 – BROWN COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

This being the second Tuesday, April 8, 2025, the Brown County Commission organized themselves as the Brown County Board of Equalization, in accordance with SDCL 10-11-25, at 10:35 A.M. in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota. Oaths of Office were taken by the Commissioners Drew Dennert, Kyler Dinger, Mike Wiese, Mike Gage, and Duane Sutton. Director of Equalization, Gene Loeschke, Appraisers Russell Metz, Sarah Swenson, along with Office Assistant, Jillian Klein were also in attendance.

Chief Deputy Auditor Swisher called the meeting to order and called for nominations for Chairman. Commissioner Wiese nominated Commissioner Sutton as Chair for the 2025 Brown County Board of Equalization, seconded by Gage. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage that nominations cease, and a unanimous ballot be cast for Commissioner Sutton as Chair of the 2025 Brown County Board of Equalization. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Dennert nominated Commissioner Gage as Vice-Chair for the 2025 Brown County Board of Equalization, seconded by Dinger. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve 100% Tax Exempt Status, as requested, for the following New Applications: Aberdeen City #32: Presentation Sisters Convent (East Suites) on Lt 6 Presentation 1st Addition NW 12-123-64; Presentation Sisters College (Campus) on Lt 1 Presentation 1st Addition NW 12-123-64; Presentation Sisters College (North Suits) on Lt 2 Presentation 1st Addition NW 12-123-64; Presentation Sisters College (Former Dining Hall) on Lt 3 Presentation 1st Addition NW 12-123-64; PLA-COR/Journey Church on Master Card Fifth Street South Condos Lt 1 Runnings 1st Subdivision; Aspire on Lt 5 Blk 4 Niccollet Park Addition; Aspire on Lt 1 HAPI 2021 – 2nd Subdivision (Lt 9-10 Blk 27 H&L). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve partial Tax-Exempt Status for the following applications: Aberdeen City #32 - ACT 2 INC. 63% on #2 Midwest Capitol Project of LT 10-12 BK 27 1st ADD; 63% on #3 Midwest Capitol Project on LT 13-18 BK 27 1st ADD EX Mezzanine Hallway Unit 3; 63% on Mezzanine Storage Unit 4A, #4 Midwest Capitol Project of LT 13-18 BK 27 1st ADD; Aldersgate Parking, LLC 50% on LT 12-13 BK 29 SD of LT 4-5 BK 29 ADD & LT 12-13 BK 29 2ND ADD; Avera St. Luke's, 32.03% on LT 4 Hagerty & Lloyds 3RD SD SE 13-123-64; 40% on LT 3 Avera-Land-O-Lakes 2ND SD (B72 H&L & OL 2 Lanes); 76.94% on Lot 1 Avera Land-O-Lakes 2ND SD; 35.59% on Lot 2 Avera Land-O-Lakes 2ND SD; 99.28% on LT 1 Avera St. Luke's ADD (B86, 87 & 96 H&L ETC); 78.2% on LT 1 Avera St. Luke's 2ND SD (BK 73 & 82 H&L); 82.7% on LT 1 Avera St. Luke's 2ND SD (BK 73 & 82 H&L); 35.6% on Portion of BK 83 Hagerty & Lloyd ADD & ETC. (See ROD for full legal description). Loyal Order of Moose Lodge #590 80% on LT 1-8 & ALL of VAC ALLEY BLK 54 2ND ADDN. Yelduz Temple 90% on LT 1 Yelduz Corner SD (LT 1-3 BK 50 2ND ADD). TDAF/Tom Aman on Lt 1 Blackstone 2nd SD (2.48AC) (RR ROW). Warner Township #23 -Foundation for Youth FireArms Safety Inc. 80% on N 820' of SE 15-122-64 E of RR EX HWY. Groton City #33 - Groton American Legion Post #39 60% on LT 22-25 BK 11 Orig Plat Groton. Highland Township #35 - St. John Lutheran Church LCMS (Highland) 85% on St John Evangelical Lutheran Church OL Lots 1 & 2 SW 24-122-65. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the applications submitted per SDCL 10-4-15 for 100% Tax Exempt Status (complete listing available for public inspection Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Director of Equalization Office, 25 Market Street Ste 6, Aberdeen, SD). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve the following recommendations from the Director of Equalization in Bath Township #19 for Dale Boynton on SE 10-123-62 including Dale Boynton 1st Consolidated Easement Tr,

listing available for public inspection Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Director of Equalization Office, 25 Market Street Ste 6, Aberdeen, SD). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to remove Tax-Exempt status on the following: Aberdeen City #32 – Journey Church of Christian & Missionary on W 100' LT 1 NW of NE 25-123-64 and E 108.7' of LT 1 NE 25-123-64; Aberdeen Development Corp on Lt 2 Blk 1 Abdn Industrial Park East Addition NE 16-123.63 and Lt 4 Jones Natural Gold SD SE 16-123-63 and E 94'8" Lt 7-9 Blk 38 Bennett & Thomas Addition and Lt 1 1st Overpass SD (Blk 38 Bennett & Thomas Addition) and Lt 5-6 Blk 15 North Aberdeen Addition and Lt 2 Safeguard/ADC SD (Industrial Park) and N 12.5' of E 474" Lt 10 & E 474" Lt 11-12 Blk 38 Bennett & Thomas Addition; Claremont City #42: ADA Chapter Order of Eastern Star on Lt 7-10 Blk 10 Original Plat Ex NW 25' Lt 7 Claremont. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dinger to instruct the Director of Equalization to reduce values on all properties qualifying for 100% Disabled Veteran Exemption for 2025 (112). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to instruct the Director of Equalization to reduce values on all properties qualifying for Paralegic Veteran Exemption for 2025 (2). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to instruct the Director of Equalization to reduce values on all properties qualifying for 100% Paralegic Non – Veteran Exemption for 2025 (2). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to instruct the Director of Equalization to reduce values on all properties qualifying for Senior Tax Freeze for the Elderly and Disabled for 2025 (149). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the following recommendations from the Director of Equalization in Groton City #33 for Pharmdoc Inc on OL 3 Olsons SW 18-123-60 Groton, office correction on market factor, reduce value from \$762,099 to \$731,257. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the following recommendations from the Director of Equalization in Henry Township #18 for Don Donley on Lt 1 Larson 1st Addition E ½ 22-123-61, qualify for AG, reduce value from \$265,228 to \$182,355. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve the following recommendations from the Director of Equalization in Franklyn Township #36 for Todd Ellwein on TR 1 D H Engelhart SW 29-126-65, land not farmable, reduce value from \$65,019 to \$47,355. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to approve the following recommendations from the Director of Equalization in Lincoln Township #39 for Mark Richter on LT 1 Roundys SD SE 15-124-64, house fire, reduce value from \$275,996 to \$109,004. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to approve the following recommendations from the Director of Equalization in Lincoln Township #39 for Bruce Schumacher on Lt 1 Bruce Schumacher Addition SW 28-124-64, property over assessed, reduce value from \$915,614 to \$876,575. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to approve the following recommendations from the Director of Equalization in Aberdeen Township #20 for Daniel Brenner on Lt 1 Brenner Addition W ½ SW 16-123-64, additional structures on property, increase value from \$300,366 to \$345,033. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

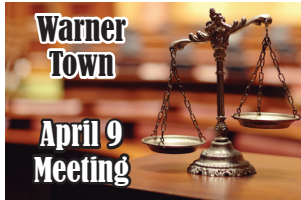
Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve the following recommendations from the Director of Equalization in Bath Township #19 for Dale Boynton on SE 10-123-62 including Dale Boynton 1st Consolidated Easement Tr,

no income ag land, reduce value from \$340,478 to \$319,789. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

RECESS: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to declare the County Board of Equalization recessed until 11:00 a.m. on April 15, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Sara Swisher, Brown County Chief Deputy Auditor

Published April 16, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$80.02 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25476



TOWN OF WARNER MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9th, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Stewart Nelson, Dave Fair, Gaylon Townsend, Terry Evans and Nichol Townsend.

DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Townsend and seconded by Evans to approve the minutes from March 12th, 2025 meeting. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: MSC: Fair/Evans. Checking: Town \$325,197.67; Water \$81,964.79; Sewer \$198,421.85. CDs: Town \$32,978.33; Water \$50,140.44; Sewer \$28,375.31.

BILLS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT: MSC: Fair/Townsend.

Amazon (supplies) \$35.87, Gas N Goodies \$143.19, Norton (antivirus) \$98.98, Office Max (supplies) \$46.17, The Boston Fern (memorial) \$100.89, WEB Water (water usage) \$5202, US Bank (loan payment) \$9631.84, USDA (water and sewer loans) \$2083.00, Badger Meter (March reads) \$12.88, Dependable Sanitation (garbage service) \$2625, Fonder Construction (shop repairs) \$3854.75, Groton Independent (advertising) \$171.47, Inman Irrigation (repairs) \$244.90, Lighthouse Electric (shop repairs) \$3827.76, Lynn Aman (CC Cleaning) \$75, Metering & Technology Solutions (supplies) \$1889.10, Midcontinent (phone & internet) \$298.07, Northwestern Energy (electric & gas) \$2082.06, Pheasantland Industries (supplies) \$161.99, SD Dept of Rev/Sales Tax \$201.63, SD Public Health Lab (water test) \$15, SD Workers Comp \$189, SD One Call (locates) \$1.05, Town Water/Sewer \$281.13, Warner Township (Fire Protection) \$3828.83, PAYROLL: Stewart Nelson \$3578.20, Terry Evans \$110.82, Dave Fair \$64.64, Gaylon Townsend \$120.05, Nichol Townsend \$872.90, SD Retirement Fund \$539.76, Payroll Taxes \$1222.19.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The Town of Warner equalization meeting was held in the Warner Community Center on Monday, March 17th, 2025 from 7PM to 8PM. Members present were Gaylon Townsend and Terry Evans. No one appeared before the Board to appeal their assessment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8PM.

NEW BUSINESS:

State funding for the West Nile Grant has been eliminated. The Town of Warner will continue to have Brown County spray at the cities expense.

Passed **RESOLUTION #4-25: A RESOLUTION ADJUSTING NON SUFFICIENT FUNDS RETURN ITEM CHARGES WITHIN THE TOWN OF WARNER.** Whereas, BANKNORTH has increased the service fee and, Whereas, adjustments are needed because of the increase of NSF fees from BANKNORTH; NOW, therefore, it is hereby resolved that the TOWN OF WARNER is increasing the NSF fees to \$70 per item. Dated this 9th Day of March, 2025. Signed by David Fair, Chairman. Attest: Nichol Townsend, Finance Officer.

Delinquencies: 6 were noted and notices will be posted on doors. Two have been shut off.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: May 21st, 2025 at 7PM at the Warner Community Center.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Dave Fair, Chairman; Nichol Townsend, Finance Officer

Published April 16, 2025, at the total approximate cost of \$31.46 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25477



APRIL 8, 2025 – CONSOLIDATED BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

Members of the Brown County Commission, Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeen School District 6-1 organized themselves as the 2025 Consolidated Board of Equalization, in accordance with SDCL 10-11-66 at 1:00 P.M. on April 8, 2025, in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota. Oaths of Office were taken by Commissioners Kyler Dinger, Mike Gage and Duane Sutton, Aberdeen School Board Member Duane Alm and Aberdeen City Councilman Rob Ronayne. Director of Equalization, Gene Loeschke and Appraisers Sarah Swenson, Russell Metz, Stephanie Morgan and Kathy Fischer were also in attendance.

Chief Deputy Auditor Sara Swisher called the meeting to order and called for nominations for Chairman. Commissioner Dinger nominated Commissioner Sutton as Chairman for the 2025 Consolidated Board of Equalization, seconded by Aberdeen School Board Member Alm adding nominations cease, and a unanimous ballot be cast for Commissioner Sutton for Chairman of the 2025 Consolidated Board of Equalization. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Aberdeen City Councilman Ronayne nominated Commissioner Gage as Vice-Chairman for the 2025 Consolidated Board of Equalization, seconded by Commissioner Dinger adding nominations cease, and a unanimous ballot be cast for Commissioner Gage for Vice-Chairman of the 2025 Consolidated Board of Equalization. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Aberdeen School Board Member Alm, seconded by Commissioner Dinger to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization for Christopher & Jessica Stucke of Lt 3 Davies 4th RAR of Lt 7-13 Blk 24 Bennett & Thomas Addition property value reduction from \$145,083 to \$128,496. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Aberdeen City Councilman Ronayne, seconded by Commissioner Gage to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization for Tri-Rivers LLC of the South 145.3' Hoffs OL 1 Blk 7 Woolverton Addition property value reduction from \$123,910 to \$106,856. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Aberdeen School Board Member Alm, seconded by Commissioner Gage to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization for Mussarat Ikramullah of Lt 7 Blk 19 Thomas Addition property value reduction from \$200,326 to \$153,994. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commission Dinger, seconded by Aberdeen School Board Member Alm, to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization for Lynne Fuhrman of Lt 1 Blk 1 Cedar Heights SD NW 8-123-63 property value reduction from \$471,023 to \$420,341. Commissioner Dinger – aye, Commissioner Gage – aye, Commissioner Sutton – aye, Aberdeen School Board Member Alm – aye, Aberdeen City Councilman Ronayne – abstained. Motion carried.

Moved by Aberdeen City Councilman Ronayne, seconded by Commissioner Dinger to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization for Joshua Latterell of the South 2' of Lt 2 & North 48' Lt 3 Blk 34 Bennett & Thomas Addition property value reduction from \$243,867 to \$221,273. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Aberdeen School Board Member Alm, seconded by Aberdeen City Councilman Ronayne to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization for Dean Hoover of Lt 1 Blk 48 Bennett & Thomas Addition property value reduction from \$52,092 to \$39,500. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Commissioner Gage to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization for Erdmann Properties LLC of BOLS #5 Park West Crt N ½ OL A I.S. Dayton's OLS 2002 Schult 16x76 property value reduction from \$32,864 to \$10,000. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commission Dinger, seconded by Aberdeen School Board Member Alm to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization for Alan & Brenda Lanphere of Lt 7 Blk 6 Golden Acres 1st SD property value reduction from \$403,038 to \$362,150. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Commissioner Dinger to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization for Michael Johnson of Lt 3 Blk 2 Ashwood Heights SD SW 8-123-63 property value reduction from \$477,102 to \$459,347. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Aberdeen School Board Member Alm, seconded by Commissioner Gage to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization for Alex Schnell of Lt 1-2 Blk 19 & S 15' Lt 8 Blk 16 & E 50' & Adj Lt 1-2 Blk 19 Simmons 1st Addition property value reduction from \$232,863 to \$209,511. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Aberdeen City Councilman Ronayne to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization for William & Jonelle Davis of Lt 1 Robertson-Schlangen Addition (Lt 20-21 Blk 95 H&L) property value reduction from \$154,658 to \$123,841. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Aberdeen School Board Member Alm, seconded by Commissioner Dinger to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization for Monte Reese of Lt 8 Blk 11 Highland Park Addition property value reduction from \$215,397 to \$156,385. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Aberdeen School Board Member Alm to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization for Rebecca Fjelstad of Lt 12 Blk 56 Thomas Addition property value reduction from \$113,653 to \$99,559. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Aberdeen School Board Member Alm to approve the following recommendations from the Director of Equalization for Eight and Enterprise LLC (5 parcels) of Unit 101 Eighth & Enterprise Condos Lt 2 ADC 2018-1 1st SD NE 16-123-63 property value reduction from \$229,863 to \$112,284; Unit 102 Eighth & Enterprise Condos Lt 2 ADC 2018-1 1st SD NE 16-123-63 property value reduction from \$229,915 to \$96,289; 108 Eighth & Enterprise Condos Lt 2 ADC 2018-1 1st SD NE 16-123-63 property value reduction from \$231,151 to \$96,289; 109 Eighth & Enterprise Condos Lt 2 ADC 2018-1 1st SD NE 16-123-63 property value reduction from \$231,151 to \$96,289 All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Aberdeen City Councilman Ronayne, seconded by Commissioner Dinger to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization for Herman Properties LLC of W 68' Lt 2 Blk 4 College SD of Blk 8-11 Simmons 1st Addition property value reduction from \$171,253 to \$150,530. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Commissioner Gage to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization for Wylie Meadows LLC (4 parcels) of Lt 1 Blk 4 Wylie Meadows 2nd Addition NW 11-123-64 property value reduction from \$75,000 to \$15,000; Lt 14 Blk 1 Wylie Meadows 2nd Addition NW 11-123-64 property value reduction from \$70,125 to \$38,569; Lt 1 Blk 2 Wylie Meadows 2nd Addition NW 11-123-64 property value reduction from \$41,640 to \$33,312; Lt 1 Blk 1 Wylie Meadows 2nd Addition NW 11-123-64 property value reduction from \$57,060 to \$45,648. Commissioner Dinger – aye, Commissioner Gage – aye, Commissioner Sutton – aye, Aberdeen School Board Member Alm – aye, Aberdeen City Councilman Ronayne – abstained. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Commissioner Gage to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization for Grand Junction Hospitality Group, LLC of Lt 1 Hoggs 1st SD NE 25-123-64 (Melgaard Park Add) property value reduction from \$873,674 to \$778,524. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Aberdeen School Board Member Alm to approve the following recommendations from the Director of Equalization for

RECESS: Moved by Aberdeen City Councilman Ronayne, seconded by Commissioner Gage to declare the Consolidated Board of Equalization recessed until 1:00 p.m. on April 22, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Sara Swisher, Brown County Chief Deputy Auditor Published April 16, 2025, at the total approximate cost of \$81.13 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25478



NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE #291
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES AS AMENDED

TO REZONE CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY
Notice is hereby given that Ordinance #291. An Ordinance Amending Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended to rezone the following described property filed petitioner North Western Energy – Robert Gehm/Owners: Donald Young & Harlan Young was duly adopted by the Board of Brown County Commissioners on the 1th day of April 2025 and will become effective on the 29th 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 properties: Rezone Lot 1 and Lot 3 from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Heavy Industrial District (H-I); Rezone Lot 2 from Multi-Zone District (M-Z) to Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P). The rezones are to bring these three parcels into compliance for a future electric generating station on Lot 1, leaving public utilities on Lot 2, and a future liquefied natural gas plant on Lot 3.

Description of property: Proposed Lot 1, Lot 2, and Lot 3, "NWE Generation Addition" in Section 25-T123N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota.

(Lot 1 = 440 SW 135th St; Lot 2 = 270 SW 135th St; Lot 3 = 90 SW 135th St; Aberdeen 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 1st day of April 2025.

Duane Sutton, Brown County Commission Chairman

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Notice of Hearing: March 5, 2025

First Reading: March 18, 2025
Second Reading/Adoption: April 1, 2025

Published: April 9-10, 2025
Effective Date: April 29, 2025
Published April 16, 2025, at the total approximate cost of \$23.91 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25479



Town of Stratford
Accepting Mowing/Weed Trimming Bids

Written/electronic bids to be received no later than: 5:00 PM, April 28th, 2024

Submit bids to community hall drop box, email, or by mail to:

Town of Stratford
Attn: Mowing Bids
293 Rondell Ave
Stratford, SD 57474

Regular mowing and weed trimming to be monitored/assessed weekly:

-Ball Park and picnic area
- City Park (emphasis on trimming)

3.Lots West of the old fire hall
Bids will be opened on April 28th, 2024 at 6:30pm at the Community Hall..

Anna Kwak, Finance Officer stratford1906@gmail.com
Published April 9 and 16, 2025, at the total approximate cost of \$16.00 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25468

Holgate Music Contest Results

Congratulations to the following students on their wonderful showing at the Holgate Music Contest in Aberdeen this past weekend!

37 Superiors (3 Superior +’s)

17 Excellents (3 Excellent +’s)

MS Band received a Superior from all 3 judges

All Ensembles and 5th graders received Superior Ratings

Superior Plus Solos:

Liam Johnson (Alto Sax), Novalea Warrington (Bari Sax and Flute)

Superior Solos:

8th Grade: Ari Dinger (Flute), Tenley Frost (Flute), Aspen Beto (Tenor Sax and Clarinet), Fernando Nava (Mallets)

7th Grade: Amelia Ewalt (Flute), GraceLynn Hubbs-Mullner (Trumpet), Asher Zimmerman (Trombone), Hudson Eichler (Mallets), Gavin Hanten (Quads)

6th Grade: Gracie Borg (Flute), Addison Steffes (Flute), Lillian Davis (Alto Sax), Amara Freeland (Alto Sax), Ambrielle Feist (Tenor Sax),

Bella Barrera (French Horn), Kendyll Kroll (French Horn), Brinley Guthmiller (Trumpet), Libby Johnson (Trumpet), Rylan Blackwood (Trombone), Ayce Warrington (Baritone), Mason Locke (Snare Drum), Ivan Schwan (Snare Drum & Mallets)

5th Grade: Taylor Fliehs (Alto Sax), Avery Roetttele (Alto Sax), Ruby Dosch (Trumpet), Hank Fliehs (Trumpet)

Superior Ensembles:

8th Grade: Jordan Schwan and Logan Olson (Mixed Duet- Snare Drum and Trombone)

8th Grade: Wesley Borg, Sam Crank, and Zach Fliehs (Saxophone Trio)

7th Grade: Hudson Eichler and Gavin Hanten (Snare/Mallet Duet)

5th Grade: Avery Huber, Devan Locke, Blakely Stiegelmeier, and Jernie Weig (Clarinet Quartet)

5th Grade: Arthur Eichler, Hayden Hubbard, Micah Krause, and Jack Schuelke (Percussion Quartet)

Excellent Plus Solos:

7th Grade: Haden Harder (Bass Clarinet), Eli Heilman (Baritone)

6th Grade: Hank Hill (Snare Drum)

Excellent Solos:

8th Grade: May Dallaire

7th Grade: Chloe Witchey (Flute), Andi Gauer (Alto Sax), Xzavier Klebsch (Alto Sax), Jameson Penning (Bass Clarinet), Kinzleigh Furman (Trumpet)

6th Grade: Hadley Heilman (Clarinet), Zoe Olson (Clarinet), Charles Telkamp (French Horn), Emmett Zoellner (French Horn), Graham Rose (Snare Drum and Mallets), Mason Locke (Mallets), Hank Hill (Mallets)

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Barn birds

5 Snooze

8 Humdrum

12 Nerd's kin

13 Somewhat (Suff.)

14 Green land

15 Hindu royal

16 "My word!"

17 Taxi alternative

18 Allow

20 Peace

Nobelist Lech

22 Poetic contraction

23 Armed conflict

24 Melville captain

27 Shortly

32 – canto

33 Nonpro

sports org.

34 DDE's opponent

35 Parts

38 L-Q bridge

39 Moray, for one

40 Attempt

42 "Rats!"

45 Actress

Phylicia

49 China setting

50 "The

Greatest"

52 Empty truck's

weight

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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53 Male deer

54 Meadow

55 Inventor's

inspiration

56 Sharpen

57 Family

58 "Brian's

Song" star

DOWN

1 Shrek, for one

2 Gradually

withdraw

3 Sultry Horne

4 Winter vehicle

5 Resident of

Lagos

6 Enzyme suffix

7 "That was

close!"

8 Biondi in "It's

a Wonderful

Life"

9 Resident of

Monrovia

10 War god

11 Wife of Zeus

19 French article

21 "Adorbs!"

24 Sit-up targets

25 Haw preceder

26 Resident of

Oran

28 D.C. baseballer

29 Resident of

Vienna

30 Summer sign

31 Mentalist's

gift

36 Household

37 Yale grad

38 Spiritualist

41 Egyptian sun

god

42 Sprint

43 Regarding

44 Chat

46 "Mary – Little

Lamb"

47 Bailiwick

48 Campus big-

wig

51 Island garland

School Board

Continued from front

returning teachers, as well as a base salary increase for new hires of 1.25 percent, bringing it to \$47,385.

The negotiated agreements also included changes to some potentially paid coaching/advising positions. A prom advisor and robotics advisor were added to Activity Schedule, which allows for stipends for the person leading those activities. The senior advisor position received an increase stipend amount.

Some additions to the list include a head softball coach, assistant softball coach, E-Sports head coach and Educators Rising Advisor position. That doesn't mean the district is pushing forward with any of those programs, said Superintendent Joe Schwan. Instead, it adds those as possibilities if the board decides to move forward with any of them. The district only negotiates the contracts once a year, so this would allow the board to consider whether they want to move forward with any of those programs.

The head debate coach and assistant debate coach positions were removed from the Activity Schedule.



Hanlon Brothers Gravel Hauling

New & Cleaning of
Stockdams with our
60' reach trackhoe

605/395-6531



Toby Erickson

**Celebration
of life for Toby
Erickson at Ol-
ive Grove Golf
Course Club-
house, Groton,
SD**

**Saturday, April
19 from 1-4 PM.**

**Come prepared
to share stories,
laugh and remi-
niscence with Toby's
family.**



Weismantel AGENCY

PROGRESSIVE SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
ASSURANCE ALLIANCE
COUNTRY & PROPERTY FIRM



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HOME
FARM
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CROP

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

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SUNDAY - SATURDAY
APRIL 13 - APRIL 19, 2025

Download Our App
& Save!
Scan the Code
TO DOWNLOAD

HAPPY EASTER

Ken's Shell Express of
Aberdeen, Groton & Ipswich
will be OPEN the following
hours on Easter Sunday:

ABERDEEN Grocery Store: 7AM-1PM
KEN'S Bottle Shop/Beer Cave: 7AM-1PM
ABERDEEN Shell Express: 6AM-8PM
GROTON Shell Express: 8AM-NOON
IPSWICH Shell Express: 8AM-NOON
BRITTON, CLARK & EUREKA STORES
WILL BE CLOSED EASTER DAY

SAVE \$1.50 Lb.

\$4.99 Lb.

USDA CHOICE DEMKOTA
BONELESS CHUCK ROAST

\$2.88 Ea.

FRESH
PINEAPPLE

\$15.99

Boneless
Seasoned
Prime Rib

\$13.99 Lb.

USDA CHOICE DEMKOTA
BONELESS WHOLE RIBEYE

\$3.99 Lb.

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New first grade teacher hired

The board also approved hiring a new first grade teacher, though she is a familiar face in Groton.

Jessica Maurer was hired to replace McKayla Hanson, who submitted her resignation in March. The district received 18 applicants for the first grade teaching position, said Superintendent Joe Schwan. Maurer has been persistent in applying for positions before, he said, adding that she is a rock star.

Maurer nee Adler graduated from Groton Area High School in 2017. She attended Northern State University where she graduated with her bachelor's degree in elementary education in spring 2021. She has taught first grade at Webster Area School since 2021. She is finishing her master's degree at Northern State University.

- The board approved pushing the last day of school due to recent weather impacts. The last day for students will be May 15. Teachers will have an in-service day on May 16.
- Elementary school Principal Brett Schwan told the board about a higher-than-anticipated turnout for the kindergarten roundup, held earlier this month. While the numbers are tentative, it looks like next year's kindergarten classes could total more than 40 students, which brings it back in line with previous years.
- Head cross country coach Brooke Torrence is taking a yearlong sabbatical from the coaching role. Torrence will be on maternity leave for the beginning half of the cross country season and requested to be free from the coaching role for the 2025-2026 season. The coaching role, though, will remain on her contract for the following year.
- The board authorized the district to continue its member in the South Dakota High School Activities Association for the 2025-2026 school year, a decision the board has to approve each year.
- The board accepted the resignation of Duane Fliehs, a part-time maintenance team member, effective immediately.

"Zip Code Matter"

Those of us who make our homes in the rural mid-west understand that we face medical challenges our countrymen in more populated areas don't. For example, there are

two pediatric rheumatologists in the whole state of South Dakota. . and they are both based in Fargo. In contrast, there are 10 in the Twin Cities with the University of Minnesota alone. In Winner South Dakota, you are nearly 150 miles away from emergency access to a neurosurgeon, assuming you can go by air. No matter where you are in Connecticut, that help is no more than 50 miles away.

These ideas are probably obvious to anyone reading this. If we haven't had to travel for medical care ourselves, we know someone who did. But other factors, things that have an even bigger impact on our well being, may be less familiar.

Economics plays a role, of course. Can you afford your medicine, or to go to the doctor? Do you have time off for that appointment? Are you choosing between keeping food on the table and a roof over your family's head? Are you filling up on cheap empty calories, or are you able to buy fruits, vegetables and eggs?

Where you live matters in other ways. Can you buy those healthy groceries nearby? Are there safe places to walk, and for your children to play? How clean is the air in your community? Does your home have lead paint or asbestos insulation? Is the water that comes out of your tap safe to drink, or is it contaminated with chemicals or lead? Does the noise in your neighborhood keep you awake at night?

Zip codes can impact the infrastructure around you in ways that affect residents unequally. How accessible is the environment? Are people with mobility challenges able to easily enter retail spaces? Do they have housing options? Are the schools able to support children who face learning challenges? Can you find childcare while you work? Can you practice your faith in your community? Social engagement protects your well-being.

Even our genes are affected by our environment. This is a fascinating new concept that many of us never study in school. Scientists have learned that external factors influence how our genes are expressed, without changing our DNA. These factors start working before birth: nutrition and stress experienced by a pregnant woman influences the development of her child, and has an impact not only throughout that child's life but into subsequent generations.

As we think about health, let's not forget that we aren't all starting in the same place. It's worth thinking about how we can address some of those disadvantages.



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Debra Johnston, MD. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices as a Family Medicine Doctor at Avera Medical Group in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.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.