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The Groton Independent

Vol. 142 No. 50 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ♦ Established in 1889



Locke-Tracy are Homecoming Royalty

The GHS Homecoming Royalty are Jerica Locke, pictured with here parents Matt and Tammy Locke, and Keegen Tracy, pictured with his parents, Carla and Ryan Tracy. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



King Keegen Tracy is flanked on his right by scroll carrier Briggs Eichler, and Queen Jerica Locke is flanked on her left by scroll carrier Harper Boerger. The rest of the royalty court pictured in back, left to right, are Becker Bosma, Gage Sippel, Ryder Johnson, Gavin Englund, Carly Gilbert, Talli Wright, Rylee Dunker and Hannah Sandness. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Council reviews zoning appeal, traffic matters

By Elizabeth Varin

A mix of planning decisions and traffic concerns highlighted the agenda at Tuesday night's Groton City Council meeting.

However, the council reaffirmed a planning and zoning commission decision, held off on discussion of a new stop sign and noted a new item for the 2026 budget.

After a month of periodic discussion, the council looked into a project on a property at the intersection of East Second Avenue and North First Street.

Karen DeBrine applied for a variance to build a porch/deck within six feet of the lot line. City ordinance requires "a front yard of not less than a depth of thirty feet."

The reason given for the variance was that the porch would not be "wider than house and does not obscure vision from North or East side."

The city Planning and Zoning Commission approved the variance after a public hearing in late July. However, Jacalyn Krueger filed an appeal of that decision, asking the City Council to reconsider the variance, calling the project a safety concern as it could block views of the corner.

"First Street is very busy as it is a straight path to the school," read the appeal. "As a previous owner of 116 North First Street, I can confirm that this intersection has a lot of traffic going to the school (north and south) and to the post office and city hall (west and east). ...I do not think it's in the best interest of the city to approve this deck to be built and, if approved, would only cause future safety concerns as others would be able to do the same."

"What's the point of a 30-foot offset if no one needs to follow it?" Krueger wrote in her appeal.

Krueger also wrote that the current owner hangs towels that block the view of the corner.

Continues on Page 5

Nybergs are Parade Marshals

by Dorene Nelson

Tyke and Chris Nyberg have been selected to serve as parade marshals for the annual Groton Area School's homecoming events. They have lived in Groton since 1975.

Chris, originally from Pierre, SD, attended college at Northern State University. "I started teaching in Burke, SD, followed by two years in South Shore," she listed. "The next fourteen years were in Conde SD, before I became an English teacher in Groton in 1990."

"In addition to the classroom work, I also controlled the library and helped train the teaching staff in technology," she said. "The teacher's technological training was mainly in using the online grade book as well as how to use the State Library online."

"My extracurricular work included being the advisor for the yearbook and the senior class," Nyberg listed. "I retired in 2012 and continued subbing until 2020. I had been in education for forty years including the English classroom and the library/media center."

"In addition to my work at school, I also taught Sunday School and served on several committees at the United Methodist Church," she added.

Tyke (Sherwin) graduated from Barnard High School and was on active duty in the United States Navy for four years. In 1975 he and Chris moved to Groton and have lived there ever since.

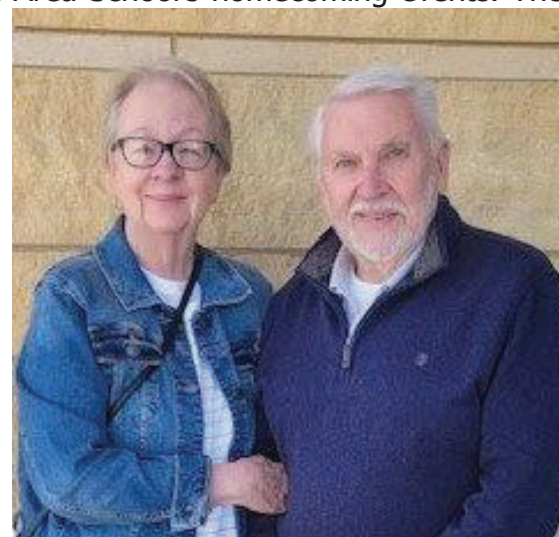
"I've have worked at several places including the Groton Truck Center, Darrel's Sinclair, and Trail Chevrolet," he listed. "In 2010 I retired after twenty-two years at Trail Chevrolet."

"During that same period, I was on the Groton City Council where I worked on the new pool committee, Groton Planning and Zoning, several committees for the United Methodist Church, and drove the Groton City Transit bus for several years," Tyke stated.

"Today I'm the maintenance person for the Rix Apartments as well as helping when needed at Olive Grove Golf Course," he added. "I like being busy doing different kinds of work!"

The Nybergs have two sons, Aaron and Wade. Aaron and his wife Elli and their four children live in Sioux Falls. The oldest is Ben who is currently a senior at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Their oldest daughter Moriah is a sophomore at SDSU. The two youngest are students at Lincoln High School where Melanie is a senior and Caden is a freshman.

Their youngest son Wade and his wife Nena live on an acreage near Box Elder, SD. They have three children who all attend school in the Douglas School District. Trey is a junior; Laynie is a freshman; and Josie is a fifth grader.



Chris and Tyke Nyberg are the 2025 Parade Marshals. (Photo by Dorene Nelson)



The GHS Football Cheerleaders did a cheer for the crowd. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE Video)



Coach Joel Guthmiller talked about boys golf. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE Video)

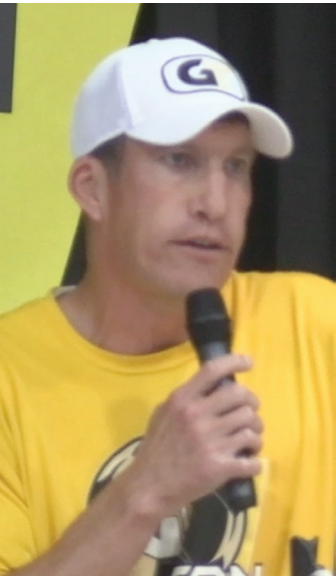
The junior skit was about the football draft for Groton Area and Winner. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE Video)



Band Director Joshua Friez talked about band. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE Video)



Jordan Carson was the master of ceremony. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE Video)



Coach Ryan Olson talked about boys soccer. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE Video)



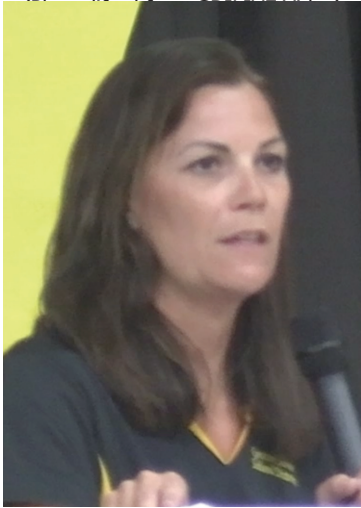
Coach Chelsea Hanson talked about volleyball. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE Video)



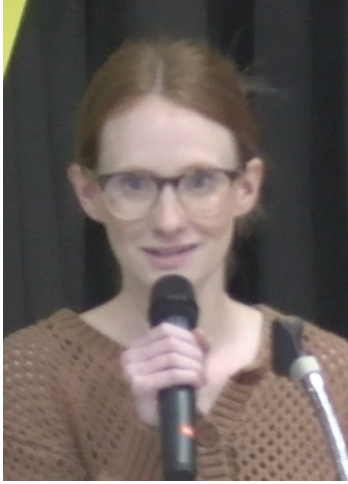
Coach Shaun Waner talked about football. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE Video)



Coach Matt Baumgartner talked about girls soccer.



Coach Becky Hubsch talked about cross country. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE Video)



Coach Aubray Miller talked about the cheerleaders. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE Video)

Tigers Earn 4-1 Win

The Groton Area Tigers girls soccer team secured a 4-1 victory Friday, improving to 4-1 on the season. But Head Coach Matt Baumgartner said there’s still plenty of room for growth as the schedule toughens.

“It’s a win, and that’s important,” Baumgartner said after the match. “But we didn’t play 80 minutes the way we know we can. Toward the end it was a little too much boom-ball, and that’s not the kind of team we want to be. We’ll take some things from this game and flush it, but we’ll also learn from it.”

Groton got on the board early when Jerica Locke scored with 32:14 left in the first half for a 1-0 lead. The Tigers extended their advantage to 2-0 at the 27:24 mark, converting on a penalty kick taken from near midfield.

Garretson pulled one back when Lydia Frerk scored with 8:45 left in the half, but Groton answered quickly. Just 35 seconds later, Sydney Locke found the back of the net to make it 3-1 at halftime. The Tigers sealed the win in the second half when McKenna Tietz scored with 24:15 remaining, giving Groton the 4-1 final.

Baumgartner credited his team’s depth, especially after key players battled injuries. “We had to move some people around, but I thought the girls adjusted well. The first 10 or 12 minutes we were peppering shots, and when Jerica went down, we had to find out who was going to be the playmaker. It was good to see others step up.”

The win keeps Groton in the mix at the top of the state standings, where they are currently ranked No. 2.

“We’ve got a little bit of a target on our back, but that’s a good thing,” Baumgartner said. “We want to be sharp and playing our best soccer come October.”

Meanwhile in the first game, the Groton boys battled from being down 2-0 to tie the game late in the contest with final 2-2 tie against Freeman Academy. Lester Artica Rocha scored both goals for the Bobcats, one with 6:10 left in the first half and the other with 30:56 left in the game. Groton rallied as Ryder Schwan scored with 25:46 left in the game and Karson Zak found the net with 4:29 left in the game to end the game in a tie.

Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

Groton Area Falls in “Battle of the Tigers” to Mobridge-Pollock

MOBRIDGE — The annual “Battle of the Tigers” lived up to its name Friday night in Mobridge, but it was the home Tigers who came away with the victory. Behind a dominant performance from running back Max Saxon, Mobridge-Pollock pulled away to a 29–8 win over Groton Area.

Early Setbacks

Groton Area actually had the ball first, but on just the second play of the game, Caige Yellow intercepted a pass to swing momentum to Mobridge-Pollock. Just three plays later, Saxon burst through the line for a 26-yard touchdown. Although the two-point attempt failed, Mobridge-Pollock had the upper hand at 6–0 just two minutes in.

Penalties hurt Groton on its next drive, forcing a punt. Mobridge-Pollock quickly struck again when quarterback Shooter Frederick hit Kale Knudson for a seven-yard touchdown late in the quarter. Frederick added the extra point to extend the lead to 13–0.

Groton had its chances. Ryder Johnson intercepted a tipped pass and later ripped off a 34-yard gain, but the Groton offense couldn’t finish drives. Just before the quarter ended, Easton Eisemann returned the favor with a pick for Mobridge-Pollock, halting Groton’s momentum.

“We knew coming in that we’d be facing a pretty experienced group,” Groton head coach Shaun Wanner said. “They’ve got their skill kids back, and Saxon’s a tough runner. We’ve got a lot of young guys playing in big spots, and you could see that early.”

Turnovers Dominate First Half

The second quarter was much the same — Groton’s defense producing stops but the offense struggling to capitalize. Saxon added a 41-yard touchdown run midway through the period to push the lead to 19–0.

Groton forced more turnovers — Jordan Schwan had a good sack that led to Logan Warrington falling on a fumble and Johnson picked off his second pass of the night. But each time, Groton’s offense stalled, often due to penalties or sacks. The halftime horn sounded with Mobridge-Pollock firmly in front, 19–0.

At the break, Groton statistician Tom Woods, in his 39th year on the sideline, noted the youth of this year’s team. “We’ve got three freshmen starting, and while they’re playing well, they’re going to have growing pains,” Woods said. “But they’ll get better. You can see the work ethic. These kids are learning fast, and that will pay off later in the season.”

He also reflected on the long rivalry: “The first game between these schools was back in 1985, and Groton won that one 27–26. It’s always been competitive, and tonight was no different — even if the score got away, our boys battled.”

Second-Half Fight

Mobridge-Pollock opened the third quarter with a drive capped by a booming 41-yard field goal from Frederick to stretch the lead to 22–0. Groton responded with its most sustained drive of the night, moving deep into Mobridge territory on the running of Keegan Tracy, but came up short on a fourth-down sack.

Finally, the breakthrough came in the fourth quarter. After Hunter Aden recovered a fumble, Johnson found Connor Glines on a 10-yard touchdown pass with 8:28 remaining. Johnson then connected with Tracy on the

conversion, cutting the deficit to 22–8 and giving Groton life.

But Saxon quickly answered, slicing through the defense for his third touchdown — this one from 26 yards — to make it 29–8 and seal the outcome.

“Positives? Our kids played hard the whole way,” Wanner said. “Even when we were down three scores, they didn’t quit. That’s what we asked of them at halftime. We’re not going to get better if we don’t compete, and they showed fight. Now it’s about cleaning up the mistakes.”

Wanner also pointed to the reality of a young roster. “We’ve got a freshman quarterback, a freshman defensive end, even some freshmen at tight end and linebacker. They’re being asked to grow up fast against seniors who have been at this for three years. That’s a big difference, but they’ll catch up if we keep working.”

Woods’ Words of Wisdom

At the end of the halftime interview, Woods offered his usual blend of stats and perspective. “You know, whatever you do in this life, just find your joy,” he said with a smile. “There’s plenty of negativity out there, but these kids are playing hard, and that’s something to celebrate. Encourage your neighbors, encourage the people around you, and be kind.”

Looking Ahead

Groton drops to 1–1 on the season and now turns its focus to a Homecoming matchup Friday against perennial power Winner. Mobridge-Pollock, meanwhile, improves to 1–0 and will host Miller/Highmore-Harrold.

Game Stats

Team Totals
First Downs: Groton 8, Mobridge-Pollock 13
Rushing Yards: Groton 23 carries, 21 yards; Mobridge-Pollock 39 carries, 210 yards
Passing Yards: Groton 134; Mobridge-Pollock 64
Turnovers: Groton 3 INTs, 1 fumble lost; Mobridge-Pollock 2 INTs, 1 fumble lost
Penalties: Groton 4 for 45 yards; Mobridge-Pollock 5 for 40 yards
Groton Area Leaders
Rushing: Ryder Schelle 7-11, Asher Johnson 7-9, Keegan Tracy 3-2, Anthony Tracy 2-2, Keegan Woltjer 1-0, Skyler Godel 3-3
Passing: Asher Johnson 10-25, 134 yds, 1 TD, 3 INTs
Receiving: Keegan Tracy 6-65, Ryder Johnson 2-41, Connor Glines 2-28, 1 TD
Tackles: Tucker Hardy 10, Ben Hoeft 8
Turnovers: Ryder Johnson 2 INTs; Hunter Aden FR; Logan Warrington FR
Mobridge-Pollock Leaders
Rushing: Max Saxon 15-172, 3 TDs; Easton Eisemann 8-26; Tyler Schmeichel 5-29; Trueth Crow Ghost 4-2; Shooter Frederick 4-27; Dylan Fjeldheim 2-7
Passing: Frederick 5-10, 64 yds, 1 TD, 2 INTs
Receiving: Kale Knudson 4-60, 1 TD; Eisemann 1-4
Defense: Kellen Pfitzer 7 tackles; Wyatt Ziegler 6 tackles
Special Teams: Frederick FG 41, 2 PATs
Records: Groton Area 1–1, Mobridge-Pollock 1–0

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Agtegra, Avantara, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Bierman Farm Service, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Full Circle Ag, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, Groton Legion, Harry Implement, Heartland Energy, John Sieh Agency, Jungle, Krueger Brothers, Poet and The MeatHouse. Justin Olson provided the play-by-play with Jeslyn Kosel running the camera and Paul Kosel with the technology.



Ryder Johnson won the battle over Mobridge-Pollock’s Luke Olson on this catch. Johnson had a 34 yard catch. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Keegan Tracy gains a few yards on this run. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Statistician Tom Woods is being interviewed by Paper Paul at halftime. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Senior Citizens can get a gym membership at GDI Living Heart Fitness Center for just \$20 a month. Contact Paul 605-397-7460 or Tina at 605-397-7285.



Coach Shaun Wanner (middle) talks with this team at halftime. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



An NFL roster is like a block of wood. The best way to shape it is to cut it down, whittle by whittle. That’s exactly what the Vikings did this week, trimming the roster from 91 to 53. Let’s take a look at the final roster, which included a trade for a familiar face and signing a guy off his couch to play one of the most important roles on the team.

Quarterback – J.J. McCarthy, Carson Wentz, Max Brosmer

Despite trading for Sam Howell this offseason to be the backup QB, the Vikings weren’t thrilled with what they saw out of him this offseason, so they traded him to Philadelphia and signed former Eagle and NDSU star Carson Wentz to be the primary backup. In a twist of irony, in order to make room on their roster, the Eagles cut former Vikings first-round bust Lewis Cine. Undrafted rookie Max Brosmer will be QB3 after impressing in the preseason.

Running back – Aaron Jones Sr., Jordan Mason, Ty Chandler, Xavier Scott

Jones and Mason will be the team’s primary ball carriers this season. Ty Chandler will likely be cut once fullback C.J. Ham comes back from IR.

Wide receiver – Justin Jefferson, Adam Thielen(!), Jalen Nailor, Tai Felton, Myles Price

With Jordan Addison beginning the season on the suspended list and Jalen Nailor dealing with an injury, the Vikings made a trade to bring back Adam Thielen. It’s unclear how much the 35-year-old has left in the tank, but he knows the offense and has worked out with McCarthy the past two offseasons, so there is already some chemistry there.

Tight end – T.J. Hockenson, Josh Oliver, Ben Yurosek

Rookie Gavin Bartholomew will begin the season on the Physically Unable to Perform list due to a back injury that may keep him out for the entire season.

Offensive line – Christian Darrisaw, Donovan Jackson, Ryan Kelly, Will Fries, Brian O’Neill, Blake Brandel, Joe Huber, Michael Jurgens, Walter Rouse, Justin Skule

The Vikings keeping 10 offensive linemen was a mild surprise, especially since they carried nine last year and only eight in 2023. With several players expected back from injury in the coming weeks, this feels like a position where a cut could still be made to open up a roster spot.

Defensive line – Jonathan Allen, Javon Hargrave, Jalen Redmond, Tyrion Ingram-Dawkins, Levi Drake Rodriguez, Elijah Williams

The Vikings traded Harrison Phillips to the New York Jets to make room for their younger, ascending talent. One of the best stories to come out of camp is Elijah Williams. The undrafted rookie earned a training camp invite after impressing at a regional tryout, then built on that momentum in the preseason to earn a spot on the active roster.

Edge rusher – Jonathan Greenard, Andrew Van Ginkel, Dallas Turner, Bo Richter, Chaz Chambliss

The Vikings elected to go with undrafted rookie Chaz Chambliss over 2nd-year player Gabriel Murphy. I expected Murphy to make the 53-man roster after an impressive preseason, but the team decided to stash him on the practice squad instead.

Linebacker – Blake Cashman, Ivan Pace Jr., Eric Wilson, Kobe King, Austin Keys

Austin Keys is one of seven undrafted rookies to make the 53-man roster, along with Max Brosmer, Myles Price, Ben Yurosek, Joe Huber, Elijah Williams, and Chaz Chambliss.

Cornerback – Byron Murphy Jr., Isaiah Rodgers, Jeff Okudah, Dwight McGlothern

The cornerback position was a question mark coming into training camp, and it remains so after the Vikings only kept four CBs on the 53-man roster. Frankly, I’m surprised they haven’t made any moves (yet) to shore up this important position, whether through a trade or signing a free agent like Asante Samuel Jr. or Stephon Gilmore. Shaquill Griffin, who is currently on the Seahawks’ practice squad, is another possibility.

Safety – Harrison Smith, Joshua Metellus, Theo Jackson, Jay Ward, Tavierre Thomas

No surprises here. With Cam Bynum now in Indianapolis, Metellus will be the starter next to Harrison Smith.

Special teams – Will Reichard (kicker), Ryan Wright (punter), Andrew DePaola (long snapper)

The only question here: can DePaola make it to four consecutive Pro Bowls?

Looking ahead, the Vikings will open the regular season against the Chicago Bears on Monday Night Football. All eyes will be on quarterback J.J. McCarthy, who has big shoes to fill replacing Sam Darnold, who won 14 games last season and led the Vikings to the playoffs. I expect the Vikings to lean heavy on the ground game and their defense as the young QB begins his NFL journey. Skol!

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Pitcher's pride
4 Country great
8 Chew (on)
12 Singer Rawls
13 Holiday lead-ins
14 Peregrinate
15 Belief
16 Tide variety
17 Currier's partner
18 Dick Tracy's sweetie
21 Method
22 Gear tooth
23 Daisy part
26 "Incidentally," in a text
27 Lass
30 Crooned
31 Hosp. areas
32 Pizzazz
33 Boy king
34 Coach Parseghian
35 Used a stopwatch
36 "Exodus" hero
37 007 creator
38 Classic Hank Williams song
45 Dutch cheese
46 Ovid's 53
47 "A pox upon thee!"

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51 Future atty.'s exam
52 Big rig
53 Scarlet
7 Features
8 "Peer Gynt Suite" composer
9 Bright star
10 Say it's so
11 Compass point
19 Booty
20 Explanation
23 Calif. clock setting
24 Water (Fr.)
25 Blaster's need
26 Bikini top
27 Tiara jewel
28 Enzyme suffix
29 British "Inc."
31 Baltimore baseballers
32 Fan publication
34 Rainbow
35 Sesame paste
36 Fess up
37 Figure of speech
38 Prison room
39 Praiseful pieces
40 Volcanic flow
41 Low-calorie
42 Miles away
43 Ready for harvest
44 Ticked (off)

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DeBrine responded to the towel point by saying she will no longer hang towels on the stair railing on the east side of her house, saying she didn't know there was an issue there.

"I just want to make sure I'm coming down so I'm not stopping at this puddle," she said, indicating a part of the walkway that she said floods easily. "It's there when we have heavy rain, and I've already slipped on the ice here."

Council members, who had previously expressed concerns about not being able to see around the corner should a deck be built, seemed to change their opinion after DeBrine presented the project with photos of the area.

Councilman Brian Bahr, who first brought the project to the council's attention after the planning commission's vote, still expressed concerns about allowing this project to move forward.

"If we give them six feet (from the property line), everyone else is going to want six feet," he said. "...I'm just struggling with what you do for one... you have to treat everyone the same."

The council voted unanimously to deny the appeal, reaffirming the planning commission's original vote to allow the project to be built.

Based on that vote, the council decided to hold off discussing putting in a stop sign at the intersection of East Second Avenue and North First Street.

Though on the agenda, council members indicated it is too early to tell if a stop sign is needed there.

"I think we should wait until this is built," Councilman Cutler said. "If people think we need it, then we'll talk about it."

The council also discussed another traffic issue.

Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich presented some initial prices to purchase solar-powered radar-equipped speed limit signs for highways 12 and 37 in town. Prices for four signs ranged from \$12,600 to \$20,867.36 depending on the vendor.

Heinrich recommended that if the council wants to move forward with the purchase of the radar signs, it be added as an item for the 2026 budget.

Councilman Kevin Nehls said, "it doesn't hurt to budget it."

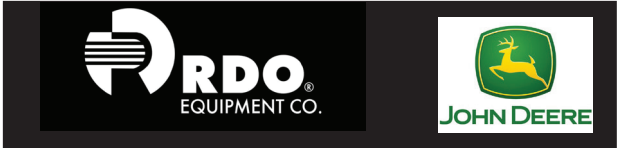
- The council accepted the resignation of Douglas Hamilton from the city's Planning and Zoning Commission. Mayor Scott Hanlon expressed appreciation for Hamilton for his time on the commission. Hanlon added that if anyone is interested in being on the planning commission, they should reach out to him, Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich or city council members.

- The council authorized city staff to begin accepting sealed bids to lease 95 acres of land at the Groton Airport. The current lease is set to expire on Oct. 31. A new lease would change the beginning and end dates of the lease (from November 1-October 31 to January 1-December 31) and would also extend the lease timeframe from two years to three years. Bids will be opened at the October 7 council meeting.

When arthritis tries to slow you down,
exercise can keep you moving. - Mayo Clinic



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September Groton Community Calendar

Wednesday, Sept 3
School Breakfast: Oatmeal
School Lunch: Pasta Primavera, cooked broccoli.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Sarah Circle, 5 p.m.
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, 5:30 p.m.
Groton C&MA: Kid’s Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.
Groton Chamber Meeting, noon City Hall
Thursday., Sept 4
School Breakfast: Maple French Toast Bake.
School Lunch: Sloppy Joe, potato wedges
Emmanuel Lutheran: Nigeria Circle, 2 p.m.
Volleyball: Sisseton at Groton: (Gym: 7th-5, 8th-6; Arena: C-5, JV-6, V-7:15)
Cross Country at Redfield, 10 a.m.

Friday, Sept. 5
School Breakfast: Breakfast boats.
School Lunch: Hot dogs, baked beans.
Homecoming Parade, 1 p.m.
Football hosts Winner, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept 6
Groton Fly-In/Drive-in at Groton Municipal Airport
Fall City Wide Rummage Sale, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Junior High Volleyball Tournament at Northwestern, 9 a.m.
Soccer hosts West Central (Girls at noon, Boys at 2 p.m.)

Sunday, Sept. 7
Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday School 10:15 a.m.; Choir 6 p.m.
St. John’s Lutheran: Worship with communion at St. John’s, 9 a.m., and Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
United Methodist: Worship with communion at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 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 Fly-In/Drive-in at Groton Municipal Airport
Olive Grove Sunflower Couples Golf Tourney
Doggie Day at the Pool, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday., Sept. 8
School Breakfast: Eggs.
School Lunch: Chef salad at elementary, build your own salad at MS/HS.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
Groton Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Football at Webster (JH at 4 p.m., JV at 5 p.m.)
3rd-6th GBB Skills, 6 -8 p.m.

Tuesday Sept. 9
School Breakfast: Scones.
School Lunch: Pasta with meat sauce, corn.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Council, 6 p.m.
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.; Car-ing Team Meeting, 1 p.m.
Boys Golf at Milbank, 10 a.m.
Cross Country at Britton, 4 p.m.
Boys Soccer at James Valley Christian, 4 p.m.
Volleyball at Webster ((7th-5, 8th-6; C-5, JV-6, V-7:15))

Wednesday, Sept 10
School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza.
School Lunch: Vegetable soup ham sandwich
Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.; League 6:30 p.m.
St. John’s Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, 5:30 p.m.
Groton C&MA: Kid’s Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept 11
School Breakfast: Cereal
School Lunch: Chicken tacos.
Groton Lions Club Meeting, 6 p.m., 104 N Main St.
Boys Golf at Olive Grove Golf Course, 10 a.m.
Volleyball at Roncalli ((7th-5, 8th-6; C-5, JV-6, V-7:30))

Friday, Sept. 12
School Breakfast: Egg wraps.
School Lunch: Garlic cheese bread, green beans.
Football hosts Milbank, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 13
Soccer at Vermillion (Girls at 1 p.m., Boys at 2:30 p.m.)

Sunday, Sept. 14
Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir 6 p.m.
St. John’s Lutheran: Worship at St. John’s, 9 a.m., and Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Groton Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 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.
GHS FCS Kickoff meeting, 2 p.m.

Monday, Sept 15
School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels.
School Lunch: Corn dog, baked beans.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
St. John’s Lutheran: Christian Literature Circle, 7:30 p.m.
Groton Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Cross Country at Webster, 2 p.m.
JV Football at Milbank, 4 p.m.
3rd-6th GBB Skills, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 16
School Breakfast: Breakfast sliders.
School Lunch: Pizza burger, tri tater.
St. John’s Lutheran: Quilting, 9 a.m.
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.
City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
Cross Country at Redfield, 10 a.m.
JH Football at Milbank, 7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m.)
Soccer at Dakota Valley (Girls at 4 p.m., Boys at 5:30 p.m.)

Wednesday, Sept. 17
School Breakfast: Omelets.
School Lunch: Mac and cheese peas.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.
St. John’s Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, 5:30 p.m.; Groton Ad Council, 7 p.m.
Groton C&MA: Kid’s Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 18
School Breakfast: Biscuits.
School Lunch: Burrito. Bowl, corn.
Cross Country at Lee Park, Aberdeen, 11 a.m.

Volleyball at Clark ((7th-5, 8th-6; C-5, JV-6, V-7:15))

Friday, Sept. 19
School Breakfast: Doughnuts.
School Lunch: Cheese pizza, green beans.
Football at Deuel, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 20
Volleyball at Hamlin Invitational, 9 a.m.
JH/JV Football at Webster Jamboree, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Boys Soccer at Freeman Academy, Noon

Sunday, Sept. 21
Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday School 10:15 a.m.; Choir 6 p.m.
St. John’s Lutheran: Worship with communion at St. John’s, 9 a.m., and Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Groton Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 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, Sept. 22
FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN
School Breakfast: Egg bake.
School Lunch: Hot dogs, chips.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
Groton Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, potluck at Noon
Cross Country at Deuel, 4 p.m.
3rd-6th GBB Skills, 6-8 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 23
School Breakfast: Muffins.
School Lunch: Chicken nuggets mashed potatoes.
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.
JH/JV Football at Langford vs. Britton-Hecla. JH at 4:30, JV at 5:30
Volleyball at Warner: (Welke: 7th-5:15, 8th-6:30; Arena: C-5:15, JV-6:30, V-7:45))

Wednesday, Sept. 24
School Breakfast: Oatmeal.
School Lunch: Pizza crunchers cooked carrots.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.; League 6:30 p.m.
St. John’s Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, 5:30 p.m.
Groton C&MA: Kid’s Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.
FFA Land and Range Contest at Webster

Thursday Sept. 25
School Breakfast: Maple French Toast Bake.
School Lunch: Chicken patty cooked broccoli.
Cross Country at Sisseton, 10 a.m.
Volleyball at Tiospa Zina ((7th-4, 8th-5; C-5, JV-6, V-7:15))
Boys Soccer hosts James Valley Christian, 4 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 26
School Breakfast: Breakfast boats
School Lunch: French bread pizza, green beans.
Football hosts Clark/Willow Lake, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 27
C Team/JH Volleyball at Matchbox Tournament, 9 a.m.
Soccer at West Central (Boys at noon, Girls at 2 p.m.)

Sunday, Sept. 28

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday School 10:15 a.m.; Choir 6 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m., and Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Groton Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 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.
5th Grade Grils Basketball at GHS, 4 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 29

School Breakfast: Eggs.
School Lunch: Beef stroganoff, rice.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
Region 1A Boys Golf at Madison, 10 a.m.
JH/JV Football at Clark (JH at 4 p.m., JV at 5 p.m.)
Cross Country Meet at Olive Grove, 4 p.m.
Soccer hosts Dakota Valley (Girls at 4 p.m., Boys at 5:30 p.m.)
3rd-6th GBB Skills, 6-8 p.m.

Tuesday Sept. 30

School Breakfast: Scones.
School Lunch: Chicken breast, baby bakers.
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.
5th Grade Girls Basketball, 4:15 p.m.
Volleyball hosts Great Plains Lutheran: ((C at 5, JV at 6, V-7:15))

Groton Girls Fall in Heartbreaker to Mitchell; Boys Drop Road Match

The Groton Area Tigers soccer teams traveled to take on Double-A opponent Mitchell on Friday, and both squads came away with hard-fought losses.

Girls Recap

The Groton girls battled evenly with the Kernels (3-4) for nearly the entire contest before falling 1-0 in heartbreaking fashion. With just 49 seconds left, a throw-in by Mitchell was deflected into the penalty area and caught a Groton hand. Mitchell's Taryn Thomas converted the penalty kick for the game's only goal.

Despite the result, Groton head coach Matt Baumgartner praised his team's effort.

"We played very good today and adapted to the conditions against us," Baumgartner said. "We defended a Mitchell team to a 0-0 tie up until the very end. I'm proud of the speed we played at today and the effort given against a physical side."

Goalkeeper Jaedyn Penning recorded six saves, several of them spectacular, to keep the Tigers in the match. With the loss, Groton drops to 4-2 on the season.


Boys Recap

In the boys' matchup, Groton (4-1-1) fell 6-0 to a Mitchell team that improved to 1-4 with the victory. The Tigers found themselves under constant pressure, but goalkeeper Gage Sippel turned aside 11 shots to keep the score from growing larger.

Looking Ahead

Groton returns home Saturday to host West Central in a girls and boys doubleheader. The West Central girls come in with a 4-1 record, while the Trojans' boys are 1-3. Action begins with the girls' game at 12:00 noon, followed by the boys' match at 2:00 p.m.

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The Life of Arlowene Hitchcock

Services for Arlowene Hitchcock, 98, of Conde were held Friday, August 29, 2025, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ferney. Pastor Bob Moeller officiated. Burial followed in Sunset Memorial Gardens, Aberdeen under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Arlowene passed away August 17, 2025 at Avantara Groton. Arlowene Ella was born on September 16, 1926 in rural Ferney to Louie and Alice (Bahr) Dobberpuhl. She attended country school and graduated from Groton High School. Arlowene continued her education at Northern State Teachers College and taught for two years. On June 1,1946, she was united in marriage with Maurice J. Hitchcock in Groton. Together they made their home on the farm near Ferney and were blessed with four children. Arlowene worked by her husband's side, helping in the field and milking cows. After retirement, they enjoyed traveling, taking guided tours to England, Europe, Nashville and the Northeastern United States.

Arlowene was a lifelong member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Ferney. She spent countless hours compiling the history for the Church Centennial Celebration in 2001 and continued to update the records until recently. Arlowene was instrumental in growing the evergreens at the church and making many of the church banners. She inherited the gift of sewing from her mother and made many of the girls' dresses. Her grandchildren were all given baby quilts that were either stitched or crocheted. Arlowene enjoyed crafting, gardening and crossword puzzles. Above all, she cherished time spent with her family.

Celebrating her life are her children, Dennis (Diane) Hitchcock of Minnetonka, MN, Mavis (Bob) Rossow of Conde, SD, Marilyn (Tim) Thum of River Falls, WI, 6 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and 8 great-great grandchildren and her sister-in-law, Vivian Dobberpuhl.

Preceding her in death were her parents, her husband in 2009, her daughter Marlis and three brothers, Raymond, LaWayne and Harlow.

Honorary Casketbearers were Arlowene's grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Casketbearers were Scott Rossow, Kevin Thum, Derek Miles, Dylan Miles, Roni Dobberpuhl and Rod Dobberpuhl.

Memorials may be directed to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, PO Box 835, Ferney, SD 57422



The Life of Arletta Peterson

Services for Arletta Peterson, 93, of Webster and formerly of Groton was held Tuesday, September 2, 2025, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton. Rev. Michael DeKraai officiated. Burial followed in Union Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Arletta passed away August 24, 2025 at Sanford Hospital in Webster.

Arletta Mae was born on February 29, 1932 in Bristol to Albert and Emma Huwe. She attended school in Bristol, graduating in 1950. Arletta worked in a restaurant for several years and met her husband, DeWain, at a dance near Waubay Lake. They were married on April 29, 1951 at Bethesda Lutheran Church in Bristol. Together they made their home in numerous places in South Dakota. In 1967, they moved to Minneapolis, near Ft. Snelling, where Arletta worked at Lakeland Industries. She later was employed at Veteran's Affairs in the Canteen Office and B. Dalton General Office. In 1992, the couple moved back to Groton.

Arletta was a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton and an associate member at St. John's Lutheran in Webster. In earlier years, she enjoyed fishing with her husband, baking and decorating cakes.

Celebrating her life are her nieces and nephews, Roylene (Dennis) DeVille, Ronnie Mauritzson, Robert Peterson, John Peterson & Shirley Round, Margaret Peterson & Jeff Fahey, Pat Huwe, Linda Starks, Harry Bradstreet, Dennis Bradstreet, Bonnie Beaton, Joy Knutson, Kimberly (Randy) Saxberg and Randy (Beverly) Sauer. She is also survived by her adopted family, (Torrie) Suzi Oswald, Ronda Oswald, Samantha, Matt, Anna and Grace Oswald, Eric & Fiona Oswald, Abby & Benjamin Oswald, Tony & Betsy Oleson and Cody & Sierra Oleson.

To greet her in heaven, is her husband, DeWain and special friend, Delbert Leonhardt, her parents, her siblings: Burton (Joyce) Huwe, Dale Huwe, Irene (Norm) Long, Lucille (Roy) Sheldon, Lois (Harry) Bradstreet, Erma (Tommy) Knutson, Nadine (Vern) Sauer, and nieces and nephews: Bonnie (George) Dolney, Robin Sauer, Larry Huwe, Tom Bradstreet, Bruce Knutson, and Kris Knutson.

Casketbearers were Torrie Oswald, Matt Oswald, Van Kalinoski, Dru Fishgrab, Geoff Dolney and Wayne Sauer.



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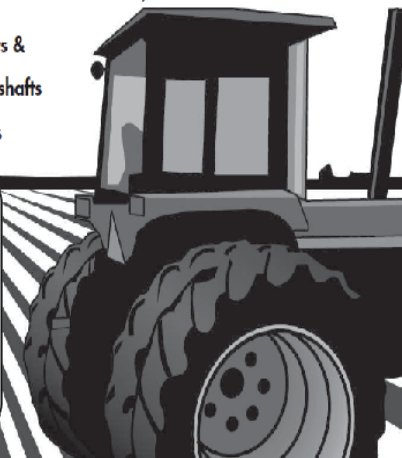
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Groton Independent ♦ Wed., Sept. 3, 2025 ♦ 7



AUGUST 26, 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 Dinger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mike Elsen from Hecla voiced some concerns over the plans for Hwy. 5; west of the bridge that crosses the James River, not getting resurfaced. Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent says they plan to mill that up treat it and then do a blotter surface at this time. Mike also asked the Commission to look at their Ordinance regarding Right-To- Farm Ordinance and having to sign an easement before a building permit is granted by the County Planning & Zoning.

Senator Carl Perry shared with the Commission that he will be attending the North Dakota Legislative Council Meeting in Ellendale and some of the topics will be Review of the Supplementary Rules of Operations and Procedures of the ND Legislative Management; Mayor of Ellendale will be talking about Data Center Project along with several other topics.

REVIEW & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OPEN MEETING LAWS: Chairman Sutton shared that S.D. Attorney General's Office in partnership with S.D. News Media Association revised the Open Meeting Laws. Per SDCL 1-23-13 Annual Review of Open Meeting Laws the political subdivision must annually review during an official meeting and be included in the minutes. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to acknowledge the 2025 revised Open Meeting Laws. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #307 – SECOND READING/POSSIBLE ADOPTION: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to adopt Ordinance #307. Applicant Dennis Volzke to rezone from Residential District (R-1) to Highway Commercial District (HC) to bring these parcels into compliance for their current use: Description of property: The 500' west of the east 700' of the north 658' in the NW1/4 of Section 11-T123N-R64W, except highway R.O.W. and except H-1; Lot C, Block 12, "Wylie Park Estates 5th Addition" in the N1/2 of Section 11-T123N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (1421 24th Avenue NW & 1920 N Hwy 281; Aberdeen Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #308 – SECOND READING/POSSIBLE ADOPTION: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to adopt Ordinance #308. Applicant Roger Pic 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, "Brick Subdivision" in the SE1/4 of Section 31-T122N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (14177 375th Avenue; Highland Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #309 – SECOND READING/POSSIBLE ADOPTION: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Gage to adopt Ordinance #309. Applicant Mina Northeast, LLC – Carl Hanson to rezone from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG), Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Lake Front Residential District (R-3) and Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to Lake Front Residential District (R-3) to bring these parcels into compliance for their current use: Description of property: Lot 1 thru 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, Block 1; Lot 1, Block 2; Lot 2, Block 4; Lot 1 thru 6, Block 3; all of "Mina Lake Northeast Addition" in the S1/2 of Section 7-T123N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (13147, 13151, 13155, 13159, 13163, 13167, 13174, 13178, 13182, 13186 N

Sunrise Drive; 37334 & 37345 Dusk Drive; 13135, 13184 & 13193 Feickert Drive; 37344 132nd Street; Mercier Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

AUTHORIZING SECOND RESTATEMENT OF AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE ABERDEEN – BROWN COUNTY REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY (AB-CRRA):

Commissioner Wiese offered the following Resolution: **RESOLUTION # 2025-36**

A RESOLUTION OF CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE ABERDEEN - BROWN COUNTY REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY AND AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE SECOND RESTATEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE ABERDEEN - BROWN COUNTY REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, SDCL Chapter 49-17A authorizes the creation of regional railroad authorities; and

WHEREAS, the Aberdeen - Brown County Regional Railroad Authority was established in 1991 and restated in 2007, and membership currently includes the City of Aberdeen, Brown County, Edmunds County, Spink County, and Beadle County (collectively, the "Members"); and

WHEREAS, the Members in 2025 desire to amend and restate the Agreement by which the ABCRRA is organized and operated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that Brown County shall continue its membership in the ABCRRA in accordance with the Second Restatement of the Agreement Establishing the ABCRRA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Commissioner Kyler Dinger is hereby appointed as the Commissioner and Commissioner Mike Wiese is appointed as alternate Commissioner of the ABCRRA from Brown County for a term of three (3) years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair is authorized to sign the Second Restatement of Agreement evidencing Brown County's continued membership in the ABCRRA.

Dated this 26th day of August, 2025.

Seconded by Commissioner Dinger.

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

2026 LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT SUB-RECIPIENT AGREEMENT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the 2026 Local Emergency Management Performance Grant (LEMPG) Sub-Recipient Agreement that provides a single funding and reporting instrument. Grant is provided to counties to pay for 50% of the Emergency Management Director's Salary & Benefits. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the application submitted by Northern Valley Communications for occupancy to install broadband by replacing copper line with fiber optic line to improve communication of Brown County 6 in Section 19-T124-R64, Brown County, South Dakota. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the application submitted by Northern Valley Communications for occupancy to replace copper line with fiber optic line to improve communication of Brown County 18 in Section 34,33-T128-R611, Brown County, South Dakota. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent informed the Commission that the James (Jim) River is 31" below crest level and Crow Creek is 51" below crest level. They are still paving on Co. Rd. 5 then moving to Mansfield. Commissioner Dennert asked about Co. 14, but Dirk said he knows there are issues, but it will be early 2026 before they can get to it.

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the General Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims/payroll: **CLAIMS:** Professional Fees:

Amusement Midway Providers Inc \$52,826.00; Bill Schaefer \$44.00; Brick's TV and Appli-ance \$1,803.75; Christy Griffin-Serr Law Office \$3,600.00; Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$900.00; Dohrer Law Office, PC \$1,943.00; Janet Wright \$50.00; Kelli Lardy \$454.75; Kuck Law Office \$5,706.00; Lakefront Entertainment, LLC \$449.95; Lucy Lewno \$396.00; Mark Kat-terhagen \$44.00; Sanford Clinic \$596.00; Tyler Technologies, Inc \$540.00; Yellow Robe Consulting \$1,800.00; US Bank \$897.70. Publishing: Aanenson Media, LLC \$2,846.00; Dakota Broadcasting, LLC \$1,580.00; Groton Daily Independent \$116.22; McQuillen Creative Group, Inc \$383.56; Midstates Group \$4,444.00; US Bank 300.00. Rentals: Advantage Self Storage \$276.00. Repairs & Maintenance: Dakota Doors Inc \$120.51; Diesel Machinery, Inc \$206.33; Eilers Water Con-ditioning and Lawn Irrigation \$207.00; Jake's Heating & Cool-ing \$1,781.38; Leidholt Electric, LLC \$576.67; New Waste Concepts, Inc \$3,990.00; US Bank 6,396.49. Supplies: Amazon Cap-ital Services, Inc \$512.62; Cen-tury Business Products \$591.78; Cole Paper Inc \$3,797.15; Da-kota Kids Pedal Pulls \$25.00; Da-kota Oil \$792.25; Dakota Supply Group \$86.00; Geffdog Designs \$326.50; Government Forms & Supplies \$131.37; Graham Tire Inc \$36.00; Kuck Law Office \$215.01; Leidholt Tool Sales, LLC \$79.54; Leidholt Electric, LLC \$321.61; Lien Transpor-tation Company \$13,349.70; Lucy Lewno \$13.46; McDonald's \$242.15; Menards \$1,000.50; Midstates Group \$560.00; Per-formance Oil \$618.27; Pierson Ford Lincoln, Inc \$125.72; Pit-ney Bowes Global Financial Services LLC \$15,000.00; Run-nings \$322.00; Schwan Weld-ing \$12.00; Sherwin Williams \$70.45; Sprocket Ventures, LLC \$15.80; US Bank \$27,899.98. Travel & Conference: Erin Kumpf \$26.00; Linda Marcuson \$14.00; Lynn Heupel \$268.20; Scott Kolb \$14.00; Steve Westby \$14.00; US Bank \$1,684.48. Utilities: City of Aberdeen Treas-urer \$2,953.80; Dependable Sanitation, Inc \$184.00; North-western Energy \$1,266.47; NVC \$528.63; State of South Da-kota PMB 0112 \$164.00; US Bank \$2,635.14. Machinery & Equipment: Jake's Heating & Cooling \$136,142.08. PAY-ROLL: Commission \$4,896.51; Elections \$1,945.88; Auditor/ Welfare \$11,404.97; Treasurer \$18,764.33; SA \$37,154.12; Pub-lic Defender \$7,743.81; Main-tenance \$12,755.17; Assessor \$16,592.82; Register of Deeds \$10,905.91; VSO \$4,741.87; GIS \$2,946.49; IT \$9,855.68; HR \$5,419.29; Sheriff \$59,611.11; Jail \$70,280.63; Coroner (Vouch-er) \$1,500.00; Court Secu-rity \$7,815.08; JDC \$30,387.02; Museum \$13,278.53; Parks/ Fairgrounds \$18,977.65; Fair Board \$38,316.98; 4-H \$4,100.86; Weed \$6,547.05; Planning & Zoning \$8,062.17; Highway \$58,114.55; Dis-patch \$34,711.86; Emergen-cy \$5,343.66; 24/7 Sobriety \$3,011.11; Landfill \$18,560.97; Meal Benefits \$104.00; FICA \$31,459.94; Medicare \$7,357.39; HSA \$2,309.40; Health Insurance-Wellmark BCBS \$66,618.70; Dental In-surance-Delta \$4,662.24; Life Insurance-Dearborn \$556.92; Retirement-SDRS \$32,104.02. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT: Moved by Com-missioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Human Resource Report sub-mitted by Human Resources Director, Allison Tunheim:

- o Last day of internship for Anna Johnson, Brown County 4-H Intern; effective August 18, 2025.
- o Last day of internship for Gentry Pigors, Brown County Fair Intern; effective August 18, 2025.
- o Last day for seasonal worker, Jesse Hernandez, Brown County Fairgrounds; effective August 18, 2025.
- o Last day for part-time (as needed) Bartenders; effective August 12, 2025
 - Natalie Ballensky
 - Madison Norby
- o .. Last day for part-time (as needed)) Bartenders; effective August 17, 2025
 - Chase Bradfeldt
 - Lexy Herrera
 - Jasmine Locke
 - hannon Northrop
 - Skyelar Timm
- o Temporary 2025 Brown County Fair Worker, August 11-17, 2025
 - Gatekeeper: Cassandra Flor-ence at \$12.50/hr.

o Amendment to August 5, 2025 HR Report; removed Hunt-er Kramer & Jonathan Shepard from the list of Temporary 2025 Brown County Fair Workers; which was effective from August 11 – 17, 2025.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LEASE AGREEMENTS: Moved by Commissioner Gage, sec-onded by Dennert to approve and authorize Chairman Sut-ton to sign the following lease agreements: Brown County Old Time Tractor Pullers Association to lease the Fairgrounds Area North of the Open Class Sheep Barn & One Set of Bleachers to hold their Antique Tractor Pull on August 23, 2025 that was can-celled due to weather during the Brown County Fair; Jerry & Kathy Bjerke to lease the Clubhouse on Sept. 19-22, 2025 for a wedding; American Foundation for Suicide Prevention to lease the Holum Expo Building, Stage and 5 sets of Bleachers on Sept. 5, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ZONING ORDINANCES – SET HEARING DATE/AUTHORIZE ADVERTISING: Moved by Commis-sioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to set hearing date and authorize publication for the first reading of the following zoning ordinances to be held on September 16, 2025, in the Commission Cham-bers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota. Proposed Ordinance #310, applicant Paul Larson for the purpose of rezon-ing from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agricul-ture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its current use: Description of property: Proposed Lot 1, "Paul Larson First Addition" in the E1/2 of the SE1/4 of Section 6-T122N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (13653 389th Avenue; Warner Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

PRELIMINARY PLAT – KEATTS NINTH SUBDIVISION: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, sec-onded by Dinger to approve the Preliminary Plat for Keatts Ninth Subdivision in NW ¼ of Section 23-T124N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County South Dakota. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

PRAIRIE LAKE THIRD SUBDI-VISION PLAT:

Resolution #2025-37
Commissioner Dinger brought the following Resolution "Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "PRAIRIE LAKE THIRD SUBDIVISION IN THE E ½ OF THE W ½ OF SEC-TION 23-T124N-R65W OF THE 5TH P.M., BROWN COUNTY SOUTH DAKOTA" having been examined, is hereby approved in accordance with the provi-sions of SDCL 11-3, and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Wiese. All members present voting aye. Resolution adopted.

PAUL LARSON FIRST ADDI-TION PLAT:

Resolution #2025-38
Commissioner Gage brought the following Resolution "Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "PAUL LARSON FIRST ADDITION IN THE E ½ SE ¼ OF SECTION 6-T122N-R63W OF THE 5TH P.M., BROWN COUNTY SOUTH DAKOTA" having been examined, is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL 11-3, and any amend-ments thereof." Seconded by Dennert. All members present voting aye. Resolution adopted.

FREY'S SECOND SUBDIVI-SION PLAT:

Resolution #2025-39
Commissioner Dinger brought the following Resolution "Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "FREY'S SECOND SUBDIVISION IN THE NE ¼ OF SECTION 24-T126N-R60W OF THE 5TH P.M., BROWN COUNTY SOUTH DAKOTA" having been examined, is hereby approved in accordance with the provi-sions of SDCL 11-3, and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Gage. All members present voting aye. Resolution adopted.

LECHNER FIRST ADDITION PLAT:

Resolution #2025-40
Commissioner Dennert brought the following Resolution "Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "LECHNER FIRST ADDITION IN THE SE ¼ OF SECTION 11-T124N-R64W OF THE 5TH P.M., BROWN COUNTY SOUTH DAKOTA" having been examined, is hereby approved

in accordance with the provisions of SDCL 11-3, and any amend-ments thereof." Seconded by Wiese. The motion passed with 4 votes; Commissioner Gage abstained due to doing busi-ness with the family. Resolution adopted.

GARY & LARRY FLIEHS FIRST ADDITION PLAT:

Resolution #2025-41
Commissioner Dinger brought the following Resolution "Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "GARY AND LARRY FLIEHS FIRST ADDITION IN THE SW ¼ OF SECTION 30-T125N-R60W OF THE 5TH P.M., BROWN COUNTY SOUTH DAKOTA" hav-ing been examined, is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL 11-3, and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Wiese. All members present voting aye. Resolution adopted.

OTHER BUSINESS: None
EXECUTIVE SESSION: None
ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:13 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published September 3, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$165.42 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25995



NOTICE OF HEARING
Application has been made to the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission for a VARIANCE PETITION. A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, on September 16, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.

Petitioner / Owner: Mark & Joleen Christianson

Description of property: Pro-posed Lot 1, "Christianson First Subdivision" in the SW1/4 of Section 15-T126N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (11476 391st Avenue; Brainerd Township).

Reason: Variance to Lot Size to allow Lot 1 (5.59 acres) to be smaller than 40.0 acres and stay zoned as Agriculture Preserva-tion District (AG-P) per 4.0605 of Brown County Ordinances.

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present com-ments and testimony regarding the proposed ordinance amend-ment.

Dated this 3rd day of Septem-ber 2025.

Planning/Zoning Commission and Scott Bader – P&Z Director
25 Market Street
Aberdeen, SD 57401
Office: (605) 626-7144

Published Sept. 3, 2025 in "The Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$13.20 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25987



NOTICE OF HEARING
A PETITION to REZONE has been submitted to Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission. A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse An-nex on September 16, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.

Petitioner: David Sieh
Description of property: Pro-posed Lot 1, "Sieh Family First Addition" in the SE1/4 of Section 13-T125N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (39970 121st Street; Columbia Twp.).

Reason: Rezone parcel from Agriculture Preservation Dis-trict (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this

parcel into compliance for its future use.

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present com-ments and testimony regarding the proposed rezone petition. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Planning/ Zoning Commission will forward a recommendation to the Board of Brown County Commissioner's with a future meeting date in the Commission Chambers. Verify the meeting dates with the Brown County Auditor.

Dated this 3rd day of Septem-ber 2025.

Planning/Zoning Commis-sion and

Scott Bader – P&Z Director
25 Market Street
Aberdeen, SD 57401
Office: (605) 626-7144

Published Sept. 3, 2025 in "The Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$15.71 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25988



NOTICE OF HEARING
Application has been made to the Brown County Planning/ Zoning Commission for a pro-posed Ordinance Amendment. A hearing will be held in the Brown County Courthouse Annex Basement Community Room, on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.

Petitioner: Brown County Planning & Zoning Department
Reason: Amendments to Brown County Title 4 – Zoning Ordinances

Chapter 4.01 Definitions:

Chapter 4.06 Agriculture Pres-ervation District (AG-P)

Chapter 4.36 Wind Energy Systems (WES)

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present com-ments and testimony regarding any proposed amendments in portions of Brown County Or-dinances.

Dated this 3rd day of Septem-ber 2025.

Planning/Zoning Commission and Scott Bader – P&Z Director
25 Market Street
Aberdeen, SD 57401
Office: (605) 626-7144

Published Sept. 3, 2025 in "The Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$12.25 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25989



NOTICE OF HEARING
Application has been made to the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission for a proposed Ordinance Amendment. A hear-ing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, on Septem-ber 16, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.

Petitioner: Brown County Planning & Zoning Department
Reason: Amendments to Brown County Ordinances in portions of Title 4

Chapter 4.01 Definitions

Chapter 4.06 Agriculture Pres-ervation District (AG-P)

Chapter 4.16 Heavy Industrial District (H-I)

Chapter 4.38 Data Centers

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present com-ments and testimony regarding any proposed amendments in portions of Brown County Or-dinances.

Dated this 3rd day of Septem-ber 2025.

Planning/Zoning Commission and Scott Bader – P&Z Director
25 Market Street
Aberdeen, SD 57401
Office: (605) 626-7144

Published Sept. 3, 2025 in "The Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$12.25 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25990



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ORDINANCE #307
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING
TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION
BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES AS AMENDED
TO REZONE CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that Ordinance #307, An Ordinance Amending Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended to rezone the following described property filed by petitioner Dennis Volzke was duly adopted by the Board of Brown County Commissioners on the 26th day of August 2025 and will become effective on the 23rd of September 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 Residential District (R-1) to Highway Commercial District (HC) to bring these parcels into compliance for their current use.

Description of property: The 500' west of the east 700' of the north 658' in the NW1/4 of Section 11-T123N-R64W, except highway R.O.W. and except H-1; Lot C, Block 12, "Wylie Park Estates 5th Addition" in the N1/2 of Section 11-T123N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (1421 24th Avenue NW & 1920 N Hwy 281; 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 26th day of August 2025.

Duane Sutton, Brown County Commission Chairman

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Notice of Hearing: July 30, 2025

First Reading: August 12, 2025

Second Reading/Adoption: August 26, 2025

Published: September 3-4, 2025

Effective Date: September 23, 2025

Published Sept. 3, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$22.62 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25991



ORDINANCE #308
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING
TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION
BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES AS AMENDED
TO REZONE CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that Ordinance #308, An Ordinance Amending Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended to rezone the following described property filed by petitioner Roger Pic was duly adopted by the Board of Brown County Commissioners on the 26th day of August 2025 and will become effective on the 23rd of September 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, "Brick Subdivision" in the SE1/4 of Section 31-T122N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (14177 375th 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 26th

day of August 2025.

Duane Sutton, Brown County Commission Chairman

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Notice of Hearing: July 30, 2025

First Reading: August 12, 2025

Second Reading/Adoption: August 26, 2025

Published: September 3-4, 2025

Effective Date: September 23, 2025

Published Sept. 3, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$21.05 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25992



ORDINANCE #309
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING
TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION
BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES AS AMENDED
TO REZONE CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that Ordinance #309, An Ordinance Amending Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended to rezone the following described property filed by petitioner Mina Northeast LLC – Carl Hanson was duly adopted by the Board of Brown County Commissioners on the 26th day of August 2025 and will become effective on the 23rd of September 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), Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Lake Front Residential District (R-3) and Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to Lake Front Residential District (R-3) to bring these parcels into compliance for their current use.

Description of property: Lot 1 thru 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, Block 1; Lot 1, Block 2; Lot 2, Block 4; Lot 1 thru 6, Block 3; all of "Mina Lake Northeast Addition" in the S1/2 of Section 7-T123N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (13147, 13151, 13155, 13159, 13163, 13167, 13174, 13178, 13182, 13186 N Sunrise Drive; 37334 & 37345 Dusk Drive; 13135, 13184 & 13193 Feickert Drive; 37344 132nd Street; Mercier 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 26th day of August 2025.

Duane Sutton, Brown County Commission Chairman

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Notice of Hearing: July 30, 2025

First Reading: August 12, 2025

Second Reading/Adoption: August 26, 2025

Published: September 3-4, 2025

Effective Date: September 23, 2025

Published Sept. 3, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$25.45 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25993

— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Nurturing Active Childhoods in a High-Tech World

Long before children say their first words or pick up a pencil, they're learning through their bodies. They kick, reach, roll, crawl and explore - hardwired to interact with the world through movement. From the very beginning, motor and sensory experiences are how babies discover their environment and how their brains begin to grow and organize.

Simply put, our bodies in motion are the vehicles through which we learn. When children move, their brains light up. Their senses, muscles, emotions and attention systems all come online and begin working together. Through active exploration, children build the foundations of their sensory, perceptual and cognitive systems.

Movement and imaginative play stimulate both brain and body, supporting not only strength and coordination but also emotional regulation, adaptive behaviors and social connection. A child building a tower of blocks isn't just learning fine motor skills; they're developing attention, problem-solving and perseverance. Free play fosters communication, cooperation and confidence. Movement is how learning begins ... and how it continues to unfold.

Yet despite all we know about the power of movement, children today grow up in an environment where active play is often displaced by screen time. Screens are nearly unavoidable and are often used to entertain, educate or soothe. For many families, technology helps manage the demands of modern life. But when screen use regularly replaces hands-on, movement-rich experiences, opportunities for growth are lost.

A child passively watching a screen misses the sensory variety, trial-and-error learning and face-to-face interaction that come from real-world play. Over time, this shift can influence motor skills, attention, emotional regulation, sleep and readiness to learn, which are essential for thriving in school, relationships and everyday routines.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children under 18 months avoid screen use altogether, and that children ages 2–5 be limited to no more than one hour of high-quality content per day. These guidelines aren't about restriction for its own sake; they reflect what we know about how children learn best - through movement, play and real-world interaction.

Movement is also one of the most reliable indicators of healthy development. Nearly 9 out of 10 young children in the U.S. meet national physical activity guidelines. This number drops sharply with age. By 6 to 17 years, only about a quarter of children meet these standards. As screen time increases and free time shrinks, children's need for movement can quietly go unmet.

This steady trend of rising screen use and declining physical activity doesn't mean we need to eliminate technology. Rather, we need to be more intentional about preserving time for play. Supporting active childhoods means prioritizing daily opportunities for whole-body movement, open-ended exploration and connection. That might look like a walk after dinner, dancing in the kitchen, building a blanket fort or inviting your child to help prepare a meal.

As pediatric physical therapists, educators and parents, we see the impact of movement every day. Children don't need expensive equipment or curated experiences. They need time, space and encouragement to move through their world and learn as they go. Fostering imagination, exploration and meaningful interactions with peers and caring adults helps children grow into strong, curious and resilient individuals.

For guidance on creating a balanced media plan, visit:

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/media/Pages/hhh.aspx>

Patti Berg-Poppe is a physical therapist and professor and chair of USD's Department of Physical Therapy, where she also directs the Program for Advancing Early Childhood Intervention (PACE-i). She has extensive experience in pediatric physical therapy and early intervention, with a focus on preparing future professionals to support development through play, movement and family-centered care.

Hsin-yi "Tanya" Liu is a pediatric physical therapist and researcher with expertise in early childhood development, mobility and assistive technology. She has practiced in both Taiwan and the United States and currently serves as assistant professor within USD's Department of Physical Therapy. Her work focuses on how play, movement and adaptive tools support motor and social development in children.

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Dr. Hsin-yi
"Tanya" Liu

Dr. Patti
Berg-Poppe



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As pediatric physical therapists, educators and parents, we see the impact of movement every day. Children don't need expensive equipment or curated experiences. They need time, space and encouragement to move through their world and learn as they go. Fostering imagination, exploration and meaningful interactions with peers and caring adults helps children grow into strong, curious and resilient individuals.

For guidance on creating a balanced media plan, visit:

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/media/Pages/hhh.aspx>

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Bridal Shower

Come and Go Shower for Madeline Schuelke from 2-4 on Saturday, September 6 at Olde Bank and Cafe. MK is the bride of Matthew Sterud. Please bring a Christmas ornament or decoration that Madeline can use during the holidays.

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EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: Any ideas on how to engage my slacker teenager on issues of climate and environment?

-- Name Withheld

Climate change details the rapid increase of Earth’s temperature resulting from the excessive emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. When relaying this explanation to a teenager, you might describe it as actively threatening the livelihood of the planet humanity calls home, and that if we continue to not regulate the growth of this phenomenon, we will be in very big trouble. Whatever way you explain it, climate change will affect future generations to come.

New Jersey was the first state to uphold and require climate education in schools, incorporating climate education in 2020 in the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. Connecticut followed suit right after. However, in the rest of the U.S., climate education, when present, is not primarily focused on in science curriculums. So your child is no slacker if the education being taught is slacking!

There are certain ways, however, that your young people can become educated on climate issues, and that is through incorporating genuine entertainment with education. One of the things that interests teenagers are video games, simulations that many people’s eyes are glued to, adults and teens alike.

One game, in particular, stands out: Mission 1.5’s mobile game. The



Getting teenagers off the couch and into the fight to protect our climate is no easy task these days but some parents are prevailing.

Credit: Pexels.com.

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CELEBRATING THE HARD WORK OF A NATION
SEPTEMBER 1ST LABOR DAY
STORE HOURS
Ken's Super Fair Foods, Ken's Shell Express and Ken Bottle Shop in Aberdeen will be open Regular Hours. Ken's Food Fair in Britton, Groton & Ipswich will be open 8 am - 5 pm. Clark & Eureka will be open 8 am - Noon

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12-16 OZ. BOX

99¢

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RED BARON
PIZZA

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LIQUEUR-BEER

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Knob Creek
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750 ML.

\$63.99

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10 ♦ Groton Independent ♦ Wed., Sept. 03, 2025

game lets a user play for a certain time, and when an ad pops up, instead of advertising a product, the ad serves to educate the user on climate issues. Not only that, Mission 1.5, among others, further asks users to vote on the best ways to lead on in the fight for climate change, prompting further thought.

“Fast Forward (to today), we have about six million people that have played the game so far in 58 countries.... when people start it, they really play it, which is something we’re really excited about,” United Nations Development Programme Cassie Flyn explains to UN News.

For a more hands on approach, intrigue your youngsters in hand-made projects that are both fulfilling and fun. For example, edible greenhouse projects, which use toothpicks and gumdrops to recreate models of gases that contribute to global warming. These science projects contain simple methodologies that are expeditious for parents to set up for their child.

Teen-only focused group settings can stimulate more of an interest in climate issues rather than only with an adult as well. It’s important to still maintain an attitude of companionship and hope between one’s peers regarding issues of our climate to engage youth. Disinterest can go away in an instant if one’s teen is immersed in the material through doing activities that appeal to their way of learning.

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Groton sweeps Ipswich in conference volleyball battle

The Northeast Conference Groton Area Tigers traveled to Ipswich on Tuesday night and came away with a hard-fought 3–0 victory over the Lake Region Conference Ipswich Tigers in varsity volleyball action.

Groton opened the night strong, taking the first set 25–15 behind the hitting of Chesney Weber and the serving of McKenna Tietz. Weber put down four kills and Tietz delivered four aces, while Rylee Dunker and Jaedyn Penning each chipped in three kills. “We made a lot of errors in that first set — I think Ipswich’s 15 points, and we probably scored seven or eight of those ourselves,” said head coach Chelsea Hanson. “We’ll want to clean that up against tougher opponents, but it’s early in the season, and we’ll be fine.”

In the second set, Groton stormed out to an 11–0 lead and never looked back in a 25–16 win. Tevan Hanson powered the offense with six kills and an ace, Weber added two kills and a block, and Penning contributed two kills and an ace. Coach Hanson noted the advantage of depth even with standout Sydney Flock sidelined. “Sid got hurt in soccer over the weekend, so we knew we’d be without her,” Hanson said. “But we have a lot of depth, and no matter who’s out, we have someone who can step in and fill. It was good to be able to get some other people mixed in tonight.”

Ipswich made things interesting in the third set, which featured seven lead changes and 10 ties, including a 24–24 deadlock. Guthmiller sparked Ipswich with eight kills and an ace, but Groton leaned on Hanson’s four kills, Weber’s three, and two kills with a block from Kella Tracy to finish off the sweep. “Ipswich has always been a really solid blocking team,” Hanson observed. “Even though they’re not super big, they block so well. It was good for us to see that and have to get up and cover our hitters.”

The coach also praised her young front-line players for their composure. Hanson, a freshman, finished the night with 11 kills and an ace. “She’s learning fast,” Coach Hanson said. “She made three or four errors in a row and then came back to take big swings. That’s a sign of maturity. It’s not common for an underclassman to do that.” She also highlighted Tracy’s impact. “She’s been destroying the ball in practice, and tonight she came in and got big kills and blocks for us. She changes things for the outside hitters.”

Match leaders

Groton spread the production across its roster. Alongside Hanson’s 11 kills, Weber finished with 23 assists and seven kills, Tracy tallied five kills and two assisted blocks, and Taryn Traphagen contributed four kills and two blocks. Tietz added four aces, Penning had six kills, 14 digs, and an ace, while Dunker posted five kills. Locke anchored the back row with 13 digs, five assists, and an ace serve. The Tigers finished 62-of-70 at the line with six aces, hit 91-of-108 for 34 kills, totaled 33 assists, and dug out 56 balls.

Ipswich was led by Marley Guthmiller’s 14 kills. Josie Knutson had 12 assists, and Brianna Geditz 10 digs. Ipswich was 52-of-55 serving with five aces, hit 89-of-106 for 16 kills, and collected 37 digs with seven blocks.

Sub-varsity action

Groton also swept the junior varsity and C matches. The JV team won 25–16, 25–22 behind strong outings from Abby Fjeldheim (five kills), Elizabeth Cole (five kills), and Libby Althoff (three aces, one kill). The C team rolled to a 25–12 win in the first set, then outlasted Ipswich 28–26 in extra points.

Groton improves to 2–0 on the season after earlier knocking off Hamlin. The Tigers will travel to Sisseton on Thursday, and Hanson expects a similar challenge. “They always have height, and we’ll have to adjust,” she said. “But if we keep improving, we’ll be ready.”

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Ag-tegra, Avantara, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Bierman Farm Service, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Full Circle Ag, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, Groton Legion, Heartland Energy, John Sieh Agency, Jungle and The MeatHouse. The JV and C matches were sponsored by Sue Fjeldheim with Tastefully Simple.