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The Groton Independent

Vol. 142 No. 47 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2025 ♦ Established in 1889

Conde Municipal Building Restoration Fundraiser



Above: Steve Nigg was busy polishing the concrete floor in the basement of the Conde Municipal Building. Bottom: Organizers were serving cake in front of the municipal building on Saturday. More photos were featured in this past Sunday's edition of the Groton Daily Independent.. (Photos by Paul Kosel)



Inside the Conde Municipal Building is the old theater that is located upstairs. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Population Trends!

A special edition of the Groton Daily Independent was published Sunday featuring population trends of select communities. We have included the graphs of the past 60 years from the local communities featured on pages 6-7 in this week's edition of The Groton Independent. There will be a special section on Sunday of the Groton Daily Independent featuring school enrollment trends.

School board sets priorities on facilities, outreach and staff development

By Elizabeth Varin

The Groton Area School District board formalized its goals for the upcoming school year during Monday's board meeting.

The goals call for improving outreach to rural areas, completing a formal evaluation of the middle/high school building to document major structural and functional issues, setting priorities for capital projects and enhancing staff training by creating a professional development advisory group.

According to the written guide, the board will implement a targeted community outreach initiative to strengthen engagement with families in the district's rural areas. The initiative includes at least four in-person outreach events, including regular board meetings held in district communities outside of Groton and offering community education events. The outreach plan will launch by October 1, with all events listed being completed by May 31, 2026.

The second goal listed has the board establishing a facilities review committee to evaluate the condition, safety and educational inadequacy of the aging middle/high school building. The committee will conduct an assessment, gather stakeholder input, establish cost estimates and produce a written report with findings and recommendations.

The assessment process will begin by September 15, with board discussion planned for November, February and May.

The school board also wants to increase staff buy-in for professional development through a redesigned professional development plan with input from district-wide staff. The goal is to boost participation, morale and the effectiveness of professional learning. The process must be completed by May 31, 2026.

While those three goals have a school-year end date, one goal has a quicker turnaround.

The board will develop and adopt a ranked capital improvement plan, with the district evaluating each potential project based on safety, educational impact, cost and urgency to ensure a clear prioritization. The deadline for this plan is January 16, 2026.

Work has already begun on this goal as district staff has met with representatives of Co-Op Architecture, looking at the current middle/high school facility. The company will send the district some barebones request for proposal documents to help the district narrow in on what services it is looking for the help with the evaluation process.

Other board action

- School lunch prices are on the rise slightly. The board approved increasing breakfast and lunch rates by 25 cents each. That brings rates to

- o \$2.85 for K-5 breakfast
- o \$3.35 for 6-12 breakfast
- o \$3.75 for adult breakfast
- o \$3.60 for K-5 lunch
- o \$4.10 for 6-12 lunch
- o \$5.25 for adult lunch

Rates for K-12 second lunch (\$2.00) and K-12 second milk (\$0.50) remain the same.

- Enrollment rates remained steady at the middle/high school, with 303 students as of Monday, said Middle/High School Principal Shelby Edwards. However, the number of elementary students has dropped, reported Elementary School Principal Brett Schwan. There are about 270 elementary students, with first grade and junior kindergarten class numbers down substantially. As of Monday, tentative enrollment numbers are nine junior kindergarten students, 45 kindergarten students, 32 first grade students, 54 second grade students, 42 third grade students, 48 fourth grade students and 41 fifth grade students, he said. However, those numbers may shift slightly as the school year approaches.

- School begins Tuesday, August 19. Open house at the middle school and elementary school takes place Monday, August 18.

- The board approved five volunteer coaches for fall 2025. Kelsie Roberts will serve as volunteer assistant boys soccer coach. Jenna Strom and Carla Tracy will assist with volleyball coaching. Dalton Locke and Quintin Biermann will assist with football coaching.

- The board accepted the resignation of Lois Krueger, part-time maintenance team member, effective August 18. Right after that, the board approved a work agreement for Anje Hinkelman, who will be the newest part-time food service team member/part-time maintenance team member.

- The district has purchased a 2014 Chevy 8-passenger van from the SD Federal Property Agency, said Business Manager Becky Hubsch. The district's new bus is still in Tulsa, but should be released soon and will be available within the next month.

- Incumbent board members Tigh Fliehs and TJ Harder were installed as board members, officially assuming their continued roles after an uncontested election in the spring.



NOTICE TO:
THE UNKNOWN EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, PERSON OR REPRESENTATIVE, HEIRS, DEVISEES AND LEGATEES OF HANNAH CHRISTINA GREEN whose last known address was Round Rock, Texas

TAKE NOTICE that on the 21st day of December, 2020, Lot Eighteen (18), Block Five (5), original plat of the Town of Frederick, Brown County, South Dakota. EXCEPT the North 42 feet of said lot heretofore conveyed by deed to the Town of Frederick, Brown County, South Dakota, was sold at County Treasurer's tax sale for delinquent taxes on said premises, to the County of Brown in the State of South Dakota, and said County of Brown is still the holder thereof and the right of redemption will expire and a Deed to said property will be made at the expiration of sixty days from the completed service of this notice.

Dated this 8th day of August, 2025.
/s/Patty VanMeter
Treasurer of Brown County, South Dakota
Published Aug. 13 and 20, 2025, at the total approximate cost of \$0.00 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25838



NOTICE OF APPEAL HEARING
The Groton City Council will be holding a public hearing on September 2, 2025, at 7:00pm CDT at City Hall, 120 N Main Street, Groton, SD for an appeal filed by Jacalyn Krueger of the Groton Planning and Zoning Commission's decision on July 28, 2025, to approve a variance of Chapter 11, Section 11.0106 of the Groton Zoning Ordinance. The variance was for 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 appeal may appear in person or by representative at the above time and place.

Douglas Heinrich
Zoning Administrator
Published Aug. 13, 2025, at the total approximate cost of \$9.74 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25902



ADOPTION OF PROVISIONAL BUDGET FOR BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, will meet in the Courthouse at 25 Market St., Aberdeen South Dakota on Tuesday, September 2, 2025, at 8:45 a.m. for the purpose of considering the Provisional Budget for the year 2026 and the various items, schedules, amounts and appropriations set forth therein and as many days thereafter as is deemed necessary until the final adoption of the budget on the 23rd day of September 2025. At such time any interested person may appear either in person or by a representative and will be given an opportunity for a full and complete discussion of all purposes, objectives, items, schedules, appropriations, estimates, amounts, and matters set forth and contained in the Provisional Budget.

Lynn Heupel, Auditor
Brown County South Dakota
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AUGUST 5, 2025 – GENERAL MEETING

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Chairman Sutton shared they needed to amend the agenda and add Fair Contracts. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve the agenda as amended. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

PROCLAMATION FOR NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AWARENESS MONTH: Scott Meints, Emergency Management Director introduced Patti Woods, Emergency Management Assistant Director, Randy Maddox, State Emergency Management Coordinator and mentioned Trevor Meints, who was unable to attend but is the Emergency Management Director for Avera St. Luke's and asked the Commission to proclaim August as Emergency Management Month and recognize those mentioned above.

Commissioner Wiese offered the following Resolution:
Resolution #2025-35
PROCLAMATION FOR NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MONTH
BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA

WHEREAS, emergencies and disasters can occur unexpectedly, posing significant threats to life, property, and the environment; and

WHEREAS, local emergency managers, emergency managers across all sectors, community leaders, State governments, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) dedicate countless hours to developing preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation programs to protect the lives and property of all persons living in Brown County, the State of South Dakota, the United States and U.S. territories; and

WHEREAS, emergency managers across the area are charged with establishing and maintaining the capabilities necessary to effectively direct, coordinate, and support emergency and disaster response and recovery efforts; and

WHEREAS, the mission areas of prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery align with the core capabilities identified in the National Preparedness Goal; and

WHEREAS, the emergency managers serve the nation by responding to countless emergencies and disasters each year, demonstrating commitment, compassion, and professionalism in protecting the public; and

WHEREAS the efforts of our nation's emergency managers have helped millions of community members across the United States recover, rebuild, and become more resilient in the face of adversity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Brown County Commission declares the Month of August 2025 to be proclaimed as:

"NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AWARENESS MONTH"

in Brown County, South Dakota. We urge all community members to express their sincere appreciation for emergency managers in every sector who work diligently to prepare, protect, and serve our cities, counties, states, tribes, territories, regions, and organizations against all hazards and risks.

Dated this 5th day of August, 2025.

Seconded by Commissioner Dennert.

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: None

JAIL UPDATE: Sheriff Lunzman met with the Commission to give them an update on the Jail. He shared a couple samples of the material for the new padded cell that will be built in the jail. Sheriff Lunzman informed

the Commission that the Jail is full to capacity and moving people out again. They are going to start having the arresting officer transport the inmate to wherever they can find room, whether that is Faulk County, Day County, etc. The transportation will be at the cost of the arresting officer's employer, such as the City of Aberdeen Police Department. Once the inmate is in custody then the costs fall on the Brown County Sheriff's Office. The number of people in the jail fluctuates because if you have someone that is intoxicated, they have to stay until they blow zeros, if on drugs then it is a 72-hour hold; or if Mental Health issue, they are held for 24 hours because Avera St. Luke's and Yankton are full, also. Sheriff Lunzman asked the Commission to work with the City of Aberdeen on funding and possibly building a new facility. He shared that Codington County and the City of Watertown are in the process of working together for a new facility.

BROWN COUNTY FAIR PROMO LIST UPDATED: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve the updated Brown County Fair Promo List. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. (The full list is on file at the Brown County Fair Office).

FAIR CONTRACTS: Rachel Kippley, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager asked that the Commission approve vouchers for contracts that were already approved but they haven't received the documents back yet due to the changes from Neste Live to Fran Romeo Agency. Moved by Commissioner Wiese based on Rachel's recommendation to approve the vouchers for RedFerrin and Tracy Lawrence, seconded by Gage. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to approve the General Meeting Minutes of July 29, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Gage to approve the following claims: Professional Fees: Blackburn & Stevens, Prof. LLC \$216.00; CenturyLink-Lumen \$226.00; CGI, LLC \$1,050.00; Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$2,160.00; Dohrer Law Office, PC \$341.50; Fox Law Firm, PLLC \$216.00; Helms & Associates \$3,720.00; Horn Law Office Prof LLC \$974.40; IMEG Corp \$984.82; John Noyes – Bantz, Gosch & Cremer \$432.00; Koletzky Law Office, Prof. LLC \$192.00; Kuck Law Office \$3,321.51; Lewis & Clark BHS \$225.00; Mark Katterhagen \$28.00; Network Center, Inc \$3,057.77; Sanford Health Occupational Medicine \$569.00; SD Dept of Transportation \$257.39; Sewer Duck, Inc \$170.00; Siegel, Barnett & Schutz \$450.00; Valerie Larson \$28.00; Yankton County Treasurer \$151.25; 4-H Performing Arts \$200.00; Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce \$10,000.00; Aberdeen Christian School, Inc \$500.00; Aberdeen Karting Club \$500.00; ACBMSJPK LLC \$5,600.00; Addison K Design \$1,575.00; Aleda Tollefson \$50.00; Ann Gibbs \$50.00; AnnaMarie Sachs \$225.000; Ashley E Productions, LLC \$3,100.00; Austin Rohrs \$275.00; Bailey Pro Rodeo \$30,000.00; Becky Erickson \$50.00; BJ Clocksene \$50.00; Black Eleven Touring, Inc \$40,000.00; Brian Sharp \$50.00; Brian Zimprich \$150.00; Brown County Treasurer \$3,980.00; Cara Dennert \$50.00; CASA of the Fifth Judicial Circuit \$750.00; Courtney Wolff \$100.00; Craig Zimprich \$150.00; Danielle Nowell \$900.00; Eminent Tours Corporation \$67,000.00; Foxfire, Inc \$124,000.00; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church \$3,500.00; Gretchen Sharp \$50.00; Groton Lions Club \$2,250.00; Home Clean Home by Maria LLC \$20,730.00; Hub Area Habitat for Humanity \$1,500.00; Hunter Miller \$100.00; Jan Zuidema \$125.00; Janet Wright \$50.00; Jean Hommel Kessler \$150.00; Jeffrey Blake Redferrin \$20,000.00; Jennifer Lofswold \$50.00; Joseph Barnett \$2,800.00; Jyl Graves \$50.00; Kody Gregory Miller \$150.00; Kristen Gonsoir \$300.00; Lakefront Entertainment, LLC \$24,999.99; Lisa Stamm \$100.00; Long Haul Touring LLC \$85,000.00; Michelle Olson \$50.00; Mike Grann \$100.00; Miranda Dauksavage \$2,000.00; Miss Aberdeen Committee \$200.00; Ned LeDoux \$20,000.00; NSU Women's Swim Club \$7,700.00; Pauer Sound, LLC \$18,800.00; Paul Bunyan Lumberjack Show \$8,000.00; Phil Baker \$750.00; Profes-

sional Rodeo Cowboys Association 7,500.00; Renegade Photography \$1,000.00; Ric Dias \$50.00; Samantha Bowman \$50.00; SD Nurses Association \$1,000.00; Sideline Productions \$18,500.00; Sparky Sky Touring LLC \$25,000.00; Sprocket Ventures, LLC \$675.00; Sterling Kappes \$100.00; Steve Russell \$4,600.00; Susan Gerlach \$50.00; Tayler Wolff \$50.00; Tessa Erdmann \$100.00; TLE Inc. \$43,000.00; TLM Holdings LLC \$21,363.00; VanMeter Entertainment \$2,850.00; Wayne Fischer \$150.00; Winterset Concert Events \$6,000.00; Wow Talent & Entertainment LLC \$600.00. Publishing: McQuillen Creative Group, Inc \$738.17; Midstates Group \$126.00; The Watertown Current \$530.00. Rentals: Dakota Electronics LLC \$109.50; Linde Gas & Equipment Inc \$62.55; Dakota Portable Toilets, Inc \$20,000.00; T & K Rentals, LLC \$18,800.00. Repairs & Maintenance: Crawford M S & F Inc \$430.00; Crawford Trucks & Equipment \$4,250.42; Graham Tire Inc \$952.25; Jake's Heating & Cooling \$287.50; Leidholt Electric, LLC \$73.27; Olson's Pest Technicians \$455.00; Precision Kiosk Technologies \$3,000.00; Western States Fire Protection Co \$48,880.00. Supplies: Ag Plus Farm & Ranch \$325.00; Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$2,053.34; Auto Value Aberdeen \$470.76; Brown County Sheriff's Office \$6.37; Cole Paper Inc \$254.80; Crawford M S & F Inc \$25.80; Crawford Trucks & Equipment \$1,592.72; Dakota Fluid Power, Inc \$191.41; Farm Power Mfg. \$21.38; Fastenal Company \$275.29; Fox Law Firm, PLLC \$3.47; Graham Tire Inc \$1,247.02; Hillyard Sioux Falls \$16.51; Jensen Rock & Sand Inc \$74,268.90; John Noyes – Bantz, Gosch & Cremer \$3.09; Kuck Law Office \$81.05; Lien Transportation Company \$139,302.90; Menards \$133.91; Montgomery's Furniture Inc \$1,859.00; Newman Signs, Inc \$350.00; Pantorium Cleaners Inc \$32.00; Pressure Washer Central \$16.84; Pro Ag Supply, Inc \$587.54; Republic National Distributing Co. LLC \$784.50; Runnings \$334.19; Shop 4-H/National 4-H Council \$107.84; St. Mark's Episcopal Church \$1,000.00; Stan Houston Equipment Company, Inc \$429.00; Alan Sands \$4,800.00; Ashley E Productions, LLC \$5,200.00; Bailey Pro Rodeo \$15,000.00; Dakota Kids Pedal Pulls \$798.75; Elizabeth Hofer \$8,000.00; Eminent Tours Corporation \$8,000.00; Foxfire, Inc \$26,000.00; Gordy Wensel \$4,500.00; Joseph Barnett \$2,000.00; Long Haul Touring LLC \$15,000.00; Paul Bunyan Lumberjack Show \$4,000.00; Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association \$19,500.00; RKM Fireworks, Inc \$4,000.00; The Everly Set LLC \$9,000.00; TLE Inc. \$12,000.00; Wow Talent & Entertainment LLC \$8,400.00. Travel & Conference: Alaina Perry \$40.00; Austin Ball \$392.60; Brandon Duxbury \$40.00; Brandon Mills \$14.00; CGI, LLC \$16.88; Jay Hopkins \$40.00; Jessica Puente Castro \$40.00; Joe Kretchman \$14.00; Koletzky Law Office, Prof. LLC \$4.00; Kyle Couchey \$14.00; Makendra Ochsner \$28.00; Neil Bittner \$14.00; SDSU Extension \$88.40; The American Legion Sidney L Smith Post 24 \$1,512.00; AnnaMarie Sachs \$60.06; Austin Rohrs \$392.22; Brian Zimprich \$158.20; Courtney Wolff \$81.41; Craig Zimprich \$205.80; Hunter Miller \$178.64; Jan Zuidema \$187.86; Jean Hommel Kessler \$21.42; Jennifer Lofswold \$37.94; Kody Gregory Miller \$193.20; Lisa Stamm \$268.80; Mike Grann \$108.64; Sterling Kappes \$218.40; Tayler Wolff \$40.81; Tessa Erdmann \$299.60; Wayne Fischer \$182.84. Utilities: Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$59.99; AT&T Mobility \$186.86; Northwestern Energy \$16,808.75; WEB Water Development Association, Inc \$118.04. Other: Ed M Feld Equipment Co Inc \$540.00. Other: Lisa and James Kiesz \$75.00; Tony Arampatzis \$75.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

o Hiring part-time (as needed) Bartenders at \$10/hr. + tips. Bartenders filling in as Leads will be at \$12/hr. + tips – effective August 10, 2025.

o Skyelar Timm
o Amendment to May 20, 2025 HR Report; removed Joselyn Kiefer, Abigail Johnson and Brooke Solas from list of hired part-time (as needed) Bartend-

ers, which was effective for June 1, 2025.

o Amendment to June 10, 2025 HR Report; removed Hannah Lahren from the list of hired part-time (as needed) Bartenders, which was effective for August 10, 2025.

o Temporary 2025 Brown County Fair Workers August 11 – 17, 2025

o Ticket Supervisor:
• Jacqueline Ohleen-Kallhoff at \$15.25/hr.

o Ticket Sellers:
• April Fryer at \$15.00/hr.
• Anje Hinkleman at \$14.50/hr.

• Amy Rawerts at \$14.50/hr.
o Odde Office:
• Marlys Brick at \$14.00/hr.
• Roberta Dempsey at \$14.50/hr.

• Jan Erickson at \$14.50/hr.
• Jeannette Hassebroek at \$14.50/hr.

• Julie VanDover at \$14.50/hr.
o Gatekeepers:
• Bill Cantalope at \$12.50/hr.
• Tammy Cantalope at \$12.50/hr.

• Hunter Kramer at \$12.50/hr.
• Jonathan Shephard at \$12.50/hr

o Adding Volunteer Bartenders to the approved list for Work Comp purposes:

o June Thompson
o Robin Maxwell
o Melissa Smith
o Sarah Sumption
o Stacey Sumption
o Chad Johnson

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

OTHER BUSINESS: None
EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to go into Executive Session for Personnel per SDCL 1-25-2. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

The Chair declared the Executive Session closed with No Action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:03 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

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The Board of Trustees for the Town of Claremont met on 7-8-2025 at 8 p.m. in City Hall, 606 6th Ave., Claremont.

President Spencer called the meeting to order with trustees Thompson and Rasmussen present.

On a motion by Thompson and seconded by Rasmussen the minutes of the June meeting were approved. Motion carried.

On a motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Thompson the following warrants were allowed:

General:
NWE, street lights, 576.41; NWE, city hall 75.32; JVT, phone, internet, phone, 150.87; GDI, publishing, 17.94; JGE/Bobcat, hydro service kit, 222.98; S & S Lumber, keyed lock, 30.09; Don Vander Vorst, 17 hours, 272.00; Amy Keough, 33.25 mowing, 491.31; Charla Rye, wage, 500.00.

WSSW:
NWE, power/water, 60.72; NWE, power/sewer, 56.77; NWE, power/storm sewer, 21.36; SD Dept. of Health, purification testing, 44.00; BDM, water purchased, 1267.15; Helms & Assoc., storm sewer, 21,328.60; Jacobs, storm sewer, 120,580.00.

Jordan Albee/Helms & Assoc., was present to go through the paper work for the storm sewer.

With no further business before the board a motion to adjourn was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Thompson. Motion carried.

CRye, F.O.

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Town of Westport General Meeting

The Town of Westport met on August 4, 2025 at 7:00 p.m., with Mitch Wilson, Shane Storm, Troy Tschappat, and Deb Schlosser present.

The following bills were presented:

City General: NW Energy-utilities (\$395.75), Groton Independent-July minutes (\$19.31)
Sewer: NW Energy-Lift Station utilities (\$42.22), Dakota Pump & Control-service call (\$461.23)

Water: Public Health Laboratory-water testing (\$20.00), WEB-water (\$2169.43), Core & Main-water billing supplies (\$337.39)

Troy Tschappat motioned, second by Mitch Wilson to pay all bills.

The following deposits were presented:

City General: State of SD (\$5241.74), Brown County Collections (\$293.14), Interest (\$99.13)

Sewer: Resident Payments (\$3077.77)

Water: Resident Payments (\$4616.66)

Old Business: Motion by Mitch Wilson, second by Troy Tschappat to add WEB water rate increase back to agenda. WEB water has notified the town that they are increasing water rates effective October 1, 2025. Motion by Troy Tschappat, second by Shane Storm to approve following monthly rate increases to Westport water bills: \$2.00 increase to base for a total of \$49.00; \$2.00 increase to inactive base for a total of \$44.00; \$.50 increase per 1,000 gallons for a total of \$9.40 per 1,000 gallons; \$1.00 increase for average rate for a total of \$15.00 per 1,000 gallons over 12,000 gallons. Contractor used a camera to look at storm drain at Labay corner. There is a low spot in the pipeline so the contractor will need to dig and replace/fix. The contractor will contact the city with a date for the project.

New Business: Motion by Shane Storm, second by Troy Tschappat to hire Mardian Construction to install panels on the underside of porch roof at town hall.

Meeting dismissed at 7:35 p.m.

Deb Schlosser, Finance Officer
Published August 13, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$21.21 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25908



RESOLUTION #2025-19
RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH NEW WATER/ SEWER RATES FOR THE

CITY OF WESTPORT, SD.

WHEREAS, the current water rates are not sufficient enough to cover the cost of distributing water and provide for upgrade of the water delivery infrastructure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Westport City Council for Westport, South Dakota, that water/sewer rates for all residential and commercial users shall be as follows:

Each consumer shall pay a minimum charge of \$49.00 dollars per month base fee. Water used during such month shall be at the rate of \$9.40 per one thousand (1,000) gallons and the average rate is \$15.00 per 1,000 gallons for over 12,000 gallons used.

Those consumers that have a hook up to the city water, but it is not currently using, will continue to pay and inactive fee of \$44.00 a month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these water rates shall go into effect payable

October 15, 2025.

Dated this 4th day of August, 2025.

/s/ Mitchell Wilson
Mitchell Wilson, Board President

/s/ Deb Schlosser
Deb Schlosser, Finance Officer
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City of Columbia Council Meeting – August 6, 2025
CALL MEETING TO ORDER – 7:00 p.m.
ROLL CALL –Dana Mohr, Cara Dennert, Jeremy Dosch, Scott Meints, Sam Hoppock, Trevor Meints

Community: Lacey & Ben Jeffrey, Julie Voeller, Lisa Mohr, Pam Blair, Angela & Judy Grieb, Cheryl Kampa, Lorie Gilchrist
Mayor Dana Mohr called the meeting to order. Dana called for a motion to approve the agenda. Cara added three vouchers to the list. Scott Meints made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Trevor Meints 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 July 2nd meeting. Trevor Meints made a motion to approve the minutes. Sam Hoppock seconded the motion. All were in favor – motion carried.

Warrant Vouchers: Web – fire prevention – 53.42; US Treasury – 1st quarter taxes – 2057.31; JVT – fire prevention – 213.01; Northwestern Energy – electricity – 1227.69; Jeremy Dosch– July wages –690.01; Cara Dennert – July wages– 1317.60; Runnings – shop supplies – 265.92; Double D Lot Service – June/July lawn care – 13463; Mark’s Electric – ballpark concessions water filter – 149.58; Matheson Inc. – lease to own tanks – 551.96; GDI News – publication – 37.79; Newman Signs – handicap sign – 17.19 Scott Meints made a motion to approve the vouchers. Sam Hoppock seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE: emails from Brown County – Emergency Management Office – notification system, Chris Anderson – building permits for Larson, Hoppock, & Youngerman

UNFINISHED BUSINESS- wastewater and drainage plans/ Stockwell Engineering – landowner lagoon discussion for end of meeting in executive session; Columbia Fest – Social Opportunities Group Report – Cheryl asked the council if there were any complications or issues. Next year the car show will be moved slightly. She wanted to thank everyone who helped in any way with Columbia Fest. The celebration went very smoothly.

Nuisances – Dana will talk to a resident about their intentions with some scrap metal.

Streets – John Hansen bladed the streets before Columbia Fest.

Parks – The contractors put in an additional filter in the park’s well to control iron numbers. Park View will be coming to evaluate trees before fall.

Lagoon/Sewer-executive session

Rubble Site – no report

NEW BUSINESS Dana has tried to contact Rod about the Voller’s trees. Dana did get an estimate on tree removal. The city received a QQP bill for a sign for the ballpark. Lorie told us that the foundation applied for a grant (on the city’s behalf) from the South Dakota Community Foundation to pay for a donor sign for the ballpark concession stand. She said that QQP will wait on the bill until the city receives the grant money. Scott (and the board agreed) that in the future there needs to be more communication before the city is presented with a bill they know nothing about.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Cara received audit recommendations from State Auditor. The city received a check from US Treasury - \$3.20 (overpayment from 3rd Q 2024). We also received a check from Meyers Tractor Salvage – 221.20 (for scrap material taken out of the old ballpark.)

Cara presented bank balances. Jeremy Dosch made a motion to accept the financial reports as given. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All were in favor – motion carried.

July 31, 2025, balances: SF - \$ 99,407.03; SF Money Market –\$ 152,756.27;

GF - \$ 206,976.88; GF Money Market - \$ 51,255.81; CD Money Market - \$ 41,624.86

FIT - \$15,927.70; Cash on hand - \$0

Trevor Meints made a motion to go into executive session to discuss lagoon land details.

Jeremy Dosch seconded the motion. Start time 7:43 p.m. End time 7:57 p.m. Mayor Mohr adjourned the meeting.

Next City Council Meeting – Monday, September 8, 2025 – 7:00 p.m. (changed date because of attendance conflicts)

Submitted by Cara Dennert, Finance Officer

Published August 13, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$41.00 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25907



August 5, 2025

The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00pm at 120 N Main Street for their first monthly meeting with the following members present: Babcock, Bahr, Cutler, Nehls, Shilhanek, Wambach, and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Also present were Attorney Chad Locken, Douglas Heinrich, Terry Herron, Todd Gay, Jarod Fliehs, Kami Lipp, Tricia Keith, Dwight Zerr, and Darrell Hillestad.

Moved by Wambach and seconded by Babcock 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.

Department reports were reviewed and discussed.

Zerr, Lipp, Keith, and Gay exited the meeting.

Moved by Nehls and seconded by Cutler to approve the proposal from Wright & Sudlow for replacement of concrete to correct drainage issues. All members present voted aye. Herron exited the meeting.

Two sealed bids were received for the 2017 Ford Interceptor SUV. The first bid was from Greg Belden in the amount of \$500 and the second bid was from Ringwood Motors in the amount of \$780. Moved by Shilhanek and seconded by Wambach to accept the bid from Ringwood Motors in the amount of \$780. All members present voted aye.

One sealed bid was received for the 1982 International S1900 truck from Greg Bonn in the amount of \$4,501. Moved by Bahr and seconded by Nehls to accept the bid from Greg Bonn in the amount of \$4,501. All members present voted aye.

Discussion took place regarding the airport and upcoming concession stand relocation.

Hillestad exited the meeting.

Discussion took place regarding a potential stop sign at the intersection of 1st Street and 2nd Avenue. Moved by Cutler and seconded by Nehls to table to discussion until later in the meeting. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Shilhanek and seconded by Wambach to award the following bids for the baseball concessions and bathroom building project: Blocker Construction for Schedule 1 in the amount of \$75,004.21, Allied Climate Professionals for Schedule 2 in the amount of \$40,312.32 with in-floor heat included, Locke Electric for Schedule 3 in the amount of \$12,000.00, and Allied Climate Professionals for Schedule 4 in the amount of \$21,428.61. In addition, Bahr Spray Foam was awarded for spray foam insulation for the cooler and entire building in the amount of \$9,952.00 and S&S Lumber Company for all materials necessary in the amount of \$54,822.78. Only one other bid was received within Schedule 1 in the amount of \$90,601.80 from Ringneck Construction. All other schedules had one bid received. Babcock, Cutler, Shilhanek, and Wambach voted aye. Bahr and Nehls abstained from voting.

Fliehs exited the meeting.

Discussion resumed regarding the potential stop sign at the intersection of 1st Street and 2nd Avenue. Moved by Shilhanek and seconded by Bahr to table to discussion until the next meeting. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Shilhanek and seconded by Babcock to place a request to South Dakota Department of Transportation for permanent radar signs on Highway 12 and Highway 37. All members present voted aye.

Discussion took place regarding corn stalks and residue blowing into the city.

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Wambach to table the transfer of property at 105 N 3rd Street to the next meeting. All members present voted aye.

The second reading of Ordinance No. 790 – Supplemental Appropriations was approved on a motion by Wambach and seconded by Nehls. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Cutler to block off Main Street from Railroad Avenue to 2nd Avenue for Family Fun Fest on August 7, 2025, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. All members present voted aye.

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

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

Payroll, \$86,460.39, Employee salaries; Executive, \$559.27; Administrative, \$10,107.02; Public Safety, \$9,129.26; Public Works, \$32,730.86; Culture & Recreation, \$33,933.98; Dacotah Bank, \$10,655.37, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dakotaland FCU, \$450.00, Employee savings; Dacotah Bank, \$810.41, HSA contributions; Kellie Locke, \$378.56, Withholding/SS/Medicare; NW Energy, \$13.69, Natural gas service - water tower; Payment Service Network, Inc., \$206.00, PSN gateway and eBill fees; Loren & Linda Locken, \$500.00, Heartland Energy EV charger rebate; Lauren Wheeling, \$150.00, Heartland Energy 50gal standard water heater rebate; Robert & Darlene Daly, \$1,300.00, Heartland Energy 50gal lifetime warranty water heater rebate & city rebate - \$6/gallon; Kyle Gerlach, \$240.00, Jr. Teener postseason umpire pay; Verizon Wireless, \$40.01, Wireless router - Rubble Site; Stacy Mayou, \$108.76, Med flex; Aaron Severson, \$960.00, Jr. Legion regions umpire pay; Terry Herron, \$799.84, Med flex - final for 2025; Dacotah Bank, \$100.00, HSA contributions; Aflac, \$435.76, Employee insurance; Colonial Life, \$69.40, Employee insurance; Allied Benefit Systems, \$14,403.02, Employee insurance; Reliance Standard Life Insurance, \$88.10, Employee insurance; Dacotah Bank, \$3,723.39, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Brown County Treasurer, \$28.70, Title and registration for 2007 Sterling LT9500; Dacotah Bank, \$10,362.24, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dakotaland FCU, \$450.00, Employee savings; Dacotah Bank, \$810.41, HSA contributions; SD Supplemental Retirement, \$590.00, Supplemental retirement; Badger Meter, Inc., \$163.91, Water metering network fees; Harry Implement, Inc., \$43.48, Hydraulic swivels - Street Dept.; Vesperis, \$104.82, Mosquito fogger flushing solution; Share Corporation, \$388.91, White and blue marking paint - Water Dept.; Irby, Inc., \$1,447.50, Heat shrink, impact utility wrench, FR clothing, trencher rental - Electric Dept.; 3E Generator Shop, \$451.35, Annual generator service - PD generator; Cole Papers, Inc., \$436.24, Garbage bags, hand soap - Multiple Depts.; Associated Supply Co., Inc., \$246.10, Flow switch and testing chemicals - Swimming Pools; EcoLab Pest Elimination, \$117.98, Rodent control - Rubble Site; SD Department of Health, \$110.00, Pool/water testing; Sewer Duck, Inc., \$340.00, Rental of (2) portable toilets - Baseball Complex; The Groton Independent, \$82.85, Publishing costs; Fliehs Sales & Service, \$40.00, Oil filters - cemetery mowers; Runnings, \$73.98, Storage tote and toolbox w/ tray - Electric Dept.; Storybook Land Theatre, \$916.00, Performance of Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! on August 6th; VESTIS, \$67.26, Rug rent - City Hall; Dakota Fluid Power, \$131.67, Parts for skid loader - Street Dept.; NW Energy, \$1,297.33, Natural gas service - Swimming Pool & PD Generator; Kami Lipp, \$251.84, Reimbursement for Pool-a-Palooza prizes - Swimming Pool; Tricia Keith, \$250.45, Reimbursement for Pool-a-Palooza prizes - Swimming Pool; Dakota Pump & Control, \$8,451.79, Repairs to main lift pump and Krueger lift - Sewer Dept.; Core & Main, \$122.50, Brass couplings - Water Dept.; Locators & Supplies, Inc., \$114.67, Green marking flags - Sewer Dept.; Allied Climate Professionals, LLC, \$2,091.84, Replace of AC controller and staging board in boiler - City Hall; Paul Kosel, \$206.01, Mileage reimbursement for Heartland Summer Conference in Madison on 7/15/25;

Kellie Locke, \$28.00, Mileage reimbursement for Walmart pickup for office on 7/24/25; Coca-Cola High Country, \$2,907.00, Drinks for resale - Pool and Baseball Concessions; AutoZone, \$63.63, Parts for vehicle - Water Dept.; Ken's Fair Foods, \$5,569.90, Food for resale, swimming lesson snacks, fuel purchases, paper towels, toilet paper, & window cleaner - Multiple Depts.; Stan Houston Equipment Co., \$225.00, Rental of trencher - Electric Dept.; S&S Lumber Co., \$1,082.05, Field marker, light bulbs, cover plate, Sea Foam, flex glue, clevis connectors, blacktop sealer, trimmer line, keyed lock, basketball nets, marking chalk, bug spray, grass seed, lumber, red paint, sealant, bolts, screws, PVC reducer, sand mix, batter clips - Multiple Depts.; A&B Business Solutions, \$244.09, Printer lease - City Hall; Dollar General, \$214.15, Garbage bags, bottled water, tissues, command strips, toilet paper, bug spray, disposable gloves, cleaning supplies, sanitizing wipes, hand soap - Multiple Depts.; Aaron Severson, \$2,255.40, 2025 Jr. Legion coach mileage reimbursement; Full Circle Ag, \$575.02, Weed control chemicals; SD Retirement System, \$11,578.98, Employee retirement;

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Cutler to adjourn the meeting at 9:33pm. All members present voted aye.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor
Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer

Published August 13, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$85.68 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25910

Weekly SUDOKU												
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ORDINANCE NO. 790
2025 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS
SECTION I:
BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Groton, South Dakota that the following sums are supplementally appropriated to meet the obligations of the City of Groton and shall be effective immediately following passage.

E 101-41920 General Gov’t Buildings	\$99,985.00
E 101-43100 Streets	\$34,000.00
E 101-45130 Baseball General	\$13,000.00
E 101-45200 Parks	\$21,000.00
E 266-43500 Airport	\$10,500.00
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS.....	\$178,485.00
SOURCE OF FUNDING	
R 101-36900 Other Revenues.....	\$98,495.69
E 101-41921 City Hall Building.....	\$17,900.00
Unassigned Fund Balance (Cash Applied)	\$62,089.31
TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCE.....	\$178,485.00
Dated at Groton, South Dakota this 5th day of August, 2025.	

Scott Hanlon, Mayor
Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer
1st Reading: 7/15/2025
2nd Reading: 8/5/2025
Published: 8/13/2025
Effective: 8/5/2025
Published August 13, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$22.27 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25911



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- Bar legally
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- Lighten
- Auction action
- Tools for duels
- Na Na
- Beatnik's assent
- "The danger has passed"
- Aquarium favorite
- Morales of "Jericho"
- Non-dairy milk type
- Bounds
- "Play it cool"

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- Job-safety org.
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- Go by subway
- Redact
- Congers
- Edible mol-lusk
- Food seller
- Fib
- Small battery
- Despot
- Slightly open
- Weak
- Eyelid woe
- Billboards
- Tube top
- Capote nick-name
- French article
- Navarro of "The View"

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The Minnesota Vikings opened the 2025 NFL season with a 20-10 preseason win over the Houston Texans. There was plenty to like in the aftermath, along with a few areas the team will want to clean up as they build toward the regular season opener on September 8. As Kevin O’Connell noted in his post-game press conference, “when you’re really not game planning a whole lot, it’s just about execution.” With that in mind, let’s break down the game.

Before diving into the game itself, I have to give a quick shout-out to the crowd. I was lucky enough to attend in person thanks to my uncle Jack, who generously gave me and my son his season tickets (he didn’t ask me to plug his business, but he owns MinDak Gold and Silver in Fargo, so if you’re looking to buy or sell, give him a call!). The Vikings have the best fans in the NFL, and it showed in how passionate they were for a preseason game. The gameday atmosphere in Minnesota is always electric, and the preseason is the perfect

time to bring the family. My son was in awe from start to finish, and it’s a memory he won’t forget anytime soon.

Now let’s get into the game breakdown, starting with the offense.

The biggest storyline going into the game was second-year quarterback J.J. McCarthy, who took his first in-game reps since the first pre-season game last season. McCarthy completed his first four passes, three to Jordan Addison and one to C.J. Ham. He also scampered for eight yards to convert a 4th down near midfield. The drive stalled after that, but Will Reichard nailed a 48-yard field goal to give the Vikings an early lead.

Most of the starters were pulled after that first drive, giving the backups an opportunity to showcase their skills. QB Sam Howell played the rest of the first half and completed 11 of 13 passes for 105 yards, plus a goal-line plunge for the team’s only first-half touchdown. QB Brett Rypien started the second half but only completed one of four passes for six yards while also taking two sacks over the course of three drives. Rookie QB Max Brosmer finished the game with three drives of his own, completing five of eight passes for 47 yards and a touchdown. He clearly outplayed Rypien in the battle for the third spot on the depth chart, and could soon be ready to challenge Howell for the backup role.

Veteran running back Aaron Jones sat this game out, so Jordan Mason got the start and ran the ball four times for 20 yards on the opening drive. Ty Chandler was the next RB off the bench, getting five carries but only managing five yards, although he did have three catches for

20 yards. Xavier Scott, who is in competition for the RB3 spot, had seven carries for 40 yards and one catch for 11 yards. Tre Stewart finished the game, carrying the ball three times for 10 yards.

Superstar receiver Justin Jefferson is still dealing with an injury, so he didn’t play in this game. Jordan Addison led the team with three catches for 33 yards (all on the first drive of the game). Twelve players caught a pass Saturday, including Lucky Jackson (three catches for 30 yards) and rookie 3rd-round pick Tai Felton (two catches for 14 yards).

On the defensive side of the ball, a few players stood out. Second-year outside linebacker Gabriel Murphy had a strong game, finishing with 1.5 sacks and a tackle for a loss. Kahlef Hailassie ended the Texans’ last two drives of the game with interceptions to secure the victory, and Ambry Thomas added another INT.

Unfortunately for the Vikings, WR Rondale Moore was injured on his first punt return and is likely out for the season. Rookie center Zeke Correll was also injured, suffering an ankle fracture.

Looking ahead, the Vikings host the New England Patriots on Saturday. The two teams will have joint practices leading up to the game. I don’t expect many starters will play in this game, giving the rest of the roster a chance to compete for a spot on the 2025 depth chart.

The Groton Independent

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Dear EarthTalk: Does exposure to air pollution cause “brain fog”? – Mark H., Raleigh, NC

Exposure to air pollution has long been connected to respiratory and cardiovascular issues. More recently, researchers have found evidence that it may also impair brain function. Studies suggest air pollution is associated with cognitive decline, memory problems and short-term cognitive performance—what many call brain fog—accentuating concerns about the effects of polluted air on mental clarity and brain health.

Air pollution is a combination of harmful gases and particles, such as fine particulate matter (PM2.5), carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide. These pollutants, frequently released by vehicles, industries and wildfires, can enter the bloodstream and access the brain. Research shows that high levels of air pollution are linked to heightened brain inflammation, interrupted neural connections and diminished oxygen supply, which may all lead to cognitive impairment. A 2025 study in Nature discovered that extended exposure to air pollution may hasten cognitive deterioration, especially among older individuals.

People exposed to elevated pollution levels usually experience symptoms like trouble focusing, memory issues and mental exhaustion. Dr. Caleb Finch at the University of Southern California, states, “The aging brain is vulnerable to air pollution.” His studies show that exposure to pollutants might elevate the risk of neurodegenerative conditions like Alzheimer’s disease. Kids and young individuals could also be in danger. The growing brain is especially sensitive to environmental toxins, and certain studies indicate that children subjected to elevated pollution levels might encounter decreased IQ scores and attention issues.

According to research from the University of California, Davis, polluted air is also associated with mood disorders like anxiety and depression, emphasizing how important it is to create cleaner environments in order to improve outcomes related to both physical and mental health.

Reducing the impact of air pollution on brain function necessitates joint efforts. Decreasing air pollution levels by implementing stricter emission regulations, expanding green spaces and encouraging cleaner transportation alternatives can aid in minimizing exposure risks. On a personal level, individuals can safeguard themselves by using air purifiers, refraining from outdoor activities during high pollution days, and promoting measures that encourage cleaner air policies. By lowering pollution exposure, we can make great strides in protecting brain health for upcoming generations.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

Studies suggest air pollution is associated with cognitive decline, memory problems and short-term cognitive performance. Credit: Pexels.com

The Groton Independent

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4 ♦ Groton Independent ♦ Wed., Aug. 13, 2025

Groton Chamber of Commerce

August 6th, 2025
12pm City Hall

- Members present: Brian Dolan, Katelyn Nehlich Douglas Heinrich, April Abeln, and Paul Kosel
 - It was announced that President Ashley has recently welcomed a baby girl. In her absence, Vice President Heinrich took the lead in conducting the meeting.
 - Minutes from the previous meeting were approved by Abeln and seconded by Nehlich. All members present voted aye.
 - The treasurer's report was given. Dacotah Bank checking account balance is \$18,959.29 in addition to the \$5,000 CD. The bucks account balance is \$2,859.80. The report was approved by Abeln and seconded by Dolan. All members present voted aye.
 - A scholarship thank you note was received from Emma Kutter.
 - Abeln made a motion via email with a second from Topper Tastad to donate twelve 605 items to the Lion's Club Celebration in the Park. All members present via email voted aye.
 - Abeln made a motion via email to donate a 605 tee, crewneck and Chamber tumbler to the Ferney Open Golf Tournament. All members present via email voted aye.
 - Abeln made a motion via email to donate \$300 to Wage Memorial Library to sponsor Storybook Land Theatre. All members present via email voted aye.
 - Discussion was held on the 2025 Chamber shirt orders. Flyers will be printed and distributed around town, with the order deadline set for 8/19/25. It was proposed that orders be reopened in the fall, with the addition of youth sizes, and that flyers be sent home with school-aged children at that time. Additionally, there was a conversation about recognizing donors on a plaque next to the seesaw. A suggestion was made to explore fundraising options beyond clothing for next year.
 - The group reviewed the electronic sign contracts for Hwy 12, with Heinrich presenting a preliminary draft. It was noted that the plans need to be finalized by September to be included in the dues notices set to be mailed in October. Kosel mentioned that the Electric Department would be able to handle the installation of the new signs.
 - Motion by Nehlich and seconded by Dolan to donate \$360 to the Groton Transit for advertising on their #4 van. All members present voted aye.
 - Motion by Nehlich and seconded by Abeln to advertise in the 2026 Glacial Lakes & Prairies Tourism magazine. All members present voted aye.
 - Our September/October ad has been created and will be placed in the Aberdeen Magazine and SD Magazine.
 - Motion by Abeln and seconded by Nehlich to sponsor Caleb's Aquatics at Family Fun Fest for \$250. All members present voted aye.
 - Motion by Abeln and seconded by Kosel to donate \$25 in Chamber Bucks to the Wage Memorial Library for their Back-to-School event. All members present voted aye.
 - It was decided that the Wine on Nine giveaway basket be gifted to the Basketball Golf Tournament since that event was cancelled.
 - Abeln will set up the Chamber table with a giveaway basket at Family Fun Fest. Our Chamber sign will be placed on the Caleb's Aquatics tent as well as T-shirt order info.
 - It was mentioned a table be set up prior to the first home football game advertising our shirts if we decide to extend the deadline.
 - Abeln filed our annual report on July 15th
 - Motion by Kosel and seconded by Abeln to gift three \$500 scholarships to 2025-2026 GHS Seniors.
 - Upcoming welcome events will be scheduled for Raising Wildflowers, an online boutique owned by Jamie Mitchek, as well as for Misty Maakestad, who is now offering facials at Karma Salon, and Nikki Barton's daycare.
 - Motion by Nehlich and seconded by Kosel to sponsor GDI Live for the 2025-2026 GHS sports season for \$1000. All members present voted aye.
 - Next Meeting: September 3rd, 12pm at City Hall
- Upcoming events:
- 08/19/2025 Back to School- Come Visit Wage Memorial Library
 - 08/23/2025 Glacial Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course

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Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

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ORA ANGORACAT
WIPER NOR
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OAT LEAPS
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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Population Trends

for Communities in

Northeastern South Dakota

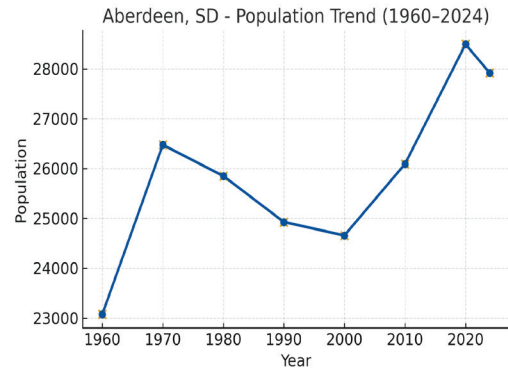


These reports were created by ChatGPT. Data Commons (Google’s aggregated data) — often uses the U.S. Census Bureau’s Population Estimates Program (PEP) but may also blend other public datasets and projections from state/local agencies. Vintage 2024 U.S. Census Estimates — official federal estimate for July 1, 2024, based on birth/death records, IRS migration data, and prior census counts. This is the source that was used in standardizing across all towns so each page uses the same methodology.

Other Towns with estimated 2024 Population Figures			
Sioux Falls	213,991	Huron.....	14,789
Rapid City.....	79,077	Pierre	14,190
Brookings	24,288	Box Elder.....	13,327
Watertown.....	22,847	Spearfish	12,477
Mitchell.....	15,502	Vermillion	11,605
Yankton.....	15,613	Brandon	11,102
Harrisburg	8,250	Sturgis.....	7,850
Hot Springs.....	3,465	Tea	6,660
Milbank.....	3,330	Madison.....	6,622
Mobridge.....	3,219	Dell Rapids	4,205
South Dakota.....	919,318	Canton	3,505
North Dakota	813,926	United States .	336,556,000

Aberdeen, South Dakota — Population Trends

Year	Population
1960	23073
1970	26476
1980	25851
1990	24927
2000	24658
2010	26091
2020	28495
2024	27919

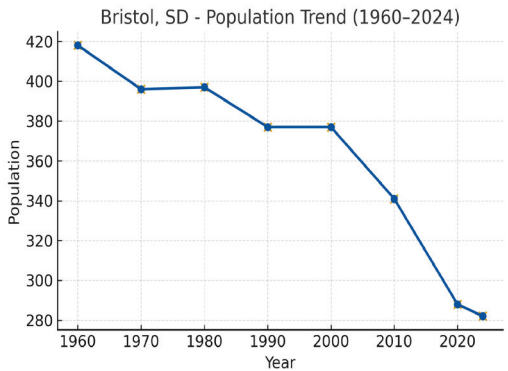


Aberdeen grew strongly from 1960 to 1970, then saw mild fluctuations through the 1980s and 1990s. Growth resumed in the 2000s and accelerated into 2020, reaching 28,495 residents. The 2024 estimate of 27,919 suggests a slight pullback from the 2020 peak but still above 2010 levels. Overall, Aberdeen remains a regional hub with long-term stability compared with many peer communities.

Data compiled from U.S. Census Decennial Counts (1960–2020) and Vintage 2024 Population Estimates. Report compiled by ChatGPT.

Bristol, South Dakota — Population Trends

Year	Population
1960	418
1970	396
1980	397
1990	377
2000	377
2010	341
2020	288
2024	282

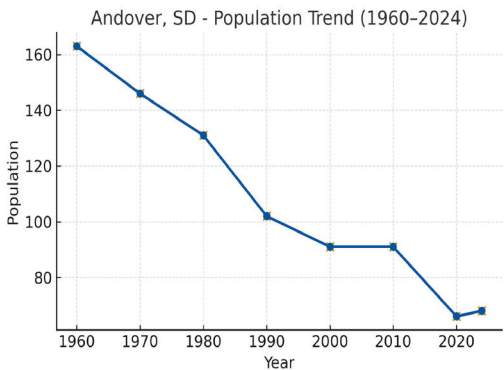


Bristol’s population has declined steadily from 418 residents in 1960 to 288 in 2020. The 2024 estimate of 282 reflects a continuation of this downward trend. As a small community in Day County, Bristol’s demographic shifts mirror broader rural trends in northeastern South Dakota.

Data compiled from U.S. Census Decennial Counts (1960–2020) and Vintage 2024 Population Estimates. Report compiled by ChatGPT.

Andover, South Dakota — Population Trends

Year	Population
1960	163
1970	146
1980	131
1990	102
2000	91
2010	91
2020	66
2024	68

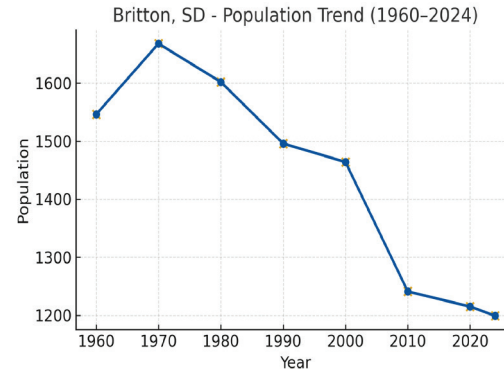


Andover’s population has steadily declined over the past six decades, dropping from 163 in 1960 to just 66 in 2020. The 2024 estimate of 68 shows a slight uptick but remains far below historic levels. This long-term decline reflects the challenges faced by many small rural communities in retaining residents.

Data compiled from U.S. Census Decennial Counts (1960–2020) and Vintage 2024 Population Estimates. Report compiled by ChatGPT.

Britton, South Dakota — Population Trends

Year	Population
1960	1546
1970	1668
1980	1602
1990	1496
2000	1464
2010	1241
2020	1215
2024	1199

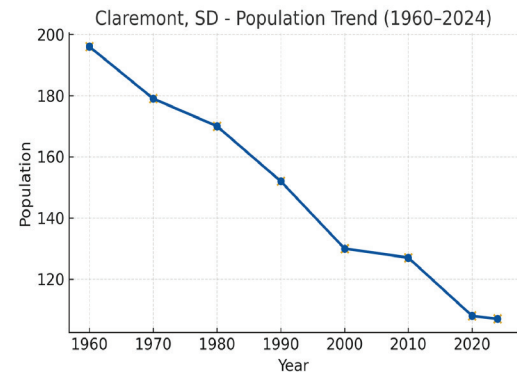


Britton’s population peaked in 1970 at 1,668 residents and has since experienced a gradual decline. From 2000 to 2020, the city’s population dropped from 1,464 to 1,215, with a 2024 estimate of 1,199. This trend mirrors broader rural population shifts in the Upper Midwest.

Data compiled from U.S. Census Decennial Counts (1960–2020) and Vintage 2024 Population Estimates. Report compiled by ChatGPT.

Claremont, South Dakota — Population Trends

Year	Population
1960	196
1970	179
1980	170
1990	152
2000	130
2010	127
2020	108
2024	107

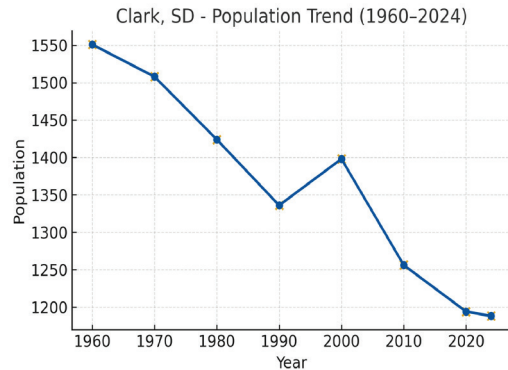


Claremont’s population has gradually declined from 196 in 1960 to 108 in 2020. The 2024 estimate of 107 continues this slow downward trend. Like many small towns in the region, Claremont has faced population loss due to urban migration and agricultural consolidation.

Data compiled from U.S. Census Decennial Counts (1960–2020) and Vintage 2024 Population Estimates. Report compiled by ChatGPT.

Clark, South Dakota — Population Trends

Year	Population
1960	1551
1970	1508
1980	1424
1990	1336
2000	1398
2010	1256
2020	1194
2024	1188

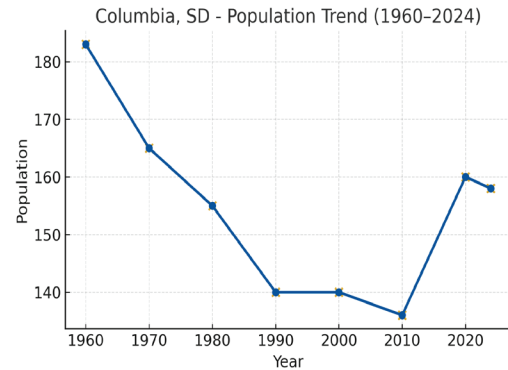


Clark’s population has gradually declined from 1,551 in 1960 to 1,194 in 2020. The 2024 estimate of 1,188 suggests continued stability at just under 1,200 residents. As the county seat of Clark County, the town remains an important hub despite long-term demographic changes.

Data compiled from U.S. Census Decennial Counts (1960–2020) and Vintage 2024 Population Estimates. Report compiled by ChatGPT.

Columbia, South Dakota — Population Trends

Year	Population
1960	183
1970	165
1980	155
1990	140
2000	140
2010	136
2020	160
2024	158

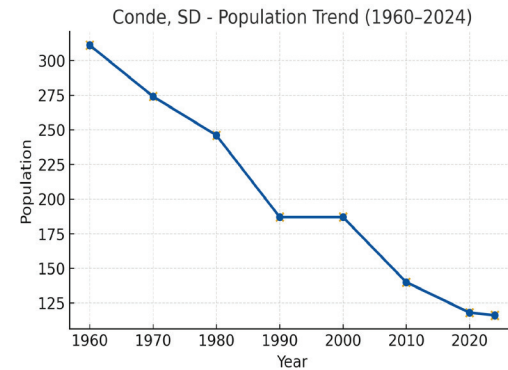


Columbia’s population declined steadily from 1960 through 2010, reaching 136 residents. However, the 2020 census recorded a rise to 160, with a slight dip to an estimated 158 in 2024. The recent increase suggests some stabilization after decades of decline.

Data compiled from U.S. Census Decennial Counts (1960–2020) and Vintage 2024 Population Estimates. Report compiled by ChatGPT.

Conde, South Dakota — Population Trends

Year	Population
1960	311
1970	274
1980	246
1990	187
2000	187
2010	140
2020	118
2024	116

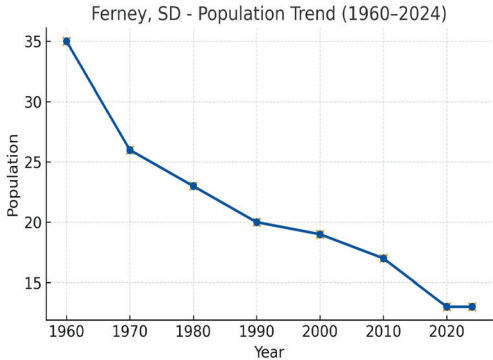


Conde’s population has steadily declined over the last 60 years, dropping from 311 residents in 1960 to just 118 in 2020. The 2024 estimate of 116 continues the long-term downward trend, reflecting the demographic challenges faced by many small rural towns.

Data compiled from U.S. Census Decennial Counts (1960–2020) and Vintage 2024 Population Estimates. Report compiled by ChatGPT.

Ferney, South Dakota — Population Trends

Year	Population
1960	35
1970	26
1980	23
1990	20
2000	19
2010	17
2020	13
2024	13

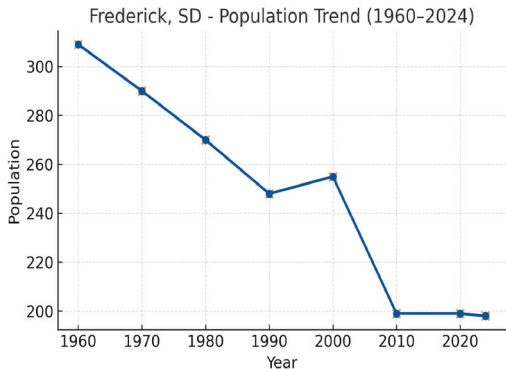


Ferney's population has steadily declined over the past six decades, from 35 residents in 1960 to just 13 in 2020. The 2024 estimate remains at 13, indicating a stable but very small community. Ferney is one of the smallest incorporated towns in South Dakota, with its population reflecting broader rural depopulation trends.

Data compiled from U.S. Census Decennial Counts (1960–2020) and Vintage 2024 Population Estimates. Report compiled by ChatGPT.

Frederick, South Dakota — Population Trends

Year	Population
1960	309
1970	290
1980	270
1990	248
2000	255
2010	199
2020	199
2024	198

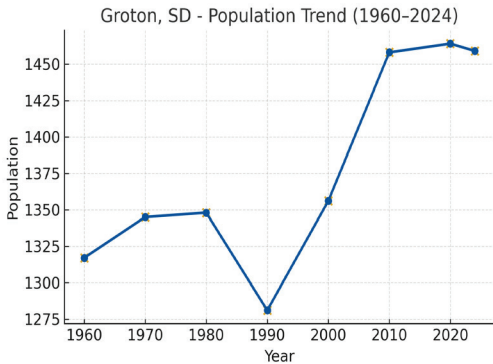


Frederick's population has gradually declined from 309 in 1960 to 199 in 2020, with a slight dip to an estimated 198 in 2024. While the rate of decline has slowed in recent decades, the overall trend reflects the challenges faced by small rural communities.

Data compiled from U.S. Census Decennial Counts (1960–2020) and Vintage 2024 Population Estimates. Report compiled by ChatGPT.

Groton, South Dakota — Population Trends

Year	Population
1960	1317
1970	1345
1980	1348
1990	1281
2000	1356
2010	1458
2020	1464
2024	1459

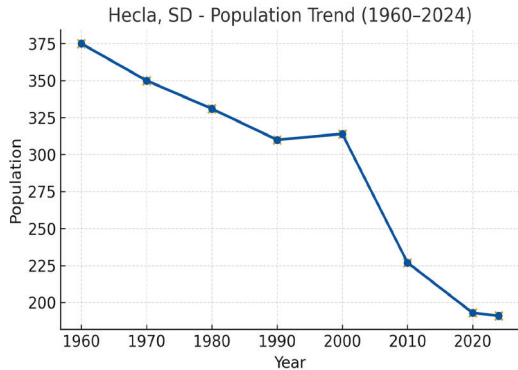


Groton's population has remained relatively stable over the past 60 years, fluctuating within a narrow range. After a modest decline in the 1990s, the city grew in the 2000s, peaking at 1,464 residents in 2020. The 2024 estimate of 1,459 indicates continued stability, reflecting Groton's appeal as a small-town community near a regional center.

Data compiled from U.S. Census Decennial Counts (1960–2020) and Vintage 2024 Population Estimates. Report compiled by ChatGPT.

Hecla, South Dakota — Population Trends

Year	Population
1960	375
1970	350
1980	331
1990	310
2000	314
2010	227
2020	193
2024	191

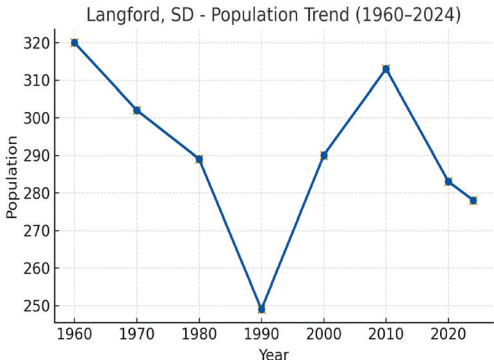


Hecla's population has declined steadily since 1960, falling from 375 residents to just 193 in 2020. The 2024 estimate of 191 continues this trend. This decline mirrors patterns seen in many rural towns as younger generations migrate to urban areas for work and education.

Data compiled from U.S. Census Decennial Counts (1960–2020) and Vintage 2024 Population Estimates. Report compiled by ChatGPT.

Langford, South Dakota — Population Trends

Year	Population
1960	320
1970	302
1980	289
1990	249
2000	290
2010	313
2020	283
2024	278

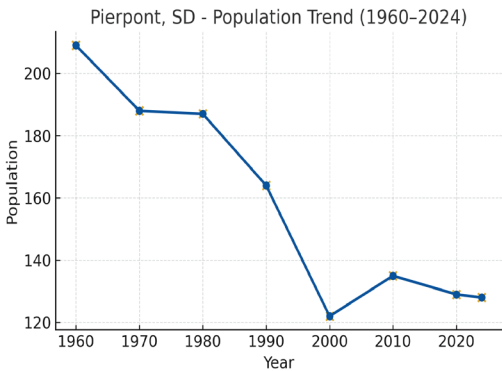


Langford's population has fluctuated modestly over the past six decades, ranging between 249 and 320 residents. After a slight increase in the 2000s, the population declined to 283 in 2020, with a 2024 estimate of 278. The overall stability suggests Langford has maintained its role as a small but steady rural community.

Data compiled from U.S. Census Decennial Counts (1960–2020) and Vintage 2024 Population Estimates. Report compiled by ChatGPT.

Pierpont, South Dakota — Population Trends

Year	Population
1960	209
1970	188
1980	187
1990	164
2000	122
2010	135
2020	129
2024	128

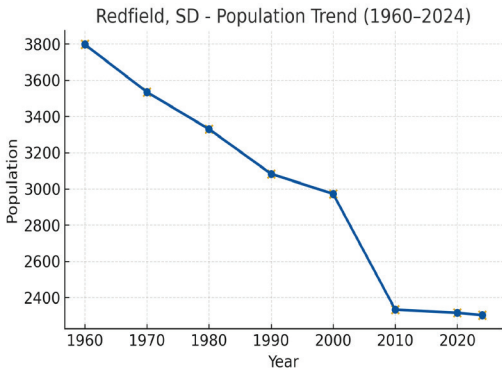


Pierpont's population has steadily declined from 209 residents in 1960 to 129 in 2020. The 2024 estimate of 128 continues this gradual downward trend. Like many rural South Dakota towns, Pierpont's demographic changes reflect economic shifts and migration patterns over the decades.

Data compiled from U.S. Census Decennial Counts (1960–2020) and Vintage 2024 Population Estimates. Report compiled by ChatGPT.

Redfield, South Dakota — Population Trends

Year	Population
1960	3798
1970	3535
1980	3330
1990	3083
2000	2972
2010	2333
2020	2315
2024	2302

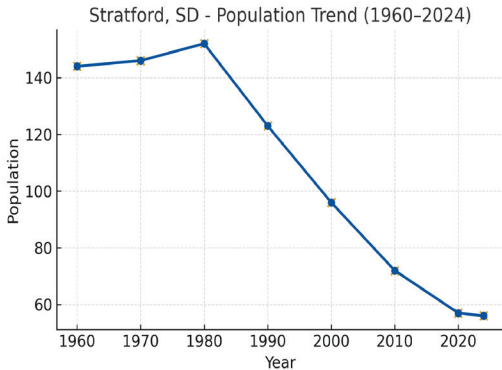


Redfield's population has steadily declined from 3,798 in 1960 to 2,315 in 2020. The 2024 estimate of 2,302 continues this long-term downward trend. While Redfield remains a key community in Spink County, demographic shifts and economic changes have influenced its population decline.

Data compiled from U.S. Census Decennial Counts (1960–2020) and Vintage 2024 Population Estimates. Report compiled by ChatGPT.

Stratford, South Dakota — Population Trends

Year	Population
1960	144
1970	146
1980	152
1990	123
2000	96
2010	72
2020	57
2024	56

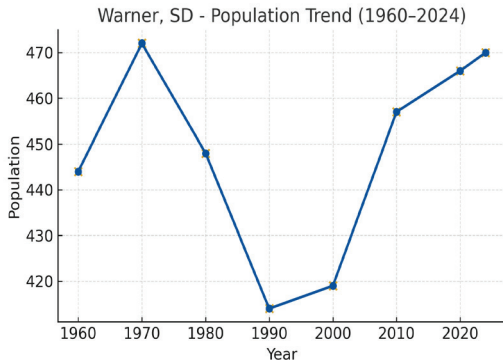


Stratford's population has declined significantly over the past 60 years, from 144 residents in 1960 to 57 in 2020. The 2024 estimate of 56 reflects a continuation of this trend. Like many small rural communities, Stratford has experienced outmigration and demographic shifts over the decades.

Data compiled from U.S. Census Decennial Counts (1960–2020) and Vintage 2024 Population Estimates. Report compiled by ChatGPT.

Warner, South Dakota — Population Trends

Year	Population
1960	444
1970	472
1980	448
1990	414
2000	419
2010	457
2020	466
2024	470

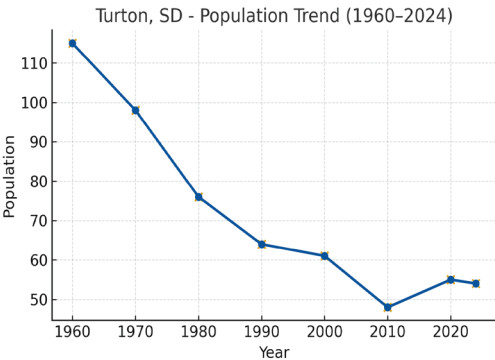


Warner's population has remained relatively stable over the past six decades, ranging from 414 in 1990 to 472 in 1970. The 2024 estimate of 470 suggests continued growth stability in recent decades, reflecting Warner's ability to maintain a consistent population base.

Data compiled from U.S. Census Decennial Counts (1960–2020) and Vintage 2024 Population Estimates. Report compiled by ChatGPT.

Turton, South Dakota — Population Trends

Year	Population
1960	115
1970	98
1980	76
1990	64
2000	61
2010	48
2020	55
2024	54

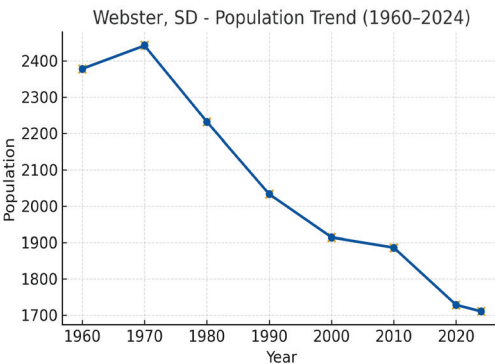


Turton's population has steadily declined over the past six decades, dropping from 115 in 1960 to 76 by 1980 and 61 by 2000. The 2010 Census recorded 48 residents, marking the lowest point in the period. By 2020, the population had risen slightly to 55, with the 2024 estimate at 54, indicating stability in recent years after decades of decline.

Data compiled from U.S. Census Decennial Counts (1960–2020) and recent population estimates (e.g., 2024). Report compiled by ChatGPT.

Webster, South Dakota — Population Trends

Year	Population
1960	2378
1970	2442
1980	2232
1990	2033
2000	1914
2010	1886
2020	1728
2024	1710

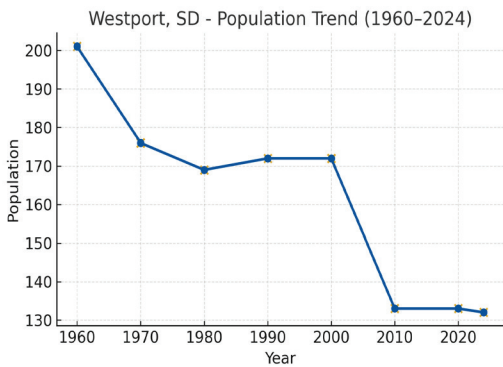


Webster's population peaked at 2,442 in 1970 and has steadily declined since, reaching 1,728 in 2020. The 2024 estimate of 1,710 continues this long-term decline. As the largest town in Day County, Webster remains an important regional hub despite gradual population losses.

Data compiled from U.S. Census Decennial Counts (1960–2020) and Vintage 2024 Population Estimates. Report compiled by ChatGPT.

Westport, South Dakota — Population Trends

Year	Population
1960	201
1970	176
1980	169
1990	172
2000	172
2010	133
2020	133
2024	132



Westport's population has declined gradually over the past six decades, from 201 residents in 1960 to 133 in 2020. The 2024 estimate of 132 shows continued stability at this smaller population level. The town's size reflects broader rural population trends in northeastern South Dakota.

Data compiled from U.S. Census Decennial Counts (1960–2020) and Vintage 2024 Population Estimates. Report compiled by ChatGPT.



August Community Calendar
Wednesday, August 13
Senior Menu: Taco salad, Mexican rice with black beans, Mandarin oranges, whole wheat bread.
Groton Area Staff Development Day
Emmanuel Lutheran: Sunday School Teachers Meeting, 6 p.m.
Groton C&MA: Kid’s Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, August 14
Senior Menu: Swiss steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, fruit, whole wheat bread.
Groton Lions Club Meeting, 6 p.m., 104 N Main

Friday, August 15
Senior Menu: Baked fish, au gratin, California blend, strawberry ambrosia, whole wheat bread.
Boys soccer at Custer, 5 p.m.

Saturday,, August 16
Boys Soccer at Hot Springs, 11 a.m.
Girls Soccer at Sioux Falls Christian, Noon

Sunday, August 17
United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.
St. John’s Lutheran: Worship with communion at St. John’s, 9 a.m.; at Zion 11 a.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.
Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, Aug. 18
Senior Menu: Tater tot hot dish, green beans, mixed fruit, whole wheat bread.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
Senior Citizens meet at Groton Community Center, 1 p.m.
Groton Area Staff Development Day
Boys Golf at Meadow Creek Golf Course at Sioux Valley Invitational, 10 a.m.
Open House at Groton Area Elementary and MS/HS, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sixth Graders meet at 4:30 p.m. in the Gym.

Tuesday, Aug. 19
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
Senior Menu: Tuna casserole with peas, Antigua blend, Mandarin oranges, breadstick.
School Breakfast: Cereal.
School Lunch: Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes.
St. John’s Lutheran: Quilting, 9 a.m.
City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
Girls Soccer at Garretson, 6 p.m.
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 20
Senior Menu: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, Fruited Jell-O, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza.
School Lunch: Pizza cruncher, corn.
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton Ad Council, 7 p.m.
Groton C&MA: Kid’s Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Thursday., Aug. 21
Senior Menu: BBQ Chicken breast, catalina blend, pineapple tidbits, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Muffins.
School Lunch: Burgers, fries.
Emmanuel Lutheran: WELCA “Do Day”, 1:30 p.m.

Friday, August. 22
Senior Menu: Kielbasa, Mac ‘n Cheese, winter blend, banana pudding, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Egg wraps.
School Lunch: French bread pizza, green beans.
Soccer hosts Belle Fourche, Girls at 4 p.m., Boys at 6 p.m.
Football hosts Webster Area, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 23
Glacial Golf Tourney at Olive Grove
Soccer at NSU. Girls vs. St. Thomas More at 11 a.m.; Boys vs. St. Thomas More at 1 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 24
United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.
St. John’s Lutheran: Worship at St. John’s, 9 a.m.; at Zion 11 a.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.
Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, Aug. 25
Senior Menu: Lemon baked cod, au gratin, Italian blend, fruit cocktail, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels.
School Lunch: Beef stroganoff, rice.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
Senior Citizens meet with potluck dinner at noon, Groton Community Center

Tuesday, Aug. 26
Senior Menu: Chicken and rice casserole, peas and carrots, peaches, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Breakfast slider.
School Lunch: Chicken breast, tiny whole potatoes.
NEC Boys Golf at Lee Park, Aberdeen, 10 a.m.
Volleyball hosts Hamlin (Gym: 7th-5, 8th-6; Arena: C-5, JV-6, V-7:15)
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 27
Senior Menu: Ham, mashed potatoes with gravy, California blend, 5 cup salad, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Omelets.
School Lunch: Cheese quesadilla, refried beans.
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.
Groton C&MA: Kid’s Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Thursday., Aug. 28
Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, corn, cherry fluff, garlic bread.
School Breakfast: Biscuits.
School Lunch: Lasagna bake, corn.
Soccer in Groton: Boys vs. Freeman Academy at 4 p.m.; Girls vs. Garretson, 6 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 29
NO SCHOOL
Senior Menu: Sloppy Joe, cucumber salad, green beans, fruit.
Football at Mobridge, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 30
C Volleyball Tournament at Matchbox Sport Recreation Center, Aberdeen, 8 a.m.

Sunday, Aug. 31
United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.
St. John’s Lutheran: Worship at St. John’s, 9 a.m.; at Zion 11 a.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.
Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.

Groton Locke Electric Loses at State Despite Out Hitting KWL Nationals

By GameChanger Media
Groton Locke Electric fell 8-2 to KWL (Kimball/White Lake) Nationals on Friday despite out-hitting them 10 to nine. Groton is eliminated from the state tournament that was being played in Brandon. Bradin Althoff led Groton Locke Electric with three hits.
KWL Nationals got on the board in the bottom of the third inning after Jaxon Christensen grounded out, and Dylan Konechne doubled down the left field line, each scoring one run.
Ryan Groebelinghoff opened the game for Groton Locke Electric. The pitcher gave up seven hits and four runs over five innings, striking out four and walking none. Mitch Price opened the game for KWL Nationals. The hurler allowed seven hits and one run (zero earned) over seven innings, striking out five and walking one.
Groton Locke Electric piled up 10 hits in the game. Althoff went 3-for-4 at the plate and led the team with two runs batted in. Jonah Schmidt collected two hits for Groton Locke Electric in four at bats.
KWL Nationals tallied nine hits in the game. Konechne drove the middle of the lineup, leading KWL Nationals with three runs batted in. The second baseman went 2-for-5 on the day. Christensen led KWL Nationals with three hits in five at bats. Dylanger Pierson collected two hits for KWL Nationals in five at bats.

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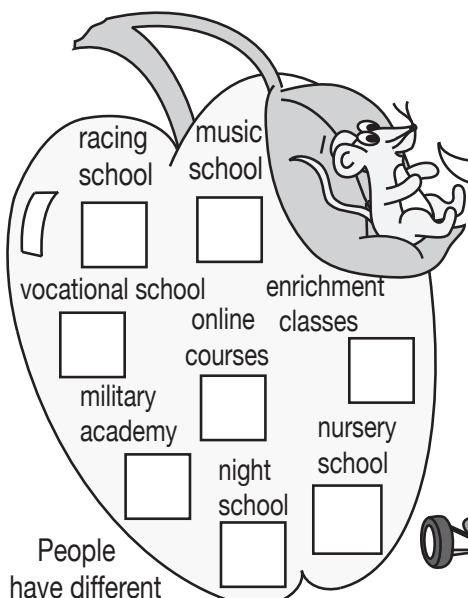
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Back to School!



People have different needs, dreams and goals. There are many kinds of schools and programs to help people achieve what they want to do.

Can you match each school in the apple above to its purpose below? Write the number (1, 2, 3,...) of each purpose in the correct box.

People have different needs, dreams and goals.

There are many kinds of schools and programs to help people achieve what they want to do.

Can you match each school in the apple above to its purpose below? Write the number (1, 2, 3,...) of each purpose in the correct box.

- teaches a skill or trade to help you on a job or career path
- teaches how to get along with others and other pre-kindergarten skills
- for people who work or take care of children during the day
- prepares people for service and leadership in the armed forces
- lets people keep on learning and trying new things
- lessons taught and completed on a computer
- business, recording arts, how to set up live events
- safety, vehicle care, skid control, driving awareness

People of all ages are going back to school! Yes, all ages! Some are getting a basic education, some are preparing for kindergarten or college, and others are interested in learning skills and trades to help them land a better job or build a career. It doesn't matter how old we are – we all can learn something new to help ourselves.

zoom!

Some of the words on this page are hard! Don't let it bug you.



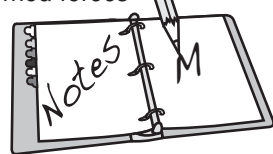
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following

5

6

Take good notes!



Free Stuff

Print out this week's free puzzle set **Get Hooked on a Good Book** @ www.readingclubfun.com Reading, library visits and **A Perfect Summer Day** maze!

It's our 20th Anniversary, but you get the presents!

- _____ about feelings
- _____ on field trips
- _____ ideas through art and music
- _____ books
- _____ games
- _____ to teachers and classmates
- _____ rules
- _____ experiments
- _____ films
- _____ stories
- _____ questions
- _____ software and computers

Yeah, yeah.

20th



School Days Around the World



Students in countries all over the world are excited to be starting a new school year. **Read the fun clues, then match each one to the country it describes.**

- strict dress code that even limits hair styles; sometimes pack lunches in 'bento' boxes: rice, meat, soup and vegetables
- boys and girls in separate classrooms; enjoy spiced meat and noodles for lunch; some live far away so a bus with books is used to reach them
- students have the same classmates from grades 1-10; no uniforms, students told to dress warmly; schools serve beet soup, bread, meat and a grain
- students enjoy a long 2 hour lunch break often with bread, cheese and a salad; school year is in 4 sessions
- in southern hemisphere so summer vacation is December and January; lunch: meat pies, egg and lettuce sandwich
- school year is January to December, with a month break each semester; classes are in one of three languages: Hausa, Yoruba or Ibo; bread, vegetables and fruit for lunches

- A. France
B. Australia
C. Japan
D. Iran
E. Nigeria
F. Russia



Get off to a running start!

What Makes a School Run?

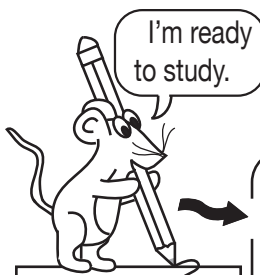
It takes many people to make a school run smoothly. Do you know who they are? **Twelve staff members and class helpers are hidden in the puzzle. Can you find and circle them?**

teacher student aides cooks nurse parents librarian secretary principal custodian superintendent counselor



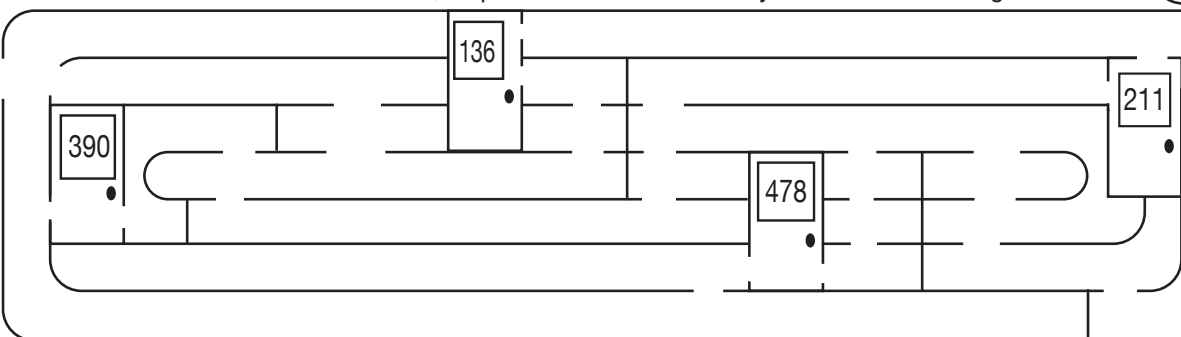
Set a Goal and Go For It

Help little mouse find his way into and out of the doors of each classroom. Visit them in the order listed on his schedule. Then, help little mouse find his way out of the maze to graduate.



I'm ready to study.

Schedule	Room
Science	136
English	211
Math	390
History	478



You don't have to be a bookworm to hunger for books.

Set your goal and go for it!



Learn to Draw

Auto Mechanics

World History



The youth had a splash of a time with the Groton Firemen spraying them down. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Tina and Jeslyn Kosel had the Angel Tree Walking Tacos and Rummage sale at the Family Fun Fest held in downtown Groton Thursday night. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Ken's
Welcomes
All Fair
Goers!

Ken's

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WORTH THE DRIVE
August 11-17



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WORTH THE DRIVE
August 11-17

COMMENTARY

Welcome to South Dakota's newest news desert

by Dana Hess

AUGUST 8, 2025 5:29 PM

More and more often, people in the journalism business talk about “news deserts,” those places that have no newspapers or other local news coverage. I always felt sorry for those places. Now I live in one.

Journalists and people who care about the news were stunned Wednesday when News Media Corp. announced it was closing its newspapers, including four in South Dakota: the Huron Daily Plainsman, The Brookings Register, The Redfield Press and the Moody County Enterprise in Flandreau.

The sudden closing of those newspapers will make life tougher for subscribers and advertisers, not to mention the employees who are out of work. It's tough news for me because I have a connection to all four papers.

I was raised in Huron. The Plainsman was my hometown paper, not that I paid much attention to it. My love of newspapers was developed later in life. The Huronite, as old-timers have been known to call it, didn't really get on my radar until my mother-in-law started working there as the secretary to the publisher. At the time, I was the editor of the Milbank Herald Advance. As a rookie editor, it was heady stuff for me when she would slip one of my editorials onto the publisher's desk to show off what her son-in-law was up to. Bless her heart, sometimes those editorials would be reprinted in the Plainsman.

My newspaper career started at The Brookings Register where I spent five years selling advertising. It was there that I fell in love with newspapering. I made three attempts to move from the sales department to the newsroom. The third time seemed like the charm. It tells you something about the way people are valued at newspapers in that I had to agree to take a cut in pay to become a reporter. At the time, the paper was owned by Stauffer Communications. Some bean counter at the home office cut the position.

While I thought my dreams of being a journalist had been crushed, the editor at the Register had other ideas. She had come to Brookings from The Redfield Press and knew that the owners there were having a tough time keeping editors. Their plan was to hire an editor and get that editor coached up on how to sell advertising. Once the editor was adept with a rate card, the owners would move on to another weekly newspaper and complete the process again. Their goal was to own a chain of weekly newspapers. However, they were stuck in Redfield because the news/editorial graduates they were getting from South Dakota State University had no interest in learning how to sell ads.

I was hired as editor and general manager of The Redfield Press because I already knew how to sell advertising and I had a keen interest in learning about writing and presenting the news. The lessons I learned in Redfield stuck with me my entire professional life.

From Redfield I went to Milbank and then on to the Capital Journal in Pierre. After stops as a writer for Game, Fish and Parks and University Relations at SDSU, my wife and I retired in Brookings. In retirement, one of the first freelance jobs I had was filling in as the editor at the Enterprise in Flandreau. I've been back to Flandreau a few times, filling in again just this past June.

I'd hate to think that I'm the common denominator as to why these four newspapers closed. It's more likely that the cause is some sort of corporate mismanagement as anyone could look at the Register or the Enterprise and see that they have plenty of advertising to support their woefully small staffs.

The evening of Aug. 6, when the internet was roiling with news of the closures, I heard from a Brookings businessman who was incensed at the turn of events. He was an occasional subscriber to the Register. He spends his advertising dollars in the competing shopper. Yet he was angry, as we all should be, at the notion that there is no one in our community chasing and reporting the news.

These closures bring home the fact that the vital job of journalism has to be sustained by the communities that are served by newspapers. Certainly you should subscribe, but there's more that you can do. Invest your advertising dollars in the publication that's watching out for your best interests by reporting the news. Frequent the advertisers in the newspaper, telling them that you saw their ad in the local newspaper.

The template for bringing news back to these four communities has already been created. When the Gannett newspapers in Sioux Falls, Aberdeen and Watertown turned into ghosts of their former selves with shrunken staffs and little or no local news, startup weekly newspapers stepped in to fill the news void. There's no reason to believe that the same formula won't work in Brookings, Huron, Redfield or Flandreau. The Dakota Scout of Sioux Falls has already announced plans to expand into Brookings and Flandreau.

We can only hope that someone with more money than sense will try to fill the news voids in Huron and Redfield. For everyone who still has a newspaper in their community, take the time and spend the money to nurture it and help it grow. Do otherwise and you'll wake up one day to find yourself living in a news desert.

Dana Hess spent more than 25 years in South Dakota journalism, editing newspapers in Redfield, Milbank and Pierre. He's retired and lives in Brookings, working occasionally as a freelance writer.