



\$2

The Groton Independent

Vol. 143 No. 33 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, April 29, 2026 ♦ Established in 1889



Photo by Tina Kosel

Massive 'Superload' Draws Attention as It Moves Through Groton Area

GROTON — A towering piece of industrial equipment turned heads last week as it made its way through the Groton area atop a multi-axle trailer, escorted by support vehicles and pilot cars.

The oversized load, stretching well over 100 feet in length, appeared to be a large industrial pressure vessel—commonly used in facilities such as ethanol plants, refineries or fertilizer operations. The cylindrical structure featured numerous capped openings and connection points, indicating it will play a key role in processing or separating materials once installed at its destination.

Transporting equipment of this size is no small task. The load required a specialized heavy-haul trailer with multiple axles to distribute the immense weight, along with a semi tractor and escort vehicles to guide it safely along highways and through intersections. Moves like this are typically planned well in advance and often travel at reduced speeds to ensure safety.

While the exact origin and destination were not immediately known, loads of this magnitude are often headed to energy or agricultural processing facilities across the region.

Residents who spotted the convoy likely witnessed what is known in the trucking industry as a "superload," a rare sight that highlights the scale of infrastructure and industry operating behind the scenes in rural communities.

For many, it provided a brief but memorable reminder that even in small towns, big things still roll through.

Groton City Council approves hiring of two electrical apprentices

Following an executive session at its Tuesday evening meeting, the Groton City Council approved the hiring of two electrical apprentices to join the city workforce.

The council voted to extend job offers to Korbin Kucker and Teylor Diegel at a starting wage of \$25 per hour. Both individuals are graduates of the Groton area and are completing their training at Mitchell Technical School.

Kucker and Diegel will serve as electrical apprentices, supporting the city's electrical department while continuing to develop their skills in the trade.

City officials noted the value of bringing back local graduates to fill critical roles, emphasizing both the importance of skilled labor and the benefit of having employees with ties to the community.

The hires were approved following discussion in executive session, with formal action taken once the council returned to open session.



Middle School Spring Concert

The middle school spring concert was held Thursday. The choir was directed by Landon Brown and the band by Sharon Schwan. The choir sang, "Elijah Rock," "Homeward Bound," "Rewrite the Stars" and the girls sang, "Love Story." The band performed, "Blue Sky Horizon," "Stay," "Superheroes R Us," "Looking Up" and "The Avengers." The band photo below was the band performing "Stay" in the dark. (Photos by Paul Kosel)



SDHSAA members to vote on constitutional amendments

By Dana Hess

For the S.D. NewsMedia Association

PIERRE — High schools belonging to the South Dakota High School Activities Association will have a chance to vote on three proposed amendments to the association's constitution. Sending the amendments to schools for their vote was approved at the association's annual meeting on Wednesday, April 22.

One amendment clarifies that eligibility for high school activities starts with the completion of the eighth grade. There have been some instances of parents trying to hold their children back after the eighth grade. They want to "reclassify" or "redshirt" their children in hopes of using their high school athletic eligibility when they are a year older.

SDHSAA Executive Director Dan Swartos explained that this usually happens with the parents of wrestlers who want the opportunity for their child to put on more weight before beginning competition in high school.

"You don't get a year off to do club sports," Swartos said.

According to the rationale offered to members, "the whole concept of redshirting or reclassifying for the purpose of sports goes against the concept of education-based activities." Students who must be held back for other reasons will have their high school athletic eligibility decided by the association on a case-by-case basis.

Another amendment clarifies that when a school closes, a student may transfer to another school after the end of the school year. According to the rationale, the amendment is offered to provide clarity to the school districts that must accept students from a closed school. It also provides clarity for parents who, when a school is rumored to be closing, want to transfer their children early to another school.

Swartos said questions about this came up twice in the past year with the closure of Freeman Academy and the vote on closing the Oldham-Ramona-Rutland school.

A third amendment clarifies that students who graduate early lose their eligibility to participate in activities.

Ballots must be returned to the SDHSAA office in Pierre by May 31. In order to pass, an amendment must receive a 60% favorable vote from member schools.

There won't be an election for a new board member as Jeff Kusters of Frederick was the only nominee for an opening on the board to represent small high schools. Kusters, who currently serves on the board, was able to run for a new five-year term as he was filling a term of less than two years.



Board at the Legion or
Vimeo Paul (@paperpaul) for a space
Ace of Hearts goes out!

The Ace of Hearts went out Thursday night. Joni Groeblichhoff picked card #41 and it was the Ace of Hearts. The jackpot was \$46,000 and Groeblichhoff will get half of the proceeds. Ticket sales for the week were \$3,400.

Tietz, Dunker set school records; boys break meet mark at Ipswich



Rylee Dunker goes for the throw in the javelin, setting a school record at the Ipswich Tigers Relays held Saturday. (Photo from Groton Area Facebook Page)

McKenna Tietz highlighted the day by breaking her own school record in the 300-meter hurdles, winning the event in 47.25 — trimming .21 seconds off her previous mark. Tietz also added a third-place finish in the 100-meter hurdles (16.99), giving Groton valuable points in both hurdle events.

In the field events, Rylee Dunker etched her name into the record books with a throw of 106’4” in the javelin, breaking the previous school record of 87’10” set by Emma Kutter in 2024. Dunker’s mark earned her a second-place finish in the event.

Groton’s sprint relay continued to impress, as the 4x100 team of Tietz, Taryn Traphagen, Kella Tracy, and Makenna Krause raced to a first-place finish in 52.16.

Krause also turned in a strong individual effort, placing second in the 100 meters (13.31), while Raquel Tracy added a seventh-place finish in the 200 meters (29.46). Additional contributions came from Ashlynn Warrington, who placed fifth in the 400 (1:05.43), and Ruelle Gilbert, who finished fourth in the 1600 meters (5:57.54). The sprint medley relay team also added points with a fourth-place finish.

The Groton Area boys team followed with a strong showing of its own, tying for third place in the team standings with North Central at 64 points. Ipswich won the boys title with 85 points, followed by Aberdeen Christian with 78.

The Tigers were led by dominant performances in the distance races. Jayden Schwan captured the 3200-meter run in 10:59.68, while Riley Shellenberger placed second in the same event (11:17.33) and added a third-place finish in the 1600 meters (5:08.17).

In the 800 meters, Jace Johnson recorded a runner-up finish in 2:16.24.

Groton also excelled in relay competition, highlighted by a historic performance in the sprint medley relay. The team of Lincoln Krause, Jordan Schwan, Keegen Tracy, and Jayden Schwan raced to first place in 3:41.58, breaking the Ipswich Tiger Relays meet record previously set by Webster in 1996 (3:43.54). The quartet’s performance also vaulted them into the top 10 of Class A this season.

The 4x100 relay team (Krause, Jordan Schwan, Ryder Schwan, Tracy) added a runner-up finish in 45.49.

J.J. Muller added points with an eighth-place finish in the 200 meters (24.90) and fourth in the 400 (59.17), and Ethan Kroll contributed in the field events with a fourth-place finish in the long jump (19’2”) and sixth in the triple jump (37’7”).

The 1600m Sprint Medley Relay team broke a meet record at the Ipswich Relays held Saturday with a time of 3:41.58. The record was previously held by a Webster team in 1996 (3:43.54). Team members are Senior Lincoln Krause, Freshman Jordan Schwan, Senior Keegen Tracy, and Senior Jayden Schwan. They now sit within the top 10 of Class A. (Photo from Groton Area Facebook Page)

IPSWICH — The Groton Area girls track and field team delivered a standout, record-setting performance Saturday at the Ipswich Tiger Relays, leading the way for the Tigers with multiple top finishes and two new school records.

Groton Area placed third in the girls team standings with 64 points, finishing behind Ipswich (141.5) and Warner (110.5).



McKenna Tietz breaks her own record in the 300m hurdle event at the Ipswich Tigers Relays held Saturday. (Photo from Groton Area Facebook Page)



The 1600m Sprint Medley Relay team broke a meet record at the Ipswich Relays held Saturday with a time of 3:41.58. The record was previously held by a Webster team in 1996 (3:43.54). Team members are Senior Lincoln Krause, Freshman Jordan Schwan, Senior Keegen Tracy, and Senior Jayden Schwan. They now sit within the top 10 of Class A. (Photo from Groton Area Facebook Page)

Boy’s Division
Team Scores: 1. Ipswich 85, 2. Aberdeen Christian 78, 3. North Central 64, 3. Groton Area 64, 5. Warner 59, 6. Aberdeen Roncalli 57, 7. Frederick Area 49, 8. Northwestern 47, 9. Herreid/Selby Area 46, 10. Faulkton Area 45, 11. Sully Buttes 39, 12. Linton/HMB 32.5, 13. Gettysburg 28.5, 14. South Border (Wishek/Ashley) 28, 14. LaMoure/Litch-Marion 28, 16. Edgeley/Kulm 20, 17. Hoven 4
100 Meters: 11. Jordan Schwan, 12.11; 12. Ryder Schwan, 12.24; 36. Tate Johnson, 13.93.
200 Meters: 8. JJ Muller, 24.90; 29. Tate Johnson, 28.54.
400 Meters: 4. JJ Muller, 59.17; 17. Briggs Conn, 1:07.27.
800 Meters:2. Jace Johnson, 2:16.24; 14. Briggs Conn, 2:42.57.
1600 Meters: 3. Riley Shellenberger, 5:08.17.
3200 Meters: 1. Jayden Schwan, 10:59.68; 2. Riley Shellenberger, 11:17.33.
4x100 Relay: 2. Groton: (Lincoln Krause, Jordan Schwan, Ryder Schwan, Keegen Tracy), 45.49.
SMR 1600m - [200-200-400-800]: 1. Groton: (Lincoln Krause, Jordan Schwan, Keegen Tracy, Jayden Schwan), 3:41.58.
Discus - 1.6kg: 27. Jordan Schwan, 62’ 2”.
Long Jump: 4. Ethan Kroll, 19’ 2”.
Triple Jump: 6. Ethan Kroll, 37’ 7”.

Girl’s Division
Team Scores: 1. Ipswich 141.5, 2. Warner 110.5, 3. Groton Area 64, 4. Northwestern 63, 5. LaMoure/Litch-Marion 61, 6. Aberdeen Roncalli 44, 7. North Central 42, 8. South Border (Wishek/Ashley) 37, 9. Edgeley/Kulm 35, 10. Faulkton Area 30, 11. Hoven 29, 12. Gettysburg 26, 12. Herreid/Selby Area 26, 14. Linton/HMB 25, 15. Mobridge-Pollock 20, 16. Aberdeen Christian 19, 17. Frederick Area 1
100 Meters: 2. Makenna Krause, 13.31; 19. Raquel Tracy, 14.58.
200 Meters: 7. Raquel Tracy, 29.46.
400 Meters: 5. Ashlynn Warrington, 1:05.43.
1600 Meters: 4. Ruelle Gilbert, 5:57.54.
100m Hurdles - 33” / 0.838m: 3. McKenna Tietz, 16.99; 1. Ella Kettner, 19.91; 13. Emerlee Jones, 20.30.
300m Hurdles - 30” / 0.762m: 1. McKenna Tietz, 47.25; 12. Ella Kettner, 57.54.
4x100 Relay: 1. Groton: (McKenna Tietz, Taryn Traphagen, Kella Tracy, Makenna Krause), 52.16.
4x200 Relay: 7. Groton: (Rylee Dunker, Raquel Tracy, Ella Kettner, Emerlee Jones), 1:59.71.
SMR 1600m - [200-200-400-800]: 4. Groton: (Makenna Krause, Taryn Traphagen, Kella Tracy, Ruelle Gilbert), 4:36.25.
Shot Put - 4kg: 15. Avery Crank, 26’ 6.5”.
Discus - 1kg: 5. Avery Crank, 94’ 4”.
Javelin - 600g: 2. Rylee Dunker, 106’ 4”; 9. Avery Crank, 83’ 3”.
Long Jump: 25. Teagan Hanten, 11’ 3.25”

Tigers battle through busy stretch, notch win at Miller

It was a week of close calls, offensive fireworks, and tough competition for the Groton Area Tigers, who dropped a pair of heartbreakers to Sisseton-Britton-Webster before bouncing back with a high-scoring win and later facing stiff competition at the Lennox triangular.

Groton Area opened the stretch Wednesday, April 22, in Britton against Sisseton-Britton-Webster (SBW), where the Tigers came up just short in two tightly contested games.

In the nightcap, Groton suffered a 7-6 walk-off loss as SBW pushed across the winning run in the bottom of the seventh. With the game tied at six, an error allowed the decisive run to score.

The Tigers outhit SBW 8-6, led by TC Schuster, who went 3-for-4 with three RBIs. Schuster drove in Groton’s first run with an RBI single in the opening inning. SBW answered with a five-run third inning to take control, but the Tigers rallied in the seventh, stringing together three singles. Jordan Schwan delivered the game-tying hit before SBW responded in the bottom half.

Jarrett Erdmann took the loss, allowing five runs (four earned) over five innings while striking out four. SBW’s Ben Suther struck out 13, while Kaden Mills earned the win in relief. Groton turned a double play defensively, while SBW played error-free baseball.

Earlier in the day, the Tigers were edged again despite a dominant performance from Gavin Englund on the mound. Englund struck out 12 over 6 1/3 innings, allowing just four hits and three runs without issuing a walk.

SBW struck first, but Groton answered quickly as Schwan tied the game with an RBI single. The Tigers took a 2-1 lead in the second on an Alex Abeln fielder’s choice. The teams battled evenly before SBW broke the tie late to secure the win.

Schwan and Abeln each drove in a run, while Karsten Fliehs drew two walks as part of a patient approach that produced seven team walks. Defensively, Groton again turned a double play.

The Tigers bounced back Friday at Miller, earning a 16-11 victory over the Outlaws in a game filled with offense.

Nick Groebelinghoff led the charge, collecting three hits, including two doubles, and earning the win on the mound in relief. Groton piled up 15 hits in the contest, with Groebelinghoff and Karsten Fliehs each recording three hits. Schuster, Abeln, and Groebelinghoff each drove in two runs, while Lincoln Krause and Case Reints added multiple hits.

Groton jumped out early and broke the game open with a six-run fourth inning, highlighted by Groebelinghoff’s two-run double. The Outlaws answered with seven runs in the bottom of the inning, but Groton maintained control down the stretch. Groebelinghoff allowed just two runs over 3 1/3 innings while striking out five to earn the win.

The Tigers closed the week Sunday at the Lennox triangular, dropping games to Lennox (13-3) and West Central (11-6).

In the opener, Lennox used a six-run second inning to seize control early and never looked back. Groton finished with seven hits, with Lincoln Krause, Karsten Fliehs, Braeden Fliehs, Schuster, Schwan, Abeln, and Groebelinghoff each recording one. Fliehs, Schuster, and Schwan drove in runs, and the Tigers played clean defense without committing an error.

Abeln took the loss, while Lennox’s Sam Bambas earned the win after allowing three runs over six innings.

Groton showed more offensive spark in the second game but fell 11-6 to West Central. The Tigers scored first on a Reints single and later rallied to tie the game at 5-5 in the fifth inning, highlighted by a run-scoring double from Schwan.

West Central responded in the bottom half of the inning, using walks and timely hitting to regain control and pull away.

Schwan led Groton offensively, going 2-for-4 with three RBIs, while Krause added two hits. Groebelinghoff drew two walks as the Tigers again showed patience at the plate.

Winter Sports Awards



Boys Basketball

Pictured left to right: Ethan Kroll – Scout Team Player of the Year; Logan Warrington – Tiger Award, Academic All-State; Ryder Johnson – Co-Most Valuable Offensive Player, NEC All-Conference 1st Team, Academic All-State, South Dakota Basketball Coaches Association Class A All-State 2nd-Team; Gage Sippel – Most Improved, NEC All-Conference-2nd Team, Academic All-State; Becker Bosma – Academic All-State; Keegen Tracy – Most Valuable Defensive Player, NEC All-Conference-2nd Team, Academic All-State; Karson Zak – Co-Most Valuable Offensive Player, NEC All-Conference 1st Team, State A All-Tournament Team. (Courtesy

Photo Kristi Peterson)



Cheerleading

Pictured left to right: Paisley Mitchell – Most Valuable ; Breslyn Jeschke – Captain of the Year; Mya Feser – Most Dedicated; Elizabeth Cole – Most Improved.

(Courtesy Photo Kristi Peterson)



Girls Basketball

Pictured left to right: Mia Crank – Academic All-State; Kella Tracy – Game Changer Award; Jerica Locke – Defensive MVP, NEC All-Conference 2nd Team, Academic All-State; Jaedyn Penning – Tiger Award, NEC All-Conference 3rd Team, Academic All-State; Rylee Dunker – Hustle and Heart, Academic All-State; Taryn Traphagen – Offensive MVP, NEC All-Conference 3rd Team; Talli Wright – Academic All-State.

(Courtesy Photo Kristi Peterson)



Wrestling

Pictured in back, left to right: Gavin England – Most Valuable Wrestler, Region Champion, State Champion-285lbs; Liza Krueger – Most Valuable Female Wrestler, Conference Champion-110lbs, Region Champion, State Runner-Up-105lbs; Isaiah Scepaniak – Co-Most Improved Wrestler; Walker Zoellner – Co-Most Inspirational Wrestler, State Qualifier-190lbs; Kason Oswald – Co-Most Inspirational Wrestler; Ben Hoeft – Academic All-State; Layne Johnson – Conference Champion-215lbs, State Qualifier-215lbs; Pictured in front, left to right: Keegan Kucker – Most Dedicated Wrestler, State Qualifier-113lbs; Noah Scepaniak – Hardest Worker; Donovan Block – State Qualifier-157lbs; Grayson Flores – Co-Most Improved Wrestler; Kyson Kucker – Most Valuable Middle School Wrestler, State Qualifier-126lbs; Aiden Strom – Co-Most Improved Wrestler; Wyatt Hagen – State Qualifier-120lbs.

(Courtesy Photo Kristi Peterson)

Johnson leads Groton Area at Milbank girls golf meet

MILBANK — Groton Area's girls golf team was led by a top-10 finish from Carlee Johnson during the Milbank Invitational held Thursday, April 23.

Johnson turned in a strong round of 18-over-par 90 to place ninth overall in a competitive field that featured multiple Class A and B programs. The Groton junior stayed consistent throughout her round to secure the Tigers' top individual showing of the day.

Madison's Kenzley Heath of Sisseton claimed medalist honors with a 6-over 78, while Madison's Madison Rummel followed with an 83. Aberdeen Roncalli placed three golfers inside the top six, highlighting the depth of the field.

Groton Area had two additional golfers finish inside the top 25. Rylie Rose carded a 36-over 108 to place 20th, while Halee Harder finished 25th with a 43-over 115. The Tigers' trio provided steady scoring against a large field that included teams from across the region.

Classifieds and Card of Thanks

The following rates are for Classifieds published in both the Groton Daily Independent and the Groton Independent. Cut rate in half if you just want it in the GDI or just the weekly.

1 Week: \$9 for first 30 words, 20¢/word thereafter

2 Wks: \$17 for first 30 words, 38¢/word thereafter

3 Wks: \$24 for first 30 words, 54¢/word thereafter

4th consecutive week is free

605/397-NEWS (6397)

FOR SALE

3 BEDROOM, 1 BATH, Attached Garage, fenced yard. Basement: 2nd kitchen, family rm, 1 bed rm, 3/4 bath plus hobby rm. Mo-bridge \$178,900. 956-367-0023, 956-605-7879

NOTICES

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

WANTED

WANTED: TRACTORS, SELECT FARM EQUIPMENT. John Deere tractor parts. Vintage farm primitives. Guaranteed funds. No hassle. We do all the work from start to finish. 605-464-4683.

SUMMER PASTURE WANTED for 45 or 90 pairs. Vern 605-673-5843 landline, 307-388-0933 text.





With the 18th pick in the 2026 NFL Draft, the Minnesota Vikings select Caleb Banks, defensive lineman, Florida. I talked about Banks as a possibility for the Vikings in the second round, so taking him at 18 is a bit of a reach - especially with players like cornerback Jermod McCoy and safety Dillon Thieneman still available. According to the Wide Left consensus board, put together every year by Arif Hasan and covering data from 134 draft analysts, Banks was the 40th ranked player in this year’s draft class.

The talent is undeniable. Banks is 6’6”, 327 lbs, instantly making him the largest defensive lineman on the Vikings’ roster. He has a quick first step to go along with immense power at the point of attack. He’s also versatile, able to line up at every spot along the defensive line.

He’s not a perfect prospect, however. His height can work against him at times, allowing offensive linemen to get under his pads and dislodge him in the run game. He’s inconsistent with his hand placement, which makes it harder for him to disengage from blocks. He also relies too heavily on his natural talents and hasn’t developed many tools in his pass-rushing toolbox.

The good news is all of those things are fixable, and defensive coordinator Brian Flores should be able to maximize his skill set.

The bad news is that his biggest red flag, injuries, can’t be fixed. He was only on the field for 90 snaps last season because of a foot injury (although credit where it’s due, he worked hard to make it back for the final two games of the season instead of sitting out and preparing for the draft). A great Senior Bowl performance had his draft stock on the rise, but Banks broke his foot again at the Combine.

If he can stay healthy, Caleb Banks has the potential to be an All-Pro caliber player. But a 327-pound player breaking the same foot twice in an eight-month span is a major concern.

The Vikings ended up making four selections on day two of the draft, but the biggest news of the day isn’t who they added to the roster. As the second round was underway, it was announced that the Vikings traded their best pass rusher, Jonathan Greenard, to the Philadelphia Eagles. In return for Greenard and a seventh-round pick, the Vikings received two third round draft picks (2026 and 2027).

Rumors began earlier this offseason that Greenard was unhappy with his current contract and wanted a raise. It made sense. Greenard, one of the better pass rushers in the league, was severely underpaid. He will also be turning 29 years old next May, which meant time was

The Groton Independent
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
News Items: news@grotonsd.net
Deadline to submit items: Noon Monday]
Yearly Subscription Rates are listed below.
The Groton Independent (USPS# 230-440) is published weekly with its periodicals postage paid at Groton, SD.
Postmaster: Send address changes to
Groton Independent, PO Box 34, Groton, SD 57445
© 2026 The Groton Independent

The Groton Independent
Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition
Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.2% Sales Tax

☐ Black & White \$52.00/year

☐ Colored \$80.00/year

☐ Colored \$49.00/6 months

☐ E-Weekly* \$35.00/year

* The E-Weekly is a PDF file emailed to you each week. It does not grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Phone Number _____

Groton Daily Independent
www.397news.com
Subscription Form

This option will grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

☐ 1 Month \$16.00

☐ 3 Months..... \$28.00

☐ 6 Months..... \$38.00

☐ 9 Months..... \$52.00

☐ 12 Months..... \$60.00

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent
P.O. Box 34
Groton, SD 57445-0034
or scan and email to paperpaul@grotonsd.net

“Anesthesia: Biting the Bullet is No Longer Necessary”

Anesthesiology is the branch of medicine committed to pain relief and patient care before, during, and after surgery and other procedures. It has origins in ancient times but made large advances in the last two centuries.

It is one of medicine’s greatest achievements that someone can comfortably drift off to sleep, have their knee replaced, or their gallbladder removed, and wake up with minimal pain.

Ancient civilizations used herbal remedies to help numb pain with forms of cannabis, opium, mandrake, or alcohol. Even by the time of the Revolutionary War, these remained the only options, which did little for the pain of an amputation. Survival depended on the speed of the surgeon. Patients would “bite the bullet” and literally clench down on a lead bullet or piece of leather to help endure the pain and protect their teeth. Surgeries were completed in minutes, and most amputees did not survive due to infection or blood loss.

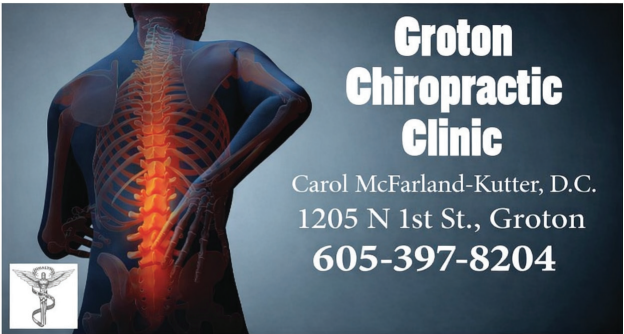
Major advances in anesthesia came in the mid-1800s with the emergence of ether and chloroform. American dentist William Morton was the first to publicly show ether’s use as an anesthetic, famously demonstrated at Massachusetts General Hospital in 1846.

During the Civil War, anesthesia became widely adopted in the military and used in the vast majority of surgeries. Typically, ether or chloroform was soaked in a cloth and placed over the patient’s face for inhalation. After the war, the physicians with a new understanding of anesthesia were dispersed across the country, and use of anesthesia went from a sporadic, questionable intervention to standard practice.

Epidurals are another major advance in anesthesia, decreasing the pain of childbirth, surgery, and some forms of back pain. Epidurals numb pain by delivering medication near the spinal nerves with an injection in the back. First developed in the early 1900’s, epidurals became widely used in the United States by the 1970’s. The addition of a catheter allowed continuous pain relief throughout labor, replacing a single injection.

Modern anesthesia has continued to evolve. Propofol, first developed in the 1970s and approved in the United States in 1989, is now commonly used to start and maintain anesthesia. Often called the “milk of amnesia,” it works quickly and allows for a smooth, clear-headed recovery.

Anesthesia techniques continue to improve and become safer and more effective. With the expertise and close monitoring of an anesthesiologist or nurse anesthetist, patients can undergo complex procedures with excellent pain control and minimal risk.



Dr. Andrew Ellsworth is a Family Medicine Physician at Avera Medical Group Brookings in Brookings, SD. He 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.prairedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Tik Tok. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on SDPB, YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).



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.

Sunday, May 3
Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m. (Senior Sunday/Faith Forever Scholarships Awarded).
St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion at St. John's, 9 a.m.; at Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
United Methodist: Worship with communion 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.; Cody Swanson Piano Recital, 3 p.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
Annie, the Musical, 4 p.m., GHS Gym

Monday, May 4
Senior Menu: Taco salad with chips, Mexican rice with beans, fruit, biscuit.
School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels.
School Lunch: Oriental chicken, rice.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
MS Track Meeting at Sisseton, 3:30 p.m.
Girls Fastpitch Softball in Groton vs. Clark/Willow Lake, varsity at 4 p.m. followed by JV (senior recognition between games)
High School Baseball at Groton vs. Clark Area. Varsity at 6 p.m. followed by JV.
Pickleball, 5:30 p.m., Elementary Gym
FFA Banquet, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 5
Senior Menu: Hot turkey combination, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn, fruit.
School Breakfast: Breakfast sliders.
School Lunch: Tater tot hot dish, mixed vegetables.
St. John's Lutheran: Ladies Aid LWML, 1:30 p.m.
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.
City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
Valley Queen Track Meet at Milbank, 1:30 p.m.
Biogirls, 3:45 p.m., Elementary Gym
JVT Practice, 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., Arena

Wednesday, May 6
Senior Menu: Kielbasa with mac and cheese, California blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Omelets.
School Lunch: Chicken alfredo, cooked broccoli.



Groton Chamber meeting, noon, City Hall
Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.; Sarah Circle, 5 p.m.; League, 6:30 p.m.
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Yard cleanup, 10:30 a.m.
Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.
Pickleball, 5:30 p.m., Elementary Gym
JVT Practice, 6 p.m., Arena

Thursday, May 7
National Day of Prayer
Senior Menu: Meatloaf, baked potato, green beans, fruit, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Biscuits.
School Lunch: Sloppy joes, square tots.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Nigeria Circle, 2 p.m.
Girls Golf at Lee Park, Aberdeen, 10 a.m.
Middle School Track Meet Ellendale, 3 p.m.
5th Grade Girls Basketball, 4 p.m., Elementary Gym
Girls Fastpitch Softball in Groton vs. Florence/Henry, varsity DH at 4 p.m.
Pickleball, 6 p.m., Elementary Gym
JVT Practice, 7 p.m., Arena

Friday, May 8
Senior Menu: Chicken strips, tater tots, carrots, fruit.
School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza.
School Lunch: Chicken ala king, biscuit.
Track Meet at Gene Brownell Complex in Aberdeen, 3 p.m.
JVT Practice, 6 p.m., Arena
High School Baseball: SBW JV DH at Groton, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 9
Pickleball, 9:30 a.m., Elementary Gym
High School Baseball at Milroy, Minn., vs. Madison/Chester DH at noon.

Groton Area middle school track teams shine on home track

GROTON — Competing on their home surface Friday, April 24, the Groton Area middle school track teams turned in an impressive showing, highlighted by a team title from the seventh-grade girls and a dominant performance by the eighth-grade boys.

The Groton Area eighth-grade boys claimed the team championship with 111 points, outpacing Roncalli (102) and Warner (81). The Tigers were powered by a strong sprint and relay presence, along with standout efforts from the Kucker brothers and a deep supporting cast.

Kyson Kucker led the way with victories in both the 400 meters (56.2) and 800 meters (2:24.9), while also running a leg on the winning 4x400 relay team that clocked 4:05.3 alongside Trey Tietz, Keegan Kucker and Liam Lord. Trey Tietz added a runner-up finish in the 400 (1:00.4), and Keegan Kucker placed fourth (1:02.5).

In the short sprints, Ryder Schwan paced a sweep for Groton Area in the 100 meters, winning in 11.9 seconds, followed by Trey Tietz (second), Trayce Schelle (third) and Liam Lord (fourth). Schwan also won the 200 meters (24.5), with Schelle adding a fourth-place finish.

Groton's 4x100 relay team of Keegan Kucker, Kyson Kucker, Trayce Schelle and Ryder Schwan also took first in 50.7. Schelle added a field event victory by clearing 5 feet, 2 inches in the high jump. In the throws, Liam Johnson placed fourth in the shot put (33-11.5) and fifth in the discus (87-7).

The seventh-grade boys placed sixth with 45 points, tying Wilmot. Ivan Schwan was a bright spot, winning the 200 meters (26.6) and running on the winning 4x100 relay team with Quinton Flores, Jack Schuelke and Micah Krause (56.3). Flores added a win in the 800 meters (2:37.7) and placed fourth in the 400.

On the girls side, Groton Area's seventh-grade team captured the championship with 142 points, well ahead of Warner (88) and Sisseton (86). The

Tigers showed strength across nearly every event group, combining sprint speed, relay depth and hurdle dominance.

Andi Iverson led the charge with a win in the 100 meters (14.5) and a runner-up finish in the 800 (2:51.4), while also running on the winning 4x100 relay team with Mya Moody, Zoe Olson and Charli Jacobsen (59.9).

Kinley Sandness added a victory in the 200 meters (29.8), while Avery Huber won the 400 (1:10.7) and teamed with Taylor Fliehs for a 1-2 finish in that event. Huber also contributed to multiple relay placings.

In the hurdles, Charli Jacobsen dominated, winning both the 100-meter hurdles (18.6) and 200-meter hurdles (34.7), with Addison Steffes finishing second in both races.

Relay success continued as Groton Area placed second in the 4x200 (2:07.1) and 4x400 (5:09.0), showing strong depth throughout the lineup.

The eighth-grade girls placed seventh as a team with 31 points. Rowan Patterson highlighted the effort with a win in the 100 meters (14.0) and a role on two winning relay teams. Groton Area captured the 4x100 relay (58.0) with Patterson, Sandness, Libby Johnson and Brynlee Dunker, and also won the 4x200 relay (2:02.2) with Sandness, Patterson, Johnson and Iverson.

Boy's Division
Boys 7th Grade Team Scores: 1. Sisseton 113, 2. Roncalli 99, 3. Warner 82, 4. Webster Area 70, 5. Northwestern 61, 6. Groton Area 45, 6. Wilmot 45, 8. Langford Area 12
Boys 8th Grade Team Scores: 1. Groton Area 111, 2. Roncalli 102, 3. Warner 81, 4. Sisseton 63, 5. Webster Area 56, 6. Britton-Hecla 34, 7. Langford Area 19, 8. Frederick 11, 8. Northwestern 11, 10. Tiospa Zina 9
100 Meters 7th Grade: Ivan Schwan, 12.9; 15. Jack Schuelke, 15.5; 19. Micah Krause, 15.6; 25. Hank Fliehs, 17.3; 28. Titan Johnson, 18.3; 29. Weston Kettner, 18.6.
100 Meters 8th Grade: 1. Ryder Schwan, 11.9; 2. Trey Tietz, 12.7; 3. Trayce Schelle, 12.9; 4. Liam Lord, 13.0; 15. Wyatt Morehouse, 15.6.
200 Meters 7th Grade: 1. Ivan Schwan, 26.6; 14. Micah Krause, 33.5; 15. Jack Schuelke, 33.9; 20. Hayden Hubbard, 38.5; 21. Titan Johnson, 39.4; 23. Weston Kettner, 43.7.
200 Meters 8th Grade: 1. Ryder Schwan, 24.5; 4. Trayce Schelle, 26.8; 15. Wyatt Morehouse, 32.0; 16. Gavin Hanten, 33.2
400 Meters 7th Grade: 4. Quinton Flores, 1:05.9.
400 Meters 8th Grade: 1. Kyson Kucker, 56.2; 2. Trey Tietz, 1:00.4; 4. Keegan Kucker, 1:02.5; 6. Liam Lord, 1:04.3.

800 Meters 7th Grade: 1. Quinton Flores, 2:37.7; 9. Hayden Hubbard, 3:14.3.
800 Meters 8th Grade: 1. Kyson Kucker, 2:24.9.
4x100 Relay 7th Grade: 1. Groton: (Quinton Flores, Jack Schuelke, Micah Krause, Ivan Schwan), 56.3.
4x100 Relay 8th Grade: 1. Groton: (Keegan Kucker, Kyson Kucker, Trayce Schelle, Ryder Schwan), 50.7.
4x400 Relay 8th Grade: 1. Groton: (Trey Tietz, Keegan Kucker, Liam Lord, Kyson Kucker), 4:05.3.
Shot Put - 8lb 7th Grade: 11. Hank Fliehs, 20' 8.5"; 16. Grayson Warrington, 17' 9".
Shot Put - 8lb 8th Grade: 4. Liam Johnson, 33' 11.5"; 12. Gavin Hanten, 23' 6.5".
Discus - 1kg 7th Grade: 15. Grayson Warrington, 49' 10"; 16. Hank Fliehs, 41' 4".
Discus - 1kg 8th Grade: 5. Liam Johnson, 87' 7"; 10. Gavin Hanten, 70' 10".
High Jump 8th Grade: 1. Trayce Schelle, 5' 2".
Long Jump 7th Grade: 17. Jack Schuelke, 10' 6"; 20. Weston Kettner, 9' 7"; 22. Titan Johnson, 9' 5"; 23. Hayden Hubbard, 8' 0".

Girl's Division:
Girls 7th Grade Team Scores: 1. Groton Area 142, 2. Warner 88, 3. Sisseton 86, 4. Roncalli 71, 5. Webster Area 62, 6. Langford Area 44, 7. Britton-Hecla 17, 8. Northwestern 14, 9. Wilmot 7, 10. Frederick 1
Girls 8th Grade Team Scores: 1. Sisseton 140, 2. Wilmot 85, 3. Roncalli 73, 4. Webster Area 47, 5. Langford Area 40, 6. Warner MS 37, 7. Groton Area 31, 8. Northwestern 19, 9. Tiospa Zina 13
100 Meters 7th Grade: 1. Andi Iverson, 14.5; 3. Avery Huber, 14.9; 4. Zoe Olson, 15.1; 9. Addison Steffes, 15.5; 12. Shealee Gilchrist, 15.9; 18. Rowan Hanson, 16.2; 23. Harley Furman, 16.4; 25. Gracie Borg, 16.6; 31. Hadley Heilman, 17.3; 34. Lennox Locke, 17.4; 38. Hallie Perkins, 18.4.
100 Meters 8th Grade: 1. Rowan Patterson, 14.0.
200 Meters 7th Grade: 1. Kinley Sandness, 29.8; 3. Shealee Gilchrist, 32.1; 5. Harley Furman, 32.7; 12. Gracie Borg, 35.3; 17. Lennox Locke, 36.4; 23. Hallie Perkins, 40.4.
400 Meters 7th Grade: 1. Avery Huber, 1:10.7; 2. Taylor Fliehs, 1:11.2; 11. Rowan Hanson, 1:22.6.
800 Meters 7th Grade: 2. Andi Iverson, 2:51.4; 3. Taylor Fliehs, 2:52.6.
100m Hurdles - 30" / 0.762m 7th Grade: 1. Charli Jacobsen, 18.6, 2. Addison Steffes, 19.8, 6. Hallie Perkins, 24.8.
200m Hurdles - 30" / 0.762m 7th Grade: 1. Charli Jacobsen, 34.7; 2. Addison Steffes, 37.6.
4x100 Relay 7th Grade: 1. Groton: (Mya Moody, Zoe Olson, Charli Jacobsen, Andi Iverson), 59.9.
4x100 Relay 8th Grade: 1. Groton: (Rowan Patterson, Kinley Sandness, Libby Johnson, Brynlee Dunker), 58.0.
4x200 Relay 7th Grade: 2. Groton: (Mya Moody, Zoe Olson, Brynlee Dunker, Avery Huber), 2:07.1.
4x200 Relay 8th Grade: 1. Groton: (Kinley Sandness, Rowan Patterson, Libby Johnson, Andi Iverson), 2:02.2.
4x400 Relay 7th Grade: 2. Groton: (Brynlee Dunker, Taylor Fliehs, Avery Huber, Rowan Hanson), 5:09.0.
Shot Put - 6lb 7th Grade: 14. Lillian Davis, 22' 0.75"; 19. Hadley Heilman, 18' 0.5".
Shot Put - 6lb 8th Grade: 12. Andi Gauer, 20' 8.5".
Discus - 1kg 7th Grade: 5. Lillian Davis, 52' 1".
Discus - 1kg 8th Grade: 8. Andi Gauer, 49' 10".

Groton Independent♦Wed., April 29, 2026♦5



APRIL 21, 2026 – GENERAL MEETING

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Chairman Sutton asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Dean Buntrock, whose donation led to the development of a new baseball field and updated park in the City of Columbia and most recent donation to the Dacotah Prairie Museum, creating the Rosemarie and Dean L. Buntrock Gallery.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Chairman Sutton shared needing to add Masa contract under the Benefit Contracts. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the amended agenda. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None
PUBLIC HEARING – SPECIAL EVENT TEMPORARY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to approve the following Special Event Temporary Alcoholic Beverage License for Malt Beverage and Wine to SPURS Therapeutic Riding Center, Aberdeen, SD – SPURS 2nd Addition, NW ¼ of Sec 6-T123N-R63W, Brown County, SD; effective September 19, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

JDC AGREEMENT WITH ABERDEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the JDC Agreement between Aberdeen School District and Brown County; the term of this agreement is from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

JUNIOR FAIR BOARD: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Dennert to approve Leah Eisenbeisz to be on the 2026 Junior Fair Board. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve the application submitted by Web Water for occupancy of Brown County Highway 2 (aka 102nd St.) in Section 8-T128-R65, Brown County, SD to install potable waterline service for Tom Berheim. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent, shared that he was pulling the application for Bill Edwards and Diamond Five Farms, LLC because they discovered an old culvert at this site, so now it becomes a County issue to take care of. Since Ben Hofer is already doing the work, they are just going to pay him to complete the project.

BID CONTRACTS: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the following Bid Contracts: Full Operation of Rental of Gravel Trucks & Road Machinery with Diesel Machinery Inc.; H.F. Jacobs & Son Construction; Hanlon Brothers & Crush Mode; Gravel Material with Althoff Aggregates; LG Everist, Inc.; H.F. Jacobs & Son Construction; Hanlon Brothers and Hall Sand & Gravel; Bituminous Plant Mix with Jensen Rock & Sand. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent, shared that the flood gates are currently open but anticipate closing them, still 6 feet from the top of the gates. Work on the Railroad Crossing on 14 will be starting but will have one-lane open at all times. Sand Lake Bridge may begin on April 27th or the following week. Cold patching until they can get hot mix the beginning of May. They are doing some prep work at the Fairgrounds and will start paving there, will be a training opportunity before starting on the roads. At this time Load Limits will not be extended but were put on 2 weeks later than other counties. Shared that County Road 9 and 7 in the Claremont area are having some issues but they do have routes for Emergency Vehicles

if need be.

Commissioner Dinger asked Dirk about the detour route for Richmond Dam project. Currently, plan is to go straight out on 127th to 281; discussion was had about going 2 miles on 127th then south on 384th to 129th to enter onto 281. There is some concern though about the visibility at the intersection of 384th and 129th due to trees on that corner. Dirk will look into this and also mentioned that Lincoln Township will need to sign off on this as well.

BENEFITS DISCUSSION: Allison Tunheim, HR Director, met with the Commission to discuss the benefits for the next fiscal year. The County will stay with Optilegra for Vision Insurance and there are no plan changes or premium increases for this next year; we will stay with Delta Dental for Dental Insurance and we will be increasing the annual max allowed per member from \$1200 to \$1500 and there will be a 2.5% increase; for Health Insurance we will be staying with Wellmark but we will be making some changes to the plan this next year in order to keep the renewal rates at a lower increase amount (10.92%) to our premiums. We will keep both the Copay plan and the HDHP, however, the structure of our Copay plan will be adjusted to include increases with deductibles, out of pocket max, ER copay, prescriptions and non-primary care provider office visits. There will be no changes to the plan structure for the HSA compatible HDHP. We will remain with HealthEquity for our Health Savings Account, Flexible Spending account and the dependent care flexible spending account. We will be introducing a voluntary supplemental insurance option for medical transport coverage to include ground and air transport. This is through MASA and offered to us through our RISTY benefits vendor. Open Enrollment is scheduled for May 4th through May 15th, and we will be holding open enrollment meetings in the Community Room on the 7th and 8th for employees and their dependent family members to attend.

BENEFIT CONTRACTS: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Wellmark BCBS and Masa contracts for the 2026-2027 Benefit Fiscal Year. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

NE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT (NECOG) AGREEMENT & PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES: Chairman Sutton informed the Commissioners that he visited with Eric Senger with NECOG regarding the e-mail we received and the upcoming meeting on April 29th. The attendance and participation from County Officials have been dwindling so they are looking at making some changes to their By-Laws and making it so only 1 Representative/County would need to attend the meetings. Chairman Sutton plans to attend the April 29th meeting via Zoom and will keep the Commission informed of what is decided.

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve the General Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dinger to approve the Brown County Board of Equalization Minutes of April 14, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Gage to approve the Consolidated Board of Equalization Minutes of April 14, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Gage to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Claims/Payroll. Claims: Professional Fees: American Engineering Testing, Inc \$12,242.50; Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$1,301.80; Dean Schaefer Court Reporting \$96.00; Den Herder Law Firm \$164.70; Dohrer Law Office, PC \$2,841.00; HealthStream, Inc \$1,928.50; IMEG Corp \$12,397.84; Kuck Law Office \$1,256.60; Kyle Kost \$110.00; Kylee Boomsma \$244.00; Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC \$1,271.50; Lewis & Clark BHS \$450.00; Payne County \$50.00; SD Dept

of Health \$350.00; Tammy Stolle Court Reporting \$144.50; Yankton County Sheriff's Office \$50.00; Yankton County Treasurer \$178.15. Publishing: Groton Daily Independent \$291.58; McQuillen Creative Group, Inc \$55.20. Rentals: Dakota Electronics LLC \$591.00. Repairs & Maintenance: Ace Refrigeration, LLC \$216.75; Applied Concepts, Inc. \$154.00; Big Scoop Snow Removal \$596.67; Custom Installation Solutions \$21,365.00; J & K Painting \$262.74; Newman Signs, Inc \$43.41; Sprocket Ventures, LLC \$1,742.46; St Mark's Episcopal Church \$1,500.00; Steven Lust Automotive \$790.85; Ultimate Upholstery Solutions, LLC \$300.00. Supplies & Materials: Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$934.75; Avera LTC Pharmacy Aberdeen \$1,319.83; Century Business Products \$539.81; Cole Paper \$949.64; Dakota Electronics LLC \$382.30; Danko Emergency Equipment Co. \$336.00; Den herder Law Firm \$1.53; FedEx \$24.78; Kuck Law Office \$66.68; L. G. Everist, Inc \$8,764.28; Leidholdt Tool Sales, LLC \$7.09; Menards \$48.46; Midwest Pump & Tank \$10.50; Newman Signs, Inc \$775.38; Performance Oil \$199.80; PharmChem, Inc \$1,204.34; Reliable Tent and Awning \$5,500.00; Republic National Distributing Co. LLC \$274.75; Rinse & Go Car Wash \$13.00; Runnings \$15.92; Safety Service \$866.48; SD Federal Property Agency \$1,903.00; Share Corporation \$777.00; Stephanie Jacobson \$20.50; Steven Lust Automotive \$124.85; Ultimate Upholstery Solutions, LLC \$56.95. Travel & Conference: Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC \$200.00; Lynn Heupel \$235.63; Neil Bittner \$19.00; Scott Kolb \$19.00; SD Assoc of County Officials \$400.00. Utilities: Big Scoop Snow Removal \$298.33; City of Aberdeen Treasurer \$53.70; Dependable Sanitation, Inc \$450.00; Northwestern Energy \$2,776.74; T-Mobile USA Inc \$2,708.77; Verizon Wireless \$460.29. Machinery & Equipment: SD Federal Property Agency \$32,000.00. Other: Charles Mehlhaff \$4,940.86; Hannah C. Green \$6,120.28; John R. Johnson \$4,913.80. Payroll: Commission \$5,165.81; Elections \$2,044.00; Auditor/ Welfare \$12,081.02; Treasurer \$18,452.92; SA \$38,070.72; Public Defender \$14,449.33; Maintenance \$13,718.01; Assessor \$17,506.93; Register of Deeds \$11,511.05; VSO \$5,013.31; GIS \$3,110.76; IT \$10,616.94; HR \$5,762.42; Sheriff \$71,179.05; Jail \$91,447.65; Coroner (Voucher) \$2,300.00; Court Security \$8,425.25; JDC \$39,945.61; Museum \$14,661.82; Parks/Fairgrounds \$8,363.12; Fair Board \$4,858.35; 4-H \$881.60; Weed \$1,245.44; Planning & Zoning \$8,510.52; Highway \$57,191.21; Dispatch \$43,193.41; Emergency \$5,805.34; 24/7 Sobriety \$3,099.76; Landfill \$19,359.13; Mileage Benefits \$1,055.40; Meal Benefits \$255.00; FICA \$32,007.22; Medicare \$7,485.53; HSA \$2,360.72; Health Insurance-Wellmark BCBS \$138,141.19; Dental Insurance – Delta \$9,642.36; Life Insurance – Dearborn \$1,139.85; Retirement – SDRS \$66,394.37. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

o Return of Breanna Locke as Brown County Seasonal Fairgrounds Grounds Worker, PT; starting wage \$14.50/hr. – effective May 7, 2026.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

TRAVEL REQUESTS: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Travel Request: Brandon Mills, Sheriff's Department to attend Science-Based Interviewing & Interrogation Course on July 20-22, 2026 in Vermillion, SD; Brad Borge & Jason Hasty, Public Defenders to attend Trial Academy on May 5-9, 2026 in Rapid City, SD. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ABATEMENTS: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the following abatements: For Tax Year 2026: Parcel #18953-\$779.93; For Tax Years 2020-2026: Parcel #22633-\$1,764.21 (Tax Deed); Parcel #23791-\$2,540.93 (Tax Deed); For Tax Years 2019-2026: Parcel #29027-\$2,118.91 (Tax Deed). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

SHERIFF REPORTS: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dinger to acknowledge the

March 2026 Sheriff Reports: Incidents and offenses, Prisoner Care, JDC, and money deposited with the County Treasurer. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:06 A.M. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published April 29, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$122.72 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26774



APRIL 21, 2026 – BROWN COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

Meeting called to order by Chairman Sutton at 11:00 A.M. in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. Present were Commissioners Dennert, Dinger, Gage, Sutton and Wiese, Director of Equalization Gene Loeschke, Appraisers Russell Metz and Sarah Swenson.

Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to instruct the Director of Equalization to reduce values on all properties qualifying for Senior Tax Freeze for the Elderly and Disabled for 2026 (236). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CONTESTED APPEALS: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to uphold the Director of Equalization recommendations for Wyatt Treeby of SE Section 1-T128N-R60W Parcel #3 to leave the assessed value at \$167,809. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

STIPULATION: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following recommendations from the Director of Equalization for Podoll Family Heritage Center of BOLs SE 8-125-63 EX W 55 AC & EX Land Platted (Family Heritage Center) (11955 390th Ave., Westport) to change the class from NAC1 to NACC2 and reduce the assessed from \$56,912 to \$28,066. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to declare the County Board of Equalization adjourned until 2027 at 11:05 A.M. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published April 29, 2026, at the total approximate cost of \$16.68 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26775



APRIL 21, 2026 – CONSOLIDATED BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

Meeting called to order by Chairman Sutton at 1:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. Present were Commissioners Dinger, Gage and Sutton, Aberdeen School Board Member Darin Beckius, Aberdeen City Mayor Travis Schaanaman, Director of Equalization, Gene Loeschke and Appraisers Russell Metz, Joe Kraft and Sarah Swenson.

CONTESTED APPEALS: Moved by Mayor Schaanaman, seconded by Commissioner Dinger to approve the Director of Equalization recommendation as follows:

• For KRB Properties, LLC of LT 1 D&K 1ST SD (LI1-2 Lauzens B 40 West ABDN) to leave the assessed value at \$53,215.

• For KRB Properties, LLC of LT 1 K&R Braun 1ST CONS ADD (BK 31 Hagerty & Lloyd Addition) to leave the assessed value at

\$149,971.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Commissioner Gage for Kevin Braun of LT 1 Breckenridge 1ST Consolidation Addition (L24 B4 Gorders 4th) to leave the assessed value at \$237,808. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Aberdeen School Board Member Beckius for Aaron & Kathryn Darling of Heller Addition (L12 B4 Gorder 4th) to leave the assessed value at \$172,357. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

RECESS: The Consolidated Board of Equalization recessed until 1:00 p.m. on April 28, 2026.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published April 29, 2026, at the total approximate cost of \$16.40 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26776



NOTICE OF DEADLINE FOR VOTER REGISTRATION

Voter registration for the Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, will close on Monday, May 18, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Failure to register by this date will cause forfeiture of voting rights for this election. If you are in doubt about whether you are registered, check the Voter Information Portal at www.sd-sos.gov or call the Brown County Auditor's Office at 605-626-7110.

Registration may be completed during regular business hours at the county auditor's office, municipal finance office, secretary of state's office, and those locations which provide driver's licenses, SNAP, TANF, WIC, military recruitment, and assistance to the disabled as provided by the Department of Human Services. You may contact the Brown County Auditor's Office to request a mail-in registration form or access a mail-in form at www.sdsos.gov or at <https://www.brown.sd.us/departments/auditors/elections>

Any voter who needs assistance, pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, may contact the county auditor for information and special assistance in voter registration.

Lynn Heupel, County Auditor
Brown County, SD

Published April 29 and May 6, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$24.88 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26777



FEDERAL/STATE NOTICE OF PROPOSED BANKING FACILITY

Notice is hereby given that Cornerstone Bank, Fargo, North Dakota, has made application to the Commissioner of the North Dakota Department of Financial Institutions for consent to establish a banking facility at 3307 7th Ave SE Ste 108, Aberdeen, SD 57401.

Any person wishing to comment on this application may file his or her comments in writing with the Commissioner of the North Dakota Department of Financial Institutions, 1200 Memorial Hwy, Bismarck, North Dakota 58504. Comments by interested parties must be received by the Commissioner no later than June 1, 2026. The non-confidential portions of the application are on file with the Commissioner and are available for public inspection during regular business hours. Photocopies of the non-confidential portion of the application file will be made available upon request.

You are also advised that per Section 6-03-13.3 and Section 6-08.4-03, North Dakota Century Code, the Commissioner or State Banking Board shall take into consideration the following facts in determining whether or not to approve the application: the proposed transaction is consistent with the convenience, needs, and welfare of the people of the community and area served and is otherwise in the public interest; the financial strength of the bank in relation

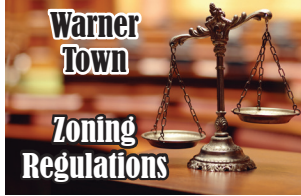
to the cost of establishing and maintaining the separate facility; the proposed transaction will not be detrimental to the safety and soundness of Cornerstone Bank; and any new officers and directors are qualified and possess appropriate experience and financial responsibility.

This Notice is published pursuant to North Dakota Administrative Code 13-02-05-05.1.

Mr. Jeff Thomas, President/CEO

Cornerstone Bank
Fargo, ND 58104

Published April 29 and May 6, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$37.33 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26778



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - ORDINANCE 0626

AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED: AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE 34B, AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING COMPREHENSIVE ZONING REGULATIONS FOR THE TOWN OF WARNER, SOUTH DAKOTA, AND ALL AMENDMENTS THERETO, AND REPLACING IT WITH ORDINANCE 0626, AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING COMPREHENSIVE ZONING REGULATIONS FOR THE TOWN OF WARNER, SOUTH DAKOTA, AND PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION, ENFORCEMENT, AND AMENDMENT THEREOF, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTERS 11-4 AND 11-6, 1967 SDCL, AND AMENDMENTS THEREOF, AND FOR THE REPEAL OF ALL RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith.

The Town of Warner Planning Commission and the Warner Town Board will hold a joint public hearing on Monday, May 13, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Warner Community Center located at 11 W Main St., Warner, SD. The public hearing is being held to take comments on Ordinance 0626. An ordinance repealing "Ordinance 34B, an ordinance establishing comprehensive zoning regulations the Town of Warner, South Dakota, and all amendments thereto, and replacing it with ordinance 0626. An ordinance establishing comprehensive zoning regulations for the Town of Warner, South Dakota, and providing for the administration, enforcement, and amendment thereof, in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 11-4 and 11-6, 1967 SDCL, and amendments thereof, and for the repeal of all resolutions and ordinances in conflict herewith". All interested persons are encouraged to attend the public hearing in person and comment on proposed Ordinance 0626. After the public hearing, the Planning Commission may recommend approval of Ordinance 0626 to the Town Board, with or without amendments. The Town Board after receiving a recommendation, will hold a first reading and set a second reading date for Ordinance 0626.

The proposed Ordinance 0626 will be made available for public inspection at the Warner Community Center, City Office located at 11 West Main Street, Warner, SD and pursuant to SDCL Section 11-4 and amendments thereto.

Written comments may be filed by mailing them to the Finance Officer at PO Box 301, Warner, SD 57479 on or before noon on May 11, 2026.

Published April 29, 2026, at the total approximate cost of \$26.08 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26779

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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



April 21, 2026

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

Moved by Babcock and seconded Cutler to approve the agenda with no additions or changes. All members present voted aye.

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

Kelly Oswald confirmed HOSA will be taking control of PumpkinFest. Moved by Shilhanek and seconded by Cutler to authorize the city to provide a \$5,000 donation to HOSA for running the event, contingent upon the funds from the PumpkinFest group's account being transferred to HOSA. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Bahr to authorize a portion of Main Street to be barricaded off and the allowance of alcoholic beverages within the barricaded area for a cornhole tournament at the Jungle Lanes to support Groton Area HOSA on June 27, 2026, from 3pm to 10pm contingent upon necessary paperwork being signed. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Shilhanek and seconded by Babcock to approve the updated Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) Designated Entity Contract and FES Amendment with Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) and Heartland Energy to permit the resale of RECs. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Bahr and seconded by Babcock to table the funding request from Area IV Senior Nutrition. All members present voted aye.

Discussion took place regarding the exterior siding at the community center.

Moved by Cutler and seconded by Bahr to perform the necessary maintenance at the park bathrooms. Update was provided regarding the status of the FEMA funding.

Discussion took place regarding GIS.

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

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

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

Payroll, \$28,896.85, Employee salaries; Administrative, \$4,970.69, ; Executive, \$369.40, ; Public Safety, \$10,369.64, ; Culture and Recreation, \$1,227.01, ; Public Works, \$11,960.11, ; SD DANR, \$60.00, Water certification exam fee - Water Dept.; Dacotah Bank, \$4,110.75, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dacotah Bank, \$689.57, HSA contributions; Dacotah Bank, \$5,416.79, Withholding/SS/Medicare; USPS, \$329.08, Utility billing postage; Northern Electric Coop, \$295.30, Power services at airport - March 2026; City of Groton, \$601.78, Utility deposits applied to outstanding bills; Jason & Richal Wambach, \$55.01, Utility deposit refund; Jordan Stiegelmeier, \$50.61, Utility deposit refund; Aaron & Tricia Foster, \$42.60, Utility deposit refund; SD State Treasurer, \$10,162.53, Sales and excise tax - March 2026; April Abeln, \$316.00, Med flex; Stacy Mayou, \$337.45, Med flex; Payment Service Network, Inc., \$206.25, PSN gateway and eBill fees ; SD Supplemental Retirement, \$540.00, Supplemental retirement; NW Energy, \$39.21, Natural gas service at water tower; IMEG Corporation, \$45,000.00, Engineering - Wastewater Project - Invoice No. 7; USPS, \$370.00, First class presort permit #10; McGannon Plumbing & Heating, \$568.38, Service and replace sump pump - City Hall; Heartland Waste Management, \$12,370.20, Garbage hauling; D.C. Humphrys Co., Inc., \$4,283.00, Fencing for softball field - Softball (to be reimbursed by BB Foundation); South Dakota 811, \$15.75, Message fees - 1st Qtr of 2026; Badger Meter, \$162.31, Cellular service fee - Water Metering; Dakota Fluid Power,

Inc., \$153.16, New batteries for bucket truck - Electric; Heartland Energy, \$49,824.50, Power services - March 2026; WAPA, \$29,757.20, Power services - March 2026; Menards, \$26.37, Downspout and elbow - Street Dept.; The Groton Independent, \$73.24, Publishing costs; C&H Baseball, Inc., \$3,989.75, Netting for baseball complex ; Altec Capital Services, LLC., \$2,189.93, Digger truck lease - Electric Dept.; Geffdog Designs, LLC., \$1,100.00, Baseball hats - Legion/Jr. Legion/14U Legion; Todd Gay, \$224.75, Mileage reimbursement - SDMEA Conference in Flandreau; Core & Main, \$446.58, Sump pumps - Sewer Dept.; MJ's Sinclair, \$1,175.29, Fuel purchases ; NVC, \$831.54, Telephone and internet services; Greg's Repair, \$613.88, 2x new tires - 2023 PD Tahoe; Soil Technologies, Inc., \$6,100.00, Add'l soil exploration - Wastewater Project; The Roofers, \$8,500.00, Deposit for new shingles at City Hall ; Dawn Enterprises, \$672.00, Garbage cans for Main Street - Solid Waste/Street Dept.; Dakota Doors, Inc., \$27.56, Belt for rubble site arm; SD Department of Health, \$404.00, Water/sewer testing; Farmers Union Co-op Assoc., \$201.30, Fuel - Baseball Complex; RDO Equipment Co., \$43.36, Wiper blades - Street Dept.; City of Groton, \$1,610.00, 2026 summer recreation change bags - Baseball/Pool; Arista "Chuck" Padfield, Jr., \$1,031.99, Reimbursement for concessions supplies - Baseball; Northern Plains Fastpitch League, \$600.00, U10/U12/U14/U18 fastpitch softball registration; BK Custom T's & More, \$2,928.00, (80) new softball jerseys; ; Reminder: 2026 Spring Cleanup is on April 27th through May 1st.

Varin exited the meeting.

Moved by Bahr and seconded by Shilhanek to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal matters 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 8:07pm. All members present voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 8:49pm.

Moved by Shilhanek and seconded by Cutler to hire Taylor Diegel and Korbin Kucker as Apprentice Linemen at \$25 per hour respectively, pending their acceptances. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Bahr to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm. All members present voted aye.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor
Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer

Published April 29, 2026, at the total approximate cost of \$60.51 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26780



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WARNER PLANNING COMMISSION AND WARNER TOWN BOARD TO HOLD A JOINT PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING ADOPTION OF A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF WARNER

Notice is hereby given that the Warner Planning Commission and Warner Town Board will hold a joint public hearing to receive public input concerning the Town's proposed adoption of the Comprehensive Plan. The hearing will be held at Community Center at the following time on the following date:

At 7:00pm on Wednesday the 13th day of May, 2026.

After the public hearing, the Planning Commission may recommend approval of the Comprehensive Plan to the Town Board, with or without amendments. The Town Board after receiving a recommendation, may adopt the Comprehensive Plan by Resolution.

Copies of the proposed Comprehensive Plan are available for public review during normal business hours at the Warner Community Center, City Office. At the Public Hearing, all persons will be given a full, fair, and complete hearing and are encouraged to attend and make their views known. Those not able to attend are invited and encouraged to send written comments to the Finance Officer, Nichol Townsend, at the Town of Warner, P.O. Box 301, Warner, SD 57479.

Nichol Townsend, Finance Officer

Published April 29, 2026, at the total approximate cost of \$16.34 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26781



CITY OF COLUMBIA

NOTICE OF HEARING UPON APPLICATION FOR ON/OFF SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an application for an alcoholic beverage license has been filed with the City Council of the City of Columbia by the following named person(s) at the following address:

Groton Area turns in strong showing at Rob Luecke Invitational

GROTON/WARNER — The Groton Area track and field teams put together a well-rounded performance at the Rob Luecke Invitational, held across Groton and Warner this week, with both the boys and girls squads turning in top-three finishes against a competitive field.

The Groton Area girls powered their way to a third-place team finish with 76 points, highlighted by multiple relay victories and a dominant showing in the field events. On the boys side, Groton Area also placed third with 72 points, fueled by standout individual efforts and a strong distance relay performance.

The Lady Tigers were particularly impressive on the track, sweeping three relays. Groton claimed first in the 4x100-meter relay as McKenna Tietz, Taryn Traphagen, Kella Tracy, and Makenna Krause crossed in 52.38. The same quartet also captured the 4x200 relay title in 1:50.23, showcasing their speed and consistency.

Groton added another relay victory in the sprint medley relay, where Makenna Krause, Taryn Traphagen, Kella Tracy, and Rylee Gilbert combined for a winning time of 4:30.66. The 4x400 relay team of Tietz, Traphagen, Ashlynn Warrington, and Tracy added a runner-up finish in 4:13.70.

Individually, Rylee Dunker led the way in the field events, capturing the javelin title with a throw of 99 feet, while also placing in both the 100 and 200-meter dashes. Tietz added a runner-up finish in the 100-meter hurdles (17.28), while Emerlee Jones placed third in the 300-meter hurdles (53.08) and also contributed in the high jump.

On the boys side, Keegen Tracy delivered a standout day, sweeping the sprint events. Tracy won the 200 meters in 22.92 and the 400 meters in 51.31, while also finishing second in the 100 meters (11.23), accounting for a major portion of Groton's team points.

Distance standout Jayden Schwan captured the 1600-meter run in 4:38.20 and added a third-place finish in the 800 meters (2:07.43), while the Tigers' 4x800 relay team of Jace Johnson, Riley Shellenberger, Ethan Kroll, and Kyson Kucker ran to victory in 8:56.67.

Groton also turned in solid relay efforts elsewhere, placing fourth in the 4x400 relay

On-Sale/Off-Sale Liquor Licenses, for Brasa & Bourbon, Leao Israel proprietor, 11 S. Broadway, Columbia, SD

NOW, THEREFORE, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that said application will be considered by the Columbia City Council in City Hall, 25 N. Broadway, in the City of Columbia, South Dakota on the 6th day of May 2026, at 7:00 p.m., when and where any persons interested in the approval or rejection of such application may appear and be heard.

Dated this 29th day of April 2026. /s/Cara Dennert, Finance Officer

Published April 29, 2026, at the total approximate cost of \$11.00 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26782

(3:41.97) and third in the sprint medley relay (4:05.15), while the 4x200 relay team added a fifth-place finish.

Additional contributions came from across the roster, including top-10 finishes from Jace Johnson in the 800 meters and Riley Shellenberger in the 1600, along with a number of personal-best type performances throughout the meet.

Milbank captured the boys team title with 115 points, while Warner claimed the girls championship with 134.5.

Boy's Division

Team Standings: 1. Milbank 115, 2. Aberdeen Christian 80, 3. Groton Area 72, 4. Aberdeen Roncalli 68, 5. Warner 67, 6. Ellendale 63, 7. Timber Lake 60, 8. Hitchcock-Tulare 49, 8. Leola 49, 10. Ipswich 38, 11. Britton-Hecla 30, 12. Tri-State 28, 13. Sisseton 27, 14. Redfield 21, 15. Langford Area 6

100 Meters: 2. Keegen Tracy, 11.23; 11. Ryder Schwan, 11.98; 15. Lincoln Krause, 12.17; 45. Tate Johnson, 13.59; 48. Wesley Borg, 14.07; 53. David Jetto, 15.57; 54. Fernando Nava, 15.76.

200 Meters: 1. Keegen Tracy, 22.92; 27. Tate Johnson, 27.91; 30. Wesley Borg, 28.75; 35. David Jetto, 30.75.

400 Meters: 1. Keegen Tracy, 51.31; 10. Kyson Kucker, 55.72; 27. JJ Muller, 1:03.09; 31. Wesley Borg, 1:04.84; 38. Briggs Conn, 1:08.24.

800 Meters: 3. Jayden Schwan, 2:07.43; 11. Jace Johnson, 2:14.70; 23. Briggs Conn, 2:41.83.

1600 Meters: 1. Jayden Schwan, 4:38.20; 7. Riley Shellenberger, 5:06.62.

4x100 Relay: 10. Groton: (Lincoln Krause, Jordan Schwan, JJ Muller, Ryder Schwan), 48.87.

4x200 Relay: 5. Groton: (Lincoln Krause, Jordan Schwan, JJ Muller, Ryder Schwan), 1:36.47.

4x400 Relay: 4. Groton: (Keegen Tracy, Jayden Schwan, Jordan Schwan, Ethan Kroll), 3:41.97.

4x800 Relay: 1. Groton: (Jace Johnson, Riley Shellenberger, Ethan Kroll, Kyson Kucker), 8:56.67.

SMR 1600m - [200-200-400-800]: 3. Groton: (Ryder Schwan, JJ Muller, Jace Johnson, Kyson Kucker), 4:05.15.

Discus - 1.6kg: 46. Jordan Schwan, 75' 10".

Girl's Division

Team Standings: 1. Warner 134.5, 2. Milbank 114, 3. Groton Area 76, 4. Ipswich 66, 5. Timber Lake 61, 6. Britton-Hecla 58, 7. Aberdeen Roncalli 42, 8. Langford Area 32, 9. Tri-State 26, 9. Hitchcock-Tulare 26, 11. Aberdeen Christian 25, 12. Aberdeen Central 22, 13. Ellendale 18, 14. Redfield 12, 15. Sisseton 9.51

100 Meters: 3. Makenna Krause, 13.40; 7. Rylee Dunker, 13.80; 9. Raquel Tracy, J 13.82; 39. Suri Jetto, 16.13.

200 Meters: 7. Rylee Dunker, 28.50; 12. Raquel Tracy, 29.25; 31. Suri Jetto, 34.26.

400 Meters: 8. Ashlynn Warrington, 1:05.62; 23. Suri Jetto, 1:19.86.

100m Hurdles - 33" / 0.838m: 2. McKenna Tietz, 17.28; 9. Ella Kettner, 18.98; 13. Teagan Hanten, 20.28; 17. Emerlee Jones, 20.88.

300m Hurdles - 30" / 0.762m: 3. Emerlee Jones, 53.08; 11. Ella Kettner, 57.05; 12. Teagan Hanten, 58.89.

4x100 Relay: 1. Groton: (McKenna Tietz, Taryn Traphagen, Kella Tracy, Makenna Krause), 52.38.

4x200 Relay: 1. Groton: (McKenna Tietz, Taryn Traphagen, Kella Tracy, Makenna Krause), 1:50.23.

4x400 Relay: 2. Groton: (McKenna Tietz, Taryn Traphagen, Ashlynn Warrington, Kella Tracy), 4:13.70.

SMR 1600m - [200-200-400-800]: 1. Groton: (Makenna Krause, Taryn Traphagen, Kella Tracy, Rylee Gilbert), 4:30.66.

Discus - 1kg: 14. Avery Crank, 79' 10".

High Jump: 12. Emerlee Jones, 4' 1".

Long Jump: 35. Teagan Hanten, 11' 1".

Triple Jump: 20. Teagan Hanten, 26' 2.5".

Javelin - 600g: 1. Rylee Dunker, 99' 0"; 6. Avery Crank, 83' 7".

King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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!

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

Groton Independent◆Wed., April 29, 2026◆7

Plastic Bag Bans: What Happened After COVID-19? (2026 Update)
by Saanvi Doshi
Dear EarthTalk: Why were several new plastic bag bans reversed during COVID? Have they been reinstated (or expanded or forgotten) in the meantime?
-- Missy G., New York, NY

Plastic bag bans are policies and laws that prohibit or limit the use of single-use plastic bags, part of an attempt to curb and reduce plastic waste and environmental degradation. Before COVID-19, many cities and states had implemented such bans to mitigate pollution, protect wildlife and address the plastic crisis. With the world wasting about 400 million tons of plastic yearly, plastic waste and pollution have become critical issues. These bans aimed to switch customers to reusable alternatives like cloth bags. Plastic bags are among the most common pollutants found in landfills and oceans, taking hundreds of years to fully decompose. Their widespread use aggravates the plastic pollution problem, harming marine life and adding to the global waste crisis.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, public health concerns overshadowed the bans. The fear that reusable bags, which involved repeated handling, would spread the virus led many states to roll back or temporarily suspended the bans. The shift led to an increase in plastic



Several cities and some countries instituted bans on plastic shopping bags but abandoned them during the COVID-19 crisis. Credit: Pexels.com.

usage, not just in bags but also in other items like containers and other packaging. The plastic industry also advocated for a ban reversal by using the public health crisis to push forward. When speaking with Chemical and Engineering News, Judith Enck, the founder of environmental group Beyond Plastics, said, "Plastic bag lobbyists are attempting to exploit a public health crisis. There is no evidence that reusable bags contribute to the serious problem of COVID-19."

As institutions like the National Institutes of Health confirmed that surface transmission was not the most prominent form of COVID-19 transmission, many places began to reinstate their bans. New York, which had implemented a ban before the pandemic, resumed their ban in 2020. California reinstated its policy and introduced stricter regulations on plastic packaging. Canada and several other countries moved forward with nationwide bans despite the temporary COVID-19 setback. But not all plastic bag bans were reinstated. Some places that had rolled back bans never reinstated them, citing economic concerns from businesses. In places where bans do not exist, plastic use remains high, fostering a cause for concern.

Despite progress after COVID-19 in reinstating bans, several challenges remain. There is consistent pushback from the plastic industry, which continues to rally against bans. Many consumers who reverted to plastic bags have been slow to switch back to alternatives. Individuals can play an important role. We can promote the use of reusable bags and encourage friends

and family to make the switch. Individuals can also put pressure on their local representatives.

Harry Implement
"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"

CERTIFIED DEALER
AFS
ADVANCED FARMING SYSTEM
CASE IH

(605) 395-6421
Ferney

GROTON
Ford

605/397-2311
www.grotonford.com

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL GRADUATES!! FROM KEN'S FAMILY OF STORES

Ken's SUPER FAIR FOODS
FOOD FAIR & SHELL EXPRESS

ABERDEEN • GROTON • CLARK • IPSWICH • EUREKA • BRITTON • WWW.KENSSUPERFAIR.COM • FOLLOW US!

1ST GENERATION
KEN FIEDLER

2ND GENERATION
KEVIN FIEDLER

3RD GENERATION
CONNER FIEDLER

ABERDEEN'S ONLY LOCALLY FAMILY-OWNED GROCERY STORE THAT TAKES PRIDE IN MAKING THEIR CUSTOMERS FEEL AT HOME!

FREE HUNT'S PASTA SAUCE 24 Oz. Can
w/\$10 Purchase & Ken's App.

App Deal OF THE WEEK!

Hunt's PASTA SAUCE
Garlic & Herb
Traditional

USDA CHOICE DEMKOTA BONELESS BOTTOM ROUND ROAST \$5.59 Lb.
SAVE \$2.00 Per Lb.

FLORIDA BI-COLOR SWEET CORN 6/\$2.99

KEN'S 85% LEAN GROUND BEEF 10# Tubes \$4.99 Lb.

USDA CHOICE DEMKOTA BONELESS TOP SIRLOIN STEAK \$9.99 Lb.
SAVE \$3.00 Per Lb.

FRESH EXPRESS SHREDDED LETTUCE 8 Oz. Bag \$1.88

GROCERY
KEEBLER CLUB OR TOWNHOUSE CRACKERS 9-15 Oz. Box \$3.49

GROCERY
CHI-CHI'S CHIPS 11 Oz. Bags 2/\$5

GROCERY
VAN CAMP'S PORK-N-BEANS 15 Oz. Can 89¢

GROCERY
HUNT'S KETCHUP 20 Oz. Bottles 2/\$3

DAIRY
Limit 4
DAKOTA WHITE GRADE A LARGE EGGS 1 Dozen 78¢

DAIRY
CASS CLAY SWISS CHOCOLATE MILK ½ Gallon Jug \$2.99

FROZEN
PIZZA CORNER PIZZA 22-22-25.39 Oz. Pkg. \$5.99

HOUSEHOLD
Fiora ESSENTIALS BATH TISSUE 12 Double Roll or PAPER TOWELS 6 Giant Roll Bundle \$3.99

LIQUOR-BEER
WOODFORD RESERVE 152ND LIMITED DERBY RELEASE 1 Liter \$42.99

BAKERY
KEN'S BAKERY FRESH WHITE HAMBURGER BUNS 12 Ct. \$4.29

DELI
BBQ PARTY PACKAGE Serves 50 People Homemade BBQ w/ Buns (2 per person) Potato Salad Baked Beans Large Fruit Tray Large Veggie Tray 50 Cupcakes \$10.99 Per Person

Be Sure to stop by & check out our variety of Salads, Meats, Party Trays & MUCH more to make your Graduation Party Complete!

Find us on Follow us on

PRICES GOOD AT ALL KEN'S LOCATIONS: APRIL 26TH - MAY 2ND

SUN. 26 MON. 27 TUES. 28 WED. 29 THURS. 30 FRI. 1 SAT. 2

FLAVOR OF THE WEEK!
WHITE HEATH TOFFEE (WHITE CHOCOLATE, CARAMEL AND ENGLISH TOFFEE) \$3.99-\$4.99

COFFEE • GOURMET DRINKS & FOODS

W
Weismantel AGENCY

PROGRESSIVE SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC ASSURANCE GUARANTEE CLARITY & PROPERTY PRO. GREAT AMERICAN NORTH STAR NORTHWEST G F SFM

ACCESS TO MANY MORE COMPANIES!

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

AUTO
HOME
FARM
COMMERCIAL
CROP

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- Lopsided win
- Have bills
- Wan
- Golden Fleece ship
- Fix illegally
- Final Four gp.
- Speed
- Teri of "Tootsie"
- Actor Estevez
- Looked closely (at)
- Pitcher Maglie
- Bath powder
- Speed (up)
- Poetic contraction
- Period of rule
- El-Masry of "Star Wars"
- Bro, maybe
- Stair part
- Deeply touched
- Its cap. is Brussels
- "— outta here!"
- "Dream on!"
- Actor Holbrook
- Locust
- Talisman
- Seethe
- Maximum contents
- Diminutive suffix

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

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 55 Hirohito's title (Abbr.) | 7 Pharaoh's land | 32 Secondhand deals |
| 56 One-named supermodel | 8 The "A" of UCLA | 34 "Cheer up!" |
| 57 Sun beams | 9 Shortage | 37 Carried out |
| 58 Verbalize | 10 Fast runner | 39 Tibetan monk |
| 59 Church section | 11 Lawn party site | 42 Confronts |
| | 16 Pisa farewell | 44 "— di Lammermoor" |
| | 20 Jug handle | 45 Driver with a handle |
| | 23 Zodiac animal | 46 Tiny bit |
| | 24 Comic Philips | 48 Walk unevenly |
| | 25 Liveliness | 49 LAX guesses |
| | 27 Tease | 50 Broadway actress Daly |
| | 29 "My word!" | 53 Docs' org. |
| | 30 "Science Friday" network | |

DOWN

- Gushing review
- Utah city
- Wrinkled fruit
- Workshop array
- Baltimore baseballers
- Humorist