

The Groton Independent

Vol. 143 No. 21 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2026 ♦ Established in 1889



Pictured are Lincoln Krause, Brittany Hubbart, Talli Wright and Jaedyn Penning. (Courtesy photo)

Groton Area Students Gain Hands-On Experience Through Athletic Training Capstone

GROTON — Seniors at Groton Area High School spent the weekend gaining real-world experience in sports medicine as part of the school's Athletic Training Capstone course, taught by Brittany Hubbart.

The capstone class is available to seniors who have completed Introduction to Sports Medicine and have an interest in pursuing a career in health care. A key component of the course requires students to complete 30 observation hours, allowing them to move beyond the classroom and into live athletic settings.

That requirement brought students to a weekend wrestling event, where Hubbart—who also serves as the athletic trainer for Groton Area—guided them through the realities of injury care in one of the most physically demanding high school sports.

"Wrestling is a sport that tends to have a higher number of injuries because of how physical it is," Hubbart said. "We see everything from basic wound care to more significant injuries that need to be evaluated by a physician."

While the students were not responsible for making medical decisions, they played an active role within their scope of training. They assisted with basic wound care and closely observed injury assessments, learning how trainers evaluate athletes and determine next steps for care.

The experience, Hubbart explained, is designed to build confidence and familiarity long before students step into professional roles of their own.

"The goal is that by seeing these situations now, they feel more comfortable in the future when they are the ones responsible for assessment and/or treatment," she said.

By combining coursework with hands-on observation, the Athletic Training Capstone gives Groton Area students a clearer picture of what a future in sports medicine or health care may hold—preparing them not just academically, but practically, for the demands of the field.



Athletic trainer Brittany Hubbart and Patty Woods from the Groton Rescue Squad along with others tended to Jerrick Jones of Britton-Hecla. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Schwan directs Groton Area pep band in four corner presentation of the National Anthem



The Groton Area Band made its first appearance under the direction of new band director Sharon Schwan. The group's performance of the national anthem, which has drawn rave reviews on social media, featured trumpet players positioned in the four corners of the arena before the rest of the band joined in, creating a dramatic and memorable presentation.

As you can tell from the collage of photos, basketball players, cheerleaders and dance team members join the rest of the band for the national anthem at the Roncalli game.

Schwan's teaching in Groton has also stirred fond memories for many community members who remember her time as a band instructor in Conde and Warner. One social media post noted that having a teacher who inspires students to work hard, take pride in their accomplishments, and have fun while doing it is truly a blessing. (Photos by Jeslyn Kosel)



Second-Half Surge Lifts Tigers Past Roncalli, 83-50

The Groton Area boys basketball team shook off a sluggish first half and dominated the final two quarters to earn an 83-50 Northeast Conference win over cross-county rival Aberdeen Roncalli on Monday night.

The Cavaliers matched Groton's energy early, tying the game at 14 late in the first quarter. A nine-point Tiger run bridging the end of the first and start of the second quarter pushed Groton ahead 24-15, but Roncalli stayed within striking distance, pulling to within two points at 26-24.

Groton responded with a late second-quarter push to take a 41-34 lead into halftime, then completely flipped the script after the break.

"We just played a lot smarter in the second half," head coach Greg Kjellsen said. "In the first half we helped too much, left shooters open, and didn't rebound well. That led to kick-out threes and second chances. We fixed that."

The Tigers tightened defensively in the third quarter, allowing just 11 points while extending the lead to 64-45. A 10-point run early in the fourth quarter blew the game open, and Groton triggered the 30-point mercy rule with 1:52 remaining at 80-49 before finishing off the 83-50 win.

Groton allowed just 15 second-half points.

"We quit helping off the corners and trusted our size," Kjellsen said. "Once we stopped over-helping and boxed out, everything settled down."

Offensively, the Tigers attacked the rim relentlessly. Groton shot a blistering 72 percent on two-point attempts (28-of-39), with Karson Zac going a perfect 8-for-8, including four dunks. Groton finished 4-of-14 from three-point range and 15-of-17 at the free-throw line.

"We've talked all year about not settling for threes," Kjellsen said. "We got what we wanted tonight—high-percentage shots at the rim."

Four Tigers scored in double figures.

Ryder Johnson led the way with 21 points, eight rebounds, four assists, and a steal.

Keegan Tracy added 19 points, three assists, and two steals.

Karson Zac finished with 18 points, three rebounds, two assists, and two steals.

Gage Sippel recorded 16 points, eight rebounds, two assists, two steals, and two blocks.

Becker Bosma chipped in four points, six rebounds, and four assists, while Anthony Tracy scored three points. Jayden Schwan added two points, and Logan Warrington grabbed two rebounds with an assist.

Groton finished with 32 rebounds, 20 assists, eight steals, and just eight turnovers.

Roncalli was led by Creighton Fisher, who knocked down five three-pointers and scored 16 points. Jessie Hernandez hit three triples and finished with 12 points, while Austin Fisher added 10. Bryson Olson scored six, Ezra Feikert had three, Quinten Shelton added two, and Brock Bowman chipped in one free throw. The Cavaliers hit 10 three-pointers but went just 4-of-10 from the free-throw line.

JV and C Game Results

Groton completed the sweep with a dominant 50-19 junior varsity victory. The Tigers led 20-3 after one quarter, 36-6 at halftime, and 42-11 after three.

Asher Johnson paced Groton with 15 points, while Anthony Tracy added 11. Ethan Kroll scored eight, Ryder Schelle had five, Jordan Schwan scored four, Jace Johnson had three, Riley Schellenberger added three, and J.J. Muller finished with two points. Roncalli's Aiden Hernandez led all scorers with 14 points, including four three-pointers.

The Tigers also edged Roncalli 31-28 in the C game. Groton led 8-4 after one quarter, 19-6 at halftime, and 27-12 after three before the Cavaliers stormed back with 13 straight points. Roncalli had a chance to tie late, but Groton's defense held firm.

Trey Tietz led the Tigers with 13 points. Major Dolan and Zach Flihs each scored six, Briggs Conn had three, Trayce Schelle added two, and Ryder Schwan scored one. Roncalli was led by Andrew Bain and Brock Bowman with six points apiece, while Isaac Sayler added five.

Groton improves to 10-4 on the season and will travel to Deuel on Thursday for a varsity doubleheader. Roncalli falls to 4-8.

The varsity broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Avantara - Groton, Agtegra, Bierman Farm Service, Bary Keith at Harr Motors,

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Karson Zak dunked the ball four times during the Aberdeen Roncalli basketball game. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Dan Richardt at Groton Ford, 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 game was sponsored by Jerry and Becky Johnson. The C Game by Brian Dolan.

Dunker has a double-double night in Tigers win over Florence-Henry



Rylee Dunker made this three-pointer. She made two three-pointers and finished with 10 points and 10 rebounds. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

The Groton Area Tigers improved to 10-5 on the season Tuesday night with a 50-37 win over the Florence/Henry Falcons, pulling away in the second half behind strong defense and hot shooting from the perimeter.

Florence/Henry jumped out to a 6-1 lead early, but Groton responded to tie the game at 6 before briefly taking a 9-6 advantage. The Falcons answered with a 12-0 run to take an 18-9 lead, but the Tigers quickly settled in, scoring eight straight points to reclaim the lead at 20-19. Florence/Henry briefly regained the lead at 21-20, and the game was tied again at 21 and 23 before Groton closed the half on a run to take a 33-25 halftime advantage.

Groton's defense took control in the second half, holding Florence/Henry to just five points in the third quarter while extending the lead to 46-30. The Tigers maintained control the rest of the way to secure the 50-37 victory.

Rylee Dunker recorded a double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds, adding one assist and one steal. Taryn Traphagen led all scorers with 21 points, knocking down 5-of-9 three-pointers and pulling down five

rebounds. Jayden Penning finished with eight points, eight rebounds, and three assists. Jerrica Locke contributed three points, four rebounds, six assists, and three steals, while McKenna Tietz added three points, two rebounds, four assists, and one steal. Kella Tracy scored three points with four rebounds and one steal, Talli Wright added two points and two rebounds, Mia Crank pulled down one rebound, and Sydney Locke recorded one steal.

Groton shot 32 percent from two-point range and 35 percent from beyond the arc, finishing 8-of-23 from three-point range. The Tigers totaled 36 rebounds, 14 assists, seven steals, and nine turnovers.

Florence/Henry was led by Ashlynn Vavruska with 17 points, nine coming in the first half. Addison Byer, Ana Byer, and Mylee Sumner each scored four points, while Aubrey Johnson added three points. Avari Gusso finished with two points, Lucy Bloom had two points, and Madison Stemwedel added one point.

Groton completed a clean sweep on the night with wins at all three levels.

In the junior varsity game, Groton Area earned a 39-19 victory, leading at the quarter breaks 9-5, 20-8, and 32-11. Sydney Locke led the Tigers with 11 points, Kella Tracy added seven points, Tevan Hanson and Ashlynn Warrington each scored six points, Makenna Krause finished with four points, and Taylynn Traphagen added three points.

The Tigers capped the night with a 40-15 win in the C game. Taylynn Traphagen led Groton Area with 19 points, followed by Kinsley Rowen with seven points. Brynley Dunker and Andi Iverson each scored five points, and Avery Crank added four points.

Groton Area will be back in action Thursday as the Lady Tigers travel to Clear Lake for a doubleheader against the Cardinals.

The varsity 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. Shane Clark 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.

Ace of Hearts

Bridget Flihs was the winner of \$115 at the Ace of Hearts drawing held Thursday at the Groton American Legion. Ticket sales for the week were \$1,165 with the jackpot at \$22,403. She picked card #23 which was the Jack of Hearts. The next drawing is Thursday. You can purchase your tickets from Paper Paul by 1 p.m. Thursday or at the Groton Legion by 5:30 p.m.

**NEC Boys
Basketball Standings**

	(C)	(S)
Clark/Willow Lake	5-0	13-2
Groton Area	7-1	10-4
Hamlin	4-1	10-2
Britton-Hecla	5-2	10-5
Webster Area	4-3	6-6
Sisseton	2-3	7-6
Roncalli	3-4	4-8
Milbank	2-4	8-5
Deuel	1-3	5-8
Redfield	0-6	2-11
Tiospa Zina	0-6	3-10

Roncalli (3-4)

Roncalli 75, Redfield 48
Webster Area 55, Roncalli 52
Sisseton 65, Roncalli 60
Roncalli 71, Tiospa Zina 37
Clark/WL 64, Roncalli 28
Roncalli 59, Britton-Hecla 53
Groton Area 85, Roncalli 50

Britton-Hecla (5-2)

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
Roncalli 59, Britton-Hecla 53
Britton-Hecla 45, Sisseton 37

Groton Area (7-1)

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
Groton Area 85, Roncalli 50

Milbank (2-4)

Clark/WL 61, Milbank 38
Britton-Hecla 53, Milbank 51
Milbank 65, Redfield 42
Groton Area 57, Milbank 36
Milbank 46, Deuel 38
Hamlin 71, Milbank 42

Redfield (0-6)

Roncalli 75, Redfield 48
Groton Area 81, Redfield 32
Britton-Hecla 62, Redfield 36
Milbank 65, Redfield 42
Sisseton 64, Redfield 41
Clark/WL 84, Redfield 28

Sisseton (2-3)

Groton Area 66, Sisseton 33
Sisseton 65, Roncalli 60
Sisseton 64, Redfield 41
Hamlin 63, Sisseton 21
Britton-Hecla 45, Sisseton 37

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 (5-0)

Clark/WL 61, Milbank 38
Clark/Willow Lake 56, Groton 39
Clark/WL 68, Webster 36
Clark/WL 64, Roncalli 28
Clark/WL 84, Redfield 28

Deuel (1-3)

Britton-Hecla 51, Deuel 34
Webster Area 52, Deuel 44
Milbank 46, Deuel 38
Deuel 82, Tiospa Zina 33

Hamlin (4-1)

Groton Area 55, Hamlin 50
Hamlin 80, Tiospa Zina 22

Hamlin 68, Webster Area 30
Hamlin 63, Sisseton 21
Hamlin 71, Milbank 42

Tiospa Zina (0-6)

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
Deuel 82, Tiospa Zina 33

Feb. 5

Groton Area at Deuel
Webster at Redfield

Feb. 6

Milbank at Roncalli
Clark/Willow Lake at Sisseton

Feb. 9

Sisseton at Webster

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

**NEC Girls Basketball
Standings**

	(C)	(S)
Clark/Willow Lake	5-0	11-1
Hamlin	5-0	11-1
Roncalli	5-1	11-2
Deuel	2-2	4-8
Milbank	4-3	10-2
Groton Area	5-2	10-5
Webster	3-5	4-9
Sisseton	2-2	5-7
Britton-Hecla	1-6	4-10
Tiospa Zina	1-6	4-9
Redfield	0-6	3-10

Roncalli (5-1)

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
Roncalli 58, Britton-Hecla 15

Britton-Hecla (1-6)

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

Roncalli 58, Britton-Hecla 15
Sisseton 56, Britton-Hecla 30

Groton Area (5-2)

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
Groton 58, Webster 28

Milbank (4-3)

Clark/WL 61, Milbank 42
Milbank 58, Britton-Hecla 12
Milbank 72, Tiospa Zina 23
Milbank 55, Redfield 29
Groton Area 54, Milbank 34
Milbank 60, Deuel 22
Hamlin 39, Milbank 36

Sisseton (2-2)

Groton Area 40, Sisseton 36
Roncalli 37, Sisseton 28
Sisseton 50, Redfield 48
Sisseton 56, Britton-Hecla 30

Redfield (0-6)

Roncalli 57, Redfield 24
Groton Area 42, Redfield 20
Britton-Hecla 29, Redfield 28
Milbank 55, Redfield 29
Sisseton 50, Redfield 48
Clark/WL 57, Redfield 19

Webster (3-5)

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
Groton 58, Webster 28
Hamlin 69, Sisseton 39

Clark/Willow Lake (5-0)

Clark/WL 61, Milbank 42
Clark/WL 38, Groton 34
Clark/WL 59, Webster 34
Clark/WL 50, Roncalli 38
Clark/WL 57, Redfield 19

Deuel (2-2)

Deuel 38, Britton-Hecla 33
Webster 52, Deuel 29
Milbank 60, Deuel 22
Deuel 60, Tiospa Zina 47

Hamlin (5-0)

Hamlin 46, Groton 21
Hamlin 83, Tiospa Zina 11
Hamlin 54, Webster 21
Hamlin 69, Sisseton 39
Hamlin 39, Milbank 36

Tiospa Zina (1-6)

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
Deuel 60, Tiospa Zina 47

Feb. 5

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

Feb. 9

Sisseton at Webster

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

**Groton Prairie
Mixed Bowling
League Week
#11 Results**

Team Standings: Coyotes 12, Cheetahs 11, Shihtzus 11, Jackelopes 6, Foxes 5, Chipmunks 3
Men's High Games: Vern Meyers 208 & 187, Brad Larson 193, Tony Waage 182

Women's High Games: Vicki Jorgensen 189, Darci Spanier 167, Nancy Radke 158

Men's High Series: Vern Meyers 570, Brad Larson 511, John Sippel 496

Women's High Series: Vicki Walter 449, Nancy Radke 446, Vicki Jorgensen 435

Week 11 Fun Game: Most Spares - Coyotes with 46!

**Conde National
League**

Jan. 26 Team Standings: Stooges 20, Cubs 20, Giants 14, ets 12, Pirates 11, Braves 7.

Men's High Games: Porter Johnson 196, Dion Bahr 191, Chad Johnson 188.

Men's High Series: Chad Johnson 524, Dion Bahr 509, Skip Kettering 461.

Women's High Games: Nancy Radke 176, Suzie Easthouse 171, Sam Bahr 156.

Women's High Series: Suzie Easthouse 458, Sam Bahr 451, Nancy Radke 432.

Feb. 2 Team Standings: Stooges 21, Cubs 20, Mets 15, Giants 15, Pirates 14, Braves 11.

Men's High Games: Caleb Furney 196, Chad Johnson 172, Dion Bahr 170.

Men's High Series: Caleb Furney 514, Dion Bahr 460, Dalton Locke 421.

Women's High Games: Sandy Hoops 174, Sam Bahr 171, Suzie Easthouse 166.

Women's High Series: Nancy Radke 452, Sam Bahr 445, Suzie Easthouse 444.



The stage is set for Super Bowl LX. 32 teams entered the 2025 season with hopes of hoisting the Lombardi Trophy, and only two remain: the Seattle Seahawks and the New England Patriots.

Usually, the weekend in between the Conference Championship games and the Super Bowl is when the best players from around the league converge for the Pro Bowl. There are usually a handful of Vikings players that I keep an eye on, and then write about how they did in the various events. Unfortunately, there aren't any Vikings in this year's Pro Bowl. Not even replacement players who fill in for those who are either injured or about to play in the Super Bowl. This has only happened one other time in the last 40 years (the 2014 Pro Bowl). And so, this leads us directly into the subject of today's article...

The Vikings have fired General Manager Kwesi Adofo-Mensah.

It was a surprise announcement by the Vikings' ownership group, headed by Mark and Zygi Wilf. Not surprising in the "I can't believe they fired him" way, but more so in the "if they were going to fire him, why wait until now to do it" way. Two other General Managers were fired this season, and both were relieved of their duties as quickly as possible in order to give the team a better chance of finding a replacement. Chris Grier "stepped down" from the Miami Dolphins in October, and Terry Fontenot was fired shortly after the season ended and the Atlanta Falcons didn't make the playoffs. But the Vikings, who had just given Kwesi Adofo-Mensah (KAM) a contract extension less than a year ago, allowed him to continue doing his duties as GM, including end-of-season press conferences and a trip to Mobile, Alabama to scout the Senior Bowl.

While the timing is questionable, the reasons behind KAM getting fired are not.

KAM was brought in to be an analytics guy. The former stock trader turned NFL GM. But the NFL is not the stock market. KAM presided over four draft cycles, the one area where being an analytics guy should give an advantage, and the Vikings have very little to show for it. His first draft in 2022 was one of the worst in franchise history. He traded the 12th pick to the Detroit Lions, bypassing a generational player at a position of need (safety Kyle Hamilton), only to later take a safety with the 32nd pick (Lewis Cine). The Vikings then traded with the Green Bay Packers, allowing them to draft Christian Watson. The Vikings ended up with Andrew Booth Jr. instead. Neither of those players is in the NFL anymore. In total, KAM drafted 28 players in Minnesota, and all we have to show for it is a WR3 (Jalen Nailor), a WR2 (Jordan

Addison), a kicker (Will Reichard), and a pass rusher (Dallas Turner). Four solid picks in 28 attempts is unacceptable.

And the final nail in the coffin? Watching Sam Darnold lead the Seattle Seahawks to the Super Bowl, one year after winning 14 games for the Vikings. At the time, the move made sense. Darnold had just melted down in the two most important games of the season, a week 18 matchup against the Lions for the top spot in the NFC, and then the following week against the Rams in the first round of the playoffs. The Vikings also had a rookie first-round QB on the roster who they wanted to give every opportunity to. Unfortunately for the Vikings, J.J. McCarthy had a disastrous 2025 season, they were eliminated from the playoffs mid-season, and their former QB is one win away from doing something the Vikings have never done in their illustrious history – hoisting the Lombardi Trophy.

The Groton Independent

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Deadline to submit items: Noon Monday]

Yearly Subscription Rates are listed below. The Groton Independent (USPS# 230-440) is published weekly with its periodicals postage paid at Groton, SD.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Groton Independent, PO Box 34, Groton, SD 57445

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"Insomnia"

Difficulty sleeping is a common concern we hear about in primary care. Many of us will have trouble sleeping on occasion, but when that is a persistent pattern causing distress or functional impairment, we call it insomnia. Insomnia can mean difficulty falling asleep, difficulty maintaining sleep, or waking early unable to fall back asleep.

First and foremost, is the difficulty sleeping causing problems? If it is not resulting in problems with daily functioning, we may need to manage expectations around sleep. Not every person needs 8 hours per night, and if your imperfect sleep is perfectly tolerable, it is probably best to leave it alone. As we age, we need less hours of nighttime sleep; again, as long as you feel well during the day, that is just fine.

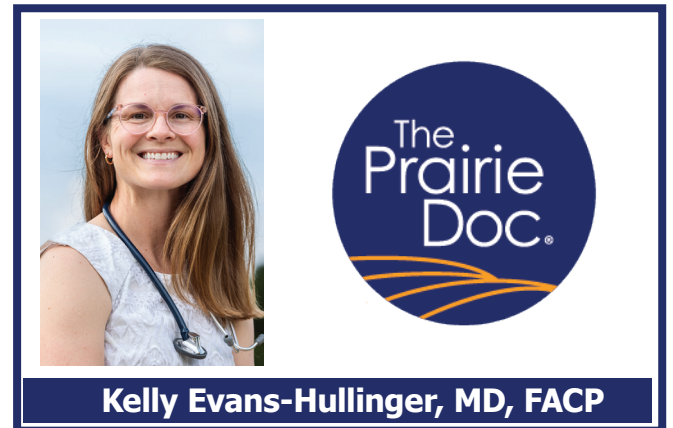
For those whose poor sleep is resulting in intolerable drowsiness or difficulty functioning at work or home, I have more questions. Is an acute illness or stressor contributing? Might there be another sleep disorder like sleep apnea or restless leg syndrome? Is pain, an urge to urinate, or some other physical symptom causing your awakenings? Is there underlying depression, anxiety, or other mental health concerns? Are you taking any medications or substances that might cause sleep disruption? Addressing any of these may significantly improve sleep. Alcohol is a common culprit; often assumed to help people fall asleep, alcohol actually yields poor quality rest.

Most patients with insomnia can be helped with behavior changes alone, or "sleep hygiene." There are a few basic tenets, some more intuitive than others. First, optimize the sleep environment; ideally this means a dark, cool, quiet bedroom. Second, a consistent bedtime and wake time are very important, even on the weekends. This is particularly difficult for our patients who have jobs requiring rotating shifts. Next, find a bedtime routine which helps your brain wind down; think less screen time, and more reading, meditating, or listening to calming music. Finally, and less intuitive to most, if you do find yourself lying in bed for 20 minutes without falling asleep, get out of bed, try a calming routine over again, then get back into bed. More time spent not sleeping in your bed is more time your brain spends learning the bed is a place to be awake. Furthermore, it fuels anxiousness when we lie awake yearning for sleep, so it is best to break that cycle.

I see a lot of people tracking sleep with their smartwatch or other wearable device, and my advice is to be aware of potential pitfalls. We don't have good evidence that the information all devices provide on sleep is accurate, and for most people tracking those statistics actually tends to increase anxiety around sleep which may worsen the problem.

Have you followed all the above advice but still suffer from insomnia? The gold standard treatment is cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia (CBT-I) provided by a mental health professional. Beyond that we do have pharmacologic options, but medications for sleep can be fraught with potential problems, especially for our patients over age 65. Even some over-the-counter sleep medications can have significant risks in older patients, so please use caution and talk to your primary care provider.

Dr. Kelly Evans Hullinger practices internal medicine at Avera Medical Group in Brookings, SD. She serves as one of the Prairie Doc Volunteer Hosts during its 24th Season providing Health Education Based on Science, Built on Trust. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Tik Tok. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm, SDPB, YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).



Kelly Evans-Hullinger, MD, FACP

88th Carnival of Silver Skates



McKenna Tietz was named the 2026 Carnival of Silver Skates queen. She is being pulled around the rink by the rest of the candidates and the 2025 Queen Rylee Dunker. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Specialty Act "Everywhere, Everything" Avery Crank and Emerlee Jones

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Each year the Carnival of Silver Skates committee recognizes an organization, business or individual who have been instrumental with their support of the carnival. This year, Coralea Wolter was recognized as a Friend of the Carnival.

(Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)



Specialty Act "Dancing in the Dark" Tevan Hanson and Abby Fjeldheim

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Specialty Act Claire Schuelke "The Greatest Show" (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



12th grade "Hold On" Mia Crank, Emma Davies, and Rylee Dunker

Instructors: Shonna Harry and Aubray Miller (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Snowflakes "Ghostbusters"

Waylon Anderson, Wrenley Giedt, Ivy Hughes, Oscar Jetto, Luke Johnson, Scarlett Pigors-Laughery, and Cole Swisher

Instructors: Katie Anderson and Coralea Wolter (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

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Vermillion Tanagers surge past Groton Area DAK12/NEC Clash

MADISON, S.D. — The Groton Area Tigers made the trip to Madison on Friday for the annual DAK-12 Northeast Conference clash, but it was Vermillion that set the tone early and never let go, handing Groton Area a 71-50 loss. According to Al Bierschbach, Madison assistant athletic director, NEC schools want to pull out of the annual clash. Bierschbach said, "All NEC teams will be invited next year, and the rest of the teams will be filled in with others from around the state."

Vermillion controlled the opening tip and immediately put the Tigers on their heels, knocking down six three-pointers in the first quarter to build a commanding 25-10 advantage. The Tanagers extended that momentum into the second quarter with a 15-point run spanning the quarter break, pushing the lead to 27-10.

Groton Area responded late in the first half with a brief rally, trimming the deficit to 13 at the break, 39-26. After a cold opening quarter in which the Tigers shot just 4-of-13 (31%) from the field, Groton warmed up in the second, hitting 6-of-12 shots (55%), while Vermillion cooled slightly to 45% shooting in the period.

Any hopes of a comeback were short-lived, however, as Vermillion reasserted control in the third quarter, stretching the lead to 57-34 heading into the final frame.

Sophomore Karson Zac was a bright spot for Groton Area, scoring 25 points — exactly half of the Tigers' total — while knocking down 5-of-9 from beyond the arc and 5-of-6 on two-point attempts. He also added two rebounds and three assists. Senior Gage Sippel recorded a double-double with 10 points and 12 rebounds, along with two assists, two steals, and a blocked shot.

Additional contributions came from Becker Bosma with eight points and four rebounds, Ryder Johnson with three points, three rebounds, an assist, and two steals. Keegen Tracy had four points, four assists and two steals. Easton Weber pulled down four rebounds with an assist and a steal. Ethan Kroll added a steal, and Jayden Schwan finished with two rebounds.

As a team, Groton Area shot 17-of-32 (53%) on two-point attempts, but struggled from long range at 5-of-24 (21%), and went 1-of-4 at the free-throw line. The Tigers finished with 27 rebounds, 13 assists, nine steals, one block, and 13 turnovers.

Vermillion was led by Trey Hansen, who poured in 28 points. Luke Jensen added 14 points, while Gabe Larson chipped in nine, including three three-pointers. Trenton Thomas scored eight, with Cale Cleveland and Spencer Blanchette each finishing with six. The Tanagers shot an efficient 26-of-48 (54%) from the field and went 7-of-8 at the free-throw line, committing just nine turnovers.

After the game, Groton Area head coach Greg Kjellsen pointed to a lack of early intensity as the difference.

"From the time the tipoff went, we were just never in the ball game," Kjellsen said. "We weren't locked in defensively, and offensively it looked like one of the first couple games of the year where we just settled for threes right off the bat."

Kjellsen noted that while Vermillion's hot shooting wasn't likely to last forever, Groton failed to respond on the defensive end.

"I told the boys they weren't going to shoot like that the whole game, but we've got to get out and play some defense," he said. "When your top two or three scorers have two points with two minutes to go in the game, it's going to be tough."

The Tigers' coach praised Zac's effort in an otherwise difficult night. "Karson kept us looking at least somewhat respectable," Kjellsen said. "He came to play."

Despite the loss, Kjellsen emphasized perspective and the importance of moving forward.

"It's a long season," he said. "The sun will shine tomorrow, God willing. We've got to take care of our own business and not let this one beat us twice."

With the setback, Groton Area falls to 9-4 on the season, while Vermillion improves to 9-4. The Tigers will look to bounce back Tuesday night as they return to action against Roncalli.

The game 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 did the stats and technology.



Gage Sippel had two dunks in the Vermillion game. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Locke, Dunker lead Lady Tigers in win over Webster Area

The Groton Area girls basketball team got back on the winning track Thursday night in Webster, rolling past the Webster Area Bearcats 58-28.

Groton came out firing, jumping to a 10-0 lead and knocking down six three-pointers in the opening quarter to spark the offense. The Lady Tigers built a commanding advantage early and never looked back, taking a 34-17 lead into half-time and stretching it to 51-25 by the end of the third quarter before emptying the bench with 6:25 remaining. Groton went on to close out the night with the 30-point win.

"When the shot goes in, everything's easier," said Groton head coach Matt Locke. "I thought that was the best we've looked in the half court all year, and the best we've moved the basketball by far."

While the Tigers' shooting set the tone, Locke noted that defensive discipline remains a point of emphasis. He pointed to a stretch in the second half where Groton had several blown assignments before correcting things after a timeout.

Jerica Locke led the Tigers with 16 points, including four three-pointers. Rylee Dunker followed with 15 points, including two from beyond the arc. Jayden Penning added nine points, while Taryn Traphagen scored seven. McKenna Tietz finished with five points, Kella Tracy had four, and Talli Wright added two.

Locke said Dunker's night stood out, both statistically and in overall play.

"Rylee had a very productive night," he said. "Hopefully we can go back and watch this game and carry that confidence forward."

Webster was led by Georgia Vergeldt with seven points. Ryan Johnson and Chloe Mammenga each scored five, Bailee Ninke added four, Kenzie Kuecker had three, and Karli Sandness and Mallory Steiner chipped in two apiece.

With the win, Groton improves to 9-5 on the season and will host Florence-Henry on Monday. Locke said the focus down the stretch won't be so much on opponents as it will be on the Tigers themselves.

"Everything from here on out is about us," he said. "We need to play with the confidence, calmness, and togetherness we had tonight, even in the games that feel bigger. If all five players do their job for 32 minutes, we'll live with the result."

Junior Varsity

Groton completed the sweep with a 27-19 junior varsity victory. The game featured several lead changes early, with Groton holding a 10-7 edge after the first quarter. Webster tied the game at 10 before Groton led 16-12 at halftime. The Bearcats again tied it at 16 in the third quarter, but the Tigers responded, taking an 18-16 lead into the fourth and pulling away late.

Sydney Locke led Groton with 11 points, including three three-pointers. Kella Tracy added nine points, McKenna Krause scored four, Ashlynn Warrington had two, and Teagan Hatten finished with one. Webster was led by Chloe Kvernevig with 12 points.

C Game

Groton made it a clean sweep on the night with a 29-20 win in the C game. The Tigers led 5-4 after one quarter, 14-9 at halftime, and 23-12 at the end of the third.

Brynlee Dunker led Groton with 14 points. Taylynn Traphagen scored six, Teagan Hanten added five, Andi Iverson had three, and Avery Crank finished with one. Webster's leading scorer was Hannah Sonstebo with 10 points.

The varsity 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. Jeslyn Kosel ran the camera and Paul Kosel did the commentary, stats and technology. The junior varsity and C games were broadcast as well, sponsored by Grandparents.



Jaedyn Penning launches a three-pointer. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Taryn Traphagen drives to the basket.

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

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Groton Community Events

Thursday, Feb. 5

Senior Menu: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, carrots, fruit, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Cereal
School Lunch: Corn dogs, baked beans.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Nigeria Circle, 2 p.m.
Basketball Doubleheader at Deuel: (JV girls at 4 p.m.; JV boys at 5 p.m., Varsity girls at 6 p.m., varsity boys to follow.
2nd Grade BB practice, 5 p.m., elementary gym.
Boys Wrestling at Deuel, 5 p.m.
4th grade BB practice, 6 p.m., gym.
High School Softball practice, 6 p.m., gym

Friday, Feb. 6

Senior Menu: Baked fish, baked potato, antigua blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Egg wraps.
School Lunch: Cheese pizza, green beans.
3rd grade BBB practice, 3:30 p.m., elementary gym.
Varsity girls wrestling at Yankton, 4 p.m.
Varsity boys wrestling at Lyman Quad, 5 p.m.
JH BBB hosts Waubay/Summit (7th at 6 p.m., 8th at 7 p.m.)

Saturday, Feb. 7

Varsity girls wrestling at Dell Rapids, 9 a.m.
Pickleball at Elementary gym, 9:30 a.m.
Boys Varsity Wrestling at Big Dakota Conference Tournament, 10 a.m., in Pierre
Dak XII-NEC Clash: Groton Area vs. Canton, 5 p.m., Madison Auxiliary Gym.
HOSA Middle School dance in the gym.

Sunday, Feb. 8

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m. (installation of officers); Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir, 6 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m.; at Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Groton Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.
Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.
Groton Soccer Association Clinics, 11:30 a.m., Arena.
Soccer Open Gym, 1:30 - 3 p.m. elementary gym.
4th grade BB Practice, 2 p.m., Gym
6th grade BB Practice, 6 pm., Arena

Monday, Feb. 9

Senior Menu: Baked hot ham and cheese, tomato soup, fruit.
School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels.
School Lunch: Pork chop, rice.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
Senior Citizens meet at 1 p.m. at the Groton Community Center
1st Grade Boys Basketball Practice, 4:30 p.m., elementary gym
Girls basketball hosts Great Plains Lutheran: C at 5 p.m, JV at 6 p.m., varsity to follow.
Kindergarten Boys Basketball, 6 p.m., elementary gym
5th Grade BBB, 6 p.m., HS Gym.

Tuesday, Feb. 10

Senior Menu: Pork loin, roasted potatoes, glazed carrots, fruit, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Breakfast sliders.
School Lunch: Chicken nuggets, sweet po-

tato fries.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Council, potluck meal, 6 p.m.
4th Grade Girl's Basketball, 4 p.m., elementary gym
Mobridge MS Wrestling Jamboree, 5 p.m.
Pickleball, 5:30 p.m., elementary gym
4th Grade BBB, 6 p.m., arena
Boys basketball vs. Leola/Frederick at Frederick with JV at 6:30 p.m. followed by varsity.

Wednesday, Feb. 11

Senior Menu: Chicken broccoli bake, mashed potatoes, Mandarin oranges, fruit.
School Breakfast: Omelets.
School Lunch: Pizza crunchers, green beans.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation.
St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.
Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.
Pickleball, 5:30 p.m., elementary gym
6th Grade Boys Basketball, 6 p.m., HS Gym
3rd/4th Volleyball Practice, 6 p.m., Arena
5th Grade BBB, 6 p.m., HS Gym

Thursday, Feb. 12

Senior Menu: Roast beef, mashed potatoes, California blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Biscuits.
School Lunch: Chicken patty, mashed potatoes.
Groton Lions Club, 6 p.m., 104 N Main
Parent/Teacher Conferences, 1:30-8 p.m.
2nd Grade BB, 5 p.m., elementary gym
4th Grade BB, 6 p.m., HS Gym
HS Softball, 6 p.m., HS Gym

Friday, Feb 13

NO SCHOOL
Senior Menu: Calico casserole, fruit, whole wheat bread.
3rd Grade Boys Basketball, 3:30 p.m., Elementary Gym

Saturday, Feb. 14

Pickleball, 9:30 a.m., elementary gym
SDHSAA Class B State Boys Wrestling Duals in Pierre
Basketball Double Header: Mobridge-Pollock at Groton Area (Gym: B7th-12, B8th-1, GC-2, Arena: BC-12, JVGBB-1, JVBBB-2, VGBB-3:15, VBBB-4:30)

Sunday, Feb. 15

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir, 6 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion at St. John's, 9 a.m.; at Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; NO Sunday School; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.;

Turton Mass, 11 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.
Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.
Groton Soccer Association Clinics, 11:30 a.m., Arena.
Soccer Open Gym, 2:30 - 4 p.m. elementary gym.
4th grade BB Practice, 2 p.m., Gym
6th grade BB Practice, 6 pm., Arena
Dance Team, 5 p.m., Arena

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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Tiger grapplers beat Britton-Hecla, McLaughlin

The Groton Area Tigers put together a strong and complete night on the mat, earning dual victories over Britton-Hecla (51-28) and McLaughlin (75-4), with contributions coming from every weight class through a mix of contested wins, pins, and forfeit victories.

Groton Area was dominant in its first dual against McLaughlin, surrendering just one bout on the night. Preston Hinkelman set the tone at 106 with a fall over Aiden Spotted Horse, while Luke Gauer followed at 113 with a narrow 8-7 decision over Gabe Crow Ghost. At 120, Wyatt Hagen pinned Wambli White Tail in 2:00, and Kyson Kucker added another fall at 126, stopping Ryken McCloud in 1:46. Groton again benefited from forfeits at 132 and 138, awarded to Noah Scepaniak and Aiden Strom. At 144, Grayson Flores pinned Charles White Buffalo in 1:39, while Kason Oswald needed just 0:58 to pin Myron Kills In Water at 150. The pin streak continued at 157 as Donavon Block earned a fall over Wawokiya White Mountain in 1:33. Ben Hoeft (165) and Isaiah Scepaniak (175) both added forfeit wins, and Walker Zoellner returned to the win column at 190 with a pin of Jacoby Carry Moccasin in 2:57. McLaughlin's only points came at 215, where Layne Johnson was defeated by Quentin White Mountain via 10-1 major decision. Groton closed the night with another forfeit win from Gavin Englund at 285.

Against Britton-Hecla, Groton Area opened the dual by taking advantage of lineup gaps, receiving forfeit wins from Wyatt Hagen at 120 pounds, Kyson Kucker at 126, Noah Scepaniak at 132, and Aiden Strom at 138. In contested action, Grayson Flores delivered a solid performance at 144, earning a 10-3 decision over Corbin Dawson. At 150, Kason Oswald was pinned by Bryce Hawkinson in 1:21, while Donavon Block dropped a 23-9 major decision to Colton Chapin at 157. Groton responded with additional forfeit points from Ben Hoeft at 165 and Isaiah Scepaniak at 175. At 190, Walker Zoellner was pinned by Tucker Hardy in 3:06. The Tigers closed the dual strong as Layne Johnson pinned Liam Paxton in 1:49 at 215, and Gavin Englund secured a forfeit win at heavyweight. In the lighter weights, Preston Hinkelman was pinned by Lincoln Kilker at 106 in 2:51, and Bentley Ehresmann was pinned by Henry Kilker at 113 in 4:35, but Groton's depth carried them to the 51-28 team win.



Henry Kilker (Britton-Hecla) ended up scoring a pin over Bentley Ehresmann (Groton Area) in 4:35. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Donavon Block (Groton Area) scored a pin over Wawokiya White Mountain (McLaughlin) in 1:33. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Wyatt Hagen (Groton Area) scored a pin over Wambli White Tail (McLaughlin) in 2:00. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Kyson Kucker (Groton Area) pinned Ryken McCloud (McLaughlin), 1:46. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Quentin White Mountain (McLaughlin) scored a major decision over Layne Johnson (Groton Area), 10-1. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Layne Johnson (Groton Area) pinned Liam Paxton (Britton-Hecla), 1:49. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Preston Hinkelman (Groton Area) pinned Aiden Spotted Horse (McLaughlin). (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Coaches Darin Zoellner, Chris Ehresmann and Troy Zoellner cheer on their wrestlers from the sideline. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Grayson Flores (Groton Area) scored a decision over Corbin Dawson (Britton-Hecla), 10-3. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Tucker Hardy (Britton-Hecla) pinned Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) in 3:06. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Kason Oswald (Groton Area) pinned Myron Kills In Water (McLaughlin) in 58 seconds. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) pinned Jacoby Carry Moccasin (McLaughlin) in 2:57. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Krueger earns 100th pin
Liza Krueger earned her 100th pin at the Garretson wrestling tournament held earlier this week. She is pictured with Gavin Englund. (Photo courtesy Carrie Moritz of the Garretson Gazette)



Lincoln Kilker (Britton-Hecla) pinned Preston Hinkelman (Groton Area), 2:51.
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Luke Gauer (Groton Area) came from behind to score a decision over Gabe Crow Ghost (McLaughlin), 8-7. Gauer trailed, 6-1, going into the third period.
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Krueger Claims Gold as Groton Area Competes at 2026 Girls Aberdeen Central Invitational

Groton Area girls wrestling saw a strong performance at the Aberdeen Central Invitational on Friday, highlighted by a championship run from Liza Krueger and valuable mat time for Gracelynn Decker.

At 105 pounds, Liza Krueger (36-2) turned in a dominant day, placing 1st and scoring 27.5 team points for Groton Area. Krueger opened the tournament with back-to-back falls, pinning Charlotte Koch of McCook Central/Montrose in 1:18 before sticking Olivia Borgen of Britton-Hecla in 1:15. In the semifinal round, Krueger battled past Kadee Frankfurth of Clark/Willow Lake with a hard-fought 4-3 decision. She capped off her championship run in emphatic fashion, earning a technical fall over Vanessa Anderson of Watertown, 15-0, at the 5:46 mark to secure the title.

Competing at 110 pounds, Gracelynn Decker (4-10) placed 7th and added 2.0 team points. Decker received a bye in the opening round before falling to Aubrey Fischer of Pierre T.F. Riggs by pin in the quarterfinals. She later returned to the mat after another bye but was pinned by Sawyer Opsahl of Ipswich in the consolation bracket. Decker closed the tournament by receiving a bye in the seventh-place match to finish the day.

Groton Area dominates home mats, claims team title at Groton Wrestling Tournament

GROTON — Groton Area put together a complete performance Saturday on its home mats, rolling to the team championship at the Groton Wrestling Tournament with 255 points, well ahead of runner-up Britton/Hecla (182.5) and Gettysburg (120). The Tigers crowned seven individual champions, added multiple podium finishes, and received contributions from every wrestler in the lineup.

Groton Area's championship run began at 90–98 pounds, where Bentley Ehresmann (13-9) turned in a dominant day. Ehresmann opened with a pin over Tate Sjurson of Watertown JV, followed by technical falls against Will Finnegan of Sioux Falls O'Gorman JV and Lorin Schaller of Wessington Springs/Woonsocket/Wolsey/Wessington, before closing out the title with an 8-0 major decision over Cashton Rausch of Gettysburg.

At 106 pounds, Preston Hinkelman (19-13) placed fourth after recording three falls. Hinkelman pinned Westyn Hofer of Clark/Willow Lake and Emmett O'Leary of Timber Lake, while also earning a win before falling to Lincoln Kilker of Britton/Hecla in the semifinals and Leo Walraven of Watertown JV in the third-place match.

Luke Gauer (8-15) also finished fourth at 113 pounds. Gauer opened with a pin over Colt Nichols of Clark/Willow Lake, then added a consolation pin against Michael Pickrel of Watertown JV, before falling to Landry Weiss of Watertown JV and Axel DeYoung of Redfield in medal-round matches.

Groton crowned another champion at 120 pounds as Wyatt Hagen (25-6) claimed first place with pins over Ashyr Leddy and Tanner Urdahl of Watertown JV and Harley Valley of Webster Area, along with a decision win over Retro Benson of Lemmon. Teammates Parker Zoellner (1-4) and Xzander Lopan (0-2) also competed at the weight, with Zoellner facing Retro Benson of Lemmon and Wambli White Tail of McLaughlin, and Lopan wrestling Joseph O'Connor of Sioux Falls O'Gorman JV and Corey Roberts of Wessington Springs/Woonsocket/Wolsey/Wessington.

At 126 pounds, Kyson Kucker (23-7) dominated the bracket, pinning Ernest Walette of Huron JV, Blake Lei of Timber Lake, and Sutton Peterson of Lemmon to capture the championship. The Tigers followed with another title at 132 pounds as Noah Scepaniak (18-13) earned wins over Jax Le of Watertown JV and Stephen Martens of Huron JV, in addition to a forfeit win against Hanson, finishing with a major decision in the finals.

Aiden Strom (6-13) placed third at 138 pounds after rebounding from an early loss to Mason Severson of Clark/Willow Lake with wins over Izaya Velasquez of Gettysburg and Sidney Morgan of Timber Lake. At 144 pounds, Grayson Flores (9-16) finished fourth, earning a forfeit win against Hanson and a pin over Charles White Buffalo of McLaughlin, before losses to Luke Minor of Sioux Falls O'Gorman JV and Kaleb Ellingson of Lemmon.

At 150 pounds, Kason Oswald (8-16) competed against Maxwell Anderson of Lemmon and Tanner Johnsen of Wessington Springs/Woonsocket/Wolsey/Wessington but did not place.

Groton Area added another champion at 157 pounds, where Donavon Block (20-11) defeated Rayin Mansfield of Warner/Northwestern before pinning Chase Furuli of Gettysburg in the championship match. Ben Hoeft (14-14) placed sixth at 165 pounds, recording a pin over Rio Zaher of Wessington Springs/Woonsocket/Wolsey/Wessington, while also facing Ayden Forgey of Gettysburg and Austin Nash of Warner/Northwestern.

At 175 pounds, Isaiah Scepaniak (15-14) placed fourth after pinning Alex Lutter of Hoven and Behrett Ahrens of Clark/Willow Lake, with losses coming against Trace Genzler of Gettysburg and Nathan Hubsch of Webster Area. Walker Zoellner (18-7) delivered a strong runner-up finish at 190 pounds, advancing to the finals with quick pins over Trey Dahl of Watertown JV and Giovanni Rodriguez of Huron JV before falling to Tucker Hardy of Britton/Hecla.

Layne Johnson (14-3) battled through the consolation bracket to place third at 215 pounds, pinning Lane Brown of Warner/Northwestern, Liam Paxton of Britton/Hecla, and Kyle Gebhart of Lemmon, with his only loss coming to Quentin White Mountain of McLaughlin. Rounding out the



Colton Chapin (Britton-Hecla) scored a major decision over Donavon Block (Groton Area), 23-9. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton lineup, Gavin Englund (26-2) capped the tournament with a championship at 285 pounds, pinning Rollie Betten of Redfield in the finals.

Behind Groton Area and Britton/Hecla in the team standings were Gettysburg, Lemmon, Watertown JV, Huron JV, Clark/Willow Lake, Sully Buttes, Redfield, Warner/Northwestern, McLaughlin, Sioux Falls O'Gorman JV, Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle, Webster Area, Timber Lake, Wessington Springs/Woonsocket/Wolsey/Wessington, Hoven, Tiospa Zina, Hanson, and Ortonville.

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NOTICE

An application has been made by Kyler & Lia Dinger to the Brown County Board of Commissioners for a change of zoning. Hearing to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota on February 17, 2026 for the purpose of rezoning the following property from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its current use.

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.).

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the amendment to the Second Revision Brown County Ordinances pertaining to rezoning the property described. At conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt the first reading of Ordinance No. 321.

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published February 4, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$12.25 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26499



JANUARY 27, 2026 – GENERAL MEETING

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve the agenda. All members present

voting aye. Motion carried.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: None

QUOTES FOR NEW ROOF TOP A/C UNIT FOR 124 BUILDING: Judy Dosch, Building Superintendent and Randy Zens, Assistant Building Superintendent present two quotes to the Commission to replace the Roof Top A/C Unit at the 124 Building: Jake's Heating & Cooling at \$13,589.82 (includes Excise Tax) and LTK Heating & Cooling at \$14,265.33 (includes Excise Tax). Randy recommended Jake's Heating & Cooling. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to accept the quote from Jake's Heating & Cooling at \$13,589.82 to replace the Roof Top A/C Unit at the 124 Building. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

2026 ASSESSMENT PLAN: Gene Loeschke, Director of Equalization, presented his 2026 Assessment Plan to the Commissioners. Gene shared that SB 216 puts a limit of 3% to increase the assessment County-wide not by parcel, so some properties assessments will be above 3%, some will be lower than 3% and some will stay the same. Gene wanted to stress though that Senior Freeze Criteria has changed. Currently the Annual Income was at \$41,539.00 and now it is at \$56,595.00. If you qualify, and you are over 65 years old, they will go back to the what the property was assessed at when you turned 65. Property Tax is a hot topic so will see what happens during this legislative session.

LOTTERY PERMIT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Lottery Permit application submitted by Elm Lake Action Committee, Inc., aka Elm Lake Association for July 4, 2026 to sell raffle tickets and raise fund for Elm Lake Betterment Projects. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the General Meeting Minutes of January 20, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims/payroll: Claims: Insurance: Bridgeway Counseling Center, Inc \$2,500.00; Insurance Plus \$2,823.56. Professional Fees: CGI, LLC \$1,612.50; Dependable Sanita-

tion, Inc \$36,812.00; Houston Engineering, Inc \$17,267.40; IMEG Corp \$19,800.00; Kristi Brandt \$297.90; Kuck Law Office \$5,667.00; Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC \$390.00; Northeastern Mental Health Center \$75.00; Taliaferro Law Firm, PC \$2,836.00; Yankton County Sheriff's Office \$100.00; Jury Duty Participants \$16,460.20; US Bank \$6,425.20. Publishing: Groton Daily Independent \$440.27; McQuillen Creative Group, Inc \$224.58; US Bank \$300.00. Repairs & Maintenance: Burdette Security & Technologies, LLC \$1,593.00; Cole Paper Inc \$535.90; Dockendorf Equipment Co., Inc \$720.00; J & K Painting \$1,330.26; Leidholt Electric, LLC \$76.58; Pantorium Cleaners Inc \$282.60; Pomp's Tire Service, Inc \$765.82; Safety Service \$300.00; Sir Lines-A-Lot, LLC \$75,440.00; Steven Lust Automotive \$96.00; TruGreen, Aberdeen \$640.20; US Bank \$2,418.44. Supplies: Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$3,166.58; Buckstaff Public Safety \$789.00; Century Business Products \$100.85; Dakota Mailing & Shipping Equipment \$153.53; Dakota Supply Group \$65.99; Dockendorf Equipment Co., Inc \$1,600.00; Faulkton Drug \$118.08; Intoximeters \$525.00; Kuck Law Office \$302.10; Leidholt Tool Sales, LLC \$270.86; Leidholt Electric, LLC \$2.29; Menards \$52.56; Safe Life Defense \$2,259.30; Safety Service \$736.00; St Mark's Episcopal Church \$1,500.00; Steven Lust Automotive \$89.90; Trav's Outfitter Inc \$120.00; US Bank \$10,237.81. Travel & Conference: CGI, LLC \$34.30; Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC \$40.00; Makendra Ochsner \$19.00; Neil Bittner \$19.00; Scott Kolb \$19.00; US Bank \$4,771.29. Utilities: Dependable Sanitation, Inc \$836.00; Northwestern Energy \$3,618.01; Sanford Health \$540.00; T-Mobile USA Inc \$1,243.72; US Bank \$3,628.11. Other: Lisa or James Kiesz \$316.64; Overhead Door \$35.72; Veit Company \$1,119.48. Payroll: Commission \$5,165.81; Elections \$2,050.39; Auditor/Welfare \$12,097.84; Treasurer \$18,251.33; SA \$38,134.90; Public Defender \$10,265.71; Maintenance \$13,765.48; Assessor \$17,506.93; Register of Deeds \$11,511.05; VSO \$5,006.26; GIS \$3,110.76; IT \$10,616.94; HR \$5,803.70; Sheriff \$75,181.46; Jail \$106,599.09; Coroner (Voucher) \$2,100.00; Court Security

\$8,867.62; JDC \$45,418.79; Museum \$14,610.49; Parks/Fairgrounds \$7,966.34; Fair Board \$4,858.36; 4-H \$881.60; Weed \$1,245.44; Planning & Zoning Office, Prof. LLC \$390.00; North-Dispatch \$56,460.85; Emergency \$5,968.89; 24/7 Sobriety \$3,057.14; Landfill \$19,296.51; Meal Benefits \$42.00; FICA \$33,814.82; Medicare \$7908.28; HSA \$2,360.72; Health Insurance-Wellmark BCBS \$137,787.25; Dental Insurance-Delta \$9,642.36; Life Insurance-Dearborn \$1,135.60; Retirement -SDRS \$68,374.01. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

TRAVEL REQUESTS: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Travel Requests: Derek Hoefert, Sheriff's Office to attend Advanced Patrol Tactics/Reading People: Decoding Body Language and Criminal Behaviors in Sioux Falls on March 25-26, 2026; Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent to provide Legislative Testimony in Pierre on January 22, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

AUDITOR'S REPORT OF ACCOUNTS FOR DECEMBER 2025: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the Auditor's Report of Accounts for December 2025: Total Cash and Check on Hand \$7,700.00; Total Checking Account Balances \$18,464,769.84; Total Savings Account Balances \$1,245,447.42; Total Certificates of Deposit \$11,302,725.57; Grand Total Cash & Balances: \$31,020,642.83. General Fund Cash & Investment Balances by Funds: General Fund \$17,976,413.88; Road & Bridge Fund \$2,617,309.96; Road & Bridge Fund Restricted \$231,883.27; 911 Service \$688,680.87; Emergency & Disaster (\$480.72); Domestic Abuse \$647.53; Federal/State Grant \$0.00; SA Grants \$180,753.80; Truancy Court \$0.00; 24/7 Sobriety \$81,723.35; ROD M&P \$88,960.19; Rural Access Infrastructure \$376,393.85; TIF Debt Service \$102,156.92; Landfill + Cash Change \$7,616,722.54; Landfill-Restricted \$1,894,495.06; Trust and Agency Funds \$1,291,360.66; Grand Total General Fund Cash & Investments \$31,020,642.83. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LEASE AGREEMENTS: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the following lease agreements: Brook Stevens to lease the Richmond Lake Youth Camp on August 28-29, 2026 for a wedding; Aberdeen Downtown Association for the lease of Portable Stage and 6-Picnic Tables on June 25, July 9, July 23 and August 22, 2026 for Concert Series; Stephanie & James Meyers to lease the Club House on May 15-18, 2026 for Graduation Party; Sheena Rohrbach to lease the Parking Lot near Gate E on May 29-30, 2026 for Auto Parts Swap Meet and Car Show; Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce to lease the Club House on September 17, 2026 for the Field to Fork Event. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ZONING ORDINANCES – SET HEARING DATE/AUTHORIZE ADVERTISING: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to set hearing date and authorize publication for the first reading of the following zoning ordinance to be held on February 17, 2026 in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota. Proposed Ordinance #321, applicant Kyler & Lia Dinger for the purpose of rezoning from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its current use: 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.). The motion passed with 4 votes; Commissioner Dinger abstained due to it being for himself.

LAMONT THIRTEENTH ADDITION PLAT:

RESOLUTION #2026-11

Commissioner Wiese brought the following Resolution "Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "LAMONT THIRTEENTH ADDITION IN THE NE 1/4 AND THE SE 1/4 AND THE SW 1/4 OF SECTION 20-T123N-R63W OF THE 5TH P.M., BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA" having been examined, is hereby approved in the accordance with the Provision of SDCL 11-3, and any amendments thereof". Seconded by Dennert. All members present voting aye. Resolution adopted.

OTHER BUSINESS: Scott Sundberg from Hub City Radio asked about the Wind Energy Ordinance. Chairman Sutton shared they are still working on it and will be posting it on the website once the changes have been made for public to review for a couple weeks before we place it on the agenda again.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to go into executive session to discuss Personnel and Contracts per SDCL 1-25-2. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

The chair declared the executive session closed with no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:13 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published February 4, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$95.86 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26498



NOTICE TO: THE UNKNOWN EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, PERSON OR REPRESENTATIVE, HEIRS, DEVISEES AND LEGATEES OF KRISTIE L. SETTER, whose last known address was Aberdeen, SD

TAKE NOTICE that on the 20th day of December, 2021, Lot 2, Derry Subdivision in the Northeast Quarter of Section 32, Township 127 North, Range 63 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, according to the plat thereof of record, Brown County, South Dakota; subject to easements, reservations and restrictions of record, if any, was sold at County Treasurer's tax sale for delinquent taxes on said premises, to the County of Brown in the State of South Dakota, and said County of Brown is still the holder thereof and the right of redemption will expire and a Deed to said property will be made at the expiration of sixty days from the completed service of this notice.

Dated this 21st day of January, 2026.

/s/ Patty VanMeter
Patty VanMeter, Treasurer of Brown County, South Dakota
Published Feb. 4 and 11, 2026, at the total approximate cost of \$17.53 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26471



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 \$23.19 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26500



NOTICE OF HEARING

Application has been made to the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission for a VARIANCE PETITION. A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, on February 17, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.

Petitioner / Owner: Anders & Ellen Sarkinen

Description of property: Lot 1, "Keatts Eighth Subdivision to Richmond Lake" in the W1/2 of the NW1/4 of Section 23-T124N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (12705 Camdon Court, Ravinia Township).

Reason: Variance to Setbacks to allow the North (Front Yard) Setback of 80' from the property line rather than the 100' Setback required by Brown County Ordinance 4.0706 for an addition to the house and attached garage in a Mini-Agriculture District (MAG).

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the proposed ordinance amendment.

Dated this 4th day of February 2026.

Planning/Zoning Commission and
Scott Bader – P&Z Director
25 Market Street
Aberdeen, SD 57401
Office: (605) 626-7144
Published February 4, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$14.45 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26504

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Table support
- 4 Mosque leader
- 8 Island near Java
- 12 Terre Haute sch.
- 13 Terse denial
- 14 Poetic tributes
- 15 Ecol. watchdog
- 16 Faints
- 18 Word list, for short
- 20 Japanese pond carp
- 21 Sty chow
- 24 Rebuffs
- 28 Review in detail
- 32 Pesky insect
- 33 Friendly leader?
- 34 Albacore and yellowfin
- 36 Playwright Levin
- 37 Finn's floater
- 39 Revamp
- 41 Vampire, by nature
- 43 Nobelist
- 44 Bar bill
- 46 Savory taste
- 50 Begin anew, as on January 1
- 55 — Angeles
- 56 California valley

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	52					53	54			55	
56							57				58	
59							60				61	

- 57 Egyptian river
- 58 Book-spine abbr.
- 59 Afternoon affairs
- 60 Darkens
- 61 Oklahoma city
- DOWN**
- 1 Schreiber of "Ray Donovan"
- 2 Hockey legend Phil, to fans
- 3 Avocado dip, for short
- 4 Rorschach pattern
- 5 Curly's brother
- 6 Devoured
- 7 Moo juice
- 8 Fan disapproval
- 9 Pt. of speech
- 10 Author Harper
- 11 Leb. neighbor
- 17 "Mayday!"
- 19 Bat wood
- 22 Egg
- 23 Prison-related
- 25 Rice or Auburn (Abbr.)
- 26 Naked
- 27 Rating unit
- 28 Basil or thyme
- 29 Smoothie berry
- 30 Cushy
- 31 Yard tool
- 35 Locks down
- 38 Block-dropping video game
- 40 Resistance unit
- 42 Scoundrel
- 45 Connection
- 47 Edison's middle name
- 48 Disposition
- 49 Actress Fisher
- 50 Retired jet
- 51 Dead heat
- 52 "I — Rock"
- 53 Half of XIV
- 54 Shade tree

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Croton Chiropractic Clinic
Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.
1205 N 1st St., Groton
605-397-8204



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 February 17, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.
Petitioner / Owner: Morgan & Jackie Beving

Legal description of property: Lot 1, "Beving-Webb Addition" in the SE1/4 of Section 13-T123N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (13291 382nd Avenue; Mercier Twp.).

Reason: A Conditional Use Petition (CUP) to sell & repair motorcycles, trailers, off-road vehicles, snowmobiles, personal watercraft and to 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 4th day of February 2026.

Planning/Zoning Commission and

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

Published February 4, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$13.51 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26501



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 February 17, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.

Petitioner / Owner: AMS Wireless / Brown County

Legal description of property: The SW1/4 of Section 1-T123N-R64W and highway plat B and Lot A & AB railroad R.O.W., except "Fairgrounds Outlot 1", of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (400 24th Avenue NW, Aberdeen Twp.).

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

LEG	IMAM	BALI							
ISU	NOTI	ODES							
EPA	KEELS	OVER							
VOCA	B	KOI							
	SLOP	SNUBS							
HASH	OVER	GNAI							
ECO	TUNAS	IRA							
RAFT	MAKE	OVER							
BITER	LECH								
	TAB	UMAMI							
START	OVER	LOS							
SIMI	NILE	VOL							
TEAS	DIMS	ADA							

Reason: A Conditional Use Petition (CUP) for a new, 75' tall cell tower on leased land in a Municipal District (M).

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

Dated this 4th day of February 2026.

Planning/Zoning Commission and

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

Published February 4, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$13.20 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26503



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 February 17, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.

Petitioner: Donna Keatts

Description of property: Proposed Lot 1, "Keatts Tenth Subdivision to Richmond Lake" in the W1/2 of the NW1/4 of Section 23-T123N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (approx. 37840 Richmond Drive; Ravinia Twp.).

Reason: Rezone parcel from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Lake Front Residential District (R-3) to bring this parcel into compliance for its future 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 Commissioner's with a future meeting date in the Commission Chambers. Verify the meeting dates with the Brown County Auditor.

Dated this 4th day of February 2026.

Planning/Zoning Commission and

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

Published February 4, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$15.40 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26502

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Council advances sewer surcharge, approves baseball program change

by Elizabeth Varin

Groton City Council members tackled a mix of long-term infrastructure planning and local quality-of-life items during their meeting Tuesday night, hearing updates on a major wastewater system improvement project, approving changes to a youth baseball program and advancing a new sewer surcharge tied to future expansion.

During the meeting, the council received an update on a wastewater system improvement project currently in the planning phases. The soil inspection has been completed, with nothing unexpected reported, said April Buller, project manager with IMEG Corp. A survey of the area has also been mostly completed, and IMEG is working through the schematic design.

The more than \$6.5 million improvement project has been in discussion since mid-2024, with funds coming from a state Department of Natural Resources 30-year loan and consolidated grant. However, the city has been told it must raise sewer rates, leading to a later item in Tuesday's meeting.

The council moved forward with a sewer system surcharge of \$35.40 per customer who receives or benefits from the new wastewater force main and lagoon expansion.

The council approved the first reading of the ordinance Tuesday night. The ordinance faces a second reading, likely at the council's next meeting, before going into effect.

Painting tabled for clarification

The council tabled a decision on a bid to paint the exterior of City Hall and the Wage Memorial Library.

The city received two bids, one from Custer Custom Homes and Renovations for \$29,999.76 and one from C. Eagle Construction for \$48,117.

Council members asked Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich to make sure the bidders plan to replace the cedar shakes, not just try to repair them, as well as specify a timeframe for the painting to be done.

Junior Teeners changing to 14U team

The council approved changing the Junior Teener VFW Baseball Team to a 14U Legion Baseball Team.

Baseball/Softball Foundation Treasurer Doug Hamilton asked the council to consider the change at its Jan. 20 meeting, saying the change would have little impact on the game for the 13 and 14-year-old players, but would shift it from the VFW-affiliated Teener program to the American Legion system.

About two dozen teams statewide have indicated plans to shift away from the Junior Teener team, Hamilton said, including many regional teams, though some like Webster plan to remain part of the VFW league.

- The council approved purchasing six radar speed signs to place on highways in town. The council approved paying ElanCity \$19,500 for the six solar-powered signs.

- The council approved a second reading of an ordinance setting salaries for seasonal summer employees. Applications for some of those positions – baseball coordinator, softball coordinator, junior legion coach, u14 coach, girls softball coaches, day baseball/softball coach, concession manager and swimming pool manager – are due by 5 p.m. Feb. 17. The council also voted to begin accepting applications for remaining summer recreation positions – public works laborer/park caretaker, cemetery caretaker, assistant part-time swimming pool manager, swimming pool lifeguards, baseball groundskeepers, baseball gatekeepers – with applications due by 5 p.m. March 3.

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Like Money? Tequila? Help Bats Keep Helping Us



Dear EarthTalk: How are bat species doing these days?

-- Gregg Visconti, Butte, MT



If you enjoy money, tequila and saving the planet, you should also be asking this question. Concerningly, the most recent answer from the International Union for Conservation of Nature is that 85 of the world's 1,500 or so bat species are endangered, and 23 critically so. Furthermore, over half of all bat species are facing severe population declines according to the North American Bat Conservation Alliance's 2023 report.

Over half of all bat species are facing severe population declines, with 85 bat species listed as endangered and 23 of those near extinction.

Credit: Pexels.com.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) estimates that bats contribute over \$3.7 billion annually to the U.S. economy. In fact, the actual number is likely much higher. "[3.7 billion] does not take into account the volume of insects eaten by bats in forest ecosystems and the degree to which that benefits industries like lumber," says USGS. In addition to insect consumption, fruit-eating and nectar-feeding bats are important pollinators, and the only known pollinators of the agave plant (from which tequila is made). Moreover, while many species contribute to the regeneration of rainforests after clear cutting, the seeds dropped by fruit bats after nightly foraging can account for up to 95 percent of the first new growth.

Rising temperatures, habitat destruction and pathogens pose a significant risk to bats. Urban sprawl has contributed to growing habitat destruction during reproduction and hibernation seasons, leading bats to waste critical energy resources. LaRoy Brandt, a Professor of Biology at Lincoln Memorial University in Tennessee, notes that "...as the climate changes, warmer winters could [also] disturb their hibernation."

Sudden heat waves associated with climate change can also lead to severe heat stress in bats, particularly when temperatures rise above 105 degrees. Water easily evaporates through their skin's large surface area, putting bats at risk of fatal dehydration. Wind turbines, which can potentially combat climate change, have also proven to be a threat. Numerous studies including a 2018 report by the American Wind Wildlife Institute have linked wind turbines to between

90,000 and 400,000 bat deaths.

In addition to anthropogenic risk factors, bats are affected by pests and pathogens like pseudogymnoascus destructans (or white-nose syndrome), which has claimed the lives of more than five million bats since 2006 by causing rapid loss of body fat and eventual starvation.

However, hope is not lost. USGS has developed several strategies to address many risk factors, including acoustic bat detectors and wind turbine databases. Readers can play an important role by participating in the North American Bat Monitoring Program, turning off unnecessary lights at night, and promoting natural habitats where possible.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

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 1st and 2nd!

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

Pre-register by Wednesday, February 11th by calling 605-397-8422 or email city.kellie@nvc.net

**No more than 6 teams

Groton Wage Memorial Library | GROTON Chamber Of Commerce | THE JUNGLE

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

EMPLOYMENT

HAND COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPT - 4-day work week, great pay and benefits, check it out at <https://hand.sdcounties.org/employment/> for details.

STAFF ENGINEER – SPEARFISH, SD. Responsible for CAD activities, engineering support (office/field), administering the city's floodplain ordinance. Starting range. PE \$96,512.00, FE \$87,422.40 www.cityofspearfish.com

LIVESTOCK

KOUPAL'S B&B ANGUS BULL SALE: Monday, February 9, 2026 1:00 pm. CT, at the ranch, Dante, SD.190 Angus Bulls, 50 commercial heifers, and pick of 2025 heifer Crop Live Bidding on DV Auction. Bud Koupal 605-491-2102.

LOGTERMAN ANGUS AND HERFORD: 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

WILKINSON RANCH ANNUAL BULL SALE Feb.9th at 1:00 at the De Smet Event Center. Selling yearling angus bulls and open yearling angus heifers. For information go to <http://www.wilkinsonranchinc.com> or call Mark, 605-203-0380.

NOTICES

ADVERTISE IN NEWSPAPERS statewide for only \$150. Put the South Dakota Statewide Classifieds Network to work for you today! (25 words for \$150. Each additional word \$5.) Statewide Full Digital Ad is \$300 for 1 week. Call the Groton Independent at 605-397-7460.

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69¢ w/\$10 Purchase & Ken's App. 12 Oz. Bottle

ABERDEEN'S ONLY LOCALLY FAMILY-OWNED GROCERY STORE THAT TAKES PRIDE IN MAKING THEIR CUSTOMERS FEEL AT HOME!

PARADISE KITCHEN FULLY COOKED ROASTED CHICKEN WINGS 4 LB. BAG **\$12.99 Ea.**

In Your Meat Dept

SMITHFIELD WHOLE PORK BUTT **\$1.69 Lb.**

HARVEST CUTS FOOTBALL VEGGIE TRAY 2 LB. TRAY **\$15.99 Ea.**

KEN'S FRESH 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF **\$4.49 Lb.**

USDA CHOICE DEMKOTA BONELESS WHOLE RIBEYE **\$12.99 Lb.**

FRESH AVOCADOS **3/\$2**

GROCERY	GROCERY	GROCERY	DAIRY
FRITO-LAY DORITOS 9-9.25 OZ. BAGS 2/\$7	PRINGLES CHIPS 4.9-5.57 OZ. CANS 3/\$5	RO-TEL TOMATOES 10 OZ. CAN 99¢	KRAFT VELVETA LOAF 32 OZ. BOX \$4.99
HEINZ KETCHUP 38 OZ. BOTTLE \$2.99	CREAMETTE PASTA 12-16 OZ. BOX 99¢	KEEBLER CLUB OR TOWN HOUSE CRACKERS 9-15 OZ. BOXES 2/\$5	BREW PUB LOTZZA MOTZZA PIZZA 20-26.82 OZ. PKG. \$5.99

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SNACK FACTORY PRETZEL CRISPS 7.2 OZ. **2/\$6**

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

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