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# The Groton Independent

Vol. 143 No. 18 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2026 ♦ Established in 1889

## Groton school board approves 2026-2027 school calendar, accepts four employee resignations

The Groton school board tackled a mix of planning and forward-looking opportunities during its regular meeting Monday night, approving the 2026–2027 school calendar, accepting the resignations of four employees and discussing how potential state legislation could affect the district.

The board approved the next academic year calendar, starting the school year with open house events on August 17. Staff development dates are scheduled for August 12, 17 and 18; October 9; January 4, 2027; February 12, 2027; and May 18, 2027.

The first day of school will take place August 19, graduation is May 15, 2027; and the last scheduled day for the 2026-2027 school year is May 17, 2027, though that date may shift depending on snow days next year.

The board also accepted some staff resignations, two of which have already happened and two which will take place later this school year.

The board approved the resignation of instrumental music teacher Joshua Friez effective December 19 with no discussion.

Board President Grant Rix read a letter from Alexandria Homsombath, administrative assistant, who thanked the district for her time working there. Her resignation was effective as of January 5.

Special Education Paraprofessional Stacey Wellnitz expressed appreciation for her time with the district in her letter announcing her resignation effective January 22.

Finally, the board approved the resignation/retirement of Karin Bartell, assistant cook/baker, effective May 15.

In other business, the board also gave the go-ahead for the district's health science teacher and HOSA advisor Brittany Hubbard to explore interest in organizing a Global Medical Squads trip to Belize for students and parents.

An opportunity has come up for members of the Future Health Professionals group to volunteer while getting experience in a medical clinic that will provide primary health resources to under-resourced communities, Hubbard told the board. The trip would be in the summer, and students would pay their own way. Hubbard asked the board for permission to gauge interest in putting together a group to participate.

Business Manager Becky Hubsch updated the board that the Day County Commission will hold a first reading of an ordinance at its 9 a.m. January 23 meeting related to wind farm setbacks in Day County. It is an issue that has riled up some in the area, and some misinformation has spread about where tax dollars from those projects goes.

Superintendent Joe Schwan updated the school board on early information from the 2026 state Legislative Session. The governor's State of the State Address is scheduled for 1 p.m. Tuesday. As of Monday morning, there were 55 bills pre-filed in the House of Representatives and 79 bills pre-filed in the Senate.

## Liam Johnson named to SDMEA Middle School All-State Jazz Band

Liam Johnson has been selected to the 2026 South Dakota Music Educators Association (SDMEA) Middle School All-State Jazz Band, earning first chair alto saxophone honors.



The All-State Jazz Band brings together top middle school musicians from across South Dakota through a competitive audition process. Students rehearse under the direction of guest clinicians and perform a public concert as part of the SDMEA state music conference.

This year's ensemble will rehearse January 30-31 at the Mitchell Performing Arts Center, with the final concert scheduled for 3 p.m. Saturday, January 31, in Mitchell.

The SDMEA Middle School All-State Jazz Band provides students the opportunity to perform advanced jazz literature while developing ensemble skills alongside peers from across the state.

## Groton to host 88th Annual Carnival of Silver Skates

Groton will continue a treasured winter tradition on Sunday, January 25, with the 88th Annual Carnival of Silver Skates at the Groton ice rink. The outdoor figure skating show will feature more than 90 skaters from preschool through high school, with performances scheduled for 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

This year's theme, "Take Me to the Movies," will bring popular film music to the ice as local skaters present choreographed routines in colorful, professional-style costumes. Several specialty acts by Groton skaters will be featured, along with two synchronized skating performances by members of the Watertown Figure Skate Club.

Organizers promise an entertaining and inspiring program filled with memorable music and creative costumes. New spectators each year are impressed by the quality of the show, while returning audiences enjoy seeing the continued growth of the skating program.

A highlight of the afternoon performance will be the crowning of the 2026 Carnival of Silver Skates Queen. The 2025 Queen, Rylee Dunker, will pass on the crown. This year's candidates include seniors Mia Crank and Emma Davies, and juniors Avery Crank, Teagan Hanten, Addison Hoffman, Emerlee Jones, Claire Schuelke, and McKenna Tietz.

Admission is \$3 for ages 13 and older, \$2 for children ages 6–12, and free for children 5 and under. The rink is located on the west side of town near the baseball complex. Spectators may watch from their vehicles while listening to narration on car radios. Parking on the ice will be available at noon for the afternoon show and 4:30 p.m. for the evening show, weather permitting. Bleacher seating will also be provided.

2026-2027 Groton Area School District																																																		
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■ Faculty Inservice  
■ No School  
■ Important Dates  
■ End of Quarter/Semester  
■ Early Dismissal

## Tigers clamp down after fast start, roll past Northwestern 55-20

MELETTE — After an evenly played opening quarter, the Groton Area girls basketball team tightened up defensively and pulled away for a 55-20 victory over Northwestern Tuesday night to improve to 6-4 on the season.

Both teams shot well early, with Groton hitting 8-of-15 shots in the first quarter and Northwestern connecting on 6-of-11. The Tigers jumped out to an 8-0 lead before the Wildcats answered to close within one at 13-12. Groton carried a 19-14 advantage into the second quarter, but the game shifted quickly as the Tigers went on a 16-point run to turn a 15-14 edge into a 31-14 lead. Northwestern struggled to find the basket in the period, going 1-of-9 from the field, while Groton hit 5-of-14 shots to take a 34-16 lead into halftime.

Head coach Matt Locke said the message between quarters was clear. "We finally go score a few baskets, then all of a sudden we can't stop anybody. That's not going to work. We've got to be consistent on both ends."

Groton carried that defensive focus into the second half. Northwestern managed just one field goal on seven attempts in the third quarter, while the Tigers hit 5-of-11 shots to extend the margin to 50-20 after three quarters, putting the game into a running clock for the remainder of the night.

"I don't care who you play, if you only let them shoot 29 times, your ball pressure is doing its job," Locke said. "We flipped the script the last three quarters."



**Talli Wright looks for an opening to drive to the basket.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Offensively, Groton shot 48 percent on two-point attempts and 39 percent from three-point range, finishing 7-of-18 beyond the arc. McKenna Tietz led the Tigers with 20 points, knocking down three three-pointers while also grabbing three rebounds, dishing two assists and collecting four steals. Taryn Traphagen followed with 11 points, five rebounds, three assists and two steals. Jaedyn Penning added seven points on perfect 2-of-2 shooting from long range, along with three rebounds, three assists and three steals. Sydney Locke finished with five points, one rebound, one assist and two steals, while Jerica Locke added four points, four rebounds, five assists and three steals. Rylee Dunker contributed four points and five rebounds, Kella Tracy scored two points with three rebounds and an assist, and Talli Wright had two points, two rebounds and a steal as eight Tigers found the scoring column.

Groton finished with 26 rebounds, 15 assists and 15 steals, committing 12 turnovers in the win.

Northwestern shot 8-of-29 from the field and 1-of-3 at the free-throw line, turning the ball over 20 times. Ashley Haven led the Wildcats with six points, while Breelyn Satter, Tara Blachford, Mikayla Schmidt and Sophia Trosky each scored three, and Lilly Haven



**Sydney Locke looks for an open teammate to pass off the ball.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

added two. Northwestern dropped to 3-4 on the season.

Locke said he was pleased with his team's patience on offense as well. "We're working on our motion offense, trying to get more flow, and it's coming."

The Tigers return home Thursday to host Tiospa Zina Wambdi in a doubleheader.

Groton also swept the undercard games. The junior varsity Tigers earned a 44-11 victory, leading 15-0 after the first quarter, 30-2 at halftime and 37-6 after three. Tevan Hanson led Groton with 16 points, Kella Tracy added 13, Makenna Krause scored nine, Ashlynn Warrington had four and Sydney Locke finished with two. Northwestern's Kylie Henjum scored eight.

In the C-game, Groton rolled to a 48-13 win. The Tigers led 13-1 after one quarter, 24-7 at halftime and 33-11 after three. Andi Iverson scored 11 points to lead Groton, Kinsley Rowen and Ryelle Gilbert each added 10, Brynlee Dunker had nine, while Teagan Hatten and Taylynn Traphagan scored four apiece. Rachel Melius led Northwestern with six.

The games were broadcast live on [GDILIVE.COM](http://GDILIVE.COM), The varsity game was sponsored by Avantara - Groton, Agtegra, Bierman Farm Service, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Full Circle Ag, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, John Sieh Agency, Heartland Energy and The MeatHouse in Andover. Ryan Tracy did the commentary, Jeslyn Kosel ran the camera, and Paul Kosel did the stats and technology. The junior varsity and C games were sponsored by Grandparents.

## Orioles Stay Unbeaten as They Top Tigers in Lennox

LENNOX, S.D. — The Groton Area Tigers ran into one of the state's top defensive teams



**McKenna Tietz dribbles past her defender.** (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Saturday, falling 46-22 to the undefeated Lennox Orioles in girls basketball action.

Groton showed early fight, tying the game at 2-2 and again at 4-4 before Lennox went on a 14-point run to build an 18-14 advantage. The Orioles carried a 25-11 lead into halftime and extended it to

38-20 after three quarters.

"I thought we guarded okay," said Groton head coach Matt Locke. "I just thought we were really passive on the offensive end."

Lennox frequently switched between man-to-man and zone defenses, disrupting the Tigers' rhythm.

"They played the zone way more tonight than they have in the past," Locke said. "And honestly, I'd have played it all night too — we couldn't get much done against it."

Groton struggled shooting, finishing 9-of-26 on two-point attempts, 1-of-13 from three-point range, and 1-of-2 at the free-throw line. The Tigers totaled 25 rebounds, seven assists, three steals, and committed 23 turnovers.

Lennox's offense was balanced and efficient, as the Orioles shot 20-of-51 from the field for 39% and committed just eight turnovers in the game. Andy Peters led Lennox with 14 points, while Bergen Muser and Torrey Gerdes each scored nine. Olivia Niederbaumer added six points, and Tegan Sturm, Addie McVey, Libby Kranz, and Mia Hanisch each scored two.

Jaedyn Penning led Groton with 13 points, nine rebounds, one assist, and one steal. Jerica Locke added three points, two rebounds, and three assists. Rylee Dunker scored two points and grabbed three rebounds. Taryn Traphagen finished with two points, one assist, and one steal. McKenna Tietz contributed two points, five rebounds, and one assist. Sydney Locke pulled down three rebounds with one assist and one steal. Kella Tracy, Talli Wright, and Makenna Krause each added a rebound.

Lennox improved to 9-0 on the season, while Groton Area fell to 5-4 and will travel to Northwestern on Monday.

"We've got to start stacking some wins or we're going to be in trouble," Locke said. "But I liked our effort tonight. We didn't back down."

Lennox took the junior varsity game 40-25. For Groton Area, Kella Tracy scored 16 points and Tevan Hanson added nine.

Lennox completed the sweep with a 49-27 win in the C game. Taylynn Traphagen led Groton Area with seven points, while Kinsley Rowen and Ryelle Gilbert each scored six. Brinley Dunker finished with four points, Teagan Hatten had three, and Avery Crank added two.



**Jaedyn Penning forces her way through three defenders.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Both varsity games were broadcast live on [GDILIVE.COM](http://GDILIVE.COM), sponsored by Avantara - Groton, Agtegra, Bierman Farm Service, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Full Circle Ag, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, John Sieh Agency, Heartland Energy and The MeatHouse in Andover. Rich Bosma and Mike Imrie did the commentary, Jeslyn Kosel ran the camera, did the stats and technology.

## Cyclones Pull Away Late to Defeat Tigers 56–39

CLARK, S.D. — The Groton Area boys basketball team stayed within striking distance for much of the night Thursday, but a series of second-half runs lifted the undefeated Clark-Willow Lake Cyclones to a 56–39 win over the Groton Area Tigers.

Groton Area came out sharp offensively, led by Ryder Johnson's hot first quarter. Johnson scored 13 of his game-high 19 points in the opening eight minutes, knocking down three three-pointers as the Tigers built an 18–15 lead. The first quarter featured four lead changes and four ties, with both teams trading momentum.

"We came out and had a great start," head coach Greg Kjellsen said. "But when you look at it, that also means we didn't score much after those 21 points."

Clark-Willow Lake answered with three three-pointers of its own in the opening quarter and continued to apply pressure defensively. The game was tied at 21 in the second quarter before the Cyclones put together a six-point run to seize control. Clark-Willow Lake carried a 30–26 advantage into halftime.

Kjellsen pointed to offensive impatience as a key factor as the game settled into a half-court pace.

"When we get into the half-court game, we get way too impatient," he said. "We don't let plays develop. We feel like we either have to shoot it right now or drive it right now, and that's not going to work against a team like this."

Groton Area kept the deficit to four early in the third quarter at 36–32, but once again Clark-Willow Lake responded with a six-point run, pushing the lead to 42–34 heading into the fourth. Another Cyclone surge early in the final period stretched the margin into double digits and effectively put the game away.

"That's been kind of a carbon copy of the games we've lost," Kjellsen said. "We're hanging right there, then we have two or three costly turnovers, force up a couple quick threes, and it goes from four or five to twelve or fourteen in a hurry."

The Cyclones dominated the glass, outrebounding Groton Area 34–25, an area Kjellsen noted became even more difficult when the Tigers mixed in zone defense.

"The zone helped us for a stretch, but it's hard to rebound out of it," Kjellsen said. "We're already struggling on the boards, and they started to figure it out and seal us backside."

Clark-Willow Lake was led by Sullivan Felberg, who finished with 19 points, seven rebounds, and three blocks, showcasing the inside-outside versatility that caused problems all night.

"He's so hard to guard because he can score both inside and outside," Kjellsen said. "He's just a load. When a kid can do both, it makes things really tough."

Groton Area shot 10-of-29 on two-point attempts (34 percent), 5-of-18 from three-point range (28 percent), and 4-of-11 at the free-throw line (36 percent). The Tigers were limited to just 13 second-half points.

"That's not going to beat anybody," Kjellsen said. "We were 6-for-25 in the second half, and you can't leave points at the free-throw line either."

Johnson led the Tigers with 19 points, four rebounds, and a steal. Karson Zak added 12 points, three rebounds, and three assists. Gage Sippel finished with five points and seven rebounds, while Keegen Tracy added three points, three rebounds, and four assists. Becker Bosma pulled down five rebounds, and Easton Weber recorded two rebounds and two steals.

Clark-Willow Lake shot 24-of-51 from the field (47 percent) and 3-of-4 at the free-throw line (75 percent), finishing with 10 assists and 13 team fouls.

Despite the final margin, Kjellsen felt the effort remained solid throughout a demanding stretch of the schedule.

"I told the boys I'm not disappointed in the effort," he said. "It's just the little things we've got to take care of. This wasn't a 17-point game in my opinion."

Groton Area falls to 5–2 on the season, while Clark-Willow Lake improves to 5–0. The Tigers will quickly turn the page with another tough test Saturday, traveling to Lennox for a doubleheader, with the boys game scheduled for a 5 p.m. tip.

"Not going to get any easier," Kjellsen said. "But we're going to get better. We've put in some new wrinkles offensively, and we'll keep working on it."

### JV Tigers Earn Road Win

The Groton Area junior varsity team picked up the Tigers' lone win of the night with a 37–31 victory over Clark-Willow Lake.

After the Cyclones jumped out to a 4–0 lead, the first quarter featured four lead changes, with Clark-Willow Lake holding an 11–7 edge after one. Groton Area grabbed its first lead at 12–11 early in the second quarter and closed the half on a seven-point run to take a 24–16 advantage.

The Tigers extended the lead to 28–21 after three quarters and held on down the stretch for the six-point win.

Ethan Kroll led Groton Area with 10 points, followed by Asher Johnson with eight, Anthony Tracy with six, Jace Johnson with five, Ryder Schelle with four, and J.J. Mueller with four. Trig Felberg scored 21 points for Clark-Willow Lake in the JV contest.

**Both varsity games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Avantara - Groton, Agtegra, Bierman Farm Service, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Full Circle Ag, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, John Sieh Agency, Heartland Energy and The MeatHouse in Andover. Rich Bosma and Mike Imrie did the commentary, Jeslyn Kosel ran the camera and Paul Kosel did the stats and technology. The girls junior varsity game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM sponsored by grandparents. The boys JV game was sponsored by Ed and Connie Stauch.**

## Missed Chances Cost Tigers in 38–34 Road Loss at Clark-Willow Lake



**Jerica Locke battles for the ball with Clark/Willow Lake's Shelby Begeman.**

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Taryn Traphagen had a double-double on the night with 11 points and 10 rebounds.**

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

CLARK, S.D. — A strong defensive effort and improved offensive movement weren't enough for the Groton Area Tigers Thursday night, as missed close-range opportunities proved costly in a 38–34 loss to the Clark-Willow Lake Cyclones.

Clark-Willow Lake jumped out early, scoring 18 first-quarter points to build an 18–10 lead despite a late three-pointer from Taryn Traphagan that gave Groton some momentum going into the second quarter. The Cyclones extended their advantage to 20–14 at halftime in a second quarter that featured just six total points.

"That's the best we've played offense all year," head coach Matt Locke said. "We were moving, getting good cuts, getting good looks — and we only scored 34 points. We missed too many point-blank layups."

Groton Area responded coming out of halftime, stringing together an eight-point run across the second and third quarters to tie the game at 20 with 5:38 remaining in the third. However, Clark-Willow Lake answered immediately with a nine-point run of its own

to regain control at 29–20 before taking a 31–25 lead into the final period.

"We gave one away," Locke said. "I don't like giving them away. We talk all the time about being activated when you get to the gym — not giving up 18 in the first quarter and then waking up."

The Tigers continued to battle in the fourth quarter, cutting the deficit to just one point at 33–32, but the Cyclones held on by converting 5-of-8 free throws down the stretch to seal the win. Groton went a perfect 3-of-3 from the line in the final frame but couldn't overcome its shooting struggles from the field.

"We still had plenty of opportunities late, even with foul trouble," Locke said. "The effort was there. They played hard. I love how they competed. I just wish we wouldn't get in our own way when it comes to putting the ball in the basket."

Traphagan led the Tigers with a double-double, finishing with 11 points and 10 rebounds before fouling out with 23 seconds remaining. Jayden Penning added nine points and five rebounds, while Rylee Dunker scored six points with three rebounds and a steal. Jerica Locke chipped in four points, seven rebounds, three assists, and a steal, and McKenna Tietz posted four points, five rebounds, and a steal. Kella Tracy grabbed five rebounds with an assist and a steal, and Talli Wright added a rebound.

As a team, Groton Area shot 12-of-42 (29%) on two-point attempts, 1-of-13 (7%) from three-point range, and 7-of-11 (64%) at the free-throw line. The Tigers finished with 36 rebounds, 11 turnovers, five steals, and 19 team fouls.

Clark-Willow Lake was led by Kamryn Nesheim with 12 points, followed by Brynn Rorick with 10. The Cyclones also shot 29% from the field and went 9-of-19 from the free-throw line.

In the junior varsity game, Clark-Willow Lake defeated Groton Area 34–23 after building an 11–5 first-quarter lead and a 23–10 halftime advantage. Tevan Hanson led the Tigers with 10 points, Kella Tracy added eight, Kinsley Rowen scored three, and McKenna Krause and Ashlynn Warrington each finished with one.

Groton Area now sits at 5–3 on the season and will have little time to dwell on the loss, traveling Saturday to Lennox for a 3:30 p.m. contest as part of a girls-boys doubleheader.

"They're good — top five," Locke said of the upcoming opponent. "They're long, athletic, they can shoot it, and they press. We're going down there to play our game and play hard."



## Playoffs Edition

The Vikings won't be playing this weekend, but the NFL season rolls on regardless. Wild Card Weekend is here, and while Minnesota is on the outside looking in, the slate of postseason games still gives us plenty to chew on. Some teams are trying to prove they belong, others are trying to avoid an early exit, and a few fanbases are already bracing for heartbreak. Even without the Vikings involved, this is the most chaotic and entertaining weekend of the NFL calendar, and it sets the tone for everything that follows.

### Los Angeles Rams (12-5) @ Carolina Panthers (8-9)

The Rams got off to a hot start, taking a 14-0 lead, but Carolina regrouped and was able to go into intermission only down by three points. Both teams kicked field goals in the third quarter, and we went into the fourth quarter with LA holding a slim 20-17 lead. The final 15 minutes were wild, with four touchdowns scored and

four lead changes. Ultimately, the Rams were able to hold on and leave Charlotte with a 34-31 win.

### Green Bay Packers (9-7-1) @ Chicago Bears (11-6)

Green Bay started strong, holding Chicago to only three points in the first half while also finding the endzone three times, and went into halftime with a 21-3 lead. The third quarter was quiet, with the only scoring coming from a Chicago field goal. The Bears started to heat up in the fourth quarter, with a field goal and a touchdown sandwiched around a Green Bay three-and-out to cut the Packers' lead to only five points. A Green Bay touchdown with only six and a half minutes left in the game extended their lead to two scores, and they likely thought they had this one in the bag. But Caleb Williams and the Bears responded with a 10-play, 76-yard touchdown drive to make it a three-point game again. The Packers got the ball back with the lead and only four minutes left on the clock, but their drive stalled, and their field goal attempt was no good, giving the ball back to the Bears with plenty of time left on the clock. Six plays and 66 yards later, Chicago found the end zone to win the game 31-27.

### Buffalo Bills (12-5) @ Jacksonville Jaguars (13-4)

The first half of the game started slowly. The only points in the first quarter were a Buffalo field goal, and then both teams found the end zone in the second quarter, making the score 10-7 heading into halftime. Buffalo got the ball to begin the second half and added another field goal, which the Jaguars matched on the ensuing possession. Those were the only points scored in the third quarter, so the Bills took a narrow three-point lead into the fourth. The final fifteen minutes turned into the final round of a heavyweight title fight, with both teams throwing haymakers as four straight touchdown drives caused the lead to change hands again and again. When the dust settled, Buffalo was standing victoriously and escaped Jacksonville with a 27-24 win.

### San Francisco 49ers (12-5) @ Philadelphia Eagles (11-6)

The San Francisco 49ers traveled to Philadelphia for a matchup against the Eagles. The weather was cold and windy, but both teams came out hot, scoring touchdowns on their opening drives. The next score came off a 16-play, 94-yard drive by Philadelphia, but a missed extra point kept the score 13-7. A 49ers field goal made the score 13-10 heading into halftime. The only points in the third quarter came from a Philly field goal, making it a one-score game at the beginning of the fourth. Philadelphia came apart at the end of the game while San Francisco found the end zone two more times, securing a 23-19 victory.

### Los Angeles Chargers (11-6) @ New England Patriots (14-3)

Unlike the previous playoff games, this matchup was a dud. The Chargers' defense did an admirable job of containing Patriots' QB (and MVP candidate) Drake Mayo, holding the second-best offense in the NFL to only 16 points. Unfortunately for Chargers' fans, their offensive line couldn't keep QB Justin Herbert upright, and as a result, Los Angeles could only muster three points.

### Houston Texans (12-5) @ Pittsburgh Steelers (10-7)

The Houston Texans punched their ticket to the Divisional Round with a 30-6 win over the Pittsburgh Steelers in Wild Card Weekend action. Houston's defense set the tone, scoring two touchdowns and stifling Pittsburgh's offense all night, while the Texans handed the Steelers another tough postseason defeat. After a back-and-forth first half that saw Houston hold a slim 7-6 lead at the break, the Texans exploded in the fourth quarter with 23 unanswered points to pull away. Houston's ground game also made an impact, led by Woody Marks' 112 rushing yards and a touchdown.

## NSU President's and Dean's Lists for Fall 2025

ABERDEEN, S.D. — Northern State University has announced students earning academic honors for the Fall 2025 semester, recognizing those named to the President's List and Dean's List.

The President's List honors full-time undergraduate students who achieved a perfect 4.00 grade point average for the semester. The Dean's List recognizes full-time undergraduate students who earned a GPA between 3.50 and 3.99.

### President's List

Claremont — Alexandria Cutler, Cali Vander-vorst  
Columbia — Reagan Cvancara  
Bath — Triston Leidholdt  
Frederick — Olivia Morlock  
Langford — Laney Widener  
Groton — Elizabeth Flihs, Abigail Hinman,  
Ava Kramer, Stella Meier, Diego Nava Remigio,  
Cole Simon, Bryson Wambach

### Dean's List

Andover — Nicholas Schwab  
Bath — Katelyn Beckler, Veronica Scott  
Bristol — Kaylin Anderson, Emily Richie  
Columbia — Anna Bisbee  
Conde — Emma Grandpre, Kelly Miles  
Frederick — Stephen Achen  
Groton — Anna Fjeldheim, Logan Hinman,  
Lydia Meier, Laila Roberts, Anthony Schinkel,  
Cadance Tullis  
Langford — Avery West  
Westport — Katelyn Mehlhaff

## Mitchell Technical College Fall 2025 President's List

A total of 395 students at Mitchell Technical College have been placed on the Fall Semester 2025 President's List, according to MTC President Theresa Kriese. To be named to the list, students must earn a term GPA of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale and be registered for at least 12 credit hours of academic work during the semester. The individuals listed met these requirements for the Fall 2025 semester, organized by program of study. Students marked with an \* earned a 4.0 GPA this semester.

Groton: Korbin Kucker - Power Line Construction & Maintenance  
Frederick: Madelyne Sumption\* - Accounting

Warner: Rylan Evenson\* - Wi-Fi & Broadband Technologies

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605-397-8204

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

## The Groton Independent

21 N Main, Groton 605/397-NEWS (6397)  
Paul Irvin Kosel, Publisher [paperpaul@grotonsd.net](mailto:paperpaul@grotonsd.net) ~ 605-397-7460  
Tina Kosel, Office Manager [office@grotonsd.net](mailto:office@grotonsd.net) ~ 605-397-7285

Notices: [legals@grotonsd.net](mailto:legals@grotonsd.net)

News Items: [news@grotonsd.net](mailto:news@grotonsd.net)

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## Kjellsen praises defensive effort as Tigers rally past Lennox

LENNOX, S.D. — After a slow start Saturday night, the Groton Area



**Gage Sippel goes over Lennox's Drake Mikkelsen for this shot.** (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



**Keegen Tracy engages Lennox's Cole Spieler.** (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Tigers delivered their best defensive performance of the season, rallying past Lennox 57–48 in a statement road victory.

Head coach Greg Kjellsen said the win was as much about mental toughness as execution.

"I'm proud as can be. The first three minutes of the game we weren't matching their intensity. They were getting offensive rebounds and put-backs, but the kids decided to pick it up — and that was the best four quarters of defense we've played," Kjellsen said.

Lennox jumped out to a 13–6 first-quarter lead and carried a 24–18 advantage into halftime. Midway through the third quarter, Groton still trailed 32–28 before flipping the game with an 11–0 run to take control. The Tigers led 39–33 entering the fourth quarter and sealed the win at the free-throw line, hitting 9-of-10 in the final period. Ryder Johnson knocked down two key three-pointers down the stretch, while Keegen Tracy added another triple.

Groton finished shooting 48% from the field (19-of-40), including 68% on two-point attempts and 35% from beyond the arc. The Tigers were also 13-of-15 at the free-throw line (87%) and committed just nine turnovers.

"Our kids were much more patient tonight. We didn't take a lot of bad shots. We valued the ball. We're too good of a basketball team to make silly mistakes — and tonight, we didn't," Kjellsen said.

Ryder Johnson led Groton Area with 18 points, going 8-for-8 at the free-throw line while adding five rebounds. Karson Zak scored 14 points — 10 in the first half — and finished with six rebounds, three assists, and two steals. Keegen Tracy added 10 points and two assists. Gage Sippel contributed seven points on 3-of-4 two-point shooting along with two rebounds and one assist. Easton Weber rounded out the scoring with six points, two rebounds, two steals, and an assist.

Lennox was led by Tate Gerdes with 18 points. Aiden Hanssen followed with 15 points. Cole Spiegler and Teagan Musser each scored six points, Drake Mikkelsen had two, and Eli Plank added one. The Orioles matched Groton's 48% field-goal shooting, going 24-of-50, but struggled at the free-throw line at 5-of-10.

Kjellsen said the victory was especially meaningful following a difficult stretch of games.

"Fourth game in eight days, third straight road game, coming off a tough loss at Clark — the kids had every reason to come out flat. Instead, they responded. It's huge for their confidence going forward," he said.

In junior varsity action, Lennox defeated Groton 51–22. Anthony Tracy scored seven points to lead the Tigers, followed by Asher Johnson with six. Ryder Schelle and Jordan Schwan each added three points, Jace Johnson scored two, and Connor Kroll finished with one.

In the C-game, Groton earned a 47–30 victory. Trey Tietz led the Tigers with 14 points, Major Dolan added 13, and Trayce Schelle scored 12. Ryder Schwan contributed four points, while Wesley Borg and Zach Flihs each finished with two.

With the victory, Groton Area improves to 6–3 on the season. The Tigers return home Thursday to host Tiospa Zina in a doubleheader at Groton.

"Six and three looks a lot better than five and four," Kjellsen said. "It was a good win. The kids played their butts off."

## Groton Prairie Mixed Bowling League Week #8 Results

**Team Standings:** Coyotes 4, Shihtzus 3, Jackelopes 2, Cheetahs 2, Foxes 1, Chipmunks 0

**Men's High Games:** Vern Meyers 212, Brad Larson 191, Dion Bahr 184

**Women's High Games:** Vicki Walter 189 & 163, Vicki Jorgensen 170, Suzie Easthouse 163

**Men's High Series:** Vern Meyers 501, Brad Larson 495, John Sippel 485

**Women's High Series:** Vicki Walter 509, Suzie Easthouse 452, Alexa Sperry 419

**Week #8 Fun Game** - Most 9 Spares – Coyotes with 25!

## Krueger claims title; Decker places fourth at tournament

Groton Area's girls wrestling team saw strong individual performances at the Miller/Highmore-Harold Tourney, led by a championship run from Liza Krueger and a hard-fought fourth-place finish from Grace-lynn Decker.

At 105 pounds, Krueger delivered a dominant performance on her way to the title. She opened the bracket with a quarterfinal bye before wasting little time in the semifinals, pinning Morah Swartzendruber of Miller/Highmore-Harold in 1:16. In the championship match, Krueger secured a 3–1 decision over Kadee Frankfurth of Clark/Willow Lake to claim first place.

At 110 pounds, Decker battled through a challenging bracket. She began her day with an impressive major decision, defeating Cadence Johnson of Douglas/Rapid City Christian by a 9–0 margin in the quarterfinals. Decker then fell in the semifinals to Jaylynn Johnson of Kingsbury County by pin at 4:59, sending her to the consolation bracket.

Decker responded with resilience, pinning Luci Fuller of Ipswich in just 42 seconds in the consolation semifinals to advance to the third-place match. There, she came up short against Trinity Kurtenbach of Sioux Valley, who earned a fall at 0:53, placing Decker fourth overall.

Groton Area continues to gain momentum in its girls wrestling program, with Krueger's championship highlighting the team's continued growth on the mat.

## Wrestlers finishes second at Jesse James Invitational

GARRETSON, S.D. — The Groton Area Tigers delivered a strong all-around performance Saturday at the Jesse James Invitational, earning the second-place team trophy with 211.5 points in a 13-team field. Tri-Valley captured the team title with 266.0, followed by Groton Area, Flandreau (191.0) and Elk Point-Jefferson (174.0).

Three Tigers claimed individual championships. Wyatt Hagen powered through his bracket with three consecutive falls, pinning Colton Seeley in 1:01, Colt Evenson in 1:28, and closing the title match with a 3:21 fall over Garretson's Bence Bonte. Isaiah Scepaniak needed only one bout to secure gold, pinning Brody Johnson of Flandreau in 1:00. Heavyweight Gavin Englund opened with a forfeit, earned a 12-0 major decision over Elliot Powell, pinned Tanner Baatz in 3:25, and edged Luke Nehlich 2-0 in the championship match.

Several Groton wrestlers battled their way to runner-up finishes. Preston Hinkelman opened his day with a 16-0 technical fall over Ryker Johnson, pinned Everett Bemboom in 1:06, and posted a 12-9 semifinal decision over Chase King before finishing second after a fall loss to Legend Frederick. Kyson Kucker received a bye, pinned Chase Costello in 1:35, recorded a 10-0 major decision in the semifinals over CJ Peterson, and placed second after a 16-9 decision against Teague Bergjord. Ben Hoeft advanced with a forfeit victory, pinned Preston Meyer in 2:26, and earned runner-up honors after falling in the finals.

Third-place medals went to Bentley Ehresmann and Donavon Block. Ehresmann pinned Ryker Headrick and Sullivan Wheeldryer, dropped a semifinal match, then rebounded with a decision and a 41-second pin to take third. Block opened with a quick fall over Caleb Kirkholm, was stopped in the semifinals, then answered with three straight pins to secure third place.

Other Groton placers included Luke Gauer, who recorded three falls on his way to a fifth-place finish; Noah Scepaniak, who collected three pins and placed fourth; and Walker Zoellner, who added three falls before finishing fourth.

Additional Tigers rounded out the lineup and contributed valuable mat time. Parker Zoellner opened with a forfeit victory before dropping two contested bouts in the consolation rounds. Xavior Ellenbecker battled through the bracket and gained experience in two matches. Aiden Strom fought through the back side after an opening loss, while Grayson Flores picked up a first-round pin before being eliminated.

## Weekly SUDOKU

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**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging  
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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**ORDINANCE No. \_\_\_\_2026-01**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6 OF THE COLUMBIA REVISED ORDINANCES REGARDING DOGS AND CATS; THEREFORE.**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, SOUTH DAKOTA, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Chapter 6-3**

**6-3-1 Cruelty to Animals.** No person shall cruelly or immoderately beat, torture, or injure any domestic animal, overwork any working animal, or willfully maltreat or neglect in a cruel or inhumane manner any animal.

**6-3-2 Harboring / Predators.** No person within the City of Columbia shall harbor, keep, or feed any stray animals / predators, including dogs, cats, skunks, foxes and or raccoons. Animals known to be a stray, shall be immediately reported to local Law Enforcement.

**6-3-4 Dogs.**

**A. License.** It shall be unlawful for any person or persons within the City of Columbia to keep, maintain, or have custody or control of any dog without first having obtained a license to do so from the city Finance Officer as herein after provided and without having paid the license fee, therefore.

**B. Application.** Any person desiring to keep, maintain, or have custody or control of any dog, shall apply to the city Finance Officer for a license to keep such dog; such application shall be in writing stating the name, sex, color, and other distinguishing characteristics of the dog and the name of the owner thereof, and that the dog has no vicious propensities so far as known to the applicant, which application shall be made on a printed blank furnished by the city Finance Officer and filed with the city Finance Officer. In addition, the applicant shall present to the Finance Officer a certificate from a registered veterinarian showing that such dog has been inoculated against rabies and that such inoculation will be effective during the period for which the dog is licensed. Records may be dropped off at the city office, mailed to, or

emailed to the City. Any dog licensed under six (6) months of age shall be inoculated upon reaching the age of six months.

**C. Fee, Tag.** The applicant shall at the time of making such application, pay to the city Finance Officer a license fee in the sum of ten dollars (\$10.00). It shall be the duty of the city Finance Officer at the time of the issuance of the license to furnish and deliver to said applicant a metallic dog tag upon which tag shall be stamped or engraved the registered number of the dog. It shall be the choice of the owner of the dog to place a collar around the neck of the dog or kept in a safe place. Any dog owner who fails to purchase a license for their dog shall be subject to fine as set in this ordinance (6-3-17).

**D. Expiration.** All dog licenses will expire when the dog passes away.

**E. Exceptions.** The licensing provisions of this chapter shall not apply to dogs where the owners are nonresidents temporarily within the city, nor to "seeing-eye dogs" properly trained to assist blind persons when such dogs are actually kept for use by blind persons for the purpose of aiding them in going from place to place.

**F. Limit on number of Dogs.** Except as otherwise provided in this section, it shall be unlawful for an person(s), or household, within the limits of the City of Columbia, to own or possess more adult dogs than are allowed pursuant to this section.

**1. Maximum number of dogs,** except as otherwise provided in this section, no person or household may own or possess more than three(3) adult dogs of any kind or size. For purposes of this section, an adult dog is a dog ten weeks old or older. Litters of dog puppies do not violate the maximum adult dog limit from the time of birth until age ten weeks.

**2. Exceptions,** the maximum adult dog limit may be exceeded only if one of the following exceptions applies:

**(a). Non-Resident Visitor exception.** The City Council recognizes that visitors to the City, such as hunter, may have more adult dogs than the maximum adult dog limit. Non-residents are not subject to the maximum adult dog limit. The purpose of this section, "non-resident" means a person who is present and residing the city for less than 31 consecutive days.

**(1) A resident or resident**

household is not in violation of the maximum adult dog limit when hosting a person who qualifies for the non-resident visitor exception.

**3.Policy.** The City Council recognizes that the maximum adult dog limit may result in a hardships to new residents moving into the city who previously owned more than the allowed number of dogs and to families that need to temporarily house a family member's dog as a result of illness, death, or other misfortune. The City Council desires to protect the rights of neighbors and peace and tranquility of the community as a whole. Such exceptions must be strictly construed, since the City Council intends to limit the number of dogs at any given residence.

**4. Licensing.** A dog license applicant must apply for a permit upon forms prescribed from time to time by the city council. Applicants who do not meet all of the requirement of this section must be denied. Licensing may only be granted by the City Council.

**(a). License term and fee.** A dog license is a calendar-year permit, ending on December 31st. The annual fee will be set by the City Council by resolution from time to time. The initial fee will be prorated based upon the number for months left in the calendar year.

**(b). License renewal.** A dog license holder may apply for a renewal in November or December for the following calendar year. Renewal applications will be reviewed by the city council in the same manner as new applications.

**5. Allowable exceptions.** An applicant for a dog license must meet at least one of the following exceptions:

**(a) New resident exception.** A family previously owning more than the maximum adult dog limit moving from outside the city into a residence within the city may apply to keep one (1) extra adult dog until one of the dogs dies. When dog dies, the residence must conform to the maximum adult dog limit. A family may not move temporarily out of the city and move back in to qualify for this exemption. For purposes of the exception, "new resident" means a person who has not resided within the city for a period of twelve(12) months preceding the application.

**(b). Sick relative exception.** A family living within the city may apply for care for one(1) extra adult dog belonging to a relative of the permit holder if

the relative is unable to care for such dog due to accident, illness, or death. For purpose of this section, "relative" means grandparents, parents, and children.

**6. One exception at a time.** An applicant may not use more than one exception at a time to increase the number of adult dogs which may be kept. For example, a new resident could not use both the new resident exception and the sick relative exception to house two(2) extra dogs at the residence.

**(a) All dogs must have current city licenses,** and all dogs must have all current rabies vaccination records and provide proof.

**6-3-5 Dogs and Other Animals at Large.**

**A. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to permit or suffer to run at large within the limits of the City of Columbia any dog, cat, or other animal, whether licensed or unlicensed, and any Law Enforcement Officer or person of proper authority is hereby authorized and empowered to impound any such dog or animal found running at large in violation of the provisions of this section and subject to fine as set in this ordinance (6-3-17).**

**B. Any animal shall be deemed running at large within the meaning of this section when such animal is not confined upon the premises of its owner or on a leash in the hands of some attendant, or unless such animal, if loose, is accompanied by its owner or attendant.**

**6-3-6 Animals Disturbing the Peace.**

**A. No person owning any dog, cat, or other animal, licensed or unlicensed, confined on the premises or otherwise, shall permit such animal to disturb the peace and quiet of the neighborhood by making loud and/or unusual noises.**

**B. Upon signed complaint with Law Enforcement, that any person is keeping or harboring any dog, cat, or other animal which disturbs the peace as herein set forth, it shall be the duty of said Law Enforcement to notify the owner of said animal of said complaint, and after such owner has been given forty-eight (48) hours' notice of such habit, any Law Enforcement or person of proper authority is hereby authorized and empowered to go upon the premises and impound such dog, cat, or other animal so disturbing the peace if said act continues.**

**C. In addition to the costs of impounding of such animal or other penalties prescribed, the owner thereof shall be subject to a fine as set in 6-3-17.**

**6-3-7 Vicious or Dangerous Animals.** If any dog or cat or other animal is of a vicious disposition or has dangerous habits, the police shall attempt to notify in writing the owner of or keeper of such dog, cat, or other animal and thereafter the police are authorized, empowered, and directed to kill or cause to be killed such dog, cat, or other animal whether found running at large or upon the premises of the owner of such dog, cat, or other animal forthwith, and without impounding such animal for the immediate protection of the citizens of Columbia.

**6-3-8 Citizens May Impound Animals.** The Brown County Sheriff's Office or other Law Enforcement Officers may receive from any citizen and convey to a animal control shelter any animal found by said citizen running at large contrary to the provisions of this chapter, and in such case, the provision of this chapter shall apply the same as if said animal had been found and impounded by the Brown County Sheriff's Office or other Law Enforcement Officers.

**6-3-9 Impoundment by Law Enforcement.** Law Enforcement is hereby authorized to employ, whenever he deems it necessary, a sufficient number of persons to capture and convey to the animal control shelter, and care for, kill, and dispose of in the manner provided for in this chapter, all dogs, cats, or other animals found running at large contrary to the provisions of this chapter. All dogs, cats, or other animals captured and conveyed to the animal control shelter as established by the city, shall be kept with humane treatment and supplied with sufficient food and water for a period of at least forty-eight (48) hours unless sooner reclaimed by the owner or keeper thereof as provided in this chapter.

**6-3-10 Redemption of Animal from Shelter.** When the owner or keeper of any dog, cat, or animal impounded shall desire to redeem any dog, cat, or animal at the animal control shelter, such dog or cat or animal may be released upon the payment to the person in charge of such

animal control shelter, for any and all fees acquired during the impound.

**6-3-11 Sale of Impounded Animals.** It shall be the duty of the person in charge of the animal control shelter before destroying any dog, cat, or animal under the provisions of this chapter, to attempt to sell said dog, cat, or animal at a private sale to any person who is willing to pay a sufficient sum to reimburse for all expenses of keeping said animal and the fees provided herein.

**6-3-12 Destruction of Unclaimed Animals.** At the expiration of forty- eight (48) hours from the date of impounding a dog, cat, or animal, if the owner or keeper thereof shall fail or refuse to comply with the provisions of this chapter for the release of the same and after the provisions of section 6-3-11 fail, it shall be the duty of the person in charge of the animal control shelter to destroy such dog, cat, or animal and cause it to be removed and properly buried; provided that the owner of licensed animals shall have twenty-four (24) hours' notice in writing after the expiration of the forty-eight (48) hours, before the same shall be destroyed.

**6-3-13 Quarantine.** The owner of any animal which has contracted rabies, or which has been subjected to the same, or which is suspected of having rabies, or which shall have bitten any person, shall, upon the demand of Law Enforcement or the health department produce and surrender the animal to the department to be held in quarantine for observation for a period of not less than ten (10) days. If examination of any animal shall prove it to be infected with any rabies, such animal shall be disposed of as directed by an officer of such department or licensed veterinarian. The owner of any animal so quarantined shall pay all costs and expenses incurred by the city during the quarantine period for maintenance and examination of such animal including veterinarian expenses.

**6-3-14 Removal of Excrement.** It shall be unlawful for any person who possesses, harbors, or is in charge of any dog, cat, or animal not to immediately remove excrement deposited by said dog, cat, or animal upon a common thoroughfare, street, sidewalk, play area, park, or upon any other public property, or upon any private property when permission of the owner or tenant of said property has not been obtained, and such is hereby declared to be a public nuisance and prohibited.

**6-3-15 Ignorance of the Law is No Excuse.** In any proceeding for violation of the provisions of this chapter relating to dogs, cats, or other animals, the use of the words "permit or suffer" shall not be construed as making ignorance a defense, and the knowledge or lack of knowledge of the person or persons committing the act of violating this chapter is immaterial.

**6-3-16 Feral Cats.**

**A. Feral Cat means a cat that is born in the wild or is the offspring of an owned or feral cat and is not socialized or is a formally owned cat that has been abandoned and is no longer socialized.**

**B. Feral Cat Colony means a group of cats that congregate, more or less, together as a unit. Although not every cat in the feral colony may be feral, any non-feral cats that congregate with a colony shall be deemed to be part of it.**

**C. Harboring.** The occupant of any premises on which an animal remains or to which it customarily returned daily for food and care for a period of ten (10) days is presumed to be harboring or keeping the animal within the meaning of this title.

The City of Columbia or its designee, in order to encourage and stabilize the feral cat population within the City shall have, in addition to any other rights and powers provided pursuant to state statute, the right to trap in a humane manner and remove any feral cats that:

1. Have not been vaccinated against rabies or which are demonstrating signs of disease.
  2. If a feral cat is demonstrating signs of having rabies, or has an illness or injury that presents an imminent danger to the public health or safety, or to its own person, the cat shall be humanely destroyed.
  3. Are not sterilized.
  4. Have bitten or injured a person or domestic pet.
  5. Pose any other public health or public safety concerns.
- 6-3-17 Penalty in General.** Except in cases where a different or additional penalty is imposed by this ordinance or by some existing provision of law, every

violation of any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500) or by imprisonment for a period not exceeding thirty (30) days or by both such fine and imprisonment. (SDCL 9-19-3).

Dana Mohr, Mayor  
City of Columbia, South Dakota

Passed First Reading: December 3, 2025

Passed second Reading: January 7, 2026

Adopted:  
Published:

Effective:  
ATTEST:

Cara Dennert, Finance Officer (Seal)

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**NOTICE OF DEADLINE FOR FILING NOMINATING PETITIONS FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION AND FOR FILING INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE PETITIONS**

The deadline for filing nominating petitions for the primary election is March 31, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. central time. If a petition is mailed by registered mail by March 31, 2026 at 5:00pm central time, it is considered filed.

Nominating petitions for the offices of Brown County Commissioners At Large (3), Brown County Auditor, Brown County Sheriff, Brown County Register of Deeds, Delegates to the Republican State Party Convention, Precinct Committeeman and Committeewomen for the Republican Party, must be filed in the office of the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market St., Suite 1, Aberdeen, SD between the hours of 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. central time.

Nominating petitions for the offices of U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, Governor and Lieutenant Governor, State Senate District 1, State House of Representative District 1, State Senate District 3, State House of Representative District 3, State Senate District 23, State House of Representative District 23, Water Development District Directors, must be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State, State Capitol Building, Pierre, SD 57501 between the hours of 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. central time.

The deadline for filing nominating petitions to run as an independent candidate in the general election is April 28, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. central time. If a petition is mailed by registered mail by April 28, 2026 at 5:00 p.m., it is considered filed.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published January 14 and 21, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$33.37 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26443

# King Crossword

**ACROSS**

- 1 Post-WWII alliance
- 5 Life story
- 8 Quick kiss
- 12 Challenger's words
- 14 Oklahoma tribe
- 15 Misses an opportunity
- 16 Without acting
- 17 Prattle
- 18 Contacts, e.g.
- 20 Vowel group
- 23 " — Misbehavin' "
- 24 Japanese noodle
- 25 Anthology
- 28 Pvt.'s superior
- 29 To the third power
- 30 Green shade
- 32 Cruised in style
- 34 Furnace fuel
- 35 Region (Abbr.)
- 36 Natural talents
- 37 Nap
- 40 Extinct bird
- 41 "Hulk" star
- 42 Distributes
- 47 "Smallville" girl
- 48 Coffee bar order

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

- 49 Org.
- 50 Two, in Toledo
- 51 Campus VIP
- DOWN**
- 1 Zilch
- 2 Hubbub
- 3 Prof's aides
- 4 Salem's state
- 5 Invitation initials
- 6 Debtor's letters
- 7 Summarized
- 8 Unspecified travel destination
- 9 LAX postings
- 10 Natalie or Nat
- 11 Piano pieces?
- 13 Isaac's eldest
- 19 Author
- 20 Ger. neighbor
- 21 Jittery
- 22 Speck
- 23 Fossil resin
- 25 Incensed
- 26 Atop
- 27 Bicycle part
- 29 Guitarist
- 31 Gore and Pacino
- 33 MD's diagnostic order
- 34 Stopped
- 36 Dutch word for "farmer"
- 37 Actress Ward
- 38 401(k) relatives
- 39 Drei minus zwei
- 40 Star athletes, briefly
- 43 Equi-
- 44 Sugary suffix
- 45 Mex. neighbor
- 46 Great weight

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**Weekly SUDOKU**

Answer

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

**King Crossword**

Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

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



City of Columbia Council Meeting - January 7, 2026

CALL MEETING TO ORDER - 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL - Dana Mohr, Cara Dennert, Scott Meints, Sam Hoppock, Trevor Meints, Jeremy Dosch

Community: Michelle Johnson, Angela Grieb, Julie Voeller, Patti Daly, Andrew Davis

Mayor Dana Mohr called the meeting to order. Dana called for a motion to approve the agenda. Trevor Meints made a motion to approve the agenda. Scott Meints seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried. Dana called for any conflict of interest on agenda items. There were no conflicts. Minutes were handed out from the December 3rd meeting. Scott Meints made a motion to approve the minutes. Sam Hoppock seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried. Minutes were handed out from the December 9th meeting. Scott Meints made a motion to approve the minutes. Sam Hoppock seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried.

Warrant Vouchers North-western Energy - electricity - 1347.75; Web - fire prevention - 73.89; JVT - fire prevention - 213.22; Jeremy Dosch - Dec. wages - 1109.06 -; Cara Dennert - Dec. wages - 1317.60; Dacotah Bank - shop supplies - 23.27 ; United States Treasury -941 4th Q 2024 taxes - 2579.35; Jeremy Dosch - council wages 4th Q - 296.46; Scott Meints - council wages 4th Q - 296.46; Sam Hoppock - council wages 4th Q - 296.46; Dana Mohr - council wages 4th Q - 312.93; Trevor Meints - street wages & council wages 4th Q - 286.36; SD Unemployment Insurance - 4th Q insurance - 45.25, Beck Law Office - attorney fees - 342.04; GDI - publication 9.11; Public Health Laboratory - park water testing - 96.00; Bobcat - equipment work - 209.61; Hansen Excavating - street blading - 829.08; SDML - 2026 Dues - 212.00 Sam Hoppock made a motion to approve the vouchers. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE: - Agtegra tax exemption certificates

UNFINISHED BUSINESS- waste water project - An Archeological Report regarding the lagoon site was received. Everything looks good.

Nuisances - Scott reviewed the revised ordinance for approval. There was some discussion. Sam Hoppock motioned to accept the second reading of the ordinance as amended. Jeremy Dosch seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried. The ordinance will take effect 20 days after publication. Trevor said that he was contacted by Code Enforcement Specialists wondering if we wanted to continue with their service. The board agreed that progress has been made and we need to continue to push forward with problems regarding ordinances in town. Trevor will be in contact with them.

Streets - no new report

Parks - Patti Daly wanted to let the board know that she would like input on placement of the building for the new park. She and Jeremy will look at some possibilities. Andrew Davis gave the council a detailed bill for the old park clean up. There was much discussion. Trevor Meints made a motion that we pay Andrew Davis for his machine hours and man hours that he had listed on the bill totaling \$1725. Sam Hoppock seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried.

Lagoon/Sewer- Engineers will be back to do some soil boring.

Rubble Site - It needs to be burned, but preferably with a bit more snow around it. Dana will check on how much it would cost to have it stacked a bit before burning.

NEW BUSINESS - Wyatt Larson was present to discuss the location where he would like to put a house. That location currently does not have any septic options. Jeremy will check with Scott Bader regarding the requirements for putting in an independent septic system. Annual declarations were discussed. Scott Meints

made a motion to keep Groton Independent as our newspaper for publications, Dacotah Bank as our financial institution. Jeremy Dosch seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried. The City Council looked over dates for meetings - the first Wednesday worked for all months. It is a non-election year for council positions.

FINANCIAL REPORT -

Cara gave the board their W2s and they signed their W9s. Six 1099s will be sent out from the City. Cara presented bank balances. Trevor Meints made a motion to accept the financial reports as given. Jeremy Dosch seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried.

December 31, 2025, balances: SF - \$ 102,287.48; SF Money Market - \$ 153,348.33; GF - \$ 190,465.65; GF Money Market - \$ 51,454.47; CD Money Market - \$ 41,786.18

FIT - \$ 16,179.23; Cash on hand - \$0

Mayor Mohr adjourned the meeting.

Next City Council Meeting - Wednesday, February 4th, 2026 - 7:00 p.m

Submitted by Cara Dennert, Finance Officer

Published January 14, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$48.35 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26444



INVITATION TO BID NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Groton City Council of the City of Groton, South Dakota, will open bids for the painting of the exterior of City Hall/Wage Memorial Library on February 3rd, 2026, at 7:00pm (local time) at City Hall, 120 N Main Street, SD 57445. Received sealed bids will be opened publicly and read aloud.

Please mail sealed bids to PO Box 587, Groton, SD 57445 or drop them off at 120 N Main Street before 5:00pm on February 3rd, 2026.

Any questions concerning specifications or other information may be directed to the City Finance Office. The City reserves the right to refuse any and all bids, to waive any informalities in the bidding, and to award the contract in the best interests of the City of Groton, South Dakota.

Published January 14 and 21, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$17.53 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26445



Notice of Vacancy Municipality of Warner, SD The following office will become vacant due to the expiration of the present term of office of the elective officer: Trustee, Terry Evans. This is for a three-year term.

Circulation of nominating petitions may begin on January 31st, 2025. Petitions may be filed in the office of the Finance Officer located in the Warner Community Center, 11 West Main Street, Warner SD 57479 between the hours of 9:00AM and 12PM, Monday, Thursday or Friday and no later than Friday, February 28th, 2025 at 5 PM central time.

Nichol Townsend, Finance Officer Published January 14 and 21, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$14.71 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26446



CITY OF STRATFORD TRUSTEE VACANCY NOTICE Notice of Vacancy City of Stratford The following office will become vacant due to the expiration of the present term of office of the elective officer:

TRUSTEE (THREE-YEAR TERM)

Circulation of nominating petitions

Please notify Anna Kwak if you are interested. Petitions will be made available at the Community Center on FEBRUARY 1st, 2026.

First day to begin petition circulation is FEBRUARY 2nd, 2026. Deadline is FEBRUARY 23rd, 2026 at 5:00 PM.

Submitted by: Anna Kwak Finance Officer

Published January 14 and 21, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$16.97 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26447



Town of Westport General Meeting

The Town of Westport met on January 5, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., with Mitch Wilson, Shane Storm, Troy Tschappat, Brad and Jan Ellefson, and Deb Schlosser present.

The following bills were presented:

City General: NW Energy-utilities (\$716.53), Groton Independent-December minutes and legal notice (\$32.23), Performance Oil-propane (\$79.16), SD Unemployment-4th Qtr (\$13.71), US Treasury-4th Qtr taxes (\$789.58), US Treasury-Federal Unemployment (\$78.51), CWF-snow removal (\$1750.00)

Sewer: NW Energy-Lift Station utilities (\$66.39), Dahme Construction-storm sewer repair and asphalt patching (\$30,200.00)

Water: WEB-water (\$2111.87), Public Health Laboratory-water testing (\$20.00)

Troy Tschappat motioned, second by Shane Storm to pay all bills.

The following deposits were presented:

City General: State of SD (\$1948.43), Brown County Collections (\$794.50), Interest (\$59.14), Mitch Wilson (\$1300.28)

Sewer: Resident Payments (\$1887.64)

Water: Resident Payments (\$2831.47)

Old Business: Brad and Jan Ellefson presented paperwork for land transfer in the city of Westport. One more step needs to be completed so that will be done at February meeting along with the resolution. New Business: Troy Tschappat motioned, second by Shane Storm to have city election on June 2, 2026 if needed. Motion by Shane Storm, second by Troy Tschappat to approve 2026 Dakota Pump and Control inspection contract.

Salaries for 2026: Mitch Wilson, \$50 per meeting, \$200/month for water reading/billing; Shane Storm, \$50 per meeting; Troy Tschappat, \$50 per meeting; Deb Schlosser, \$300/month for Finance Officer, city mower, \$17/hour.

Meeting dismissed at 7:34 p.m.

Deb Schlosser, Finance Officer Published January 14, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$20.08 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26448



January 6, 2026 ..... The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00pm at 120 N Main Street for their first monthly meeting with the following members present: Bahr, Nehls, Babcock, Shilhanek, Cutler, and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Also present were Attorney Chad Locken, Douglas Heinrich, Todd Gay, Dwight Zerr, Terry Herron, and Elizabeth Varin.

Moved by Shilhanek and seconded by Babcock to approve the agenda with the addition of park saferoom discussion following agenda item no. 4. All members present voted aye.

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

Department reports were reviewed and discussed.

Gay exited the meeting.

Terry Herron announced that he will be retiring as a full-time city employee on Friday, January 9th, 2026. Herron was thanked for the 46 years of dedicated service he has provided to his community.

Herron and Zerr exited the meeting.

Discussion took place regarding the park saferoom project and using some funds this year to make improvements in the meantime while the city awaits a decision from FEMA.

Moved by Nehls and seconded by Cutler to begin accepting bids for the exterior painting of City Hall/Wage Memorial Library. Sealed bids are due by February 3, 2026, at 5:00pm and will be opened that same evening during the council meeting at 7:00pm. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Shilhanek to approve the employee salaries and volunteer list. All members present voted aye. Pursuant to SDCL 6-1-10, the list of employee salaries and volunteers is as follows: Scott Hanlon - \$625/month, \$125/special meeting, \$300/full-day meeting, \$100/half-day meeting. Board of Equalization - \$200/year. Council Members: Brian Bahr, Karyn Babcock, Michael Shilhanek, Jon Cutler, Kevin Nehls, and Jason Wambach - \$3,000/year, \$125/special meeting, \$300/full-day meeting, \$100/half-day meeting. Planning and Zoning Commission - \$35/meeting, \$70/special meeting. Finance Officer, Douglas Heinrich - \$32.96/hour. Deputy Finance Officer, April Abeln - \$31.19/hour. Assistant Finance Officer, Kellie Locke - \$25.80/hour. Public Works Coordinator, Street/Water Superintendent, Terry Herron - \$39.85/hour. Wastewater Superintendent, Dwight Zerr - \$35.62/hour. Assistant Street Superintendent, Branden Abeln - \$33.09/hour. Public Works Laborer, Jesse Anderson - \$32.29/hour. Technology Specialist, Paul Kosel - \$34.86/hour. Electric Superintendent, Todd Gay - \$61.45/hour. Electric Lineman, Landon Johnson - \$45.24/hour. Police Chief, Stacy Mayou - \$39.07/hour. Police Officer and Assistant Chief, Justin Cleveland - \$35.58/hour. Police Officer Level 1, Thomas Strickland - \$33.25/hour. Police Officer Level 2, Benjamin Smith - \$32.47/hour. A complete list of volunteers will be kept at City Hall.

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

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Cutler to authorize the following bills for payments. Bahr, Babcock, Cutler, and Shilhanek voted aye. Nehls abstained from voting. Payroll, \$52,861.65, Employee salaries; Executive, \$559.27; Culture and Recreation, \$138.48; Administrative, \$9,966.85; Public Safety, \$10,313.48; Public Works, \$31,883.57; Dacotah Bank, \$6,664.20, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dacotah Bank, \$810.41, HSA contributions; City of Groton, \$1,225.00, Holiday Lighting Contest prizes - Dinger, Boerger, Kappes; utility bill assistance from Thanksgiving Dinner profits; J's Superior Cleaning, \$200.00, Commercial cleaning services - November 2025; Krueger Bros, \$13,046.40, Crushed gravel - Street Dept.; Justin Cleveland, \$75.00, Community center rental refund; Dacotah Bank, \$4,329.26, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dacotah Bank, \$100.00, HSA contributions; Aflac, \$435.76, Employee insurance; Colonial Life, \$69.40, Employee insurance; Health Pool of SD, \$16,866.38, Employee insurance; Reliance Standard Life Insurance, \$88.10, Employee insurance; Butler Machinery Co.,

\$1,063.02, Sensor and code re-set for plow truck - Street Dept.; S&S Lumber Co., \$501.24, PVC adapter, self-tappers, gloves, scoop shovel, cut off wheels, grinding wheels, lock nuts, keypad locks, hand warmers, door stop, outlet cover, cable clamps, & insulation - Multiple Depts.; Verizon Wireless, \$40.01, Wireless router - Rubble Site; Dacotah Bank, \$6,601.92, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dacotah Bank, \$831.23, HSA contributions; Diesel Machinery, Inc., \$485.00, Bomag roller rental fee - 1 week; Groton Chamber of Commerce, \$500.00, Chamber bucks for Terry Herron's retirement; Stacy Mayou, \$421.00, Med flex - Final for 2025 and portion of 2026; SD Supplemental Retirement, \$790.00, Supplemental retirement; SD Retirement System, \$12,162.00, Employee retirement; NECOG, \$1,806.63, 2026 dues; SD DANR, \$1,500.00, Annual discharge permit - Wastewater Dept.; Glenn Bitz, \$150.00, Commercial window cleaning - City Hall; SD Department of Health, \$70.00, Water/wastewater testing; S&S Lumber Co., \$15,322.34, Materials for baseball concessions project; Allied Climate Professionals, LLC., \$17,142.89, Baseball concessions project - boiler, pump, floor tubing, insulation & progress billing for plumbing; Colliers Securities, LLC., \$300.00, Annual fee for CD services; NW Energy, \$13.38, Natural gas service - PD Generator; Aptpey, Inc., \$8,900.00, Annual fee for city website and alerts system; Dennis "Mike" Olson, \$2,897.18, Code enforcement services - 11/27/25 through 12/31/25 & 2026 code enforcement services retainer; Share Corporation, \$150.78, Sweeping compound oil - City Shop; Soil Technologies, Inc., \$14,900.00, Soil exploration - Wastewater Project; Ziegler Inc., \$11,960.00, Snow Wolf plow for skid steer - Street Dept.; The Groton Independent, \$211.73, Publishing costs and annual subscription cost; SD Retailers Association, \$195.00, 2026 dues; Ken's Fair Foods, \$277.86, Tour of Trees snacks, fuel purchases, foam cups, hot cocoa mix, plastic spoons, & garbage bags - Multiple Depts.; Farmers Union Co-op Association, \$55.29, Fuel filters - Electric Dept.; A&B Business Solutions, \$240.83, Printer/copier lease - City Hall; OverDrive, Inc., \$600.00, Annual fee for Libby - Library; Irby, Inc., \$575.00, Clamp meter - Electric Dept.; Groton Chamber of Commerce, \$12,000.00, 2026 donation; Groton Development Corporation, \$10,000.00, 2026 donation; Groton Baseball/Softball Foundation, \$10,000.00, 2026 donation; Groton Community Transit, \$2,500.00, 2026 donation;

Moved by Bahr and seconded by Nehls to authorize Landon Johnson to attend Joint Utility Training School in Sioux Falls, SD on January 20th through January 22nd, 2026. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Cutler and seconded by Babcock to begin accepting applications for the following summer recreational positions: Baseball Coordinator, Softball Coordinator, Jr. Legion Coach, Jr. Teener Coach, Girls' Softball Coaches (U8/U10/U12/U14/U18), Day Baseball/Softball Coach, Concessions Manager, and Swimming Pool Manager. All members present voted aye.

Varin exited the meeting.

Moved by Nehls and seconded by Cutler to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal matters 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 7:53pm. All members present voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 8:35pm.

Moved by Nehls and seconded by Bahr to amend the employee salary and volunteer list to merge Wastewater Superintendent and Public Works Coordinator, Street/Water Superintendent into one position following Terry Herron's retirement on January 9, 2026. Effective January 12, 2026, Dwight Zerr will be Public Works Coordinator, Street/Water/Wastewater Superintendent with a wage of \$39.85 per hour.

Moved by Shilhanek and seconded by Babcock to approve the agenda with the addition of park saferoom discussion following agenda item no. 4. All members present voted aye.

All members present voted aye.

Moved by Shilhanek and seconded by Bahr to adjourn the meeting at 8:38pm. All members present voted aye.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor

Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer

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Stratford Town Board Meeting December 16th, 2025

6:30pm Prickett called meeting to order with Schley, Engelhardt and Kwak in attendance.

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Schley, carried; to approve the Nov. 11th meeting minutes as read.

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Engelhardt, carried; to approve the financials as presented.

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Engelhardt, carried; to approve the following claims for payment: -General Fund-NWE Bills: (st lts) \$11.81 (381.32), (ball pk) \$16.65, (tennis) \$12.00, (st lts2) \$6.24 (202.05), (hall) \$521.54, (sign) \$16.29; James Valley (auto): \$44.69; Quickbooks (auto): \$40.36; PDFFiller (auto): \$20.90; Groton Ind: \$38.46; 15.27; \$49.48; SDML: \$108 (membership); Menards: \$34.94 (tim); Anna Reimbursement: \$40.35 (supplies); Heartland HC: \$401.92; Gaikowski: \$1,413.72 (april 10-oct 16); Microsoft Office: \$138.05 (updated fee).

-Water Sewer Fund-NWE Bills: (2nd st) \$100.67, (p hse) \$18.52; Web Water (auto): \$1,381.78 (96,215); Public Health Labs: \$40; USDA RD Loan

Payment (auto): \$478.00; NESD Loan Payment (auto): \$383.71;

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion with Stratford Community Theatre: Item 1; theatre to contribute \$850 per year in support of utilities unless review needed, Town of Stratford assuming all building maintenance and repairs for entirety of town call, community center, and theatre addition not to include play property.

Stratford Community Theater presented plan to fund a project involving replacement of commercial kitchen cabinets and sink and refinishing the floors from commercial kitchen to back of building. A motion was made by Schley, seconded by Engelhardt, carried; to approve the project.

A motion was made by Engelhardt, seconded by Prickett, carried; for MD Construction to be the on call snow removal service for the 2025-2026 season.

A motion was made by Engelhardt, seconded by Prickett, carried; to name the Groton Independent as designated newspaper for 2026.

Water meter delivered to D. Wiedmeier for installation.

A motion was made by Schley, seconded by Engelhardt, carried; to approve Dakota Pump & Control's annual inspection agreement.

Initial discussions about developing an emergency response plan - some research to be done on resources and will revisit.

CLOSING:

Next meeting is scheduled for January 13th, 2025 at 6:30pm.

A motion was made by Engelhardt, seconded by Prickett, carried; to adjourn the meeting.

-Anna Kwak, Finance Officer

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Hanlon Brothers Gravel Hauling New & Cleaning of Stockdams with our 60' reach trackhoe 605/395-6531

Weismantel Agency AUTO HOME FARM COMMERCIAL CROP 605/396-7341 weisag@nvc.net



**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Application has been made to the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission for a **CONDITIONAL USE PETITION (CUP)**. A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, on January 20, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.

Petitioner / Owner: Kyler & Lia Dinger

Legal description of property: "Long's Outlot 1" in the NW1/4 of Section 26-T124N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (12848 392nd Avenue; Ordway Twp.).

Reason: A Conditional Use Petition (CUP) to sell motorcycles, boats, trailers, vehicles, off-road vehicles, snowmobiles and install a sign as required by the dealer license in a proposed Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG).

The public may attend the hearing and present comments and testimony regarding the proposed Conditional Use Petition (CUP) request.

Dated this 7th day of January 2026.

Planning/Zoning Commission and

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

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**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
A PETITION TO REZONE has been submitted to Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission. A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex on January 20, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.

Petitioner: Kyler & Lia Dinger  
Description of property: "Long's Outlot 1" in the NW1/4 of Section 26-T124N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (12848 392nd Avenue; Ordway Twp.).

Reason: Rezone parcel from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its current use.

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the proposed rezoning petition. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission will forward a recommendation to the Board of Brown County Commissioners with a future meeting date in the Commission Chambers. Verify the meeting dates with the Brown County Auditor.

Dated this 7th day of January 2026.

Planning/Zoning Commission and

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

Published once in the "Groton Independent" newspaper at the total cost of \$14.14. 26440



**JANUARY 6, 2026 – REORGANIZATION MEETING**

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

**ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR 2026:** Auditor Heupel called for nominations for the 2026 Chairperson of the Brown County Board of Commissioners. pursuant to SDCL 7-8-15.

Commissioner Gage nominated Commissioner Sutton as 2026 Chairman, which was seconded by Wiese. Commissioner Dennert moved that nominations cease, and a unanimous ballot be cast for Commissioner Sutton as 2026 Chairman of the Brown County Board of Commissioners, seconded by Wiese. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR 2026:** Chairman Sutton called for nominations for the 2026 Vice-Chairperson of the Brown County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Dinger nominated Commissioner Gage as 2026 Vice-Chairman, which was seconded by Dennert. Commissioner Wiese moved that nominations cease, and a unanimous ballot be cast for Commissioner Gage as 2026 Vice-Chairman of the Brown County Board of Commissioners, seconded by Dinger. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve the agenda for the January 6, 2026 meeting. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**2026 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:** Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Dennert that 2026 Commission Committee Appointments be as follows: Commissioner Dennert: Brown County Mental Health Board; County Buildings; GROW SD NESDCAP; Fair Board Liaison; Legislative Contract; NE Mental Health Center Board, Weed & Pest Board Liaison and Alternate for Union Negotiations. Commissioner Dinger: Aberdeen/Brown County Regional RR Authority; Airport Board; CART; Farm Service Agency (FSA) Representative; Northeast Council of Government (NECOG) Board and Sick Leave Bank. Commissioner Gage: 4-H Leader's Association/Promotion & Expansion Liaison; Brown County Mental Health Board; Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI); Planning & Zoning Board Liaison; Risk Management Committee; Senior Citizens Board and Alternate for Legislative Contact. Commissioner Sutton: Aberdeen Development Corporation; Centennial Village Liaison; Dacotah Prairie Museum Board Liaison; Edwards Preserve Nature Area; Fair Board Liaison; SD Association of County Commissioners (SDACC) Catastrophic Legal Board; SD Public Assurance Alliance and Alternate for the 4-H Leader's Association/Promotion & Expansion. Commissioner Wiese: Aberdeen Development Corporation; Glacial Lakes; Local Emergency Performance Committee (LEPC); Range Fire Suppression; Union Negotiations; Welfare Liaison and Alternate for the Aberdeen/Brown County Regional Railroad Authority. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**EXPENSE POLICY – BROWN COUNTY BOARDS:** Moved by Commissioner Dennert seconded by Wiese approve the following expense policy for County Boards: Dacotah Prairie Museum and Fair Board – No Per Diem; Planning and Zoning Board - \$75.00 for each meeting attended and if reside outside City Limits of Aberdeen, paid mileage at .725 cents per mile and have expenses paid for by Brown County Planning and Zoning Department if attend the State Conference; Weed & Pest Board - \$50.00 for each meeting attended and if reside outside City Limits of Aberdeen, paid mileage at .725 cents per mile. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**ADA COORDINATORS:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve Judy Dosch, Building Superintendent and Randy Zens, Assistant Building Superintendent as the ADA Coordinators. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**BANK DEPOSITORIES/INVESTMENT POLICY:** Commissioner Wiese brought the following resolution:  
**RESOLUTION #2026-01**  
WHEREAS, the nature of tax collections and other revenue is such that cash on deposit in the County's depositories at times exceeds the requirement for current expenditures; and  
WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the County to invest these monies not required for immediate expenditure.  
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Brown County Treasurer is hereby directed to invest Brown County public funds at the highest rate of interest possible at said time on available

monies at financial institutions [Dacotah Bank; Dacotah Bank, East Branch; Dacotah Bank, Groton Branch; First National Bank of Frederick; First Savings of Beresford, Hecla Branch; Bank North Warner, Warner Branch; Bank North Warner, Aberdeen Branch; Plains Commerce Bank; US Bank; Great Plains and Cort Trust (Swanson)] as designated by the Brown County Commission, and  
FURTHER, to furnish quarterly reports detailing same, as authorized by SDCL 4-5-8.  
Dated at Aberdeen, South Dakota, this 6th day of January, 2026.  
Seconded by Commissioner Gage.  
Roll call vote: Commissioners Dennert-aye; Dinger-aye; Gage-aye; Sutton-aye; Wiese-aye. Resolution adopted.

**OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to designate Aberdeen Insider (McQuillen Creative Group) and Groton Independent as the official Brown County newspapers for 2025 (SDCL 7-18-3). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**TAX DEED NOTICES:** Commissioner Wiese brought the following resolution:  
**RESOLUTION #2026-02**  
WHEREAS, Brown County has acquired tax certificates on property with delinquent real estate taxes for which tax deeds and notices can be served.  
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Brown County Commission authorizes the County Treasurer, Patty VanMeter to request States Attorney, Karly Winter, and States Attorney Office personnel to act as agents to process said tax deeds and notices.  
Dated at Aberdeen, South Dakota, this 6th day of January, 2026.  
Seconded by Commissioner Gage.  
Roll call vote: Commissioners Dennert-aye; Dinger-aye; Gage-aye; Sutton-aye; Wiese-aye. Resolution adopted.

**VOLUNTEERS FOR WORK COMP PURPOSES:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the following CERT TEAM VOLUNTEERS FOR 2026: Erin Bacon, Clayton Blachfod, Bethany Curtis, Scott Grebner, Joshua Halsey, Janet Herman, Tina Hubert, Weylin Hubert, Michele Johnson, Jason Kuntz, Brian LaCroix, Alexandra Little, Jared Little, Douglas Mayer, David McGuire, Cathy McNickle, Wendy Mehlhaff, Carla Meints, Trevor Meints, David Meyer, Maria Meyer, Mark Musel, Roberta Nichols, Gayle Opp, Cindy Pigors, Rick Pigors, Nancy Radke, Bryan L Rau, Trenia Rexinger, Mark Shishnia, Shane Schlichenmayer, Kim Schneider, Donna Sharp, Brian Sharp, Gretchan Sharp, Dale Smid, Pam Smid, Amanda L Steckelberg, Mike L Steckelberg, Sara Street, Lowell Swanson, Sara Swisher, Mike Ullrich, Jason Villhauer, Thomas Wanttie and Scott York. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following CHAPLAIN VOLUNTEERS: Kendall Aldinger and George Shaver. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to approve the following CITIZENS CORP COUNCIL VOLUNTEERS for the following terms: Terms Expire: December 31, 2026 - Law Enforcement Representative: Dave Lunzman; American Red Cross Representative: Heather Allemand; Emergency Management Representative: Scott Meints; At Large Representative: Josh Halsey. Terms Expire: December 31, 2027 - Salvation Army Representative: Tony Jones; At Large Representatives: Becky Berreth, Brian Sharp and Thomas Wanttie. Terms Expire: All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to approve the following DIVE TEAM VOLUNTEERS: Trent Anderson; Casey Bade; Rodney Bade; Thomas Bentz; Clayton Blachford; Cody Bonn; Michael Dunbar; Mike Kost; Dave McGuire; Brenden Miller; Brett Toenies; and Jason Villhauer. Team Leaders: Scott Meints & Dave Lunzman. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following FAIR BOARD VOLUNTEERS: Conald Burgard, Payton Carda, Aaron Dosch, Dylan Frey, Joel Green, Dwight Guthmiller, Nichole

Hacker, Kevin Heinrich, Nicole Hansen, Samantha Hockenbrock, Jeff Kippley, Trevor Meints, Katie Moulsoff, Breddie Mueller, Terry Nash, Eric Pigors, Nancy Radke, Rhonda Retzlaff, Alemita Shelton, Dan Stevens, Jeff Swingle, and Joyce Voeller. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to approve the following appointments to the Communications Council: County Commission Chairman: Duane Sutton and Vice-Chairman: Mike Gage, per agreement. Overseer of Communications Center: Dave Lunzman; Director: Kent Jones and Assistant Director: Sarah Jesz. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve the following Dacotah Prairie Museum Board: Ginny Lewis, Past President-Term Expires December 27, 2027; Alan Neville, President-Term Expires December 31, 2028; Jennifer Dix, Vice-President-Term Expires December 31, 2026; Sadie Frey, Member-At-Large-Term Expires December 31, 2029; Elisa Sand, Member-At-Large-Term Expires December 31, 2029; Amy Bertsch, Member-At-Large-Term Expires December 31, 2030; Rose Kraft, Member-At-Large-Term Expires December 31, 2026. Commissioner Representative is Duane Sutton. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Gage to approve the 2026 Planning and Zoning Board which consists of Stan Beckler, David North, Dale Kurth, James Meyers, Carrie Weisenburger and Paul Johnson; Alternate is Joel Wiedebush. Commissioner Representative is Mike Gage. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the 2026 Weed & Pest Board which consists of Dennis Feickert, Landen Ellingson, Troy Knecht and Tyler Bierman. Commissioner Representative is Drew Dennert. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the 2026 4-H Promotion and Expansion Committee as follows: 4-H Adults: Kristin Johnson, Nathan Miller, and Sadie Frey; 4-H Youth: Tate Dosch, Norman Johnson, and Jada Volk; Non-4-H Adults: Becky Erickson, Mikayla Weisser and Lindsey VanderWal; Ag Representative: Connie Groop. Commissioner Representative is Mike Gage and Commission Sutton is the Alternate. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**BLESSING:** Pastor Mike Waldrop with Aldersgate Gate Church did a blessing for the Commission.

**RANGE FIRE SUPPRESSION ASSISTANCE:** Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Gage to approve the Range Fire Suppression Assistance members for 2026 be Scott Meints, Emergency Management Director and Patti Woods, Emergency Management Assistant. Commissioner Representative is Mike Wiese. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**SAFETY COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES:** Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following members of the Safety Committee: Highway Superintendent, Dirk Rogers; Sheriff or Designated Representative, Dave Lunzman; Maintenance Superintendent, Judy Dosch; Landfill Manager, Mike Scott; Fairgrounds Manager, Rachel Kippley; Emergency Manager, Scott Meints and Record Keeper, Patti Woods. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**SD PUBLIC ASSURANCE ALLIANCE REPRESENTATIVES:** Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to approve the SD Public Assurance Alliance Member Representative as Chairman Sutton and Alternate/County Auditor, Lynn Heupel. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**HOMELAND SECURITY REGIONAL REVIEW BOARD:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to appoint Scott Meints, Director of Emergency Management and Dave Lunzman, Sheriff to represent Brown County for the Homeland Security Regional Review Board. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**HOUSING & REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION OF BROWN COUNTY:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to

approve the following members of the Housing & Redevelopment Commission: Karl Albers, Chairman & Treasurer-Term Expires December 31, 2029; Kathy Zerr, Secretary-Term Expires December 31, 2030; Jeff Mitchell, Commissioner-Term Expires December 31, 2026; Clark Thares, Commissioner-Term Expires December 31, 2027 and Jaime Gab – Term Expires December 31, 2028, was appointed to complete Marty Sabolo terms who resigned on December 31, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY COMMISSION:** Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to appoint Commissioner Kyler Dinger as Brown County Representative and Commissioner Mike Wiese as the Alternate. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**DEPT. OF EQUALIZATION (DOE) FEES:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the following fees for DOE: Copies: Rate is 25 cents per page. Receipts will be issued for each set of copies. Property owners may receive complimentary copies if they are or about their own parcel. Proceeds will be deposited with the County Treasurer into the general fund.

Transfer of Mass information to a private outside entity: \$500 w/ taxes included. Information Technology downloads pertinent information from BC Connect or DEVNET to a flash drive, which is mailed to the requesting entity or uploaded to their site upon receipt of payment. Payment is deposited with the County Treasurer into the general fund. We typically get two of these requests annually but have had as many as four requests in a year. This will also include smaller data dumps that are sorted for the recipient.

Beacon Subscriptions: See below Web access agreement. We currently have 76 active paying Beacon accounts, accounting for \$19,105.28 received annually. This money is deposited with the County Treasurer into the general fund.

Tax estimates for real estate transfer closings: These are tax estimates we perform for our local title companies and realtors so they can calculate appropriate tax credits between buyers and sellers upon real estate transfers. If we receive a request to do a tax estimate, we will have it ready by five (5) days after we receive the request. These will be charged a total of \$25.00 (including sales tax) to perform the request. If the request is needed with less than 5 days' notice, the charge will be a total of \$40.00 (including sales tax). These fees will need to be paid at the time the estimates are returned to the customer, as we are not allowed to maintain accounts receivable status.

**Website Access Agreement:** The Brown County website provides real estate information from the convenience of a personal computer 24-hours a day, 7-days a week. Access is allowed by a username and password. There is a fee for access, which covers the expense to provide this service. Fees are based on the number of users and must be paid in advance. Fee Schedule/Annual Fee: (Based on number of users): 1-5 people/\$319.50; 6-10 people/\$511.20; 11 + people/\$766.80. Temporary User: 1 Month/\$106.50. \$26.63 Setup Fee. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**FAIRGROUNDS RENTAL RATES:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to establish the following Fairgrounds rental rates:

**WINTER STORAGE SPACE RENTAL:** October 15 to April 1st - Prepaid Lease -No Refunds - Indoor storage is \$12.00 per linear foot for each unit, including trailer hitch and any overhang. All lengths will be rounded up to the next foot. Outdoor storage is a flat \$200 per item fee.

**BARN RENTAL:** Beef Barn \$300, Hog and Sheep Barn \$150, Open Class Sheep Barn \$100, West Sheep Barn \$100, Small Animal Barn \$100. Half price for days after 2.

**CLUB HOUSE:** 120' X 80' Per day \$400.00 and \$200 per day for days over two.

Wedding Rate is \$500 for 3 days (Friday 8 AM until Monday 8 AM) - \$50 each additional day needed for set-up or teardown. Clean-up additional \$100.00 if necessary.

**EXPO ADDITION:** 90' x 240' - Per day \$300.00 - Per day for days over two \$150.00 If fairgrounds personnel need to clean up after the activity cost will be as follows: Clean-up/Livestock Shows \$300.00 - Clean-up/Other

Activities.....\$175.00

**HOLUM EXPO BUILDING:** 120' x 240' - Per day \$500.00 plus utilities - Per day for days over two \$250.00 plus utilities. If fairgrounds personnel need to clean-up after the activity cost will be as follows: Clean-up/Livestock Shows \$300.00 - Clean-up/Other Activities..... \$175.00

**HORSE STALLS:** Set up fee per stall - \$12.00; Overnight per stall - \$20.00.

**CORRAL PANELS:** Trailer per day -\$50.00 (Trailer holds 40 panels). Lessee liable for any damages occurring between pickup and return by lessee, plus \$1.00 per mile round trip transportation cost.

**HORSE ARENA:** 174' x 240' - \$75.00 per show. Smaller groups will be charged on an individual basis.

**PORTABLE STAGE:** 12' X 30' each or 12' X 60' for both - Not to go out of County-except for Governmental Agencies -Per event \$200.00/each. Lessee liable for any damages occurring between pickup and return by lessee, plus \$1.00 per mile round trip transportation cost.

**PEOPLE MOVERS:** - \$100.00 per event. Lessee liable for any damages occurring between pickup and return by lessee, plus \$1.00 per mile round trip transportation cost.

**BLEACHERS:** - Bleachers won't leave the fairgrounds. \$25 per set per event.

**BENCHES, CHAIRS, TABLES, PICNIC TABLES, TRASH BARREL:** \$3.00 per bench per event. \$2.00 per chair per event. \$10 per table per event. \$25.00 per picnic table per event, \$3.00 per trash barrel per event. Items will not go out of county. Lessee is liable for any damages occurring between pickup and return by lessee.

**JERSEY BARRIERS:** \$25.00 per barrier per event. Barriers will not go out of county. Lessee liable for any damages occurring between pickup and return by lessee, plus \$1.00 per mile round trip transportation cost.

**CAMPGROUND:** (Non-Special Event): \$30.00 per day, \$180.00 per week, \$700 per month (up to 30 days) for pads with power, water and sewer drops. \$25.00 per day, \$150.00 per week, \$600 per month (up to 30 days) for pads with power and water. \$20.00 per day; \$120.00 per week; \$480.00 per month (up to 30 days) for primitive spots (no power, water or sewer). This includes sales tax. 232 pads with water and power and 36 with power, water, and sewer. All south campgrounds have both 50-amp and 30-amp plug-ins.

**SPECIAL EVENT WEEKLY CAMPGROUND RATES:** \$100 Primitive; \$200 Clover, Centennial, Go-Kart, Cottonwood, NEC, Back 40; and \$250 Evergreen, West Hill (availability based on event).

**NON-PROFIT RENTAL POLICY:** Rental of Brown County facilities or items: Any nonprofit entity interested in leasing an available facility from Brown County may at the time of completing the lease application request a reduced rate on the lease. The rate after adjustment will be fifty percent of the current rental rate. Each request for reduction must be indicated when filling out the application to be considered. Every request will be reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis by the Brown County Commission.

A non-monetary form of reimbursement may be negotiated, such as volunteering for various responsibilities during the annual Brown County Fair. The Brown County Fair and Fairgrounds Manager can provide a list of tasks needed to be filled. The Lessee will sign a commitment form if agreeing to complete the task, and if not fulfilled, will be billed the amount that would have been charged at the time of leasing the facility or items. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**RICHMOND YOUTH CAMP RENTAL RATES:** Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to establish the following Richmond Youth Camp rental rates:

Daily Rates:  
• Lodge Only: \$250 per day  
• Dorm Only: \$100 per dorm (3 dormitories available and each one sleeps 36)  
• Infirmary Cabin: \$75 per day (Sleeps 8)  
• Wedding Special: 3-day rental (Friday-Sunday, includes Lodge & Infirmary) \$500.00  
2-day rental (Friday-Saturday, includes Lodge & Infirmary) \$400.00

Group Rates:  
\*Apply to camps or events with 2-night minimum  
\* Group Rates (30 people or

Continues on next page

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less) include a multi-building discount:

- Lodge only \$250/night – Infirmary Cabin \$50 with Lodge Rental

- Lodge & 1 Dorm \$325/night
- Lodge & 2 Dorms \$400/night
- Lodge & 3 Dorms \$475/night

If over 30 people, additional individual rates apply beginning at 31st person:

Youth: \$7.00 per person per night (Age 17 and under)

Adult: \$10.00 per person per night (Ages 18 and older)

Deposit: A \$250.00 deposit is required to guarantee all dates. This deposit will only be refunded (or applied to total bill) if the camp is left in a clean and orderly manner and there is no damage. If the cost to clean and repair damage exceed the amount of the deposit, any additional repairs or cleaning costs will be billed. Signed lease, deposit, and proof of insurance shall be sent to: Brown County Fair Office, 400 24th Ave. NW, Aberdeen, SD 57401

Cleanup: \$100.00 for the Lodge and \$100 for each of the dorms.

Absolutely No Pets allowed in any of the buildings!

For further information on Richmond Lake Youth Camp, please visit our web site: <http://www.brown.sd.us/department/fairgrounds-parks/richmond-lake-youth-camp>

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**POOR RELIEF RATES:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to increase the amount for Rental & Utility Assistance effective for 2026: Family Size/Assistance Amount: 1 person/\$300.00; 2 people/\$350.00; 3 people/\$400.00; 4 people or more/\$450.00 is Maximum County will pay. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**BROWN COUNTY PLANNING & ZONING APPLICATION FEES:** Commissioner Gage offered the following:

Resolution #2026-08

WHEREAS, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, the Board of Brown County Commissioners may alter or amend the schedule of fees, charges, expenses and a collection procedure for building permits, zoning permits, certificates of zoning compliance, appeals and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the Application Fee Schedule established by Resolution #06-24, be amended; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that application fees will be as shown in:

**PLANNING & ZONING**  
"TABLE 2026 - APPLICATION FEE SCHEDULE"

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by authority of Chapter 4.26 Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, the following TABLE 2026 APPLICATION FEE SCHEDULE in the Planning/Zoning Department is hereby approved and adopted to be effective January 06, 2026 as shown on:

**PLANNING & ZONING**  
"TABLE 2026 - APPLICATION FEE SCHEDULE"

- \* APPEAL ZONING ORDINANCE - ADMINISTRATOR DECISION - \$300 (to the Zoning BOA)

- \* APPEAL ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT DECISION - \$300 (to Circuit Court – paperwork prep)

- \* APPEAL BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DECISION - \$300 (to Circuit Court – paperwork prep)

- \* REZONE PARCEL APPLICATION - \$350 (P&Z Comm & County Comm)

- \* PRELIMINARY REVIEW PLAT APPLICATION - \$25 (P&Z Comm & County Comm)

- \* VACATION OF AN EXISTING PLAT APPLICATION - \$100 (P&Z Comm & County Comm)

- \* PRELIMINARY & FINAL PLAT APPLICATION (combined) - \$150 (P&Z Comm & County Comm)

- \* VARIANCE PETITION - GENERAL APPLICATION - \$125

- \* VARIANCE PETITION - STRUCTURE SETBACKS APPLICATION - \$125

- \* VARIANCE PETITION - SHELTERBELT SETBACKS APPLICATION - \$125

- \* VARIANCE PETITION - APPROACH SEPERATION DISTANCE APPLICATION - \$125

- \* CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATION (CAFO) - \$325

- \* CONDITIONAL USE PETITION (CUP) STANDARD APPLICATION - \$225

- \* CONDITIONAL USE PETITION (CUP) WIND ENERGY APPLICATION - \$500

- \* CONDITIONAL USE PETITION (CUP) DISTRICT OPTIONS APPLICATION - \$225

- \* CONDITIONAL USE PETITION (CUP) SOLAR ENERGY

FARM APPLICATION - \$500

- \* CONDITIONAL USE PETITION (CUP) CANNABUS REGULATIONS APPLICATION - \$500

- \* CONDITIONAL USE PETITION (CUP) NEW COMMUNICATION TOWERS APPLICATION - \$225

- \* CONDITIONAL USE PETITION (CUP) PIPELINE OR ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION LINE APP - \$500

- \* CONDITIONAL USE PETITION (CUP) NEW SIGN AND/OR SIGN STRUCTURE APPLICATION - \$225

Seconded by Commissioner Wiese.

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

**BROWN COUNTY PLANNING & ZONING PERMIT FEES:** Commissioner Wiese offered the following:

Resolution # 2026-09

WHEREAS, by authority of Chapter 4.26 Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, the Board of Brown County Commissioners may alter or amend the fee schedule, charges, expenses and collection procedure for Building, Zoning, or Construction Permits, and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the fee schedule established by Resolution #07-24, be amended; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that fees will be based upon the valuation of the project as shown in Table 2026 "Permit Fee Schedule", and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that a minimum fee be set; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that an Administrative Fee be applied when any construction has commenced prior to application, prior to approval, and/or prior to receiving a Permit;

WHEREAS, it has been determined that a Surcharge be applied when any construction has commenced prior to application, prior to approval, and/or prior to receiving a Permit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by authority of Chapter 4.26 Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, the following fee schedule for Building, Zoning, or Construction Permits is hereby approved and adopted to be effective January 06, 2026 as shown on TABLE 2026 PERMIT FEE SCHEDULE:

**PLANNING & ZONING**  
"TABLE 2026 PERMIT FEE SCHEDULE"

- \* Moving Permit - \$10

- \* Demolition Permit - \$10

- \* Sign: face replacement - \$20

- \* Sign: new construction set - \$100

- \* Fence Permit: (for inside community, not rural) - \$10

- \* Flood Plain Development Permit (FPDP) - \$20 / \$10 with other permits

- \* Zoning Permit - \$25.00 minimum fee for any construction from \$0 to \$10,000

- \* Zoning Permit - \$3.00 per \$1,000 of valuation of project construction after \$10,000

- \* Penalty - Administrative Fee: Failing to obtain a PERMIT prior to construction (\$50.00)

- \* Penalty - Surcharge: Construction commenced prior to an Approved Permit application. (Penalty fee is equal to 1/2% times the total project valuation; ex: 0.50% x \$500,000 = \$2,500)

Seconded by Commissioner Gage.

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

**BROWN COUNTY WEED & PEST CONTROL APPLICATION COSTS-2025:** Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Dennert to establish the following Weed & Pest Control Application rates for 2026:

Private Acreage Spraying:  
Labor & Equipment Charges: (1 hour minimum)

Labor Charge/Hour = \$35.00  
Equipment Charge/Hour = \$65.00

Total Charges/Hour = \$100.00/hour + \$50.00 setup and travel fee/spray rig + chemical

Government Agency Costs/Acre Sprayed:  
Labor & Equipment Charges: (1 hour minimum)

Labor Charge/Hour = \$35.00  
Equipment Charge/Hour = \$55.00

Total Charges/Hour = \$90.00/hour + \$50.00 setup and travel fee/spray rig

Township R-O-W Spraying:  
Labor & Equipment Charges: (1 hour minimum)

Labor Charge/Hour = \$35.00  
Equipment Charge/Hour = \$55.00

Total Charges/Hour = \$90.00/hour + \$50.00 setup and travel fee/spray rig

Townships are charged for hours on the job site. The Weed Board absorbs Labor & Equipment costs for travel time to and from the job site.

Labor Charge/Hour = \$35.00  
Equipment Charge/Hour =

\$45.00

Total Charges/Hour = \$80.00/hour

Mosquito Control:  
Labor & Equipment Charges: (1 hour minimum)

FOGGING:  
Labor Charge/Hour = \$40.00  
Equipment Charge/Hour = \$50.00

Total Charges/Hour = \$90.00/hour + chemical

MISTING:  
Labor Charge/Hour = \$40.00  
Equipment Charge/Hour = \$50.00

Total Charges/Hour = \$90.00/hour + \$30.00 setup and travel fee + chemical

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT RATES:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the following Travel Reimbursement Rates for 2026:

Reimbursement for use of personal vehicle for County business, as follows: All county employees and officials, except the Sheriff shall be paid for traveling expenses for each mile traveled in the discharge of their official duties at \$0.725 cents per mile. Miles to be determined by the assistance of Map Quest or similar web site; Odometer readings required for all destinations not available on web site; Odometer reading only required once to establish routine destination routes, i.e., per diem for board members. mileage rate of \$0.725/mile.

Meal Reimbursement Rates made only for County Travel:  
In-State Out-of-State Leave Before Return After

Breakfast \$16.00 \$20.00  
5:31 AM 7:59 AM

Lunch \$19.00 \$23.00  
11:31 AM 12:59 PM

Dinner \$28.00 \$32.00  
5:31PM 7:59PM

Lodging reimbursed at actual cost, receipt required. (if possible, State Rate, as County Tax-Exempt) All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**DESIGNATION OF DEPUTIES:** Commissioner Dennert brought the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION #2025-03  
WHEREAS, SDCL Chapter 7-7-20 mandates the designation of the number of deputies and clerks for various offices by the Board of County Commissioners,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following deputies and clerks are authorized at the discretion of the County Officials for County offices: Auditor - 2 Chief Deputies, 2 Senior Deputies; Treasurer - 1 Chief Deputy, 1 Revenue Specialist, 6 Deputies; Register of Deeds - 1 Chief Deputy, 3 Deputies. All extra help hired by County Officials must first be approved by the County Commission.

Dated at Aberdeen, South Dakota, this 6th day of January, 2026.

Seconded by Commissioner Wiese.

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

**INTEREST POLICY:** Commissioner Wiese brought the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION #2026-04  
WHEREAS, to approve the following Policy in regard to interest earned from deposits and investments: State law allows income from deposits and investments to be credited to either the General Fund or the fund making the investment.

WHEREAS, The County's policy is to credit all income from deposits and investments to the General Fund during the year, except for interest earned on specific certificates of deposits for the Solid Waste Fund.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, USGAAP requires income from deposits and investments to be reported in the fund whose assets generated that income. Where the governing board has discretion to credit investment income to a fund other than the fund that provided the resources for investment, a transfer to the designated fund is reported when authorized by the Commission. Fund transfers of investment earnings to the General Fund shall not occur in 2026, all funds shall receive the income generated from the assets of the fund.

Dated at Aberdeen, South Dakota, this 6th day of January, 2026.

Seconded by Commissioner Gage.

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

**EXPENSE POLICY - ELECTION OFFICIALS:** Commissioner Wiese offered the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION #2026-05  
WHEREAS, SDCL 12-15-11 states that each vote center superintendent and vote cen-

ter deputy shall receive a fee to be established annually by resolution of the board of county commissioners at its first regular meeting each year. The person delivering the poll books and ballot boxes to the proper authority at the county seat shall receive the county rate for mileage as established pursuant to SDCL 7-7-24, for miles necessarily traveled in going to and returning from making the delivery.

WHEREAS, SDCL 12-15-1.3 states that in addition to the vote center election board, the person in charge of the election may appoint a person to be designated as the vote center assistant. The vote center assistant may not perform any of the duties of the vote center superintendent or vote center deputies unless specified by statute. The vote center assistant may assist with setting up the polling place, directing voters to the proper election board, and providing instruction on the use of the electronic ballot marking system.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following rates will be paid to election workers:

Temporary Staff – Absentee \$16.00 per hour

Election Training(s) \$25.00 per person

Vote Center Superintendent – Day of Election \$325.00 per person

Vote Center Deputies – Day of Election \$300.00 per person

Absentee Board Members \$16.00 per hour

Post Election Audit Board \$18.00 per hour

State Rate will be paid for mileage Currently \$0.70 per mile Dated at Aberdeen, South Dakota, this 6th day of January, 2026.

Seconded by Commissioner Dennert.

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

**VOTE CENTER LOCATIONS:** Commissioner Dinger offered the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION #2026-06  
WHEREAS, as per SDCL 12-14-17, the Brown County Board of County Commissioners authorized the use of vote centers in lieu of precinct polling places; and

WHEREAS, as per SDCL 12-14-1, the Brown County Board of County Commissioners is required to establish the polling places for countywide elections; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Brown County Board of Commissioners that the Vote Center locations are as follows:

AmericInn Event Center (VC-1)

Best Western Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center (VC-2)

Brown County Courthouse Community Room (VC-3)

Columbia Legion (VC-4)

Westport Town Hall (VC-5)

Warner Community Center (VC-6)

Stratford Community Center (VC-7)

Groton Community Center (VC-8)

Claremont City Hall (VC-9)

Hecla Community Center (VC-10)

Frederick Community Center (VC-11)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor's Office will be used as an Absentee Vote Center (VC-12) to process Absentee Ballots on Election Day and all other aspects of Resolution #108-13 shall remain in effect.

Dated this 6th day of January 2026.

Seconded by Commissioner Wiese.

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

**CLAIM ASSIGNMENTS:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to authorize Auditor Heupel to sign the Claim Assignments from Collection Agencies. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**FAIR CONTRACTS:** Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to authorize Chairman to sign Fair Contracts for Booth Rent, Campers and Sponsorship Agreements for 2026 Fair as they are presented. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**VETERAN'S SERVICE OFFICER SALARY REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT FOR 2026:** Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the agreement with S.D. Department of Veteran's Affairs for reimbursement of salaries for County Veteran's Service Officer as prescribed under SDCL 33A-1-32. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGE-**

**MENT PERORMANCE GRANT:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the 1st quarter LEMPG Grant Report. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**2026 EDMUNDS COUNTY JAIL HOUSING CONTRACT:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the 2026 Edmunds County Jail Housing Contract for \$110.00 per prisoner-day housed by Edmunds County. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**REMITTANCE OF FEES COLLECTED TO THE COUNTY TREASURER POLICY:** Commissioner Dennert brought the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2026-07  
A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A POLICY FOR REMITTANCE OF FEES COLLECTED TO THE COUNTY TREASURER

WHEREAS, Brown County departments collect various funds due to the County in the course of the administration of government.

WHEREAS, SDCL 7-11-1 designates the County Treasurer as the receiver of "all money belonging to the county from whatever source derived and other money which by law is directed to be paid to the treasurer."

WHEREAS, SDCL 7-23-6 requires "all treasurers, sheriffs, clerks, constables, and other officers chargeable with money belonging to any county" to "render their accounts to and ... pay into the county treasury any balance which may be due the county." See also SDCL 7-12-19.1; 7-9-17;

WHEREAS, the Counties desire to establish a policy for timely remittal to the treasurer of all funds received by departments of Brown County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the policy of Brown County shall be that all fees collected by any department of Brown County shall be remitted to the County Treasurer on or before the last day of the month in which such fees are collected.

Dated at Aberdeen, South Dakota, this 6th day of January, 2026.

Seconded by Commissioner Wiese.

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

**MENTAL HEALTH BOARD:** Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to approve the following people being appointed to the Brown County Mental Health Board. Co-Chairs: Judge McNeece, Christy Serr; Public Defender and Staff; State's Attorney and Staff, Sally Swanson, Sherrie Scherbenke, Elsa Dennert and Diane Zahn. The motion passed with 4 votes; Commissioner Dennert abstained due to being related to one of the Board Members.

**MINUTES:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the General Meeting Minutes of December 30, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS:** Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Dennert to approve the following Claims: Professional Fees: Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce \$925.00; Aberdeen Area Human Resource Assoc \$100.00; Aberdeen ED \$113.54; Association of South Dakota County Weed & Pest Boards \$200.00; CenturyLink-Lumen \$203.47; Christy Griffin-Serr Law Office \$4,950.00; Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$6,564.00; Den Herder Law Firm \$174.00; DEVNET \$3,789.84; D-Ware, Inc \$4,900.00; Faulkton Area Medical Center \$111.47; Helms & Associates \$4,129.22; IAFE (International Assoc of Fairs & Expositions) \$950.00; IMEG Corp \$875.00; John Noyes – Bantz, Gosch & Cremer \$504.00; Kristi Brandt \$206.45; Kylee Boomsma \$1,620.00; Modern Day Health Care Prof LLC \$345.01; National District Attorneys Association \$181.00; PulsePoint Foundation \$8,000.00; RegistrationMax, LLC \$750.00; Sanford Health \$517.12; Schneider Geospatial, LLC \$3,237.60; SD Assoc of County Officials \$3,278.47; SD Assoc of Weed & Pest Supervisors \$75.00; SD Dept of Transportation \$4,329.79; SD Sheriff's Association \$1,649.03; SD State's Attorneys Association \$2,336.82; SD Assoc of Assessing Officers \$450.00; SDACC \$9,942.00; State Bar of South Dakota \$2,865.00; Taliadroff Law Firm, PC \$2,016.00; Taylor Bell \$97.40; Western States Sheriff's Association \$100.00; Yankton County Sheriff's Office \$50.00. Publishing: Groton Daily

Independent \$362.29; McQuillen Creative Group, Inc \$13.01; Prevention Magazine \$300.00. Rentals: Dakota Electronics LLC \$4.50; Linde Gas & Equipment Inc \$246.41; Northern Electric \$1,200.00. Repairs & Maintenance: Butler Machinery Company \$2,662.86; Dakota Fluid Power, Inc \$195.26; Dakota Mailing & Shipping Equipment \$564.00; G & R Controls \$743.53; Gillund Enterprises \$15.00; Graham Tire Inc \$6,166.52; House of Glass \$14,151.59; Jake's Heating & Cooling \$172.50; K&S Plumbing, Inc \$6,706.06; Lawson Products, Inc \$44.07; Leidholt Electric, LLC \$2,446.74; Lien Transportation Company \$200.00; Olson's Pest Technicians \$260.00; Pomp's Tire Service, Inc \$100.00; Precision Kiosk Technologies \$3,000.00; RDO Equipment \$8,539.71; Safety Service \$235.00; Steel Structures of Aberdeen \$529.00; Transource \$10,562.35. Supplies: Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$644.02; Big State Industrial Supply Inc \$479.76; Cartney Bearing \$49.60; Century Business Products \$212.74; Cole Paper Inc \$2,396.36; Dakota Fluid Power, Inc \$101.57; Dakota Oil \$1,383.45; Fastenal Company \$208.17; Faulkton Drug \$205.86; Full Circle Ag \$1,166.44; Gellhaus & Gellhaus, P.C. \$80.00; Gillund Enterprises \$488.40; Graham Tire Inc \$1,009.05; Great Western Tire \$16,762.36; HF Jacobs & Son Const. Inc \$4,711.47; John Noyes – Bantz, Gosch, & Cremer \$5.12; Lawson Products, Inc \$492.55; Leidholdt Tool Sales, LLC \$560.86; Leidholt Electric, LLC \$196.78; LEM Inc \$9,962.90; Menards \$152.24; Pantorium Cleaners Inc \$92.00; Performance Oil \$986.75; Pierson Ford Lincoln, Inc \$86.54; Pitney Bowes Global Financial Services LLC \$25,000.00; Pomp's Tire Service, Inc \$767.00; Runnings \$85.32; Safety Service \$4,045.87; Sander's Sew-N-Vac \$221.94; Shop 4-H/National 4-H Council \$16.85; Stan Houston Equipment Company, Inc \$74.99; Steven Lust Automotive \$496.82; Transource \$2,912.54; US Foods \$11,054.41. Travel & Conference: Association of South Dakota County Weed & Pest Boards \$750.00; Drew Dennert \$492.80; Duane Sutton \$163.80; Erin Spencer \$14.00; Kyler Dinger \$165.90; National District Attorneys Association \$1,990.00; Neil Bittner \$14.00; Scott Kolb \$14.00. Utilities: AT&T Mobility \$142.69; CenturyLink \$345.87; Dependable Sanitation, Inc \$580.00; Montana-Dakota Utilities Co \$53.82; Northwestern Energy \$12,226.19; State of South Dakota PMB 0112 \$82.00. Other: NECOG \$27,749.62. Machinery & Equipment: Karl Chevrolat \$153,623.60. Worker's Compensation: SDML Workers' Compensation Fund \$216,017.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

- o Employment ending for Audrey Reineke, Brown County Museum Intern; effective December 31, 2025.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**TRAVEL REQUESTS:** Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Travel Requests: Lynn Heupel, Erin Kumpf and Sara Swisher – Auditor's Office to attend SD Dept. of Legislative Audit Training in Mitchell on January 28, 2026; Kelsi Vinger, State's Attorney's Office to attend 2026 National Conference on Juvenile Justice in Minneapolis, MN on March 15-18, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**LANDFILL TONNAGE REPORT:** Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to acknowledge the Landfill Tonnage Report for December 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:10 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published January 14, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$440.27 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublic-notices.com](http://www.sdpublic-notices.com). 26451

## Classifieds and Card of Thanks

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

1 Week: \$9 for first 30 words, 20¢/word thereafter  
2 Wks: \$17 for first 30 words, 38¢/word thereafter  
3 Wks: \$24 for first 30 words, 54¢/word thereafter  
4th consecutive week is free  
**605/397-NEWS (6397)**  
PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

### AUCTIONS

DOUBLE J FARMS 52ND Annual Simmental, SimAngus Bull & Bred Female Sale. LIVE: DVAuction.com Noon, Friday, Jan 23 @ Garretson, SD Kipp Julson 605-351-9088 doublejsimentals.com

### FOR SALE

FOR SALE: Boston Terrier puppies. Very cute. Health guaranteed. Ready to go Jan. 15th. \$500.00. First come/first serve. Hot Springs, SD. 715-937-0916

### NOTICES

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## "Accidents Happen, but Being Prepared Saves Lives"

Many of us have been there before—near the top of a ladder, stretching just a little farther to finish the job. Maybe we are cleaning a gutter, hanging Christmas lights, or rescuing a cat from a tree. There is always the temptation to climb one rung higher to reach that final spot.

According to CDC data from 2022, accidents are the third leading cause of death in the United States, behind heart disease and cancer. For those ages 1–44, accidents are the leading cause of death. These unintentional injuries include poisonings and overdoses, falls, and motor vehicle crashes.

The leading causes vary by age. Motor vehicle crashes have historically been the most common cause for teenagers and young adults, though firearms became the leading cause of death for children and teens ages 1–19 in 2020. Poisonings are a major cause of death in both very young children and middle-aged adults.

For adults over age 65, falls are the leading cause of fatal injury. A common and devastating scenario occurs when an older adult falls and breaks a hip, setting off a cascade of complications that can lead to hospitalization, loss of independence, nursing home placement, and even death.

So what can we do to reduce the risk of accidents? Some of the advice may sound like common sense—or like something a responsible parent would say—but it matters. To prevent motor vehicle crashes, avoid driving while impaired, overly tired, or distracted by your phone. Always wear a seatbelt. Drive defensively, obey traffic laws, and adjust your speed for weather and road conditions. If conditions are poor, the safest choice may be to stay home.

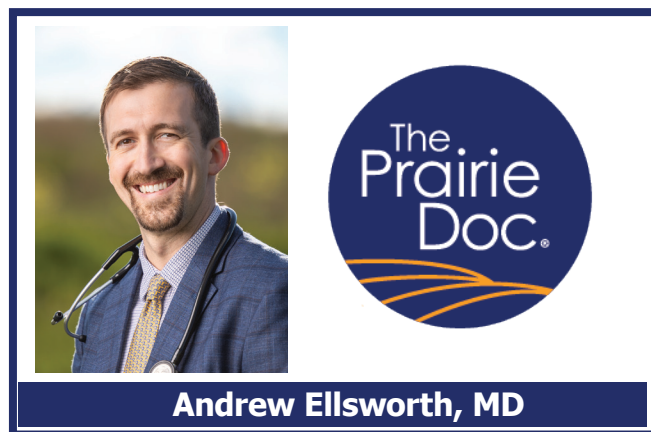
Firearms should be locked securely, stored separately from ammunition, and kept out of reach of children and individuals at risk of harming themselves. Education, proper training, and safety courses are essential.

To reduce poisonings, store medications, cleaning products, and chemicals in their original containers and out of sight and reach. Dispose of expired medications properly, and always read and follow labels carefully. Avoid illegal substances altogether.

Finally, falls can sometimes be prevented. Avoid ladders if you have balance issues, and never stand on the top steps. Make sure ladders are secure and have someone assist when possible. To prevent ground-level falls, especially in older adults, remove clutter, improve lighting, install grab bars and handrails, use non-slip mats, wear proper footwear, and address vision, hearing, and balance issues.

Accidents are not always random. Many are preventable with awareness, preparation, and a willingness to slow down. The lesson is simple: don't take the extra step on the ladder, but do take the extra step to prepare and protect yourself and others from injury

Dr. Andrew Ellsworth is a Family Medicine Physician at Avera Medical Group Brookings in Brookings, SD. He 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](http://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).



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## Krueger dominates field, wins title at Mid-Dakota Monster

LYMAN, S.D. — Groton Area's Liza Krueger continued her outstanding season Saturday, capturing the championship at 105 pounds at the 2026 Mid-Dakota Bride of the Monster girls wrestling tournament at Lyman High School.

Krueger, now 24-2 on the season, powered through the bracket to claim first place and scored 29 team points for the Tigers. She opened the tournament with a quick fall in championship round one, pinning Laine Petersen of Viborg-Hurley/Irene-Wakonda in just 35 seconds.

In the quarterfinals, Krueger delivered a dominant technical fall victory over Keira Thorp of Custer, ending the match at the 3:12 mark with an 18-0 score. She advanced to the finals with another fall, pinning Paesyn Wilson of Bennett County in 1:33 during the semifinals.

In the championship match, Krueger capped her day in decisive fashion, earning a technical fall over Morgan Little of Spearfish at 5:29, again winning 18-0 to secure the tournament title.

At 110 pounds, Groton Area's Gracelynn Decker competed in

a tough bracket but was unable to place. Decker dropped her opening championship-round match by fall to Aubrey Fischer of Pierre T.F. Riggs in 1:23. She then fell in the consolation round to Kara Kocmich of McCook Central/Montrose, who recorded a pin at 2:03.

Groton Area continues to see strong individual performances as the Tigers move deeper into the heart of the wrestling season, highlighted by Krueger's championship run in Lyman.

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