

# The Groton Independent

Vol. 142 No. 31 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, April 23, 2025 ♦ Established in 1889



## Enrich packs Easter food deliveries

Volunteers from Enrich Groton SoDak Inc. teamed up with members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, along with employees from Dacotah Bank and Groton Ag Partners, to pack 58 Easter food delivery bags for families in the Groton SD Community. Deliveries were made with the help of employees from the City of Groton and the Groton Police Department. Pictured in back, left to right, are April Abeln, Diane Warrington, Lindsey Lesnar and Topper Tastad; in front, left to right, are Kari Bartling, Sue Stevenson, Pam Heiser, Ruby Larson, Heidi Locke and Tom Woods. (Courtesy Photo April Abeln)



Enrich volunteers Diane Warrington, Kari Bartling, Pam Heiser, and Topper Tastad organize food for Easter deliveries. Pictured in the back are Tom Woods and Lindsey Lesnar, employees of Groton Ag Partners. Tom, who is also a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, has generously brought along several fellow parishioners to help with past food deliveries. (Courtesy Photo April Abeln)



Topper Tastad and Tom Woods work together to pack Easter food bags, with each bag tailored to the number of family members. The packing process was made possible through careful pre-planning by Enrich Groton SoDak Inc. board members Diane Warrington, Nancy Larsen and April Abeln. (Courtesy Photo April Abeln)



## The Living Stations

Members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church parish presented the Living Stations Wednesday evening at the church. Pictured left to right are Ashley Johnson, Nick Groebelinghoff, Addison Hoffman, Logan Warrington, Libby Cole, Carter Simon, Ashlynn Warrington, Charlie Frost, Rylen Ekern, Blake Lord, Teagan Hanten, Taryn Traphagen, Corbin Weismantel, Talli Wright, Faith Traphagen, Brevin Fliehs, Brody Lord, Walker Zoellner and Liam Lord. (Courtesy Photo)



The following have been selected as the Groton's MS/HS April Students of the month. Back Left: Asher Zimmerman (7th), Logan Olson ( 8th), Keegen Tracy (11th), Breven Fliehs (12th); Front Left: Gracie Pearson (9th), Emerlee Jones (10th), Amara El Salahy (6th)

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.



# Tracy, Tietz are double winners at Milbank

Keegen Tracy and McKenna Teitz were double winners at the South Dakota National Guard Invitational Track Meet held Thursday in Milbank. Tracy won the 100m and 200m dash events while Tietz won both hurdle events. Laila Roberts won the 200m dash and the girls 4x800m relay team was also a winner.

### Boy’s Division

- 100 Meters:** 1. Keegen Tracy, 11.26  
**200 Meters:** 1. Keegen Tracy, 23.00; 11. Brevin Fliehs, 25.25; 16. Jordan Schwan, 25.53  
**800 Meters:** 3. Blake Pauli, 2:17.36; 14. Kason Oswald, 2:43.07  
**1600 Meters:** 2. Jayden Schwan, 5:08.22  
12. Jace Johnson, 5:40.96  
**300m Hurdles - 36”:** 6. Tristin McGannon, 51.09  
**4x100 Relay:** 3. (Brevin Fliehs, Jordan Schwan, Ethan Kroll, Lincoln Krause), 48.84.  
**4x200 Relay:** 3. (Brevin Fliehs, Jordan Schwan, Lincoln Krause, Ethan Kroll), 1:42.53.  
**4x800 Relay:** 2. (Jayden Schwan, Jace Johnson, Tristin McGannon, Blake Pauli), 9:09.30.  
**Shot Put - 12lb:** 8. Karter Moody, 37’ 10.5”  
**Discus - 1.6kg:** 8. Karter Moody, 105’ 1”  
**Javelin - 800g:** 6. Karter Moody, 113’ 11”; 11. TC Schuster, 98’ 1”  
**Long Jump:** 2. Ethan Kroll, 19’ 3”; 14. Lincoln Krause, 16’ 11.5”; 29. Kason Oswald, 14’ 0.75”

### Girl’s Division

- 200 Meters:** 1. Laila Roberts, 27.60  
**400 Meters:** 2. Taryn Traphagen, 1:09.69  
**800 Meters:** 2. Ryelle Gilbert, 2:47.20  
**1600 Meters:** 3. Ryelle Gilbert, 6:08.00; 4. Ashlynn Warrington, 6:15.63  
**100m Hurdles - 33”:** 1. McKenna Tietz, 17.59; 5. Ella Kettner, 19.63; 8. Hannah Sandness, 20.08; 9. Talli Wright, 20.18; 10. Emerlee Jones, 20.18; 11. Teagan Hanten, 20.33  
**300m Hurdles - 30”:** 1. McKenna Tietz, 52.91; 3. Emerlee Jones, 55.89; 9. Talli Wright, 1:00.47; 10. Ella Kettner, 1:01.51; 11. Teagan Hanten, 1:03.57; 14. Hannah Sandness, 1:07.28  
**4x100 Relay:** 2. (Laila Roberts, Kella Tracy, McKenna Tietz, MaKenna Krause), 54.82.  
**4x200 Relay:** 2. (Laila Roberts, Kella Tracy, McKenna Tietz, MaKenna Krause), 1:56.36.  
**4x800 Relay:** 1. (Faith Traphagen, Taryn Traphagen, Kella Tracy, Ryelle Gilbert), 10:35.65.  
**SMR 1600m - [200-200-400-800]:** 2. (Laila Roberts, MaKenna Krause, Taryn Traphagen, Faith Traphagen), 4:52.29  
**Shot Put - 4kg:** 3. Emma Kutter, 32’ 3.25”; 15. Avery Crank, 25’ 6.5”; 17. Libby Cole, 25’ 4.5”; 31. Aimee Heilman, 21’ 7.25”  
**Discus - 1kg:** 5. Avery Crank, 87’ 9”; 6. Emma Kutter, 77’ 5”; 22. Libby Cole, 56’ 0”; 33. Aimee Heilman, 32’ 7”  
**Javelin - 600g:** 3. Emma Kutter 74’ 8”; 4. Avery Crank 74’ 3”; 12. Elizabeth Fliehs 66’ 0”; 16. Libby Cole 63’ 8”; 19. Addison Hoffman 57’ 0”  
**High Jump:** 7. Emerlee Jones J4’ 4”  
**Long Jump:** 3. MaKenna Krause 15’ 1”; 29. Teagan Hanten 12’ 3.25”; 33. Addison Hoffman 11’ 10.25”; 35. Rylie Rose 11’ 5.25”  
**Triple Jump:** 11. Emerlee Jones, 28’ 8.5”; 16. Teagan Hanten, 25’ 6”



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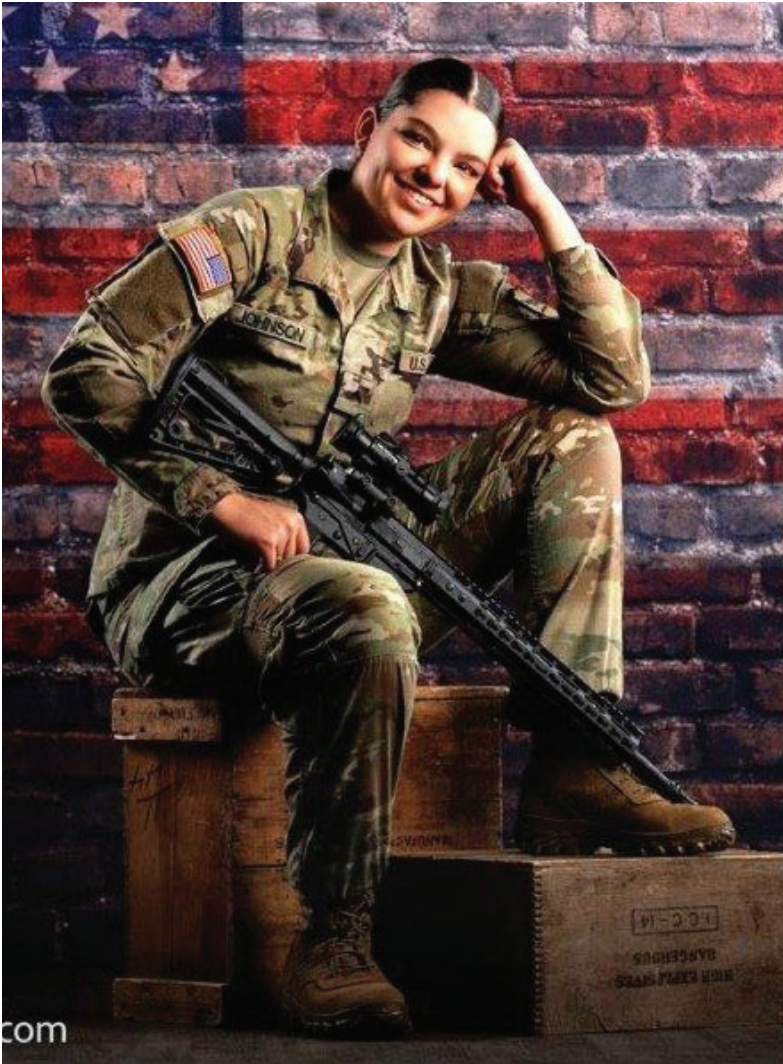
# GHS School Internship

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.

## Johnson interns at SD National Guard

Ashley Johnson, daughter of Fred and Melanie Johnson, Groton, has chosen to do her internship with the South Dakota National Guard. “I may eventually join the National Guard full time,” Ashley explained, “but only after I’ve completed my education in law enforcement at Lake Area Technical College in Watertown.” “I’m involved in a variety of extracurricular activities in high school,” she added. “I’m the manager for the volleyball team and for girls’ basketball. I also am a member of FCCLA and FFA as well as a participant in the throwing events in track.” “As an intern in the National Guard, I’ve traveled to local schools and to a variety of wrestling events to help set up the mats and talk to the kids about the National Guard,” Ashley explained. “Part of my job there is to organize things and help with a power point presentation. The hardest part of these presentations is getting the kids to listen to the information we are giving,” she stated. “I prefer talking to the high school kids one-on-one; that’s much easier than speaking to a large group.”



Ashley Johnson

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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!



# Toby Doeden makes the political establishment nervous. So what’s his next move?

BY STU WHITNEY  
South Dakota News Watch

ABERDEEN, S.D. – Toby Doeden was in Sioux Falls on April 9 when the Brown County Republican Party posted on Facebook about its Lincoln Day Dinner the following night, promising a “formal candidate announcement for statewide office.”

Doeden, an Aberdeen businessman whose deep pockets and conservative activism have sparked speculation about a run for South Dakota governor in 2026, was the first person who came to mind for political enthusiasts.

“My phone started blowing up,” said Doeden, who was scheduled to speak at the event. “I called (Brown County GOP chair) Rich Hilgemann and asked him what was going on.”

It turned out that the post referred to a lower office, and even that announcement was called off at the last minute, removing some luster from the Lincoln Day gathering.

Still, tongues were wagging, a telling sign in South Dakota politics.

The fact that a social media message sent ripples of intrigue through the state Republican establishment shows how Doeden’s influence has risen over the past 15 months amid the party’s populist turn.

“He checks a lot of boxes for a candidate,” said Carl Perry, a Republican state senator from Aberdeen who served as assistant majority leader in 2025 and was endorsed by Doeden. “He’s an independent person who has done well financially and has a great family. I don’t know if his ideas will be the ones that the people of South Dakota choose to support, but he’s definitely going to get their attention.”

### Political newcomer means business

Some see Doeden’s ascent as a sign of deteriorating public discourse, given his penchant for inflammatory rhetoric and hardball tactics.

Others view his profile as proof that outsiders can make an impact in an arena traditionally controlled by career politicians.

“He seems intent on being a major player,” said Jon Schaff, a political science professor at Northern State University in Aberdeen. “That could be as a candidate or behind the scenes raising money and pushing a pugna-cious agenda.”

Doeden didn’t commit either way during a recent interview with News Watch at his newly remodeled house and office on the rural outskirts of Aberdeen.

But he looked like a man who meant business, emboldened by the political tides in South Dakota and national tone-setting of President Donald Trump.

The property has the feel of a command center, with conference rooms and an office suite for Doeden, with plenty of front-facing windows so that he can “see people coming.”

The 50-year-old Groton native also showed off a full-sized indoor court for basketball and pickleball, while a Polaris Ranger utility task vehicle sat waiting in the spacious driveway.

“Believe it not, we do have recreational activity around here,” said Doeden, with a self-deprecating nod to his hulking physique, an extension of his days as a football player and shot put standout in high school.

### ‘Mad and angry is not a public policy’

There is a Trumpian aspect to Doeden’s methods.

He made waves in the business world before coming to politics as an outsider, latching onto

a populist wave after “liberal nonsense,” as he calls it, “started leaking into South Dakota.”

His politics are personality-driven, not policy-focused, though he talks of lower property taxes, limited government and parental choice for schools.

He uses new media to his advantage, bypassing traditional outlets with paid social media posts, video snippets and a podcast called “Unfiltered,” in which he rails against the establishment with his newfound interest in public affairs.

“Up until two years ago,” Doeden told News Watch, “I was literally the least political person that you’ve ever met.”

His influence so far has been channeled through the self-funded Dakota First Action political action committee, boosting Republicans viewed as “patriots” or “solid conservatives” and berating “RINOs” (Republicans in Name Only).

The PAC took aim at mainstream Republicans during the 2024 primaries and helped defeat 14 incumbents, with Doeden spending more than \$77,000 on targeted text messaging and mailers for 17 candidates.

Those efforts helped swing legislative leadership to the party’s right flank, buoyed by grassroots opposition to carbon pipelines and the state’s plan to build a prison in rural Lincoln County.

“He was looking for candidates who were committed, Christian and conservative, as well as upholding landowners’ rights,” said Perry, who defeated Katie Washnok, president of Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, in the primary after Doeden dumped more than \$6,000 into the race.

The intraparty attacks, some of them mischaracterizing legislative votes or positions, rankled party traditionalists. Others noted the irony of Doeden calling people RINOs when his first vote in a Republican primary came in 2024.

“He’s a very mad and angry person,” said Lee Schoenbeck, a longtime GOP state senator who retired from office last year. “Mad and angry is not a public policy platform. It doesn’t educate our children, create jobs or make our communities safer. He will need to set forth a policy platform that is more than just being mad and angry.”

### Different kind of change agent

Doeden has been open about his interest in running for statewide office in 2026 as part of a “conservative revolution” in South Dakota, if past misdeeds and establishment resistance don’t impede his path.

He flirted briefly with a U.S. House run in 2024 before reversing course and forming Dakota First Action, using resources from his car dealerships and real estate holdings, a portfolio built without generational wealth or a college degree.



**Businessman Toby Doeden (right) holds a meeting at his home office on the rural outskirts on Aberdeen, S.D., on April 10, 2025. Doeden is considering a run for statewide political office.** (Photo: Stu Whitney / South Dakota News Watch)

The Aberdeen Chrysler owner has ruffled feathers with frequent takedowns of Republican standard-bearers, saying that U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson “acts like a liberal, talks like a liberal and, worst of all, votes like a liberal.”

A campaign spokesperson for Johnson told News Watch that the congressman “has worked hard during President Trump’s first 100 days to advance the Republican agenda of securing the border, getting tough on China and keeping men out of women’s sports. South Dakota knows he’s a conservative who gets things done. Toby peddles fear and anger. Luckily, there’s a limited market for that in our state.”

In speaking with News Watch, Doeden criticized the job performance of Gov. Larry Rhoden since taking office in February, citing that as a possible reason for Doeden to enter a high-profile gubernatorial race in the coming months.

Rhoden and Johnson are widely expected to be in that 2026 primary contest, possibly joined by Attorney General Marty Jackley and South Dakota Speaker of the House Jon Hansen, a fellow populist and property rights advocate.

“We’re looking ahead to 2026 and trying to figure out where I can be most effective,” said Doeden. “I’ve always been a fighter, and I don’t get caught up in what everybody else is going to do.”

*This story was produced by South Dakota News Watch, an independent, nonprofit organization. Read more stories and donate at [sdnewswatch.org](https://sdnewswatch.org) and sign up for an email every few days to get stories as soon as they’re published. Contact Stu Whitney at [stu.whitney@sdnewswatch.org](mailto:stu.whitney@sdnewswatch.org).*

## Groton Citywide 2025 Spring Cleanup

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Deadline to submit items: Noon Monday]

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

It's draft week! If you're familiar with my work, you know how much I love the NFL draft. To me, it's like Christmas, but instead of sitting around a tree and waiting to find out what gifts we'll get this year, we'll be sitting around a TV. Most years, it's pretty clear what direction the Vikings are going to go. Last year, for instance, we knew the team was going to take a QB, we just didn't know which one. This year, however, things feel different. There isn't one clear direction the team will go. So today, we take a look at what the "experts" are predicting the Vikings to do.

I looked at 10 different mock drafts from all the big companies. I went in expecting to find a variety of players for the Vikings, but that was not the case at all. In fact, out of the 10 mock drafts I reviewed, six of them had the same player, while a seventh had a different player but at the same position. Two of the mock drafts predicted the Vikings to trade out of the first round altogether. There was only a single mock draft that went against the grain.

Nick Emmanwori, a safety from Georgia, was far and away the most popular pick for the Minnesota Vikings, with 60% of the mock drafts connecting the player and team. And it makes sense, considering the Vikings lost a starting safety in free agency (Camryn Bynum to the Indianapolis Colts). The Vikings' other safety is Harrison Smith, and while I believe the Hitman should end up in the Hall of Fame when it's all said and done, he's getting up there in age. However, it's important to remember that the Vikings also have Josh Metellus who is technically a safety even if he plays every position on defense. The Vikings' safety group also includes Jay Ward, Theo Jackson, and recently signed Bubba Bolden, but none of those players have proven they have what it takes to be a starter in this league.

Nick Emmanwori was a linebacker in high school before moving to safety at South Carolina. He's fast, as evidenced by his 40-yard dash time at the NFL Combine (4.38 seconds). He's also built like a linebacker at 6'3", 220lbs. Put those two together, and you get an imposing safety with huge potential. Also, like Metellus, Emmanwori can be a run-stopping safety who plays in the box – and he's fast enough to be the deep coverage safety.

One mock draft had the Vikings taking a safety, this time however it was Malaki Starks from Georgia. A few years ago the Vikings took a safety from Georgia in the first round, and that player became one of the biggest busts in Vikings' history. And while they are two different players who just happen to play for the same team, it's hard not to compare Starks to former Vikings Lewis Cine. Both players are 6'1" and 200lbs, but Cine had a much better 40-yard dash time than Starks (4.37 vs 4.5). Ultimately I trust the coaching staff to bring in who they think will make an impact, drafting a slower Lewis Cine doesn't make me feel all warm and fuzzy inside.

Out of the eight mock drafts that didn't have the Vikings drop out of the first round, only one had a non-safety connected to the Vikings. Instead, they predicted the Vikings would draft Donovan Jackson, an offensive guard from Ohio State. The Vikings made a concerted effort to bolster their offensive line through free agency, bringing in two new faces (Ryan

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18 Deserves

20 Legal document

21 Salonga of "Miss Saigon"

23 Commotion

24 Deli array

25 Arsenal supply

27 Wear down

29 "Othello" character

31 Indian instruments

35 Mea —

37 Coin aperture

38 Be buoyant

41 — out a living

43 Glacial

44 Hoops great Monroe

45 Ornamental beetle

47 Cheery refrain

49 Arcade pioneer

52 Revue segment

53 Prohibit

54 Serious

55 That lady

56 Walgreens alternative

57 On mom's side

8 London's Big —

9 Butler's love

10 — four (small cake)

11 Plane assignments

17 Chirps

19 Perfect

21 Science room

22 Brit. record label

24 1501, in Roman numerals

26 Available for work

28 Japanese seaport

30 Snip

32 "Open sesame" speaker

33 Sinbad's bird

34 Pigs' digs

36 Praline nuts

38 Greek cheeses

39 Coniferous tree

40 Emulate Douglass

42 Obliterate

45 Serb or Croat

46 Heaps

48 "Shark Tank" network

50 Emeritus, briefly

51 Hot temper

DOWN

1 TiVo, for example

2 Mil. morale booster

3 "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" role

4 Baseball's Tommie

5 Office leader?

6 Element

7 401(k) relatives

Kelly and Will Fries) to replace Garrett Bradbury and Ed Ingram. However, it's possible the Vikings want to remake the entire interior offensive line by adding someone like Donovan Jackson to replace Blake Brandel. Out of the 10 mock drafts I reviewed, two of them had the Vikings moving out of the first round entirely and adding more draft capital. I wouldn't be surprised if the Vikings move down, but I'm not sure Vikings' General Manager Kwesi Adofo-Mensah would move out of the first round altogether since first-round picks come with a fifth-year option, increasing the value of picking in the top 32. No matter what happens, though, I'm looking forward to watching the draft this week (the first round is Thursday evening, rounds two and three will be on Friday, and the last four rounds will be on Saturday). Skol!





Groton Post #39 Legion Officers sworn into office

Groton American Legion Post 39 held their annual Post election this past Monday. Sworn in for another year term are L-R Brent Wienk, (Finance Officer), Aaron Grant (Vice Commander), and Bruce Babcock (Commander). Not pictured Ben Smith (Adjutant) and Steve Dresbach (Chaplain).



Many were lined up moments before 10am in the City Park for the Lions Easter Egg Hunt held April 12th. (Photo by April Abeln)

**Correction to Prom Photos**  
We missed one photo and we mis-identifed another Prom photo in last week’s paper. We apologize for the errors.



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



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

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**RUMMAGE**  
**SALES**

Southwest  
Sioux Falls, SD

<b>Wed.-Fri., April 30-May 2</b> 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM	<b>Sat. May 3</b> 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](http://www.kingswoodrummage.com/listings), AVAILABLE ON APRIL 26.

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# Specialized Care in Aberdeen

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Tietz is double winner as girls take second at Britton-Hecla Track Meet

The girls track team took second place at the Britton-Hecla Invitational Meet held Tuesday while the boys team took fifth.

Winners were Keegen Tracy in the 100m dash, Jayden Schwan in the 3200m run, the boys and girls 4x100 relay team, the boys and girls SMR 1600m relay team, MaKenna Krause in the 100m dash, McKenna Tietz won both hurdle events, the girls 4x400m relay team and the girls 4x800m relay team.

Boy’s Division

**Team Scores:** 1. Aberdeen Roncalli 116.5, 2. Wilmot 76, 3. Warner 72, 3. Leola 72, 5. Groton Area 69, 6. Britton-Hecla 64.5, 7. Ellendale 64, 8. Northwestern 46, 9. Tri-State 45, 10. Webster Area 44, 11. Florence/Henry 37, 12. Frederick Area 31, 13. Aberdeen Christian 19, 14. Waubay/Summit 17,

**100 Meters:** 1. Keegen Tracy, 11.53; 14. Ryder Schelle, 12.54

**200 Meters:** 26. Jordan Schwan, 26.61; 33. Ryder Schelle, 27.49

**400 Meters:** 14. Jordan Schwan, 1:00.34; 26. Ryder Schelle, 1:03.64

**800 Meters:** 4. Jayden Schwan, 2:13.25; 15. Kason Oswald, 2:28.01

**1600 Meters:** 2. Jayden Schwan, 4:54.86; 14. Jace Johnson, 5:24.87

**3200 Meters:** 1. Jayden Schwan, 11:09.86

**300m Hurdles - 36”:** 8. Tristin McGannon, 49.80

**4x100 Relay:** 1. (Brevin Fliehs, Jordan Schwan, Ethan Kroll, Lincoln Krause), 47.17

**4x200 Relay:** 4. (Brevin Fliehs, Jordan Schwan, Ethan Kroll, Lincoln Krause), 1:39.46.

**4x800 Relay:** 2. (Jayden Schwan, Jace Johnson, Tristin McGannon, Blake Pauli), 8:41.74.

**SMR 1600m - [200-200-400-800]:** 1. (Brevin Fliehs, Lincoln Krause, Keegen Tracy, Blake Pauli), 3:48.32.

**Long Jump:** 8. Ethan Kroll, 18’ 1.75”; 26. Kason Oswald, 14’ 11.75”

**Triple Jump:** 8. Ethan Kroll, 35’ 5”

Girl’s Division

**Team Scores:** 1. Warner 149.5, 2. Groton Area 132.5, 3. Webster Area 107.25, 4. Britton-Hecla 69, 5. Northwestern 67.5, 6. Aberdeen Roncalli 57, 7. Florence/Henry 47.25, 8. Aberdeen Christian 45, 9. Tri-State 31, 10. Ellendale 14, 11. Langford Area 12, 12. Frederick Area 7, 13. Leola 6, 14. Wilmot 2, 14. Waubay/Summit 2

**100 Meters:** 1. MaKenna Krause, 13.32; 6. Laila Roberts, 13.87; 23. Elizabeth Fliehs, 15.15

**200 Meters:** 3. MaKenna Krause, 28.28; 24. Elizabeth Fliehs, 31.72

**800 Meters:** 2. Ryelle Gilbert, 2:35.20; 5. Ashlynn Warrington, 2:40.59

**1600 Meters:** 5. Ryelle Gilbert, 5:56.65; 6. Ashlynn Warrington, 5:58.78

**100m Hurdles - 33”:** 1. McKenna Tietz, 17.56; 5. Emerlee Jones, 19.10; 7. Ella Kettner, 19.73; 8. Talli Wright, 19.76; 12. Hannah Sandness, 20.32; 15. Teagan Hanten, 21.18

**300m Hurdles - 30”:** 1. McKenna Tietz, 51.40; 2. Emerlee Jones, 54.96; 4. Talli Wright, 58.11; 9. Ella Kettner, 59.99; 10. Teagan Hanten, 1:00.27; 11. Hannah Sandness, 1:03.46

**4x100 Relay:** 1. (Laila Roberts, Kella Tracy, McKenna Tietz, MaKenna Krause, 51.94.

**4x400 Relay:** 1. (Laila Roberts, Taryn Traphagen, Kella Tracy, McKenna Tietz), 4:12.87.

**4x800 Relay:** 1. (Faith Traphagen, Taryn Traphagen, Kella Tracy, Ryelle Gilbert), 10:10.42.

**SMR 1600m - [200-200-400-800]:** 1. (Laila Roberts, Kella Tracy, Taryn Traphagen, Faith Traphagen, 4:35.34.

**Shot Put - 4kg:** 4. Emma Kutter, 33’ 5”; 17. Libby Cole, 27’ 1”; 20. Avery Crank, 26’ 1”; 31. Ashley Johnson, 23’ 7”; 33. Audrey Davis, 23’ 5.5”

**Discus - 1kg:** 10. Avery Crank, 80’ 9”; 14. Emma Kutter, 73’ 5”; 20. Ashley Johnson, 68’ 1”; 31. Libby Cole, 62’ 0”; 37. Kyleigh Kroll, 56’ 0”

**High Jump:** 3. Emerlee Jones, 4’ 6”

**Long Jump:** 5. MaKenna Krause, 14’ 2”; 18. Teagan Hanten, 12’ 7”; 30. Rylie Rose, 10’ 11”; 31. Addison Hoffman, 10’ 9.5”

**Triple Jump:** 12. Emerlee Jones, 27’ 11.75”; 14. Teagan Hanten, 27’ 8”PR



Three of the six Groton girl hurdlers in the 300m intermediates race. L-R Teagan Hanson, Ella Kettner, and Talli Wright. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



Groton Freshman Kason Oswald running in the highly competitive 800m run. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



Groton Sophomore standout McKenna Tietz placed first in all of her four races Wednesday in Britton. Shown here anchoring the 1st place 4x400m (mile) relay. She also had 1st place finishes in the 4x100m relay, 100m H hurdles, and 300m I hurdles.



Keegen Tracy hands off to Blake Pauli for the last leg of the winning SMR 1600m relay. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)





**Lincoln Krause hands off to Keegen Tracy in the 1st place finish in the SMR 1600m relay.**  
(Photo by Bruce Babcock)



**Jayden Schwan had a great afternoon at the Orville Pfitzer Relays in Britton Tuesday. Jayden placed first in the 3200m, second in the 1600m, and started the first leg of the second finishing 4x800m relay.**  
(Photo by Bruce Babcock)



**Long distance standout Ryelle Gilbert placing second in the 800m race.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



**Faith Traphagen running the lead leg of the winning girls 4x800m relay.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)

# The Life of Victoria Sippel



Victoria "Vickie" Lynn Sippel, a beacon of love and friendship, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her children on April 13, 2025, in Mankato, Minnesota, at the age of 63. Born on March 30, 1962, in Aberdeen, South Dakota, to John "Francis" Luce Sr. and Vivian (Klapperich) Luce, Vickie was a woman whose warmth and thoughtfulness touched all who knew her.

Services were held Tuesday, April 22nd at St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton. Pastor Matt Moldstad of Mankato, MN officiated. Burial followed in Union Cemetery, Groton under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Services were live streamed at GDILIVE.com

Vickie's journey began in Groton, South Dakota, where she graduated from Groton High School in 1980. On April 12, 1980, Vickie was united in marriage to her forever love, Bruce Sippel, and together they welcomed four children into the world. Their life was one of unity and joy and grew amongst many trials and tribulations, raising their family on Bruce's childhood homestead. Vickie relished in the many hours spent diving into her family genealogy, connecting with her roots and sharing the stories she uncovered. She was an avid reader, often losing herself in the pages of her favorite romance and mystery novels, and she found tranquility in her intricate tatting projects.

Her professional path led her to a fulfilling career that started at Dakota Quilt Industries in Webster, SD, later working for Groton Dairy Queen. She continued on with the Groton Independent, cooking for Burger Night at the Groton Legion, running the Groton Youth Center, and was a dealer in Tupperware and Creative Memories. Vickie culminated her career with Wal-Mart and Ken's in Groton, from which she retired on October 1, 2023. Vickie's work ethic and dedication to her profession were matched only by the love and devotion she had for her family and friends.

Vickie's legacy is celebrated by her children: Emily (Jesse) Wolff of Mankato, MN, Felicia (James) Ethridge of Redfield, SD, and Adam (Bailey) Sippel of Groton, SD. She was the proud grandmother of six grandchildren: Michael, Kaylee, and Claire Wolff, Jaxon, Haven, and Natalie Ethridge, and a loving figure to several fur-grandbabies. Her memory will also be cherished by her brother, Steve (Teresa) Luce of Powder Springs, GA, sister Kathy (Bryan) Evjen of Strandburg, SD, sister, Sherrie (Dean) Van Zee of St. Lawrence, SD, many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews, great-great nieces and nephews and a host of close friends and relatives.

Waiting for her in Heaven are her parents, Francis (1993) and Vivian Luce (2015), her beloved husband Bruce (2023), her daughter Lisa Sippel (1999), her brother John F. Luce Jr. (2005) and her in-laws, Harry (1991) and Lorraine Sippel (2018).

Casketbearers were Adam Sippel, James Ethridge, Jesse Wolff, Jaxon Ethridge, Haven Ethridge and Michael Wolff.

Honorary Casketbearers were Dean Van Zee, Bryan Evjen, Kaylee Wolff, Natalie Ethridge, Claire Wolff, Marcia Olson and Shaun Rickett.

Memorials may be directed to Storybook Land, 225 3rd Ave. SE Aberdeen, SD 57401



**Groton Area High School hurdlers attended the NSU Track Clinic Monday evening. Pictured L-R Joel Matehs (NSU Senior), Hannah Sandness, McKenna Tietz, Ella Kettner, Teagan Hanten, Emerlee Jones, Talli Wright, and Renea Taylor (NSU Senior)** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



**Groton Area Track Athletes attended the Northern State University Track Clinic Monday evening. L-R McKenna Tietz, Teagan Hanten, Hannah Sandness, Talli Wright, Ella Kettner, Emerlee Jones, and Keegen Tracy.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



**Groton Hurlers L-R McKenna Tietz and Emerlee Jones sharpen their skills during the NSU Track Clinic.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



# Princess Prom

(Photos lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)



Groton Junior Snow Queen McKenna Tietz and Senior Snow Queen Gretchen Dinger were on hand for the Princess Prom.



Kate Tarpein escorted by Ryan Tarpein.



Harper Cleveland escorted by Justin Cleveland.



Veda & Blakely Stiegelmeier escorted by Jordan Stiegelmeier.



Avery Roettle escorted by Cody Roettle.



Molly Swisher escorted by Travis Swisher.



Ellie Lasse escorted by Jake Lasse.



Preslee, Emersyn, Hazel and Wrenley Giedt escorted by Heath Giedt.



Ivy Cole escorted by Chuck Cole.



Emery and Regan Lemke escorted by Jon Lemke.



Laker Hanson escorted by Justin Hanson.



Olivia Merkel escorted by Brett Merkel.



Annie & Harper Harry escorted by Kris Harry.



Layla Feist escorted by Michael Feist.

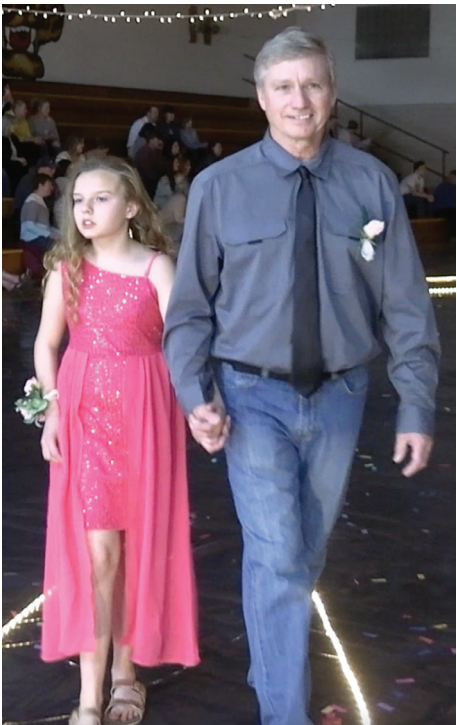


Magdaline Miller escorted by Jordan Miller.

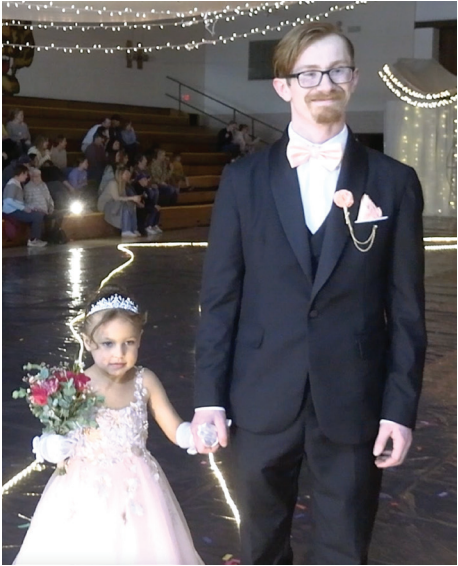


Hadlee Ronning escorted by Blake Ronning.





**Kaylee Sippel escorted by John Sippel.**



**Adaline Petty escorted by Mason Jorgenson.**



**Kinsley & Kayleigh Raba escorted by Chris Raba.**



**Peyton & Arya Guthmiller escorted by Dustin Guthmiller.**



**Emma Petty escorted by Adam Jorgenson.**



**Lexie & Lennox Locke escorted by Spencer Locke.**



**Paxtyn Menzia escorted by Matt Menzia.**



**Cicily Duerre escorted by Nathan Duerre.**



**Elizabeth Haskell escorted by Lance Haskell.**



**Kinley Haskell escorted by Curtis Haskell.**



**Vee Fliehs escorted by Tigh Fliehs.**



**Kaelee & Jaeden Morehouse escorted by Justin Morehouse.**



**Kinsey Frost escorted by Chris Frost.**



**Alex Clark escorted by AJ Clark.**



**Reagen & Madison Harry escorted by Jeff Harry.**



**Mya and Emme Fliehs escorted by Trey Fliehs.**





**Alli Iverson escorted by Jeremy Iverson.**



**River Anderson escorted by Taylor Anderson.**



**Aubrie and Collins Traphagen escorted by Trent Traphagen.**



**KayLynn Furman escorted by Sam Furman.**



**Harley & Mace Furman escorted by Derick Furman.**



**Hazel Nei escorted by Codi Nei.**



**Emery Blackwood escorted by Bruce Babcock.**



**Raven Bahr escorted by Brian Bahr.**



**Taylor Fliehs escorted by Lonnie Hoffman.**



**River Wipf escorted by Keith Wipf.**



**Collyns & Brielle Dunbar escorted by Michael Dunbar.**



**Miakoda & Destry Neigel escorted by Tyler Neigel.**



**Maya Anderson escorted by Ron Anderson.**



**Nova & Sunny Washenberger escorted by Dan Washenberger.**



**Ella Clocksene escorted by BJ Clocksene.**



**Madilyn Stahl escorted by Dustin Stahl.**





Cora Kotzer escorted by Kevin Kotzer.



Parker Bierman escorted by Quintin Bierman.



UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF EDUCATION GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6

REGULAR MEETING  
February 10, 2025  
President Rix called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the GHS Library Conference Room. Members present: Rix, Fliehs, Harder, Lerseth-Fliehs, Strom and Weismantel. Absent: Gengerke. Others present were Supt. J. Schwan, Principal B. Schwan (7:15 pm), and Business Manager Hubsch.

Moved by Harder, second by Weismantel, to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried.

Pursuant to SDCL 23-3, no potential conflict disclosure was reported.

Moved by Fliehs, second by Harder, to approve consent agenda items for January 13, 2025, meeting minutes, January 2025 district bills, Financial Report, Agency Accounts and Investments, school transportation report, and school lunch report. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND: Net Salary 306,029.58; Benefits 82,469.93; Allied Climate Professionals – repairs, 311.23; Amazon – various supplies, 419.79; Blick Art Materials – glaze, 72.99; Clear Lake Courier – wrestling brackets, 150.00; Cole Papers – copy paper/janitor supply, 6,486.81; Core Educational Cooperative – online course, 260.00; Custodial Fund – advanced payments, 26,072.62; Dakota Prairie Museum – art entry, 90.00; Dakota Supply – parts, 442.03; Dependable Sanitation – garbage, 1,414.00; Dollar General – ag ed supply, 7.00; Farm Tire Service – tires, 1,041.22; Groton Area – Robotics food, 236.79; Groton Daily Independent – legal publishing, 218.63; Harlow’s – parts, 179.15; Hillyard – janitor supplies, 863.22; JW Pepper – music, 40.99; Jones School Supply – honor roll certificates, 90.00; Locke Electric – repairs, 2,654.52; Lori’s Pharmacy – flowers, 53.50; McLeod’s – deposit slips, 233.37; Mid-American Research – janitor supply, 3,075.17; North Central Special Ed – services, 6,250.00; Northside Implement – parts, 300.58; Northwestern Energy – utilities,



Jorie Locken escorted by Chad Locken.



Rylee Tunby escorted by Kris Tunby.



Willow & Aspen Cowan escorted by Joshua Cowan.



Sawyer Kappes escorted by Andrew Kappes.



Ava Rose escorted by Ian Rose.



Morgan & Makenna Sternhagen escorted by Tom Sternhagen.

GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 06-6 FINANCIAL REPORTS							
	General Fund	Capital Outlay	Special Ed.	Food Service	OST	Driver's Ed	Custodial
JAN. 1 2025.....	\$1,217,103.34	\$957,337.60	\$418,435.75	\$167,023.67	\$33,498.19	\$18,811.32	\$139,397.94
RECEIPTS							
Local Sources .....	\$35,574.94	\$11,063.21	\$4,912.68	\$27,676.29	\$3,970.30		\$100,959.14
County Sources .....	\$5,385.30						
State Sources							
State Aid.....	\$43,110.00						
Wind Farm							
Mentor Teacher Program							
State Apportionment							
State Reimbursements							
Bank Franchise							
Federal Sources .....				\$6,656.93			
Sale of Assets							
Due from Govt/Others							
Transfer In/Out							
TOTAL MONTHLY RECEIPTS .....	\$84,070.24	\$11,063.21	\$4,912.68	\$34,333.22	\$3,970.30	\$0.00	\$100,959.14
FUNDS AVAILABLE.....	\$1,301,173.58	\$968,400.81	\$423,348.43	\$201,356.89	\$37,468.49	\$18,811.32	\$240,357.08
MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS.....	(\$493,619.27)	(\$6,538.94)	(\$74,377.58)	(\$23,672.85)	(\$3,274.90)	\$0.00	(\$54,539.71)
.....JOURNAL ENTRIES	\$1,394.36			(\$554.28)	(\$6,808.35)		
JAN. 31 2025.....	\$808,948.67	\$961,861.87	\$348,416.57	\$170,875.69	\$34,193.59	\$18,811.32	\$185,817.37
GENERAL FUND.....		SPECIAL EDUCATION		FOOD SERVICE		OST	
Payroll		Payroll		Payroll		Payroll	
Instruction .....	\$306,029.58	Instruction	\$46,232.76	Instruction	\$8,363.28	Instruction	\$2,905.97
Employee Benefits .....	\$82,469.93	Employee Benefits	\$13,543.90	Employee Benefits	\$2,669.41	Employee Benefits	\$333.33
Total .....	\$388,499.51	Total	\$59,776.66	Total	\$11,032.69	Total	\$3,239.30
Driver's Education.....							
Payroll.....							
Instruction .....	\$0.00						
Employee Benefits .....	\$0.00						
Total.....	\$0.00						

14.65; Productivity Plus – parts/labor, 2,199.04; S&S Lumber – bus shop supply, 737.50; School Specialty – supply, 132.15; Taylor Music – reeds/repairs, 135.90; Training Room – supplies, 23.75; Wageworks – admin fee, 86.75. Total General Fund-\$442,792.86.

CAPITAL OUTLAY: A&B Business – managed print agreement, 2,119.19; Amazon – classroom books, 488.42; Custodial Fund – equipment, 728.09; Follett Content Solutions – books, 460.79; Kristen Gonsoir – subscription reimb, 107.88; House of Glass – doorknobs, 1,124.82; Midstates Group – photo backdrop, 735.00; Scholastic – books, 281.82. Total Capital Outlay-\$6,046.01.

SPECIAL ED: Net Salary 46,232.76; Benefits 13,543.90; Avera St. Lukes PT/OT 10,514.46; North Central Special Education Cooperative services 37,766.16 Total Special Ed-\$108,057.28.

ENTERPRISE: Food Service Net Salary 8,363.28; Benefits 2,669.41; Ace Refrigeration – repairs, 799.68; Custodial Fund – advanced payments, 24.79; East Side Jersey Dairy – milk, 1,268.41; Performance Food Service – food, 7,135.33; SD Dept of Education – food, 1,145.86; US Foods – food, 5,067.74. Total Food Service-\$26,474.50.

OST - Net Salary 2,905.97; Benefits 333.33; Custodial Fund

– OST supplies, 571.81. Total OST-\$3,811.11.

Driver's Ed - Net Salary 0.00; Benefits 0.00. Total Driver's Ed 0.00.

CUSTODIAL FUND: \$54,539.71

RECEIPTS: Local Sources-83,197.42 Custodial-100,959.14; County Sources – 5,385.30; State Sources – 43,110.00; Federal Sources – 6,656.93. Total Receipts – 239,308.79

Members of the public are allowed five minutes to address the board on any topic of their choice. With no one present, the board continued with the agenda.

Aaron Helvig presented the district's technology updates to the board and suggested more technology-related classes for the future. Jodi Schwan updated the board on High School Dual Credit and stated that 48 students are participating in dual credits this semester.

The second reading took place for the following job descriptions: Teacher, Paraprofessional, and Maintenance Team Member. Motion by Fliehs, second by Weismantel, to approve the updated job descriptions. Motion carried.

and middle/high school food service facilities had their routine inspection by the South Dakota Department of Health. Both facilities receive a perfect score of 100. Schwan congratulated the food service team members on meeting safety standards. Mr. Schwan attended the Perkins IMPOVE meeting on January 30, learned more about the updates to CTE Clusters, and attended the NSU Teacher Job Fair on January 30. Schwan provided a list of House and Senate Bills that impact education. The board noted that these are the most bills they have seen brought forward towards education, and many are not favorable to public education.

Principal B. Schwan reported 284 Preschool-Fifth Grade, Early Childhood 10 for enrollment. OST will be open on February 13 from 1-6 pm and February 17 from 7 am-6 pm. ELL Tutoring has begun with assistance being offered after school Monday-Thursdays. The in-service day will have Dr. Pirlet from NSU talk about technology in the classroom, and the elementary track and field date has been set for Thursday, May 8, from 12:30-3:00 pm.

Principal Edwards reported 303 students enrolled in 6th-12th grade. Edwards noted the NSU Symphonic Band will be performing for students on February 11

parent-teacher conferences are set for February 13 from 1:30-8 pm; state testing dates have been determined for 6-8, 11 ELA and Math on April 7-11, 5, 8, 11 Science April 14-17; and grade 3-5 ELA and math April 22-25. Grades 8-11 have preregistered for the SY 25-26 school year, and Edwards recognized Gretchen Dinger, who made it to the next round of the Merit Scholarship and was selected as the Dakota News Now Scholar of the Week.

Business manager Hubsch noted that the school board members Gengerke, Fliehs, and Harder's terms are expiring. Petitions can now be circulated and are due to the business office no later than February 28, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

The board discussed using the LiveTicket TV agreement for the 2025-26 school year. The board agreed to form a subcommittee, Strom and Fliehs, to research available streaming options and return to the board with recommendations on what would be best for the District.

The board conducted their first reading of recommended policy amendments: DID-A Fixed Asset Capitalization Policy and Federal Grants Manual. No action was taken.

Moved by Fliehs, second by Lerseth-Fliehs, to approve the establishment of Tri-M Music

Honor Society and Helping Hands custodial accounts. Motion carried.

President Rix called for a short recess at 8:07 pm. Rix declared the board back in session from recess at 8:11 pm.

Moved by Fliehs, second by Lerseth-Fliehs, to go into executive session pursuant to SDCL-25-2(1) personnel issues at 8:12 pm. Motion carried.

President Rix declared the board out of executive session at 8:41 pm.

Moved by Weismantel, second by Harder, to approve the resignation of Clayton (Butch) Farmen, maintenance Team Member. Motion carried.

Moved by Fliehs, second by Harder, to approve Adam Hjermstad as a maintenance team member at \$17.25/hour. Motion carried.

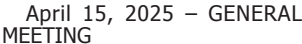
Moved by Harder, second by Lerseth-Fliehs, to adjourn at 8:43 pm. Motion carried.

Becky Hubsch, Business Manager

Grant Rix, President The addition of signatures to this page verifies these minutes as official.

Published April 23, 2025, at the total approximate cost of \$155.39 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublishnotices.com](http://www.sdpublishnotices.com). 25526





ORDINANCE #292 - FIRST READING: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dinger to approve the First Reading of Proposed Ordinance #292. Applicant Donald & Jolene Bonni to rezone from Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to Lake Front Residential District (R-3) to bring this parcel into compliance for its current use: Description of property: Lot 6, "Greg Hoffman Addition" in the E 1/2 of Section 14-T124N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (126979 West Shore Drive, Ravinia Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

that the LEMPG will be cutting another 35% of their funding. These funds are used towards their salary and benefits but not counted on when doing the budget process. They are cutting the exercise requirements at this time, but Scott stated they will continue to do the exercises. He also informed the Commission that the Homeland Security Funds are on hold at this time. Due to the funding being cut, Scott asked if the Commission wanted him to continue looking into a Mass Notification System. He did budget around \$15,000.00 for it this year. He shared that they are a couple other departments that may be interested in using the system so in the future they could possibly share the cost. After some discussion, it was decided for Scott to pursue the project and see what he comes up with that would possibly work for other departments. Scott also said that he heard their may be FEMA cut

Century Business Products \$1,172.03; Contech Engineered Solutions \$25,592.00; Dakota Oil \$1,046.37; Hoven Auto Repair \$56.00; InTab \$701.68; Ken's SuperFair Foods \$11.98; Linde Gas & Equipment \$346.78; Mac's \$20.00; Marco Technologies \$130.08; Menards \$16.84; Nelson Sales & Service \$43.98; Performance Oil \$650.28; Pomp's Tire Service \$1,885.76; S & S Cleaners \$240.00; Samuel Hoppock \$54.11; Steven Lust Automotive \$134.85. Travel & Conference: Becca Tullar \$14.00; Dave Lutzman \$310.00; Heartland Critical Incident Stress Mgmt. Network \$420.00; Patricia VanMeter \$232.40; SD State University Extension \$82.72. Utili-

OTHER BUSINESS: None  
EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved  
by Commissioner Wiese, second-

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Wells and seconded by Wambach. All members present voted aye.

Published April 23, 2025, at the total approximate cost of \$52.70 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25523

**12 ♦ Groton Independent ♦ Wed., Apr. 23, 20**

An advertisement for Hanlon Brothers Gravel Hauling. The ad is framed with a thick black border. On the left, a yellow excavator with a long reach is shown in a green field. On the right, a yellow wheel loader is shown in a gravel pit. The text is centered and reads: "Hanlon Brothers Gravel Hauling", "New & Cleaning of Stockdams with our 60' reach trackhoe", and "605/395-6531".





UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6  
REGULAR MEETING  
April 14, 2025  
President Rix called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the GHS Library Conference Room. Members present: Rix, Fliehs, Gengerke, Harder, Lerseth-Fliehs, Strom, and Weismantel. Others present were Supt. J. Schwan, Principal B. Schwan, Principal Edwards, and Business Manager Hubsch.

Moved by Gengerke, seconded by Weismantel to approve the agenda as amended with the addition of approval of the request for a one-year sabbatical leave for Brooke Torrence from Head Cross Country Coach during the 2025-2026 school year. Motion carried.

Pursuant to SDCL 23-3, no potential conflict disclosure was reported.

Moved by Gengerke, seconded by Fliehs, to approve consent agenda items for March 10, 2025, meeting minutes, March 2025 district bills, Financial Report, Agency Accounts and Investments, school transportation report, school lunch report, and authorize the business manager to pay district bills up to \$75,000 in advance, using the custodial advance payment account to be approved by the board for reimbursement at the following regular board meeting.

GENERAL FUND: Net Salary 301,700.00; Benefits 81,390.68; A & B BUSINESS SOLUTIONS Staples for copier 174.76; Sports awards 711; ALLIED CLIMATE PROFESSIONALS Arena valve actuators Labor for geo unit 5,842.18; AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES Supplies 274.16 Auto Value Aberdeen Fuel Filter 104.58; Babcock, Bruce track registration fee 150.00; CUSTODIAL FUND ADVANCE PAYMENT Advance payments 47,118.49; DAKOTA ELECTRONICS Radio repairs 259.00; DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP Janitor supplies 112.63; DAKOTALAND AUTOGLASS IA Supplies 30.60; DOLLAR GENERAL-REGIONS Supplies 35.40; Fjelstad, Nathan DI mileage 319.20; FULL CIRCLE AG Oil 1,374.75; GROTON CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC, PC DOT Physical 100.00; HARLOW'S BUS SALES, INC. Bus parts 147.63; HAUFF MID-AMERICA SPORTS INC Track Supplies 280.00; HOUSE OF GLASS, INC. Locksets 867.81; JAMES VALLEY TELECOMMUNICATIONS Telephone 865.78; KEN'S FOOD FAIR & SHELL EXPRESS Supplies 228.24; MATHESON TRI-GAS INC Supplies 320.85; NASSP National Honor Society Affiliation 385.00; NORTHEAST CONFERENCE registration 95.00; NORTHSIDE IMPLEMENT Parts 3,037.32; OTIS ELEVATOR COMPANY Elevator contract 1,537.92; S & S LUMBER CO. Supplies 1,506.53; SDHSAA Medals 13.20; Sheyenne Transport LLC Repair 1,055.78; Smith Autobody, LLC Van Repair 314.86; Total 450,353.35

CAPITAL OUTLAY: A & B BUSINESS SOLUTIONS Managed Print Agreement 1,942.74; ALLIED CLIMATE PROFESSIONALS New Geo Unit 4,320.00 AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES Storage, Book 86.81; CUSTODIAL FUND ADVANCE PAYMENT Banners, Textbooks 640.98; FOLLETT CONTENT SOLUTIONS Library Books 75.94; HAUFF MID-AMERICA SPORTS INC Track equipment 1,901.90; Total 8,968.37.

SPECIAL ED: Net Salary 46,719.59; Benefits 13,910.43, AVERA ST. LUKE'S PT 149 Units OT 326 Units 15,799.59; CUSTODIAL FUND ADVANCE PAYMENT Advance payments 12,624.28; Parent Mileage 705.60; Total 89,759.49.

ENTERPRISE: Food Service Net Salary 9,049.87; Benefits 2,742.98; AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES Supplies 9.99; CHURCHILL, MANOLIS, FREEMAN, KLUDT, Collections 470.79; CUSTODIAL FUND ADVANCE PAYMENT Advance Payments 25.38; East Side Jersey Dairy, Inc. Milk 1,355.35; THE MEAT-HOUSE Beef Process 707; Performance Foodservice Food 5,538.87; US FOODS Supplies and Food 13,042.89; Total 24,835.74.

OST - Net Salary 2,501.22; Benefits 290.51; CHURCHILL, MANOLIS, FREEMAN, KLUDT, Collections 183.08; .... CUSTODIAL

GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 06-6 FINANCIAL REPORTS							
	General Fund	Capital Outlay	Special Ed.	Food Service	OST	Driver's Ed	Custodial
MARCH.1 2025 RECEIPTS	\$588,237.75	\$985,150.67	\$252,537.51	\$166,837.94	\$33,886.89	\$18,811.32	\$198,356.90
Local Sources	\$145,677.57	\$83,860.91	\$39,916.60	\$19,969.27	\$1,717.45		\$161,106.76
County Sources	\$2,599.49						
State Sources							
State Aid	\$43,110.00						
Wind Farm							
Mentor Teacher Program							
State Apportionment							
State Reimbursements							
Bank Franchise							
Federal Sources	\$38,420.04	\$318.60	\$136.60	\$6,930.85			
Sale of Assets							
Due from Govt/Others							
Transfer In/Out							

TOTAL MONTHLY RECEIPTS	\$229,807.10	\$84,179.51	\$40,053.20	\$26,900.12	\$1,717.45	\$0.00	\$161,106.76
FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$818,044.85	\$1,069,330.18	\$292,590.71	\$193,738.06	\$35,604.34	\$18,811.32	\$359,463.66
MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS	(\$458,971.23)	(\$9,151.01)	(\$77,606.00)	(\$26,734.13)	(\$2,791.73)	\$0.00	(\$82,923.66)
JOURNAL ENTRIES	\$1,195.81						(\$30.00)

MARCH 31. 2025	\$360,269.43	\$1,060,179.17	\$214,984.71	\$167,003.93	\$32,812.61	\$18,811.32	\$276,510.00
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GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL EDUCATION	FOOD SERVICE	OST
Payroll	Payroll	Payroll	Payroll
Instruction	Instruction	Instruction	Instruction
Employee Benefits	Employee Benefits	Employee Benefits	Employee Benefits
Total	Total	Total	Total
Driver's Education			
Payroll			
Instruction			
Employee Benefits			
Total			

FUND ADVANCE PAYMENT OST Snacks 653.59; KEN'S FOOD FAIR & SHELL EXPRESS OST Snacks 554.51; Total 4,654.67  
DRIVERS ED - AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES Parent brake 192.00; Auto Value Aberdeen Brake work 279.76; Total 471.76.  
CUSTODIAL FUND: \$82,923.66

RECEIPTS: Local Sources-291,141.80 Custodial-161,106.76; County Sources - 2,599.49 State Sources - 43,110.00; Federal Sources - 45,806.09. Total Receipts - 543,764.14

Members of the public are allowed five minutes to address the board on any topic of their choice. With no one present, the board continued with the agenda.

The following items were discussed in the administrative reports:

Principal B. Schwan reported on school improvement progress, elementary track and field day on May 8, elementary spring concert on April 29, South Dakota State Assessment dates, and Kindergarten roundup, having 35 students attend. Principal Edwards reported on the South Dakota State Assessment dates, thanked Mrs. Tietz, Mrs. Duerre, and Mrs. Johnson for their work in making the prom a success this year, and congratulated the nine students who qualified for Nationals, held in Nashville, in the state HOSA competition. Business manager Hubsch reported on health and workers' compensation insurance, and gave a projection for assessment shares the North Central Special Education Cooperative is proposing for FY2026.

Mr. Landon Brown spoke to the board regarding the future of the Show Choir program. Brown cited some of the struggles with the program, including that only 14 students participated in the program this year, with a large majority being seniors, and only going to one competition this year, against AA schools, makes it harder to compete every year. Brown proposed trying a school musical next year instead of Show Choir, which would provide more students with opportunities to participate. The board agreed for Mr. Brown to create a sign-up sheet to see what interest there was for participants and to try it next year to see if it gains any interest.

Moved by Gengerke, seconded by Fliehs, to adopt the resolution authorizing membership in the SDHSAA for the 2025-2026 school year. Weismantel abstained. Motion carried.

Moved by Fliehs, seconded by Gengerke, to approve Associated School Boards Protective Trust Agreements: Protective Trust Joint Powers Agreement and By-laws; Health Fund Participation Agreement and Plan Options, and Workers' Compensation Agreement and Plan Options. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Fliehs to approve District Membership Agreement for North Central Special Education Cooperative. Motion carried.

Moved by Fliehs, seconded by Weismantel to approve the resignation from Duane Fliehs, Maintenance Team Member, effective immediately. Motion carried.

The first reading of recommended policy changes: GDBE Support Staff Vacations and Holidays and GCBE Professional Staff Vacations and Holidays. No

action was taken.

Motion by Gengerke, seconded by Lerseth-Fliehs, to approve the 2025-2026 Negotiated Agreements: Groton Teachers Association (GTA) and Groton Auxiliary Staff Association (GASA). Motion carried.

Motion by Weismantel, seconded by Lerseth-Fliehs, to approve amended contract lengths for FY 2026: Jodi Schwan reduced by five days, and Emily Neely increased by five days. Motion carried.

Motion by Weismantel, seconded by Harder, to approve the request for a one-year sabbatical leave for Brooke Torrence from Head Cross Country Coach during the 2025-2026 school year. Motion carried.

Motion by Weismantel, seconded by Harder, to issue 2025-2026 teacher contracts with a return date of Friday, April 25, 2025. Motion carried.

Motion by Weismantel, seconded by Lerseth-Fliehs, to issue 2025-2026 auxiliary staff work agreements with a return date of Friday, April 25, 2025. Motion carried.

Motion by Gengerke, seconded by Fliehs, to hire Jessica Maurer, 1st Grade Teacher, for the 2025-2026 school year. Motion carried.

Motion by Fliehs, seconded by Weismantel, to approve 2024-2025 school calendar amendments and make-up days with the students' last day on May 15 and teachers' last day on May 16. Motion carried.

President Rix called for a short recess at 7:37 pm. Rix declared the board back in session from recess at 7:41 pm.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Strom, to go into executive session pursuant to SDCL1-25-2(4) Negotiations and SDCL1-25-2(4) Personnel Issues, including superintendent evaluation and SDCL 1-25-2(1) Personnel at 8:36 pm. Motion carried.

President Rix declared the board out of the executive session at 9:58 pm.

Moved by Gengerke, seconded by Strom, to adjourn at 9:58 pm. Motion carried.

Becky Hubsch, Business Manager

Grant Rix, President The addition of signatures to this page verifies these minutes as official.

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## ANNUAL REPORT FOR CITY OF GROTON AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024 GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS--MODIFIED CASH BASIS

	Debt	Other Governmental	Total Governmental
	Service	Funds	Funds
Beginning Balance	958,996.00	234,168.00	202,833.00
Revenues and Other Sources:			
Taxes:			
Property Taxes	772,129.00		772,129.00
General Sales and Use Taxes	930,815.00	33,549.00	964,364.00
Tax Deed Revenue	340.00		340.00
Penalties and Interest on Delinquent Taxes	668.00		668.00
Licenses and Permits	26,702.00		26,702.00
Intergovernmental Revenues:			
State Grants	14,401.00		14,401.00
State Shared Revenue	105,318.00		105,318.00
State Payments in Lieu of Taxes			
County Shared Revenue	1,967.00		1,967.00
Other Intergovernmental Revenue			
Charges for Goods and Services:			
General Government	1,889.00		1,889.00
Public Safety	337.00		337.00
Highways and Streets	5,533.00		5,533.00
Culture and Recreation	147,000.00		147,000.00
Cemetery	5,750.00		5,750.00
Fines and Forfeits			
Animal Control Fines	67.00		67.00
Miscellaneous Revenue and Other Sources:			
Investment Earnings	81,902.00		81,902.00
Rentals		23,950.00	23,950.00
Special Assessments	10,250.00		10,250.00
Maintenance Assessments			
Contributions and Donations from Private Sources	12,075.00		12,075.00
Liquor Operating			
Agreement Income	20,306.00		20,306.00
Total Revenue and Other Sources	2,127,199.00	10,250.00	57,499.00
Expenditures and Other Uses:			
Legislative	23,923.00		23,923.00
Executive	8,679.00		8,679.00
Elections	0.00		0.00
Financial Administration	411,051.00		411,051.00
Other General Government	41,240.00		41,240.00
Police	475,828.00		475,828.00
Protective Inspection	10,075.00		10,075.00
Other Protection	4,313.00		4,313.00
Highways and Streets	556,492.00		556,492.00
Sanitation	1,782.00		1,782.00
Airport		21,666.00	21,666.00
Cemeteries	12,925.00		12,925.00
Health	6,096.00		6,096.00
Recreation	377,409.00		377,409.00
Parks	6,696.00		6,696.00
Libraries	11,096.00		11,096.00
Auditorium	1,247.00		1,247.00
Economic Development and Assistance (Industrial Development)	17,510.00		17,510.00
Debt Service	205,660.00		205,660.00
Total Expenditures and Other Uses	205,660.00	21,666.00	2,193,688.00
Transfers In (Out)	250,000.00		250,000.00
Increase/Decrease in Fund Balance	160,837.00	54,590.00	35,833.00
Ending Fund Balance:			
Unassigned	1,119,833.00	120,422.00	245,863.00
Total Ending Fund Balance	1,119,833.00	120,422.00	245,863.00
Governmental Long-term Debt			1,790,000.00
PROPRIETARY FUNDS--MODIFIED CASH BASIS			
Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Garbage Fund	Electric Fund
Beginning Balance	1,073,619.00	74,619.00	2,971,123.00
Revenues	254,999.00	140,345.00	1,757,904.00
Expenses	323,737.00	130,487.00	1,486,942.00
Transfers In (Out)	-	-	(250,000.00)
Restricted for Other Purposes	153,792.00		
Unrestricted	1,064,118.00	200,903.00	84,477.00
Long-term Debt	2,932,239.00		2,992,085.00

The preceding financial data does not include fiduciary funds or component units. Information pertaining to those activities may be obtained by contacting the municipal finance officer at 397-8422. Municipal funds are deposited as follows:

Depository	Amount
Dacotah Bank	\$4,116,896.75
SD FIT	\$1,731,230.50

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Groton Area Tigers Varsity tallied nine hits in the game. Fliehs, Erdmann, and Antonsen each collected two hits for Groton Area Tigers Varsity. Groeblinghoff and Antonsen each drove in two runs for Groton Area Tigers Varsity. Carter Simon paced Groton Area Tigers Varsity

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Kelly Evans-Hullinger, MD, is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices Internal Medicine at Avera Medical Group in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at [www.prairedoc.org](http://www.prairedoc.org), and on social media. Watch On Call with the Prairie Doc, most Thursday's at 7PM on SDPB and streaming on Facebook and listen to Prairie Doc Radio Sunday's at 6am and 1pm.