

The Groton Independent

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More than \$4,000 raised for childhood cancer research during Shave to Save event

By Elizabeth Varin



Joel Murano, whose son Charlie passed away in December 2023 after a courageous battle with cancer, was a featured speaker at the event. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

a featured speaker at the event. He talked about one-year-old Charlie's cancer fight and the need for cancer research.

Organizers thanked Murano for speaking at the event, as well as all those who helped make the event a success.

Schuster called out HOSA students who organized activities for kids, the Aldersgate Church praise band, those who had their heads shaved or hair trimmed, the donors, the attendees and the committee members who helped make it all possible.

"We're lucky to live in this community where so many people care," she said.

Though Groton's school colors are black and yellow, the gym was awash in green for the occasion — the signature color of the St. Baldrick's Foundation.

Green balloons framed the St. Baldrick's Foundation banner on stage, participants wore green hair-cutting smocks, and those who had their heads shaved celebrated afterward with accessories, including a green sequined tie, clover-shaped sunglasses and even a headband topped with a shock of fake green hair.

Beyond the festive green decorations, many of those who took part had deeply personal reasons for stepping forward.

John Kroll, who had his head shaved Sunday, said he chose to participate because his family has been affected by cancer. He lost a brother a couple of years ago, and his sister is currently battling cancer.

Kroll said it's important to be involved in things like Sunday's event to get the research out there and to help find a better cure for cancer for kids.

What began as a local fundraiser ultimately became a show of support for children and families facing cancer, with each snip and shaved head contributing to the ongoing work of the St. Baldrick's Foundation to advance childhood cancer research.

Clippers buzzed and cheers echoed through the GHS Gym on Sunday afternoon as strands of hair drifted to the floor — and by the end of the Groton Fellowship of Christian Students' Shave to Save event, a sizable pile of hair lay on a tarp on stage.

In all, six men had their heads shaved during the event, while nine women and girls had their hair trimmed, helping raise funds for the foundation's mission to support childhood cancer research and families facing a pediatric cancer diagnosis.

Organizers initially set a fundraising goal of \$1,000, but the community exceeded that mark. By the end of the afternoon, more than \$4,000 had been raised.

"I think that it's easy to not care about something until you're personally impacted by it, so for us to take the initiative to support those who are going through it is really important," said Sarah Schuster, one of the organizers and participants, having her hair trimmed at the event. "...Cancer impacts every person. Childhood cancer might not necessarily impact all of us, but the ones who are going through it, they need a lot of sup-

port. So I'm really honored to be able to do that for families like the Murano's."

Joel Murano, whose son Charlie passed away in December 2023 after a courageous battle with cancer, was



From left: Cathy Pietz shaves Jason Hills' head, Paityn Craig shaves John Kroll's head and Casey Johnson shaves Tom Schuster's head during the Shave to Save event Sunday afternoon. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Basketball players gathered at the stage to watch as Jordan Carson has his head shaved by Paityn Craig during the Shave to Save on Sunday afternoon. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Back row, from left: Jordan Carson, Tom Schuster, Mike Imrie, John Kroll, Jason Hill and Doug Sippel stand on stage after getting their heads shaved at the Fellowship of Christian Student's Shave to Save event Sunday afternoon. Front row, from left: Kailynn Gerlach, Sarah Schuster, Tori Schuster, Andi Iverson, Avery Crank, Leah Jones, MaKenna Krause, Aspen Beto and Kyleigh Kroll had their hair trimmed. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Cathy Pietz shaves Doug Sippel's head during the Shave to Save event Sunday afternoon. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



The Aldersgate Church praise band perform during the Shave to Save event Sunday afternoon. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Shilhaneks take over Rosewood Court

by Dorene Nelson

Mike and Regan Shilhanek are the new owners of Rosewood Court, an independent living facility originally built in 1996. Prior to their purchase, Monte and Sandi Sippel had owned Rosewood for fifteen years. The idea of this business was originally introduced to Groton by Gary and Patti Pitts from Mitchell. Dick and Kay Donovan had been the first managers.

Mike and Regan had been discussing potential business opportunities for a few months when the Shilhaneks discovered this one in Groton, making it very convenient for them.

Mike has a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering and a Master's Degree in Engineering Management. Regan is a dental assistant. They have two children, a four year old son and an eleven month old daughter. Mike's parents Bruce and Julie Shilhanek currently live in Rosewood Court.

"The opportunity to buy Rosewood Court came rather unexpectedly," Mike admitted. "We live in Groton, and I've been blessed by the community, the residents who live here, and by the school and the education I've received."

"Recently my family has experienced some incredibly challenging events, and time after time this community showed up to help in a way I can never repay," he explained.

"Purchasing Rosewood was a great way of giving back to the community by way of saying thank you to the people who helped shape and support us," Mike stated.

"Our professional experiences helped us make the decision to buy Rosewood," he said. "I love building and working with my hands while my wife provides organization and efficiency to provide a place where residents are treated like extended family as well as providing security and care."



Pictured are Regan holding Isla, Oliver in front and Michael Shilhanek.

Rosewood offers supervised living with three meals a day, laundry service, and light housekeeping. One room or two private rooms are available with their own bathrooms featuring a walk-in shower and a closet. Individuals are even invited to stay at Rosewood during the winter, returning to their homes in the spring.

Various individuals and groups visit with a variety of creative activities for the residents. Groups from the school, such as FCS and HOSA, often come with games, puzzles, crafts, or other group activities that provide interest and fun.

There are weekly Bible studies, monthly sing-a-long and piano playing, and several outside activities in the spring and summer. The residents enjoy working in the garden and especially getting to eat the produce that grows there.

The residents can participate in field trips, work on puzzles, and enjoy other group events. They especially like the Friday night pizza and wine suppers.

Friends and family members of the residents are welcome to visit any time. The residents are allowed to drive and live as if they were in their own home as well as having the advantage of their own private space.

There is no health care, but Prairie Heights provides onsite therapy to individuals who need it.

Some employees live in Rosewood, giving the residents an extra feeling of care and comfort.

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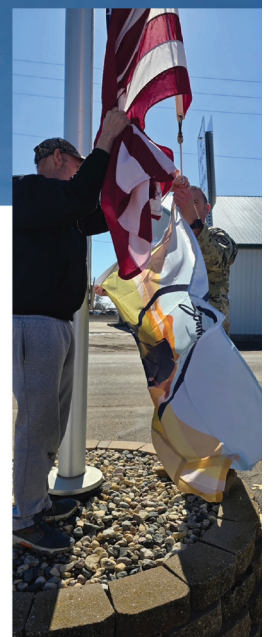
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In the bottom right photo, Brent Wienk (right) and Paul Kosel put up the new Limited Edition South Dakota - US 250th Anniversary Flag at the Groton Legion Flag pole on Saturday. The photo below shows the design of the flag.



Tigers use scoring runs to roll past Milbank, advance to SoDak 16

GROTON, S.D. — Groton Area used a series of decisive scoring runs and a balanced offensive effort to defeat Milbank 61-35 in the second round of the Region 1A boys basketball tournament Friday night at the Groton Area Arena.

The Tigers put the game away with two nine-point bursts and an eight-point run while improving to 17-4 on the season and extending their winning streak to eight games. Groton Area now advances to the SoDak 16, where it will face Pine Ridge.

"It was a team effort," Groton Area head coach Greg Kjellsen said following the win. "I was proud of the boys. You don't want to lay an egg this time of year, and they played great and defended well."



Gage Sippel shoots the ball over Milbank's Layten Osowski. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Becker Bosma dribbles around Layten Osowski. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton wasted little time taking control, using a nine-point run in the opening quarter to build a 19-6 lead after one. The Tigers continued to apply pressure in the second period and carried a comfortable 36-22 advantage into half-time.

Kjellsen said the Tigers emphasized staying aggressive coming out of the locker room.

"We talk about those first three minutes of the third quarter," he said. "You can either put the nail in the coffin or let them

back in. I thought we got it to 20 real quick, and I was really pleased with that."

Groton delivered an eight-point run in the third quarter to stretch the margin to 51-25 entering the final frame, then added another nine-point surge spanning the third and fourth quarters to seal the victory.

Balanced scoring keyed the Tigers' effort. Keegen Tracy led the way with 15 points and two rebounds, while Karson Zak added 13 points, four rebounds and a block. Gage Sippel chipped in 12 points, six rebounds and one block.

Kjellsen also praised the play of others who stepped forward offensively.

"Becker got us going a little bit, and Karson — he's almost unstoppable when he gets into that 10-foot range," Kjellsen said. "He did a great job."

Becker Bosma finished with eight points, five rebounds, three assists, a steal and a block, while Ryder Johnson contributed six points and five rebounds. Jayden Schwan scored three points, Easton Weber added two points, three rebounds, one assist and one steal, and both J.J. Muller had two points and Logan Warrington and Ryder Schelle each grabbed a rebound.

Groton shot efficiently throughout, hitting 20-of-34 two-pointers (59 percent), 3-of-11 from beyond the arc (27 percent) and 12-of-18 at the free-throw line (67 percent). The Tigers finished with 27 rebounds, five assists, two steals, three blocked shots and just five turnovers.

Kjellsen said there was still room for improvement, particularly on the glass.

"I'm going to nitpick a little bit — we didn't rebound very well," he said. "They're physical and strong, and we've got to get tougher with that as the year goes on."

Milbank, which closed its season at 12-10, was led by Ryan Keeton with 12 points. Jetter Scoular added seven, Lincoln Holscher scored five, and Sam Rick had four points while going a perfect 4-for-4 at the free-throw line. Cade Grabow also scored four, while Layten Osowski had two and Jaxson Wiese added one.

The Bulldogs struggled to find consistent offense, shooting just 10-of-50 from the floor (20 percent) while going 11-of-19 at the free-throw line. Milbank committed nine turnovers and finished with 17 team fouls.

With little turnaround time before the SoDak 16, Kjellsen said preparation will focus on staying sharp rather than overworking his team.

"We'll come in tomorrow and not go real hard," he said. "Everybody in the state knows what you've got to do against Pine Ridge. We'll start focusing on them and just stay locked in."

The coach said his team's mindset remains simple heading into Tuesday.

"The 20 practice games are over," Kjellsen said. "We're 1-0 in the ones that count."



The boys were awarded the SoDak16 qualifying ball at the end of the game. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Karson Zak gets ready to move around a Milbank defender. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Coach Greg Kjellsen is being interviewed by Rich Bosma on GDILIVE.COM after the game. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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, The MeatHouse, Weismantel Insurance Agency. Paul Kosel did the stats, the camera 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 third 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 break down the front seven of the defense with the defensive line and linebacker groups.

The Vikings made some big changes to the defensive line last offseason, trading away Harrison Phillips and signing Jonathan Allen and Javon Hargrave. The goal was to increase the pressure on opposing quarterbacks, and the two new signings – combined with the emergence of Jalen Redmond – did just that. As a group, the defensive line had 16 sacks and 31 QB hits in 2025, compared to just four sacks and 12 QB hits in 2024.

Unfortunately, because of the shake-up in the front office this offseason and the salary cap issues, the Vikings will reportedly be trading or releasing both Allen and Hargrave. The move is surprising. Both players were priority free agent signings just a year ago, and while they are both in their early 30s, neither showed any sign of slowing down. Not to mention, they have nearly \$28 million in combined dead cap penalties. If Allen and Hargrave are released, the Vikings' defensive line group will consist of Jalen Redmond, Levi Drake Rodriguez, Tyrion Ingram-Dawkins, Taki Taimani, and Elijah Williams. Redmond is clearly a starting caliber player, but the rest all have question marks.

A week ago, I would have told you that the edge rusher group was the strongest group on the roster. Jonathan Greenard, Andrew Van Ginkel, and Dallas Turner are an excellent three-headed pass-rushing monster. However, there are reports that Greenard is unhappy with his current contract, and the team is listening to trade offers. If he is gone, Van Ginkel and Turner are still a solid duo. However, the depth behind them is incredibly thin: Tyler Batty, Chaz Chambliss, and Bo Richter.

The strength of the team is on the verge of being one injury away from a disaster, which is especially concerning because Van Ginkel missed nearly a third of the 2025 season due to injury.

The inside linebacker position is in even worse shape than the edge rushers and the defensive line. As of right now, the only LB on the 2026 roster is Blake Cashman, who is a solid starter but is often injured (he's never played a full season since being drafted in 2019). Eric Wilson

signed a one-year deal last offseason to add depth at the position, but he ended up starting 16 games and is now a free agent. Ivan Pace Jr. turned heads in 2023 as an undrafted free agent, but his playing time has diminished every year since, and he's also a free agent.

The Vikings better hope the offense can score 30 points per game, because as it sits right now, this defense is going to be problematic in 2026.

The Groton Independent

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Meaningful Living in Rural Communities: Pathways to Productive Aging

By: Whitney Lucas Molitor, Ph.D., OTD, OTR/L, BCG and Allison Naber, Ph.D., OTD, OTR/L

Living in rural communities offers unique opportunities to promote successful aging. Incorporating a purposeful lifestyle, developing social connections and engaging in daily physical activity is essential to achieving positive health outcomes and quality of life.

Finding purpose includes exploring the activities you already engage in and being open to new possibilities. Engaging in motivating activities provides a framework for a purposeful life. The selected activities can promote health, foster a sense of identity and give a sense of purpose in life while aligning with personal values and interests. While some daily activities are performed without much thought, identifying others may require careful exploration.

In rural communities, consideration of the physical context is also essential. The American Occupational Therapy Association provides a framework that incorporates reflection on personal values, interests and prior life experiences. This approach, along with establishing priorities and goals, can be a valuable way to explore daily activities and create new opportunities for engagement that enhance purpose in daily life. To align life purpose with a rural context, it is essential to incorporate outdoor activities, find creative ways to connect with family and friends and explore opportunities with local groups. Activities can be modified to support evolving interests, abilities and desires.

Establishing and maintaining strong social connections is critical to promoting healthy aging in rural communities. Older adults in rural areas may experience social isolation due to limited opportunities for interaction. This can be due to changes in overall health, technology barriers (limited internet access or limited computer or smartphone skills) or physical barriers (limited community mobility or driving restrictions). Social isolation can pose physical, psychological and behavioral health risks. Engaging in meaningful activities with others can help build relationships, find purpose or fulfillment and develop new hobbies or skills. Educational programs or groups are an excellent way to explore new leisure activities or learn strategies to improve health and well-being. Reaching out to family or friends, visiting your local senior center, attending community events, or joining a club can all provide a sense of connection, purpose and well-being.

In addition to staying socially connected, developing a regular physical activity routine is essential for older rural adults. Adults over 65 should set goals to strengthen their muscles and improve their balance by engaging in at least 150 minutes of moderate physical activity per week. Moderate physical activity increases breathing and heart rate, but you should still be able to talk while active. Beneficial activities include brisk walking, dancing, riding a stationary bike or NuStep, using weights or resistive exercise bands, gardening or participating in water aerobics. Consider setting a goal to move your body for 30 minutes each day to reduce sedentary time. Sedentary activities include watching TV, reading, sitting or lying down. Prolonged sedentary behavior increases the risk of poorer health outcomes among older adults. Intentionally participating in meaningful activities throughout the day will reduce time spent sedentary. Reduce sedentary behavior by standing during commercial breaks, walking around your home after a meal or stretching after reading the paper or playing cards. Incorporating the strategies mentioned in this article can promote well-being and enhance quality of life.



Whitney Lucas Molitor, Ph.D., OTD, OTR/L, BCG, is department chair and associate professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy at the University of South Dakota. Lucas Molitor is a licensed occupational therapist in Iowa and South Dakota. Her research interests include health promotion and productive aging. Allison Naber, Ph.D., OTD, OTR/L, is the academic fieldwork coordinator and an associate professor in The Department of Occupational Therapy at the University of South Dakota. Naber is a licensed occupational therapist in Minnesota and South Dakota. Her research interests include occupational performance and life balance, particularly as they relate to healthy aging. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Tik Tok. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm, YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays 6am and 1pm).

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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

Friday, March 13

Senior Menu: Spaghetti, lettuce salad, fruit, breadsticks.
School Breakfast: Breakfast boat.
School Lunch: Fish, baby bakers.
State A GBB Tourney in Watertown
Groton CDE
HS Baseball Practice, 6 p.m., GHS Gym

Saturday, March 14

State A GBB Tourney in Watertown
Pickleball, 9:30 a.m., Elementary Gym

Sunday, March 15

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir, 6 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion at St. John's, 9 a.m.; at Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; 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.
HOSA 5K run
4th grade BB Practice, 2 p.m., Gym
6th grade BB Practice, 6 pm., Arena

Monday, March 16

Senior Menu: Lasagna, broccoli, fruit, bread stick.
School Breakfast: Eggs.
School Lunch: Sloppy joes, baked beans.
Groton Senior Citizens, 1 p.m., Community Center
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Christian Literature Circle, 7:30 p.m.
1st Grade Boys Basketball Practice, 4:30 p.m., elementary gym
HS Baseball Practice, 6 p.m., HS Gym



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Tuesday, March 17

St. PATRICK'S DAY
Senior Menu: Baked turkey crunch, peas, fruit, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Scones.
School Lunch: Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes.
City Council meeting, 7 p.m., Cit Hall
St. John's Lutheran: Quilting, 9 a.m.
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.
HS Baseball Practice, 6 p.m., HS Gym
Biogirls, 3:45 p.m., elementary gym
National Honor Society Ceremony, 6 p.m.
Northwestern CDE

Wednesday, March 18

Senior Menu: Ham, roasted potatoes, green beans, fruit, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza.
School Lunch: Pizza crunchers.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.; Soup Supper (League hosts), 6 p.m.; League, 6:30 p.m.; Lenten Service, 7 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.; Lent Supper, 6 p.m.; Lent Service at St. John's, 7 p.m.
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton Ad Council, 7 p.m.
4th Grade NAEP Testing
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 19

Senior Menu: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, carrots, fruit, whole wheat bread.
NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
State A Boys Basketball Tournament in Rapid City
Pickleball, 5:30 p.m., Ementary gym



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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.



Trump Unilaterally Slips the Dogs of War: What Lies Ahead?

President Donald Trump's unilateral decision to plunge the United States into war against Iran is a war of his own making, not a war of necessity, but a war of choice. He has yet to explain, in a clear, coherent fashion, his reasons for going to war, either to Congress or to the American people. Five days after initiating war, striking more than 2000 targets in Iran, with six U.S. servicemen killed and three fighter jets downed, Trump should, by now, have explained to the American people, in a nationally televised address, what his objectives are, what his theory of victory is, and on what legal authority the administration believes it is waging this war, which Congress has neither declared nor authorized.

It is demonstrably clear that this war is illegal and unconstitutional. Few grieve the death of Iran's Supreme Leader, a cruel, monster of man who has, for decades, repressed and executed Iranian citizens, and nobody wants Iran to possess nuclear weapons, but the Constitution requires governmental officials, including the president, to obey its allocation of powers and responsibilities. The War Clause—Article 1, section 8, vests the sole and exclusive authority to "Declare War" and order lesser military hostilities in Congress, not the president. The framers of the Constitution, in the words of James Madison, denied to the executive the authority to "decide on matters of war and peace." Congress, alone, Madison explained, has the power to "commence, continue and conclude war." Trump has usurped that authority and insists, imperiously, that "it is too late for talks."

By David Adler

This war is without legal scaffolding. The War Powers Act of 1973 does not afford a legal basis for Trump's War. A war of choice, by definition, cannot be justified by statutory language that permits the introduction of troops into "circumstances" where "hostilities are imminent" when it is the president who initiates the hostilities.

Those who wrote the Constitution feared the unpredictable twists and turns of war, the chaos, destruction and tragedy that may result when a government, to borrow from Shakespeare's Julius Caesar, decides to "let slip the dogs of war." Thomas Jefferson, in a September 6, 1789 letter to Madison, praised the shackles that the Constitutional Convention had imposed on unilateral executive warmaking. "We have already given one effectual check on the Dog of war, by transferring the power of letting him loose from the Executive to the Legislative body." But the constitutional wisdom summoned by the framers to render an "effectual check" on presidential warmaking can be rendered ineffectual by a recalcitrant executive.

The framers of the Constitution—to a man—agreed that the president should be barred from initiating war and military hostilities. They carved this unanimous commitment into the War Clause: "Congress shall have power to declare war." George Mason spoke for the Convention when he declared that he was "against giving the power of war to the Executive because he was not safely entrusted with it." Elbridge Gerry said a "motion to empower the executive" to "declare war" was antithetical to the premises of republicanism. James Wilson summed up the constitutional system for going to war. It is "calculated" to prevent a "single man" to "involve us in such distress."

The framers' wisdom on the assignment of the war power is as compelling today, indeed, likely more so, than it was in 1787. The founders were keenly aware of the calamitous consequences of warfare, but they could not have glimpsed the horrific effects of nuclear war. In a world in which a "single man" may "involve us in such distress," the president, alone, may incinerate the

planet. If, for one moment, you allow your imagination to contemplate the planet set afire by the intemperate judgment, erratic behavior and whims of a single person, you will recognize the wisdom of


the framers in denying to the president the authority to take the nation to war.


President Trump's choice to initiate hostilities, which he likened to the swift attack on Venezuela and the capture of President Maduro, what he called his "model" for Iran, crumbled in the first days of his strikes. Already, the broader Middle East War has engulfed 12 nations, killed more than 800 civilians, and caused the price of natural gas and oil to spike. Who knows how to predict what chaos, destruction and tragedy will afflict the world when the dogs of war have been slipped.

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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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Groton boys off to state, again

CHAMBERLAIN — The Groton Area Tigers built a big early cushion, survived a furious second-half rally, and leaned on poise and defense in crunch time to defeat Pine Ridge 62-54 Tuesday night in SoDak 16 boys basketball action and advance to the Class A State Tournament in Rapid City.

Groton Area (18-4) used a dominant first-half stretch and balanced scoring to offset a sensational performance from Pine Ridge standout Marvin Richard III, whose 27 points kept the Thorpes within striking distance all night.

Big Run Sparks Tigers

The Tigers seized control late in the first quarter with a decisive 16-point run, turning a tight 9-7 contest into a commanding 25-7 advantage. Groton's defense fueled the surge, forcing tough shots while the offense repeatedly attacked the rim and cleaned up misses on the glass.

"We told the kids all along defense was going to win the game," Groton head coach Greg Kjellsen said afterward. "We knew we could score on them — it was just a matter of getting enough stops."

Groton led 21-7 after one quarter and carried a 31-22 advantage into halftime. The Tigers shot efficiently early, finishing 24-of-52 (46 percent) for the game, while holding Pine Ridge to 19-of-53 (36 percent).

Richard Keeps Pine Ridge Close

Despite Groton's strong start, Pine Ridge never went away thanks largely to Richard. The University of South Dakota commit showed his full offensive arsenal — step-back threes, drives to the basket, and timely passes — as he poured in 27 points.

"He didn't get 73 tonight, did he?" Kjellsen said with a smile. "He's so tough to guard and no lead is safe when he's on the floor."

Talton Hawk added 16 points for the Thorpes, while Christian Pulliam scored six and Donnie Ghost Dog finished with five. Pine Ridge shot 8-of-10 (80 percent) from the foul line, committed nine turnovers and was whistled for 15 team fouls.

Balanced Offense Leads the Way

Groton countered with a balanced attack led by Karson Zak, who finished with a team-high 19 points while adding seven rebounds, four steals and three assists. Ryder Johnson and Gage Sippel each scored 13 points, with Johnson grabbing six rebounds and Sippel pulling down seven boards and recording a block.

Keegen Tracy contributed 10 points and two steals, while Becker Bosma added seven points and seven rebounds. Easton Weber chipped in three rebounds off the bench as Groton outrebounded Pine Ridge and controlled much of the tempo.

The Tigers also overcame a shaky night at the line, finishing 10-of-18 (56 percent).

Hanging On Down the Stretch

After leading by double digits for much of the night, Groton watched Pine Ridge storm back in the fourth quarter. Missed free throws and turnovers allowed the Thorpes to trim the margin to one point at 50-49 midway through the period.

Kjellsen called timeout as momentum shifted and delivered a simple message.

"We just needed to get stops and settle down," he said. "We did some really stupid things at times, but the kids hung in there and made plays when it mattered."

Zak answered with a key putback and later a clutch drive, while Johnson knocked down late free throws. A steal and runout by Tracy in the final seconds sealed the outcome and sent Groton back to state for the third time in four years.

Proud Effort

Kjellsen credited his senior-led group for staying composed under pressure.

"I'm just so proud of those boys," he said. "They earned it. Pine Ridge made us earn it, and we just did what it took and hung in there."

Next Up: Hamlin

Groton Area will open Class A State Tournament play at 1:45 p.m. Central Time, Thursday in Rapid City against Hamlin, a familiar opponent the Tigers defeated earlier this season. Kjellsen said his team knows the challenge awaiting them.

"We've seen them and we know how good they are," Kjellsen said. "At this point everybody's good. We'll enjoy this tonight, then get back to work."

With the win, Groton Area heads west with confidence — and the momentum gained from surviving one of its toughest battles of the season.

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, The MeatHouse, Weismantel Insurance Agency, Paul Kosel did the stats, and technology, Jeslyn Kosel ran the camera and Rich Bosma provided the play-by-play commentary. There was a record of over 7,000 viewers to the GDILIVE.COM broadcast.

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Keegen Tracy gets through the defense to make this basket. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Ryder Johnson is being guarded by Marvin Richard III. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT The Groton City Council on the 18th 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 10th day of March, 2026.

Douglas Heinrich, Groton City Finance Officer

Published March 11, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$9.11 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26609



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


NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT The Groton City Council on the 18th 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 10th day of March, 2026.

Douglas Heinrich, Groton City Finance Officer

Published March 11, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$9.43 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26610



BDM

RURAL WATER SYSTEM

46th ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Monday, March 30th, 2026
6:00 PM

Britton Event Center – 1203 3rd St – Britton, SD

Alternate Date: 6:00 pm
Monday, April 6th at the Event Center

As nominating petitions for the incumbent Directors for Districts Two and Five were the only ones received, no elections will be held.

- Financial and operations reports will be available.
- Drawings for prizes.
- Only BDM members are eligible to vote and enter the drawing.
- Supper will be served at 6:00 pm with the business meeting to follow.



NOTICE TO ROAD OIL SUPPLIERS

Sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Court House Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota, until the hours of 8:45 A.M. on March 24, 2026 at said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read and considered for producing, furnishing and delivery of Road Oil to the Brown County System of Roads, F.O.B. Brown County, South Dakota.

Item (A) Cutback Asphalt Road Oil – MC-70

Item (B) Cutback Asphalt Road Oil – MC-3000

Item (C) Emulsion Asphalt Road Oil- CSS1H

Envelopes containing bids shall be addressed and delivered to the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 57401 and to be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope: "BIDS ON ROAD OIL" to be opened on March 24, 2026. The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County.

Attest: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published March 11 and 18, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$23.76 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26590



MARCH 3, 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 and Sutton. Commissioner Wiese was absent. Commissioner Gage led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent, shared with the Commissioner his thoughts on some bills that are going through the Legislative Session regarding the Rural Access Infrastructure Program (RAIF). SB 240 adds another \$5 Million to the program. Though Dirk believes the RAIF Program is a good program, he is frustrated because there is still over \$5.6 Million that counties haven't used under this program and they have challenges getting funding for other projects such as the Elm Lake Bridge. Then SB 236 bill that has a process to take the money back if not spent on the RAIF project and be redistributed to other counties. In Brown County less than 10% of the Townships participate in the RAIF Program. Dirk just wanted to voice his concerns to the Commission.

Gene Loeschke, Director of Equalization, shared that the Assessment Notices have been sent out. Then he added that the State is asking them to promote the New Income Guidelines for the Senior Tax Freeze and encourage people to apply. The deadline is April 1, 2026.

ORDINANCE #321 – SECOND READING/POSSIBLE ADOPTION: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to approve and adopt Ordinance #321. Applicant Kyler & Lia Dinger to rezone from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its current use. Description of property: "Long's Outlot 1" in the NW1/4 of Section 26-T124N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (12848 392nd Avenue; Ordway Twp.) The motion passed with 3 votes; Commissioner Dinger abstained due to it being for himself.

BID DATE SET FOR HIGHWAY DEPT.: GRAVEL/ROAD OIL/HOT MIX/RENTAL EQUIPMENT: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Dennert to authorize advertising public hearing to open, read and consider bids for Gravel, Road Oil, Hot Mix and Rental Equipment Materials to be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2026

in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. **APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY:** Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Gage to approve the application submitted by Midco for occupancy of Brown County Highway 19 in Section 22, T123N-R64W, Brown County, South Dakota to install fiber optic cable. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

TAX DEED PROPERTIES: Patty VanMeter, Treasurer had presented the Commission with a list of properties that she felt needed to be submitted for Tax Deeds, so she asked the Commission if there were any they wanted to dispute or discuss. Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dinger to approve the Treasurer, Patty VanMeter to proceed with Tax Deed notices. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve the General Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to approve the following Claims: Professional Fees: Aberdeen ED \$164.45; Avera McKennan \$1,218.14; Avera Medical Group Radiology \$356.37; Avera St. Luke's Hospital \$4,867.50; Carrels & Bain Family Dental Care, LLC \$662.10; CenturyLink-Lumen \$234.90; Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$879.20; Dakota Group LLC \$2,500.00; DEVNET \$3,789.84; Dohrer Law Office, PC \$5,969.80; Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc \$17,600.00; Faulkton Area Medical Center \$177.34; gWorks \$1,159.00; Helms & Associates \$3,540.00; Kuck Law Office \$10,238.00; Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC \$1,275.00; Modern Day Health Care Prof LLC \$325.51; Northwest Iowa Hospital Corporation \$386.25; NVC \$35.00; Pantorium Cleaners Inc \$32.00; Saber Shred Solutions \$2,741.34; Sanford Clinic \$884.52; Sanford Health \$405.00; SD Dept of Transportation \$643.94; SDHSC \$600.00; Taliaferro Law Firm, PC \$4,717.50; William A. Moss, Psy.D., LLC \$5,000.00; Yankton County Sheriff's Office \$50.00. Publishing: Groton Daily Independent \$383.75; McQuillen Creative Group, Inc \$121.75. Repairs & Maintenance: Artz Equipment, Inc \$21.80; Dakota Supply Group \$11.10; Gordon Schmidt Construction \$4,359.15; Graham Tire Inc \$275.40; Jake's Heating & Cooling \$13,589.82; K&S Plumbing, Inc \$2,590.58; Kramp Enterprise and Investment \$114.90; Lawson Products, Inc \$98.22; Lien Transportation Company \$1,565.00; Midstates Group \$1,520.00; Precision Kiosk Technologies \$3,000.00; Sewer Duck, Inc \$313.00; Thee Glass Doktor, LLC \$150.00. Supplies & Materials: Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$1,252.73; Artz Equipment, Inc \$446.45; Bob Barker Company Inc \$302.00; Cartney Bearing \$44.14; Century Business Products \$389.07; Cole Paper Inc \$580.16; Dohrer Law Office, PC \$5.55; Faulkton Drug \$86.38; FedEx \$46.06; Graham Tire Inc \$1,288.90; Great Western Tire \$10,464.20; Kuck Law Office \$384.39; Lawson Products, Inc \$1,418.55; Menards \$44.94; Midstates Group \$513.00; Performance Oil \$583.04; Pitney Bowes Global Financial Services LLC \$1,046.10; Safety Service \$430.94; Schwan Welding \$11,515.64; Steven Lust Automotive \$50.00; Thee Glass Doktor, LLC \$179.00; Titan Machinery \$308.45. Travel & Conference: Chris Hemen \$166.00; Jerry Lehrkamp \$166.00; Kuck Law Office \$460.00; Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC \$80.00; Mike Rohrbach \$166.00; Neil Bittner \$19.00; Scott Kolb \$19.00; The Lodge at Deadwood \$945.00. Utilities: AT&T Mobility \$141.34; CenturyLink \$345.87; Dependable Sanitation, Inc \$468.00; K&S Plumbing, Inc \$92.02; Northwestern Energy \$11,885.96. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

oResignation of Kyle Brandner as Brown County Landfill Heavy Equipment Operator, FT; effective February 20, 2026. Request to fill

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

TRAVEL REQUESTS: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to approve the following Travel Requests: Kristin Barstad, Jason Erickson and Tucker Anderson from State's Attorney Office to attend Karpal Annual User Group Training on April 14-16, 2026 in St. Louis, MO; Brandon Mills, Sheriff's

Department to attend Basic Incident Response to Digital Evidence (BIRDE) Training on June 23-26, 2026 in Vermillion, SD; Derek Hoefert, Sheriff's Department to attend AFTT Red Dot Sign Handgun Instructor Training on May 11-13, 2026 in Pierre, SD. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: Lynn Heupel, Auditor, informed the Commission that the 2025 Annual Report had been submitted to Department of Legislative Audit last week.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dinger to go into Executive Session per SDCL 1-25-2 for Contracts, Legal and Personnel. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Dennert to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:31 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published March 11, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$75.50 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26591



NOTICE TO GRAVEL PRODUCTION CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS

Sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Court House Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota until the hour of 8:45 A.M. on March 24, 2026 at said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read and considered for furnishing and delivery of ONE (1) YEARS SUPPLY OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GRAVEL MATERIALS.

Proposal Guaranty: No deposit or bid bond will be required at time of the bid opening.

Performance Bond: Brown County will give notice to the successful bidder that his proposal has been accepted and said bidder shall within ten (10) days thereafter enter into a contract with Brown County and furnish a performance bond in accordance with the bid as accepted or as required by the Brown County Highway Department Superintendent. Brown County must be listed as additional insured on all Certificates of Insurance.

Envelopes containing bids shall be addressed and delivered to the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401, and to be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope: "BIDS ON GRAVEL AGGREGATE MATERIALS" to be opened March 24, 2026. The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County.

Bids shall include all applicable taxes and fees for materials furnished and/or installed by the Contractor and all applicable taxes and fees for materials supplied by the County. Brown County is exempt from all Federal Excise Tax and State Sales Tax.

Contract for GRAVEL MATERIALS shall be firm and will be in effect for a period of one (1) year from April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027.

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published March 11 and 18, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$38.45 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26592



NOTICE TO ASPHALT CONCRETE PLANT MIX SUPPLIERS

Sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Court House Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota, until the hour of 8:45 A.M., March 24, 2026. At said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read, and considered for producing, furnishing all materials and delivery of Asphalt Concrete Plant Mix Materials for road maintenance and construc-

tion of Roads, F.O.B. Brown County, South Dakota.

Proposal Guaranty: No deposit or bid bond will be required at time of bid opening.

Contract Notice: Brown County will give notice to the successful bidder that his proposal has been accepted and said bidder shall within ten (10) days thereafter enter into a contract with Brown County.

Contract for Asphalt Plant Mix Materials shall be firm and will be in effect for a period of one (1) year from April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027.

Envelopes containing bids shall be addressed and delivered to the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 57401 and to be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope: "BIDS ON ASPHALT CONCRETE PLANT MIX MATERIALS" to be opened on March 24, 2026. The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County.

Bids shall include all applicable taxes and fees for materials furnished and/or installed by the Contractor and all applicable taxes and fees for materials supplied by the County. Brown County is exempt from all Federal Excise Tax and State Sales Tax.

Section 320.5 – Basis of Payment: "A" – Asphalt Concrete Plant Mix Materials for Maintenance and Construction. The accepted quantities of Asphalt Plant Mix will be paid for at the contract unit price per ton.

Attest: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published March 11 and 18, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$39.58 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26593



NOTICE TO ROAD CONTRACTORS AND MACHINERY DEALERS

Sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Court House Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota, until the hour of 8:45 a.m. on March 24, 2026. At said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read and considered for furnishing Full Operation Rental Services of Gravel Trucks and Road Machinery for construction and maintenance repairs on Brown County Road Projects for the year 2026. Successful bidders will be working along with Brown County Highway Department Forces, Brown County Landfill Forces and the Brown County Fairground Forces to complete the projects.

Proposal Guaranty: No deposit or bond will be required at time of bid opening.

Performance Bond: Brown County will give notice to the successful bidder that his proposal has been accepted, and said bidder shall within ten (10) days thereafter enter into a contract with Brown County and said bidders shall then be required to furnish the following: Certificates of Insurance as per Bid Specifications or Requested from Brown County. Brown County must be listed as additional insured on all Certificates of Insurance.

Contract for Rental Equipment shall be firm and will be in effect for a period of one year from April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027.

Envelopes containing bids shall be addressed and delivered to the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401, and to be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope: "BIDS FOR RENTAL OF EQUIPMENT" to be opened March 24, 2026. The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County.

Bids shall include all applicable taxes and fees for materials furnished and/or installed by the Contractor and all applicable taxes and fees for materials supplied by the County. Brown County is exempt from all Federal Excise Tax and State Sales Tax.

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published March 11 and 18, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$42.41 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26594



NOTICE OF COUNTY & CONSOLIDATED EQUALIZATION BOARDS MEETINGS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN per SDCL 10-11-25 that the Board of County Commissioners, sitting as a COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION of Brown County, South Dakota will meet in the Commissioner's Chambers in said County on Tuesday, the 14th day of April, 2026 at 11:00 AM for the purpose of reviewing, correcting and equalizing the assessment of said County for the year 2027 and shall continue in session and may adjourn from time to time until all property filed appeals have been determined and equalization is completed but no later than May 5, 2026.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN per SDCL 10-11-71 that the CONSOLIDATED BOARD OF EQUALIZATION of Brown County, South Dakota will meet in the Commissioner's Chambers in said County on Tuesday, the 14th day of April, 2026 at 1:00 PM for the purpose of reviewing, correcting and equalizing the 2026 assessments of said County payable in 2027 and shall continue in session and may adjourn from time to time until all property filed appeals have been determined and equalization is completed but no later than May 5, 2026.

All persons considering themselves aggrieved by said assessment, are required to submit written notice to the Brown County Department of Equalization, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, SD 57401 no later than April 1, 2026.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published March 11 and 18, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$29.41 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26595



ORDINANCE #321 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES AS AMENDED TO REZONE CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that Ordinance #321, An Ordinance Amending Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended to rezone the following described property filed by petitioner Kyler & Lia Dinger was duly adopted by the Board of Brown County Commissioners on the 3rd day of March 2026 and will become effective on the 31st day of March 2026.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota, that the Petition to Amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances is hereby amended to change the zoning on the following described property from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its current use.

Description of property: "Long's Outlot 1" in the NW1/4 of Section 26-T124N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (12848 392nd Avenue; Ordway Twp.).

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

Passed and adopted this 3rd day of March 2026.

Duane Sutton, Brown County Commission Chairman

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Notice of Hearing: February 4, 2026

First Reading: February 17, 2026

Second Reading/Adoption: March 3, 2026

Published: March 11, 2026

Effective Date: March 31, 2026

Published March 11, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$20.74 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26596

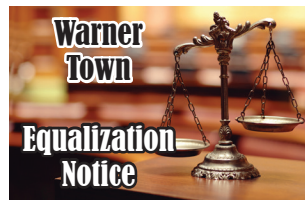


BROWN COUNTY SCHOOL LAND LEASE AUCTION

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

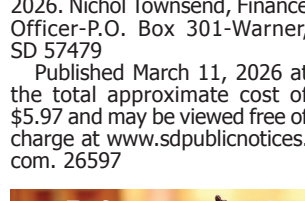


PUBLIC NOTICE

The Town of Warner will be having an Equalization meeting on Monday, March 16th, 2026 between the hours of 7PM and 8PM at the Warner Community Center.

A letter of intent to appeal is due to a board member or the Finance Officer no later than Thursday, March 12TH, 2026. Nichol Townsend, Finance Officer-P.O. Box 301-Warner, SD 57479

Published March 11, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$5.97 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26597



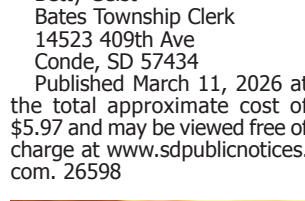
Bates Township Equalization Notice

The Bates Township Board of Equalization will meet at the Clerk's home on Tuesday, March 17th, 2026 at 6:30 pm.

All persons disputing their assessments are requested to notify the clerk prior to the meeting.

Betty Geist
Bates Township Clerk
14523 409th Ave
Conde, SD 57434

Published March 11, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$5.97 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26598



Bates Township ROW Notice

Bates Township Board of Supervisors reminds all landowners and tenants that the road right-of-way extends 33 feet from the center of the township road. This ditch is to be maintained and mowed. Any crops planted in the road right-of-way will be mowed and expenses charged to the landowner.

Landowner is responsible for spraying all noxious weeds.

Bates Township Board of Supervisors

Betty Geist
Township Clerk

Published March 11 and 18, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$11.88 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26599



City of Columbia Council Meeting – March 4, 2026
CALL MEETING TO ORDER – 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL – Dana Mohr, Cara Dennert, Scott Meints, Sam Hoppock, Trevor Meints, Jeremy Dosch (via phone)

Community: Julie Voeller, Pam Blair, Angela Grieb, Lisa Mohr

Mayor Dana Mohr called the meeting to order. Dana called for a motion to approve the agenda. Scott Meints made a motion to approve the agenda. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All in favor – motion carried. Dana called for any conflict of interest on agenda items. There were no conflicts. Minutes were handed out from the February 4th meeting. Scott Meints made a motion to approve the minutes. Sam Hoppock seconded the motion. All were in favor – motion carried.

Warrant Vouchers Northwestern Energy – electricity – 2303.83; Web – fire prevention – 55.11; JVT – fire prevention – 213.17; Jeremy Dosch – Feb. wages – 994.03 –; Cara Dennert – Feb. wages – 1317.60; Scott Meints – Street wages – 30.80; Trevor Meints – Street wages – 100.10; Sam Hoppock – Street wages – 45.50; GDI – publication – 35.35; Runnings – shop supplies – 137.81; Artz Equipment – shop supplies – 7.29; SDATT – 2026 dues – 205.00

Sam Hoppock made a motion to approve the vouchers. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE: - NECOG – city map changes, SDPA – Insurance Renewal packet – Jeremy will handle this paperwork.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS- waste water project – Jeremy had a packet of information from various meetings he has had with the engineers and local Brown County officials. Jeremy said that tentatively on the agenda Stockwell and Scott Bader will be attending our April 1st meeting to address any questions.

Nuisances – Trevor had contact with Code Enforcement Specialists. They will be in town to inspect for ordinance violations. Streets – We do have some gravel stockpiled, but until the frost is out – we need to leave the potholes alone.

Parks – Scott and Jeremy presented two proposals for our park maintenance. One part will just be the mowing of the parks – the other part weeding and fertilizing the parks. This will be put out for bids – with the right of refusal of any bids. It will be published in the GDI, The Insider, and the Farm Forum.

Lagoon/Sewer- nothing further

Rubble Site – There was a state inspection today.

NEW BUSINESS – The Sams Renewal has been completed. The upcoming equalization meeting was discussed. Trevor Meints made a motion to hold the meeting on Thursday, March 19th at 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Sam Hoppock seconded the motion. All were in favor – motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT – The annual report is completed. Trevor Meints made a motion to send the report on to the state. Sam Hoppock seconded the motion. All were in favor – motion carried. She presented bank balances. Scott Meints made a motion to accept the financial reports as given. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All were in favor – motion carried.

February 28, 2026, balances: SF - \$ 117,857.45; SF Money Market – \$ 153,559.09; GF - \$ 195,319.65; GF Money Market - \$ 51,525.20; CD Money Market - \$ 41,843.62; FIT - \$ 16,267.33; Cash on hand - \$0

Mayor Mohr adjourned the meeting.

Next City Council Equalization Meeting – Thursday, March 19th, 2026 – 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Next City Council Meeting - Wednesday, April 1, 2026 - 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Cara Dennert, Finance Officer
Published March 11, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$36.48 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26602



NOTICE OF MEETING OF LOCAL REVIEW BOARD
MUNICIPALITY OF WESTPORT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the governing body, sitting as a Review Board of Westport Municipality, Brown County, South Dakota, will meet at the Westport Town Hall in said taxing jurisdiction on Monday, 16th day of March, 2026 from 6:00pm – 7:30 pm, for the purpose of reviewing and correcting the assessment of said taxing district for the year 2026.

Complaint of an individual's assessment may be made to the local board by notifying the finance officer by Thursday March 12th, 2026. This may be a verbal or written notice.

Deb Schlosser
Finance Officer
Westport, SD
Published March 11, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$9.43 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26600



Town of Westport General Meeting

The Town of Westport met on March 2, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., with Mitch Wilson, Shane Storm, Troy Tschappat, Larissa Bain, and Deb Schlosser present.

Public Comments: Larissa Bain inquired on how to rent the town hall.

The following bills were presented:

City General: NW Energy-utilities (\$727.85), Groton Independent- February and zoning minutes (\$32.24), Fire Safety First-annual fire extinguisher maintenance (\$57.50), Mitch Wilson-payroll (\$825.00), Shane Storm-payroll (\$250.00), Troy Tschappat-payroll (\$200.00), Deb Schlosser-payroll (\$900.00), SD Public Assurance Alliance-insurance (\$4111.06)

Sewer: NW Energy-Lift Station utilities (\$63.05), Richard LaBayssewer (\$498.00)

Water: Public Health Laboratory-water testing (\$20.00), WEB-water (\$1910.48) Water Maintenance District-water testing (\$688.78)

Shane Storm motioned, second by Troy Tschappat to pay all bills.

The following deposits were presented:

City General: State of SD (\$1805.27), Brown County Collections (\$2143.40), Interest (\$43.93)

Sewer: Resident Payments (\$2247.43)

Water: Resident Payments (\$3371.19)

Old Business: Motion by Shane Storm, second by Troy Tschappat to put the Minor Non-Discharging Domestic Wastewater Treatment Facilities application back on the table. Motion by Troy Tschappat, second by Shane Storm to approve the Minor Non-Discharging Domestic Wastewater Treatment Facilities application.

New Business: Motion by Shane Storm, second by Troy Tschappat to approve the 2025 Annual Report. The 2026 Equalization meeting will be held on March 16, 6:00-7:30 at the Town Hall.

Meeting dismissed at 7:28 p.m.

Deb Schlosser, Finance Officer
Published March 11, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$20.08 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26601



ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
City Park Lawn Care

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the Columbia City Council at the office of the City Finance Officer, 25 Broadway Street N. Columbia SD 57433, until 7:00 o'clock p.m.

local time on the 1st day of April 2026, at which time bids will be publicly opened, read and referred to the Columbia City Council of the City of Columbia, at City Hall 25 Broadway N. for the following services:

Mowing services at the City Ball Park located with an address of 260 Broadway St S. Columbia, SD 57433.

Mowing services at the City Park located with an address of 255 Broadway St S. Columbia, SD 57433.

Specifications shall include the following:

Mowing of all grass areas in both locations once per week. String trimming of areas in which a mower cannot reach each time the grass is mowed. Grass clipping from mowing shall be bagged and removed from the lawn every other mowing.

Contractor shall furnish all equipment for such tasks listed above.

This will not include the mowing of the actual Ball Diamond (inside the fence).

This contract would be for the 2026 lawn care season. The Columbia City council will entertain additional one-year contracts for up to 5 years.

Bids shall be submitted in accordance with the specifications. All bids shall be plainly marked on the outside of the envelope with the words "City Park Lawn Care". Bids are to be accompanied by a Certificate of Liability Insurance.

Questions can be directed to Jeremy Dosch 605-380-7529.

The Columbia City Council reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive irregularities and accept the bid it deems most favorable and in the best interest of the City of Columbia after all bids have been examined.

By Order of the Columbia City Council.

Dated this 4th day of March 2026.

By: /s/ Cara Dennert
Cara Dennert
Finance Officer
Published March 11, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$22.94 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26603



ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
City Park Weed Care

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the Columbia City Council at the office of the City Finance Officer, 25 Broadway Street N. Columbia SD 57433, until 7:00 o'clock p.m. local time on the 1st day of April 2026, at which time bids will be publicly opened, read and referred to the Columbia City Council of the City of Columbia, at City Hall 25 Broadway N. for the following services:

Weed Services at the City Ball Park located with an address of 260 Broadway St S. Columbia, SD 57433.

Weed Services at the City Park located with an address of 255 Broadway St S. Columbia, SD 57433.

Specifications shall include the following:

This would include application of granular based lawn fertilizers. Fertilizers shall be commercially purchased products based on the time of year best suited for the lawn care.

This would also include liquid-based week spraying. Weed killers shall be commercially purchased products based on the type of weeds currently on the lawn and the time of year best suited for lawn care.

o Recommend nitrogen for a season is 3.5-4 pounds per 1000 square feet for irrigated turf.

o 1st application- pre-emergent herbicide with 1.25 pounds Nitrogen with like .5 pound of potassium.

o 2nd application- 1 pound nitrogen with .4 pounds of potassium per 1000.

o 3rd application- .75 nitrogen to 1 depending on weather forecast.

o 4th application-1 pound nitrogen with .5 potassium.

o All nitrogen used should have at least 30-50% time released nitrogen

o 2nd and 3rd application should have post emergent herbicide put down

o If only 2-3 applications are being done, 1st and 4th application done in the spring and fall with a post emergent herbicide application done in or around

June and possibly another one in the fall.

Contractor shall furnish all equipment for such tasks listed above.

All products shall be safe for humans and pets within a short time after application. Spraying or fertilizers must also not damage trees or flowers/plants.

This contract would be for the 2026 lawn care season. The Columbia City council will entertain additional one-year contracts for up to 5 years.

Bids shall be submitted in accordance with the specifications. All bids shall be plainly marked on the outside of the envelope with the words "City Park Weed Care". Bids are to be accompanied by a Certificate of Liability Insurance.

Questions can be directed to Jeremy Dosch at 605-380-7529.

The Columbia City Council reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive irregularities and accept the bid it deems most

favorable and in the best interest of the City of Columbia after all bids have been examined.

By Order of the Columbia City Council.

Dated this 4th day of March 2026.

By: /s/ Cara Dennert
Cara Dennert
Finance Officer
Published March 11, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$33.93 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26604



Notice is hereby given that the governing body section will serve as review board of Henry Township, Brown County. They will be meeting at 4:30pm Monday March 16, 2026 at Doug Abeln's Seed Company Office for the purpose of reviewing and correcting of the assessment set

of the tax districts for the year 2025. All persons considering disputing their assessments are requested to notify the clerk of the board in writing no later than March 14th Hearings are by appointment only.

Darlene Sass
Henry Township Clerk
13120 403 ave
Groton,SD
57445
Published March 11, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$7.85 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26606

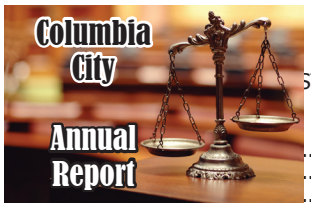


Exhibit 1
MUNICIPALITY OF COLUMBIA
STATEMENT OF FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL FUNDS

December 31, 2025		OtherEnterprise Funds		Total
General Fund	Sales Tax Fund	Sewer Fund		
Cash Assets:				
Cash in Checking Accounts.....	54,271.86	187,648.26	255,635.81	497,555.93
Change and Petty Cash.....				0.00
Passbook Savings.....				0.00
Savings Certificates.....				0.00
SD FIT.....	16,179.23			16,179.23
Money Market Savings.....	41,786.18			41,786.18
101 FUND CASH BALANCES.....	112,237.27	187,648.26	255,635.81	555,521.34
Municipal funds are deposited or invested with the following depositories:				
		Dacotah Bank		539,342.11
		SD FIT		16,179.23
				555,521.34

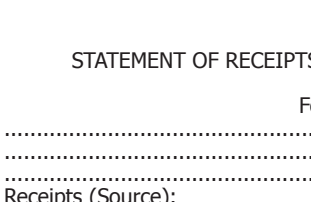


Exhibit 2
MUNICIPALITY OF COLUMBIA
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL FUNDS

For the Year Ended December 31, 2025		OtherEnterprise Funds		Total
General Fund	Sales Tax Fund	Sewer Fund		
Receipts (Source):				
311 Property Taxes.....	62,957.70			62,957.70
313 Sales Tax.....		43,274.57		43,274.57
311-319 Other Taxes.....	115.92			115.92
320 Licenses and Permits.....	690.00			690.00
331 Federal Grants.....				0.00
335.1 Bank Franchise Tax.....	854.37			854.37
335.2 Prorate License Fees.....	1,228.42			1,228.42
335.3 Liquor Tax Reversion.....	1,068.57			1,068.57
335.4 Motor Vehicle Licenses (5%).....	7,948.82			7,948.82
335.6 Fire Insurance Premium Reversion.....				0.00
335.8 Local Government Highway and Bridge Fund.....	30,543.47			30,543.47
338.1 County Road Tax (25%).....	675.54			675.54
338.2 County Highway and Bridge Reserve Tax (25%).....				0.00
338.3 County Wheel Tax.....	324.57			324.57
331-339 Other Intergovernmental Revenue.....				0.00
341-349 Charges for Goods and Services.....				0.00
351-359 Fines and Forfeits.....	5.00			5.00
361 Investment Earnings.....	863.85		1,633.38	2,497.23
362 Rentals.....				0.00
363-369 Other Revenues.....	52,048.58			52,048.58
ENTERPRISE FUNDS.....				
330 Operating Grants.....			20,000.00	20,000.00
371 Surcharge as Security of Debt.....				0.00
372-389 Enterprise Operating Revenue (380).....			27,049.00	27,049.00
380.05 Lottery Revenues.....				0.00
Total Receipts.....	159,324.81	43,274.57	48,682.38	251,281.76
Disbursements (Function):				
411-419 General Government.....	64,191.27			64,191.27
421 Police.....				0.00
422 Fire.....	3,220.36			3,220.36
423-429 Other Public Safety.....				0.00
431 Highways and Streets.....	18,274.31			18,274.31
432 Sanitation.....	1,643.57			1,643.57
437 Cemeteries.....				0.00
433-439 Other Public Works.....				0.00
441-449 Health and Welfare.....	2,746.51			2,746.51
451-459 Culture-Recreation.....	60,416.70			60,416.70
461-469 Conservation and Development.....				0.00
470 Debt Service.....		13,608.00		13,608.00
480 Intergovernmental Expenditures.....				0.00
490-493 Miscellaneous.....				0.00
ENTERPRISE FUNDS.....				
410 Personal Services.....				0.00
420 Other Expenses.....		12,628.60		12,628.60
426 Supplies and Materials.....		6,267.80		6,267.80
Total Disbursements.....	150,492.72	13,608.00	18,896.40	182,997.12
391.01 Transfers In.....	20,000.00			20,000.00
511 Transfers Out.....	20,000.00			20,000.00
391.03 Sale of Municipal Property.....				0.00
391.04 Compensation for Loss or Damage to Capital Assets.....				0.00
391.2 Money Received From Borrowing.....				0.00
391.07 Capital Contributions (Grants).....				0.00
430 Capital Assets.....				0.00
441 Debt Service-Principal.....				0.00
442 Debt Service-Interest.....				0.00
Subtotal of Receipts, Disbursements and Transfers.....	8,832.09	29,666.57	29,785.98	68,284.64
Fund Cash Balance-beginning, as previously reported.....	45,439.77	157,981.69	225,849.83	429,271.29
Restatement due to:				
SD FIT.....	16,179.23			16,179.23
Money Market Savings.....	41,786.18			41,786.18
Fund Cash Balance- beginning, as restated.....	103,405.18	157,981.69	225,849.83	487,236.70
FUND CASH BALANCE, December 31, 2025.....	112,237.27	187,648.26	255,635.81	555,521.34
Do amounts equal Exhibit 1 Fund Cash Balance?.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Exhibit 3
MUNICIPALITY OF COLUMBIA
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN LONG-TERM DEBT
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025

General Long-Term Debt	Other	Total
Debt Payable, January 1, 2025.....	213,760.71	213,760.71
Less Debt Retired.....	6,761.15	6,761.15
DEBT PAYABLE, December 31, 2025.....	206,999.56	206,999.56
(23700)	(23102)	

Note: Amounts reported do not include interest.

Published March 11, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$183.37 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26605



March 3, 2026
The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00pm at 120 N Main Street for their first monthly meeting with the following members present: Nehls, Babcock, Wambach, Shilhaneck, Cutler, and President Bahr presiding. Also present were Attorney Chad Locken, Douglas Heinrich, Kent Mauck, Helen Mauck, MacKenzie Barse, Preston Barse, Dwight Zerr, Darrell Hillestad, Todd Gay, and Elizabeth Varin.

Moved by Cutler and seconded by Nehls to approve the agenda with the addition of discussion regarding Mark Abeln's property. All members present voted aye.

Public comments were welcomed pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1. Darrell Hillestad addressed the council regarding the progress at the Groton Municipal Airport. Hillestad exited the meeting.

Discussion took place regarding Heartland Waste Management's garbage hauling and concerns from residents. The Maucks and Barse exited the meeting.

Department reports were reviewed and discussed. Zerr and Gay exited the meeting.

Moved by Wambach and seconded by Babcock to surplus the old baseball scoreboard and donate it to the Groton Baseball Foundation to auction or sell to offset the costs of the new scoreboard. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Shilhaneck and seconded by Cutler to table the revisiting of the exterior painting of City Hall/Wage Memorial Library. All members present voted aye.

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

Moved by Shilhaneck and seconded by Wambach to authorize the following bills for payment. All members present voted aye.

Payroll, \$29,468.11, Employee salaries; Executive, \$563.86, ; Administrative, \$4,970.69, ; Public Safety, \$9,410.29, ; Public Works, \$14,493.02, ; Culture & Recreation, \$30.25, ; Dacotah Bank, \$6,214.52, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dacotah Bank, \$831.23, HSA contributions; Dacotah Bank, \$3,818.27, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Aflac, \$534.92, Employee insurance; Colonial Life, \$69.40, Employee insurance; Health Pool of SD, \$15,814.72, Employee insurance; Reliance Standard Life Insurance, \$80.20, Employee insurance; Kellie Locke, \$117.75, Med flex; SD Retirement System, \$11,014.28, Employee retirement; Bahr Spray Foam, \$9,820.56, Foam insulation - Baseball Concessions Project; SD Supplemental Retirement, \$590.00, Supplemental retirement; Irby, Inc., \$465.00, 1.5-ton strap hoist - Electric Dept.; Greg's Repair, \$30.00, Tire repair - Police Dept.; Bell Bank Equipment Finance, \$28,620.18, 2024 Case 621G Wheel Loader annual payment; The Groton Independent, \$15.40, Publishing costs; NW Energy, \$14.49, Natural gas service - PD Generator; S&S Lumber Company, \$11,015.04, Vinyl tubing, hose clamps, toggle switch, duct seal, mouse repellent, lynch pins, safety pins, lock pins, bolts, silicone, plates, exterior outlet cover, Baseball Concessions Project materials - Multiple Depts.; Dollar General, \$125.57, Cleaning supplies, bottled water, batteries, micro-SD cards, paper bowls, manila folders, paper towels - Multiple Depts. ; IT Outlet, \$1,480.00, Microsoft G3 license renewal; Blocker Construction, LLC, \$54,539.28, Building and concrete for baseball concessions; April Abeln, \$60.00, Employee Cell Phone Reimbursement - Jan/Feb; Kellie Locke, \$60.00, Employee Cell Phone Reimbursement - Jan/Feb; Douglas Heinrich, \$60.00, Employee Cell Phone Reimbursement - Jan/Feb; Branden Abeln, \$60.00, Employee Cell Phone Reimbursement - Jan/Feb; Paul Kosel, \$60.00, Employee Cell Phone Reimbursement - Jan/Feb; Landon Johnson, \$60.00, Employee Cell Phone Reimbursement - Jan/Feb; Dahme Con-

struction, \$23,105.00, Sanitary sewer repair at warming house;

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Nehls to authorize Douglas Heinrich to attend Human Resources/Finance Officer School in Oacoma, SD on June 9th through June 12th, 2026. All members present voted aye.

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

Announcement: SDML District 6 Meeting in Redfield, SD on March 17th, 2026, at 6pm.

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Wambach to reschedule the March 17th council meeting to March 18th to allow council members to attend the SDML District 6 Meeting. All members present voted aye.

Discussion took place regarding issues with Mark Abeln's property and the need for the city to have the issues fixed as soon as possible.

Varin exited the meeting.

Moved by Nehls and seconded by Cutler to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal matters 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 8:01pm. All members present voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 9:17pm.

Varin reentered the meeting.

Moved by Cutler and seconded by Shilhaneck to select March 18th, 2026, as the Local Board of Equalization Meeting date following the regular council meeting. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Shilhaneck and seconded by Babcock to accept the resignation of Landon Johnson as electric lineman. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Shilhaneck and seconded by Babcock to accept the resignation of Jason Wambach as Ward 3 Councilperson effective following the meeting. Wambach abstained from voting. All remaining members present voted aye.

Moved by Nehls and seconded by Cutler to hire the following applicants for summer employment: Kami Lipp and Tricia Keith - Swimming Pool Co-Managers, Kyle Gerlach - 14U Legion Coach, Amanda Bisbee - U18 Softball Coach, Amanda Bisbee - U14 Softball Coach, Reilly Ketterling - U12 Softball Coach, Sydney Kurtz - U10 Softball Coach, Lincoln Krause - Day Baseball Coach, Sydney Kurtz - Day Softball Coach, Gavin Englund - Baseball Groundskeeper, Nicholas Groeblichhoff - Baseball Groundskeeper, Alex Abeln - Baseball Groundskeeper, Donovan Block - Baseball Groundskeeper, Braeden Fliehs - Baseball Groundskeeper, Lincoln Shilhaneck - Baseball Gatekeeper, Troy Lindberg - Baseball Gatekeeper, Amelia Ewalt - Baseball Gatekeeper, Tenley Frost - Baseball Gatekeeper, Aaron Severson - Public Works Laborer/Park Caretaker, Brian Gravatt - Cemetery Caretaker, and Dustin Cooper - Part-Time Cemetery Caretaker. Additionally, the following applicants were hired as Swimming Pool Lifeguards: Katherine Hansen, Cody Swanson, Tanee Lipp, Karla Pasteur, Gretchen Dinger, Avery Crank, Talli Wright, Abby Fjeldheim, Wesley Borg, Samuel Crank, Hannah Sandness, Ry-lie Rose, Carly Gilbert, Kinsley Rowen, Sydney Locke, Ashlynn Warrington, Laila Roberts, Jerica Locke, Kelli Hanson, Rylen Ekern, Libby Cole, and Jayden Schwan. All members present voted aye.

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

Brian Bahr, President
Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer

Published March 11, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$67.58 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26607



Putney Township equalization meeting will be held at Mark Thompson shop Monday, March 16 at 5 PM. Prior notification to the clerk is required.

Published March 11, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$3.14 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26608

Groton schoolboard reviews facility needs, future enrollment at Columbia meeting

by Elizabeth Varin

The Groton Area School Board took its meeting on the road Monday night, gathering in Columbia rather than its usual meeting space in Groton to connect with another part of the district.

Part of the discussion centered on issues facing the buildings in Groton, where portions of the high school building date back nearly a century, as well as a look to the future of how many students may fill the hallways in the coming years.

During the meeting, Superintendent Joe Schwan and members of the district's Buildings, Grounds and Transportation Committee provided an update on the ongoing facilities master planning process.

The group has been meeting with Co-Op Architects, and they're getting to the point of defining issues and potential solutions to include within the facilities master plan, Schwan said.

Some discussion has taken place about the feasibility of renovating portions of the high school building, but one area that likely won't be renovated is the 1931 school addition. The only path forward with that addition seems to be replacing it, Schwan said.

The group has discussed splitting some of the work into phases, and concerns were raised about being displaced during the school year and parking concerns.

They're not at the point of talking dollars and cents yet, Schwan said. However, they may be able to bring a presentation to the full school board in April or May.

The board also reviewed the 5-year capital outlay plan, though the numbers are "a little bit in limbo with the facility master planning underway," Schwan said.

Items on the list for the 2027 fiscal year include high school and elementary sidewalk repairs/replacement, parking lot repairs/sealing/stripping, parking lot lighting/exterior lighting, seal coat of the elementary school playground, heat pump replacements for the geothermal system, permanent flag pole at the elementary school, elementary playground fence repair/replacement, fire door installation in the health science lab, high school band room painting and lighting, 2009 addition carpeting, walk-in cooler placement, stage renovations (curtains, rigging, acoustical), refinish/repaint arena floor, high school arena boys lockers, sound system upgrades at the arena, arena door exit device replacement, chain link fence repairs/replacement and athletic complex artificial turf installation.

Items on the 2028 fiscal year list include middle school/high school roofing replacement, high school sidewalk repairs/replacement, parking lot repairs/sealing/stripping, heat pump replacements for the geothermal system, playground equipment upgrades, and track repairs, resurfacing and replacement.

Enrollment projections reviewed

Board members also heard early enrollment projections that suggest potential declines in student numbers in the coming years, a development administrators said could have future implications for district planning.

Superintendent Joe Schwan presented enrollment projects through the 2031-2032 school year.

The projections show a drop in enrollment numbers through the upcoming handful of years:

- 2024-2025 school year - 270 at the elementary, 132 at the middle school and 168 at the high school
- 2025-2026 school year - Elementary: 267, Middle School: 139, High School: 158.
- 2026-2027 school year - Elementary: 256, Middle School: 142, High School: 151.
- 2027-2028 school year - Elementary: 245, Middle School: 136, High School: 172.
- 2028-2029 school year - Elementary: 243, Middle School: 126, High School: 180.
- 2029-2030 school year - Elementary: 228, Middle School: 137, High School: 180.
- 2030-2031 school year - Elementary: 232, Middle School: 124, High School: 188.
- 2032-2033 school year - Elementary: 225, Middle School: 129, High School: 175.

If those numbers hold true, the district enrollment would drop from 570 this year down to 529 during the 2032-2033 school year.

Groton Area has seen enrollment ebbs and flows through the last two decades, from highs of 633 in the 2004 and 2008 school years, down to 570 in 2024 and 577 in 2017.

Officials will have a clearer view of next year's enrollment after the kindergarten roundup, scheduled for April 10. Elementary school principal Brett Schwan advises parents/guardians of kids turning 5-years-old on or before September 1, 2026 to reach out to the elementary school to make sure their child is on the list of potential students.

Two resignations, three hires

The board made a handful of personnel changes, including accepting the resignation of Business Manager Becky Hubsch, effective June 30, 2026.

Hubsch has worked for the Groton school district since 2021, first as the middle school/high school business and computer teacher before becoming the district's business manager in 2023.

The board also accepted the resignation of Teresa Davies, food service team members, effective at the end of the current school year.

The board approved hiring three people.

Darren Dennert was hired as special education paraprofessional at the middle/high school.

Mike Heilman was hired as bus route driver for the Bristol area.

Kiya Stillman was hired as English Language Arts Teacher for the 2026-2027 school year. Stillman, who is currently attending Black Hills State University, is set to fill the position opening up after Diane Kurtz announced her retirement at the board's February meeting.

• The board approved raising the 2026 Driver's Education Fee and updating the instructor agreement. The board agreed to change the instructor agreement to pay the instructor the same way the extended school year teachers are paid during the summer. The board also voted to raise the driver's education fee from \$290 to \$300.

• The district has received its new transit van, which the board discussed at its February meeting after voting to move \$42,500 from cash on hand to the transportation for the purchase.

• A new last day of school may be decided later this month. The board will look at a proposed adjustment to the 2025-2026 school year calendar. A new last day of school for student may move from May 14 to May 20 due to four weather-related school closings this year. An official decision will not take place until the board approves the adjustment.

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: Brantley Ahartz

Why all money should be digital

All money should be digital because it takes forever to make the metal and to regrow trees.

When making coins it uses a lot of metal. It takes Mother Nature years to remake metal again.

"Gold formation takes millions to billions of years. Through geological processes like hydrothermal and magmatic activity, gold slowly accumulates in deposits over vast timescales. While specific timelines vary depending on geological conditions, it typically takes millions of years for minable gold deposits to form." When making coins, the factories where coins are made release lots of gases into the air called carbon emissions, according to www.physicalgold.com

Possible arguments:

~loss of privacy with a digital money trail
~ security vulnerabilities an all digital system is easier to hack

~government control where bank accounts could be frozen

How to address the arguments

~you can still lock or not use a your card unless you need to

~you can use a fire wall and if you don't share information you can't get hacked

~you can use more than one type of digital currency and if it gets frozen you can wait and see why it got frozen.

In conclusion, all money should be digital to keep the earth safe from pollution.

Assignment: Argument Editorial: People see things in different ways

Student Name: Chase Cleveland

Schools should have fast food because students would actually buy the food, and students wouldn't have to be hungry from not eating the food they don't like.

First, when there was food I did not like at school, I was hungry all day because I had forgotten my sack lunch. It felt like I was going to starve to death!

Next, we could become a popular school if we had fast food, and everyone would want to come to our school. The school would become rich from all the people who want to eat fast food at school. My source states, "McDonald's is eaten the most in the American states." It is the most bought food, so the schools could buy McDonald's because it is cheap. The school would probably spend the same amount of money on fast food that it does on lunches now on the food we don't like. My source says that Subway is a healthy fast-food option, and it is low calorie. It is the best fast-food option for kids.

People will probably say, isn't fast food unhealthy? What happens if I don't like fast

food? I would say it can be on a special day so everyone doesn't get mad, or you can eat the school lunch if you like it or bring a sack. I think schools should have fast food at lunch because it can save them money and students won't go hungry.

Finally, I need you guys to tell your principal that you should get fast food every once in a while. Hopefully, she says, "Yes, you should!" Tell everyone you know to get every school on board, so we can have fast food! What would you pick for fast food at your school?

Assignment: Argument Editorial: People see things in different ways

Student Name: Coralyn Kotzer

I think all schools should have a fruit and vegetable garden so kids can learn healthy life habits. Many children lead sedentary lifestyles, with a limited understanding of the link between a long life and healthy habits. For educators, consider planting the seeds of a gardening program at your school this year.

School gardens encourage teamwork and can help build students skills for when they are in business or have a job. It will teach them to know how to work together. This will help some kids who do not want to talk to other kids.

Having a school garden can start a bond with the community and it can create jobs for everyone that will be fun, like watering plants, measuring the plants' growth, pulling out weeds. Yes, these are jobs, and not all kids will like it but when they have a job they will have to do things they will not like. Teaching kids to do things they dislike early will help them later.

I think schools should have fruit and vegetable gardens. You should ask your school to have a garden so you can eat healthy.

Source: Let It Grow-Harvard Graduate School of Education

Assignment: Argument Editorial: People see things in different ways

Student Name: Henry Pharis

There needs to be fewer poachers in the world. There are many animals that could definitely go extinct, and poachers should pay a hefty fine or even go to jail.

Many animals can go extinct, such as elephants, which are poached for their ivory tusks. Also in Asian countries, rhinos are being poached for their horns. In Asia, according to savetherhino.org, it is estimated that less than 50,000 elephants remain. Since 2013, 60% of Kruger's rhinos have declined.

According to ifaw.org, many poachers kill apes, which are often hunted for their bushmeat. Also, some poachers kill lions for their body parts, such as their bones, teeth, and claws. According to mongabay.com, when lions are poached they are often poached using snares, which are simple, low-tech, noose-like traps that can be made from cheap and easily accessible materials, such as wire, rope or brake cables. Also, snares are the terrestrial equivalent to the drift nets which have devastated marine and freshwater biodiversity.

Some people might say why do we need all these animals? And why can't we kill them for their body parts, and what's wrong with one animal species going extinct? Well, poachers just kill animals for their body parts to make money. Why can't they just make money by getting a job, not by killing innocent animals? According to schoolastic.com if one animal goes extinct, it can affect an entire ecosystem.

That's why I believe many animals could definitely go extinct from poaching, and poachers should pay a hefty fine or even go to jail. I think that there should be no more poachers in the world. There are many innocent animals dying out right now which makes me very sad and upset. These poachers are

killing animals in the most inhumane ways possible. That's why I think people should stop poaching endangered animals.

Assignment: Argument Editorial: People see things in different ways

Student Name: Jase Bahr

I feel like everyone in the world could recycle a little more. My town has trash in a lot of places, and it's getting gross. Some people don't even care, and it is very weird because Groton is turning into a gross place, and few people care.

I bet Groton was way cleaner in the past. But don't get me wrong, Groton isn't dirty; it just could be cleaner. I find trash on the ground and pick it up, but not just one person will get the job done and make Groton cleaner, but that doesn't mean we are a dirty city, just like I said we could be cleaner.

Every Earth Day, a third-grade class goes and cleans outside the school, and when I was in third-grade I went and got so much garbage, and that was only in one area. I wonder how bad the whole town could be? I think if we all work together and try to clean up this town, everyone would be happier and it would be so much cleaner, and if you don't want to, just really try to recycle more.

In conclusion, we could work harder and try to distribute more recycling bins, recycle more, and a community group of people to help pick up litter and other garbage, and maybe someday we could change Groton into a cleaner place. I love Groton, and many people here are competitive, so let's be competitive and try to make Groton the cleanest town in South Dakota.

Assignment: Argument Editorial: People see things in different ways

Student Name: Leo Whiteaker

Hey, have you ever wanted a classroom pet? I think pets should be allowed in the classroom. I think they should be limited to one pet.

First, I think schools should allow classroom pets because it teaches the students how to be responsible. For example, to take care of animals, students will have to make sure to feed them, water them, and give them a safe place to live. This teaches the students responsibility.

Allowing pets in the classroom would also help students learn about emotions and feelings. According to the article, "How Classroom Pets Foster Social and Emotional Learning, "Having animals allows students to care for something that has feelings. Many students learn to love these animals and ask to visit them years later." Also, if students are feeling upset or frustrated, the pets can help them by comforting them.

People may say that pets are too distracting to be in the classroom. Before classrooms get a pet, they should talk about what pet will be best for their classroom. The class should make rules with consequences to make sure the pet is safe. This teaches the students to be respectful and to follow instructions. If students are getting distracted by the pets, they will have to have the consequences.

I think that pets would be a good addition to the classroom because it can teach the students responsibility and about feelings or emotions. What type of pet would you want in your classroom?

Sources: <https://www.edutopia.org>
<https://petsintheclassroom.org>



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Are You A Baddie? Then Why Are You Still Using Plastic Straws?

by Marium Zahra

Dear EarthTalk: Are disposable plastic straws really so terrible for the environment and what are some good alternatives that won't get mushy in liquid?

—Mary B., San Francisco, CA

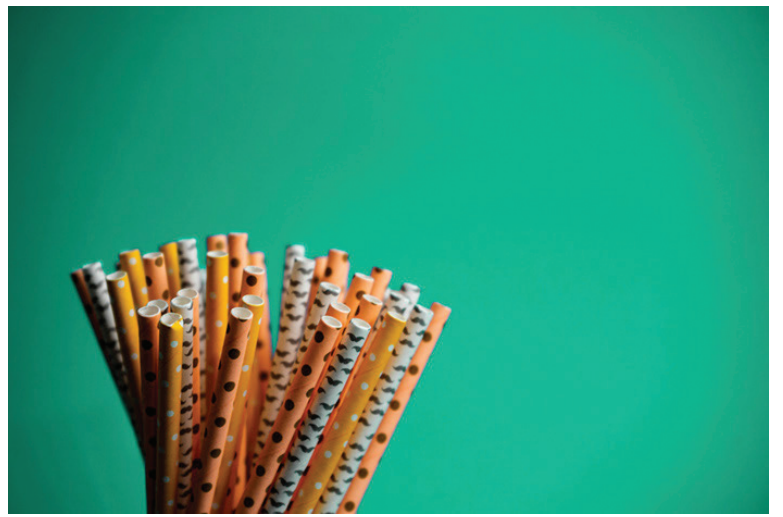
A single-use straw, also known as a disposable straw, is made of plastic and is intended to be thrown away after one drink. The materials that make these straws are non-biodegradable, meaning that their waste is not broken down naturally and often leads to landfill pollution. These plastic straws can take up to 200 years to decompose, and unlike organic materials, they are only fragmented into smaller pieces known as microplastics that have lasting impacts on ecosystems.

Straws are among the top waste items found in beach clean-ups and are often ingested by marine animals, leading to injury and death. According to the Journal of Science Advances, over eight million metric tons of plastic enter oceans annually, with single-use plastic straws being significant contributors.

When microplastics are consumed by marine life and enter the food chain, they eventually harm human health. "It's an ingestion issue," says Jon Forrest Dohlin, Director of the Wildlife Conservation Society New York Aquarium. "And as it does break down to smaller and smaller pieces, it works its way into the food chain and is absorbed by animals, including, by the way, humans." Moreover, due to the small size of disposable straws, they often fall through recycling machinery and are left to be discarded in landfills and oceans. Disposable straws also pose health risks to humans and animals through the harmful BPA chemicals that can lead to medical problems like reproductive issues, developmental delays and more.

Despite these environmental and health harms, disposable straws continue to be used as a result of the low production costs of plastic and convenience, but with plastic straws becoming an increasing climate concern, alternative straws have become a greater priority. These substitutes include straws that are either made of biodegradable or reusable materials, including paper, metal, bamboo, glass, silicone and more.

Oftentimes, the biggest complaint against low-cost biodegradable straws, specifically those made out of paper, is that they get mushy in liquid. However, it is possible to prioritize health and sustainability while also avoiding the awkward feeling of mushy materials in daily drinks. For example, metal and silicone straws drastically reduce waste, being both reusable for years and easy to clean without changing the taste of your favorite drinks. In 2019, Samantha Grindell, an author at Business Insider, wrote that while pasta straws (yes, made from pasta) worked for water, she preferred other alternatives for drinks like coffee. "I think they're a great alternative to plastic or paper straws in restaurants, but I'd prefer to use a reusable metal straw on a day-to-day basis," she says..



Plastic straws can take up to 200 years to decompose, fragmenting into smaller "microplastics" that have lasting impacts on ecosystems.

Credit: Pexels.com

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King Crossword — Weekly SUDOKU —

Answers

Answer

Solution time: 23 mins.

OPTS	FIG	IRIS	9	6	7	4	3	8	2	1	5
PEAK	INN	NODE	3	2	4	1	7	5	6	9	8
PRIYANKA	SOLE		8	5	1	6	9	2	3	7	4
PIN	RHYMES										
WAVED	ULAN		7	9	5	8	6	1	4	3	2
ACID	PRINCESS		1	4	6	3	2	7	8	5	9
RED	WAGED	DIL									
PRISONER	LALA		2	8	3	9	5	4	1	6	7
OOPS	DIMLY		5	1	8	7	4	3	9	2	6
PELOSI	LOT		6	3	2	5	8	9	7	4	1
AMAT	PRIMATE	TES									
GUSH	EEL	NINE	4	7	9	2	1	6	5	8	3
ESTE	SOY	YETI									

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Makes a choice
- 5 Pear-shaped fruit
- 8 "The Black Prince" author Murdoch
- 12 High point
- 13 Hostel
- 14 Central point
- 15 "Citadel" actress Chopra
- 17 Only
- 18 Brooch
- 19 Rappers' improvisations
- 21 Signaled "Hi!"
- 24 — Bator
- 25 Battery fluid
- 26 Female royal
- 30 Roulette bet
- 31 Carried on, as war
- 32 Pickles on "Rugrats"
- 33 Inmate
- 35 Chorus syllables
- 36 "I dropped the fruitcake!"
- 37 How distant stars shine
- 38 Politico Nancy
- 41 Parcel of land
- 42 Latin 101 word

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
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51					52				53			

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 43 Archbishops, e.g. 48 Get overemotional 49 Slithery fish 50 Prime-time hour 51 Villa d'— 52 Tofu source 53 Bigfoot's cousin | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Twain hero 6 Squid squirt 7 More knotted, as a tree 8 Harmonious 9 Leeway 10 Between jobs 11 Beholds 16 Help 20 Royal flush, e.g. 21 Get bent out of shape 22 Computer brand 23 Caesar's "I saw" 24 Implores | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 26 Primitive flutes 27 Wax-coated cheese 28 Ledge 29 Do in 31 Courts 34 Mollify 35 Lengthy list 37 — Perignon 38 Leaf 39 Flightless birds 40 Endure 41 Easter bloom 44 Classic car 45 Dead heat 46 Sinusitis doc 47 Six, in Sicily |
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