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The Groton Independent

Vol. 142 No. 42 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, July 09, 2025 ♦ Established in 1889

Electric meters, senior meals, code enforcement continue as discussion items at Groton City Council

By Elizabeth Varin

Utilities, special event planning and providing meals for seniors were some of the few topics discussed during Tuesday's City Council meeting.

Among decisions made the meeting, the council authorized city staff to request sealed bids for the replacement of the city's aging electric metering system. It comes after nearly two years of discussion on what direction to go when replacing the city's electric meter system.

"You three (City Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich, Electric Utility Supervisor Todd Gay and Technology Specialist Paul Kosel) get some bids," said Mayor Scott Hanlon. "We've discussed this so much, we need to just get it done." Bids are scheduled to be opened at the council's August 19 meeting.

The council also reviewed special event liquor license. Licenses for Groton Amateur Baseball Games on July 15 and 20 were approved with little discussion. Beer can be brought to the baseball complex, but will not be allowed if Little League or softball games are going on.

More discussion took place about a special event license to sell malt beverages and beer during an event at the City Park. Council members and organizers of the Celebration in the Park discussed how many licensed law enforcement officers would need to be there while beer is served.

The council issued a tentative approval for the special event licenses for the August 2 event. However, the number of licenses officers will depend on what the police chief recommends.

Senior Citizen meal program seeks city support

During Tuesday's meeting, Marla Kiesz with the nonprofit Area for Senior Nutrition provided an update on the state of the senior citizen meal program in the community.

Currently, the program is run through the Red Horse Inn, which has continued to provide meals for senior citizens since being purchased earlier this year. The meals, available to individuals aged 60 and older, are offered at a suggested donation of \$5 per meal. However, the program only receives an average of \$1 per meal from participants, creating a significant gap between donations and the cost of providing the meals.

Kiesz asked the council to consider getting more involved in supporting the program, as the city currently does not financially contribute to its operation.

"I'm here asking for the city's support to help the program stay strong and buoyant," she said.

She hopes that by involving the city in a more substantial way, the community can increase the donations collected per meal and ensure the program's sustainability.

Kiesz requested a \$1,500 donation for the 2026 fiscal year, which she emphasized would help cover just a couple of months of groceries needed to prepare the meals.



Marla Kiesz from the Area IV Senior Nutrition Program talked about the need of support for the Groton meals. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)

Council members discussed various ways the city and local organizations could collaborate to support the meal program.

Councilman Brian Bahr suggested utilizing Groton Transit during slower periods to help with meal deliveries.

Kiesz confirmed that other communities have successfully used transit services for their senior meals program, including bringing seniors to the meal site to eat together.

Councilman Mike Shilhanek emphasized the potential for further collaboration between community resources to ensure the program's success.

Mayor Scott Hanlon assured Kiesz and the council that they would work together to find a solution.

"I'm sure we'll need to give you guys some money," he said. "We needed to hear from you because I'm sure a lot of us didn't know what was going on."

"...We're going to do some talking, and we'll get you guys some assistance," he added.

Code violations continue to be addressed

Code Enforcement Officer Dennis "Mike" Olson updated the council on properties in town with code violations, as well as asking the council whether he should begin abating some of the issues himself.

If residents aren't complying with warnings given to them, Olson said he would typically go on the property, abate the issue and charge the landowner for the cost of abating the issue. That could be as simple as removing vehicles or junk, or it could be more complicated if building maintenance needs to be addressed.

Olson discussed a few specific issues at properties around town and asked if the council wanted him to proceed with sending a final warning and scheduling abatement work to be done to remove some junk vehicles from a property. It's likely that the final warning letter will get the property owners attention, and that owner will likely call to discuss the issue with him, Olson said.

"It usually does, and I usually get a call," he said.

- The council declared a 2017 Ford Interceptor SUV previously used by the Groton Police Department as surplus. Bids to purchase the vehicle are due by 5 p.m. August 5 and will be opened the same evening during the city council meeting.

- The council declared a 1982 International S1900 dump truck as surplus. Bids to purchase the vehicle are due by 5 p.m. August 5 and will be opened the same evening during the council meeting.

- The city will continue having accounts at Dacotah Bank and the South Dakota Public Funds Investment Trust after the council appointed the two as banks for the city. The council also appointed its legal newspaper as The Groton Independent.

- The council tabled any decision about transferring the property south of the Groton Community Center to the Groton Development Corporation. The corporation wants to put up a youth facility at that location. Councilman Mike Shilhanek made the request. Since he was planning to abstain from voting, there was no quorum to make a decision as only Shilhanek, Brian Bahr, Karyn Babcock and Jason Wambach (via phone) were present and the mayor does not count towards the quorum.



Schinkel recognized at Exchange Club of Aberdeen

Exchange Club of Aberdeen member Lee Schinkel received an award from the Dakota Territory District Exchange for the Individual Membership Award. Schinkel is formerly from Groton. He signed up four new members from July 1, 2024 to March 30, 2025! He signed up several more after that date also! President-Elect Jim Ragatz presented him the award since Lee was not present at the convention to receive the award.

(Photo pulled from Exchange Club of Aberdeen Facebook Page)

Groton to host 12U state baseball tournament this weekend
Story on Page 6



June 17, 2025

The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00pm at 120 N Main Street for their second monthly meeting with the following members present: Bahr, Cutler, Shilhanek, Wambach, and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Also present were Attorney Chad Locken, Douglas Heinrich, Darrell Hillestad, and Jarod Fliehs.

Moved by Wambach and seconded by Cutler to approve the agenda with no additions or changes. All members present voted aye.

Public comments were welcomed pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1, but none were received.

Discussion took place regarding the airport and future plans. Hillestad exited the meeting.

Moved by Cutler and seconded by Wambach to begin accepting bids for the baseball concessions building project. All members present voted aye. Sealed bids are due by 5pm on July 15, 2025. Fliehs exited the meeting.

Discussion took place regarding the service road by Ken's.

Moved by Bahr and seconded by Cutler to table the authorization to bid the electric metering system. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Bahr and seconded by Shilhanek to approve Resolution No. 20251 – Approval of Certain Sewer Facilities and Revenue Bond Funding. All members present voted aye. The resolution reads as follows: **RESOLUTION GIVING APPROVAL TO CERTAIN SEWER FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS; GIVING APPROVAL TO THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A REVENUE BOND TO FINANCE, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, THE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE FACILITIES; APPROVING THE FORM OF THE LOAN AGREEMENT AND THE REVENUE BOND AND PLEDGING PROJECT REVENUES AND COLLATERAL TO SECURE THE PAYMENT OF THE REVENUE BOND; AND CREATING SPECIAL FUNDS AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS FOR OPERATION OF THE SYSTEM AND RETIREMENT OF THE REVENUE BOND AND PROVIDING FOR A SEGREGATED SPECIAL CHARGE OR SURCHARGE FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BONDS. WHEREAS**, one of the purposes of SDCL Chapter 9-40 (the "Act") as found and determined by the Legislature is to provide for financing the acquisition, maintenance, operation, extension or improvement of any system or part of any system for the collection, treatment and disposal of sewage and other domestic, commercial and industrial wastes; or any system for the control of floods and drainage; or any combination thereof, together with extensions, additions, and necessary appurtenances; and, **WHEREAS**, a municipality is authorized by Section 6 of the Act to issue revenue bonds to defray the cost of extensions, additions and improvements to any utility previously owned without pledging its credit and is authorized to pledge the net income or revenues from the Project in accordance with Section 15 of the Act; and, **WHEREAS**, the City of Groton (the "City") currently operates a sewer system for the collection, treatment and disposal of sewage and other domestic, commercial and industrial wastes; and has determined that improvements to the sewer facilities are necessary for the conduct of its governmental programs and qualifies as an improvement, extension or addition to its sewer system; and, **WHEREAS**, the City has determined to issue its revenue bonds to finance the improvements to its sewer system for the purpose of collecting, treating and disposing of sewage and other domestic, commercial and industrial wastes (the "System") and has applied to the South Dakota Conservancy District (the "District") for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan to finance the improvements; **WHEREAS**, the City shall adopt special rates or surcharges for the improvements to be pledged, segregated and used for the payment of the Bonds. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the City as follows:

SECTION 1. Definitions. The terms when used in this Resolution shall have the following meanings set forth in this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise. All terms used in this Resolution which are not defined herein shall have the meanings assigned to them in the Loan Agreement unless the context clearly otherwise requires. "Act" means South Dakota Codified Laws Chapter 9-40. "Loan" means the Loan made by the South Dakota Conservancy District to the City pursuant to the terms of the Loan Agreement and as evidenced by the Revenue Bond. "Project" means the City of Groton Wastewater Improvement Project. "Revenue Bond" means the revenue bond or bonds issued the date of the Loan Agreement by the City to the South Dakota Conservancy District to evidence the City's obligation to repay the principal of and pay interest and Administrative Expense Surcharge on the Loan. "System" means the City's system of collecting, treating, and disposing of sewage and other domestic, commercial, and industrial wastes. **SECTION 2. Declaration of Necessity and Findings.** 2.1.1. Declaration of Necessity. The City hereby determines and declares it is necessary to construct and finance improvements to its System described as the Project. 2.2. Findings. The City does hereby find as follows: 2.2.1. The City hereby expressly finds that if the Project is not undertaken, the System will pose a health hazard to the City and its inhabitants and will make the City unable to comply with state and federal law. 2.2.2. Because of the functional interdependence of the various portions of the System, the fact that the System may not lawfully operate unless it complies with State and federal laws, including SDCL Chapter 34A-2, and the federal Clean Water Act, and the nature of the improvements financed, the City hereby finds and determines that the Project will substantially benefit the entire System and all of its users within the meaning of Sections 15 and 17 of the Act. 2.2.3. The City hereby determines and finds that for the purposes of the Act, including, in particular, Sections 15 and 17 of the Act, only the net income from the Project financed by the Revenue Bond be pledged for its payment. **SECTION 3. Authorization of Loan, Pledge of Revenue and Security.** 3.1. Authorization of Loan. The City hereby determines and declares it necessary to finance up to \$4,587,000 of the costs of the Project through the issuance of bonds payable from the revenue of the Project and other funds secured by the City. The City hereby determines that because the Revenue Bond is issued in connection with a financing agreement described in SDCL 46A-1-49, pursuant to Section 15 of the Act no election is required to issue the Revenue Bond. 3.2. Approval of Loan Agreement. The execution and delivery of the Revenue Obligation Loan Agreement (the "Loan Agreement"), the form of which is on file with the Finance Officer (the "Finance Officer") and open to public inspection, between the City as Borrower and the District, is hereby in all respects authorized, approved and confirmed, and the Mayor and Finance Officer are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver the Loan Agreement in the form and content attached hereto, with such changes as the Attorney for the City deems appropriate and approves, for and on behalf of the City. The Mayor and Finance Officer are hereby further authorized and directed to implement and perform the covenants and obligations of the City set forth in or required by the Loan Agreement. The Loan Agreement herein referred to and made a part of this Resolution is on file in the office of the Finance Officer and is available for inspection by any interested party. 3.3. Approval of Revenue Bond. The issuance of a revenue bond in a principal amount not to exceed \$4,587,000 as determined according to the Loan Agreement in the form and content set forth in Appendix B attached to the form of Loan Agreement (the "Revenue Bond") shall be and the same is, in all respects, hereby authorized, approved, and confirmed and the Mayor, Finance Officer, and other appropriate officials shall be and are hereby authorized and directed to execute and seal the Revenue Bond and deliver the Revenue Bond to the District, for

and on behalf of the City, upon receipt of the purchase price, and to use the proceeds thereof in the manner set forth in the Loan Agreement. The Mayor and Finance Officer are hereby authorized to approve the final terms of the Revenue Bond, and their execution and delivery thereof shall evidence that approval. The Revenue Bond shall be issued under the authority of SDCL Chapter 9-40 and SDCL Chapter 6-8B, and the provisions of the Act are hereby expressly incorporated herein as provided in Section 19 of the Act. 3.4. Pledge of Revenues. The Revenue Bond together with the interest thereon, shall not constitute a charge against the City's general credit or taxing power, but shall be a limited obligation of the City payable solely out of the Project Debt Service Account, which payments, revenues and receipts are hereby and in the Loan Agreement pledged and assigned for the equal and ratable payments of the Revenue Bond and shall be used for no other purpose than to pay the principal of, interest and Administrative Surcharge on the Revenue Bond, except as may be otherwise expressly authorized in the Loan Agreement (including the purpose of securing Additional Bonds issued as permitted by the terms thereof). The City covenants and agrees to charge rates for all services from the Project or establish special charges or surcharges which will be sufficient to provide for the payments upon the Revenue Bond issued hereunder as and when the same become due, and as may be necessary to provide for the operation and maintenance and repairs of the Project, and depreciation, and the Rate Resolution shall be revised from time to time so as to produce these amounts. The City hereby reserves the right to determine on a periodic basis the appropriate allocation of operation and maintenance expenses, depreciation, repair and reserves associated with the facilities financed with the Revenue Bond, provided that such determination of allocable operation and maintenance expenses shall in no event abrogate, abridge or otherwise contravene the covenant of the City set forth in this Section 3 or any other covenant or agreement in the Loan Agreement. **SECTION 4. Special Charge or Surcharge for Revenue Bond.** 4.1. The City does hereby create the Revenue Bond Special-Surcharge District (the "Surcharge District") which shall include all users which benefit from the Project. There shall be charged a special charge or surcharge pursuant to Section 15 of the Act for the services provided by Project financed by the Revenue Bond. The special charge or surcharge shall be segregated from other revenues of the System and shall be used for the payment of the Revenue Bond. The special charge or surcharge shall create net income, remaining from time to time after first paying all reasonable and current expenses of maintenance, repairs, replacements, and operation, sufficient to fund interest, reserve and debt service fund annual requirements and shall be 110% of the debt service requirements on the Revenue Bond. 4.2. Rates and collection. The rate herein specific will be collected as a special charge or surcharge for the Project. This special charge or surcharge shall remain in effect until such time as the Revenue Bond is defeased or paid in full. 4.3. Initial Surcharge. The initial special charge or surcharge shall be set by resolution and collected at the same time as other charges of the utility. All users within the Surcharge District which benefit from the Project, current and future, shall be charged the special charge or surcharge. The special charge or surcharge is found to be equitable for the services provided by the Project. The special charge or surcharge shall begin at such time as will produce sufficient revenue to pay principal of, interest and Administrative Surcharge on the Revenue Bond when due. 4.4. Segregation. The Finance Officer shall set up bookkeeping accounts in accordance with South Dakota Legislative Audit guidelines for the segregation of the revenue, special charges, and surcharges. 4.5. Periodic review. The amount of the surcharge shall be reviewed from time to time, not less than yearly, and shall be modified in order to produce such funds as are necessary and required to comply with the Loan Agreement's rate covenant and to pay

principal of, interest and Administrative Surcharge on the Revenue Bond when due. The surcharge may be set by resolution in accordance with this Section. The rate resolution shall be necessary for the support of government and shall be effective upon passage. **SECTION 5. Additional Bonds.** As permitted by Sections 8 and 9 of the Act, Additional Bonds payable from revenues and income of the System or Project may be issued, as permitted in the Loan Agreement, and no provision of this Resolution shall have the effect of restricting the issuance of, or impairing the lien of, such additional parity bonds with respect to the net revenues or income from the extensions, additions or improvements. The City shall have the right to issue additional bonds secured by a lien subordinate to the lien from the Revenue Bond pursuant to the Loan Agreement. **SECTION 6. Project Fund Accounts.** For the purpose of application and proper allocation of the income of the Project and to secure the payment of principal, Administrative Surcharge and interest on the Revenue Bond, the following mandatory asset segregations shall be included in the sewer system account of the City and shall be used solely for the following respective purposes until payment in full of the principal of and interest on the Revenue Bond: 6.1. Project Revenue Account. There shall be deposited periodically into the Project Revenue Account the net revenues as defined in Section 17 of the Act derived from the operation of the Project collected pursuant to the resolutions and ordinances of the City of Groton, South Dakota (collectively the "Rate Resolution"). Moneys from the Project Revenue Account shall be transferred periodically into separate funds and accounts as provided below. 6.2. Project Debt Service Account. Out of the revenues in the Project Revenue Account, there shall be set aside no later than the 25th day of each month into the account designated Project Debt Service Account, a sum sufficient to provide for the payment as the same become due of the next maturing principal of, interest and Administrative Surcharge on the Revenue Bonds and any reserve determined by the City's governing body to be necessary. The amount set aside monthly shall be not less than one-third of the total principal, interest, and Administrative Surcharge payable on the following February 15, May 15, August 15 or November 15 and if there shall be any deficiency in the amount previously set aside, then the amount of such deficiency shall be added to the current requirement. 6.3. Depreciation Account. There shall be established a General Depreciation Account. Out of the revenues of the Project Revenue Account there shall be set aside each month into the General Depreciation Account an amount determined by the Common Council to be a proper and adequate amount for repair and depreciation of the Project. 6.4. Project Surplus Account. There shall be established the Project Surplus Account. Revenues remaining in the Project Revenue Account at the end of any fiscal year after all periodic transfers have been made therefrom as above required, shall be deemed to be surplus and shall be transferred to the Project Surplus Account. If at any time there shall exist any default in making any periodic transfer to the Project Debt Service Account, the Common Council shall authorize the Finance Officer to rectify such default so far as possible by the transfer of money from the Project Surplus Account. If any such default shall exist as to more than one account or fund at any time, then such transfer shall be made in the order such funds and accounts are listed above. When not required to restore a current deficiency in the Project Debt Service Account, moneys in the Project Surplus Account from time to time may be used for any of the following purposes and not otherwise: (a). To redeem and pre-pay the Revenue Bond when and as such Revenue Bond becomes prepayable according to its terms; (b) To pay for repairs of or for the construction and installation of improvements or additions to the System; and, if the balances in the Project Debt Service Account and the Project Depreciation Account are sufficient to meet all payments required or reasonably anticipated to be made there from prior to the end of the then current fiscal

year, then: (c) To be held as a reserve for redemption and prepayment of any bonds of the System which are not then but will later be prepayable according to their terms; or (d) To be used for any other authorized municipal purpose designated by the Common Council. (e) No moneys shall at any time be transferred from the Project Surplus Account or any other account of the Fund to any other fund of the City, nor shall such moneys at any time be loaned to other municipal funds or invested in warrants, special improvements bonds or other obligations payable from other funds, except as provided in this Section. **SECTION 7. Approval of Paying Agent/Registrar.** The Revenue Bond shall be payable at the office of U.S. Bank National Association, St. Paul, Minnesota, hereby designated as paying agent and registrar. **SECTION 8. Approval of Bond Counsel.** Meierhenry Sargent LLP is hereby retained as Bond Counsel with respect to the Revenue Bond. **SECTION 9. Tax Matters.** The Interest on the Revenue Bond shall be excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended ("the Code") and applicable Treasury Regulations (the "Regulations"). **SECTION 10. Covenants.** The City hereby covenants and agrees with the District and other owners of the Revenue Bond as follows: 10.1. The City will punctually perform all duties with reference to the Project, the System and the Revenue Bond required by the constitution and laws of the State of South Dakota and by this Resolution. 10.2. The City agrees and covenants that it will promptly construct the improvements included in the Project. 10.3. The City covenants and agrees that pursuant to Sections 25 through 27 of the Act, the lawful holders of the Revenue Bond shall have a statutory mortgage lien upon the Project and the extensions, additions and improvements thereto acquired pursuant to the Act, until the payment in full of the principal and interest on the Revenue Bond, and the City agrees not to sell or otherwise dispose of the System, the Project, or any substantial part thereof, except as provided in the Loan Agreement and shall not establish, authorize or grant a franchise for the operation of any other utility supplying like products or services in competition therewith, or permit any person, firm or corporation to compete with it in the distribution of water for municipal, industrial, and domestic purposes within the City. 10.4. The City covenants and agrees with the District and other owners of the Revenue Bond that it will maintain the System in good condition and operate the same in an efficient manner and at a reasonable cost, so long as any portion of the Revenue Bond remains outstanding; that it will maintain insurance on the System for the benefit of the holders of the Revenue Bond in an amount which usually would be carried by private companies in a similar type of business; that it will prepare, keep and file records, statements and accounts as provided for in this Resolution and the Loan Agreement. The Revenue Bond shall refer expressly to this Resolution and the Act and shall state that it is subject to all provisions and limitations thereof pursuant to Section 19 of the Act. **SECTION 11. Depositories.** The Finance Officer shall cause all moneys pertaining to the Funds and Accounts to be deposited as received with one or more banks which are duly qualified public depositories under the provisions of SDCL Ch. 4-6A, in a deposit account or accounts, which shall be maintained separate and apart from all other accounts of the City, so long as any of the Bonds and the interest thereon shall remain unpaid. Any of such moneys not necessary for immediate use may be deposited with such depository banks in savings or time deposits. No money shall at any time be withdrawn from such deposit accounts except for the purposes of the Funds and Accounts as authorized in this Resolution; except that moneys from time to time on hand in the Funds and Accounts may at any time, in the discretion of the City's governing body, be invested in securities permitted by the provisions of SDCL 4-5-6; provided, however, that the Depreciation Fund may be invested in such securities maturing not later than ten years from the date of the investment. Income received from the de-

posit or investment of moneys shall be credited to the Fund or Account from whose moneys the deposit was made, or the investment was purchased, and handled and accounted for in the same manner as other moneys therein. **SECTION 12. Consent to Appointment.** In the event of mismanagement of the Project, a default in the payment of the principal or interest of the Revenue Bond, or in any other condition thereof materially affecting the lawful holder of the Revenue Bond, or if the revenues of the Project are dissipated, wasted or diverted from their proper application as set forth in the Loan Agreement, Revenue Bond, or herein, the City hereby consents to the appointment of a receiver pursuant to Section 33 of the Act, and agrees that the receiver will have the powers set forth therein, and in Sections 34 and 35 of the Act to operate and administer the Project, and charge and collect rates as described therein. **SECTION 13. Severability.** If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this Resolution, the Loan Agreement, the Revenue Bond, or any other Loan Document shall be held invalid, the invalidity of such section, paragraph, clause or provision shall not affect any of the other provisions of this Resolution or said Loan Agreement, Revenue Bond, or any other Loan Document. **SECTION 14. Repeal of Resolution.** At such time as the Revenue Bond is defeased or paid in full, this Resolution and the special charge or surcharge shall automatically be repealed without any further action of the City. **SECTION 15. Authorization of City Officials.** The Mayor, Finance Officer, City Attorney and City officials shall be and they are hereby authorized to execute and deliver for and on behalf of the City any and all other certificates, documents or other papers and to perform such other acts as they may deem necessary or appropriate in order to implement and carry out the actions authorized herein. **SECTION 16. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall take effect on the 20th day following its publication, unless suspended by a referendum.

Moved by Shilhanek and seconded by Bahr to approve Resolution No. 20252 – Establishment of Project Surcharge with the amendment of February 1, 2026, as the surcharge implementation date. All members present voted aye. The resolution reads as follows: In addition to all other utility charges, the City hereby establishes a surcharge of \$35.40 payable by each customer of its system who receives or benefits from the services of the project financed by the CW-10 loan with the borrower bond. The collection of the surcharge shall start on February 1, 2026. The surcharge shall remain in effect until such time as the borrower bond is paid in full, it shall be collected at the same time as other charges of the system, and establish a surcharge account to segregate the income from other system income for book keeping purposes to be pledged to the South Dakota Conservancy District. The surcharge shall be reviewed from year to year and modified in order to provide the required 110 percent debt coverage. Adopted at Groton, South Dakota, this 17th day of June 2025.

Discussion took place regarding gates at the soccer complex. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting.

The May finance report was approved on a motion by Wambach and seconded by Shilhanek. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Shilhanek and seconded by Cutler to accept Dacotah Bank's proposal to start an insured cash sweep account to maximize interest earnings with a minimum checking balance of \$100,000. All members present voted aye.

Discussion took place regarding geographic information systems (GIS).

No action was taken on the authorization to place potential bid on the property at 602 E Railroad Avenue.

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

Moved by Cutler and seconded by Shilhanek to authorize the following bills for payment. All members present voted aye.

Payroll, \$46,858.00, Employee salaries; Administrative, \$5,153.51, ; Public Safety, \$9,570.03, ; Public Works, \$17,590.75, ; Culture & Recre-

Continues on next page

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ation, \$14,543.71, ; Dacotah Bank, \$9,089.56, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dakotaland FCU, \$450.00, Employee savings; Dacotah Bank, \$810.41, HSA contributions; WEB Water, \$28,284.39, Water services - May 2025; Full Circle Ag, \$287.51, Weed control chemicals; USPS, \$303.96, Utility billing postage; SD Retirement System, \$12,104.82, Employee retirement; Brandon Bible, \$340.71, Utility deposit/overpayment refund; AnnaMarie Sachs, \$120.26, Utility deposit refund; City of Groton, \$129.74, Utility deposit applied to outstanding bill; SD State Treasurer, \$11,055.47, Sales and Excise Tax - May 2025; Dacotah Bank, \$4,596.16, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dacotah Bank, \$100.00, HSA contributions; Stacy Mayou, \$422.72, Med flex; SD Supplemental Retirement, \$290.00, Supplemental retirement; J's Superior Cleaning, \$200.00, Commercial cleaning services - City Hall; Runnings, \$55.97, Sawzall blades, hex key set - Electric Dept.; Menards, \$183.89, Metal cut-offs, impact sockets, hex key sets, earmuffs - Multiple Depts.; WAPA, \$23,037.60, Power services - May 2025; The Groton Independent, \$150.07, Publishing costs; Badger Meter, Inc., \$163.22, Water metering network fees; A&B Business Solutions, \$267.77, Printer lease - City Hall; Darrels LLC, \$16.00, Lawn mower tire repair - Baseball; Riteway Business Forms, \$984.24, Utility bill postcards; Daktronics, Inc., \$13,120.00, x2 new baseball scoreboards; Douglas Heinrich, \$384.60, Meal/mileage reimbursement - HR/FO School in Pierre; Kellie Locke, \$28.00, Mileage reimbursement - Aberdeen for Walmart pickup and Goodwill donation; Coca-Cola High Country, \$2,043.00, Drinks for resale - Pool/Baseball Concessions; Ken's Fair Foods, \$2,883.58, Fuel purchases, food for resale at BB/Pool concessions; Leidholdt Tool Sales, LLC, \$11.85, Right angle grease adapter - City Shop; MJ's Sinclair, Inc., \$1,477.30, Fuel purchases - Multiple Depts; Jetline Sales and Service, \$908.43, Manhole lids - Wastewater Dept.; Dacotah Bank Visa, \$3,842.91, Herbicide, swing trainer, cup mount, inspection camera, chest protectors, shin guards, sewer sample postage, sewer testing chemicals, water sample postage, masks, water basketball, food for resale - baseball concessions, fuel purchases, pool sample postage, Jr. Legion registration/insurance, softballs, mitts, softball equipment, toilet paper, coffee, markers, creamer, jackstands, screwdriver - Multiple Depts. ; Heartland Energy, \$46,834.10, Power services - May 2025; Jesse Anderson, \$185.00, Employee reimbursement for Class B CDL exam and card fee - Street Dept. ; Heartland Waste Management, \$12,410.46, Garbage hauling; Groton HS Booster PAC, \$187.00, Candy for resale - Baseball Concessions; Galls, LLC, \$128.99, Tactical boots - Police Dept.; Border States, \$805.92, Cold shrink termination kits, stem connectors - Electric Dept.; Altec Capital Services, LLC, \$2,189.93, Digger truck lease; Diesel Machinery, Inc., \$2,850.00, 4-week rental of Bomag roller - Street Dept.; Farmers Union Co-op Assoc., \$728.12, Fuel purchases - Baseball and Cemetery; Stan Houston Equipment Co., \$437.14, 14" Diamond blades - Street Dept.; James Valley Telecommunications, \$891.78, Telephone and internet services; Matt Locke, \$1,920.00, U10/U12 baseball tournament umpire pay; Jackie Iverson, \$1,450.00, 2025 girls' softball umpire pay; Ecolab Pest Elimination, \$117.98, Rodent control - Rubble Site;

City offices will be closed on June 19, 2025, for Juneteenth. Moved by Shilhanek and seconded by Wambach to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal matters 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 9:34pm. All members present voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 9:47pm. Moved by Cutler and seconded by Shilhanek to hire the following individuals as baseball gatekeepers: Brenna Imrie and Ian Kutter. All members present voted aye. Moved by Babcock and seconded by Wambach to adjourn the meeting at 9:48pm. All members present voted aye. Scott Hanlon, Mayor Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer Published July 9, 2025, at the total approximate cost of \$268.42 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25761



JULY 1, 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, Gage, Sutton and Wiese. Commissioner Dinger was absent. Commissioner Gage led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: None

avera ADDICTION CARE CENTER: Jodi Hepperle and Jessi Paysen with Avera Addiction Care Center met with the Brown County Commission to discuss their 2026 Budget Request. Jodi shared that their contract didn't meet the needs for their in-patients so they are requesting \$25,000.00 for 2026. No action taken.

RESOLUTION #2025-31 Commissioner Wiese offered the following Resolution:

Resolution #2025-31

RELEASE OF PROPERTY LIEN WHEREAS, Brown County has filed a Poor Relief Lien in the total amount of \$375.00, and

WHEREAS, Brown County has determined it to be in the best interest of the taxpayers to release certain property from the effect of said lien, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Brown County will leave the lien on Josephine Smith for \$375.00 but removed from the following property in Brown County, SD which is described as follows:

The West Half of Lot 5, all of Lots 6, 7, 8 and 9, Block 27, First Addition to the Town of Frederick, Brown County, South Dakota Dated this 1st day of July, 2025

Seconded by Commissioner Dennert. Roll call vote: Commissioners Dennert-aye; Dinger-absent; Gage-aye; Sutton-aye and Wiese-ay. Resolution adopted.

PUBLIC HEARING – TEMPORARY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE PERMIT FOR SPECIAL EVENT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the following Temporary Alcoholic Beverage Permit in conjunction with a Special Event for Malt Beverage License to SPURS Therapeutic Riding Center, Aberdeen, SD – SPURS 2nd Addition – NW ¼ of Sec 6-T123N-R63W, Brown County, SD; effective September 20, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

GIRL SCOUT CAMP LEASE AGREEMENT: John Taylor and Amy Holland with Girl Scouts Dakota Horizons joined the meeting to discuss the Lease and Contract for the Girl Scout Camp at Richmond Lake. After some discussion, Commissioner Wiese moved to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the Lease Agreement for Girl Scouts Dakota Horizon to lease the Richmond Lake Youth Camp on July 12 – 18, 2025. Seconded by Dennert. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FIREWORKS PERMIT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Fireworks permit for Richmond Lake Association to do an Aerial Show at Edwards Preserve on July 3, 2025. Alternate date due to inclement weather is July 20th, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #299 – SECOND READING/POSSIBLE ADOPTION: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Gage to adopt Ordinance #299. Applicant Jeff Brockel/Jacob Palmer to rezone from Highway Commercial District (HC) to Commercial District (C) to bring these parcels into compliance for their current use: Description of property: Lots 1 thru 10, "Todd Rosebrock First Subdivision" in the NW1/4 of Section 9-T123N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (4095, 4185, 4275, 4365, 4395, 4390, 4360, 4270, 4180 & 4090 Paper Lane; Aberdeen Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #300 – SECOND READING/POSSIBLE ADOPTION: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to adopt Ordinance #300. Appli-

cant Darian & Kimberly Browning to rezone from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its current use: Description of property: Lot 1, "Browning First Subdivision" in the SW1/4 of Section 35-T122N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (14172 378th Avenue; Highland Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #301 – SECOND READING/POSSIBLE ADOPTION: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to adopt Ordinance #301. Applicant Edward Price for Braun Family to rezone from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its current use: Description of property: Lot 1, "E. Price Addition" in the NW1/4 of the NW1/4 of Section 23-T121N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (14510 392nd Avenue; West Rondell Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #302 – SECOND READING/POSSIBLE ADOPTION: Second Reading of Proposed Ordinance #302. Amendment to Wind Energy Systems (WES) to the Brown County Title 4 Zoning Ordinances by replacing: Chapter 4.36, Wind Energy System (WES) with the proposed changes. Dawn Shepard voiced some concerns regarding Ordinance #302; she feels the setbacks are complicated; there are safety issues that need to be addressed; cost for things such as damage to county roads should be covered in the ordinance as well just to name a few. Dawn asks that the Commission refer this back to the Planning & Zoning Board to review these items. Scott Campbell was also in attendance, and he informed the Commission that he appreciates the setbacks for municipalities, and he approved of the Ordinance as written. After further discussion, Commissioner Wiese moved to refer Ordinance #302 - Amendment to Wind Energy Systems (WES) back to Planning & Zoning for further consideration. Seconded by Dennert. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #303 – SECOND READING/POSSIBLE ADOPTION: Second Reading of Proposed Ordinance #303. A new ordinance, Data Center being added to the Brown County Title 4 Zoning Ordinances of Brown County, Chapter 4.01 – Definitions; Chapter 4.16 – H-I District; An Addition to Title 4 Zoning Ordinances of Brown County with Chapter 4.38 – Data Centers. Chairman Sutton shared that Commission was contacted after the First Reading regarding some concerns and requested changes, so we were planning to refer this one back to the Planning & Zoning as well. Dawn Shepard asked that the Commission refer this Ordinance back to Planning & Zoning as well. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to refer Ordinance #303 – Data Centers back to Planning & Zoning for further consideration. Commissioner Dennert commented that there are more details that need to be worked out on this Ordinance because we are breaking new ground on this one, compared to the Wind Energy we looked at other counties and feel we are very close, but Dawn Shepard brought up a few items to look at. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the General Meeting Minutes of June 24, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Claims/Payroll: Claims: Insurance: Insurance Plus \$1,278.31. Professional Fees: Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$779.00; Christy Griffin-Serr Law Office \$3,420.00; Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$1,212.00; Dohrer Law Office, PC \$1,530.00; Erick Messler \$3,050.00; Gellhaus & Gellhaus, P.C. \$160.00; Helms & Associates \$24,097.40; Horn Law Office Prof LLC \$456.00; Houston Engineering, Inc \$18,933.61; Kristi Brandt \$65.25; Kuck Law Office \$2,400.00; Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC \$1,980.00; Northeastern Mental Health Center \$2,450.00; Saber Shred Solutions \$6,263.78; Sanford Health \$588.00; SD Dept of Health \$40.00; Taliaferro Law Firm, PC \$3,222.00. Publishing: Groton Daily Independent \$366.57; McQuillen Creative Group, Inc \$1,217.84. Rentals:

Advantage Self Storage \$276.00. Repairs & Maintenance: Ace Refrigeration, LLC \$2,620.38; Double D Body Shop \$6,949.68; Ecolab Pest Elimination Division \$132.12; Gary's Auto Body & Accessories \$45.49; Gillund Enterprises \$6.00; Graham Tire Inc \$20.25; Hub City Roofing Inc \$180.00; Jake's Heating & Cooling \$3,408.17; KONE \$3,581.85; Lawson Products, Inc \$98.20; Liedholt Electric, LLC \$337.67; Pheasantland Industries \$15.59; Precision Kiosk Technologies \$3,000.00; RDO Equipment Co \$720.00; Team Lab \$31,300.00; Titan Machinery \$1,102.93; Walk-N-Roll, Inc \$135.63; Webster Ace Store #17618 \$35.98. Supplies: Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$563.10; Century Business Products \$382.51; Cole Paper Inc \$3,469.81; Dakota Electronics LLC \$126.00; Fastenal Company \$551.72; FedEx \$38.00; Gary's Auto Body & Accessories \$39.00; Geffdog Designs \$50.00; Gillund Enterprises \$514.20; Government Forms & Supplies \$65.45; Graham Tire Inc \$609.58; Great Western Tire \$881.70; Hitch 'n' Post \$190.00; Jensen Rock & Sand Inc \$13,183.20; Kessler's 444.90; Kuck Law Office \$92.48; LabSource, Inc \$1,908.02; Lawson Products, Inc \$1,418.18; Leidholdt Tool Sales, LLC \$258.59; Menards \$289.62; Midstates Group \$1,450.00; Midwest Pump & Tank \$106.00; Mike Janes \$16.94; Performance Oil \$24.74; Pheasantland Industries \$475.20; Premier Southern Ticket \$850.00; Probitas Promotions, LLC \$501.75; Regalia Manufacturing Co \$93.91; Runnings \$35.75; Shop 4-H/National 4-H Council \$125.20; Thomson Reuters – West Payment Center \$398.57; Titan Machinery \$425.27; Tri-State Water \$10.75; Walk-N-Roll, Inc \$1,340.00. Travel & Conference: Austin Ball \$14.00; Carrie Weisenberger \$34.16; Dale Kurth \$111.72; David North \$157.08; Erick Messler \$305.52; James Meyers \$31.50; Kayleene Holzer \$482.40; Kyle Couchey \$14.00; Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC \$80.00; Neil Bittner \$14.00; Patrick Keatts \$33.88; Paul Johnson \$92.12; SDAAO – SD Association of Assessing Officers \$1,800.00; Stan Beckler \$18.20. Utilities: AT&T Mobility \$143.73; Montana-Dakota Utilities Co \$40.28; Northwestern Energy \$4,827.59; T-Mobile USA Inc \$136.65. Other: Office of Child & Family Services \$10,646.50; SD Dept of Agriculture & Natural Resources \$600.00. Machinery & Equipment: DT Auctions LLC \$37,900.00.

Payroll: Commission \$4,896.51; Elections \$1,936.80; Auditor \$10,443.10; Treasurer \$18,430.41; SA \$36,544.62; Public Defender \$5,384.61; Maintenance \$12,451.50; Assessor \$16,581.77; Register of Deeds \$10,905.92; VSO \$4,741.87; GIS \$2,946.49; IT \$9,855.68; HR \$5,464.91; Sheriff \$61,281.14; Jail \$72,863.25; Coroner \$500.00; Court Security \$7,205.40; JDC \$34,928.14; Welfare \$1,002.11; Museum \$13,355.85; Parks/Fairgrounds \$10,631.19; Fair Board \$4,572.40; 4-H \$1,693.96; Weed \$5,708.71; Planning & Zoning \$9,412.80; Highway \$53,005.81; Dispatch \$39,289.18; Emergency \$5,498.55; 24/7 Sobriety \$2,689.03; Landfill \$19,427.93; Meal Benefits \$104.00; FICA \$28,741.34; Medicare \$6,721.86; HSA \$2,842.98; Health Insurance-Wellmark BCBS \$137,835.10; Dental Insurance-Delta \$9,589.38; Life Insurance-Dearborn \$1,127.78; Retirement-SDRS \$61,968.11. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

- o Resignation of Paige Hull, Brown County Jail Detention Officer, FT – effective June 26, 2025. Request to fill.
- o Resignation of Lux Pettigrew, Brown County 911 Communication Officer, FT – effective June 26, 2025. Request to fill.
- o Hiring of Kent Karlen as PT Brown County Transport Driver, starting wage \$26.72/hr. – effective June 30, 2025.
- o Hiring of Tammy Spellman as Brown County Sheriff's Office Records Technician, FT; starting wage \$19.87/hr. – effective August 4, 2025.
- o Moving Kelsi Vinger, JDAI Diversion Coordinator from 16F go 16J to accommodate grant not being renewed, wage \$2540.75/ pay period – effective July 7, 2025.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT (LEMPG): Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the 3rd Quarter Report for LEMPG Grant. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

TRAVEL REQUESTS: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the following travel requests: Gene Loeschke, Sarah Swenson, Stephanie Morgan and Joe Kraft from DOE to attend SDAAO School in Sioux Falls on September 14-19, 2025; Jessica Puentes-Castro from Dacotah Prairie Museum to attend Beginner Visual Thinking Strategies Training at SD Art Museum in Brookings on July 25, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: District 3 Senator Perry gave the Commission an update on the Recidivism Task Force that he is serving on; discussed Reform, Recidivism, Incarceration and Rehabilitation. Senator Perry also informed the Commission that next week there is a meeting for the Prison Reset, that may be the last meeting for that.

Commissioner Wiese shared that there is an Interim Legislative Committee that has been and will continue to meet on Property Tax Relief. They will be in Aberdeen on August 13, 2025. Don't know specific time or place at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None
ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:30 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published July 9, 2025, at the total approximate cost of \$130.71 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25762



NOTICE OF VARIANCE HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT The Groton Planning & Zoning Commission will be holding a public hearing on July 28, 2025, at 6:00pm CDT at City Hall, 120 N Main Street, Groton, SD for a variance of Chapter 9, Section 9.0106 of the Groton Zoning Ordinance. This application was made by Roger Overacker to build a storage shed within 2 feet of the east lot line in a Residential (R-1) District located at 603 E 5th Avenue, Groton, SD, legally described as Lot 1 of the Olson Addition, Groton, SD.

Any person wishing to present testimony for or against this variance may appear in person or by representative at the above time and place.

Doug Heinrich
Zoning Administrator
Published July 9, 2025, at the total approximate cost of \$9.64 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25763



**ORDINANCE #299
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING
TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION
BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES AS AMENDED TO REZONE
CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY**

Notice is hereby given that Ordinance #299, An Ordinance Amending Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended to rezone the following described property filed by petitioner Jeff Brockel/Jacob Palmer was duly adopted by the Board of Brown County Commissioners on the 1st day of July 2025 and will become effective on the 29th of July 2025.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota, that the Petition to Amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, is hereby amended to change the zoning on the following described property from Highway Commercial District (HC) to Commercial District (C) to bring these parcels into

compliance for their current use:

Description of property: Lots 1 thru 10, "Todd Rosebrock First Subdivision" in the NW1/4 of Section 9-T123N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (4095, 4185, 4275, 4365, 4395, 4390, 4360, 4270, 4180 & 4090 Paper Lane; 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 July 2025.

Duane Sutton, Brown County Commission Chairman

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Notice of Hearing: June 4, 2025

First Reading: June 17, 2025

Second Reading/Adoption: July 1, 2025

Published: July 9-10, 2025

Effective Date: July 29, 2025

Published July 9, 2025, at the total approximate cost of \$20.21 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25764



**ORDINANCE #300
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING
TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION
BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES AS AMENDED TO REZONE
CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY**

Notice is hereby given that Ordinance #300, An Ordinance Amending Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended to rezone the following described property filed by petitioner Darian & Kimberly Browning was duly adopted by the Board of Brown County Commissioners on the 1st day of July 2025 and will become effective on the 29th of July 2025.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota, that the Petition to Amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances is hereby amended to change the zoning on the following described property from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its current use:

Description of property: Lot 1, "Browning First Subdivision" in the SW1/4 of Section 35-T122N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (14172 378th Avenue; Highland 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 July 2025.

Duane Sutton, Brown County Commission Chairman

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Notice of Hearing: June 4, 2025

First Reading: June 17, 2025

Second Reading/Adoption: July 1, 2025

Published: June 9-10, 2025

Effective Date: July 29, 2025

Published July 9, 2025, at the total approximate cost of \$19.59 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25765



Henry Township owners and tenants of Henry township are hereby notified and required according to law, to cut all weeds in road ditches adjacent to their property or tenanted by them within said township on or before July 15, 2025 or someone will be hired by the township board and \$250.00 per half mile charged to the abutting property. By order of the township board

Dalene Sass
Township Clerk
Published July 9, 2025, at the total approximate cost of \$5.91 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25766



As the 2025 NFL season draws closer, the Minnesota Vikings find themselves in a rare position: built to win now, yet still developing key young talent across the roster. With training camp on the horizon and a deep, competitive team in place, I'll be breaking down each position group over the next seven weeks to get a clearer picture of who's locked in, who's on the bubble, and who could surprise us this summer. We'll start at quarterback and work our way through the entire roster, ending with the secondary just before the first preseason game kicks off. This week we're focusing on the offensive line, which has undergone significant changes over the past few seasons. What used to be the team's biggest weakness is now one of its biggest strengths – at least on paper.

Starting Five

Christian Darrisaw – The most important spot on the offensive line is left tackle, and the Vikings have one of the best in Christian Darrisaw. The 26-year-old recently signed a massive extension as he enters his fifth NFL season. When healthy, he plays at an All-Pro level, but staying on the field has been an issue. Darrisaw tore his ACL and MCL last October, ending his 2024 season early, though he has been participating in offseason practices in a limited capacity.

Brian O’Neill – Opposite Darrisaw is Brian O’Neill. Entering his 8th season, the 30-year-old right tackle is still playing at a high level, evidenced by the fact that he made the Pro Bowl last season. He only has two years left on his deal, and his cap hits are huge (\$26 million this year and \$23 million next year), so I expect the Vikings to extend him to lower his cap hit and ensure he stays in Minnesota for many more years.

Ryan Kelly – For years, the Vikings have used smaller, athletic centers to anchor the offensive line. That all changed this offseason when the Vikings signed Ryan Kelly away from the Indianapolis Colts. Kelly is older (32 years old) and has dealt with injuries during his career, but the four-time Pro Bowler is certainly an upgrade at the center position.

Will Fries – Widely considered to be the best available guard in free agency this offseason, the Vikings brought in Fries to take over the right guard spot. Similar to Ryan Kelly, Fries suffered an injury while playing for the Colts last season. However, when healthy, he is a mas-sive upgrade for the Vikings’ offensive line.

Donovan Jackson – After upgrading two of the three interior offensive line positions in free agency, the Vikings spent their first-round pick

on Donovan Jackson to complete the interior revamp. Not only will Jackson be an upgrade at left guard, but he can also play left tackle if needed, like he did for the 2024 national champion Ohio State Buckeyes.

Rounding Out the Depth Chart

Blake Brandel – The starting left guard in 2024, Brandel now moves to a backup role. He wasn’t the weak link on the interior last season, so if he needs to fill in this season, I don’t expect we’ll see any huge drop-off in production.

Michael Jurgens – Entering his sophomore season, Jurgens will likely make the 53-man ros-ter due to his position versatility, since he’s able to play either guard spot as well as center.

Walter Rouse – Another player entering his sophomore season, Rouse will likely make the roster as a backup tackle.

Justin Skule – The Vikings signed Skule in free agency to be the team’s primary backup tackle. He is entering his 6th season in the NFL, and has seen action in 66 games in his ca-reer, including 17 starts.

On the Bubble

In 2024, the Vikings had nine offensive linemen on their opening day roster. These players are likely competing for a spot on the Vikings’ practice squad: Logan Brown, Henry Byrd, Zeke Correll, Joe Huber, Marcellus Johnson, Vershon Lee, and Leroy Watson IV.

The Groton Independent

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News Items: news@grotonsd.net
Deadline to submit items: Noon Monday]
Yearly Subscription Rates are listed below.
The Groton Independent (USPS# 230-440) is published weekly with its periodicals postage paid at Groton, SD.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Groton Independent, PO Box 34, Groton, SD 57445

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ORDINANCE #301
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING
TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION
BROWN COUNTY ORDINANC-
ES AS AMENDED TO REZONE
CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY
Notice is hereby given that
Ordinance #301, An Ordinance
Amending Title 4, Second Revi-
sion Brown County Ordinances,
as amended to rezone the fol-
lowing described property filed
by petitioner Edward Price for
Braun Family Limited Partnership
was duly adopted by the Board
of Brown County Commissioners
on the 1st day of July 2025 and
will become effective on the 29th
of July 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 zon-
ing on the following described
property from Agriculture Pres-
ervation District (AG-P) to Mini-
Agriculture District (M-AG) to
bring this parcel into compliance
for its current use:

Description of property: Lot
1, "E. Price Addition" in the
NW1/4 of the NW1/4 of Section
23-T121N-R63W of the 5th P.M.,
Brown County, South Dakota
(14510 392nd Avenue; West
Rondell Twp.).

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED
by the Brown County Commis-
sion, Brown County, South Da-
kota 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 July 2025.

Duane Sutton, Brown County
Commission Chairman

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown
County Auditor

Notice of Hearing: June 4,
2025

First Reading: June 17, 2025
Second Reading/Adoption:
July 1, 2025

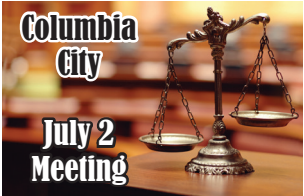
Published: June 9-10, 2025
Effective Date: July 29, 2025
Published July 9, 2025, at the
total approximate cost of \$20.53
and may be viewed free of
charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25767



NOTICE OF VARIANCE HEAR-
ING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
THAT The Groton Planning &
Zoning Commission will be hold-
ing a public hearing on July 28,
2025, at 6:00pm CDT at City
Hall, 120 N Main Street, Groton,
SD for a variance of Chapter 11,
Section 11.0106 of the Groton
Zoning Ordinance. This ap-
plication was made by Michael
Johnson to build a garage within
2 feet of the north lot line in a
Residential (R-3) District located
at 402 N Broadway Street, Gro-
ton, SD, legally described as Lots
5-8, Block 28 of the WB Hayes
Addition, Groton, SD.

Any person wishing to present
testimony for or against this var-
iance may appear in person or by
representative at the above time
and place.

Doug Heinrich
Zoning Administrator
Published July 9, 2025, at
the total approximate cost of
\$9.64 and may be viewed free of
charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25768



City of Columbia Council
Meeting – July 2, 2025
CALL MEETING TO ORDER –
7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL –Dana Mohr, Cara
Dennert, Jeremy Dosch, Scott
Meints, Sam Hoppock

Community: Michelle & Bill
Johnson, Lacey & Ben Jeffrey,
Julie Voeller, Kathie Vitense,
Lisa Mohr, Angela & Judy Grieb,
Cheryl Kampa

Mayor Dana Mohr called the
meeting to order. Dana called
for a motion to approve the
agenda. Scott Meints made a
motion to approve the agenda.
Sam Hoppock seconded the
motion. All in favor – motion
carried. Dana called for any
conflict of interest on agenda
items. There were no conflicts.

Minutes were handed out
from the June 4th meeting.
Scott Meints made a motion to

approve the minutes. Jeremy
Dosch seconded the motion. All
were in favor – motion carried.

Warrant Vouchers: Web –
fire prevention – 53.30; JVT
– fire prevention – 213.35;
Northwestern Energy – electric-
ity – 1091.96; Agtegra – fuel
– 1183.55; Jeremy Dosch– June
wages -701.42; Jeremy Dosch
– 2nd quarter wages – 370.58;
Cara Dennert – June wages–
1317.60; Emily Eichler – 2nd
quarter wages – 222.35; Corey
Mitchell – 2nd quarter wages
– 170.17; Scott Meints – 2nd
quarter wages – 370.58; Trevor
Meints – 2nd quarter wages –
370.58; Sam Hoppock – 2nd
quarter wages – 107.06; Dana
Mohr – 2nd quarter wages –
131.76; Public Health Laboratory
– park well testing – 86.00; Run-
nings – shop supplies – 73.98;
GDI News – publication – 34.49;
Menards – shop supplies – 98.71;
Stockwell Engineers - Collection
System & Lagoon Improvements
– 12,535.60; SD Unemployment
Insurance – insurance – 37.26;
US Treasury – 2nd quarter taxes
– 2209.24

Scott Meints made a motion
to approve the vouchers. Sam
Hoppock seconded the motion.
All in favor - motion carried.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS /
CORRESPONDENCE: e-mail from
Brown County regarding FEMA
crisis track training. Scott will fill
the council in on what he learns.
Julie Voeller would like the city
to look into removing the trees
outside of her building. Dana
will talk to our lawyer to see if
we need to pay for this.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS-
wastewater and drainage plans –
Jeremy has contacted landown-
ers to see if they are interested
in selling the city the land for
the future lagoon project. After
that, if they expressed interest
our lawyer will get involved in
the process.

Nuisances – no report

Streets – There are a couple
areas that need gravel soon.
There is more gravel coming for
the streets as well.

Parks – There is a new prob-
lem with the ballpark well. It
isn't shutting off. Jeremy will
continue to work with contrac-
tors.

Lagoon/Sewer-nothing further
Bubble Site – no report

NEW BUSINESS –Jeremy has
been talking to Matheson about
our tank leases. He will bring
more information to the next
meeting. Cheryl Kampa was
present to update the council
on Columbia Fest. Like before
– there will be a couple streets
closed for the parade. Broadway

will be closed off during the pa-
rade with a detour set up. She
mentioned bouncy houses and
locations for those. Sandbags
would be preferred so not to
have to worry about irrigation
lines.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Cara
presented bank balances. Scott
Meints made a motion to accept
the financial reports as given.
Sam Hoppock seconded the mo-
tion. All were in favor – motion
carried.

June 30, 2025, balances: SF -
\$ 110,474.90; SF Money Market
–\$ 152,633.12;
GF - \$ 206,851.13; GF Money
Market - \$51,214.49; CD Money
Market - \$ 41,591.30
FIT - \$ 15,874.32; Cash on
hand - \$0

Mayor Mohr adjourned the
meeting.

Next City Council Meeting
- Wednesday, August 6, 2025 –
7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Cara Dennert,
Finance Officer

Published July 9, 2025, at the
total approximate cost of \$37.79
and may be viewed free of
charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25769



NOTICE OF VARIANCE HEAR-
ING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
THAT The Groton Planning &
Zoning Commission will be hold-
ing a public hearing on July 28,
2025, at 6:00pm CDT at City
Hall, 120 N Main Street, Groton,
SD for a variance of Chapter 11,
Section 11.0106 of the Groton
Zoning Ordinance. This applica-
tion was made by Karen DeBrine
to build a porch/deck within
6 feet of the east lot line in a
Residential (R-3) District located
at 116 N 1st Street, Groton, SD,
legally described as Lot 1-2 of
Block 43 of the 3rd Addition,
Groton, SD.

Any person wishing to present
testimony for or against this var-
iance may appear in person or by
representative at the above time
and place.

Doug Heinrich
Zoning Administrator
Published July 9, 2025, at
the total approximate cost of
\$9.64 and may be viewed free of
charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25770

Groton Chamber of Commerce

July 2nd, 2025 12pm City Hall.

- Members present: Brian Dolan, Douglas Heinrich, Ashley Bentz, April Abeln, Katelyn Nehlich, and Carol Kutter.
- Minutes from the previous meeting were approved by Heinrich and seconded by Nehlich. All members present voted aye..
- The treasurer’s report was given. Dacotah Bank checking account balance is \$19,748.36 in addition to the \$5,000 CD. The bucks account balance is \$2979.80. The report was approved by Abeln and seconded by Kutter. All members present voted aye..
- Nehlich shared the NFL Football Book from Olive Grove Golf Course that we received as part of our advertising sponsorship..
- A motion was made via email by Abeln and seconded by Nehlich to purchase a full-page ad for \$300 in the U12 Class B State Baseball Tournament program. All members present voted aye..
- A motion was made via email by Abeln and seconded by Heinrich to sponsor popcorn at the June 29th U12 Baseball Tournament. All members present voted aye. Total expense was \$100..
- A motion was made via email by Abeln and seconded by Locke to donated \$400 to the Groton Lions Club to help offset food expenses for the Groton Transit Fundraiser. All members present voted aye..
- A motion was made via email by Abeln and seconded by Kutter to pay \$300 to sponsor B&M Tunes Karaoke for the Celebration in the Park/Rib Fest event. All members present voted aye..
- John Kotzer was the winner of the \$25 Chamber Bucks and tumbler for the Groton Clay Target League giveaway..
- Becky Kotzer’s pheasant shirt design was selected as the winner of the shirt contest. Both her design and Jamie Mitchek’s water tower design will be available this year. Shirts will be ordered through BK Custom T’s & More, with proceeds going toward the purchase of a new seesaw for the park. A flier will be posted with ordering details that includes a picture of the current seesaw. Orders will be accepted online July 11th through August 19th . It was mentioned that shirt order details be available at the GES Open House prior to school starting..
- The Groton Chamber did not receive the POET Community Impact Grant, but other monies were discussed..
- Laurie Buntrock was the winner of the 605-Selfie Contest..
- A discussion was held regarding the upcoming Hwy 12 electronic sign contracts. Plans must be finalized by September to be included in the dues notices scheduled to be mailed in October. Kutter suggested using the contract funds to purchase a customized Groton rock to be placed in the center of the city. It was also noted that the existing wooden sign near POET is leaning and needs to be reset..
- Board member shirts have been purchased through Geffdog and are ready to be picked up..
- Additional welcome bags for new residents will be purchased. Local businesses are encouraged to drop off items they would like to include in the bags at City Hall..
- All Hwy 12 and Main Street welcome banners have been hung thanks to the Public Works Dept..
- Motion by Abeln and seconded by Heinrich to give \$20 Chamber Bucks to Wage Memorial Library for their upcoming scavenger hunt. All members present voted aye..
- The ad for September/October issues of the Aberdeen and SD Magazines will be similar style as the U12 State Baseball ad..
- Motion by Abeln and seconded by Heinrich to sponsor Groton BB/SB Foundation LiveTicket broadcast for \$100. All members present voted aye..

- Motion by Kutter and seconded by Nehlich to sponsor an ad in the Groton Independent school activities calendar for \$420. All members present voted aye..
- Motion by Abeln and seconded by Nehlich to have a table at Family Fun Fest with a giveaway basket containing \$25 Chamber Bucks, a shirt, and tumbler. All members present voted aye..
- Motion by Abeln and seconded by Heinrich to donate \$100 to the Groton Lions Club to offset food expenses for the Groton Airport Fly In/Drive In. All members present voted aye..
- Motion by Heinrich and seconded by Kutter to donate a giveaway basket containing \$25 Chamber Bucks, a shirt, and tumbler to Wine on Nine. All members present voted aye..
- There are currently no new businesses to welcome. Recent welcomes were held with BEddy Cookies and Hydrate Haven..
- Next Meeting: August 6th , 12pm at City Hall

Upcoming events:

- o July 4th – Firecrackers couples golf tournament – Olive Grove Golf Course
- o July 4th – Bring your inflatables, Surprise every hour – 1:00 – 5:00pm – Groton Pool
- o July 9th – Legion Auxiliary #39 salad Buffet & Dessert Bar, 11:00am – 1:00pm – Groton Legion
- o July 11th – 13th – VFW Class B U12 State Baseball Tourney
- o July 13th – Lions Club Summer Fest/Car show, 9:00am – 3:00pm – City Park
- o July 16th – Pro Am Golf Tourney – Olive Grove Golf Course
- o July 21st – School Supply Drive/ Pick up, 4:00 – 7:00pm – Groton Community Center
- o July 21st–25th VBS “Road Trip: On the Go with God”, 10 -12pm – Emmanuel Lutheran
- o July 23rd – Groton Golf Association Fund-raiser Lunch – 11:30am – 1pm – Olive Grove Golf Course
- o July 23rd – Choosing Joy – 6pm – Emmanuel Lutheran Church
- o July 25th – Ferney Open Golf Tourney – 9am – Olive Grove Golf Course
- o July 28th – Streaming TV Made Easy by NVC/JVT – 3pm – Groton Community Center
- o Aug. 1st – Wine on Nine – Olive Grove Golf Course
- o Aug. 2nd – Celebration in the Park/Rib Fest – 1:00pm – 9:00pm – City Park
- o Aug. 7th – Family Fun Fest – 5:30pm – 7:30pm – Downtown Main Street

Clark named to University of North Dakota Spring 2025 President’s Roll of Honor

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (July 1, 2025) – More than 1,600 University of North Dakota (UND) students have been recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the 2025 spring semester President’s Roll of Honor. To qualify for the UND President’s Roll of Honor, a student must have an overall cumulative grade point average of 3.80 or higher. The student must also have earned a minimum of 30 semester hours and have completed a minimum of 12 hours at the close of the semester, eight of which must be for traditional letter grades. Emily Clark of Groton was named to the President’s Honor Roll.

Classifieds and Card of Thanks

The following rates are for Classifieds published in both the Groton Daily Independent and the Groton Independent. Cut rate in half if you just want it in the GDI or just the weekly.
1 Week: \$9 for first 30 words, 20¢/word thereafter
2 Wks: \$17 for first 30 words, 38¢/word thereafter
3 Wks: \$24 for first 30 words, 54¢/word thereafter
4th consecutive week is free
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PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

EMPLOYMENT

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS (3) needed starting 8/13/25 at Custer Elementary and Jr/ Sr High schools, Contact Custer School District, 527 Montgomery St., Custer, SD 57730, 605.673.3154 www.csd.k12.sd.us. Until filled. EOE.

MOBRIDGE-POLLOCK SCHOOL DISTRICT 2025-2026 Teacher Openings: Middle School Social Studies Teacher. Coach Openings: Boy’s Golf; Girl’s Golf; Assistant Football; Assistant Track; Middle School Boy’s Basketball; two Middle School Girl’s Volleyball; Middle School Football and Publications. For more information contact Kim Schneider, Business Manager 605-845-9200. Send resume and Certified Application to Kim Schneider, Business Manager at 1107 1st Avenue East, Mobridge, SD 57601. EOE. Open until filled. Certified Application can be found at mobridge-pollock.k12.sd.us

JERAULD COUNTY DEPUTY AUDITOR/ EXTENSION SECRETARY: Jerauld County is currently accepting applications for a Deputy Auditor/ Extension 4-H Secretary. Full-Time status with benefits. Hourly wage determined upon experience. Please contact the Jerauld County Auditor office for an application and job description at (605)539-9301 or auditor@jerauldsd.com.

RUMMAGE SALE

3 FAMILY RUMMAGE SALE, Sunday, July 13, 8 am-2:30 pm, At OLDE BANK, 101 N. Main, Groton, (Summer Fest/Car Show/Vendors/ Church at Groton City Park 9-3).

NOTICES

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Ferney

By Elizabeth Varin

Youth baseball teams from across South Dakota will head to Groton this weekend for the 12U VFW Class B State Tournament, an event tournament organizers say will showcase not only the region's facilities but also the passion and pride of local communities.

The three-day tournament kicks off Friday with an opening ceremony at Groton's baseball complex. All 15 teams will gather on the central field for a presentation of the colors and the national anthem. Games will be held on two fields in Groton and one field at the Columbia baseball park.

Groton hasn't hosted a youth tournament like this before, said tournament director Jason Hill. The baseball/softball foundation hosted the junior legion championship last year, but not a tournament like this for the younger players.

"It gives us an opportunity to share our ballpark and, you know, we feel really good about what we have here," he said. "The city should feel good. It's a great complex, spread out with plenty of room for everybody, and then having our friends up in Columbia, it's another great opportunity to showcase what's up here in Northeast South Dakota."

Teams traveling in for the tournament include squads from Wagner, Winner, Webster, Britton, Clark, Baltic and others. Hill said he hopes Groton residents will come out to support the home team and enjoy the competition. Admission fees collected by the Groton Baseball/Softball Foundation will go back into local improvements, such as a new concession stand and bathrooms, scoreboard replacement, and overall facility upgrades.

It's not just about showing off the facilities, Hill said. It's about giving these kids a state tournament experience in their own backyard.

In the past, the team has had to stay in Sioux Falls and travel to fields in Salem or Parker, he said. This time, they get to play on their own turf.

The tournament is also a collaboration between Groton and nearby Columbia, whose field will host several of the weekend's games. For players like Easton Larson, who lives in Columbia, that means even more.

"I'm looking forward to playing at home — definitely in Groton and then Columbia since it's my home field," said Larson. "...Baseball is an amazing sport, and I've been playing since I was two."

Larson said he loves hitting the ball and "just being with you friends and having fun through the summer when you don't see them as much. That's always good."

Teammates Hank Hill and Mason Locke echoed his excitement

"I'm most excited that all of our friends get to be here — and they get to watch us," said Hill.

Locke added, "It's going to be a lot more energetic than all the other state tournaments. When we go to Sioux Falls, it's dead out there. No energy. But it's going to be a lot of energy here."

Hill credited the Groton Baseball/Softball Foundation, community members, and especially his wife, Tara Hill, for helping bring the event to life.

Firecracker Golf Tourney

The annual Firecracker Golf Tournament was held at the Olive Grove Golf Course on Friday. The results are listed below. In each flight, the top three listed were the winners of the flights.

Championship Flight

- 68- Jackie and Scott Witlock
71- Tanner and Megan Waage
71- Dean and Connie Munsch
71- Lance and Sammy Bonn
72- Chad and Haley Ellingson
73- Suzie Souza and Mark Papstein
73- Kathy and Steve Onka
74- Scott and Sarah Vedvei
74- Randi and Tyler Wenbrowne
78- Kent and Darcy Muller

First Flight

- 75- Brad and Dar Larson
75- Ken Lynch and Erica Hunsted
76- Randy and Sue Stanley
76- Joe Gourneau and Jessica Hollingsworth
77- Ryan and Ashley Grenz
77- Tom and Barb Gillick
77- Randy Ries and Sharon Zastrow
77- Ty and Tevan Newman
78- Tom and Pat Price

Second Flight

- 80- Brand and Brenda Waage
80- Terry and Mark Kline
81- Adam and Marissa Kappes
82- Skip Kettering and Suzi Easthouse
82- Jessica Gouornaue and Levi Logan
82- LuAnne and Ryan Cunningham
83- Rick and Tami Zimney

Third Flight

- 78- Rick and Katie Koehler
82- Lance and Cindy Frohling
83- Steve and Betty Dunker
84- Jonathan and Mandilyn Fliehs
84- Lorin and Julie Fliehs
84- Cory and Amber Wipf
85- Jon and Jerrie Vedvei

Fourth Flight

- 84- Torre and Denise Raap
89- Nathan Wieg and Allison Jung
89- Austin and Deb Schuelke
89- Spencer and Kellie Locke
90- Larry and Shirlee Frohling
91- Chad and Michelle Johnson
93- Bob and Mavis Rossow
97- Alec and JoAnne Paulson
98- Amy and Jeff Ringgenberg

Ladies Invitational Golf Tournament

The Ladies Invitational Golf Tournament was held June 26 at the Olive Grove Golf Course.

The scores for each flight are listed below. The top two are the winners for each flight.

Championship Flight

- 74- Carissa Drackley and Jen Little
75- Collette Quam and Joan Bosanko
80- Hayley Ellingson and BRooke Bierman
82- Terri Holmes and Ellen Renner
82- Sharon Zastrow and Cyndy Larson



Back row left to right: Rylan Blackwood, Hank Fliehs, Easton Larson, Owen Tewksbury, Hank Hill Middle row: Bentley Ehresmann, Grayden Rowen, Carter Boerger, Knox Mulder, Haden Harder, Graham Rose Front row: Brody Zimmerman, Mason Locke, Blake Malsom, Jack Schuelke, Adam Fliehs, Hayden Hubbard. (Photo courtesy J.Simon Photography)

"She has been putting up with me with all the planning, organizing, talking through a lot of the logistics," he said with a smile.

Games will run throughout the weekend, and the public is encouraged to attend. Whether cheering on the Groton team or just enjoying summer baseball at its finest, fans are sure to experience a tournament to remember.



(Photos by Kami Lipp)

Fun Day the Pool

The Fourth of July pool event was held with a very good turnout.

87- LuAnn Cunningham and Michelle Haaland

First Flight

- 86- Lori Kulesa and Madonna Echert
88- Elaine Scherbenski and Suzie Souza
89- Clara Nolz and Mary Kay Kessler
89- Tami Zimney and Denise Raap
89- Cindy Kraft and Kristie Strivens
92- Sue Stanley and Brenda Waage

Second Flight

- 92- Deb Fredrickson and Michelle Johnson
92- Rochelle Moser and Jan Kearns
96- Mavis Rossow and Sharon Sombke
94- Carrie Slach and Erica Hunstad
96- Betty Dunker and Joyce Wilson
98- Dar Larson and Brenda Madsen
124- Arlowyn Spencer and Kimberly Kulesa

Pin Prizes:

- #4 Closest to Pin: Denise Raap
#7 Longest Drive: Michelle Johnson
#9 Longest Putt: Michelle Haaland



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By David Adler

Lincoln and the Declaration of Independence: Courage, Ideals, Liberty, and Fragility

In remarks at Independence Hall in 1861, President Abraham Lincoln shared the roots of his political philosophy while reflecting on the cornerstone of the republic. "I have never had a feeling politically that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence." He added, admiringly, "I have often pondered over the dangers which were incurred by the men who assembled here. It was not the mere matter of the separation of the colonies from the mother land; but something in that Declaration giving liberty, not alone to the people of this country, but hope to the world for all future time." That hope, the American political creed, declared to the world on July 4, 1776, that "All men are created equal."

It was with good reason that Lincoln, as devoted a student of the Declaration of Independence as any American president—with the possible exception of its author, Thomas Jefferson—pointed to the courage of those who signed the Declaration. The Declaration was an act of treason against the Crown, which prompted Benjamin Franklin to say, at the signing, "We must all hang together, or most assuredly, we shall all hang separately." The unity of the signers was reflected in the closing sentence: "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."

The pledge of life, fortune, and honor—essentially, all that a person has to offer—to support the Declaration, the premise and promise of which was a new republic and a vision of liberty and governance that would light the way for the rest of the world—what Lincoln, like Jefferson, called the "best hope for mankind"—represented a defining moment in Lincoln's political education, a point of light that informed his worldview and shaped his goals and pursuits until his death. "The principles of Jefferson are the definitions and axioms of free society," Lincoln observed, particularly that all men are created equal. Lincoln's admiration for Jefferson was unabashed. "All honor to Jefferson," a man Lincoln applauded for introducing into a revolutionary document "an abstract truth, applicable to all men and all times, and so to embalm it there, day-to-day, and in all coming days, it shall be a rebuke and a stumbling-block to the very harbingers of re-appearing tyranny and oppression."

Lincoln's exposure of the fragility of the republic, a characteristic with which he was painfully familiar as president engaged in an epochal battle to save the Union, reminded him then, as it reminds us now, that the Declaration of Independence, which emphasizes at its core the sanctity and centrality of the individual and the corresponding right to self-governance, is not universally shared. Jefferson's elegant prose stirs most readers, from its majestic opening—"When, in the course of human events"—to its inspiring, yet sobering close—"with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge our lives"—but some in high office are not persuaded by its appeal to the unalienable right of equality and its sequential expression in the Constitution of "the equal protection of the law," which is critical to America's progress and liberty.

In 1838, in his prescient address to the Young Men's Lyceum in Springfield, Lincoln addressed the threats to the principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. He focused on the danger to America from within America, which he perceived to be the real threat, not dangers from abroad. That internal threat reflected not only the citizenry's retreat from duty to honor and exalt constitutional principles and the rule of law, but also the failure of governmental officials to perform their institutional responsibilities, the duties of their office, including obedience to the rule of law. The result, predictably, would be constitutional failure.

As we approach the year-long celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, we hear, but do we heed, Lincoln's voice? We are witness to a long train of executive abuses and usurpations, many of which have been catalogued in this space, as well as the collapse of Congress as a meaningful cog in the system of checks and balances. The Supreme Court, moreover, has embarked on a path of empowering the president beyond the terms of the Constitution.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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Groton Jr. Teeners Beat Lake Norden

By GameChanger Media

Groton Jr. Teeners bested Lake Norden 10-8 on Monday. A sacrifice bunt by Kobe Stevenson put Lake Norden on the board in the top of the first. Groton Jr. Teeners made the score 3-1 in the bottom of the first after Jordan Schwan tripled, scoring two runs, and Sam Crank singled, scoring one run.

Lake Norden flipped the game on its head in the top of the second, scoring five runs on three hits to take the lead, 6-3. The biggest blow in the inning was a double by Caleb Drenth that drove in three.

Groton Jr. Teeners took the lead in the bottom of the third inning after Zach Fliehs singled to the left side of the infield, Wesley Borg singled down the left field line, Keegan Kucker singled to the right side of the infield, and Groton Jr. Teeners scored on a wild pitch, each scoring one run.

Trayce Schelle earned the win for Groton Jr. Teeners. The starting pitcher surrendered five hits and six runs over five innings, striking out six and walking four. Drenth took the loss for Lake Norden. The pitcher went three and two-thirds innings, allowing nine runs (seven earned) on seven hits, striking out five and walking four. Kolton Antonsen collected the save.

Groton Jr. Teeners collected 12 hits in the game. Schwan drove the middle of the lineup, leading Groton Jr. Teeners with three runs batted in. The number three hitter went 2-for-4 on the day. Groton Jr. Teeners’s Borg, the number eight hitter, led Groton Jr. Teeners with three hits in three at bats. Kucker collected two hits for Groton Jr. Teeners in three at bats. Asher Zimmerman paced Groton Jr. Teeners with two walks. Overall, the team had patience at the plate, tallying six walks for the game. Schwan and Schelle each stole multiple bases for Groton Jr. Teeners. Groton Jr. Teeners ran wild on the base paths, amassing seven stolen bases for the game.

Drenth led Lake Norden with four runs batted in. The pitcher went 2-for-4 on the day. Evan Schultz and Trig Heinrich each stole multiple bases for Lake Norden. Lake Norden ran wild on the base paths, piling up 10 stolen bases for the game.

Jr. Teeners Surge Past Lake Norden Thanks To Big First Inning

By GameChanger Media

Groton Jr. Teeners defeated Lake Norden 12-6 on Monday thanks in part to eight runs in the first inning. Trayce Schelle singled, scoring one run, Jordan Schwan singled, scoring one run, Lincoln Shilhanek singled, scoring one run, Sam Crank doubled, scoring two runs, Gavin Hanten drew a walk, scoring one run, and Asher Zimmerman singled, scoring two runs.

A double by Trig Heinrich on a 3-0 count put Lake Norden on the board in the top of the first.

Groton Jr. Teeners added one run in the second after Lake Norden committed an error.

Groton Jr. Teeners added one run in the third after Schwan grounded out.

Wesley Borg earned the win for Groton Jr. Teeners. The right-handed pitcher surrendered eight hits and six runs over five innings, striking out four and walking four. Emmitt Aho took the loss for Lake Norden. The starting pitcher went one-third of an inning, giving up eight runs (five earned) on four hits, striking out one and walking three.

Tucker Leicht, Hanten, Zimmerman, Schwan, Crank, Schelle, and Shilhanek each collected one hit for Groton Jr. Teeners. Zimmerman and Crank each drove in two runs for Groton Jr. Teeners. Groton Jr. Teeners had a strong eye at the plate, tallying nine walks for the game. Zimmerman and Kolton Antonsen led the team with two bases on balls each. Groton Jr. Teeners turned one double play in the game. Groton Jr. Teeners were sure-handed in the field and didn’t commit a single error. Crank had the most chances in the field with five.

Heinrich provided pop in the middle of the lineup, and led Lake Norden with two runs batted in. The cleanup hitter went 2-for-3 on the day. Evan Schultz and Heinrich each collected two hits for Lake Norden. Lake Norden turned one double play in the game.

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Strong Hitting Not Enough As Groton Legion Falls To Webster

By GameChanger Media

Groton Legion Post 39 fell 6-4 to Webster on Monday at Webster despite out-hitting them six to four. Teylor Diegel and Gavin Englund each collected two hits for Groton Legion Post 39.

A wild pitch put Webster on the board in the bottom of the second.

In the top of the third inning, Groton Legion Post 39 went back into the lead after Brevin Fliehs tripled down the right field line, and Webster committed an error, each scoring one run.

Webster made the score 4-2 in the bottom of the third after Brent Bearman doubled, scoring two runs, and Jack Shoemaker singled, scoring one run.

Sheldon Schmeig earned the win for Webster. The hurler allowed six hits and four runs (three earned) over five innings, striking out one and walking none. Englund took the loss for Groton Legion Post

39. The hurler went two and one-third innings, giving up five runs (zero earned) on four hits, striking out seven and walking one. Jarrett Erdmann led things off on the mound for Groton Legion Post 39. The starting pitcher gave up zero hits and one run (zero earned) over one and two-thirds innings, striking out two and walking one.

Fliehs, Englund, and Korbin Kucker each drove in one run for Groton Legion Post 39. Diegel stole two bases.

Bearman drove the middle of the lineup, leading Webster with two runs batted in. The outfielder went 1-for-2 on the day. Shoemaker, Martin Dorsett, Bearman, and Dylan Carlson each collected one hit for Webster.

Brevin Fliehs A Difficult Out As Groton Legion Defeat Webster

By GameChanger Media

Brevin Fliehs collected three hits in five at bats, as Groton Legion Post 39 defeated Webster 19-2 on Monday at Webster. Fliehs tripled in the fifth inning, singled in the fourth inning, and singled in the fifth inning.

Groton Legion Post 39 got on the board in the top of the first inning after Nick Morris drew a walk, scoring one run, Braxton Imrie singled, scoring two runs, Nick Groeblinghoff singled, scoring two runs, and Lincoln Krause doubled, scoring one run.

Groton Legion Post 39 scored five runs on five hits in the top of the fourth inning. Fliehs singled, scoring one run, Gavin Englund drew a walk, scoring one run, Morris singled, scoring two runs, and Imrie singled, scoring one run.

Groton Legion Post 39 scored eight runs on six hits in the top of the fifth inning. Fliehs tripled, scoring one run, an error scored one run, Alex Abeln singled, scoring one run, Krause singled, scoring one run, Teylor Diegel doubled, scoring two runs, Fliehs singled, scoring one run, and Carter Simon drew a walk, scoring one run.

Kellen Antonsen earned the win for Groton Legion Post 39. The starting pitcher allowed six hits and two runs over five innings, striking out six and walking none. Dylan Carlson took the loss for Webster. The pitcher went four innings, allowing 11 runs on nine hits, striking out two and walking six.

Groton Legion Post 39 tallied 15 hits in the game. Diegel and Fliehs each collected three hits for Groton Legion Post 39. Morris, Imrie, and Fliehs each drove in three runs for Groton Legion Post 39. Krause and Korbin Kucker each collected multiple hits for Groton Legion Post 39. Groton Legion Post 39 had a strong eye at the plate, tallying nine walks for the game. Englund and Simon led the team with three bases on balls each. Groton Legion Post 39 turned one double play in the game.

Ian Lesnar led Webster with one run batted in. The catcher went 2-for-3 on the day.

Groton Legion Post 39 welcome Lisbon on Wednesday for their next game.

Second-Inning Spurt Lead Groton Jr. Legion Past Big Stone City

By GameChanger Media

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion scored 11 runs in the second inning, which helped them defeat Big Stone City 19-1 on Wednesday. Braeden Fliehs drew a walk, scoring one run, Tristin McGannon drew a walk, scoring one run, Alex Abeln drew a walk, scoring one run, Lincoln Krause singled, scoring two runs, T.C Schuster drew a walk, scoring one run, Ethan Kroll doubled, scoring two runs, Jordan Schwan tripled, scoring two runs, and an error scored one run.

Big Stone City were the first to get on the board in the first when an error scored one run.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion flipped the game on its head in the bottom of the first, scoring eight runs on five hits to take the lead, 8-1. The biggest blow in the inning was a double by Schuster that drove in two.

Schuster earned the win for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. The starting pitcher allowed zero hits and zero runs over two and one-third innings, striking out four and walking none. #8 took the loss for Big Stone City. The pitcher went one-third of an inning, surrendering five runs (four earned) on three hits, striking out none and walking four. #3 led things off on the bump for Big Stone City. The pitcher gave up five hits and 10 runs over one and one-third innings, striking out none and walking five.

Schuster and Abeln each drove in three runs for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. Kroll led Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion with two hits in three at bats. McGannon led Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion with three walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, piling up 13 walks for the game.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion will travel to Miller for their next game on Monday.

Brevin Fliehs Drives In 6 To Lead Groton Legion Post 39 Past Badgers

By GameChanger Media

Brevin Fliehs drove in six runs on three hits to lead Groton Legion Post 39 past Badgers 2025 20-0 on Wednesday at Groton. Fliehs tripled in the second scoring three, tripled in the first scoring two, and singled in the first scoring one.

Groton Legion Post 39 won thanks in part to 11 runs in the second inning. Jarrett Erdmann drew a walk, scoring one run, Alex Abeln singled, scoring one run, Avier Hughes induced Teylor Diegel to hit into

a fielder’s choice, but two runs scored, Fliehs tripled, scoring three runs, an error scored one run, Braxton Imrie singled, scoring one run, an error scored one run, and Karsten Fliehs drew a walk, scoring one run.

Groton Legion Post 39 got on the board in the bottom of the first inning after Fliehs tripled, scoring two runs, Gavin Englund doubled, scoring one run, Nick Morris doubled, scoring one run, Nick Groeblichhoff singled, scoring one run, Diegel singled, scoring three runs, and Fliehs singled, scoring one run.

Korbin Kucker earned the win for Groton Legion Post 39. The righty gave up one hit and zero runs over two innings, striking out five and walking one. Kirby Olson took the loss for Badgers 2025. The hurler went one inning, surrendering nine runs on seven hits, striking out none and walking four. Diegel tossed one inning of shutout ball for Groton Legion Post 39 in relief. The right-handed pitcher allowed zero hits, striking out two and walking one.

Groton Legion Post 39 amassed 12 hits in the game. Morris collected two hits for Groton Legion Post 39 in two at bats. Groton Legion Post 39 had patience at the plate, piling up 10 walks for the game. Erdmann and Kucker led the team with two free passes each. Kucker threw an immaculate inning in the first, striking out the side on nine pitches. Groton Legion Post 39 were sure-handed in the field and didn’t commit a single error. Fliehs had the most chances in the field with seven.

Hughes went 1-for-1 at the plate to lead Badgers 2025 in hits. Groton Legion Post 39 will travel to Webster for their next game on Monday.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U Defeated By Smittys 13/14

By GameChanger Media

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U could not keep up with Smittys 13/14 6-4 on Tuesday at Groton SD. Smittys 13/14 got on the board in the top of the first inning after Shoultz was struck by a pitch, driving in a run, and Trayce Schelle induced Dawson Pederson to hit into a fielder’s choice, but two runs scored.

Smittys 13/14 added to their early lead in the top of the second inning after Smittys 13/14 scored on a passed ball, and Brody Kaan walked, each scoring one run.

Pederson earned the win for Smittys 13/14. The starting pitcher gave up four hits and four runs (two earned) over five innings, striking out two and walking six. Schelle took the loss for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. The starting pitcher went five innings, allowing six runs (four earned) on five hits, striking out six and walking six.

Sam Crank went 1-for-2 at the plate and led the team with one run batted in. Schelle went 2-for-3 at the plate to lead Groton Jr. Teeners 14U in hits. Noah Scepaniak led Groton Jr. Teeners 14U with two walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, tallying six walks for the game. Schelle stole two bases. Groton Jr. Teeners 14U turned one double play in the game.

Owen Backous and Jose Rivera each collected two hits for Smittys 13/14. Pederson led the team with two runs batted in. Backous stole two bases. Smittys 13/14 had patience at the plate, amassing six walks for the game. Smittys 13/14 turned one double play in the game.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U Falls To Smittys 13/14

By GameChanger Media

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U lost to Smittys 13/14 7-2 on Tuesday at 620 W Third Ave. Groton Jr. Teeners 14U opened the scoring in the first after Lincoln Shilhanek singled, scoring one run.

Smittys 13/14 jumped into the lead in the top of the second when Mason Arnott singled, scoring two runs, an error scored one run, and Jose Rivera was struck by a pitch, driving in a run.

A ground out by Austin Ryan extended the Smittys 13/14 lead to 6-1 in the top of the third inning.

Sam Bradley earned the win for Smittys 13/14. The hurler gave up one hit and two runs (zero earned) over five innings, striking out nine and walking three. Keegan Kucker took the loss for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. The hurler went three innings, surrendering six runs (two earned) on five hits, striking out three and walking two.

Shilhanek led Groton Jr. Teeners 14U with one run batted in. The right-handed hitter went 1-for-2 on the day.

Arnott and Ryan were a one-two punch in the lineup, as each drove in one run for Smittys 13/14. Dawson Pederson led Smittys 13/14 with two hits in three at bats. Owen Backous and Ryan each stole multiple bases for Smittys 13/14.

Ryder Schelle Throws Shutout As Groton Jr. Legion Defeat Sisseton

By GameChanger Media

Ryder Schelle shut down Sisseton, throwing a complete game shutout and leading Groton Jr. Legion to a 7-0 victory on Tuesday.

Groton Jr. Legion won thanks in part to four runs in the third inning. Ethan Kroll doubled, scoring two runs, Jordan Schwan singled, scoring one run, and Kason Oswald was struck by a pitch, driving in a run.

Groton Jr. Legion got on the board in the second inning after Oswald singled, scoring one run.

Bryson Hanson took the loss for Sisseton. The hurler went two and one-third innings, giving up five runs on two hits, striking out none and walking four.

Kroll provided pop in the middle of the lineup, and led Groton Jr. Legion with three runs batted in. The right-handed hitter went 1-for-2 on the day. Oswald, Schwan, Tristin McGannon, and Kroll each collected one hit for Groton Jr. Legion. Groton Jr. Legion had patience at the plate, tallying nine walks for the game. Braeden Fliehs and McGannon led the team with two bases on balls each. Fliehs, T.C Schuster, Nick Groeblichhoff, and Kroll each stole multiple bases for Groton Jr. Legion. Groton Jr. Legion ran wild on the base paths, piling up 12 stolen bases for the game.

Hanson and Karter Deutch each collected one hit for Sisseton.

Walk-Off Seals The Deal In Groton Legion Victory Over Sisseton

By GameChanger Media

Groton Legion Post 39 took Tuesday’s game in dramatic fashion, with a 6-5 walk-off victory over Sisseton. Groton Legion Post 39 was down 5-4 in the bottom of the sixth inning when Brevin Fliehs singled, scoring two runs.

A ground out by Braxton Imrie put Groton Legion Post 39 on the board in the bottom of the second.

Groton Legion Post 39 committed an error, which helped Sisseton tie the game at one in the top of the third.

Sisseton took the lead in the top of the fourth. Rory Current singled, scoring one run, to give Sisseton the upper hand, 2-1.

Groton Legion Post 39 tied the game in the bottom of the fifth thanks to a triple by Korbin Kucker, and a single by Fliehs.

In the top of the sixth, Sisseton broke up the tie when an error scored one run. Then a single by Luke Nielsen followed to extend the lead to 5-3.

Groton Legion Post 39 took the lead, 6-5, in the bottom of the sixth thanks to singles by Teylor Diegel, and Fliehs.

Alex Abeln earned the win for Groton Legion Post 39. The reliever gave up four hits and two runs (zero earned) over one and two-thirds innings, striking out four and walking none. LJ Crooks took the loss for Sisseton. The hurler went five and two-thirds innings, allowing six runs (four earned) on seven hits, striking out three and walking two. Diegel led things off on the hill for Groton Legion Post 39. The starter surrendered three hits and three runs (two earned) over four and one-third innings, striking out three and walking four.

Fliehs drove the middle of the lineup, leading Groton Legion Post 39 with three runs batted in. The infielder went 2-for-3 on the day. Diegel stole two bases. Groton Legion Post 39 stole five bases in the game.

Max Dahlen and Nielsen were tough to handle back-to-back in the lineup, as each drove in one run for Sisseton. Sisseton turned one double play in the game.

Next up for Groton Legion Post 39 is a game against Lisbon on Wednesday.

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Groton Senior Citizens

June 9th Groton Seniors met for a meeting and cards. Ten members were present. President Ruby Donovan opened the meeting with al-legiance to the flag. Secretary gave her report. It was expected. Get Well cards were sent to Shirley Larson and Art Gengerke. All members signed the cards. Treasurer will read her report at the next meeting. Meeting was adjourned. Cards were played, the winners of each game. Pinochle- Ruby Donovan, Whist- Tony Goldade, Canosta- Bev Sombke. Door prizes Dick Donovan, Tony Goldade, Elda Stange. Lunch was served by Tony Goldade.

June 16: Groton Seniors met to play cards. Eleven members were present. President had the flag pledge. Treasurer gave her report. Cards were played. The winners of each game. Pinochle-John Aldrich, Whist- Darlene Fischer, Canosta- Pat Larson. Door prizes Dick Donovan, Ruby Donovan, Pat Larson. Lunch was served by Ruby Donovan.

June 23-25: Groton Seniors met for their pot luck dinner. Eleven members were present. President had the flag pledge and table prayer. After dinner bingo was played. Bev Sombke won black out. Cards were played after bingo. Door prizes. Pat Larson, Dick Donovan, Euncie McColister. Leftover dessert and ice cream before going home.

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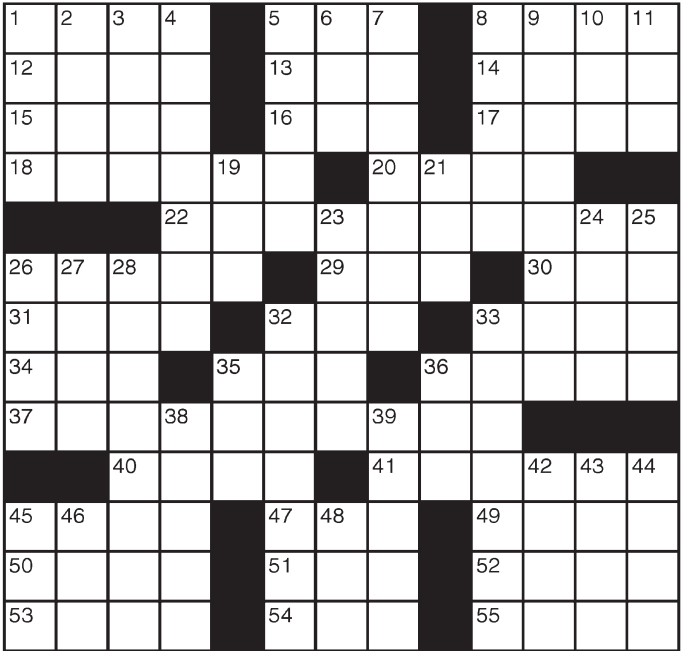


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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Bump into
5 Small batter-ies
8 Gush
12 Jai —
13 Wall St. deal
14 Abhor
15 Fish story
16 X, at times
17 "— the pic-ture!"
18 Chevy model
20 Rhine feeder
22 Kindergarten follower
26 Defy authority
29 Make lace
30 PBS funder
31 Grand Ole —
32 Doubtfire or Miniver
33 Dele undoer
34 Corp. boss
35 "Give — break!"
36 Main ideas
37 Renewed energy
40 "Trust Exercise" author Susan
41 Verdi works
45 Tactic
47 Coffee vessel
49 Crimson Tide, briefly
50 Anger
51 French pro-noun
52 Mellowed



DOWN

- 1 Polite query
2 Biblical king-dom
3 Lawman Wyatt
4 "30 Rock" creator
5 Wedding set-ting
6 Prez on a penny
7 Piano compo-sitions
8 Bake eggs
9 Christmas shows
10 Arles summer
11 Drenched
19 Like Abner
21 Literary rep
23 Milkshake insert
24 Bug spray ingredient
25 Diner grub
26 Mythical birds
27 Duel tool
28 Veggie with florets
32 T-shirt sizes
33 Courtroom huddle
35 6 on a phone
36 Econ. mea-sure
38 "But of course!"
39 Ancient Greek region
42 Sitarist's music
43 From the U.S.
44 "Maureen" singer
45 Expert
46 Ad- — (impro-ise)
48 Shad product

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"Motion is Lotion; the Importance of Movement"

Orthopedic medicine is truly a team sport; we have the opportunity to collaborate with non-surgical professionals, including physical therapists, occupational therapists, athletic trainers, among others, to deliver comprehensive musculoskeletal care. While there are proven surgical options to help our patients where indicated, in many cases, patients are able to achieve pain relief and improved function with nonsurgical treatment options. Much of orthopedic surgical training is appropriately dedicated to the planning and execution of surgery, but it is also important to understand and recognize patients who present with conditions readily addressed without surgery and the accompanying risks of invasive procedures. It is also important to advocate the idea of prevention.

A phrase that is often loosely spoken within our clinic is, "Motion is Lotion." What does this mean? This is a simple phrase to express the importance of movement and activity, whether that be independent exercise, supervised or specialized therapy, or simply taking a walk outside. With inactivity, we naturally are at risk for muscle loss, obesity, and the many adverse health conditions associated with obesity. It is important to consider exercise and its many health benefits. More specifically, resistance training and cardiovascular exercise have been shown to have robust benefits to our overall physical and mental health and function.

The National Institute of Health has been studying the effect of strength training for more than 40 years, demonstrating beneficial results in adults including maintained muscle mass, maintenance and improvement of mobility, and increasing healthy years lived. Not all resistance training is the same, however, the effects on improved function largely are the same. Resistance training promotes muscle strength and growth, simultaneously improving our overall cardiovascular health. Studies have demonstrated that our muscle mass peaks around the age of 35. Naturally, muscle volume and performance decline slowly until we reach the age of approximately 65 where muscle volume loss proceeds faster. However, this decline in muscle volume and strength is substantially slowed by resistance training. Dr. Fielding with Tufts University, an NIH-supported scientist, has studied resistance training at a molecular level. His research has suggested that the best recipe for improving physical function and avoiding disability is a combination of walking and resistance training, whether resistance be against gravity or moving weight. The list of research-proven benefits of resistance training is quite impressive. In addition to improved muscle mass and cardiovascular health, resistance training offers improved metabolism and promotes weight loss of adipose tissue, increased bone density potentially preventing fractures associated with aging and fragility, improved balance and coordination, and natural release of anti-inflammatory mediators. Outside of bone and muscle anatomy, being active and exercising has been proven to reduce stress, improve our mood and cognitive performance, boost our energy and libido, as well as provide a mean of self-confidence.

Now understanding the many benefits of physical activity, where do we start? If you are looking for some help, reach out to your physician, a personal trainer, or other trained professionals such as a physical therapist or athletic trainer for guidance. The health benefits will not be immediately realized, but you will eventually notice an improvement in your mood, and perhaps many years from now, also an improvement in your overall physical health. "Motion is lotion." Let's get out and move!

Anthony P. Fiegen, MD is a fellowship-trained orthopedic sports medicine physician specialized in treating conditions of the shoulder, hip, and knee at the Orthopedic Institute. In addition to a comprehensive sports medicine practice and joint preservation, he also performs joint replacement of the shoulder, hip, and knee. Dr. Fiegen grew up in Madison, SD. He attended South Dakota State University competing for the Jackrabbits' men's basketball team from 2009-2013. Prior to joining Orthopedic Institute in 2024, Dr. Fiegen completed orthopedic surgery residency at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. He then went on to complete a sports medicine fellowship at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC, where he served as a team physician for the ACC Wake Forest football, men's basketball, and baseball teams. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Threads. Prairie Doc

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By Anthony P. Fiegen, MD

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10 ♦ Groton Independent ♦ Wed., July 9, 2025

STIP PUBLIC MEETINGS

S.D. Dept. of Transportation has developed a Tentative 2026-2029 Four-Year Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The Tentative STIP includes all the state sponsored transportation projects for this time period.

Prior to final approval of the STIP by the Transportation Commission, public meetings will be conducted on the following dates to receive public comment on the tentative program.

July 15, 2025 • 2:00 PM (CDT) | July 17, 2025 • 7:00 PM (CDT)
Meetings will be virtual this year covering the entire state.

For more information and how to participate virtually, please visit <https://dot.sd.gov/projects-studies/planning/tentative-statewide-transportation-improvement-program-stip>

Individuals needing assistance, pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), should contact the SDDOT ADA Coordinator (605-773-3540) two business days prior to the meeting in order to ensure accommodations are available. For any in-person meeting, notice is further given to individuals with disabilities that the meeting is being held in a physically accessible location.

King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

M	E	E	T	A	A	S	S	P	E	W
A	L	A	I	L	B	O	H	A	T	E
Y	A	R	N	T	E	N	I	G	E	T
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O	P	R	Y	M	R	S	S	T	E	T
C	E	O	M	E	A	G	I	S	T	S
S	E	C	O	N	D	W	I	N	D	
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P	L	O	Y	U	R	N	B	A	M	A
R	I	L	E	M	O	I	A	G	E	D
O	B	I	S	S	E	A	R	A	R	E