



\$2

# The Groton Independent

Vol. 143 No. 20 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2026 ♦ Established in 1889



## Two selected for MS All-State Band

Liam Johnson and Ayce Warrington were selected into the 2026 SDMEA Middle School All-State Band. Ayce earned second chair Euphonium in the 2026 Festival Band and Liam earned first chair Alto Saxophone in the 2026 Honor Band. Liam will be recognized at the concert for being selected into the Middle School All-State Band for all three years of eligibility.

Ayce and Liam will rehearse with their bands on Friday, March 6 and Saturday, March 7 at the Mitchell Performing Arts Center with the final concert held at 2:30 PM on Saturday, March 7, 2026.

Johnson is the son of Reid and Nicole Johnson and Warrington is the son of Amy and Neil Warrington.



## Warrington selected for SDSU Honor Band

Novalea Warrington was selected to participate in the South Dakota State University Honor Band. The band includes participants from throughout the region including South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa, and North Dakota and will be held on the campus of South Dakota State University in Brookings on February 27 and 28, 2026. She is the daughter of Amy and Neil Warrington, Groton.



From left to right: Shane Phillips, General Manager; Lori Goldade, Board Secretary; Les Hinds, Board Treasurer; R. Craig Oberle, Board Chair; Allen Walth, Board Vice-Chair; Clayton Larson, Water Treatment Plant Manager; Tim Van Hatten, Board Director; Jeff Stoecker, Board Director; Bob Whitmyre, Board Director; Eric Hansen, Construction Manager; Eric Hagen, Construction Laborer Lead; Jonathan Keller Jr, Water Treatment Plant Operator (Courtesy Photo)

## WEB Water Wins State's Best Tasting Drinking Water Award; Supplies Groton and Region

PIERRE, S.D. — WEB Water Development Association, the rural water system that supplies drinking water to Groton and numerous communities across northeastern South Dakota, has been named the winner of the Best Tasting Drinking Water in South Dakota contest.

The award was presented during the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Annual Technical Conference on January 14 in Pierre. WEB Water's entry was selected as the top sample among 17 submissions from rural and municipal water systems statewide. Samples were judged on clarity, bouquet, and taste.

Judges included South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley, South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Secretary Hunter Roberts, and Michael Sims, Source Water Protection Specialist for the California Rural Water Association.

As the state champion, WEB Water will represent South Dakota at the National Rural Water Association's Great American Water Taste Test in Washington, D.C., in February 2027.

Headquartered in Aberdeen, WEB Water Development Association provides treated drinking water to Groton and many surrounding towns, rural users, and regional systems. The association has previously earned the state's Best Tasting Drinking Water honor in 2012 and 2024, underscoring its continued commitment to delivering high-quality water to its customers.

The SDARWS Annual Technical Conference is the largest rural water gathering in South Dakota, bringing together more than 650 water operators, managers, and exhibitors for three days of training and technical sessions.

## Rod Kappes Receives Russ Phillips Memorial Award from SDARWS



PIERRE, S.D. (Jan. 13, 2026) — The South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) has presented the Russ Phillips Memorial Award to Rod Kappes of BDM Rural Water System during the SDARWS Annual Technical Conference on January 13, 2026, at the Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center in Pierre, South Dakota.

The Russ Phillips Memorial Award honors the legacy of Russ Phillips, whose 24 years of service with the Tripp County Water Users District reflected deep expertise, dedication, and a lasting commitment to water stewardship. The award recognizes an individual whose career demonstrates exceptional leadership, professionalism, and unwavering service to rural water.

Kappes was recognized for a remarkable career with BDM Rural Water System and for demonstrating the type of steady leadership and commitment that defines the spirit of this award.

The SDARWS Annual Technical Conference is the largest rural water conference in South Dakota, hosting more than 650 water operators, managers, and exhibitors over three days in Pierre.

**NORTHEAST CONFERENCE BASKETBALL STANDINGS**

Check out the latest on Page 3

## Groton Area January Students of the Month



These students have been selected as the January Students of the Month. In back, left to right, are, seventh grader Amara El Salahy, junior Halee Harder, senior Talli Wright and freshman Abby Fjeldheim; in front, left to right, are sixth grader Devan Locke, eighth grader Gavin Younger and sophomore Ethan Kroll. (Courtesy Photo)

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

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

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



### Pool Table Recovered

Travis Niles and Cory Breske were busy putting a new cover the pool table at the Groton American Legion on Thursday. Niles has been doing this type of work for 30 years and Breske has been for about 10 years. They work for Rite-Way Vending out of Waubay. A typical pool table recover is about an hour and a half, depending on if there are other things that need attention, like the pockets.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

### Fact brief: Does Southeast SD generate the most tourism dollars? Yes

The Southeast region of South Dakota has generated more in tourism revenue for the state than the Black Hills and Badlands for three consecutive years.

Data from the Department of Tourism shows that the Southeast region generated \$2 billion in revenue compared to \$1.9 billion for Black Hills and Badlands in 2024. Margins were similar in 2022 and 2023.

The state divides the state into four regions: Black Hills and Badlands (the western-most part of the state), Missouri River (counties that border the river on its north-south route), Glacial Lakes and Prairies (northeast) and Southeast (Sioux Falls, Yankton and Mitchell areas).

The Glacial Lakes and Prairies Region was third in visitor spending in 2024 and Missouri River fourth. Region data hasn't been released for 2025.

While western South Dakota tourism focuses on outdoors and traditional tourism sites, Southeast is driven by weekend excursions, retail, events, shows and restaurant visits.

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**NEC Boys  
Basketball Standings**

	(C)	(S)
Clark/Willow Lake	4-0	12-1
Groton Area	6-1	9-3
Britton-Hecla	4-1	9-3
Sisseton	2-1	7-3
Hamlin	2-1	9-1
Webster Area	4-3	5-6
Roncalli	2-3	3-6
Milbank	1-3	7-4
Deuel	0-2	3-7
Redfield	0-5	1-9
Tiospa Zina	0-5	3-8

**Roncalli (2-3)**

Roncalli 75, Redfield 48  
Webster Area 55, Roncalli 52  
Sisseton 65, Roncalli 60  
Roncalli 71, Tiospa Zina 37  
Clark/WL 64, Roncalli 28

**Britton-Hecla (4-1)**

Britton-Hecla 56, Tiospa Zina 25  
Webster 58, Britton-Hecla 47  
Britton-Hecla 51, Deuel 34  
Britton-Hecla 53, Milbank 51  
Britton-Hecla 62, Redfield 36

**Groton Area (6-1)**

Groton Area 55, Hamlin 50  
Groton Area 66, Sisseton 33  
Groton Area 81, Redfield 32  
Groton Area 63, Webster 43  
Clark/WL 56, Groton Area 39  
Groton Area 83, Tiospa Zina 9  
Groton Area 57, Milbank 36

**Milbank (1-3)**

Clark/WL 61, Milbank 38  
Britton-Hecla 53, Milbank 51  
Milbank 65, Redfield 42  
Groton Area 57, Milbank 36

**Redfield (0-5)**

Roncalli 75, Redfield 48  
Groton Area 81, Redfield 32  
Britton-Hecla 62, Redfield 36  
Milbank 65, Redfield 42  
Sisseton 64, Redfield 41

**Sisseton (2-1)**

Groton Area 66, Sisseton 33  
Sisseton 65, Roncalli 60  
Sisseton 64, Redfield 41

**Webster Area (4-3)**

Webster 58, Britton-Hecla 47  
Groton 63, Webster 43  
Webster Area 55, Roncalli 52  
Webster Area 71, Tiospa Zina 29  
Webster Area 52, Deuel 44  
Clark/WL 68, Webster Area 36  
Hamlin 68, Webster Area 30

**Clark/Willow Lake (4-0)**

Clark/WL 61, Milbank 38  
Clark/Willow Lake 56, Groton 39  
Clark/WL 68, Webster 36  
Clark/WL 64, Roncalli 28

**Deuel (0-2)**

Britton-Hecla 51, Deuel 34  
Webster Area 52, Deuel 44

**Hamlin (2-1)**

Groton Area 55, Hamlin 50  
Hamlin 80, Tiospa Zina 22  
Hamlin 68, Webster Area 30

**Tiospa Zina (0-5)**

Britton-Hecla 56, Tiospa Zina 25  
Webster Area 71, Tiospa Zina 29  
Hamlin 80, Tiospa Zina 22  
Groton Area 82, Tiospa Zina 9  
Roncalli 71, Tiospa Zina 37

**Jan. 29**

Britton-Hecla at Roncalli  
Milbank at Deuel  
Hamlin at Sisseton

**Jan. 30**

Clark/Willow Lake at Redfield

**Feb. 3**

Roncalli at Groton Area  
Sisseton at Britton-Hecla  
Milbank at Hamlin  
Deuel at Tiospa Zina

**Feb. 5**

Groton Area at Deuel  
Webster at Redfield

**Feb. 6**

Milbank at Roncalli  
Clark/Willow Lake at Sisseton

**Feb. 10**

Roncalli at Hamlin  
Britton-Hecla at Clark/WL  
Milbank at Sisseton

**Feb. 12**

Deuel at Hamlin

**Feb. 13**

Deuel at Redfield  
Sisseton at Tiospa Zina

**Feb. 16**

Clark/Willow Lake at Deuel

**Feb. 17**

Britton-Hecla at Hamlin  
Deuel at Sisseton  
Clark/WL at Tiospa Zina

**Feb. 19**

Roncalli at Deuel  
Webster at Milbank  
Hamlin at Clark/Willow Lake

**Feb. 20**

Britton-Hecla at Groton Area  
Redfield at Tiospa Zina

**Feb. 23**

Hamlin at Redfield

**Feb. 27**

Tiospa Zina at Milbank

Sisseton at Webster tbd

**NEC Girls Basketball  
Standings**

	(C)	(S)
Clark/Willow Lake	4-0	10-1
Hamlin	3-0	10-1
Roncalli	5-1	10-2
Deuel	1-1	3-7
Milbank	3-2	8-2
Groton Area	4-3	8-5
Webster	3-3	3-8
Sisseton	1-2	4-6
Britton-Hecla	1-4	4-8
Tiospa Zina	1-5	4-7
Redfield	0-5	3-8

**Roncalli (4-1)**

Roncalli 57, Redfield 24  
Roncalli 50, Webster Area 36  
Roncalli 37, Sisseton 28  
Roncalli 71, Tiospa Zina 21  
Clark/WL 50, Roncalli 38  
Roncalli 43, Groton 31

**Britton-Hecla (1-4)**

Tiospa Zina 48, Britton-Hecla 44  
Webster 62, Britton-Hecla 39  
Deuel 38, Britton-Hecla 33  
Milbank 58, Britton-Hecla 12  
Britton-Hecla 29, Redfield 28

**Groton Area (4-2)**

Hamlin 46, Groton Area 21  
Groton Area 40, Sisseton 36  
Groton Area 42, Redfield 20

Clark/WL 38, Groton Area 34  
Groton Area 71, Tiospa Zina 3  
Groton Area 54, Milbank 45  
Roncalli 43, Groton 31

**Milbank (3-2)**

Clark/WL 61, Milbank 42  
Milbank 58, Britton-Hecla 12  
Milbank 72, Tiospa Zina 23  
Milbank 55, Redfield 29  
Groton Area 54, Milbank 34

**Sisseton (1-2)**

Groton Area 40, Sisseton 36  
Roncalli 37, Sisseton 28  
Sisseton 50, Redfield 48

**Redfield (0-5)**

Roncalli 57, Redfield 24  
Groton Area 42, Redfield 20  
Britton-Hecla 29, Redfield 28  
Milbank 55, Redfield 29  
Sisseton 50, Redfield 48

**Webster (3-3)**

Webster 62, Britton-Hecla 39  
Roncalli 50, Webster 36  
Webster 64, Tiospa Zina 24  
Webster 52, Deuel 29  
Clark/WL 58, Webster 34  
Hamlin 54, Webster 21

**Clark/Willow Lake (4-0)**

Clark/WL 61, Milbank 42  
Clark/WL 38, Groton 34  
Clark/WL 59, Webster 34  
Clark/WL 50, Roncalli 38

**Deuel (1-1)**

Deuel 38, Britton-Hecla 33  
Webster 52, Deuel 29

**Hamlin (3-0)**

Hamlin 46, Groton 21  
Hamlin 83, Tiospa Zina 11  
Hamlin 54, Webster 21

**Tiospa Zina (1-5)**

Tiospa Zina 48,  
Britton-Hecla 44  
Webster 64, Tiospa  
Zina 24  
Hamlin 83, Tiospa  
Zina 11  
Milbank 72, Tiospa  
Zina 23  
Groton 71, Tiospa  
Zina 3  
Roncalli 71, Tiospa  
Zina 21

**Jan. 29**

Groton Area at  
Webster Area  
Milbank at Deuel  
Redfield at Clark/  
Willow Lake  
Hamlin at Sisseton

**Jan. 30**

Roncalli at Britton-  
Hecla

**Feb. 3**

Sisseton at Britton-  
Hecla  
Milbank at Hamlin  
Deuel at Tiospa  
Zina

**Feb. 5**

Roncalli at Milbank  
Groton Area at  
Deuel  
Webster Area at  
Redfield  
Sisseton at Clark/  
Willow Lake

**Feb. 10**

Roncalli at Hamlin  
Britton-Hecla at Clark/WL  
Milbank at Sisseton

**Feb. 12**

Tiospa Zina at Sisseton  
Deuel at Hamlin

**Feb. 13**

Deuel at Redfield

**Feb. 16**

Hamlin at Redfield  
Clark/WL at Deuel

**Feb. 17**

Britton-Hecla at Hamlin  
Deuel at Sisseton  
Clark/WL at Tiospa Zina

**Feb. 19**

Roncalli at Deuel  
Webster Area at Milbank  
Hamlin at Clark/WL

**Feb. 20**

Britton-Hecla at Groton Area  
Redfield at Tiospa Zina

Sisseton at Webster tbd


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Corn Rootworm Management Strategies – Bruce Potter, MN Extension Integrated Pest Mgmt. Specialist

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Lunch provided. CCA credits will be available.



The Conference Championship games are considered by many to be the two best games of the season, and the two games we witnessed Sunday were certainly a testament to that opinion.

The day started with the New England Patriots heading to Denver to take on the Broncos. The Broncos might have been playing their backup QB, but a raucous home crowd and a late-January snowstorm helped level the playing field. The game was a grind-it-out battle of wills, with the Patriots coming out on top 10-7, punching their ticket to Super Bowl LX.

After both teams went three-and-out to start the game, Broncos head coach Sean Payton dialed up a deep shot, and Jarrett Stidham hit Marvin Mims Jr. for a 52-yard completion. Two plays later, Stidham found Courtland Sutton in the endzone to take a 7-0 lead. In the second quarter, a Denver fumble gave the ball to New England at the 12-yard line, and two plays later, QB Drake Maye scampered for a touchdown to even the score.

Both teams missed field goals to end the half, keeping the score 7-7 heading into halftime.

New England had two solid drives in the third quarter, both of them ending in field goal attempts, and although one of them was missed, NE still took a 10-7 lead into the fourth quarter. At this point, the field was a sloppy mess, and neither team could do much on offense. With a little over two minutes left in the game, Stidham threw an interception, giving the ball back to the Patriots, and one first down later, the clock hit zeros and New England was on their way to yet another Super Bowl appearance.

The second game of the day featured the Los Angeles Rams traveling to Seattle to battle the Seahawks. This was the third time this season the two divisional foes faced off against each other. The first two games were split, with the Rams winning the first matchup by two points and the Seahawks winning the second matchup by one point. This game also came down to the wire.

Seattle came out hot, taking advantage of their home field crowd by forcing the Rams to punt after a three-and-out and then marching down the field to find the end zone to take a 7-0 lead. The two teams then went back-to-back-to-back field goals, resulting in a 10-6 Seattle lead early in the second quarter. After a Seattle punt, Los Angeles put together their best touchdown drive of the day, going 87 yards on 12 plays and taking over seven minutes off the clock. That gave the Rams a 13-10 lead with less than two minutes left in the half. LA then forced a Seattle three-and-out, and all the momentum seemed to be on the visitors' side. However, a short possession by the Rams gave

the ball back to Seattle with a minute left in the half, and six plays later, they found the end zone to reclaim the lead heading into halftime.

The second half was a masterclass of offense, with both teams lighting up the scoreboard. There were four consecutive touchdowns scored in the third quarter, and the Seahawks managed to take a four-point lead into the fourth quarter. At this point, both teams were trying to control the clock, knowing that the last team to have the ball would likely win. The Rams put together a great drive, going 84 yards on 14 plays and taking seven and a half minutes off the clock, but on fourth-and-four at the Seattle six-yard line, Matthew Stafford threw an incomplection. Seattle managed to keep the ball away from LA to preserve their 31-27 lead, and now the Seahawks will be soaring into the Super Bowl.

Seattle's win is bittersweet for Vikings fans. Sam Darnold led Minnesota to 14 wins last season before melting down to end the season with two ugly losses. The Vikings could have brought Darnold back, but they elected to give the keys to J.J. McCarthy. Now Darnold is heading to the Super Bowl, while the Vikings still have a giant question mark at the most important position in football. Hindsight is always 20/20, so even though the decision made sense at the time, it might go down as one of the worst decisions in franchise history.

## The Groton Independent

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Deadline to submit items: Noon Monday]

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## "For the health of it. Be Selfish: Invest in education. Your own and the kids down the street."

When we asked ChatGPT if it was a good idea to invest in education it responded with the wisdom and confidence of a sentient being who believes they are on the cusp of knowing everything. It told me the reason to invest in education and yourself is primarily financial, using examples like increased lifetime earnings, career stability, etc. And yes, although these things are true and GPT was not hallucinating, it missed the mark.

Education abroad programs through universities are one of the many vetted, safe, hands on, transformative experiences educational institutions provide to students and a great way for students to invest in their learning. This past May we co-led our fifth education abroad program with nearly 30 future healthcare professionals to Ghana. We spent 2 weeks in west Africa shadowing and learning, providing support as needed, developing empathy, and building communication, diagnostic, & clinical skills. This experience was transformational, for me as an educator, and for every student who is so fortunate to invest in themselves in this way.

Over the span of 2 weeks students spent half of each day shadowing in the KNUST Hospital in Kumasi, Ghana. We then engaged deeply in the community and culture each afternoon. Students visited a local elementary school, the largest market in west Africa, learned local history, and toured a slave trade castle where 30,000 slaves made their way through the door of no return each year. We were fortunate enough to participate in a safari with close-up experiences with monkeys, baboons, elephants and more. Finally, we spent a few days learning about the history and current healthcare system in the U.K. with our boots on the ground in London. We rode big red busses and saw Big Ben, and hosted a guest lecture with a professor from Cambridge Medical School. In just 17 days, students had powerful opportunities to learn about healthcare systems in hands-on ways across the world.

These experiences built empathy, opened students' eyes to the developing world, and transformed their lives and their future work as healthcare providers. As students reflected on their experiences in the hospital, they started to see how culture influences a person's experience with healthcare and then started to see those same values reflected in our afternoon excursions. One quote from a student highlighted family and how that extends to the community: "After seeing how these patients rely on their family and how family-orientated their culture is, I was challenged to see the importance and role of family in the US."

To learn more, tune in to Prairie Doc Programming to see and hear directly from students about their life-changing experiences. We guarantee you'll leave inspired and hopeful. Then use that inspiration to invest in yourself, set a goal to read more, attend a webinar, recommit to your health and wellness goals, and if you find yourself so inclined to invest in the education of others check out <https://www.sdstatealumnifoundation.org>.

We want to interject one final observation. We want to assure you the kids are alright. There are many negative hot takes about the younger generation and overall they are wrong. Keep investing in these amazing youth and our future is bright – the kids are alright!

Dr. Greg Heiberger serves as the interim dean of the Van D. & Barbara B. Fishback Honors College. He previously served as associate dean of academics and student success in the College of Natural Sciences at South Dakota State University and is a tenured associate professor in the Biology & Microbiology Department. He helped to create and implement the SDSU - KNUST relationship, has led numerous study abroad experiences including 4 courses to Ghana.

Ashley is the Coordinator for Student Success with the College of Natural Sciences. She has been advising pre-medical students since 2022 and has led several study abroad programs, including 3 programs to Ghana. She also teaches First Year Seminar and Career Seminar courses, and MCAT prep every spring.



**Greg Heiberger, PhD & Ashley McConnell, MS**

## Tigers Earn Two Dual Wins in Triple-Dual Wrestling Event

The Groton Area wrestling teams turned in a strong day on the mats, earning dual victories over Garretson and Mount Vernon/Plankinton/Corsica-Stickney (MVPC), while dropping a tough contest to Parkston. The Tigers defeated Garretson 48-35 and MVPC 50-24 before falling to Parkston 57-24 in the final dual of the event.

### Groton Area 48, Garretson 35

The Tigers opened the meet with momentum and controlled the dual against Garretson with bonus-point victories throughout the lineup.

At 106 pounds, Bentley Ehresmann started Groton Area off with a forfeit victory. Luke Gauer wrestled at 113 and was pinned by Blake Benson. Wyatt Hagen quickly answered at 120 with a fall over Bence Bonte in 1:19. Kyson Kucker earned a forfeit win at 126. Noah Scepaniak added a fall at 132, pinning Chase Costello in 3:26. Aiden Strom wrestled at 138 and dropped a technical fall to Chase Arend. Grayson Flores was pinned by Talon Miller at 144. Donavon Block collected a forfeit victory at 150. Kason Oswald pinned Beckett Dickey in 1:28 at 157. At 165, Groton Area conceded a forfeit. Isaiah Scepaniak was pinned by Cole Schleuter at 190. Walker Zoellner earned a forfeit at 215. Gavin Englund sealed the dual with a fall over Tanner Baatz in 2:26 at heavyweight.

### Groton Area 50, MVPC 24

Groton Area kept rolling in the second dual with a dominant performance against MVPC.

Bentley Ehresmann recorded a technical fall at 106 over Dreyton Hoffman. Luke Gauer followed with a forfeit win at 113. Wyatt Hagen remained undefeated on the day, winning a 6-4 decision over Kale Hofer at 120. Parker Zoellner picked up a forfeit victory at 126. Kyson Kucker added another forfeit at 132. Noah Scepaniak pinned Will Tobin at 138. Aiden Strom wrestled at 144 and was pinned by Daniel Dorsey. Grayson Flores was pinned by Ethan Reimnitz at 150. Kason Oswald was pinned by Preston Nedved at 157. Donavon Block was pinned by Ethan Hoffman at 165. The 175-pound bout resulted in a double forfeit. Walker Zoellner earned a forfeit win at 190. Isaiah Scepaniak collected a forfeit at 215. Gavin Englund closed with a fall over Isaias Arias in 1:25 at 285.

### Parkston 57, Groton Area 24

In the final dual, the Tigers ran into a strong Parkston lineup.

Bentley Ehresmann was pinned by Leyton Sudbeck at 106. Luke Gauer was pinned by Radley Konrad at 113. Wyatt Hagen delivered another highlight by pinning Bentley Roth at 120. Kyson Kucker pinned Cooper Sommer at 126. Noah Scepaniak lost by technical fall to Kiptyn Schaefer at 132. Aiden Strom was pinned by Javin Kniffen at 138. Grayson Flores earned a forfeit win at 144. Kason Oswald was pinned by Jack Jodozi at 150. Donavon Block lost by technical fall to Gage Reichert at 157. Groton Area conceded a forfeit at 165. Walker Zoellner was pinned by Wyatt Anderson at 190. Isaiah Scepaniak lost by technical fall to Joaquin Rodriguez at 215. Gavin Englund ended the night with a fall over Isaac Soulek at 285.

### Girls Results

Groton Area's girls also competed during the event.

At 105 pounds, Liza Krueger earned two pin victories on the day. She pinned Jerzie Muntefering of Ethan/Parkston in 1:25 and later pinned Stella Frewaldt of Garretson in 2:29. At 115 pounds, Gracelynn Decker wrestled twice and was pinned by Eliotte Kalnbach of Ethan/Parkston in 1:37 and by Macie Miller of Garretson in 40 seconds.

### Team Highlights

Wyatt Hagen went undefeated with three victories, including two falls. Kyson Kucker remained unbeaten with two falls and a forfeit. Gavin Englund recorded three straight pins at heavyweight. Noah Scepaniak earned a key pin against Garretson. Bentley Ehresmann opened multiple duals with bonus-point wins. The full Tiger lineup — Ehresmann, Gauer, Hagen, Parker Zoellner, Kucker, Noah Scepaniak, Strom, Flores, Block, Oswald, Walker Zoellner, Isaiah Scepaniak, and Englund — all contributed to the team effort.

## Groton Area places seventh at Kingsbury County Invitational

ARLINGTON, S.D. — The Groton Area wrestling team finished seventh out of 12 teams Saturday at the Kingsbury County Invitational, scoring 124.5 points in a competitive field. Kingsbury County won the team title with 221.5 points, followed by Brookings at 202.5 and Flandreau at 145.5. Britton-Hecla, Redfield Area, Sioux Falls Washington, Sioux Valley, Hamlin/Castlewood, Warner/Northwestern, Tiospa Zina, and Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle rounded out the tournament standings.

The Tigers were led by heavyweight Gavin Englund, who captured the 285-pound championship. Englund opened with a fall over Rollie Betten of Redfield Area, followed with a tie-breaker semifinal win over Breyten Johnson of Kingsbury County, and closed the tournament with a 5-0 decision over Owen Vandeweerd of Sioux Valley in the title match.

At 190 pounds, Walker Zoellner earned a runner-up finish. Zoellner began with a forfeit win, then recorded falls over Johnnie Vermeulen of Sioux Valley and Rhyder Behnke of Flandreau to reach the finals, where he was pinned by Blake Kannegieter of Brookings.

Wyatt Hagen turned in a third-place finish at 120 pounds. Hagen pinned Jerrik Jones of Britton-Hecla and Salamana Idris of Sioux Falls Washington, fell by 5-2 decision to Maddon Odland of Redfield Area in the semifinals, then rebounded with falls over Chance Miller of Ipswich/

Leola/Bowdle and Hunter Mellon of Brookings to secure third. Donavon Block also placed third at 157 pounds, opening with a fall over Jasper Opsahl of Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle, dropping a 10-5 decision to Luke VanVlymen of Brookings, then closing with falls over Kael Bamba of Flandreau and Rayin Mansfield of Warner/Northwestern.

Two Tigers posted fourth-place finishes. At 126 pounds, Kyson Kucker received a bye, earned a technical fall over Noah Vig of Kingsbury County, lost a 9-8 decision to Chace Odland of Redfield Area, defeated Jaden Buchmann of Hamlin/Castlewood 9-2, and fell 17-12 to Briggs Archer of Brookings in the third-place match. At 144 pounds, Grayson Flores opened with a 13-3 major decision over Weston Weisser of Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle, was pinned by Conner Zens of Redfield Area, pinned Morgan Christensen of Sioux Valley, and lost by technical fall to Micah Eidem of Sioux Falls Washington in the third-place bout.

Ben Hoeft placed sixth at 165 pounds. Hoeft was pinned by Colton Chapin of Britton-Hecla, rebounded with a fall over Gile Rud of Sioux Valley, then lost by major decision to Jacob Lingen of Sioux Falls Washington and an 11-6 decision to Preston Meyer of Flandreau in the fifth-place match.

Several Tigers competed in deep brackets but did not reach the medal rounds. At 106 pounds, Preston Hinkelman lost by fall to Lane Madsen of Kingsbury County, received a consolation bye, and later forfeited to Willy Miller of Kingsbury County, while Bentley Ehresmann received a first-round bye, lost by fall to Kyson Sundberg of Sioux Valley, and dropped an 11-10 decision to Henry Kilker of Britton-Hecla. At 113, Luke Gauer was pinned by Aston Duncan of Flandreau, received a consolation bye, and lost by technical fall to Bode TeKrony of Brookings. At 120, Parker Zoellner received a bye, lost by fall to Chase Henriksen of Kingsbury County, and was pinned by Jerrik Jones of Britton-Hecla. At 132, Xavier Ellenbecker received a bye, was pinned by Haiden Baxter of Brookings, received a second bye, and lost a 15-3 major decision to Sawyer Johnson of Brookings, while Noah Scepaniak received a bye, lost by technical fall to Gabriel Frias of Flandreau, received another bye, and dropped a 6-3 decision to Carter Grobe of Britton-Hecla. At 138, Aiden Strom received a bye, was pinned by Micah Stern of Brookings, received another bye, and lost an 11-4 decision to Jack Griggs of Brookings. At 150, Kason Oswald received a bye, was pinned by Bryce Hawkinson of Britton-Hecla, received a second bye, and lost a 13-2 major decision to Ty Delbridge of Brookings. At 190, Isaiah Scepaniak was pinned by Tucker Hardy of Britton-Hecla, received a bye, and later was pinned by Johnnie Vermeulen of Sioux Valley.

## Groton girls claim two titles at Governor's Invite

PIERRE, S.D. — The Groton girls wrestling team turned in an outstanding performance at the 2026 Governor's Girls Wrestling Invitational, bringing home two individual championships as Liza Krueger and Gracelynn Decker each captured first place in their respective weight classes.

At 105 pounds, Liza Krueger continued her dominant season by claiming the tournament title. Krueger opened the day with a fall over Keira Thorp of Custer, then advanced to the finals with another pin against Sydney Caven of Pierre T.F. Riggs. In the championship match, Krueger secured the title with a technical fall victory over Harper Gibson of Tri-Valley, scoring 23.5 team points in the process.

At 110B, Gracelynn Decker earned her first-place finish with a strong three-match performance. Decker opened the tournament with a major decision win over Giovannina Mazzocchio of Hot Springs, received a bye in the second round, and closed the day by pinning Alexis Red Bird of Todd County to claim the championship and 17 team points.

## Groton Prairie Mixed Bowling League Week #10 Results

**Team Standings:** Cheetahs 8, Coyotes 8, Shihtzus 8, Jackelopes 5, Foxes 5, Chipmunks 2

**Men's High Games:** John Sippel 201, Brad Waage 197, Vern Meyers 192

**Women's High Games:** Suzie Easthouse 177, Vicki Walter 171, Brenda Waage 164

**Men's High Series:** Brad Waage 539, Vern Meyers 502, John Sippel 480

**Women's High Series:** Suzie Easthouse 489, Vicki Walter 462, Darci Spanier 423

**Week 10 Fun Game:** Most Splits - Cheetahs with 16!

## Ace of Hearts

The Ace of Hearts drawing was held Thursday evening with ticket sales for the week being \$900 and the Jackpot just over \$21,238. Renee Pigors' name was drawn. She picked card number 38 and it was the three of spades so she will get \$90.



## Tigers Roll Past Milbank in NEC Clash

GROTON, S.D. — The Groton Area boys basketball team hosted Milbank on Saturday, and the Tigers earned a 57-34 win in a Northeast Conference contest.

Groton used an 11-point run in the first quarter to build a 21-8 lead at the end of the opening period. The Tigers carried a 33-17 advantage into halftime and led 44-27 after three quarters before closing out the 23-point victory.

Groton head coach Greg Kjellsen liked the team's defensive execution in the first half.

"I was really happy the first half," Kjellsen said. "When we got out and defended — they're so perimeter dominating — that means Gage or Becker's got to come out and cover a guard. They did a good job."

Groton shot 18-of-28 on two-point attempts (64%), went 4-of-13 from three-point range (31%), and was perfect at the free-throw line at 9-of-9. The Tigers totaled 21 rebounds, 13 assists, nine steals, two blocks, and nine turnovers.

Milbank went to a zone defense in the second half, slowing the pace of play.

"They went to zone and it changed the flow of the game," Kjellsen said. "But it was good for us because we haven't seen much zone. When we executed, we got some really good shots, and sometimes we get impatient."

Becker Bosma and Ryder Johnson each scored 12 points to lead Groton. Bosma added nine rebounds, two assists, and a steal, while Johnson recorded two rebounds, two assists, and two steals. Gage Sippel finished with 10 points, four rebounds, a steal, and a block. Karson Zac added seven points with two rebounds, five assists, a steal, and a block. Jayden Schwan scored six points. Keegen Tracy had five points with two rebounds, two assists, and three steals. Easton Weber added three points with two rebounds and an assist. Jace Johnson scored two points, and Asher Johnson recorded an assist.

Milbank shot 13-of-41 (31%) from the field and went 4-of-6 at the free-throw line (67%). The Bulldogs committed 16 turnovers. Sam Rick led Milbank with 13 points. Max Scoular had five. Jack Howard and Layten Osowski each scored four. Lincoln Holscher had three. Ryan Keeton added three. Harley Zemlicka and Emmett Snaza scored two each.

"Since the second quarter at Lennox, this has been a different team," Kjellsen said. "We've defended well, our offense has gotten better, and we're becoming a better basketball team."

With the win, Groton Area improves to 9-3 on the season. The Tigers will compete next Saturday at the Northeast Conference DAC-12 Clash in Madison.

### Groton JV Wins 36-20

Groton won the junior varsity game 36-20. The Tigers led 8-1 after the first quarter, 21-4 at halftime, and 30-14 after three quarters.

Asher Johnson scored eight points to lead Groton. Anthony Tracy added six, while Ethan Kroll, Jordan Schwan, and Jace Johnson each scored five. Ryder Schelle finished with four points, and J.J. Muller had three. Harley Zemlicka led Milbank with five points, and Sam Wilson added four.

### Milbank Wins C-Game 48-41 in Overtime

Milbank won the C-game 48-41 in overtime. The Bulldogs led 16-13 after the first quarter, 20-18 at halftime, and 33-31 after three quarters. The game was tied 38-38 at the end of regulation before Milbank pulled away in overtime.



**Karson Zac**  
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

## Lady Tigers rally past Milbank in Region 1 seeding showdown

Groton, S.D. — The Groton Area girls basketball team delivered its most complete performance of the season Tuesday night, rallying past Milbank 54-45 in a crucial Northeast Conference and Region 1 seeding contest at Groton.



**Cousins Jerica Locke and Susie Schuneman engage on the court.** (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

"This was a good basketball game — a fun game," said Groton head coach Matt Locke. "I thought the girls responded. That was probably the most complete game we've played this year."

The victory handed Milbank just its second loss of the season, dropping the Bulldogs to 8-2, while Groton improved to 8-4.

Groton led early before Milbank scored six straight points to take a 12-9 advantage at the end of the first quarter. The second quarter featured five lead changes and two ties before the Lady Tigers edged ahead 24-23 at halftime.

Milbank regained momentum in the third. The game was tied at 30 before the Bulldogs recaptured a 33-30 lead midway through the period and carried a 40-35 advantage into the fourth.

Groton tied the game at 40 early in the final quarter, but Milbank briefly reclaimed the lead at 42-40. From there, the Lady Tigers closed on a decisive 12-point run, turning a two-point deficit into a commanding 52-42 advantage before sealing the 54-45 win.

"We had to decide at halftime that we were going to front their post players," Locke said. "Belle Paulie and Anna are tough to guard when they get the ball with their back to the basket. Our backside help was really good, and that made a difference."

"When we were down six, you wonder if it's going to get away from you," Locke added. "But they just fought back and fought back. Full effort is just who they are now."

Groton shot 44 percent from two-point range and 29 percent from three-point distance, knocking down seven shots from beyond the arc. Rylee Dunker led the outside attack by hitting three of four three-pointers. The Tigers finished 9-of-17 at the free-throw line, collected 26 rebounds, handed out 14 assists, recorded six steals, and committed just six turnovers.

In scoring, Jayden Penning paced Groton with 15 points while also grabbing seven rebounds, dishing two assists, and adding a steal. Jerica Locke followed with 14 points, four rebounds, four assists, and two steals. Rylee Dunker added 13 points along with six rebounds, three assists, and two steals. Makenna Krause chipped in seven points while pulling down four rebounds and distributing four assists. Taryn Traphagen scored three points with two rebounds, Talli Wright finished with two points, and Sydney Locke contributed two rebounds and an assist.

For Milbank, Belle Paulie scored 17 points before fouling out with 3:54 remaining in the game. Anna Neugenbauer finished with 10 points, while Susie Schunemann and Adison Paulie each scored eight. Avery Schunemann added two points. The Bulldogs shot 39 percent from the field, made four of six free throws, and committed 14 turnovers.

Adding to the rivalry atmosphere, the Locke sisters of Groton and the Schunemann sisters of Milbank are cousins and shared the floor in a spirited conference and region matchup.

### JV: Milbank 39, Groton Area 29

Milbank also claimed the junior varsity contest, pulling away late for a 39-29 victory.

Groton led 9-7 after the first quarter before Milbank used a 21-11 second quarter to take a 21-15 halftime advantage. The Tigers opened the third quarter on an 8-0 run to close within two at 21-19, but the Bulldogs carried a 28-26 lead into the fourth and closed the game on a six-point run.

Tevan Hanson and Ashlyn Warrington each scored eight points for Groton. Kella Tracy added six, Makenna Krause scored five, and Brynlee Dunker finished with two points. For Milbank, Bailee Hendricks led all scorers with 14 points and Violet Johnson added nine.

Trayce Schelle led Groton with 13 points. Trey Tietz and Major Dolan each scored 11. Ryder Schwan added six. Max Scoular led Milbank with 15 points, Cade Grabow had 10, and Bennett Hunt added nine.

# KOUPAL'S B&B ANGUS & Family

49<sup>th</sup> Annual Bull Sale

## MONDAY, FEB. 9, 2026

1:00 PM - AT THE RANCH

3 miles south, 1/2 mile east of Dante, SD


*Selling*

175 YEARLING BULLS

15 AGED BULLS

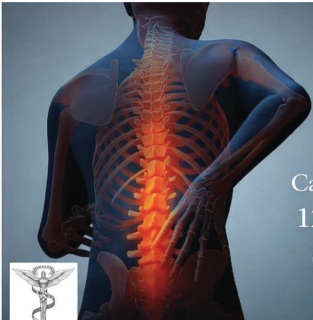
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C: 605-491-0244 • H: 605-384-4429  
Koupals S&K Angus: Scott & Kim Van Winkle • Tenley, SJ, Titan, & Kashton  
C: 605-857-1294



## Groton Chiropractic Clinic

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.

1205 N 1st St., Groton

605-397-8204

The 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 did the commentary, Jeslyn Kosel ran the camera and Paul Kosel did the stats and technology. The boys and girls junior varsity and boys C game were broadcast as well. Sponsors were Jerry and Becky Johnson, Grandparents, and Brian Dolan.

# Cavaliers Pull Away Late to Defeat Lady Tigers

The Groton Area girls basketball team saw a tightly contested Northeast Conference battle slip away in the fourth quarter Tuesday night, falling to Aberdeen Roncalli 43-31 at the Cavalier gym.

Roncalli held a 9-7 lead after the first quarter, but Groton briefly grabbed momentum early in the second when the Tigers took a 10-9 advantage. The Cavaliers answered, and the game remained close throughout the half, with Roncalli carrying a 17-15 lead into the locker room.

Groton regained the lead in the third quarter, going ahead 20-19 and later building its largest advantage at 21-19. Roncalli tied the game at 21 and edged in front 27-26 by the end of the third quarter.

The turning point came early in the fourth. The Cavaliers opened the final period with ten straight points to build a 40-26 lead and went on to win 43-31.

"It was uncharacteristic of us — missing assignments and losing discipline on the defensive end," said Groton head coach Matt Locke. "They made shots, but we've got to respond. You can't expect to hold everybody to 30 points."

Groton generated quality looks offensively but struggled to convert down the stretch. "We had some good looks," Locke said. "When we get shots, we've got to make them. It wasn't panic time, but we just didn't respond the way we needed to."

Despite the disappointing finish, Locke emphasized his pride in the team.

"I love these kids," he said. "They'll do anything for me. Sometimes they don't give themselves enough credit for how skilled they are, and they don't always play with confidence. That's tough to see because I want them to have the success they've worked for. But we'll go back to work, learn from this, and get better."

Groton shot 6-of-25 on two-pointers (24%), 5-of-17 from three-point range (29%), and 4-of-11 at the free-throw line (36%). The Lady Tigers recorded 21 rebounds, 9 assists, 7 steals, and 1 block, with 12 turnovers and 13 team fouls.

Jayden Penning led Groton with 11 points, adding 3 rebounds and 3 assists. Rylee Dunker contributed 9 points and 8 rebounds. Taryn Traphagen finished with 4 points, 3 rebounds, and 2 steals. Jerica Locke added 3 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists, 3 steals, and a block. Kella Tracy scored 2 points, Talli Wright had 2, and Sydney Locke recorded a steal.

Roncalli was led by Gabby Thomas and Ryelle Voeller with 13 points apiece. Voeller knocked down three three-pointers, while Thomas added one. Claire Crawford scored 6 points on two threes, Elyana Roach had 5, Morgan Helms added 2, and Olivia Dix had 1. The Cavaliers shot 43% from the field.

Groton Area falls to 8-5 on the season, while Roncalli improves to 10-2. The Lady Tigers travel to Webster on Thursday.

## JV: Groton 32, Roncalli 21

Groton won the junior varsity contest 32-21. The Tigers led 8-1 after one quarter, 17-11 at halftime, and 21-17 after three before opening the fourth quarter with an 11-0 run.

Makenna Krause led Groton with 14 points. Kella Tracy added 9, Ashlynn Warrington scored 4, Teagan Hatten had 3, and Teven Hansen finished with 2. Kadince Glynn led Roncalli with 5.

## C Game: Groton 19, Roncalli 10

Groton also won the C-game 19-10. The Tigers led 6-1 after one quarter, 12-3 at halftime, and 16-10 after three.

Taylynn Traphagen scored 7 points to lead Groton. Kinsley Rowen had 6, while Brynlee Dunker, Teagan Hatten and Avery Crank each scored 2. Harper Kline led the Cavaliers with 5.

The varsity broadcast live on [GDILIVE.COM](http://GDILIVE.COM), sponsored by Avantara - Groton, Agtegra, Bierman Farm Service, Bary Keith at Harri 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 did the commentary, Jeslyn Kosel ran the camera and Paul Kosel did the stats and technology. The junior varsity and C games were broadcast as well, sponsored by grandparents.



Rylee Dunker sets the screen for Jaedyn Penning. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

# Second Quarter Groton Area Honor Roll

## Seniors:

4.0 GPA: Nathan Unzen, Natalia Warrington, Karsten Flihs, Carly Gilbert, Jerica Locke, Jaedyn Penning, Talli Wright, Mia Crank, Drake Peterson, Raelee Lilly, Gage Sippel

3.99-3.50: London Bahr, Rylee Dunker, Ryder Johnson, Hannah Sandness, Keegen Tracy, Cali Tollifson, Breslyn Jeschke, Lincoln Krause, Paisley Mitchell, Becker Bosma, Garrett Schultz, Olivia Stiegelmeier, Gentry Pigors, Logan Warrington, Aiden Meyers, Lucas Carda, De Eh Tha Say, Emma Davies, Charlie Frost

3.49-3.00: Keegan Harry, Jayden Schwan, Nicolas Groeblichhoff, Benjamin Hoef, Karter Moody, Cambria Bonn

## Juniors

4.0 GPA: Carlee Johnson, Teegan Hanten, Ashlynn Warrington, Liby Althoff, Kira Clocksene, Brody Lord, Taryn Traphagen, Colt Williamson

3.99-3.50: Halee Harder, Emerlee Jones, Kella Tracy, Leah Jones, Claire Schuelke, Hailey Pauli, Addison Hoffman Wipf, Gavin Kroll, McKenna Tietz, Avery Crank

3.49-3.00: Blake Lord, Zander Harry, Hayden Zoellner, Walker Zoellner, Brenna Imrie, Aiden Strom

## Sophomores

4.0 GPA: Mckenna Krause, Thomas Schuster

3.99-3.50: Mya Feser, Chesney Weber, Sydney Locke, Taryn Thompson, Easton Weber, Jace Johnson, Elizabeth Cole, Layne Johnson, Kinsley Rowen

3.49-3.00: Rylan Ekern, Kyleigh Kroll, Rylie Rose, John Bisbee, Ryder Schelle, Brysen Sandness, Gracie Pearson, Brayden Barrera, Ethan Kroll, Addison Hoef, Jace Hofer

## Freshmen

4.0 GPA: Neely Althoff, Kolton Antonsen, Aspen Beto, Wesley Borg, Abby Fjeldheim, Zachary Flihs, Tevan Hanson, Asher Johnson, Brooklyn Spainer, Novalea Warrington

3.99-3.50: Lincoln Shilhanek, Jordan Schwan, Tenley Frost, Arianna Dinger, Logan Olson

3.49-3.00: Wesley Morehouse, Connor Kroll, Sydney Holmes, Lillian Cowan, Jose Fernando Nava Remigio, Samuel Crank

## Eighth Graders

4.0 GPA: Axel Abeln, Amelia Ewalt, Sophia Flihs, Gavin Hanten

3.99-3.50: Hudson Eichler, Andi Gauer, Liam Johnson, Liam Lord, Jameison Penning, Ryder Schwan, Gavin Younger, Asher Zimmerman, Trey Tietz, Keegan Kucker, Trayce Schelle, Elias Heilan, Nolan Bahr, Rowan Patterson, Kyson Kucker

3.49-3.00: Dawson Feist, Major Dolan, Wyatt Morehouse, Haden Harder, Jace Hofer

## Seventh Graders

4.0 GPA: Gracie Borg, Lillian Davis, Brynlee Dunker, Andi Iverson

3.99-3.50: Libby Johnson, Victoria Schuster, Rylee Stoltenburg, Taylynn Traphagen, Bella Barrera, Amara El Salahy, Zoe Olson, Ayce Warrington, Kinley Sandness, Addison Steffes, Hadley Heilman, Maycee Moody, Ambrielle Feist, Easton Larson, Mya Moody, Kendyll Kroll, Mason Locke, Drew Fjeldheim, Brinley Guthmiller, Hank Hill, Grady Rowen

3.49-3.00: Preston Hinkelman, Jaela Flihs, Charlie Jacobsen, Parker Zoellner, Knox Mulder, Ivan Schwan, Rylee Hofer

## Sixth Graders

4.0 GPA: Arthur Eichler

3.99-3.50: Tigh Flihs, Hayden Hubbard, Devan Locke, Taylor Flihs, Lennox Locke, Jernie Weig, Brody Zimmerman, Willow Cowan, Kacie McComsey, Blakely Stiegelmeier, Ryan Hanson, Titan Johnson, Elise Pharis, Gideon Rix, Shealee Gilchrist, Boston Kurth, Taylor Thompson, Harley Furman, Avery Huber, Micah Krause, Rowan Hanson

3.49-3.00: Hudson McGannon, Kayson Hofer, Jack Schuelke, Terrence Feist, Deylon Johnson, Calvin Locken, Simon Simunek, Kaelee Morehouse, Rosalyn Block, Adam Flihs

## Weekly SUDOKU

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

## DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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**WAGE MEMORIAL LIBRARY**  
PRESENTS  
**PUZZLE, POPCORN & PITCHER GAME EVENT**

Each team of 4 will compete by completing a 300 piece puzzle, eating a bowl of popcorn and drinking a pitcher of pop!

Prizes will be given to teams who finish 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>!

**When:** Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>  
**Where:** Wage Memorial Library  
120 N Main Street  
**Time:** 1pm  
\$30 per team

Pre-register by Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> by calling 605-397-8422 or email [city.kellie@nvc.net](mailto:city.kellie@nvc.net)

\*\*No more than 6 teams



JANUARY 20, 2026 – GENERAL 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, Tyler Dinger, Mike Wiese, Mike Gage, and Duane Sutton. Commissioner Dinger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None  
**ORDINANCE #318 – FIRST READING:** Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to approve the First Reading of Proposed Ordinance #318. Applicant Marilyn Thum to rezone from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its future use: Description of property: Proposed Lot 1, "Hitchcock First Addition" in the NW1/4 NE1/4 and the NE1/4 NW1/4 of Section 17-T121N-R60W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (40751 144th Street, Bates Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE #319 – FIRST READING:** Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Gage to approve the First Reading of Proposed Ordinance #319. Applicant Larson Land Limited Partnership to rezone from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its future use: Description of property: Proposed Lot 3, "Larson-Wockenfuss Addition" in the S1/2 of Section 29 and N1/2 of Section 32-T125N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (approx. 39518 123rd Street, Columbia Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE #320 – FIRST READING:** Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to approve the First Reading of Proposed Ordinance #318. Applicant Chad Pray to rezone from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its future use: Description of property: Proposed Lot 1, "MB Bellikka Addition" in the SE1/4 of Section 30-T123N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (approx. 12851 389th Avenue, Ordway Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**AMEND RESOLUTION #2026-07:** Commissioner Dennert brought the following resolution:  
**RESOLUTION #2026-07 - Amended**  
**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 remittance 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 by no later than 9am on the first business day following the last business day of the month in which such fees were collected.  
 Dated at Aberdeen, South Dakota, this 20th day of January, 2026.  
 Seconded by Commissioner Wiese.  
 Roll call vote: Commissioners Dennert-aye; Dinger-aye; Gage-aye; Sutton-aye; Wiese -aye. Resolution adopted.

**AMEND RESOLUTION #2026-09:** BUILDING, ZONING, CONSTRUCTION PERMIT FEE SCHEDULE AMENDMENTS: Commissioner Wiese offered the following:  
**RESOLUTION # 2026-09 - Amended**

**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; and

**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 20, 2026 as shown on TABLE 2026 PERMIT FEE SCHEDULE:

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

- Moving Permit - \$10
- Fireworks Permit - \$25
- 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;

Amended

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- 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.

**FAIR CONTRACTS:** Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the 2026 Brown County Fair with Aberdeen Cycling Association in the amount of \$10,000.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the contract with Keith Raymond to perform Magic Shows for 5 days with up to 3 shows per day in the amount of \$5,350.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the contract with XMC Entertainment, LLC/Minor Mischief A Cappella Group to perform for 4 days with 2 shows per day in the amount of \$10,000.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve the amended and submitted Employee Handbook. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. Chairman Sutton wanted to Thank the Human Resource Department for all their work on updating the Employee Handbook.

**SET BID DATE FOR HOT "IN-PLACE" RECYCLING ON CO. ROAD 14 & AUTHORIZE ADVERTISING:**

Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent asked to set a Bid Date of Tuesday, February 17, 2026 and authorize advertising for Bids on County Road 14 for Hot "In-Place" Recycling from south of the Airport up the bypass to the County Line. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve the recommendation to set bid date for Tuesday, February 17, 2026 for Hot "In-Place" Recycling on Co. Road 14 and authorize advertising of the bids. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**MINUTES:** Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to approve the General Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS/PAYROLL:** Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Claims: Insurance: SD Public Assurance Alliance \$367,869.06. Professional Fees: Avera Aberdeen Family Physicians \$159.88; Avera McKennan \$7.78; Avera Medical Group Radiology \$94.07; Avera St. Luke's Hospital \$533.13; Carrels & Bain Family Dental Care \$604.91; Certified Languages International \$1,679.70; CGI LLC \$1,610.00; Dean Schaefer Court Reporting \$105.00; Faulk County Sheriff's Office \$5,580.00; IMEG Corp \$5,000.00; Kristi Brandt \$34.50; Kuck Law Office \$817.70; Lewis & Clark BHS \$225.00; Lucy Lewno \$240.00; Modern Day Health Care Prof \$1,259.02; Network Center Inc \$352.50; Northeastern Mental Health Center \$4,025.00; Richardson, Wyly, Wise, Sauck & Hieb LLP \$50.00; Taylor Bell \$289.40. Publishing: Groton Daily Independent \$40.48; McQuillen Creative Group Inc \$1,753.41; Southwest Messenger Press \$97.44. Rentals: Advantage Self Storage \$276.00. Repairs & Maintenance: Amazon Capital Services Inc \$39.00; Dakota Pump & Control \$642.86; Diesel Machinery Inc \$11,000.00; Graham Tire Inc \$251.30; Hase Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning \$1,244.61; Karl Emergency Vehicles \$22,338.00; Midwest Pump & Tank \$120.00; Pierson Ford Lincoln \$34.25; Steven Lust Automotive \$91.48. Supplies: Amazon Capital Services Inc \$1,810.24; Avera LTC Pharmacy Aberdeen \$934.63; Bob Barker Company Inc \$282.24; Central Network Retail Group \$4.98; Century Business Products \$830.59; Christina M. Flack \$1,139.52; Cole Papers \$1,670.95; Geffdog Designs \$365.71; Graham Tire Inc \$271.35; Kuck Law Office \$20.16; Lucy Lewno \$6.73; Menards \$357.10; Midstates Group \$2,596.00; Midwest Pump & Tank \$73.80; Performance Oil \$76.68; PharmChem Inc \$1,204.34; Pierson Ford Lincoln \$193.07; Safety Service \$151.71; Schwan Welding \$19.60; Tyler Business Forms \$1,150.36. Travel & Conference: CGI LLC \$48.91; Karpel Solutions \$1,200.00; Kyle Couchey \$19.00;

Neil Bittner \$19.00; Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center-Pierre \$122.00. Utilities: Amazon Capital Services Inc \$60.54; CenturyLink \$505.98; City of Aberdeen \$504.39; City of Hecla \$248.13; Northern Electric \$1,293.61; Northwestern Energy \$2,871.33; NVK \$2,813.55; State of South Dakota PMB 0112 \$94.00; Verizon Wireless \$460.29. Other: 2025 December Transmittals \$503,503.32. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

o ... Resignation of Alexandra Chavez-Alvarez as Brown County Jail Cook, FT – effective January 14, 2026. Request to fill.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**LEASE AGREEMENTS:** Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the following lease agreements: Dawson Hepper & Abigail Allison to lease the Richmond Lake Youth Camp from June 11-13, 2027 for their wedding; Angel & Jason White to lease the Richmond Lake Youth Camp on September 19, 2026 for a wedding; Vicki Rossow to lease the Club House on September 10-14, 2026 for a wedding; Liebelt's RV for lease of the Holm Expo Building on March 9-23, 2026 for RV Show. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**TRAVEL REQUESTS:** Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to approve the following Travel Requests: Chris Hemen, Mike Rohrbach & Jerry Lehrkamp, Weed & Pest to attend the Annual Weed & Pest Conference on February 17-20, 2026 in Deadwood; Lynn Heupel, Auditor to attend Legislative Session to testify on Thursday, January 22, 2026 in Pierre. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**SHERIFF REPORTS:** Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to acknowledge and approve the Sheriff Reports from January – November 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None  
**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert, to go into Executive Session per SDCL 1-25-2 for Legal. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

**MISC. BUSINESS:** Auditor Heupel was asked to explain HB1060, regarding removing the 5% cushion on the budget process, that she is going to be testifying on in Pierre.

Chairman Sutton shared that he had asked Auditor Heupel for Year-End Budget Reports by department, those were passed around the room for review.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:29 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor  
 Published January 28, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$127.53 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26469



**ADVERTISEMENT**  
 2026 Brown County Hot In-Place Recycling Project  
 Brown County, SD

Sealed Bids will be received by the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 57401, until 8:30 AM local time on Tuesday, the 17th day of February, 2026, for the above-referenced project. Bids shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the Bidding Documents. Brown County reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all Bids as set forth in the Bidding Documents.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at or shortly after the time named above. Bids will be reviewed by the Brown County Commission at a subsequent meeting of the Brown County Commissioners.

The Project includes the following Work:

- ..Hot In-Place Recycling for approximately 13 miles.
- Additional items as set forth in the Contract Documents.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Documents. The Successful Bidder will be required to provide Payment and Performance Bonds as described in the Bidding Documents.

Bidding documents may be viewed and obtained at www.questcdn.com by entering QuestCDN project number 10028825. If you need assistance with the website, please contact QuestCDN Customer Support at 952-233-1632 or info@questcdn.com. Also, at the Brown County Website: https://www.brown.sd.us/brown-county-bids.

A pre-bid conference will not be held.

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published January 28 and Feb. 4, 2026, at the total approximate cost of \$32.80 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26470



**NOTICE OF VACANCY**  
**MUNICIPALITY OF TOWN OF STRATFORD**

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

Trustee, 3 year term  
 Length of Term: July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2029

Circulation of nominating petitions may begin on the 2nd day of February 2026 and petitions may be filed in the office of the finance officer located at Stratford Town Hall, 293 Rondell Ave, between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., central time not later than the 24th day of March 2026 or mailed by registered mail not later than the 24th day of March 2026 at 5:00 p.m. central time.

Anna Kwak  
 Finance Officer  
 Published January 28 and Feb. 4, 2026, at the total approximate cost of \$17.53 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26471



**NOTICE OF VACANCY**  
**MUNICIPALITY OF CLAREMONT**

The following office will become vacant due to the expiration of the present term of office currently held by

Frank Rasmussen, Trustee - Three Year Term.

Jason Spencer, Trustee - Three Year Term.

Circulation of nominating petitions may begin on February 2nd, 2026, and petitions may be filed at City Hall located at 606 6th Ave., Claremont, SD, not later than the 24th day of March, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

Published January 21 and 28, 2026, at the total approximate cost of \$12.44 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26455

# King Crossword

## ACROSS

- 1 Nile biter
- 4 Chat
- 8 Job for Holmes
- 12 One of the five W's
- 13 "East of Eden" son
- 14 Makes a choice
- 15 Snaky fish
- 16 Fruit salad ring
- 18 — Lama
- 20 Humorist
- 21 — Raton
- 24 Settle a debt
- 28 Holiday wreath adornment
- 32 Ms. McEntire
- 33 "I love," to Livy
- 34 Passion
- 36 "The One I Love" band
- 37 Attempt
- 39 Pesto ingredients
- 41 Bar mixer
- 43 Salinger girl
- 44 Sticky stuff
- 46 Tuscany setting
- 50 Forest-inspired color
- 55 Uncle, to Pedro
- 56 Romanov ruler

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
18				19					20			
				21					22	23		24
28	29	30							31		32	
33				34					35		36	
37				38					39		40	
41				42					43			
				44					45		46	47
50	51	52							53	54		55
56									57			58
59									60			61

## DOWN

- 57 Hardly hirsute
- 58 Help
- 59 Rental units (Abbr.)
- 60 Totals
- 61 24 horas
- 1 Dumbstruck
- 2 — butter
- 3 Survey
- 4 Bubble tea ingredient
- 5 Shapiro of NPR
- 6 Horror star Chaney
- 7 Recognized
- 8 Whirlybird
- 9 Smartphone download
- 10 Cardinal cap letters
- 11 Jargon suffix
- 17 Tire filler
- 19 Jurist Fortas
- 22 Business abbr.
- 23 MacDowell of "Green Card"
- 25 Andean land
- 26 Help a hood
- 27 Thanksgiving veggies
- 28 Bygone days
- 29 Texter's "As I see it"
- 30 Lunch hour
- 31 Billions of years
- 35 Prompts
- 38 Detroit team
- 40 Mosquito barrier
- 42 Gearwheel tooth
- 45 Spheres
- 47 Slightly
- 48 Ovid's 53
- 49 Luke's teacher
- 50 School org.
- 51 MSN, for one
- 52 Rebel Turner
- 53 Vichy water
- 54 Stately tree

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# King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

## Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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



UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6 REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 12, 2026 President Rix called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the HS Library Conference Room. Other members present: Flihs (7:19 pm), Lerseth-Flihs, Strom, Weber, and Weismantel. Absent: Harder. Others present were Supt. J. Schwan, Principal Schwan, and Business Manager Hubsch.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Strom, to approve the proposed amended agenda, with the addition of the resignation/retirement of Karin Bartell, effective May 15, 2026. Motion carried.

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

Moved by Lerseth-Flihs, seconded by Weber to approve consent agenda items: December 8, 2025, board minutes, and December 2025 financial reports, custodial accounts, investments, bills, lunch report, transportation, authorize business manager to pay district bills up to \$75,000 in advance, using the custodial advance payment account to be approved by the board for reimbursement at the following regular board meeting, and approve open enrollment #26-18. Weismantel abstained. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND: Net Salary 326,209.36, Net Benefits 88,250.65; Amazon - supplies, 254.89; Rachel Bachmeier - sports help, 35.00; Bahr CDL Services - CDL Testing, 150.00; Cole Papers - paper towels, 1,749.60; Custodial Fund - advanced payments, 37,947.63; Dependable Sanitation - garbage, 1,414.00; EMC Insurance Company - insurance, 15,293.00; Rebecca Erickson - sports help, 35.00; Chris Frost - sports help, 70.00; Greg's Repair - tires, 785.76; Groton Chiropractic - DOT physical, 125.00; Groton Daily Independent - legal publications, 76.78; Hillyard - janitor supplies, 840.58; Mike Imrie - sports help, 175.00; Ken's - supplies, 334.84; Jordan Kjellsen - sports help, 145.00; Kasey Kurtz - sports help, 70.00; Lori's Pharmacy - Vet Day rose, 6.50; Maximum Promotions - banner additions, 218.78; McLeod's Printing - envelopes, 182.36; Mid-American Research Chemical - janitor supply, 2,469.00; Northside Implement - repairs, 2,223.62; Northwestern Energy - utilities, 9,283.08; Kristi Peterson - yearbook supplies, 28.70; Pfitzer Pest Control - 2026 services, 3,105.64; Robotics Education - registrations, 385.00; S&S Lumber - janitor supplies, 939.35; Sanford Health - athletic training services, 140.00; Sean Schuring - sports help, 380.00; Taylor Music - instrument repairs, 338.82; Wageworks - admin fee, 104.00; Martin Weismantel - sports help, 70.00; Krissi Zak - sports help, 90.00; Kristi Zoellner - sports help, 455.00. Total General Fund - \$494,381.94.

CAPITAL OUTLAY: A&B Business - managed print agreement, 1,510.69; Amazon - equipment, 809.74; Custodial Fund - advanced payments, 5,020.64; Follett - library books, 596.57; Hauff Mid-America Sports - softball jerseys, 1,998.00; Software Unlimited - software, 602.00. Total Capital Outlay - \$10,537.64.

SPECIAL EDUCATION: Net Salary 48,879.79 Net Benefits 14,049.92 Avera - PT/OT, 15,261.92; Custodial Fund - advanced payments, 705.60; TreviPay - Supplies, 41.74; Parent - mileage, 352.80. Total Special Education - \$79,291.77.

ENTERPRISE FOOD SERVICE: Net Salary 10,557.50, Net Benefits 3,149.51. Food Service: Buller Fixture Company - food tray holder, 2,168.34; East Side Jersey Dairy - milk, 848.27; Parent - refund, 60.70; Performance

GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 06-6 FINANCIAL REPORTS							
	General Fund	Capital Outlay	Special Ed.	Food Service	OST	Driver's Ed	Custodial
December 1 2025.....	\$2,482,898.40	\$819,367.41	\$467,841.00	\$104,544.36	\$49,444.58	\$20,937.01	\$270,071.26
<b>RECEIPTS</b>							
Local Sources .....	\$225,053.42	\$147,172.77	\$69,964.63	\$14,470.72	\$6,994.74		\$49,641.02
County Sources .....	\$4,803.18						
State Sources .....							
State Aid .....	\$46,778.00						
Wind Farm .....							
Mentor Teacher Program .....							
State Apportionment .....							
State Reimbursements .....							
Bank Franchise .....							
Federal Sources .....	\$41,406.00			\$6,680.71			
Sale of Assets .....							
Due from Govt/Others .....							
Transfer In/Out .....							
<b>TOTAL MONTHLY RECEIPTS .....</b>	<b>\$318,040.60</b>	<b>\$147,172.77</b>	<b>\$69,964.63</b>	<b>\$21,151.43</b>	<b>\$6,994.74</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$49,641.02</b>
<b>FUNDS AVAILABLE .....</b>	<b>\$2,800,939.00</b>	<b>\$966,540.18</b>	<b>\$537,805.63</b>	<b>\$125,695.79</b>	<b>\$56,439.32</b>	<b>\$20,937.01</b>	<b>\$319,712.28</b>
<b>MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS .....</b>	<b>(\$482,769.08)</b>	<b>(\$11,079.53)</b>	<b>(\$84,915.43)</b>	<b>(\$22,504.93)</b>	<b>(\$8,923.09)</b>		<b>(\$102,915.75)</b>
<b>JOURNAL ENTRIES .....</b>	<b>\$4,610.07</b>		<b>\$1,258.67</b>	<b>\$338.33</b>			

December 31, 2025.....	\$2,322,779.99	\$955,460.65	\$454,148.87	\$103,529.19	\$47,516.23	\$20,937.01	\$216,796.53
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GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL EDUCATION	FOOD SERVICE	OST
Payroll .....	Payroll .....	Payroll .....	Payroll .....
Instruction .....	Instruction .....	Instruction .....	Instruction .....
Employee Benefits .....	Employee Benefits .....	Employee Benefits .....	Employee Benefits .....
Total .....	Total .....	Total .....	Total .....
Driver's Education .....			
Payroll .....			
Instruction .....			
Employee Benefits .....			
Total .....			

Foodservice - food, 6,231.09; SD DOE - food, 648.30; US Foods - food, 2,682.38. Total Food Service - \$26,346.09.

ENTERPRISE OST: Net Salary 2,838.71, Net Benefits 329.33, Custodial Fund - advanced payments, 1,068.00; Ken's - snacks, 927.30. Total OST: \$5,163.34.

ENTERPRISE DRIVERS ED: 0.00.

CUSTODIAL: 49,641.02 Members of the public are allowed five minutes to address the board on any topic of their choice. With no members present, the board continued with the agenda.

The Board conducted its second reading of the recommended job description for the Technology Coordinator. Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Weber, to approve the job description of the Technology Coordinator. Motion carried.

The following items were discussed in the administrative reports: J. Schwan: 2026 legislative session begins, with 55 bills pre-filed in the House of Representatives and 79 in the Senate. Administration and staff are reviewing two different platforms, Medley and SPED Forms, for Special Education documentation. Currently, forms are created in Infinite Campus, which has caused challenges since an update of the platform this year. Facilities master planning will continue on January 13, with Co-Op Architects meeting with a group of students, followed by MS/HS staff, and then the facilities planning committee. The website will see updates to simplify the application process for new students and employees and to provide easy access to desired content for parents and community members. The Teacher of the Year nomination form is now available through the end of January.

B. Schwan reported elementary numbers at 265. The elementary team has finished data team meetings and has recently completed the first day of Blueprint courses for the science of reading. OST end-of-the-year statements have been sent.

B. Hubsch discussed updating software components, ESSA, reporting being completed and end of the calendar year and quarterly reports being submitted. Petitions for the school board can begin on February 2nd and are due on Tuesday, March 24th at 5 pm. Up for election this year are Heather Lerseth-Flihs and Grant Rix. If an election is needed, it will not be until June 2, 2026.

HOSA advisor Brittany Hubbard presented to the board about a global medical academy study abroad experience for HOSA through the Medical Squads company, to be held in Belize during the summer. Hubbard informed the board that 12 participants would be needed to go, and it would all be self-funded by the students through personal payments and fundraising.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Weber, to approve the

HOSA Global Medical Squads travel request. Motion carried.

Moved by Flihs, seconded by Weismantel, to approve the supplemental Budget #26-2. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET #FY26-2 Let it be resolved that the school board of the Groton Area School District, in accordance with SDCL 13-11-3.12, and after duly considering the proposed supplemental budget, hereby approves and adopts the following supplemental budget in total:

APPROPRIATIONS	GENERAL FUND
10-2213-000-111-001 Literacy Pilot PD Stipends.....	\$3,500.00
10-2213-000-210-001 Literacy Pilot PD Benefits.....	\$500.00
10-2213-000-220-001 Literacy Pilot PD Retirement Benefits.....	\$250.00
10-2213-000-411-001 Literacy Pilot Supplies .....	\$4,750.00
10-2214-000-319-660 1003 Professional Dev. Services....	\$2,700.00
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS.....	\$11,700.00
MEANS OF FINANCE	GENERAL FUND
10-3129-000 Reimbursement Literacy Pilot.....	\$9,000.00
10-4158-660 1003 Grant.....	\$2,700.00
TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCE .....	\$11,700.00

Presiding Officer Business Manager Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Strom, to approve the 2026-2027 calendar. Motion carried.

Moved by Flihs, seconded by Weber, to approve the resignation of Joshua Friez, Instrumental Music Teacher, effective December 19, 2025. Motion carried.

Moved by Flihs, seconded by Lerseth-Flihs, to approve the resignation of Alexandria Homsombath, administrative assistant/SH supervisor, effective January 5, 2026. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Strom, to approve the

resignation of Stacey Wellnitz, paraprofessional, effective January 22, 2026. Motion carried.

Moved by Flihs, seconded by Lerseth-Flihs, to approve the

resignation/retirement of Karin Bartell, kitchen staff member, effective May 15, 2026. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Flihs, to adjourn at 8:09 pm. Motion carried.

Becky Hubsch, Business Manager Grant Rix, President

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

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resignation/retirement of Karin Bartell, kitchen staff member, effective May 15, 2026. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Flihs, to adjourn at 8:09 pm. Motion carried.

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January 20, 2026

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

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

Public comments were welcomed pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1. Hillestad provided an update regarding the Groton Municipal Airport. Hamilton provided an update regarding the summer baseball program and the recommended change for Jr. Teeners to become the U14 Legion.

Hillestad and Hamilton exited the meeting.

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

The sheltering agreement with the American Red Cross to allow them to utilize the Groton Community Center in the event of a disaster or emergency for no fee was approved on a motion by Nehls and seconded by Babcock. All members present voted aye.

The quotes for the radar speed signs were reviewed and discussed.

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

Moved by Wambach and seconded by Babcock to authorize the following bills for payment. Bahr, Babcock, Cutler, Wambach, and Shilhanek voted aye. Nehls abstained his vote.

Payroll, \$37,811.19, Employee salaries; Administrative, \$4,923.48; Public Safety, \$9,998.57; Culture & Recreation, \$882.25; Public Works, \$22,006.89; Kellie Locke, \$617.41, Med flex; USPS, \$327.82, Utility billing postage; Douglas Heinrich, \$105.47, Med flex; Forrest and Jeanna Cutler, \$1,300.00, Water heater rebate; Dalton Locke, \$1,300.00, Water heater rebate; Randy Kurtz, \$66.95, Utility deposit/overpayment refund; City of Groton, \$100.00, Utility deposits applied to bills; SD State Treasurer, \$7,543.96, Sales and Excise Tax - December 2025; WEB Water, \$21,224.67, Water services - December 2025; Heartland Energy, \$63,332.22, Power services - December 2025; WAPA, \$28,702.05, Power services - December 2025; Branden Abeln, \$501.99, Med flex; Stacy Mayou, \$889.81, Med flex; Jesse Anderson, \$264.45, Med flex; Dacotah Bank, \$6,993.63, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dacotah Bank, \$1,831.23, HSA contributions; Dacotah Bank, \$1,980.23, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dacotah Bank, \$3,904.91, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Matheson Tri-Gas, Inc., \$209.96, Cylinder lease - City Shop; Payment Service Network, Inc., \$205.50, PSN gateway and eBill fees; SD Supplemental Retirement, \$590.00, Supplemental retirement; J's Superior Cleaning, \$200.00, Commercial cleaning

Varin exited the meeting.

Moved by Bahr and seconded by Cutler to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal matters 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 8:05pm. All members present voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 9:22pm.

Moved by Shilhanek and seconded by Cutler to hire Terry Herron on an as-needed basis to assist the Public Works Department. His wage will be \$39.85 per hour and will only be called in by Dwight Zerr, Douglas Heinrich, or Mayor Hanlon. All members present voted aye.

The first reading of Ordinance No. 795 - 2026 Summer Salaries was approved on a motion by Nehls and seconded by Babcock. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Shilhanek and seconded by Wambach to adjourn the meeting at 9:25pm. All members present voted aye.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer

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### LIVESTOCK

**LOGTERMAN ANGUS AND HEREFORD:** Production Sale, Monday, February, 9, 2026. Valentine (NE) Livestock Auction 1:00 p.m. CT. Two year old Bulls: 45 Herefords - 50 Angus Sale on DV Auction. Dwight Logterman 605-429-3209 - Cell 402-389-1165 WWW.LOGTERMAN.COM

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## The Life of William "Bill" Reints



The funeral service for William "Bill" Reints will be 10:30 a.m. Thursday, January 29, 2026 at Evangelical Lutheran Church in Langford. Pastor Dan Cole and Diane Hoines will officiate the service. Burial will take place at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Aberdeen, SD. The family requests casual dress. You may also join the family after 4:30 p.m. Thursday evening at Pont's in Pierpont to celebrate Bill's life.

Visitation will be 5:00-7:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at the church.

William Taylor Reints was born December 29, 1946, in Britton, South Dakota to William and Beverly (Schmidt) Reints. Bill was raised on the farm with his three sisters. He attended school in Langford, graduating from Langford High School in 1965.

In August 1971, Bill was introduced to Jeanne Sanderson. Bill would go on to say when he walked up to the house to

pick her up for their first date, he saw her and said, "Uffda." He knew she was the one from that moment. Bill and Jeanne were united in marriage on March 17, 1972. Together, they made their home in the rural Langford area where they continued to farm and raise their family together for 53 years. He came to be known as "Mr. Bill" during their years running Mr. Bill's bar and restaurant in Pierpont.

Bill was an active volunteer in both the Langford and Pierpont communities, serving others as a member of Langford Evangelical Lutheran Church, Langford Jaycees, the Homertownship board, and Pierpont Firework Committee. Bill most enjoyed farming, fishing, hosting hunters, and "circling" the area to visit with friends and family. There was rarely a conversation where he didn't sprinkle in a song or dance. You could find him playing cards with the coffee crew at the C-store in Langford most days.

Mr. Bill passed away Thursday, January 22, 2026 at his home in rural Langford, at the age of 79.

Grateful for having shared in his life are his wife, Jeanne; his children: Taylor (Crystal) Reints of Pierpont, Vaughn (Melinda) Reints of Pierpont, Carter (Josie) Reints of Langford, Mollie (Brent) Greenway of Mitchell; 9 grandchildren: Addy (Austin) Taylor, Madeline (Jamison) Reints, Hayden (Mariah) Reints, Holden Sippel, Gage Sippel, Hudson Reints, Case Reints, Hunter Adams, and Margo Greenway; great grandson, Kooper Reints; his sisters Linda (Steve) Witt of Bristol, SD, Joan (Hal) Sharpe of Edinburg, VA and Teresa (Billy) McCraw of Clarksville, TN; brother-in-law Bruce (Carolyn) Sanderson of Claremont, SD, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and people that loved him.

Preceding him in death were his parents, Bill and Betty Reints and his in-laws, Harold and Bonnie Sanderson.

Condolences may be directed to the family in care of Jeanne Reints - 41963 125th St. - Langford, SD 57454.

## The Life of Jerry K. Sundling



Jerry K. Sundling, age 77, died on Friday, January 23, 2026 at his home in Sioux Falls, SD. His family will be present to greet friends for visitation on Saturday, January 31, 2026 at George Boom Funeral Home & On-Site Crematory in Sioux Falls, SD beginning at 1:00 PM followed by Military honors and a service of remembrance at 2:00 PM. Please come to the service in casual attire.

Gerald Keith Sundling or "Jerry" was born on March 25, 1948 in St. Paul, Minnesota. He was raised and received his education in Groton, SD, graduating from Groton High School in 1966. He continued his education at N.S.U. and for his secondary education, U.S.D in Vermillion earning his Master's degree.

Jerry joined the United States Army and honorably served in Vietnam from 1968 to 1970, earning a Bronze Star, for his heroic service.

Throughout Jerry's life, he worked at the South Dakota Development Center, also as a school guidance counselor and behavioral therapist.

Jerry recently became a member of Celebrate Church in Sioux Falls and received his baptism last year. Finding his relationship with God, giving Jerry a brighter outlook on life.

Jerry enjoyed running, being active and working out. He was blessed with the personality to talk with anyone. To Jerry a stranger was just someone he hadn't talked to yet. He loved sports and especially loved attending his grandchildren's sporting and school events, being their biggest fan. He also enjoyed fishing with his best friend, Harry and working on cars. He was a loving father, grandpa, veteran and friend who will be deeply missed.

Grateful for having shared his life are his four children, Joan Sundling-Heiman, Aberdeen, SD, Tom Sundling, Sioux Falls, SD, Mike (Kim) Sundling, Rochester, MN and Michelle (Allen Wanner) Sundling, Aberdeen, SD, six grandchildren, Hunter, Tanner, Gracelyn, Kyan, Moana and Laylani; one brother, Robert "Bob" (Judy) Sundling, Aberdeen, SD; one sister, Diane (David) Knutson, Sheridan, WY; nephew, Jonathan Knutson; nieces, Traci Sundling, and Erin Knutson; special friend, Vicky Walls, Sioux Falls, SD; many other relatives and friends.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Joyce Sundling-Sogn; and his father, Charles Keith Sundling.

In lieu of flowers, please send cards to George Boom Funeral Home & On-Site Crematory, 3408 E. 10th St. Sioux Falls, SD 57103.

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