



\$2

The Groton Independent

Vol. 142 No. 52 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2025 ♦ Established in 1889

Fellowship of Christian Students Record Breaking Attendance

Fellowship of Christian Students (FCS) had a record-breaking attendance for their first meeting of the school year on September 14th. Students from 6th grade up to seniors (50+ students) gathered to hear student leader JD Schwan share an inspiring message on connecting Bible verses and not always looking at them in isolated situations. Much like a single Lego block may look insignificant but together with other blocks, it creates a masterpiece much like the Bible and the promises of the Old Testament to the fulfillment of those promises in the New Testament and even today. Activity 'Basket-Volley' was led by student leader Teagan Hanten, where groups of 4-5 students worked together to pass and set a volleyball into a basketball hoop. FCS meets once a month for fellowship and additionally for a service project (September - Human Society).



Group picture of all student attendees. (Courtesy Photo)



Chairs were added to the GHS Library Conference room due to number of attendees. (Courtesy Photo)



JD Schwan presents his message about connecting verses in the Bible. (Courtesy Photo)

Groton awarded T-Mobile Friday Night Lights grant



Fans at Friday night's football game in Groton heard some exciting news during half-time. Longtime statistician Tom Woods announced that Groton has been awarded a \$5,000 grant from T-Mobile as part of its Friday Night 5G Lights program.

The program distributes weekly grants to high schools across the country to help support athletic facilities, with each recipient also becoming eligible for a \$1 million national prize. That larger award is designed to fund major upgrades that can benefit entire communities.



Tom Woods (left) talked about the grant Groton Area received on GDILIVE.COM as he was being interviewed by Paper Paul. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Woods explained that the process began when he was contacted earlier this summer about the possibility of applying. "They reached out to me first, asking if Groton would be interested," Woods said. "I filled out the information they needed, and then it was just a matter of waiting to see what would happen. A couple of weeks ago I got the notice that we were one of the winners."

He shared the news with Tiger fans at half-time, saying it represents an opportunity for the community to rally behind its athletes and facilities. "If this free money is available, we need to help ourselves with it," Woods said. "And who knows? I don't believe in luck—I believe the good Lord above can work through us if we help ourselves."

Katie Frey, Senior Manager of Media and Public Relations for T-Mobile, celebrated Groton's selection in a statement:

"I am excited to share with you that Groton Area High School has been selected as one of 450 schools nationwide to receive a \$5,000 prize through the T-Mobile Friday Night 5G Lights program — a major initiative investing in high school football communities across America. It is one of only five high schools from South Dakota to win the \$5,000 prize."

Continues on page 4

When you post anything about Groton athletics, use the following hashtags.

#FN5GL
#Sweepstakes



Tevan Hanson sets a volleyball into the hoop, while teammates Tori Schuster and Avery Crank, and adult leader Ryan Olson watch to see if she makes it. (Courtesy Photo)

Classifieds
and Card of Thanks

The following rates are for Classifieds published in both the Groton Daily Independent and the Groton Independent. Cut rate in half if you just want it in the GDI or just the weekly.
1 Week: \$9 for first 30 words, 20¢/word thereafter
2 Wks: \$17 for first 30 words, 38¢/word thereafter
3 Wks: \$24 for first 30 words, 54¢/word thereafter
4th consecutive week is free
605/397-NEWS (6397)
PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

AGRICULTURE

ATTENTION FARMERS seeing white mold in your fields? Noticing SDS? Share your location and enter to win FREE soybean seeds for 2026. Call Emily 605/290-8383

EMPLOYMENT

DONOVAN PLUMBING IN SPEARFISH seeks an Experienced Plumber and an Apprentice. Begin or advance your career! Apply through indeed or email Donovan.Plumbing@outlook.com.

LAND

IN SEARCH OF PASTURE for 50-300 Pairs. 5th Generation, SD, ranchers looking to expand. Long term lease preferred but would consider short term. Call (605)690-1997

MISCELLANEOUS

WE BUY HOUSES FOR CASH AS-IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Call today for your fair cash offer: 1-605-601-9373

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-877-754-0067

STOP OVERPAYING FOR HEALTH INSURANCE! Reduce premiums and out-of-pocket costs while getting the coverage you need! Call now for a competitive free quote. 1-877-906-0290. Plus... Income based government subsidies are available for those that qualify!

NOTICES

ADVERTISE IN NEWSPAPERS statewide for only \$150. Put the South Dakota Statewide Classifieds Network to work for you today! (25 words for \$150. Each additional word \$5.) Statewide Full Digital Ad is \$300 for 1 week. Call the Groton Independent at 605-397-7460.

Harry Implement

“Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!”

CERTIFIED DEALER

AFS

ADVANCED FARMING SYSTEMS

CASE IH

(605) 395-6421

Ferney

MEYERS

TRACTOR SALVAGE

ABERDEEN, SD

1000+ Salvaged Tractors & Combines
400+ Reground Crankshafts
500+ Tractor Tires
300+ Rebuilt Radiators

Large Line of Swather, Baler & Cutter Parts.

GREAT BUYS & SERVICE!

WANT TO BUY TRACTORS, COMBINES & SWATHERS FOR SALVAGE

Phone (605) 225-0185

5 Miles North & 1 Mile West of CASE-IH

SD-1632105D

2 ♦ Groton Independent ♦ Wed., Sept. 17, 2025

Milbank shuts out Groton Area, 19-0

The Groton Area Tigers showed grit but couldn’t overcome turnovers and missed opportunities Friday night, as Milbank pulled away for a 19-0 victory in the 78th meeting between the two programs.

Milbank’s first breakthrough came late in the opening quarter. Quarterback Braylen Bowsher hit Esteban Abrego wide open for a 40-yard touchdown after a moment of defensive confusion. “We were confused on defense a little bit because Ryder Johnson, our normal cornerback, had to come out when the referees said his knee pads weren’t low enough,” longtime statistician Tom Woods explained at halftime. “Somebody inexperienced came in, and we had a little confusion. That led to that touchdown. No excuses—that’s just the truth.” Franklin Peterson’s PAT made it 7-0 after one quarter.

The Tigers nearly answered, but a fumble deep in their own territory on the first play of the second quarter set up Milbank at the Groton 32. Although the Bulldog drive stalled, it was an early sign of the mistakes that would haunt Groton all night.

Just minutes later, the Tigers recovered a Milbank fumble at the Bulldog 36, only to give it right back on an interception on the very next play. That theme repeated itself throughout the night—Groton forced three turnovers, but each time Milbank responded by clamping down defensively.

Bowsher made the Tigers pay midway through the second quarter, breaking free for a 17-yard touchdown run to stretch Milbank’s lead to 13-0. The kick was no good, but the Bulldogs went into halftime firmly in control.

At the break, Woods noted the defensive highlights despite the deficit. “Logan Warrington has been playing really well—six tackles and two sacks in the first half alone,” Woods said. But he also pointed to Groton’s offensive struggles: “They shut us down rushing—we were 11 carries for minus 16 yards.”

The Tigers opened the second half with more miscues. An early penalty set them back, and Milbank’s Mason Allen picked off a pass after a Groton first down run was wiped out by holding. The Bulldogs capitalized, driving inside the 10 before Zack Karges plunged in from two yards out with 2:38 left in the third quarter. The blocked extra point kept the score at 19-0, but the damage was done.

Groton’s defense kept battling, forcing punts and even grabbing interceptions of their own, but the offense could never break through. Three interceptions, a fumble, and a failed punt attempt on fourth down left the Tigers with no points to show for their drives.

Head coach Shaun Wanner acknowledged after the game that his team’s youth is showing. “We had four sophomores we started tonight and three freshmen,” Wanner said. “That’s seven underclassmen. I don’t ever remember being that young in all my years of coaching. But they’re a good group. They come to practice, they work hard, they’ve got positive attitudes. We’re not winning, but we’re playing hard.”

Wanner praised his seniors for guiding the team through tough stretches. “Sometimes older kids get frustrated with younger kids, but these guys don’t,” he said. “They’re always telling them to keep their heads up when they make mistakes. The young kids are trying to make plays—it gets them in trouble sometimes, but that comes with experience.”

Even as the Tigers struggled, Woods offered the community a bright note at halftime, announcing that Groton was awarded a \$5,000 T-Mobile “Friday Night Lights” grant, making the school eligible for a \$1 million prize for facility improvements. “If this free money is available, we need to help ourselves with it,” Woods said. “I don’t believe in luck—I believe the good Lord above can work through us if we help ourselves.”

Looking ahead, Wanner knows the schedule doesn’t get any easier. “We knew this stretch—Mobridge, Winner, Milbank, then Deuel and Clark—was going to be tough,” he said. “But we just have to keep practicing, keep playing, and have some fun. That’s what I tell the kids every day.”

Groton (1-3) will look to turn things around on the road at Deuel next Friday night. Milbank (2-1) travels to Dell Rapids.

Game Stats
Groton Area

First downs: 4
Rushes: 23-26 yards
Anthony Tracy 3-13, Skyler Godel 3-6, Ryder Schelle 8-8, Asher Johnson 8-1, Keegen Tracy 1-(-2)
Passing: Asher Johnson 8-15, 33 yards, 2 INT
Receiving: Jordan Schwan 1-14, Ryder Johnson 2-12, Keegen Tracy 3-5, Ryder Schelle 2-2
Fumbles: 1 lost
Penalties: 6-45
Defense: Tucker Hardy 10 tackles; Logan Warrington 9 tackles; Keegen Tracy 1 INT; Ryder Johnson 1 INT

Milbank

First downs: 9
Rushes: 33-77 yards
Braylen Bowsher 16-24, Lance Engebretson 5-15, Zach Karges 7-17, Bennett Hunt 3-12, Ethan Owen 2-9
Passing: Bowsher 7-16, 83 yards, 2 INT
Receiving: Esteban Abrego 2-36, Sam Rick 5-47
Fumbles: 4, lost 2
Penalties: 5-60
Defense: Bennett Hunt 10 tackles; Ethan Owen 6 tackles; Ethan Seyer 6 tackles; Sam Rick 2 INT



Ryder Schelle
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

T	A	R	T		A	M	P		R	A	M	S
A	M	I	R		B	A	R		E	R	I	E
T	I	G	E	R	E	Y	E		F	I	R	E
			A	N	T		M	A	L	D	E	N
B	A	I	T	S		M	I	C	E			
A	N	D	S		E	Y	E	E	X	A	M	S
S	K	I		R	V	E	R	S		N	O	G
E	A	G	L	E	E	Y	E		P	O	S	T
			E	I	R	E		P	A	N	T	S
S	E	C	O	N	D		M	E	R			
E	V	A	N		E	Y	E	C	A	N	D	Y
W	I	F	I		E	E	O		D	I	V	E
S	E	E	D		N	A	W		E	X	I	T

Groton Netters sweeps Roncalli, improves to 5-0

The Groton Area volleyball team advanced to 5-0 on the season Thursday night with a 3-0 sweep of cross-county rival Aberdeen Roncalli, completing a program-wide sweep at every level from seventh grade through varsity.

The Tigers pulled out a tight first set, 25-23. Leading 11-10, Groton strung together six straight points to grab a 17-10 lead. Roncalli answered with a 6-0 run of its own to close the gap to 20-17, but the Tigers hung on.

“You knew it was going to be high intensity,” Groton head coach Chelsea Hanson said. “There’s no way to say, ‘Oh, it’s just another game,’ because it’s not. Roncalli is always scrappy defensively. A lot of balls I thought were down, they dug right back up. It was a good win for us.”

Groton controlled the second set 25-17. After Roncalli’s brief 1-0 lead, the Tigers surged ahead 3-1 and never looked back.

The third set proved more competitive, featuring nine ties and seven lead changes. Roncalli held a 12-11 edge before Groton rattled off five straight points for a 16-12 lead. The Tigers carried that momentum to a 25-18 win to close out the sweep.

“They made us earn every point,” Hanson said. “I think it really helped to get Rylee Dunker and Taryn Traphagen going in the middle, because Roncalli scouted Chesney pretty hard. But that’s the nice part—we can adjust. Once they started defending one spot, we could go to other hitters. That opened things up.”

Varsity

(Groton won 3-0: 25-23, 25-17, 25-18)

Groton
Jaedyn Penning – 9 kills
Tevan Hanson – 8 kills
Rylee Dunker – 8 kills, 1 block, 2 aces
Taryn Traphagen – 8 kills, 1 block
Chesney Weber – 3 kills, 1 block
Kella Tracy – 1 kill
Roncalli
Jillian Ellwein – 9 kills
Karsyn Davis – 4 kills
Grace Cogley – 3 kills, 1 block
Reese Henrich – 2 kills
Elaina Roach – 1 kill
Ava Danielson – 1 kill
Cambry Feickert – 1 ace

Junior Varsity

(Groton won 2-1: 25-22, 20-25, 15-4)

Neely Althoff – 8 kills
McKenna Krause – 6 kills, 1 ace
Elizabeth Cole – 6 kills, 1 block
Liby Althoff – 4 kills, 4 aces
Emily Jones – 4 kills
Kinsley Rowen – 2 kills
McKenna Tietz – 1 kill
Tevan Hanson – 1 kill
Rylen Ekern – 1 ace

C Match (Groton won 2-0: 25-16, 25-10)

Addison Hoeft – 7 kills
Kinsley Rowen – 4 kills, 2 aces, 1 block
Rylen Ekern – 4 aces
Neely Althoff – 3 kills, 2 aces
Elizabeth Cole – 3 kills

Liby Althoff – 2 kills
Ryelle Gilbert – 1 kill, 2 aces
Brooklyn Spanier – 1 kill
Tori Schuster – 1 ace

The sweep extended beyond varsity, as Groton also won the 8th and 7th grade matches to complete what Hanson called a “super clean sweep.”

“Anytime we can come here and walk out with wins across the board, it’s a good night,” Hanson said.

Roncalli dropped to 4-2 with the loss. Groton travels to Clark on Thursday before competing at the Hamlin Tournament next Saturday.

According to South Dakota High School Activities Association power-point rankings, Groton Area sits in the No. 2 spot in Class A. Roncalli slipped from No. 11 down to No. 17 with the loss. Next up, the Tigers travel to Clark to face a Clark-Willow Lake team that is undefeated and currently ranked No. 11 in the state. Groton then competes at the Hamlin Tournament next Saturday.

The games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Agtegra, Avantara, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Bierman Farm Service, Blocker Construction, Dan Richardt from Groton Ford, Dacotah Bank, Full Circle Ag, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, Groton Legion, Heartland Energy, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes and Lounge and The MeatHouse. Grandparents sponsored the JV and C matches.



McKenna Tietz
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Groton JV holds off Milbank for 21-14 win

Milbank – Groton’s Junior Varsity football team made big plays on both sides of the ball Monday night and held off a late Milbank rally to earn a 21-14 road win.

The Tigers struck first when T.C. Schuster intercepted a pass on Milbank’s opening possession and returned it 28 yards for a touchdown. Wesley Morehouse added the extra point for a 7-0 lead with 9:18 left in the first quarter.

Milbank answered quickly as Max Scoular broke free for a 38-yard touchdown run. The point-after attempt was no good, leaving Groton in front 7-6, a score that held through the end of the first quarter.

In the second quarter, Schuster connected with Keegan Woltjer for a 33-yard touchdown pass with 1:49 left in the half. Morehouse’s PAT extended the lead to 14-6 at the break.

Groton’s defense came up with another takeaway in the third quarter when Kolton Antonsen intercepted a pass and gave the Tigers possession at their own 35-yard line. Schuster later found Alex Abeln for a six-yard touchdown strike, and Morehouse’s kick made it 21-6 heading into the fourth.

Milbank mounted a late comeback. With 3:50 to play, quarterback Liam Street completed a 30-yard touchdown pass, and Scoular ran in the conversion to cut the deficit to 21-14. Moments later, Adrian Seyer intercepted a Groton pass, giving the Bulldogs the ball at the Tigers’ 29-yard line with just over two minutes to play.

Milbank advanced inside the 15 but faced a crucial 4th-and-5 at the 11-yard line with 30 seconds remaining. The Groton defense held, forcing a turnover on downs. The Tigers then took a knee to secure the 21-14 victory.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by the Schuster Family.



Keegan Woltjer
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



TC Schuster
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

GROTON
Ford
605/397-2311
www.grotonford.com



The Minnesota Vikings hosted the Atlanta Falcons as the two teams met on Sunday Night Football. The Vikings got completely demolished, losing 22-6.

Just like last week, the Vikings were sluggish out of the gate. The Falcons got the ball to open the game, and on their three first-quarter drives, they ran 17 plays for 113 yards (6.7 yards per play). On the flip side, the Vikings ran two drives and managed eight yards on seven plays (1.1 yards per play). Luckily for Minnesota, the defense bent but didn't break, holding Atlanta to field goals and keeping the score 6-0 heading into the second quarter.

The Vikings finally got a drive going in the second quarter, going 53 yards on 17 plays, although they had to settle for a field goal, which cut the deficit to three points. A Falcons' punt got the ball back to MIN, but three plays later, J.J. McCarthy threw an interception, which ATL turned into a field goal. The Vikings received the ensuing kickoff with 25 seconds left in the half, took a sack on the first play of the drive, then Justin Jefferson caught a 50-yard pass, which allowed Will Reichard to kick a 51-yard field goal as time expired. Despite a rough start, the Vikings were only down three at halftime.

The Vikings got the ball to begin the second half, and three plays later punted the ball to the Falcons, who marched down the field for another field goal. Both teams punted on their next possessions, and suddenly we were already into the fourth quarter. Despite being outgained 214 to 140, it was only a one-score game. The Vikings just needed to capture some of that fourth-quarter magic they displayed last week.

On the first play of the fourth quarter, McCarthy was sacked and fumbled, which was recovered by Atlanta, who converted the turnover into another field goal. The Vikings responded with another three-and-out, then let the Falcons march down the field for the game's first touchdown, which extended their lead to 16 points.

This game was bad. There's no way to sugarcoat it. The Vikings played a horrible game in week one as well, but a miraculous fourth quarter against an inferior team got our hopes up. Got us thinking maybe the team, and specifically J.J. McCarthy, just needed some time to find their groove. This embarrassing week two loss has made it clear that this team is a long way from competing for a championship. Frankly, I'm ashamed to be a Vikings fan right now. Can the Vikings turn this around? The magic eight ball says, "Outlook not so good".

Looking ahead, the Cincinnati Bengals come to town. At least this game will be at noon, so the entire nation won't be watching what will likely be another pathetic performance.

The Groton Independent
21 N Main, Groton 605/397-NEWS (6397)
Paul Irvin Kosel, Publisher paperpaul@grotonsd.net ~ 605-397-7460
Tina Kosel, Office Manager office@grotonsd.net ~ 605-397-7285
Notices: legals@grotonsd.net
News Items: news@grotonsd.net
Deadline to submit items: Noon Monday]
Yearly Subscription Rates are listed below.
The Groton Independent (USPS# 230-440) is published weekly with its periodicals postage paid at Groton, SD.
Postmaster: Send address changes to
Groton Independent, PO Box 34, Groton, SD 57445
© 2025 The Groton Independent

The Groton Independent
Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition
Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.2% Sales Tax

<input type="checkbox"/> Black & White	\$48.99/year
<input type="checkbox"/> Colored	\$79.88/year
<input type="checkbox"/> Colored	\$42.60/6 months
<input type="checkbox"/> E-Weekly*	\$31.95/year

* The E-Weekly is a PDF file emailed to you each week. It does not grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Phone Number _____

Groton Daily Independent
www.397news.com
Subscription Form

This option will grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Month	\$15.98
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Months.....	\$26.63
<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Months.....	\$31.95
<input type="checkbox"/> 9 Months.....	\$42.60
<input type="checkbox"/> 12 Months	\$53.25

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

The following will be used for your log-in information.

E-mail _____

Password _____

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent
P.O. Box 34
Groton, SD 57445-0034
or scan and email to paperpaul@grotonsd.net

T-Mobile Grant . . .Continued from front

Groton is not only among the 450 schools to receive this support — it's now in the running for the \$1 million grand prize, which would transform the school's football experience and ultimately benefit the entire community. Last year's winner in Inola, Okla., unveiled their new upgrades earlier this month — you can see more here: T-Mobile Friday Night Lights Champion."

Groton posted on its Instagram account in early September to announce its participation, and Frey noted that community engagement will be key to keeping Groton in the running for the top prize. "The more local participation, the more it can help elevate the school's chance to win," she said. More information is available at www.FridayNight5GLights.com.

In July, T-Mobile announced the second year of its Friday Night 5G Lights commitment to small-town sports, with \$4 million in total prizes on the line — including the grand prize football field technology makeover. In total, the company will award:

- One \$1 million grand prize for a complete field tech upgrade, a renovated weight room from Gronk Fitness, an all-expense-paid trip to the SEC Championship, and more.
- 25 finalist prizes of \$25,000 for football programs.
- 450 prizes of \$5,000 for schools like Groton.

The deadline to enter this year's contest closed on Sept. 12, with the 25 finalists for the \$25,000 awards to be announced later this month.

For Woods, who has spent years on the sidelines tracking stats and cheering on Groton athletes, the award was a reminder that the Tigers' efforts are noticed well beyond northeast South Dakota.

Storage unit project denied after tense discussion Tuesday night

A proposed storage unit project brought some drama to Tuesday night's city council meeting.

The project, located at 9 East Railroad Avenue, would include building 16 storage units on the property that used to house Teddy Bear Daycare. Mark Abeln purchased the property and took down the distressed building. He requested a special exception to the city's zoning ordinance in order to build the commercial buildings on the property zoned residential.

The Planning and Zoning Committee denied the special exception request, and Abeln appealed the decision to the City Council.

Residents from the block northeast of the intersection of North Broadway Street and East Railroad Avenue voiced strong opposition to having commercial development built on their block.

Councilman Brian Bahr, who sits as a non-voting representatives on the planning and zoning board, started the discussion, saying Abeln has said he is willing to compromise on a number of issues of concern for area residents.

Bahr added, though, that the property has been used as a commercial business in that residential area for many years. Teddy Bear Daycare was not an in-home daycare, he said, as no one lived in the house that was on the lot.

Councilwoman Karyn Babcock responded.

"I feel like Teddy Bear Daycare was an in-home daycare, even if it was commercial, because it was in a home," she said.

Babcock said she would be concerned if she lived there as well, and she wouldn't want to look out the window and see storage units.

"If you put something there that doesn't sync with residential, I wouldn't want it," she said. "I get where you're going. I agree that we need more storage. I don't think putting it there is the right place."

Residents in the area expressed concerns about increased vehicle and foot traffic, the look of storage units in their neighborhood and possible noise issues at all hours.

The council was divided on the issue, with three council members (Bahr, Kevin Nehls and Jon Cutler) siding to allow the project and three other council members (Babcock, Mike Shilhanek and Jason Wambach) standing by the neighbors' concerns.

Cutler said that it is hard not to listen to the people in the area, but he doesn't see an issue changing that lot to commercial. It has been done for other properties in town, including two blocks north of the proposed project, which now houses Lavish Luxury Salon Suite.

"I personally don't see an issue with it," he said.

Many council members said it was a tough decision.

Wambach said that while he loves to see progress in town, a majority of the neighbors are against it. That led him to voting against the project.

Wambach, Babcock and Shilhanek voted to deny changing the property to allow for the project, while Bahr, Nehls and Cutler voted to allow the project to move forward.

With a tie vote, Mayor Scott Hanlon was tasked with making the tie-breaker vote.

"I guess that's going to make me have to make the final decision," he said. "I have to respect the Planning and Zoning Commission and the neighbors, so I am going with 'no.'"

Following the tense vote, Hanlon urged everyone not to let the disagreement create lasting division.

"Let's not hold this against anybody," he said. "Let's see if we can work with everybody to get something there.

"...Let's not let this tear us apart," he added. "The bottom line is let it make us stronger."

Groton Area girls roll past Vermillion

VERMILLION — The Groton Area Tigers girls’ soccer team put together one of their strongest performances of the season Saturday afternoon, earning a 7-0 road victory over Vermillion.

Head coach Matt Baumgartner said the team took a little while to find their rhythm but responded in a big way once the scoring opened up.

“I just think teamwork worked really well after we kind of settled in and got the first goal,” Baumgartner said. “Everyone came a little bit flustered to start the game ... but once the game settled in, everyone found their composure and started to play how we know how to play.”

Mia Crank put the Tigers on the board in the 22nd minute, finishing a pass from McKenna Tietz. Jerica Locke added another late in the first half, and Groton carried a 2-0 advantage into halftime.

The Tigers erupted in the second half with five more goals. Tietz scored twice, Locke added her second, Sydney Locke found the net, and Brenna Imrie tapped in a cross from senior captain Jaedyn Penning.

Baumgartner also highlighted a special moment between his keepers. Penning, normally the starter in goal, moved out onto the field in the second half while seventh grader Tori Schuster stepped into net for the first time this season.

“The conversation around the team is Tori’s probably the next one up to play goalie,” Baumgartner said. “It was nice to see her make two really big saves and not be scared back there. That really helps her confidence.”

The coach said Penning’s leadership was valuable even when she wasn’t in goal.

“She’s a really big communicator,” Baumgartner said. “Her bringing that communication up thirty, forty yards towards the goal really helps at times. She even got an assist to Brenna, so that was nice to see.”

Scoring summary
1st Half — Crank (Tietz) 21:56; J. Locke 1:40
2nd Half — Tietz 38:01; S. Locke 31:44; J. Locke (C. Gilbert) 29:57; Imrie (Penning) 13:13; Tietz (R. Gilbert) 1:51

Goalkeepers — Penning 50 minutes, 2 saves; Schuster 30 minutes, 2 saves

With the win, Groton improved its record and kept pace with the top teams in Class A. Next up is one of the most anticipated matchups of the season: the No. 1-ranked Tigers take on fellow No. 1 Dakota Valley in the coaches’ poll Tuesday, Sept. 16 at 4 p.m. in North Sioux City.

“We’ve got a lot of bus time coming up, but this is a chance to make a statement,” Baumgartner said. “Dakota Valley is right at the top, and we need a good result — whether it’s a win, tie, or even a close loss — to set us up for the postseason push.”

Both games were 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, Heartland Energy, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Lounge and The MeatHouse in Andover. Paul and Jeslyn Kosel were on hand for the events.



Ryelle Gilbert
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Tori Schuster
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



JJ Muller
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

Vermillion boys top Groton, 5-1

The Groton Area boys’ soccer team couldn’t recover from an early deficit Saturday, falling 5-1 to Vermillion.

The Tanagers struck three times in the opening half to take a commanding 3-0 lead at the break. They added two more goals early in the second half before the Tigers finally broke through. With 12:14 left to play, a corner kick from JJ Muller found its way to Ethan Kroll, who used his body to direct the ball into the net for Groton’s lone score.

Head coach Ryan Olson said his team came out flat in the opening 40 minutes, but he was encouraged by the way the Tigers responded after halftime.

“The second half was way better on defense,” Olson said. “We had control of the ball and were able to shoot the ball even more often compared to that first half. We probably only had two shots in the first half.”

Olson credited his players for pushing forward despite the hot conditions and a strong opponent. He noted that Vermillion only plays eight games in a season, compared to Groton’s twelve to fourteen, which may give the Tigers an advantage in overall experience.

“I think it kinda hurts them in the long run not to play as much,” Olson said. “But for us, it’s nice to have more games under our belt.”

The coach was glad to see Kroll’s goal finally get the Tigers on the board.

“That was nice,” Olson said. “JJ did the corner kick and Ethan got it in with his body. It was good to see us finish one.”

Looking ahead, Olson hopes Tuesday’s road trip to Dakota Valley will be a chance for his team to reset and get back in the win column.

“It should be a nice game for us where we can hopefully get back into the winning category,” he said. “I’m pleased with where we’re at, but we can’t let go of the throttle. We’ve had some really tough games these past two or three, and we just need to get our momentum and confidence going again.”

Olson also noted that, despite the heat, the Tigers came away without any major injuries.

“We’ve got some bum ankles and stuff going on, but nothing too severe,” he said. “Luckily, we didn’t get any cramping out there tonight. I don’t like the heat—I’d rather play in the cold—but the kids handled it well.”

Groton’s record now stands at 6-3 on the season, while Vermillion improves to 3-1.



Haden Harder
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

15 N Main St. - Ste. 101
Downtown Groton

Open 24/7

Living Heart Fitness Center

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

PROGRESSIVE
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
ASSURANCE ALLIANCE
CREDIT & PROPERTY POOL
GREYSHEPHERD
NORTH STAR
NORTHWEST GF
SFM

AUTO
HOME
FARM
COMMERCIAL
CROP

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

ACCESS TO MANY MORE COMPANIES!

Groton Chiropractic
Clinic

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.
1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204

Groton Independent ♦ Wed., Sept. 17, 2025 ♦ 5



SEPTEMBER 2, 2025 – GENERAL MEETING

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None
S.D. SURFACE WATER DISCHARGE PERMIT RENEWAL APPLICATION: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the S.D. Surface Water Discharge Program Application for Permit to Discharge Wastewater - Permit Renewal for the Brown County Landfill submitted to the S.D. Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 PROVISIONAL BUDGET: Time and place, as advertised for public hearing on the 2026 Provisional Budget was held. No one from the public or various departments appeared. Chairman Sutton shared that he visited with NE Mental Health Center regarding using some of the Opioid Funds to meet half of their budget request; but no decision was made today. Commissioner Gage moved to approve the Provisional Budget as presented at this time, seconded by Dinger. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. Final Budget will be approved on September 23, 2025.

SET HEARING DATE FOR HIGHWAY 5-YEAR PLAN/BIG PROGRAM PUBLIC MEETING: Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent, was unable to attend the meeting but asked to have the Highway 5-year plan public meeting for September 30, 2025. Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Gage to approve and set the hearing date on September 30, 2025 for Highway 5-year plan public meeting. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Dennert to approve the General Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve the following claims: Professional Fees: Aberdeen Advanced Care Ambulance \$7,050.00; CenturyLink-Lumen \$429.45; CGI, LLC \$825.00; Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$912.00; DEVNET \$3,789.84; Diesel Machinery, Inc \$750.00; Dingman Inc \$7,938.00; Helms & Associates \$320.00; Kuck Law Office \$4,236.00; Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC \$1,380.00; Marshall & Swift/Boeckh, LLC \$1,082.15; Natrona County Sheriff's Office \$55.00; Pharm-Chem, Inc \$1,780.01; Taliaferro Law Firm, PC \$6,222.00; Turnwell Mental Health of SD \$2,337.50. Publishing: Aberdeen Community Concert Association \$125.00; McQuillen Creative Group, Inc \$78.26. Repairs & Maintenance: Diamond Mowers LLC \$181.78; HF Jacobs & Sons Const. Inc \$262.50; Jake's Heating & Cooling \$348.21; Lawson Products, Inc \$59.20; Lenslock Inc \$713.33; Pierson Ford Lincoln, Inc \$337.48; Precision Kiosk Technologies \$3,000.00; Sewer Duck, Inc \$950.00; Webster Scale \$48,890.00. Supplies: ADAPCO LLC \$262.64; Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$632.07; Bob Barker Company Inc \$1,422.23; Cartney Bearing \$290.23; Charm-TEX, Inc \$609.60; Christina M. Flack \$1,051.58; Cole Paper Inc \$886.28; Crescent Electric Supply Co \$34.65; Diamond Mowers LLC \$2,152.29; EcoLab Pest Elimination Division \$100.00; Fastenal Company \$641.53; FedEx \$38.24; Geffdog Designs \$288.96; Great Western Tire \$2,278.32; Hanlon Brothers, LLC \$71,736.69; Jacobsen Farm Service, LLC \$645.00; Joe Kretschman \$15.93; Kuck Law Office \$112.70; Lawson Products, Inc \$661.70; Lien Transportation Company \$46,199.70; Menards \$49.98; Nutrien Ag Solutions, Inc \$7,623.00; Performance Oil \$73.98; Pierson Ford Lincoln, Inc \$7.42; Sprocket Ventures, LLC \$89.00; Tyler Technologies,

Inc \$475.94. Travel & Conference: Aaron Walberg \$100.00; Alaina Perry \$14.00; Allison Tunheim \$26.00; Brandon Duxbury \$14.00; Bryan Gordon \$14.00; CGI, LLC \$32.83; Jay Hopkins \$14.00; Jessica Puente Castro \$276.74; Kyle Couchey \$14.00; Neil Bittner \$14.00; Sherri Rawstern \$14.00. Utilities: AT&T Mobility \$186.86; CenturyLink \$420.96; Montana-Dakota Utilities Co \$33.21; Northwestern Energy \$6,011.82; T-Mobile USA Inc \$4,749.24. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

- o Retirement of Daniel Schlosser, Fair & Parks Maintenance Technician; FT – effective September 30, 2025. Request to fill.
- o Transfer of Hope Conn from Brown County Jail/JDC Nurse (PRN) to Brown County Jail/JDC Nurse; FT: starting wage \$3020.15/pay period – effective August 31, 2025.
- o Transfer of Amanda Brumfield from Brown County Jail/JDC Nurse to Brown County Jail/JDC Nurse (PRN) – effective August 31, 2025.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
LEASE AGREEMENTS: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the following lease agreements: Aberdeen Hub Area BMX to lease Impound Lot from September 19-21, 2025; Denise Dutenhoffer to lease Akkerman Open Horse Arena on September 13, 2025 for 10th Annual Spotted Pride Appaloosa Horse Show; RDO Equipment to lease Holum Expo Building & People Mover from September 2-4, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

TRAVEL REQUESTS: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to approve the following Travel Requests: Lynn Heupel and Stephanie Jacobson, Auditor/Elections to attend Election Workshop on October 28-30, 2025 in Pierre; McKenzie Bierman, Brown County Fair to attend Etix Blast on September 3-6, 2025 in Raleigh, NC. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIM ASSIGNMENTS: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, 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: Chairman Sutton shared there will be no Commission Meeting on Tuesday, September 9, 2025 next week due to the Commission attending the 2025 SD County Convention.
EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Gage 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 Dennert to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:33 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor
Published September 17, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$67.86 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26020



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BROWN COUNTY HIGHWAY 5-YEAR PLAN

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 30, 2025 in the Brown County Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Aberdeen, SD on the Brown County Highway 5-year Road & Bridge Plan.

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the Brown County Highway 5-year plan.

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published September 17, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$6.91 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26021



TOWN OF WARNER MINUTES FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Evans, Gaylon Townsend, Stewart Nelson and Nichol Townsend. Dave Fair was absent. Robert Gehm and Chad were present to represent Northwestern Energy and Matt Hill was present on behalf of Warner Little League.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Townsend and seconded by Evans to approve the minutes from August 13th, 2025 meeting. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: MSC: Evans/Townsend. Checking: Town \$353,672.22; Water \$77,469.62; Sewer \$197,600.81. CDs: Town \$32,978.33; Water \$50,140.44; Sewer \$28,375.31.

BILLS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT: MSC: Townsend/Evans.

AGTEGRA (fuel & chemical) \$227.34, **Amazon** (supplies) \$16.98, **Office Max** (supplies) \$226.78, **USDA** (water & sewer loans) \$2083, **Warner Post Office** (supplies) \$1.63, **WEB Water** (city water) \$5920, **Badger Meter** (August readings) \$12.88, **Brown County Treasurer** (mosquito spraying) \$854.04, **Dependable Sanitation** (garbage) \$120, **Hase Plumbing, Heating & Air** (maintenance) \$1500.07, **Lien Transportation** (supplies) \$197.10, **Lyle Signs** (supplies) \$144.57, **Lynn Aman** (janitorial) \$75, **MAC'S** (supplies) \$40.61, **Menards** (supplies) \$35.96, **Metering & Technology Solutions** (supplies) \$326.09, **Midcontinent** (phone & internet) \$305.34, **Northwestern Energy** (electricity) \$2302.80, **Sanitation Products** (supplies) \$1023.50, **SD Dept of Rev** (Sales Tax) \$187.51, **SD Public Health Lab** (water test) \$20, **SD Public Assurance Alliance** (fees) \$13036.03, **Town of Warner** (Water/Sewer) \$268.73, **TranSource** (supplies) \$1454.03, **SD Retirement Fund** \$539.76, **Payroll Taxes** \$1184.90, **PAYROLL:** Stewart Nelson \$3587.28, Barb Breidenbach \$46.17, Terry Evans \$313.99, Linda Johannsen \$190.24, Justin McCord \$46.17, Gaylon Townsend \$55.41, Nichol Townsend \$509.78.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None
UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

2026 Budget: Final reading approved. MSC Townsend/Evans. General Fund: Expenditure \$322,322; Water Fund: Expenditure \$196,755; Sewer Fund Expenditure \$115,000; Total Revenue: \$634,077. General Fund: Revenue \$322,322; Water Fund: Revenue \$196,755; Sewer Fund Revenue \$115,000; Total Revenue: \$634,077. 2026 Tax Levy Request is \$92,722.

Passed 2nd Reading of ordinance #70925: An ordinance to prohibit the use of fireworks in the Town of Warner. WHEREAS, the Town of Warner has received complaints regarding safety issues, noise, debris/garbage due to fireworks and, WHEREAS fireworks use in the city limits poses safety hazards to neighboring properties, Be it ordained; by the TOWN OF WARNER, that the use of fireworks within the city limits of Warner is prohibited, unless authorized with written consent of the Town of Warner Board of Trustees. This includes the use of sparklers, firecrackers and other small fireworks. Violations of this ordinance are subject to a fee set by the Town of Warner Board of Trustees. This Ordinance shall be effective within 20 days after the publication of said Ordinance. First reading: August 13th, 2025 MSC: Townsend/Evans

NEW BUSINESS: Northwestern Energy representative presented information regarding a project at the Warner Dairy, which was approved by the planning and zoning committee.

Discussion was held regarding a sprinkler system at the Warner ball field. WEB Water will be contacted for more information regarding available flow rate and charges.

City Park camp spots were discussed. An ordinance regarding them will be presented at the October city council meeting.

Delinquencies: 10 were noted and notices will be posted on doors. Two are already shut off.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: October 8th, 2025 at 7 PM at the Warner Community Center.

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

portunity provider and employer.

Dave Fair, Chairman; Nichol Townsend, Finance Officer

Published September 17, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$39.02 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26022



INVITATION TO BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

THAT The Groton City Council of the City of Groton, South Dakota, will open bids for a 3-year cash rent lease for 95 acres, more or less, located on the Southeast Quarter (SW 1/4) of Section 19, Township 124, Range 60 which is six miles north of Groton on Highway 37, which is known as the Groton City Airport land, on October 7, 2025 at 7:00pm (local time) at Groton City Hall, 120 N Main Street, Groton, SD. Received sealed bids will be opened and read aloud.

The Lease will be for a 3-year period commencing January 1, 2026, and terminating December 31, 2028. Payment of rent will be due each year, one-half on April 1, and one-half on September 1. The first payment would be due April 1, 2026.

Questions or requests for further information or mailed bids should be directed to the City Finance Office, PO Box 587, Groton, SD 57445.

The City reserves the right to refuse any or all bids, to waive any informalities in the bidding and to award the contract in the best interests of the City of Groton, SD. The City further reserves the right to terminate their lease or any part thereof if the land will be needed for non-farm or municipal use. Rent per acre would then be reduced accordingly.

Exact acreage will be determined by ASC Office determination.

September 2, 2025
Douglas J. Heinrich
Finance Officer
City of Groton, SD
Published September 10 and 17, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$30.54 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26004



BATES TOWNSHIP WEED NOTICE:

OWNERS & TENANTS of Bates Township are hereby notified and required, according to law, to cut all weeds, grass, and trees in road ditches adjacent to their property or tenanted by them within Bates township on or before October 1st, 2025 or same will be hired done by the township board and assessed property taxes at the rate of \$300 per half mile.

Weekly SUDOKU

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- Like lemons
- Rock concert booster
- Farm fathers
- "The Kite Runner" boy
- Saloon
- Buffalo's lake
- Yellow-brown gemstone
- Blaze
- Industrious insect
- Actor Karl
- Entices
- Small rodents
- Common connections
- Vision tests
- Enjoy Aspen
- Camper owners, for short
- Yule quaff
- Close watch
- Blog entry
- Hibernia
- Trousers
- Brief time
- Debussy's "La —"
- Author Hunter
- Good-looking person
- Laptop connection
- Fair-hiring letters
- Shabby beer joint

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
				18			19	20				
21	22	23				24						
25					26					27	28	29
30					31					32		
33				34					35			
				36				37				
38	39	40					41					
42					43	44				45	46	47
48					49				50			
51					52				53			

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 51 Feeder filler | 11 Viewed | 35 Saint Patrick's Day event |
| 52 Slangy denial | 16 ER workers | 37 Chest muscle |
| 53 Way out | 20 Experts | 38 Stitches |
| | 21 Pyramid part | 39 Marisa's "Only Love" role |
| | 22 "Puppy Love" singer | 40 Parisian eatery |
| | 23 Beatnik's assent | 41 Cat call |
| | 24 "No way!" | 44 Pro vote |
| | 26 Katniss in "The Hunger Games" | 45 Veto |
| | 27 Shortly | 46 506, in old Rome |
| | 28 Lion's share | 47 However |
| | 29 Boot camp VIPs | |
| | 31 Check | |
| | 34 Mr. Brezhnev | |

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.



UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6
REGULAR MEETING
September 8, 2025
President Rix called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the GHS Library Conference Room. Members present: Fliehs, Lerseth-Fliehs, Weber, and Weismantel. Absent: Strom and Harder. Others present were Supt. J. Schwan, Principal Edwards, Principal B. Schwan, and Business Manager Hubsch.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Fliehs, to approve the proposed agenda. Motion carried.

Hubsch recognized that the Oath of Office statement would be read to Travis Harder for a three-year term as a school board member at a later date.

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

Moved by Fliehs, seconded by Weismantel to approve consent agenda items August 11, 2025, board minutes, and August 2025 financial reports, bills, lunch report, transportation, lane change for Brittany Hubbard from MS to MS+15, and open enrollment applications #26-09, #26-10, and authorize business manager to pay district bills up to \$75,000 in advance, using the custodial advance payment account to be approved by the board for reimbursement at the following regular board meeting. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND: Net Salary 273,921.65 Net Benefits 73,605.85; A&B Business Solutions – staples, 338.52; Aberdeen Awards – golf/cross country awards, 419.00; Amazon – supplies, 118.09; Anderson Garage Doors – replace garage door, 400.00; ARCC – marching band fee, 50.00; ASBSD Worker's Comp – work comp, 21,074.40; ASBSD – registration fees, 1,025.00; Boston Fern – homecoming flowers, 325.00; Building Sprinklers – sprinkler inspections, 800.00; Cole Papers – janitor supply, 465.07; Custodial Fud – advanced payments, 5,021.60; Dependable Sanitation – garbage, 1,404.00; Dollar General – teacher's lounge supply, 104.34; EMC Insurance Company – insurance, 13,705.67; Greg's Repair – tire repair, 322.80; Groton Area Food Service – open house food, 683.81; Groton Chiropractic – DOT Physical, 125.00; Groton Daily Independent – legal printing, 633.94; Hillyard – janitor supplies, 7,832.12; House of Glass – keys, 25.28; Rebecca Hubsch – van title/meals, 67.01; JW Pepper – vocal music, 358.26; James Valley Telephone – telephone/repairs, 984.45; Travis Kurth – gas, 67.09; Locke Electric – repairs, 2,984.81; National Association for Music Education – dues, 127.00; Northwestern Energy – utility, 17.00; Olson's Pest Control – bat inspection, 125.00; Kristi Peterson – cardstock, 12.94; Petty Cash, Kristi Peterson – refund to patron, 75.00; QBS LLC – recertification Safety-Care, 1,598.00; S&S Lumber – supplies, 1,700.12; School Specialty – supplies, 2,728.10; SDASBO – fall conference, 100.00; Sheraton – travel, 695.00; Sherwin Williams – FB field paint, 41.36; Sheyenne Transport – repairs, 772.94; Sperry Tree Service – tree trimming, 250.00; Stan Houston Equipment – mini excavator rental, 487.50; Wameworks – admin fee, 93.50. Total General Fund - \$415,686.22.

CAPITAL OUTLAY: A&B Business – managed print agreement, 2,045.73; Amazon – equipment, 673.75; Bahr Spray Foam – Crows Nest, 7,178.76; Cole Papers – extractor, 4,119.64; Custodial Fund – advanced payments, 1,163.53; Daktronics – FB Field Sound System, 54,671.00; Hanlon Brothers – crushed gravel, 343.62; Hauff Mid-America – equipment, 904.40; Houghton Mifflin Harcourt – 2nd grade curriculum, 146.99; Literacy Resources – elementary curriculum, 18,034.55; Locke Electric – crow's nest, 8,000.00; McGraw-Hill – textbooks, 5,301.79; Menards – sump pumps, 453.94; NCS Pearson – aimsweb add-ons, 185.25; Ringneck Construction – crows nest, 16,715.19; Savvas – textbooks, 346.98; School Specialty – equipment, 1,126.72; Taylor Music – band folders/marching

GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 06-6 FINANCIAL REPORTS							
	General Fund	Capital Outlay	Special Ed.	Food Service	OST	Driver's Ed	Custodial
August 1 2025.....	\$2,317,081.86	\$1,018,500.34	\$418,721.49	\$119,142.02	\$36,127.38	\$22,300.80	\$272,964.84
RECEIPTS							
Local Sources.....	\$38,592.41	\$18,652.28	\$2,951.84	\$7,214.15	\$7,290.95		\$46,502.48
County Sources.....	\$3,406.18						
State Sources							
State Aid.....	\$42,955.00						
Wind Farm.....							
Mentor Teacher Program							
State Apportionment.....							
State Reimbursements.....							
Bank Franchise.....							
Federal Sources			\$105.73				
Sale of Assets.....							
Due from Govt/Others.....							
Transfer In/Out							

TOTAL MONTHLY RECEIPTS	\$84,953.59	\$18,652.28	\$3,057.57	\$7,214.15	\$7,290.95	\$0.00	\$46,502.48
FUNDS AVAILABLE.....	\$2,402,035.45	\$1,037,152.62	\$421,779.06	\$126,356.17	\$43,418.33	\$22,300.80	\$319,467.32
MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS.....	(\$261,780.93)	(\$305,181.45)	(\$11,553.93)	(\$13,298.77)	(\$10,052.75)	(\$1,363.79)	(\$70,301.16)
JOURNAL ENTRIES.....	(\$51,960.81)		(\$38,049.56)				\$131.65

August 31. 2025.....	\$2,088,293.71	\$731,971.17	\$372,175.57	\$113,057.40	\$33,365.58	\$20,937.01	\$249,297.81
----------------------	----------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	-------------	-------------	--------------

GENERAL FUND		SPECIAL EDUCATION		FOOD SERVICE		OST	
Payroll.....		Payroll		Payroll		Payroll	
Instruction	\$273,921.65	Instruction	\$31,710.93	Instruction	\$3,080.70	Instruction	\$8,429.74
Employee Benefits	\$73,605.85	Employee Benefits	\$9,900.55	Employee Benefits	\$1,115.17	Employee Benefits	\$819.18
Total.....	\$347,527.50	Total	\$41,611.48	Total	\$4,195.87	Total	\$9,248.92
Driver's Education.....							
Payroll.....							
Instruction	\$1,200.00						
Employee Benefits	\$163.79						
Total.....	\$1,363.79						

sticks, 230.00. Total Capital Outlay - \$121,641.84.

SPECIAL EDUCATION: Net Salary 31,710.93 Net Benefits 9,900.55 ASBSD Worker's Comp – work comp, 4,478.31; Schwab Audiology – student exam/hearing aids, 585.00; Parent – mileage, 470.40. Total Special Education - \$47,145.19.

ENTERPRISE: Net Salary 3,080.70, Net Benefits 1,115.17 Food Service: Amazon – freezer alarm, 31.98; ASBSD Worker's Comp – work comp, 526.86; East Side Jersey Dairy – milk, 892.63; Groton Area School – transfers to pay student fees, 66.45; Hillyard – dish detergent/rinse aid, 1,045.62; Performance Foodservice – food, 4,670.68; Pye Barker Fire Safety – inspections, 763.00; US Foods – food, 4,355.08. Total Food Service - \$23,862.74.

ENTERPRISE OST: Net Salary 8,429.74, Net Benefits 819.18, Amazon – supplies, 179.40; ASBSD Worker's Comp – work comp, 263.43; Churchill, Manolis, Freeman, Kludt, Shelton – OST Collections fees, 129.69; Custodial Fund – advanced payments, 1,068.00. Total OST: \$10,889.44.

ENTERPRISE DRIVERS ED: Net Salary 1,200.00, Net Benefits 163.79.

CUSTODIAL: 70,301.16

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

Program overview presentations were provided by the music department, Josh Friez and Landon Brown, and the health and PE department, Kyle Gerlach and Lynette Grieve.

The board conducted its second reading of recommended policy changes. Moved by Fliehs, seconded by Weismantel, to approve the following policies: ABAC Relations with Parents (Amendment), DLC Expense Reimbursements (Amendment), DLC-R Expense Reimbursements (Amendment), EEAR Student Transportation Services: Chartered Transportation (New), JNB Delinquent Student Fees, Fines, and Charges (New). Motion carried.

The following items were discussed in administrative reports: J. Schwan: Provided an update on the comprehensive property task force; the Buildings, Grounds, and Transportation Committee met on August 27 and began analyzing a preliminary list of improvement needs; the Request for Proposal will be considered tonight for a formal evaluation of the Groton Area Middle/High School Facility. The District enrollment is currently at 568 students, comprising 266 elementary, 139 middle school, and 163 high school students. Beginning September 1st, ETS is offering a new, updated version of the ParaPro Praxis Exam called Para Pathways. The District will use this assessment for auxiliary staff who choose to get certified and be eligible for the \$200 incentive for completing the program. This year, certified staff will be using a hybrid CPR training, where they will conduct class time online, and then test out on the skills portion of the test with Mrs. Gustafson. Protective Trust Risk Assessment will be at the school on September 22 for the annual risk assessment meeting. The

Personnel Record Form opens this week and is due by October 15, and Mr. Schwan will be participating in the SASD Executive Board meeting in October.

B. Schwan gave the board an update on his software program, going cloud-based for the OST program. In February, Dr. Pirllet will provide professional development for K-12 educators on connecting context to content standards, creating deeper, more meaningful learning experiences for students. Additionally, the 1003 grant is being finalized, which will help cover the costs

of professional development and afterschool tutoring for our EL students.

S. Edwards noted technology issues. All students and staff now have their devices and can access the new science and social studies curriculum. However, they are experiencing problems with the NWEA MAPS assessment, which Mr. Helvig is currently addressing. Two Northern professors will be visiting the end of the month to tour the Health Science lab, and Ms. Edwards hopes to create a future partnership that will enhance our

students' hands-on learning.

B. Hubsch presented a year-in-review overview of 2025 to the board.

Moved by Fliehs, seconded by Weber, to approve re-assignment of Landon Brown from Show Choir Advisor to School Play Advisor at \$2,340. Motion Carried.

Moved by Lerseth-Fliehs, seconded by Weber, to approve the Request for Proposal (RFP) for Facilities Master Planning. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Lerseth-Fliehs, to adjourn at 8:04 pm. Motion

carried.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at 7 am in the library conference room.

Becky Hubsch, Business Manager

Grant Rix, President

The addition of signatures to this page verifies these minutes as official.

Published September 17, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$161.96 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26023

Johnson Leads Groton at Redfield Meet

REDFIELD — Groton's boys golf team battled through a tough course on Tuesday in Redfield, finishing fifth overall with a team score of 354.

Jace Johnson led the way with a steady round of 77, carding a 36 on the front nine and a 41 coming in. Johnson's consistency shone through, highlighted by several clutch pars that kept him just seven strokes over par.

Jarrett Erdmann turned in a pair of 43s for an 86 total, showing balance across both sides of the course. Jayden Schwan followed closely behind, shooting 45 on the front and 44 on the back to finish at 89.

Liam Johnson rounded out the group, posting 51s on both nines for a 102 overall, grinding through the longer par 5s and tricky par 3s.

In the team standings, Watertown claimed the top spot with a 329 (+49), followed by Sioux Valley (338, +58) and Sisseton (338, +58). Aberdeen Roncalli placed fourth at 340 (+60), just ahead of Groton.

Host Redfield finished seventh at 363 (+83), while Aberdeen Central closed out the leaderboard at 377 (+97).

Despite the stiff competition, Groton's total of 354 (+74) showcased their consistency and placed them firmly in the middle of the pack. With Johnson leading the way and the rest of the squad improving, the Tigers are aiming to climb higher in the standings as the season continues.

Yardage	410	192	324	475	130	364	353	300	165	2713	410	192	324	475	130	364	353	300	165	2713	5426
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
Par	5	3	4	5	3	4	4	4	3	35	5	3	4	5	3	4	4	4	3	35	70
4. Jace Johnson	5	4	5	4	3	4	3	4	4	36	8	3	3	5	4	5	5	4	4	41	77
16. Jarrett Erdmann	6	5	5	6	4	3	5	4	5	43	6	4	4	8	4	5	4	5	3	43	86
20. Jayden Schwan	7	4	6	5	4	6	6	4	3	45	6	5	5	7	3	5	6	5	2	44	89
33. Liam Johnson	9	4	5	10	5	6	4	5	3	51	7	4	5	6	5	6	6	5	7	51	102



Pictured are Jace Johnson, Jarrett Erdmann, Jayden Schwan and Liam Johnson. (Courtesy photo)

Golfers win Groton Invite as four were medalists

Four Groton Area golfers were medalists at the Groton Invitational Golf Meet held Thursday. Jace Johnson placed fourth, Liam Johnson was sixth, Jayden Schwan was ninth and Jarrett Erdmann placed 13th to lead Groton Area.

Groton Area won the team title with a 1 shot advantage over Sioux Valley, 347-348. Sisseton placed third with a 354 followed by Aberdeen Roncalli had a 368, Milbank a 373 and Redfield a 397.

Yardage	358	357	507	140	394	335	370	186	475	3122	358	357	507	140	394	335	370	186	475	3122	6244
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
Par	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	3	5	36	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	3	5	36	72
4. Jace Johnson	6	4	5	3	5	5	5	4	4	41	5	6	5	3	4	5	4	4	5	41	82
6. Liam Johnson	5	5	6	4	7	4	5	4	5	45	4	5	5	4	4	5	5	3	6	41	86
9. Jayden Schwan	6	6	7	4	5	5	4	4	7	48	5	3	5	4	4	5	5	3	7	41	89
13. Jarrett Erdmann	5	6	6	4	7	6	5	4	5	48	6	6	5	3	5	5	4	3	5	42	90
23. Haden Harder	6	6	6	5	6	5	5	4	7	50	8	5	5	7	5	6	5	3	6	50	100
25. Graham Rose	6	7	6	5	7	6	6	5	5	53	4	5	6	5	6	7	7	4	5	49	102
56. Graham Rose	5	6	8	7	5	8	6	5	7	57	6	6	5	6	7	8	8	7	7	60	117

EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: Is it really possible from a legal/constitutional perspective for the Trump administration to sell off public lands across the American West to the highest bidding developers and resource extractors as threatened? —MG Daly, Burlingame, CA

National parks, wildlife refuges, forests, and other public land is at risk of being sold and exploited by the Trump administration. This land is owned by the American people, yet the administration hopes to pass legislation to increase development, logging, mining, and sell our lands to private owners. President Trump’s secretary of the interior Doug Burgum stated that these resources are “national assets” and could be used to reduce national debt. And these projects aren’t new. When Trump was in office in 2017, he set into motion an executive order that aimed to reduce the size of monuments greater than 100,000 acres in size, claiming that it was “another egregious use of government power.” This was abolished in Biden’s presidency, and many people challenged Trump’s reduction.

Recent news has reported that the Trump administration has already removed vital protection for two lands in order to increase mining for mineral production. Trump has also issued an executive order that plans to identify public lands that may have mineral deposits to increase mining there, no matter whether the land is protected or a national monument.

But is this legally possible? The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 outlines management and protection guidelines for the federal government for the purpose of enhancing public lands in federal ownership. It does permit the sale of land, but only under



What can we do to stop the Trump administration from selling off parts of our national parks, wildlife refuges, forests & other public lands?

certain criteria such as public interest. Many Native American tribes and environmental activists argue that Trump’s actions go beyond the President’s power and require congressional approval.

If we take a look at the Constitution, this rings true. In Article 4, it is stated that Congress, not the President “shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States.” This essentially means that land sales largely require Congress to be involved.

Additionally, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to make an assessment of environmental impact prior to legal action. Despite these clear regulations being in place, the Trump administration can find loopholes. By reducing the power of conservation laws, proposing land sales to FLPMA, and changing the classification of certain lands to allow for private leasing, selling public land isn’t impossible.

If President Trump succeeds in implementing these orders, the damage would be massive. Animals face habitat destruction and pollution. This is also a bipartisan issue. Most Americans are in opposition to the reduction of national parks and public land. To take a stand against this issue, raise awareness by participating in protests against the Trump Administration. For instance, just last week, there was a protest through Yosemite National Park. In addition to engaging with local advocacy groups, sign petitions and email your representative to fight for change!

• 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.

“On the Spectrum”

I had a friend in high school who was generally considered a bit odd. He didn’t dress quite right, never knew how to “read the room,” and often talked far too long and in far too much detail about computers— at a time when very few households even had one.

The movie Rain Man, in which an autistic character is abducted from an institution by his greedy younger brother, had yet to be released, and certainly no one in my circle was familiar with autism. Once we were, it was Dustin Hoffman’s portrayal of Raymond Babbitt that defined our understanding. For decades, this was the dominant image, even while the diagnostic criteria expanded to include people with less dramatic challenges. Today, I suspect my friend would have been recognized as being “on the spectrum.”

Autism is an ancient condition. Some researchers suspect it explains stories about changelings, fey creatures swapped for humans. While most individuals with classic autism have disappeared from the historical record, and certainly, given that it wasn’t until the DSMIII was published in 1980 that autism was defined as a distinct condition, we can only speculate about historical figures. Nevertheless, many of our greatest thinkers and innovators may have been “on the spectrum.” Michelangelo, DaVinci, Newton, Einstein, Orwell, Twain. . . the list goes on. Sia, Bella Ramsey, Dan Ackroyd, Anthony Hopkins, and of course Elon Musk have all publicly disclosed their diagnoses.

People with autism spectrum disorders are unique human beings, in the same way we are all unique. The condition may present very differently between one person and another. That can make it challenging, for families, schools, clinicians, and of course for the individual themselves! The support that is critical for one person may be utterly useless for another, but research consistently shows that the right support at the right time can help someone succeed, academically, and socially. Of course this is true for us all, but since the challenges faced by people with autism are by definition greater, the need is greater.

Autism is often accompanied by other conditions, such as ADHD, OCD, epilepsy, and allergies, and well recognized genetic disorders such as Down syndrome. This merely adds to the diversity of the autism experience, and further demonstrates why there isn’t a single “box” into which people with autism can be sorted.

My high school friend? Well, we’ve lost touch over the years, but I know he followed his passion for computers and is very successful in his field.

I hope he is surrounded by people who appreciate him for who he is. Dr. Debra Johnston is a Family Medicine Physician at Avera Medical Group Brookings in Brookings, SD. She serves as one of the Prairie Doc Volunteer Hosts during its 24th Season providing Health Education Based on Science, Built on Trust. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Tik Tok. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on SDPB, YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).



See Ken's For ALL Your Homecoming Parade Candy Needs! Bulk Candy Available Contact Raye @ Ken's

Ken's SUPER FAIR FOODS

FOOD FAIR SHELL EXPRESS

SUNDAY - SATURDAY
SEPT. 14TH - SEPT. 20TH 2025

Download Our App & Save!
Scan the Code TO DOWNLOAD

ABERDEEN - GROTON - CLARK - IPSWICH - EUREKA - BRITTON • WWW.KENSSUPERFAIR.COM • FOLLOW US!

1ST GENERATION
KEN FIEDLER

2ND GENERATION
KEVIN FIEDLER

3RD GENERATION
CONNER FIEDLER

ABERDEEN'S ONLY LOCALLY FAMILY-OWNED GROCERY STORE THAT TAKES PRIDE IN MAKING THEIR CUSTOMERS FEEL AT HOME!

AARP ABERDEEN SD "FREE" SHRED EVENT
Thursday, September 18, 2025, 1 pm - 3 pm
Ken's SuperFair Foods & Shell Express 2105 6th Ave, SE - Aberdeen SD (West Parking Lot)
Members and Non-Members of AARP are Welcome to participate in documents shredding event!
Sponsored by AARP South Dakota
Call 1-844-277-9304 for further information
AARP South Dakota
Located in Ken's Parking Lot

USDA CHOICE DEMKOTA BONELESS EYE OF ROUND ROAST **\$5.99** Lb.

GREEN RED, OR BLACK SEEDLESS GRAPES **\$1.99** Lb.

App Deal OF THE WEEK!
\$1.29 w/\$10 Purchase & Ken's App
BEST CHOICE ICE CREAM 48 Oz. Scround

USDA CHOICE DEMKOTA BONELESS NEW YORK STRIP STEAK 12 Oz. **\$8.99** Each

KEN'S 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF 10 Lb. Tubs **\$4.99** Lb.

DAIRY
PRAIRIE FARMS COTTAGE CHEESE 24 Oz. Ctn. **\$2.99**

GROCERY
SKIPPY PEANUT BUTTER 15-16.3 Oz. Jars **2/\$3**

GROCERY
SARA LEE CLASSIC WHITE BREAD 20 Oz. Loaf **\$2.99**

FROZEN
TOMBSTONE PIZZA 13.9-27 Oz. Pkg. **\$2.99** Sale Price \$3.99 - \$1.00 Digital Coupon NET PRICE

GROCERY
PROGRESSO SOUP 18-19 Oz. Can **\$1.99**

GROCERY
KELLOGG'S ZESTA SATINE CRACKERS 16 Oz. Box **\$2.99**

GROCERY
BUSH'S BEST BAKED BEANS 27.5-28 Oz. Cans **2/\$4**

HOUSEHOLD
FLORE BATH TISSUE 12 Double Roll PAPER TOWELS 6 Double Roll Bundle **\$2.99** Sale Price \$3.99 - \$1.00 Digital Coupon NET PRICE

LIQUOR-BEER **\$12.99**

BAKERY **\$2.99**

DELI **\$4.99 EACH**

FIREBALL OR FIREBALL BLAZIN APPLE 750 ML.

KEN'S BAKERY FRESH WOLF DOG BUNS 6 Count

CHEESE OF THE WEEK! LAUGHING COW WEDGES *ASSORTED FLAVORS 5.4 Oz.

Ken's COFFEE • GOURMET DRINKS & FOODS

SUN 9 AM - 1 PM
MON-FRI 7 AM - 5 PM
SAT 8 AM - 2 PM
Call 605.225.6671

GLUTEN FREE SCONE MIX **\$1.00 OFF**

FLAVOR OF THE WEEK! CINNAMON MAPLE (CINNAMON MAPLE SYRUP) **\$3.49-\$4.49**

WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES AND CORRECT TYPOGRAPHICAL AND PICTORIAL ERRORS. NONE SOLD TO DEALERS. SOME ITEMS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE AT ALL STORES.

8 ♦ Groton Independent ♦ Wed., Sept. 17, 2025

Hanlon Brothers Gravel Hauling

New & Cleaning of Stockdams with our 60' reach trackhoe

605/395-6531

A subscription to the Groton Independent makes a great gift!
605-397-7460