

# The Groton Independent

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## Groton council opts for education over regulation on motorized scooters

By Elizabeth Varin

The Groton City Council took up a range of topics during its Tuesday evening meeting, with discussion centered on the growing presence of motorized scooters in the community.

Council members considered whether to pursue a formal ordinance regulating scooter use, citing safety concerns and the age of riders in the community.

Groton Police Chief Stacy Mayou recently shared an ordinance adopted by the city of Madison with Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich that addressed wheeled, electronically propelled devices. That ordinance requires helmets be worn by those under 18 years old riding on a wheeled scooter at a speed exceeding 20 miles per hour.

Council members expressed concerns about how kids have been using motorized scooters in town.

"The kids are crazy. They're all over the place," said Councilwoman Jordan Voss-Severson. "They don't pay attention to what's going on around them."

Motorized scooter injuries are more prevalent than bicycle injuries, and the motorized scooter injuries are more severe, said City Attorney Chad Locken, citing information from the Consumer Product Safety Commission. There would be options if the council wants to put limitations on motorized scooter riding, including registration and licensing requirements, sidewalk bands, age requirements and more.

Ultimately, however, the council opted not to move forward with additional restrictions at this time. Instead, members expressed a preference for focusing on education—encouraging riders to understand the potential dangers of motorized scooters and to operate them responsibly.

"All we can do is try to educate them," said Mayor Scott Hanlon. "You can get hurt. You can get killed. If we're going to allow this, you're going to have to be responsible."

Councilman Brian Bahr added, "I just think we let the parents parent, and let the kids be kids."

In other business, the council awarded a bid for this summer's street resurfacing project. Three sealed bids were opened at Tuesday's meeting.

- Midwest Coatings Company of Modale, Iowa, submitted a bid totaling \$120,780.
- Jensen Rock & Sand of Aberdeen submitted a bid totaling \$111,540.
- Bituminous Paving of Ortonville, Minn., submitted a bid totaling \$125,400.

The council awarded the contract to the low bidder Jensen Rock & Sand.

Officials also approved quotes to paint the exterior of City Hall and to replace aging cedar shakes on the building.

H & M Custom Coating of Ferney will paint the building at 120 North Main Street for \$9,744.92. The Roofers of Hayti will replace the cedar shakes on the building with shingles for \$16,976.69.

The council also reviewed a donation request intended to support senior meal services in the community.

Marla Kiesz with Area IV Senior Nutrition asked the council about a monetary donation in 2025, but city officials said she didn't reach out afterward to provide more information. She sent a 2026 funding request a few weeks ago, but council members had questions about the total being requested and potential partnerships with The Pantry.

While members expressed general support for the cause, they asked for additional details regarding the requested amount before taking further action.

"It's great for the community, and I'm glad they do it," said Councilman Kevin Nehls. "We just need clarification."

- The council approved two more summer recreation hires. Riley Shellenberger was hired as a lifeguard, and Carrie Cole was hired as U8 softball coach.

- The high school student organization HOSA is in talks to take over running Pumpkin Fest.

- The council approved two special event alcoholic beverage license applications. The first was for applicant Julie Sandness for a graduation party May 9. The second was for applicants Jason Warrington and Pat Krause for a graduation reception May 15.

- The council approved renewing malt beverage licenses for MJ's Sinclair, Ken's Food Fair and Dollar General.



Jerica Locke is pictured front and center, surrounded by her GHS teammates, as she signs to play volleyball at North Dakota State College of Science Volleyball. (Courtesy photo Matt Locke)

## Hanson: Pride as Jerica Takes Volleyball Career to Next Level

GROTON — For Groton Area head volleyball coach Chelsea Hanson, moments like these don't come around often.

That's what made Jerica's recent commitment to continue her volleyball career at the next level with North Dakota State College of Science Volleyball all the more special.

"Only a small percentage of female athletes choose to play any sport in college," Hanson said. "To see Jerica earn that opportunity says a lot about her work ethic, her commitment, and the kind of player she's become."

Jerica becomes just the second volleyball player Hanson has coached at Groton Area to continue her career outside of the Lady Tigers' black and gold, a milestone that underscores both the rarity and significance of the accomplishment.

Throughout her time in the program, Hanson said Jerica has been a steady presence on and off the court, setting an example for her teammates with her dedication and leadership.

"She's put in the time, whether that's in practice, in the offseason, or just continuing to improve her game," Hanson said. "Opportunities like this don't just happen — they're earned."

Hanson also noted how meaningful it was for the Groton Area team to be part of Jerica's signing day, sharing in a moment that reflects not only individual success but the strength of the program as a whole.

"Thanks to Jerica and her family for letting the team be part of her day," Hanson said. "It meant a lot to all of us. We are so proud of her and everything she's accomplished."

Jerica will now take the next step in her volleyball journey with the Wildcats, carrying with her the support of her coaches, teammates, and the Groton community.

"She's going to do great things," Hanson said. "This is just the beginning."

## Election staff log long hours to complete petition review without overtime pay

Christine Lehrkamp, director of the Division of Elections in the Office of the Secretary of State, said eight staff members — including the Secretary of State — have been working on and off since Friday, logging more than 95 hours combined.

Lehrkamp noted that the time has been volunteered, as salaried state employees do not receive overtime pay. She added that in her 10 years with the office, election staff have never been paid overtime for the additional hours worked each year.

"However, we do it because the job must be done," Lehrkamp said. "We are committed to the election process and to supporting the Secretary's commitment to providing great customer service to the citizens of South Dakota."

She added that several staff members plan to continue working today to complete the final set of petitions.

gofundme



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**Groton Area players warming up in the Aberdeen Dome.**

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

## Golden Eagles escape Tigers clutch

ABERDEEN — The Groton Area Tigers showed marked improvement and flashes of strong play, but Aberdeen Central High School came away with a pair of wins Thursday at the Aberdeen Dome.

The Golden Eagles rallied late to take the opener 9-8, then completed the sweep with a 6-3 victory in game two.

In the first game, Groton Area appeared to seize control in the third inning. The Tigers capitalized on control issues from Aberdeen Central pitching, drawing seven walks and turning them into six runs for a 6-3 lead.

Aberdeen Central answered late. Trailing 8-3 entering the bottom of the fifth inning, the Golden Eagles strung together timely hits and pushed across six runs to escape with the 9-8 win.

Jayden Penning and Talli Wright each collected a hit for Groton Area. The Tigers worked 12 walks in the game while Aberdeen Central pitchers recorded six strikeouts.

Game two followed a similar pattern, with Groton Area competing early before Aberdeen Central pulled away. The game was tied 1-1 after the first inning, and the Tigers loaded the bases but were unable to cash in.

Aberdeen Central took control in the second inning with three runs, then added two more in the third to build a 6-1 advantage. Groton chipped away with single runs in the fourth and fifth innings, but could not close the gap in a 6-3 loss.

Abby Fjeldheim highlighted the offense with an RBI triple. Riley Rose, Libby Cole, Hannah Sandness, McKenna Krause and Wright each added a hit. Groton Area left nine runners on base, while Aberdeen Central stranded five.

Despite the losses, head coach Amanda Bisbee said the progress from the Tigers was evident.

"These were real. This was fun today. This was softball today," Bisbee said. "The score might not have reflected it, but we played better today and stronger today than we did even in our Sisseton game."

Groton Area also flashed defensive ability, turning double plays and making diving catches in the field.

"We've got some things to work on," Bisbee said. "We haven't quite figured out signals and stealing yet, so that's coming. But the girls keep improving, and that's what matters."

Bisbee also noted the challenge of facing a more experienced program.

"They're a Double-A school, they've been playing for three years," she said. "I'm proud of our girls."

The Tigers, now 1-2 on the season, will face a tough test next week when they travel to take on the defending state champions, the Deuel Cardinals, in Clear Lake.

The games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by The MeatHouse in Andover.

## Tigers claim relay titles, post strong finishes at NSU indoor meet

Groton Area's track and field teams turned in a strong showing at the indoor meet held March 31 at Northern State University in Aberdeen, highlighted by multiple event champions and a pair of relay victories.

The Tigers were led on the boys' side by a dominant performance in both the sprints and field events. Ethan Kroll claimed first place in the long jump with a leap of 5.90 meters and added a third-place finish in the triple jump at 11.75 meters. Kroll also played a key role on the winning 4x400-meter relay team, joining Jayden Schwan, Jordan Schwan and Jace Johnson to take first in 3:50.86.

In the distance events, Jayden Schwan placed second in the 800 meters with a time of 2:10.84, while Jace Johnson (10th, 2:19.28) and Riley Shellenberger (12th, 2:19.47) also finished among the top competitors. Shellenberger added a seventh-place finish in the 1600 meters at 5:18.42.

Jordan Schwan led Groton Area in the 55-meter dash, placing 11th in 7.14, followed by Lincoln Krause in sixth at 7.05. Wesley Borg and Tate Johnson contributed across multiple events, including the 200- and 400-meter races, where Borg finished 26th in the 400 (1:06.83) and Johnson was close behind in 28th (1:07.27).

On the girls' side, Groton Area also turned in several standout performances, including a pair of first-place finishes. McKenna Tietz captured the 55-meter hurdles title in 9.12 seconds and added a third-place finish in the 55-meter dash at 7.72. Taryn Traphagen placed third in the 400 meters with a time of 1:05.03 and anchored the Tigers' winning 4x400 relay team.

That relay squad—Traphagen, Tietz, Ashlynn Warrington and Kella Tracy—took first place in 4:23.08, capping one of the top performances of the meet for Groton Area.

Ryelle Gilbert led the Tigers in the distance events, finishing second in the 800 meters in 2:32.59 and sixth in the 1600 at 6:08.27. Warrington added a ninth-place finish in the 800 meters (2:46.13), while Suri Jetto competed in multiple events, including the 200, 400 and 800.

Ella Kettner placed sixth in the 55-meter hurdles (10.74) and also competed in the 55-meter dash, while Teagan Hanten added a 10th-place finish in the hurdles (11.66) along with top-15 finishes in both the long jump (13th, 3.75m) and triple jump (10th, 7.75m). Avery Crank rounded out the field events for the Tigers with a 19th-place finish in the shot put at 7.50 meters.

### Boy's Division

**55 Meter:** 6. Lincoln Krause, 7.05; 11. Jordan Schwan, 7.14; 61. Tate Johnson, 7.95; 67. Wesley Borg, 8.09; 77. Sam Crank, 8.36

**200 Meters:** 57. Wesley Borg, 29.16; 62. Tate Johnson, 29.54; 78. Sam Crank, 31.67

**400 Meters:** 26. Wesley Borg, 1:06.83; 28. Tate Johnson, 1:07.27

**800 Meters:** 2. Jayden Schwan, 2:10.84; 10. Jace Johnson, 2:19.28; 12. Riley Shellenberger, 2:19.47

**1600 Meters:** 7. Riley Shellenberger, 5:18.42

**4x400 Relay:** 1. (Ethan Kroll, Jayden Schwan, Jordan Schwan, Jace Johnson), 3:50.86.

**Long Jump:** 1. Ethan Kroll, 5.90m

**Triple Jump:** 3. Ethan Kroll, 11.75m

### Girl's Division

**55 Meter:** 3. McKenna Tietz, 7.72; 41. Ella Kettner, 8.93; 47. Suri Jetto, 9.54

**200 Meters:** 35. Suri Jetto, 37.72

**400 Meters:** 3. Taryn Traphagen, 1:05.03

**800 Meters:** 2. Ryelle Gilbert, 2:32.59; 9. Ashlynn Warrington, 2:46.13; 33. Suri Jetto, 3:22.61

**1600 Meters:** 6. Ryelle Gilbert, 6:08.27

**55m Hurdles - 33":** 1. McKenna Tietz, 9.12; 6. Ella Kettner, 10.74; 10. Teagan Hanten, 11.66

**4x400 Relay:** 1. (Taryn Traphagen, McKenna Tietz, Ashlynn Warrington, Kella Tracy), 4:23.08.

**Shot Put - 4kg:** 19. Avery Crank, 7.50m

**Long Jump:** 13. Teagan Hanten, 3.75m

**Triple Jump:** 10. Teagan Hanten, 7.75m

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**Airport Fundraiser**  
A large crowd was on hand Saturday evening for the Groton Airport fundraiser held at the Groton American Legion. The left photo features servers Jon Cutler and Brett Anderson. (Photos by Paul Kosel)

25 Gun Raffle Winners: Ruger LCP Max .380 Auto — Brent Olson, Ruger 10/22 Wood .22LR — Jeff Koenig, Henry H001 Lever Action .22LR — Mark Abeln, Benelli Nova 3 Synthetic 12ga — Isaac Hoeft, Winchester SXP Synthetic 3" 12ga — Chris Erdmann, Ruger American G2 Ranch 5.56 — Brian Bahr, Smith & Wesson M&P15-22 Sport .22LR — Kris Taylor, Glock 43X MOS 9mm — April Abeln, Winchester SXP Waterfowl 3.5" 12ga — Tomelyn Taylor, Ruger American G2 6.5 Creedmoor — Greg Bonn, Henry H004 Golden Boy .22LR — Levi VanderVorst, Tikka T1x Roughtech .17HMR — Brady Schilder, Smith & Wesson M&P PPC 10mm — Barry Marcuson, Ruger Harrier 5.56 — Phil Holcomb, Ruger 10/22 Carbon Fiber .22LR — Troy Zoellner, Glock 19 Gen6 9mm — Frank Gould, Benelli Nova 3 Camo 12ga — Justin Randall, Tikka T3x Lite 7mm PRC — Logan Grubb, Sig Sauer P365X Macro 9mm — Jennifer Koenig, Ruger Security-9 9mm — Wally Albrecht, Ruger American G2 Predator .204 — Shelly Fredrickson, Winchester SXP Upland 3" 20ga — Grant Rix, Taurus Judge Stainless 3" Magnum — Eric Odenbach, Ruger Precision Rimfire .17HMR — Jed Bertsch, Ruger 57 Pistol 5.7x28 — Jon Cutler:

Single Raffle Gun Winner: Proof Elevation 6.5 PRC Leupold VX-6HD Gen2 3-18x50- Jennifer Bender



Pictured are Katelyn Nehlich, April Abeln, Becky Kotzer, Douglas Heinrich, Paul Kosel and Brian Dolan. (Photo courtesy Kellie Locke)

### Kotzer launches travel venture

The Groton Area Chamber of Commerce is welcoming a new business to the community with the addition of Experiences by Design, a travel service launched by Becky Kotzer.

Kotzer brings a passion for helping individuals and families plan meaningful and memorable trips, focusing on personalized travel experiences tailored to each client's interests and needs. Through her new venture, she aims to take the stress out of planning while opening the door to unique destinations and opportunities.

As she builds her business, Kotzer is also sharing travel inspiration, destination ideas and helpful tips through her Facebook page, offering followers a glimpse into the latest trends and insights she gathers along the way.

The Chamber encourages community members to connect with Kotzer and learn more about how Experiences by Design can help create their next getaway.

## Weekly SUDOKU

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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## Prairie Mixed Bowling League Week #20 Results

**Team Standings:** Jackelopes 18, Foxes 18, Chipmunks 12, Coyotes 11, Cheetahs 8, Shihtzus 5

**Men's High Games:** Brad Waage 202, Austin Schuelke 187, Clay Wattier 184

**Women's High Games:** Michelle Johnson 182, Suzie Easthouse 153 & 148, Brenda Waage 148

**Men's High Series:** Brad Waage 537, Tony Waage 506, Austin Schuelke 496

**Women's High Series:** Michelle Johnson 495, Suzie Easthouse 437, Brenda Waage 428



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Last week, we put on our GM hats and broke down the safety position, which stood out as the biggest need on the Vikings' roster. This week, we move to the defensive line, another area that needs serious attention. While safety may be the top priority, everything on defense still starts up front. If the Vikings can't generate pressure or control the line of scrimmage, it won't matter who's playing on the back end. The good news is that there are a few pieces already in place. The bad news is there's still plenty of work to be done.

First, we'll look at the remaining free agents. And I'll warn you now, the free agent cupboard is BARE. Teams understand how valuable defensive linemen are and were quick to sign any potential difference maker (which makes the Vikings' decision to release Jonathan Allen and Javon Hargrave even more baffling).

DJ Reader – The 2016 5th round pick by the Texans will turn 32 before the season starts, so he likely has a year or two of productivity left in the tank. After four years with the Texans, Reader played in Cincinnati for

four years, then played the last two seasons in Detroit. He's a true nose tackle, tipping the scales at 330 pounds, which the Vikings could use, considering the only NT they have on the roster is Taki Taimani.

David Onyemata – Another defensive tackle taken in the 2016 draft, this time by the Saints in the 4th round. Onyemata is from Nigeria and didn't begin playing football until he was older, so he was an older rookie and therefore will turn 34 midway through the upcoming season. At 310 pounds, he's not a nose tackle like Reader, but he's stout enough to hold up against the run. He excels in pass rushing from the DT position, averaging 4.6 sacks every 17 games.

Calais Campbell – One of the oldest players in the NFL, Campbell was a 2nd round pick by the Arizona Cardinals way back in 2008 and will turn 40 at the beginning of the upcoming season. Slightly larger than Onyemata at 315 pounds, he can hold his own in the run game, but his calling card is getting after the QB. His 117 career sacks are the 25th most in NFL history, and he averages 7.7 sacks every 17 games. There's a reason his nickname is Mayor of Sacksonville.

Luckily for Minnesota, there are plenty of defensive tackles available in the upcoming draft. Jalen Redmond (305 pounds) will fill one of the DT spots, and there are several similarly sized players vying for another spot, headlined by 2nd-year player Tyron Ingram-Dawkins (290 pounds) and third-year player Levi Drake Rodriguez (307 pounds). So instead of evaluating every single DT prospect in the 2026 draft, we'll

focus on three players who could step in right away at nose tackle.

Kayden McDonald – Ohio State

Likely the first defensive tackle taken, the 326-pound behemoth anchored an Ohio State defense that was one of the best in the nation. He was a unanimous All-American and the Big Ten's defensive lineman of the year.

Caleb Banks – Florida

Despite tipping the scales at 327 pounds, Banks is a versatile defensive lineman who played every position for the Gators. He can anchor against double teams, shut down the run, and his explosive first step allows him to generate pressure up the middle. The biggest question surrounding Banks is his health. He dealt with injuries throughout college and then broke his foot at the NFL Combine.

Lee Hunter – Texas Tech

The smallest of the top three nose tackles at 318 pounds, Hunter doesn't have the versatility that McDonald and Banks have. He's a run-stuffing DT. He's not going to apply consistent pressure on the QB. He's not going to line up at every spot on the defensive line. But he will stop the run at a very high level.

## The Groton Independent

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## A mouse at city hall — or so I thought

April 1 rolled around this week — April Fool's Day — but in my one-track mind, I figured I was in the clear. No pranks. No tricks. Just another normal day.

That assumption didn't last long.

As I was heading back to City Hall, I got a call from Kellie telling me I needed to get there immediately — there was a mouse in the building.

I didn't think much of it. Seemed like a simple enough task.

When I walked in, though, it looked like anything but simple.

Doug was up on the counter. April was at her station, trying to keep things together. Kellie was in the corner, pressing down on an upside-down garbage can with everything she had, clearly in full panic mode.

I took one look and said, "Well, you've already got the mouse — I don't need to be here." But Kellie quickly corrected me: "No, you have to get rid of it."

At that point, I figured I'd better do it right.

I asked for a piece of cardboard. April started searching around until we found something that would work. I slid the cardboard under the garbage can while Kellie kept it pinned down like her life depended on it.

With everything lined up, I pushed the cardboard tight against the can and flipped it over.

That's when I heard it — a solid kerplunk.

I remember thinking, "That seems a little loud for a mouse."

But I didn't question it.

I pulled the cardboard back just enough to peek inside... and sure enough, there was a mouse.

Just not the kind we were expecting.

It was a computer mouse.

No tail. No teeth. No problem.

Just a perfectly executed April Fool's prank — and apparently, I was the only one who didn't see it coming.

The room erupted in laughter as I stood there, realizing I had just handled a full-scale "mouse emergency" with complete seriousness.

Lesson learned.

Even when you think you're safe on April 1... you're not.



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**Thursday, April 9**

Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, green beans, fruit, garlic bread.

**Cancelled:** Track at Mobridge, noon  
5th Grade Girls Basketball, Elementary Gym, 4 p.m.

Girls Softball at Deuel, Varsity at 4:30 p.m., JV to follow.

Pickleball, 6 p.m., Elementary Gym.  
Groton Lions Club Meeting at 104 N Main, 6 .m.

**Friday, April 10**

Senior Menu: Breaded chicken on bun, oven roasted potatoes, California blend, fruit.

Girls Softball hosts Mobridge-Pollock, Nelson Field, Varsity at 4:30 p.m., JV to follow.

M/H-H/W-W/WS/F High School baseball at Groton, Varsity at 5:30 pm., JV to follow

**Saturday, April 11**

PGDCWL High School Baseball Varsity at 3 p.m.; JV vs. Redfield at Redfield, 5 p.m.

**Sunday, April 12**

St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m.; at Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir, 6 p.m.

United Methodist: Worship at conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Groton Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.

Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.

Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.  
JVT Practice, 6 p.m., Arena

**Monday, April 13**

Senior Menu: Turkey chow mein, broccoli, fruit, bread sticks.

School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels  
School Lunch: Corn dogs, baked beans  
Senior citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.  
Grades 6-8 ELA & Math Testing  
Pickleball, 5:30 p.m., Elementary Gym  
High School Baseball at Clark. Varsity at 6 p.m., JV to follow.

**Tuesday, April 14**

Senior Menu: Goulash, green epas, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Breakfast sliders.  
School Lunch: Pizza burger, tater tots  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Council, 6 p.m.  
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.  
Grades 6-8 ELA & Math Testing  
Pork Chop Replays at Clear Lake, 2 p.m.  
Milbank JH Track & Field, 3:45 p.m.  
JVT Practice, 7 p.m., Arena

**Wednesday, April 15**

Senior Menu: Teriyaki chicken, wild rice, oriental blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Omelets  
School Lunch: Mac and cheese, peas  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.; Leauge, 6:30 p.m.

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton Ad council, 7 p.m.

Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Grades 6-8 ELA & Math Testing  
Pickleball, 5:30 p.m., Elementary Gym  
JVT Practice, 7:30 p.m., Arena

**Thursday, April 16**

Senior Menu: Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Biscuits.  
School Lunch: Burrito bowl, chili lime corn  
Grades 6-8 ELA & Math Testing  
National Guard Track and Field at Milbank, 3:30 p.m.

5th Grade Girls Basketball, 4 p.m., elementary gym  
Pickleball, 6 p.m., Elementary Gym  
JVT Practice, 7 p.m., Arena

**Friday, April 17**

Senior Menu: Lemon baked fish, parsley buttered potatoes, California beld, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Doughnuts  
School Lunch: Cheese pizza, green beans  
Grades 6-8 ELA & Math Testing  
Junior High Track Meet at Sisseton, 3:30 p.m.  
High School Baseball at Northville. Varsity at 6 p.m., JV to follow.

**Saturday, April 18**

Emmanuel Lutheran: WELCA Spring gathering at Emmanuel

St. John's Lutheran: Aberdeen LWML Zone spring meeting at St. Paul's Church, 10:30 a.m.  
Prom, 7 p.m.

Firemen Spring Social, 7 p.m.



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

**EARTHTALK** 

**Polar Bears Still Under Water In The Thawing Arctic**

by **Saanvi Doshi**

Dear EarthTalk: Are polar bears still in decline due to global warming? – Patty Finch, Bowie, MD

Polar bears are a big part of the Arctic ecosystem. However, they are grappling with huge changes to their homes due to the effects of climate change. The bears are now listed as "vulnerable" by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). This puts them at a high risk of being endangered, which means they are at significant risk of extinction. The global polar bear population is estimated to be around 26,000. Some subpopulations are stable, while others are declining as a result of habitat fragmentation.

Greenhouse gas emissions have driven worldwide temperatures to an all-time high, causing Arctic Sea ice to melt. This is a crisis as polar bears rely on ice for all parts of their routine. Thus, polar bears are losing their habitats. Melting ice also affects the bears' ability to hunt, since ice serves as a hunting platform. This affects not only adult bears and their survival, but also the cubs. According to Dr. Steven Amstrup, Chief Scientist Emeritus at Polar Bears International, "the longer the sea ice is gone from the productive zone, the tougher it is on the bears."

Different polar bear populations have been affected in different ways. To wit, the populations in the Western Hudson Bay and Southern Beaufort Sea have faced the greatest decline. However, populations in the Barents Sea and Gulf of Boothia are likely to be stable at the moment. It's important to note that many other regions are data deficient, causing a gap in statistics and information availability. In the late Dr. Ian Sterling's book, *Polar Bears: The Natural History of a Threatened Species*, he asserts that "it is vital that all humans and their respective governments...help reduce greenhouse gas emissions...to ensure that both sea ice and polar bears persist for our children..."

Challenges in addressing these issues persist. International policy responses are slow, and industrial development continues to encroach on polar bears' habitat and territory. Also, since the polar bear population is dispersed across 19 subregions, it's hard to effectively coordinate actions between regions.

That being said, progress has still been made. The 1973 Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears brought together the five nations with the highest polar bear populations (Canada, Greenland, Norway, Russia and the U.S.), all who recognize that polar bears need effective protection. Furthermore, organizations like Polar Bears International and the World Wildlife Fund promote conservation, research, and advocacy. Individuals can support polar bear populations by supporting organizations, educating themselves, and being involved in advocacy. By saving these animals, we commit to taking action on climate change, both for humanity and the world.



**Polar bears are struggling more than ever as the sea ice they depend on melts away all around them as the world warms.** Credit: Pexels.com.



March 31, 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:** Senator Carl Perry shared with the Commission that they passed SB121D in the amount of \$8,212,974.00 for the Richmond Dam Project. Completion date is projected to be in 2028. Chairman Sutton thanked Senator Perry and the other Legislators for their efforts on this bill.

**ORDINANCE #322 – SECOND READING/POSSIBLY ADOPTION:** Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to adopt Ordinance #322. Applicant Donna Keatts to rezone from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Lake Front Residential District (R-3) to bring this parcel into compliance for its future use: Description of property: Proposed Lot 1, "Keatts Tenth Subdivision to Richmond Lake" in the W1/2 of the NW1/4 of Section 23-T123N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (approx. 37840 Richmond Drive; Ravinia Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS:** Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Claims: Professional Fees: CenturyLink-Lumen \$195.68; Christy Griffin Serr Law Office \$3,812.50; Emergency Services Marketing Corp. \$6,589.00; IMEG \$3,316.62; Kennedy Pier Loftus & Reynolds, LLP \$329.40; Kristi Brandt \$103.50; Kuck Law Office \$657.40; Lenling Law Office \$6,458.00; Maher Law Office \$1,056.00; Matthew Bender & Co. \$130.43; NVC \$350.00; Sanford Health \$270.00; SD Dept. of Health \$1,240.00; Tammy Stolle Court Reporting \$29.10; William A. Moss, Psy.D., LLC \$2,500.00; Yankton Co. Sherriff's Office \$50.00. Publishing: Groton Daily Independent \$118.20; McQuillen Creative Group \$329.94. Repairs & Maintenance: Farm Power Mfg. \$480.00; Graham Tire \$1,287.73; Hoven Auto Repair \$245.00; Newman Signs \$12.04; Precision Kiosk Technologies \$3,000.00; Sewer Duck \$575.00. Supplies & Materials: Amazon Capital Services \$454.44; Bob Barker Co. \$695.47; Century Business Products \$342.16; Custom Installation Solutions \$330.00; GovConnection \$688.68; Graham Tire \$12.60; Great Western Tire \$2,679.80; Hoven Auto Repair \$315.58; Kuck Law Office \$29.96; Leidholt Tool Sales \$397.23; Menards \$258.43; Midstates Group \$37.00; National District Attorney's Assoc. \$100.00; Newman Signs \$58.20; Running's \$69.82; Safety Service \$1,295.50; Sander's Sew 'n' Vac \$161.97; Schwan Welding \$1,002.00; Stan Houston Equip. Co. \$83.90. Travel & Conference: Alex Conn \$28.00; Kyle Kost \$78.00; Lenling Law Office \$440.00; Lynn Heupel \$159.65; Neil Bittner \$19.00; Nick Juenger \$78.00; Scott Kolb \$19.00; SDACC \$20.00; SDSU Extension \$72.68; Terrance Evans \$300.00; Tyler Richards \$28.00. Utilities: AT&T \$141.34; CenturyLink \$345.87; Dependable Sanitation \$202.00; MDU \$53.89; NWPS \$7,056.98. Other: Aberdeen Development Corp. \$15,000.00; Area IV Nutrition \$6,000.00; Aspire \$10,000.00; Boys & Girls Club \$5,000.00; City of Groton \$2,000.00; Emma Burnham Public Library \$1,000.00; Glacial Lakes & Prairie Tourism Assoc. \$750.00; Groton Community Transit \$1,000.00; NESDCAP \$2,500.00; Warner Library \$1,000.00. Machinery & Equipment: RDO Equipment \$16,600.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVE & AUTHORIZE ADVERTISING FOR COLD IN-PLACE BIDS ON BROWN COUNTY HWY. 16:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to set hearing date and authorize advertising public hearing to open, read and consider bids for Cold In-Place Bids on Brown County Highway 16 from Bath going south at 8:45am on Tuesday, April 28, 2026 in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. Bidding documents may be viewed and obtained at [www.questcdn.com](http://www.questcdn.com) by entering QuestCDN project number 10134070. If you need assistance with the website, please contact QuestCDN Customer Support at 952-233-1632 or [info@questcdn.com](mailto:info@questcdn.com) or via the County website at [www.brown.sd.us/brown-county-bids](http://www.brown.sd.us/brown-county-bids). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE:** Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent informed the Commission that the flood gates are closed at 84" down on both ends. They are continuing to crack seal, hauling pea rock, doing some signage and blading. He has a meeting at 9am tomorrow (Wednesday, April 1st) regarding the Sand Lake Project and then on Thursday, April 2nd with D.O.T. regarding the Elm Lake Bridge project.

**LOTTERY PERMITS:** Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the application submitted by SPURS Therapeutic Riding Center for a lottery to be held on July 31, 2026 to raise funds for operating costs. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the application submitted by SPURS Therapeutic Riding Center for a lottery to be held on September 19, 2026 at the SPURS Barn Dance to raise funds for operating costs. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the application submitted by SPURS Therapeutic Riding Center for a lottery to be held on December 15, 2026 or

when all the tickets are sold to raise funds for operating costs. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**SURPLUS PROPERTY:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve to surplus a 2015 Chevy Traverse from the Department of Equalization and sell at auction or salvage. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**GAME, FISH & PARKS (GF&P) AGREEMENT:** Joe Galbraith with GF&P met with the Commission to request putting the 20 acres of land owned by the County in Ordway Township in the walking area program for hunting and possibly fishing. Mr. Galbraith stated that the County would not be liable if anyone was to get hurt while hunting on this land. They offered two agreements; one was that they would pay the County \$200.00/year or the County would give permission without compensation. Commissioner Dinger moved to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the agreement without compensation, seconded by Wiese. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Wiese asked if GF&P would be interested in taking over the property if the County would gift it to them. Mr. Galbraith said he would have to check with his superiors to see if they would be open to that idea. No decisions were made at this time.

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

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Chairman Sutton shared that Commissioner Brock Greenfield will attend the Commission meeting next Tuesday, April 7, 2026 to give an update on the Richmond Dam Project.

Commissioner Wiese commented to let the public know that the County Offices will be closed on Friday, April 3, 2026 and Monday, April 6, 2026 in observance of the Easter Holiday.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to go into Executive Session per SDCL 1-25-2 for Personnel and Legal. 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 10:24 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor  
Published April 8, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$101.23 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26720

effective March 29, 2026.

o Amendment to March 17, 2026 HR Report: retracted resignation of Payton Beidler as Brown County Jail Detention Officer, FT; effective March 23, 2026.

o Hiring of the following Temporary Election Workers from April 13th to June 5th at \$16.00/hour:

o Approve the job description, wage and posting for Seasonal Weed & Pest Control Technician at \$24.93/hour.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**LEASE AGREEMENTS:** Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the following lease agreements: Brown County 4-H to lease the Hog and Sheep Barns on May 21, 2026 for the Lamb & Meat Goat Exhibitor Educational Event; Brown County 4-H to lease the Holm Expo Building on Sept. 10, 2026 for the 4-H Gala; Emily Hatlewick to lease the Clubhouse on June 19-22, 2026 for a wedding. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**TRAVEL REQUESTS:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to approve the following Travel Request: Lynn Heupel, Welfare Director, to attend the SDACWO Spring Workshop on April 9, 2026 in Pierre, SD. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**TEMPORARY SPECIAL EVENT ALCOHOL LICENSE PERMIT HEARING FOR SPURS:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to authorize advertising public hearing for the following Special Alcohol License Permit: SPURS Therapeutic Riding Center, Aberdeen, SD – SPURS 2nd Addition – NW ¼ of Sec 6-T123N-R63W Brown County, SD on April 21, 2026. (Special License effective September 19, 2026). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Chairman Sutton shared that Commissioner Brock Greenfield will attend the Commission meeting next Tuesday, April 7, 2026 to give an update on the Richmond Dam Project.

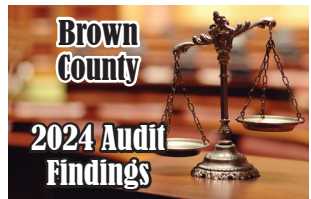
Commissioner Wiese commented to let the public know that the County Offices will be closed on Friday, April 3, 2026 and Monday, April 6, 2026 in observance of the Easter Holiday.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to go into Executive Session per SDCL 1-25-2 for Personnel and Legal. 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 10:24 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor  
Published April 8, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$101.23 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26720



**NOTICE OF AUDIT OF THE FISCAL AFFAIRS OF BROWN COUNTY**

Notice is hereby given that the records and books of account of Brown County, South Dakota, have been audited by the Department of Legislative Audit for the year ended December 31, 2024, and that a detailed report thereon, containing additional information, is filed with the county auditor of Brown County and the Department of Legislative Audit in Pierre, South Dakota for public inspection.

The following findings and recommendations referred to in the report are hereby listed in accordance with the provisions of SDCL 4-11-12.

**CURRENT AUDIT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Sheriff's Office Cash Internal Control Deficiencies

Finding:  
United States General Accounting Office, Government Auditing Standards, 2011 revisions, state:

Internal control serves as a defense in safeguarding assets and in preventing and detecting errors; fraud; noncompliance with provisions of laws, regula-

tions, contracts or grant agreements; or abuse.

We noted the following deficiencies in internal controls in the cash reconciliation process:

• The Sheriff's and the Jail's Office did not complete monthly reconciliations of recorded cash to financial institution balances during 2024. The reconciliation process serves to verify the Sheriff's and Jail's Office's deposits and withdrawals have been properly recorded at the Sheriff's Office and is necessary to detect errors in the Sheriff's and Jail's Office's accounting system or errors made by the financial institutions.

• The Sheriff's office keeps a weekly record of sheriff fees collected. On December 30, 2024, the Sheriff remitted to the County Treasurer, twenty-one sheriff's fee collection reports for the time period of July 14, 2024 through December 30, 2024 accompanied by twenty checks totaling \$311,533.29.

**Recommendations:**  
We recommend that the Sheriff's Office perform monthly reconciliations of the total recorded cash to the financial institutions' balance of the Sheriff's bank accounts.

We recommend that the Sheriff remit fees to the County Treasurer in a timely manner.

We recommend the County Commission establish the timeframe for the Sheriff's remittances to the County Treasurer pursuant to SDCL 7-12-19.1

**Views of responsible officials:**

**Recommendation 1 –** In the short amount of time since the meeting with the State Auditor representatives, Brown County Auditor Lynn Heupel and Brown County Commission, current office staff devoted a significant amount of time searching and researching the quick books program. It is important to add that the QuickBooks accounting computer program that the office staff were trained in and used to using also went from a simple desk top version to a web-based program that was unrecognizable during this period of staffing turnover, which also was part of the paperwork issue the State Auditor mentions with the reconciliations. My office staff had to self-train themselves on basically a new computer program with no guidance or training from QuickBooks. They were able to retrieve most of the previous reports used to balance their deposits and moneys to treasurer reports, but the monthly reconciliations paperwork has taken more time to figure out. The staff was able to get that in printed form and said it can easily be produced each month and reviewed and balanced going forward and that will be done each month as recommended by the State Auditor.

**Recommendation 2 –** Sheriff's fees will be remitted to the County Treasurer on a bi-weekly schedule. Current office staff has been able to "train" with new staff for a good portion of a year and now we have 2 office staff handling the bookkeeping process which has alleviated the burden of one office staff trying to handle all the bookkeeping duties along with regular daily tasks. The addition of having the ability and time to train an additional staff member has made it a more thorough and efficient process than when we were short staffed and went through 4 new hires in the past 2+ years before finding one that was able to stay long enough to be trained properly.

**Recommendation 3 –** I believe my staffs solutions and answer to the recommendations above and the protocol they have placed on themselves by doing the reconciliation on a monthly time frame and Sheriff's fees being remitted to the County Treasurer on a bi-weekly schedule should take care of the time line concerns mentioned by the State Auditor's findings.

**Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

Finding:  
The County's system of internal control designed to provide for accurate preparation of the annual financial report was inadequate resulting in numerous significant reporting errors within the annual report prepared by the County.

**Recommendation:**  
We recommend that the County strengthen internal controls over financial reporting.

**Views of responsible officials:**  
Reporting errors affecting cash, equity, revenue and expenditures were noted during the course of the audit. With the turnover of employees in my department, they are learn-

ing the financial software, and I would prefer to go back and make corrections when the errors are found so that everything is correct. We did start having an approval process done through the financial software, for journal entries. When a department decides later that they coded a voucher wrong and asks us to shift it, we do that and attach a copy of the e-mail from them for supporting documentation.

**Surplus Unassigned Fund Balance**

Finding:  
The unassigned fund balance of the General Fund exceeded the maximum allowed by SDCL 7-21-18.1 by approximately \$4,177,000.00 as of December 31, 2024. This is the second consecutive audit in which a similar finding was noted.

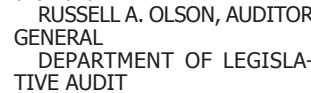
**Recommendation:**  
We recommend that the County comply with SDCL 7-21-18.1.

**Views of responsible officials:**  
The other written comment on my office is the County's Unassigned Surplus Fund Balance at December 31, 2024 was \$4,177,690.20 in excess of the amount allowed by SDCL 7-21-18. I included the Operating Transfer amount of \$8,538,797.00 because that is taken from the General Fund and disbursed to the Road & Bridge Fund, E-911 Fund, Emergency Management Fund and 24/7 Fund every year. If that amount is included, then we were below the 40%.

**RUSSELL A. OLSON, AUDITOR GENERAL**

**DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE AUDIT**

Published April 8 and 15, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$128.38 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26721



**NOTICE OF HEARING FOR SPECIAL EVENT ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE**

Notice is hereby given according to SDCL 35-2 & 35-4-124, a Public Hearing on the following Special Event Alcoholic Beverage License (Malt Beverage and Wine) Application is set for the 21st day of April, 2026, in the chambers of the Brown County Commissioners, in the Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota, at which time any interested persons wishing to register a complaint on their approval may appear:

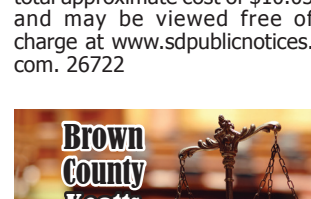
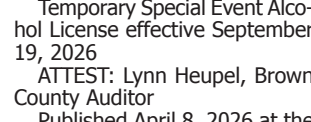
SPURS Therapeutic Riding Center, Aberdeen, SD – SPURS 2nd Addition – NW ¼ of Sec 6-T123N-R63W Brown County, SD.

Temporary Special Event Alcohol License effective September 19, 2026

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor  
Published April 8, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$10.05 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26722

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Published April 8, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$10.05 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26722

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor  
Published April 8, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$10.05 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26722



**ORDINANCE #322 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES AS AMENDED TO REZONE CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY**

Notice is hereby given that Ordinance #322, An Ordinance Amending Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended to rezone the following described property filed by petitioner Donna Keatts was duly adopted by the Board of Brown County Commissioners on the 31st day of March 2026 and will become effective on the 28th day of April 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 Lake Front Residential District (R-3) to bring this parcel into compliance

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

**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 31st day of March 2026.  
Duane Sutton, Brown County Commission Chairman  
ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor  
Notice of Hearing: March 4, 2026  
First Reading: March 17, 2026  
Second Reading/Adoption: March 31, 2026  
Published: April 8, 2026  
Effective Date: April 28, 2026  
Published April 8, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$20.74 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26723

Published April 8, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$12.88 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26725

for its future use.

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

**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 31st day of March 2026.

Duane Sutton, Brown County Commission Chairman

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Notice of Hearing: March 4, 2026

First Reading: March 17, 2026

Second Reading/Adoption: March 31, 2026

Published: April 8, 2026

Effective Date: April 28, 2026

Published April 8, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$20.74 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26723



**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Application has been made to the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission for a VARIANCE PETITION. A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, on April 21, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.

Petitioner / Owner: Michael & Julie Elsen

Description of property: Proposed Lot 1, "Elsen First Addition" in the SW1/4 of the SE1/4 of Section 5-T128N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (approx. 39554 101st Street, Liberty Twp.).

Reason: Variance to Lot Size to allow Lot 1 (5.00 acres) to be smaller than 40.0 acres and stay zoned as Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) per 4.0605 of Brown County Ordinances.

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the proposed ordinance amendment.

Dated this 8th day of April 2026.

Planning/Zoning Commission and Scott Bader – P&Z Director  
25 Market Street  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
Office: (605) 626-7144

Published April 8, 2026 in the "Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$13.20 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26724

Published April 8, 2026 in the "Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$13.20 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26724

Published April 8, 2026 in the "Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$13.20 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26724



**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Application has been made to the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission for a VARIANCE PETITION. A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, on April 21, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.

Petitioner / Owner: Tigh Flihs

Description of property: Proposed Lot 1, "Tigh and Adrienne Flihs First Addition" in the NE1/4 of Section 25-T125N-R61W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (12247 406th Avenue, Claremont Twp.).

Reason: Variance to Lot Size to allow Lot 1 (13.56 acres) to be smaller than 40.0 acres and stay zoned as Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) per 4.0605 of Brown County Ordinance.

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the proposed ordinance amendment.

Dated this 8th day of April 2026.

Planning/Zoning Commission and Scott Bader – P&Z Director  
25 Market Street  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
Office: (605) 626-7144

Published April 8, 2026 in the "Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$12.88 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26725



**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Application has been made to the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission for a CONDITIONAL USE PETITION (CUP). A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, on April 21, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.

Petitioner: Cesilia Perez  
Legal description of property: The SE1/4 of Section 2-T127N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (10665 399th Avenue, Greenfield Twp.)  
Reason: Per 4.3204 Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation: Change in Ownership of an Existing Livestock Operation – Notice to Brown County Zoning Board of Adjustment.

The public may attend the hearing and present comments and testimony regarding the proposed Conditional Use Petition (CUP) request.

Dated this 8th day of April, 2026.

Planning/Zoning Commission and  
Scott Bader – P&Z Director  
25 Market Street  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
Office: (605) 626-7144  
Published April 8, 2026 in the "Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$12.57 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26726



**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
A PETITION to REZONE has been submitted to Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission. A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex on April 21, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.

Petitioner: Shawn & Melissa Schultz  
Description of property: Lot 3, "Jones 2nd Subdivision" in the SE1/4 of Section 22-T123N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (39756 134th Street, Bath Twp.)

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

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

Dated this 8th day of April 2026.

Planning/Zoning Commission and  
Scott Bader – P&Z Director  
25 Market Street  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
Office: (605) 626-7144  
Published April 8, 2026 in the "Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$15.40 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26727



**NOTICE TO CHEMICAL DEALERS**

Sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners, Brown County Courthouse Annex at Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401 until 8:45 A.M. on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read, and considered for furnishing of chemical for the Brown County Weed and Pest Board for 2026.

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

Contract: 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 in accordance with the bid as accepted. Successful bidder shall furnish proper certificates of insurance as required by Brown County. Contract for the chemicals shall be firm and will be in effect for a period of seven months from May 1 to November 30, 2026.

Sealed envelopes containing bids shall be addressed to Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Ste 1, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401, and be marked "Chemical Bid for Brown County Weed and Pest Board" and to be opened at 8:45 A.M. on Tuesday, April 14, 2026. The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County.

Brown County is exempt from Federal Excise Tax and State Sales Tax.

Specifications are on file and may be obtained at no charge at the office of the Brown County Auditor and the Brown County Weed and Pest Office or can be found on the following websites: [brown.sd.us](http://brown.sd.us) or [publicpurchase.com](http://publicpurchase.com).

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor  
Published April 1 and 8, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$36.20 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26707



**NOTICE TO WASTE TIRE CONTRACTORS**

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Court House Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 57401, until 8:45 A.M. on April 14, 2026, at said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read, and considered by the Brown County Board of Commissioners for the 2026 BROWN COUNTY WASTE TIRE CLEANUP.

Envelopes containing bids shall be addressed to the Brown County Auditor, Brown County Courthouse Annex, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 57401, and are to be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope: "2026 BROWN COUNTY WASTE TIRE CLEANUP", to be opened on April 14, 2026 at 8:45 A.M.

The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids that they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County, and to waive any informalities or irregularities therein. Brown County is exempt from all Federal Excise Tax and State Sales Tax.

Copies of the specifications are on file at the Brown County Auditor's Office and the Brown County Solid Waste Department Office and may be obtained at no charge.

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor  
Published April 1 and 8, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$27.72 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26708



**2026 WOOD WASTE GRINDING FOR THE BROWN COUNTY LANDFILL**

Sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Courthouse Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401 until the hour of 8:45 AM. Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read and considered by the Brown County Board of Commissioners regarding 2026 WOOD WASTE GRINDING for the Brown County Landfill.

Brown County will give notice to the successful bidder that his/her proposal has been accepted, and said bidder shall within ten (10) days thereafter enter into a contract with Brown County, South Dakota. The successful bidder shall also furnish proper

certificates of insurance required by Brown County.

Envelopes containing bids shall be addressed to the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Ste. 1, Brown County Courthouse, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 57401, and are to be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope "BID ON 2026 WOOD WASTE GRINDING FOR THE BROWN COUNTY LANDFILL". To be opened on Tuesday, 8:45 A.M., April 14, 2026. The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to accept the bid that they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County.

Brown County is exempt from all Federal Excise Tax and State Sales Tax.

Specifications and notice to bidders are on file in the Brown County Auditor's Office and at the Brown County Landfill and may be obtained at no charge.

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published April 1 and 8, 2026 at the total approximate cost of 33.37 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26709



**NOTICE**

TO: Chicago & Northwestern RR whose last known address was Chicago, Illinois

TAKE NOTICE that on the 20th day of December, 2021, W 25' ADJ E 25' OF N 250' RR ROW S OF 15TH AVE SE (FILE SIMMONS BK15), was sold at County Treasurer's tax sale for delinquent taxes on said premises, to the County of Brown in the State of South Dakota, and said County of Brown is still the holder thereof and the right of redemption will expire and a Deed to said property will be made at the expiration of sixty days from the completed service of this notice.

Dated this 10th day of March, 2026.

/s/Patty VanMeter  
Treasurer of Brown County, South Dakota

Published April 1 and 8, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$16.97 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26700



City of Columbia Council Meeting – April 1, 2026

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL – Dana Mohr, Cara Dennert, Scott Meints, Sam Hoppock, Trevor Meints, Jeremy Dosch

Community: Isaac Abeln, Mitch Mergen, Pam Blair, 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, SDPAA – 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. Cara will send it on to the state. 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 April 8, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$36.76 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26730



UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6 SPECIAL MEETING APRIL 1, 2026

President Rix called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm. in the HS Library Conference Room. Other members present: Flihs, Harder, Lerseth-Flihs (4:19 pm), Weber, and Weismantel. Absent: Strom. Others present were Supt. J. Schwan, and Business Manager B. Hubsch.

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

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

Moved by Flihs, seconded by Harder, to enter into executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2.4 for staff negotiations at 4:03 pm. Motion carried. The board moved out of executive session at 6:42 pm.

Moved by Harder, seconded by Weismantel, to adjourn at 6:42 pm. Motion carried.

Becky Hubsch, Business Manager  
Grant Rix, President

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

Published April 8, 2026 in the "Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$12.44 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26728



UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6 SPECIAL MEETING APRIL 2, 2026

President Rix called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. in the HS Library Conference Room. Other members present: Flihs, Harder, Lerseth-Flihs, Weber, and Weismantel. Absent: Strom. Others present were Supt. J. Schwan, and Business Manager B. Hubsch.

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

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

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Harder, to enter into executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2.4 for staff negotiations at 3:31 pm. Motion carried. The board moved out of executive session at 4:48 pm.

Moved by Lerseth-Flihs, seconded by Weismantel, to adjourn at 4:48 pm. Motion carried.

Becky Hubsch, Business Manager  
Grant Rix, President

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

Published April 8, 2026 in the "Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$11.06 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26729

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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 – Ark
- 6 Con games
- 11 French novelist
- 12 Heckler's weapon
- 14 "Delta Wedding" author Welty
- 15 Defeated in a footrace
- 16 Govt. stipend
- 17 Roly-poly
- 19 Roast VIPs
- 20 Golf pegs
- 22 Docs' org.
- 23 Lap dog, for short
- 24 Former First Daughter
- 26 Most sore
- 28 401(k) alternative
- 30 Med. plan
- 31 Popeye's veggie
- 35 Muslim legal expert
- 39 Centers
- 40 Possesses
- 42 Uttered
- 43 Before
- 44 "Graceland" singer Paul
- 46 The Browns, on scoreboards
- 47 Chew out
- 49 Tex-Mex treat

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

- 51 "I, Robot" author
- 52 Leg joints
- 53 Hosiery shade
- 54 Repaired shoes
- 8 Invoice fig.
- 9 "Little Women" matriarch
- 10 Pancake toppers
- 11 Defeats
- 13 Start
- 18 Hollywood's Thurman
- 21 Tibia settings
- 23 Reverent
- 25 Altar in the sky
- 27 "Let me think ..."
- 29 Reach
- 31 Biblical realm
- 32 Least spoiled
- 33 Portugal's place
- 34 Sandwich meat
- 36 Glib
- 37 Inclined
- 38 Concepts
- 41 Remote locations?
- 44 Halt
- 45 iPod model
- 48 Asia's – Darya river
- 50 Keypad trio

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## 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

**605/397-NEWS (6397)**

PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

## 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 6th day of May 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. Any extra days that require mowing as ordered by the City Council will be pro-rated. Bid should include prices for standard mowing and a price for bagged mowing. String trimming of areas in which a mower cannot reach is required each time the grass is mowed.

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 1st day of April 2026.

By: /s/ Cara Dennert

Cara Dennert

Finance Officer

## EMPLOYMENT

DEADWOOD JOB FAIR, May 5, 3:00-6:00pm with 20+ businesses. Welcome Center, 501 Main Street. Jobs for all ages/experience levels. More info at [www.WorkInDeadwood.com](http://www.WorkInDeadwood.com).

## FOR SALE

FOR SALE: NEW 1200 sq-ft, 3 bdrm/2 bath house plus unfinished basement and 2-car garage in Rosholt, S.D. \$260,000. Income restrictions. See Governor's House Program at [sdhousing.org](http://sdhousing.org). Great retirement option. Call 701-799-4525 for more info.

## LIVESTOCK

WICKS ANGUS, CARPENTER, SD, selling 59 Angus Bulls, and 29 Angus Heifers, Saturday, April 25, 2026 - 6:00 p.m., at the ranch north of Carpenter. Bid live on DV Auction. [www.wicksangus.com](http://www.wicksangus.com) Scott Wicks 605-352-9802.

## MISCELLANEOUS

WE BUY HOUSES FOR CASH AS-IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Call today for your fair cash offer: 1-605-601-9373

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## NOTICES

ADVERTISE IN NEWSPAPERS statewide for only \$150. Put the South Dakota Statewide Classifieds Network to work for you today! (25 words for \$150. Each additional word \$5.) Statewide Full Digital Ad is \$300 for 1 week. Call the Groton Independent at 605-397-7460.



Students of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church parish put on their annual Living Stations presentation. The event was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by the parish. Here Veronica is meeting Jesus as the guards are taking him to the crucifixion. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

## There's No Place Like Home – Home Safety Evaluations

In my role as a hospitalist, I am always happy when a patient is healthy enough to be discharged. A resounding majority of people want to go back to their home after they leave the hospital. What we do not want is an unsafe environment leading to repeat injuries resulting in a hospital readmission.

At discharge we can have members of the Home Health team perform a "Home Safety Evaluation". Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists and sometimes Speech Therapists will evaluate a person's home for safety concerns and ensure it is set up optimally for best function. The team looks at areas where injuries typically occur. This could include the instillation of grab bars in the bathroom or having a shower chair. Paying attention to slipping or falling hazards – such as throw rugs or loose stair railings. Good lighting, especially on stairs and in hallways, can help prevent tripping and falling.

Before hospital discharge Physical Therapists will evaluate how well a person can walk including their balance. If there are steps in the home, they will ensure the ability to navigate stairs is evaluated. They perform tests which can help predict who is at a higher risk for falling. The proverb may be, pride goeth before a fall, but a walker or cane could help prevent that. Unfortunately, too often pride is the reason that the walker or cane is not used in the first place. Using someone else's old walker may be a bargain, but proper walker and cane height is important. A used device may be more dangerous if not adjusted properly and therapists can help confirm they are at the correct height.

Occupational Therapists evaluate a person's ability to perform "Activities of Daily Living". These include being able to feed, dress or bathe themselves, and using the bathroom. They have lots of assistive devices, tricks and tips to assist people if arthritis, injuries, or recent surgery prevents the person from moving like normal.

Speech Therapists are asked at times to assess a person's cognition and "safety awareness". They evaluate and determine if this person can recognize an emergency and get to safety or call for help. With dementia, the part of the brain responsible for logic and good decision making is no longer working. Dementia patients often make impulsive mistakes such as walking into traffic or forgetting to turn the stove off after cooking.

There is no place like home, but it needs to be a safe home. With a few tips and modifications, your home can be a safer place to live thereby keeping you there longer. We want you to "Stay healthy in there."

Dr. Jill Kruse is a hospitalist at the Brookings Health System in Brookings, SD. She serves as one of the Prairie Doc Volunteer Hosts during its 24th Season providing Health Education Based on Science, Built on Trust. Follow The Prairie Doc® at [www.prairiedoc.org](http://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 on SDPB, YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).



Jill Kruse, DO



# Newspaper Fun!

www.readingclubfun.com

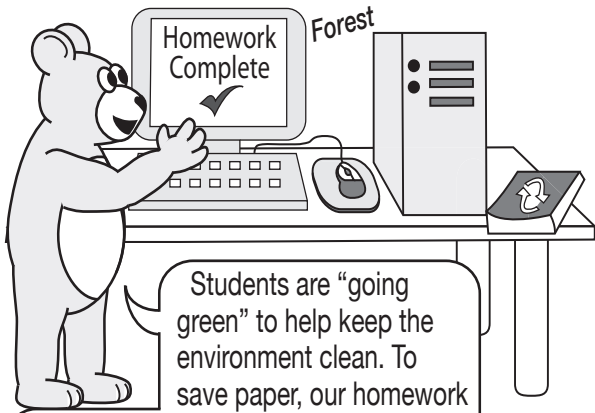
Annimills LLC © 2026 V15

Kids: color stuff in!



## Earth Day

Keeping it Green!



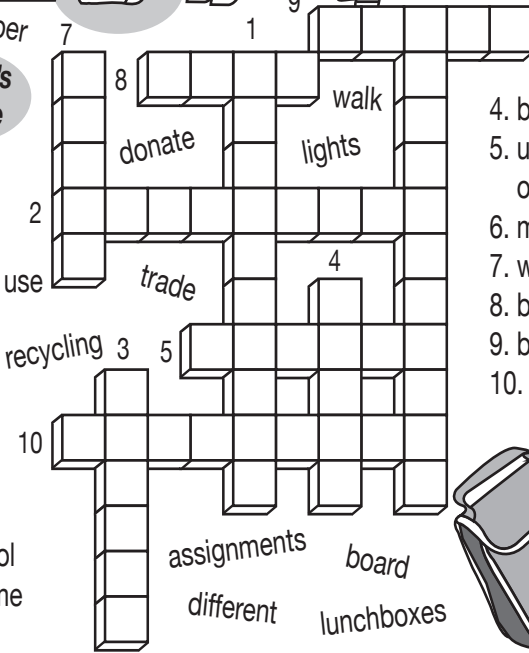
Students are "going green" to help keep the environment clean. To save paper, our homework assignments now come in daily emails. Everyone has learned what items can be recycled, and they put these into bins. **Read my clues to fill in my puzzle with things kids can do to help:**

- use \_\_\_\_\_, sandwich boxes, thermoses and reusable water/sports bottles
- sort bottles and cans into bins for \_\_\_\_\_
- turn off all \_\_\_\_\_ and electronics when not using
- use both sides of \_\_\_\_\_ (may make into notepads)
- \_\_\_\_\_ school uniforms, gym clothes for others to use
- read and do \_\_\_\_\_ on computers
- create a \_\_\_\_\_ where students can pin up and share their ideas for recycling
- \_\_\_\_\_, bike, take a bus or carpool with others
- have a swap at school to \_\_\_\_\_ things that you are done with for "new" stuff
- use items for a new or \_\_\_\_\_ purpose – old school clothes cut for art projects, a box made into a game you invent (some call this "repurposing")

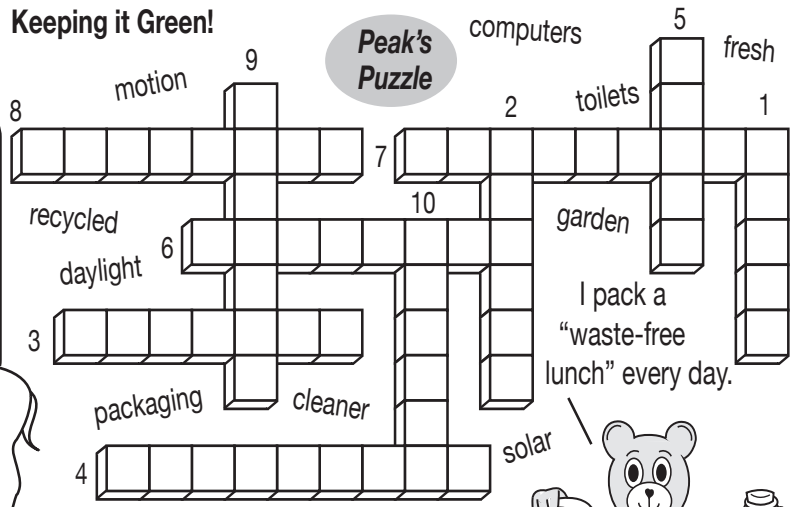
My puzzle is about how schools are helping to conserve. Some are built from recycled materials, and have features to save energy, such as motion-activated lights and faucets. **Fill in my puzzle!**



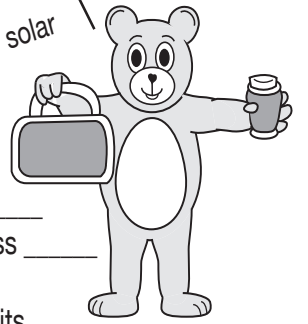
Forest's Puzzle



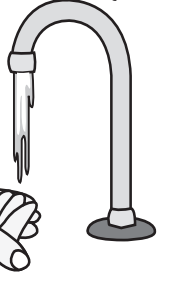
Peak's Puzzle



- \_\_\_\_\_ panel rooftops
- \_\_\_\_\_ -activated faucets
- waterless or low-flow \_\_\_\_\_
- buy from companies that use less \_\_\_\_\_
- use food service company that offers \_\_\_\_\_ vegetables and fruits
- more \_\_\_\_\_ in classrooms gives an "energy" boost
- wireless tablet \_\_\_\_\_ and energy saving monitors
- buying \_\_\_\_\_ paper
- better airflow and filters to keep air \_\_\_\_\_
- rooftop \_\_\_\_\_ to keep heat in (or out), and for people to study life cycle of plants



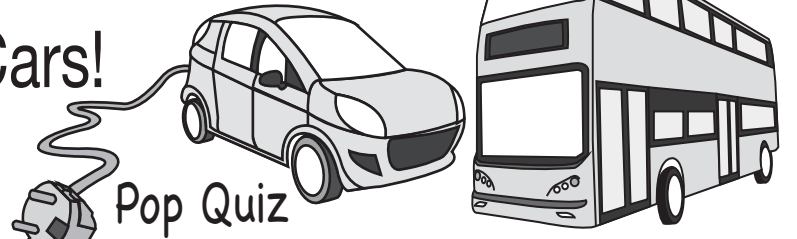
automatic faucet



Uh-oh...I finished my report on the newest cars and power sources – but not the answer key to my fun Pop Quiz! Read my report, then Help me by **circling "T" for true and "F" for false.**

## Cool Hybrid & Electric Cars!

London has started using electric double-decker buses.



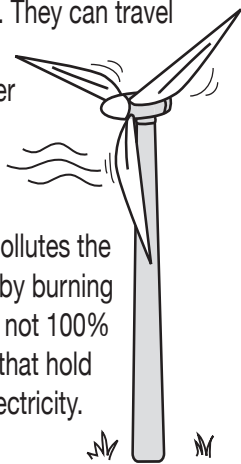
Pop Quiz

What do you know about hybrid cars? These very cool cars are powered by both gas *and* electricity. When you are driving one fast on a highway its gasoline engine is working. This makes you move and also charges the car's battery. Then, when you drive around town at lower speeds, the car is able to run on electricity. Hybrid cars do not need to be plugged in. They can travel 50 miles or more per gallon of gas – twice what many gas-only cars can.

Car companies are also building vehicles that use electric motors to power *everything*. They store electricity in batteries, which can then be recharged by the owner plugging the car in at home. There also are many charging stations that allow drivers to recharge their electric cars while traveling.

Electric cars are great because nothing comes out of their tailpipes that pollutes the air! Some people argue that the electricity these cars use may be generated by burning coal or natural gas instead of by water power or wind turbines, making them not 100% environmentally friendly. But, people are working on ways to make batteries that hold more electricity for longer driving and on technology to produce "cleaner" electricity.

Maybe **you** will work on some of these designs someday!



- Hybrid cars are powered by gasoline and electricity. T F
- The gas engine takes power from the battery. T F
- They get fewer miles per gallon than a gas-only car. T F
- Electric cars use electricity to power everything. T F
- Owners can plug these cars in at home. T F
- Lots of pollution is added to the air from electric cars. T F
- You might see electric car charging stations in the parking lots of apartments, stores and train stations. T F
- Wind-, water- and solar-generated electricity will allow for less pollution in the air. T F

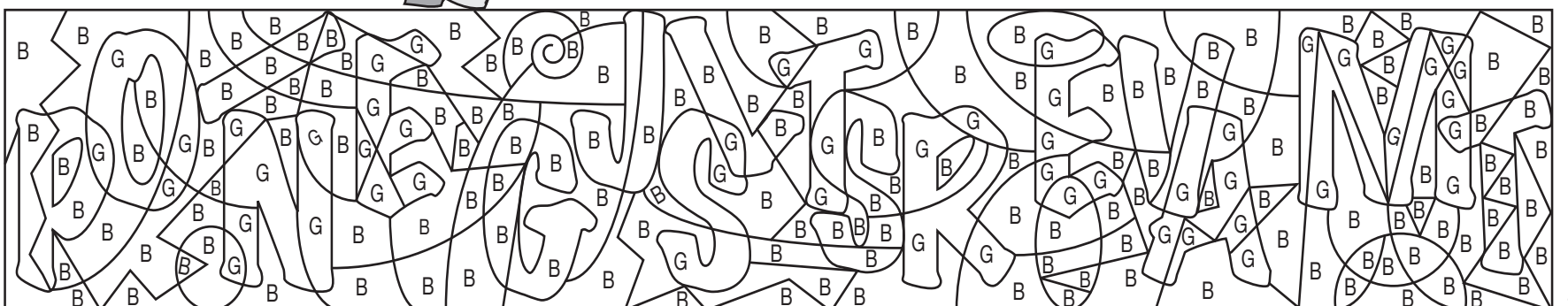
## An Easier Way to Recycle!

Putting most recyclables together is easier. This kind of recycling is called **single** or...



Most cities and towns in the U.S. use this "mixed" recycling for paper, glass, cardboard and plastic. Using this system, people do not need to sort and separate their recyclable items. Recycling plants separate the mixed items and prepare them to be used for new materials.

G = Green  
B = Blue



**King Crossword**  
Answers

**Weekly SUDOKU**

Answer

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

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

### Earth Day

**Keeping it Green!**

**Recycle**

**Forest's Puzzle**

**Peak's Puzzle**

**Ways schools help...**

**Ways students help...**

**London has started using electric double-decker buses.**

**Reusable lunch items**

**An Easier Way to Recycle!**

**ONE STREAM**

Pop Quiz

Cool Hybrid and Electric Cars!

- Hybrid cars are powered by gasoline and electricity..... T F
- The gas engine takes power from the battery..... T F
- They get fewer miles per gallon than a gas-only car..... T F
- Electric cars use electricity to power everything..... T F
- Owners can plug these cars in at home..... T F
- Lots of pollution is added to the air from electric cars..... T F
- You might see charging stations in the parking lots of apartments, stores and train stations..... T F
- Wind-, water-, and solar-generated electricity will allow for less pollution in the air..... T F

# GRADUATION CARDS

DESIGNED & PRINTED WHILE YOU WAIT!

Have your graduation cards created at the **Groton Independent Office**

**Thank you Gentry** for allowing us to print your graduation cards!

**ONLY \$50 FOR 100 CARDS**

Text Paul at **605-397-7460** to set up your appointment today!

Celebrate your senior. Shop local. Get it done the easy way!

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EVERY WEDNESDAYS IS \$6 SELECT SUSHI ITEMS

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**App Deal OF THE WEEK!**

**49¢** CALIFORNIA STRAWBERRIES (w/\$10 Purchase & Ken's App)

**Ken's 85% LEAN GROUND BEEF** \$5.29/Lb.

**OCEAN MIST HEAD LETTUCE** \$1.49/Ea.

**FRESH BONELESS CHICKEN TENDERS** \$2.79/Lb.

**USDA CHOICE DEMKOTA BONELESS TOP ROUND ROAST** \$6.19/Lb. (SAVE \$1.80 Per Lb.)

**ON THE VINE TOMATOES** \$1.49/Lb.

<b>GROCERY</b> OL'WEST BBQ SAUCE 16 Oz. Bottle \$3.99	<b>GROCERY</b> HEINZ KETCHUP 20 Oz. Bottle \$2.49	<b>DAIRY</b> CASS CLAY BUTTER 1 Lb. Qttrs. \$2.99	<b>DAIRY</b> BEST CHOICE MILK WHOLE, 2%, 1% OR SKIM 1 Gallon Jug \$3.49
<b>FROZEN</b> BLUE RIBBON CLASSIC ICE CREAM 128 Oz. Pall \$4.99	<b>FROZEN</b> RED BARON PIZZA 15-24 Oz. \$2.99	<b>BEVERAGE</b> COKE, DIET COKE OR SPRITE 6 Pk. Half Liter Bottles \$3.99	<b>HOUSEHOLD</b> BEST CHOICE BATH TISSUE 12 Mega Roll \$5.99
<b>LIQUOR-BEER</b> CROWN ROYAL SALTED CARMEL 750 ML. \$27.99	<b>BAKERY</b> KEN'S BAKERY FRESH WHITE PARTY BUNS 12 Ct. \$3.29	<b>DELI</b> KAUKAUNA CHEESE SPREAD *ASSORTED FLAVORS 6.5 OZ. TUB \$4.29 Ea.	

**FLAVOR OF THE WEEK! VANILLA MASHMALLOW** \$3.99-\$4.99

PRICES GOOD AT ALL KEN'S LOCATIONS: APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup> - APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup>

WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES AND CORRECT TYPOGRAPHICAL AND PICTORIAL ERRORS. NONE SOLD TO DEALERS. SOME ITEMS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE AT ALL STORES.

## Celebrate Your Graduate!

**Graduation Balloons Available Now**

Make their big day stand out with fun, colorful graduation balloons!

**Most balloons \$5.00** (Larger balloons priced higher)

Available in Groton

Graduation parties

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Paul: 605-397-7460

Delivery available in Groton