

The Groton Independent

Vol. 143 No. 14 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2025 ♦ Established in 1889

Groton Area Elementary Christmas Program



The Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten students opened the Elementary Christmas Program with, "Up On The House-top," and "Santa Claus is Comin' to Town." (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The fourth graders sang, "Silent Night" and "Jingle Bell Rock." (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The third graders sang, "Away in a Manger" and "Holly Jolly Christmas." (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The fifth graders sang, "Born on Christmas Day," and "Sleigh Ride." (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The fourth graders sang, "Silent Night" and "Jingle Bell Rock." (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The third graders sang, "Away in a Manger" and "Holly Jolly Christmas." (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The fifth graders sang, "Born on Christmas Day," and "Sleigh Ride." (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Named VFW Youth Baseball Community of the Year

Sioux Falls, S.D. (Dec. 21, 2025) — The Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) has announced Groton as the VFW Youth Baseball Community of the Year, recognizing the city's outstanding efforts in hosting and supporting youth baseball across the state.

The VFW Executive Committee met Dec. 8 to determine the annual honor, using the score sheet posted on the SD VFW Baseball website to guide its decision. Groton was selected for its exceptional organization, adaptability, and commitment to providing a positive baseball experience for players and families.

Danny Frisby-Griffin, chairman of the Department of SD VFW Baseball, announced the winners of the program's eighth annual VFW Youth Baseball Community of the Year Award. As part of the recognition, the Groton Baseball Association and the City of Groton received a \$1,000 prize to support youth baseball efforts.

"This recognition honors their exceptional efforts and adaptability in hosting an outstanding tournament," Frisby-Griffin said.

The Groton Baseball Association collaborated closely with the community to provide youth players from across South Dakota the opportunity to participate in a well-run and welcoming tournament environment.

In addition to Groton's recognition, the SD VFW Baseball program honored two organizations as Friends of SD VFW Baseball for their positive relationships and support. The Clear Lake/Deuel Baseball Association received a \$500 award for stepping in on short notice to work with their community and successfully host a tournament.

The Hot Springs Baseball Association was also recognized with a \$250 award for its positive, can-do attitude in making sure the tournament in the Black Hills was enjoyable for players, coaches, parents, and siblings. SD VFW Baseball officials noted the association's warm hospitality and strong developmental approach.

The SD VFW Baseball program continues to rely on community partnerships and donations to support youth baseball opportunities throughout the state. Donations help fund baseball programs, scholarships, and assistance for communities in need, while also supporting veterans' programs.

"We learn something new every season that requires us to adjust the SD VFW Baseball rules at our annual meeting with our associations and coaches," Frisby-Griffin said. "We are extremely excited to be able to recognize communities and organizations for their outstanding support of VFW Youth Baseball."

Looking ahead, SD VFW Baseball encourages fans to support youth baseball and veterans' programs across South Dakota. The annual Frisby-Griffin "We're consistently striving to make SD VFW Baseball better every year" message highlighted upcoming events, including the 2026 Varsity Showcase and All-Star Game scheduled for Aug. 9, 2026, and the organization's annual meeting set for Aug. 23, 2026, at a location to be determined.

"A Healthier You in the New Year: Start with the Switch"

As the holiday season winds down and the New Year approaches, many of us begin reflecting on the past year and thinking ahead. It's a natural time to set resolutions—those hopeful promises to ourselves to eat better, move more, stress less or simply live healthier. Yet, despite our best intentions, many resolutions fade by February. Why is lasting change so hard? As a physical therapist helping patients make healthy changes for over 30 years, I have found the answer may lie in how we approach change, by using the science of behavior change to our advantage.

Drawing from the work of Chip and Dan Heath in their book *Switch: How to Change Things When Change Is Hard*, we can rethink our strategy. Their model uses a simple metaphor that I have found helpful: to make meaningful change, we must direct the rider (our rational mind), motivate the elephant (our emotional side), and shape the path (our environment and habits).

1. Direct the Rider: Set Clear, Meaningful Goals

Our rational mind thrives on clarity. Vague resolutions like "get in shape" or "eat healthier" don't provide enough direction. Instead, set specific, achievable goals that matter to you. Maybe it's walking 20 minutes at least five times a week, cooking a healthy dinner at home three nights a week, or scheduling that long-overdue check-up before spring comes. The key is to make goals concrete and personally relevant. When your rider knows where to go, it's easier to stay on course.

2. Motivate the Elephant: Tap Into Emotion

Logic alone won't drive change—your emotional side needs to be on board. If your heart is not in, it doesn't matter what your mind thinks. Ask yourself: Why does this goal matter to me? Maybe you want more energy to play with your kids, to feel confident hiking with friends or to reduce stress to find more joy in life. Connecting your goals to deeper values and emotions gives them staying power. When the elephant is motivated, change becomes less of a chore and more of a meaningful pursuit.

3. Shape the Path: Make Change Easier

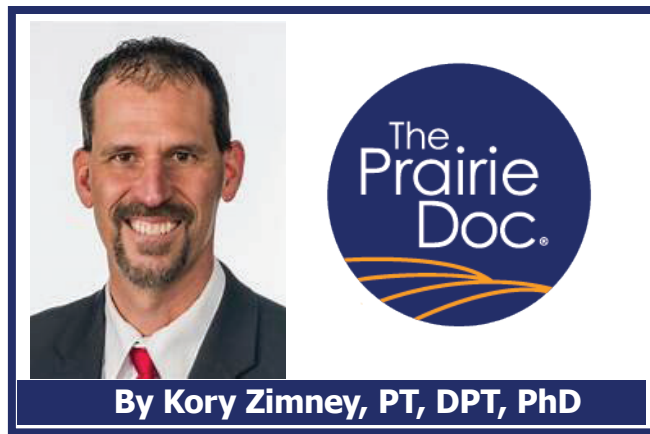
Even the best intentions can be derailed by a cluttered environment or lack of support. Set yourself up for success by shaping your surroundings. Lay out your walking shoes the night before. Keep healthy snacks visible. Invite a friend to join you on your health change. Small nudges to your environment can make a big difference. When the path is clear, both rider and elephant can move forward with less resistance.

And remember: progress beats perfection. Life is unpredictable, and goals may need adjusting. That's okay. What matters is staying engaged in the process and being kind to yourself along the way. A missed workout or a skipped healthy meal doesn't mean failure—it's just part of the journey.

This New Year, instead of making a resolution you hope to keep, make a switch—one that aligns your mind, heart and habits. You might be surprised at how far a small, well-directed change can take you.

So, as you gather with loved ones this season and look ahead to the coming year, consider making a healthy switch.

Kory Zimney, PT, DPT, PhD is a professor at the University of South Dakota, School of Health Sciences Physical Therapy Department and director of the PhD in Health Science program. Dr. Zimney is part of the Center for Brain and Behavioral Research at the University of South Dakota and the Therapeutic Neuroscience Research Group, conducting research specifically in the areas of pain science and therapeutic alliance. 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).



By Kory Zimney, PT, DPT, PhD



The Minnesota Vikings, winners of two straight, faced off against the New York Giants on Sunday. New York had lost eight straight and was in position for the number one overall pick in the 2026 draft. This should have been an easy win for Minnesota. Instead, the Vikings narrowly escaped with the 16-13 win. The Vikings are 7-8 this season with two games left on the schedule.

The Vikings got the ball to begin the game and stalled right outside of the red zone, but a Will Reichard field goal gave them a 3-0 lead. New York responded with a decent drive of their

own, but a Jalen Redmond sack on fourth down prevented the Giants from putting points on the board. J.J. McCarthy threw an interception on Minnesota's next possession, keeping the score 3-0 after fifteen minutes of play.

The first quarter was a snooze-fest, but the second quarter had plenty of fireworks. New York tied the game with a 27-yard field goal, then Minnesota responded with a field goal of its own to reclaim the lead. A Byron Murphy interception ended the Giants' next possession, and three plays later McCarthy scrambled for a 12-yard touchdown. The Vikings' defense forced a three-and-out, and it looked like the Vikings were starting to pull away in this one. However, McCarthy was blasted by a blitzing linebacker and fumbled the ball, which the Giants scooped up and returned 27 yards for a touchdown. With only 17 seconds left in the half, and McCarthy in the injury tent, the Vikings took a knee and went into halftime.

The third quarter was quiet, with both teams having one complete possession each, and both ended in punts.

New York put together a long 14-play drive, taking over nine minutes off the clock, but only managed a field goal to tie the score 13-13 early in the fourth quarter. The Vikings responded with a 14-play drive of their own, this one also ending in a field goal. The Giants had one more opportunity to tie or take the lead, but a turnover on downs gave the ball to Minnesota, who put the game away and returned home with a 16-13 victory.

J.J. McCarthy completed 9 of 14 passes for 108 yards, no touchdowns, and one interception.

He did have a rushing score, but also fumbled, which led to New York's only touchdown. He didn't return to the game because of the injury sustained in the second quarter. Max Brosmer took over, completing 7 of 9 passes for 52 yards.

Jordan Mason was injured early in the game, leaving Aaron Jones Sr. to shoulder the load. He carried the ball 21 times for 85 yards. Justin Jefferson finally had a good game, leading the team in both receptions (6) and receiving yards (85).

Defensively, the Vikings had a solid game, holding the Giants' offense out of the end zone and to only 141 total yards. The defense had five sacks, six tackles for a loss, six QB hits, one interception, and four pass deflections.

Looking ahead, the Vikings will play the Lions on Christmas Day. The game will be on Netflix, and the kickoff is scheduled for 3:30 pm. The Lions are fighting for a playoff spot, so the Vikings have a chance to spoil their postseason plans. Skol

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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.

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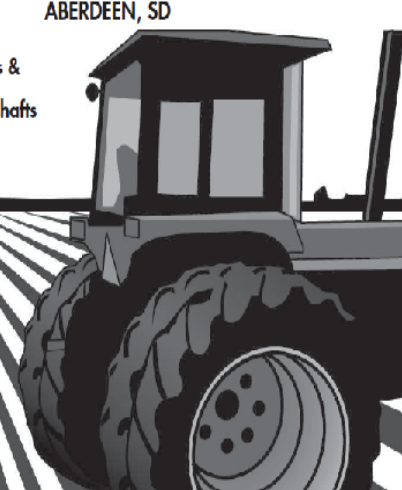
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Groton Area Sports Weekly Summary

Basketball

Groton Area basketball experienced both challenges and momentum swings during a busy week on the hardwood, highlighted by a tough road trip to West Central followed by a dominant sweep at Redfield to close out play before the Christmas break.

On Friday, both Groton Area varsity teams struggled on the road against a physical and aggressive West Central squad.

The girls dropped a 49-28 decision, despite a competitive first half that saw three ties and two lead changes. Turnovers proved decisive, as West Central used extra possessions to pull away after halftime. Head coach Matt Locke noted positives in effort and defensive execution, particularly in limiting West Central's top scorer, but emphasized the need for better ball security and offensive confidence.

The boys also ran into trouble early, falling 69-42 as West Central built a large first-quarter lead and never looked back. Groton struggled with turnovers and couldn't match the Trojans' shooting efficiency, which included 10 three-pointers. Coach Greg Kjellsen called the performance a learning moment, stressing accountability and the importance of responding moving forward.

Groton Area responded emphatically on Monday with a complete sweep of Redfield across boys and girls varsity, junior varsity and C games.

The boys varsity bounced back with an 81-32 Northeast Conference win, setting the tone with a 33-point first quarter and controlling the game defensively throughout. The Tigers shared the ball well, shot efficiently, dominated the glass and limited Redfield to one shot on most possessions. The victory sent Groton into the break with a 3-1 record and renewed confidence after the West Central setback.

The girls varsity followed suit with a 42-20 road victory, using defensive pressure, rebounding and balanced scoring to pull away after a close opening quarter. Groton limited Redfield to just three scorers and controlled the tempo for most of the night, heading into the break at 2-2 overall and 2-1 in conference play.

Groton Area also swept subvarsity action at Redfield, with both boys and girls JV and C teams earning convincing wins, showcasing depth across the program.

Wrestling

Groton Area wrestling delivered one of its strongest team performances of the season Saturday, finishing second overall at the Sioux Valley Cossack Invitational with 174 points in a 13-team field, narrowly edging Sioux Valley and trailing only Kingsbury County.

The Tigers showed depth across nearly every weight class, producing multiple finalists, several top-four finishers, and a high number of pins throughout the day. Highlights included championship match appearances at multiple weights, a teammate-vs-teammate final, and strong consolation runs that turned setbacks into valuable team points.

Groton Area's ability to score across the lineup proved decisive, as the Tigers outpaced several JV and varsity programs to secure the runner-up finish and continue building momentum heading deeper into the season.

Overall Takeaway

Despite early-week struggles on the basketball court, Groton Area closed the week on a high note with dominant performances at Redfield and an impressive showing on the wrestling mat. The combination of resilience, depth and balanced contributions across programs set a positive tone heading into the holiday break.

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!

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Solution time: 25 mins.

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What Christmas means to me.

Groton Area Kindergarten



Rylee Tunby, daughter of Kris and Allyssa Tunby, Columbia. What Christmas means to me: Presents



Astrid Walberg, daughter of Jeremy and Brittany Walberg, Aberdeen. What Christmas means to me: You need to be kind



Beau Traphagen, son of Trent and Heather Traphagen, Aberdeen. What Christmas means to me: I like being with my family



Bellamy Wright, son of Chris and Mckenzie West, Groton. What Christmas means to me: That you give presents



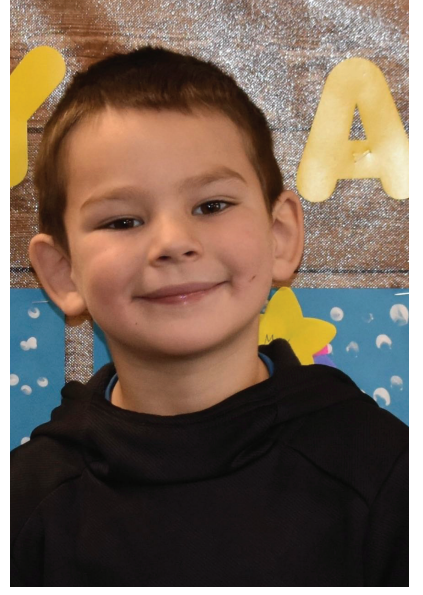
Blake Locke, daughter of Mitchell and Heidi Locke, Groton. What Christmas means to me: Being kind to people



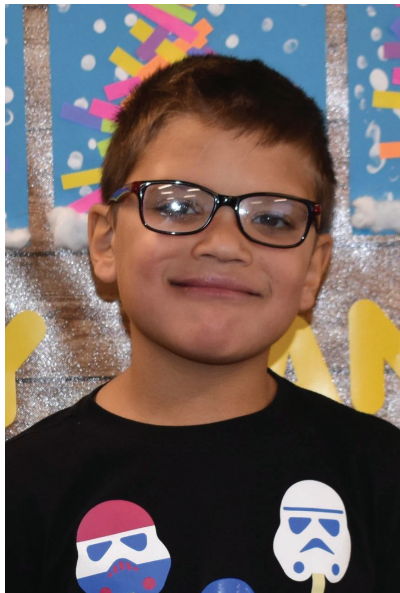
Bridger Krueger, son of Jeff and Alicia Krueger, Groton. What Christmas means to me: I like to spend time with my family



Collyns Dunbar, daughter of Michael and Kassie Dunbar, Groton. What Christmas means to me: Presents



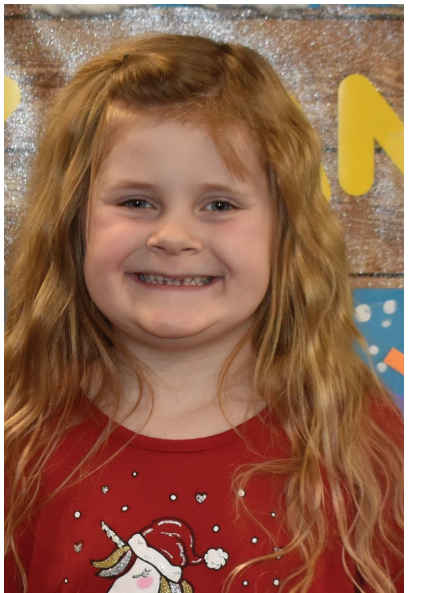
Shepherd Patterson, son of Drake and Jacquelyn Patterson, Groton. What Christmas means to me: to help people



Ronnie Gruenstein, guardians are Clint and Tara Fjelsstad, Groton. What Christmas means to me: That I like to get lots of presents from Santa



Aceyn Barrett, son of Austin Barrett and Tayha Ness, Groton. What Christmas means to me: Kindness so you don't get coal and on the naughty list. You get presents on the nice list.



Elowen Culter, daughter of Forrest and Jeanna Cutler, Groton. What Christmas means to me: Being with my family and having dinner together



Grant Reif, son of Kyle and Margo Reif, Groton. What Christmas means to me: To be good



Isaac Flihs, son of Blake and Danielle Flihs, Groton. What Christmas means to me: Good, because I get presents

The season of joy is here once again. Let's rejoice and welcome this holiday with a smile. Wishing you a Christmas filled with love and happiness.

Merry Christmas from



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Kylie Pouncy, daughter of Jason Pouncy and Trista Pouncy, Groton. What Christmas means to me: Christmas means family



Lincoln Wanner, son of Andrew and Sara Wanner, Groton. What Christmas means to me: Presents and my family



To our patients, associates and friends, our best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season, trimmed with the blessings of peace, love and joy.

We value your trust in us, and are proud to serve you all year long.

With Well Wishes from the

Groton Chiropractic Clinic

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Magdalene Miller, daughter of Jordan and Joellen Miller, Houghton. What Christmas means to me: Getting Presents



Makenna Sternhagen, daughter of Tom and Emily Sternhagen, Groton. What Christmas means to me: Spending time with my family

Sending Our Best At The Holidays

Hope the holiday delivers a bundle of glad tidings to your home.

WITH OUR THANKS for your business all year long.

Groton SD 57445
Mindy Vander Vorst
Postmaster





Maximilian Wieseler, son of Michael and Emily Wieseler, Groton. What Christmas means to me: I get presents



Paxtyn Menzia, daughter of Matt and Breen Menzia, Groton. What Christmas means to me: I get presents

MERRY CHRISTMAS




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Silas Feist, son of Mike and Ashley Feist, Groton. What Christmas means to me: Getting presents



Avery Hanson, daughter of Cody and Bethany Hanson, Groton. What Christmas means to me: I like presents! Jesus' birthday.

*Star of Wonder
Star of Night*
Guide us to that perfect light!

Merry Christmas from
Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel



Alli Iverson, daughter of Jeremy and Jackie Iverson, Groton. What Christmas means to me: Jesus is really special and Santa gives us presents.

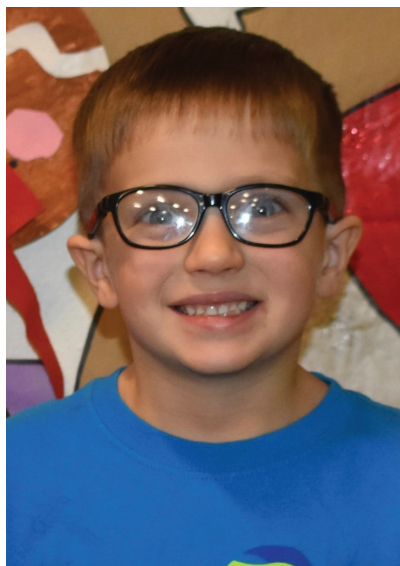


Alandra Graff, daughter of Michelle Barrow and Wes Graff, Groton. What Christmas means to me: Santa Claus -I love him and I am thankful for him.

We're building a solid foundation so we can wish you a *Merry Christmas!*

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Barrett Vedvei, son of Scott and Sara Vedvei, Groton. What Christmas means to me: Being nice so santa comes.



Griffin Zoellner, son of Kashey and Kayla Zoellner, Conde. What Christmas means to me: I will get toys and have our tree up.

Wishing You A Picture-Perfect Season!

Here's hoping your holiday is all you've dreamed of and more. We thank you for your friendship and support.

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Hadlee Ronning, daughter of Blake and Leah Ronning, Groton. What Christmas means to me: Spending time with my family.



Hayden Perkins, son of Justin and Katlyn Perkins, Groton. What Christmas means to me: Santa comes and my baby will come.



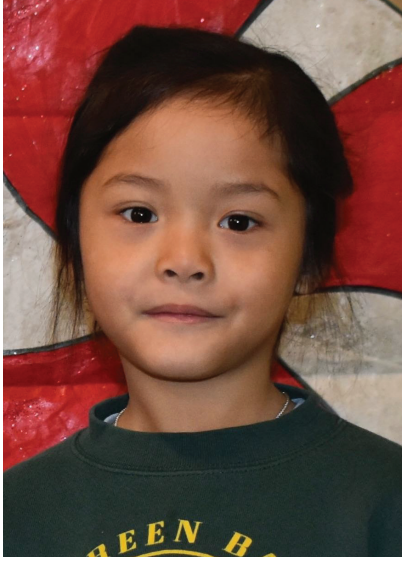
Kailynn Gerlach, daughter of Kyle and Tyhe Gerlach, Groton. What Christmas means to me: I have rainbow candy canes and have a Christmas tree.



Lucas Davis, son of Tony and Christine Davis, Columbia. What Christmas means to me: I get presents from my parents.



Wesley Fuller, son of Tim and Cheri Reed, Bath. What Christmas means to me: A tree and presents.



Nova Moo, daughter of Paw-shee and EhMoo, Aberdeen. What Christmas means to me: wrapping up presents.



River Anderson, daughter of Taylor and Laura Anderson, Groton. What Christmas means to me: Santa Claus comes and happiness and joy.



Watson Herron, son of Colin Herron and Brittany Luttrell, Groton. What Christmas means to me: Santa gives us presents.



Mephis Monson, son of Cody and Michele Monson, Aberdeen. What Christmas means to me: Christmas spirit and we get to sing together and open presents.



Whlton Freeland, son of Justin and Jess Freeland, Houghton. What Christmas means to me: I like to get presents and we have our Christmas tree with lights and ornaments.

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From our POET family to yours
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



Braxton Fish, son of Brandon Fish and Jessie Krueger, Groton. What Christmas means to me: I get presents and candy.

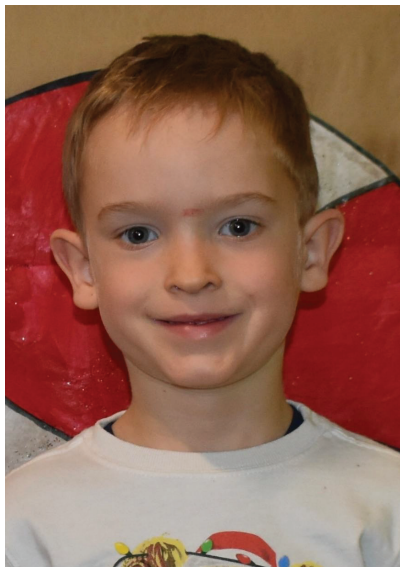


Hainslee Larson, daughter of Josh and Desa Larson, Columbia. What Christmas means to me: it is Jesus' birthday

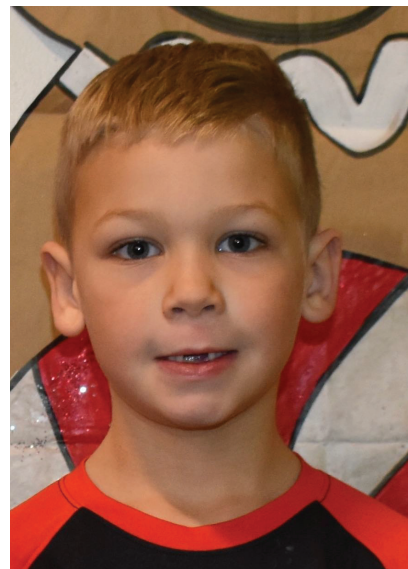
Merry Christmas from your home away from home!

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Harrison Morris, son Miles and Steph Morris, Groton. What Christmas means to me: It is Jesus' birthday.



Kruz Khali, son of Chris and Tammy Khali, Groton. What Christmas means to me: My birthday and Jesus' birthday.

Believe in the magic of **Christmas**

Merry Christmas!

BDM
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Kinsley Osterman, daughter of Jason and Bridget Osterman, Andover. What Christmas means to me: Put up my tree and put ornaments on it and decorate presents.



Faith Johnson, daughter of Matt and Casey Johnson, Groton. What Christmas means to me: I get presents and we put some decorations on our tree.

There may be beauty in the season, but the reason reaches deep into our hearts!

Merry Christmas!

BFS Seed Chemical Fertilizer

Joel Bierman Jordan Steen
 Dylan Vogel Kent Webb

PIONEER



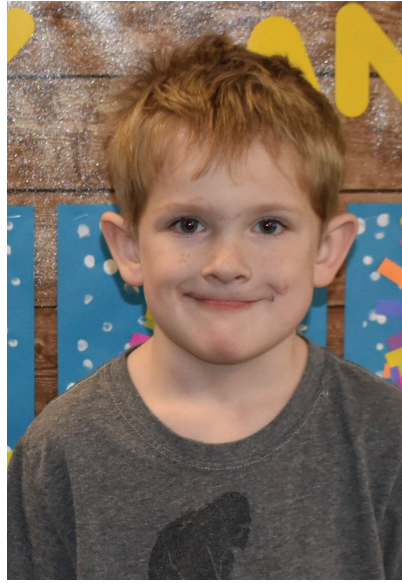
Rylie Hawley, daughter of Herb and Melissa Hawley, Bath. What Christmas means to me; It is Jesus' birthday



Sawyer Kappas, daughter of Andrew and Emily Kappas, Groton. What Christmas means to me; Jesus' birthday and we get to wrap presents with my mom and open presents



Lucy Lubiens, daughter of Brittani Lubiens, Groton. What Christmas means to me: "It means it's all about snow."

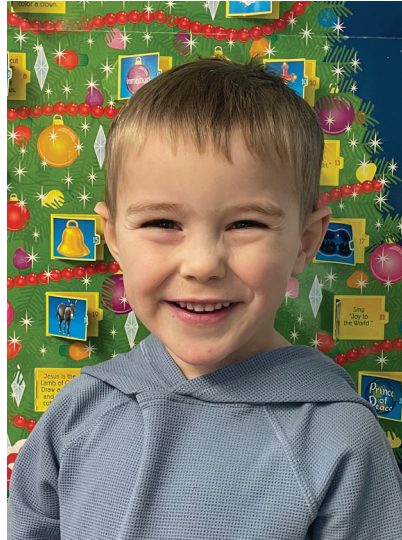


Abel Trudel, son of Adam and Trudel, Groton. What Christmas means to me: We get some presents

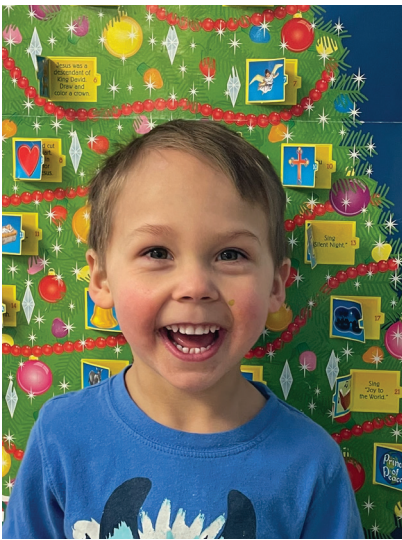
The following are from St. John's Lutheran Pre-School



Nash Kurtz, son of Trent and Sydney Kurtz, Groton. The Best thing about Christmas is Presents!



Mac Huber, son of Lindsey and Logan Huber, Groton. The best thing about Christmas is going swimming!



Anakin Barrett, son of Austin and Tayha Barrett, Groton. The best thing about Christmas is that it is Jesus' Birthday!



Morgan Sternhagen, daughter of Emily and Tom Sternhagen, Groton. The best thing about Christmas is getting presents!



Oliver Shilhanek, son of Mike and Regan Shilhanek, Groton. The best thing about Christmas is Santa.



Halle Dolan, daughter of Ben Dolan and Michelle Fordham, Groton. The best thing about Christmas is Baby Jesus!

For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Warm wishes from



13379 Sperry Ln, Bath
605/216-2677
prblocker@hotmail.com

Perry Blocker

It was a Holy Night
So special -
So calm -
So bright



Merry Christmas from
Krueger Brothers Road Maintenance, Dirt & Gravel
Dave: 397-8387 ~ Roger & Dan: 397-2618

Merry Christmas




Greg's Repair
13369 407th Ave, Groton
605-216-1638

THIS SEASON,
LET HIM BE
BORN INSIDE
YOUR HEART

Merry Christmas from
BK Custom T's & More



Emery Lemke, daughter of Jon and Jordan Lemke, Groton.
The best thing about Christmas is Gabby's Dollhouse.



Drew Sombke, son of Bryan and Whitney Sombke, Groton.
The best thing about Christmas is getting a sonic toys!



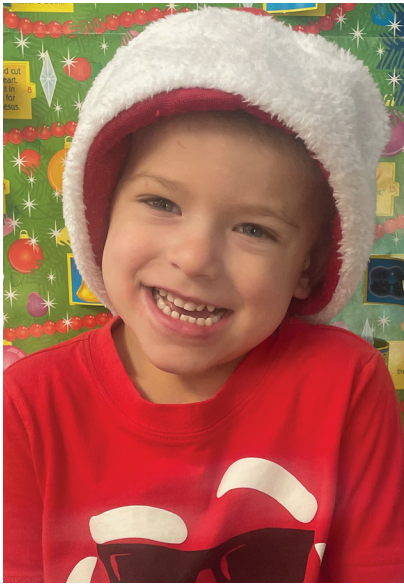
Marilynn Bentz, daughter of Ashley and Tom Bentz, Groton.
The best thing about Christmas is decorating the Christmas tree



Cicily Duerre, daughter of Nathan and Chantel Duerre, Bristol.
The best thing about Christmas is my friends!



Mekalynn Bentz, daughter of Ashley and Tom Bentz, Groton.
The best thing about Christmas is presents!



Rudy Hoff, son for Delton and Jacque Hoff, Groton.
The best thing about Christmas is Santa!



Luke Flihs, son of Blake and Danielle Flihs, Groton.
The best thing about Christmas is Spider-Man!



Kase Biermann, son of Quintin and Meghan Biermann, Groton.
The best thing about Christmas is snowmen!

Doug Abeln Seed Company

Silent Night, Holy Night
Christ the Saviour was born for us
Merry Christmas!

Doug Abeln ~ 605/380-0200



NOTICE OF VACANCY
MUNICIPALITY OF GROTON

The following offices will become vacant due to the expiration of the present term of office of the elected officer.

- Kevin Nehls – Councilperson Ward 1 – 1-year term
- Jon Cutler – Councilperson Ward 1 – 2-year term
- Brian Bahr – Councilperson Ward 2 – 2-year term
- Jason Wambach – Councilperson Ward 3 – 2-year term

Circulation of nominating petitions may begin on February 2nd, 2026, and petitions may be filed at City Hall located at 120 N Main St., Groton, SD between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. central standard time not later than the 24th day of March, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer
Published December 24 and 31, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$16.97 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26336



Trail Cutler, son of Forrest and Jeanna Cutler, Groton.
The best thing about Christmas is decorating my Christmas tree!

Ho! Ho! Ho! Merry Christmas!

Harry Implement
"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"
(605) 395-6421 ~ Ferney

Groton Angel Tree Thanks You All



This year, I am especially thankful for good health and for a surgery that went well. I am also deeply grateful for the Christmas season and the opportunity to give back to our community by providing gifts for families in need. It brings me great joy and peace knowing that children will be able to experience the best Christmas possible.

I have been part of this mission since 2007, and it continues to be one of the most meaningful and rewarding things I do. Each year, I tell my family I don't need anything under the tree—I simply want other children to have a joyful Christmas. I would really like to thank the people for the donations and help with making this the best Christmas for the children again. Thanks to Lori's Pharmacy and City Hall for hosting the Angel Tree this year.

I am also thankful for my family, my friends, and especially for my new granddaughter this year. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Tina Kosel From the Angel Tree

Warner Town Dec. 10 Meeting

TOWN OF WARNER MINUTES FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 10TH, 2025
MEMBERS PRESENT: Gaylon Townsend, Terry Evans, Nichol Townsend, Dave Fair and Stewart Nelson. Eric Senger and Lesleann Palmer from Northeast Council of Government (NECOG) were also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Fair and seconded by Townsend to approve the minutes from November 12th, 2025 with meeting date corrected. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: MSC: Evans/Townsend. Checking: Town \$322,912.28; Water \$79,810.82; Sewer \$202,353.62. CDs: Town \$32,978.33; Water \$50,140.44; Sewer \$28,375.31.

BILLS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT: MSC: Townsend/Fair. Amazon (supplies) \$124, Gas N Goodies (gas) \$39.04, Norton (anti-virus) \$64.99, USDA (water & sewer loans) \$2083, WEB Water (city water) \$5643.35, Graham Tire (repair & maintenance equipment) \$325, Jackie Braun (deposit refund) \$100, TranSource (supplies) \$28.40, A-1 Locksmithing (supplies) \$26, Badger Meter (reads) \$23, Dakota Pump (inspections) \$1400, Dependable Sanitation (garbage service) \$2640, DSS Image Apparel (supplies) \$89.75, Groton Independent (advertising) \$31.95, Lynn Aman (janitorial) \$75, Menards (supplies) \$161.94, Midcontinent (phone & internet) \$298.13, Nelson Sales and Service (repair & maintenance equipment), Northwestern Energy (electricity) \$2092.37, Warner Post Office (supplies) \$10.90, Runnings (supplies) \$68.86, SD Dept of Rev (Sales Tax) \$179.25, SD Public Health Lab (testing) \$20, Steger Lawn Care (maintenance) \$375, Town of Warner (Water/Sewer) \$183.72, TranSource (supplies) \$299.95, SD Retirement Fund \$539.76, Payroll Taxes \$1166.26, PAYROLL: (General \$2888.89, Sewer \$896.82, Water \$896.82) Stewart Nelson \$3587.28, Barb Breidenbach \$46.17, Terry Evans \$55.41, Dave Fair \$64.64, Linda Johannsen \$190.24, Justing McCord \$46.17, Gaylon Townsend \$55.41, Nichol Townsend \$637.21.

OLD BUSINESS: NECOG representatives discussed the new Planning & Zoning Ordinance, as well as a new Comprehensive Plan, with the Planning & Zoning Board and the City Council. Planning & Zoning will meet in January to review and recommend implementing both.

NEW BUSINESS: Approved Liquor License Renewal for 2026 for DT Nash, LLC, doing business as The Den Bar & Grill. Renewal fee waived. MSC: Townsend/Fair
Supplemental Appropriations Ordinance first reading was approved. MSC: Fair/Evans
2026 Wages were discussed. Full time and part time wages will increase by 3.5%. Planning & Zoning and City Council will remain the same currently. Planning & Zoning wages may vary when administrator is implemented. MSC: Fair/Evans
Red Cross Sheltering Agreement was discussed. Will be reviewed further. No action taken.
A new sound system for the community center was discussed. The current system will be slightly modified and simplified. A new speaker and microphone will be purchased to use as an alternative option.
Snow Removal was discussed. As there is limited space remaining to pile significant amounts of snow, the city will begin hauling snow piles. Please be patient, as it will take time to get all of the piles removed with limited manpower.
Delinquencies: 6 were noted and notices will be posted on doors. One has already been shut off.
DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, January 14th, 2026 at 7PM in the Warner Community Center.
ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
Dave Fair, Chairman; Nichol Townsend, Finance Officer
Published December 24, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$37.04 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26332

Groton School Notice of Vacancy

NOTICE OF VACANCY ON SCHOOL BOARD GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6

The following school board positions will become vacant on July 1, 2026, due to the expiration of the present terms of office of the following school board members:

Heather Lerseth-Fliehs, 3-year term

Grant Rix, 3-year term

Circulation of nominating petitions may begin on February 2, 2026, and petitions may be filed in the office of the business manager located at Groton Area High School between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., central standard time not later than March 24, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., or mailed by registered mail and received no later than March 24, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

Becky Hubsch, Business Official, Groton Area School District
Published December 17 and 24, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$17.53 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26318

Westport Town Notice of Vacancy

NOTICE OF VACANCY MUNICIPALITY OF WESTPORT

The following office will become vacant due to the expiration of the present term of office of the elective officer:

Mitchell Wilson 3 yr term

Circulation of nominating petitions may begin on February 2nd, 2026 and petitions may be filed in the office of the finance officer located at 29 East Main Street Westport SD between the hours of 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. not later than the 24th day of March, 2026 at 5:00pm. For questions, please call finance officer at 605-228-3703.

Deb Schlosser
Finance Officer
Published December 24 and 31, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$14.13 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26331

Groton School Notice of Audit

NOTICE OF AUDIT OF THE FISCAL AFFAIRS OF THE GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 6-6

Notice is hereby given that the Groton Area School District No. 6-6, Groton, South Dakota, has been audited by Cahill Bauer & Associates, LLC for the year ended June 30, 2025. A detailed report thereon is available for public inspection, during normal business hours, at the business office of the School District, and also available at the Department of Legislative Audit in Pierre, South Dakota or on the Department of Legislative Audit website at http://www.state.sd.us/legislativeaudit/Reports/reports_all.htm.

The following findings and recommendations provide a brief description of material weaknesses in internal control that are described in more detail in the audit report.

Finding: A lack of segregation of duties over revenues and expenditures exists, which could result in errors not being found in a timely manner.

Recommendation: We recommend a high level of awareness be maintained by management to assist in preventing, detecting, or correcting matters that may arise due to this internal control weakness. Compensating controls should be implemented as necessary.

Finding: We proposed material audit adjustments that would not have been identified as a result of the School District's existing internal controls, and therefore could have resulted in a material misstatement of the School District's financial statements.

Recommendation: It is the re-

sponsibility of management and those charged with governance to make the decision whether to accept the degree of risk associated with this condition because of cost and other considerations.

Finding: The School District does not have an internal control system designed to provide for the preparation of the annual financial statements being audited, including required footnotes and disclosures, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. As auditors, we were requested to draft the financial statements.

Recommendation: It is the responsibility of management and those charged with governance to make the decision whether to accept the degree of risk associated with this condition because of cost or other considerations.

CAHILL BAUER & ASSOCIATES, LLC

Published December 17 and 24, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$46.37 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26315

Groton City Dec. 16 Meeting

December 16, 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, Nehls, Shilhanek, Wambach, and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Also present were Attorney Chad Locken, Douglas Heinrich, and Elizabeth Varin.

Moved by Nehls and seconded by Babcock to approve the agenda with no additions or changes. All members present voted aye.

Public comments were welcomed pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1, but none were received.

The second reading of Ordinance No. 793 – 2026 Salaries was approved on a motion by Babcock and seconded by Shilhanek. All members present voted aye.

The second reading of Ordinance No. 794 – Supplemental Appropriations was approved on a motion by Wambach and seconded by Nehls. All members present voted aye.

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

Moved by Shilhanek and seconded by Wambach to authorize a cash fund transfer of \$250,000 from the Electric Fund to the Debt Service Fund. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Nehls and seconded by Bahr to approve the municipal election date as June 2nd, 2026. All members present voted aye. The following individuals have terms ending: Jon Cutler – Ward 1, Kevin Nehls – Ward 1, Brian Bahr – Ward 2, and Jason Wambach – Ward 3.

The 2026 fee schedule was approved on a motion by Nehls and seconded by Bahr. All members present voted aye.

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

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

Payroll, \$10,194.20, Employee salaries; Executive, \$161.60; Public Safety, \$10,032.60; ; Dacotah Bank, \$4,137.38, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dacotah Bank, \$100.00, HSA contributions; SD Supplemental Retirement, \$540.00, Supplemental retirement; James Valley Telecommunications, \$835.36, Telephone and internet services; MJ's Sinclair, \$1,316.50, Fuel purchases; A-1 Locksmithing, \$30.00, x3 main door keys for City Hall; NW Energy, \$35.21, Natural gas service - water tower; Badger Meter, Inc., \$163.11, Water metering network fees; Heartland Energy, \$51,113.47, Power services - November 2025; IMEG Corp., \$15,400.00, Engineering services - Wastewater Project - 3rd invoice; Altec Capital Services, LLC, \$2,189.93, Digger truck lease; SD Municipal Electric Association, \$1,271.00, 2026 annual membership dues; Lori's Pharmacy, \$33.50, Flower arrangement for Lowary funeral; Vestis, \$67.26, Rug rent - City Hall; Avera Occupational Medicine, \$75.40, Employee drug/alcohol screening costs; Stan Houston Equipment Co., Inc., \$143.67, Brooms for sweeper - Street Dept.; Farmers Union Co-

op Association, \$1,750.00, Diesel fuel - Street Dept.; McQuillen Creative Group, Inc., \$95.00, Aberdeen Insider annual subscription fee - Library; Dacotah Bank Visa, \$564.04, Kid's activities for library, wall clock, wooden hangers, sewer samples, water samples, Microsoft 365 fee, fuel purchases, oil sample postage, ammonia testing kit, coffee, tissues, lens wipes - Multiple Depts.

Announcement: City offices will be closed on January 1st, 2026, for New Year's Day.

Reminder: Holiday Lighting Contest on December 18th, 2025. \$100, \$75, & \$50 utility bill credits to be given away.

Reminder: 2026 dog licenses are due by December 31st, 2025. Varin exited the meeting.

Moved by Bahr and seconded by Wambach to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal matters 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 7:56pm. All members present voted aye. Council reconvened to regular session at 8:40pm.

Moved by Shilhanek and seconded by Babcock to adjourn the meeting at 8:40pm. All members present voted aye.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor
Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer

Published December 24, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$39.30 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26333

Groton City Salary Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. 793

An Ordinance entitled "The 2026 Salary Ordinance" to amend Ordinance No. 782, being an ordinance regulating the salaries of the elective and appointive officers and employees of the City of Groton.

BE IT ORDAINED BY The City Council of the City of Groton that the 2026 salaries and time of payment are as follows for the elected and appointed officers and employees:

Mayor: \$625.00, Monthly
Council Members: \$3,000.00, Yearly, \$125.00, Per special City Council Meeting

Board of Equalization: \$200.00, Yearly
Planning & Zoning Commission: \$35.00, Per meeting

Planning & Zoning Commission: \$70.00, Per special meeting
Elected Officials: \$300.00, Per full day of additional authorized meetings

Elected Officials: \$100.00, Per half day of additional authorized meetings

Finance Officer: \$32.96, Hourly
Deputy Finance Officer: \$31.19, Hourly

Asst Finance Officer: \$25.80, Hourly
Public Works Coordinator, St & Water Supt.: \$39.85, Hourly
Wastewater Superintendent: \$35.62, Hourly
Asst Street Superintendent: \$33.09, Hourly
Public Works Laborer: \$32.29, Hourly
Public works on call: \$200.00, Weekly
Technology Specialist: \$34.86, Hourly
Electric Superintendent: \$61.45, Hourly
Electric Lineman: \$45.24, Hourly
Electric Department on call: \$200.00, Weekly
Police Chief: \$39.07, Hourly
Police Officer & Assistant Chief: \$35.58, Hourly
Police Officer Level 1: \$33.25, Hourly
Police Officer Level 2: \$32.47, Hourly

Full time permanent employee individual health insurance premium will be covered by the City of Groton, along with \$300 per month toward a dependent's insurance coverage provided by the City.

The city will contribute to a med flex account at a 2 to 1 city/employee match, with a maximum city contribution of \$400.

The city will contribute \$2 for every \$1 the employee contributes up to \$1000 to their health savings account under the HSA health insurance option only.

First Reading: 12/9/2025

Second Reading: 12/16/2025

Published 12/24/2025

Effective: 1/1/2026

Published December 24, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$26.71 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26334

Groton City Budget Supplement

ORDINANCE NO. 794
2025 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS NO. 2

SECTION I: BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Groton, South Dakota that the following sums are supplementally appropriated to meet the obligations of the City of Groton and shall be effective immediately following passage.

E 101-41420 Finance Officer: \$26,000.00

Harry Implement

"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"



(605) 395-6421

Ferney

E 101-41922 City Shop: \$6,000.00
E 101-42100 Police: \$14,000.00
E 101-43100 Streets: \$55,000.00
E 101-44130 Mosquito Control: \$4,100.00
E 101-45124 Swimming Pool: \$8,300.00
E 101-45130 Baseball General: \$9,250.00
E 101-45139 Baseball Concessions: \$7,605.00
E 101-45600 Community Center: \$1,800.00
E 266-43500 Airport: \$4,000.00

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS: \$136,055.00

SOURCE OF FUNDING

E 101-41150 Contingency: \$50,000.00

Unassigned Fund Balance (Cash Applied): \$86,055.00

TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCE: \$136,055.00

Dated at Groton, South Dakota this 16th day of December, 2025.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor
Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer

1st Reading: 12/9/2025

2nd Reading: 12/16/2025

Published:

Effective:

Published December 24, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$16.97 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26335

Brown County Budget Supplements Hearing

NOTICE OF HEARING 2025 BROWN COUNTY BUDGET SUPPLEMENTS


A public hearing will be held by the Brown County Commission on the 30th day of December 2025 in the Brown County Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Aberdeen, SD to consider supplementing the 2025 Fiscal Year Budget.

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the supplements.

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor


Published December 17 and 24, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$12.44 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26314

AVERA WELCOMES




PATRICK PARKER, DO
UROLOGY


Look to Dr. Parker for diagnosis and specialized treatment of conditions and diseases of the urinary system in men and women. He looks forward to joining the compassionate team at Avera Medical Group Urology in Aberdeen.



310 S. Penn St., Suite 203
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605-622-5475 | Avera.org/Doctors
Schedule an appointment today.



Abbey
Gaske, MD



Kristine
Fastenau, NP

Dear EarthTalk: Will Trump's killing of the \$7,500 electric vehicle tax credit significantly slow the transition to EVs? Are carmakers adjusting their plans in favor of gas cars now?
— Paul Jones, New York, NY



On October 1st, 2025, the Trump administration ended the \$7,500 federal tax credit for EV buyers. The tax credit was originally enacted

in 2022 by the Biden administration to encourage the purchase of EVs and support sustainable transportation nationwide. The credit was a key incentive for consumers to adopt EVs. Its recent expiration comes with a larger tax and spending budget to reduce government spending and boost U.S. oil production. The intention of the Trump cuts was to save billions of dollars in the long run and to pressure carmakers to move production to the United States, creating increased jobs.

The loss of the credit poses some consequences for buyers and manufacturers alike. It is likely that it will decrease demand for EVs. According to a recent CNN story, this means that "prices in real terms will immediately rise." The story also emphasizes that many consumers rushed to buy EVs while the credits still lasted in August and September. This could result in many people choosing not to buy EVs and, in turn, decreasing sales in the last three months of 2025.

As EVs are far more costly than gas cars, the likely outcome of the cuts is that many will be unable to afford the switch. The impact is expected to be so dire that analysts who originally forecasted EVs to take up some 48 percent of the U.S. market share by 2030 have now downgraded predictions to 37 percent.

Many carmakers have begun actively responding to the recent policy changes. It is expected that many will either have to scale back or cancel new EV models. Stephanie Valdez Streaty, director of industry insights at Cox Automotive, told CNBC in July 2025 that the EV tax credit cuts are like "the training wheels are being taken off" of a nascent technology. "Those training wheels have helped balance and support EV adoption," she added.

Electric vehicles are more climate sustainable than gasoline cars. The shift to EVs has been key to promoting climate consciousness and decreasing the amount of greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere. As customers stick with gasoline cars, air quality levels and the environment hang in the balance.

5 WORDS CAN SAVE A LIFE:

Are you thinking about suicide?

CALL OR TEXT 24/7 **988** to speak with a mental health professional

GO TO your nearest Emergency Department

Avera Behavioral Health

More signs of potential suicide can be found at Avera.org/AskTheQuestion.

BHCS-1436350

ALL WINES 10% OFF

Ken's SUPER FAIR FOODS

1ST GENERATION: KEN FIEDLER, 2ND GENERATION: KEVIN FIEDLER, 3RD GENERATION: CONNER FIEDLER

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

Merry Christmas 2025

App Deal OF THE WEEK! KEEBLER CLUB OR TOWN HOUSE CRACKERS 12.5-13.8 OZ. BOX **89¢** With \$10 Purchase and Ken's App

USDA CHOICE DEMKOTA WHOLE BONELESS RIBEYE \$15.99 Lb.

MEAT KRECHMAR WHOLE BONELESS BAVARIAN HAM \$3.99 Lb.

JOHN MORRELL WHOLE OR 1/2 SBO HAM \$2.99 Lb.

HONEY GLOW PINEAPPLE \$2.99 Ea.

GROCERY GREEN GIANT CORN, PEAS OR GREEN BEANS 5/\$5

GROCERY POST FRUITY OR COCOA PEBBLES \$1.99

GROCERY KRAFT MAYONNAISE \$3.49

GROCERY BEST CHOICE FLOUR 99¢

GROCERY OLD DUTCH PUFF CORN \$2.99

DAIRY KRAFT CHUNKS OR SHREDDED CHEESE 2/\$4

FROZEN RED BARON PIZZA \$3.99

FROZEN BEST CHOICE WHIPPED TOPPING 2/\$2

LIQUOR-BEER BAILEY'S TURIN CHOCOLATES \$7.99

BAKERY KENS BAKERY FRESH WHITE FINGER ROLLS, TEA BUNS OR DINNER ROLLS \$2.99

DELI CARAWAY RYE COCKTAIL BREAD \$4.29 Ea.

FLAVOR OF THE WEEK! SNOWBALL (PEPPERMINT & WHITE CHOCOLATE) \$3.99-\$4.99

TIGER MEAT \$8.99 Lb.

PRICES GOOD AT ALL KEN'S LOCATIONS: DEC. 21ST - DEC. 27TH

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

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Pundit's piece
- 5 "Kapow!"
- 8 Ancient mariner
- 12 Carousel, for one
- 13 Half of dos
- 14 German car name
- 15 Hgt.
- 16 Baseball's Hodges
- 17 \$ dispensers
- 18 Humble
- 20 Tolkien villains
- 22 Eye furtively
- 26 Plant firmly
- 29 Droop
- 30 Shelter
- 31 Librarian's advice
- 32 Enjoy Vail
- 33 Ink smudge
- 34 Fine, at NASA
- 35 Middling grade
- 36 '70s club
- 37 TV ratings period
- 40 Relaxing refuges
- 41 Fruity desserts
- 45 Spiced tea
- 47 Wedding words

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
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45	46				47	48			49			
50					51				52			
53					54				55			

- 49 Yuletide tune
- 50 Body powder
- 51 Popeye's Olive
- 52 Concept
- 53 Canonized Fr. women
- 54 Born
- 55 Pretzel seasoning
- 6 Singer DiFranco
- 7 Hawaiian island
- 8 Civil rights org.
- 9 Moves more goods than
- 10 USN bigwig
- 11 That chap's
- 19 Moreover
- 21 Cleaning cloth
- 23 Cockeyed
- 24 Fair-hiring org.
- 25 Low-carb diet
- 26 Eventful periods
- 27 Calico's call
- 28 School fundraiser
- 32 Time with a therapist
- 33 Skimpy suits org.
- 35 IRS employee
- 36 Aachen article
- 38 Grand stories
- 39 Paris school
- 42 Pop
- 43 Rind
- 44 Blind part
- 45 Dol. fractions
- 46 Fez, e.g.
- 48 Coloring agent

DOWN

- 1 Utah city
- 2 Heap
- 3 Idyllic place
- 4 Concocted
- 5 "Taps" instrument