

The Groton Independent

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In the championship match at 285 pounds, Brandon Englund squared off against Legend Benedict of Winner in a tightly contested battle. After regulation ended deadlocked, Englund prevailed in a tie-breaker, earning a 2-1 TB-1 victory to secure the state title. (Photo by Ryan Scepianiak)



Englund is state champion at state wrestling, Krueger is runner-up

The South Dakota State Wrestling Tournament floor was packed with action as hundreds of wrestlers competed under the bright lights. For Groton Area, the weekend was highlighted by a state championship from Gavin Englund at 285 pounds, as he captured the heavyweight title with a thrilling tie-breaker victory in the finals. On the girls side, Liza Krueger turned in an outstanding performance at 105 pounds, advancing to the championship match and finishing as state runner-up. Other Tiger wrestlers competing on the state stage included Keegan Kucker (113), Wyatt Hagan (120), Kyson Kucker (126), Donovan Block (157), Walker Zoellner (190) and Layne Johnson (215), each battling through tough brackets as Groton Area proudly represented on the state's biggest mat. (Photo by Ryan Scepianiak)



In the title bout, Eliza Krueger faced Jewel Vardsveen of Madison at 105 pounds. Vardsveen secured a 12-3 major decision, placing Krueger as the state runner-up to cap a 45-3 season. (Photo by Ryan Scepianiak)



Donovan Block (23-16) wrestled at 157 pounds, falling by 11-3 major decision to Caleb Christiansen of Parker. (Photo by Ryan Scepianiak)



At 126 pounds, Kyson Kucker (35-11) scored a fall over Levi Tuntland of Canton in 4:11. (Photo by Ryan Scepianiak)



Wyatt Hagan (36-11) competed at 120 pounds, scoring a 17-0 technical fall over Channing Bartlett of McCook Central/Montrose. (Photo by Ryan Scepianiak)



At 113 pounds, Keegan Kucker (11-6) battled back in the consolation round with a 9-6 sudden victory win over Summyt Larson of Bon Homme/Avon. (Photo by Ryan Scepianiak)



Layne Johnson (23-11) competed at 215 pounds, falling by by fall to Quentin White Mountain of McLaughlin. (Photo by Ryan Scepianiak)



At 190 pounds, Walker Zoellner (27-13) was pinned by Mason Janek of Burke/Gregory in consolation action. (Photo by Ryan Scepianiak)

Tigers Finish Strong, Win Seventh Straight Heading Into Regions



Gage Sippel muscles his way inside and gets in front of Grady Jett to make this basket. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Ryder Johnson makes two three pointers and led the Tigers with 15 points.

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Karson Zak puts up this shot as he made his four points in the second quarter. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

said. "We just have to execute, value every possession and get after it."

For Aberdeen Christian, Dylan Hofer and Brooks Jett each scored 15 points. Luke Kaiser added seven points, Loyal Smith-Wade and Charles Eichler scored three apiece, and Grady Jett had two. The Knights shot 55 percent from the floor (20-of-36) but struggled at the line, converting just one of six attempts, and committed 13 turnovers.

Groton sealed the No. 5 seed in the region and will host a regional contest Thursday at 7 p.m., facing either Milbank or Sisseton.

"When you lose games, sometimes you question what you're doing," Kjellsen said. "But it's not the biggest — it's the fundamentals. You've got to execute what you're doing offensively and defensively. I don't think what we're doing is wrong. I just think earlier in the year we didn't execute. We're doing a better job of that now."

With momentum on their side and a seven-game winning streak in

GROTON - The Groton Area boys basketball team closed out the regular season Friday night with a 55-45 victory over Aberdeen Christian, stretching their winning streak to seven games heading into regional play.

With the win, the Tigers improved to 16-4 on the season, while the Knights fell to 17-3 — just their third loss of the year.

Groton wasted little time setting the tone, jumping out to a 7-0 lead and carrying a 17-8 advantage into the second quarter. Aberdeen Christian responded with a nine-point run to tie the game at 19 with 3:22 left in the first half, but the Tigers answered immediately with seven straight points of their own to take a 28-21 lead into the locker room.

Groton continued to build momentum in the third quarter, pushing the margin to 41-30 by the end of the period. Though the Knights stayed within striking distance, the Tigers never relinquished control and secured the 10-point win.

"We've had 19 practice games, and tonight was the 20th because they don't matter anymore," said head coach Greg Kjellsen. "I was just proud of the kids. They played harder tonight than I've seen them play all year. Other than a couple mental lapses defensively and offensively, I was pretty pleased with how we played."

Groton shot 53 percent from two-point range (19-of-36), 24 percent from three (4-of-17), and 83 percent from the free-throw line (5-of-6). The Tigers finished with 23 rebounds, 13 assists, eight steals, eight turnovers, nine team fouls and one block.

Ryder Johnson led the way with 15 points, five rebounds, three assists and two steals. Gage Sippel delivered an active performance with 13 points, seven rebounds and two assists, battling through double and triple teams in the post.

"He was getting double and triple teamed in the post," Kjellsen said of Sippel. "We're trying to get him to demand the ball in there. When he gives us 12 and 10 or 15 and 10, we're a lot better team. I just thought he had a lot of energy tonight."

Becker Bosma added 11 points, six rebounds, five assists, three steals and a block, while Keegen Tracy and Easton Weber each contributed six points. Karson Zac chipped in four points, three rebounds, three assists and a steal.

Kjellsen noted that perimeter shooting was not at its sharpest, but the Tigers found ways to execute.

"When you shoot the ball well, everything looks good. When you don't, everything doesn't look good," he



Groton Area freshman, Aspen Beto, played the clarinet for the National Anthem.

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Loyal Smith-Wade scored seven, Asher Keller had four and Liam Voehl finished with two.

8th Grade

Groton's eighth graders earned a 50-22 win, leading 12-3 after the first quarter, 30-10 at halftime and 44-15 after three.

Major Dolan led the Tigers with 12 points. Trey Tietz and Axel Abeln each scored nine, Trayce Schelle added eight, Jace Hofer had four, Ryder Schwan and Liam Johnson each had three and Liam Lord scored one.

Andrew Schwab led Aberdeen Christian with eight points, going six-of-eight from the free-throw line. Liam Bohl added seven, Noah Sifken had four and Max Dinger scored two.

7th Grade

The Tigers capped the night with a 36-10 seventh-grade victory. Groton led 15-2 after one quarter, 17-6 at halftime and 27-7 after three.

Mason Locke led the way with 11 points, including three three-pointers. Drew Fjeldheim added nine, Ivan Schwan and Carter Boerger each had six, while Quinton Flores and Graydyn Rowan scored two apiece.

Garrett Palmer led Aberdeen Christian with seven points, and Ben Loeb added three.

All games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM. The varsity game was 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 and Mike Imrie did the commentary, Jeslyn Kosel ran the camera and Paul Kosel did the stats and technology. The junior varsity game was sponsored by Jerry and Becky Johnson, the eighth grade game by S & S Lumber and the seventh grade game by Beauty Brew Boutique.

hand, the Tigers now turn their full attention to regional play Thursday night at the Groton Area Arena.

Junior Varsity

Groton completed the sweep with a 45-30 win in the junior varsity contest.

The game was tied eight times with three lead changes. Aberdeen Christian led 8-6 after the first quarter before Groton surged ahead 25-19 following a nine-point run. The Tigers led 30-25 after three quarters and extended the lead to 38-25 in the fourth before closing out the 15-point victory.

Anthony Tracy scored 19 points to lead Groton, followed by Jace Johnson with 13, Jordan Schwan with eight and Asher Johnson with five.

Charles Eichler paced the Knights with nine points. Bryan Ekanager added eight, Charles Eichler paced the Knights with nine points. Bryan Ekanager added eight, Asher Keller had four and Liam Voehl finished with two.

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Tigers Outlast Milbank in Double Overtime Classic, Advance to SoDak 16



Jaedyn Penning clutches the SoDak16 ball after the Tigers defeated Milbank in double overtime. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The crowd gathers around the Tiger players after the game. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



and a half minutes remaining, Locke gathered his team during a timeout.

"I told them they couldn't panic," Locke said. "You just can't panic. You can't quit. You've got to get good shots and start knocking them down — taking confident strokes instead of hesitant ones. Once the ball leaves your hand, it's gone. The most important shot every time is the next one."

The Tigers responded with a 12-0 run to surge ahead 40-37. But Milbank's Belle Pauli drained a three-pointer at the buzzer to tie the game at 40 and send it into overtime.

"They were positive the whole time," Locke said. "They hit that three at the end of regulation and our girls were like, 'Yeah, I don't care. We'll just keep playing.'"

Milbank scored first in the opening overtime before Groton answered to take a 42-41 lead. The Bulldogs went back in front 44-42, but Rylee Dunker scored with 39sec-

GROTON — In a game that featured 13 lead changes, seven ties and two overtimes, the Groton Area Tigers earned a trip to the SoDak 16 Thursday night with a thrilling 54-52 victory over Milbank in Region 1A action at the Groton Area Arena.

Milbank struck first and carried a 12-10 lead after the opening quarter. The teams traded momentum throughout the first half, with Groton leaning heavily on senior Jaedyn Penning. Penning scored 13 of the Tigers' 20 first-half points to keep Groton within reach as Milbank took a 23-20 advantage into halftime.

"It's a good thing she showed up in the first half or we'd have gotten run out of the gym," head coach Matt Locke said. "That's senior leadership. She wanted it. The kids listen to her, and she has a great feel for the game."

Scoring slowed in the third quarter, as Milbank edged Groton 7-6 to extend its lead to 30-26 entering the fourth.

When the Bulldogs built a 37-28 advantage with about four

seconds left to tie the game at 44. Dunker was fouled on the play but missed the free throw. Milbank turned the ball over on a 10-second violation with 3.5 seconds remaining, and Groton's last-second shot came after the buzzer, forcing a second overtime.

Before the final extra period, Locke reminded his team what was at stake.

"I told them before the second overtime, you wouldn't want it any other way," he said. "How much fun is it going to be to go to the SoDak 16 in double overtime? Don't let somebody else win it."

Groton made sure it didn't.

The Tigers scored first in the second overtime and, after Milbank tied the game at 48, Groton responded with back-to-back baskets to build a 52-48 lead with 1:35 to play. Milbank trimmed the deficit to 52-50 with 25 seconds remaining, but the Tigers calmly knocked down two free throws with 23 seconds left to extend the lead to 54-50. Milbank added a late basket, but Groton held on for the 54-52 win.

Penning finished with 20 points, including 13 in the first half, along with six rebounds, one assist and two steals before fouling out. Jerrica Locke added 12 points, six rebounds, five assists and one steal. Kella Tracy recorded her first double-double of the season with 10 points, 12 rebounds and one steal. Rylee Dunker contributed six points, two rebounds and one assist. Taryn Traphagan scored four points and added three rebounds and two assists, while McKenna Tietz chipped in two points and one rebound. Sydney Locke grabbed two rebounds.

Groton shot 16-of-34 from two-point range for 47 percent, 4-of-18 from three-point range for 22 percent and 10-of-20 from the free-throw line for 50 percent. The Tigers finished with 32 rebounds, just seven turnovers, nine assists, four steals and 16 team fouls.

For Milbank, Belle Pauli led the way with 16 points, Anna Neugebauer added 13, Violet Johnson scored eight, Bree Townsend had seven, Susie Schuneman finished with five and Bailey Hendricks added three.

Groton improves to 16-6 on the season and will face Sioux Falls Christian in the SoDak 16. Milbank closes its season at 17-5.

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, Krueger Brothers, Lori's Pharmacy, Poet, S & S Lumber, Spanier Harvesting & Trucking, Sun & Sea Travel, The MeatHouse, Weisman-tel Insurance Agency. Jeslyn Kosel ran the camera, Paul Kosel did the stats and technology and Rich Bosma provided the play-by-play commentary.

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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 second 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. This week, we finish up the offense with the tight end and offensive line groups.

Tight Ends

T.J.Hockenson - 51 catches for 438 yards and three touchdowns.

Josh Oliver – 15 catches for 160 yards and four touchdowns.

Ben Sims – three catches for 30 yards.

Ben Yurosek – two catches for 14 yards.

The Vikings had the fourth fewest yards by the tight end position in the NFL last season. T.J. Hockenson is currently the fourth-highest-paid tight end in the NFL, while Josh Oliver comes in at number 20. Something needs to change.

Some people will point out that Hockenson was coming back from injury, which limited his involvement in the beginning of the season, or that the QB position was a mess, which has a direct correlation to the tight end production. Regardless, the Vikings will have to decide if it's worth it to keep two high-priced TEs on the roster.

Luckily, the team has options. They could decide to restructure Hockenson's contract, freeing up cap space. Or they could cut him outright. If he is cut before March 13, that'll free up nearly \$9 million in cap space, or if he's cut with a post-June-1st designation (allowing the team to split his dead cap over two seasons), that will free up \$16 million.

Offensive Line

An argument could be made that the offensive line is the most important position in football. From protecting the quarterback to opening holes for the running backs, the o-line is the engine that makes the offense go.

The Vikings made significant investments in the offensive line last offseason, bringing in two high-priced free agents (center Ryan Kelly

and left guard Will Fries), and using their first-round pick on right guard Donovan Jackson. However, it doesn't matter how good the players are if they can't stay on the field. Will Fries is the only offensive lineman to play in all 17 games last season. Christian Darrisaw missed seven games in 2025, Donovan Jackson missed three, Ryan Kelly missed nine, and Brian O'Neill missed three.

Three o-line positions are set for the upcoming season. Left tackle Christian Darrisaw is one of the best in the league, left guard Donovan Jackson had a solid rookie season, and right guard Will Fries was the team's best (and healthiest) offensive lineman last year.

Two question marks remain. What do the Vikings do with center Ryan Kelly and right tackle Brian O'Neill?

Kelly was a solid player when he was on the field, but he missed significant time in 2025 because of two separate concussions. He will also be 33 years old when the 2026 season starts. If the Vikings cut him, they'd save \$8.75 million.

O'Neill has been one of the most dependable players on the roster since he was drafted in 2018. So the question isn't whether the Vikings should keep him; the question is what price the Vikings are willing to pay for an offensive lineman who is on the wrong side of 30. O'Neill is entering the final year of his contract and has a cap hit of over \$23 million, and if the team cuts him, they can save \$19.5 million. My guess is that the team will either restructure his contract or give him an extension. Both options will free up a significant chunk of the cap space.

The Groton Independent

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Prairie Doc Perspective

Cultivating Trust: A Trauma-Informed Approach to the Therapeutic Alliance

By Patti Berg-Poppe, MPT, Ph.D. and Shana Cerny, OTD, OTR/L, BCP

Health care professionals enter every patient encounter with the goal of helping individuals heal, yet many don't realize how often past adversity shapes the way a person experiences care. Trauma, whether from childhood experiences, medical procedures, accidents, interpersonal harm or environmental conditions, doesn't remain a distant memory. It becomes embedded in the body through biobehavioral adaptations that influence posture, muscle tension, breathing patterns, nervous system sensitivity and low body safety. When we understand that trauma lives not only in stories but also in tissues and reflexes, we begin to see why a trauma-informed approach is essential for building trust.

Trauma and adverse experiences are more common than we may realize. More than two-thirds of the patients that health care providers encounter in practice are likely to have experienced trauma in some form. Trauma-informed care should be a universal precaution, guiding providers to assume that any patient may have a history of adversity, even if it is never disclosed. This mindset shifts the focus from "What's wrong with you?" to "What's happened to you, and how is it affecting your health today?" For clinicians who rely on touch, such as physical and occupational therapists, physicians, nurses and primary care professionals, this awareness is especially important. Touch can be grounding and healing, but it can also activate the sympathetic nervous system, triggering a stress response before a patient has words to explain why.

Trust becomes the foundation of the therapeutic alliance, and trust is built through safety, predictability and respect. Trauma-informed practice encourages providers to slow down, explain what they are doing and invite patients into shared decision-making. Simple actions, such as asking permission before touching, checking in about comfort, offering choices and being transparent about what comes next, signal to the nervous system that the environment is safe. These small shifts can reduce physiological stress responses and create space for true healing.

Research on trauma-informed health care highlights how past adversity can influence patient engagement, adherence and outcomes. When patients feel overwhelmed, misunderstood or rushed, they may appear "non-compliant," when in reality their nervous system is doing its best to protect them. A trauma-informed lens helps clinicians interpret these reactions not as resistance but as communication. It encourages us to look beyond the symptom in front of us and consider the whole person, including their history, their stress load, their strengths and their goals.

Holistic care means recognizing that physical symptoms rarely exist in isolation. Pain, fatigue, dizziness and muscle tension often have emotional and neurological components. When providers acknowledge this mind-body connection, patients feel seen rather than dismissed. They're more likely to share concerns, ask questions and participate actively in their care. This collaboration strengthens the therapeutic alliance, which research consistently links to better health outcomes across disciplines.

Trauma-informed practice is not a specialty; it's a skillset. It requires curiosity, humility and a willingness to adapt. It asks clinicians to be mindful of their tone, body language and pace. It reminds us that healing happens in relationships, and that every interaction, every moment of touch, every explanation, and every pause can either reinforce safety or erode it.

When we approach patients with the assumption that their bodies carry stories we cannot see, we create conditions where trust can grow. And when trust grows, so does the capacity for healing.

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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

Saturday, March 7
Pickleball, 9:30 a.m., Elementary Gym

Sunday, March 8
SPRING FORWARD - Turn clocks ahead 1 hour

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 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.; 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
FCS St.Baldricks SHAVE TO SAVE Event, 3:30 p.m., GHS Gym.

Monday, March 9
Senior Menu: Tater tot hot dish, corn, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast; Egg bake
School Lunch: Corn dog, chips
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
Groton Senior Citizens, 1 p.m., Community Center

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

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

Tuesday, March 10
Senior Menu: Pork sandwich, baked beans, tomato spoon salad, fruit.

End of Third Quarter
School Breakfast: Muffins.
School Lunch: Beef and broccoli, rice.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Council, 6 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.
ACT Testing
HS Baseball Practice, 6 p.m., HS Gym
SoDak16 Boys Basketball
Pickleball, 6 p.m., Elementary Gym
Biogirls, 3:45 p.m., elementary gym

Wednesday, March 11
Senior Menu: Chili with beans, winter blend, fruit, cornbread.

School Breakfast: Oatmeal.
School Lunch: Mac & Chees, peas.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.;
Soup Supper (Nigeria Circle hosts), 6 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.

Pickleball, 5:30 p.m., elementary gym
6th Grade Boys Basketball, 6 p.m., HS Gym
Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 12
Senior Menu: Oven baked chicken, baked potato, green beans, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Maple French toast bake.
School Lunch: Beef sticks, cooked carrots.
State A GBB Tourney in Watertown
Groton Lions Club meeting, 6 p.m., 104 N Main

2nd Grade BB, 5 p.m., elementary gym
4th Grade BB, 6 p.m., HS Gym

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Luke Hennebold 605.840.4833

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

Trump's Intemperate Criticisms Threaten Judicial Independence

Last week, in *International Resources v. Trump*, the Supreme Court, in a 6-3 majority opinion written by Chief Justice John Roberts, declared that President Trump had exceeded his statutory authority by using an emergency statute, the "International Economic Emergency Powers Act," to impose sweeping tariffs without congressional approval. In the days since the decision, Trump has responded with an ongoing, vicious stream of personal attacks against the justices who ruled against him, in a manner that defies historical practice, norms of discourse and expectations of decorum. Trump's assault on the Court presents grave threats to judicial independence, the separation of powers, the rule of law and safety of the justices.

The Court's ruling should not have been a surprise. Legal scholars had identified the principal vice of Trump's tariffs, and Chief Justice Roberts nailed it in his opinion. The statute granted to the president authority to "regulate" imports, but the word regulate does not include the power to tax. A tariff is "simply a tax on imported goods," and the taxing power is granted solely and exclusively to Congress. In a civic lesson, the Chief Justice reminded the nation that Congress possesses the unique, constitutional power to access "the pockets of the people."

President Trump's immediate reaction to the decision was filled with personal invectives. Justices in the majority were "unpatriotic and disloyal to our Constitution," a "disgrace to our nation," and "slimeballs," "fools and lapdogs" in service of foreign interests. "He reserved special venom for his two nominees, Justices Amy Coney Barrett and Neil Gorsuch, describing them as an "embarrassment to their families."

Trump's unrelenting tantrums defy any definition of presidential decorum. By comparison, his stinging defeat could not match the pain that Vice President Al Gore felt when the Court's decision in *Bush v. Gore* (2000) to stop the vote recount in Florida may well have cost him the election. Gore did not resort to personal attacks on the 5-4 majority but publicly declared that it was necessary to respect the Court's ruling, even though he disagreed with it.

Across a vista of two hundred years, American presidents have seen fit, and rightly so, to criticize Supreme Court opinions when they differ with the rulings, legal reasoning, constitutional interpretation and statutory construction employed by the Court. The High Bench, after all, has delivered rulings that seem utterly indefensible. As Justice Robert H. Jackson famously wrote in 1953: "We are not final because we are infallible, but we are infallible only because we are final." The ruling was "ridiculous and dumb,"

Presidential criticisms of the Court's opinions have come in various shapes and sizes. Some, for example, reflect "lawyerly" arguments, nuanced reasoning and doctrinal differences. Thomas Jefferson invoked jurisdictional grounds for criticizing Chief Justice John Marshall's opinion in *Marbury v. Madison* (1803). In his first inaugural address, Abraham Lincoln took aim at the Court's infamous decision in *Dred Scott*, while Chief Justice Roger, sitting before him, "trembled with rage." Lincoln said, "The candid citizen must confess, that if the policy of the government, upon vital questions, affecting the whole people, is to be irrevocably fixed by decisions of the Supreme Court, the instant they are made, in ordinary litigation between parties, the people will have ceased to be their own rulers, having practically resigned their government into the hands of that eminent tribunal." Barack Obama offered a candid and correct criticism of the Court for its ruling in 2010 in *Citizens United*. "It will open the floodgates for special interests, including foreign corporations, to spend without limit in our elections."

Some criticisms are apocryphal. Andrew Jackson reportedly declared, in reaction to the Court's ruling in *Worcester v. Georgia*, "Well, John Marshall has made his decision, now let him enforce it!" Others contain a measure of humor and creativity. Franklin D. Roosevelt, frustrated by the Court's anti-New Deal rulings, campaigned against it in 1936 for its "horse and buggy jurisprudence." A deeply disappointed Theodore Roosevelt said of Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, "I could carve out of a banana a judge with more backbone than Holmes."

As with most things in life, there are right ways and wrong ways to proceed. Historically, presidents have criticized judicial opinions, usually in tempered terms, cognizant of the importance of judicial independence. Trump's harsh, bullying, tactics effectively place a target on the backs of the justices and will require increased security for them and their families. Those tactics betray the rule of law.

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Brown County P&Z Roettele Variance

NOTICE OF HEARING
Application has been made to the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission for a VARIANCE PETITION. A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, on March 17,

2026, at 7:00 P.M.
Petitioner / Owner: Sheila Roettele
Description of property: Proposed Lots 1 & 2, "Roettele First Addition" in the NW1/4 of Section 30-T125N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (39449 122nd Street, Columbia Twp.).
Reason: Variance to Lot Size to allow Lot 1 (2.35 acres) and Lot 2 (3.65 acres) to be smaller than 40.0 acres and stay zoned as Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) per 4.0605 of Brown County Ordinances.

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the proposed ordinance amendment.
Dated this 4th day of March 2026.
Planning/Zoning Commission and Scott Bader - P&Z Director
25 Market Street
Aberdeen, SD 57401
Office: (605) 626-7144
Published March 4, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$13.20 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26567

Weekly SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging

◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Brown County P&Z Humphries CUP

NOTICE OF HEARING
Application has been made to the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission for a CONDITIONAL USE PETITION (CUP). A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, on March 17, 2026 at 7:00 P.M.
Petitioner: Fantasyland Properties, LLC - Zach Humphries
Legal description of property: Lot 1, "Todd Rosebrock First Subdivision" in the NW1/4 of Section 9-T123N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (4095 Paper Lane #01; Aberdeen Twp.).
Reason: A Conditional Use Petition (CUP) to replace an existing sign with a new 5'-4" x 8'-0" sign in a Commercial District (C).
The public may attend the hearing and present comments and testimony regarding the proposed Conditional Use Petition (CUP) request.
Dated this 4th day of March 2026.
Planning/Zoning Commission and Scott Bader - P&Z Director
25 Market Street
Aberdeen, SD 57401
Office: (605) 626-7144
Published March 4, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$13.20 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26568



UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6

REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2026

President Rix called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the HS Library Conference Room. Other members present: Flihs, Harder, Lerseth-Fliehs, Strom, Weber, and Weismantel. Absent: None. Others present were Supt. J. Schwan, Principal Schwan, Principal Edwards, and Business Manager Hubsch.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Harder, to approve the proposed agenda as written. Motion carried.

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

Moved by Flihs, seconded by Lerseth-Fliehs to approve consent agenda items: January 12, 2026, board minutes, and January 2026 financial reports, custodial accounts, investments, bills, lunch report, transportation, and authorize business manager to pay district bills up to \$75,000 in advance, using the custodial advance payment account to be approved by the board for reimbursement at the following regular board meeting. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND: Net Salary 304,011.35, Net Benefits 86,317.56; A&B Business Solutions – staples for copiers, 447.35; Aberdeen Awards – wrestling awards, 301.00; Amazon – supplies, 342.12; Cole Papers – janitor supplies, 2,170.20; Core Education Cooperative – online coursework, 780.00; Custodial Fund – advanced payments, 33,713.97; Dependable Sanitation – garbage, 1,588.00; EMC Insurance Company – insurance, 75,773.94; Farm Tire Service – tires, 1,121.22; Farmer's Union – bulk def, 122.98; Foreman Sales & Service – bus parts, 34.57; Good Shred – shredding service, 43.50; Groton Daily Independent – legal publications, 163.28; Hillyard – janitor supplies, 2,904.98; House of Glass – door repairs, 314.34; JW Pepper – music, 159.38; Jostens – diploma covers, 380.75; Matheson Tri-Gas – IA Supplies, 504.57; Mid-American Research Chemical – janitor supplies, 569.98; North Central Special Ed Coop – services, 6,250.00; Northwestern Energy – utilities, 12,012.92; Productivity Plus Account – repairs, 435.20; S&S Lumber – janitor supplies, 186.12; School Nurse Supply – nurse supply, 138.00; School Specialty – drawing paper, 128.64; Taylor Music – instrument repairs/supplies, 545.90; Walmart – FACS supplies, 362.23; Wageworks – admin fee, 101.00. Total General Fund - \$531,925.05.

CAPITAL OUTLAY: A&B Business – managed print agreement, 1,974.67; Amazon – equipment, 541.12; Clean Sweep – brooms, 60.00; Co-op Architecture – master planning, 9,800.00; Follett – library books, 112.91; Hauff Mid-America Sports – MS track uniforms, 4,270.00; House of Glass – door equipment, 789.01; Ringneck Construction – FB field crows nest, 14,559.40; S&S Lumber – FB crows nest materials, 1,381.69; Varsity Group Marketing – score table, 4,462.50. Total Capital Outlay - \$37,951.30.

SPECIAL EDUCATION: Net Salary 41,122.19 Net Benefits 13,117.35 Avera – PT/OT, 10,316.64; Custodial Fund – advanced payments, 29.63; North Central Special Ed Coop – services, 39,479.92; Parent – mileage, 730.80. Total Special Education - \$104,796.53.

ENTERPRISE FOOD SERVICE: Net Salary 7,277.11, Net Benefits 2,702.08. Food Service: Custodial Fund – advanced payments, 144.09; East Side Jersey Dairy – milk, 1,235.73; Performance Foodservice – food, 6,057.31; Riverside Technologies – power adapters, 90.00; SD DOE – food, 108.52; US Foods – food, 4,340.52. Total Food Service - \$21,955.36.

ENTERPRISE OST: Net Salary 4,146.67, Net Benefits 443.55, Custodial Fund – advanced payments, 4,800.00. Total OST: \$9,390.22.

ENTERPRISE DRIVERS ED: 0.00.

CUSTODIAL: 56,952.82
Members of the public are allowed five minutes to address

GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 06-6 FINANCIAL REPORTS							
	General Fund	Capital Outlay	Special Ed.	Food Service	OST	Driver's Ed	Custodial
January 1 2026	\$2,323,739.99	\$955,460.65	\$454,148.87	\$103,529.19	\$47,516.87	\$20,937.01	\$215,836.53
RECEIPTS							
Local Sources	\$45,609.57	\$17,536.72	\$8,433.15	\$13,928.70	\$14,093.62		\$83,885.94
County Sources	\$2,222.92						
State Sources							
State Aid	\$48,572.00						
Wind Farm							
Mentor Teacher Program							
State Apportionment							
State Reimbursements							
Bank Franchise							
Federal Sources				\$5,549.52			
Sale of Assets							
Due from Govt/Others							
Transfer In/Out							
TOTAL MONTHLY RECEIPTS	\$96,404.49	\$17,536.72	\$8,433.15	\$19,478.22	\$14,093.62	\$0.00	\$83,885.94
FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$2,420,144.48	\$972,997.37	\$462,582.02	\$123,007.41	\$61,610.49	\$20,937.01	\$299,722.47
MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS	(\$469,196.19)	(\$10,537.64)	(\$70,541.60)	(\$22,428.82)	(\$6,585.52)		(\$56,952.82)
JOURNAL ENTRIES	\$3,628.76		\$1,276.90	\$348.71	\$0.54		
January 31, 2026	\$1,954,577.05	\$962,459.73	\$393,317.32	\$100,927.30	\$55,025.51	\$20,937.01	\$242,769.65

GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL EDUCATION	FOOD SERVICE	OST
Payroll	Payroll	Payroll	Payroll
Instruction \$304,011.35	Instruction \$41,122.19	Instruction \$7,277.11	Instruction \$4,146.67
Employee Benefits \$86,317.56	Employee Benefits \$13,117.35	Employee Benefits \$2,702.08	Employee Benefits \$443.55
Total \$390,328.91	Total \$54,239.54	Total \$9,979.19	Total \$4,590.22
Driver's Education			
Payroll			
Instruction \$0.00			
Employee Benefits \$0.00			
Total \$0.00			

the board on any topic of their choice. With no members present, the board continued with the agenda.

Program overviews were presented by the mathematics and social sciences departments. Presenting for the mathematics department were Eric Swenson, Jordan Carson, and Greg Kjellsen. Presenting for the social sciences were Shaun Wanner and Scott Thorson.

The following items were discussed in the administrative reports: J. Schwan: 2026 legislative updates; Langford Area school reached out regarding a cooperative agreement for wrestling, effective the 2026-2027 school year. Mr. Schwan will be working with Alexa Sperry, Athletic Director, on an agreement. The next facilities master planning meeting with a representative from Co-Op Architects is scheduled for Wednesday, February 18, at 5 pm, but may be rescheduled due to scheduling conflicts. Mr. Schwan and Ms. Edwards will be attending the NSU Job Fair on February 10, and Mr. Schwan will be attending a meeting in March about the possibility of a Children's Home Society opening in Aberdeen. Ringneck Construction has been completing interior work in the press box, including installing sound insulation and painting.

B. Schwan reported elementary numbers at 265. Staff development will take place on February 13th with guest speaker Dr. Pirlet. OST end-of-year statements have been printed and filed in student folders. OST will be open on February 12, closed on February 13, and back open all day on February 16th. Access testing for students qualifying for EL Services is currently being conducted by Mrs. Weisenburger and Mrs. Neely.

S. Edwards reported middle/high school numbers at 298. Edwards will be attending the NSU Job Fair; Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held in February 12th from 1:30 pm-8:00 pm; class registrations: parents have been sent out letters, and registration will be the week of February 23-27th; and upcoming testing includes: NAEP: March 11: 8th grade; ACT Juniors, March 10-11, SDDOE Assessment APRIL 13-17 6-8 ELA & Math, April 20-24 8 Science, May 4-8 make-up testing.

B. Hubsch gave a reminder that petitions are available for the school board and are due on Tuesday, March 24th, at 5 pm to her office. Hubsch thanked the HS PAC program for its generous donation of half of the new score tables that have been ordered; discussed purchasing a 2023 Ford Transit 350 van; and discussed the supplemental budget.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Weber, to approve the supplemental Budget #26-3. Motion carried.

Board Motion – Adopt Supplemental Budget #FY26-3

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET #FY26-3

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

APPROPRIATIONS
21-2554-000-550.....
Transportation-Vehicles, General Fund: \$42,500
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS:
\$42,500 (General Fund)

MEANS OF FINANCE
Cash on Hand, General Fund: \$42,500

TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCE:
\$42,500 (General Fund)

Presiding Officer
Business Manager

The board conducted its first reading of recommended policy changes: DB Budget [Amendment], DBDA General Fund Balance [Amendment], DBJ Budget Implementation [Delete], DC Taxing and Borrowing Authority/Limitations [Amendment], DD Funding Proposals and Applications [Title Amendment], DFD Gate Receipts and Admissions [New], DH Bonded Employees and Officers [Amendment], DIB Types of Funds [Amendment], DIC Financial Reports

and Statements [Amendment], DID Inventories [Amendment], DIE Audits [Amendment], DI Fiscal Accounting and Reporting [Amendment], EBDC Emergency Closings [Amendment], and GCPC Retirement of Professional Staff Members.

The board conducted its first reading of the recommended job description for Assistant Business Manager.

Moved by Flihs, seconded by Harder, to the re-assignment of Kelly Oswald from paraprofessional to Administrative Assistant/Study Hall, effective February 9, 2026. Motion carried.

Moved by Flihs, seconded by Weismantel to approve the contract for Megan Dockter, 5-12 Instrumental Music Teacher, for

the 2026-27 school year, with contracted salary to be published with the annual 2026-2027 salaries. Motion carried.

Moved by Flihs, seconded by Lerseth-Fliehs, to approve the retirement of Kami Lipp at the end of the 2025-26 school year. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Harder, to approve the retirement of Diane Kurtz at the end of the 2025-26 school year. Motion carried.

Moved by Flihs and seconded by Weismantel to approve the resignation of Jodi Schwan at the end of the 2025-26 school year. Rix, Lerseth-Flihs, Flihs, Strom, Harder, and Weber-Yea, Weismantel-Nay. Motion carried.

President Rix called for a

recess at 8:25 pm. The board reconvened at 8:30 pm.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Flihs, to go into executive session pursuant SDCL 1-25-2.1 for personnel issue. The board moved out of executive session at 9:07 pm.

Moved by Harder, seconded by Lerseth-Flihs, to adjourn at 9:07 pm. Motion carried.

Becky Hubsch, Business Manager
Grant Rix, President

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

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The Leadership Myth That's Holding Us Back

The Community Coach | Paula Jensen



Paula Jensen
Senior Vice President



In small rural communities, leadership matters — but are we unintentionally shrinking our own leadership pool?

We care deeply about who leads. We trust the people who show up, pitch in, and carry history with them. But over time, we've absorbed quiet assumptions about who qualifies as a leader — and those assumptions may be holding us back more than we realize.

We assume leaders must be deeply rooted in the community — born here, raised here, or long-time residents. We assume they need years of experience before they're "ready," must always be available, and should be fluent in budgets, bylaws, and public meetings. We assume stepping into leadership means sacrificing privacy, family time, or even relationships.

If you've ever thought, "That's not for me," you are far from alone. But here's the truth: real leadership isn't about being perfect — it's about being present. Rural communities aren't built by flawless people. They're built by people who care enough to show up and are willing to learn as they go.

Leadership isn't about having all the answers. It's about asking good questions. It's about listening well. It's about loving your community enough to help steward its future. Experience helps — absolutely — but commitment, curiosity, and courage matter just as much.

When we widen our understanding of what leadership looks like, something powerful happens. New voices emerge. Younger residents step forward. Newcomers bring fresh energy. Long-time community members share wisdom in new ways. Leadership becomes less about who has always done it, and more about who is willing to try.

Think about the neighbor who quietly organizes freezer meals after a tragedy. Or the parent who always arrives early to set up chairs for the school program. These are the instincts of leaders — even if those people never use the word "leader" to describe themselves.

When we actively and intentionally welcome people — before they have to prove themselves — more potential leaders begin to see their own legitimacy. When we normalize learning on the job and make space for respectful disagreement, leadership feels less risky and more possible.

If you care about your town's future, you are already closer to leadership than you think. Leading isn't about being perfect, popular, or permanent. It's about being present. And our rural communities need more people who are willing to be present.

Here are three low-risk next steps you can take to move toward leading in your community:

1. Serve on a committee or advisory board. Event-planning committees, housing groups, library boards, parks & recreation boards, and economic development task forces are all great on-ramps.
2. Learn how local government actually works. Sit in on a city council, school board, township, or county commission meeting. No pressure. Just listen.
3. Map your transferable skills. Have you managed a budget? Organized volunteers? Resolved conflict? Run a business? Raised kids? Those are leadership skills.

If you've ever felt frustrated, hopeful, protective, or proud of your community — you already care enough to consider leadership.

You don't have to decide today.
Just take one step.



NOTICE
An application has been made by Donna Keatts to the Brown County Board of Commissioners for a change of zoning. Hearing to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota on March 17, 2026 for the purpose of rezoning the following property from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Lake Front Residential District (R-3) to bring this parcel into compliance for its future use.

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

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the amendment to the Second Revision Brown County Ordinances pertaining to rezoning the property described. At conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt the first reading of Ordinance No. 322.

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor
Published March 4, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$12.88 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26565



FEBRUARY 24, 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 Wiese led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None
DISCUSS LOAD LIMITS/RESOLUTION #2026-14: Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent, met with the Commission to discuss Load Limits. Dirk recommended that Load Limits go on effective Monday, March 2nd.

Commissioner Wiese offered the following Resolution as of March 2, 2026:

RESOLUTION #2026-14
WHEREAS, SDCL 32-22-24 authorizes the proper authority to establish maximum axle and axle group loadings during the period of each year from February 15th to April 30th, inclusive, and

WHEREAS, SDCL 32-22-24 further provides that if highway and climatic conditions warrant, the proper highway authority may extend the time period mentioned by ordinance or resolution.

WHEREAS, SDCL 32-22-25 authorizes the proper authority to reduce the maximum weight and load of vehicles on specific roads without formal resolution where such road would be damaged or destroyed by heavy traffic by reason of thawing or excessive moisture.

WHEREAS, SDCL 32-22-25 further provides that notice shall be given by placing proper signage indicating the limitations of the gross weight of the vehicle on such specific roads.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Brown County Commission requests the South Dakota Department of Public Safety and the South Dakota Highway Patrol to enforce Annual Seasonal Load Restrictions on over weight limits, over width load limits, and speed limits on Brown County Roads during the February/March/April Spring thaw and breakup period that the roads are posted.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that all Brown County Oil Roads are posted at 6-ton per axle and truck speed of 40 MPH, except for the following:

1. Belt Loop around the City of Aberdeen
2. Road 4 from 24th Ave, North 1.0 mile to CR 13
3. Road 7 from US Highway 281 East 1.0 mile to Barnard and County Road 10
4. Road 9 from US Highway 281 East 1.0 mile to Westport and County Road 10
5. Road 9 from SD Highway 37

East 7.0 miles to Brown/Marshall County Line

6. Road 10 from County Road 13 (Prairiewood Road) South 1.0 mile to Road 15

7. Road 10 from County Road 19 (Melgaard Road) South 1.0 mile to County Road 14W

8. Road 11 from County Road 16 West 10.0 miles to US Highway 281

9. Road 11 .50-mile East of SD Highway 37 to Huffton

10. Road 11 from County Road 16 East 1 mile

11. Road 12 from 24th Ave NE 1 mile to County Road 13

12. Road 12W will not be posted from County Road 19 East to US Highway 281 (2.0 miles)

13. Road 12WA from US Highway 12 North 2.0 miles

14. Road 12WB from US Highway 12 North to County Road 12W

15. Road 13 from County Road 14 West 5.0 miles to US Highway 281

16. Road 14 from 126th St. South 7 miles to US Highway 12

17. Road 14W from US281 East 1.5 miles

18. Road 15 from US Highway 281 East 1 mile to County Road 10

19. Road 15 from 385th Ave East .50 mile

20. Road 15 from County Road 12 (Roosevelt Road) East 1.0 mile to County Road 19

21. Road 16 from the Town of Columbia South 0.5 miles to County Road 11

22. Road 16C from County Road 23 South 1 mile to Stratford

23. Road 19 from the JCT of CR 19 and CR 17 (8th Ave NE) North 1.0 mile to CR 15

24. Road 20 from County Road 9 South .02 miles to the railroad tracks

25. Road 23 from US Highway 281 East 1.0 mile to Warner and County Road 10

26. Road 23 from US Highway 281 West .25 miles

27. Road 23 from Road 16C for 10 miles East to SD Highway 37

28. Road 23B the Town of Ferney West to SD Highway 37

29. Road 27 from SD Highway 281 West 2.0 miles to the town of Mansfield

30. Frederick Main Street from US Highway 281 East 0.5 miles to the Frederick City Limits

31. Road 14W from Road 19, West 2.5 miles – 3 ton per axle

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Brown County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Brown County Highway Department Superintendent to place signage providing adequate notice of the reduced maximum weight of any vehicle on any improved highway of this County which, in his opinion, would be damaged or destroyed by heavy traffic by reason of thawing or excessive moisture until the expiration of the 2026 seasonal load restrictions. SDCL 32-22-25.

Seconded by Commissioner Dennert.

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

ANNUAL COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION REPORT FOR BR. CO. LANDFILL: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Annual Compliance Certification Report for Brown County Landfill. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OPERATION REPORT – AIR EMISSION INVENTORY: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Operational Report – Air Emission Inventory. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve the General Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to approve the following Claims/Payroll: Claims: Insurance: SDACC \$16,552.00. Professional Fees: Brick's TV and Appliance \$2,423.75; Certified Languages International LLC \$590.70; CGI, LLC \$1,012.50; Dependable Sanitation, Inc \$35,638.00; Dohrer Law Office, PC \$682.40; Fox Law Firm, PLLC \$168.00; Healthstream, Inc \$524.00; IMEG Corp \$17,817.01; Kuck Law Office \$5,731.20; Lewis & Clark BHS \$450.00; Lucy Lewno \$216.00; Manuel J. De Castro, Jr. \$716.00; Mark Katterhagen \$40.00; Sanford Health Occupational Medicine \$460.00; Taliaferro Law Firm, PC \$1,411.40; Valerie Larson \$40.00; Yankton County Treasurer \$307.50; US Bank \$3,010.29. Publishing: McQuillen Creative Group, Inc \$124.02; SD Snow Queen Festival \$300.00; US Bank \$37.09. Rentals: Advantage

Self Storage \$276.00. Repairs & Maintenance: EcoLab Pest Elimination Division \$118.47; Jason's Electric Inc \$1,811.50; Sign Solutions USA, LLC \$482.50; US Bank \$2,500.62. Supplies: Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$1,265.39; Avera LTC Pharmacy Aberdeen \$798.13; Century Business Products \$350.33; Cole Paper Inc \$1,278.06; Dakota Electronics LLC \$349.00; Dakota Supply Group \$550.00; FedEx \$21.52; Fox Law Firm, PLLC \$3.64; Hanlon Brothers, LLC \$50,814.68; HF Jacobs & Son Const. Inc \$167,476.93; Kessler's \$55.75; Kuck Law Office \$171.54; Lucy Lewno \$3.50; Marco Technologies, LLC \$53.57; Menards \$355.32; Runnings \$125.96; Sign Solutions USA, LLC \$2,099.00; US Bank \$8,645.55. Travel & Conference: CGI, LLC \$11.39; Ian Cole \$527.25; Makendra Ochsner \$19.00; Midwest Motels of Mitchell II \$459.00; Neil Bittner \$19.00; Sarah J Jesz \$371.20; Scott Kolb \$19.00; Wicklander-Zulawski & Associates, Inc. \$495.00; US Bank \$6,471.78. Utilities: Century-Link \$152.32; City of Aberdeen Treasurer \$1,603.17; City of Heda \$308.59; Montana-Dakota Utilities Co \$55.54; Northwestern Energy \$7,293.91; T-Mobile USA Inc \$3,494.92; Verizon Wireless \$460.29; US Bank \$5,380.67. Payroll: Commission \$5,165.81; Elections \$2,044.00; Auditor/Welfare \$12,026.88; Treasurer \$18,078.22; SA \$38,363.00; Public Defender \$14,449.33; Maintenance \$13,932.29; Assessor \$17,518.62; Register of Deeds \$11,511.04; VSO \$5,006.27; GIS \$3,110.76; IT \$10,766.94; HR \$5,721.14; Sheriff \$60,214.20; Jail \$74,211.41; Coroner (Voucher) \$1,250.00; Court Security \$8,524.90; JDC \$32,593.55; Museum \$14,106.17; Parks/Fairgrounds \$7,382.66; Fair Board \$4,858.37; 4-H \$881.59; Weed \$1,245.44; Planning & Zoning \$8,510.51; Highway \$52,809.06; Dispatch \$39,668.73; Emergency \$5,788.98; 24/7 Sobriety \$3,015.01; Landfill \$17,127.34; FICA \$28,887.34; Medicare \$6,755.89; 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 Human Resources Director, Allison Tunheim:
o Employment ending for John Peterson, Brown County Highway Truck Driver, FT; effective February 19, 2026. Request to fill.

o Transfer of Haydn Podoll as Brown County 911 Shift Supervisor to 911 Training and Quality Assurance Coordinator, FT; effective March 1, 2026.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

RENTAL AGREEMENT FOR RICHMOND LAKE HOUSE: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Rental Agreement for Richmond Lake House. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ABATEMENTS: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dinger to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the following Abatements: For Tax Year 2026: Parcel #31813 - \$72.27; Parcel #31794 - \$72.27; Parcel #31316 - \$1,432.84; Parcel #25090 - \$778.49; Parcel #17526 - \$1,052.80; Parcel #28564 - \$213.47; Parcel #5359 - \$38.59; Parcel #28662 - \$38.59; Parcel #5365 - \$38.59; All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ZONING ORDINANCE – SET HEARING DATE/AUTHORIZE ADVERTISING: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to set hearing date and authorize publication for the first reading of the following zoning ordinance to be held on March 17, 2026 in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota. Proposed Ordinance #322, applicant Donna Keatts for the purpose of rezoning from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Lake Front Residential District (R-3) to bring this parcel into compliance for its future use: Description of property: Proposed Lot 1, "Keatts Tenth Subdivision to Richmond Lake" in the W1/2 of the NW1/4 of Section 23-T123N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (approx. 37840 Richmond Drive; Ravinia Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

KEATTS TENTH SUBDIVISION TO RICHMOND LAKE PLAT: RESOLUTION #2026-15
Commissioner Dinger brought the following Resolution "Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "Keatts Tenth Subdivision to Richmond Lake" in the W1/2 of the NW1/4 of Section 23-T123N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota" having been examined, is hereby approved in the accordance with

the Provision of SDCL 11-3, and any amendments thereof". Seconded by Wiese. All members present voting aye. Resolution adopted.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger 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 Dennert, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:20 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Erin Kumpf, Chief Deputy Auditor

Published March 4, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$127.87 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26564



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 Forcemain, 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 Blanket, 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 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

Published February 25 and March 4, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$87.66 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26543



February 24, 2026

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

Moved by Cutler and seconded by Shilhanek to approve the agenda with the removal of agenda item no. 7 regarding Main Street parking. All members present voted aye.

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

Moved by Bahr and seconded by Jason to reject both bids for the exterior painting of City Hall/Wage Memorial Library due to both bids being over double the amount budgeted for the year. All members present voted aye.

The second reading of Ordinance No. 796 – Sewer Rates was approved on a motion by Bahr and seconded by Cutler. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Shilhanek and seconded by Cutler to table the surplus of the old baseball scoreboard. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Bahr and seconded by Wambach to surplus the old computers at City Hall. All members present voted aye.

An update was provided regarding geographic information systems (GIS).

The special event alcoholic beverage license for the Fireman's Fun Night on April 18, 2026, was approved on a motion by Shilhanek and seconded by Cutler. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Cutler and seconded by Bahr to authorize the bidding to begin for the 2026 Street Resurfacing Project. Sealed bids are due by April 7th, 2026, at 5pm. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Shilhanek and seconded by Wambach to begin accepting gravel quotes for 2026. All members present voted aye.

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

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Wambach and seconded by Bahr. All members present voted aye.
Moved by Shilhanek and seconded by Wambach to authorize the following bills for payment. Payroll, \$28,492.71, Employee salaries; Administrative, \$4,970.69; Public Safety, \$8,235.04; Public Works, \$14,401.40; Culture & Recreation, \$885.58; WEB Water, \$20,707.32, Water services - January 2026; WAPA, \$32,767.60, Power services - January 2026; Dacotah Bank Visa, \$2,151.37, Hockey pucks, book purchase, filters, screwdriver, coupler, postage, Northern Electric bill, popcorn machine, fuel, JUTS 2026 training and hotel stay, receiver,

glue, creamer, batteries, forks, bowls, tissues, coffee - Multiple Depts.; USPS, \$327.21, Utility billing postage; Jerrica Hulbert, \$90.12, Utility deposit refund; Sandi Sippel, \$49.76, Utility deposit refund; Patrick Sieh, \$76.28, Utility overpayment/deposit refund; City of Groton, \$160.12, Utility deposits applied to outstanding bills; SD State Treasurer, \$10,734.59, Sales and excise tax - January 2026; Northern Electric Cooperative, \$574.66, Power services - Airport - January 2026; Dacotah Bank, \$6,319.14, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dacotah Bank, \$831.23, HSA contributions; Dacotah Bank, \$3,206.02, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Payment Service Network, Inc., \$206.00, PSN gateway and eBill fees; NVC, \$836.12, Telephone and internet services; City of Groton, \$543.51, Family Crisis utility assistance; Balsam Ridge, LLC, \$450.00, Family Crisis rent assistance; Douglas Heinrich, \$95.00, Med flex; US Bank, \$21,426.46, DW#5 loan payment; US Bank, \$6,734.43, DW#6 loan payment; Galls, LLC, \$132.04, Uniform purchase - Police Dept.; Badger Meter, Inc., \$162.79, Water metering fees - Water Dept.; Vestis, \$67.26, Rug rent - City Hall; Grand Slam Computers, \$159.00, Nordic backup annual fee - Police Dept.; Colonial Research, \$535.34, Cleaning supplies - City Shop & Park Dept.; A&B Business Solutions, \$240.83, Printer/copier lease - City Hall; Sanitation Products, Inc., \$127.11, Elgin hub oil for sweeper - Street Dept.; Bell Lumber & Pole Company, \$23,865.00, (37) wood utility poles - Electric Dept.; Full Circle Ag, \$62.52, Tank rental - Sewer Dept.; Avera Occupational Medicine, \$109.80, Drug screen consortium annual fee; Fliehs Sales & Service, \$211.44, Filters for mowers - Baseball/Park Dept.; Heartland Energy, \$68,289.15, Power services - January 2026; MJ's Sinclair, \$1,180.46, Fuel purchases; Ken's Fair Foods, \$483.68, Hot cocoa mix, fuel purchases, cups, spoons, paper towels, bottled water - Multiple Depts.; Altec Capital Services, LLC, \$2,189.93, Digger truck lease - Electric Dept.; Burdette Security & Technologies, \$232.90, New camera - Rubble Site; Heartland Waste Management, \$12,371.69, Garbage hauling; Irby, Inc., \$5,691.10, FR clothing, plastic marker guards, ground protection mat pack, insulating blankets - Electric Dept.; SD Supplemental Retirement, \$590.00, Supplemental retirement; Locke Electric, Inc., \$362.24, Service generator at Aspen Lift - Sewer Dept.; IMEG Corporation, \$23,000.00, Engineering - Wastewater Project - 5th invoice; J's Superior Cleaning, \$225.00, Commercial cleaning services - City Hall; NW Energy, \$55.09, Natural gas service - Water Tower; Professional Management Services, \$10.25, Ice melt - City Hall; Runnings, \$105.25, Wedge, adaptor, oil, inner tubes - Electric Dept.; SD Department of Health, \$40.00, Water testing fees - Water Dept.; The Groton Independent, \$136.21, Publishing costs; Verizon Wireless, \$40.01, Wireless router - Rubble Site; Steven Lust Automotive, \$1,648.05, Repairs to brake switch & radiator on '23 Tahoe - Police Dept.;

Reminder: Applications for the following summer recreational positions are due by March 3, 2026, at 5pm: Public Works Laborer/Park Caretaker, Cemetery Caretaker, Assistant Part-Time Swimming Pool Manager, Swimming Pool Lifeguards, Baseball Groundskeepers, and Baseball Gatekeepers.

Reminder: Nominating petitions for municipal election are due by March 24, 2026, at 5pm.

Varin exited the meeting.

Moved by Wambach and seconded by Bahr to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal matters 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 7:50pm. All members present voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 9:01pm.

Moved by Bahr and seconded by Cutler to hire Matt Locke - Baseball Coordinator, Jaclyn Iverson - Softball Coordinator, and Rebecca Padfield - Baseball Concessions and table the remainder of the positions until the next meeting. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Shilhanek and seconded by Wambach to adjourn the meeting at 9:03pm. All members present voted aye.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor

Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer

Published March 4, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$65.60 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26563



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 includes 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. 26547



BROWN COUNTY SCHOOL LAND LEASE AUCTION

A school land lease auction will be held at the Brown County Courthouse (Community Room) in Aberdeen, SD, on April 2, 2026 at 10:30AM (CT).

A list of tracts available for lease may be obtained at the Brown County Auditor's Office or by contacting the Office of School & Public Lands, 500 E Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501-5070 or phone (605)773-3303. A listing is available on the SPL website www.sdpubliclands.sd.gov. Phone bidding will be allowed on a recorded conference line at 1-818-777-1212 with access code of 18892020#. Disabled individuals needing assistance should contact the Office of School and Public Lands at least 48 hours in advance of the auction to make any necessary arrangements.

Published and March 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$34.17 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26562



Notice of Hearing upon Application for a Special Event Alcoholic Beverage License

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT The Groton City Council on the 17th day of March, 2026 at 7:00pm at the Groton City Hall, 120 N Main Street, Groton, South Dakota will meet in regular session to consider a special event alcoholic beverage license for Jason Warrington and Pat Krause to host a graduation party at the Groton Community Center at 109 N 3rd Street in the City of Groton, South Dakota on May 15th, 2026.

Any person interested in the approval or rejection of any such application may appear and be heard.

Dated at Groton, South Dakota, this 3rd day of March, 2026.

Douglas Heinrich, Groton City Finance Officer

Published March 4, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$9.11 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26572

ANNUAL REPORT FOR BROWN COUNTY AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED December 31, 2025					
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS--MODIFIED CASH BASIS					
	General Fund	Road and Bridge Fund	Debt Service Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Beginning Balance	20,379,394.80	648,868.13	59,888.97	1,385,434.25	22,473,586.15
Revenues and Other Sources (minor level):					
Taxes:					
Current Property Taxes	17,778,816.56	1,821,518.61	940,316.87	0.00	20,540,652.04
Delinquent Property Taxes	168,231.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	168,231.87
Penalties and Interest	42,812.95	2,441.12	3,999.83	0.00	49,253.90
Telephone Tax (Outside)	3,159.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,159.02
Mobile Home Tax	530.94	14.10	0.00	0.00	545.04
Wheel Tax	0.00	836,209.44	0.00	0.00	836,209.44
Licenses and Permits	297,026.04	3,216.00	0.00	6,990.00	307,232.04
Intergovernmental Revenue:					
Federal Grants	103,049.19	0.00	0.00	22,578.01	125,627.20
Federal Shared Revenue	15,127.70	1,744.83	0.00	0.00	16,872.53
State Grants	117,063.78	593,984.34	0.00	65,683.87	776,731.99
State Shared Revenue	491,089.58	4,133,936.91	0.00	721,098.92	5,346,125.41
Other Intergovernmental Revenue	19,941.17	0.00	0.00	500,000.00	519,941.17
Charges for Goods and Services:					
General Government	810,061.31	0.00	0.00	20,796.02	830,857.33
Public Safety	634,283.09	0.00	0.00	95,081.81	729,364.90
Health and Welfare	47,974.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	47,974.54
Culture and Recreation	1,815,819.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,815,819.42
Urban and Economic Development	8,708.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,708.90
Conservation of Natural Resources	64,882.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	64,882.65
Other Charges	13,927.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,927.87
Fines and Forfeits:					
Fines	211.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	211.60
Costs	38,259.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	38,259.82
Forfeits	4,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,500.00
Miscellaneous Revenue and Other Sources:					
Investment Earnings	471,873.97	54,101.56	2,845.52	30,763.99	559,585.04
Rent	171,905.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	171,905.42
Contributions and Donations	78,085.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	78,085.00
Refund of Prior Year's Expenditures	2,642.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,642.77
Other Miscellaneous Revenue	190,651.11	1,968.68	0.00	10,603.39	203,223.18
Insurance Proceeds	15,925.49	42,812.97	0.00	0.00	58,738.46
Sale of County Property	0.00	24,560.60	0.00	0.00	24,560.60
Total Revenue and Other Sources	23,406,561.76	7,516,509.16	947,162.22	1,473,596.01	33,343,829.15
Expenditures and Other Uses (subfunction level):					
Legislative	272,025.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	272,025.40
Elections	104,074.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	104,074.88
Judicial System	66,367.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	66,367.97
Financial Administration	1,073,042.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,073,042.97
Legal Services	2,253,574.73	0.00	0.00	21,981.82	2,275,556.55
Other General Government	3,634,507.13	0.00	0.00	36,084.68	3,670,591.81
Law Enforcement	7,172,309.66	0.00	0.00	154,551.93	7,326,861.59
Protective and Emergency Services	17,013.15	0.00	0.00	1,804,302.14	1,821,315.29
Highways and Bridges	0.00	12,055,165.75	0.00	0.00	12,055,165.75
Economic Assistance	66,614.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	66,614.25
Health Assistance	21,293.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21,293.00
Social Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,727.07	10,727.07
Mental Health Services	188,457.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	188,457.05
Culture	523,254.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	523,254.51
Recreation	2,259,520.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,259,520.34
Soil Conservation	316,949.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	316,949.12
Urban Development	354,114.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	354,114.91
Debt Service	0.00	0.00	904,894.27	0.00	904,894.27
Total Expenditures and Other Uses	18,323,119.07	12,055,165.75	904,894.27	2,027,647.64	33,310,826.73
Transfers In (Out)	(7,486,423.61)	6,507,098.42	0.00	585,296.25	(394,028.94)
Increase/Decrease in Fund Balance	(2,402,980.92)	1,968,441.83	42,267.95	31,244.62	(361,026.52)
Ending Fund Balance:					
Restricted	188,042.47	231,883.27	102,156.92	1,355,436.24	1,877,518.90
Assigned	17,632,163.19	2,385,426.69	0.00	61,242.63	20,078,832.51
Unassigned	156,208.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	156,208.22
Total Ending Fund Balance	17,976,413.88	2,617,309.96	102,156.92	1,416,678.87	22,112,559.63

ANNUAL REPORT FOR BROWN COUNTY AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED December 31, 2025					
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS--MODIFIED CASH BASIS					
	General Fund	Road and Bridge Fund	Debt Service Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Governmental Long-term Debt					1,603,070.65

PROPRIETARY FUNDS--MODIFIED CASH BASIS	
504 - SW / Landfill Fund	
Beginning Balance	6,883,311.02
Revenues	4,003,554.18
Expenses	3,270,142.66
Ending Balance:	
Restricted For:	
Landfill Closure and Post Closure Costs	1,894,495.06
Unrestricted	5,722,227.48
Enterprise Long-term Debt	1,894,495.06

The preceding financial data does not include fiduciary funds or component units. Information pertaining to those activities may be obtained by contacting the County Auditor at (605) 626-7110.

Published March 4, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$256.27 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26566



Notice of Hearing upon Application for a Special Event Alcoholic Beverage License

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT The Groton City Council on the 17th day of March, 2026 at 7:00pm at the Groton City Hall, 120 N Main Street, Groton, South Dakota will meet in regular session to consider a special event alcoholic beverage license for Julie Sandness to host a graduation party at the Groton Community Center at 109 N 3rd Street in the City of Groton, South Dakota on May 9th, 2026.

Any person interested in the approval or rejection of any such application may appear and be heard.

Dated at Groton, South Dakota, this 3rd day of March, 2026.

Douglas Heinrich, Groton City Finance Officer

Published March 4, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$9.11 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26571

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NOTICE OF HEARING
A PETITION to REZONE has been submitted to Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission. A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex on March 17, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.

Petitioner: Darin & Sarah Lowe
Description of property: The West 720' of the South 1097' in the NE1/4 of Section 30-T125N-R61W of the 5th P.M., except that portion deeded for highway purposes, Brown County, South Dakota (40058 Larson Road; Columbia Twp.).

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

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

Dated this 4th day of March 2026.
Planning/Zoning Commission and
Scott Bader – P&Z Director
25 Market Street
Aberdeen, SD 57401
Office: (605) 626-7144
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Englund Claims Heavyweight Title; Krueger Finishes Runner-Up at State

The Groton Area Tigers were highlighted by a state championship performance from Gavin Englund and a runner-up finish from Liza Krueger in state wrestling action.

Englund Dominates 285-Pound Bracket

At 285 pounds, Gavin Englund capped off a stellar 40-3 season with a state championship, scoring 24 team points in the process.

Englund opened the tournament with a 9-0 major decision over Levi Trask of Philip/Kadoka Area/Wall. He followed that with a 10-1 major decision against Wyatt Zeigler of Moberly-Pollock in the quarterfinals.

In the semifinals, Englund controlled his match with a 5-0 decision over Gunnar Swenson of Canton to advance to the title bout.

In the championship match, Englund squared off against Legend Benedict of Winner in a tightly contested battle. After regulation ended deadlocked, Englund prevailed in a tie-breaker, earning a 2-1 TB-1 victory to secure the state title.

Krueger Earns Runner-Up Honors at 105

On the girls side, Liza Krueger delivered an impressive run to the finals at 105 pounds, finishing second and scoring 22 team points.

Krueger opened with a fall in 1:54 over Maddie Lachman of Marion/Freeman. She followed that with another pin, defeating Shaylee Arredondo of Brandon Valley in 4:41 in the quarterfinals.

In the semifinals, Krueger earned a hard-fought 3-0 decision over Kadee Frankfurth of Clark/Willow Lake to advance to the championship match.

In the title bout, Krueger faced Jewel Vardsveen of Madison. Vardsveen secured a 12-3 major decision, placing Krueger as the state runner-up to cap a 45-3 season.

Other Tiger Results

At 113 pounds, Keegan Kucker (11-6) scored 1.0 team point. He dropped his opening match by technical fall to Kayden Tchida of Sisseton, 19-3 in 3:08. Kucker battled back in the consolation round with a 9-6 sudden victory win over Summyt Larson of Bon Homme/Avon before falling by 10-1 major decision to Maddon Odland of Redfield.

Wyatt Hagan (36-11) competed at 120 pounds. After falling by 21-11 major decision to Connor Glassford of Tri-Valley, Hagan responded with a 17-0 technical fall over Channing Bartlett of McCook Central/Montrose. His tournament concluded with an 8-3 decision loss to Gatlin Cordes of Philip/Kadoka Area/Wall.

At 126 pounds, Kyson Kucker (35-11) scored 3.0 team points. He was pinned in his opening match by Shay Weber of Philip/Kadoka Area/Wall but rebounded with a fall over Levi Tuntland of Canton in 4:11. Kucker's run ended with a 6-2 decision loss to Hayes Holter of Kimball/White Lake/Platte-Geddes.

Donavan Block (23-16) wrestled at 157 pounds, falling by 14-2 major decision to Carson Finn of Wessington Springs/Woonsocket/Wolsey-Wessington and later by 11-3 major decision to Caleb Christiansen of Parker.

At 190 pounds, Walker Zoellner (27-13) was pinned by Isaiah Crownover of Bon Homme/Avon and later by Mason Janek of Burke/Gregory in consolation action.

Layne Johnson (23-11) competed at 215 pounds, falling by pin to Gabriel Martian of Howard and later by fall to Quentin White Mountain of McLaughlin.

Groton Area's state tournament was highlighted by Englund's heavyweight championship and Krueger's runner-up finish, capping strong individual seasons for both wrestlers and providing key team points on the state stage.



The Board of Trustees for the Town of Claremont met on 2-10-2026 at 8 pm in City Hall. President Spencer called the meeting to order with Trustees Rasmussen and Thompson present.

On a motion by Rasmussen the January minutes were approved.

Thompson made a motion to approve the following warrants the motion was seconded by Rasmussen.

General:
GDI – paper renewal & publishing – 103.71; Full Circle Ag – propane 455.200 gals – 746.53; Grand San Computing – annual back up fee – 195.00; NWE – Street Lights – 67.62; NWE – City Hall – 136.63; JVT – phone/internet, s. phone – 150.61; Post Office – Stamps – 78.00; Carla Rye – Wages – 500.00

WSSW:
Helms and Asso. – Storm Sewer design – 1812.52; BDM – purchased water – 1118.40; NWE – pump house – 145.46; NWE – Sewer – 93.64; NWE – Storm Sewer – 37.08

Corporate Trust Tfm
US Bank Trust NA – debt service – 6003.56; USDA Rural Develop. – Water Loan – 576.00

There was updating of the meters – working at getting them all installed ASAP – then up and working.

Discussion followed with removal of cars (junk) + non licensed cars and getting them out of town this Spring. Also condemning trailer houses that are not livable!

With no further business before the Board a motion was made to adjourn by Frank and seconded by Bob.

Respectfully Submitted
C Rye, Finance Officer
Published March 4, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$15.873 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26574



The citizens of the township of East Hanson in the county of Brown, SD and who are qualified to vote at the township elections are hereby notified that the Annual Township Meeting for said Township will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Ferney, SD on Tuesday the 10th day of March, 2026 at 7:00 pm for the following purpose.

To elect one Supervisor for the term of three years; one Township Clerk; one Treasurer (each for the term of one year) and to do any other business proper to be done at said meeting when convened.

Accepting bids for Gravel, Blading and Mowing. Bids can be mail to East Hanson Township P.O. Box 812, Ferney, SD 57439.

Given under my hand this 28th day of February, 2026
Lynn A. Miller, East Hanson Township Clerk.

Published March 4, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$9.74 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26573

Groton Seniors gathered February 9 for a meeting and cards. President Darlene Fischer opened with allegiance to the flag. Minutes and treasure reports were read and accepted. The meeting was adjourned. Cards were played. The winners of the games 1-Pinochle- Ruby Donovan, 2- Pinochle- Bruce Shilhank, Whist- Elda Stange, Canasta-Pat Larson. Door prizes Julie Shilhanek, Eunice McCollister, Darlene Fischer. Lunch was served after the cards.

Thirteen Groton Seniors met on February 16 to play cards. President Darlene Fischer said the flag pledge, Cards were played, the winners of each game. 1-Pinochle- Ruby Donovan, 2- Pinochle- Don Hoops, Whist- Tony Goldade, Canasta-Pat Larson. Door Prizes- Dick Donovan, Elda Stange. Birthday sung to Tony Goldade and had cake and Ice cream.

Twelve Groton Seniors met February 23 for their potluck dinner. President wasn't there. Ruby Donovan took over and had the flag pledge and table prayer, Bingo was played after dinner. Bev Sombke won blackout. Cards were played after bingo.

Groton Senior Citizens

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Lawn coating
- 4 Daring deeds
- 9 Droid
- 12 "That feels so good!"
- 13 Host
- 14 Ruckus
- 15 Type of cable
- 17 Sine qua –
- 18 Feathery wrap
- 19 Garish
- 21 Mellow yellows
- 24 Winter blanket
- 25 Mauna –
- 26 Fire sign?
- 28 Emulate Scott Hamilton
- 31 Grecian vessels
- 33 Evergreen tree
- 35 "Zounds!"
- 36 Army doc
- 38 Karaoke prop, for short
- 40 Assoc.
- 41 Friendly
- 43 Crude dwelling
- 45 Brit's word of surprise
- 47 Where Ger. is Help
- 48 Help
- 49 Timepiece attachment

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13					14			
15			16					17			
			18			19	20				
21	22	23			24						
25			26		27	28			29	30	
31			32		33		34		35		
36				37		38		39		40	
		41			42		43		44		
45	46					47					
48				49		50			51	52	53
54				55					56		
57				58					59		

- 54 Blasting stick
- 55 Follow
- 56 Luau dish
- 57 Sneaky chuckle
- 58 Reading lights
- 59 Bradley and Asner
- 6 Fed. health law
- 7 Camping shelters
- 8 Family cars
- 9 Something to jump on
- 10 Skunk's defense
- 11 Theater award
- 16 Jurist Fortas
- 20 Stirred
- 21 Grad
- 22 "Encore!"
- 23 Range of radio frequencies
- 27 Skirt edge
- 29 Like lemons
- 30 Jittery
- 32 Thailand, once
- 34 Gets smart
- 37 Embroidery yarn
- 39 Waterpark slides
- 42 Actress Loy
- 44 Wall St. whiz
- 45 Tub session
- 46 Queue
- 50 Doctrine
- 51 Mimic
- 52 Silent assent
- 53 Insult

DOWN

- 1 Apply cream
- 2 Listener
- 3 "– goes there?"
- 4 Soft felt hat
- 5 Diplomat's post

King Crossword Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

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

Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

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: Keenan Moody

Have you wondered why schools don't have more food choices? I thought about it; I think they should. I have noticed a lot of kids throwing away their food.

If we have more food choices, it could lead to less waste. This could also help kids eat more so they aren't wasting food but actually eating it. If you throw away your food, just know it costs money, so you are throwing away money. Also, some kids don't get lunch.

But what if they don't have enough money? It would be more expensive. If we don't have enough money, we could do more fundraisers. If it is too expensive, make some items more expensive than others or drop the price.

Another reason for more food options is that someone could be allergic, and there would be other foods they could choose from. This could prevent allergic reactions. This states on the website abcnews.go.com that 16,000 kids a year get sick from allergic reactions.

Therefore, I think we should have more food options available for school lunches.

Assignment: Argument Editorial: People see things in different ways

Student Name: Rae Flihs

We should not be required to take the school lunch if we're not gonna eat it.

There is a lot of food wasted in schools. To be exact, \$1.7 billion dollars of food is wasted each year, according to the Food Service Direct website. We know this, and we still make no changes to our schools. However, I think I have found a way to fix that problem.

At my school, kids are required to take food. This is a problem because most kids never eat the food when they go through the line first. This can be easily solved by not forcing kids to take food they will not eat.

Now, someone might say that if they don't take their food, they will go hungry the rest of the day. However, my response would be that if they will not eat the food anyway, that is the bigger problem.

Another problem is that when some kids want to get more food, they are out and we can not have any more.

In conclusion, when kids go through the lunch line, take food and do not eat it they only waste food. This food could be given to kids who want seconds. That is my message to all the lunch ladies out there.

Assignment: Argument Editorial: People see things in different ways

Student Name: Renata Matias Garcia

I think we should use underground trash cans in big cities because there is too much trash on the streets. When it is left-out, animals can get into it and eat harmful things.

Underground trash cans would help to have less trash on the streets. One reason they are a good idea is that they can hold a lot of trash. Sources say they can hold up to 5,000 pounds of garbage. The trash cans will not smell bad because they will be underground, so the temperature differs from the surface.

It can make the air better because the trash will be hidden. The underground containers have sensors that detect when they are very full; the lid locks so that people cannot throw more garbage.

One problem with underground trash cans could be that it is hard to get them empty so we could pick certain days to empty them. It only takes less than 2 minutes to empty them, with either a truck or cranes, according to Fabrez Group.

Let's think about all the trash in the big cities and do something about it before it is too late.

Sources:

<https://trashcansunlimited.com/>
<https://www.fabrezgroup.com/home/>
<https://www.banyannation.com/>

Assignment: Argument Editorial: People see things in different ways

Student Name: Sutton Swenson

Have you ever wanted to have a good school lunch, but didn't have it? I think the students should take a vote every day then students can't be mad about what is for lunch.

Is it so hard to make a good lunch or vote every morning? They have to decide what to make every day so why don't they just let the students choose? They could make much more money per day if the students were eating what they wanted.

About half of the school brings a sack lunch. Some people like the school lunch, but more people don't like it than do like it, but how often do they make what you want?

People in schools should be able to vote, what they want to eat, but most kids bring a sack lunch. If you think kids should be able to vote for what to eat, let's do something. Is it so hard to give a vote every morning?

Assignment: Argument Editorial: People see things in different ways

Student Name: Ava El-Salahy

Why we should be able to have equal lunch periods

We should be able to have the younger and older kids eat at the same time because the upper pod would be hungry and would have to wait to eat.

Usually, when the 4th and 5th graders eat at their regular time, they are hungry and need food that they may not feel well from having an empty stomach. This also makes it hard to focus in class. So, being able to eat earlier would help prevent this from happening.

We have the entire lunchroom, and we could also eat in the gym. The lower pod could go through the line, get their food and then go

sit down and eat. Then the upper pod could come in, get their food, and then head down to the gym. Plus, the gym has plenty of room for the kids to eat. The school used to eat in the gym but stopped, so what might be so bad about doing it now?

Since the kids usually have recess, they could also take turns for that too. One pod goes to recess at a time. First the lower pod kids would go to recess while the upper pod kids go to class. Then the upper pod kids would go to recess while the lower pod kids go to class. That could be just a simple way to switch, because it would be very crowded if all the upper pod kids and the lower pod kids went out at the same time for recess. After everyone has eaten lunch, they would just need to continue on with their school day.

The tables could be hard to bring into the gym room, but maybe not all the kids would want to sit at a table and would enjoy sitting on the ground. The kids could take turns sitting at the tables. It would be the same thing if they don't have enough tables for everyone; the kids could also just sit on the ground. It would be like at the end of the year just sitting on the ground instead of getting all the tables. Then the people who set up the tables won't have to drag all the tables way down to the gym. Making the job easy and simple for them.

Some things that support my reasoning are: the lunch period for the upper pod and the lower pod would not need to be longer than their usual amount, which would still give the kids plenty of time to eat their food, and there are enough teachers to watch the children as they eat, only needing to have two teachers each in the lunchroom and in the gym. Therefore, we should have equal lunch periods for the upper and lower pod kids.

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Groton City Council hears waste complaint, approves summer hired and scoreboard donation

By Elizabeth Varin

The City Council addressed a wide range of issues during its Tuesday meeting, from responding to a resident's complaint involving the city's contracted waste management provider to making key personnel decisions and taking action on several facility-related matters, closing the evening with multiple hires, approvals and accepted resignations.

At the beginning of the meeting, the council heard from the owner of Heartland Waste Management, the company that the city contracts with for waste management service, following behavior by one of its employees that drew a resident complaint.

The complaint centers on an incident in which a worker threw a trash can lid at a home while picking up garbage from the property. Addressing the council, resident Mackenzie Barse said the situation was not isolated, referencing a separate incident in August 2024 when an employee approached her house after getting into a verbal altercation with a co-worker outside the residence.

Kent Mauck, owner of Heartland Waste Management, told council members he had instructed the employee involved in the earlier dispute to apologize to the homeowner, which is why the worker went to the door. He added that the employee involved in the recent lid-throwing incident was reprimanded, but Mauck went back and forth between defending his employees because of what they have to deal with and praising the community for its kindness.

"But if we did something wrong, we don't run from it," he said. "And we did something wrong by throwing that lid."

Council members said the incidents mentioned seemed like isolated situations, but those incidents have caused rifts that have led to Barse not wanting garbage picked up at her house anymore. Mauck said he could tell his crew to bypass the house.

Councilman Mike Shilhanek replied, "I don't think they want it bypassed. They want it done right."

Mauck said he will speak with the employees and told Barse he will reach out in about a week to see how things are going.

Councilman Kevin Nehls told Barse to reach out to the city if something does come up again.

In addition to addressing the waste management complaint, the council moved through a full agenda of personnel and facilities matters Tuesday evening.

Council members approved hiring a swath of seasonal summer recreation employees.

The following people were hired at Tuesday's meeting:

- Kami Lipp and Tricia Keith were hired as co-managers of the swimming pool. Lipp has 15 years of experience and Keith has 14 years of experience.
- Cody Swanson was hired as a lifeguard, 10 years of experience.
- Tanae Lipp was hired as a lifeguard, 8 years of experience.
- Karla Pasteur was hired as a lifeguard, 14 years of experience.
- Gretchen Dinger was hired as a lifeguard, 4 years of experience.
- Avery Crank was hired as a lifeguard, 2 years of experience.
- Talli Wright was hired as a lifeguard, 4 years of experience.
- Abby Fjeldheim was hired as a lifeguard, 1 year of experience.
- Wesley Borg was hired as a lifeguard with no previous experience listed.
- Samuel Crank was hired as a lifeguard, 1 year of experience.
- Hannah Sandness was hired as a lifeguard, 3 years of experience.
- Rylie Rose was hired as a lifeguard, 1 year of experience.
- Carly Gilbert was hired as a lifeguard, 3 years of experience.
- Kinsley Rowen was hired as a lifeguard, 1 year of experience.
- Sydney Locke was hired as a lifeguard, 1 year of experience.
- Ashlynn Warrington was hired as a lifeguard, 2 years of experience.
- Laila Roberts was hired as a lifeguard, 3 years of experience.
- Jerica Locke was hired as a lifeguard, 3 years of experience.
- Kelli Hanson was hired as a lifeguard, 14 years of experience.
- Rylen Ekern was hired as a lifeguard, with no previous experience listed.
- Libby Cole was hired as a lifeguard, 1 year of experience.
- Jayden Schwan was hired as a lifeguard, 3 years of experience.

The council told city staff to reach out to swimming pool manager applicant Katherine Hansen to offer a position of lifeguard.

The council also hired a handful for baseball/softball work.

- Kyle Gerlach was hired as 14U Legion coach, 1 year of experience.
- Amanda Bisbee was hired as both U18 and U14 softball coach.
- Reilly Ketterling was hired as U12 softball coach, 3 years of experience.
- Sydney Kurtz was hired as U10 softball coach, as well as day softball coach
- Lincoln Krause was hired as day baseball coach.
- Gavin Englund was hired as groundskeeper.
- Nicholas Groeblichhoff was hired as groundskeeper.
- Alex Abeln was hired as groundskeeper.
- Donovan Block was hired as groundskeeper.
- Braeden Flihs was hired as a groundskeeper.
- Lincoln Krause was hired as a gatekeeper.
- Troy Lindberg was hired as a gatekeeper.
- Amelia Ewalt was hired as a gatekeeper.
- Tenley Frost was hired as a gatekeeper.

The council held off on hiring a junior legion coach. The council also asked staff offer the U8 softball coach position to day softball coach applicant Neely Althoff.

The final hires for the summer include Aaron Severson (hired as a public works caretaker/park caretaker), Brian Gravatt as a cemetery caretaker, and Dustin Cooper as a part-time cemetery caretaker.

Council approves donation of old scoreboard

The council approved donating the city's old baseball scoreboard to the Groton baseball/softball foundation. Foundation representatives plan to use the existing board to help offset the cost of installing a new scoreboard at the field.

Council members also revisited a bid to repaint the exterior of City Hall/ Wage Memorial Library but ultimately chose to hold off on taking action.

The council reviewed a third bid from Custer Custom Homes. The business owner said he is willing to take a financial hit in order to get his name out around the region, Douglas Heinrich, city finance officer, said. The previous bid totaled \$44,000, but the business owner dropped the bid to \$21,000.

Council members hesitated over the latest bid.

Councilman Brian Bahr questioned the big drop in bid price. He doesn't think the city needs to take action right now, adding council members would reach out should they have any other questions.

The meeting concluded with the council accepting resignations of Landon Johnson, electric lineman, as well as Councilman Jason Wambach, who is moving to Aberdeen.

Darrell Hillestad told the council about recent work at the airport north of town. The old concession stand that used to sit at the baseball/softball complex was moved out there late last year, and work has been continuing to improve the facility. Hillestad said he would like to have a council meeting up there in April to show them what has been done out there so far. Hillestad also told the council about an upcoming fundraiser/raffle set to take place April 4 at the Legion.

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