

The Groton Independent

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Groton seventh-grader Reif shows grit after snowmobile crash

For most seventh graders, a February snowmobile trip to West Yellowstone would be remembered for the scenery and the fun. For 13-year-old Cash Reif of Groton, it became a test of toughness, patience and determination after a frightening crash left him with a broken femur and a long road back.

The Groton Area Middle School student was riding on the first full day of the trip — Monday, Feb. 2 — when the accident happened.

"We were out there where there were some shrubs and little creek drainages," Cash said. "I went down into one and then came up and started wheeling. I didn't see the other one. I set the front end down in it, my thigh hit the handlebar and I flew over."

Cash immediately knew something was wrong.

"It felt like my leg was straight, but it was sideways," he recalled.

His father and friends rushed to help, fashioning a temporary brace in the snow using shovel heads and paracord. The group tried to move him on a snowmobile, but deep, crusted snow and the rough terrain made the effort difficult. With no cell service, help seemed far away — until his father found a single bar of reception while placing his phone on the snowmobile dash and called 911, using onboard maps to guide rescuers to their location.

Emergency crews arrived with a rescue sled, administered pain medication and stabilized Cash's leg before a helicopter transported him to Idaho Falls.

"I just stared at the ceiling," Cash said of the flight.

At the hospital, X-rays confirmed a broken femur — the largest bone in the body. Surgeons inserted a metal rod and three screws during surgery the following morning. Cash remained hospitalized another day before making the long drive home to Groton.

Recovery began quickly. Within one to two weeks, he started physical therapy, working through leg lifts, bends and resistance exercises. Today, he continues strengthening routines that include stair work, stretching and resistance training.

Returning to school wasn't easy.

"For the first week I did half days," Cash said. "It was pretty hard getting around on crutches."

Teachers helped by allowing him to leave class early to avoid crowded hallways, and after just a week he was back to full days. He got off crutches last week and now walks steadily, with only minor discomfort during therapy sessions.

Cash is scheduled to see his doctor again next week, but his recovery has already impressed those around him. Just over a month removed from the accident, he's back in school, back on his feet and already talking about the future — including riding again.



Cash Reif will be back on a snowmobile soon after Yellowstone crash. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Tastad, Larsen presented with Melvin Jones Fellowship Award

District Governor Lion Reid Christopherson of Garretson was a special guest at a recent Groton Lions Club meeting, where he helped recognize two outstanding members.

Christopherson presented Lion Alfred "Topper" Tastad and Lion Nancy Larsen with Melvin Jones Fellowship Awards, the highest form of recognition awarded by Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). Named in honor of Lions Clubs International founder Melvin Jones, the award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated exceptional humanitarian service and dedication to the ideals of Lionism.

Lion Larsen first joined the Groton Lions Club on Oct. 1, 1987, serving until April 1, 2007. She later rejoined on June 1, 2013, and continues to serve the club and community today. Lion Tastad joined the Groton Lions Club on Aug. 8, 2013, and remains an active and dedicated member.

Christopherson is pictured with Tastad and Larsen following the presentation of their awards. (Photo by Susie Easthouse)

His snowmobile, meanwhile, needed only minor repairs.

"Nothing broke," Cash said. "The handlebars just got bent."

For a 13-year-old who endured a traumatic injury in the backcountry, the experience has become less about the crash itself and more about perseverance — and getting back up after being knocked down.

Independent launches GOFUNDME campaign

Groton, S.D. — In an effort to preserve one of the community's longest-standing institutions, the Groton Independent has launched a GoFundMe campaign aimed at sustaining the future of the local newspaper.

Founded more than 143 years ago, the Groton Independent has chronicled generations of local history, from city government and school events to high school athletics and community milestones. But like many small-town newspapers across the country, it is now facing financial challenges that threaten its long-term sustainability.

Owner and publisher Paul Kosel — known to many in the community as "Paper Paul" — said the decision to launch a public fundraiser came after exhausting every available option.

"We've diversified as much as possible to try to generate revenue," Kosel said. "We've expanded into digital coverage, livestreaming, and increased our community involvement. But the paper itself is just not able to fully support its operation right now."

Kosel purchased the Groton Independent in 1986 and, along with his wife Tina, has spent decades dedicated to keeping local journalism alive in Groton and the surrounding communities.

"This has truly been a family effort over the years," Kosel said. "Tina has been a big part of the newspaper, and together we've poured our hearts into keeping it going."

The idea for the fundraiser follows a model used by South Dakota Public Broadcasting, which relies on community support to sustain its operations, as well as a similar effort launched recently by the Brandon Valley Journal newspaper.

Continues on Page 7

gofundme

Scan to donate to Paul's fundraiser
"Local News Matters! Stand with The Groton Independent"

HOSA raising funds for medical mission to Belize

By Elizabeth Varin

Students in the Groton Area High School HOSA chapter are raising funds for a trip that will take their learning far beyond the classroom and into communities in need.

Seventeen students from the organization are preparing for an educational and medical mission trip to Belize, where they will staff a health clinic in an area with limited access to healthcare. The experience will allow students interested in healthcare careers to work alongside medical professionals while learning about global health and service.

To help make the trip possible, the group has organized several fundraisers in recent months, including their latest effort — Saturday's Go For The Green 5K.

According to HOSA advisor and health science teacher Brittany Hubbard, the trip will give students a unique opportunity to both serve others and gain hands-on experience in the healthcare field.

"We're going on a medical mission trip with Global Brigades, where we actually will get to staff a mobile health clinic in areas where they don't have a lot of healthcare options," Hubbard said. "So students will get the opportunity to work triage and check in, and education, and pharmacy, and observe doctors. And just make a difference while learning and doing things too."

While the fundraising efforts help cover travel and trip costs, Hubbard said the events are also designed to bring the community together.

"Beyond just a fundraiser, I think it's good for community involvement," she said. "I think we have tried to do things that get the community interacting with each other and our organization. And to me, that's more important than the actual fundraising outcome."

Two of the students preparing for the trip are junior Emerlee Jones and senior Jaedyn Penning. Both say they are excited for the opportunity to travel and serve others while gaining valuable experience.

"I'm excited to just help people and have that experience and get out across the world," Jones said. "It'll be a really great experience to have."



Runners take off at the beginning of the Go For The Green 5K on Saturday afternoon. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

Penning agreed, noting the trip will give students the chance to experience a new culture while fulfilling the mission of their organization.

"We will get to go to a whole different country and see new things and experience new things," Penning said. "We also get to go do some fun things there and then help people, which is what our club is for."

In the months leading up to the trip, HOSA members have organized a variety of fundraisers, including several new ideas aimed at bringing more people together.

"I think we've done a really good job of finding new ones and ones that haven't always been here, like the 5K," Jones said. "We have done a lot more new ones and creative ones that want to get people interacting."

Penning added that the events have felt more like community gatherings than traditional fundraisers.

"And it's fun," Penning said. "It doesn't seem like we're trying to raise money. It's like just getting a bunch of groups of people together and doing fun things, which is exciting."

The students say they have been encouraged by the strong support they've received from the community.

"Oh, yeah," Jones said when asked if they've seen local support.

"We have the best community," Penning added.

Jones said the variety of events has helped bring in new participants and keep the fundraisers fresh.

"We're bringing in all different kinds of people, which is exciting, and it's good for our community," she said. "It's really nice that there's different people, because then if you ask the same people to pay money every time, then they get a little over it. So it's a really great thing."

Beyond the travel and service work, the students say they are looking forward to learning new skills and gaining experiences that could shape their future careers.

"We're going to be taught life lessons," Penning said. "We're going to be taught new things, like we're going to be taught how to do blood pressure and how to do all those things to then help people, which could help us in our futures."

Continues on next page



Taylor Flihs heads down North Third Street toward the finish line of the Go For The Green 5K on Saturday afternoon.

(Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



The top male and female runner (Jayden Schwan and Mikayla Arechigo) pose for a photo after the Go For The Green 5K on Saturday afternoon.

(Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



The winners of the individual and group costume contest (from left: Natalia Warrington, Gentry Pigors, Alandra Harrelson, Talli Wright, Jaedyn Penning and Aspen Beto) pose for a photo after the Go For The Green 5K.

(Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Kaylee Raba, Emme Flihs and Becah Flihs run by the skating rink on the west side of Groton during the Go For The Green 5K on Saturday afternoon.

(Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Costumed racers Jaedyn Penning, Aspen Beto, Talli Wright, Gentry Pigors, and Natalia Warrington head down West Third Avenue during the Go For The Green 5K.

(Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

Continued from previous page

Jones said the trip will also give students a new perspective on healthcare access around the world.

"I think another really good thing for us is that some of us haven't really experienced anything like where people don't have a clinic to go to," she said. "It'll be really nice to see that and understand that in a new perspective."

Penning agreed, saying the experience will be eye-opening.

For Penning, one of the most important lessons she hopes to take away from the experience is an appreciation for opportunities many people often take for granted.

"I think it's, honestly, not to take life for granted," Penning said. "From what we've seen about what we're going to go do, it's like it's a whole different world. It just shows that everything we have is a privilege, and to really take that in and have that in our heart, that we get that every day."

Those interested in supporting the students' trip can contact Hubbard by phone or email (605-397-8381 or Brittany.Hubbart@k12.sd.us), or drop off a donation at the Groton Area School District office. Donors are asked to note that the contribution is designated for Groton Area HOSA's Belize trip.



The top three male runners (from left: Rylan Evenson, Jayden Schwan and Riley Shellenberger) pose after the Go For The Green 5K on Saturday afternoon. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



The top three female runners (from left: Mikayla Arechigo, Andi Iverson and Taryn Traphagen) pose for a photo after the Go For The Green 5K on Saturday afternoon. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Brody Lord was one of the costumed runners at the Go For The Green 5K on Saturday afternoon. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

March Groton Legion Auxiliary Meeting

The March meeting of Groton Unit 39 of the American Legion Auxiliary was busy, since we did not meet in December, January or February. Correspondence received included thank you notes for cash donations given to several local organization, the Fort Mead Veteran's Christmas gift shop, as Groton Area school third graders for the dictionaries they are using in their classroom.

The Veteran's Day activities and Turkey shoot summary on the bingo, lunch stand and cake walk indicated successful projects with a lot of membership participation.

In December Ardella Theunissen mailed holiday greetings and Jan Seibel, Meri Erickson, Rita Kampa, Jerrie Vedvei, Wendy Cooper and Lori Giedt made holiday visits to some of the auxiliary members who are unable to attend monthly meetings.

Reports on Americanism activities included visits to the kindergarten class by Jerrie and Tami for flag etiquette education. Information for poem and essay contests were given to the school and these will be collected for judging the first part of March.

Jan reported on the Midwinter conference, and reminded members of the spring district meeting in March in Redfield, and the Department Convention in Aberdeen June 19 & 20.

Girls State chairman Lori worked with the Columbia unit to select attendees. The Groton unit voted to sponsor 2 tables at the Girls State Banquet this year.

Meri reminded everyone to save Ken's and Kessler's grocery receipts for the Give 10 Education project, Wendy keeps track of these and has collected receipts from members totaling \$2509 in January.

We have set the date for our annual Salad Buffet. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, July 15, with serving from 11-1. Set up will be on the 14th at 4 pm if anyone is available to help.

Our next meeting will be Monday, April 6 at the Groton Legion Clubroom. Wendy and Rita will be hosting lunch, serving at 6 and business meeting at 6:30. District President Deanne Hoyle will be our guest attendee.

GrotonPrairie Mixed Bowling League Week #17 Results

Team Standings: Foxes 10, Coyotes 8, Jack-
elopes 7, Chipmunks 6, Cheetahs 4, Shihtzus 1
Men's High Games: Brad Larson 225, Brad
Waage 204, Lance Frohling 194

Women's High Games: Suzie Easthouse
192, Brenda Madsen 191, Vicki Walter 184

Men's High Series: Brad Waage 558, Tony
Waage 522, Brad Larson 516

Women's High Series: Suzie Easthouse
504, Vicki Walter 471, Brenda Madsen 425

Fun Game: Most Strikes - Cheetahs with 35!

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Groton Area March Students



Rylee Dunker
Senior



Carlee Johnson
Junior



Kinsley Rowen
Sophomore



Brooklyn Spanier
Freshman



Cameron Feist
Eighth Grade



Elias Heilman
Eighth Grade



Lillian Davis
Seventh Grade



Avery Huber
Sixth Grade

Groton Area School works to ensure that all levels of academic instruction also include the necessary life skills teaching, practicing, and modeling that encourages essential personal life habits that are universally understood to facilitate helping our students become good human beings and citizens.

It is learning with our heads, hearts, and hands to be caring and civil, to make healthy decisions, to effectively problem solve, to be respectful and responsible, to be good citizens, and to be empathetic and ethical individuals.

Students are selected based on individual student growth in the areas of: positive behavior, citizenship, good attendance, a thirst for knowledge, and high academic standards.



We'll finish up the roster breakdown next week, but we have to talk about this big news coming out of the Twin Cities. NFL free agency started last week, and the Vikings have been dominating the news cycle thanks to a potentially franchise-altering pickup. There were also some moves the Vikings made that left me scratching my head.

We'll start with the good news. The Vikings signed former number one overall pick Kyler Murray, who was released by the Arizona Cardinals last week. This signing has a ton of interesting threads. Does Murray fit in Kevin O'Connell's offense? What does this mean for J.J. McCarthy? What happens next year? How much does the signing actually improve the Vikings' chances in 2026?

First, a little backstory on Kyler Murray. After throwing for 4,361 yards and 42 touchdowns, plus adding another 1,001 yards and 12 touchdowns on the ground, Murray won the 2018 Heisman award. The Arizona Cardinals took him first overall in 2019, and he proceeded to win Offensive Rookie of the Year. He was then selected to the Pro Bowl after the 2020 and 2021 seasons. Things were looking bright for Murray and the Arizona Cardinals. Then the injuries started piling up. After only missing three games in his first three seasons, Murray missed 27 games from 2022 to 2025.

Finally free of Arizona, Murray chose the Vikings. And who can blame him? Going from one of the worst-run teams in the league to a team consistently ranked as one of the best, getting to play under QB-whisperer Kevin O'Connell, getting to throw to Justin Jefferson and Jordan Addison, being protected by one of the best left tackles in the NFL... there are plenty of reasons why he chose Minnesota.

The big question is the fit. Obviously, O'Connell wouldn't have signed him if he didn't believe he could take advantage of Murray's dual-threat abilities. But it remains to be seen if the marriage can actually work. Under KOC, the Vikings have traditionally had pocket passers. Kirk Cousins and Sam Darnold are not known for their scrambling ability, but rather their ability to stand in the pocket and make throws to every level of the field. Murray, on the other hand, is a short QB (5'10") who excels when plays break down and he can improvise. There is no doubt Murray is a playmaker. Now we get to see if KOC can adjust his game plan to take advantage of his new QB's unique skillset.

So what does this mean for J.J. McCarthy, who is entering his third season after being a top-10 pick in 2024? According to KOC, Murray was brought in to compete with McCarthy, not to be the clear starter. So what this means for JJM depends entirely on the man himself. If he takes this as a challenge and improves his game, the QB1 role is still available. If he fails to keep up with (or surpass) Murray, JJM will likely

be looking for a new team in 2027.

For now, the Vikings are in the best position they could hope for, all things considered. They now have two QBs to compete for the starting role. Murray is only costing them \$1.3 million (Arizona is paying the rest of his salary), while JJM is still on a rookie contract. If Murray plays well, the Vikings can re-sign him and trade McCarthy. If McCarthy plays well, they will let Murray walk and likely receive a compensatory draft pick, similar to the comp pick they received from letting Darnold walk. And, worst-case scenario, neither QB takes the job, and the Vikings keep the search going next offseason.

Other news and notes

Free agency additions:

The Vikings signed free agent CB James Pierre to a two-year deal.

Free agency losses:

WR Jalen Nailor signed with the Las Vegas Raiders.

Punter Ryan Wright signed with the New Orleans Saints.

Other offseason moves:

The Vikings re-signed linebacker Eric Wilson, safety Tavierre Thomas, and long snapper Andrew DePaola. They also tendered defensive lineman Jalen Redmond and linebacker Ivan Pace Jr.

The Vikings have re-worked the contracts of tight end T.J. Hockenson and running back Aaron Jones, keeping them both in Minnesota for the 2026 season.

The Vikings released defensive linemen Jonathan Allen and Javon Hargrave, while also releasing safety Harrison Smith (it's a procedural move to give Smith time to decide if he wants to come back for one final season).

The Groton Independent

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Groton Area February Students of the Month



Jayden Schwan
Senior



Teagan Hanten
Junior



Kyleigh Kroll
Sophomore



Tevan Hanson
Freshman



Jameson Penning
Eighth Grade



Tori Schuster
Seventh Grade



Jernie Weig
Sixth Grade

Groton Area School works to ensure that all levels of academic instruction also include the necessary life skills teaching, practicing, and modeling that encourages essential personal life habits that are universally understood to facilitate helping our students become good human beings and citizens.

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Students are selected based on individual student growth in the areas of: positive behavior, citizenship, good attendance, a thirst for knowledge, and high academic standards.



Friday, March 20

Senior Menu: Baked fish, baked potato, antigua blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.
 NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
 State A Boys Basketball Tournament in Rapid City
 HS Baseball Practice, 6 p.m., GHS Gym
 Saturday, March 21
 FIRST DAY OF SPRING
 State A Boys Basketball Tournament in Rapid City
 Pickleball, 9:30 a.m., Elementary Gym

Sunday, March 22

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir, 6 p.m.
 St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m.; at Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
 United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; 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.
 6th grade BB Practice, 6 pm., Arena
 Puzzle, Popcorn, Pop Challenge at Wage Memorial Library, 1 p.m.

Monday, March 23

Senior Menu: Baked hot ham and cheese, tomato soup, fruit.
 School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels.
 School Lunch: Chicken nachos.
 Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
 Pickleball, 5:30 a.m., Elementary Gym
 Winter Sports Awards, 7 p.m.
 Groton Senior Citizens, potluck at noon, Community Center

Tuesday, March 24

Senior Menu: Pork loin, roasted potatoes, glazed carrots, fruit, whole wheat bread.
 School Breakfast: Breakfast sliders.
 School Lunch: Chicken breast, try taters.
 United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.
 Milbank CDE State Qualifier
 Indoor Track Meet at NSU, 3:30 p.m.
 HS Baseball Practice, 6 p.m., HS Gym
 Biogirls, 3:45 p.m., elementary gym

Wednesday, March 25

Senior Menu: Chicken broccoli bake, mashed potatoes, fruit, biscuit.
 School Breakfast: Omelets.
 School Lunch: Cheese quesadilla, refried beans.
 Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.; Soup Supper (Sunday School hosts), 6 p.m.; Lenten Service, 7 p.m.
 St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.; Lent Supper, 6 p.m.; Lent Service at St. John's, 7 p.m.
 United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.
 Pickleball, 5:30 p.m. Elementary Gym
 6th Grade Boys Basketball, 6 p.m., HS Gym
 Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 26

Senior Menu: Roast beef, mashed potatoes, California blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.
 School Breakfast: Biscuits.
 School Lunch: Lasagna bake, corn.
 Pickleball, 5:30 p.m., Ementary gym

4th Grade BBB, 6 p.m., Arena
 HS Baseball Practice, 6 p.m., GHS Gym

Friday, March 27

Senior Menu: Calico casserole, fruit, whole wheat bread.
 School Breakfast: Doughnuts.
 School Lunch: Cheese breadstick, marinara sauce, green beans.
 FFA Little International at SDSU, Brookings
 School Musical, 7 p.m., GHS Gym

Saturday, March 28

Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m., City Park
 Dueling Duo, 6 p.m., Groton Legion
 Pickleball, 9:30 a.m., Elementary Gym
 Softball at Clark/Willow Lake (Clark), Varsity at 1 p.m., JV at 2 p.m.

Sunday, March 29

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

Monday, March 30

Senior Menu: Soft tacos, Spanish rice with beans, lettuce and cheese, corn, fruit.
 School Breakfast: Egg bake.
 School Lunch: Oriental chicken, rice.
 Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
 Pickleball, 5:30 a.m., Elementary Gym
 HS Baseball Practice, 6 p.m., GHS Gym

Tuesday, March 31

Senior Menu: Scalloped potatoes, carrots, fruit, dinner roll.
 School Breakfast: Muffins.
 School Lunch: Tater tot hot dish, mixed vegetables.
 United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.
 Indoor Track Meet at NSU, 3:30 p.m.
 Biogirls, 3:45 p.m., elementary gym
 Softball: Sisseton at Groton Area, Varsity at 4 p.m., JV at 5 p.m.

Wednesday, April 1

Chamber Meeting, noon, City Hall
 Pickleball, 5:30 - 7:30 PM, Groton Area Elementary School
 6th Grade Boys Basketball, 6 - 7:30 PM, GHS Arena

Thursday, April 2

Varsity Softball at Aberdeen Central, Varsity at 4 p.m., JV at 5:30 p.m.
 5th Grade Girls Basketball, 4 - 5:30 PM, Groton Area Elementary School
 HS Baseball Practice, 6 - 7:30 PM, GHS Gym
 Pickleball, 6 - 8 PM, Groton Area Elementary School Gym

Classifieds and Card of Thanks

The following rates are for Classifieds published in both the Groton Daily Independent and the Groton Independent. Cut rate in half if you just want it in the GDI or just the weekly.
 1 Week: \$9 for first 30 words, 20¢/word thereafter
 2 Wks: \$17 for first 30 words, 38¢/word thereafter
 3 Wks: \$24 for first 30 words, 54¢/word thereafter
 4th consecutive week is free
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EMPLOYMENT

The City of Groton is seeking an experienced lineman to join our municipal electric department. Duties include but are not limited to maintenance, inspection, construction, and repair of the city's electrical distribution systems, street lighting, substations, and related equipment. Applicants must be citizens of the United States, have a high school diploma or GED, and possess a valid commercial driver's license (or be able to acquire CDL within 6 months of employment). Journeyman certification highly preferred.

Benefits package includes paid time off, medical insurance, life insurance, and SD Retirement. Position is open until filled.

If you are interested in applying, please email completed application/resume to city.doug@nvc.net. You can also drop off, or mail completed application/resume to Groton City Hall, 120 North Main St, Groton, SD 57445. The City of Groton is an equal opportunity employer.

JERAULD COUNTY is accepting applications for full-time Ambulance Coordinator/Emergency Medical Technician. Competitive wages and sign-on bonus. Contact Jerauld County Auditor's Office, 605-539-9301 or email auditor@jerauldsd.com

THE CITY OF GROTON is seeking an experienced lineman to join our municipal electric department. If you are interested in applying, please visit <https://www.grotonsd.gov/live-feed#11572776>

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FOR SALE: BOSTON TERRIER PUPPIES. Very cute. Health guaranteed. Ready to go now! \$650.00. First come/first serve. Hot Springs, SD. 715.937.0916

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Sons of American Legion: March Meeting Summary

Opening and Roll Call

The meeting opened with a prayer and Pledge of Allegiance, following traditional ceremonial protocol.

Roll call established a quorum with seven members present. Minutes from previous meetings (Feb 17 and March 15) were reviewed and approved.

Officer Updates & Introductions

Bob Tomlinson introduced as new Sal District 4 commander and interim vice commander, expressing commitment to the Legion's ideals and support for the squadron.

Bruce announced as newly elected district commander (term starting after June convention). He will remain involved locally as Americanism officer.

Financial and Administrative Updates

New checking account for the squadron is officially open after overcoming administrative hurdles. Current balance is approximately \$540 after recent dues payments and expenditures.

Access to the account is held by two members (Aaron and Paul).

Discussion about the need to finalize and sign the squadron charter. Decision made: all members who have paid dues by March 23rd will be included as original charter members. Motion was passed to set this deadline.

Fundraising Initiatives

Proposal discussed to raffle a rare \$500 bill: 100 squares at \$40 each, aiming for \$2500 profit for the Sons after reimbursing the \$1500 investment.

Steps needed: Build/display raffle board, get approval from bar management (Roxie), and notify the SD Secretary of State as required by law.

Action plan: Bruce will contact the Secretary of State, Roxie will be approached for bar approval. Once all approvals are in place, the raffle can proceed.

Technology and Payment

Inquiry about establishing a Venmo account for easier dues/fund collection. Motion passed for Paul to set up and manage the squadron's Venmo account.

Merchandise

Discussion about ordering squadron caps (approx. \$50 each). Plan to proceed with ordering; debit card is pending.

Membership & Reports

District report: South Dakota Sons of the American Legion at ~90% membership goal, but renewals lagging.

Incentive shirt program for recruiting new Legion members explained.

Administrative reminders: Consolidated Squadron Reports due June 1, data reports by July 1. Important for documenting community service and activities.

Discussion of potential for a lifetime membership program within the Sons (currently only in some states, not transferable).

Upcoming Events & Community Involvement

June 6: Legion Riders and associated breakfast event in Groton. Sons encouraged to help serve and document participation for annual reports.

Noted that collaboration between the Legion, Sons, and Auxiliary is increasing, with opportunities for joint activities and community service (e.g., color guard, youth programs).

Closing

Meeting closed with a prayer and flag salute, following ceremonial protocol. Members reminded to keep documentation for all activities. Next meeting is Monday, April 20, 7 p.m.



Jordan Voss-Severson being sworn in by Mayor Scott Hanlon as the new councilman of Ward 3. Jason Wambach turned in his resignation from the council at the last meeting as his family is moving out of town. Pictured from left are Voss-Severson, Karyn Babcock, Attorney Chad Locken, Mayor Hanlon and Finance Officer Doug Heinrich. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

Groton City Council appoints new member, grapples with sewer system improvement costs

by Elizabeth Varin

The Groton City Council packed in a full agenda Tuesday night, blending big decisions with a few pauses along the way.

The council appointed Jordan Voss-Severson as Ward 3 councilwoman, following the resignation of Jason Wambach earlier this month.

Voss-Severson is a Groton-native, graduating from Groton High School in 2008 and Presentation College in 2012. She works at Sanford in Aberdeen as a nurse practitioner in cardiology.

Voss-Severson lives in Ward 3 in Groton with her husband Matt Severson and their two children 10-year-old Mavrik and 7-year-old Elleit.

The addition comes at a busy time, as the city continues to juggle projects, planning and preparations for the seasons ahead.

During the meeting, council members grappled with cost concerns about the upcoming sewer system improvement project.

Council members expressed concerns about whether portions of the project will have to be re-engineered as they were asked to sign a contract to have additional soil exploration done around a slough. A company had already bore 15 feet down, but IMEG, the company engineering the project, requested additional soil exploration down 50 feet.

While the cost to bore the ground in that area totaled less than \$7,000, council members asked if that additional work would impact the project design, thereby affecting the price of the project overall.

Ken Hier with IMEG said they don't know yet how that will impact the overall project. The request is based on questions posed by potential project contractors and suppliers.

"I just don't want to sign something that's a blank check," said Councilman Kevin Nehls.

After much discussion, the council approved the contract for further soil exploration.

"We should know what's down there," Mayor Scott Hanlon said. The council pushed a few items to the council's next meeting.

Two special event alcoholic beverage licenses were tabled as public notices indicated those items wouldn't be heard until March 18.

The council also tabled a review of an estimate from H&M Custom Coating for exterior painting at City Hall. Councilman Brian Bahr, who was not at Tuesday's meeting, had been the person in contact with the company, and Councilman Nehls asked that the item be tabled until Bahr was back.

The council discussed a proposal to have an individual transport the new baseball scoreboard from Daktronics's facility to Groton, but hesitated as the city would be liable should something happen on the trip. Instead, the council approved having Daktronics deliver the scoreboard for an estimated \$500.

The council approved hiring a few more summer recreation employees. Emma Kutter, Jace Johnson, Ryelle Gilbert, Emerlee Jones and Addison Hoffman were hired as lifeguards, Matt Locke was hired as 14U Legion Coach, and Aaron Severson was hired as Junior Legion Coach.

Rounding out the evening, the council held its annual equalization meeting, reviewing changes in assessed property values across the community as part of the city's standard process.

Boddicker graduates from SDSU

South Dakota State University announces Brooke Boddicker of Groton, South Dakota, has graduated following the summer and fall 2025 semesters.

Boddicker graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from SDSU's College of Nursing.

Overall, more than 1,000 students from 35 states and 26 nations graduated following the summer and fall 2025 semesters, after completing all requirements for a degree and/or certificate program. Nearly 40 students received two or more degrees or certificates from a college.

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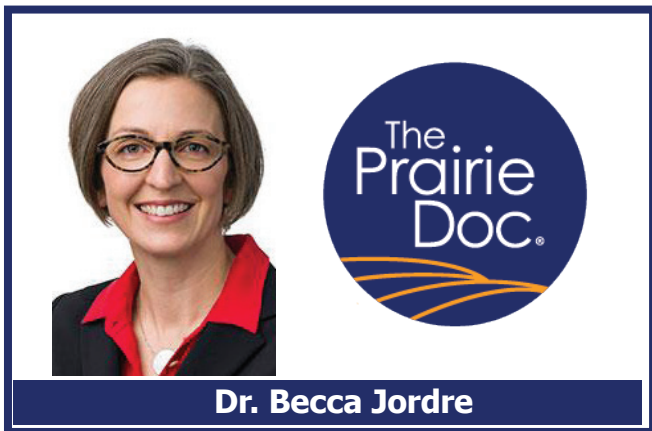
15 N. Main St., Ste. 101
Downtown Groton

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"Old Age, Only 10 Years Away"

Every year I ask my students, "How old is old?" The answers vary, but the most honest response I've ever received came from a patient who said, "Old is 10 years older than my age." We all tend to push aging just out of reach, as though it belongs to someone else.



Dr. Becca Jordre

As a physical therapist, professor and researcher in aging, I see the consequences of that distance every day. When we mentally place older adults in a separate category, we give ourselves permission to speak and act in ways that quietly do harm. We call someone an "old lady" without pause. We dismiss a symptom as "expected at your age." We offer the well-meaning but quietly deflating compliment that someone is doing well "for their age." Each of these small moments narrows what we believe is possible for that person.

This is ageism. Generally unintentional, ever-present in our society.

The problem is not acknowledging that aging brings real changes. It does. Health conditions, pain, and mobility challenges become more common with age, but not in some uniform pattern that warrants focus on a number. The problem is when age becomes the answer rather than the starting point. When decline is the expectation, we stop asking about goals, we stop noticing strengths and we start designing lives around an assumed limitation.

Consider a common piece of advice: move to a single-story home as you grow older. It sounds reasonable. But research tells a more nuanced story. Studies have found that those living in homes with stairs showed less decline in physical function over time compared to those without. Climbing stairs is demanding, repetitive physical work for the legs and heart. Removing that daily challenge in the name of safety may quietly accelerate the very decline we hope to prevent.

This pattern holds more broadly. Research consistently shows that vigorous exercise, not just gentle stretching or slow walks, produces the greatest health benefits as we age. Higher-intensity activity improves strength, balance, heart health and cognitive function in people well into their 80s and 90s. When we steer older adults toward only the lightest, most cautious forms of movement, we deprive them of the very stimulus their bodies need. In trying to protect, we inadvertently take away opportunity.

Language works the same way. When family members, neighbors and health care providers speak as though decline is inevitable, we coach people toward caution, avoidance and withdrawal. Expectation shapes behavior, and low expectations are their own kind of harm.

The answer is not to ignore age or pretend it doesn't matter. It is to treat aging as a human experience, seeing a person not as a number but as an individual with unique aspirations, interests and abilities.

None of us are exempt from aging. We are all just at different points on the same road. The assumptions we make about older adults today are the assumptions that may one day be made about us. That alone is reason enough to think more carefully about what we say, what we recommend, and what we decide is possible with each passing year.

Dr. Jordre is a professor of physical therapy in the School of Health Sciences at the University of South Dakota. She earned her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from Duke University in 2002 and her Ph.D. in Health Sciences from the University of South Dakota in 2021. She is board certified in Geriatric Physical Therapy and is a Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults. Her research centers on healthy aging, with a particular focus on athletes age 50 and older. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairedoc.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 on SDPB, YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

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

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March 10th 8:00 p.m.
The Board of Trustees for the Town of Claremont met at 8 p.m. in City Hall. President Spencer called the meeting to order with Trustees Thompson and Rasmussen present. Others present were Dana Pulfrey, Sherm & Nancy, Cutler, Barnes Dombrowe, Leon Vickers and Brett Gibbs.

Minutes to be approved at the next regular meeting of the Board in April.

On a motion by Thompson and seconded by Rasmussen the following warrants were allowed:

General:
SDML — 2026 dues — 187.00; JH Business — W-3 & W-2 eFile — 87.08; Claremont Township — mowing cemetery — 1650.00; NWE — street lights — 554.76; NWE — City Hall — 117.76; JVT — phone, internet, phone — 150.83; Charlie Rye — wage — 500.00; Charlie Rye — ink, paper — 109.27

WGSW:
SD Dept of Health — samples — 30.00; NWE — pump house — 289.22; NWE — Sewer lift — 71.85; NWE — Storm Sewer — 33.56; BDM — water purchased — 1258.65; Jacobs — Lagoon draining — 2720.40; DSG — gasket & coupling — 29.25; USDA Rural Develop — Water loan — 576.00

The Board had discussion over possibly having a spring cleanup. Will check on that.

Meters are nearly all in and be read in April.

A few residents were present to hear or have questions about a possible "Wetland" area in the Town of Claremont. Information will follow when possible.

Charlie Rye, FO
Published March 18, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$15.83 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26627

GOFUNDME

Continued from front

The response has been both immediate and encouraging.

More than 100 individuals have already donated to the campaign, reflecting a strong sense of community pride and a shared desire to preserve a vital local resource.

"This newspaper has been part of Groton for generations," Kosel said. "We want to make sure it's still here for the next generation."

Local newspapers play a critical role in keeping communities informed and connected—telling the stories that might otherwise go untold. For Groton, the Independent has long been that voice.

Community members who wish to support the effort can contribute through the Groton Independent's GoFundMe page. Organizers say every donation, no matter the size, helps ensure that local news coverage continues in Groton for years to come.

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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 10, 2026 – GENERAL MEETING

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None
MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the General Meeting Minutes of March 3, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Claims/Payroll: Claims: Professional Fees: Aberdeen Cardiology \$15.12; Aberdeen ED \$2,800.31; Aberdeen Imaging \$176.36; Avera Medical Group Radiology \$7.56; Bill Schaefer \$24.00; Carrels & Bain Family Dental Care, LLC \$332.04; Christy Griffin-Serr Law Office \$4,605.50; Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$2,432.60; Dohrer Law Office, PC \$2,849.60; Kuck Law Office \$2,912.00; Language Line Services, Inc \$493.79; Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC \$1,600.00; Lincoln County Auditor \$110.00; Lucy Lewno \$204.00; Modern Day Health Care Prof LLC \$748.34; Monument Health Network \$110.65; Monument Health Sturgis Hospital \$294.87; North Star Solutions, LLC \$987.00; Northeastern Mental Health Center \$1,531.25; Radiology – North Center \$86.12; Sanford Clinic \$66.74; Schneider Geospatial, LLC \$3,237.60; Taliaferro Law Firm, PC \$2,130.10; TargetSolutions Learning LLC \$4,410.62; Telerad Prof SA10 \$271.36; Valerie Larson \$24.00; Yankton County Treasurer \$165.95. Publishing: Groton Daily Independent \$484.68; Hub City Radio \$350.00; Mc-

Quillen Creative Group, Inc \$1,004.57. Rentals: Linde Gas & Equipment Inc \$66.11. Repairs & Maintenance: Auto Value Aberdeen \$182.77; Big Scoop Snow Removal \$816.67; Climate Control \$8.50; CommTech Inc \$1,258.00; Convergent Technologies LLC \$1,409.02; Custom Installation Solutions \$287.50; Geffdog Designs \$1,000.00; Graham Tire Inc \$350.73; Leidholt Electric, LLC \$69.44; Lien Transportation Company \$665.00; Meister Mowing LLC \$2,175.00; Olson's Pest Technicians \$260.00; Pantorium Cleaners Inc \$282.60; RDO Equipment Co \$24.00; Richard Marberg \$3,843.51; Transource Truck & Equipment, Inc \$17,615.55; Valvoline Inc. \$217.90. Supplies: Ategra Cooperative \$45,017.86; Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$2,034.30; Auto Value Aberdeen \$661.67; Bob Barker Company Inc \$686.76; Butler Machinery Company \$4,685.00; Central Network Retail Group LLC \$180.77; Century Business Products \$338.34; Christina M. Flack \$800.00; Climate Control \$424.95; Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$76.71; Cole Paper Inc \$2,316.68; Crawford Trucks & Equipment \$29.26; Dakota Fluid Power, Inc \$327.38; Dakota Supply Group \$360.00; East Side Jersey Dairy Inc \$1,511.52; Fastenal Company \$73.84; FedEx \$19.07; Full Circle Ag \$1,476.04; Interstate Battery System of South Dakota \$26.90; Kuck Law Office \$86.53; Leidholt Electric, LLC \$152.70; Linde Gas & Equipment Inc \$566.97; Lucy Lewno \$6.74; Marco Technologies, LLC \$17.83; Menards \$177.13; Pantorium Cleaners Inc \$60.00; Performance Oil \$1,552.00; RDO Equipment Co \$648.64; Rinse & Go Car Wash \$19.75; Runnings \$675.70; Safety Service \$2,880.72; Simon Solutions, Inc \$216.00; Transource Truck & Equipment, Inc \$4,585.80; Tri-State Water \$35.00; US Foods \$9,318.42; Valvoline Inc. \$95.20; Warne Chemical & Equipment Company, Inc \$622.40. Travel & Conference: Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC \$120.00; Neil Bittner \$19.00; Scott Kolb \$19.00. Utilities: AT&T Mobility \$43.73; Big Scoop Snow Removal \$408.33; City of Aberdeen Treasurer \$2,243.90; Northwestern Energy \$7,464.88; NVC \$65.00; T-Mobile USA Inc \$613.00; Town of Frederick \$77.00; WEB Water Development Association, Inc \$112.76. Other: SD Dept of Agriculture & Natural Resources \$3,726.09. Machinery & Equipment: Butler Machinery Company \$223,578.55.

PAYROLL: Commission \$5,165.81; Elections \$2,044.00; Auditor/Welfare \$12,069.68; Treasurer \$18,430.88; SA \$38,124.30; Public Defender \$14,449.33; Maintenance \$13,782.84; Assessor \$17,506.93; Register of Deeds \$11,511.04; VSO \$4,999.21; GIS \$3,110.76; IT \$10,616.94; HR \$5,734.90; Sheriff \$65,042.30; Jail \$81,054.95; Coroner (Voucher) \$1,300.00; Court Security \$8,250.60; JDC \$35,523.64; Museum \$14,570.81; Parks/Fairgrounds \$7,850.84; Fair Board \$4,858.36; 4-H \$881.60; Weed \$4,108.76; Planning & Zoning \$8,546.65; Highway \$57,512.62; Dispatch \$44,827.83; Emergency \$5,748.09; 24/7 Sobriety \$2,793.69; Landfill \$18,809.99; Meal Benefits \$412.00; FICA \$30,771.57; Medicare \$7,196.56; HSA \$2,360.72; Health Insurance-Wellmark BCBS \$141,369.62; Dental Insurance-Delta \$9,801.30; Life Insurance-Dearborn \$1,162.80; Retirement-SDRS \$64,767.56. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

o Employment ending for Cody Richards as Brown County Jail Detention Officer, FT; effective March 4, 2026. Request to fill.

o Governor granted State Holiday Off: Good Friday, April 3rd and Easter Monday, April 6th, 2026.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LEASE AGREEMENTS: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, second-

ed by Gage to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the following lease agreements: Dakota Horizons Girl Scout to lease the Richmond Lake Youth Camp on June 28-July 3, 2026; Dakota Horizons Girl Scout to lease the Richmond Lake Youth Camp on July 20-25, 2026; Little Rock Holiness Church to lease the Richmond Lake Youth Camp on July 6-10, 2026; Brown County Fair Foundation to lease the Holm Expo Building on April 10-11, 2026 for the Hall of Fame Banquet; Area IV Senior Nutrition to lease the Clubhouse on Oct. 9-12, 2026 for Hoedown from the Heart Fundraiser; Big Bucks Pro Rodeo LLC to lease the Holm Expo Building and Expo Addition on April 17-18, 2026 for Bullorama. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LOTTERY PERMITS: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Lottery Permit Application for Brown County 4-H Leader's Association for April 17-18, 2026 to raise funds for the Brown County 4-H Community Building. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Lottery Permit Application for Brown County Fair Foundation for April 11, 2026 to raise money to continue to improve and maintain the Fairgrounds. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

TRAVEL REQUESTS: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the following Travel Requests: Josh Lee, Sheriff's Department to attend Instructor Development Training on May 4-8, 2026 in Pierre, SD; Josh Lee and Wes Graff to attend SD Narcotics Officers Association 2026 Narcotics Officer Conference on April 29 – May 1, 2026 in Deadwood, SD; Josh Lee to attend AFTT Red Dot Sight Handgun Training on May 11-13, 2026 in Pierre, SD; John Florey & Nick Juenger, Highway Department to attend ATTSA Conference on March 16-17, 2026 in Fargo, ND; Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent to attend Super Short Course on March 17-19, 2026 in Deadwood, SD. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

SHERIFF REPORTS: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to acknowledge the January 2026 and February 2026 Sheriff Reports: Incidents and offenses, Prisoner Care, JDC, and money deposited with the County Treasurer. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:16 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published March 18, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$83.98 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26620

Purchase price of the property along with a \$30.00 recording fee shall be paid in full on the day of the sale and a Quit Claim Deed will be issued to the successful bidder. Property offered for sale is as follows:

PROPERTY LEGAL DESCRIPTION:
FREDERICK CITY:
MINIMUM BID:
LOT 4 – 6 BLOCK 5 ORIGINAL PLAT TO FREDERICK CITY: \$4,000.00 (BARE LOT)
LOT 5 BLOCK 9 ORIGINAL PLAT TO FREDERICK CITY: \$4,300.00, 407 MAIN ST, FREDERICK CITY (COMMERCIAL BUILDING)

STRATFORD CITY:
LOT 1-4 BLOCK 9 STRATFORD CITY: \$3,000.00 (BARE LOT)

PRAIRIEWOOD VILLAGE:
LOT 4 BLOCK 1 PRAIRIEWOOD VILLAGE SE 33-124-63: \$8,500.00 (BARE LOT)

Sara Swisher, Brown County Chief Deputy Auditor

Published March 18 and 25, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$33.37 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26619

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 \$39.58 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26593



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

Proposed 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.

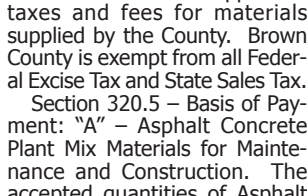
Envelopes containing bids shall be addressed and delivered to the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 57401 and to be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope: "BIDS ON ASPHALT CONCRETE PLANT MIX MATERIALS" to be opened on March 24, 2026. The Brown County Board of Commissioners 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 \$29.41 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26595



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

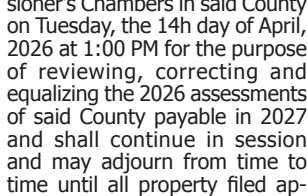
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN per SDCL 10-11-25 that the Board of County Commissioners, sitting as a COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION of Brown County, South Dakota will meet in the Commissioner's Chambers in said County on Tuesday, the 14th day of April, 2026 at 11:00 AM for the purpose of reviewing, correcting 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



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



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

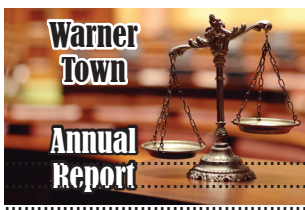
GDAR
GARTNER DENOWH ANGUS RANCH

Build! Scan to View the Catalog!

59th Annual Production Sale
March 26, 2026
265 Yearling Bulls
300 Commercial Heifers
1:00 MDT at the Ranch • Sidney, MT

Mick 406-489-0172
Paul 406-480-2761
Chad 406-489-1762

8♦Groton Independent♦Wed., March 18, 2026



MUNICIPALITY OF WARNER
STATEMENT OF FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL FUNDS
December 31, 2025

Exhibit 1

	Enterprise Funds	General Fund	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Total
Cash Assets:					
Cash in Checking Accounts.....	325,858.52	81,671.97	206,661.71		614,192.20
Savings Certificates	35,014.25	52,781.59	29,869.21		117,665.05
101 FUND CASH BALANCES	360,872.77	134,453.56	236,530.92		731,857.25
Municipal funds are deposited or invested with the following depositories:					
	BANKNORTH				731,857.25
	2 West Main Street				
	Warner, SD 57479				
	Total				731,857.25

Exhibit 2
MUNICIPALITY OF WARNER
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL FUNDS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025

	Enterprise Funds	General Fund	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Total
Receipts (Source):					
311 Property Taxes.....		90,010.88			90,010.88
313 Sales Tax.....		118,356.25			118,356.25
311-319 Other Taxes		101.06			101.06
320 Licenses and Permits.....		6,615.00			6,615.00
335.1 Bank Franchise Tax		1,166.65			1,166.65
335.2 Prorate License Fees		773.63			773.63
335.3 Liquor Tax Reversion		3,239.10			3,239.10
335.4 Motor Vehicle Licenses (5%).....		4,146.84			4,146.84
335.8 Local Government Highway and Bridge Fund.....		15,518.94			15,518.94
338.1 County Road Tax (25%)		212.00			212.00
338.2 County Highway and Bridge Reserve Tax (25%)		3,925.67			3,925.67
338.3 County Wheel Tax		228.15			228.15
331-339 Other Intergovernmental Revenue.....		1,948.52			1,948.52
341-349 Charges for Goods and Services		3,000.00			3,000.00
361 Investment Earnings		1,506.33			1,506.33
362 Rentals		1,849.30			1,849.30
363-369 Other Revenues		44,962.11			44,962.11
ENTERPRISE FUNDS					
330 Operating Grants	2,993.88				2,993.88
371 Surcharge as Security of Debt.....			44,172.74		44,172.74
372-389 Enterprise Operating Revenue (380).....		144,112.45	61,602.53		205,714.98
Total Receipts		297,560.43	147,106.33	105,775.27	550,442.03
Disbursements (Function):					
411-419 General Government		59,701.59			59,701.59
421 Police.....		0.00			0.00
422 Fire.....		3,828.83			3,828.83
431 Highways and Streets.....		99,099.27			99,099.27
432 Sanitation.....		33,847.05			33,847.05
451-459 Culture-Recreation		65,499.94			65,499.94
ENTERPRISE FUNDS					
410 Personal Services.....		16,256.72	16,702.38		32,959.10
420 Other Expenses		87,704.93	6,955.47		94,660.40
426 Supplies and Materials		17,801.91	22,120.56		39,922.47
Total Disbursements		261,976.68	121,763.56	45,778.41	429,518.65
391.04 Compensation for Loss or Damage to Capital Assets		0.00			0.00
441 Debt Service-Principal		15,073.38	27,866.27		42,939.65
442 Debt Service-Interest		6,406.62	14,177.09		20,583.71
Subtotal of Receipts, Disbursements and Transfers		35,583.75	3,862.77	17,953.50	57,400.02
Restatement due to:					
Savings Certificates		35,014.25	52,781.59	29,869.21	117,665.05
Outstanding 2024 Checks Cleared in 2025.....		(33,831.22)			(33,831.22)
Fund Cash Balance- beginning, as restated		325,289.02	130,590.79	218,577.42	674,457.23
FUND CASH BALANCE, December 31, 2025		360,872.77	134,453.56	236,530.92	731,857.25
Do amounts equal Exhibit 1 Fund Cash Balance?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Published March 18, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$120.62 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26621					



TOWN OF WARNER
MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 11th, 2026
MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Evans, Gaylon Townsend, Stewart Nelson and Nichol Townsend. Dave Fair was absent.

DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Townsend and seconded by Evans to approve the minutes from January 14th, 2026 meeting. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: MSC: Evans/Townsend. Checking: Town \$330,645.57; Water \$83,207.03; Sewer \$204,066.61. CDs: Town \$35,014.25; Water \$52,781.59; Sewer \$29,869.21.

BILLS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT: MSC: Townsend/Evans. Gas N Goodies (fuel) \$78, Office Max (supplies) \$9.49, WEB Water (water usage) \$5412.18, USDA (water and sewer loans) \$2083.00, Agtegra (fuel) \$180.08, Badger Meter (Jan. reads) \$23, Dependable Sanitation (garbage service) \$2816, Groton Independent (advertising) \$78.62, Lynn Aman (CC Cleaning) \$75, MAC'S (supplies) \$7.96, Midcontinent (phone & internet) \$301.75, New Pig Corp (supplies) \$151.20, Northwestern Energy (electric & gas) \$2818.45, Rite-way Business Forms (supplies) \$160.78, SD Dept of Rev/Sales Tax \$173.55, SD Public Health Lab (water test) \$20, Town Water/Sewer \$185.05, PAYROLL: (101) \$2628.17, (602) \$906.83, (604) \$906.82 - Stewart Nelson \$3627.26, Terry Evans \$55.41, Gaylon Townsend \$55.41, Nichol Townsend \$703.71, SD Retirement Fund \$542.36, Payroll Taxes \$1101.89.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Notice of Vacancy-Municipality of Warner SD: The following office will become vacant due to the expiration of the present term of office of the elective officer: Trustee, Gaylon Townsend. This is for a three-year term. Circulation of nominating petitions may begin on February 2nd, 2026. Petitions may be filed in the office of the Finance Officer located in the Warner Community Center, 11 West Main Street, Warner SD 57479 between the hours of 9:00AM and 12PM, Monday, Thursday or Friday and no later than Tuesday, March 24th, 2026 at 5 PM central time OR sent via registered mail, postmarked by that date and time. Nichol Townsend, Finance Officer

Appointed Nichol Townsend as Finance Officer. MSC: Evans/Townsend

Approved 2nd Reading of Ordinance #11426: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF WARNER, SD, AMENDING THE ORDINANCES OF THE CITY BY AMENDING CHAPTER 1-1 TOWN BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING, SECTION 1-1-1 REGULAR MEETINGS. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN OF WARNER, SD that Section 1-1-1 of the Town of Warner Municipal Ordinance is hereby amended to read as follows: 1-1-1 Regular Meetings. The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Town of Warner shall be held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Community Center, OR AT SUCH OTHER TIMES AS MAY BE DETERMINED BY THE TOWN BOARD CHAIRMAN TO ACT UPON ANY BUSINESS WHICH MAY COME BEFORE IT. In the case of the regular meeting day falling on a holiday, said meeting will be held one day later. Any person or person(s) who wish to be heard at the Town Meeting must be put on the agenda the Friday prior to the meeting. MSC: Townsend/Evans

NEW BUSINESS: Equalization Meeting will be held Monday, March 16th @ 7PM at the Warner Community Center.

Approved Resolution #021126: A RESOLUTION ADJUSTING GARBAGE RATES WITHIN THE TOWN OF WARNER. Whereas, The Town Board of Trustees of the Town of Warner may, by resolution, authorize the collection of garbage and other refuse and, to that extent, may employ garbage collectors on contract to collect and dispose of garbage, and Whereas, Garbage rates will

apply to all homes in the Town and such rates shall be set by the contracting collector and on file with the Finance Officer or based on a fee schedule provided by an authorized garbage collector, and Whereas, Dependable Sanitation has increased their monthly rates by \$1 due to a Brown County Landfill rate increase; NOW, therefore, it is hereby resolved that the TOWN OF WARNER will also increase monthly garbage rates by \$1 per customer/account, effective March 1st, 2026.

Dated this 11th Day of February, 2026. Signed by: David Fair, Chairman. Attest: Nichol Townsend, Finance Officer MSC: Townsend/Evans

Approved Resolution #2112026: RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE OFFICIAL SIGNATORIES TO SIGN PAYROLL CHECKS AND CHECKS FOR BILLS IN A TIMELY MANNER, PRIOR TO BOARD APPROVAL, TO AVOID PENALTIES AND TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF DISCOUNTS. WHEREAS; the Town of Warner receives bills for accounts that are due prior to the following council meeting: WHEREAS; said bills may be subject to a penalty for late payment; WHEREAS; said bills may be allowed a discount if paid prior to a specific date; BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF WARNER: that the authorization of the official signatories to sign payroll checks and checks for bills in a timely manner, prior to board approval, to avoid penalties and to take advantage of discounts, is approved by the Warner Board of Trustees. Signed: David Fair, Chairman and Gaylon Townsend, Trustee. MSC: Evans/Townsend

Delinquencies: 4 were noted and notices will be posted on doors. One has been shut off.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday, March 11th @ 7 PM at the Warner Community Center.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30PM.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Dave Fair, Chairman; Nichol Townsend, Finance Officer.

Published March 18, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$55.99 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26622

Warner Town March 11 Meeting logo

TOWN OF WARNER
MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 11TH, 2026
MEMBERS PRESENT: Gaylon Townsend, Dave Fair, Terry Evans, Stewart Nelson and Nichol Townsend. Will Rozell was also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Townsend and seconded by Evans to approve the minutes from February 11th, 2026 meeting. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: MSC: Fair/Townsend. Checking: Town \$345,122.42; Water \$83,379.46; Sewer \$210,502.12. CDs: Town \$35,014.25; Water \$52,781.59; Sewer \$29,869.21.

BILLS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT: MSC: Townsend/Evans. Gas-N-Goodies (gas) \$104.77, Hobby Lobby (supplies) \$2.96, WEB Water \$5032.92, USDA

Delinquencies: 5 were noted and notices will be posted on doors. One has been shut off.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: April 8th, 2026 at 7 PM at the Warner Community Center.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8PM. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Dave Fair, Chairman; Nichol Townsend, Finance Officer. Published March 18, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$36.48 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26623

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Banner
- 5 Invoice fig.
- 8 Experts
- 12 Earring site
- 13 Brit's restroom
- 14 Carry on
- 15 Capital of Paraguay
- 17 Slender weapon
- 18 Rationed (out)
- 19 Urges forward
- 21 "La Dolce —"
- 24 Granola morsel
- 25 Luke's teacher
- 28 Folklore monster
- 30 Mel of Cooperstown
- 33 "Caught ya!"
- 34 Welcome
- 35 Bankroll
- 36 "Tasty!"
- 37 Give temporarily
- 38 Burden
- 39 Navarro on "The View"
- 41 Mausoleum
- 43 Continue
- 46 Skiers' mecca
- 50 Bank statement no.
- 51 Capital of India

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

- 54 Close
- 55 Crime lab evidence
- 56 Motown genre
- 57 Bouquet
- 58 Tofu source
- 59 Norms (Abbr.)
- 8 Morrison
- 9 Venezuelan corn patty
- 10 Capital of South Africa
- 11 Daring Knieval
- 12 Beholds
- 16 Roman 401
- 20 Champagne brand
- 22 Ripped
- 23 Rep
- 25 Candied veggie
- 26 Resistance unit
- 27 Capital of Syria
- 29 Make over
- 31 Sigma follower
- 32 QBs' goals
- 34 Glitzy rock genre
- 38 Fixate
- 40 Peculiar
- 42 Irate
- 43 Grate
- 44 Canyon
- 45 comeback
- 46 Concludes
- 47 Conspiracy
- 48 Barak of Israel
- 49 Guitarist
- 50 Lofgren
- 52 Rock producer Brian
- 53 Method

DOWN

- 1 Two-stroke drumbeat
- 2 Misplace
- 3 Border on
- 4 Swiss metropolis
- 5 Foreman foe
- 6 Cattle call
- 7 Author

March 31, 2026

1:00 p.m. CST,
at the Ranch, 15 miles
West of Winner, SD

SELLING 100
Registered Yearling Bulls
Also selling 25
commercial open heifers

40 CALVING EASE BULLS OFFERED

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LittauAngusRanch.com

Groton Independent Wed., March 18, 2026

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. This is the final installment.

Assignment: Argument Editorial: People see things in different ways

Student Name: Mac Merkel

I think people should walk to school instead of driving because walking to school is better for the environment and for people's health.

First, people should walk instead of drive because vehicles use gas, and gas consumption causes pollution. When people drive, exhaust from the vehicle goes into the air and pollutes it. According to TreeHugger, cars and trucks are causing 90% of air pollution.

Next, walking instead of driving to school helps people exercise. Exercise is important because it helps people stay fit. According to Heart.org's article, Why is Walking the Most Popular Form of Exercise, "Research has shown that walking at a brisk pace for at least 150 minutes a week can help you prevent becoming overweight."

Some people may respond with arguments about why walking to school is no better than driving. However, I can respond with reasons why walking is better. If you live too far away from school, it's okay to drive because you don't want to miss school. You can try walking to other places to get exercise and use less gas. If it's too cold outside, get on a bike to go fast. This helps to get your heart rate up to keep you warm. You can also wear extra layers. If it's raining, you can use a raincoat, rain boots, and an umbrella.

Therefore, I believe walking to school is better than driving to school. Walking instead of driving to school can help the environment by causing less pollution, and it can help you by giving you exercise. Will you walk or bike to school more often?

Assignment: Argument Editorial: People see things in different ways

Student Name: Macee L Benthin

Every class should have a class pet because some people could get lonely and just sitting by the pet can help. A class pet could also teach responsibility and help with mental health.

The site Benefits of Classroom Pets states that "A pet brings increased sensitivity and awareness of the feelings and needs of others". Students could also say hi to it every morning and to say bye to every night. Every class should have a class pet.

If you are reading this and you are in school, tell your teacher why you should get a class pet. A class pet can do many things, like not judge you when you read them a book. The students could do better on the worksheet they have. The class pet can help you learn how to take care of animals, and you can learn more about that animal.

This is all why classrooms should have a class pet.

Assignment: Argument Editorial: People see things in different ways

Student Name: Preslee Giedt

You shouldn't litter because it can go into animals' habitats. It can cause them to get stuck or eat the trash, which can cause them to get sick or potentially die.

Many animals die from trash entering the environment they live in. One million marine animals die each year from plastic waste alone.

Litter can be bad for many animals, and it is toxic.

Litter can also entangle, suffocate, or poison animals, which lowers biodiversity. It can contaminate water sources, and once degraded, can release harmful chemicals and microplastics into water or soil, making it unsafe for everyone. I think you shouldn't litter because it is bad for animals.

You could also join a group that cleans up garbage in the environment. Many people litter, even though they might know that it is bad for the environment.

So stop people from littering and save the environment for the animals and to make yourself happy from helping. I think many people should stop littering and help the environment.

Sources:
plasticoceans.org
environmentalvolunteers.org/effects-of-littering/

Assignment: Argument Editorial: People see things in different ways

Student Name: Railey Mulder

Have you ever wondered how much toxic and dangerous garbage floats in our oceans? About 1.8 billion pieces of garbage end up in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is between Hawaii and California. This affects thousands of marine animals each year. Therefore, I think people should use less plastic and recycle everything they can.

According to earthday.org, "Only one percent of the four trillion plastic bags used annually are recycled." To clean up the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, it would cost about \$7.5 billion. Humans make and waste most of the pollution that is in the ocean right now. According to NOAA, marine debris is a major problem that reaches throughout the entire ocean. These pieces of garbage range from 5 millimeters to fishing gear and other abandoned stuff. This is why I think we should help fund clean-up efforts.

I did some research and found out that many people think littering is okay. I have some neighbors who litter, and I am sure everyone has in their lives, but why? My family thinks it is bad to litter and pollute the oceans, but we are part of the problem! We use non-reusable bags to "save money". We take plastic bags when we go shopping. We even use plastic straws all the time! When we do this, they are creating a toxic environment for the animals. They also use many tiny pieces of plastic, which are called microplastics, and are half of the problem for our oceans.

So, how do I change our habits? To get them to stop, I can tell them to store reusable bags in our cars, or we could buy reusable straws. I talked to five family members and asked them the same question. "Is littering bad for the marine environment?" I made a chart and tracked each of their answers. First, I asked three of my relatives, and they all said yes, because it hurts their natural wildlife. Then I asked the other two, and they said, "It depends. If it was an accident, like a storm or heavy wind, then it matters, but there was nothing we could do about it." I agree with these answers and tracked them down on my chart.

The reason that "just one little piece of garbage doesn't make a difference." is just an excuse. We have to do whatever we can to stop littering and polluting the ocean. Clean-up teams should step in to help get rid of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. If people stop throwing in trash just because they don't need it anymore, that would make a big difference. Please help anyone with this bad habit of using plastic to stop. Now go out there and save marine animals from becoming endangered more than they already are!

Sources: earthday.org, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), NRDC, National Geographic.

W Weismantel AGENCY

Marty Weismantel
605/396-7341
weisag@nvc.net

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RA Thiessen's REGENCY ACRES

41st Annual Production Sale
FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026
Sidney Livestock Market Center • Sidney, MT • 1 p.m. MDT

Selling 90 Yearling Angus Bulls
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20 Purebred Replacement Heifers

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Weekly SUDOKU

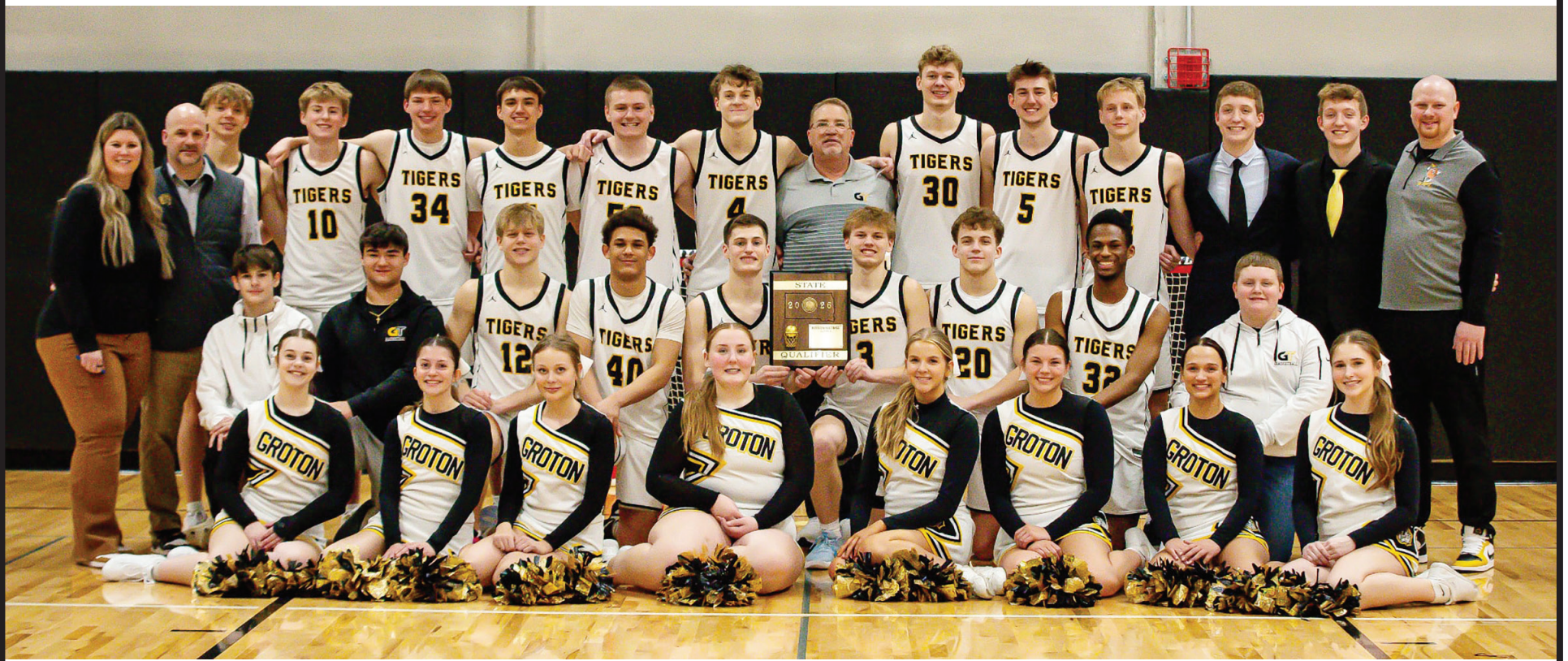
			9	2		1		
	9	6		7			4	
		8			4			5
8			2	6	7	5		
			4	8		7		
6		2	1				8	4
						8	2	7
5		1						9
3			8		9		5	

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 Area Boys are State Bound

Pictured in back, left to right, are statistician Becky Erickson, Assistant Coach Ryan Tracy, Easton Weber, Jace Johnson, Jordan Schwan, Jayden Schwan, Logan Warrington, Ryder Johnson, Head Coach Greg Kjellsen, Gage Sippel, Becker Bosma, Ethan Kroll, Blake Lord, Brody Lord and Assistant Coach Jordan Carson; in the middle row, left to right, are Ball Boy Kinton Tracy, Sam Crank, Ryder Schelle, Anthony Tracy, Keegen Tracy, Karson Zak, Asher Johnson, JJ Muller and Ball Boy Greyson Warrington. In front are cheerleaders Novalea Warrington, Natalia Warrington, Rylie Rose, Mya Feser, Addison Hoeft, Breslyn Jeschke, Paisley Mitchell and Elizabeth Cole. (Photo Courtesy Paula Johnson)

Good Luck At State From

Avantara
 Bary Keith at Harr Motors
 BK Custom T's & More
 Blocker Construction
 Dacotah Bank
 Doug Abeln Seed Company
 Farmers Union Coop
 Farmers Union Insurance- JR Johnson
 Full Circle Ag
 Greg Johnson Construction
 Groton Ag Solutions
 Groton Chamber
 Groton Chiropractic Clinic
 Groton Dairy Queen
 Groton Legion
 Hanlon Brothers
 Harry Implement
 Heartland Energy
 John Sieh Agency
 Jungle Lanes & Cafe

Kolker Law - Kari Bartling
 Ken's Food Fair
 KR Body Shop
 Krueger Brothers
 Locke Electric
 Lori's Pharmacy
 Malpert Insurance - Dylan Hanson
 McGannon Plumbing, Heating & Cooling
 Milbrandt Enterprises Inc
 MJ's Sinclair
 NVC
 Poet
 Professional Management Services
 Ryan Likness Agency
 S & S Lumber
 Spanier Custom Harvesting
 The MeatHouse
 Thunder Seed - John Wheeting
 Weber Landscaping
 Weismantel Agency



National Honor Society

National Honor Society Induction Ceremony was held March 17, 2026. The inductees are:
Left back- Brody Lord and Blake Lord
Left Middle-Liby Althoff, Halee Harder, Taryn Traphagen, Hailey Pauli, Emerlee Jones, Kella Tracy, Teagan Hanten, Kira Clocksene, and Carlee Johnson
Left Front- Paisley Mitchell, McKenna Tietz, Leah Jones, Ashlynn Warrington, Avery Crank
Not pictured- Claire Schuelke



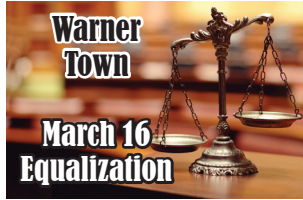
Stratford, SD 57474
 Regular mowing and weed trimming to be monitored/assessed weekly:

1. Ball Park, picnic area
2. City Park (emphasis on trimming)
3. Lots West of old fire hall
4. Lot East of old fire hall
5. Pump House Lot

Bids will be opened on April 13th, 2026 at 6:30pm at the Community Hall.

Town of Stratford
 Accepting Mowing/Weed Trimming Bids
 Written/electronic bids to be received no later than: 5:00 PM, April 28th, 2024
 Submit bids to community hall drop box, email, or by mail to:
 Town of Stratford
 Attn: Mowing Bids
 293 Rondell Ave

Anna Kwak, Finance Officer
 stratford1906@gmail.com
 Published March 18 and 25, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$17.53 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26628



Warner Town
 March 16 Equalization
 Town of Warner Equalization meeting
 The Town of Warner equalization meeting was held in the Warner Community Center on Monday, March 16th, 2026 at 7PM.
 Members present were Gaylon Townsend and Terry Evans.
 No one appeared before the Board to appeal their assess-

ment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8PM.
 Nichol Townsend, Finance Officer
 Published March 18, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$5.94 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26629



Groton Lions and members of HOSA filled an estimated 1200 Easter eggs on Thursday, March 12th. The Easter egg hunt will be Saturday, March 28th at 10am at the Groton City Park. Pictured around the table are Scott Hanlon, Reid Christopherson, Dave Pigors, Nancy Larson, Brenda McCarthy and Leann Harrell. (Photo by Susie Easthouse)



The young ladies from HOSA that helped are pictured above, from left to right: Mya Feser, Kyleigh Kroll, Abby Fjeldheim, Kylie Rose, Makenna Krause, Brooklyn Spanier. (Photo by Susie Easthouse)

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 PRAIRIE FARMS CREAM CHEESE 8 Oz. Box

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\$2.60 Lb.

USDA CHOICE DENKOTA BONELESS BREAD & BUTTER ROAST **\$4.99 Lb.**

ENGLISH CUCUMBERS **79¢ Ea.**

USDA CHOICE DENKOTA

USDA CHOICE DENKOTA BONELESS NEW YORK STRIP STEAK **\$9.99 Ea.**

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FRESH EXPRESS HEARTS OF ROMAINE, AMERICAN, BABY SPINACH, ITALIAN, LEAFY GREEN ROMAINE, VEGGIE LOVERS, SPRING MIX, SWEET BUTTER, 50/50 BLEND SALADS **\$2.99**

KEN'S 85% LEAN GROUND BEEF **\$4.99 Lb.**

<p>GROCERY</p> <p>POST COCOA OR FRUITY PEBBLES 11 Oz. Golden Crisp or Honeycomb 12.2 Oz. Box</p> <p>\$1.49</p>	<p>DAIRY</p> <p>DAKOTA WHITE GRADE A LARGE EGGS 18 Ct. Ctn.</p> <p>99¢</p>	<p>GROCERY</p> <p>STARKIST LIGHT TUNA 2.6-3 Oz. Pouch</p> <p>99¢</p>	<p>GROCERY</p> <p>KRAFT MAC & CHEESE, PREMIUMS OR SHAPES 5.5-7.25 Oz. Boxes</p> <p>4/\$5</p>
<p>GROCERY</p> <p>BUSH'S BAKED BEANS 21-28 Oz. Can</p> <p>\$2.69</p>	<p>FROZEN</p> <p>TOMBSTONE PIZZA 19-21.3 Oz. Pkgs.</p> <p>2/\$5</p>	<p>FROZEN</p> <p>BLUE BUNNY ICE CREAM 46-48 Oz. Scround</p> <p>\$2.99</p>	<p>HOUSEHOLD</p> <p>ANGEL SOFT BATH TISSUE 8 Mega Roll Pkg.</p> <p>\$6.99</p>
<p>LIQUOR-BEER</p> <p>JAMESON & JAMESON ORANGE 1.75 Liter</p> <p>\$46.99</p>	<p>BAKERY</p> <p>KEN'S BAKERY FRESH WHITE MOUNTAIN BUNS 12 Ct.</p> <p>\$2.99</p>	<p>DELI CHEESE OF THE WEEK!</p> <p>KRETSCHMAR SWISS CHEESE</p> <p>\$7.99 Lb.</p>	

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

PRICES GOOD AT ALL KEN'S LOCATIONS: MARCH 15TH - MARCH 21ST

SUN 15 MON 16 TUE 17 WED 18 THURS 19 FRI 20 SAT 21

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 2-Person: \$55.45 per month or \$575.10 per year
 Family: \$67.10 per month or \$702.26 per year

MONTH-TO-MONTH

Student: \$35.15 per month
 Single: \$40.48 per month
 2-Person: \$59.78 per month
 Family: \$72.43 per month
 Senior/PT: \$20 per month

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 Call or Text Tina at 605/397-7285

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