

# The Groton Independent

Vol. 143 No. 37 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, May 27, 2026 ♦ Established in 1889

## Decades of dedication: Zimney and McKiver continue Memorial Day tradition at Groton Union Cemetery

For many people, Memorial Day at the Groton Union Cemetery lasts only a short time — attending the annual program, hearing the roll call of veterans' names and seeing hundreds of American flags waving across the cemetery grounds.

But for Tami Zimney and Deb McKiver, Memorial Day preparation is a tradition that stretches back decades.

The two women have spent years helping place flags on veterans' graves at the cemetery, carrying on a tradition started long ago by Deb's father, Clifford Hopps.

"I've helped my dad since I was little," McKiver said. "I've been in the Legion Auxiliary 66 years."

McKiver said her father worked closely with the Legion for many years, repairing and reusing flags whenever possible.

"He fixed the flags if they were broken off," she said. "He would restaple them back on and glue the tops back on instead of buying new all the time."

When Hopps was no longer physically able to continue the work, Zimney stepped in around 2010 to take over organizing the project.

"When Cliff Hopps physically couldn't do it anymore, he wanted somebody to take it over," Zimney said. "Since Deb and I had already been helping, then I took it over from Cliff. But Deb's always been my right-hand man."

Today, the Groton American Legion furnishes flags not only for the Groton Union Cemetery, but also for veterans' graves at the Ferney, Verdon, James and Bates Scotland cemeteries. Altogether, approximately 365 flags are placed each Memorial Day season.

Over the years, the process has evolved significantly. What once relied on hand-drawn maps has become a much more organized system using cemetery maps provided by the City of Groton.

"I got a map from the city that had all of the graves," Zimney explained. "The maps were drawn to scale, so it made things a lot easier to find."

Today, the project involves volunteers dividing the cemetery into sections, each armed with a map and checklist of veterans' names.

"You just check off the veteran as you find them," Zimney said. "And if you've got a flag left over, you have to go back and find who you missed."

The organized system has helped ensure no veteran is overlooked.

"I have not had reports of anybody being missed recently," Zimney said.



**Deb McKiver and Tami Zimney have been reading the roll at the Groton Cemetery for nearly a decade.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Tami Zimney and Deb McKiver are an instrumental part of the Groton Memorial Day Program.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Memorial Day. Later in the week, the volunteers return to carefully collect, sort and store the flags for the following year.

"Tammy and I will come back when they're dry, and we'll put them in sections and tape them together with what section they go in," McKiver said.

Both women also help with another important Memorial Day tradition — reading the roll call of veterans' names during the cemetery program.

The list includes all deceased veterans buried in the Groton Union Cemetery, whether or not they were members of the Groton American Legion.

"The list is a compilation of everybody who's buried in the Groton Cemetery," Zimney explained. "If they were a Legion member but buried somewhere else, their name is read at the cemetery where they're buried."

Over time, the tradition has become increasingly personal for both women.

"When we started, our parents were alive," McKiver reflected. "Now our dads are on that list. I have a husband on there. So it's different every year."

Despite the emotional weight of the work, both women say they still enjoy continuing the tradition.

"We're both retired. We've got time," Zimney said. "It's fun getting different people to help."

For McKiver, the meaning behind the work has never faded.

"It doesn't get old," she said. "Because it's the reason for Memorial Day."

## Groton Memorial Day Program Focuses on Sacrifice and Remembrance

Members of the community gathered Monday at the Groton Union Cemetery for Groton's annual Memorial Day program, honoring the men and women who gave their lives in service to the United States.

Following the ceremony, attendees were invited to a lunch at the American Legion Post home on the south end of Main Street.

Before introducing the featured speaker, Legion Commander Doug Hamilton shared the background of retired First Sergeant Aaron Walberg, recognizing his 25 years of military service in both

the active-duty Army and National Guard. Hamilton noted Walberg's deployments overseas, including service with the 101st Airborne Division during the initial invasion of Iraq in 2003, as well as his decorated military career and later work serving veterans in Brown County.

Hamilton also highlighted the Walberg family's long history of military service, including Aaron's father, a Vietnam veteran, and his son, who served with the 82nd Airborne Division.

In his keynote address, Walberg reminded those gathered that Memorial Day is far more than the unofficial start of summer.

"Today we are gathered here not for celebration, but for remembrance," Walberg said. "We're here to honor the 1.1 million Americans who've lost their lives laid upon the altar of freedom over the course of our history."

**Continues on Page 2**



**First Sergeant (retired) Aaron Walberg was the guest speaker at the Groton Union Cemetery.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



# Memorial Day

Continued from front

He stressed that Memorial Day serves as a sacred day set aside to remember those who never returned home from war.

“The cost of freedom has never been free,” Walberg said. “Every generation of Americans has been called upon to defend our liberty, and every generation has answered that call with courage, sacrifice and devotion to something much greater than themselves.”

Walberg reflected on the personal losses carried by families and communities, speaking of the empty seats at family dinner tables and folded American flags handed to grieving spouses, parents and children.

“Here in South Dakota, we understand sacrifice deeply,” he said. Walberg noted that more than 3,073 South Dakotans have been killed in action since World War I. During World War II alone, more than 68,000 South Dakotans served, with more than 2,200 giving their lives, including 63 from Brown County.

“Thousands of South Dakotans — farmers, ranchers, teachers, mechanics, neighbors, small-town kids — left communities just like Groton, Aberdeen, Bath and Frederick and went into harm’s way willingly because they believed that our freedom was worth defending,” he said.

Drawing from his work with the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, Walberg spoke about the records maintained of Brown County war dead and shared the names of local servicemen lost in conflicts ranging from World War I through Vietnam.

“They’re not just names on a page,” Walberg said. “These are the sons of the prairie. Young men who played ball on local fields, worked on family farms, attended churches and schools in this very county.”

He also remembered those still listed as missing in action, including Aberdeen native Frank Torrigan, who was captured during the Korean War and remains unaccounted for.

Walberg encouraged those in attendance to ensure future generations understand the sacrifices made by American servicemen and women.

“A nation that will forget its fallen will inevitably forget the cost of freedom itself,” he said.

He pointed out that the average age of those killed or missing in World War II and Vietnam was just over 23 years old.

“These brave men and women gave their tomorrows so that we could have our todays,” Walberg said.

Throughout the speech, Walberg emphasized gratitude for the freedoms Americans continue to enjoy because of those sacrifices, including the ability to worship freely, vote and gather peacefully.

He also spoke about the importance of remembering veterans who returned home carrying emotional scars and memories of lost comrades.

“For many veterans, Memorial Day is a deeply personal day,” he said. “It’s remembrance of brothers and sisters that they served with and beside.”

Walberg highlighted South Dakota’s Fallen Heroes Bridge Dedication program, which honors South Dakotans killed or missing in action through bridge dedications across the state.

“Remembrance should not only happen once a year,” he said. “It should live in our communities every day.”

As he concluded, Walberg urged those attending to honor the fallen not only through ceremonies, but through lives worthy of their sacrifice.

“The greatest tribute we can offer the fallen is not simply words,” he said. “It’s citizenship worthy of their sacrifice.”

Walberg closed by encouraging families to continue sharing the stories and names of those who served and sacrificed.

“Every flag placed at a gravesite represents a story and a family,” he said. “It represents a sacrifice — an American life given so that we may live in the freedoms that we enjoy.”

“To all those who gave their lives for this nation, we remember you,” Walberg said. “May God bless their memory, may God bless our veterans and their families, and may God bless the United States of America.”



Coralee Wolter, Lori Giedt, Wendy Cooper and Deb McKiver were among some of the Groton Legion Auxiliary members helping to serve lunch after the Memorial Day Program. Getting her food is Tami Zimney. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Legion Commander Doug Hamilton gave the welcome and was the master of ceremonies. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Robert Wegner played taps with honor guards Robert Voss, Les Hinds, Roger Overacker, David McGannon and Dale Kurth. It was reported that the battery in the bugler had died midway through the playing in Andover; however, that did not stop Wegner - he went on to sing the rest of it. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Robert Wegner gave the prayer and presented the honoring of the deceased. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



An overview of the Memorial Day Program at the Groton Cemetery as seen through the GDILIVE.COM video.

## Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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Gilbert wanted one more chance to qualify for state. She got it.

Ryelle Gilbert wanted one more opportunity to qualify for the state track meet — and she made the most of it.

Gilbert entered the week sitting in 31st place statewide in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:28.26. Hoping for one final chance to move into the top 24 and earn a state berth, she competed Friday at the Last Chance Track Meet in Arlington.

After being given approval to attend, Gilbert needed transportation to the meet. Her grandfather, Gene Loeschke, stepped in and drove her to Arlington, where she competed as the lone Groton Area athlete.

Gilbert responded with one of her best performances of the season, placing second in the 800-meter run with a season-best time of 2:25.21. According to the latest update released Saturday morning by the SDHSAA, Gilbert moved into 19th place statewide, officially qualifying for the State Track and Field Meet.



Members of HOSA were busy working at the Groton Dairy Queen on Thursday raising money for Groton Area HOSA students competing at the nationals in June. Dale and Joyce Grenz will be donating 50% of the profits up until 8 p.m. on Thursday towards the cause. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Hubbart Named SDATA Athletic Trainer of the Year

South Dakota Athletic Trainers’ Association (SDATA) has named Brittany Hubbard as its 2026 Athletic Trainer of the Year, recognizing her outstanding contributions to athletic training and her continued dedication to student-athletes across South Dakota.

Hubbart currently serves as a Sanford Orthopedics & Sports Medicine certified athletic trainer covering Groton Area School District athletics. According to the SDATA, Hubbart has made “remarkable contributions to advancing athletic training in the State of South Dakota,” while demonstrating leadership that continues to inspire others and help shape the future of the profession.

The South Dakota Athletic Trainers’ Association is a professional organization representing certified athletic trainers throughout the state. Through its Honors and Awards program, the organization recognizes athletic trainers, athletes and others who have gone above and beyond in service to patients and the athletic training profession.

The Athletic Trainer of the Year award is presented to a certified and licensed athletic trainer in South Dakota who has demonstrated excellence and leadership in the field. Nominees must work as a certified athletic trainer in South Dakota and be members of the SDATA.

Hubbart’s selection in 2026 marks a historic achievement. Since the award was established in 2002, she is the only individual to receive the honor twice. She previously earned the award in 2022 while serving at Presentation College.

Her list of honors also includes being named the 2021 Athletic Training Educator of the Year and receiving the 2020 Iron Will Award alongside athlete Haylee Biel and fellow athletic trainer Blake Spindler during her time at Presentation College.

Hubbart has become a familiar and valued presence on the sidelines for Groton High School athletics, helping provide care, injury prevention, rehabilitation and emergency response support for Tiger athletes throughout the school year.

The recognition highlights not only Hubbart’s professional accomplishments, but also the important role athletic trainers play in helping keep athletes, coaches, spectators and patients safe.



Lipp retires from Groton Area

by Dorene Nelson

After eighteen and a half years as a Paraprofessional at Groton Elementary, Kami Lipp has decided to retire. “I started as a SPED para and ended up loving it,” she admitted. “I had no intention of staying until retirement, but here



I am!” “I am a para in three different areas - Reading, Math, and Keyboarding,” Lipp listed. “On a daily basis I work with first through fourth graders in Reading RTI. I also help first, second, and third grade students in Math RTI, as well as with second graders through fifth in Keyboarding.”

“On an average day, I work with around 125 elementary students,” she said. “Some of these classes and individuals were more challenging than others, requiring me to be well prepared.”

“The most difficult job involved in being a Paraprofessional,” Lipp explained, “is making sure that the RTI class plans are tailored to the specific group I am working with. In addition to that, I have to adjust between working with first graders and then with second, third, fourth, or fifth graders. That’s quite a wide range of age and ability.”

“The paraprofessional job has many great moments too,” she smiled. “One that I particularly like are the ‘lightbulb moments’ when the students in which I’m helping grasp the job required for the assignment. Creating bonds with the students is also important and very rewarding.”

“My husband, Tom and I, have five children and four grandchildren. I have no specific retirement plans at this time, but I do think that I’ll be quite busy with our growing family.”

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In what has now become an annual event, the NFL released the 2026 schedule last week. Teams have turned this into a spectacle, with each team’s media relations department trying to outdo each other with increasingly creative videos. The Vikings used kicker Will Reichard at a restaurant for their video, and you can check it out on YouTube or Vikings.com.

Let’s dig in, starting with the preseason then turning to the games that actually count.

Preseason week 1 (8/15) - @ NY Giants

The first time we’ll see the Vikings take the field for the 2026 season. This isn’t the team’s only trip to the Big Apple.

Preseason week 2 (8/22) - VS Baltimore Ravens

The Vikings will host the Ravens in joint practice sessions the week before this game.

Preseason week 3 (8/28) - @ Denver Broncos

The Vikings close out their preseason with a trip to the Rocky Mountains.

Week 1 (9/13) - VS Green Bay Packers

The 2026 regular season kicks off with a home matchup against the rival Packers. This will be the 132nd meeting between the two teams.

Week 2 (9/20) - @ Chicago Bears

The second week of the season. The second straight divisional game. This one will be on the road, and by the sounds of it, may be one of the last games at Soldier Field.

Week 3 (9/27) - @ Tampa Bay Buccaneers

I’m sure the Vikings would’ve preferred to travel to Florida later in the season, but this will be a fun matchup against an old NFC Central foe.

Week 4 (10/04) - VS Miami Dolphins

A second-straight Florida team, but this one will be in the friendly confines of U.S. Bank Stadium.

Week 5 (10/11) - @ New Orleans Saints

I still haven’t forgiven the “Saints” for the 2009 NFC Championship game.

**The Groton Independent**  
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Week 6 – Bye

This is an early bye week, unfortunately.

Week 7 (10/25) - VS Indianapolis Colts

After a week of rest, the Vikings stay home and welcome the Colts.

Week 8 (11/01) - @ Detroit Lions

Two seasons ago the Vikings and Lions were battling for the top spot in the NFC North. Last season they tied at the bottom. What will 2026 have in store?

Week 9 (11/09) - VS Buffalo Bills

The first nationally televised game for the Vikings will be against the Buffalo Bills on Monday Night Football.

Week 10 (11/15) - @ Green Bay Packers

The second matchup between the Vikings and Packers, this one in Green Bay.

Week 11 (11/22) - @ San Francisco 49ers

The Vikings travel to Mexico this week, battling the 49ers on Sunday Night Football. This will be their first time in Mexico, but the Vikings are 9-1 in international games.

Week 12 (11/29) - VS Atlanta Falcons

The highly anticipated matchup of Kirk Cousins’ former teams.

Week 13 (12/06) - VS Carolina Panthers

The final NFC South team.

Week 14 (12/10) - @ New England Patriots

After two of the easiest games on the schedule, the Vikings travel to New England for a Thursday Night Football matchup.

Week 15 (12/20) - VS Detroit Lions

A second-straight prime time game, this time it’ll be Sunday Night Football against the Lions.

Week 16 (TBD) - VS Washington Commanders

We don’t have a firm date or time yet for this game against the Commanders.

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Rain-delay cover  
5 Prattle  
8 Minn. neighbor  
12 Declare  
13 Lab eggs  
14 "Rule, Britannia!" composer  
15 "Arrivederci!"  
16 Dawn  
18 Airport area  
20 Upper House  
21 Fed. workplace monitor  
23 Director Burton  
24 9-to-5 work period  
28 Slightly  
31 Dos preceder  
32 — the above  
34 Equi-  
35 Boxing match  
37 The "D" of DST  
39 ICU workers  
41 Sent a dupe to  
42 Barely manage  
45 Coiffure  
49 Make a short-term investment  
51 Last write-up  
52 Sheltered  
53 — Angeles

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- 54 Maxi's opposite  
55 GI dining hall  
56 Permit  
57 Bygone fliers  
  
8 Aslan's land  
9 Have lofty aspirations  
10 Gray's subj.  
11 "Nope" actress  
17 Wager  
19 Author Bandele  
22 Insurance giant  
24 Name  
25 Year in Mexico  
26 "For — Only" (Bond film)  
27 Kid's storage unit  
29 Somewhat (Suff.)  
30 Youngster  
33 Beagle's bane  
36 Govt. securities  
38 Figures of speech  
40 South, in Spanish  
42 Dutch cheese  
43 Curly cabbage  
44 Towering  
46 Baseball stats  
47 Force  
48 Elevator name  
50 Fawn's mama

### DOWN

- 1 Diplomacy  
2 Athletic shoe brand  
3 Bring up  
4 "Coming Soon" ads  
5 Sponsored infant  
6 "Selma" director  
7 Inlets

Week 17 (1/03) - @ NY Jets

The Vikings’ second trip to New York, but this game will actually count.

Week 18 (TBD) - VS Chicago Bears

The final week of the 2026 season will be a divisional matchup against the Bears. Another “to be determined” game.

As always, the NFL schedule looks manageable in May. We’ll see how it looks in December.

## King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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



## A woman is painting a large, colorful, abstract shape on a glass window. The shape is divided into red, blue, yellow, and white sections. She is holding a paintbrush and looking at the camera. A small dog is visible in the background.

A woman with long brown hair is looking through a window. The window is decorated with large, colorful, hand-drawn letters 'm', 'n', 'u', and 'c' in red, blue, yellow, and pink. There are also two large, hand-drawn flowers in purple and yellow. The background outside the window shows a parking lot with cars and trees.

A photograph showing two students, a male and a female, working together to plant flowers in large, ornate, brown pots. The male student, wearing a light blue hoodie and dark pants, is on the right, leaning over a pot and planting a pink flower. The female student, wearing a white hoodie and dark pants, is on the left, also leaning over a pot and planting a pink flower. A bag of 'Garden of Eatin'' soil is visible in the background. The scene is outdoors on a paved surface.

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**Groton Independent ♦ Wed., May 27, 2026 ♦ 5**





## Four Way Stop at 10th Avenue and Main Street

The intersection of Main Street and 10th Avenue have been transformed from a season four-way stop to a permanent four-way stop. A temporary stop sign has been put in place until the permanent ones can be installed.

It should be noted that if all four directions have flashing red lights, you must still treat the intersection as a four-way stop even if there are no physical stop signs posted.

Under South Dakota law, the flashing red signal itself carries the legal authority of a stop sign.

The controlling statute is:

SDCL 32-28-7 — Flashing signals

It states that when a red lens is illuminated with rapid intermittent flashes, drivers:

“shall stop before entering the nearest crosswalk at an intersection or at a limit line,” and “the right to proceed shall be subject to the rules applicable after making a stop at a stop sign.”

# Tigers Shine at Webster Last Chance Meet With Record-Breaking Relay Performance

WEBSTER — The Groton Area track and field teams turned in another strong performance Thursday at the Webster Last Chance Meet, with the Tiger boys finishing third in the team standings and the girls placing second.

The Groton boys totaled 89 points, trailing only Britton-Hecla with 93 and host Webster Area with 91. The Tiger girls piled up 97 points to finish behind only Webster Area, which won the meet with 128.33 points.

Groton’s boys were fueled by several event victories and a record-breaking relay performance that highlighted the meet.

Members of the Groton Area boys’ 1600-meter sprint medley relay team of Lincoln Krause, Jordan Schwan, Keegen Tracy and Jayden Schwan celebrated after breaking both the meet and school records. The Tigers posted a winning time of 3:37.18, surpassing the previous Groton Area school record of 3:38.49 set in 2025 by Brevin Fliehs, Lincoln Krause, Keegen Tracy and Blake Pauli. The performance also moved Groton Area into the top four in South Dakota Class A.

Keegen Tracy sprinted to a first-place finish in the boys’ 100-meter dash in 11.20 seconds, while Kyson Kucker added a runner-up finish in the 400 meters in 54.31.

In the distance events, Riley Shellenberger placed second in the 1600 meters with a time of 5:00.81 and added a fourth-place finish in the 800 meters in 2:15.01. Jace Johnson was right behind in the 800, taking fifth in 2:15.39.

Groton’s relay teams also had a huge day. The Tigers won the 4x200-meter relay as Lincoln Krause, Jordan Schwan, Ethan Kroll and Ryder Schwan crossed the line in 1:35.43. Groton added a second-place finish in the 4x400 relay as Keegen Tracy, Jayden Schwan, Jordan Schwan and Kyson Kucker posted a time of 3:33.57.

Groton also picked up a third-place finish in the 4x100 relay from the team of Lincoln Krause, Jordan Schwan, J.J. Muller and Ryder Schwan in 46.10.

Ethan Kroll swept the horizontal jumping events for the Tigers. He won the long jump with a leap of 20 feet, 1.25 inches and captured the triple jump title at 40-3.50.

For the Groton girls, Ryelle Gilbert led the way with a pair of distance victories. Gilbert won the 800 meters in 2:28.62 and later added another title in the 1600 meters with a time of 5:48.24.

McKenna Tietz continued her standout season by winning the 300-meter hurdles in 46.47. Groton also received strong hurdle performances from Emerlee Jones and Teagan Hanten, who finished fourth and fifth respectively in the 100 hurdles, while Hanten added a fifth-place finish in the 300 hurdles.

The Tigers dominated the girls’ relays, winning three events.

Raquel Tracy, Taryn Traphagen, Rylee Dunker and Makenna Krause won the 4x100 relay in 51.90. The 4x200 relay team of McKenna Tietz, Taryn Traphagen, Kella Tracy and Makenna Krause claimed first in 1:46.87. Groton capped the relay sweep in the 4x400 as McKenna Tietz, Taryn Traphagen, Makenna Krause and Kella Tracy finished first in 4:11.16.

Makenna Krause added an individual runner-up finish in the 100-meter dash with a time of 13.26, while Ashlynn Warrington took fourth in both the 400 and 800 meters.

In the field events, Avery Crank led the Tigers with a fourth-place finish in the discus at 98-0.

### Boy’s Division

**Team Scores:** 1. Britton-Hecla 93, 2. Webster Area 91, 3. Groton Area 89, 4. Sisseton 70, 5. Leola 64, 6. Redfield 62, 7. Frederick Area 61, 8. Aberdeen Roncalli 56, 9. Waubay/Summit 43, 10. Wilmot 33, 11. Tri-State 29, 11. Waverly-South Shore 29, 13. Langford Area 16, 14. Northwestern 7, 15. Warner 5, 16. Tiospa Zina 1.

**100 Meters:** 1. Keegen Tracy, 11.20; 11. JJ Muller, 12.17; 34. Tate Johnson, 13.52; 35. Wesley Borg, 13.79; 37. Sam Crank, 14.10.

**200 Meters:** 29. Tate Johnson, 26.97; 37. Sam Crank, 28.47; 39. Wesley Borg, 28.51.

**400 Meters:** 2. Kyson Kucker, 54.31; 13. Wesley Borg, 1:03.19.

**800 Meters:** 4. Riley Shellenberger, 2:15.01; 5. Jace Johnson, 2:15.39.

**1600 Meters:** 2. Riley Shellenberger, 5:00.81.

**4x100 Relay:** 3. Groton: (Lincoln Krause, Jordan Schwan, JJ Muller, Ryder Schwan), 46.10.

**4x200 Relay:** 1. Groton: (Lincoln Krause, Jordan Schwan, Ethan Kroll, Ryder Schwan), 1:35.43. 9. Groton: (JJ Muller, Wesley Borg, Tate Johnson, Sam Crank), 1:46.74.

**4x400 Relay:** 2. Groton: (Keegen Tracy, Jayden Schwan, Jordan Schwan, Kyson Kucker), 3:33.57.

**SMR 1600m - [200-200-400-800]:** 1. Groton: (Lincoln Krause, Jordan Schwan, Keegen Tracy, Jayden Schwan), 3:37.18.

**Long Jump:** 1. Ethan Kroll, 20-01.25.

**Triple Jump:** 1. Ethan Kroll, 40-03.50.

### Girl’s Division

**Team Scores:** 1. Webster Area 128.33, 2. Groton Area 97, 3. Britton-Hecla 74, 4. Langford Area 64, 5. Sisseton 60.66, 6. Tri-State 51, 7. Aberdeen Roncalli 46, 8. Wilmot 41.5, 9. Northwestern 40, 10. Redfield 38.5, 11. Waverly-South Shore 34, 12. Waubay/Summit 26, 13. Warner 19, 14. Leola 4.

**100 Meters:** 2. Makenna Krause, 13.26; 8. Raquel Tracy, 14.27; 22. Suri Jetto, 16.00.

**400 Meters:** 4. Ashlynn Warrington, 1:06.72; 13. Suri Jetto, 1:17.46.

**800 Meters:** 1. Ryelle Gilbert, 2:28.62; 4. Ashlynn Warrington, 2:43.67; 10. Suri Jetto, 2:59.83.

**1600 Meters:** 1. Ryelle Gilbert, 5:48.24.

**100m Hurdles - 33” / 0.838m:** 4. Emerlee Jones, 19.61; 5. Teagan Hanten, 19.67.

**300m Hurdles - 30” / 0.762m:** 1. McKenna Tietz, 46.47; 5. Teagan Hanten, 53.82.

**4x100 Relay:** 1. Groton: (Raquel Tracy, Taryn Traphagen, Rylee Dunker, Makenna Krause), 51.90.

**4x200 Relay:** 1. Groton: (McKenna Tietz, Taryn Traphagen, Kella Tracy, Makenna Krause), 1:46.87.

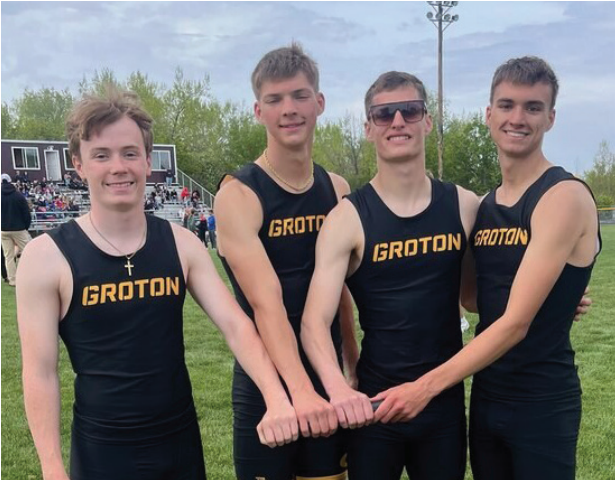
**4x400 Relay:** 1. Groton: (McKenna Tietz, Taryn Traphagen, Makenna Krause, Kella Tracy), 4:11.16.

**Shot Put - 4kg:** 19. Avery Crank, 24-08.00

**Discus - 1kg:** 4. Avery Crank, 98-00

**High Jump:** 13. Emerlee Jones, 4-03.00

**Triple Jump:** 19. Teagan Hanten, 26-10.50



**Members of the Groton Area boys’ 1600-meter sprint medley relay team of Lincoln Krause, Jordan Schwan, Keegen Tracy and Jayden Schwan celebrate after breaking both the meet and school records Wednesday at the Webster Last Chance Meet. The Tigers posted a time of 3:37.18, surpassing the previous school record of 3:38.49 set in 2025 by Brevin Fliehs, Lincoln Krause, Keegen Tracy and Blake Pauli. The performance also moved Groton Area into the top four in South Dakota Class A.** (Photo from Groton Area Facebook Page)



**4x100m Relay – NEW MEET RECORD Raquel Tracy, Taryn Traphagen (Kella Tracy is pictured), Rylee Dunker, and Makenna Krause: 51.90 Breaking the previous meet record of 53.10 set by Webster in 1982!** (Photo from Groton Area Facebook Page)



**4x200m Relay – NEW MEET RECORD McKenna Tietz, Taryn Traphagen, Kella Tracy, and Makenna Krause: 1:46.87 Breaking the previous meet record of 1:50.7 set by Britton-Hecla in 2005!** (Photo from Groton Area Facebook Page)



**4x400m Relay – NEW MEET RECORD McKenna Tietz, Taryn Traphagen, Makenna Krause, and Kella Tracy: 4:11.16 Breaking the previous meet record of 4:15.0 set by Webster in 1987!** (Photo from Groton Area Facebook Page)



# Groton Area Earns Relay Wins at Dial-A-Move Last Chance Meet

The Groton Area Tigers turned in several strong performances Wednesday at the Dial-A-Move Last Chance Track Meet in Warner, highlighted by a pair of relay victories in the boys’ division and another dominant hurdle performance by McKenna Tietz in the girls’ competition.

Groton Area placed seventh in the boys’ team standings with 50 points, while Ipswich claimed the team title with 77.5 points. On the girls’ side, the Tigers finished fifth with 49 points as Ipswich rolled to the championship with 156.5 points.

The Tiger boys were led by victories in both distance relays. Groton captured first in the 4x400-meter relay as the team of Jayden Schwan, Keegen Tracy, Ethan Kroll and Kyson Kucker crossed the finish line in 3:35.13.

Groton also won the 4x800-meter relay with the quartet of Jace Johnson, Riley Shellenberger, Ethan Kroll and Kyson Kucker posting a winning time of 9:01.97.

Individually, Jayden Schwan delivered another impressive performance in the 800 meters, winning the event in 2:00.34. Riley Shellenberger added a fifth-place finish in the race at 2:14.60.

Keegen Tracy placed fourth in the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.14, while Ryder Schwan was 14th in 11.78. Ryder Schwan later added a sixth-place finish in the 200 meters with a time of 24.96.

Ethan Kroll also turned in a strong showing in the field events, taking second in the triple jump with a leap of 41 feet, 1 inch.

For the Groton Area girls, McKenna Tietz continued her standout season by winning the 100-meter hurdles in 15.73. Teagan Hanten added a 15th-place finish in the same event in 19.80.

The Tigers also earned a runner-up finish in the 4x100-meter relay as the team of Raquel Tracy, Kella Tracy, Rylee Dunker and McKenna Tietz clocked a time of 51.61.

Groton’s sprint medley relay team of McKenna Tietz, Taryn Traphagen, Kella Tracy and Rylee Gilbert placed third in 4:28.11.

Rylee Dunker brought home another event title for the Tigers by winning the javelin with a throw of 112 feet, 7 inches.

Additional top performances for the Groton girls included Taryn Traphagen placing fourth in the 200 meters in 28.54, Ashlynn Warrington taking fifth in the 400 meters in 1:05.10, and Rylee Gilbert finishing fifth in the 1600 meters with a time of 5:36.39.

**Boy’s Division**  
**Team Scores:** 1. Ipswich 77.5, 2. Aberdeen Christian 75, 3. North Central 71.5, 4. Aberdeen Roncalli 68, 5. Warner 55, 6. Timber Lake 52, 7. Groton Area 50, 8. Frederick Area 47, 9. Leola 44, 10. Faulkton Area 42, 11. Sully Buttes 34, 12. Mobridge-Pollock 32, 13. Hitchcock-Tulare 29, 14. Britton-Hecla 21, 14. Northwestern 21, 16. Tri-State 19, 17. Webster Area 14, 17. Dupree 14, 19. Langford Area 10, 20. Hoven 1  
**100 Meters:** 4. Keegen Tracy, 11.14; 14. Ryder Schwan, 11.78; 51. Tate Johnson, 13.22; 56. Wesley Borg, 13.59.  
**200 Meters:** 6. Ryder Schwan, 24.96; 39. Tate Johnson, 28.12; 48. Wesley Borg, 29.30.  
**800 Meters:** 1. Jayden Schwan, 2:00.34; 5. Riley Shellenberger, 2:14.60  
**4x400 Relay:** 1. Groton: (Jayden Schwan, Keegen Tracy, Ethan Kroll, Kyson Kucker), 3:35.13.  
**4x800 Relay:** 1. Groton: (Jace Johnson, Riley Shellenberger, Ethan Kroll, Kyson Kucker), 9:01.97.  
**Triple Jump:** 2. Ethan Kroll, 41’ 1”

**Girl’s Division**  
**Team Scores:** 1. Ipswich 156.5, 2. Warner 119, 3. North Central 68.5, 4. Mobridge-Pollock 63, 5. Groton Area 49, 6. Britton-Hecla 45, 7. Langford Area 39.5, 8. Hitchcock-Tulare 39, 8. Northwestern 39, 10. Timber Lake 33, 11. Faulkton Area 27, 12. Hoven 22, 13. Tri-State 21, 14. Aberdeen Christian 19, 15. Aberdeen Roncalli 15, 16. Webster Area 11.5, 17. Dupree 3, 18. Redfield 2, 19. Sully Buttes 1  
**100 Meters:** 8. Raquel Tracy, 13.25.  
**200 Meters:** 4. Taryn Traphagen, 28.54.  
**400 Meters:** 5. Ashlynn Warrington, 1:05.10.  
**800 Meters:** 12. Ashlynn Warrington, 2:44.63.  
**1600 Meters:** 5. Rylee Gilbert, 5:36.39.  
**100m Hurdles - 33" / 0.838m:** 1. McKenna Tietz, 15.73; 15. Teagan Hanten, 19.80.  
**300m Hurdles - 30" / 0.762m:** 8. Teagan Hanten, 55.87.  
**4x100 Relay:** 2. Groton: (Raquel Tracy, Kella Tracy, Rylee Dunker, McKenna Tietz), 51.61.  
**SMR 1600m - [200-200-400-800]:** 3. Groton: (McKenna Tietz, Taryn Traphagen, Kella Tracy, Rylee Gilbert), 4:28.11.  
**Javelin - 600g:** 1. Rylee Dunker, 112’ 7”.  
**Long Jump:** 31. Teagan Hanten, 11’ 9”.



**The Warner Dial-A-Move Last Chance Track Meet is underway and the Tigers are already making headlines! Senior Rylee Dunker broke her own school record in the Javelin with a winning throw of 112’7” — improving her previous record by more than 6 feet and moving herself into the Top 5 in Class A! She broke the record at the Warner Dial-A-Move Track meet held Wednesday.**

(Photo from Groton Area Facebook Page)

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# Groton Area Tigers Varsity Loses Despite Out Hitting Madison Bulldogs Varsity

By GameChanger Media

Even though Groton Area Tigers Varsity collected six hits to Madison Bulldogs Varsity’s three, they still fell 4-3 on Wednesday at Madison. Lincoln Krause led Groton Area Tigers Varsity with two hits. This was the North Super Region High School Baseball Tournament held Wednesday in Madison.

Groton Area Tigers Varsity fought back after falling down by four runs in the fourth inning. The comeback fell just short though. Groton Area Tigers Varsity closed the gap by scoring on a solo home run, a single, and a walk.

Madison Bulldogs Varsity opened the scoring in the bottom of the third thanks to two home runs. Madison Bulldogs Varsity first got on the board when JD Prorok homered to left field, scoring two runs.

Groton Area Tigers Varsity scored one run in the top of the fifth on a solo home run to right field by Krause following a 7-pitch at-bat.

Prorok earned the win for Madison Bulldogs Varsity. The pitcher allowed one hit and zero runs over four innings, striking out nine and walking three. Jarrett Erdmann took the loss for Groton Area Tigers Varsity. The lefty went six innings, giving up four runs on three hits, striking out five and walking three.

Krause led Groton Area Tigers Varsity with two runs batted in. The outfielder went 2-for-4 on the day.

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# Johnson, Schuelke qualify for the state golf meet

The Groton Area girls golf team competed Wednesday at the Region 1A Golf Meet in Dell Rapids, finishing fifth in the team standings with a score of 440.

Aberdeen Roncalli claimed the regional championship with a 339 team score, followed by Madison at 348 and Sioux Valley at 401. Those three teams advanced to the State A Girls Golf Tournament to be held June 1-2 at Two Rivers Golf Course in Sioux Falls.



**Carly Johnson and Claire Schuelke have qualified for the state golf meet.**

(Courtesy photo)

Groton was led by Carly Johnson, who tied for 13th place individually with an 18-hole score of 97. Claire Schuelke added a 105 to place 17th overall. Halee Harder carded a 117, while Rylie Rose finished with a 121.

The low 55 percent of individual golfers, along with players from qualifying teams, advanced to state. Johnson and Schuelke both finished above the cut line, while Harder and Rose narrowly missed qualifying.

Sienna Maxwell of Madison earned medalist honors with a round of 81. Grace Seyer of Aberdeen Roncalli finished second at 82, while Kenzley Heath of Sisseton was third with an 83.

Team standings included Aberdeen Roncalli (339), Madison (348), Sioux Valley (401), Sisseton (409), Groton (440), Dell Rapids (453), and Milbank (563).



## Trees planted at City Park

The Groton Senior Citizens and the Groton Garden Club along with help from three city employees worked together on a project to plant two young trees in the Groton City Park. Those working on this project were John Aldrich, Todd Gay, Karyn Babcock, Taylor Diegel, Eunice McColister, Korbin Kucker in the back row with Denise Sombke and Pat Larson in front. Two trees were planted near the Groton City Sign. There are now three blooming trees that surround the sign.

(Photo by Dorene Nelson)





Talli Wright with the first varsity over the fence home run with one runner on. (Photo courtesy Amanda Bisbee)



The team lines up one last time for the line-ups at Redfield. This completed the first year of high school girls fast pitch softball. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

## Tigers Rally Early, But Redfield Storms Back in Season Finale

The Groton Area Tigers varsity softball team appeared poised to finish the season with a victory Wednesday night after building a six-run lead, but the Redfield Pheasants answered with a late comeback to hand Groton a 13-10 loss in a high-scoring regular season finale.

Groton pounded out 13 hits in the contest and used a pair of explosive innings to take command early. After Redfield grabbed a 3-0 lead in the opening inning behind a pair of RBI singles, the Tigers responded in emphatic fashion in the second inning.

Groton erupted for six runs on six hits to move in front 6-3. Jerica Locke delivered one of the biggest hits of the inning with a two-run single as the Tigers strung together quality at-bats throughout the frame.

The Tigers kept the pressure on in the third inning, adding four more runs to extend the lead to 10-4. Talli Wright provided the highlight of the night when she blasted a two-run home run to right field. A wild pitch plated another run before Hannah Sandness added an RBI groundout.

Following the game, Wright joked about her memorable swing during an interview. "I'm not gonna lie. I closed my eyes and just kind of hoped for the best," Wright said with a laugh. When asked what it meant to homer in her final game as a Tiger, Wright said it was a special moment. "It's pretty good. I'm definitely very proud of this team, and to end on a high note like that, it's really amazing and fun."

Redfield slowly chipped away before taking control in the fifth inning. The Pheasants exploded for seven runs on six hits to surge ahead 12-10. Hayden Gall delivered one of the key hits in the inning with a two-run single.

Brenna Larson later added insurance for Redfield with a solo home run to center field in the sixth inning.

Despite the loss, Groton showed plenty of offensive firepower throughout the evening. Kinsley Rowen, Libby Cole and Sandness each collected two hits. Wright and Sandness both drove in two runs. Groton also stayed aggressive on the bases, stealing six bags, including two by Rowen.

Rowen started in the circle for the Tigers, striking out three while working 4 1/3 innings. Redfield finished with 15 hits in the contest. Peyton O'Daniel led the Pheasants with three hits, while Kylie Hermann drove in three runs.

Although the Tigers came up short on the scoreboard, head coach Amanda Bisbee said the team showed tremendous growth throughout the season.

"Definitely our defense tonight. Our defense was killer," Bisbee said. "They stopped every ball that came to them. They worked hard and came together as a team from the beginning to the end. They went from just a beginner softball team to a close-knit little family."

Bisbee said one of the biggest focuses moving forward will be continuing to build softball knowledge during the offseason.

"Watch lots and lots of softball this summer," Bisbee said. "Watch the college games and just gain that softball knowledge. Learn where we have to throw the ball, when we don't throw the ball, and learn how to play those positions."

The coach also reflected emotionally on her first season leading the program. "Being a head softball coach was on my bucket list, and this team helped me get there," Bisbee said. Asked to sum up the season, Bisbee pointed to the team's late-season improvement. "We started out a little slow, and we ended on such a huge high note," she said. "I told the girls before today's game that my quote was just to finish strong. And tonight we finished strong."

In the junior varsity contest, Groton and Redfield battled to an 11-11 tie in a three-inning game. Arianna Dinger doubled for the Tigers, while Abby Fjeldheim added a double and an RBI. Jayden Penning drove in two runs, and Neely Althoff contributed a single.



Mya Feser interviewed Coach Amanda Bisbee on GDILIVE.COM. (Screenshot from GDILIVE.COM)



Anna Fjeldheim interviewed Talli Wright on GDILIVE.COM. (Screenshot from GDILIVE.COM)



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1. What retired U.S. Air Force lieutenant general was named Major League Baseball Commissioner in 1965 but was forced to resign in 1968?

2. What Czechoslovakian tennis player ended Martina Navratilova's 74-match winning streak and her bid for a calendar Grand Slam at the 1984 Australian Open?

3. What NFL stadium set a new Guinness World Record for the loudest crowd roar when it hit 142.2 dB in September 2014?

4. Major League Baseball's Rule 7.13, prohibiting catchers from blocking baserunners at home plate, is informally named after what former San Francisco Giants catcher?

5. "Welcome to the legendary Pit, a mile high and louder than ..." is a phrase painted on the tunnel walls of what college basketball team's home arena?

6. In 1942, the first artificial nuclear chain reaction took place at the University of Chicago's Stagg Field, on a court used for what sport?

7. What university band has been the official host band of the Indianapolis 500 auto race since 1919?

Answers  
1. William Eckert.  
2. Helena Sukova.  
3. The Kansas City Chiefs' Arrowhead Stadium.  
4. Buster Posey.  
5. The University of New Mexico Lobos.  
6. Squash.  
7. The Purdue All-American Marching Band.

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Groton Graduate Returns Home After Years Teaching in Thailand

by Dorene Nelson

Darren Dennert, a 1989 graduate of Groton High School, is back in Groton with his seven-year-old daughter Erin. They are currently in an apartment until he purchases a house.

"I've been employed by the Groton School District since February as a paraprofessional in Special Education in the middle and high school," he explained. "I will also continue in that position next year as my daughter Erin enters second grade."

"I started my higher education in the University of North Dakota, planning to receive an aviation degree," Dennert smiled. "However, I worked in a few retail stores and various businesses which helped me to come up with the idea of working somewhere in Southeast Asia," he explained. "My goal was to live economically and save most of my salary for retirement!"

"I ended up living and working in Thailand for thirteen years where I taught math and English to Thai students," Dennert said. "Teaching in Thailand was quite an amazing experience. Children were trained very young about self-control and respect for their elders, which helped with classroom management, but kids will still be kids."

"Teachers in Thailand have only twenty-five contact hours a week with the students they have in their four classes a day," Dennert said.

"Living and working in Thailand was where I met Aonnarin, my wife and the mother of our daughter Erin," he smiled. "I was the head of primary at the school where I worked for ten years."

"Thailand is considered more of a second world country," he explained, "where you can live on a lot less income than in the United States. I was able to accumulate savings since the cost of living was very reasonable."

"My wife and I decided to move to the United States in order to give our daughter the best possible education she could get," Dennert said. "Erin has dual citizenship, so she is allowed to come to American without a problem. That does not, however, apply to Aonnarin."

"I planned to come to the United States first and then get my family moved here," he said. "While working on their move here, I helped my sister Lisa and her husband Jeff Howard on the farm. They have been the best support in helping my family get here!"

"Getting my wife to America is not easy!" Dennert stated emphatically. "The immigration process is complicated and slow. The immigration services have to examine very carefully the many documents necessary for admission into the country."

"I expect it will take a year and a half to two years to get my wife through the paperwork and the immigration process," he sadly admitted. "Immigration into the United States is slow and very thorough. They want to be sure that the applicant can and will support themselves once they are admitted!"

"Erin and I have been separated from Aonnarin for eight months already! This does give us appreciation of others who are separated from their loved ones for a lengthy period," Dennert said.



Darren, Aonnarin and Erin

Tigers Qualify Deep Roster for State Track and Field Meet

Groton Area will be sending a strong group of athletes to the South Dakota State Track and Field Meet this week, with both the Tiger boys and girls squads qualifying numerous individuals and relay teams for the three-day event at Howard Wood Field in Sioux Falls.

The State Track and Field Meet will be held Thursday through Saturday, May 28-30.

The Groton Area boys qualified athletes in sprints, distance races, relays and field events, while the girls qualified competitors in hurdles, distance events, relays and the javelin.

Leading the boys qualifiers is senior Jayden Schwan, who earned state berths in four events, including the 800-meter run, 1600-meter run, 3200-meter run and the sprint medley relay. Fellow senior Keegen Tracy also qualified in four events, advancing in the 100-meter dash, 200-meter dash, 400-meter dash and sprint medley relay.

Senior Lincoln Krause qualified as part of three relay teams, including the 4x100-meter relay, 4x200-meter relay and sprint medley relay.

Sophomore Ethan Kroll advanced in the triple jump and three relay events, including the 4x200-meter relay, 4x400-meter relay and 4x800-

meter relay. Sophomore J.J. Muller qualified in the 4x100-meter relay, while sophomore Jace Johnson advanced in both the 4x400-meter relay and 4x800-meter relay.

Freshman Jordan Schwan will compete in four relay events, including the 4x100-meter relay, 4x200-meter relay, 4x400-meter relay and sprint medley relay. Freshman Riley Shellenberger qualified in the 4x800-meter relay.

Eighth graders Ryder Schwan and Kyson Kucker also earned trips to state. Ryder Schwan qualified in the 4x100-meter relay and 4x200-meter relay, while Kyson Kucker advanced in the 4x400-meter relay and 4x800-meter relay.

On the girls side, senior Rylee Dunker qualified in the javelin and as part of the 4x100-meter relay team.

Junior McKenna Tietz qualified in four events, including the 100-meter hurdles, 300-meter hurdles, 4x200-meter relay and 4x400-meter relay. Junior Kella Tracy also qualified in four events, advancing in the 4x100-meter relay, 4x200-meter relay, 4x400-meter relay and sprint medley relay.

Junior Taryn Traphagen earned state berths in the 4x200-meter relay, 4x400-meter relay and sprint medley relay, while junior Ashlynn Warrington was named as an alternate.

Sophomore Makenna Krause qualified in four relay events, including the 4x100-meter relay, 4x200-meter relay, 4x400-meter relay and sprint medley relay.

Sophomore Ryelle Gilbert advanced in the 800-meter run, 1600-meter run and sprint medley relay after improving her qualifying position during the final week of the season.

Freshman Raquel Tracy rounded out the girls qualifiers after helping the 4x100-meter relay team earn a state berth.

Groton Area athletes will now turn their attention to Howard Wood Field, where they will compete against the top Class A athletes from across South Dakota in pursuit of state medals and podium finishes.

LARRY  
RHODEN  
FOR GOVERNOR

LARRY IS A MAN OF THE PEOPLE!

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HE'S SERVED HIS NATION IN UNIFORM.

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HE'S MAKING OUR STATE STRONG, SAFE, AND FREE.

PAID FOR BY RHODEN FOR GOVERNOR





May 19, 2026

The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00pm at 120 N Main Street for their second monthly meeting with the following members present: Bahr, Babcock, Voss-Severson, Nehls, Shilhanek, Cutler, and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Also present were Attorney Chad Locken, Douglas Heinrich, Elizabeth Varin, Darrell Hillestad, Quintin Biermann, Kaelyn Somsen, and Caroline Srstka.

Moved by Babcock and seconded Nehls 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.

Moved by Bahr and seconded by Voss-Severson to authorize the implementation of a 4-way stop at the intersection of 6th Street and 13th Avenue. All members present voted aye.

Biermann exited the meeting.

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Voss-Severson to convert the seasonal 4-way stop to a permanent 4-way stop at the intersection of Main Street and 10th Avenue. All members present voted aye.

No action was taken on the Project Rural Funding request.

Somsen and Srstka exited the meeting.

Moved by Cutler and seconded by Babcock to update the base

city property map and to inquire about acquiring digital data or shape file. All members present voted aye.

The April finance report was approved on a motion by Nehls and seconded by Cutler. All members present voted aye.

The April finance report was approved with a revision to the long-term debt figure on a motion by Babcock and seconded by Cutler. All members present voted aye.

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

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Bahr to authorize the following bills for payment. Nehls abstained his vote. All remaining members present voted aye.

Payroll, \$28,970.68, Employee salaries; Executive, \$161.60, ; Administrative, \$4,970.69, ; Public Safety, \$8,858.88, ; Culture & Recreation, \$3,028.70, ; Public Works, \$11,950.81, ; Area IV Senior Nutrition, \$5,000.00, 2026 donation; Payment Service Network, Inc., \$206.50, PSN gateway and eBill fees - April 2026; Dacotah Bank, \$5,906.40, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dacotah Bank, \$689.57, HSA contributions; USPS, \$327.67, Utility billing postage; WEB Water, \$20,875.53, Water services - April 2026; City of Groton, \$57.47, Utility deposit applied to outstanding bill; EMA Properties, LLC., \$192.53, Utility deposit refund; SD State Trea-

surer, \$10,345.37, Sales and excise tax - April 2026; Dacotah Bank, \$3,501.63, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Northern Electric Cooperative, \$157.93, Power services at Airport - April 2026; SD Supplemental Retirement, \$540.00, Supplemental retirement; Heartland Waste Management, \$12,396.85, Garbage hauling; Heartland Energy, \$45,353.81, Power services - April 2026; Menards, \$333.85, Storage shelves, garbage can, and cleaning supplies for BB concessions; Locators and Supplies, \$253.29, Safety glasses, red marking paint - Electric Dept.; Geffdog Designs, LLC, \$227.00, Pool rules signs; NW Energy, \$27.52, Natural gas service at water tower; Allied Climate Professionals, LLC., \$1,384.69, AC repair, air handler repair, graphics update, outside air sensor replacement, software training - Community Center/City Hall; A&B Business Solutions, \$260.97, Printer/copier lease - City Hall; MJ's Sinclair, Inc., \$1,188.29, Fuel purchases and oil - Multiple Depts; Ecolab Pest Elimination, \$117.98, Rubble site rodent control; Blocker Construction, LLC., \$20,306.37, Ceiling, walls, trim, bathroom stall installation - Baseball Concessions Project; Altec Capital Services, LLC, \$2,189.93, Digger truck lease; WAPA, \$24,187.20, Power services - April 2026; Sanitation Products, Inc., \$212.77, Thermostat and latch for sweeper - Street Dept.; Cole Papers, Inc., \$478.80, Soap, dispensers, garbage bags, bath tissue - Baseball Complex; Joshua Larson, \$36.75, Reimbursement for background check to volunteer coach for 14U Legion baseball; NVC, \$827.67, Telephone and internet services;

Irby, Inc., \$19.00, Metering supplies - Electric Dept.; Locke Electric, Inc., \$15,837.42, Electricity for Baseball Concessions Project, wiring for ticket booth, and disconnect/installation of scoreboard - Baseball; JUGS Sports, \$121.50, Maintenance items for pitching machine - Baseball; Avera Occupational Medicine, \$37.70, Drug screening costs; IMEG Corp., \$51,000.00, Engineering services - Wastewater Project - Invoice no. 8; The Groton Independent, \$258.68, Publishing costs; A-1 Sanitation, \$2,240.00, 2026 spring cleanup roll offs; Hub City Roll Offs, \$416.00, 2026 spring cleanup roll off on 4/28; Amanda Zimmerman, \$1,200.00, 2026 U12 baseball umpire pay (15 games); Adrienne Fliehs, \$1,520.00, 2026 U10 baseball umpire pay (19 games); Matt Locke, \$4,000.00, 2026 umpire pay - U10 tourney, U12 tourney, 14U Legion (16 games); Dacotah Bank Visa, \$3,620.81, Socket, extension cord reel, background check, burger press, straws, bottles, ink cartridges, lumbar support, water sample postage, sewer sample postage, DARE supplies, SDMEA conference hotel stay, Slide MVP mats, FO/HR School registration, string winder kit, website hosting, hitting knob, fuel, pH electrode, 14U insurance and registration, Jr. Legion insurance and registration, and VFW registration - Multiple Depts; Jesse Anderson, \$292.68, Mileage reimbursement - Water distribution training in Sioux Falls, SD; Sippel Cabinets & Construction, Inc., \$18,517.21, Cabinets and counters - Baseball Concessions Project; Pat Krause, \$1,760.00, 2026 Legion umpire pay (11 games); Aaron

Severson, \$2,240.00, 2026 Jr. Legion umpire pay (14 games); Runnings, \$479.97, (2) new trimmers and trimmer line - Baseball/Parks

Moved by Shilhanek and seconded by Cutler to approve the reimbursement to Darrell Hillestad for improvements at the Groton Airport contingent upon Hillestad accepting the designation as Groton Airport Manager. All members present voted aye.

Announcement: Grand Opening of new Groton Baseball Concessions on the Day of Play on June 6th, 2026.

Announcement: City Offices will be closed on May 25th, 2026, for Memorial Day.

Varin exited the meeting.

Moved by Nehls and seconded by Babcock to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal matters 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 8:04pm. All members present voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 9:20pm.

Varin reentered the meeting.

Moved by Cutler and seconded by Babcock to designate Darrell Hillestad as our Groton Airport Manager. All members present voted aye.

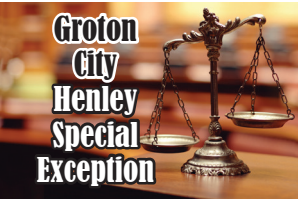
No action was taken on the Groton Airport hangar leases.

No action was taken regarding the forgiveness of a resident's outstanding invoice from 2017.

Moved by Nehls and seconded by Bahr to adjourn the meeting at 9:22pm. All members present voted aye.

Scott Hanlon, Mayo Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL EXCEPTION HEARING

The Groton Planning & Zoning Commission will be holding a public hearing on June 22, 2026, at 6:00pm CDT at City Hall, 120 N Main St., Groton, SD for a special exception of Title 11, Section 11.0104 of the Groton Zoning Ordinance. This application was made by Megan Henley for the commercial operation of a short term rental in a Residential 3 (R-3) Zone at 210 N 5th St, Groton, SD, legally described as Lot 1, Block 35 and N2, Lot 2, Block 35, 1st Addition, City of Groton, Brown County, South Dakota.

Any person wishing to present testimony for or against this special exception may appear in person or by representative at the above time and place.

Douglas J. Heinrich  
Zoning Administrator

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| June 2, 2026   | South Dakota   | Brown County  |
|--|--|---|
| REPUBLICAN PARTY PRIMARY PUBLICATION BALLOT  |  |   |
| <b>INSTRUCTIONS TO THE VOTER:</b><br>To vote for a person <b>FILL IN</b> the oval (●) next to the name.<br><br>Use only a pencil or pen.<br><br>If you make a mistake, give the ballot back and get a new one.<br><br><b>DO NOT</b> cast more votes than are allowed in each race. | <b>For State Representative, District 23</b><br>You may vote for up to <u>two</u> or leave it blank.<br><br><input type="radio"/> Spencer Gosch<br><br><input type="radio"/> Dick Werner<br><br><input type="radio"/> Amber Werdel   | <b>Publication - REP</b>  |
|  | <b>For Sheriff</b><br>You may vote for <u>one</u> or leave it blank.<br><br><input type="radio"/> Robert L. Weinmeister<br><br><input type="radio"/> Dan Kaiser<br><br><input type="radio"/> Linn Kamin<br><br><input type="radio"/> Dave Lunzman                                      | <b>For Precinct Committeewoman Precinct-03</b><br>You may vote for <u>one</u> or leave it blank.<br><br><input type="radio"/> Emily Richardt<br><br><input type="radio"/> Laura J. Saunders   |
| <b>For United States Senator</b><br>You may vote for <u>one</u> or leave it blank.<br><br><input type="radio"/> Justin McNeal<br><br><input type="radio"/> Mike Rounds   | <b>For Delegates to State Convention</b><br>You may vote for up to <u>three</u> or leave it blank.<br><br><input type="radio"/> Charlene Cornelius<br><br><input type="radio"/> Ashton Dennert<br><br><input type="radio"/> Wayne Bierman<br><br><input type="radio"/> Maryann Bierman | <b>For Precinct Committeewoman Precinct-05</b><br>You may vote for <u>one</u> or leave it blank.<br><br><input type="radio"/> Katherine Washnok<br><br><input type="radio"/> Jan Inches   |
| <b>For United States Representative</b><br>You may vote for <u>one</u> or leave it blank.<br><br><input type="radio"/> Marty Jackley<br><br><input type="radio"/> James Bialota  |  | <b>For Precinct Committeewoman Precinct-09</b><br>You may vote for <u>one</u> or leave it blank.<br><br><input type="radio"/> Kayla Weis<br><br><input type="radio"/> Jenny Bladow  |
| <b>For Governor</b><br>You may vote for <u>one</u> or leave it blank.<br><br><input type="radio"/> Larry Rhoden<br><br><input type="radio"/> Jon Hansen<br><br><input type="radio"/> Dusty Johnson<br><br><input type="radio"/> Toby Doeden  | <b>For Precinct Committeewoman Precinct-03</b><br>You may vote for <u>one</u> or leave it blank.<br><br><input type="radio"/> Daniel Richardt<br><br><input type="radio"/> Talmage Ekanger   | <b>For Precinct Committeewoman Precinct-10</b><br>You may vote for <u>one</u> or leave it blank.<br><br><input type="radio"/> Brenda Dreyer<br><br><input type="radio"/> Anne Miller  |
| <b>For State Senator, District 03</b><br>You may vote for <u>one</u> or leave it blank.<br><br><input type="radio"/> Carl Perry<br><br><input type="radio"/> Katherine "Katie" Washnok   |  | <b>NONPOLITICAL BALLOT</b>  |
| <b>For State Representative, District 01</b><br>You may vote for up to <u>two</u> or leave it blank.<br><br><input type="radio"/> Logan Manhart<br><br><input type="radio"/> Keith Miller<br><br><input type="radio"/> Daniel Kjos<br><br><input type="radio"/> Nick Fosness       | <b>For Precinct Committeeman Precinct-05</b><br>You may vote for <u>one</u> or leave it blank.<br><br><input type="radio"/> Larry Inches<br><br><input type="radio"/> James Washnok  | <b>For School Board Member Britton - Hecla School District 45-4</b><br>3 year term, you may vote for up to <u>three</u> or leave it blank.<br><br><input type="radio"/> Angela Grupe<br><br><input type="radio"/> Jeff Christenson<br><br><input type="radio"/> Heather Landreth<br><br><input type="radio"/> Amy Jo Vietor<br><br><input type="radio"/> Jeanne Ahlgren<br><br><input type="radio"/> Heidi Eimers |
| <b>For State Representative, District 03</b><br>You may vote for up to <u>two</u> or leave it blank.<br><br><input type="radio"/> Kaleb Weis<br><br><input type="radio"/> Al Novstrup<br><br><input type="radio"/> Timothy Hanigan<br><br><input type="radio"/> Spencer Sommers    | <b>For Precinct Committeeman Precinct-08</b><br>You may vote for <u>one</u> or leave it blank.<br><br><input type="radio"/> Michael Kulm<br><br><input type="radio"/> Logan Manhart  |   |
|  | <b>For Precinct Committeeman Precinct-09</b><br>You may vote for <u>one</u> or leave it blank.<br><br><input type="radio"/> Kaleb Weis<br><br><input type="radio"/> Dana Breske  |   |
|  | <b>For Precinct Committeeman Precinct-12</b><br>You may vote for <u>one</u> or leave it blank.<br><br><input type="radio"/> Lowell Harms<br><br><input type="radio"/> Jesse Zak  |   |
| Go to top of next column   | Go to top of next column   |   |

Published May 27, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$153.75 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26842

**10 ♦Groton Independent♦Wed., May 27, 2026**

| June 2, 2026  | South Dakota       | Brown County |
|---|--------------------|--------------|
| NONPOLITICAL PRIMARY PUBLICATION BALLOT   |                    |              |
| <b>INSTRUCTIONS TO THE VOTER:</b><br>To vote for a person <b>FILL IN</b> the oval (●) next to the name.<br><br>Use only a pencil or pen.<br><br>If you make a mistake, give the ballot back and get a new one.<br><br><b>DO NOT</b> cast more votes than are allowed in each race.  | <b>Publication</b> |              |
| <b>NONPOLITICAL BALLOT</b>  |                    |              |
| <b>For School Board Member Britton - Hecla School District 45-4</b><br>3 year term, you may vote for up to <u>three</u> or leave it blank.<br><br><input type="radio"/> Angela Grupe<br><br><input type="radio"/> Jeff Christenson<br><br><input type="radio"/> Heather Landreth<br><br><input type="radio"/> Amy Jo Vietor<br><br><input type="radio"/> Jeanne Ahlgren<br><br><input type="radio"/> Heidi Eimers |                    |              |

Published May 27, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$153.75 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26843





City of Columbia Council Special Meeting  
18TH day – May, 2026 7:00 p.m.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – 7:00 p.m. Trevor Meints called meeting to order.

ROLL CALL – Trevor Meints, Jeremy Dosch, Scott Meints, Sam Hoppock

Community: Ted Dickey - NECOG

Ted Dickey reviewed the process of the Resolution amending the city’s wastewater rate structure. The new structure is needed in order to set aside a portion of monthly wastewater rates to pay for the new wastewater ponds, wastewater lines and lift station. Jeremy Dosch made of motion to pass the Resolution 26-02, Sam Hoppock seconded the motion, all were in favor – motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO 26-02  
RESOLUTION AMENDING THE CITY’S RATE STRUCTURE, PROVIDING FOR A SURCHARGE FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO SEWER SYSTEM, FOR PAYMENT OF A REVENUE BORROWER BOND AND YEARLY REVIEW OF RATE  
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA AS FOLLOWS:

1. Base Rate: Starting July 1, 2026, there shall be a base rate as follows:

Residential and Commercial Rate: \$15.00 per user per month

2. Surcharge for Borrower Bond. There shall also be charged a monthly surcharge for the services provided by the improvement financed by the CW-01 Conservancy District Loan. The surcharge for each loan shall be segregated from other revenues of the sewer utility and shall be used for the payment of the Borrower Bond CW-01. Provided that such surcharge shall create net income, remaining from time to time after first paying all reasonable and current expenses of maintenance, repairs, replacements

and operation, sufficient to fund interest, reserve and debt service fund annual requirements.

3. Rates and collection. The City Council does hereby establish the special charge or surcharge payable by each customer of its system who receives or benefits from the services of the project financed with the Borrower Bond. Such charge or surcharge shall be set at a level which, assuming a 10% delinquency rate, will produce income at the times and in amounts sufficient to pay when due the principal of and interest on the Borrower Bond and the administrative expense surcharge and all other payments as may be required under the loan agreement and Borrower Bond.

4. Borrower Bond Surcharge. Starting, July 1, 2026, the following sewer debt service surcharges shall be applicable to all customers served:

Residential and Commercial Borrower Bond CW-01 Surcharge \$55.00 per user per month.

The surcharges shall remain in effect until such time as the revenue bonds are paid in full. The initial surcharge shall be collected at the same time as other charges of the system. The surcharge is found to be equitable for the services provided by the improvements.

5. Segregation. The debt service surcharge shall be segregated from other income of the system in a separate book-keeping account and is pledged to the South Dakota Conservancy District for the payment of the loan payments on the Borrower Bond.

6. Yearly review. The amount of the surcharge shall be reviewed from year to year and may be modified in order to provide such funds as are set forth herein. The charges shall be reviewed yearly by the City Council and administratively adjusted, upwards or downwards, to such amounts as may be necessary to pay principal, interest, administrative surcharge and other charges as may become due and owing under the loan agreement or Borrower Bond.

7. Billing and Accounting. The surcharges shall be included in the monthly user bill. Nothing

contained herein requires the surcharge be indicated on the billing, however, the surcharge segregation shall be indicated on the books of the City.

8. Automatic Repeal. The surcharge for the Borrower Bond shall be automatically repealed when the Borrower Bond is paid in full.

9. Partial Invalidity. If any one or more of the provisions of the shall be held invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, by final decree of any court of lawful jurisdiction, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision hereof.

Ted Dickey also informed the board of the publishing of the Environmental Studies Report in the paper. A 30 day wait period is involved prior to finalizing the loan paperwork , and the 2-3 weeks after that wait period for the state to initialize the drawing of funds.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting - Wednesday, June 3, 2026 7:00 p.m.

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RESOLUTION NO 26-02  
RESOLUTION AMENDING THE CITY’S RATE STRUCTURE, PROVIDING FOR A SURCHARGE FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO SEWER SYSTEM, FOR PAYMENT OF A REVENUE BORROWER BOND AND YEARLY REVIEW OF RATE  
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA AS FOLLOWS:

1. Base Rate: Starting July 1, 2026, there shall be a base rate as follows:

Residential and Commercial Rate: \$15.00 per user per month

2. Surcharge for Borrower Bond. There shall also be charged a monthly surcharge

for the services provided by the improvement financed by the CW-01 Conservancy District Loan. The surcharge for each loan shall be segregated from other revenues of the sewer utility and shall be used for the payment of the Borrower Bond CW-01. Provided that such surcharge shall create net income, remaining from time to time after first paying all reasonable and current expenses of maintenance, repairs, replacements and operation, sufficient to fund interest, reserve and debt service fund annual requirements.

3. Rates and collection. The City Council does hereby establish the special charge or surcharge payable by each customer of its system who receives or benefits from the services of the project financed with the Borrower Bond. Such charge or surcharge shall be set at a level which, assuming a 10% delinquency rate, will produce income at the times and in amounts sufficient to pay when due the principal of and interest on the Borrower Bond and the administrative expense surcharge and all other payments as may be required under the loan agreement and Borrower Bond.

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5. Segregation. The debt service surcharge shall be segregated from other income of the system in a separate book-keeping account and is pledged to the South Dakota Conservancy District for the payment of the loan payments on the Borrower Bond.

6. Yearly review. The amount of the surcharge shall be reviewed from year to year and may be modified in order to

provide such funds as are set forth herein. The charges shall be reviewed yearly by the City Council and administratively adjusted, upwards or downwards, to such amounts as may be necessary to pay principal, interest, administrative surcharge and other charges as may become due and owing under the loan agreement or Borrower Bond.

7. Billing and Accounting. The surcharges shall be included in the monthly user bill. Nothing contained herein requires the surcharge be indicated on the billing, however, the surcharge segregation shall be indicated on the books of the City.

8. Automatic Repeal. The surcharge for the Borrower Bond shall be automatically repealed when the Borrower Bond is paid in full.

9. Partial Invalidity. If any one or more of the provisions of the shall be held invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, by final decree of any court of lawful jurisdiction, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision hereof.

Adopted at Columbia, South Dakota, this \_18\_ day of \_May\_, 2026.

APPROVED:  
Dana Mohr (SEAL) Mayor  
Attest:  
Cara Dennert  
Finance Officer  
First reading: 5-18-26  
Published: \_5-27-26  
Effective: \_6-8-26

Published May 27, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$42.73 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26845



NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION

A Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, June 2, 2026 in all the Vote Centers in Brown County.

The Election Polls will be open from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M., Central Time on the day of the election.

The Vote Centers in Brown County are as follows:

In Aberdeen City:

- AmericInn Event Center
- Best Western Ramkota Convention Center

- Brown County Courthouse Community Room

Rural Sites:

- Claremont City Hall
- Columbia Legion
- Frederick Community Center
- Groton Community Center
- Hecla Community Center
- Stratford Community Center
- Warner Community Center
- Westport Community Center

Any voter who needs assistance, pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, may contact the Brown County Auditors Office at 605-626-7120 before the election for information on polling place accessibility for people with disabilities.

Lynn Heupel, County Auditor Brown County, SD

Published May 20 and 27, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$23.76 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26833

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FARM  
COMMERCIAL  
CROP

**Marty Weismantel**  
605/396-7341  
[weisag@nvc.net](mailto:weisag@nvc.net)

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**June Community Calendar**  
**Monday, June 1**  
Senior Menu: BBQ Chicken breast, au gratin potatoes, coleslaw, fruited Jell-O, whole wheat bread.  
State Golf Meet in Sioux Falls  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.  
Jr. Legion hosts Britton, 5:30 p.m.  
U12 Baseball hosts Roslyn, DH, 5:30 p.m., Falk Field  
T-Ball Practice, 6 p.m., Nelson Field

**Tuesday, June 2**  
Senior Menu: Beef stroganoff with noodles, mixed vegetables, fruit, breadstick.  
City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.  
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.  
2026 Tiger Skills Workouts, 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Arena  
GBB Open Gym, 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m., GHS Gym  
State Golf Meet in Sioux Falls  
JVT Practice, 6-9 p.m., Arena  
U14 Legion at Britton, 5:30 p.m.  
Sr. Legion hosts Sisseton, 5:30 p.m.  
U10 Baseball hosts Columbia, DH, 5:30 p.m. (R&B)  
U8 Baseball host Columbia, DH, 5:30 p.m. (Red)

**Wednesday, June 3**  
Senior Menu: Hot beef combo, mashed potatoes with gravy, carrots, fruit.  
Groton Chamber meeting, noon, City Hall  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Sarah Circle, 5 p.m.  
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.  
JVT Practice, 6-9 p.m., Arena  
Jr. Legion at Northville, 4:30 p.m.  
U12 Baseball at Aberdeen, DH, 5:30 p.m., North Complex  
U10 Baseball at Aberdeen, DH, 5:30 p.m. (B&W), North Complex  
U8 Baseball at Aberdeen, DH, 5:30 p.m. (Blue), North Complex  
U12 Softball hosts Aberdeen, DH, 6 p.m. (B&G)  
U10 Softball hosts Aberdeen, DH, 6 p.m. (B&G)  
U8 Softball Scrimmage, 6 p.m.

**Thursday, June 4**  
Senior Menu: Chicken cordon bleu casserole, broccoli, fruit, whole wheat bread.  
Story Time at Wage Memorial Library, 10 a.m.  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Nigeria Circle, 2 p.m.  
2026 Tiger Skills Workouts, 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Arena  
GBB Open Gym, 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m., GHS Gym  
BBB Open Gym, 6-8 p.m., Arena  
U14 Legion hosts Milbank, 5:30 p.m.  
Sr. Legion at Lake Norden, 6 p.m.  
U10 Baseball hosts Britton, DH, 5:30 p.m. (W&R)  
T-Ball Practice, 6 p.m., Nelson Field

**Friday, June 5**  
Senior Menu: Stuffed pepper soup, ham salad sandwich, fruit, cookie.  
U12 Baseball hosts Clark, 4:30 p.m., and Milbank, 7:30 p.m., Falk Field  
U10 Baseball hosts Clark, 4:30 p.m., and Milbank, 7:30 p.m., Nelson Field (R&B)

**Saturday, June 6**  
605 American Legion Riders, 8:30 a.m., Legion  
DAY OF PLAY  
U14 Legion hosts Redfield  
Sr. Legion hosts Redfield  
Jr. Legion hosts Redfield  
U12 Baseball hosts Britton, DH, 1 p.m., Falk Field  
U10 Baseball hosts Britton, DH, 11 a.m., (All), Falk Field  
U8 Baseball host Britton, 9 a.m. (Red)  
U8 Baseball host Britton, 10 a.m. (Blue)  
U14/U18 Softball Mix Scrimmage in Groton, 3:30 p.m.  
U12 Softball hosts Britton, DH, noon, (All)  
U10 Softball hosts Britton, DH, 10 a.m., (All)  
U8 Softball hosts Britton, 9 a.m.  
“WINE on 9” at Olive Grove is Cancelled.

**Sunday, June 7**  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 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.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.  
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.  
First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.  
Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.  
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.  
U12 Baseball at Sisseton Tournament  
**12 ♦Groton Independent♦Wed., May 27, 2026**

**Monday, June 8**  
Senior Menu: Turkey wraps, lettuce/tomato/cheese, potato salad, fruit.  
School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.  
Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m.  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.  
BBB Open Gym, 6-8 p.m., Arena  
Groton VB GMS Camp, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Arena/Gym  
U14 Legion hosts Watertown, 5:30 p.m.  
Jr. Legion at Watertown, 5 p.m.  
U8 Baseball host Clark, DH, 5:30 p.m., Falk and Nelson Field, (Red and Blue)  
U12 Softball at Mobridge, DH, 5:30 p.m. (B&G)  
U8 Softball at Webster, DH, 6 p.m. (B&G)  
T-Ball at Warner, 6 p.m., Football Field

**Tuesday, June 9**  
Senior Menu: Chicken alfredo, broccoli, fruit, breadstick.  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Council, 6 p.m.  
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.  
Groton VB GMS Camp, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Arena/Gym  
U14 Legion at Aberdeen Smitty’s, 5:30 p.m.  
Sr. Legion at Webster, 5:30 p.m.  
Jr. Legion at Selby, 6 p.m.  
U12 Baseball hosts Britton, DH, 5:30 p.m.  
U8 Baseball host Aberdeen, DH, 5:30 p.m. (Red)  
U14 Softball at Hub City, 6 p.m.

**Wednesday, June 10**  
Senior Menu: French dip sandwich, vegetable pasta salad, fruit.  
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.  
Groton VB GMS Camp, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Arena/Gym  
JVT Practice, 6-9 p.m., Arena  
U8 Baseball at Britton, DH, 5:30 p.m. (Red and Blue)  
U12 Softball hosts Britton, DH, 6:30 p.m., (G&W)  
U10 Softball hosts Britton, DH, 5:30 p.m., (G&W)  
U8 Softball hosts Britton, 5:30 p.m., (G&W)

**Thursday, June 11**  
Senior Menu: Oven fried chicken, sweet potatoes, green beans, glorified rice, whole wheat bread.  
Groton VB GMS Camp, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Arena/Gym  
2026 Tiger Skills Workouts, 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Arena  
JVT Practice, 6-7:30 p.m., Arena  
Story Time at Wage Memorial Library, 10 a.m.  
Transit Fundraiser, 5 p.m., Groton Community Center  
Groton Lions Club Meeting, 6 p.m., 104 N Main  
U12 Baseball at Warner, 7:15 p.m., City Field  
U10 Baseball at Warner, 5:30 p.m. (B&W), City Field  
U8 Baseball at Warner, 5:30 p.m. (Blue), School Field  
U18 Softball at Redfield, 5:30 p.m.

**Friday, June 12**  
Senior Menu: Tuna salad sandwich, California blend, fruit.  
Jr. Legion at Clark Tournament  
T-Ball hosts Warner, 6 p.m., Nelson Field

**Saturday, June 13**  
U14 Legion at Platte Tournament  
Jr. Legion at Clark Tournament  
U12 Baseball at Milbank Tournament  
U8 Baseball at Milbank Tournament

**Sunday, June 14**  
FLAG DAY  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.  
United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.  
St. John’s Lutheran: Worship at St. John’s, 9 a.m., at Zion, 11 a.m.  
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.  
First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.  
Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.  
U14 Legion at Platte Tournament  
Jr. Legion at Clark Tournament  
U10 Baseball at Milbank Tournament (ALL)

**Monday, June 15**  
Senior Menu: Taco salad with chips, Mexican rice with beans, fruit, biscuit.  
Groton Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m.  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.  
BBB Open Gym, 6-8 p.m., Arena  
Sr. Legion at Watertown, 5 p.m.  
Jr. Legion hosts Selby, 5:30 p.m.  
U8 Baseball host Webster, DH, 5:30 p.m. (Red and Blue)  
U12 Softball at Claremont, DH, 6:30 p.m. (W&G)





**Tuesday, June 16**

Senior Menu: Hot turkey combination, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn, fruit.  
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.  
St. John’s Lutheran: Quilting, 9 a.m.  
2026 Tiger Skills Workouts, 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Arena  
City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.  
U14 Legion hosts Webster, 5:30 p.m.  
U12 Baseball at Sisseton, 5:30 p.m.  
U10 Baseball at Webster, 5:30 p.m. (W&R)  
U8 Baseball host Britton, DH, 6 p.m. (Blue)  
U14 Softball hosts Redfield, 5:30 p.m.  
T-Ball Scrimmage, 5 p.m., Falk Field

**Wednesday, June 17**

Senior Menu: Kielbasa with mac and cheese, California blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.  
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton Ad Council, 7 p.m.  
JVT Practice, 6-9 p.m., Gym/Arena  
U12 Baseball at Aberdeen, 5:30 p.m., North Complex  
U10 Baseball at Aberdeen, 5:30 p.m., North Complex, (R&B)  
U8 Baseball at Aberdeen, 5:30 p.m. (Red), North Complex  
U14 Softball at Mobridge, 5:30 p.m.  
U12 Softball hosts Redfield 2, DH, 5:30 p.m., (B&W)  
U10 Softball hosts Redfield 2, DH, 5:30 p.m., (B&W)  
U8 Softball hosts Redfield 2, 5:30 p.m., (W&B)

**Thursday, June 18**

Senior Menu: Meatloaf, baked potato, green beans, fruit, whole wheat bread.  
Story Time at Wage Memorial Library, 10 a.m.  
2026 Tiger Skills Workouts, 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Arena  
U14 Legion hosts Britton, 5:30 p.m.  
Sr. Legion at Heritage Tournament, Milbank  
U10 Baseball at Sisseton, DH, 5:30 p.m. (B&W)  
U8 Baseball at Clark, DH, 5:30 p.m. (Blue)  
U8 Baseball host Britton, DH, 6 p.m. (Red), Falk Field  
U18 Softball hosts Hub city, 6 p.m.  
U12 Softball at Sisseton, DH, 6 p.m. (W&G)  
U10 Softball at Sisseton, DH, 6 p.m. (B&W)  
T-Ball hosts Columbia, 5 p.m., Falk Field

**Friday, June 19**

JUNETEENTH  
SDSU Alumni & Friends Golf Tourney and Dinner at the Olive Grove Golf Course, 11 a.m.  
Sr. Legion at Heritage Tournament, Milbank  
Jr. Legion at Volga, 6 p.m.

**Saturday, June 20**

Groton Triathlon  
Sr. Legion at Heritage Tournament, Milbank  
U10 Baseball - Groton Tournament (ALL)  
U12 Softball at Mobridge Tournament (ALL)  
U10 Softball at Mobridge Tournament

**Sunday, June 21**

FATHER’S DAY  
FIRST DAY OF SUMMER  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.  
United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.  
St. John’s Lutheran: Worship with communion at St. John’s, 9 a.m., at Zion, 11 a.m.  
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.  
First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.  
Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.  
Sr. Legion at Heritage Tournament, Milbank  
U12 Baseball - Groton Tournament  
U14 Baseball: hosts Clark, 4 p.m.

**Monday, June 22**

Senior Menu: Spanish rice with hamburger, corn, fruit, whole wheat bread, sherbet.  
Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center with potluck at noon  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.  
Rumble in the Jungle Boys Basketball Team Camp, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Arena/Gym  
Jr. Legion at Sisseton, 5:30 p.m.  
U12 Softball hosts Clark, DH, 6 p.m., (B&G)  
U10 Softball hosts Clark, DH, 6 p.m., (W&G)  
T-Ball girls at Brentford, 6 p.m.  
T-Ball boys at Brentford, 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, June 23**

Senior Menu: Baked pork chop, au gratin potatoes, capri blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.  
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.  
Rumble in the Jungle Boys Basketball Team Camp, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Arena/Gym  
U14 Legion at Watertown, 5 p.m.  
Sr. Legion hosts Milbank, 5:30 p.m.  
Jr. Legion at Britton, 5:30 p.m.  
U12 Baseball hosts Warner, 7 p.m., Nelson Field  
U10 Baseball hosts Warner, 5:30 p.m., Falk Field (W&R)  
U8 Baseball host Warner, 5:30 p.m. (Red), Falk Field  
U14 Softball at Warner, 5:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, June 24**

Senior Menu: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, Catalina blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.  
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.  
JVT Practice, 6-9 p.m., Gym  
Sr. Legion hosts Clark, 5:30 p.m.  
Jr. Legion hosts Clark, 7 p.m.  
U12 Baseball at Roslyn, DH, 5:30 p.m.  
U10 Baseball at Britton, DH, 5:30 p.m. (R&B)  
U10 Softball hosts Sisseton (Split), 6 p.m.  
U10 Softball at Claremont (Split), 6:30 p.m.  
U8 Softball at Claremont, 5:30 p.m. (W&G)

**Thursday, June 25**

Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, green beans, fruit, garlic bread.  
Story Time at Wage Memorial Library, 10 a.m.  
JVT Practice, 6-7:30 p.m., Gym  
U10 Baseball hosts Aberdeen, DH, 5:30 p.m. (B&W)  
U8 Baseball host Aberdeen, DH, 5:30 p.m. (Blue)  
U8 Baseball at Columbia, DH, 5:30 p.m. (Red)  
U18 Softball at Redfield, 6 p.m.

**Friday, June 26**

Senior Menu: Breaded chicken on bun, oven roasted potatoes, California blend, fruit.  
U14 Legion at Vern Jark Tournament, Aberdeen  
Sr. Legion at The ROCK Touranment, Madison  
T-Ball Scrimmage, 6 p.m., Nelson Field

**Saturday, June 27**

U14 Legion at Vern Jark Tournament, Aberdeen  
Sr. Legion at The ROCK Touranment, Madison  
U8 Baseball - Groton Tournament (Red & Blue)

**Sunday, June 28**

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.  
United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.  
St. John’s Lutheran: Worship at St. John’s, 9 a.m., at Zion, 11 a.m.  
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.  
First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.  
Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.  
U14 Legion at Vern Jark Tournament, Aberdeen  
Sr. Legion at The ROCK Touranment, Madison  
U12 Softball hosts Mobridge, DH, 2 p.m., (B&W)  
U10 Softball hosts Mobridge, DH, 4 p.m., (G&W)  
U8 Softball hosts Mobridge, DH, 2 p.m. (B&W)  
U14 Softball hosts Mobridge, DH, 4 p.m.

**Monday, June 29**

Senior Menu: Spanishh rice with hamburger, broccoli, Mandrain oranges with vanilla pudding, whole wheat bread.  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.  
BBB Open Gym, 6-8 p.m., Arena  
Jr. Legion hosts WIN, 5:30 p.m.  
U12 Baseball at Clark, DH, 5:30 p.m.  
U10 Baseball hosts Webster, DH, 5:30 p.m. (W&R)  
U8 Baseball at Webster, DH, 5:30 p.m. (Red & Blue)  
U18 Softball at Hub City, 6 p.m.  
U12 Softball at Hub City, DH, 6 p.m. (B&W)  
U10 Softball at Hub City, DH, 6 p.m. (B&W)

**Tuesday, June 30**

Senior Menu: Bratwurst on bun, tri tater, sauerkraut, fruit.  
U14 Legion at Milbank, 5:30 p.m.  
Sr. Legion hosts Webster, 5:30 p.m.  
U12 Baseball hosts Sisseton, DH, 6 p.m., Falk Field  
U14 Softball hosts Clark, 5:30 p.m.  
T-Ball Scrimmage, 5 p.m., Falk Field



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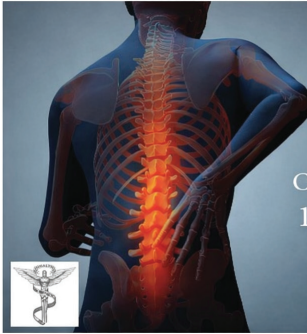
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NOTICE OF SPECIAL EXCEPTION HEARING

The Groton Planning & Zoning Commission will be holding a public hearing on June 8, 2026, at 6:00pm CDT at City Hall, 120 N Main St., Groton, SD for a special exception of Title 14, Section 14.0104 of the Groton Zoning Ordinance. This application was made by Wyatt Larson of WW Rentals LLC for the purpose of building a 10-unit garage in a Commercial 1 (C-1) Zone legally described as Lt 19-20, Bk 11, of the Original Plat, City of Groton, Brown County, South Dakota.

Any person wishing to present testimony for or against this special exception may appear in person or by representative at the above time and place.

Douglas Heinrich  
Zoning Administrator

Published May 27, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$9.11 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26846



NOTICE OF HEARING FOR TEMPORARY SPECIAL EVENT ALCOHOL LICENSE

Notice is hereby given accord-

ing to SDCL 35-2, a Public Hearing on the following Temporary Special Event Alcohol License Application for Richmond Lake Association will be held on June 9, 2026 in the Chambers of the Brown County Commissioners, in the Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota, at which time any interested persons wishing to register complaint on their approval may appear.

Richmond Lake Association, Aberdeen, SD for 4th of July Celebration to be held at Richmond Pavilion, Richmond Resort Outlot 2 in the NE ¼ Section 25-T124N-R65W Brown County, SD. Temporary Special Event Alcohol License effective July 3, 2026.

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published May 27, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$10.05 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 26847

“Adverse Childhood Experiences: From Public Health Crisis to Clinical Opportunity”

Since the landmark 1998 study conducted by the CDC and Kaiser Permanente, it has been understood that Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), traumatic events occurring before age 18, have a profound and lasting impact on adult health. These experiences, ranging from abuse and neglect to household dysfunction like substance misuse or mental illness, are remarkably common. Approximately 62% of adults have experienced at least one ACE, and one in six report four or more.





**By Christina Young**  
Director for the Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment

The evidence for a dose-response relationship between ACEs and negative health outcomes is striking. Individuals with high ACE scores (four or more) face significantly increased risks for nine of the ten leading causes of death in the United States. This includes a 2.1-fold increased risk of heart disease, 2.3-fold for cancer, and 3.1-fold for chronic lower respiratory disease. The impact on behavioral health is even more acute, with high ACE scores associated with a 4.7-fold increase in depression, a 10.2-fold increase in substance dependence, and a staggering 37.5-fold increase in suicide attempts.

The biological mechanism driving these outcomes is the toxic stress response. When significant adversity is experienced without the buffering protection of safe, stable relationships, it leads to prolonged activation of the body’s stress response systems. This disruption to neuro-endocrine-immune-metabolic (NEIM) function, alters gene expression via epigenetic markers, and accelerates cellular aging through the shortening of telomeres.

However, the most critical takeaway for clinicians is that ACEs are not destiny. The brain and body remain malleable throughout the life course, and targeted interventions can improve outcomes even for adults with high ACE scores. A modern clinical response requires moving beyond isolated medical treatments toward a multidisciplinary “Network of Care” that leverages the expertise of Community Health Workers (CHWs).

CHWs are essential mitigating factors because they are uniquely positioned to solve for social determinants of health (SDOH). Because ACEs often co-occur with challenges like housing instability, food insecurity, and economic hardship, CHWs help patients secure these basic needs. By addressing these external stressors, CHWs effectively lower the “cumulative dose” of adversity the patient experiences, which is necessary for the body to return to a state of homeostasis. Furthermore, as culturally congruent navigators, they build the trust needed to coach patients in self-care and “stress-busting” strategies.

Robust evidence suggests that seven key evidence-based strategies can mitigate NEIM disruptions and enhance neuroplasticity:

1. Supportive Relationships: Buffering stress through strong emotional connections.
2. Quality Sleep: Improving immune regulation through healthy sleep habits.
3. Balanced Nutrition: Counteracting pro-inflammatory states with anti-inflammatory diets.
4. Regular Physical Activity: Promoting neurogenesis and metabolic health.
5. Mindfulness Practices: Reducing stress hormones and improving emotional regulation.
6. Access to Nature: Lowering blood pressure and calming the stress response.
7. Mental and Behavioral Healthcare: Trauma-informed therapies to reverse cellular “wear and tear”.

Implementing trauma-informed care (TIC) allows providers to move the clinical inquiry from “What is wrong with you?” to “What happened to you?”. By recognizing toxic stress as a treatable health condition and utilizing CHWs to address underlying social needs, we can offer genuine healing. In doing so, we not only improve individual adult outcomes but also interrupt the intergenerational transmission of adversity, providing a healthier foundation for the next generation



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