

The Groton Independent

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Kurtz concludes 34-year teaching career, plans time with family and new hobbies

by Dorene Nelson

After thirty-four years in the classroom teaching junior high and high school English classes, Diane Kurtz has decided to resign. Now it's time to be more relaxed, have more free time, and have more hours to enjoy her grandson Jett Kolbeck.



Diane Kurtz

Diane graduated from Groton High School in 1988, followed by getting her Bachelor's Degree from South Dakota State University and her Master's Degree from Northern State University. She has taught only in the Groton Public School District.

Diane's job required many hours and a lot of hard work. Her favorite aspect of teaching has been the meaningful relationships she has developed with students and watching them grow and mature. "Few things are more rewarding than seeing students develop confidence over time and know that I played a small part in their journey," Kurtz explained.

"The worst part of teaching English has been the significant amount of time required for grading students' papers and recording student performance data," she admitted.

"I decided to become a teacher because I've always enjoyed academic work and the various activities associated with school," Kurtz stated. "While I never truly regretted my decision to be a teacher, there have been moments of frustration when students haven't reached their full potential. It can be challenging to see capable students become apathetic or complacent when they have so much to offer and can do so much better!"

"My husband Ryan Kurtz is a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist at Avera in Aberdeen," Diane explained, before going on to list their children and their individual jobs.

"Ryan and I have four children," she said. "Kasey Kurtz is a police officer in Aberdeen; Courtney Kurtz Kolbeck is a dental hygienist in Dell Rapids; Kaden Kurtz is a pilot with the Aberdeen Flying Service; and Camyrn Kurtz is a nursing student at the University of South Dakota."

"I haven't made any definite plans for my retirement," Diane smiled. "Maybe I will pursue another job, but I really look forward to having more time to spend with my family and friends, especially my grandson Jett!"

"Staying active and trying something new is on my retirement agenda," she admitted. "I do plan to learn how to play pickleball and golf. I'm also going to attend Zumba classes at the YMCA, do some traveling with Ryan, and really enjoy relaxing at our cabin on Pickerel Lake."



Legion officers installed

Annual elections were held this past Monday at the Groton American Legion Post. Far left conducting the installation of Legion Post officers is Bob Thomason, District 4 Vice Commander. L-R Bruce Babcock, former Post Commander. Newly elected officers : Doug Hamilton, Post Commander; Scott Cooper, Vice Commander; Brent Wienk, Finance Officer; Ben Smith, Adjutant; and Steve Dresbach, Chaplain. Not pictured Todd McGannon, Sargeant of Arms. (Courtesy Photo Bruce Babcock)



Unpacking new chairs at the Legion

Members of the Groton American Legion Squadron #39 unpacked the new chairs for the American Legion after their meeting Monday night. Pictured are Travis McGannon, Aaron Grant Jr., Mark Abeln, Tanner McGannon, Rylan Blackwood, Bruce Babcock and Aaron Grant. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton City Council approves park bathroom improvements, requests more info for senior nutrition donation request

by Elizabeth Varin

The Groton City Council covered a mix of maintenance needs, community requests, and future planning during its meeting Tuesday evening.

Among the items discussed were improvements to the city park bathroom.

The Groton Development Corporation is planning a community cleanup project in early May. Volunteers are expected to repaint the park bathroom as part of the effort.

Councilman Mike Shilhanek, who also serves on the GDC board, encouraged the council to look beyond cosmetic updates and consider replacing fixtures and lighting inside the restrooms.

Council members expanded that, also discussing contacting a masonry professional to evaluate options for replacing the building's windows.

Councilman Brian Bahr added that he could apply a layer of polyurea to refinish the restroom floor, providing a more durable surface.

The council approved moving forward with the improvements.

The park bathroom replacement project has been on hold as officials awaited a decision on potential FEMA funding to rebuild the structure into a combined restroom and tornado shelter. The city put in an application in 2023 to help offset the projected \$630,000 cost to build a comfort station at the park.

City Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich told the council there hasn't been an update on the funding request, though state officials have said they won't hear while there is a lapse in funding for FEMA.

The council also considered a request for a donation to support senior meals from Area IV Senior Nutrition Executive Director Marla Kiesz.

Kiesz had originally requested a donation in 2025, but city officials said she didn't reach out afterward to provide more information. A request came in 2026, but council members had questions about the total being requested and potential partnership with a non profit.

Council members again had questions that weren't answered in the letter sent to the council. Councilwoman Karyn Babcock said she wanted to know more about where the money was going, specifically if it goes to the region offices or directly to the Groton program. She said she's more than happy to donate, but as a business owner she would want the organization to come talk to her instead of just send a letter that doesn't have much information.

"It's not my job to track down Marla if she wants my money," Babcock said.

Councilman Brian Bahr also had questions, specifically if the money raised by the Groton program stays within the local program.

"We don't know," Babcock replied, adding that is why she wants Kiesz to come to the council and discuss it.

The council tabled a decision, and Mayor Scott Hanlon said he would reach out to ask Kiesz to come to the next meeting.

Continues on back page

Schwan, Kucker lead Groton boys to strong runner-up finish; girls post relay wins at Ipswich

IPSWICH — The Groton Area middle school boys turned in a strong all-around performance Monday, finishing second in the team standings at the Ipswich Middle School Track Meet, while the girls were highlighted by multiple relay victories against a competitive field.

The Groton boys tallied 113.5 points to place behind only Aberdeen Roncalli (123), with contributions coming across sprints, distance events, relays, and field events.

Leading the way was Ryder Schwan, who dominated the short sprints with first-place finishes in both the 100-meter dash (11.63) and 200-meter dash (25.31). He was joined by teammates Trey Tietz (second in the 100, 12.44; fourth in the 200, 27.30), Ivan Schwan (third in the 100, 12.57; second in the 200, 27.19), and Trayce Schelle (fifth in the 100, 12.76; fifth in the 200, 27.74) to give Groton a strong presence in the sprint events.

Kyson Kucker added two more victories for the Tigers, winning the 400 meters in 56.28 and the 800 meters in 2:26.45, showcasing Groton’s strength in the middle-distance races.

Groton’s relay teams also played a key role in the runner-up finish. The 4x100 relay team of Keegan Kucker, Kyson Kucker, Trayce Schelle, and Ryder Schwan took first place in 49.50, while another Groton squad placed sixth. The Tigers also captured first in the 4x200 relay, with Ivan Schwan, Keegan Kucker, Trey Tietz, and Ryder Schwan finishing in 1:45.81.

In the field events, Trayce Schelle claimed first place in the high jump by clearing 5 feet, while Liam Lord added a fifth-place finish. Liam Johnson led Groton in the throws, placing seventh in the shot put (31-10.5) and 12th in the discus (74-1), with additional contributions from Gavin Hanten, Bentley Harms, and Hank Fliehs.

On the girls’ side, Groton finished fifth as a team with 48 points, but made a strong statement in the relays.

The 4x100 relay team of Rowan Patterson, Brynlee Dunker, Andi Iverson, and Kinley Sandness raced to a first-place finish in 57.08. Groton followed that with another win in the 4x200 relay, as Patterson, Sandness, Libby Johnson, and Dunker crossed the line first in 2:02.26.

Individually, Charli Jacobsen led the Tigers with a first-place finish in the 100-meter hurdles (19.27), while Addison Steffes added a fourth-place finish in the same event (20.93). Rowan Patterson also contributed points with a sixth-place finish in the 100 meters (14.47).

Taylor Fliehs turned in a solid effort in the distance events, placing seventh in the 800 meters (2:55.26), while Shealee Gilchrist paced Groton in the 200 meters with a 19th-place finish.

In the field events, Andi Gauer led Groton in the discus with a throw of 49-10 to place 19th, while Lillian Davis added a 22nd-place finish.

Boy’s Division
Team Scores: 1. Roncalli 123, 2. Groton Area ms 113.5, 3. Timber Lake 91.25, 4. Warner MS 71.25, 5. Ipswich MS 34, 6. Hoven 29, 7. Dupree MS 27, 8. Faulkton 18, 8. Selby 18, 10. Highmore MS 14, 11. Hitchcock-Tulare 12, 12. Langford Area 11, 13. Leola 8, 14. Aberdeen Christian MS 6
100 Meters: 1. Ryder Schwan, 11.63; 2. Trey Tietz, 12.44; 3. Ivan Schwan, 12.57; 5. Trayce Schelle, 12.76; 21. Quinton Flores, 14.20; 55. Wyatt Morehouse, 15.59
80. Hank Fliehs, 17.07; 85. Weston Kettner, 17.52; 88. Titan Johnson, 17.97; 90. Hayden Hubbart, 18.20
200 Meters: 1. Ryder Schwan, 25.31; 2. Ivan Schwan, 27.19; 4. Trey Tietz, 27.30; 5. Trayce Schelle, 27.74; 40. Wyatt Morehouse, 33.20; 71. Titan Johnson, 40.59; 74. Weston Kettner, 42.71
400 Meters: 1. Kyson Kucker, 56.28; 15. Quinton Flores, 1:07.23
800 Meters: 1. Kyson Kucker, 2:26.45; 9. Quinton Flores, 2:43.42; 17. Hayden Hubbart, 2:54.54
4x100 Relay: 1. Groton: Keegan Kucker, Kyson Kucker, Trayce Schelle, Ryder Schwan), 49.50; 6. Groton: (Liam Johnson, Wyatt Morehouse, Bentley Harms, Gavin Hanten), 59.22.
4x200 Relay: 1. Groton: (Ivan Schwan, Keegan Kucker, Trey Tietz, Ryder Schwan), 1:45.81.
Shot Put - 8lb: 7. Liam Johnson, 31’ 10.5”; 15. Gavin Hanten, 23’ 9”; 17. Bentley Harms, 23’ 8”; 25. Hank Fliehs, 20’ 10”; 35. Grayson Warrington, 16’ 6”
Discus - 1kg: 12. Liam Johnson, 74’ 1”; 19. Gavin Hanten, 61’ 7”; 26. Hank Fliehs, 53’ 6”; 31. Grayson Warrington, 48’ 10”
High Jump: 1. Trayce Schelle, 5’ 0”; 5. Liam Lord, 4’ 6”

Girl’s Division
Team Scores: 1. Ipswich MS 155, 2. Timber Lake 111, 3. Roncalli 90, 4. Warner MS 67, 5. Groton Area ms 48, 6. Faulkton 27, 7. Aberdeen Christian MS 24, 8. Hitchcock-Tulare 19, 8. Hoven 19, 10. Selby 13.5, 11. Dupree MS 12, 12. Langford Area 10, 13. Leola 5, 13. McLaughlin MS 5, 15. Highmore MS 2.5
100 Meters: 6. Rowan Patterson, 14.47; 25. Shealee Gilchrist, 15.46; 30. Addison Steffes, 15.67; 35. Rowan Hanson, 15.90; 59. Hadley Heilman, 16.70; 61. Harley Furman, 16.77; 66. Lennox Locke, 17.22; 81. Gracie Borg, 26.64
200 Meters: 19. Shealee Gilchrist, 33.86; 48. Harley Furman, 36.82; 60. Lennox Locke, 37.79; 65. Gracie Borg, 38.73
400 Meters: 28. Rowan Hanson, 1:32.50
800 Meters: 7. Taylor Fliehs, 2:55.26
100m Hurdles - 30” / 0.762m: 1. Charli Jacobsen, 19.27; 4. Addison Steffes, 20.93
4x100 Relay:
1. Groton: (Rowan Patterson, Brynlee Dunker, Andi Iverson, Kinley Sandness), 57.08.
5. Groton: (Charli Jacobsen, Libby Johnson, Mya Moody, Zoe Olson), 1:01.79.
4x200 Relay: 1. Groton: (Rowan Patterson, Kinley Sandness, Libby Johnson, Brynlee Dunker), 2:02.26.
5. Groton: (Andi Iverson, Charli Jacobsen, Mya Moody, Zoe Olson), 2:06.86.
Shot Put - 6lb: 24. Lillian Davis, 22’ 3.5”; 34. Hadley Heilman, 19’ 3”; 39. Andi Gauer, 18’ 6.5”
Discus - 1kg: 19. Andi Gauer, 49’ 10”; 22. Lillian Davis, 47’ 4”

Golfers places second at Sisseton Invite; Johnson leads Tigers with top-10 finish

SISSETON — Groton Area turned in a solid team performance Monday, finishing second at the Sisseton Invitational with a team score of 498.

Groton Area Tigers trailed only Aberdeen Roncalli, which claimed the team title with a 403. Milbank followed Groton in third at 502, while Tri-Valley rounded out the team standings.

Groton was paced by a strong showing from Carlee Johnson, who carded a 106 to finish seventh overall in the individual standings. Johnson’s round put her among the top competitors in a field dominated by Roncalli golfers.

Claire Schuelke added a steady performance for the Tigers, shooting a 123 to place 13th. Rylie Rose finished 18th with a 132, while Halee Harder rounded out Groton’s scoring with a 137, placing 20th.

The Tigers showed depth throughout the lineup, with multiple golfers finishing in the middle of the pack to help secure the runner-up team finish.

Roncalli’s Mackenzie Wegehaupt earned medalist honors with a 94, leading four Cavaliers in the top eight.

Groton Area Drops Three on Road Swing to Arlington, Hanson

The Groton Area Tigers softball team put together competitive stretches but couldn’t overcome big innings by their opponents, dropping three games on a two-day road swing at Arlington on Monday and Hanson on Tuesday.

Groton Area opened the trip at Arlington, where patience at the plate and opportunistic base running kept the Tigers in the game early before the Cardinals pulled away for a 9-4 victory.

The Tigers struck first in the third inning, capitalizing on Arlington mis-cues to score two runs and take a brief 2-0 lead. Arlington responded quickly in the bottom half of the inning, using a fielder’s choice, a Groton error and a passed ball to move ahead 3-2.

The game shifted in the fourth inning when Arlington plated five runs. Despite allowing just two hits in the frame, Groton Area issued multiple walks and hit a batter, which the Cardinals converted into runs to extend their lead to 8-2.

Kinsley Rowen started in the circle for Groton Area, working 3 2/3 innings. She allowed eight runs, six earned, on two hits while striking out six and walking seven. Rylie Rose provided relief.

At the plate, Groton Area showed discipline, drawing nine walks. Abby Fjeldheim and Rowen each reached twice via walk, while Jaedyn Penning and Makenna Krause recorded hits. Penning also drove in a run. The Tigers were aggressive on the bases as well, collecting five stolen bases.

On Tuesday, the Tigers traveled to Alexandria to face Hanson in a varsity doubleheader, where the Beavers used timely hitting and another big inning to sweep both games.

In the opener, Hanson broke open a close game with a nine-run fourth inning on the way to a 13-1 win. Groton Area collected four hits, with Abby Fjeldheim driving in the lone run while going 1-for-2. Rowen, Penning and Jerica Locke each added a hit.

Rowen took the loss, pitching four innings and allowing 13 runs (six earned) on 13 hits with three walks. Hanson’s Jozlynn Tegethoff led the Beavers with a perfect day at the plate, highlighted by an inside-the-park home run.

The second game followed a similar pattern, with Hanson building an early lead and holding off Groton Area for a 7-1 victory.

The Tigers again totaled four hits, with Neely Althoff, Penning, Libby Cole and Locke each recording one. Althoff drove in Groton Area’s lone run, finishing 1-for-2.

Althoff also took the loss in the circle, allowing six runs (three earned) on six hits over four innings while striking out five and walking two.

Despite the results, Groton Area continued to show patience at the plate and the ability to generate scoring chances, but timely hits and limiting big innings proved to be the difference across the three games.

Groton will host Clark-Willow Lake on Monday on Nelson Field. Game time is 4 p.m. It will also be parent recognition night.

Groton, Langford students earn State FFA Degrees at convention

BROOKINGS — Area students were among the hundreds of members recognized at the 98th South Dakota State FFA Convention Tuesday, earning one of the organization’s highest honors.

A total of 370 members received the State FFA Degree during the convention’s second session at First Bank and Trust Arena, an achievement that reflects years of commitment to agricultural education, leadership and community service through their local chapters.

Representing Groton, Logan Warrington was named a State Degree recipient, while Dylan Harmon and Bradyn Small earned the honor from the Langford chapter.

The State FFA Degree is the highest award the South Dakota FFA Association can bestow upon its members. Recipients must demonstrate significant involvement in their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) programs, along with leadership development and community engagement over multiple years.

As part of the recognition, students received a gold charm and certificate, symbolizing their accomplishments and growth within the organization.

49TH Annual

KINGSWOOD RUMMAGE SALES

Southwest Sioux Falls, SD

Wed.–Fri., April 29-May 1

8:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Sat. May 2

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

The DAYS AND HOURS INDIVIDUAL SALES ARE OPEN WILL VARY. FOR A LISTING OF RUMMAGES GO TO:

www.kingswoodrummage.com/listings, AVAILABLE ON APRIL 25.

Kingswood Boundaries: SW Sioux Falls, between I-29 on the East and the Tea-Ellis Road on the West, 12th Street on North and 57th Street on South

King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

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Tracy, Schwan lead Groton Area across busy week on the track

BRITTON/WARNER — Groton Area turned in a strong week of competition across two meets, showcasing sprint speed, distance dominance and relay consistency at the Orville Pfitzer Relays in Britton and the Roncalli Geffdog Relays in Warner.

At Britton, the Tigers delivered one of their most balanced performances of the season, highlighted by multiple individual champions and strong finishes across both the boys and girls divisions.

On the boys side, Keegen Tracy paced the effort with an outstanding day in the sprints, winning the 400 meters in 50.44 seconds while adding runner-up finishes in both the 100 (11.43) and 200 (23.49). Lincoln Krause also placed sixth in the 100, and JJ Muller added a personal-best time in the 200.

In the distance events, Jayden Schwan dominated by sweeping the 1600 and 3200 meters, finishing in 4:38.39 and 10:17.46. Riley Shellenberger added key points with fourth-place finishes in both the 800 and 1600, while Jace Johnson placed seventh in the 1600.

Groton Area’s relay teams were competitive throughout, led by a second-place finish in the 4x100 and a third-place effort in the 4x200. The sprint medley relay also added a third-place finish, while Ethan Kroll highlighted the field events with a runner-up finish in the long jump.

The girls matched that success in Britton with multiple wins and strong relay performances. Ashlynn Warrington captured the 400 title, while Ryelle Gilbert claimed the 800 crown and finished second in the 1600. McKenna Tietz added a win in the 300 hurdles and played a key role in two winning relay teams.

Groton’s relays led the way, with the 4x200 and 4x400 both capturing first place. The sprint medley relay added a runner-up finish. Makenna Krause took second in the 100, while Rylee Dunker contributed strong finishes in both the 200 and 400. Emerlee Jones and Teagan Hanten added points in the hurdles, while Avery Crank led the field event efforts.

Just two days later in Warner, Groton Area competed with a limited roster due to the HOSA Conference but still produced impressive results, particularly from its distance runners.

The boys finished sixth in the team standings with 65 points in a competitive field, and once again it was Schwan leading the way. The junior swept three distance titles, winning the 800 (2:13.04), 1600 (4:53.59) and 3200 (11:11.31) to account for a large share of the team’s scoring.

Shellenberger continued his strong week with a third-place finish in the 800 and fourth in the 1600.

Groton Area’s relay teams added key points, highlighted by a second-place finish in the 4x800 relay. The 4x200 and sprint medley relay teams both placed third, while the 4x100 added a fifth-place finish.

In the sprints, Tate Johnson, Briggs Conn and David Jetto gained valuable experience, while Conn also placed in the 800. Jordan Schwan represented Groton Area in the field events with a discus throw of 77 feet, 7 inches.

On the girls side in Warner, Suri Jetto competed in three events, leading the Tigers with efforts in the 100, 200 and 400 meters.

Across both meets, Groton Area showed depth in every phase — from Tracy’s sprinting success to Schwan’s distance dominance — while the relay teams continued to provide consistent scoring, signaling strong momentum as the season progresses.

Roncalli Track Meet Results

Boy’s Division
Team Scores: 1. Ipswich 102.5, 2. Aberdeen Roncalli 94, 3. Warner 87, 4. Frederick Area 79, 5. Mobridge-Pollock 70, 6. Groton Area 65, 7. Faulkton Area 60, 8. Leola 57, 9. Redfield 56.5, 10. North-western 46.5, 11. Gettysburg 35.5.
100 Meters: 37. Tate Johnson, 13.79; 39. Briggs Conn, 14.59; 41. David Jetto, 15.41.
200 Meters: 34. Tate Johnson, 28.22; 37. David Jetto, 31.94.
400 Meters: 21. Briggs Conn, 1:09.20.
800 Meters: 1. Jayden Schwan, 2:13.04; 3. Riley Shellenberger, 2:17.91; 11. Briggs Conn, 2:44.16.
1600 Meters: 1. Jayden Schwan, 4:53.59; 4. Riley Shellenberger, 5:07.46.
3200 Meters: 1. Jayden Schwan, 11:11.31.
4x100 Relay: 5. Groton: (Lincoln Krause, Jordan Schwan, JJ Muller, Ryder Schwan), 46.65.
4x200 Relay: 3. Groton: (Lincoln Krause, Jordan Schwan, JJ Muller, Ryder Schwan), 1:35.38.
4x800 Relay: 2. Groton: (Jayden Schwan, Jace Johnson, Riley Shellenberger, Ethan Kroll), 8:56.81.
SMR 1600m - [200-200-400-800]: 3. Groton: (Ryder Schwan, Lincoln Krause, Jordan Schwan, Jace Johnson), 4:00.12.
Discus - 1.6kg: 22. Jordan Schwan, 77’ 7”.
Girl’s Division
100 Meters: 29. Suri Jetto, 16.50
200 Meters: 26. Suri Jetto, 35.31
400 Meters: 18. Suri Jetto, 1:21.13

Britton Track Meet Results

Boy’s Division
100 Meters:2. Keegen Tracy, 11.43; 6. Lincoln Krause, 11.95; 42. Tate Johnson, 14.06; 50. David Jetto, 15.58.
200 Meters: 2. Keegen Tracy, 23.49; 12. JJ Muller, 25.13aPB; 40. Tate Johnson, 28.43; 49. David Jetto, 32.34.
400 Meters: 1. Keegen Tracy, 50.44; 28. Wesley Borg, 1:06.07; 30. Briggs Conn, 1:08.04.
800 Meters: 4. Riley Shellenberger, 2:18.37; 17. Briggs Conn, 2:40.70.
1600 Meters: 1. Jayden Schwan, 4:38.39; 4. Riley Shellenberger, 5:03.96; 7. Jace Johnson, 5:23.99.
3200 Meters: 1. Jayden Schwan, 10:17.46.
4x100 Relay: 2. Groton: (Lincoln Krause, Jordan Schwan, JJ Muller, Ethan Kroll), 47.18.
4x200 Relay: 3. Groton: (Lincoln Krause, Jordan Schwan, JJ Muller, Ethan Kroll), 1:36.26.
SMR 1600m - [200-200-400-800]: 3. Groton: (Lincoln Krause, JJ Muller, Jordan Schwan, Jace Johnson), 4:06.43.
Discus - 1.6kg: 21. Jordan Schwan, 76’ 0”.
Long Jump: 2. Ethan Kroll, 19’ 8”.
Triple Jump:
Girl’s Division
100 Meters: 2. Makenna Krause, 13.10; 5. Raquel Tracy, 13.57; 26. Suri Jetto, 15.93.
200 Meters: 4. Rylee Dunker, 29.35; 11. Raquel Tracy, 30.99; 30. Suri Jetto, 35.13.
400 Meters: 1. Ashlynn Warrington, 1:05.30; 5. Rylee Dunker, 1:10.09; 14. Suri Jetto, 1:20.44.
800 Meters: 1. Ryelle Gilbert, 2:32.95.
1600 Meters: 2. Ryelle Gilbert, 5:47.40.
100m Hurdles - 33” / 0.838m: 5. Emerlee Jones, 20.23; 6. Teagan Hanten, 20.34.
300m Hurdles - 30” / 0.762m: 1. McKenna Tietz, 48.66; 5. Emerlee Jones, 54.95
4x100 Relay: 5. Groton: (McKenna Tietz, Taryn Traphagen, Kella Tracy, Makenna Krause), 55.94.
4x200 Relay: 1. Groton: (Taryn Traphagen, Kella Tracy, Makenna Krause, McKenna Tietz), 1:48.60.
4x400 Relay: 1. Groton: (McKenna Tietz, Taryn Traphagen, Ashlynn Warrington, Kella Tracy),

4:16.08.
SMR 1600m - [200-200-400-800]: 2. Groton: (Rylee Dunker, Taryn Traphagen, Makenna Krause, Ashlynn Warrington), 4:57.22.
Shot Put - 4kg: 12. Avery Crank, 27’ 3.25”
Discus - 1kg: 10. Avery Crank, 76’ 4”
Javelin - 600g: 11. Rylee Dunker, 70’ 8”
High Jump: 11. Emerlee Jones, J 4’ 2”
Long Jump: 24. Teagan Hanten, 12’ 2”
Triple Jump: 20. Teagan Hanten, 25’ 3.25”

HS Baseball JV Splits Week; Varsity Rally Falls Short Against Redfield

The Groton Area baseball teams experienced a mix of results over a busy stretch, with the junior varsity squad earning a win over Redfield Area before being swept by Brookings, while the varsity Tigers nearly completed a comeback in a narrow loss to the Muskrats.

Groton Area opened the week Sunday at home against Redfield Area, where the JV Tigers used timely hitting and solid pitching to secure a 5-3 victory.

Groton struck first in the opening inning, and after Redfield tied the game in the second, the Tigers answered right back. Wesley Borg delivered an RBI single in the bottom of the second to regain the lead, and Groton added insurance in the third. Owen Tewksbury singled down the right field line, Lincoln Shilhanek worked a walk, and another run scored on a wild pitch to extend the advantage.

Kason Oswald earned the win on the mound, allowing just one run on three hits over three innings while striking out four and walking four. Tucker Leicht closed the door to earn the save. Oswald, Noah Scepaniak, Borg and Tewksbury each recorded a hit, with Borg and Tewksbury driving in runs.

In the varsity game, Groton Area mounted a late rally but came up just short in a 5-4 loss to Redfield Area.

The Muskrats built an early lead, scoring in the first inning with the help of two walks, including an RBI walk by Hudson Binger. Redfield extended its advantage before Groton responded in the fifth inning, stringing together key hits — including a pair of doubles — to close the gap to one run.

Jarrett Erdmann led the Tigers with two RBIs from the ninth spot in the lineup, finishing 1-for-3. Lincoln Krause, TC Schuster, Jordan Schwan, Erdmann, Alex Abeln and Gavin Englund each added a hit. Abeln took the loss despite a strong outing, striking out seven over 4 2/3 innings while allowing five runs, only two earned.

Later in the week, Groton Area’s JV squad hosted Brookings on Thursday and ran into a tough Bobcats lineup, dropping both ends of a doubleheader by scores of 15-3 and 11-2.

In the opener, Groton took an early 1-0 lead in the first inning when Braden Fliehs singled home a run. Brookings answered in the second, capitalizing on a walk, a groundout and an error to take control. The Bobcats added two more runs in the third on a double by Mack Nelson, then broke the game open with a five-run fifth inning fueled by walks, an error and a three-run double from Wesden Van Ede.

Ryder Schelle drove in two runs for Groton Area, finishing 1-for-3, while Case Reints led the Tigers with a 2-for-3 performance at the plate. Reints also took the loss, working five innings while allowing 12 runs (five earned) on five hits, with two strikeouts and seven walks.

Brookings continued its momentum in the second game, jumping out to a four-run first inning with help from a passed ball, an error and RBI singles from Mack Nelson and Jace Jaacks. The Bobcats added on in the second and kept Groton off balance throughout.

Case Reints again paced the Tigers offensively, going 2-for-3, while John Bisbee drove in a run and finished 1-for-2. Isaiah Scepaniak took the loss on the mound, allowing seven runs (four earned) on six hits over three innings. Brookings starter Mason Diers tossed three hitless innings, striking out five to earn the win.

April Groton Legion Auxiliary Meeting

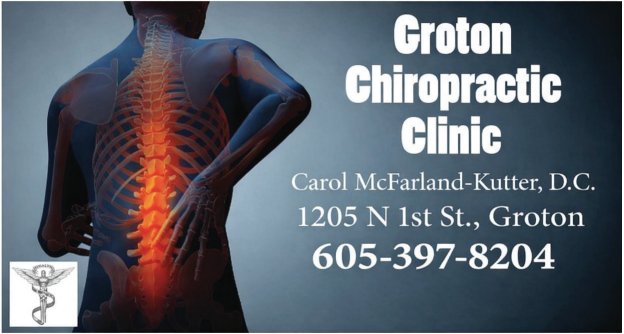
At the Groton American Legion Auxiliary April meeting, members welcomed District President Deanne Hoyle from Ipswich as our guest. She reminded members of the need for help with District 4 hosting the Department Convention in Aberdeen June 19-21, and shared ideas for Purple Up Military Child Month, as well as project suggestions for the group.

The date for the Groton Salad luncheon has been changed to July 8 (a week earlier than previously planned, due to scheduling conflicts). The Americanism poem and essay local winners were announced and will be invited to the May meeting. Lori Giedt has picked up new flowers for the vases at the cemetery. Wendy Cooper reported \$4500 in grocery receipts have been submitted in March and reminded everyone that receipts must be dated before May 1st to be included for this school year. Please get your receipts to her as soon as possible after April 30.

Our next meeting will be May 4 at 6:30.

— Weekly SUDOKU —

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



Groton Independent♦Wed., Apr. 22, 2026♦3



The NFL draft is here, and for the first time in a long time, the Vikings are a true wildcard. With no GM in place, no unifying vision, who gets the final say on draft day? Will it be interim GM Rob Bryzinski, the salary cap guru who has been with the team for decades but never in a decision-making role? Will it be Kevin O’Connell, the Vikings’ head coach whose seat is starting to get hot despite being recognized as the Coach of the Year less than two years ago? Or was defensive coordinator Brian Flores promised more power to make him put off becoming a head coach again?

Instead of trying to figure out what they will do, here’s what I would do in the first three rounds:

Pick 18 - Dillon Thieneman, safety, Oregon.

The Vikings kind of shot themselves in the foot at the end of last season, winning five straight games after being eliminated from the playoffs and pushing their draft pick all the way down to 18. I don’t see the team

moving up, mainly because there are so many holes on the roster that one player isn’t going to turn the Vikings into a Super Bowl contender. So if the team sticks and picks at 18, Thieneman would be a fantastic choice. The best safety in the draft is also one of the few who excel in coverage. The Vikings have plenty of players who can move around to different positions. What they need on the backend is a coverage specialist who acts as the last line of defense (especially with Harrison Smith likely retiring).

Other possibilities include Tight End Kenyon Sadiq (Oregon) whose athletic testing is off the charts, or a cornerback like Mansoor Delane (LSU) or Jermod McCoy (Tennessee), although I believe both of those players will be off the board by the time the Vikings are on the clock.

Pick 49 - Lee Hunter, defensive tackle, Texas Tech

After the Vikings released Jonathan Allen and Javon Hargrave, defensive tackle became an obvious need. Caleb Banks (Florida) is a possibility here, whose draft stock is sliding out of the first round because of injury concerns. Christian Miller (Georgia) should also be available around the 49th pick.

Other possibilities include grabbing a CB who falls like Avieon Terrell (Clemson) or Colton Hood (Tennessee). Linebacker is another option with the 49th pick, so keep an eye on Jacob Rodriguez (Texas Tech) or Anthony Hill Jr. (Texas). And if you want a real wildcard, running back Jadarian Price (Notre Dame) would give the Vikings a threat in the backfield they haven’t had since Dalvin Cook.

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21 N Main, Groton 605/397-NEWS (6397)
Paul Irvin Kosel, Publisher paperpaul@grotonsd.net ~ 605-397-7460
Tina Kosel, Office Manager office@grotonsd.net ~ 605-397-7285
Notices: legals@grotonsd.net
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Pick 82 - Davison Igbinosun, cornerback, Ohio State

If the Vikings go safety in the first round, and defensive lineman in the second, then the two biggest areas of need are center and cornerback. But, based on the consensus big board, drafting a center with the 82nd pick would be a bit of a reach. So instead, in my mock draft, they go cornerback. No matter what, if the Vikings want a successful draft, they need to use these first three picks on safety, defensive tackle, and cornerback.

Pick 97 - Jake Slaughter, center, Florida

Besides having the coolest name in the draft, Slaughter is the strongest center among the handful that should be available when the Vikings pick at the end of the third round. He played against some of the best defensive fronts in the SEC and showed time and again he can hold his own against premier pass rushers. And this may be a personal preference, but I like my centers to be strong. They’re going up against defensive tackles every snap, I want someone who can stand in there and hold his own instead of constantly getting pushed back into the QB’s lap.

Check out the NFL Draft this week. The first round will be Thursday, starting at 7 p.m. CT, rounds two and three will be Friday at 6 p.m. CT, and rounds 4-7 will be on Saturday starting at 11 a.m.

“Medications for treating substance use disorders”

Substance use disorders like alcohol and opioid use disorders can be diverse, and every patient has a different story when it comes to their addiction. Social factors, genetics, history of trauma or mental health disorders, and many other contributors may be at play, which can make treatment of substance use disorders challenging.

Because of these challenges, successful treatment of substance use disorders often requires multiple approaches. Just like a patient with diabetes is best treated with diet, exercise, education, and medication, a patient with a substance use disorder is most effectively treated with a multi-disciplinary plan. For many patients, medication can be an important piece of the approach.

I have had several recent experiences with patients successfully abstaining from alcohol and opiates with the help of medication. The most common example that I see is alcohol use disorder, which can range from alcohol dependence to binge drinking behavior which causes disruption in a person’s social and family life and often leads to other medical problems.

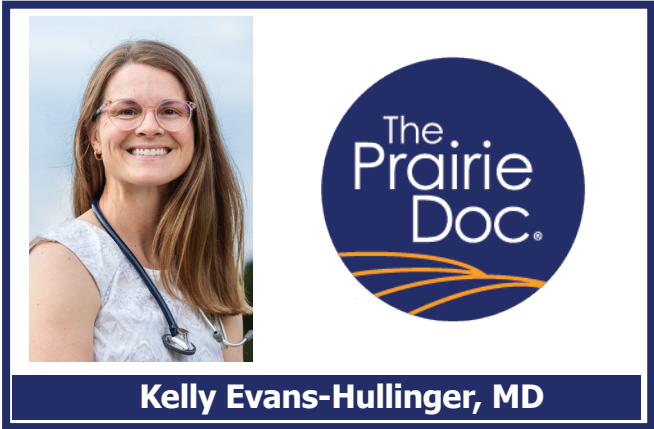
One evidence-based option that I often use for patients with an alcohol use disorder is an oral medication called naltrexone. Recently, a patient who previously struggled with binge drinking described the effect of this medication to me, which was an enlightening explanation. “Doc, I’ve always been someone who, if I had one beer I was going to have 6 or 12 more. But on this med I can have one or two beers with my friends and I just don’t feel like having any more.” As a quite safe and accessible medication, naltrexone is an option I discuss frequently in my primary care clinic.

Another common and sometimes devastating problem is opioid use disorder. We have very good evidence that medications can significantly improve the probability of a patient being able to stay off opioids, and those options are gradually becoming easier to access as well. One of my patients who for many years struggled with opioid use disorder, even as it wreaked havoc on their life from a medical and legal perspective, has done extremely well with medication assisted therapy. They described the effect of medication as, “the first time I can remember that I have gone days without thinking about finding opioids.”

A current area of research is around GLP-1 agonists (commonly used in diabetes and obesity) as potential treatment for substance use disorders. While the verdict is still out on these, we may soon have some data on whether they hold up as effective treatment options for this group of patients as well.

While social support, therapy and counseling, and other facets of treatment will always be important, medications to help patients with some forms of substance use disorder are an essential piece of the puzzle. I have witnessed many of my own patients who have hugely benefited from those treatments. I am hopeful that medications will become easier for patients to access and have more options in the future.

Dr. Kelly Evans Hullinger practices internal medicine at Avera Medical Group 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, 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).



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Thursday, April 23
Senior Menu: Chicken cordon bleu casserole, broccoli, fruit, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Maple French Toast Bake.
School Lunch: Chicken patty, mashed potatoes.
Grades 5 & 8 Science Testing Track at Redfield, 10 a.m.
Girls Golf at Milbank, 10 a.m.
5th Grade Girls Basketball, 3 p.m., Elementary Gym
Pickleball, 6 p.m., Elementary Gym
Middle School Spring Concert, 7 p.m.

Friday, April 24
Senior Menu: Stuffed pepper soup, ham salad sandwich, fruit, cookie.
School Breakfast: Eggs.
School Lunch: Beef stir fry, rice.
Grades 5 & 8 Science Testing MS Track at Groton, 2 p.m.
Baseball at Miller, varsity at 5:30 p.m. followed by JV.
Saturday, April 25
MS NEC Girls Golf at Clark, 10 a.m.
Track at Ipswich, 10 a.m.

Sunday, April 26
Emmanul 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.; 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 (Jordan and Julia (Grenz) Kroll will be the guest speakers), 10:30 a.m.
JVT Practice, 1 p.m., Arena
Baseball at Lennox: vs. Lennox at 2 p.m. and West Central at 3:30 p.m.

Monday, April 27
Senior Menu: Turkey wraps, lettuce/tomato,cheese; potato salad, fruit.
School Breakfast: Eggs.
School Lunch: Beef stir fry, rice.
Spring Cleanup through May 1
Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center with potluck at noon.
Grades 3-5 ELA & Math Testing
Junior High Track Meet at Britton, 3:30 p.m.
Girls Fast Pitch Softball in Groton: Varsity at 4 p.m. followed by Junior Varsity. (Also Senior Recognition Night)
Pickle Ball, 5:30 p.m., Elementary Gym

Tuesday, April 28
Senior Menu: Chicken alfredo, broccoli, fruit, breadstick.
School Breakfast: Scones.
School Lunch: Chicken breast, baby bakers.
Grades 3-5 ELA & Math Testing
Elementary Spring Concert, 7 p.m.
BioGirls, 3:45 p.m., Elementary Gym
JVT Practice, 7 p.m., Arena
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, April 29
Senior Menu: French dip sandwich, vegetable pasta salad, fruit.
School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza.
School Lunch: Cheese quesadilla, corn and black beans.

Grades 3-5 ELA & Math Testing
HOSA Banquet, 5 p.m., GHS Gym
Pickleball, 5:30 p.m., Elementary Gym
JVT Practice, 6 p.m., Arena
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.
Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, April 30
Senior Menu: Oven fried chicken, sweet potatoes, green beans, fruit, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Cereal.
School Lunch: Lasagna bake, green beans.
Grades 3-5 ELA & Math Testing
Girls Golf at Redfield, 10 a.m.
5th Grade Girls Basketball, 4 p.m., Elementary Gym
Pickleball, 6 p.m., Elementary Gym
High School Spring Concert/Awards Night/Art Show, 7 p.m., GHS Gym

Friday, May 1
Senior Menu: Tuna salad, California blend, fruit.
School Breakfast: Egg wraps.
School Lunch: Chicken Fajitas.
Grades 3-5 ELA & Math Testing
High School Track at Sisseton, 11 a.m.
Middle School Track at Oakes, 3 p.m.

Saturday, May 2
Citywide Rummage Sale Day
NEC Girls Fast Pitch Softball Tournament at Redfield, 10 a.m.
Baseball at Redfield vs. Rapid City Central and Redfield Area.

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Avera.org/StLukes

PRIM-1719100



APRIL 14, 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 Gage led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

OTHER BUSINESS: Chairman Sutton read the Official Proclamation declaring the Week of April 12 – 18, 2026 to be National Public Safety Telecommunications Week in Brown County in honor of the dispatchers whose commitment, service and sacrifice keep our county and citizens safe. Thanked the Dispatch Staff that were in attendance for their dedication and service to the citizens of Brown County.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor, shared that Absentee voting is to start on Friday, April 17, 2026; however, due to petition challenges Statewide absentee voting will be delayed until all challenges are resolved. Once ballots are available, voters will be able to vote from 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday at the Brown County Courthouse Community Room up through June 1, 2026. Auditor Heupel stated that updates will be posted on the Brown County website under Elections, Brown County, SD Auditor’s Office Facebook page, Local Radio Stations and on RAVE, new texting system through EM.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None
BID OPENING: CHEMICAL BIDS FOR WEED & PEST: Time and place, as advertised to open, read and consider sealed bids for furnishing of chemical for the Brown County Weed & Pest Board for 2026. Chris Hemen recommended accepting all bids based on price and availability. Moved by Commission Dinger, seconded by Wiese, to accept all bids based on price and availability as recommended by Chris. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. Bids are as follows:

Product Description or Chemical Equivalent	Est. Usage	Unit Size	Price/Unit	Total Price	Vendor Awarded Bid
BioMist 3+ 15	220 Gallons	55 Gallons	\$89.35	\$19,657.00	Van Diest
PermaSease 3-15	220 Gallons	55 Gallons	\$44.98	\$9,895.60	Adapco
Altosid XR Briquets (150 day)	1 Case	220 Briquets/Case	\$893.20	\$893.20	Van Diest
Altosid 30 day control	1 Case	400 Briquets/Case	\$572.00	\$572.00	Van Diest
Temp SC	60 Bottles	240 mL Bottles	\$43.60	\$2,616.00	Van Diest
Mojave	100 Pounds	10 x 5 lb. Bag	\$9.36	\$936.00	Nutrien Solutions
AquaNeat	25 Gallons	2 x 2.5 Gallons	\$20.65	\$516.25	Van Diest
Tordon 22K	150 Gallons	2 x 2.5 Gallons	\$48.40	\$7260.00	Nutrien
Milestone	10 Gallons	2 x 2.5 Gallons	\$285.00	\$2850.00	Van Diest & Nutrien Solutions
Freelexx	25 Gallons	1 x 2.5 Gallons	\$35.00	\$875.00	Van Diest & Nutrien Solutions
Overdrive	300 lbs.	4 x 7.5 lbs.	\$41.25	\$12,375.00	Van Diest
Vessel	30 Gallons	2 x 2.5 Gallons	\$22.10	\$663.00	Van Diest
Telar XP	80 oz.	8 x 8 oz. bag	\$10.70	\$856.00	Nutrien Solutions
HighNoon	5 Gallons	2 x 2.5 Gallons	\$98.00	\$490.00	Van Diest & Nutrien Solutions
Opensight	1.25 lbs.	2 x 10 lbs.	\$105.50	\$131.88	Van Diest & Nutrien Solutions
Piper WDG	15 lbs.	4 x 3.75 lbs.	\$74.00	\$1110.00	Nutrien Solutions
Weather Guard Elite	200 Gallons	2 x 2.5 Gallons	\$19.80	\$3960.00	Nutrien Solutions
Reign RTU	10 Gallons	2 x 2.5 Gallons	\$14.00	\$140.00	Nutrien Solutions

BID OPENING: WOOD WASTE GRINDING: Time and place, as advertised to open, read and consider bids for 2026 Wood Waste Grinding for the Brown County Landfill. One bid was received from Dakota Wood Grinding at \$875.00/hour and \$3,000.00 Mobilization Grinder Fee. Mike Scott, Landfill Manager, recommended accepting this bid. Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to award the Wood Waste Grinding Bid to Dakota Wood Grinding at \$875.00/hour and \$3,00.00 for Mobilization Grinder Fee. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

BID OPENING: WASTE TIRE GRINDING: Time and place, as advertised to open, read and consider bids for 2026 Brown County Waste Tire Cleanup at the Landfill. Two bids were received: Saber Shred in the amount of \$210.00/ton and Liberty Tire in the amount of \$209.50/ton. Mike Scott, Landfill Manager, recommended accepting the bid from Liberty Tire. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to award the Waste Tire Removal bid to Liberty Tire in the amount of \$209.50/ton. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LANDFILL CELL #5 CONSTRUCTION PROJECT CONTRACT: Mike Scott, Landfill

Manager and Leif Redinger from Helms Associates presented the Commission with several copies of the Construction Project Contract for Cell #5 at the Landfill asking for approval and authorizing Chairman to sign them. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton sign the Construction Project Contracts for Landfill Cell #5. All member present voting aye. Motion carried.

PLANNING & ZONING OFFICE DISCUSSION: Scott Bader, Planning & Zoning Director, met with the Commission to inform them that the Town of Warner wants to give up their Joint Jurisdiction. instead of excluding the area of joint jurisdiction but should be including the County and because of the investment program the County should be the one issuing the permits. The Ordinances that were put into place 30+ years ago stated the Municipalities issued the permits but Scott believes the County should be issuing the permits and the Communities would participate, so he would like to change the Ordinance to this effect. Other Joint Jurisdictions are ½ mile with Frederick, 1 mile with Hecla and Groton, nothing with Westport or Verdon, then the County handles the permits for Columbia, Claremont and Stratford. Ross Aldentaler, State’s Attorney Deputy, will do some research on the statues versus agreements. Then work on getting updated Resolutions and/or agreements with all Municipalities.

APPOINTMENT OF 2026 JUNIOR FAIR BOARD MEMBERS: Rachel Kippley, Fair Manager, presented a list of Junior (Jr.) Fair Board Members for the 2026 Fair to the Commission. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve the following 2026 Brown County Jr. Fair Board Members: Iszabell Helm from Aberdeen Christian High School; Jax Holmes & Titus Kippley from Frederick High School; Paisley Mitchell, Payton Mitchell and Gentry Pigors from Groton High School; Sophia Feickert from Roncalli High School and Olivia Marcuson from Warner High School. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FAIR BOARD MEMBER RESIGNATION: Rachel Kippley, Fair Manager, shared the Fair Board recommends accepting the resignation of Nichole Hacker from the Fair Board due to personal reasons. Moved by Commission-

Foundation donated a new set of bleachers to the Fair. Aberdeen Abate has agreed to sell a stage that will be place on the West side of the Clubhouse. They were asking \$15,000.00 for the stage but were able to negotiate it down to \$4,999.99. May 1st is when they are planning to open the campgrounds with water and bathroom facilities open. Then if anyone is interested in volunteering for the Fair, they can go the sign-up genius and register for volunteer positions.

ORDINANCE #323 – FIRST READING: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the First Reading of Proposed Ordinance #323. Applicant Darin & Sarah Lowe to rezone from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its current use: Description of property: The West 720’ of the South 1097’ in the NE1/4 of Section 30-T125N-R61W of the 5th P.M., except that portion deeded for highway purposes, Brown County, South Dakota (40058 Larson Road; Columbia Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

BUILDING PURCHASE DISCUSSION: Chairman Sutton stated that everyone is aware that we have been looking at options due to overcrowding at the Brown County Jail, they had the opportunity to look at a building here in town that may be a good fit a Jail Expansion Project. Sheriff Lunzman shared that the building they are looking for is suitable and could hold up to possibly 70 beds. Could possibly give us an opportunity to rent out some beds with the Federal Building/Federal Courthouse being here to help pay for some of that. The building is in a good location and would serve our needs very well. Chairman Sutton added that currently, we have 48 beds and limited space for JDC. He also shared that a lot of jails in our area don’t include space for JDC so we are contacted on a regular basis, so by doing the reconfiguring then could increase our availability of JDC beds and the revenue for JDC is more per night than adult per night inmate. Sheriff Lunzman commented that the configuration would also streamline things for the kids and increase safety for both the juveniles and staff by being able to separate kids if need be. Along with the proximity to the center is good as well. Chairman Sutton stated they did check

LLC \$85.40; Den Herder Law Firm \$292.80; Dohrer Law Office, PC \$292.80; Faulk County Sheriff’s Office \$270.00; IMEG Corp \$10,250.00; Kuck Law Office \$1,984.10; Kylee Boomsma \$3,208.20; Language Line Services, Inc \$815.01; Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC \$427.00; LexisNexis Risk Data Mgt, LLC \$200.00; Marco Technologies, LLC \$3,352.58; Modern Day Health Care Prof LLC \$360.55; Network Center, Inc \$3,426.16; Northeastern Mental Health Center \$1,793.75; Norther Plains Animal Health \$113.53; Pharm-Chem, Inc \$2,230.65; Sanford Health Occupational Medicine \$184.00; Sanford Health \$4,817.00; State of South Dakota PMB 0112 \$87.17; Taliaferro Law Firm, PC \$3,851.40; Tammy Stolle Court Reporting \$92.15; Taylor Bell \$34.00; Thomson Reuters – West Payment Center \$595.49; Yellow Robe Consulting \$1,800.00. Publishing: Aberdeen Parks, Recreation and Forestry \$500.00; Groton Daily Independent \$263.81; Hub City Radio \$350.00; McQuillen Creative Group, Inc \$1,557.42. Rentals: Linde Gas & Equipment Inc \$64.13; Vestis \$261.65. Repairs & Maintenance: Axon Enterprise, Inc \$2,139.45; Butler Machinery Company \$8,936.83; C Express Inc \$12.00; Custom Installation Solutions \$1,310.00; Diesel Machinery, Inc \$8,721.96; EcoLab Pest Elimination Division \$178.77; Geffdog Designs \$189.50; Hub City Roofing Inc \$315.00; Jason’s Electric Inc \$1,616.29; Lien Transportation Company \$612.50; Meister Mowing, LLC \$595.00; O’Reilly Auto Enterprises, LLC \$152.35; Pantorium Cleaners \$282.60; Pierson Ford Lincoln, Inc \$369.90; RDO Equipment Co \$3,797.60; Richard Marberg \$3,849.83; Titan Machinery \$424.31. Supplies & Materials: Aberdeen Abate \$4,999.99; Agtegra Cooperative \$21,031.12; Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$3,802.52; American Solutions for Business \$282.60; Butler Machinery Company \$3,580.20; Cartney Bearing \$74.22; Century Business Products \$367.71; Christina M. Flack \$1,230.59; Cole Paper Inc \$50.08; Creative Product Sourcing, Inc \$44.39; Diesel Machinery, Inc \$728.50; Division of Motor Vehicles \$6.00; Doll Distributing LLC \$6,204.05; East Side Jersey Dairy Inc \$1,535.20; Eddie’s Northside Sinclair \$225.00; Graham Tire Inc \$59.40; Joe Kretchman \$100.00; Johnson Brothers of South Dakota, Inc. \$538.80; Ken’s SuperFair Foods

Human Resource Report submitted by Human Resources Director, Allison Tunheim:

o Resignation of Amanda Brumfield as Brown County Jail/JDC Nurse, FT; effective April 7, 2026.

o Resignation of Aleigha Allison as Brown County Jail Detention Officer, FT; effective April 9, 2026. Request to fill.

o Last day for temporary PRN Brown County Jail/JDC Nurse, Jennifer Powell; effective April 21, 2026.

o Return of Gentry Pigors as Brown County Fair/4-H Summer Intern, FT; starting wage \$13.25/hr. – effective May 18, 2026.

o Hiring of Addisyn Heinrich as Brown County Fair/4-H Summer Intern, PT; starting wage \$12.50/hr. – effective May 19, 2026.

o Mileage Reports:

o Approve personal miles driven for December 18-31, 2025 as follows at \$0.70/mile: Joshua Matthews 72 miles at \$50.40; Matt Heupel 25 Miles at \$17.50; John Florey 36 miles at \$25.20.

o Approve personal miles for January 2026 as follows at \$0.725/mile: Joshua Matthews 228 miles at \$165.30; Matt Heupel 75 miles at \$52.50; John Florey 114 miles at \$79.80.

o Approve personal miles for February 2026 as follows at \$0.725/mile: Joshua Matthews 228 miles at \$165.30; Matt Heupel 85 miles at \$59.50; John Florey 117 miles at \$81.90.

o Approve personal miles for March 2026 as follows at \$0.725/mile: Joshua Matthews 264 miles at \$191.40; Matt Heupel 100 miles at \$70.00; John Florey 138 miles at \$96.60.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

AUDITOR’S REPORT OF ACCOUNTS FOR FEBRUARY 2026: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to approve the Auditor’s Report of Accounts for February 2026: Total Cash and Checks on Hand \$7,700.00; Total Checking Account Balances: \$16,313,290.72; Total Savings Account Balances: \$1,525,447.42; Total Certificates of Deposit: \$13,302,725.57; Grand Total Cash and Balances: \$31,149,163.71. General Fund \$16,615,897.63; Road & Bridge Fund \$2,417,999.79; Road & Bridge Fund - restricted \$0.00; 911 Service \$530,702.21; Emergency & Disaster (\$43,827.39); Domestic Abuse \$672.53; SA Grants \$180,760.95; 24/7 Sobriety \$71,973.32; ROD M&P \$71,407.52; Opioid Settlement Fund \$40,956.81; Rural Access Infrastructure \$376,393.85; Tif Debt Service \$102,156.92; Landfill + cash change \$7,858,943.29; Landfill - restricted \$1,894,495.06; Trust and Agency Funds \$2,925,126.28; GRAND TOTAL GENERAL FUND CASH AND INVESTMENTS \$31,149,163.71. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LEASE AGREEMENTS: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the following lease agreements: SD Farmer’s Union to lease the Beef Barn on April 29, 2026 for 4th Grade Ag Fair; Tabitha DeVoss to lease Richmond Lake Youth Camp on August 7-9, 2026 for a wedding; Jennifer & Jeff Tichi to lease the Clubhouse on July 17-20, 2026 for a wedding; Brown County 4-H to lease the Akkerman Open Horse Arena on May 30, 2026 for 4-H Horse Safety Clinic; Jeff Wolff to lease the Hog & Sheep Barn along with Panels and Showring on June 7-8, 2026 for Showmanship Camp; Jason Abel to lease the Clubhouse on June 5-8, 2026 for a wedding. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

TRAVEL REQUESTS: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the following Travel Request: John Florey, Josh Matthews and Matt Heupel, Highway Department to go the Federal Surplus on April 13, 2026 in Huron, SD; Brad Borge, Public Defender to attend 2026 Forensic Science & Technology Seminar on April 23-26, 2026 in Las Vegas, NV and 2026 Joint Family/Criminal Law CLE on May 7-9, 2026 in Rapid City, SD. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OPERATING TRANSFERS: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve and authorize the following operating transfers from the General Fund #101.5.911.191 in the total amount of \$450,014.00 to the E-911 Communications #207.4.371 @ \$200,000.00 and Emergency Management #226.4.371 @ \$250,014.00; as reflected in the 2026 General Fund Budget. All members pres-

ent voting aye. Motion carried.

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 Dennert, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 11:06 A.M. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

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Stratford Town Board Meeting April 13th, 2026

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

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Schley, carried; to approve the March 12th meeting minutes as read.

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

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Engelhardt, carried; to approve the following claims for payment: -General Fund-NWE Bills: (st lts) \$365.28, (ball pk) \$13.30, (tennis) \$12.00, (st lts2) \$193.88, (hall) \$785.90, (sign) \$16.09; James Valley (auto): \$44.62; Quickbooks (auto): \$40.36; PDFFiller (auto): \$20.90; Groton Independent: \$50.61; Transfer to Park Fund: \$1,186 (donations); MD-Const: \$1,115.10 (snow); Reimbursements: \$50 (schley). -Water Sewer Fund- NWE Bills: (2nd st) \$64.46, (p hse) \$27.44; Web Water (auto): \$1411.32; USDA RD Loan (auto): \$478.00; NESD Loan (auto): \$383.71; Pub Health Labs: \$20; Dahme Cons: \$10,850; DANR Loan Pmt: \$7,375.85; \$1,206.05; Transfer to Park Fund: \$6,605 (donations)

OLD BUSINESS

Rural Tower follow up in progress, still in agreement to proceed with not owning it.

NEW BUSINESS

Public works monitoring sewer pump system alert; may need repair or replacement. DPC to assess this week and determine way forward.

Mosquito control for summer season to be concentrated around city events; regular mosquito management to be left up to homeowners.

Summer cleanup date tentatively set for June 28th at 3:00pm.

Request was made by J. Reif to restructure the south parking area on Rondell Ave at personal cost. A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Schley, carried; to approve the project.

Reservoir maintenance discussed; proposal by Engelhardt to section off area for trees with steel posts and signs. Cost estimate to be presented next meeting.

Mowing bids reviewed; a motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Schley, carried; to contract with Robert Kadoun for the 2026 mowing season.

CLOSING:

Next regular board meeting is scheduled for May 12th, 2026 at 6:30pm at town hall.

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

-Anna Kwak; Finance Officer

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APRIL 14, 2026 – BROWN COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

This being the second Tuesday, April 14, 2026, the Brown County Commission organized themselves as the Brown County Board of Equalization, in accordance with SDCL 10-11-25, at 11:06 A.M. in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota. Oaths of Office were taken by the Commissioners Drew Dennert, Kyler Dinger, Mike Gage, Duane Sutton and Mike Wiese. Director of Equalization, Gene Loeschke, Appraisers Russell Metz, Sarah Swenson, Joe Kraft along with Office Assistant, Jillian Klein were also in attendance.

Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve 100% Tax Exempt Status, as requested, for the following New Applications: Aberdeen City #32: Housing Plus, Inc. on LT 2A Presentation 2nd Addition NW 12-123-64; Aspire, Inc. on LT 1 Brown County Commissioner's 4TH SD; Presentation Sisters Convent on Lt 1 Presentation 3rd Addition NW 12-123-64; Aberdeen Development Corp. on Lt 2 Wagner Holdings 3rd Addition W2 17-123-63; Aberdeen Development Corp. on Kessler's Outlot 2 SE 15-123-63; Aberdeen Catholic School System on Condo Unit B Fifth Street South Condos Lt 1 Runnings 1st SD. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Due to increase in applications for Elderly or Disabled Tax Freezes this was postponed for a week.

Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to instruct the Director of Equalization to reduce values on all properties qualifying for Paralegic Veteran Exemption for 2026 (2) and 100 % Paralegic Non-Veteran Exemptions for 2026 (2). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to instruct the Director of Equalization to reduce values on all properties qualifying for 100% Disabled Veteran Exemption for 2026 (120). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the following recommendations from the Director of Equalization in Greenfield Township #2 for Josh Larson on NE 34-127-62 EX 47.18 AC in Columbia, house not livable, reduced value from \$316,035 to \$310,958. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization in Lincoln Township #39 for Terence Nash on Lt 1 Nash SD NW 10-124-64 to leave the assessed value at \$399,136. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization in Hecla City #40 for Jessica Casey on Lt 1-2 BK 11 of Plat BK 11-16 Inclusive & Outlots C, D & E Hecla 2017 Friendship 32x80 to lower the property so comparable to other properties, reduced from \$106,025 to \$89,742. All members present voting aye Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to approve the following recommendations from the Director of Equalization in Bath Township #19 for B & B Real Estate, LLC on Lt 1 REA 1st Addition NW 23-123-63 to reduce from \$649,315 to \$647,055; Lt 3 REA 1st Addition NW 23-123-63 to reduce from \$350,985 to \$303,450; OL 1 B & B Outlots NE 23-123-63 to reduce from \$207,090 to \$191,465 due to large land increase and last parcel being non-ag land. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization in Columbia Township #11 for Jean Roettete on SW 19-125-62 to reduce from \$558,569 to \$515,446 due to the house being removed. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Gage to approve the following recommendation

from the Director of Equalization in Lincoln Township #39 for Brandon & Kristin Jobe on Lt 1 Roger Arlt 2nd Addition (Lt 1 Arlts 2nd Addition SW 25-124-64) to reduce from \$569,605 to \$480.613 after being reappraised due to sale. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization in Garland Township #46 for Christopher Podoll on Lt 1 Chris Podoll SD NW 22-125-63 to reduce from \$369,939 to \$251,862 due to house fire. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization in Ordway Township #14 for Jane Fischer on Fischer's 1st SD NE 7-124-63 to reduce from \$321,804 to \$140,885 due to house fire. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

RECESS: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to declare the County Board of Equalization recessed until 11:00 a.m. on April 21, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

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APRIL 14, 2026 – CONSOLIDATED BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

Members of the Brown County Commission, Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeen School District 6-1 organized themselves as the 2026 Consolidated Board of Equalization, in accordance with SDCL 10-11-66 at 1:10 P.M. on April 14, 2026, in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota. Oaths of Office were taken by Commissioners Kyler Dinger, Mike Gage and Duane Sutton, and Aberdeen City Mayor Travis Schaunaman. Director of Equalization, Gene Loeschke and Appraisers Sarah Swenson, Russell Metz, Stephanie Morgan and Kathy Fischer were also in attendance.

Auditor Lynn Heupel called the meeting to order and called for nominations for Chairman. Commissioner Dinger nominated Commissioner Sutton as Chairman for the 2026 Consolidated Board of Equalization, seconded by Aberdeen City Mayor Schaunaman adding nominations cease, and a unanimous ballot be cast for Commissioner Sutton for Chairman of the 2026 Consolidated Board of Equalization. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Commissioner Gage to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization for Dean Knei of Lt 16, Blk 42 Thomas Addition property value reduction from \$142,333 to \$80,000 due to house is unlivable. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Commissioner Gage to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization for The, LLC of Lots 5 & 6, Blk 90 Hagerty & Lloyd Addition property value reduction from \$226,951 to \$157,554 due to cap rate will only be 3.37 under proposed value and Lt 4, Blk 34 Thomas Addition property value reduction from \$193,088 to \$163,757 due to cap rate will only be 5.89 under proposed value. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Aberdeen City Mayor Schaunaman, seconded by Commissioner Dinger to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization for JN Development of Lt 16 Blk 6 Meadows on Dakota 5th SD property reduction from \$48,958 to \$41,579 due to land being over market value. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Aberdeen City Mayor Schaunaman, seconded by Commissioner Gage to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization for B & B Real Estate LLC of Harm's Oil 1st SD (B58 Thomas)

property value reduction from \$502,757 to \$250,000 due to that being the purchase price and vacant building in poor shape. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Commissioner Gage to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization for Paul Hurst of Lt 3 Blk 4 North Aberdeen Addition property value reduction from \$31,077 to \$15,000 due to poor condition of the house. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Gage seconded by Aberdeen City Mayor Schaunaman to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization for David Wachs of Lt 41 Blk 4 Gorders RESD Lt 36-44 Blk 4 RPL Gorders 4th Addition property value reduction from \$436,598 to \$372,989 due to value being too high. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Aberdeen City Mayor Schaunaman, seconded by Commissioner Dinger to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization for Mary G Schriver Addition (Lt 10-12 Blk 16 Corrected Highlands) property value reduction from \$290,237 to \$201,990 due to pool not being usable and condition is lower. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

RECESS: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Commissioner Dinger to declare the Consolidated Board of Equalization recessed until 1:00 p.m. on April 21, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

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APRIL 15, 2026 – SPECIAL MEETING

Meeting called to order by Chairman Sutton at 4:45 P.M. in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. Present were Commissioners Dennert, Dinger, Gage and Sutton. Commissioner Wiese was absent. Commissioner Dennert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None
BUILDING PURCHASE AGREEMENT: Chairman Sutton informed everyone that he was contacted regarding the building purchase that was discussed at the Commission meeting on Tuesday, due to the time being of the essence they needed to call a special meeting to move forward with the purchase or there was a chance to lose out on the property. Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the purchase agreement with J & S Properties in the amount of \$1 Million to purchase the building for Jail Expansion. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Dinger commented that he wanted the constituents to know that this is a good purchase for the County and has been in the works for a while. Rob Johnson with Dakota Plains Real Estate reiterated those comments, stating Commercial Property takes time and has been working on this for a while. The building is located at 115 1st Ave. SW, Aberdeen and includes parking lot to the North of the building as well.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None
ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 4:51 P.M. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

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2026 Brown County Cold In-Place Recycling ADVERTISEMENT

2026 Brown County Cold In-Place Recycling Project Brown County, SD

Sealed Bids will be received by the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 57401, until 8:46 AM local time on Tuesday, the 28th day of April, 2026, for the above-referenced project. Bids shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the Bidding Documents. Brown County reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all Bids as set forth in the Bidding Documents.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at or shortly after the time named above. Bids will be reviewed by the Brown County Commission at a subsequent meeting of the Brown County Commissioners. The Project includes the following Work:

- Cold In-Place Recycling for 6 miles.
- Additional items as set forth in the Contract Documents.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Documents. The Successful Bidder will be required to provide Payment and Performance Bonds as described in the Bidding Documents.

Bidding documents may be viewed and obtained at 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. Or on the Brown County website at <https://www.brown.sd.us/brown-county-bids-through-public-purchase>.

A pre-bid conference will not be held.

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

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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 AbeIn, 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 March 4th meeting. Trevor Meints made a motion to approve the minutes. Scott Meints seconded the motion. All were in favor – motion carried. Minutes were handed out from the March 19th meeting. Sam Hoppock made a motion to approve the minutes. Scott Meints seconded the motion. All were in favor – motion carried.

Warrant Vouchers Northwestern Energy – electricity – 2039.88; Web – fire prevention – 55.11; JVT – fire prevention – 213.17; Post Office – stamps – 421.20; Jeremy Dosch– Mar. wages -1244.84, 1st quarter wages – 296.45 –; Cara Dennert – Mar. wages–1317.60; Scott Meints – Street quarter wages – 316.76; Trevor Meints – 1st quarter wages – 296.46; Sam Hoppock – 1st quarter wages – 296.46;Dana Mohr – 1st quarter wages – 362.34;GDI – publications-288.31; Runnings – shop supplies – 252.75; Menards – shop supplies – 21.97; Dacotah Bank – shop supplies – 97.06; NASASP – 2026 dues – 39.00; Bobcat – shop supplies – 37.63; US Treasury – 941 1st Q taxes – 2615.61; SD Unemployment Insurance – insurance – 50.10

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

COMMUNITY COMMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE: - DANR – Rubble site permit

UNFINISHED BUSINESS- waste water project –Stockwell engineer – Mitch Mergen was

present to discuss the current project. The construction documents are ready for the state & county. We are waiting for the environmental review so that we can close on our loan. We are on the Brown County's agenda for April to get the plaits signed and then on to the county commission. Permitting should be completed by the end of April. Jeremy Dosch made a motion to authorize Stockwell Engineering to advertise for bids upon approval of the land purchase. Sam Hoppock seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried.

Nuisances –Trevor will be putting together a list of residents with ordinance violations. Letters will be sent.

Streets – nothing new
Parks –Bids for weeds/fertilizer were opened. Trevor Meints made a motion to accept the bid from True Green. Scott Meints seconded the motion. All were in favor – motion carried. There were no bids received for mowing services. The proposal will be revamped, and it will be put out for bids – with the right of refusal of any bids. It will be published in the GDI and The Insider and online on the Columbia Facebook page.

Lagoon/Sewer- nothing further

Rubble Site – Dana will contact Hansen about the site and piling before a burn.

NEW BUSINESS – Dana reviewed the contract the city has with the baseball committee. Scott Meints made a motion to approve their contract. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All were in favor – motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT – The city will start paying 941 quarterly taxes electronically. Cara presented bank balances. Sam Hoppock made a motion to accept the financial reports as given. Jeremy Dosch seconded the motion. All were in favor – motion carried.

March 30, 2026, balances: SF - \$ 125,307.82; SF Money Market –\$ 153,669.95;

GF - \$ 240,142.48; GF Money Market - \$ 51,562.40; CD Money Market - \$ 41,873.83

FIT - \$ 16,313.26; Cash on hand - \$0

Mayor Mohr adjourned the meeting.

Next City Council Meeting - Wednesday, May 6, 2026 - 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Cara Dennert, Finance Officer

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Spruced up
5 Comedian Margaret
8 Arduous journey
12 Taj Mahal city
13 Unprocessed
14 Conceal
15 Buffets with Mexican food
17 Rocker – Pop
18 Yoko from Tokyo
19 Astern
20 Unravels
21 Blaster's need
22 Tease
23 Neighbor of Chad

- 26 Wilma and Fred's kid
30 Piglet's pop
31 Author Fleming
32 Ethereal
33 Rabbi's religion
35 Fall bloom
36 Buddy
37 Canonized Fr. woman
38 Prima donnas
41 Carnival city
42 Co. that created Watson
45 Pizza cooker
46 Home to the Buccaneers
48 Social standing

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51					52				53			

- 49 Wall St. wheeler-dealer
50 Deadly septet
51 Picnic invaders
52 Pot pie morsel
53 Whispered "Hey!"

- 7 Pained sounds
8 Baseball diamond stop
9 Latvia's capital
10 Jittery
11 Lock openers
16 "Troy" actor Eric

- 27 Tipsy
28 Before
29 Aleppo's land (Abbr.)
31 Equi-
34 1040 org.
35 On
37 "The Lion King" lion
38 TV explorer
39 Author Turgenev
40 Air outlet
41 Scarce
42 Nile wader
43 Proscribes
44 Island in a computer game
46 Spigot
47 Nile biter

DOWN

- 1 Post-WWII alliance
2 "The Candy House" author Jennifer
3 Not pizzicato
4 Eastern "way"
5 Make by hand
6 Male red deer nis

- 20 Little lie
21 "America's Next Top Model" host
22 "Community" actor Jeong
23 JFK's veep
24 Chit
25 Abysmal
26 Shriver of ten-



UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 13, 2026

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

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Lerseth Strom, to approve the amended agenda with the addition of new business hiring Rylen Ekern, approval of Ryan Scepaniak, Lindsey VanderWal, Kristi Peterson-Yearbook resignations, and approval of list of surplus property. Motion carried.

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

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Fliehs to approve consent agenda items: March 9, 23, 26, April 1, and 2, 2026, board minutes, and March 2026 financial reports, custodial accounts, investments, bills, lunch report, transportation, and authorize business manager to pay district bills up to \$75,000 in advance, using the custodial advance payment account to be approved by the board for reimbursement at the following regular board meeting. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND: Net Salary 309,493.72, Net Benefits 86,131.65; Aberdeen Awards – sports awards, 750.00; Allied Climate Professionals – repairs, 505.10; Amazon – supplies, 569.53; AmericInn Ft Pierre – robotics lodging, 808.00; AmericInn Rapid – All-State Band lodging, 549.60; City of Groton – utilities, 17,399.85; Cole Papers – janitor supplies, 540.18; CORE Educational Cooperative, 260.00; Custodial Fund – advanced payments, 61,797.13; Dependable Sanitation – garbage, 1,599.00; Farmer’s Union – bulk def, 192.19; Good Shred – shredding service, 43.50; Greg’s Repair – tire repair, 274.40; Groton Daily Independent – printing, 35.94; Groton Dairy Queen – student of the month, 40.00; Groton Rescue Squad – donation, 500.00; Hauff Mid-America – supplies, 530.00; Hillyard – janitor supplies, 2,747.25; House of Glass – repairs, 945.78; Jostens – grad cords/pins, 674.02; Locke Electric – repairs, 3,810.40; Maximum Promotions – banner updates, 409.58; Mid-American Research Chemical – janitor supplies, 1,172.11; Northeast Conference – banquet, 144.00; Northwestern Energy – utilities, 5,457.14; Olive Grove Golf Course – membership, 825.00; Petty Cash – postage/titles, 198.39; Reporter & Farmer – plaque engraving, 78.50; S&S Lumber – supplies, 1,403.18; Sanford Health – athletic trainer, 280.00; Sprocket Ventures – annual maintenance, 1,229.74; Taylor Music – instrument repairs/supplies, 165.00; Walmart – supplies, 244.16. Total General Fund - \$501,804.04.

CAPITAL OUTLAY: A&B Business – managed print agreement, 3,675.14; Allied Climate Professionals – arena air handler, 31,673.36; Amazon – equipment, 731.18; Custodial Fund – advanced payments, 1,086.97; Follett – library books, 87.38; Hauff Mid-America Sports – track equipment, 25.90; Medco – med bag, 404.97; Morely Athletic Supply – arena chairs, 10,089.44; NSU Finance – textbooks, 109.80; Taylor Music – instruments/parts, 199.00; US Bank – payment, 49,470.00; Vivacity Tech – computer bags, 1,475.00. Total Capital Outlay - \$99,028.14.

SPECIAL EDUCATION: Net Salary 42,805.69 Net Benefits 12,472.15; Amazon – speech microphone, 16.59; Avera – PT/OT, 31,684.56. Total Special Education - \$86,978.99.

ENTERPRISE FOOD SERVICE: Net Salary 9,111.88, Net Benefits 2,822.55. Food Service: Ace Refrigeration – repairs, 2,368.44; Amazon – supplies, 44.66; Buller Fixture Company – cold food counter, 3,274.59; Churchill, Manolis, Freeman, Kludt, Shelton – collection fees, 193.13; Custodial Fund – advanced payments, 2,336.00; East Side Jersey Dairy

GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 06-6 FINANCIAL REPORTS							
	General Fund	Capital Outlay	Special Ed.	Food Service	OST	Driver’s Ed	Custodial
MARCH 1 2026	\$1,666,255.50	\$980,419.62	\$310,725.46	\$96,871.89	\$49,474.72	\$20,937.01	\$242,469.65
RECEIPTS							
Local Sources	\$137,216.24	\$80,569.95	\$45,675.34	\$13,657.79	\$7,096.75		\$104,402.81
County Sources	\$4,709.49						
State Sources							
State Aid	\$48,572.00						
Wind Farm							
Mentor Teacher Program							
State Apportionment							
State Reimbursements							
Bank Franchise							
Federal Sources				\$6,660.22			
Sale of Assets							
Due from Govt/Others							
Transfer In/Out							
TOTAL MONTHLY RECEIPTS	\$190,497.73	\$80,569.95	\$45,675.34	\$20,318.01	\$7,096.75	\$0.00	\$104,402.81
FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$1,856,753.23	\$1,060,989.57	\$356,400.80	\$117,189.90	\$56,571.47	\$20,937.01	\$346,872.46
MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS	(\$451,289.93)	(\$88,149.21)	(\$73,455.01)	(\$21,659.00)	(\$3,694.22)		(\$124,031.18)
JOURNAL ENTRIES	\$5,296.03		\$964.36	\$74.25	\$10.27		
March 31. 2026	\$1,410,759.33	\$972,840.36	\$283,910.15	\$95,605.15	\$52,887.52	\$20,937.01	\$222,841.28
GENERAL FUND		SPECIAL EDUCATION		FOOD SERVICE		OST	
Payroll		Payroll		Payroll		Payroll	
Instruction	\$309,493.72	Instruction	\$42,805.69	Instruction	\$9,111.88	Instruction	\$3,133.41
Employee Benefits	\$86,131.65	Employee Benefits	\$12,472.15	Employee Benefits	\$2,822.55	Employee Benefits	\$362.92
Total	\$395,625.37	Total	\$55,277.84	Total	\$11,934.43	Total	\$3,496.33
Driver’s Education							
Payroll							
Instruction	\$0.00						
Employee Benefits	\$0.00						
Total	\$0.00						

– milk, 1,398.29; Hillyard – dish soap, 305.06; Performance Foodservice – food, 13,788.77; Pye Barker Fire Safety – maintenance, 796.00; US Foods – food, 4,225.32. Total Food Service - \$40,664.69.

ENTERPRISE OST: Net Salary 3,133.41, Net Benefits 362.92, Custodial Fund – advanced payments, 964.30. Total OST: \$4,460.63.

ENTERPRISE DRIVERS ED: 0.00.

CUSTODIAL: 124,031.18

Members of the public are allowed five minutes to address the board on any topic of their choice. With no members present, the board continued with the agenda.

CO-OP Architecture presented its Facility Master Plan and Educational Adequacy Assessment to the board. The firm conducted nine engagement activities with staff and students, as well as a community survey. Through surveys, walkthroughs, and interviews, the firm identified which areas of the District facilities needed attention. Based on the Educational Adequacy Assessment, the firm deemed the middle/high school building to have an overall inadequate rating. With the information gathered, the firm provided a multi-phase plan that included an addition which consisted of all classrooms that would completely replace the 1930’s classrooms, a second phase with Career and Technical Education classrooms and a lunch/commons area, and a third phase that included renovations to the auxiliary gymnasium, band/choir/roof, remodel of the shop classroom, and remodel of some of the 1960’s classrooms. The firm gave the board a projected schedule of when phases could happen and a preliminary statement of probable costs. A public walkthrough of the building will take place on April 28 for community members who would like to see the classrooms in the middle/high school building.

The board conducted its second reading of recommended policy changes: DFG Insufficient Funds & No Account Checks, EBBA First Aid, and DJC Bidding Requirements. Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Harder, to approve the recommended policy changes. Motion carried.

Mary Johnson and Sarah Hanten provided a Curriculum Review Presentation for Language Arts for FY 2027.

Superintendent Schwan gave the board a summary of the 2026 legislature. Principal B. Schwan gave elementary enrollment numbers at 270, scheduled for Smarter Balanced assessments; elementary track and field will be scheduled for May 15, and after the conclusion of the Kindergarten roundup, the current numbers are at 25 in Kindergarten, 10 JK, and two at undecided. Principal Edwards reported 297 middle/high school enrollment, the state testing schedule; the grading scale is currently being evaluated and will bring recommendations to the board next month. The master schedule is currently being worked on, and for upcoming events prom will be April 18, and good luck to HOSA, at the state convention April 22-23. Business manager Hubsch reported health insurance rates at 10% and an overall increase in Workers’ Compensation. Property and liability are anticipated to increase, but will have rates in May, and Hubsch

will be attending the SDASBO Conference. There will be no school board election this year, with only two petitions filed for the two open positions. Grant Rix and Heather Lerseth Fliehs will continue to be on the board for a three-year term.

Moved by Lerseth-Fliehs, seconded by Strom, to approve the 2025-2026 school calendar amendments and make-up days, with May 20 being the students’ last day of school and staff’s last day on May 21. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Harder, to adopt the resolution authorizing membership in the SDHSAA for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Weber, to approve Associated School Boards Protective Trust Agreements: Protective Trust Joint Powers Agreement and Bylaws; Health Fund Participation Agreement and Plan Options; and Worker’s Compensation Renewal Agreement. Motion carried.

Moved by Harder, seconded by Lerseth-Fliehs, to approve the District Membership Agreement for the North Central Special Education Cooperative. Motion carried.

Moved by Harder, seconded by Fliehs, to authorize Participation in Statewide Title III Consortium

for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion carried.

Moved by Fliehs, seconded by Weismantel, to approve hiring Madisyn Neiber, Business Manager, beginning July 1, 2026, with salary to be published with the 2026-2027 annual published salaries. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Strom to approve hiring Maria Martens, Opportunity Coordinator, for the 2026-2027 school year with the 2026-2027 annual published salaries. Motion carried.

Moved by Fliehs, seconded by Lerseth-Fliehs, to approve hiring Rylen Ekern, Student OST Worker at \$12/hour. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Lerseth-Fliehs, to approve the retirement of Don Donley at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. Motion carried.

Moved by Fliehs, seconded by Harder, to approve the resignation of Chantel Duerre at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. Motion carried.

Moved by Harder, seconded by Weber, to approve the resignation of Jaimie Mitchell, effective May 8, 2026. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Fliehs, to approve the resignation of Shaun Wanner, Head Football Coach, upon finding a suitable replacement.

Motion carried.

Moved by Fliehs, seconded by Lerseth-Fliehs, to approve resignation of Ryan Scepaniak, Maintenance Director. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Lerseth-Fliehs, to approve the resignation of Lindsey VanderWal, Ag Teacher/FFA Advisor, upon completion of the 2025-2026 contract. Motion carried.

Moved by Harder, seconded by Weber, to approve the resignation of Kristi Peterson, Yearbook Advisor. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Harder, to authorize the Business Manager to create a Track and Field custodial account. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Strom, to approve the list of surplus property at no value. The listing is available in the business office. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Weber, to go into executive session pursuant SDCL 1-25-2.1 for personnel issues and SDCL 1-25-2.4 negotiations at 8:40 pm. The board moved out of executive session at 11:17pm.

Moved by Strom, seconded by Lerseth-Fliehs, to approve the 2026-2027 Extra-Curricular sti-

pends schedule. Motion carried.

Moved by Fliehs, seconded by Harder, to approve 2026-2027 Negotiated Agreements: Groton Teachers Association (GTA) and Groton Auxiliary Staff Association (GASA). Motion carried.

Moved by Fliehs, seconded by Weber, to issue 2026-2027 Teacher Contracts with a return date of Friday, April 24, 2026. Motion carried.

Moved by Weber, seconded by Harder, to issue 2026-2027 Auxiliary Staff Work Agreements with a return date of Friday, April 24, 2026. Motion carried.

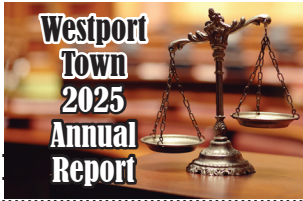
Moved by Strom, seconded by Harder, to issue the 2026-2027 administrative contracts with a return date of Friday, April 24, 2026. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Lerseth-Fliehs, to adjourn at 11:17 pm. Motion carried.

Becky Hubsch, Business Manager

Grant Rix, President
The addition of signatures to this page verifies these minutes as official.

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MUNICIPALITY OF WESTPORT STATEMENT OF FUND CASH BALANCES ALL FUNDS December 31, 2025					
	General Fund	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Sewer Surcharge Fund	OtherEnterprise Funds Total
Cash Assets:					
Cash in Checking Accounts	269,734.00	115,892.00	189,089.00	20,625.00	595,340.00
Change and Petty Cash					
Passbook Savings					
Savings Certificates					
101 FUND CASH BALANCES	269,734.00	115,892.00	189,089.00	20,625.00	595,340.00
Municipal funds are deposited or invested with the following depositories:					
Dacotah Bank-general fund	269,734.00				
Dacotah Bank-water fund	115,892.00				
Dactoah Bank-sewer fund	189,089.00				
Dacotah Bank-sewer surcharge fund	20,625.00				
	595,340.00				

MUNICIPALITY OF WESTPORT STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES ALL FUNDS For the Year Ended December 31, 2025					
	General Fund	Water Fund	Other Sewer Fund	Enterprise Funds Sewer Surcharge Fund	Total
Receipts (Source):					
311 Property Taxes	12,479.00				12,479.00
313 Sales Tax	40,874.00				40,874.00
311-319 Other Taxes	40.00				40.00
320 Licenses and Permits	980.00				980.00
335.1 Bank Franchise Tax	165.00				165.00
335.2 Prorate License Fees	332.00				332.00
335.3 Liquor Tax Reversion	588.00				588.00
335.4 Motor Vehicle Licenses (5%)	2,150.00				2,150.00
335.8 Local Government Highway and Bridge Fund	12,336.00				12,336.00
338.1 County Road Tax (25%)	28.00				28.00
338.2 County Highway and Bridge Reserve Tax (25%)	402.00				402.00
338.3 County Wheel Tax	98.00				98.00
361 Investment Earnings	175.00				175.00
363-369 Other Revenues	2,094.00				2,094.00
ENTERPRISE FUNDS					
372-389 Enterprise Operating Revenue (380)	44,889.00	8,087.00		21,840.00	74,816.00
Total Receipts	72,741.00	44,889.00	8,087.00	21,840.00	147,557.00
Disbursements (Function):					
411-419 General Government	29,577.00				29,577.00
431 Highways and Streets	3,179.00				3,179.00
433-439 Other Public Works	1,841.00				1,841.00
490-493 Miscellaneous	10,776.00				10,776.00
ENTERPRISE FUNDS					
420 Other Expenses	12,619.00	3,549.00		18,620.00	34,788.00
426 Supplies and Materials	26,181.00	51.00			26,232.00
Total Disbursements	45,373.00	38,800.00	3,600.00	18,620.00	106,393.00
Subtotal of Receipts, Disbursements and Transfers	27,368.00	6,089.00	4,487.00	3,220.00	41,164.00
Fund Cash Balance-beginning, as previously reported	242,366.00	109,803.00	184,602.00	17,405.00	554,176.00
Fund Cash Balance- beginning, as restated	242,366.00	109,803.00	184,602.00	17,405.00	554,176.00
FUND CASH BALANCE, December 31, 2025	269,734.00	115,892.00	189,089.00	20,625.00	595,340.00
Do amounts equal Exhibit 1 Fund Cash Balance?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Published April 22, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$132.76 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com . 26763					



UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 9, 2026

President Rix called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Columbia American Legion Post 58 Community Center, Columbia, SD. Other members present: Fliehs, Harder, Lerseth-Fliehs, Strom, Weber, and Weismantel. Absent: None. Others present were Supt. J. Schwan, Principal Schwan, Principal Edwards, and Business Manager Hubsch.

Thank you to the Columbia American Legion Post 58 for the use of the facility!

Moved by Harder, seconded by Strom, to approve the amended agenda with the addition of new business #6, to approve hiring Mike Heilman, bus route driver. Motion carried.

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

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Fliehs to approve consent agenda items: February 9, 2026, board minutes, and February 2026 financial reports, custodial accounts, investments, bills, lunch report, transportation, and authorize business manager to pay district bills up to \$75,000 in advance, using the custodial advance payment account to be approved by the board for reimbursement at the following regular board meeting. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND: Net Salary 322,234.56, Net Benefits 85,997.42; Aberdeen Awards – track awards, 3,380.00; Amazon – supplies, 526.54; Automatic Building Controls – maintenance, 3,498.00; Bahr CDL Services – service, 450.00; Clubhouse Pierre – lodging, 327.92; Cole Papers – janitor supplies, 785.90; Comfort Suites University – lodging, 112.00; Custodial Fund – advanced payments, 41,334.43; DeSmet High School – girls wrestling, 97.22; Darren Dennert – background check, 50.00; Dependable Sanitation – garbage, 1,637.50; EMC Insurance Company – insurance, 271.00; Farmer’s Union – bulk def, 158.11; Groton Chiropractic – DOT Physical, 125.00; Hanlon Brothers – snow removal, 140.00; Hauff Mid-America – supplies, 1,044.30; Mike Heilman – CDL License, 126.00; Hillyard – janitor supplies, 729.33; JW Pepper – music, 651.23; Jostens – yearbook pmt, 2,137.00; Matheson Tri-Gas – IA Supplies, 84.38; Mid-American Research Chemical – janitor supplies, 2,286.39; Midstates Group – office supply, 110.00; NASSP – honor society dues, 385.00; Northside Implement – repairs, 770.05; Northwestern Energy – utilities, 13,756.13; Petty Cash – student meal money, 100.00; Reporter & Farmer – plaque engraving, 28.82; Robotics Education & Competition Foundation – entry fee, 1,800.00; Sanford Health – athletic trainer, 1,312.50; School Specialty – tagboard, 60.22; Sewer Duck – pump pit, 555.00; Taylor Music – instrument repairs/supplies, 239.00; Walmart – FACS supplies, 378.30; Webster Area – wrestling share, 350.66. Total General Fund - \$488,029.91.

CAPITAL OUTLAY: Allied Climate Professionals – shop air handler, 23,846.98; ; Amazon – equipment, 158.08; Co-op Architecture – master planning, 4,900.00; Custodial Fund – advanced payments, 11,122.67; Follett – library books, 1,639.84; Harlow’s Bus Sales – 2023 Ford Transit 350, 43,500.00; Hauff Mid-America Sports – track/softball equipment, 9,212.60; S&S Lumber – FB crows nest materials, 3,744.04. Total Capital Outlay - \$98,124.21.

SPECIAL EDUCATION: Net Salary 49,578.78 Net Benefits 14,532.85; Avera – PT/OT, 17,977.76. Total Special Education - \$82,089.39.

ENTERPRISE FOOD SERVICE: Net Salary 11,146.14, Net Benefits 2,835.97. Food Service: Amazon – supplies, 43.69; Custodial Fund – advanced payments, 22.83; East Side Jersey Dairy – milk, 1,171.55; Hillyard – dish soap, 152.53; Performance Foodservice – food, 3,054.63; US Foods – food, 5,279.34. Total Food Service - \$23,706.68.

ENTERPRISE OST: Net Salary 2,865.41, Net Benefits 328.46, Custodial Fund – advanced

GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 06-6 FINANCIAL REPORTS							
	General Fund	Capital Outlay	Special Ed.	Food Service	OST	Driver's Ed	Custodial
February 1 2026.....	\$1,954,577.05	\$962,459.73	\$393,317.32	\$100,927.30	\$55,025.51	\$20,937.01	\$242,469.65
RECEIPTS							
Local Sources	\$97,094.11	\$55,911.19	\$30,644.84	\$14,921.06	(\$2,357.35)		\$104,402.81
County Sources	\$4,485.64						
State Sources							
State Aid	\$48,572.00						
Wind Farm							
Mentor Teacher Program							
State Apportionment	\$58,305.83						
State Reimbursements							
Bank Franchise	\$51,119.63						
Federal Sources				\$6,968.23			
Sale of Assets.....							
Due from Govt/Others.....							
Transfer In/Out							
TOTAL MONTHLY RECEIPTS	\$259,577.21	\$55,911.19	\$30,644.84	\$21,889.29	(\$2,357.35)	\$0.00	\$104,402.81
FUNDS AVAILABLE.....	\$2,214,154.26	\$1,018,370.92	\$423,962.16	\$122,816.59	\$52,668.16	\$20,937.01	\$346,872.46
MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS.....	(\$549,613.12)	(\$37,951.30)	(\$114,668.62)	(\$25,958.28)	(\$3,193.87)		(\$80,136.06)
JOURNAL ENTRIES.....	\$4,842.68		\$1,481.92	\$13.58	\$0.43		
February 28. 2026	\$1,669,383.82	\$980,419.62	\$310,775.46	\$96,871.89	\$49,474.72	\$20,937.01	\$266,736.40
..... GENERAL FUND							
..... Payroll							
Instruction	\$322,234.56	Instruction	\$49,578.78	Instruction	\$11,146.14	Instruction	\$2,865.41
Employee Benefits	\$85,997.42	Employee Benefits	\$14,532.85	Employee Benefits	\$2,835.97	Employee Benefits	\$328.46
Total.....	\$408,231.98	Total	\$64,111.63	Total	\$13,982.11	Total	\$3,193.87
Driver's Education.....							
Payroll.....							
Instruction	\$0.00						
Employee Benefits	\$0.00						
Total.....	\$0.00						

payments, 197.89. Total OST: \$3,391.76.

ENTERPRISE DRIVERS ED: 0.00.

CUSTODIAL: 80,136.06

Members of the public are allowed five minutes to address the board on any topic of their choice. With no members present, the board continued with the agenda.

The board conducted its second reading of recommended policy changes: DB Budget [Amendment], DBDA General Fund Balance [Amendment], DBJ Budget Implementation [Delete], DC Taxing and Borrowing Authority/Limitations [Amendment], DD Funding Proposals and Applications [Title Amendment], DFD Gate Receipts and Admissions [New], DH Bonded Employees and Officers [Amendment], DIB Types of Funds [Amendment], DIC Financial Reports and Statements [Amendment], DID Inventories [Amendment], DIE Audits [Amendment], DI Fiscal Accounting and Reporting [Amendment], EBCD Emergency Closings [Amendment], and GCPC Retirement of Professional Staff Members. Moved by Harder, seconded by Weismantel, to approve the recommended changes. Motion carried.

The board conducted its second reading of the recommended job description for Assistant Business Manager. Moved by Fliehs, seconded by Weber. Motion carried.

Mr. J. Schwan discussed the ongoing Facilities Master Planning process. The committee will meet on March 16 to continue to work with Co-op Architecture. At the last meeting, Co-op Architecture discussed their educational adequacy study of the 1934 building, and indicated that it was deemed inadequate. The 1960's area and the older gym could be renovated and will be investigated further. They discussed three concepts that would not disrupt the school year. The committee will meet a few more times before Co-op Architecture presents its findings and recommendations to the board on the adequacy of the middle and high school building.

The following items were discussed in the administrative reports: J. Schwan provided

an update on the 2026 legislative session and bills still under discussion. The 2025-2026 calendar was discussed, and it was stated that, so far, four late-start/early-dismissal days and four weather school-cancellation days have occurred, and the board will set makeup days for approval at the end of the month. Schwan discussed enrollment projections with JK, and Kindergarten numbers remain lower, with projections for approximately 17 fewer students next year than this year. Discussed upcoming school board meeting being moved from Monday, March 23, to Thursday, March 26th at 7 am, April 1st for GTA negotiations, and April 2 for GASA negotiations.

B. Schwan reported elementary numbers at 269. Students will participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress on March 18; Six Destination Imagination teams completed at regionals on March 7th; Smarter Balanced testing will be April 20-24, Grade 5 Science, April 27-May 1, 3-5 ELA and Math, and May 4-8, make-up testing. The Elementary Track and Field date has yet to be set, but will be set when the final school calendar is set with weather make-up days. Schwan thanked all the students, parents, and staff who made Family Night a great success, and OST will be open on March 19 and 20.

S. Edwards reported middle/high school numbers at 297. ACT for Juniors will be on March 25th; all students have registered for classes for the next school year. Edwards is completing the second semester of formal teacher evaluations. National Honor Society Ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17th, at 6 pm, and the Boys basketball team will play in the SoDak 16 game on March 10 at 5:30 pm.

B. Hubsch reported that the ASBPT annual insurance renewal meeting will be on March 25; the district received a dividend check from EMC Insurance for \$21,932.81. The 2023 Ford Transit 350 van has arrived. School Board petitions are due at the business office by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, March 24, 2026. State report cards, expenditure

data, and the rankings report are out for FY2025. Groton Area School District per-pupil expenditure is \$11,493 compared to the state's average of \$12,222.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Harder, to approve the Driver's Education Fee of \$300/per student, and the instructor agreement of \$1,151.85 for the classroom instructor and \$30.75/per driving hour. Motion carried. Mr. J. Schwan discussed the five-year capital outlay plan.

Moved by Lerseth-Fliehs, seconded by Harder, to approve the resignation of Becky Hubsch as Business Manager, effective June 30, 2026. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Weber, to approve the resignation of Teresa Davies, Food Service Team Member, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. Motion carried.

Moved by Harder, to approve hiring Darren Dennert, Special Education Paraprofessional at \$15.56/per hour. Motion carried.

Moved by Strom, seconded by Lerseth-Fliehs, to approve hiring Mike Heilman, Bus Route Driver, for \$104/full route. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Fliehs, to approve hiring Kiya Stillman, English Language Arts Teacher, for the 2026-2027 school year, with salary to be published with the 2026-2027 annual published salaries. Motion carried.

The board conducted its first reading of recommended policy changes: DFG Insufficient Funds & No Account Checks, EBBA First Aid, and DJC Bidding Requirements. No action was taken.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Harder, to go into executive session pursuant SDCL 1-25-2.1 for personnel issues at 8:23 pm. The board moved out of executive session at 10:08 pm.

Moved by Harder, seconded by Weismantel, to adjourn at 10:08

pm. Motion carried.

Becky Hubsch, Business Manager

Grant Rix, President

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

Published April 22, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$184.61 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26765

Weekly SUDOKU

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			3					7

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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City Council
Continued from front

Looking ahead, council members began early conversations about priorities for the 2027 budget, including potential updates to the community center exterior and investing in equipment to develop geographic information system (GIS) mapping capabilities.

The council also approved blocking a section of Main Street by Railroad Avenue and allowing alcoholic beverages within the barrier for a fundraising event. The roadway would be blocked from 3 to 10 p.m. June 27 as organizers host a cornhole tournament to raise funds for Groton Area HOSA.

The council authorized blocking the street and allowing alcohol outside contingent on paperwork being filled out to formalize the request.



New Softball Fence
A new outfield softball fence is being installed on Nelson Field. It is a temporary fence for use in softball games. Aaron Severson and Nick Groebelinghoff were taking advantage of a couple of nice days to put up the fence.



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Young athletes brave cold at Groton soccer clinic

GROTON — Chilly temperatures didn't slow the energy or enthusiasm Saturday as area youth took part in a soccer clinic in Groton hosted by the Northern State Wolves soccer.

Despite the brisk conditions, participants stayed active throughout the event, working through drills, skill-building exercises and game situations designed to improve fundamentals and build confidence on the field. The clinic provided a hands-on opportunity for young athletes to develop their technique while learning directly from collegiate players.

Throughout the day, campers focused on ball control, passing, shooting and teamwork, while also gaining insight into the pace and preparation required at the next level of play. The interactive setting allowed participants to ask questions, receive instruction and immediately apply what they learned in a supportive environment.

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<p>DAIRY</p> <p>89¢</p>	<p>GROCERY</p> <p>2/\$4</p>	<p>FROZEN</p> <p>\$5.99</p>	<p>BEVERAGE</p> <p>3/\$1</p>
<p>LIQUOR-BEER</p> <p>\$19.99</p>	<p>BAKERY</p> <p>\$2.99</p>	<p>DELI</p> <p>\$8.99 Ea.</p>	

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