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The Groton Independent

Vol. 143 No. 05 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2025 ♦ Established in 1889



Jerica Locke got her 1,000th dig Tuesday night in the Northwestern match.

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

City Council reviews budget priorities, recreation programs, more

by Elizabeth Varin

The Groton City Council covered a range of community updates Tuesday evening, from upcoming budget planning to facility improvements and program reports.

While official adoption of a budget isn't scheduled until the first meeting in November, Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich told the council, "this is figuring out which of the big ticket items you want."

Some budget requests include painting the exterior of City Hall (\$20,000), purchasing four radar signs for the highways in town (\$20,000), a new scoreboard at the baseball/softball complex (\$25,000), purchase of a new electric department bucket truck (\$261,000) and rebuilding a transmission line (\$1 million).

Two requests have already been penciled in for the 2026 budget. About \$120,000 has been set aside for street resurfacing, and \$35,000 has been allocated to complete the city's financial contribution to the new baseball/softball facility concession stand.

Other projects discussed included improvements needed at the Community Center.

Councilman Brian Bahr said some of the siding there is swelling at the bottom, and it's just time to invest in the community center.

Some specific-project funds were included in the presentation Tuesday, but Councilman Mike Shilhanek said a larger list of projects through the next few years would be helpful to get ahead of big projects.

Heinrich agreed, saying they should take the time to build a capital improvement plan. There's a running list of budget requests at City Hall, but it's not set in stone.

Recreation reports reviewed

The council reviewed two summer recreation reports.

The swimming pool had total revenues of \$49,249.74, which includes admission, concessions, donations and advertisement signs.

Expenses, though, outweighed revenue. A total of \$154,212.94 was spent on things such

See City Council on Page 2



Coach Chelsea Hanson's 200th Volleyball Win!

(Photos by Samantha Weber)



State Cross Country Qualifiers

L to R: Reyelle Gilbert, Kella Tracy, Jayden Schwan, and Riley Schellenberger.

Groton Area October Students of the Month



Pictured in back, left to right, are Junior Kira Clocksene, sophomore T.C. Schuster, sixth grader Arthur Eichler and senior Carly Gilbert; in front, left to right, are seventh grader Libby Johnson, eighth grader Hudson Eichler and freshman Wesley Borg.

Groton Area School works to ensure that all levels of academic instruction also include the necessary life skills teaching, practicing, and modeling that encourages essential personal life habits that are universally understood to facilitate helping our students become good human beings and citizens.

It is learning with our heads, hearts, and hands to be caring and civil, to make healthy decisions, to effectively problem solve, to be respectful and responsible, to be good citizens, and to be empathetic and ethical individuals.

Students are selected based on individual student growth in the areas of: positive behavior, citizenship, good attendance, a thirst for knowledge, and high academic standards.

as salaries, water testing fees, insurance, training and supplies. The pool had a net loss of \$104,963.20, slightly higher than 2024’s net loss of \$103,037.43. The net loss has risen through the last five years, from a low of \$68,106.53 in 2022. Some of the major cost increases include training (\$3,860 in 2022 to \$5,340 in 2025) and salaries (\$64,430.60 in 2022 and \$95,949.89 in 2025). The council also approved the 2025 baseball report. The baseball complex had total revenues of \$91,477.50, which includes gate fees, tournament fees, concession stand receipts and sales of hats and shirts. Expenses totaled \$138,211.77, a total made up by coaching, gate-keeper and groundskeeper salaries, paying umpires, tournament expenses, travel expenses, repairs and supplies. The baseball program recorded a \$44,161.30 loss in 2025. It was a smaller net loss than 2024, which had a \$60,598.95 loss.

Park bathroom renovation proposed

Topper Tastad, with the Groton Lions Club, presented a proposal to renovate the city park bathrooms during the council meeting. The plan calls for removing the roof and the wall dividing the men’s and women’s restrooms, then adding a new structure that connects to the existing building. This would allow for both a men’s and women’s restroom with multiple stalls and showers for the campground. The updates would also make the facility ADA accessible and modernize the structure, which was originally built more than 50 years ago. “It’s a real do-able deal,” Tastad said, estimating the project cost between \$150,000 and \$175,000. “We can have a usable, new, nice facility next summer. It does everything we need it to do.” While council members expressed appreciation for the idea, they opted not to move forward at this time. The city has been developing its own renovation and funding plan for the facility, which also includes converting the structure into a tornado shelter. “I’m not trying to argue the bathrooms aren’t in bad shape. They are,” said Councilman Brian Bahr. “I just feel like we have to see this through.” The city is waiting for a decision from the Federal Emergency Management Agency about a funding request to help with the project. “If we get rejected and the door gets slammed on us, we can do this,” Bahr said. Councilman Jon Cutler added that because the proposal under review by FEMA includes a storm shelter, that’s reason enough to see the process through. The city could get word that the project funding request has been denied by the federal agency within the next few months, he said. If that happens, there would still be time to get Tastad’s idea started by the time the frost comes out of the ground in the spring.



Keith Wipf with Ringneck Construction goes over concrete poured Tuesday at the Groton airport. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

Updates continue at Groton Airport

Darrell Hillestad updated the council on progress made at the airport. Hillestad called out individuals that have been helping build a foundation for a building at the airport. Mike Dunbar has helped prep the area and make the concrete forms. And Keith Wipf with Ringneck Construction had a crew out Tuesday to pour concrete. The hope is to have the old baseball complex concession stand on the concrete slab on Sunday, he said. Hillestad also asked if the city’s electric department could provide the electric wire to bring power out to the building.

- A portion of Main Street will be blocked off on Oct. 31 for Downtown Trick or Treat.
- The council approved renewing liquor licenses for 2026 to various businesses in town.
 - o Package off-sale liquor and retail on-sale liquor for The Jungle
 - o Package off-sale liquor and retail on-sale liquor for American Legion Post No. 39
 - o Package off-sale liquor for Ken’s Food Fair

- o Retail on-sale liquor for American Grain LLC formerly Red Horse Inn
- o Retail on-sale liquor for Olive Grove Golf Course
- o Retail on-off sale wine and cider for Dollar General
- o Package off-sale liquor for MJ’s Sinclair
- The council authorized a request to transfer \$50,000 from the Groton Community Fund to the Groton Development Corporation. That amount was earmarked for economic development by David Olson. The community fund through Thrivent Charitable has \$259,000 as of this month, said city Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich.

We the People

The South Dakota Humanities Council is making available a weekly column -- "We the People" -- that focuses on the U.S. Constitution. It is written by David Adler, who is president of The Alturas Institute, a non-profit organization created to promote the Constitution, gender equality, and civic education.



By David Adler

Trump’s Seizure of the Power of the Purse: Striking the Core of the Republic

President Donald Trump’s usurpation of the congressional spending power, a seismic blow to the foundational power of the legislature and another in his endless string of constitutional violations, warranted, in the minds of the nation’s founders, an impeachable offense for its deadly assault on the republic and its chief weapon to control an arbitrary executive. The power of the purse, James Madison observed in Federalist 58, represents the “most complete and effectual weapon with which any constitution can arm the immediate representatives of the people, for obtaining a redress of every grievance, and for carrying into effect every just and salutary measure.” The framers of the Constitution, in Article 1, Section 9, Clause 7, granted this power to Congress: “No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law.” In homespun terms that captured the attention of Americans, Madison wrote in Federalist 48, that “the legislative department alone has access to the pockets of the people.” How the United States spends its money, the founders declared, was an exclusively legislative, not executive, power. President Trump, without challenge from the Republican-controlled Congress, has usurped the appropriations power, in violation of this bedrock principle. He has unilaterally cancelled contracts, frozen billions of dollars in congressionally approved funding, and invoked the baseless claim of a “pocket recission” authority to withhold \$5 billion in foreign aid. This authoritarian technique, depriving the representatives of the people from making decisions on the expenditure of tax dollars, was an object of towering concern to those who created and implemented the republic. In 1793, during a congressional inquiry into the expenditure of funds by Treasury Secretary, Alexander Hamilton, then Rep. James Madison drew from the Federalist Papers and reminded colleagues of the essential security obtained through placement of the spending power in Congress. “Appropriations of money were of a high and sacred character; they were the great bulwark which our Constitution had carefully and jealously established against Executive usurpations.” A decade later, an acclaimed commentator, St. George Tucker, wrote in his introduction to Blackstone’s Commentaries: “All the expenses of government being paid by the people, it is the right of the people, not only, not to be taxed without their consent, or that of their representatives freely chosen, but to be actually consulted upon the disposal of money which they have brought into the treasury.” Which, precisely, is why the Constitution grants to Congress the sole authority to withdraw money from the treasury. If it were otherwise, Justice Joseph Story, the most scholarly of justices, warned in 1833 of the nightmare that “the executive would possess an unbounded power over the public purse of the nation; and might apply all its monied resources at his pleasure.” Story invoked Madison, noting the “salutary” check on “corrupt influence,” if the executive controlled the purse. “In arbitrary governments the prince levies what money he pleases, disposes of it as he thinks proper, and is beyond responsibility or reproof.” It is for this reason, Story added, “that Congress is made the Guardian” of the treasury. Trump’s baseless assertion of power to impound funds, to freeze spending and cancel programs, particularly those which he disparages as “Democrat programs,” reflects his seizure of “unbounded power over the public purse of the nation.” His theft of the spending power vitiates the right of the people, through their elected representatives, to be “consulted” on the “disposal” of their tax dollars. It bears reminder that the constitutional allocation of power to one branch bars its exercise by another. The complicity of the GOP congressional majority in Trump’s seizure of the appropriations power is even more galling because the founders agreed that usurpation of the power of purse warranted impeachment. The English practice of impeachment was constantly before the eyes of the framers and influenced their drafting of the Impeachment Clause. Trump’s usurpation of the spending power reflects, precisely, the historic impeachment in 1680 of Sir Edward Seymour, Speaker of the House of Commons, for applying appropriated funds to public purposes other than those specified. The framers’ deep-seated concerns about executive seizure of the appropriations power, heightened by English history, sharpened their resolve to preclude the president from laying claim to the spending authority. Today, however, the GOP acquiesces in the president’s exercise of a monarchical power that the framers of the Constitution rejected.

Groton Area Weekly Sports Roundup

Volleyball

Tigers Sweep Deuel; Hanson Praises Team Depth, Culture

The Groton Area Tigers opened the week with a commanding 3–0 sweep over Deuel, winning 25–17, 25–7, and 25–14 to improve to 16–4. Chesney Weber led a balanced effort with 5 kills, 3 aces, and 22 as-sists, while Taryn Traphagen added 7 kills and 3 solo blocks. Coach Chelsea Hanson praised the team’s depth, highlighting the excitement over Abby Fjeldheim’s first varsity kill and calling her bench “the best in the state.”

Groton Captures Milbank Tournament Championship

Groton went 4–0 at the Milbank Tournament, sweeping Beresford, Sisseton, Great Plains Lutheran, and Sioux Valley to claim the title. The Tigers were dominant throughout, hitting over .350 as a team in multiple matches and never dropping a set.

Hanson called it a milestone for the program: “We’ve talked about earning it, not waiting for mistakes — and this team is doing that.”

Top performers included Rylee Dunker and Chesney Weber with consistent double-digit kills, while Jerica and Sydney Locke anchored the defense. The championship was Groton’s first tournament title in several years.

Hanson Earns 200th Career Win in Sweep Over Langford

On Monday, Groton swept Langford Area 3–0 to give Head Coach Chelsea Hanson her 200th career victory. Jaedyn Penning led with 13 kills and 4 aces as Groton racked up 45 kills overall. The Tigers improved to 21–4 ahead of their annual Pink Night matchup with Northwestern.

Locke Reaches 1,000 Digs Milestone vs. Northwestern

In Tuesday’s Pink Night match, Groton fell to powerhouse North-western 3–1, but senior libero Jerica Locke reached 1,000 career digs. Tevan Hanson paced the Tigers with 17 kills, Penning added 12, and Weber tallied 10. Despite the loss, Coach Hanson said she was proud of the team’s competitiveness:

“They could have come out and laid down because it’s Northwestern and they’re 30–2, but they didn’t. They went after it.”

Groton closes the regular season Friday at Redfield before post-season play begins.

Cross Country

Tigers Qualify Four for State Meet

At the Region Meet in Webster, Groton placed fourth (girls) and sixth (boys), qualifying four runners for the State Class A Meet in Huron on October 25.

Jayden Schwan (Sr.) – 2nd place, 17:29.09

Ryelle Gilbert (So.) – 3rd place, 20:36.38

Kella Tracy (Jr.) – 10th place, 21:22.51

Riley Shellenberger (Fr.) – 18th place, 19:38.85

The Tigers’ balanced showing sends a mix of veteran and young runners to state competition.

Football

Tigers Blank Baltic 43–0 to Clinch Playoff Berth

Groton capped its regular season with a dominant 43–0 shutout over Baltic. The Tigers scored on six of ten drives, holding Baltic to just three first downs and eight total rushing yards.

Asher Johnson threw for 98 yards and a touchdown, ran for another score.

Anthony Tracy added two rushing TDs.

Lincoln Krause intercepted two passes, and Ryder Johnson added one.

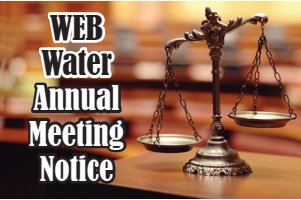
Coach Shaun Wan-ner praised the team’s resilience:

“They could have cashed it in weeks ago, but they never did. We just kept getting better.”

Groton (3–5) ad-vances to the Class 11B playoffs at Clark–Willow Lake this Thursday.

Broadcast & Spon-sors

All Groton volleyball and football games were streamed live on GDILive.com. Volleyball sponsors were Agtegra, Avantara, Barry Keith at Harr Motors, Bierman Farm Service, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Full Circle Ag, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Gro-ton Ford, Groton Legion, Heartland Energy, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Lounge, and The MeatHouse of An-dover. Poet and Krueger brothers were also foot-ball sponsors.



WEB Water Development As-sociation, Inc.

Annual Member Meeting No-tice

WEB Water Development Association, Inc. hereby gives notice that its Annual Member Meeting will be at 2:00pm on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2025, at the Dakota Event Center. The following Board positions are up for election:

District 2: Rural – Edmunds, Faulk, and Hyde Counties in SD. (Incumbent Director Jeff Stoecker, Onaka, SD, is seeking re-election to a third term.)

District 5: Rural – Spink, Beadle, and Hand Counties in SD. (Incumbent Director Craig Oberle, Mellette, is seeking re-election to a fourth term.)

District 9: Bulk – Marshall, Day, Clark, Beadle, Spink, and Hand Counties in SD. (Incum-bent Director Tim Van Hatten, Conde, SD, cannot seek re-election due to term limits.)

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

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Weekly SUDOKU

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Nominating petitions & in-structions can be obtained by calling the WEB Water Office at 605-229-4749, writing WEB Water at PO Box 51, Aberdeen, SD 57402-0051, or by emailing kdegroot@webwater.org. Please call the WEB Water office at 605-229-4749 with questions. The

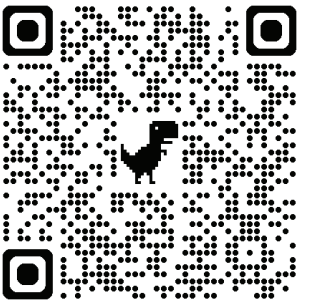
deadline for submitting nomi-nating petitions for WEB Water director positions is 3:00pm, Friday, November 7, 2025.

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7 Viewed
11 Daring Knieval
13 Singer Lipa
14 Noggin
15 Flintstones' pet
16 Doo follower
17 Gumbo veg-gie
18 Serengeti grazer
20 Coconut fiber
22 Leg, in slang
24 Tempt
28 Frosty, for one
32 — Martin
33 Had on
34 Thumbs-up
36 Theater award
37 Rainbow-shaped
39 Country star Judd
41 Sealing ring
43 German arti-cle
44 Online auc-tion site
46 River of Rome
50 Pottery oven
53 Ref
55 Gospel singer Franklin
56 On the rocks

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- 57 Mac alterna-tives
58 Ninny
59 Little lice
60 Consume
61 Helium, for one
9 Listening device
10 Secret-protecting doc.
12 Three- or four-day vacations
19 River blocker
21 — pickle
23 Mother's Day month
25 Lay — the line
26 Didi of "Grease"
27 New Age singer
28 Booty
29 Asta's care-taker
30 Tolkien villains
31 Up-to-date
35 Pink Floyd's Barrett
38 Society new-bie
40 Court divider
42 Hosiery shade
45 Gym site, for short
47 Ship's jail
48 Austen novel
49 Knocks
50 Family
51 Here, in Dijon
52 Allow
54 Calif. clock setting

Weekly SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!



The Minnesota Vikings played in front of their home fans for the first time in a month, but any fans hoping to leave with warm and fuzzy feelings were sorely disappointed, as the Vikings lost to the Philadelphia Eagles 28-22.

The Vikings only lost two regular-season games in 2024. With a top 10 pick quarterback coming back from injury, and significant investments made in the trenches, many Vikings fans thought the team would take a step forward in 2025. Instead, the team is sitting at 3-3 and is in the basement of the NFC North.

This game against the Eagles was poised to be a litmus test to determine how good this Vikings team actually is. The Eagles, despite winning the Super Bowl last year, were coming off two straight losses to the Broncos and Giants. Their season was in danger of going off the rails. The Vikings, meanwhile, were finally home after a two-game European trip and had the bye week to rest and recover. The Eagles looked like a team who were

determined to win this game. The Vikings looked like a team that couldn't even do simple things right.

The Eagles got the ball to begin the game and marched right down the field for a touchdown to take an early 7-0 lead. The Vikings answered with a field goal, then held Philadelphia to a three-and-out.

In the second quarter, Carson Wentz threw an ugly interception that was returned for a touchdown, extending the Eagles' lead to 14-3. Good teams can shake those kinds of plays off. The Vikings didn't. Instead, they lost seven yards in two plays before throwing another interception. The Vikings' defense finished the first half strong, not allowing the Eagles to put more points on the board, but the Vikings' offense could only add another field goal, making the score 14-6 heading into halftime.

The Vikings got the ball to start the second half, but stumbled in the red zone and had to settle for a field goal. Two plays later, Jalen Hurts hit DeVonta Smith for a 79-yard touchdown. The Vikings were able to find the end zone in the third quarter, however, making it a one-score game heading into the fourth quarter.

A missed Philadelphia field goal to begin the fourth gave the Vikings a chance, but once again, they couldn't punch the ball into the end zone and had to settle for a field goal. The Eagles marched down the field for a touchdown, making this a two-score game again with six minutes left on the clock. The Vikings needed to score quickly if they had any chance of escaping with the win. Instead, they ran a 16-play drive that took the clock under two minutes – and even worse, they had to settle for yet ANOTHER field goal, which made the score 28-22.

The Vikings had to get a stop, but on 3rd & 9, Jalen Hurts hit A.J. Brown for a 45-yard pass, giving Philly a first down and the win.

Carson Wentz completed 26 of 42 passes for 313 yards, no touchdowns, and two interceptions. Jordan Mason could only muster 57 yards on 15 carries, although he did have the only Vikings' touchdown on the day. Jordan Addison led the team with nine catches for 128 yards, and Justin Jefferson had five catches for 79 yards.

The Vikings' defense was able to control the line of scrimmage, racking up three sacks, eight tackles for a loss, and four QB hits, while holding Saquon Barkley to only 44 yards on 18 carries. However, it was the pass defense that was constantly picked on, as they allowed DeVonta Smith and A.J. Brown to catch 13 passes for 304 yards.

Looking ahead, the Vikings travel to Los Angeles to face the Chargers. The game will be on Thursday night, with kickoff scheduled for 7:15 pm Central time.

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
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The Life of Dianne Schelle

Private family services for Dianne Schelle, 59, of Groton will be 2:00 p.m., Friday, October 24, 2025 at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. The Rev. Jeremy Yeadon will officiate. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery, Groton under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel. Visitation will be held for one hour prior to services.

Dianne passed away at her home on October 18, 2025. Dianne Denise was born on October 6, 1966 in Aberdeen to Jack Lynn and Lillian Esther (Hein) Dixon.

She was baptized into the Lutheran faith. Dianne graduated from Groton High School in 1984 and continued her education at Stewarts School of Hair Styling. During cosmetology school, she worked at the Groton Dairy Queen. Following graduation in 1985, she was employed at Adam & Eve Salon in Aberdeen. She was united in marriage with Allen McKiver, Jr. in 1987 and they were blessed with a son Alex Allen McKiver.

Later, as a single mom, Dianne worked at the Ramkota Inn in Aberdeen while putting herself through nursing school. She graduated from Presentation College of Nursing in 1994 and was a born caregiver.

On June 28, 1997 she married Rick Schelle at the Presbyterian Church in Groton and together they had a son, Keegan Richard Schelle. After many years in the nursing field, she switched to caring for the precious little ones at St. John's Lutheran Church Daycare. She loved working with the kids.

Celebrating her life is her husband, Rick of Groton, her sons, Alex (Tandy) McKiver of Aberdeen, Keegan Schelle of Watertown, her siblings: Sherry (Rick) Koehler of Groton, Patty Smith of Sturgis, Jackie (Dennis) Hales of Aberdeen, Michael (Karen) Dixon of Rapid City, Kelli (Dan) Danburg of Aberdeen, Kathy (Jason) Holm of Mina, her mother-in-law, Jan Schelle of Groton, a host of brother and sister-in laws, along with many nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her parents, brother, Steven Dixon, father-in-law, Larry Schelle and many aunts and uncles.

Casketbearers will be her nephews Aaron Dixon, Garrett Dixon, David Hales, Matthew Hales, Ryan Koehler & Austin Bieber.

Honorary casketbearers will be Alex Mckiver, Keegan Schelle, Jack McKiver, Chris Smith, Tyler Holm and Jacob Dixon.

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Eighth Grade Football Team
Back row- Lance Hawkins, Major Dolan, Liam Lord, Ryder Schwan, Trayce Schelle, Keegan Kucker, Xavier Klebsch, Ryker Bruns, and Jordan Carson.
Front row- Kyson Kucker, Eli Heilman, Trey Tietz, Jameson Penning, Kade Woltjer, Asher Zimmerman, and Gavin Hanten.



Junior High Football Teams have success season

The junior high football boys wrapped up a successful season on October 17th. In combined games, the team as a whole for 7th and 8th went through the year undefeated. The 8th grade won all of their individual games. The 7th grade lost one game.

Below is a list of all of the games.

- Groton over Ellendale/Edgely/Kulm14-6
- Groton over Webster 30-0
- 7th Groton over Milbank 20-0
- 8th Groton over Milbank 16-14
- Groton over Florence/Henry.....16-6
- Groton over Clark/Willow Lake 8-6
- Groton over Tiospa Zina 28-14
- Groton over Clark/Willow Lake 24-6
- 7th Groton over Roncalli 14-12
- 8th Groton over Roncalli 36-0
- 7th Groton loss to Sisseton 12-14
- 8th Groton over Sisseton 46-0

Seventh Grade Football Team

In back, left to right, are Coach Lance Hawkins, Knox Mulder, Ivan Schwan, Quinton Flores, Carter Boerger, Drew Fjeldheim, Zach Pahl, Kinton Tracy, Bentley Ehresmann and Coach Jordan Carson; in front, left to right, are Colton Morehouse, Gradyn Rowen, Hank Hill, Mason Locke, Booker Hardy, Parker Zoellner and Preston Hinkelman.

We’re excited to meet the growing need for mental health care in our community.

A new and expanded 18-bed behavioral health unit at Avera St. Luke’s Hospital will serve adults and offer crisis stabilization for adolescents.



EXPANDING OUR COMMITMENT TO

MENTAL HEALTH CARE IN ABERDEEN

Made possible by a leadership gift from Dacotah Bank and the generosity of many donors.

JOIN US IN SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

305 S. State St.
Aberdeen, SD 57401

605-622-5552
Avera.org/AveraBehavioral



OCTOBER 14, 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: None

TIPPING FEES FOR HOMES ARE POSSIBLE, INC.: Darin Beckius, Executive Director for Homes Are Possible, Inc. (HAPI) met with the Commission requesting to have Tipping Fees at the Landfill when they have to demolish a home. Darin explained that by lowering their costs, they can pass on the savings so more buyers can afford the homes, and they try to catch the homes before they have to do demolition. Mike Scott, Landfill Manager, stressed that the Tipping Fees are where the Landfill gets their Revenue and needs to build another new cell. Ken Hubbard, Community Development Director with City of Aberdeen, commented that they have their own agreement with the County and they are supportive of HAPI and all they do but they are not here to support their cause, this is their ask to go forward with. The City has had a great relationship working with the County Commission and Mike Scott on the properties they demolish and come back to the County for taxes, and they don't want this to disrupt that agreement. After further discussion, Commissioner Dinger made a motion to waive the tipping fees for HAPI, Inc. on home demolitions for three (3) years and they will revisit the arrangement at that time. Commissioner Wiese seconded the motion. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

DRAWDOWN REQUEST FOR LANDFILL COMPACTOR: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Drawdown Request for the Landfill Compactor from SD Dept. of Agriculture & Natural Resources (DANR) Environmental Funding Program. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

BUNTROCK EXHIBIT: Patricia Kendall, Dacotah Prairie Museum Director, met with the Commission to let them know that they were asked to be closed to the public from November 10-22, 2025 so that the Exhibit Components for the Dean Buntrock Gallery could be installed. The exhibit will be open the first week of December 2025.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LUNCHEON: Patricia Kendall, who is a member of the League of Women Voter's extended a personal invite to the Commission to attend the Luncheon they are providing to the County Commission and Department Heads on October 23, 2025.

FAIR BOARD BY-LAWS: Rachel Kippely, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager met with the Commission to approve the following revisions to the Fair Board By-Laws: Under Article II – Board, Section 1 Membership: In the event that vacancies on the Fair Board cannot be filled by January, the Fair Board may elect to ask members that have completed their second, three (3) year term to return to the Fair Board for the remainder of that one (1) additional year. Spouses may not serve on the Fair Board simultaneously; Under Section 2 – Executive Committee: While serving on the Fair Board, spouses and family members of Fair Office Staff cannot be prohibited from serving on the Executive Committee if elected. Commissioner Dinger voiced some concerns and made a motion to postpone approving the changes, the motion died due to lack of a second. Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to approve the revisions listed above for the Fair Board By-Laws. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Chairman Sutton shared a recommended By-law change to deal with potential reasons for being removed from the Fair Board addressing a member that moves from Brown County to an adjacent County; suggested to make a change in the By-Laws under Membership adding to be eligible to be on the Brown Coun-

ty Fair Board you have to reside in Brown County or an adjacent county. Due to the number of people that drive into Aberdeen every day for work, shopping or doctor visits. The one member lives in Britton, but their children are enrolled in Brown County 4-H Club. In addition, we draw people in from these areas during the Fair. Commissioner Dennert added that he agrees but would like to see a limit on the number of members outside of Brown County; he suggested 4 or 5 people (20-25%) and underline the involvement that is required.

FAIR BOARD MEMBER RECOMMENDATIONS: Rachel Kippely, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager shared that the Fair Board recommended appointing the following to the Fair Board: New Members for their first 3-year term – Payton Carda, Kevin Heinrich, Nicole Hansen, Samantha Hockenbrock and Jeff Swingler; Reappoint the following for their second 3-year terms: Conald Burgard, Brodie Mueller and Rhonda Retzlaff. Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to approve the Fair Board recommendations and appoint the members listed above to the Fair Board. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CARNIVAL CONTRACT ADDENDUM: Rachel Kippely, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager asked the Commission to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Addendum to Brown County Fair Carnival to exercise the "One-Year Option" for 2026 as outlined in Section 5 of the original contract with the exception of the following amendment: Section 8.b "Agreed upon prices for 2026 for one (1) full day wristband/armband will be \$30.00 in advance and \$37.00 on the first day of the carnival operation BCF. Agreed upon price for one (1) weeklong mega pass will go from \$70 to \$90 and they shall cease to be sold on August 1 each year. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Addendum for 2026 and changing the price from \$70 to \$90 for the weeklong mega pass. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

RFP FOR OPERATION OF GRANDSTAND CONCESSIONS: Rachel Kippely, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager presented specifications along with the Public Notice requesting proposals for "Operation of Grandstand Concessions during Brown County Fair in years 2026, 2027 and 2028". Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize advertising the RFP for Operation of Grandstand Concessions to be opened on Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at 8:45 A.M. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

WEED & PEST BOARD MEMBER RECOMMENDATION: Chris Hemen, Weed & Pest Supervisor, informed the Commission that he would recommend appointing Landon Ellingson to the Weed & Pest Board to replace Duane Jark who has retired from the Board. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to appoint Landon Ellingson to the Weed & Pest Board. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FAIRGROUNDS ANNEXATION AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF ABERDEEN: Chairman Sutton shared information regarding the Agreement between the City of Aberdeen and Brown County to Annex the Fairgrounds. Commissioner Wiese moved to approve the agreement and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the agreement contingent upon the Aberdeen City Ordinance No. 25-10-03 passing, then being able to sign it after the Ordinance is in effect. Seconded by Dinger. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #311 – FIRST READING: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the First Reading of Proposed Ordinance #311. Applicant David Sieh to rezone from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its future use: Description of property: Proposed 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.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

YOUTH CAMP HAYLAND LEASE RENEWAL: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Lease Option Renewal Addendum for Dustin Bitz to lease the Richmond Youth Camp Hayland for 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ADOPT RESOLUTION #2025-49 – PRECINCT BOUNDARIES:

Commissioner Wiese offered the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION #2025-49 RESOLUTION TO ADOPT VOTING PRECINCT BOUNDARIES

WHEREAS, as per SDCL 12-14-1, the Brown County Board of County Commissioners may be Resolution change the boundaries of election precincts already established; and

WHEREAS, the City of Aberdeen has Eleven (11) precincts and per HB 1103 being effective on January 1, 2026, combining municipalities and school elections with the primary or general election; and

WHEREAS, it is more cost effective to reduce the number of precincts for the Primary Election; and

WHEREAS, Brown County uses Vote Centers which per SDCL 12-14-17 the entire jurisdiction is designated as one voting precinct for the election; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Brown County that the Voting Precinct Boundaries of Brown County located in the City of Aberdeen shall be as follows:

Precinct 001 = NW Precinct
Precinct 002 = NE Precinct
Precinct 003 = SW Precinct
Precinct 004 = SE Precinct

WHICH IN TURN will renumber the other precincts as follows and former precincts 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 & 22 from this day forward cease to exist:

- Precinct 012 = Precinct 005
 - Precinct 013 = Precinct 006
 - Precinct 014 = Precinct 007
 - Precinct 015 = Precinct 008
 - Precinct 016 = Precinct 009
 - Precinct 017 = Precinct 010
 - Precinct 018 = Precinct 011
 - Precinct 019 = Precinct 012
 - Precinct 020 = Precinct 013
 - Precinct 021 = Precinct 014
 - Precinct 022 = Precinct 015
- BE IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the map showing and defining the boundaries of the precincts within the City of Aberdeen herein shall be attached to this Resolution as Exhibit A and map showing all the precincts in Brown County herein shall be attached to this Resolution as Exhibit B and incorporated as a part thereof. This Resolution shall be in effect indefinitely unless repealed or modified by duly enacted Resolution.

Dated this 14th day of October 2025.

Seconded by Commissioner Gage.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Dennert-nay; Dinger-nay; Gage-aye; Sutton-aye; Wiese-aye. Resolution adopted.

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the General Meeting Minutes of October 7, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Gage to approve the following claims: Professional Fees: Aberdeen ED \$110.65; Alcohol Monitoring Systems, Inc. \$1,740.80; Avera St Luke's Hospital \$1,816.89; Brick's TV and Appliance \$1,653.75; Brown County 4-H Leaders Association \$5,200.00; Carrels & Bain Family Dental Care, LLC \$764.83; Certified Languages International LLC \$1,669.80; CGI, LLC \$900.00; Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$5,912.76; Dakota Wood-Grinding Inc \$47,340.00; Day County \$4,275.00; Dohrer Law Office, PC \$3,528.00; Faulk County Sheriff's Office \$2,700.00; First Interstate Bank \$25.00; John Noyes – Bantz, Gosch & Cremer \$3,948.00; Kristi Brandt \$51.75; Kuck Law Office \$7,788.74; Language Line Services, Inc \$526.30; Minn-Kota Communications, Inc \$6,450.00; Network Center, Inc \$3,057.77; Northeastern Mental Health Center \$7,058.33; PharmChem, Inc \$2,350.35; Richardson, Wyly, Wise, Sauck & Hieb, LLP \$120.00; Saber Shred Solutions \$7,124.06; Sanford Clinic \$547.56; Sanford Health Occupational Medicine \$279.00; Sanford Health \$291.00; SD Dept of Health \$2,965.00; SDH-SC \$600.00; Sewer Duck, Inc \$100.00; State of South Dakota PMB 0112 \$102.33; Thomson Reuters – West Payment Center \$595.49; Yellow Robe Consulting \$1,800.00. Publishing: McQuillen Creative Group, Inc \$263.74. Rentals: Dakota Electronics LLC \$118.40; Pantorium Cleaners Inc \$155.52; Vestis \$333.10. Repairs & Maintenance: B & E Siding & Windows Inc \$2,334.33; Craftco Inc. \$1,543.00; Custom Installation Solutions \$20,180.00; Diesel Machinery, Inc \$11,744.94; EcoLab Pest Elimination Division \$303.58; Hoven Auto Repair, Inc \$208.36; Jason's Electric Inc \$120.69; KONE \$4,906.68; Pantorium Cleaners Inc \$287.80; Pomp's Tire Service, Inc \$51.00; South Dakota Underground \$4,540.82; Steven Lust Automotive \$308.11. Supplies: Aberdeen Lumber LLC \$47.65; Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$728.81;

Central Network Retail Group LLC \$5.69; Coca-Cola Bottling Company High Country \$606.00; Cole Paper Inc \$3,661.39; Cook's Correctional \$229.99; Craftco Inc. \$13,744.50; Dakota Electronics LLC \$805.00; Dakota Oil \$443.55; Diesel Machinery, Inc \$646.16; Hall Sand & Gravel, Inc \$5,502.27; Hoven Auto Repair, Inc \$56.00; John Noyes – Bantz, Gosch & Cremer \$149.22; Johnson Brothers of South Dakota, Inc. \$801.62; Kayla Weis \$50.00; Kessler's \$307.93; Kuck Law Office \$194.63; Lien Transportation Company \$107,482.50; Linde Gas & Equipment Inc \$176.26; Menards \$233.71; Performance Oil \$471.19; Premier Auto \$85.00; Rinse & Go Car Wash \$37.00; Road Rake Attachments \$5,000.00; Safety Service \$400.00; Stan Houston Equipment Company, Inc \$733.85; Steven Lust Automotive \$34.95. Travel & Conference: CGI, LLC \$26.13; Duane Jark \$101.38; John Andersen \$20.00; Karly Winter \$925.16; Lynn Heupel \$233.80; Neil Bittner \$14.00; Scott Kolb \$14.00; SDSU Extension \$95.52. Utilities: AT&T Mobility \$43.23; City of Aberdeen Treasurer \$1,667.31; Midwest Alarm Fire & Security Systems \$306.73; Northern Electric \$93.50; Northwestern Energy \$402.67. Other: SD Assoc of County Officials \$808.00; SD Dept of Agriculture & Natural Resources \$4,723.19. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to approve the Human Resource Report submitted by Human Resources Director, Alison Tunheim:

- o Last day for Seasonal Workers, Brown County Fairgrounds – effective September 30, 2025
 - Richard Burns
 - Terrence Dosch
 - Last day for PT (as needed) Bartenders – effective October 19, 2025
 - Jerri Bierman
 - Kristi Kriech
 - Laurie Gibson
- oResignation of Riely Thomas as Brown County Jail Detention Officer; FT – effective October 21, 2025.

o Amendment to October 7, 2025 HR Report, adjusted start date for Wyatt Youngblom as Brown County Jail Detention Officer; FT from October 15, 2025 to October 14, 2025.

o Amendment to September 30, 2025 HR Report, adjusted resignation date for Milton Gonzales Sambolin as Brown County Jail Detention Officer; FT from October 14, 2025 to October 17, 2025.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

TRAVEL REQUESTS: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to approve the following Travel Requests: Dirk Rogers, John Florey & Josh Matthews, Highway Department to attend Local Roads Conference on October 19-21, 2025 in Sioux Falls; Brayan Gordon, Sheriff's Office to attend Drones for First Responders on April 20-23, 2026 in Aberdeen. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to go into Executive Session for Personnel per SDCL 1-25-2. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

The Chair declared the executive session closed with No Action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:54 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published October 22, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$153.26 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26129



NOTICE FOR OPERATION OF GRANDSTAND CONCESSIONS DURING

THE BROWN COUNTY FAIR

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Brown County Courthouse Annex, 25 Market Street, Suite 1, Aberdeen, South Dakota; until the hour of 8:45 A.M. on November 4, 2025, at said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read and considered by the Brown County Board of Commissioners for: Operation of the Grandstand Concessions during

Brown County Fair in years 2026, 2027, and 2028 located on the Brown County Fairgrounds, 400 24th Ave. NW, Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Envelopes containing bids shall be addressed to the following:

Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Suite 1, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401

And the envelope marked with:

"Operation of Grandstand Concessions during Brown County Fair"

Received by 8:45 A.M. on Tuesday, November 4, 2025.

CONTRACT: Brown County will give notice to the successful bidder that the proposal has been accepted and said bidder shall within ten (10) days thereafter enter into a contract with Brown County. The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids that they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County, and to waive any informalities or irregularities therein. Brown County is exempt from all Federal Excise and State Sales Tax.

Copies of the specifications can be obtained at no charge and are on file at the following locations:

- Website: <https://www.brown.sd.us/brown-county-bids>
- Brown County Fair Office: 400 24th Ave. NW, Aberdeen, SD 57401 / Ph: 605-626-7116
- Brown County Auditor's Office: 25 Market Street, Ste. 1, Aberdeen, SD 57401 / Ph: 605-626-7110

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published October 22 and 29, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$40.16 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26130



For Sale by Sealed Bid
Groton Area School District has the following item(s) to sell by sealed bid:

- ... 2001 Dodge Ram Wagon
 - ...2002 Oldsmobile Intrigue
- To view, contact the school transportation supervisor
Damian Bahr at 605-290-4410.
Mark your bid envelope "School Vehicle Bid" and return it to Becky Hubsch at 502 N 2nd Street, Groton, SD 57445, no later than 2:00 pm, Monday, November 11, 2025.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WATFORD CITY ND GUN SHOW: Dakota Territory Gun Collectors. McKenzie County Sportsman's Club, October Friday 24th, 4pm-8pm, Saturday 25th 9am-5pm, Sun 26th 9am-12pm. Gene @605-848-2427.

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!



INVITATION TO BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT The Groton City Council of the City of Groton, South Dakota, will open bids for the 2025-2026 roof repairs on November 18, 2025, at 7:00pm at City Hall, 120 N Main Street, Groton, SD. Received sealed bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The work on this project includes roof repairs at the following locations:

- Main Pump House, 10 E Railroad Avenue
- Cemetery Repair Shop, 1509 N Broadway
- Police Department, 209 N Main Street
- City Shop, 10 E Railroad Avenue
- Community Center, 109 N 3rd Street
- Park Restrooms, 802 N 3rd Street
- Picnic Shelter at Park, 802 N 3rd Street
- Swimming Pool Bathhouse, 228 E 11th Avenue
- Gazebo at Swimming Pool, 228 E 11th Avenue
- Storage Shed at Swimming Pool, 228 E 11th Avenue
- City Hall/Wage Memorial Library, 120 N Main Street

All work areas are located within the City limits of Groton, SD.

Plans and specifications may be examined at the following locations:

City Hall, 120 N Main Street, Groton, SD

Questions or requests for further information should be directed to the City Finance Office, 605-397-8422, 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.

October 21, 2025
Published October 22 and 29, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$34.50 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26132



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

REGULAR MEETING
September 8, 2025

President Rix called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the GHS Library Conference Room. Members present: Fliehs, Harder, Lerseth-Fliehs, Strom, Weber, and Weismantel. Absent: None. Others present were Supt. J. Schwan, Principal Edwards, Business Manager Hubsch, and architecture firm representatives from JLG Architects, Co-Op Architects, and Architecture Incorporated.

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

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

Moved by Fliehs, seconded by Harder to approve consent agenda items: September 8, 2025, board minutes, and September 2025 financial reports, bills, lunch report, transportation, 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 316,284.48, Net Benefits 88,599.24 ; Amazon – supplies, 1,456.53; Bahr CDL Services – CDL Service, 150.00; Churchill, Manolis, Freeman, Kludt, Shelton – legal service, 160.00; Cole Papers – janitor supply, 3,964.20; Core Educational – online course, 260.00; Custodial Fud – advanced payments, 30,353.75; Dependable Sanitation – garbage, 1,464.00; EMC Insurance Company – insurance, 15,174.92; Farmer's Union – supplies, 282.38; Good Shred – shredding, 43.50; Groton Area Booster/PAC – officials concessions, 135.00; Groton Area chamber of Commerce – dues, 500.00; Groton Area School – facs supply, 12.75; Joel Guthmiller – state golf meals, 67.36; Harlow's – bus parts, 298.17; ; Hillyard – janitor supplies, 1,483.29; Rebecca Hubsch –meal, 14.00; JW Pepper – music, 54.75; Jerke Irrigation – FB field, 259.47; Ken's – supplies, 118.88; Lakeshore Learning – title supplies, 59.97; Locke Electric – repairs, 224.52; Madison School District – region golf share, 63.99; MidAmerican Research Chemical – janitor supply, 1,807.74; MJ's Sinclair – yearbook supply, 79.46; North Central Special Ed – services, 6,250.00; Northside Implement – repairs, 8,217.54; Northwestern Energy – utility, 913.62; Ryan Olson – goalie gloves, 37.17; Petty Cash, Kristi Peterson – refund issued, 75.00; Pfitzer Pest Control – pest services, 31.86; Prorate Services – DOT testing, 380.00; Reporter & Farmer – publishing, 35.00; Riddell All American – FB helmet decals, 691.40; Robotics Education & Competition – team registrations, 755.00; Sanford Health – athletic training services, 1,820.00; School Specialty – paper, 70.99; Sewer Duck – toilet rental, 760.00; Smith Autobody – repairs, 993.01; Taylor Music – instrument repairs, 592.98. Total General Fund - \$484,995.92.

CAPITAL OUTLAY: A&B Business – managed print agreement, 1,860.60; Amazon – equipment, 796.32; American Solutions for Business – tables/ chairs, 4,747.50; BucketDrumming.com – band annual pass, 210.00; Custodial Fund – advanced payments, 1,543.71; Don Donley – project work, 840.00; Hanlon Brothers – black dirt, 677.00; Hauff Mid-America – FB jerseys, 435.00; Hillyard – 2 scrubber imops, 8,617.30; Krueger Brothers – river rock, 3,881.41; Lakeshore Learning – title equipment, 390.13; McGraw-Hill – Grade 5 teachers edition, 14.53; Menards – crows nest/elementary landscaping, 1,116.33; Riddell – FB helmets, 5,049.95; S&S Lumber – crow's nest, 23,323.55; Sewer Duck – toilet crows nest, 435.00; Worthington Direct – desks, 7,575.25. Total Capital Outlay - \$61,513.58.

SPECIAL EDUCATION: Net Salary 46,425.44 Net Benefits 13,126.85 Amazon – Severe supplies, 21.69; Avera – PT/OT,

	General Fund	Capital Outlay	Special Ed.	Food Service	OST	Driver's Ed	Custodial
September 1 2025	\$2,139,016.55	\$731,766.53	\$372,380.21	\$125,478.91	\$38,621.40	\$20,937.01	\$244,297.81
RECEIPTS							
Local Sources	\$29,871.36	\$4,410.03	\$2,099.41	\$13,060.19	\$5,560.51		\$36,110.25
County Sources	\$3,515.83	\$157.58	\$75.04				
State Sources							
State Aid	\$42,955.00						
Wind Farm							
Mentor Teacher Program							
State Apportionment							
State Reimbursements							
Bank Franchise							
Federal Sources	\$5,298.94		\$65.49	\$3,315.65			
Sale of Assets							
Due from Govt/Others							
Transfer In/Out							

TOTAL MONTHLY RECEIPTS	\$81,641.13	\$4,567.61	\$2,239.94	\$16,375.84	\$5,560.51	\$0.00	\$36,110.25
FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$2,220,657.68	\$736,334.14	\$374,620.15	\$141,854.75	\$44,181.91	\$20,937.01	\$280,408.06
MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS	(\$474,543.71)	(\$121,641.84)	(\$64,281.79)	(\$23,723.16)	(\$5,532.41)		(\$52,862.66)
JOURNAL ENTRIES	\$35,749.81			\$4,142.61	\$1,347.75		

September 30. 2025	\$1,781,863.78	\$614,692.30	\$310,338.36	\$122,274.20	\$39,997.25	\$20,937.01	\$227,545.40
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GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL EDUCATION	FOOD SERVICE	OST
Payroll	Payroll	Payroll	Payroll
Instruction	Instruction	Instruction	Instruction
Employee Benefits	Employee Benefits	Employee Benefits	Employee Benefits
Total	Total	Total	Total
Driver's Education			
Payroll			
Instruction			
Employee Benefits			
Total			

7,043.04; North Central Special Education – services, 39,479.93; Parent – mileage, 646.80. Total Special Education - \$106,743.75. ENTERPRISE FOOD SERVICE: Net Salary 8,694.75, Net Benefits 2,742.56 Food Service: Bernard – food, 1,028.61; Custodial Fund – cleaner/food, 877.75; CWD – food, 1,068.12; East Side Jersey Dairy – milk, 1,493.48; Groton Area School – transfers to pay student fees, (277.75); Hillyard – Scrubber imop, 4,308.65; Performance Foodservice – food, 8,650.58; US Foods – food, 7,809.08. Total Food Service - \$36,395.83.

ENTERPRISE OST: Net Salary 3,503.15, Net Benefits 388.74, Custodial Fund – advanced payments, 848.56; Groton Area – student fund transfer to lunch, 300.00; Ken's – OST Snacks, 526.32. Total OST: \$5,566.77.

ENTERPRISE DRIVERS ED: 0.00.

CUSTODIAL: 52,862.66

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.

The following items were discussed in administrative reports: J. Schwan: Provided an update on the comprehensive property task force, with the last meeting scheduled for October 22. The District enrollment as of September 26 is at 563 students, comprising 266 elementary, 139 middle school, and 158 high school students. The District has received notice from the DOE that it has met the legal accountabilities for teacher compensation and minimum cash balance. The annual data submission for Personnel Record Forms is nearly complete and will be submitted by October 15. The District was awarded a \$5,000 grant from T-Mobile. Special thanks to Tom and Patti Woods for their time and effort in promoting this program, and to everyone who participated by posting on social media.

S. Edwards reported she has received many compliments from Avera on a recent field trip our HOSA group took at the facility, and on how well-behaved our students were. Edwards discussed attending a two-day literacy training course at Northern and has formed a professional development committee with Mr. Brett Schwan and staff members to plan and implement future professional development.

B. Hubsch presented updated state aid calculations. Since the final school-year count has been conducted, the District will receive approximately \$64,000 less than expected. The 2025 fiscal year audit has been completed, and a draft has already been sent from Cahill Bauer and Associates, with the audit to be finalized by November.

Moved by Fliehs, seconded by Weismantel, to adopt the resolution of Cooperative Sponsorship with the Doland School District for the sports of Boys and Girls Wrestling. Motion Carried.

Moved by Harder, seconded by Lerseth-Fliehs, to approve Amanda Bisbee as Head Girls Softball Coach, for the 2025-2026 season at a stipend of \$5,212.35. Motion carried.

Moved by Strom, seconded by Weber, to approve Sue Fjeldheim as Assistant Girls Softball Coach for the 2025-2026 school year at a stipend of \$3,276.00. Motion carried.

The Board selected Weismantel to be the representative at the ASBSD Delegate Assembly on November 21, 2025.

The Board conducted the first reading of recommended policy changes to the Federal Grants Manual.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Fliehs, to declare property surplus and surplus at no value for disposal, with the listing in the business office.

Moved by Fliehs, seconded by Strom, to declare a 2001 Dodge Van Wagon, and a 2002 Oldsmobile Intrigue as surplus and authorize the Business Manager to post for sale by sealed bids. Motion carried.

The Board recessed at 6:55 am, and President Rix reconvened the Board at 7:01 am.

The Board heard proposal presentations from the following architecture firms for Facilities Master Planning: JLG Architects, Co-Op Architects, and Architecture Incorporated.

Moved by Fliehs, seconded by Weber, to approve the proposal from Co-Op Architects to conduct a Facilities Master plan and authorize the Superintendent to execute the necessary contract documents. Motion carried. Weismantel voted nay.

The Board recessed at 8:52 am, and President Rix reconvened the Board at 8:56 pm.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Fliehs, to move into executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) personnel issue and SDCL 1-25-2 (2) student issue. The Board was declared out of executive session at 9:34 am.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Weber, to adjourn at 9:34 am. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 11, 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.

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October 21, 2025

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

Moved by Shilhanek and seconded by Wambach to approve the agenda with the addition of police discussion in executive session. All members present voted aye.

Public comments were welcomed pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1. Darrell Hillestad provided an update on the status of the Groton Municipal Airport. Alfred Tastad presented an alternative for new park bathrooms.

Hillestad and Tastad exited the meeting.

Moved by Bahr and seconded by Cutler to approve the liquor license renewals for The Jungle, American Legion Post #39, Ken's Food Fair, American Grain LLC, Olive Grove Golf Course, Dollar General, and MJ's Sinclair. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Wambach and seconded by Babcock to authorize the recommendation of a \$50,000 grant for the Groton Development Corporation from The Groton Community Fund. Shilhanek abstained from voting. All remaining members present voted aye.

The September finance report was approved on a motion by Babcock and seconded by Bahr. All members present voted aye.

The 2025 swimming pool report was approved on a motion by Babcock and seconded by Shilhanek. All members present voted aye.

The 2025 baseball report was approved on a motion by Cutler and seconded by Wambach. All members present voted aye.

	General Fund	Capital Outlay	Special Ed.	Food Service	OST	Driver's Ed	Custodial
September 1 2025	\$2,139,016.55	\$731,766.53	\$372,380.21	\$125,478.91	\$38,621.40	\$20,937.01	\$244,297.81
RECEIPTS							
Local Sources	\$29,871.36	\$4,410.03	\$2,099.41	\$13,060.19	\$5,560.51		\$36,110.25
County Sources	\$3,515.83	\$157.58	\$75.04				
State Sources							
State Aid	\$42,955.00						
Wind Farm							
Mentor Teacher Program							
State Apportionment							
State Reimbursements							
Bank Franchise							
Federal Sources	\$5,298.94		\$65.49	\$3,315.65			
Sale of Assets							
Due from Govt/Others							
Transfer In/Out							

TOTAL MONTHLY RECEIPTS	\$81,641.13	\$4,567.61	\$2,239.94	\$16,375.84	\$5,560.51	\$0.00	\$36,110.25
FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$2,220,657.68	\$736,334.14	\$374,620.15	\$141,854.75	\$44,181.91	\$20,937.01	\$280,408.06
MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS	(\$474,543.71)	(\$121,641.84)	(\$64,281.79)	(\$23,723.16)	(\$5,532.41)		(\$52,862.66)
JOURNAL ENTRIES	\$35,749.81			\$4,142.61	\$1,347.75		

September 30. 2025	\$1,781,863.78	\$614,692.30	\$310,338.36	\$122,274.20	\$39,997.25	\$20,937.01	\$227,545.40
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GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL EDUCATION	FOOD SERVICE	OST
Payroll	Payroll	Payroll	Payroll
Instruction	Instruction	Instruction	Instruction
Employee Benefits	Employee Benefits	Employee Benefits	Employee Benefits
Total	Total	Total	Total
Driver's Education			
Payroll			
Instruction			
Employee Benefits			
Total			

Discussion took place regarding the 2026 budget. Moved by Bahr and seconded by Cutler to switch healthcare coverage to Wellmark through South Dakota Health Pool. All members present voted aye.

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

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

Payroll, \$31,798.04, Employee salaries; Administrative, \$5,053.51, ; Public Safety, \$11,435.05, ; Public Works, \$15,155.30, ; Culture & Recreation, \$154.18, ; USPS, \$325.33, Utility billing postage; SD Retirement System, \$11,903.04, Employee retirement; Dacotah Bank, \$6,656.96, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dakotaland FCU, \$600.00, Employee savings; Dacotah Bank, \$810.41, HSA contributions; City of Groton, \$122.95, Utility deposit applied to outstanding bill; Jesse & Nichole Tullis, \$127.05, Utility deposit refund; SD State Treasurer, \$10,173.48, Sales and excise tax - September 2025; Stacy Mayou, \$333.85, Med flex; Dacotah Bank, \$4,563.13, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dacotah Bank, \$100.00, HSA contributions; WAPA, \$24,161.55, Power services - September 2025; Cody Lindgren, \$1,000.00, Heartland Energy water heater rebate; SD Supplemental Retirement, \$540.00, Supplemental retirement; Ecolab Pest Elimination, \$117.98, Rodent control - Rubble Site; Follett, \$1,071.40, Library cataloging system annual renewal; IMEG Corp., \$600.00, Engineering fees - Airport - Final bill; Wright & Sudlow, Inc., \$14,000.00, Repairs to curb and gutter; Irby, Inc., \$635.50, (1000) red flags, tape, cable cleaner, u-guard - Electric Dept.; Heartland Energy, \$40,732.37, Power services - September 2025; Chad Locken, \$2,440.00, Legal services - June through September of 2025; Pipe Detectives, Inc., \$18,883.70, Pipe cleaning - Wastewater Dept.; Altec Capital Services, LLC.,

\$2,189.93, Digger truck lease; Badger Meter, Inc., \$163.43, Water metering network fees; SD 811, \$301.35, Message fees - July through September of 2025; Heartland Waste Management, \$12,428.55, Garbage hauling; Border States Electric Supply, \$186.36, Lockout tags - Electric Dept.; NW Energy, \$13.98, Natural gas service - Water Tower; MJ's Sinclair, \$1,328.07, Fuel purchases - Multiple Depts. ; SDML Workers' Compensation Fund, \$25,136.00, 2026 work comp renewal; SD Department of Health, \$270.00, Water testing; The Groton Independent, \$65.60, Publishing costs; J's Superior Cleaning, \$200.00, Commercial cleaning services - City Hall; VESTIS, \$67.26, Rug rent - City Hall; James Valley Telecommunications, \$802.29, Telephone and internet services; Lien Transportation Company, \$564.30, Hot mix - Street Dept.; Dacotah Bank Visa, \$1,241.16, Scoop, book purchases, trimmer head, monthly planners, printer ink, air duster, batteries, door latch assembly, scissors, magnets, water samples, fuel purchases, RemotePC annual fee, coffee, creamer, tissues - Multiple Depts. ; Kellie Locke, \$28.00, Employee mileage reimbursement - Goodwill donation for library; Altec Industries, Inc., \$1,436.42, Repairs to Ford bucket truck - Electric Dept.;

Announcement: Downtown Trick or Treat on October 31, 2025, from 4-6pm. Main Street to be blocked off.

Varin exited the meeting.

Moved by Cutler and seconded by Wambach to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal matters 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 8:56pm. All members present voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 9:48pm.

Moved by Wambach and seconded by Babcock to adjourn the meeting at 9:48pm. All members present voted aye.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer

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by Shashwat Mishra

Dear EarthTalk: Is the U.S. still sending large barges of trash and recycling overseas? If so, which countries are taking most of it and is this good or bad for the environment? – P.L., via email

In what is called “waste colonialism” the U.S. exports large amounts of trash and recycling overseas, particularly plastic waste. For decades, countries in Asia have received this waste, but growing environmental concerns have led several of them to change their policies.

The biggest shift came in 2018 when China stopped accepting most imported recyclables through its National Sword policy. This left the U.S. scrambling to find new destinations. Since then, countries like Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam have become major importers of American waste. Some of these materials are technically recyclable, but many shipments include contaminated or low-quality plastics that are difficult or impossible to process properly.

These countries are left dealing with the consequences, including pollution, public health risks and damaged ecosystems. Some governments have pushed back. Malaysia has returned containers of waste to sender countries, and Thailand plans to ban plastic imports entirely by 2025. The Philippines has also made headlines for sending back trash shipments to Canada and South Korea.

The environmental and social effects are serious. Much of the waste ends up burned or dumped illegally. This releases harmful chemicals into the air and water, affecting both people and wildlife. In many communities near dumping or processing sites, residents report increased health issues and environmental degradation. Waste also clogs

Waste Colonialism: U.S. Continues To Export Garbage Overseas



The U.S. still exports large amounts of trash and recycling overseas, particularly plastic waste. Credit: Pexels.com.

waterways, contaminates soil and reduces air quality. Supporters of the trade argue it provides economic benefits and supports recycling markets in developing countries. But critics point out that these benefits often come at too high a cost and that real recycling rarely occurs. To address the issue, U.S. experts and advocates recommend improving domestic recycling infrastructure reducing single-use plastics and enforcing stricter export rules. International agreements like the Basel Convention aim to regulate the waste trade, though the U.S. has not ratified the treaty. In the long term, reducing waste at its source is key. Consumers can help by using less plastic, choosing reusable products and supporting policies that prioritize sustainability and fairness in how waste is managed worldwide.

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“Midnight Muscle Cramps? Here’s What Your Body is Telling You”

You’re asleep when suddenly your calf tightens into a painful knot. You swing your legs over the side of the bed and stand up, trying to stretch the muscle and waiting for the cramp to release. It passes after a minute or two, but the soreness often lingers. These types of nighttime leg cramps are common and often harmless, but disruptive.

Studies suggest that up to 60% of adults experience leg cramps at night at some point in their lives. They become more common with age and can occur more frequently in people with certain medical conditions or those taking specific medications.

The cause isn’t always clear, but several theories exist. One involves the gradual loss of motor neurons that occurs with aging. As nerve cells die off, the ones that remain may attempt to compensate by branching out to control more muscle fibers. This reorganization may make the system more prone to overexcitation, triggering cramps.

There is also a strong association between inactivity and muscle cramping. Many people spend long hours sitting or standing in place without moving through the full range of motion needed to keep leg muscles and tendons flexible. Over time, this can lead to muscle shortening, weakness, and poor circulation, all of which may increase the risk of cramping.

Daily activities that used to keep our muscles stretched and strong, such as squatting, kneeling, or walking on uneven terrain, are also less common in modern life. Without these movements, muscles like the hamstrings and those in our calves become less adaptable. The typical sleeping posture, with feet pointed down and ankles in plantarflexion, keeps the calf muscles in a shortened position for hours at a time. This posture may increase the likelihood of spontaneous nerve firing, especially during lighter stages of sleep.

Dehydration, electrolyte imbalances, and certain medications (such as diuretics) may also contribute to cramping. In some cases, leg cramps can be linked to medical conditions such as peripheral artery disease, diabetes or kidney disease.

Although painful, most nighttime leg cramps are not dangerous, and they can often be managed with simple changes. Stretching the calf muscles and hamstrings daily, especially before bed, may reduce the frequency and intensity of cramps. Staying physically active, including activities that strengthen the legs and promote circulation, can help maintain muscle function and flexibility. Walking, bicycling, heel raises and chair squats are practical options for many adults.

People who experience frequent cramps may benefit from adjusting their sleep posture. Using a pillow to keep the feet in a more neutral position, or avoiding heavy bedding that pushes the feet downward, can be helpful.

If cramps are severe, occur often or are associated with other symptoms, it’s worth talking with a health care provider to rule out underlying causes. In many cases, however, consistent movement, hydration and attention to daily habits can make a meaningful difference.

Patti Berg-Poppe is a physical therapist and professor at the University of South Dakota. Her work centers on helping people understand the connection between movement, health and maintaining independence and engagement throughout life. 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 on SDPB at 7pm on YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).



By Patti Berg-Poppe



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