

# The Groton Independent

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## Council rejects City Hall painting bids; reviews scoreboard surplus

By Elizabeth Varin

The City Council on Tuesday night rejected both bids submitted to paint the exterior of City Hall/Wage Memorial Library after proposals came in at nearly double the amount budgeted for the project.

The council reviewed the two bids originally opened at the Feb. 3 meeting. The bid from C. Eagle Construction of Woonsocket totaled \$48,117 and included painting the exterior of the building on the corner of North Main Street and East Second Avenue, replacing cedar shakes on the building and repairing exterior insulation and finish systems on the building. An updated bid from Custer Custom Homes and Renovations was presented to the council, which totaled \$44,200 and included prepping and painting the exterior of the building, as well as minor repairs.

A quote to repaint the exterior of the building totaled \$19,500 two years ago, said city Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich. The recent bids are a big increase from that.

"We budgeted \$20,000 for this, so if we move forward with this, we have to supplement funding," he said.

Council members said the higher-than-expected costs prompted them to decline the bids and revisit the scope and timing of the work.

"I think we have to reject it because it's just so far over," said Councilman Brian Bahr.

In other business, the council approved the hiring of the first three summer recreation employees ahead of the busy season.

Matt Locke was hired as baseball coordinator with nine years of experience. Jaclyn Iverson was hired as softball coordinator with three years of experience. And Rebecca Padfield was hired as baseball concessions manager with 10 years of experience.

Additional hires were tabled pending interviews with other applicants.

Applications for some other summer recreational position are due by 5 p.m. March 3. Those positions include public works laborer/park caretaker, cemetery caretaker, assistant part-time swimming pool manager, swimming pool lifeguards, baseball groundskeepers and baseball gateskeepers.

The council also opted to hold off on declaring the city's old baseball scoreboard as surplus property.

The Groton Baseball/Softball Foundation representatives have requested permission to sell or auction the scoreboard to help offset the cost of a new one. Before moving forward, however, city staff and the city attorney will review whether an appraisal is required and address other legal and procedural questions related to the potential sale.

- The council approved the second reading of an ordinance to add a \$35.40 sewer system surcharge to utility bills for customers who receives or benefits from the new wastewater force main and lagoon expansion.

- The council approved declaring some old computers from City Hall as surplus, allowing the city to dispose of the old equipment.

- The council gave the OK to go out to bid for 2026 street resurfacing work, which includes approximately 33,000 square yards of bituminous seal coat.



### 4th grade are champions in the Hub City Hoops Tournament

The Hub City elementary basketball tournament was held Saturday with the fourth graders taking first in the tournament. Pictured in back, left to right, are Coach Matt Severson, Bo Fliehs, Jagger Penning, Mavrik Severson, Nolan Rose, Dawson Kampa, Freddy Cole, Lincoln Heilman and Coach Jordan Helms; in front, left to right, are Quinton Ronning, Dayton Gonsoir, Saylor Gilchrist, Paxton Eichler

(Photo by Maddy Helms)



### 5th grade takes third in the Hub City Hoops Tournament

The Hub City elementary basketball tournament was held Saturday with the fifth graders taking third in the tournament. Pictured left to right are Bo Fliehs, Rae Fliehs, Dayton Gonsoir, Coach Eric Moody, Mac Merkel, Kaleb Hofer, Coach Mike Imrie, Henry Paulson, Jase Bahr, Quinton Ronning.

(Photo by Paula Johnson)



### Groton Wrestlers are State Bound

These Groton Area Wrestlers are state bound this weekend in Sioux Falls. Pictured left to right are Liza Krueger, Gavin England, Layne Johnson, Kyson Kucker, Keegan Kucker, Donavan Block, Wyatt Hagen and Walker Zoellner.

(Photo by Alexa Sperry)

- The city will begin accepting gravel quotes for 2026 after authorization from the council Tuesday evening.

- A special event alcoholic beverage license

was approved for the Groton Area Fire Department for its Fireman's Fun Nigh, scheduled for April 18 at the Groton Fire Hall. The special event license is in effect until 2 a.m. April 19.

## Boys Basketball

# Tigers cruise past Britton-Hecla, improve to 15-4



**Gage Sippel controlled the opening tip as he out jumps Britton-Hecla's Chaz Vietor.** (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



**Becker Bosma is being defended by Jaxon Zuehlke.** (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

17 assists and 10 steals, while committing 11 turnovers.

Kjellsen credited his team's work on the glass against a Braves squad with solid size.

"I thought defensively we did a good job, and I was really pleased with how we rebounded," he said. "They have as much size as a lot of teams we've seen. We shot it well in the first half. We didn't always take care of the ball — we threw some bad passes — but overall I liked how we played."

Groton's outside shooting proved to be a difference-maker against Britton-Hecla's 1-3-1 zone.

"We knew we were going to have to shoot a few threes against these guys," Kjellsen said. "They want to protect the inside and they're kind of daring you to shoot it. Luckily we made a few."

Four Tigers finished in double figures. Ryder Johnson led the way with 19 points, five rebounds, two assists and two steals. Karson Zak added 17 points, three rebounds, four assists and four steals. Keegen Tracy scored 13 points to go along with three rebounds, three assists and two steals, while Gage Sippel contributed 10 points and seven rebounds.

Easton Weber added six points, Anthony Tracy had two, and Groton also received contributions on the boards and defensively from Jayden Schwan, Logan Warrington and Asher Johnson.

Britton-Hecla, which fell to 12-8, was led by Jackson Zuehlke with nine points. Benjamin Folkman added five and Nathan Folkman had four. The Braves shot 9-of-37 from the field (24 percent), went 4-of-8 at the free throw line and committed 15 turnovers.

Groton also took care of business in the junior varsity game, posting a 71-38 victory. The Tigers led 20-12 after one quarter, 33-19 at halftime and 50-29 after three.

Jace Johnson paced the JV squad with 21 points, followed by Anthony Tracy with 16 and Asher Johnson with 12. Ethan Kroll scored six, J.J. Muller and Ryder Schelle each added five, Jordan Schwan had four and Wesley Borg chipped in two.

Britton-Hecla's JV was led by Nathaniel Schuller and Jace Reine with seven points apiece.

Groton completed the sweep with a 41-36 win in the C game.

With the victory, the Tigers improve to 15-4 on the season and will close out the regular season Friday, Feb. 27, when they host Aberdeen Christian.

GROTON — The Groton Area Tigers put together one of their most complete performances of the season Friday night, rolling past Britton-Hecla 67-27 in Northeast Conference boys basketball action.

Groton jumped out to a 9-0 lead and never looked back, building a 16-8 advantage after one quarter. The Tigers extended the margin to 40-14 by halftime and 53-19 after three quarters. The 30-point mercy rule was triggered midway through the third when Groton stretched the lead to 47-16, and the Tigers cruised home from there.

Despite a shortened week of practice due to weather, Groton head coach Greg Kjellsen was pleased with his team's focus and preparation.

"We've been working on it (1-3-1 zone) because we've seen it a little bit from some others," Kjellsen said of Britton-Hecla's zone looks. "We have to play them again in a couple of weeks, so we wanted to make sure they know it's not going to be fun to come back here."

The Tigers shot the ball efficiently all night, finishing 20-of-33 from two-point range (61 percent) and 8-of-15 from beyond the arc (53 percent). Groton added 31 rebounds,

"That's the only thing we can take care of," Kjellsen said of the play-off picture. "We can take care of business with Aberdeen Christian. Whatever else happens, happens. That's out of our control."

## Girls Basketball

# Balanced attack lifts Tigers past Britton-Hecla



**Jaedyn Penning eyes the basket on this shot.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Jerrica Locke is triple teamed by Mia Kilker, Daynika Zuehlke and Karlie Zuehlke.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

GROTON- The Groton Area girls basketball team turned in one of its most complete performances of the season Friday night, rolling to a 60-26 Northeast Conference victory over Britton-Hecla in Groton.

The Tigers set the tone early, building a 15-7 lead after one quarter before breaking the game open in the second. Groton rattled off 11 straight points during the period and took a commanding 32-12 advantage into halftime.

"We really came out focused," said head coach Matt Locke. "Defensively, we were active, we were communicating, and that allowed us to get out and run. When we share the ball like we did tonight, we're tough to guard."

Groton continued to stretch the lead in the third quarter, hitting the 30-point margin for the continuous clock with 15 seconds left in the period and taking a 46-19 lead into the final frame.

The Tigers shot the ball efficiently throughout the night, finishing 16-of-25 from two-point range (64%) and 9-of-22 from three-point

range (41%). Groton struggled at the free throw line, going 1-of-6 (17%), but made up for it with strong ball movement and defensive pressure.

Groton totaled 27 rebounds, committed just eight turnovers, and dished out 19 assists to go along with nine steals and four blocked shots.

"I loved the unselfishness," Locke said. "Nineteen assists tells you we were making the extra pass. That's what we talk about — trusting each other and playing for the best shot."

Balanced scoring was a key. Jerica Locke led the Tigers with nine points, adding five rebounds and four assists. Jayden Penning, Riley Dunker, and Taryn Traphagen each scored eight points. Penning added five assists and two steals, while Dunker contributed two steals and two blocks. Traphagen finished with five rebounds and two blocks.

Kella Tracy added eight points and five rebounds, Mia Crank chipped in five points, and McKenna Tietz had four points, three assists, and two steals. Talli Wright and Tevan Hanson each scored three points, Ashlynn Warrington had two, Sydney Locke added two points with a rebound and assist, and McKenna Krause pulled down a rebound.

Britton-Hecla was led by Madelynn Micko with nine points and Daynika Zuehlke with seven. Karlie Zuehlke and Ella Schuster each added four points. The Braves shot 11-of-44 from the field (25%) and 4-of-7 from the free throw line (57%), finishing with 10 turnovers.

With the win, Groton improves to 14-6 on the season and will open region tournament play Tuesday. Britton-Hecla falls to 4-16.

"We're playing our best basketball at the right time," Locke said. "Now it's about carrying that intensity and focus into the postseason."

Groton also dominated the junior varsity contest, earning a 42-4 victory.

The Tigers led 11-0 after the first quarter and 26-2 at halftime, using a 23-point run spanning the second and third quarters to put the game away.

Kella Tracy paced Groton with 16 points, while Tevan Hanson added eight. Taylynn Traphagen and Ashlynn Warrington each scored five points. McKenna Krause and Kinsley Rowen contributed two points apiece.

For Britton-Hecla, Livia Knecht and Lily Mundt each scored two points.

# Groton Area Rolls Past Britton-Hecla in Region 1A Opener



**Talli Wright**  
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

The Groton Area girls basketball team advanced in the Region 1A tournament Tuesday night with a 45-19 victory over Britton-Hecla in Groton.

The Braves scored first with a three-pointer, but the Tigers answered quickly. An offensive rebound by Jerica Locke led to an early response that helped Groton settle in, and the Tigers pushed ahead to a 16-5 lead after the first quarter. Groton carried a 24-7 advantage into halftime and led 32-12 after three quarters.

"That was a huge play because they start out with momentum," Groton head coach Matt Locke said. "That's how upsets happen, when you let things get rolling and let teams stick around that probably shouldn't."

Groton's defense controlled the game, forcing 24 Britton-Hecla turnovers and holding the Braves to seven points well into the third quarter.

"I thought we were really disciplined in our gaps, seeing the ball and had our hands active," Locke said. "A few too many fouls, but when you're amped up a little bit, that's part of region basketball."

Groton finished 10-of-27 on two-point shots (37%), 5-of-23

from three-point range (22%) and 10-of-14 at the free-throw line (71%). The Tigers totaled 27 rebounds, 21 steals and eight assists, with 18 turnovers and 15 fouls.

Rylee Dunker led Groton Area with 12 points, four rebounds and four steals. Taryn Traphagen scored 10 points with two rebounds and two steals. Jayden Penning added eight points, four rebounds, three assists and three steals. Jerica Locke finished with seven points, eight rebounds, four assists and five steals.

Other Groton scorers included McKenna Tietz with two points, two rebounds, one assist and one steal; Kella Tracy with two points, three rebounds and three steals; Talli Wright with two points and one rebound; and Tevan Hanson with two points, one rebound and one steal. Sydney Locke had two rebounds and two steals. Ashlynn Warrington and Mia Crank also saw action for Groton.

Locke credited his team's focus—especially the upperclassmen—for helping Groton handle the pressure of postseason play.

"Those seniors are doing a good job of keeping everybody focused, realizing that the next loss, they're done," Locke said. "They need to be on point, and I thought they were tonight. It's not easy playing the same team you just saw a few days ago."

Britton-Hecla was led by Karlie Zuehlke, Madelynn Micko and Chellon Pruitt with five points each, while Daynike Zuehlke added four. The Braves shot 5-of-27 from the field (18%) and 7-of-14 from the free-throw line (50%) and finished with 15 team fouls and 24 turnovers.

Groton Area will host Milbank on Thursday night in the next round of Region 1A play. Tipoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

"We'll give them the plan tomorrow," Locke said. "We have to be physical, know where their scorers are at and follow our assignments."

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by BaseKamp Lodge, Bierman Farm Service, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Farmers Union Coop, Groton Ag Partners, Groton American Legion, Groton Chamber, Groton Dairy Queen, Groton Ford, Hanlon Brothers, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Cafe, Ken's Food Fair, Krueger Brothers, Lori's Pharmacy, Poet, Spanier Harvesting & Trucking, Sperry Tree Service, Sun & Sea Travel, The MeatHouse, Weismantel Insurance Agency. Jeslyn Kosel ran the camera, Rich Bosma the commentary and Paul Kosel the stats and technology



**Jerica Locke**  
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

## NEC Boys Basketball Standings

	(C)	(S)
Clark/Willow Lake	10-0	18-2
Groton Area	9-1	15-4
Hamlin	8-2	17-3
Webster Area	6-4	11-8
Britton-Hecla	5-5	12-8
Milbank	4-5	10-9
Roncalli	4-6	6-13
Sisseton	4-6	10-9
Deuel	3-7	7-13
Redfield	1-9	3-17
Tiospa Zina	0-9	4-15

**Feb. 19**  
Deuel 52, Roncalli 44  
Milbank 64, Webster 54  
Clark W.L 58, Hamlin 50

**Feb. 20**  
Groton 57, Britton-Hecla 27  
Redfield 63, Tiospa Zina 60

**Feb. 23**  
Hamlin 77, Redfield 34

**Feb. 27**  
Tiospa Zina at Milbank

## NEC Girls Basketball Standings

	(C)	(S)
Hamlin	10-0	19-1
Clark/Willow Lake	9-1	18-3
Roncalli	8-2	16-4
Groton Area	7-3	15-6
Milbank	6-4	17-4
Sisseton	5-5	10-10
Webster	3-7	7-14
Deuel	3-7	5-16
Redfield	2-8	5-16
Tiospa Zina	1-9	6-16
Britton-Hecla	1-9	4-17

**Feb. 19**  
Roncalli 49, Deuel 22  
Milbank 62, Webster 39  
Hamlin 53, Clark/WL 48

## Clark/Willow Lake wins boys title; Hamlin wins girls title

Clark/Willow Lake won the boys Northeast Conference title with a 58-50 win over Hamlin. It was Hamlin's second conference loss of the season as the Cyclones win the title outright with a 10-0 record.

Meanwhile in the girls side, Hamlin defeated Clark/Willow Lake, 53-38 to win the Northeast Conference title outright with a 10-0 record. It was Hamlin's first conference loss of the season.

## Groton Squadron #39 Sets Quorum, Discusses Fundraising at February Meeting

GROTON — Groton Squadron Sons of the American Legion #39 met Feb. 17, 2026, with Commander Travis McGannon calling the meeting to order.

Members in attendance included Dylan McGannon, Aaron Grant, Aaron Severson, Rylan Blackwood, Mark Abeln, Tanner McGannon, Travis McGannon, Aaron Grant Jr., and Paul Kosel. Ben Smith was also present.

The meeting opened with a prayer offered by Aaron Grant Jr., followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble to the American Legion. The POW/MIA flag was placed on the chair in observance.

One of the key items of business was establishing a quorum requirement for future meetings. Following discussion, members approved setting a minimum of four members to constitute a quorum.

Smith spoke about the benefits of the organization and highlighted opportunities for growth and involvement. Discussion also centered on the squadron's checking account, with members noting that paperwork needs to be submitted to the bank. A flagpole will also be ordered, along with a preamble display.

The squadron approved the minutes from the Jan. 19, 2026, meeting.

Members also discussed fundraising opportunities to support the organization. Ideas included a gun raffle, Ace of Hearts, a 50/50 drawing, and a Wheel of Meat fundraiser. Smith noted there are ample opportunities to raise funds in the community.

In addition, Aaron Grant shared items of his grandfather's World War II memorabilia with those in attendance.

The meeting adjourned with the closing prayer.

Paul Kosel serves as adjutant for the squadron.

Need a **Babysitter** or **House Cleaner**?

♥ **Babysitting Available!**

**House Cleaning Offered!**

Text Jeslyn Kosel at (605)-290-7821

I'm in Groton but am willing to drive to nearby towns!

## Groton Prairie Mixed Bowling League Week #13

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!



There isn't a football article this week. Instead, I wanted to take a moment to remember Vikings wide receiver Rondale Moore, who tragically passed away on Saturday at the age of 25.

Moore was a four-star prospect coming out of high school. He received offers from 35 colleges, including powerhouse programs like Alabama, Georgia, and Texas. Moore ultimately chose to attend Purdue University.

In 2018, as a true freshman, Moore had 114 receptions (led the nation) for 1,258 yards and 12 touchdowns. His list of accomplishments that season was truly impressive. According to the Purdue Athletic website:

- Paul Hornung Award recipient as the nation's most versatile player.



- First true freshman consensus All-American in Big Ten history.
- First-team All-America by the Associated Press, Football Writers Association of America, ESPN.com, Sports Illustrated, and CBS Sports
- Second-team All-America by the Sporting News.
- First-team Freshman All-America by the Associated Press.
- Big Ten Wide Receiver of the Year.
- Big Ten Freshman of the Year.
- First-team All-Big Ten (wide receiver and special teams).
- Four-time Big Ten Freshman of the Week.
- Broke the school record for most all-purpose yards in a season (2,215)
- Broke the school record for most all-purpose yards in a game (313).
- Tied the school record for most 100-yard receiving games (7).
- Caught 11 or more passes in a game six times.
- Is merely the third player in Big Ten history with 100 or more receptions (114) in a season.

Unfortunately, injuries limited him to only seven games total in the 2019 and 2020 seasons. Despite that, Moore was still a 2nd-round pick by the Arizona Cardinals in 2021.

Moore signed with the Vikings last offseason after missing the entire 2024 season due to injury. On his first kick return in the Vikings' first preseason game, Moore injured his knee and subsequently missed the entire season.

Following the devastating news on Saturday, Vikings Head Coach Kevin O'Connell released the following statement:

"I am devastated by the news of Rondale's death. While Rondale had been a member of the Vikings for a short time, he was someone we came to know well and care about deeply. He was a humble, soft-spoken, and respectful young man who was proud of his Indiana roots. As a player, he was disciplined, dedicated and resilient despite facing adversity multiple times as injuries sidelined him throughout his career. We are all heartbroken by the fact he won't continue to live out his NFL dream, and we won't all have a chance to watch him flourish. My prayers are with Rondale's family, friends, teammates and coaches as we all deal with this tragic news."

Please make sure to check in with your friends and family regularly. Everybody has their own private battles going on, so it's important to remind those close to us how much we love them. And please, if you are suffering and the world starts to seem too heavy, reach out to someone. You are not alone. If you aren't comfortable talking to friends or family, you can call 988 any time, day or night. You can also email me (WeeklyVikingsRoundup@gmail.com). We can chat about life, the Vikings, or anything else you want to talk about. I'd be honored to help you carry the weight.

You are not alone.

### "The Not-So Silent Struggle of Sleep Apnea"

Take a moment to breathe. Close your eyes. Slowly inhale through your nose, pause, and gently exhale through your mouth. After a few steady breaths, you likely feel more relaxed and ready for the day.

Now imagine plugging your nose and trying to breathe with your tongue pressed against the roof of your mouth, blocking the airway. You would quickly feel stressed and uncomfortable. Now imagine that happening over and over again, all night long.

That is what occurs with obstructive sleep apnea.

Obstructive sleep apnea happens when relaxed throat muscles and soft tissues collapse and block the airway during sleep. These temporary pauses in breathing—called apneas—cause lower oxygen levels. The brain senses the drop and briefly arouses the body to reopen the airway. This cycle can repeat dozens, even hundreds, of times per night. The result is fragmented sleep, low oxygen, and a body that never truly rests.

Sleep is when the body resets and restores itself. It supports immune function, heart health, metabolism, memory, mood, and emotional regulation. When sleep suffers, so does overall health. Poor sleep increases the risk of high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, cognitive decline, and even dementia. People who are chronically tired are also less likely to make healthy choices.

The gold standard treatment for sleep apnea is CPAP—continuous positive airway pressure. A bedside machine delivers steady air through a mask, keeping the airway open during sleep. Some patients benefit from BiPAP, which provides different pressures when breathing in and out. When used consistently, these therapies can dramatically improve sleep quality, energy, focus, hormone balance, and cardiovascular health.

Other treatments may help in selected cases. Weight loss, dental appliances, side sleeping, and certain surgeries can reduce airway obstruction. For patients who cannot tolerate CPAP, hypoglossal nerve stimulation (often known by the brand Inspire) is an option. This implanted device stimulates the nerve controlling the tongue, helping maintain an open airway during sleep.

Although sleeping with a mask may not sound appealing at first, some people feel better quickly and do well with it. Others improve once they are used to it. It often takes patience—trying different masks, adjusting pressure settings, or adding humidification. With proper support and follow-up, most people adapt well.

The benefits of treating sleep apnea far outweigh the risks of ignoring it. Restful sleep improves energy, protects the heart and brain, and enhances overall quality of life.

If you or someone you love snores loudly, stops breathing during sleep, or feels tired despite a full night's rest, consider visiting your medical provider. Restoring healthy breathing at night may be one of the most important steps toward better health.



Andrew Ellsworth, MD

## The Groton Independent

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**GROTON VET CLINIC**  
1503 N Broadway, Groton, 605/397-8145



## Groton Community Events

### Thursday, Feb. 26

Senior Menu: Turkey, sweet potatoes, green beans, fruit, whole wheat bread.  
School Breakfast: Cereal.  
School Lunch: Sloppy joes, fries.  
SDHSAA State B Wrestling, Sioux Falls  
2nd Grade BB, 5 p.m., elementary gym  
4th Grade BB, 6 p.m., HS Gym  
HS Softball, 6 p.m., HS Gym  
Region 1A GBB

### Friday, Feb. 27

Senior Menu: Chicken pot pie casserole, mashed potatoes, broccoli, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Egg wraps.  
School Lunch: Cheese bread stick with marinara, cooked carrots.

SDHSAA State B Wrestling, Sioux Falls  
3rd Grade Boys Basketball, 3:30 p.m., Elementary Gym

Boys Basketball hosts Aberdeen Christian (HS Gym: 7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m.; Arena: JV at 6 p.m. followed by varsity)

### Saturday, Feb. 28

SDHSAA State B Wrestling, Sioux Falls  
Britton-Hecla Boys Basketball JH Jamboree  
Pickleball, 9:30 a.m., Elementary Gym

### Sunday, March 1

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m. (7th/8th Milestones); 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 with communion at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; 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.

4th grade BB Practice, 2 p.m., Gym  
6th grade BB Practice, 6 pm., Arena  
Dance Team, 5 p.m., Arena

### Monday, March 2

Senior Menu: Sloopy joes, roasted potatoes, winter blend, fruit.

School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels.

School Lunch: Pasta bake, corn.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

1st Grade Boys Basketball Practice, 4:30 p.m., elementary gym

HS Baseball Practice, 6 p.m., HS Gym

Math and Reading Family Game Night, 5 p.m., elementary school.

**RDO EQUIPMENT CO.** **JOHN DEERE**

2nd Grade BB vs. Webster, 6 p.m., Arena

### Tuesday, March 3

Senior Menu: Kielbasa, mac and cheese, Catalina blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Breakfast sliders.

School Lunch: Chef salad.

St. John's Lutheran: Ladies Aid LWML, 1 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

HS Baseball Practice, 6 p.m., HS Gym

Region 1A Boys Basketball. Groton does not play in the first round.

Pickleball, 6 p.m., Elementary Gym

Biogirls, 3:45 p.m., elementary gym

### Wednesday, March 4

Senior Menu: Sheppards pie, lettuce salad, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Omelet.

School Lunch: Soup, sandwich

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.; Sarah Circle, 5 p.m.; Soup Supper (Sarah Circle hosts), 6 p.m.; League, 6:30 p.m.; Lenten Service, 7 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.; Lent Supper, 6 p.m.; Lent Service at St. John's, 7 p.m.

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

Groton Chamber Meeting, noon, City Hall

Pickleball, 5:30 p.m., elementary gym

6th Grade Boys Basketball, 6 p.m., HS Gym

7th Grade BBB, 6 p.m., Arena

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### Thursday, March 5

Senior Menu: Hot beef combos, mashed potatoes, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Biscuit.

School Lunch: Chicken tacos, refried beans.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Nigeria Circle, 2 p.m.

2nd Grade BB, 5 p.m., elementary gym

4th Grade BB, 6 p.m., HS Gym

GBB SoDak 16

### Friday, March 6

Senior Menu: Tuna noodles, peas, fruit, biscuit.

School Breakfast: Doughnuts.

School Lunch: Cheese pizza, green beans.

World Day of Prayer

FFA @ Redfield CDE

Region 1A Boys Basketball, 7 p.m., Arena

## 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.

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### City of Webster

Full-Time Police Officer

#### Requirements:

- High School Diploma/GED
- Must possess a valid driver's license
- Must be at least 21 years old at the time of appointment
- Must be willing to move to and live in Webster, SD
- Ability to work weekends, nights and holidays
- Ability to pass drug screening and personal/criminal background investigation
- College/Vocational training (preferred, but not required)
- Prior law enforcement experience (preferred, but not required)
- Law enforcement certification in South Dakota (preferred, but not required)

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- Holiday/vacation/sick leave pay
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**Position opened until filled.**

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**Groton Tuff Tigers wrestler River Anderson looks up while Webster wrestler Dylan Sattler tries to pin her during an 8U 53-54 pound match at the Youth Tuff Tigers Wrestling Tournament on Sunday.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



## Tuff Tigers Wrestling Tourney held Sunday

A crowd filled the arena at Groton Area High School for the 35th annual Groton Youth Tuff Tiger Wrestling Tournament on Sunday. The tournament reached full capacity as registration hit its 350-wrestler cap before the event. Organizers said demand continued even after registration closed, with more families attempting to sign up and walk-in wrestlers hoping to compete on tournament day. Organizers estimate approximately 1,700 people attended the tournament.

Wrestlers represented teams from throughout the region, including from Aberdeen, Belles Fourche, Beresford, Clark/Willow Lake, Clear Lake, Doland, Faulkton, Kingsbury County, McCook Central/Montrose, Milbank, Miller, Redfield, Sisseton, Watertown and Webster. There were even wrestlers from area in North Dakota, including Lamoure, Lisbon and Oakes. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Groton Tuff Tigers wrestler Maya Anderson reaches for opponent Webster wrestler Anna Bloom's leg during a 10U 64-66 pound match at the Tuff Tigers Tournament on Sunday afternoon.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Referee Ryan Scepaniak raises Groton Tuff Tigers wrestler's Maya Anderson hand in victory over opponent Webster wrestler Anna Bloom after their 10U 64-66 pound match at the Tuff Tigers Tournament on Sunday afternoon.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Groton Tuff Tigers wrestler Alex Clark faces off against Britton Hecla Wrestling Club wrestler Zachariah Kanizar in a 10U 71-75 pound match during the 35th annual Groton Youth Tuff Tigers Wrestling Tournament on Sunday afternoon.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Groton Tuff Tigers wrestler Charli Erickson jumps toward opponent Warner/Northwestern wrestler Maverick Logan during a 6U 35-39 pound bout at the Groton Youth Tuff Tigers Wrestling Tournament on Sunday.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Groton Tuff Tigers wrestler Charli Erickson eyes opponent Warner/Northwestern wrestler Maverick Logan during a 6U 35-39 pound bout at the Groton Youth Tuff Tigers Wrestling Tournament on Sunday.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Groton Tuff Tigers Landry Johnson pushes the legs of opponent Anthony Bergeson of the Pierre Governors team up during a match Sunday afternoon. Johnson won the 10U 59-62-pound match in a 7-6 decision.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Groton Tuff Tigers wrestler Laiken Neigel pushes against opponent Ipswich Area wrestler Lorena Geditz during an 8U 50-55 pound match on Sunday afternoon. Neigel took second in his bracket.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Groton Tuff Tigers wrestler Hayden Perkins looks up while wrestling Clark-Willow Lake wrestler Tyce Irlbeck in a 6U 39-43 pound bout at the Youth Tuff Tigers Wrestling Tournament on Sunday.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Groton Tuff Tigers wrestler Kruz Khali pushes against 8U 60-66 pound weight class opponent Westen Lechner of the Aberdeen Wrestling Club during a bout Sunday at the Groton Youth Tuff Tigers Tournaments.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

## Groton Qualifies Five for State at Region 1B; Englund Claims Title

The Groton Area Tigers placed sixth as a team Saturday at the SDHSAA Region 1B Wrestling Tournament, finishing with 107 points in a tightly contested field.

Kingsbury County captured the team title with 181.5 points, followed by Sisseton (154), Clark/Willow Lake (153.5), Faulkton Area (130.5), Britton-Hecla (115.5) and Groton Area (107). Redfield (100.5), Webster Area (96.5), Sioux Valley (56), Gettysburg (46), Hamlin/Castlewood (27), Sully Buttes (27), Warner/Northwestern (25), Ipswich (10), Hoven (2) and Tiospa Zina (0) rounded out the standings.

The top four placers in each weight class advance to the state tournament, and Groton Area will send five wrestlers on to the next level.

### Englund Captures 285 Title

Senior heavyweight Gavin Englund (36-3) led the way, claiming the 285-pound championship and scoring 25 team points.

Englund opened with a first-round fall over Liam Paxton of Britton-Hecla in 1:22, then earned an 11-1 major decision against Tristen Baloun of Faulkton Area in the semifinals. He secured the regional crown by forfeit over Breyten Johnson of Kingsbury County in the finals.

### Kucker Third at 126

At 126 pounds, Kyson Kucker (34-9) placed third and scored 16 points to punch his ticket to state.

After a bye, Kucker edged Aykre Piotter of Sisseton 6-4 in the quarterfinals before falling to Kaden Wookey of Clark/Willow Lake in the semifinals. He rebounded with a 50-second fall over Gage Landmark of Deuel/Deubrook Area in the consolation semifinals, then defeated Piotter again in the third-place match, 4-3.

### Fourth-Place Finishers Advance

Groton had three fourth-place finishers who will also compete at state:

**Keegan Kucker** (10-4) at 113 pounds placed fourth with 14 team points. He recorded a fall in 45 seconds over John Ortmeier of Faulkton Area and a 9-4 decision over Triston Kurtenbach of Sioux Valley to reach the semifinals. After a loss to Maddon Odland of Redfield, Kucker won a 14-7 sudden victory over Remi St. Sauver of Kingsbury County before dropping the third-place match to Maverick Clausen of Clark/Willow Lake.

**Donavon Block** (23-14) at 157 pounds scored 15 points and placed fourth. Block pinned Colton Chapin of Britton-Hecla in 3:57 in the quarterfinals. Following a semifinal loss to Greyson Nielson of Kingsbury County, Block earned an 11-3 major decision over Rayin Mansfield of Warner/Northwestern in the consolation semifinals before falling in the third-place match to Zane Miller of Deuel/Deubrook Area.

**Walker Zoellner** (27-11) at 190 pounds finished fourth with 12 points. Zoellner opened with a 4:34 fall over Liam Gunnon of Kingsbury County, then dropped a tight 2-0 semifinal decision to Tucker Hardy of Britton-Hecla. He bounced back with an 8-1 decision over Jace Heath of Sully Buttes before falling to Gunnon in the third-place match.

**Layne Johnson** (23-9) at 215 pounds also placed fourth, scoring 12 points. After a quarterfinal loss to Kady Westergren of Sully Buttes, Johnson battled back with falls over Zach Bonin of Redfield (1:56) and a 6-5 decision over Harvey Hardt of Sioux Valley to reach the third-place match, where he again met Westergren.

### Hagen Takes Fifth

At 120 pounds, Wyatt Hagen (35-9) placed fifth and scored 10 team points. Hagen dropped his quarterfinal match before pinning Gavin Fryer of Sisseton in 4:39 in the consolation round. After another setback, he finished strong with a 1:57 fall over Easton Rausch of Gettysburg in the fifth-place match.

### Other Tiger Results

Noah Scepaniak (24-18) at 132 pounds dropped his opening match by technical fall and was eliminated in the consolation round.

Aiden Strom (13-19) at 138 pounds recorded a consolation fall over Cutler Davis of Kingsbury County before bowing out.

Grayson Flores (14-22) at 144 pounds fell in the quarterfinals and later by technical fall in consolation action.

Kason Oswald (11-23) at 150 pounds was defeated in the opening round and consolation bracket.

At 165 pounds, Groton recorded forfeits in both the quarterfinal and consolation rounds.

Isaiah Scepaniak (21-19) at 175 pounds dropped matches in the championship and consolation brackets.

With five state qualifiers — Englund, Kyson Kucker, Keegan Kucker, Block and Zoellner, along with Johnson — Groton Area will now turn its focus to the state tournament, where the Tigers look to build on their strong regional showing. The Tigers will compete next at the SDHSAA State Wrestling Tournament, set for February 26–28 at the Denny Sanford PREMIER Center in Sioux Falls.



Members of the Groton Area middle school wrestling team competed at the State Middle School Tournament in Pierre this past weekend. Pictured from left are Xzander Logan, Preston Hinkelman, Parker Zoellner, Bentley Ehresmann and Greyson Warrington; front, Simon Simunek. (Photo from GT facebook page)

## Ehresmann takes eighth at state middle school wrestling tournament

Six members of the Groton Area middle school wrestling team capped off their seasons by competing at the State Middle School Tournament this past weekend in Pierre.

Bentley Ehresmann led the way for the Tigers, earning an eighth-place finish in his respective weight class. The other five Groton wrestlers competed in challenging 32- and 64-man brackets, each finishing just one win shy of reaching the placing rounds.

Despite narrowly missing the podium, the group demonstrated steady improvement and determination throughout the season. Coaches praised the athletes for their work ethic, growth and competitiveness against some of the top middle school wrestlers in the state.

The strong showing at the state tournament highlights a promising future for Groton wrestling as these young athletes continue to develop within the program.

## Krueger Claims Region 1A Title in De Smet

DE SMET — The Groton Area girls wrestling team was represented Thursday at the Region 1A Tournament in De Smet, highlighted by a championship performance from sophomore standout Liza Krueger.

Competing at 105 pounds, Liza Krueger (42-2) captured the Region 1A title and scored 22 team points for the Tigers. Krueger opened her day with a bye before earning a fall over Citabria Manzanares of Sioux Valley in the semifinals, pinning her opponent at the 1:14 mark.

In the championship match, Krueger squared off against Kadee Frankfurth of Clark/Willow Lake in a tightly contested battle. Krueger secured the 9-6 decision to claim first place and the regional crown, improving her record to 42-2 on the season.

At 110 pounds, Gracelynn Decker (8-15) battled through the bracket and added three team points for Groton Area. After receiving a first-round bye, Decker dropped her quarterfinal match to Kyliegh Schuller of West Central by fall. She responded in the consolation bracket with a pin of Jaycee Stevens of Gettysburg in 2:16. Decker's tournament run came to an end in the next round, where Trinity Kurtenbach of Sioux Valley won by fall.

Krueger's regional championship performance advances her to the next stage of postseason competition, while Decker showed resilience with a hard-fought effort on the regional mat.

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## ACROSS

- 1 Golfer Ernie
- 4 Gullet
- 8 Engine noise
- 12 Horror star Chaney
- 13 Costa —
- 14 Inter —
- 15 Past
- 16 Novelist Jennifer
- 17 Pealed
- 18 Fresh starts
- 21 Boom times
- 22 Small batteries
- 23 Humorist Dave
- 26 Flow out
- 27 Depot vehicle
- 30 "Iliad" setting
- 31 Shade
- 32 Spring honorees
- 33 — Salvador
- 34 Supporting
- 35 Rolled-up sandwiches
- 36 Evergreen tree
- 37 Hindu honorific
- 38 Age-old knowledge
- 45 Soccer leg-end
- 46 Spring flower
- 47 Plastic — Band
- 48 Verbal
- 49 Quitter's word

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48						49				50		
51						52				53		

- 50 Neighbor of Leb.
  - 51 Duck's hang-out
  - 52 Checks out
  - 53 Tel. number add-on
- ## DOWN
- 1 Flair
  - 2 Theater section
  - 3 Winter fall
  - 4 Eerie
  - 5 Bobby who lost to Billie Jean King
  - 6 Smoothie berry
  - 7 Hopeful
  - 8 Seine city
  - 9 — Bator
  - 10 Saturn feature
  - 11 Cleaning cloths
  - 19 Conceal, in a way
  - 20 Arrest
  - 23 "Dynamite" band
  - 24 Notre Dame coach
  - 25 Harry Potter pal
  - 26 Where Ger. is
  - 27 Large snake
  - 28 Ref
  - 29 Radiator sound
  - 31 "That's wonderful!"
  - 32 Hosp. scans
  - 34 Charge
  - 35 Places for bracelets
  - 36 Relinquish
  - 37 Pigs
  - 38 Per person
  - 39 Roman emperor
  - 40 Family
  - 41 Tea carrier
  - 42 Rx amount
  - 43 Cameo stone
  - 44 Humorist Sahl

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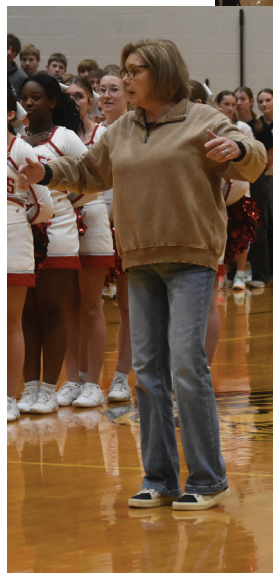


Shaydon Wood, Isaiah Scepaniak and Nathan Unzen.



Jayden Schwan

The National Anthem was played by the Groton Pep Band under the direction of Sharon Schwan. (Photos by Jeslyn Kosel)



Director Sharon Schwan



Xavior Ellenbecker.



Addison Hoffman and Kason Oswald.



The GHS senior band members were recognized at the games last night. They are Lincoln Krause, Nathan Unzen, Jayden Schwan, Natalia Warrington and Gentry Pigors. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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ORDINANCE NO. 796  
An Ordinance entitled "Amending Rates for Groton Municipal Utility Customers" to be effective immediately upon passage.

Be it ordained by the City of Groton, South Dakota that Ordinance No. 8-1-4 be amended to read as follows:  
8-1-4 Rates.  
Rates for the use of utilities furnished by the City shall be established by Ordinance by the Groton City Council.

Section 5. Sewer Rates:  
Sewer fees will be based on the average water usage during October, November, December, January, February, March, and April. This charge will be discontinued only if the water line has been capped.

Minimum Bill (Connection Charge): \$20.00/month plus  
Usage Charge: \$5.00/month per 1,000 gallons  
Plus, Sewer Surcharge: \$35.40 per customer who receives or benefits from the new wastewater force main and lagoon expansion (this surcharge is to be implemented whether or not the water is capped, to be removed in March of 2056).

Passed First Reading: 2/3/2026  
Passed Second Reading: 2/24/2026  
Published: Feb. 25, 2026  
Effective: 2/24/2026

ATTEST:  
Douglas J. Heinrich, Finance Officer  
Published February 25, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$15.40 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26546



INVITATION TO BID  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT The Groton City Council of the City of Groton, South Dakota, will open bids for the 2026 resurfacing of city streets on April 7, 2026, at 7:00pm (local time) at City Hall, 120 N Main Street, Groton, SD. Received sealed bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.  
The work on this project in-

cludes the following:  
Approximately 33,000 square yards of bituminous seal coat.  
All work areas are located within the city limits of Groton, SD.  
The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:  
City Hall, 120 N Main Street, Groton, SD 57445  
The approximate quantities mentioned above are subject to increase or decrease. Questions or requests for further information should be directed to the City Finance Office, 605-397-8422, PO Box 587, Groton, SD 57445.  
The City reserves the right to refuse any or all bids, to waive any informalities in the bidding and to award the contract in the best interests of the City of Groton, SD.  
February 24, 2026  
Published February 25 and March 4, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$24.88 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26547

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# 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

## President's Day: Forgotten Lessons from the Framers of the Constitution

Confronted with the dangers of expansive executive power, our nation's founders sought to curb it at every turn. The authors of the Declaration of Independence produced a lengthy list of grievances against the tyrant, King George III, in service of the American Revolution. In the Constitutional Convention, the framers sharply limited the scope of authority vested in the newly minted presidency, above all, to fence off exercise of the crown's discretionary prerogative powers. The framers replaced the personalization of executive power with the institutionalization and constitutional confinement of presidential power. In their replacement of personal rule with the rule of law, the framers rejected the historical admiration of the executive and the cult of personality that had reigned since the Middle Ages. In the United States, presidential power would flow, not from the "blood and bone of the man," but rather from the Constitution.

Reflections on President's Day 2026-- the concentration of power in the hands of President Donald Trump, his sweeping and repeated acts of abuse and usurpation of power, and the failure of institutions to check it-- suggest Americans have forgotten vital lessons from the founding that ought to resonate across our nation.

The framers rejected a powerful presidency. James Wilson, second to James Madison as an architect of the Constitution, told his colleagues, "The prerogatives of the Crown are of no moment" in the creation of the republic. Madison swept away the pretense of unbridled executive authority: presidential power is "confined and defined." As students of history will recall, he stated that, "in a republic the legislature predominates."

To temper executive power, the drafters of the Constitution granted the lion's share of governmental power to Congress. Presidential powers, enumerated in Article II, were meager by comparison, only painstakingly granted and subject to numerous institutional checks. For a generation that lived in dread fear of discretionary executive power, there was no interest in recreating an embryonic monarchy on American soil.

The Constitution embodies a pattern of authority limited by division and hedged by restraints, a design that reflects the framers' enthusiastic commitment to enumeration of powers, separation of powers and checks and balances. Justice Louis Brandeis, the most scholarly of justices, wrote in 1926: "The doctrine of the separation of powers was adopted by the Convention of 1787, not to promote efficiency, but to preclude the exercise of arbitrary power." The purpose, he wrote, was "to save the people from autocracy."

Expansive executive power has long been the bane of American Constitutionalism. Today, it is the bane of our existence. The framers, to a man, were convinced of the need to protect against the concentration of power. It reflected their deep-seated belief that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. For the founders, power was a constant threat to liberty. Accordingly, it was not the object of trust, but rather, mistrust, which led Thomas Jefferson to write, "we bind government by the chains of the Constitution." Without vigilance, ambitious presidents can slip the chains of the Constitution. In 1952, Justice Felix Frankfurter observed: "The accretion of dangerous power does not come in a day. It does come, however slowly, from the generative force of unchecked disregard of the restrictions that fence in even the most disinterested assertion of authority." As things stand, the flow of power to the executive shows no signs of ebbing.

Watergate, our first experience with a would-be autocrat, was more than the personal tragedy of Richard Nixon. Apart from Nixon's contempt for the rule of law, it was, taken as a whole, a function of the decline of separation of powers, checks and balances and institutional values. The claims of political expediency, rather than demands for adherence to constitutional principles, first in foreign affairs, and then domestic matters, purported to justify the concentration of power in the executive. In the aftermath of Watergate, remedies and devices were put in place to restrain the flow of power to the executive. Over time, however, those restraints have weakened and disappeared. As a result, on this President's Day, we note that the concentration of executive power in the hands of President Donald Trump is greater than it has ever been. Considering his predecessors, there is not even a close second.

History may not repeat itself, but as Mark Twain observed, "it rhymes." The question, in our time, is when will we heed vital lessons from the founding?

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**FEBRUARY 17, 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.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None  
**BID OPENING FOR BROWN COUNTY HIGHWAY HOT 'IN-PLACE' RECYCLING PROJECT:** Time and place, as advertised, to open, read and consider sealed bids for Brown County Hot 'In-Place' Recycling Project, which includes approximately 13 miles of Hot In-Place Recycling and additional items as set forth in the Contract Documents. Bids were received from the following: Gallagher Asphalt for \$1,188,953.90 and Dustrol, Inc. for \$799,820.90. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to defer for review. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**LOAD LIMITS:** Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent, discussed Load Limits and wants to wait another week. Load Limits will be discussed again at the February 24th Commission meeting.

**DEPARTMENT UPDATE:** Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent, gave a department update: mowed Co. Road 6, still crack sealing, attended the Asphalt Conference last week and will be doing some cold mix patching. Commissioner Wiese mentioned the Richmond Dam Project had a bid date set, so he asked Dirk to see about getting a copy of the specs for them to review.

**AWARD BID FOR BROWN COUNTY HIGHWAY HOT 'IN-PLACE' RECYCLING PROJECT:** Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent, recommended accepting the bid from Dustrol, Inc. after Mike Gutenkauf and Chelsey Sheridan from IMEG reviewed the bids. Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to award the Brown County Highway Hot 'In-Place' Recycling Project to Dustrol, Inc. at the cost of \$799,820.90. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE #321 – FIRST READING:** Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to approve the First Reading of Proposed Ordinance #321. Applicant Kyler & Lia Dinger to rezone 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; Orday Twp.) The motion passed with 4 votes; Commissioner Dinger abstained due to it being for himself.

**ORDINANCE #302 – SECOND READING/POSSIBLE ADOPTION:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve and adopt Ordinance #302, with the following amendments and replacement of portions of Title 4 Zoning Ordinances of Brown County, South Dakota by amending Chapter 4.01-Definitions; Chapter 4.06-Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P); replacing existing Chapter 4.36 with a new chapter 4.36 Wind Energy System (WES) all with the proposed changes. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. Ordinance #302 Adopted. (Copies of the full Ordinance are available at the Brown County Auditor's Office or Brown County Planning & Zoning Office during regular business hours).

**NECOG AGREEMENT FOR PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PLAN ASSISTANCE:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the NE Council of Governments Agreement for Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Plan Assistance. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT (LEMPG) AGREEMENT:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Fiscal Year 2025 LEMPG Agreement. All members present voting aye.

**10 ♦ Groton Independent ♦ Wed., Feb. 25, 2026**

Motion carried.

**FAIR CONTRACTS:** Rachel Kippley, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager presented the following Fair Contracts for approval and authorizing Chairman Sutton to sign. Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve the Ashley Wine-land, dba Ashley E Productions contract for 2 shows on August 14th & 15th for \$5,800.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the Lizzy Hofer Band contract for performing in the Clubhouse Beer Garden on August 14th & 15th for \$6,000.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the 1-year contract with Groton HOSA Chapter for cleaning the Grandstands in the amount of \$6,250.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to approve the T & K Rentals contract for the tents the week of the Fair in the amount of \$19,400.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**FAIR UPDATE:** Rachel Kippley, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager, shared they are accepting applications for Junior Fairboard Members, need to be between the age of 14-20. They have a potential person to rent the Richmond Youth Camp House, will be sending the lease agreement for approval. Then Rachel announced they are hosting a You Make A Difference Tour on February 24th in the Community Room of the Courthouse.

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH-COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES CONTRACT FOR 2026:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the agreement with Department of Health for the Community Health Services for 2026 in the amount of \$21,293.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**MINUTES:** Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to approve the General Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS:** Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Claims: Insurance: SD Public Assurance Alliance \$635.16. Professional Fees: Alcohol Monitoring Systems, Inc. \$1,802.70; Area Federal Credit Union \$25.00; Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$6,469.60; Dakota Trails Investigation \$1,372.50; Faulk County Sheriff's Office \$3,870.00; Jennifer Canton \$5,275.00; Kuck Law Office \$3,133.90; Network Center, Inc \$9,505.93; Northeastern Mental Health Center \$1,400.00; PharmChem, Inc \$1,981.05; Sanford Health Occupational Medicine \$92.00; Sanford Health \$4,740.00; SD Dept of Health \$3,965.00; SDHSC \$600.00; SDSU Extension \$23,050.00; Thomson Reuters – West Payment Center \$595.49; Yellow Robe Consulting \$1,800.00; Youngberg Law, Prof. LLC \$534.00. Publishing: APG Yellowstone News \$109.23; Groton Daily Independent \$56.56; McQuillen Creative Group, Inc \$272.37. Rentals: Vestis \$224.52. Repairs & Maintenance: Burdette Security & Technologies, LLC \$350.00; Dakota Doors Inc \$1,410.97; Diesel Machinery, Inc \$10587.79; Hase Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc \$387.50; Honeywell International Inc \$33,588.34; Lar-Jo's Specialties \$925.00; Leidholt Electric, LLC \$155.10; Pomp's Tire Service, Inc \$53.50; Steven Lust Automotive \$395.30. Supplies: Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$2,059.01; Cartney Bearing \$94.57; Century Business Products \$986.21; Cole Paper Inc \$426.26; Diesel Machinery, Inc \$3,281.64; Hillyard Sioux Falls \$126.48; Jon Lemke \$315.50; Kiesel Police Supply \$20,383.68; Kuck Law Office \$100.48; Menards \$445.26; Midstates Group \$1,504.75; NVC \$29.03; Radiotronics, Inc \$168.00; Safety Service \$715.50; State 4H Office – Tags Etc. \$35.00. Travel & Conference: Dakota Trails Investigation \$123.20; Kyle Couchey \$19.00; Neil Bittner \$19.00. Utilities: CenturyLink \$496.08; City of Aberdeen Treasurer \$470.25; Economy Propane, LLC \$3,118.40; Northern Electric \$132.63; NVC \$2,472.80; State of South Dakota PMB 0112 \$94.00. Other: SD Dept of Agriculture & Natural Resources \$3,986.58. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**TRAVEL REQUESTS:** Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Travel Request: Dirk Rogers,

Josh Matthews and Bernel Lee from Highway Department to attend SD Asphalt Conference on February 11-12, 2026 in Mitchell. 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 Dinger, seconded by Dennert to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the following lease agreements: Hub City Radio to lease the Holm Expo Building on March 28-29, 2026 for Big Boy Toy Show; Spencer & Lisa Opp to lease the Clubhouse on June 12-15, 2026 for a wedding; Aberdeen Home Builders to lease the Holm Expo Building on March 6-8, 2026 for Home Builders Show; Kelsey Rolfe & Jake Pettit for lease the Richmond Lake Youth Camp on October 3, 2026 for a wedding. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**SET HEARING DATE/AUTHORIZE ADVERTISING FOR BIDS ON CELL #5 AT THE LANDFILL:** Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to set hearing date and authorize publication for Cell #5 Construction at the Brown County Landfill. Bids will be opened on Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 8:45 a.m. in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

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

**ADJOURNMENT:** Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:36 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published February 25, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$98.69 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26541



**ORDINANCE #302 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES AS AMENDED TO REZONE CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY**

Notice is hereby given that Ordinance #302, an Ordinance Entitled For A New Wind Energy Systems (WES) Ordinance, the following Amendments and Replacement to portions of Title 4 Zoning Ordinances of Brown County, South Dakota – amending Chapter 4.01, "Definitions"; Chapter 4.06, Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P); replacing existing Chapter 4.36 with a new Chapter 4.36 Wind Energy System (WES); all with the proposed changes; all adopted by Ordinance #302, as amended and replaced in Title 4 Zoning Ordinances of Brown County, South Dakota. Ordinance #302 – Wind Energy Systems (WES) was duly adopted by the Brown County Board of Commissioners on the 17th day of February, 2026 and that Ordinance #302, shall be in full force and effect on 9th day of March, 2026. (Copies of the full Ordinance are available at the Brown County Auditor's Office or Brown County Planning and Zoning Office during regular business hours).

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota that the zoning official for the County of Brown is hereby authorized to change the official zoning map for Brown County to reflect this Ordinance.

Passed and adopted this 17th day of February 2026.

Duane Sutton, Brown County Commission Chairman

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Notice of Hearing: June 5, 2025

First Reading: June 17, 2025

Second Reading/Adoption: July 1, 2025

Revised First Reading: October 21, 2025

Revised Second Reading/

Adoption: February 17, 2026

Published: February 25, 2026

Effective Date: March 9, 2026

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**SECTION 00 11 13 - ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

**BROWN COUNTY LANDFILL BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA CELL #5 CONSTRUCTION, A-9908**

The Brown County Board of Commissioners will receive sealed bids for their Landfill Cell #5 Construction project until Tuesday, March 17, 2026 until 8:45 AM in the Commissioner's Chambers at the Brown County Court House located at 25 Market Street in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Sealed bids may be sent to the Brown County Auditor at 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, SD 57401 prior to the letting, or hand delivered at the address stated above immediately preceding the bid opening. Received sealed bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Brown County Commissioner's Chamber at the above-mentioned time.

Bids are invited upon the items and approximate quantities of work as follows: Base Bid Mobilization, 265,000 CuYd Unclassified Excavation, 10,000 CuYd Unsuitable Material Undercut, 25,000 CuYd 24" Compacted Clay Liner, 13,800 Sq.Yd. 80 Mil Geosynthetic Liner, 750 CuYd 12" Side Slope Cover Material, 1,000 CuYd Topsoil from Stockpiles, 16,000 Tons 12" Granular Drainage Material, 800 Tons Coarse Aggregate, 3,500 SqYd Geotextile Drainage Fabric, 860 Ft 8" HDPE Perforated Leachate Piping, 506 Ft 8" HDPE Leachate Piping, Side Slope Cleanout, Side Slope Leachate Lift Station, Connect to Existing Leachate Pipe; 1,000 Tons Gravel Surfacing, 1,400 Ft 8" HDPE Leachate Collection pipe Jet Cleaning, Leachate Lift Station, Storm Sewer Lift Station Electrical Service, 795 Ft 4" PVC Force Main, 125 Ft 24" RCP Class 2 Culvert, 2 each 24" RCP flared End, 11 Acres Seed, Fertilizer and Mulch, 138 SqYd Rip Rap Drainage Trench, Erosion Control Blanke, Erosion Control Wattle, High Flow Silt Fence, 1400 Ft 10' Chain link fence, Landfill Dewatering, and other miscellaneous work.

The approximate quantities mentioned above are subject to increase or decrease. It will be agreed by bidders that all quantities of work will be performed in accordance with the provisions of the plans and specifications and at the unit price bid. Bidders agree to furnish all labor, material, and equipment necessary to complete all the work as shown in the plans and specifications. The complete set of Contract Documents, including 11" x 17" paper drawings and specifications, is on file with the Brown County Auditor and/or at the office of Helms and Associates, 416 Production St. N, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401. Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained from the office of Helms and Associates, 416 Production St. N, Aberdeen, SD 57402. Plans and specifications may be obtained upon payment to Helms and Associates in the amount of \$100.00 for shipping and handling. Please state quantity documents requested. Plans and specifications may also be downloaded from the Helms and Associates web site upon a one-time payment of \$20.00. The web site is located at <http://www.helmsengineering.com/biddocs.html>. All payments are non-refundable.

Additionally, upon request, in accordance with South Dakota Codified Law 5-18B-1, one copy of Plans and Specifications shall be furnished, without charge, to each Contractor resident in South Dakota who intends, in good faith, to bid upon the project.

In addition to all of the above-listed Federal requirements for work on this project, compliance with the contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, Executive Order 11375, Copeland Act, the Clean Air Act, and Water Pollution Control Act, and subsequent amendments to all of the above will be required of contractors and/or subcontractors performing work on this project.

Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check or bank draft payable to the order of Brown County, South Dakota in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid. A bid bond in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the total bid will be accepted in lieu of a certified check or bank draft. Surety for bid bond must be authorized to do business in the State of South Dakota.

Bids may be held by Brown County Commissioners, for a period of not more than thirty

(30) days from the date of opening of bids for the purpose of reviewing the bids, investigating the qualifications of the bidders and completing financial arrangements prior to awarding the Work. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informality in the bidding

Attest: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

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**NOTICE OF CAUCUS AND ELECTION IN WEST HANSON TOWNSHIP**

West Hanson Township will hold its annual caucus, business meeting and election on Tuesday, March 3rd at 7:30 PM. The meeting will be held at the Dirks home, 40305 138th St. There will be an election of one supervisor, clerk and treasurer.

The township will also be accepting bids for 1,000 yds., more or less, of screened and/or crushed gravel within the township. We will also take bids on the same date for road blading and mowing on township roads and snow removal work. We will also be taking bids on mowing and maintenance of the West Hanson Cemetery. All bids must be accompanied by certificate of contractor's liability insurance. The board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Jennifer Dirks, Township Clerk

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Stratford Town Board Meeting February 10th, 2026

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

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Schley, carried; to approve the January 13th meeting minutes as read.

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

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Schley, carried; to approve the following claims for payment: -General Fund-NWE Bills: (st Its) \$347.09, (ball pk) \$17.40, (tennis) \$12.00, (st Its2) \$361.59, (hall) \$1,320.96, (sign) \$17.60; James Valley (auto): \$44.65; Quickbooks (auto): \$40.36; PDFfiller (auto): \$20.90; Stratford FD: \$3,134.72; American Legal: \$695; MD-Construction: \$3,717.00 (snow); WalMart: \$113.63 (ink). -Water Sewer Fund-NWE Bills: (2nd st) \$56.07, (p hse) \$34.55; Web Water (auto): \$1,424.24; USDA RD Loan Payment (auto): \$478.00; NESD Loan Payment (auto): \$383.71; Pub Health Labs: \$40; Dahme: \$70,250.06; Helms: \$1,922.94.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Stratford Volunteer Fire Dept.

Annual Meeting notes reviewed and annual contribution discussed.

Park Committee meeting minutes reviewed; discussion about auctioning off existing park equipment to raise funds for new park.

A motion was made by Schley, seconded by Prickett; motion passed; to register Prickett for SDML District 6 Annual Meeting.

**CLOSING:**

Next meeting will be a working meeting to review ordinance book February 24th 2026 at 6:30pm at town hall.

Next regular board meeting is scheduled for March 10th, 2026 at 6:30pm at town hall.

Equalization meeting is scheduled for March 16th, 2026 at 6:30pm.

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

-Anna Kwak; Finance Officer

Published February 25, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$20.08 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26545



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](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26532



**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](http://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](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26534

# 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: Hazel Hill**

A greenhouse would be beneficial to our school. It would give nutritional value to our lunches with the fruit and veggies we would grow, and it would give kids responsibility.

The greenhouse will help kids. The article Gardening with Children says, "it can help with responsibility." The article states that "caring for a plant can have consequences right before our eyes. The plant needs to be watered, weeded, and given sunlight. If you don't do all of it, then your plant will die faster than normal."

If we had a greenhouse, our lunches would be healthier and have less pollution and pesticides. We would eat fresher and more organic produce. According to a Lazy Acres article, we wouldn't be using pesticides, and it would cut down on pollution because we wouldn't need to transport vegetables and fruits to our school; they would be right outside. The greenhouse would have an influence on our community, and it would be healthier for us too.

Some downsides would be that it costs too much to purchase, there wouldn't be enough students to run it, or that the weather in South Dakota would make it difficult to maintain temperatures in the greenhouse. To help with the costs, we can have a fundraiser. To help with people running it, we can put out a sign-up sheet for students and community members. To help with the temperatures, we can put in extra heat lamps and have better insulation.

A greenhouse would positively impact our school's nutrition, and it would benefit our community too. We could build a greenhouse and have students and community members help run it. The difficulties in cost and volunteers can be taken care of through fundraising and volunteer sign-ups. The greenhouse would have an influence on our community, and it would be healthier for us too.

## Assignment: Argument Editorial: People see things in different ways

**Student Name: Henry Paulson**

When I was standing in line to get my lunch, I was mad. Was it the same as yesterday? When I thought about it, why is it the same? Why doesn't our school have two or more food options?

The food wasn't the best when I tried it yesterday. I just wanted lasagna or something.

I think that schools should have two or more options for lunch so that if someone doesn't like something, they can get something else to eat. They should also get it if some people have allergies. Fewer people would take sack lunches. I want this for my school so students don't have to eat something they don't like.

Some people have cultural or religious restrictions, so they can't eat it, so if we had two or more options, they could take the other thing. So that's another reason that we need two or more options. If we had more than one option, the students could first choose one that they really like, then if you like the second one you could get the second option.

People might argue that it could be too expensive to do this, or if many people don't like something, the other one would be a waste. The solution to it being too expensive is to have more fundraisers for lunch. The solution to wasting food is to donate the leftovers to the food bank.

Therefore, I think we should get two or more options. So let's get two or more food options!

## Assignment: Argument Editorial: People see things in different ways

**Student Name: Jacob Morehouse**

We should not have homework. Because if we have homework, some people won't be rested. Because they will work on it for a long time. "Sometimes the amount of homework also impinges on the amount of sleep a student gets. I have heard of students not being able to go to sleep until 2 or 4 a.m. just to wake up around 7," says coppellstudentmedia.com.

So if we don't have homework, we will be rested. So we can get work done, and if we don't have homework, it will make you stay awake for the day. Therefore, we should not have homework because if we have homework, some students won't be rested and "homework may affect a child's sleep in three ways. First, the time to finish an assignment may infringe on time that should be used for sleeping. Second, work done too close to bedtime may leave a child too stimulated to fall asleep easily," says Douglas research.

Some people don't work at the same pace. Schools should not have homework because they don't work at the same pace. Then why give homework? Because if they don't work at the same pace, they will be up later trying to finish. So ask your school to get rid of homework. Therefore, we should not have homework.

## Assignment: Argument Editorial: People see things in different ways

**Student Name: Kaleb Hofer**

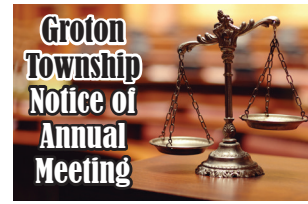
I think we should vote for school lunch so everyone eats the food they give us and there won't be a lot of waste.

Have you ever wondered how many people don't eat their school lunch? Well, I found out that 27 to 53 percent of students don't eat their school lunch; that can lead up to 530,000 tons of school lunch wasted each year, according to The Nevada Independent. In Colorado, 38.3 percent of students don't eat their school lunch; in Connecticut, 39.9 percent of students don't eat their school lunch, and in California, 57.8 percent of students don't eat their school lunch, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

I think voting would decrease waste because students would be more likely to eat their food. Usually, people don't eat their food because they don't like it.

People may argue that students would just choose unhealthy options, but school lunches are already not that healthy; 60 percent of school lunches are unhealthy, according to The Hechinger Report. I think my idea would be healthier because I think students would pick some healthy options; we would tell them to pick a fruit and vegetable and they're required to eat it.

That's why I think the students should be able to vote for school lunch. Can you please ask your school to let you vote for lunch?



**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](http://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](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26536

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Dear EarthTalk: Is it true that plants communicate by sending chemical signals through the air?

-- Melissa Hart, via email



**It turns out plants can talk, at least if you mean send out chemical signals to each other.**

Recent research reveals that plants, despite lacking brains or nervous systems, possess a surprising ability to “talk” via chemical signals. This fascinating discovery sheds light on a hidden world of plant communication with profound implications for agriculture, ecology and climate resilience. Plants communicate mainly through volatile organic compounds (VOCs)—chemical signals they release into the air—which serve as a sophisticated alarm system, warning other plants about potential threats like herbivores, pathogens or environmental stressors. When a plant detects an attack, it can alert other plants, enabling them to ready defensive chemicals or close their stomata to conserve water and nutrients.

According to National Geographic, this signaling system operates like an “early warning network,” letting plants prepare themselves and the surrounding community for incoming dangers. This highlights the intricate interdependence within plant ecosystems. One well-documented example involves tomato plants. When attacked by pests, tomato plants release VOCs that signal neighboring plants to ramp up their production of defensive chemicals, effectively creating a shared defense strategy. This phenomenon isn’t limited to a single plant species—“eavesdropping” plants in the vicinity can also benefit from these warnings, adapting their defenses even if they aren’t directly under attack. In addition to defensive strategies, plants use VOCs for environmental adaptation. Certain plants release VOCs to attract the predators of their attackers. A classic example is caterpillar-infested plants emitting signals to draw in parasitic wasps, which lay eggs in the caterpillars and effectively neutralize the threat.

Understanding plant communication could revolutionize agriculture. Farmers could enhance crop resistance to pests and reduce reliance on chemical pesticides. This would contribute to ecological balance by preserving biodiversity and reducing environmental impact. Moreover, plant communication plays a crucial role in maintaining ecosystem health. As Wired notes, this “language of chemical signals” isn’t just about individual survival—it’s about fostering community resilience in the face of challenges.

Plant communication does have skeptics. Some scientists believe it is simply a passive chemical response and not “communication.” Nonetheless, the discovery of chemical signaling in plants highlights the complexity and interconnectedness of ecosystems. As SciTechDaily notes, understanding these signals could revolutionize how we protect crops and manage natural ecosystems. By unraveling the secrets of plant communication, we gain not only insights into the hidden lives of plants but also tools to build a more sustainable and resilient future.

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](mailto:question@earthtalk.org).

## Ace of Heart Drawing

The Ace of Heart drawing was held Thursday night at the Groton American Legion. This was the biggest week for ticket sales thus far with ticket sales at \$1,390. The name of Ron Worlie was drawn and he picked Card #11 which was the King of Diamonds. The jackpot was \$25,850. You can purchase your tickets for next week’s drawing at the Groton American Legion or from Paper Paul. Tickets are \$5 each of five for \$20.

## Conde National League

**Feb. 23 Team Standings:** Stooges 29, Cubs 25, Braves 21, Mets 19, Giants 19, Pirates 19

**Men’s High Games:** Dion Bahr 217, Butch Farmen 213, Austin Schuelke 200

**Men’s High Series:** Butch Farmen 574, Dion Bahr 556, Brad Waage 547

**Women’s High Games:** Sandy Hoops 191, Suzie Easthouse 190, Sam Bahr 181

**Women’s High Series:** Suzie Easthouse 494, Sandy Hoops 492, Sam Bahr 491

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BEST CHOICE VEGETABLES CORN, PEAS OR GREEN BEANS 14.5-15.2 Oz. Can **99¢**

**DAIRY**

BEST CHOICE CHEESE CHUNKS OR SHREDS 7-8 Oz. **3/\$5**

**DAIRY**

CASS CLAY BUTTER 1 Lb. Otrs. **\$2.99**

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OLD HOME WHITE BREAD 20 Oz. Loaf **\$1.79**

**GROCERY**

BEST CHOICE SOUPS 10.5-11.25 Oz. Can **99¢**

**FROZEN**

PICTSWEEP VEGETABLES 12 Oz. Bags **2/\$3**

**FROZEN**

JACKS PIZZA 13.9-15 Oz. Pkgs. **3/\$9**

**HOUSEHOLD**

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**LIQUOR-BEER**

KEN'S EXCLUSIVE KNOB CREEK CASK STRENGTH 750 ML. **\$61.99**

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**DELI**

CHEESE OF THE WEEK! RED APPLE SMOKED GOUDA 8 Oz. Pkg. **\$5.99 Each**

**FLAVOR OF THE WEEK! GRASSHOPPER (CHOCOLATE/CREME DE MENTHE) \$3.99-\$4.99**

PRICES GOOD AT ALL KEN'S LOCATIONS: FEB. 22<sup>ND</sup> - FEB. 28<sup>TH</sup>

SUN. 22	MON. 23	TUE. 24	WED. 25	THURS. 26	FRI. 27	SAT. 28
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### Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

**A subscription to the Groton Independent makes a great gift!**

### King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

## Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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