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The Groton Independent

Vol. 143 No. 06 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2025 ♦ Established in 1889



Community Rallies for “Team Baylor” During Down Syndrome Awareness Night

A powerful sense of unity and compassion filled the Groton Area gym Tuesday night as the community gathered for Down Syndrome Awareness Night — a celebration of inclusion, strength and togetherness.

Groton Area HOSA hosted the evening and shared deep gratitude for everyone who attended, from the crowd that packed the stands to those who stopped by the awareness booth and generously donated to support the Torrence family. Parents Brooke and Chance Torrence and their daughter, Baylor, were honored as the community wrapped around them with love and encouragement.

The night’s highlight came before the first serve, when both the Groton Area and Faulkton volleyball teams took the floor wearing “Team Baylor” warm-up shirts. The gesture — simple in sight but powerful in meaning — served as a visible show of support for Baylor as she prepares for upcoming heart surgery. The athletes’ solidarity reflected the best of high school sports: compassion, character and care for one another beyond the competitive court.

From heartfelt conversations to uplifting cheers, the evening reinforced what makes this community special. Groton didn’t simply show up — it stood together, proving once again that here, no one faces their challenges alone.



Gilbert Medals at State

Groton Area sophomore Ryelle Gilbert races to a 22nd-place finish at the State Cross Country Meet in Huron with a time of 19:55.37, earning a Top 25 state medal. (Photo from Groton Area Facebook Page)



Weber gets 1,000th Set Assist

The Groton Area volleyball team gathers around Chesney Weber as she got her 1,000 set assist Tuesday night at the Milbank game. (Photo Courtesy Samantha Weber)

FCS Students Combine Service and Fellowship

Members of the Fellowship of Christian Students (FCS) gathered on Saturday, October 25, for their monthly service project, cleaning ditches along North Highway 37. The students turned the task into a friendly competition to see who could find the most unusual item.

After completing their cleanup, the group headed to The Jungle Lanes, where they enjoyed pizza and bowling. The outing provided a well-earned opportunity for fellowship and relaxation after a productive day of service.



Group picture by FCS Adopt a Highway sign on North Hwy 37.

(Courtesy Photo)



Ryan Hanson is not keen on her bottle find. (Courtesy Photo)

Groton Area First Quarter Honor Roll

Seniors
4.0 GPA: Nathan Unzen, Natalia Warrington, Carly Gilbert, Jerica Locke, Karter Moody, Jaedyn Penning, Talli Wright, Karsten Fliehs, Paisley Mitchell, De Eh Tha Say, Raelee Lilly, Gage Sippel, Cali Tollifson
3.99-3.50: Rylee Dunker, Ryder Johnson, Garrett Schultz, Becker Bosma, Breslyn Jeschke, Keegen Tracy, Drake Peterson, Mia Crank, Lincoln Krause, Logan Warrington, Hannah Sandness, Aiden Meyers, Olivia Steigelmeier, London Bahr, Gentry Pigors, Benjamin Hoeft, Jayden Schwan
3.49-3.00: Emma Davis, Charlie Frost, Lucas Carda, Nicolas Groebinghoff, Keegan Harry, Gavin Englund, Cambria Bonn, Tristin McGannon, Jarrett Erdmann

Juniors
4.0 GPA: Carlee Johnson, Liby Althoff, Teagan Hanten, Ashlynn Warrington, Brody Lord, Kira Clocksene, Taryn Traphagen, Halee Harder, Addison Hoffman Wipf, Emerlee Jones, McKenna Tietz, Kella Tracy, Hailey Pauli, Colt Williamson
3.99-3.50: Leah Jones, Avery Crank, Gavin Kroll, Blake Lord, Claire Schuelke, Aiden Strom, Zander Harry, Dylan Alexander Lopez Marin, 3.49-3.00: Walker Zoellner, Jackson Hopfinger, Brenna Imrie, Dylan McGannon, Hayden Zoellner

Sophomores
4.0 GPA: Elizabeth Cole, Mya Feser, Makenna Krause, Thomas Schuster, Chesney Weber
3.99-3.50: Sydney Locke, Kyleigh Kroll, Ryder Schelle, Layne Johnson, Ethan Kroll, Brayden Barrera, Jace Johnson, Taryn Thompson, Easton Weber, Gracie Pearson, Jeremiah Muller, Rylen Ekern
3.49-3.00: John Bisbee, Addison Hoeft, Rylie Rose, Brysen Sandness, Braeden Fliehs, Kinsley Rowen, Wyatt Wambach, Alex Abeln

Freshmen
4.0 GPA: Neely Althoff, Aspen Beto, Wesley Borg, Abby Fjeldheim, Zachary Fliehs, Tevan Hanson, Asher Johnson, Brooklyn Spanier, Novalea Warrington
3.99-3.50: Kolton Antonsen, Logan Olson, Jordan Schwan, Wesley Morehouse, Lincoln Shilhanek, Sydney Holmes
3.49-3.00: Arianna Dinger, Kaedynce Bonn, Samuel Crank, Connor Kroll, Jose Fernando Nava Remigio, Tenley Frost, Briggs Conn, Adeline Kotzer, Raquel Tracy, Grayson Flores, Anthony Tracy, Aurora Washenberger, Lillian Cowan

Eighth Graders
4.0 GPA: Axel Abeln, Hudson Eichler, Amelia Ewalt, Sophia Fliehs, Gavin Hanten, Liam Johnson, Liam Lord
3.99-3.50: Andi Gauer, Asher Zimmerman, Jameson Penning, Ryder Schwan, Elias Heilman, Trey Tietz, Gavin Younger, Trayce Schelle, Keegan Kucker
3.49-3.00: Dawson Feist, Kyson Kucker, Haden Harder, Jace Hofer, Rowan Patterson, Peyton Padfield, Wyatt Morehouse, Nolan Bahr

Seventh Graders
4.0 GPA: Gracie Borg, Lillian Davis, Libby Johnson, Zoe Olson, Taylynn Traphagen
3.99-3.50: Brynlee Dunker, Andi Iverson, Maycee Moody, Victoria Schuster, Addison Steffes, Ayce Warrington, Amara El Salahy, Kinley Sandness, Hadley Heilman, Rylee Stoltenburg, Rylee Hofer, Charli Jacobsen, Mason Locke, Bella Barrera, Hank Hill, Easton Larson, Brinley Guthmiller, Kendyll Kroll, Mya Moody, Ivan Schwan Parker Zoellner
3.49-3.00: Ambrielle Feist, Knox Mulder, Charles Telkamp, Drew Fjeldheim, Gradyn Rowen, Emmett Zoellner

Sixth Graders
4.0 GPA: Arthur Eichler, Hayden Hubbard, Jernie Weig
3.99-3.50: Devan Locke, Brody Zimmerman, Willow Cowan, Tigh Fliehs, Lennox Locke, Kacie McComsey, Titan Johnson, Gideon Rix, Harley Furman, Blakely Stiegelmeier, Ryan Hanson, Deylon Johnson, Micah Krause, Taylor Fliehs, Shealee Gilchrist, Avery Huber, Boston Kurth, Elise Pharis
3.49-3.00: Jaxson Barrera, Adam Fliehs, Simon Simunek, Taylor Thompson, Hudson McGannon, Rowan Hanson, Avery Roettele, Greyson Warrington, Kayson Hofer, Kaelee Morehouse, Adaline Jangula, Calvin Locken, Tanner Frost, Huntley Overacker, Jack Schuelke, Ruby Dosch

AUCTION

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Tract 2: 120.39+/- Acres
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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

Freedom of Assembly and an Irrepressible American Spirit on No Kings Day

Neither the invective-filled disparagement from White House officials, nor the vulgar video posted by President Donald Trump on October 18, in which he hailed himself wearing a crown and piloting a jet fighter plane while dropping excrement on Americans who participated in the nationwide, "No Kings" protests, deterred the seven million protestors in some 3,000 locations across the country who demonstrated the strength and spirit of the majestic First Amendment right of peaceable assembly. Freedom of assembly, our nation's founders believed, was an essential, democratic means for protecting the voice of the people, so integral to their republican experiment that they supposed it to be, in the words of Justice Joseph Story, "unquestionable and inherent."

Trump acolytes, including Mike Johnson, Speaker of the House of Representatives, in the runup to the largest protest on a single day in American history had, for days and weeks, baselessly disparaged protestors as those who "Hate America." The steady stream of slurs covered the ground: Hamas terrorists, Marxists, Socialists, criminals, idiots and members of "antifa," yes, always the bogeyman of antifas, which Trump wants Congress to brand a "domestic terrorist organization," even though no such organization exists. Another authoritarian leader, Mussolini, for whom Trump has expressed admiration, prosecuted "anitfas" in Italy in the 1920s. Their crime? They were anti-fascists who opposed the fascist leader. The administration's disdain for the right of Americans to exercise speech and assembly freedoms illuminates the authoritarianism into which Trump has plunged the nation.

The constitutional guarantee of Freedom of Assembly, which finds its roots in the English Bill of Rights of 1689, emerged in the heat of pre-revolutionary America as colonists voiced objections to repressive measures enacted by the king and parliament. In 1774, General Gage, on behalf of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, assumed the authority to issue a proclamation that declared it "Treason" for inhabitants of the province to assemble themselves to consider their grievances and form "associations" for their common conduct. All civil magistrates and officers were ordered to apprehend such persons for their "Offences." In August 1774, Thomas Jefferson expressed outrage: "it is the most alarming Process that ever appeared in a British Government." He said that "the executing, or attempting to execute, such Proclamation, will justify Resistance and Reprisal." On October 14, the Continental Congress issued the "Declaration and Resolves," the first document in American history to protect freedom of assembly, which Congress called a "natural right," and the direct precursor of the declaration of rights contained in the Revolutionary state constitutions, beginning with the Virginia Declaration of Rights in 1776.

In debates on the Bill of Rights, members of the First Congress in 1789 raised no objection in principle to including freedom of assembly in the First Amendment, but a few representatives wondered aloud whether it was necessary, given that it struck everyone as a "self-evident, unalienable" right, "inherent" in freedom of expression, and "certainly a thing that never would be called into question." It was, therefore, "unlikely" to be denied. Other members, however, pointed to English history and governmental denials of assembly, including its prohibition in the reign of King Charles II, and predicted it might happen in America, which made its protection necessary. Others supported its incorporation and pointed out that it would justly enhance our "democracy."

Justice Story, at the forefront of the nation's early landmark judicial decisions, addressed in 1833, the standing of freedom of assembly as a fundamental right. "This would seem unnecessary to be expressly provided for in a republican government, since it results from the very nature of its structure and institutions. It is impossible, that it could be completely denied, until the spirit of liberty had wholly disappeared, and the people had become so servile and debased, as to be unfit to exercise any of the privileges of freemen."

On October 18, the vulgar denigration of freedom of assembly by President Trump could not match the irrepressible spirit of the American people. Trump might have ignored the millions of citizens who assembled in objection to his deeply unpopular policies, which have left him under water in the major categories of opinion polls, but, unlike Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama, who simply but appropriately replied to protests against their policies by stating that, in a democracy, the people have a right to voice their opposition. Trump, however, doesn't seem to believe that.

Weekly Groton Sports Summary

Cross Country

Gilbert Medals at State; Four Tigers Finish Strong in Huron

Four Groton Area runners competed Saturday at the State Cross Country Meet in Huron, closing their season with determined efforts against South Dakota’s best.

Sophomore Ruelle Gilbert led the Tigers with a 22nd-place finish in 19:55.37, earning a state medal. Senior Jayden Schwan ended his Tiger XC career with a strong run, placing 34th in 17:33.08. Junior Kella Tracy finished 54th in 20:56.35, while freshman Riley Shellenberger ran a personal-best 19:20.09 to place 100th in his first state appearance.

Groton showcased both experience and emerging talent, signaling another promising future for the program.

Volleyball

Tigers Sweep Redfield to Finish Road Slate

Groton rolled to a straight-set win at Redfield behind powerful hitting and steady serving, closing its road schedule with energy and efficiency.

Tevan Hanson led with 10 kills, Chesney Weber and Riley Dunker added eight each, and Groton earned 60% of its points on kills, aces, and blocks.

Coach Chelsea Hanson praised the fast start but noted the focus remains on three-set consistency heading into postseason play. The JV and C teams also swept the Pheasants.

Balance and Depth Shine as Tigers Sweep Faulkton Area

Groton’s offensive versatility was on full display in a home sweep of Faulkton Area.

Rylee Dunker delivered 12 kills, Taryn Traphagen added six, and Jaedyn Penning and Makenna Krause each chipped in multiple scores as Groton pushed their record to 23-5.

“We have so many kids who can lead on any given night,” Coach Hanson said. “That’s what makes this group special.”

Tigers Clinch Share of NEC Title; Weber Reaches 1,000 Assists

Groton closed the regular season in style with a sweep of Milbank to earn a share of the Northeast Conference championship — the Tigers’ first since 2019.

The night also featured a milestone moment as sophomore setter Chesney Weber recorded her 1,000th career assist in the third set, placing her among elite company.

“We knew she needed 27 coming in, and the cool part is she had absolutely no idea,” Coach Hanson said. “For her to do that as a sophomore — incredible.”

Tevan Hanson led with 14 kills and 10 digs, Penning and Dunker each tallied eight kills, and Traphagen added seven. Jerica Locke led the defense with 15 digs.

With a 24-5 finish, the Tigers enter postseason play with momentum and confidence.

Football

Cyclones End Tigers’ Season in 11B Playoffs; Growth and Grit Define Groton’s Fall

Groton’s football season came to a close Thursday in Clark, where Clark-Willow Lake capitalized on momentum-changing plays to secure a 35–0 playoff win.

The Tigers marched to the 1-yard line early, but a fumble returned 79 yards flipped the game’s direction. Still, Groton continued to battle, led by Asher Johnson (58 rushing yards, 129 passing), Keegen Tracy (110 receiving yards), and defensive stand-out Tucker Hardy (10 tackles).

Coach Shaun Wanner credited his seniors and the Langford co-op teammates for leadership and perseverance.

“They never quit,” Wanner said. “Life will be tougher than wins and losses, and how these kids handled adversity will serve them well.”

Groton finishes 3-6, with culture and effort pointing toward a bright future.

Up Next
Volleyball:
First-round region bye
Groton hosts Nov. 6 at the Groton Area Arena

Robotics Season Opener Qualifies One Groton Team to Nationals

The Robotics Season Opener was held in Box Elder, SD this past weekend on Saturday, October 25th, 2025. 21 Teams attended the event from South Dakota and Wyoming. Groton had 2 of its 4 teams attend: 9050B Gearheads & 9050F Gladiators. Teams competed in 7 qualifying matches, with 16 teams moving forward after Alliance selection to fight to be in the finals.

The importance of the final matches and being in the Final 4? Not only the chance of winning the tournament, but Teams that achieve one of these 4 spots automatically qualify for 2026 Create US Open Robotics Tournament in Council Bluffs Iowa, also known as Robotics Nationals in March 2026. This contest fills up fast, so unless you achieve a Finals rank early season (prior to Dec), it is unlikely you could even compete.

Team 9050F: Gladiators – Team Captain and sole member of his team for the 2025-2026 year, Garrett Schultz (Senior), achieved this recognition.

Also at this event, a high level of sportsmanship was shown across all teams attending. Teams were working together, helping each other with robot and equipment issues, talking through ideas to make their robots better. The camaraderie was evident not only within the students but parents attending as well and made for an uplifting event.

9050F – Gladiators: Garrett Schultz
Qualifier Ranking – 4th out of 21. (6 Wins/1 Loss) Won Quarter Finals, Semi Finals, Lost in the Championship 101 to 60.

9050B – Gearheads: Co-Lead: Logan Clocksene & Kira Clocksene. Emmett Zoellner, Simon Simunek.
Qualifier Ranking – Ranked 12th out of 21. (3 Wins/4 Losses) Loss in Quarter Finals 20 to 122.

Scheduled Future Robotics Tournament Events are listed below. They are held free of charge to the public and we would love to see Groton spectators at these events!

Tiger Nation Tournament – November 22nd – Harrisburg, SD
DSU Vex Qualifier – December 20th – Madison, SD
Tiger Robotics – January 3rd – St. Cloud, MN
Valley City Frozen Classic – January 16th – Valley City, ND
Jacks Carrot Cup – January 18th – Brookings, SD
Spartan Robot Rally – February 7th – Spearfish, SD
South Dakota State Robotics State Championships – February 27th – Madison, SD
Robotics Nationals – March 16th-18th - Council Bluffs, IA



From left to right, 9050B Gearheads: Kira Clocksene, Simon Simunek, Emmett Zoellner, Logan Clocksene. (Courtesy Photo)



9050 F - Gladiators - Garrett Schultz. (Courtesy Photo)

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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The first quarter was dominated by the Chargers, who had 106 total yards compared to Minnesota’s 16. The Vikings got the ball to start the game but were forced to punt, then the defense allowed a 14-play, 83-yard touchdown drive. A three-and-out (that went backwards nine yards) on Minnesota’s next possession gave the ball right back to Los Angeles, who had a seven-point lead after 15 minutes of play.

The Chargers scored another touchdown early in the second quarter, extending their lead to 14-0. Minnesota followed that up with a nine-play drive that ended in a field goal, finally putting some points on the board. The Vikings caught a break when the Chargers missed a field goal on their next drive, but they failed to capitalize and punted the ball right back after a three-and-out. Despite having the ball at the 6-yard line, the Chargers were undaunted, only needing nine plays to go 94 yards for a third first-half touchdown. The Vikings missed a field goal to end the half and went into the locker room down 21-3. Just for comparison, the Chargers had

18 first downs in the first half, compared to four for the Vikings, and 266 total yards compared to 93.

The Chargers opened the second half with a nine-play drive that ended with a field goal to extend their lead to 24-3. The Vikings responded with a punt. However, a tipped ball on the Chargers’ next possession was intercepted by Josh Metellus, and the Vikings were gifted a touch-down by a series of Los Angeles penalties to cut the deficit to 14.

The Chargers found the endzone yet again to begin the fourth quarter to make it a three-score game again, and two plays later, Carson Wentz threw an interception. Needing to just run the clock out, the Chargers’ next drive took nearly five minutes and added another three points. The Vikings’ next drive picked up two yards, and they turned the ball over on downs. The Chargers then took another four minutes off the clock and kicked another field goal, extending the lead to 37-10. With less than two minutes left in the game, Minnesota threw in the towel and put their backups in to end this disaster.

At this point, I don’t even know what to say. I’m frustrated as a fan. This team won 14 games last season, and the front office decided to gamble on too many things this offseason. They gambled on hitching the wagon to a 2nd-year QB coming off an injury who never had to do much in college. They gambled on aging, injury-riddled free agents on both the offensive and defensive lines, and our high-priced center may never play in the NFL again. They gambled on the secondary, allowing Cam Bynum to walk and not bringing in any legit cornerbacks, and now teams are just passing at will against the Vikings. The Vikings gambled and lost nearly every hand, and it’s us, the fans, who have

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to pay for their incompetence.

Looking ahead, it doesn’t get any better, as the Vikings travel to Detroit to take on the Lions. It’s going to be ugly.

The Life of Milton Sippel



Memorial services for Milton “Mick” Sippel, 82, of Groton will be 1 p.m., Thursday, October 30th at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Rev. Tom Summers will officiate. Inurnment will take place at a later date in Union Cemetery, Groton. Family requests casual dress for services.

Mick passed away October 20, 2025 at Bethesda Home of Aberdeen.

Milton L. Sippel was born on January 23, 1943 to Wesley and Lorraine (Weihrauch) Sippel in Aberdeen. He attended school in Groton and graduated in 1961. Mick farmed with his dad and brothers following school. In June of 1962, he was united in marriage with Kathy Tastad and together they were blessed with three children: John, Cheri and Doug. Mick continued farming until 1979, when he moved to Groton and started a welding shop. He was a member of the Groton Fire Department for many years. In later years, he worked for several farmers with livestock and

crops. He also drove truck locally and across the country from Texas to Michigan hauling grain, livestock, and produce.

Mick was a member of the James Valley Threshing Club in Andover and enjoyed sharing and displaying his International Tractor Collection, along with his two brothers and his nephew, Terry Sippel, in the Threshing Bee Parade. He also loved hunting and fishing with friends and family over the years. In his youth he was a member of the Lazy Farmers 4-H Club, then took over as leader for his father after Wes passed away in 1974. He also took pride in farming and growing large gardens. Always social, he could be found hanging out with friends, telling stories, and dancing to music.

Celebrating his life are his sons, John (Lisa) Sippel of Groton, Doug Sippel of Groton, son-in-law, Tom Strom of Groton; 10 grandchildren: Amanda Sippel, Allison (Tanner Lemon) Sippel, Kaylee Sippel, Garrett (Emily) Belden, Greg Belden, Alicia (Colin) Burrer, Wyatt (Megan) Kurtz, Clayton (Aimee) Kurtz, Holden Sippel, Gage Sippel; 8 great-grandchildren: Waylon Lemon, Violet Belden, Brantley Belden, Addison Gauer, Finley and Olivia Burrer, Wrenley and Jorie Kurtz; two brothers, Bob Sippel of Aberdeen and Rex (Cindy) Sippel of Groton. Additionally, his many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Preceding him in death were his parents and his daughter, Cheri Strom.

Honorary Urnbearers will be: Bob, Renee, and Travis Swisher, Craig Weber, Lee Thompson, Paul Walter, Bill, Eileen, and Austin Schuelke, Rich Fliehs, Todd and Wade Anderson, and many more friends and neighbors.

The Groton Independent

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Happy Halloween!

Whew! Now I've got to figure out my costume!

Have lots of fun!

Trick-or-Treat only at houses that are well-lighted.

Spoooooooky Sayings!

1. skeletons in your closet

2. cat got your tongue

3. as the crow flies

4. to turn into a pumpkin

5. to start a witch-hunt

6. blind as a bat

7. white as a ghost

8. scaredy-cat

9. a ghost of a chance

10. like a kid in a candy store

A. very nervous; fearful

B. to stay out late

C. dark or shameful secrets you keep hidden

D. the straightest possible path

E. happy and excited

F. very pale; frightened

G. to have nothing to say

H. only a very small chance of success

I. to search fro people to find guilty

J. not able to see very well

by Annimills LLC © 2025

10 HOUSE

13 COSTUMES

4

8 WINTER

3

6 TREATS

7 SKELETONS

12

14

15

5 FLASHLIGHTS

2 JACKOLANTERN

1 HALLOWEEN

9 HAYRIDES

Sweet Treats - Counting up the Goodies

8 coins + 5 mini bags of candy corn = 13 treats

13 lollipops + 17 chocolate bars + 4 popcorn balls = 34 treats

6 lemon drops + 2 peppermint patties + 3 small toys = 11 treats

13 treats

34 treats

11 treats

58 total treats in bag

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Whew!

Now I've got to figure out my costume!

Trick-or-Treat only at houses that are well-lighted.

Read the clues to fill in the crossword:

- October 31, _____, is a time of pumpkin patch visits, parties, parades and special treats!
- A _____ is lighted and grins from the porch.
- People dress up in _____ and turn into pirates, clowns and princesses.
- Kids _____ up and down the streets.
- Battery-powered _____ glow, lighting their way.
- Doorbells ring, _____ of candy and small toys are tossed into bags.
- Zombies and _____ sit in the graveyard placed in the neighbor's front yard.
- A _____ stirs her cauldron, mixing a potion and casting a spell.
- Tractor-powered _____ creep through fields full of spooky creatures.
- _____ roam a school's hallways tonight, flying from room to room.
- A haunted _____ gives us "scares" and we laugh with friends and family.
- A dog howls, an _____ hoots, a cat hisses and children shout.
- A giant web spun by a hairy _____ hangs in the corner of a porch.
- A full _____ glows and lights up the houses and streets below.
- The next morning the sun rises and all the creatures and shadows of the night _____.

Happy Halloween!

I've just finished carving my jack-o'-lantern. I'm going to use a battery-operated light in it.

It is the season of costume making, witches and bats in flight, spooky parties and favorite candy treats. All of this fun, fun, fun fills my mind, but I also know that it's important to follow a few safety rules while celebrating.

chooses to do! We're making orange popcorn balls.

Have

lots of

fun whatever

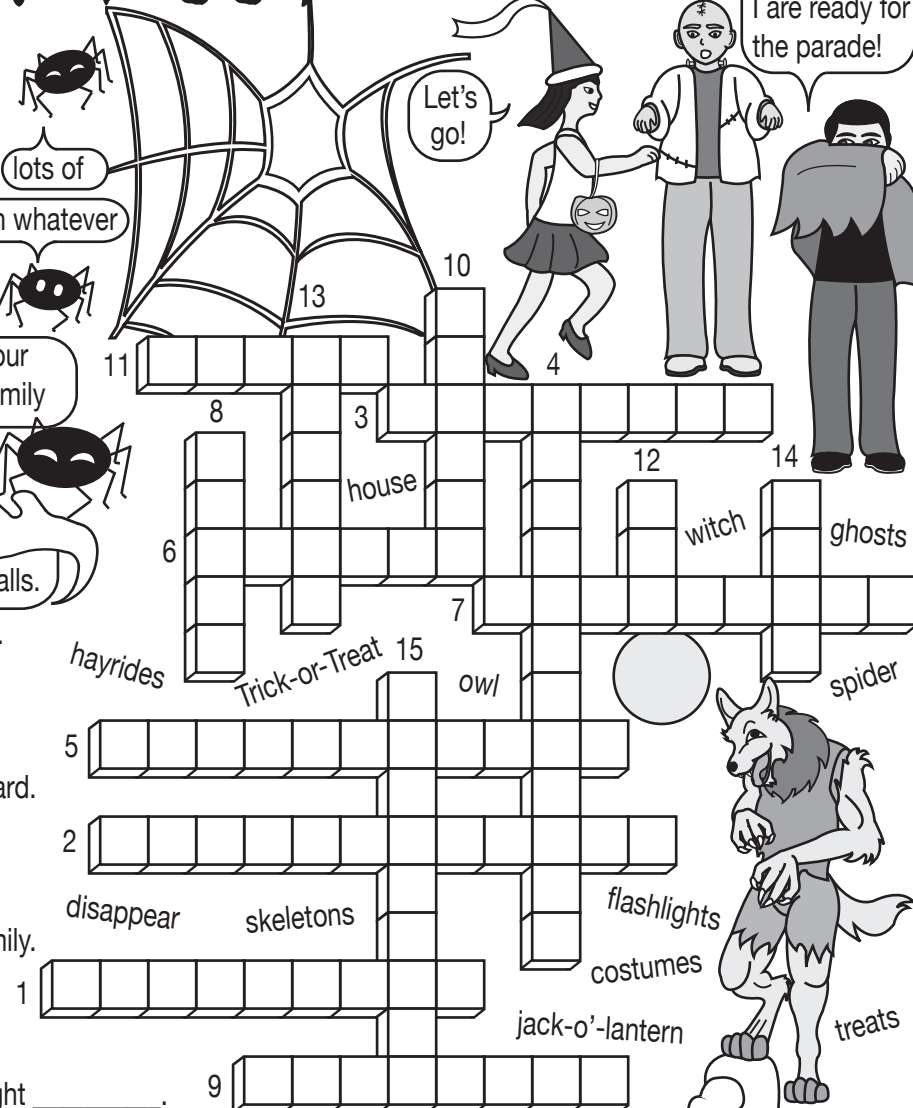
your family

Halloween

moon

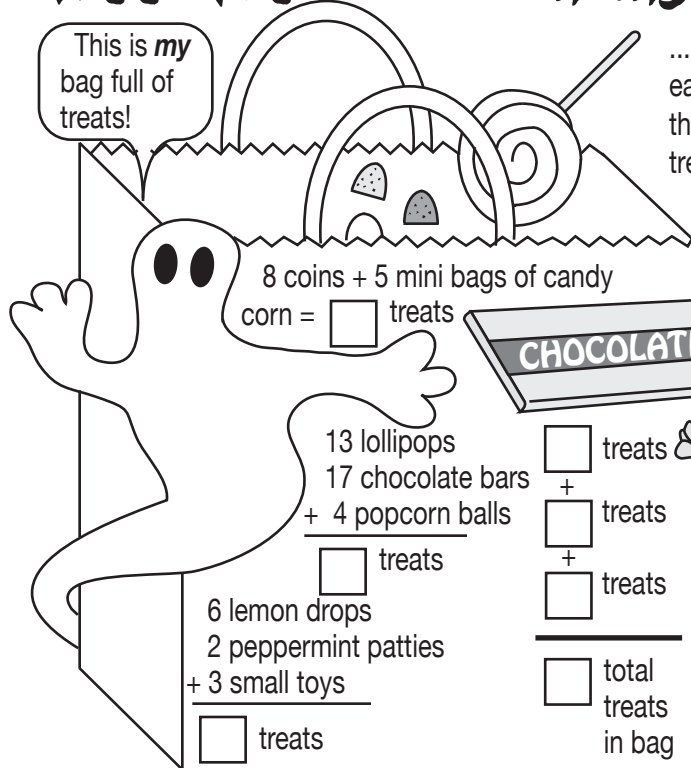
Let's go!

My sister, brother and I are ready for the parade!



Sweet Treats - Counting up the Goodies

This is **my** bag full of treats!



...in your candy bag is fun. Add up each group of treats, then total all the goodies to find out how many treats are in the ghost's bag.

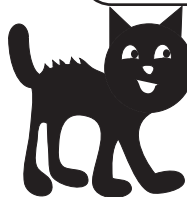
- I have hair almost everywhere! A full moon makes me howl in the air!

- I roam at night: my black cape and sharp fangs give people a fright!

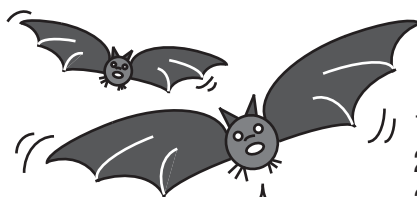


- Yo Ho! I have a dagger and a hook; I've hidden a treasure map in a book!

Very good arch. Now practice your hissing!



- I arch my back when I smell a rat; I hiss and spit I am a black...



Our eyesight may not be too good, but we have an **echolocation** system. This means that we make sounds and "listen" for returning echoes. We can find anything in the dark!

Spoooooooky Sayings!

Match each saying to its meaning!

- skeletons** in your closet
- cat** got your tongue
- as the **crow** flies
- to turn into a **pumpkin**
- to start a **witch-hunt**
- blind as a **bat**
- white as a **ghost**
- scaredy-**cat**
- a **ghost** of a chance
- like a kid in a **candy** store

- very nervous and fearful
- to stay out too late
- dark or shameful secrets you keep hidden
- the straightest possible path
- happy and excited
- very pale; frightened
- to have nothing to say
- only a very small chance of success
- to search for people to find guilty
- not able to see very well

Hey! So, what's the problem with turning into a pumpkin at midnight?





OCTOBER 21, 2025 – GENERAL MEETING

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: Senator, Carl Perry informed the Commission of the Youth Awards given out by the Exchange Club of Aberdeen for October: Young Citizen Awards went to Bailey Nold & Lucas Smid from Aberdeen Roncalli; Tarek Hoffman & Tillie Gehrke from Holgate; Alexis Hoag & Colby Becking from Simmons and Maxwell Anderson from Aberdeen Christian. Youth of the Month Awards went to Charlie Hemke from Aberdeen Central; Ben Bradley from Aberdeen Roncalli and Raymond Rodriguez-Martinez from Aberdeen Christian.

Senator Perry shared with the Commission that he attended the South Dakota Conservation Districts 2025 Coteau Area Legislative Banquet that was held in Webster. Also in attendance was Commissioner Wiese, who is also President of James River Water Development District along with many others.

Tim Hanigan, Chief Executive Officer for Aberdeen Development Corporation wanted to Thank the Commission and Planning & Zoning for listening to the concerns and working on the Ordinances for the Wind Energy and Data Center Ordinances.

BID OPENING FOR RODEO STOCK CONTRACTORS: Time and place, as advertised, to open, read and consider sealed bids for Rodeo Stock Contractors in years 2026, 2027, and 2028 at the Dacotah Bank Stampede Rodeo at the Brown County Fair located on the Brown County Fairgrounds. Bids were received from the following Contractors (the total is for the three years): Bailey Pro Rodeo for \$157,500.00; Big Bucks Pro Rodeo for \$169,999.50; Dakota Rodeo for \$109,000.00; Fetting Pro Rodeo for \$315,250.00 and Barnes PRCA Rodeo for \$165,000.00. Rachel Kippley, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager asked to defer the awarding of the bid for a week to review and share with the Fair Board. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to defer the awarding of the bid until next week. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

2026 BROWN COUNTY FAIR TICKET PRICES: Rachel Kippley, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager, shared with the Commission that they are planning to increase the tickets for the Brown County Fair. She informed them that they plan to have a bigger headliner and a smaller opening act. Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to approve the following ticket prices for 2026 Brown County Fair: (GA-General Admission)

TICKET TYPE	Dec. 1-25, 2025	Mar. 9 to Aug. 9 2026(Week of Fair)	Aug. 10-16, 2026
3-Day Reserved.....	\$120	\$140	\$160
3-Day GA Pass.....	\$100	\$120	\$150
4-Day GA Pass.....	\$130	\$150	\$170
Wednesday Night GA	N/A	\$50	\$60
Thursday Night GA	N/A	\$50	\$60
Friday Night GA.....	N/A	\$50	\$60
Saturday Night GA.....	N/A	\$50	\$60
Carnival – Daily Pass.....	\$30	\$30	\$37
Carnival – Mega or Week Pass...	\$80	\$90*	N/A
Rodeo – Adult	\$20	\$20	\$25
Rodeo – Child.....	\$10	\$10	\$10
Sunday Event – Adult.....	N/A	\$10	\$10

*Ends July 31st

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

AMENDED ORDINANCE #302 – FIRST READING: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the First Reading of Amended/Proposed Ordinance #302. Amendment to Wind Energy Systems (WES) to the Brown County Title 4 Zoning Ordinances by replacing: Chapter 4.36, Wind Energy System (WES) with the proposed changes. All members present voted aye. Motion carried. The proposed ordinance with changes will be made available for public inspection at the Brown County Auditor's Office or Brown County Planning & Zoning Office during regular business hours.

AMENDED ORDINANCE #303 – FIRST READING: Scott Bader, Planning & Zoning Director, informed the Board that the following should be amended in the Ordinance: Adding under Design Standard: the one (1) mile separation may be reduced to "Not Less Than One-Half (1/2) Mile" and under Noise: the reduction with a waiver should be "Not Less than one-half (1/2) mile instead of one-fourth (1/4) mile. After some discussion on the threshold of the decibels, Commissioner Wiese moved to approve the First Reading of the Amended/Proposed Ordinance #303 with additional recommendations from Scott Bader, seconded by Gage. A new ordinance, Data Center being added to the Brown County Title 4 Zoning Ordinances of Brown County, Chapter 4.01 – Definitions; Chapter 4.16 – H-I District; An Addition to Title 4 Zoning Ordinances of Brown County with Chapter 4.38. All Adopted by Ordinances #303, as amended in Title 4 Zoning Ordinance of Brown County South Dakota. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. The proposed ordinance will be made available for public inspection at the Brown County Auditor's Office or Brown County Planning and Zoning Office during regular business hours.

Commissioner Gage took a moment to say Thank-you to the Planning & Zoning Office Staff and Board for all their time and hard work on these Ordinances; they did a great job. Also, for all the people that showed up and got involved. Chairman Sutton reiterated Thank-you to the public for being on top of it and making the Commission aware of some recommended changes and thinks it worked out well and thanked everyone involved.

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve the General Meeting Minutes for October 14, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Claims/Payroll: Claims: Professional Fees: Avera St. Luke's Hospital \$2,250.41; Brick's TV and Appliance \$1,053.75; City of Redfield \$345.60; Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$1,584.00; Dakota Trails Investigation \$922.50; Dean Schaefer Court Reporting \$114.00; Den Herder Law Firm \$151.53; Kuck Law Office \$1,140.00; North Star Solutions, LLC \$588.00; Sanford Health \$611.97. Publishing: Asure Operations, LLC \$1,788.00; Groton Daily Independent \$317.64. Rentals: Advantage Self Storage \$276.00; Dakota Electronics LLC \$79.90. Repairs & Maintenance: Aberdeen Clean-All, LLC \$1,749.56; CommTech Inc \$4,969.07; Geffdog Designs \$55.00; House of Glass \$394.93; Jebro Inc \$960.00; Jensen Rock & Sand Inc \$9,700.00; Lang's Audio, TV & Appliance \$135.00; MH Equipment \$21.43; Midwest Pump & Tank \$172.92; Steel Structures of Aberdeen \$45,000.00; TripleC Pros LLC \$1,850.00. Supplies: Advance Auto Parts \$341.29; Agtegra Cooperative \$27.99; Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$1,797.07; Avera LTC Pharmacy Aberdeen \$3,191.83; Big State Industrial Supply Inc \$752.16; Century Business Products \$1,016.38; Christina M. Flack \$800.00; Dakota Oil \$42.90; Dave Lunzmann \$90.00; Ellwein Brothers Inc \$1,619.60; Geff-

dog Designs \$593.34; Graham Tire Inc \$1,143.87; J.D. Power \$602.00; Jensen Rock & Sand Inc \$142,590.60; Kuck Law Office \$58.88; Leidholdt Tool Sales, LLC \$318.77; Lien Transportation Company \$264,615.30; Menards \$38.78; MH Equipment \$45.74; Midstates Group \$65.20; Midwest Pump & Tank \$157.40; NVC \$32.71; Performance Oil \$23.44; PharmChem, Inc \$1,151.34; Ricci Simon \$12.00; Safety Service \$36.19; Sprocket Ventures, LLC \$31.25; Trav's Outfitter Inc \$1,039.95; Tyler Business Forms \$286.41; Abigail Johnson \$17.00; Ada Sharp \$11.34; Addison Bohl \$13.08; Aileen Kolb \$15.00; Alydia Mitchell \$17.00; Amy LeBeau \$10.00;			
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--	--

Anisten Petersen \$164.96; Arlene Hanson \$15.00; Arlowyn Spencer \$25.00; Arthur Eichler \$82.48; Aurora Hill \$71.95; Averie Zietz \$110.52; Ayalyn Crary \$25.00; Barbara Hahnnemann \$15.00; Bexley Perrion \$25.00; Blake Pauli \$332.48; Bob Compton \$15.00; Brenda Hanson \$15.00; Briley Tesch \$38.34; Calli Schaanaman \$418.25; Cambri Stephenson \$276.23; Carl Kimbler \$25.00; Carley Crist \$79.35; Carol Hilgemann \$15.00; Carson Eichler \$191.87; Carter Zoellner \$563.32; Casey Shoultz \$47.97; Chancey Kessler \$64.96; Char Akkerman \$25.00; Charlee Holt \$661.17; Charlee Kessler \$26.45; Charli Rawden \$49.49; Charlotte Wilson \$335.02; Claire Erickson \$82.48; Clayton Weber \$263.82; Clint Bohl \$16.35; Cody Leach \$6.54; Colt Pickell \$22.67; Connie Howard \$55.00; Cooper Holt \$82.48; Cora Schaanaman \$148.46; Cort Paulson \$49.05; Cortlynn Kessler \$38.34; Coy Stephenson \$151.23; Crystal Bohle \$40.00; Cutler Schaanaman \$164.96; Danielle Houghtaling \$360.06; Danyelle Schnabel \$45.34; Dawn Rux \$10.00; Dee Sanderson \$25.00; Elizabeth Hanson \$82.48; Elliott Perrion \$15.00; Emerson Merkel \$65.98; Emily Merck \$90.68; Emma Rodine \$58.55; Emmitt Bohl \$16.35; Erica Wieseler \$94.64; Erika Moulsoff \$239.83; Fair Carpenter \$39.67; Finnley Wright \$9.08; Gail Marshall \$15.00; Gerald Goldade \$148.46; Gina Malsam \$25.00; Grady Wasland \$97.46; Gwyn Fischbach \$15.00; Haddie Bohl \$16.35; Haddie Perrion \$10.00; Hadleigh Hoggarth \$15.00; Hadley Flogstad \$51.01; Hailey Heinje \$230.94; Harmony Dorsets \$210.20; Harper Hill \$167.88; Harper Torgerson \$164.96; Harvey Goldade \$82.48; Henry Paulson \$623.14; Hudson Eichler \$65.98; Hunter Kern \$32.70; Jacie Fogarty \$183.86; Jackson Cihak \$39.22; Jackson Hartje \$15.00; Jacob Jung \$311.78; Jake Yeske \$98.98; James Dragt Jr \$24.22; James Dragt \$104.51; Janet Compton \$30.00; Janet Wright \$179.92; Jaxen Jager \$115.47; Jaxson Hasper \$56.68; Jayden Holt \$82.48; Jemye Fogarty \$9.81; Jessie Fogarty \$167.51; Jillian Fischer \$66.61; Jodie Erdmann \$15.00; Justin Klootwyk \$148.46; Kamden Gemar \$65.98; Kanin Wasland \$298.33; Karly Allison \$164.96; Kasen Gemar \$214.45; Kelan Hintz \$730.03; Kessler Family \$42.25; Kilber Family \$197.44; Kirsten Gemar \$65.98; Kolten Gemar \$164.96; Korbyn Schnabel \$51.01; Kylee Wild \$15.00; Kyra Wiese \$65.98; Lacie Peterson \$517.59; Lacie Weber \$119.92; Lance Perrion \$15.00; Landan Wager \$479.68; Lane Foster \$232.48; Larry Goldade \$82.48; Laurel McNickle \$15.00; Lena Gebhardt \$203.57; Lilli Steeke \$478.89; Lisa Hartung \$25.00; Liza Krueger \$383.73; Logan Osterman \$143.90; Lois Flanigan \$25.00; Lori Haback \$45.00; Madisen Watson \$23.98; Maggie Holt \$764.96; Makynna Heim \$182.48; Mallory Schnabel \$28.34; Marlys Volzke \$15.00; Melissa Denelsbeck \$15.00; Melody Marzolf \$45.34; Merrick Gemar \$298.46; Mia Hokana \$98.97; Mike McHugh \$15.00; Molly Wilson \$73.44; Nancy Ringgenberg \$15.00; Nellie Heger \$22.67; Nicole Anderson \$15.00; Nicole Goetz \$15.00; Nolan Eichler \$95.94; Norman Johnson \$22.67; Oaklie Zietz \$39.36; Paige Falcon \$25.00; Pat Downing \$15.00; Pat Fritz Bruckner \$242.85; Peggy Hallstrom \$25.00; Peyton Schnabel \$39.68; Phyllis Becker \$15.00; Piper Heger \$22.67; Preston Hinkelman \$184.23; Rachel Gemar \$398.93; Raymond Thorpe \$234.57; Rebecca Mattern \$15.00; Reed Zietz \$12.11; Remington Smith \$148.46; Rhonda Jarman \$15.00; Richard Haberman \$620.53; Ron Lyren \$10.00; Ron Wolff \$97.53; Rosalin Kraft \$16.35; Roscoe Kraft \$9.81; Ryan Crist \$34.01; Ryder Juntunen \$100.56; Ryder Wendel \$28.34; Rylee Jones \$10.00; Rylee Stoltenburg \$533.92; Samuel Fogarty \$29.43; Sawyer Ayres \$86.96; Sawyer Grace \$45.34; Seth Beamam \$25.00; Sophia Fogarty \$266.35; Sophie Berndt \$30.00; Stacey Hepola \$15.00; Stetson Marzolf \$11.34; Stetson Rall \$39.68; Sutton Foster \$132.48; Sydney Holmes \$169.44; Tamara Goldade \$115.98; Tara Fischer \$11.34; Taylor McGraw \$102.62; Teagan Scheel \$71.95; Teagan Weiszhaar \$17.00; Tenley Olinger \$48.30; Tigh Hardie \$82.48; Torree Olinger \$33.31; Trallan Sumner \$22.67; Treyvin Griese \$164.96; Tripp Olinger \$3.03; Tristan Gosch \$332.48; Trudy Anderson \$10.00; Tucker Weiszhaar \$17.00; Ty Fuller \$259.00; Tye McGraw \$34.01; Vayentha Hill \$95.93; Vicki Nash \$15.00; Weston Eichler \$119.92; Will Bruckner \$109.64; Wyatt Hasper \$94.32. Travel & Conference: Austin Ball \$14.00; Dakota Trails Investigation

\$61.60; Jon Lemke \$80.00; Keith Baker \$80.00; Kent Karlen \$14.00; McKenzie Bierman \$759.47; Neil Bittner \$14.00; Ryan McClain \$14.00. Utilities: CenturyLink \$76.27; City of Heda \$169.20; Dependable Sanitation, Inc \$184.00; Northwestern Energy \$1,054.89; NVC \$2,853.60; T-Mobile USA Inc \$2,251.20; Verizon Wireless \$600.29. Machinery & Equipment: Pierson Ford Lincoln, Inc \$198.25. Payroll: Commission \$4,896.51; Elections \$1,936.80; Auditor/Welfare \$11,393.93; Treasurer \$18,777.44; SA \$37,739.54; Public Defender \$9,778.21; Maintenance \$12,925.51; Assessor \$16,581.75; Register of Deeds \$10,905.91; VSO \$4,721.83; GIS \$2,946.49; IT \$10,005.68; HR \$5,419.28; Sheriff \$59,503.70; Jail \$68,536.69; Coroner (Voucher) \$100.00; Court Security \$7,706.99; JDC \$31,557.19; Museum \$13,622.59; Parks/Fairgrounds \$8,586.55; Fair Board \$3,252.94; 4-H \$503.49; Weed \$5,982.59; Planning & Zoning \$8,062.17; Highway \$53,519.50; Dispatch \$36,949.62; Emergency \$5,498.57; 24/7 Sobriety \$2,793.88; Landfill \$21,484.71; Meal Benefits \$48.00; SDRS Pay-Out \$11,278.21; Retirement Award \$150.00; FICA \$28,147.23; Medicare \$6,582.65; HSA \$2,309.40. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

o..... Employment ending for Brenda Radtke, Brown County Deputy Treasurer, FT – effective October 14, 2025. Request to fill.

oHiring of Audrey Reineke as Brown County Museum Intern: PT, starting wage \$15.00/hr. – effective October 14, 2025.

oReturn of Aleigha Allison as Brown County Jail Detention Officer: FT, starting wage \$21.93/hr. – effective October 17, 2025.

oHiring of Mitchell Henjum as Brown County Jail Detention Officer: FT, starting wage \$21.93/hr. – effective October 20, 2025.

o..... Governor granted State Holidays off: Friday, December 26, 2025.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIM ASSIGNMENTS: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage 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 informed everyone that there will be No Commission meeting on Tuesday, November 11th due to the County Courthouse being closed in observance of Veteran's Day.

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

Chairman Sutton declared the Executive Session closed with No Action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:02 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published October 29, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$159.70 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26142



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



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
- 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

Classifieds

and Card of Thanks

The following rates are for Classifieds published in both the Groton Daily Independent and the Groton Independent. Cut rate in half if you just want it in the GDI or just the weekly.

1 Week: \$9 for first 30 words, 20¢/word thereafter

2 Wks: \$17 for first 30 words, 38¢/word thereafter

3 Wks: \$24 for first 30 words, 54¢/word thereafter

4th consecutive week is free

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NOTICES

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Ferney

by Shashwat Mishra

Dear EarthTalk: What (and where) are megadroughts and what’s their relation to climate change?
— Kory Smith, Providence, RI

Megadroughts are severe droughts that last for decades and affect entire regions,even millions of square miles. They have immense effects on both nature and human societies. These events used to be rare, but they are now happening more often. Many scientists believe that climate change plays a major role in making these droughts worse. Rising temperatures and changes in weather patterns are causing drier conditions. This hurts water supplies, farming and entire communities around the world.

Megadroughts lead to noteworthy decreases in precipitation, soil moisture and water levels. Research shows that megadroughts have long taken place in history. North America went through megadroughts in the medieval era. Nonetheless, the megadroughts today are more severe because of human actions.

Megadroughts aren’t limited to one area. The southwestern U.S. and Mexico are facing record-low water levels in reservoirs. In Africa, the Sahel region regularly deals with long dry periods. The Andes mountains and the Amazon basin are struggling with reduced rainfall. This harms important ecosystems and water sources. Similarly, eastern and southern Australia usually experience intense droughts, stressing farms and local communities. Data from global drought monitoring groups emphasize how global and recurrent these droughts have become. And climate change makes them worse. Some natural events like El Niño have always caused some variation in rainfall. Nonetheless, human

Surprise, Surprise! Megadroughts Linked To Climate Change



The increase in megadroughts in recent years is certainly linked to rising surface temps around the globe as a result of human-induced climate change.

Credit: Pexels.com.

induced climate change is intensifying these changes, creating more severe droughts. The consequences of megadroughts are extensive. Ecologically, they devastate eco-systems, diminish biodiversity, and elevate the likelihood of wildfires. Economically, they negatively impact agriculture, decrease hydro-power output, and elevate the prices of food and energy. Megadroughts also lead to water shortages, food scarcity, and force certain communities to relocate. Megadroughts can be mitigated through various methods. You can get involved by aiding initiatives that prioritize climate action and resource preservation. Furthermore, you can inform individuals about megadroughts and promote sustainable behaviors. Finally, You can also contribute to or assist organizations focused on environmental restoration and drought resilience efforts. Megadroughts illustrate the profound link between human actions and the environment. We can reduce the effects of megadroughts by collaborating and choosing sustainable options.

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.

“The key to boosting immunity”

It’s hard to look at your television or social media and not see a headline about some “super-food,” supplement, or other product promising to “boost immunity.” And who doesn’t want to boost immunity, especially in a year in which measles outbreaks are becoming routine? Genuinely, there is one entity available to us that, more than any other fad, will help our immunity and protect us against infection: vaccines.

Vaccines are one of the great miracles in the history of science serving humanity. Whereas in centuries before, seeing children and young people die of infectious diseases was a universal experience, vaccines have truly changed the world in that regard. Diseases like smallpox and polio have been wiped out after being something parents feared throughout human existence.

With the huge successes of vaccines, in some ways we as a society have forgotten their wonderful impact. Measles, up until the 1960’s a disease that was commonplace and resulted in unfortunate deaths of infants and children, was rarely seen after widespread vaccination in the late 20th century and early 2000’s. Unfortunately, because of declining rates of childhood vaccination, that is no longer true. Various misinformation campaigns and, probably, a general sense of insignificance (no new parents remember anyone having measles), are to blame.

Measles is a highly contagious disease that statistically requires about 95% vaccination rate in a population to achieve herd immunity. Herd immunity status gives protection to vulnerable individuals including those too young to vaccinate (infants under one year of age). We have seen large outbreaks of measles in numerous states this year, generally in communities where that herd immunity is not being achieved. And because measles is so highly contagious, kids who have not been vaccinated may have to miss school for weeks to stay safe. Most sadly, we have seen deaths this year in the US from a disease which was considered eliminated as recently as 2020. Let’s hope this isn’t a sign of other preventable infectious diseases making a comeback.

So, if you’re looking to boost your immunity this season, of course I recommend a healthy diet, regular exercise, and adequate sleep. But if you want to make the biggest impact, talk to your doctor about vaccines and get caught up with evidence-based recommendations. Your immune system will thank you.

Dr. Kelly Evans Hullinger practices internal medicine at Avera Medical Group 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).



Kelly Evans-Hullinger, MD FACP

EVERY WEDNESDAYS IS \$6 SELECT SUSHI ITEMS

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2ND GENERATION
KEVIN FIEDLER

3RD GENERATION
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Brew Up Wishes

A Percentage of Drink Sales from the Ken's Gourmet Coffee will be donated to Make A Wish now through Oct. 31

Make A Wish

Check out our SPOOKTACULAR Weekly Specials!

ABERDEEN pink ladies

Purchase 2 Dozen Cookies and Ken's will make a donation to Aberdeen Pink Ladies Promotion Valid through Oct. 31

USDA CHOICE DEMKOTA BONELESS EYE OF ROUND ROAST

SAVE \$2.60 Per Lb.

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App Deal OF THE WEEK!

FRENCH ONION CASS CLAY CHIP DIP

FREE w/\$10 Purchase & Ken's App 8 OZ. TUB

USDA CHOICE DEMKOTA T-BONE STEAK

SAVE \$6.00 Per Lb.

\$10.99 Lb.

MEAT

KEN'S 85% LEAN GROUND BEEF 10# TUBES

\$5.59 Lb.

GROCERY

BEST CHOICE GRANULATED SUGAR 4 Lb. Bag

\$2.99

GROCERY

BEST CHOICE CHOCOLATE CHIPS 10-12 Oz. Bag

\$2.99

GROCERY

CHI-CHI'S CHIPS 11 Oz. Bag

\$2.99

GROCERY

CREAMETTE EGG NOODLES 12 Oz. Bags

2/\$4

DAIRY

BEST CHOICE BUTTER 1 Lb. Qtz.

\$2.99

DAIRY

BEST CHOICE SHREDDED CHEESE 7-8 Oz. Bags

3/\$5

FROZEN

BREW PUB LOTZZA MOTZZA PIZZA 20-26.82 Oz. Pkgs.

2/\$11

FROZEN

BLUE BUNNY PREMIUM ICE CREAM 48-48 Oz. Scround

\$2.99

LIQUOR-BEER

KEN'S EXCLUSIVE KNOB CREEK CASK STRENGTH SINGLE BARREL SELECT 750 ML.

\$62.99

BAKERY

KEN'S BAKERY FRESH FRENCH BREAD 1 Lb. Loaf

\$1.99

COFFEE • GOURMET DRINKS & FOODS

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

WIND & WILLOW CIDER

FLAVOR OF THE WEEK! GREEN GOBLIN (CRÈME DE MENTHE, WHITE CHOCOLATE)

\$1.00 OFF \$3.99-\$4.99

Water Refill Station

3 gallons for \$1 with your own jug

WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES AND CORRECT TYPOGRAPHICAL AND PICTORIAL ERRORS. NONE SOLD TO DEAL

8 ♦ Groton Independent ♦ Wed., Oct. 29, 2025