

The Groton Independent

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Schwan steps in to direct GHS Band

by Dorene Nelson



Sharon Schwan

With a friendly smile and a willing heart, Sharon Schwan agreed to help her son, Groton's superintendent Joe Schwan, by teaching junior and senior high school band for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year.

Sharon taught band at both Conde and Warner. After thirty-six years at Warner, she retired from teaching and band directing. Under her direction, guidance, and support, the Warner High School was frequently invited to perform at the State B Boys Basketball tournament held annually in Aberdeen, SD. The band's outstanding performance was so popular that they were invited six or seven years in row!

Sharon has been retired for seven years but willingly substitutes in varying band rooms in the area. Her teaching in Groton is her third long term work. Sharon started working in the

Groton right after Christmas break.

"Kids are all about the same," Sharon explains. "They are good kids who want to have fun. I use music and band as a fun activity which brings out the best in each of them. I have really enjoyed my time here in Groton."

"I do admit that this is a bit unique since I have the opportunity of teaching my grandchildren! And yes, they are allowed to call me 'Grandma!'" she smiled. "There is no favoritism in my classroom; we all work hard, enjoy what we do, and make some amazing music!"

"I have three children, Joe and his twin sister Jackie followed by Austin as well as five grandchildren and one great grandson." Sharon said. "My daughter Jackie is also an educator, and Austin is a mechanical engineer."

Students intern in various occupations

by Dorene Nelson

Groton Area High School offers a variety of business classes. One of these classes, School Internships, offers seniors the opportunity to work in various local businesses of their choice. The purpose of this internship is to teach students responsibility by working for someone other than their family. It helps them learn how to work with the public and with customers who might not be all that agreeable at times. Internships could also help students decide on a part-time job while they are in college or maybe even to help them choose a future occupation.

Brittany Hubbart, a science and Career and Technical Education teacher, organized this experience for the students enrolled in her School Internship class. All students must be at their chosen place of work during the last period of the school day. The student interns must contact the place they would like to work and have their own personal transportation.

The following list contains the students who are currently doing their internship this school year.

Charlie Frost, who worked for Crawford Trucking, enjoyed learning various skills from the trucking company but disliked all of the cleaning that had to be done.

Emma Davies decided to work for Karma Salon since this is the area she's planning to go into after she graduates from Lake Area. She loves this job but finds doing hair extensions to be very challenging.

Natalia Warrington served her internship in the Groton School system while working with various school counselors. She plans to major in counseling in college after graduating from Groton.

Jarrett Erdmann interned at Lee Park Golf in Aberdeen. He likes to golf and enjoyed working for Lee Park where he had been able to test out the various golf clubs that Lee Park has. Doing inventory was probably the hardest part of this job.

Dreston Dennert did his internship at Gilchrist Farms, a business that was quite familiar to him. He enjoys working outside and doing various jobs that need to be handled on a farm.

Ben Hoeft enjoyed working on Strom Farms. He particularly enjoyed learning how to run and service various pieces of equipment. The hardest part was keeping the surroundings clean and sweeping the floor a lot!

Karsten Flihs worked for Groton Ag Partners, since he plans to farm after he completes his studies at Lake Area Ag Business and Finance. Paying close attention to detail was the most difficult part of this business.

Karter Moody chose to intern with Agtegra. He considered working here to be both stressful and fun. In addition to being an agronomist, he would like to get an aviation degree to do aerial spraying. The hardest part of being successful in this area is staying within a budget but still getting the maximum yield.

Nathan Unzen decided to work at S&S Lumber, an enjoyable job that isn't too difficult to learn. Working outside when it is really hot or cold is probably the most challenging part of this job. He was always busy and particularly liked stocking shelves or driving delivery trucks.



The flags were put on on Groton's Main Street for President's Day on Monday. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



It was a beautiful orange sunrise on Tuesday morning. (Photo by Tina Kosel)



Then the 50 degree temperatures gave way to a full fledged blizzard on Wednesday. School was called off. Many businesses were closed. At times visibility was reduced to 150 feet or less. There was a brief power outage in the southeast part of Groton. There were also outages in the rural areas.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

Tigers run past Florence-Henry



Gage Sippel
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

The Groton Area Tigers made the trip to Florence Monday night and came home with a clean sweep, winning the C, junior varsity, and varsity contests over the Florence-Henry Falcons.

Groton's varsity squad turned the game into a running-clock affair early, cruising to a 76-38 victory to improve to 14-4 on the season. Florence-Henry dropped to 3-14.

Varsity: Groton 76, Florence-Henry 38

The Tigers wasted little time asserting control, putting together a 16-point run in the first half. Groton led 22-4 after one quarter and stretched the margin to 44-17 at halftime. The 30-point continuous clock began at the 7:02 mark of the third quarter when Groton built a 48-17 lead.

The Tigers carried a 66-29 advantage into the fourth and closed out the 76-38 win.

Groton shot an efficient 66% from two-point range (27-of-41) and 43% from beyond the arc (6-of-14). The Tigers were 4-of-10 from the free throw line. They finished with 31 rebounds, 18 assists, nine steals, and three blocked shots while committing just 10 turnovers.

Gage Sippel led the way, knocking down 8-of-9 two-point attempts for 17 points to go with eight rebounds, one assist, and two blocks.

Karson Zac added 16 points, three rebounds, three assists, two steals, and a block.

Ryder Johnson chipped in 12 points, three rebounds, two assists, and two steals.



Logan Warrington
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Anthony Tracy scored seven points. Keegen Tracy finished with eight points, three rebounds, five assists, and two steals. Easton Weber had six points, Becker Bosma totaled three points and five assists, Jayden Schwan scored two, Logan Warrington had two points and three rebounds, Asher Johnson added two points, while J.J. Muller and Jordan Schwan contributed on the boards.

For Florence-Henry, Carson Kelly led with 15 points. Dawson Hlavacek added eight, Karson Rossow scored six, Tucker Mumm had five, and Zachary Schroeder finished with two. The Falcons shot 32% from the field (15-of-47), went 6-of-10 from the line, committed 16 fouls, and turned the ball over 12 times.

Coach Kjellsen: Focus and Fast Break Key

Following the win, head coach Greg Kjellsen said the challenge was keeping his team focused in a potential trap game.

"We talked about it," Kjellsen said. "You can't lie to them and tell them these guys are really good. But I watched two of their games, and they're a team that probably should have won eight or nine games."

Groton mixed in some different defensive looks, including a 1-3-1 and some half-court trapping.

"We tried some things different defensively... just for a different look," Kjellsen said. "But when it came down to it, it probably didn't matter."

Kjellsen was pleased with how the Tigers ran the floor, particularly off rebounds.

"We work on that every day," he said. "We get out and make them get down the floor in under four seconds. Even Becker as a trailer. But I still think we can do a better job with it."

The Tigers emphasized paint touches and attacking the zone.

"We're so much better when the ball goes into the paint first," Kjellsen said. "Whether it gets to Gage or Becker inside and then out, or we get penetration inside and then out."

Looking ahead to Friday's match-up with Britton-Hecla, Kjellsen acknowledged the playoff seeding scenarios but kept things in perspective.

"You pull your hair out trying to figure it out," he said. "You just play your own game and we'll find out in a couple weeks."

Junior Varsity: Groton 59, Florence-Henry 22

The Tigers also dominated the JV contest, building an 11-3 lead after one quarter, 33-11 at halftime, and 50-17 after three in a 59-22 victory. Anthony Tracy paced Groton



Ethan Kroll
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

with 17 points. J.J. Mueller and Jordan Schwan each added 10. Jace Johnson had eight, Ethan Kroll and Briggs Conn scored five apiece, Asher Johnson had two, and Connor Kroll added one.

Florence-Henry was led by Braeden Schep (7), Tucker Mumm (5), Austin Keller (4), Cole Muller (2), and Colby Robinson (2).

Game: Groton 71, Florence-Henry 24

Groton completed the sweep with a 71-24 win in the C game, leading 19-3 after one quarter, 35-9 at halftime, and 56-18 after three.

Major Dolan poured in 23 points, while Trey Tietz added 19 and Ryder Schwan scored 14. Connor Kroll, Trayce Schelle, and Zach Fliehs each had four points, Briggs Conn scored two,

and Wesley Borg added one.

For the Falcons, Jackson Schackert led with seven points. Cole Moller-Mueller had six, Broden Borns five, Derek Flisrand three, Kaiden Rossow two, and Jagger Johnson one.

Groton returns home Friday night to host Britton-Hecla in a double-header as the Tigers continue their push toward postseason play.

The varsity game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Avantara - Groton, Agtegra, Bierman Farm Service, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, 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 and C games were sponsored by Tiger Fans.

Groton Prairie Mixed Bowling League Week #12 Results

Team Standings: Cheetahs 15, Coyotes 12, Shihtzus 12, Foxes 8, Jackelopes 7, Chipmunks 6

Men's High Games: Brad Waage 186, Brad Larson 175, Charlie Dirks 174

Women's High Games: Suzie Easthouse 161, Dar Larson 154, Vicki Jorgensen 153

Men's High Series: John Sippel 483, Brad Waage 476, Brad Larson 470

Women's High Series: Sam Bahr 422, Vicki Jorgensen 417, Dar Larson 405

Week 12 Fun Game: Most Fills - Shihtzus with 68!

Heinrich named to UND 2025 President's Roll of Honor

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (February 11, 2026) – Nearly 1,300 University of North Dakota (UND) students have been recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the 2025 fall semester President's Roll of Honor. To qualify for the UND President's Roll of Honor, a student must have an overall cumulative grade point average of 3.80 or higher. The student must also have earned a minimum of 30 semester hours and have completed a minimum of 12 hours at the close of the semester, eight of which must be for traditional letter grades. Groton's Claire Heinrich was named to the honor roll.

NEC Boys Basketball Standings

	(C)	(S)
Clark/Willow Lake	9-0	17-2
Groton Area	8-1	14-4
Hamlin	7-1	16-2
Webster Area	6-3	11-7
Britton-Hecla	5-4	12-7
Roncalli	4-5	5-11
Sisseton	4-6	9-9
Milbank	3-5	9-8
Deuel	2-7	6-13
Tiospa Zina	0-8	4-14
Redfield	0-8	2-16

Roncalli

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
 Roncalli 58, Milbank 48
 Hamlin 72, Roncalli 40

Britton-Hecla

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
 Clark-WL 64, Britton-Hecla 29

Groton Area

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
 Groton Area 55, Deuel 24

Milbank

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
 Roncalli 58, Milbank 48
 Milbank 67, Sisseton 43

Redfield

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
 Webster 66, Redfield 42

Sisseton

Groton Area 66, Sisseton 33
 Sisseton 65, Roncalli 60
 Sisseton 64, Redfield 41
 Hamlin 63, Sisseton 21
 Britton-Hecla 45, Sisseton 37
 Clark/WL 56, Sisseton 29
 Webster 59, Sisseton 48
 Milbank 67, Sisseton 43

Webster Area

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
 Webster 66, Redfield 42
 Webster 59, Sisseton 48

Clark/Willow Lake

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
 Clark/WL 56, Sisseton 29
 Clark-WL 64, Britton-Hecla 29

Deuel

Britton-Hecla 51, Deuel 34
 Webster Area 52, Deuel 44
 Milbank 46, Deuel 38
 Deuel 82, Tiospa Zina 33
 Groton Area 55, Deuel 24

Hamlin

Groton Area 55, Hamlin 50
 Hamlin 80, Tiospa Zina 22
 Hamlin 68, Webster Area 30
 Hamlin 63, Sisseton 21
 Hamlin 71, Milbank 42
 Hamlin 72, Roncalli 40

Tiospa Zina

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. 12

Hamlin 74, Deuel 21

Feb. 13

Deuel 73, Redfield 66
 Sisseton 60, Tiospa Zina 34

Feb. 16

Clark/Willow Lake 61, Deuel 21

Feb. 17

Hamlin 70, Britton-Hecla 29
 Sisseton 56, Deuel 43
 Clark/WL 69, Tiospa Zina 23

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	9-0	17-2
Hamlin	9-0	18-1
Groton Area	6-2	13-6
Roncalli	6-2	15-4
Milbank	5-4	15-4
Sisseton	5-5	8-10
Webster	3-6	7-12
Deuel	3-6	5-14
Tiospa Zina	1-8	5-13
Redfield	1-8	4-15
Britton-Hecla	1-8	4-15

Roncalli

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
 Roncalli 52, Milbank 33
 Hamlin 50, Roncalli 36

Britton-Hecla

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
 Clark-WL 64, Britton-Hecla 24

Groton Area

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
 Groton Area 45, Deuel 27

Milbank

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
 Roncalli 52, Milbank 33
 Milbank 49, Sisseton 41

Sisseton

Groton Area 40, Sisseton 36
 Roncalli 37, Sisseton 28
 Sisseton 50, Redfield 48
 Sisseton 56, Britton-Hecla 30
 Clark/WL 56, Sisseton 43
 Sisseton 45, Webster 32
 Milbank 49, Sisseton 41

Redfield

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
 Redfield 52, Webster 41

Webster

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
 Redfield 52, Webster 41
 Sisseton 45, Webster 32

Clark/Willow Lake

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
 Clark/WL 56, Sisseton 43
 Clark-WL 64, Britton-Hecla 24

Deuel

Deuel 38, Britton-Hecla 33
 Webster 52, Deuel 29
 Milbank 60, Deuel 22
 Deuel 60, Tiospa Zina 47
 Groton Area 45, Deuel 27

Hamlin

Hamlin 46, Groton 21
 Hamlin 83, Tiospa Zina 11
 Hamlin 54, Webster 21
 Hamlin 69, Sisseton 39
 Hamlin 39, Milbank 36
 Hamlin 50, Roncalli 36

Tiospa Zina

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. 12

Sisseton 75, Tiospa Zina 31
 Hamlin 59, Deuel 25

Feb. 13

Deuel 46, Redfield 24

Feb. 16

Hamlin 52, Redfield 19

Clark/WL 57, Deuel 22

Feb. 17

Hamlin 67, Britton-Hecla 19
 Sisseton 55, Deuel 28
 Clark/WL 65, Tiospa Zina 20

Feb. 19

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

Feb. 20

Britton-Hecla at Groton Area
 Redfield at Tiospa Zina

Girls Region 1A

#	Name	W	L	PCT
1	Aberdeen Roncalli	15	4	.789
2	Groton Area	13	6	.684
3	Milbank	15	4	.789
4	Sisseton	8	10	.444
5	Webster Area	7	12	.368
6	Britton-Hecla	4	15	.211
6	Redfield	4	15	.211

Boys Region 1A

#	Name	W	L	PCT
1	Groton Area	14	4	.778
2	Webster Area	11	7	.611
3	Britton-Hecla	12	7	.632
4	Milbank	9	8	.529
5	Sisseton	9	9	.500
6	Aberdeen Roncalli	5	11	.312
7	Redfield	2	16	.111

Boys State Standings

1	West Central	19	0	1.000
2	Sioux Falls Christian	16	1	.941
3	Hamlin	16	2	.889
4	Clark/Willow Lake	17	2	.895
5	Mahpiya Luta	15	3	.833
6	Stanley County	16	2	.889
7	Groton Area	14	4	.778
8	Vermillion	13	5	.722
9	Cheyenne-Eagle Butte	14	3	.824
10	St. Thomas More	13	5	.722
11	Lennox	12	5	.706
12	Flandreau	11	7	.611
13	Sioux Valley	13	6	.684
14	Winner	12	6	.667
15	Pine Ridge	11	8	.579
16	Rapid City Christian	10	8	.556

Girls State Standings

#	Name	W	L	PCT
1	Hamlin	18	1	.947
2	Mahpiya Luta	19	0	1.000
3	Sioux Valley	17	2	.895
4	Sioux Falls Christian	16	4	.800
5	Lennox	16	3	.842
6	Wagner	16	2	.889
7	West Central	15	4	.789
8	Clark/Willow Lake	17	2	.895
9	Aberdeen Roncalli	15	4	.789
10	Rapid City Christian	16	3	.842
11	Lakota Tech	16	4	.800
12	Mobridge-Pollock	15	4	.789
13	Groton Area	13	6	.684
14	St. Thomas More	13	5	.722
15	Milbank	15	4	.789
16	Miller	14	5	.737



With the 2025 NFL season officially over, all 32 teams will begin laying the foundation for 2026 and beyond. Some teams have championship aspirations, some teams are hoping to ascend out of the proverbial basement, and some teams will be somewhere between the two. For the Minnesota Vikings, the quest for that ever-elusive Lombardi Trophy begins as it always does, by looking in the rearview mirror.

Today marks the first of four articles that will examine the 2025 roster to reveal which positions and players can be built around, and which need to be upgraded. We start with the offensive skill positions.

Quarterback

J.J. McCarthy started 10 games (6-4), completing 57.6% of his passes for 1632 yards, 11 touchdowns, and 12 interceptions.

Carson Wentz, a late addition to the team, started 5 games (2-3), completing 65.1% of his passes for 1216 yards, six touchdowns, and five interceptions.

Max Brosmer, an undrafted rookie, started two games (1-1), completed 66.2% of his passes for 328 yards, zero touchdowns, and four interceptions.

As a team, the Vikings ranked 29th in passing yards and touchdowns while leading the league in interceptions.

The Vikings' QB play was undoubtedly the biggest reason why the team finished 9-8 and missed the playoffs. The plan was to play McCarthy, who had to sit out his rookie season because of injury, hoping to see improvement throughout the season. Instead, what we got was more missed time because of injury and spotty play (at best) when he was actually on the field. The Vikings still don't know if he's capable of becoming a franchise QB, which is a problem for a top-10 pick entering his third season.

Running Back

Jordan Mason played in 16 games, starting five, and ran for 758 yards and six touchdowns on 159 carries. He also had 14 catches for 51 yards.

Aaron Jones played and started in 12 games, rushing for 548 yards and two touchdowns on 132 carries. He also had 28 catches for 199 yards.

Zavier Scott (32 carries for 114 yards), Ty Chandler (17 carries for 47 yards), Cam Akers (5 carries for 19 yards), and C.J. Ham (3 carries for 5 yards) rounded out the RB room.

As a team, the Vikings ranked 23rd in rushing yards, 18th in rushing touchdowns, and 12th in yards per carry.

The plan at running back was to have Mason and Jones split the carries, keeping them both fresh throughout the season. For the most part, the plan worked. However, Aaron Jones missed five games last season due to injury and will turn 32 next season. The Vikings will need to decide if they're going to keep the veteran RB or replace him with a younger free agent or rookie.

Wide Receiver

Justin Jefferson had 84 catches for 1,048 yards and two touchdowns.

Jordan Addison had 42 catches for 610 yards and three touchdowns.

Jalen Nailor had 29 catches for 444 yards and four touchdowns.

Adam Thielen had 8 catches for 69 yards.

Tai Felton had 3 catches for 25 yards.

With the roller coaster at QB, it's no surprise that the Vikings' receivers had a down year. Justin Jefferson was able to keep his streak of 1,000 yards season going, however, even though they needed to force-feed him the ball in week 18 to make it happen. The Vikings' WR room is still one of the best in the NFL, but some decisions will need to be made regarding Addison and Nailor. Addison is entering the fourth year of his five-year rookie contract, has had multiple run-ins with the law, and will likely command a large contract in a year or two. Nailor, on the other hand, is a very good WR3 but is an unrestricted free agent this offseason.

The Groton Independent

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"The Bones of the Matter"

When I was in medical school, I learned that a shocking number of people would die or be admitted to a nursing home after a hip fracture.

Even today, a hip fracture can be a devastating event for an older American. Up to 30% will die within the next year. Many more will lose independence and require admission to assisted living or a nursing home. Estimates vary, but it may approach 50%. As hard as it is to believe, these statistics are improved from my long ago medical school days.

As a doctor in training, the solution seemed obvious. If osteoporosis caused hip fractures, and hip fractures caused premature death and disability, then my mission as a primary care physician would be to prevent osteoporosis. I've been nagging my patients about their calcium and vitamin D intake and their weight bearing exercise ever since.

To be fair, the reality is a bit more nuanced. It's true that osteoporosis is a major factor in hip fractures, but it is often accompanied by other issues: poor nutrition, poor balance, low muscle mass, and more obvious serious health conditions like dementia, heart disease, kidney disease, and diabetes.

Similarly, preventing osteoporosis isn't as simple as urging everyone to drink enough milk. Generally we can build stronger bones up until about age 30. After that, the goal is to maintain bone mass. Those critical years are often decades before a person starts thinking about their bones, and sometimes well before they start thinking about their health at all!

Other habits also influence how strong your bones are at their best. Smoking and alcohol reduce bone mass. Weight bearing exercise increases it; while being sedentary has the opposite effect. Your body needs vitamin D to make bone, too, and deficiencies are surprisingly common.

Other health conditions, and their treatments, can have significant influences on your bone health. The list is long: eating disorders, premature menopause, inflammatory bowel disease, seizure disorders, asthma, rheumatoid arthritis, chronic kidney disease, thyroid disease, cancer.

While preventing osteoporosis starts in childhood, hope is not lost just because you are well into middle age, or older. Talk with your doctor about what you should be doing to keep your bones healthy. Do you need help getting rid of nicotine, or cutting back on alcohol? Are you having trouble getting enough calcium or vitamin D? Are there medications you are taking that could be changed? Is it time to start screening?

While many people think about osteoporosis as a woman's disease, it affects men too, albeit at lower rates. In fact, men may have a higher risk of death after a hip fracture. We all need to be thinking about our bones. It's never too early. Or too late.



Debra Johnston, MD



GROTON VET CLINIC
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Groton Community Events

Thursday, Feb. 19

Senior Menu: Meatloaf, baked potato, broccoli, fruit, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Maple French Toast Bake.
School Lunch: Lasagna bake, corn.
Region 1 Girls Wrestling Tournament, 3:30 p.m., at De Smet
2nd Grade BB, 5 p.m., Elementary Gym
4th Grade BB, 6 p.m., HS Gym
HS Softball, 6 p.m., HS Gym
JH Boys Basketball hosts Warner (7th at 6 p.m., 8th at 7 p.m.)

Friday, Feb. 20

Senior Menu: Breaded fish, rice pilaf, green beans, fruit, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Breakfast boats.
School Lunch: Fish nuggets, puzzle tots.
3rd Grade Boys Basketball, 3:30 p.m., elementary gym.
Basketball doubleheader vs. Britton-Hecla in Groton: (Gym:BC-4, GC-5, Arena: JVGBB-4, JVBBB-5, VGBB-6:15, VBBB-7:30)

Saturday, Feb. 21

Pickleball. 9:30 a.m., elementary gym.
Region 1B Boys Wrestling Tournament, 9:30 a.m., Webster
Youth Wrestling Tournament Set-Up, 5 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 22

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; 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.
Tuff Tigers Youth Wrestling Tournament, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., HS Gym and Arena
Groton Soccer Association Clinics, 11:30 a.m., elementary gym
4th Grade BB Practice, 2 p.m., HG Gym
Dance Team, 5 p.m., Arena
6th Grade Boys Basketball, 6 p.m., Arena

Monday, Feb. 23

Senior Menu: Goulash, corn, fruit, breadstick.
School Breakfast: Eggs.
School Lunch: Oriental chicken, rice.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
Senior Citizens meet at noon with potluck at Groton Community Center
1st Grade Boys Basketball Practice, 1:30 p.m., Arena
JH Boys Basketball at Clark (7th at 5 p.m., 8th at 6 p.m.)
Kindergarten Boys Basketball, 6 p.m., elementary gym
5th Grade BBB, 6 p.m., HS Gym
5th/6th Volleyball Practice. 6 p.m. Arena

Tuesday, Feb. 24

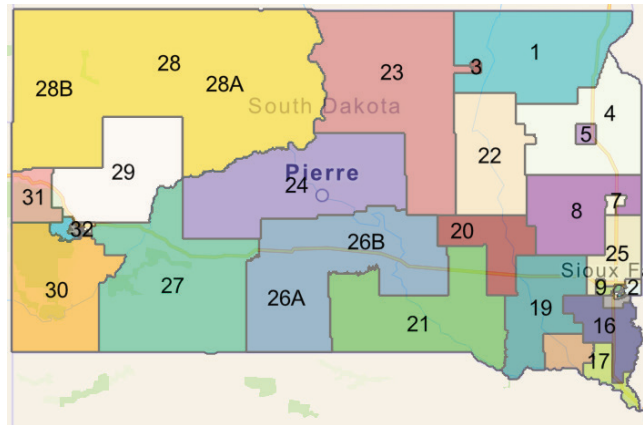
Senior Menu: Bean and ham soup, 1/2 chicken salad sandwich, fruit.
School Breakfast: Scones.
School Lunch: Tater tot hot dish, cooked carrots.
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.
Biogirls, 3:45 p.m., Elementary gym
Pickleball, 6 p.m., elementary gym
Region 1A GBB

Wednesday, Feb 25

Senior Menu: Cheeseburger, tater tots, tomato spoon salad, fruit.
School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza.
School Lunch Chicken alfredo, spudsters.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.; soup supper, 6 p.m. (Host Emmanuel Men; Lenten Service, 7 p.m.)
St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.; Lent Service at St. John's, 7 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. 26

Senior Menu: Turkey, sweet potatoes, green beans, fruit, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Cereal.
School Lunch: Sloppy joes, fries.



Hello District one!

The first half of the 101st Legislative Session is in the books. This session has hundreds and hundreds of bills and resolutions across both chambers. With so many bills, it can be hard to stay up to date. As one of your Representatives, transparency is important and I want to help keep those of District 1 as informed of the happenings in Pierre as possible.

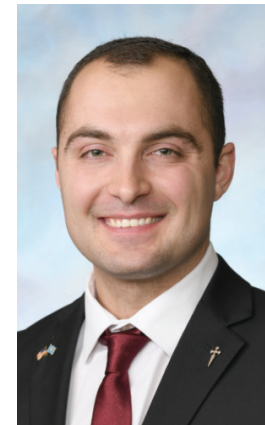
First, I was proud to kick off this session by sponsoring House Concurrent Resolution 6002, a resolution to honor the life of Charlie Kirk. Charlie had a real finger on the pulse of the next generation and changed how young people interact with politics. As the youngest member of the South Dakota Legislature, I thought it was important I bring this resolution to remember his legacy. I am happy to say that every Republican present voted to pass the resolution.

Another bill I am happily sponsoring is Senate Bill 137. This bill is common-sense legislation to protect the exercise of a person's freedom of speech. More than thirty states have already adopted similar legislation to protect citizens from being forced into silence by frivolous lawsuits and expensive legal fees. I am proud to bring legislation that protects our constitutional rights.

One significant item that the legislature is attempting to address this session is Data Centers and their role in our state, if they have one. Many ideas are still being debated in both chambers so I want to be clear on my stance. I am staunchly against the state giving any one industry a leg up with massive tax subsidies, especially an already wealthy out-of-state company. South Dakota needs to support our homegrown small businesses first and foremost. Out-of-state mega-corporations do not need us to create economic incentives that prioritize their interests over that of our existing residents and businesses.

I hope to represent South Dakota and District 1 to the best of my ability. If you have any questions or just want to talk about upcoming legislation, please reach out.

Thank you,
Representative Logan Manhart, District 1
Logan.Manhart@sdlegislature.gov



Logan Manhart
Party: Republican
Term: New Member
District: 01
Counties: Brown, Day, Marshall, Roberts
Occupation: Construction/Real Estate
House Education Member
House Health and Human Services

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Tigers Sweep Mobridge-Pollock on Senior Night

The Groton Area boys basketball teams celebrated Senior Night in impressive fashion Saturday, sweeping all three games from Mobridge-Pollock in non-conference action. The varsity Tigers rolled to a 78-49 win to improve to 13-4 on the season.

Varsity: Groton 78, Mobridge-Pollock 49

Groton used multiple scoring runs to create separation, including a 10-point burst, an eight-point stretch, two seven-point runs and a six-point run.

Keegen Tracy poured in a season-high 32 points, knocking down six of 10 three-pointers and seven of eight two-point attempts. He added one rebound, two assists and five steals.

Karson Zak was perfect at the free-throw line (7-for-7) and finished with 15 points, three rebounds, six assists and two steals. Ryder Johnson added 10 points, three rebounds and two assists. Gage Sippel scored nine points and grabbed eight rebounds.

Logan Warrington contributed four points and three rebounds. Becker Bosma finished with two points, five rebounds and two assists. Easton Weber had two points, six rebounds, two assists and one steal. Jayden Schwan added two points, two rebounds and one assist. Asher Johnson had two points and one steal. Ethan Kroll pulled down four rebounds, while Jace Johnson and Anthony Tracy each recorded one rebound.

Groton shot 58% from two-point range (22-of-38), 30% from three-point range (7-of-23) and 93% from the free-throw line (13-of-14). The Tigers totaled 37 rebounds, just seven turnovers, 17 assists, nine steals and 11 team fouls.

Shooter Frederick led Mobridge-Pollock with 21 points, including five three-pointers. Trueth Kroll and Easton Eisemann each scored 11 points. Jesse Schneider added four and Kale Knudson had two. The visitors shot 39% (18-of-46), went 5-of-10 from the free-throw line and committed 11 turnovers.

Coach Kjellsen on Senior Night

Head Coach Greg Kjellsen said the strong start set the tone. "That was the key to our whole game," Kjellsen said. "We got off to a good start. Logan and JD came and did a good job and we got baskets where we wanted. I was just so proud of how the kids played."

He also highlighted the unselfish leadership of his seniors. "I was really proud of Becker and Keegen for offering to give up their starting positions to kids that don't get to start and don't always get to play a lot," Kjellsen said. "That's a tribute to the character of those kids. Just very proud of them."

Kjellsen was especially pleased with Tracy's shooting performance. "It was so nice to see Keegen shoot the basketball like he did," he said. "We've struggled shooting the three at times this year. It wasn't our intention to just go out and fire them up, but he was hitting. We ran a couple sets for him in our zone."

Mobridge-Pollock's perimeter shooting also drew respect. "They've improved since early in the year," Kjellsen said. "Frederick has a quick release, good shooter. The only way they were going to beat us was if we didn't contest the three and didn't rebound. I thought for the most part we did a pretty good job. He hit some tough shots."

Kjellsen emphasized the importance of the opening minutes of the second half. "When you've got a 15- or 17-point lead at halftime, the next two or three minutes are the most important," he said. "We can bury them or we can give them life. To our credit, we came out and scored right away."

Junior Varsity: Groton 49, Mobridge-Pollock 14

The JV Tigers led 17-5 after one quarter, 33-11 at halftime and 46-12 after three quarters.

Anthony Tracy led Groton with 20 points. Jace Johnson added eight, Asher Johnson had seven, Jordan Schwan scored six, Ethan Kroll had five and J.J. Muller finished with three.

Bryson Andrews led Mobridge-Pollock with six. Kadin Kuehl, Dylan Fjeldheim, Trayden Stambach and Gavin Hollenbeck each scored two.

C Game: Groton 53, Mobridge-Pollock 26

After four lead changes in the opening quarter, Groton settled in and led 14-10 after one. A 13-point run helped build a 25-12 halftime advantage, and a 16-point run in the second half extended the margin to 40-17 after three quarters.

Trayce Schelle led Groton with 23 points. Trey Tietz added 16, Major



Karson Zak gets tangled up with Mobridge-Pollock's Shooter Frederick as he goes high in the air for the shot. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Dolan scored nine and Ryder Schwan had five.

Michael Neiss led Mobridge-Pollock with nine. Stryker Mauck had seven, Jesse-James Schmidt added five, Dacian Anderson scored three and Tyler Roebuck had two.

Groton travels to Florence on Monday to take on Florence-Henry as the Tigers continue their late-season push.

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. Jeslyn Kosel ran the camera, Rich Bosma did the commentary and Paul Kosel did the stats and technology. The JV game was sponsored by Bill Bosma and the C game by grandparents.

Mobridge-Pollock Survives Groton Area Rally in Battle of the Tigers

The Groton Area Tigers hosted the Mobridge-Pollock Tigers on Saturday night in a battle of the Tigers, and after a furious second-half comeback attempt, Mobridge-Pollock held on for a 51-47 victory.

Mobridge-Pollock wasted no time setting the tone, opening the game on an 8-0 run and building a 17-3 lead. They led 22-9 after the first quarter and stretched the margin to 22 points midway through the second quarter.

Groton closed the half with a 7-0 run but still trailed 36-21 at intermission.

"We just got down too big right away," said Groton head coach Matt Locke. "Didn't show up right away."

Mobridge-Pollock was red hot in the first half, connecting on seven three-pointers before the break. Blake Thompson scored 14 of her game-high 20 points in the opening half. Faith Heil added 11 points, all in the first half, and Brooke Bain knocked down three three-pointers on her way to 11 points. Teagan Konold finished with five points, while Jeyda Thompson and Pacey Konold each added two.

Groton regrouped in the third quarter behind Jerica Locke, who scored eight points in the period, including two three-pointers. The Tigers trimmed the deficit to 45-38 heading into the fourth quarter.

"We challenged them at halftime," Locke said. "I didn't really have to challenge them. I knew we weren't going to quit."

After Mobridge-Pollock scored first in the fourth, Groton responded with a 7-0 run to pull within 47-45 with 5:13 remaining.

"I didn't know if we were going to be able to come back from 22," Locke said. "But we wanted to get it to seven at quarter break, and we did exactly that. That was a win for us."

Groton had its chances late, but Mobridge-Pollock made enough plays down the stretch to secure the 51-47 win. The visitors finished 18-of-56 shooting (32 percent), went 7-of-9 from the free-throw line and committed just five turnovers.

Jayden Penning led Groton with 14 points, going a perfect 4-of-4 from the free-throw line while adding eight rebounds and five assists. Rylee Dunker added nine points and five rebounds. Kella Tracy also scored nine points. Jerica Locke finished with eight points, four rebounds, one assist and two steals. Taryn Traphagen had seven points, five rebounds, two assists and one block. McKenna Tietz added four rebounds and one assist, while Mia Crank grabbed one rebound and Sydney Locke contributed one rebound and three assists.

Groton shot 11-of-23 from two-point range (48 percent), 6-of-16 from three-point range (38 percent) and 7-of-14 from the free-throw line (50 percent). The Tigers totaled 30 rebounds, 14 assists, 15 turnovers, two steals, 16 team fouls and one blocked shot.

With the loss, Groton Area moves to 13-6 and will close out the regular season Friday, Feb. 20, when Britton-Hecla comes to town. Mobridge-Pollock improves to 14-3.

Following the game, Locke reflected on his seniors.

"Those kids have basically become part of my family," he said. "Jerica, Rylee, Jayden — the character they showed tonight, that's who they are. This is just a game, but not quitting when things aren't going your way — that'll come into play more in life than you think it will."

Junior Varsity

Groton earned a 38-30 win in the junior varsity game.

The Tigers used a 10-point run in the first half to take control, leading 12-6 after the first quarter and 20-11 at halftime. Groton extended the lead to 32-19 after three quarters.



Rylee Dunker goes over this Mobridge-Pollock defender to make this shot. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Continues on next page

Kella Tracy and Tevan Hanson each scored 11 points to lead Groton. Ashlynn Warrington added six points. Makenna Krause scored five. Taylynn Traphagen had four, and Kinsley Rowen added one.

For Mobridge-Pollock, Cheyenne Roth scored nine, Shayla Roth had eight, Jersey Frederick added six, Pacey Konold had three, and Ava Wolff and Layna Lebeaux each chipped in two.

C Game

Mobridge-Pollock won the C game 42-19.

Mobridge-Pollock led 10-4 after the first quarter and 18-8 at halftime. A 12-point run in the third quarter pushed the lead to 30-10 entering the final period.

Kinsley Rowen led Groton Area with seven points. Avery Crank

added four. Andi Iverson, Brynlee Dunker, Teagan Hanten and Taylynn Traphagen each scored two.

For Mobridge-Pollock, Bentley Bauer led the way with 11 points. Lila Vetsech and Hayleigh Schlomer each scored seven. Avarie Wientjes and Peyton Schneider had five apiece. Lindy Binger added four, and Sophie Keller and Sophie Madison chipped in two and one point respectively.

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. Jeslyn Kosel ran the camera, Rich Bosma did the commentary and Paul Kosel did the stats and technology for the JV and varsity games. Paul Kosel did the C game. The JV and C games were sponsored by grandparents.

We the People

The South Dakota Humanities Council is making available a weekly column -- "We the People" -- that focuses on the U.S. Constitution. It is written by David Adler, who is president of The Alturas Institute, a non-profit organization created to promote the Constitution, gender equality, and civic education.



By David Adler

Heeding Lincoln on His Birthday: Let Us Re-Adopt the Declaration of Independence and Its Principles

Celebrations this week of Abraham Lincoln's birthday should include his advice in an October 16, 1854, speech in Peoria, Illinois, at a juncture not dissimilar from the circumstances that torment our nation today. Polarization and division, violence, voter intimidation and murder, and the spreading racism, exacerbated by enactment of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which permitted the extension of slavery, set the stage for Lincoln to emerge from retirement in politics to condemn the new law and declare slavery immoral. He characterized it as "monstrous injustice" that betrayed the foundational principles of the United States. Lincoln's "Peoria Speech," marked his historic ascension as a national leader and, ultimately, as a giant whose voice speaks to us across the ages.

Lincoln, perhaps the most gifted of America's rhetoricians and a literary artist whose style strikes the "mystic cords of memory," unlike any other president, or politician, for that matter, appealed to his audience in terms that resonate in our time. He said, "Let us re-adopt the Declaration of Independence, and --with it--the practices and policy which harmonize with it." He appealed to all regions of the nation and added, "let all lovers of liberty everywhere, join in the great and good work. If we do this, we shall not only have saved the Union, but shall have so saved it, as to make and to keep it forever worthy of the saving." As readers know, Lincoln's presidency was devoted to saving the Union, in a form "worthy of the saving." His words in Peoria were but prologue to his epilogue.

For Lincoln, the majesty of the Declaration of Independence, which he called the "sheet iron of the republic," lay in the self-evident proposition that "all men are created equal." This was, for him, the foundation stone of America and the bedrock of his own moral and political philosophy. He saw in this first principle a pledge of future actions, a statement of aspirations beyond achievement in the Constitutional Convention, to be fulfilled upon the occasion of America's political maturity. Lincoln's conviction on this score, influenced by his embrace of the Golden Rule, was manifested in his own declaration: "as I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master. This expresses my idea of democracy." His opposition to slavery, preeminently a function of his moral code, was illuminated by the calculus of logic and his commitment to the principles and values of democracy.

Lincoln's plea for re-contracting American society in accordance with the Declaration of Independence as the fundamental charter of the nation, invoked a high standard for the salvation of the nation. If "lovers of liberty" pledge to restore the principles of the Declaration, beginning with remembrance and renewal of the self-evident principle that "all men are created equal," then America will have saved the "Union" in a manner "forever worthy of the saving." Such a union could not be worthy of the saving if it remained "half slave and half free." Lincoln's moral compass, which taught him to identify and pursue what he discerned to be right required, consistent with the Golden Rule, respect for the rights of others, which was a necessary predicate to protect our own rights. This distillation represented a commitment to democratic governance-- "government of the people, by the people, for the people."

Lincoln's system of thought, built upon the pillars of the Golden Rule and the principle that "all men are created equal," shunned Machiavellian values that embraced the philosophy of might makes right, the ends justify the means and other facets of autocratic rule. A nation "worthy of saving," he believed, should be grounded in the principles of the Declaration, not one governed by acts of brute force that ignored equal justice. Born and raised in an antislavery ethos in Kentucky and Indiana and influenced by the transcendentalism of American writers such as Emerson and Thoreau, Lincoln believed in the convictions of conscience. His conscience taught him that all men "are created equal," and throughout his career, guided by principles of pragmatism that, occasionally, for reasons of war, tempered his conscience, he sought to make that self-evident principle a living reality for the nation. Though Lincoln was unsuccessful in making it the conscience of the nation in his lifetime, his words, wisdom and efforts speak to us today and inspire Americans to seek it in ours.

Ace of Heart drawing

The Ace of Heart drawing was held last Thursday with the jackpot at \$24,608. Ticket sales for the week were \$1,240. The name of Kathy Falk was drawn and she won the consolation prize of \$120. She picked card number 13 which was the 4 of spades. The next drawing will be held Thursday at the Groton American Legion.

Groton Prairie Mixed Bowling League Week #13 Results

Team Standings: Cheetahs 19, Coyotes 13, Shihtzus 12, Jackelopes 10, Foxes 9, Chipmunks 9

Men's High Games: Brad Waage 210, 189, 181, Brad Larson 179, Randy Stanley 175

Women's High Games: Suzie Easthouse 183, Deb Schuelke 163, Sam Bahr 153

Men's High Series: Brad Waage 580, Brad Larson 489, John Sippel 462

Women's High Series: Suzie Easthouse 445, Sam Bahr 436, Brenda Madsen 412

Fun Game: Lowest Series - Chipmunks with 1389!

SD NEWSPAPER BUSINESS FOR SALE

I have made the decision to sell my newspaper/print shop. The Wagner Post, Lake Andes Wave and Announcer are well-established, profitable, and locally trusted publications with a strong reader base and advertising support. This is a great opportunity for an individual, family, or organization who values community journalism and wants to keep local news truly local.

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FEBRUARY 10, 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 Dennert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Chairman Sutton shared the item F. Authorize Advertising for Budget Supplement Hearing would be removed from the agenda. Moved by Commissioner Wise, seconded by Dinger to approve the amended agenda. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH SD PUBLIC ASSURANCE ALLIANCE: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Intergovernmental Agreement with SD Public Assurance Alliance for reaffirming membership in the local government risk pool to be known as the South Dakota Public Assurance Alliance. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HOUSTON ENGINEERING MONITORING & CONSULTING SERVICES AT LANDFILL: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Professional Services Agreement with Houston Engineering for Groundwater Elevation Monitoring, Methane Gas Monitoring, Groundwater Sampling, Leachate Monitoring, Stormwater Monitoring, Head-space Gas Monitoring, Reporting & Statistical Analysis and any additional Environmental/Hydrogeologic Consulting Services that may be requested at the Landfill. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ACKNOWLEDGE 2025 CORRECTIONS TO CHARGE ACCOUNTS AT LANDFILL: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to acknowledge the 2025 Corrections to Charge Accounts at the Landfill. Docu-

ments are on file at that Landfill. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Gage to approve the application submitted by Web Water Development Association, Inc. for occupancy of Brown County Highway 14 in Section 27, T-123-R63, Brown County, South Dakota to install potable water line. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ADOPT RESOLUTION FOR BRIDGE INSPECTION: Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent, presented the following Resolution from S.D. Department of Transportation: Moved by Commissioner Wiese to approve

RESOLUTION 2026-13
BRIDGE INSPECTION PROGRAM RESOLUTION FOR USE WITH SDDOT RETAINER CONTRACTS
 WHEREAS, 23 CFR 650 Subpart C, requires initial inspection of all bridges and reinspection at intervals not to exceed two years with the exception of reinforced concrete box culverts that meet specific criteria. These culverts are reinspected at intervals not to exceed four years.

THEFORE, BROWN County is desirous of participating in the Bridge Inspection Program.

The County requests SDDOT to hire IMEG Consultant Corporation (Consulting Engineers) for the inspection work. SDDOT will secure federal approvals, make payments to the Consulting Engineer for inspection services rendered, and bill the County for 20% of the cost. The County will be responsible for the required 20% matching funds.

Dated this 10th day of February, 2026, at Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Seconded by Commissioner Dennert.

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

LOAD LIMITS: Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent, discussed Load Limits and wants to wait a week to see what the weather will be doing. They are not able to get asphalt until May. Load Limits will be discussed again at the February 17th Commission meeting.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent, gave a department update: hauling gravel and then get back to crack sealing. Dirk informed the Commission that the State

Bridge Office is looking at an Alternative Bridge Company to do the Elm Lake Bridge. The Sand Lake Bridge will be started once the company finishes the bridge on 10th Avenue here in Aberdeen. Chairman Sutton asked if Dirk had any updates on the Richmond Dam and he shared that he had not received any updates but will reach out to get an update.

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the General Meeting Minutes of February 3, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Claims & Payroll: Claims: Insurance: SD Public Assurance Alliance \$418.85. Professional Fees: Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$3,075.80; Commercial Electronics \$6,075.00; Dohrer Law Office, PC \$1,718.20; Kylee Boomsma \$2,136.80; Language Line Services, Inc \$648.43; Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC \$6,653.50; LexisNexis Risk Data Mgt, LLC \$200.00; Marco Technologies, LLC \$95.00; Network Center, Inc \$3,057.77; Sanford Health Occupational Medicine \$1,117.00; SD Dept of Public Safety \$6,150.00; Taliaferro Law Firm, PC \$2,281.00; Tyler Technologies, Inc \$1,500.00. Publishing: Groton Daily Independent \$140.91; Hub City Radio \$650.00; McQuillen Creative Group, Inc \$1,196.97. Rentals: Linde Gas & Equipment Inc \$185.56. Repairs & Maintenance: Auto Value Aberdeen \$155.99; Big Scoop Snow Removal \$200.00; Burdette Security & Technologies, LLC \$9,057.70; Butler Machinery Company \$5,339.83; Ecolab Pest Elimination Division \$165.33; Hoven Auto Repair, Inc \$1,034.40; Pantorium Cleaners Inc \$339.50; RDO Equipment Co \$4,653.24; Safety Service \$518.78; SD Dept of Public Safety \$2,840.00; Transource Truck & Equipment, Inc \$7,371.51. Supplies & Materials: Agtegra Cooperative \$50,787.85; Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$1,318.22; Auto Value Aberdeen \$326.94; Bob Barker Company Inc \$131.69; Butler Machinery Company \$374.94; Cartney Bearing \$216.66; Central Network Retail Group LLC \$299.01; Century Business Products \$334.61; Christina M. Flack \$800.00; Crafcro Inc. \$290.00; Crawford Trucks & Equipment \$1,992.76; Cyprus, Ltd \$679.25; Dakota Doors Inc

\$65.00; Dakota Fluid Power, Inc \$316.43; East Side Jersey Dairy Inc \$2,284.50; Fastenal Company \$47.49; FedEx \$22.58; Full Circle Ag \$2,310.14; GovConnection, Inc \$609.35; Government Forms & Supplies \$187.48; Graham Tire Inc \$1,028.40; Hoven Auto Repair, Inc \$56.00; Interstate Battery System of South Dakota \$449.85; Ken's SuperFair Foods \$14.59; Kessler's \$66.62; Leidholdt Tool Sales, LLC \$27.33; Linde Gas & Equipment Inc \$216.81; Linn Kamin \$150.00; Lynn Heupel \$16.99; Menards \$393.94; Midstates Group \$15.00; Midwest Pump & Tank \$736.00; O'Daniel Welding and Repair, LLC \$173.82; Pantorium Cleaners Inc \$60.00; Performance Oil \$39.60; Premier Biotech Labs, Inc \$623.47; Pro Ag Supply, Inc \$629.75; RDO Equipment Co \$2,575.23; Runnings \$1,067.06; Safety Service \$125.50; Share Corporation \$523.80; Steven Lust Automotive \$60.26; Transource Truck & Equipment, Inc \$2,635.27; Tri-State Water \$35.00; US Foods \$12,087.07. Travel & Conference: Kyle Couchey \$19.00; Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC \$240.00; Lynn Heupel \$62.50; Neil Bittner \$19.00. Utilities: Big Scoop Snow Removal \$100.00; City of Aberdeen Treasurer \$88.42; Northwestern Energy \$20,979.94; NVC \$533.57; T-Mobile USA Inc \$594.42; WEB Water Development Association, Inc \$115.52. Machinery & Equipment: RDO Equipment Co \$332,568.39. Other: SD Assoc of County Officials \$622.00.

Payroll: Commission \$5,165.81; Elections \$2,044.00; Auditor/Welfare \$12,026.86; Treasurer \$18,430.88; SA \$38,198.48; Public Defender \$14,449.33; Maintenance \$13,842.68; Assessor \$17,506.93; Register of Deeds \$11,511.04; VSO \$5,006.27; GIS \$3,110.76; IT \$10,616.94; HR \$5,721.14; Sheriff \$63,907.47; Jail \$81,360.51; Coroner (Voucher) \$600.00; Court Security \$8,563.20; JDC \$38,576.07; Museum \$14,418.19; Parks/Fairgrounds \$7,966.34; Fair Board \$4,858.37; 4-H \$881.59; Weed \$1,245.44; Planning & Zoning \$8,539.42; Highway \$54,051.67; Dispatch \$43,108.34; Emergency \$5,927.99; 24/7 Sobriety \$3,024.58; Landfill \$17,369.90; Meal Benefits \$57.00; FICA \$30,266.06; Medicare \$7,078.36; HSA \$2,412.04. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

o Hiring of Kyle Brandner as Brown County Landfill Heavy Equipment Operator, FT; starting wage \$24.93/hr. – effective February 9, 2026.

o Adding the following Museum Volunteers to the approved list for Work Comp Purposes:

- o Joe Berns
- o Gayle Bortnem
- o Joan Buntrock
- o Glenda DeVore
- o Abigail Dorn
- o Sheila Enderson
- o Jan Erickson
- o Colleen Erickson
- o Susan Gerlach
- o Heath Johnson
- o Paul Kendall
- o Dominic King
- o Doug Klipfel
- o Guy Marzenell
- o Paul McDonald
- o Troy McQuillen
- o Mitchell Mikkonen

- o Cindy Meyers
- o Janet O'Connell
- o Barbara Pagel
- o Nathan Perry
- o Christian Pirlot
- o Erin Rudner
- o Courtney Rott
- o Deanna Sanderson
- o Lora Schaunaman
- o Kelli Schaunaman
- o Neil Schaunaman
- o Amber Schwab
- o Justin Scott
- o Rich Ward
- o Katie Washnok
- o Scott Woizeschke

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
TRAVEL REQUESTS: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the following Travel Request: Lynn Heupel, Auditor to attend Legislative Session to testify on February 6, 2026 in Pierre. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LANDFILL TONNAGE REPORT: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to acknowledge the Landfill Tonnage Report for January 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LEASE AGREEMENTS: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the following lease agreements: Northern Electric Cooperative to lease the Holum Expo Building on June 10-11, 2026 for NEC Annual Meeting; Shaina Earnest to lease the Richmond Lake Youth Camp from May 19-26, 2026 for Family Gathering; Trevor Meints to lease Clubhouse on September 25-28, 2026 for a wedding; Great Plains CEF Church to lease Richmond Lake Youth Camp on June 21-27, 2026 for Church Camp; Aberdeen Area Horseman's Association to lease Akkerman Open Horse Arena on the following dates: June 7, June 28, July 12, August 2 and August 15, 2026 for Horse Shows. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ABATEMENTS: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the following Abatements: For Tax Year 2026: Parcel #750010 - \$9,796.07; Parcel #750170 - \$14,127.11; Parcel #750171 - \$34,371.91; Parcel #750172 - \$3,897.37; Parcel #750173 - \$2,429.39; Parcel #750125 - \$203.26; Parcel #27722 - \$18,434.76; Parcel #23979 - \$8,182.51; Parcel #16328 - \$52.10; Parcel #18808 - \$2,119.20; Parcel #4442 - \$1,887.02; Parcel #1153 - \$31.83; Parcel #2122 - \$10.53; Parcel #2132 - \$27.06; Parcel #2154 - \$4.98; Parcel #2155 - \$36.24; Parcel #2158 - \$20.42; Parcel #2416 - \$34.17; Parcel #2418 - \$11.97; Parcel #2419 - \$34.39; Parcel #2428 - \$5.35; Parcel #2434 - \$17.20; Parcel #2436 - \$2.22; Parcel #2437 - \$8.71; Parcel #2440 - \$34.39; Parcel #2442 - \$0.46; Parcel #6918 - \$16.68; Parcel #6919 - \$3.44; Parcel #6920 - \$3.56; Parcel #6921 - \$5.72; Parcel #6958 - \$9.64; Parcel #6967 - \$13.78; Parcel #6970 - \$3.87; Parcel #7462 - \$25.91; Parcel #19938 - \$10.09; Parcel #22911 - \$0.92; Parcel #24279 - \$36.24; Parcel #24280 - \$36.24. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:16 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

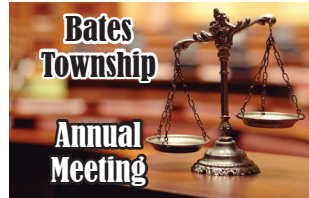
Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published February 18, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$122.72 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26531



Notice is hereby given that the annual Henry Township caucus and election of officers along with the other businesses that may come before the board will be held Tuesday March 3, 2026 at 4:30pm at Doug Abeln's Seed Company Office. Will also take bids for gravel and road maintenance.

Darlene Sass
 Henry Township Clerk
 Published February 18 and 25, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$9.61 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26532



Bates Township
 BATES TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Bates Township will hold its annual meeting and election on Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026 at the home of the Clerk, 14523 409th Ave, Conde.

Election of officers and business meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m.

We will be receiving bids for road maintenance and gravel. Please mail bids to

Betty Geist, Bates Township Clerk, 14523 409th Ave., Conde, SD 57434 prior to meeting date.

Betty Geist, Township Clerk
 Published February 18 and 25, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$13.01 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26533



Citizens of Shelby Township are hereby notified that the Annual Township meeting will be held at the township hall on Tuesday, March (3), 2026, beginning at 1 p.m. for the following purposes: To elect one supervisor for a three (3) year term, one clerk and one treasurer, and to do any other business proper to be done at said meeting. Shelby Township will accept bids for gravel, road maintaining, snow removal, and other road work as necessary for the year 2026-2027. The gravel is to be delivered before Aug. 1, 2026 and must meet the township board's specifications. The road maintaining, snow removal, and road work bids must state per hour and per mile charges. Date and time records will be required for all work performed. Bids will also be accepted for mowing the Houghton cemetery. Bids must be received at the clerk's residence on or before March 27, 2026. Bids will be opened at the township hall in Houghton on March 31, 2026 at 7 p.m. All bids for gravel and road work must be accompanied by a Certificate of Contractors Liability Insurance. The board of supervisors reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Colby Crawford, Township Clerk 11760 403rd Avenue Houghton, SD 57449

Published February 18 and 25, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$24.88 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26534

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Lawyers' gp.
- 4 Radiator sound
- 7 Explosion
- 12 Bottom line
- 13 Ref
- 14 — Ababa
- 15 Hindu honorific
- 16 Obstruction
- 18 Work unit
- 19 Incursion
- 20 Frog's relative
- 22 — Aviv
- 23 Chumps
- 27 Fan's shout
- 29 Owing money
- 31 Choir member
- 34 Like anchovies
- 35 Hour follower
- 37 Dog's foot
- 38 Yuletide tune
- 39 GPS suggestion
- 41 Lounge about
- 45 Toe woes
- 47 Nev. neighbor
- 48 "Psycho" director Alfred
- 52 Chemical suffix
- 53 Petrify
- 54 "QB —" (Uris novel)
- 55 Cacophony
- 56 "One L" author Scott
- 57 Right angle

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14				
15				16				17				
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35					36			37				
38					39	40			41	42	43	44
48	49	50	51							52		
53						54				55		
56								57				58

- 58 Mermaid's home
- 10 Bracketed word
- 11 Chiding sound
- 17 Painter
- Salvador
- 21 Slobber
- 23 Shoulder
- 24 "You've got mail" co.
- 25 Agt.'s cut
- 26 Cloud setting
- 28 Rainbow
- 30 Code-breaking gp.
- 31 Great weight
- 32 Green prefix
- 33 Mets' div.
- 36 Ray of McDonald's
- 37 Writing instrument
- 40 Treasure stash
- 42 Lab liquids
- 43 "The Fraud" author — Smith
- 44 Justice Kagan
- 45 Enjoy gum
- 46 Power tool brand
- 48 FDR follower
- 49 Post-op area
- 50 Sailor
- 51 — Magnon

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Letters to the Editor Submission – Project Earth Unit

Twenty-four students from a class of 39 have chosen to submit their Letters to the Editor for publication following completion of a recent "Project Earth" unit.

During the unit, students were given the opportunity to write about an environmental issue or another topic they felt strongly about. As part of the assignment, they studied the elements of persuasive writing and the structure of a strong argument, including crafting a clear claim, supporting it with evidence, addressing counterclaims, offering rebuttals, and forming a thoughtful conclusion.

The following pieces represent the voices, research, and convictions of students who elected to share their work with the broader community. More will be published next week.

Assignment: Argument Editorial: People see things in different ways

Student Name: Aryanna Cutler

I feel we should use reusable bags because then our world would be safer and cleaner!

Did you know that only a few plastic bags end up being recycled after use? Only 10 percent of plastic bags end up actually getting recycled because most of the bags end up getting stuck in the machines and slow down the entire process. Reusable bags are also cheaper to make.

Did you know the world uses about 5 trillion bags per year; and each one cost about 1 cent? If you did the math, that would mean about \$5,000,000,000 is spent on bags a year.

Some people could say that "It's not convenient to use reusable bags." But the truth is it only takes about less than a minute to get a reusable bag when you leave the house, and if you are in a time crunch, you could always leave one in the car. I am going to use more reusable bags, and I hope you do too!

My references are BeyondPlastic.com and FactoryDirectPromos.com.

Assignment: Argument Editorial: People see things in different ways

Student Name: Aschar Warrington

Do you wonder how many plastic bags get recycled after being used to carry your groceries? The answer is not many. According to ecologycenter.org, "Only 9.1% of that plastic is recycled." They also harm animals and our environment. Therefore, I believe we should use reusable bags.

Plastic bags harm turtles. According to bbc.com, "Turtles like to eat jellyfish and squid, and plastic bags can look like them." Scientists try to intervene but can't help every turtle.

Plastic bags can also harm our environment when people try to dispose of them by burning them. Burning them causes greenhouse gases that can lead to global warming. Global warming happens when too much greenhouse gas gets stuck in our atmosphere, causing the Earth to warm up. According to plasticpollutioncoalition.org "extraction of the oil and gas to refining and manufacturing, every step of the production process releases greenhouse gases."

Some would say that plastic bags are more convenient, but reusable bags are better because it is easy to put them in your car. Convenience is one reason people use plastic bags, but not a good one. When purchasing a few or big items, do not use a bag; just carry your items out.

In closing, use reusable bags or become one of the nine percent who recycle plastic bags.

The sources I used are:

<https://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org>

<https://www.bbc.com>

<https://ecologycenter.org>

Assignment: Argument Editorial: People see things in different ways

Student Name: Bless Shee Moo

Should we recycle? My position is that, Yes because it will make the world a better place, or it could be more harmful to the planet. If we don't recycle, it could make animals endangered. Recycling will help us cause less pollution, and fewer animals will die.

My reason for supporting my opinion is that 21% of people don't recycle, and it can cause animals to die. <https://recyclingpartnership.org> Every school should teach about what we should recycle because many people are confused about what to recycle. <https://www.reelpaper.com>

Recycling can help if you recycle because we don't want animals to die because of trash. I still have hope that the workers recycle because the world can be clean, and we want the world to be clean because it could help us have better generations. If we don't recycle, trash is gonna grow until they're no more room.

Like I said that people don't know what to recycle. So we need to know what to recycle in, so just get up and go find things to recycle with. This proves why we should recycle.

Assignment: Argument Editorial: People see things in different ways

Student Name: Calliope Herrick

We expect most of the kids in the cafeteria to grab plastic silverware when they are in the lunch line, but when they do, most of the time they don't use the utensils, and then it gets wasted. Kids should start using reusable cutlery instead of plastic to reduce waste.

First, plastic cutlery is not recyclable. Because of its irregular shape and size, it's hard to sort and recycle, leading to plastic cutlery ending up in landfills or just in plain nature. Now, there is an environmental crisis. Most plastic takes hundreds of years to decompose, leading to waste problems. Plastic utensils will eventually be washed into the ocean at some point. This could lead to chemicals getting into the animals' digestive systems and could cause death. Animals may ingest or become entangled, also risking injury or death.

Some might say the cost of reusable silverware is too high. Schools don't use metal or stainless steel silverware because it costs too much, and they would need more staff to wash it.

Although reusable utensils are expensive, it would help the environment and reduce waste in the community. It would be expensive at first, but later on it will help with the garbage everywhere in our town.

In conclusion, schools should start having kids use reusable cutlery instead of plastic cutlery. Plastic cutlery is terrible for the environment, and we should start taking precautions to protect it. The next time you throw away a plastic fork or spoon, think about how it can damage the environment.

Assignment: Argument Editorial: People see things in different ways

Student Name: Haley Erickson

I think we should have more options for school lunches. When students don't like the food, they waste most of it. Providing more options will let students pick the food they like, which will reduce waste.

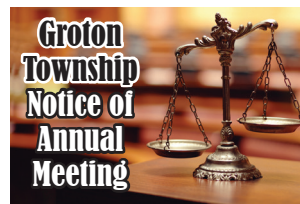
I think that giving students the chance to pick their own options will give them more responsibility, which will lead to good decision-making skills. I also think more food options will help students who have food allergies. There are about 8% of students in the U.S. with food allergies, which is about two stu-

dents per classroom. I found this information at FoodAllergy.org.

Some may say increasing food options will cost more. I believe reducing waste will save more money in the future. Another problem could be slower lunch lines. However, an easy solution would be to redesign the lunch lines by making them longer.

By offering more options for school lunches, more students will actually eat the food, learn responsibility and good decision-making skills, and have options for their allergies.

It's time to change our school lunches for the better! Let's provide more options to support responsibility, students with allergies, and create a better lunchroom.



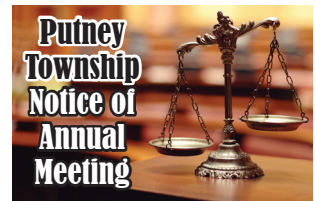
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION IN GROTON TOWNSHIP

Notice is hereby given that the annual Groton Township Annual and Election of Officers will be held Tuesday, March 6, 2026, at the Groton Community Center. Meeting at 1 p.m. followed by election of officers. Sealed bids will be accepted for gravel, loaded and delivered, to designated places in Groton Township. The township board reserves the right to inspect the gravel before awarding the bid.

Bids must be addressed to Jeff Howard, Township Clerk, 40829 131st Street, Groton, SD 57445, sealed and plainly marked "Bid for Gravel." Separate bids will be accepted for mowing weeds along road ditches, removal of snow and blading. Bidders are to furnish township with name and address of insurance agent.

Bids will be opened by the Board of Supervisors, Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 1 p.m.

The board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Jeff Howard, Township Clerk
Published February 18 and 25, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$20.92 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26535



NOTICE OF CAUCUS AND ELECTION IN PUTNEY TOWNSHIP

Notice is hereby given that the annual Putney Township Caucus and Election of Officers will be held Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at Mark Thompson's Shop.

Caucus at 4 p.m. followed by election of officers.

Sealed bids will be accepted for gravel, loaded and delivered, to designated places in Putney Township. The township board reserves the right to inspect the gravel before awarding the bid. Bids must be addressed to Mark Thompson, Township Clerk, sealed and plainly marked "Bid for Gravel." Separate bids will be accepted for mowing weeds along road ditches, removal of snow and blading. Bidders are to furnish township with name and address of insurance agent. Bids will be opened by the Board of Supervisors, Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at Mark Thompson's Farm House shop at 4 p.m. The board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Mark Thompson
Township Clerk
Published February 18 and 25, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$21.49 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26536

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Worsening Shrimp Fraud Drives Overfishing

by Shriya Surti



Dear EarthTalk: What is "shrimp fraud?" Why is it bad for the environment and local economies and how are we combating it?
-- Michelle G., Seattle, WA



Shrimp fraud takes various forms, including species substitution, where lower-quality or cheaper shrimp species are sold as expensive varieties.

Credit: Pexels.com.

Shrimp is one of the most popular seafood choices worldwide. "We eat over one billion pounds of shrimp [annually in the U.S.]," Kimberly Warner, senior scientist of Oceana, tells The Guardian. Producers mislabel or misrepresent shrimp products to deceive buyers about their species, origin or sustainability. This deceptive practice misleads consumers and harms the environment, the economy and public health.

Shrimp fraud takes various forms, including species substitution, where lower-quality or cheaper shrimp species are sold as expensive varieties. Some producers mislabel shrimp origins to disguise unsustainably harvested shrimp. Some misrepresent sustainability claims to appeal to eco-conscious consumers.

When producers misrepresent shrimp harvesting, they drive overfishing, depleting wild shrimp populations and disrupting marine ecosystems. Shrimp farmers clear mangroves for unsustainable shrimp farming, destroying coastal habitats and reducing biodiversity. Shrimp farmers also pollute local water systems by releasing excess nutrients and chemicals, harming aquatic life. Fraudulent shrimp sourcing supports unreported and unregulated fishing, weakening efforts to manage global fisheries responsibility.

Honest shrimp fishers suffer financial losses when their legally harvested shrimp must compete with fraudulent alternatives. Mis-labelers deceive consumers, charging them premium prices for falsely advertised products. This results in financial losses and raises health concerns because some mislabeled shrimp are contaminated, exposing customers to potential allergens or harmful chemicals.

Organizations and consumers have increased efforts to combat shrimp fraud in recent years. Governments have implemented seafood labeling laws and regulations requiring accurate product descriptions. "An immediate fix would be traceability and better labeling, allowing people to choose their seafood confidently and responsibly," Kimberly Warner says. Regulators and advocacy groups have developed DNA testing and traceability initiatives to verify shrimp species and origins more effectively. Consumer awareness campaigns have exposed fraudulent practices and pushed for industry-wide reform.

Consumers can fight shrimp fraud by making informed purchases and choosing trusted sources like certified sustainable fisheries. Support stronger labeling laws and traceability programs. Stay informed and advocate for ethical sourcing to foster a more sustainable shrimp industry.

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.

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Lb.

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Lb.

GREEN SEEDLESS GRAPES \$1.99
Lb.

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LIVESTOCK

HART ANGUS FARMS Production Sale, NEW DATE Wednesday, February 25th. 1 mile south of Frederick SD. Bid live - DVAuction. Call for catalog or www.hartangusfarms.com. Brad 605-329-7211 or Alex 605-216-1019.

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

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