

The Groton Independent

Vol. 143 No. 38 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, June 3, 2026 ♦ Established in 1889



From left, businessman Toby Doeden, Gov. Larry Rhoden and U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson speak at their respective watch parties on the night of the June 2, 2026, Republican governor primary election in South Dakota. (Photos by South Dakota Searchlight's Joshua Haiar, Meghan O'Brien and Makenzie Huber)

Doeden, Rhoden advance to GOP runoff; local legislative races decided

Groton Area graduate Toby Doeden finished first in Tuesday's Republican primary for governor but fell short of the 35% needed to avoid a runoff. With nearly all precincts reporting statewide, Doeden received 31% of the vote, followed by Gov. Larry Rhoden at 25%, U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson at 23%, and House Speaker Jon Hansen at 21%. As a result, Doeden and Rhoden will meet in a July 28 runoff election. Johnson, who opted not to seek another term in Congress, was eliminated from the race.

Doeden, a businessman and political newcomer, campaigned as an outsider and strong supporter of President Donald Trump while promoting a plan to eventually eliminate property taxes. Rhoden emphasized his record as governor since succeeding Kristi Noem in 2025. The winner of the Republican runoff will advance to the Nov. 3 general election against Democratic nominee Dan Ahlers.

In District 3 legislative races, incumbent State Sen. Katherine "Katie" Washnok won the Republican nomination with 2,508 votes (63%) over Carl Perry, who received 1,443 votes (37%). For the two District 3 House seats, Spencer Sommers led the field with 2,217 votes (32%), followed by Timothy Hanigan with 1,980 votes (29%). Al Novstrup received 1,598 votes (23%) and Kaleb Weis tallied 1,095 votes (16%). Sommers and Hanigan secured the Republican nominations.

Elsewhere, Republican voters selected Nick Fosness and Daniel Kjos for the two District 1 House seats. Fosness received 1,855 votes (30%), Kjos 1,664 votes (27%), Logan Manhart 1,398 votes (22%) and Keith Miller 1,355 votes (22%).

In federal races, U.S. Rep. Marty Jackley won the Republican nomination for South Dakota's lone U.S. House seat with 103,290 votes (79%), defeating James Bialota, who received 27,140 votes (21%). U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds easily won renomination with 101,471 votes (76%) compared to 32,412 votes (24%) for challenger Justin McNeal.

In Brown County's Republican sheriff primary, Robert L. Weinmeister was the top vote-getter with 2,829 votes (48%), followed by Dan Kaiser with 1,928 votes (33%), incumbent Dave Lunzman with 821 votes (14%) and Linn Kamin with 267 votes (5%). Weinmeister was declared the winner.

Tracy wins state title, Tigers place ninth at Class A State Track Meet

Groton Area senior Keegen Tracy capped off an outstanding state track and field meet by winning a Class A state championship in the 400-meter dash, helping lead the Tigers to a tie for ninth place in the boys team standings at the SDHSAA State Track and Field Meet in Sioux Falls.

Tracy captured the state title in the 400 meters with a personal-best time of 49.54 seconds after posting a 49.67 in the preliminary round. The championship performance highlighted a meet in which Tracy scored in all three sprint events. He added fifth-place finishes in both the 100-meter dash (11.26) and 200-meter dash (22.89) after qualifying for the finals in each event.

The Tigers finished with 29 team points, tying Sioux Valley for ninth place in the Class A boys standings. Sioux Falls Christian won the team championship with 110 points, followed by Lennox with 78.5.

Distance standout Jayden Schwan also brought home hardware for Groton Area. The senior earned a third-place medal in the 3,200-meter run with a personal-record time of 9:40.14, shattering his previous best and earning six team points. Schwan also competed in the 800 meters, placing 19th in 2:04.18, and finished 13th in the 1,600-meter run in 4:38.28.

Groton Area's sprint medley relay team of Lincoln Krause, Jordan Schwan, Tracy and Jayden Schwan narrowly missed the podium's top three spots, finishing fourth in 3:37.27.



New light installed

Korbin Kucker (left in the bucket) and Teylor Diegel (right in bucket) were working on installing a new light at the corner of West Third Avenue and Garfield Street. Todd Gay, electric superintendent, is overseeing the work.



Senior Citizens plant flowers

Top left: Don Hoops and John Aldrich, Top right: Ruby Donovan. Bottom left: Ruby Donovan and Don Hoops. Bottom right: Don Hoops and Ruby Donovan. The Groton Area senior citizens planted flowers in the planters at the Groton Community Center. They had received a \$250 Thrivent Action grant for the project. (Photos courtesy John Aldrich)

Continues on Page 2

State Track

Continued from front

Other boys results included Ethan Kroll placing 14th in the triple jump with a leap of 40 feet, 8¼ inches. The 4x100 relay team of Krause, Jordan Schwan, J.J. Muller and Ryder Schwan finished 17th in 45.51. The 4x200 relay team of Krause, Jordan Schwan, Ethan Kroll and Ryder Schwan placed 20th in 1:34.87. The 4x400 relay squad of Kyson Kucker, Jordan Schwan, Ethan Kroll and Jace Johnson finished 19th in 3:38.36, while the 4x800 relay team of Kucker, Johnson, Ethan Kroll and Riley Shellenberger placed 19th in 8:58.48.

On the girls side, Groton Area accumulated 11 points to place in a tie for 17th in the team standings. Sioux Falls Christian dominated the field with 178 points to easily claim the Class A championship.

Rylee Dunker led the Tiger girls with an eighth-place medal in the javelin, recording a throw of 112 feet, 2 inches. Dunker’s point-scoring effort came on the opening day of competition and helped Groton secure a place in the team standings.

The Tigers’ 4x200-meter relay team of McKenna Tietz, Taryn Traphagen, Kella Tracy and Makenna Krause continued its record-breaking season by finishing fourth in the state finals with a time of 1:47.21. The quartet had earlier established a new school record during the preliminaries, clocking 1:45.88 to earn the second-fastest qualifying time.

The same foursome also earned a sixth-place finish in the 4x400 relay, posting a time of 4:10.31 after qualifying with a season-best 4:08.42 in the prelims.

Tietz added two more points for Groton Area with a seventh-place finish in the 300-meter hurdles. After running a personal-best 45.49 in the preliminaries, she crossed the finish line in 46.48 during the finals. Tietz also competed in the 100-meter hurdles, placing 15th in the preliminary round.

Sophomore Ryelle Gilbert turned in a pair of personal-record performances in the distance events. Gilbert finished 15th in the 800 meters with a school-record time of 2:22.55 and added an 11th-place finish in the 1,600 meters with another personal best of 5:25.72.

Additional girls results included a 10th-place finish in the 4x100 relay by Raquel Tracy, Kella Tracy, Dunker and Krause in 51.36. The sprint medley relay team of Krause, Traphagen, Kella Tracy and Gilbert placed 11th in 4:21.97.

With a state championship from Tracy, medals from Schwan and Dunker, and strong relay performances throughout the weekend, Groton Area concluded the season with one of its strongest overall showings at the Class A State Track and Field Meet.

Boy’s Division

Team Scores:

1. SF Christian 110, 2. Lennox 78.5, 3. Hill City 64, 4. Vermillion 51, 5. Madison 48, 6. Ethan/Parkston 40, 7. Deuel 38, 8. Milbank 34, 9. Groton Area 29, 9. Sioux Valley 29, 11. West Central 24, 12. Custer 23, 13. Tri-Valley 22, 14. Garretson 18, 14. Webster Area 18, 16. Winner 16, 17. Elkton-Lake Benton 15, 18. Baltic 12, 19. Dakota Valley 9, 20. Great Plains Lutheran 8, 20. Canton 8, 20. Mobridge-Pollock 8, 23. Aberdeen Roncalli 6, 23. Belle Fourche 6, 23. Scotland/Menno 6, 26. RC Christian 5, 26. Mount Vernon/Plankinton 5, 26. Lead-Deadwood 5, 26. Miller 5, 26. Todd County 5, 31. Wagner 4.5, 32. Dell Rapids 4, 32. St. Thomas More 4, 34. Clark/Willow Lake 3, 34. Elk Point-Jefferson 3, 34. Flandreau 3, 34. Stanley County 3, 34. Hot Springs 3, 39. Parker/Marion 2, 40. Florence/Henry 1, 40. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 1, 40. Hanson 1

* **100 Meters Class A - Finals:** 5. Keegen Tracy, 11.26
100 Meters Class A - Prelims: 6. Keegen Tracy, 11.09
* **200 Meters Class A - Finals:** 5. Keegen Tracy, 22.89
200 Meters Class A - Prelims: 5. Keegen Tracy, 22.82
* **400 Meters Class A - Finals:** 1. Keegen Tracy, 49.54aPB
400 Meters Class A - Prelims: 2. Keegen Tracy, 49.67
800 Meters Class A - Finals: 19. Jayden Schwan, 2:04.18
1600 Meters Class A - Finals: 13. Jayden Schwan, 4:38.28
* **3200 Meters Class A - Finals:** 3. Jayden Schwan, 9:40.14aPB
4x100 Relay Class A - Prelims: 17. Groton: (Lincoln Krause, Jordan Schwan, JJ Muller, Ryder Schwan), 45.51.
4x200 Relay Class A - Prelims: 20. Groton: (Lincoln Krause, Jordan Schwan, Ethan Kroll, Ryder Schwan), 1:34.87.
4x400 Relay Class A - Prelims: 19. Groton: (Kyson Kucker, Jordan Schwan, Ethan Kroll, Jace Johnson), 3:38.36.
4x800 Relay Class A - Finals: 19. Groton: (Kyson Kucker, Jace Johnson, Ethan Kroll, Riley Shellenberger), 8:58.48.
* **SMR 1600m - [200-200-400-800] Class A - Finals:** 4. Groton: (Lincoln Krause, Jordan Schwan, Keegen Tracy, Jayden Schwan), 3:37.27.

Triple Jump Class A - Finals: 14. Ethan Kroll, 40-08.25

Girl’s Division

Team Scores:

1. SF Christian 178, 2. Lennox 100, 3. Dakota Valley 58.83, 4. Elk Point-Jefferson 47, 5. Custer 36, 6. Belle Fourche 35.33, 7. Flandreau 32, 8. Parker/Marion 31, 9. Dell Rapids 29, 10. Clark/Willow Lake 25, 11. Hill City 20, 12. Chamberlain 17, 13. Sioux Valley 16.5, 14. Hot Springs 16, 14. Wagner 16, 16. Mahpiya Luta 12, 17. Britton-Hecla 11, 17. Groton Area 11, 19. Deuel 10, 20. Ethan/Parkston 9, 20. Mobridge-Pollock 9, 22. West Central 8, 22. Scotland/Menno 8, 24. Milbank 6.5, 25. Mount Vernon/Plankinton 6, 26. McCook Central/Montrose 5, 26. Tri-Valley 5, 28. Beresford 4.33, 29. Canton 4,

29. Garretson 4, 31. Madison 3.5, 32. Elkton-Lake Benton 3, 33. RC Christian 1, 33. St. Thomas More 1, 33. Vermillion 1.

800 Meters Class A - Finals: 15. Ryelle Gilbert, 2:22.55aPB
1600 Meters Class A - Finals: 11. Ryelle Gilbert, 5:25.72aPB
100m Hurdles - 33” / 0.838m Class A - Prelims: 15. McKenna Tietz, 16.29
* **300m Hurdles - 30” / 0.762m Class A - Finals:** 7. McKenna Tietz, 46.48
300m Hurdles - 30” / 0.762m Class A - Prelims: 3. McKenna Tietz, 45.49aPB
4x100 Relay Class A - Prelims: 10. Groton: (Raquel Tracy, Kella Tracy, Rylee Dunker, Makenna Krause), 51.36.
* **4x200 Relay Class A - Finals:** 4. Groton: (McKenna Tietz, Taryn Traphagen, Kella Tracy, Makenna Krause), 1:47.21.
4x200 Relay Class A - Prelims: 2. Groton: (McKenna Tietz, Taryn Traphagen, Kella Tracy, Makenna Krause), 1:45.88.
* **4x400 Relay Class A - Finals:** 6. Groton: (McKenna Tietz, Taryn Traphagen, Makenna Krause, Kella Tracy), 4:10.31.
4x400 Relay Class A - Prelims: 6. Groton: (McKenna Tietz, Taryn Traphagen, Makenna Krause, Kella Tracy), 4:08.42.
SMR 1600m - [200-200-400-800] Class A - Finals: 11. Groton: (Makenna Krause, Taryn Traphagen, Kella Tracy, Ryelle Gilbert), 4:21.97.
* **Javelin - 600g Class A - Finals:** 8. Rylee Dunker, 112-02.

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Senior Keegen Tracy is the state champion in the Class A 400m final. (Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)



McKenna Tietz is awarded 7th place in the 300m Hurdle finals. (Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)



Keegen Tracy is awarded 5th place in finals of the Class A 200m race. (Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)



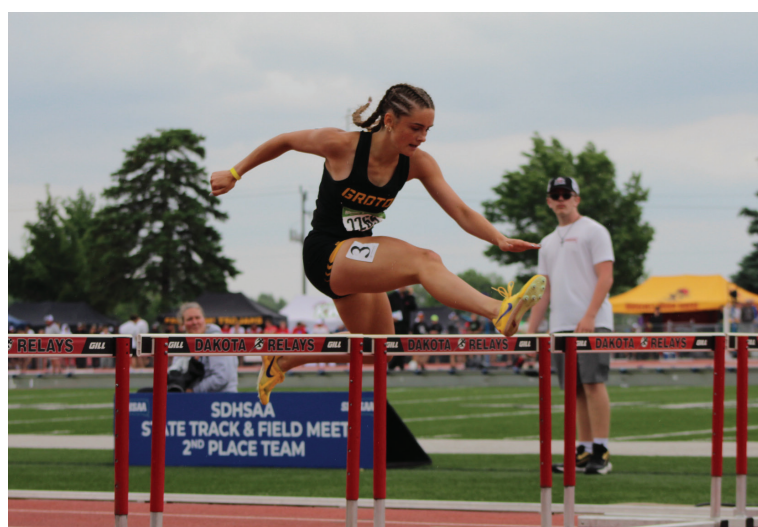
Senior Jayden Schwan receives 3rd place in the 3200m run. (Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)



Groton Area 4x400m relay team places 6th L-R McKenna Tietz, Kella Tracy, Taryn Traphagen, and Makenna Krause. (Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)



Groton Area girls 4x200m relay team placed 4th with McKenna Tietz, Taryn Traphagen, Kella Tracy, and anchoring Makenna Krause. (Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)



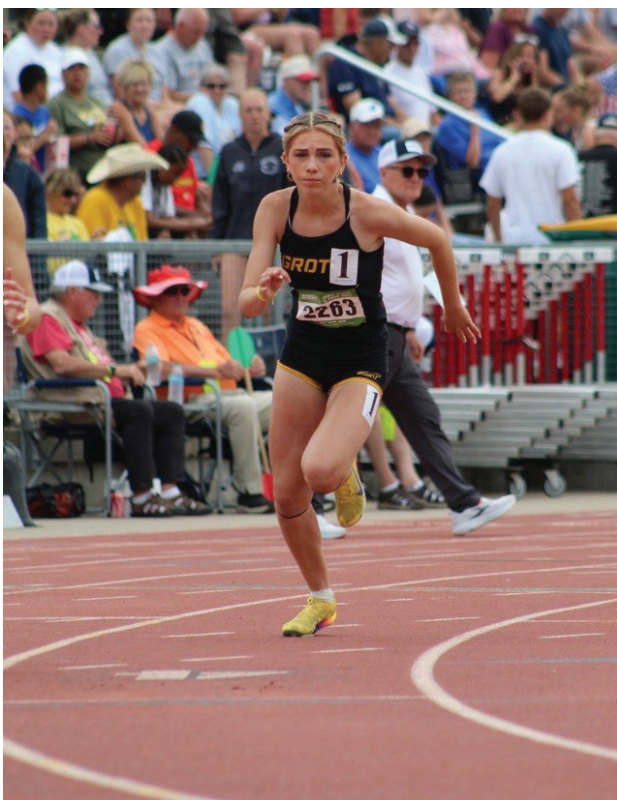
Hurdling ace McKenna Tietz places 7th in the 300m Hurdle finals. (Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)



Senior Rylee Dunker placed 8th in the girls Class A Javelin.
(Courtesy Photo Jodi Schwan)



The Boys 1600m Sprint Medley Relay team brought home a 4th place finish for the Tigers at the SDHSAA State A Track & Field Meet in Sioux Falls. The team of senior Jayden Schwan, senior Keegen Tracy, freshman Jordan Schwan and senior Lincoln Krause clocked a time of 3:37.27 while competing at a high level on the biggest stage in the state. (Photo from Groton Area Facebook Page)



Gilbert sets school record in 800m run

After 38 years, a new name stands atop the Groton Area girls' 800-meter run record board.

Groton Area sophomore Ryelle Gilbert broke the school record in the 800-meter run during the SDHSAA Class A State Track and Field Meet, posting a time of 2:22.55. Gilbert surpassed the previous mark of 2:22.98, set by Stephanie Herseth in 1988.

The record-breaking performance capped an impressive journey to the state meet. Gilbert earned her state berth after making a special trip to a last-chance meet in Arlington, where she improved her time enough to qualify. She was able to make the trip thanks to her grandfather, Gene Loeschke, who drove her to the meet. (Photo from Groton Area facebook page)



800m Relay Team sets school record

The Groton Area girls' 4x200-meter relay team has done it again!

Competing Friday at the SDHSAA State A Track & Field Meet in Sioux Falls, Makenna Krause, Kella Tracy, Taryn Traphagen and McKenna Tietz delivered another record-breaking performance.

The Tiger quartet raced to a second-place finish in the preliminaries with a blazing time of 1:45.88, shattering their own school record of 1:46.87 by nearly a full second.

Schwan sets school record in 3200m run

Groton Area senior Jayden Schwan races toward a third-place finish in the Class A boys 3200-meter run Friday at the SDHSAA State Track and Field



Meet in Sioux Falls. Schwan earned the bronze medal with a personal-record time of 9:40.14, improving his previous best by more than 24 seconds and lowering the school record he set earlier this season. (Photo from Groton Area facebook page)



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The Minnesota Vikings kicked off their Organized Team Activities (OTAs) last week, and even though they are voluntary, nearly every member of the team was present and accounted for. There are some big story lines to follow, starting with the quarterback position, and we'll get into that shortly.

However, the big news coming out of Minnesota is that the Vikings finally hired their new GM, nabbing Nolan Teasley, the Seahawks' Assistant General Manager who is coming off a Super Bowl victory. It's been reported that Rob Bryzinski will go back to the operations side after acting as the interim GM this offseason.

If you recall, Kwesi Adofo-Mensah was fired nearly a month after the season ended, and the Wilfs decided to postpone the GM search until after the draft. It was unorthodox timing, but it might end up being a blessing in disguise for Teasley. Most GMs are hired and immediately scramble to get ready for a free agency period and draft that's right around the corner. Teasley, on the other hand, will have plenty of time to properly evaluate

the roster and coordinate with the coaching staff.

One of the things we see in football is teams hiring someone who is the opposite of the person they are replacing. This GM hire is no different. Kwesi was an analytics guy who came from a stock-trading background rather than a football one. Teasley, on the other hand, played football at Central Washington and got his start in the NFL as an intern in 2013, making his way up through the scouting ranks.

- The juxtaposition between the Vikings and Seahawks in recent years can't be ignored.
- Kwesi decided against bringing back Sam Darnold, then watched him go to Seattle and lead them to a Super Bowl victory.
 - Kwesi made 28 draft selections from 2022-2025, and none of those players have made the Pro Bowl. The Seahawks, on the other hand, had six Pro Bowl selections and a First-Team All-Pro in that same time frame.
 - The Vikings didn't win a playoff game during Kwesi's tenure. The Seahawks are coming off a Super Bowl victory.

Ultimately, the goal of every GM is to put together a roster and staff that can win a Super Bowl. Kwesi just wasn't getting it done. Now it's Teasley's turn to try and bring that ever-elusive Super Bowl trophy to the land of 10,000 lakes.

News and Notes

The Vikings signed wide receiver Jauan Jennings, who had spent the last five years in San Francisco. Unlike Justin Jefferson and Jordan Addison, Jennings is a big-bodied WR who can bully defenders and block in the run game. He

instantly comes in as the WR3 and gives the Vikings flexibility in their play calling.

Like I mentioned earlier, the Vikings have kicked off OTAs. The single biggest story I'll be watching closely is the quarterback competition. J.J. McCarthy, the 10th overall pick in the 2024 draft, will be competing with newly acquired Kyler Murray, the 1st overall pick in 2019. Early indication is that Murray looks significantly better so far.

One thing that really stood out to me was the difference in how each QB handled their press conferences. Kyler was calm and confident. J.J. was frazzled. Even though McCarthy was saying the right things, it was clear that the pressure was starting to get to him. I highly encourage you to check out both press conferences on the Vikings' YouTube channel.

Another big story I'll be keeping my eye on is the roster construction. Many of the Vikings cuts this offseason were given a post-June designation, which allowed the Vikings to spread out the dead cap. Now that June is here, some cap space will become available,

which the new GM can use to bring in players to round out the roster. I wouldn't be surprised to see the Vikings bring in someone to compete at center, as well as a player or two for the defensive backfield.

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King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

ERIC	DOH	RASP
DASH	ERA	ARTI
ARIA	MENIS	CUS
MENTH	HOL	RHODA
TAN	BOA	
MERYL	MENDING	
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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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- 1 Idle of Monty Python
5 Homer's lament
8 Grate
12 Sprint
13 Geological period
14 Intro studio class
15 Met melody
16 Knee cartilage
18 Cough drop flavor
20 Valerie Harper sitcom
21 Light brown
22 Fluffy neck-piece
23 Strep of "The Post"
26 Patching up
30 Lab eggs
31 Witty one
32 Wrigley product
33 Proteges
36 Accra's country
38 Stein filler
39 Zadora of "Hairspray"
40 Huge success
43 H.L. — (The Sage of Baltimore)
47 Cites
49 Comic actor Danny

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54 GI's address
55 Marsh plant
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9 With the bow, musically
10 Poker type
11 Galileo's birthplace
17 Pressing need
19 Actor Linden
22 Plead
23 Soccer —
24 Prior night
25 Campaigned
26 More, to Manuel
27 Polish tennis star Swiatek
28 Convent head
29 "Today" rival, briefly
31 Pint-sized
34 Flavors
35 K thru 12
36 Tom Collins liquor
37 Website invader
39 Green sauce
40 Urban haze
41 Apportion
42 Shortly
43 L-Q bridge
44 Designer Spade
45 Literary Jane
46 Must have
48 British singer Rita

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2 Exceptional
3 "The doctor —"
4 Talkative
5 Fiend
6 Pitcher
7 Solo in space

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State Girls Golf Meet



Carlee Johnson and Claire Schuelke are participating in the state golf meet in Sioux Falls. Johnson finished tied at 30 and Schuelke finished at 68th place. (Courtesy Photo)

☆	T30	Carlee Johnson <i>Groton Area</i>										+29		87		82		169				
Tue, June 2 Two Rivers Golf Club (FRONT - Ladies)																						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
Tue, June 2 - Carlee Johnson		4	6	4	5	3	5	3	4	7	41	7	5	3	4	5	4	4	4	5	41	82
Mon, June 1 Two Rivers Golf Club (MIDDLE - Ladies)																						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
Mon, June 1 - Carlee Johnson		4	6	6	5	5	4	4	5	5	44	6	5	3	5	5	4	6	3	6	43	87
Starting Hole Eagle or Better Birdie Par Bogey Double Bogey or Worse																						

	68	Claire Schuelke <i>Groton Area</i>					+69					101					108					209
Tue, June 2 <i>Two Rivers Golf Club (FRONT - Ladies)</i>																						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
Tue, June 2 - Claire Schuelke		6	11	5	7	6	7	4	3	5	54	8	8	5	5	5	5	6	5	7	54	108
Mon, June 1 <i>Two Rivers Golf Club (MIDDLE - Ladies)</i>																						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
Mon, June 1 - Claire Schuelke		6	7	7	7	7	4	4	5	8	55	6	6	4	5	4	5	6	4	6	46	101
Starting Hole Eagle or Better Birdie Par Bogey Double Bogey or Worse																						

Groton baseball teams stay busy with victories across multiple levels

It was a busy week on the diamond for Groton baseball teams, highlighted by a pair of Senior Legion victories over Sisseton, a dominant Junior Legion shutout of Clark Area, a split for the 14U squad against Britton, and an offensive explosion by Groton Locke Electric in amateur baseball action.

The Groton Legion Post 39 senior team rebounded from a 6-1 loss to Clark/Willow Lake on Sunday by sweeping a doubleheader from Sisseton on Tuesday.

Against Clark/Willow Lake, Groton managed just four hits. T.C. Schuster led the offense by going 2-for-3, while Alex Abeln drove in the team’s lone run. Jarrett Erdmann struck out five over 5 1/3 innings on the mound.

On Tuesday, Groton earned a 1-0 victory in the opener behind a masterful performance from Gavin Englund. The right-hander tossed a complete-game one-hit shutout, striking out seven batters over seven innings. The game’s lone run came in the fifth inning when Carter Simon launched a solo home run to left field. Simon finished 2-for-3 at the plate as Groton made the slim advantage stand up.

The nightcap featured considerably more drama.

Trailing 5-0 early, Groton rallied with a six-run fifth inning before securing an 8-7 walk-off victory. Jordan Schwan enjoyed a perfect day at the plate, collecting four hits, including a game-winning RBI double in the bottom of the seventh inning. Jarrett Erdmann delivered a key three-run triple during Groton’s comeback, while Lincoln Krause added a two-run double. Karsten Fliehs earned the victory with three scoreless innings of relief.



Alex Abeln, pitching first game vs Britton while Kason Oswald is catching in the Groton Junior Legion game. (Courtesy Photo Bruce Babcock)

The Junior Legion squad also turned in an impressive performance Sunday, blanking Clark Area 10-0 in five innings.

Groton exploded for seven runs in the first inning and never looked back. Jordan Schwan collected three hits and drove in two runs, while Braden Fliehs paced the offense with three RBIs. Ryder Schelle contributed a two-run double during the opening inning outburst. Kason Oswald earned the win, allowing just two hits over five scoreless innings while striking out five. Groton finished with 12 hits and committed no errors.

The Groton Post 39 14U team split a pair of games with Britton before dropping both ends of a twin bill to Sisseton.

Against Britton, Groton fell 4-1 in the opener despite solid pitching from Easton L., who allowed only one earned run over 3 1/3 innings. Keegan Kucker drove in Groton’s lone run.

The second game belonged to Groton as Post 39 rolled to a 14-3 victory. The team scored five runs in the second inning to take control and finished with 11 walks. Trayce Schelle and Hank Hill each recorded two hits, while Trayce Schelle and Asher Zimmerman drove in two runs apiece. Keegan Kucker tossed 1 1/3 innings of scoreless relief and struck out four.

Sisseton proved more challenging the following day, posting 8-4 and 13-6 victories.

In the opener, Sisseton built an early lead and held Groton to two hits. Knox Mulder and Bentley Ehresmann accounted for the hits, while Keegan Kucker drove in a run.

The nightcap saw Groton grab an early 3-0 lead before Sisseton erupted for nine runs in the fourth inning to turn the game around. Keegan Kucker and Asher Zimmerman each collected two hits for Groton, while Trayce Schelle, Asher Zimmerman, Graham Rose, Easton Larson, and Keegan Kucker each recorded an RBI.

In amateur baseball action, Groton Locke Electric overwhelmed Ramona Express 29-1 behind a barrage of offense.

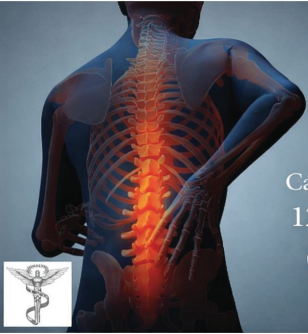
Ty Sieber powered the attack with two home runs and six RBIs. Nick Morris drove in seven runs, while Bradin Althoff homered and collected four hits. Ryan Groebelinghoff and Brevin Fliehs also recorded four hits apiece as Groton piled up 23 hits and drew 12 walks.

Palmer Boyd earned the win on the mound, striking out six over two scoreless innings. Groton scored 11 runs in the second inning, eight in the third and eight more in the fourth while cruising to the victory.

Alex Abeln at 3rd base with Wesley Borg looking on from 2nd. (Courtesy Photo Bruce Babcock)



Hank Hill pitching for the Groton 14U Legion team against Britton. (Courtesy Photo Tara Hill)



Groton Chiropractic Clinic

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



605/397-2311

www.grotonford.com

Groton Independent ♦ Wed., June 3, 2026 ♦ 5



MAY 19, 2026 – GENERAL MEETING

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Chairman Sutton shared that agreement with 605 Consulting for grant research and writing services was being postponed. Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Dennert to approve the amended agenda. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None
GROW SD RECAP & BUDGET REQUEST: Kelly Weaver and Rachael Cramond with Grow, SD met with the Commission to give a recap of the services provided in 2025 to Brown County residents. Some of these services include Active Business Lending, Active Housing Loans, Home Improvements, Weatherization/Furnace, Rent/Utilities, Emergency Services including Food Pantry, Small Business Development Center and Governors Homes. Rachael shared about the Increment Grants for Technical Assistance to Businesses in Rural Locations, also. Their budget request for 2027 is \$5,000.00. No action taken at this time.

FAIR BOARD APPOINTMENT: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Gage to approve the recommendation from the Brown County Fair Board to appoint Katie Kroger to the Brown County Fair Board. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

APPLICATIONS FOR OCCUPANCY: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Gage to approve the following application submitted by Basin Construction & Drain Tile for occupancy of 391st Ave. in Section SE 33-T121N-R63W, Brown County, SD to install drain tile. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dinger to approve the following application submitted by LTS Managed Technical Services LLC for occupancy of Brown County #21 in Section 13-T122N-R61W, Brown County, SD to restore fiber optic infrastructure. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent, informed the Commission that they are still working on the Richmond Dam detour but are delayed due to weather. Tuesday, May 26th they will begin on 14E crossing and they will be putting up stop lights during the 2 week period. Roosevelt and 8th Ave will be closed but will have the junction at Co. Rd. 19 and 8th Ave. open before they close that, so they are able to get out of the Highway Shop. Contractors are hauling material to Sand Land Bridge. They are still paving and patching. Dirk also mentioned they are monitoring the water situation with Foote Creek and explained what happened in the past when they put in 12W. Rod Tobin was in attendance and added that West Lake and the City of Aberdeen have a joint agreement to clean-out the ditch to help improve the flow on the east side of the 281 Byrum and reestablish the channel to help water flow better.

RC KART CONTRACT: Rachel Kippley, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager, stated that they are updating the lease contract with Dakota Slidewayz, LLC, for RC Track. Rachel met with them and the Fairgrounds is going to give them additional electrical and they were good with the terms. Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the 5-year lease agreement with Dakota Slidewayz, LLC for leasing the RC track and the 160 ft. by 160 ft. parcel east of the track for parking during events through September 2030. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FAIR/FAIRGROUNDS DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Rachel Kippley, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager, informed the Commission that she met with the Aberdeen Karting Club, and they are looking at discontinuing due to dwindling

participation and there are only 3 karting tracks left in S.D., so when ours closes there is one in Miller and one in Brookings still open. It was recommended to get written notice of terminating the contract with Brown County from the Karting Club. Rachel shared that the Aberdeen Public Schools are donating 2 ticket booths to the Fairgrounds, not sure where they will be putting them at this point. The cattle sheds donated by Linda Krage are to be arriving today. Also, still hiring for Fair Week so if anyone is interested, please apply through HR Department.

SPEED LIMIT ON BROWN COUNTY (BC) HWY 13 DISCUSSION: Rod Tobin met with the Commission on behalf of the residents of Rolling Meadows, not their legal counsel, to share their concerns regarding the speed limit on BC Hwy 13 and provided petitions that the residents had signed. They would like to request the Commission to consider lowering the speed limit along 130th Street to 45 mph due to allowing truck traffic to maintain speeds of 55 mph or greater as they pass their two subdivision entrances on 130th Street, now HAPI division is adding traffic due to detour and since the Commission already decreased to 45 mph at the East end of 130th St. past Prairiewood. Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent, shared that they did a speed study from April 16-20, 2026 but load limits were on at that time. 85% of the people were driving at the speed limit or less, average speed was 54.4 with a total of 3100 total cars. They would need to do a Speed Study to get more accurate data but that would cost around 50 thousand dollars. They could possibly lower it for 2 miles. Sheriff Lunzman added that he requested the number of accidents from the State but hadn't received anything yet. He also stated that it is hard to stop trucks or vehicles on that stretch due to safety or causing more issues. Sheriff Lunzman just asked that they don't piece mail this because that will only cause more accidents. James Meyers asked them to install a Stop Sign on detour from HAPI onto BC 13. Commissioner Gage asked what issue they are trying to solve, and Rod says to try to avoid a semi hitting a car full of kids, this is purely preventative since the road is getting busier so just bringing this to your attention. Commissioner Gage shared that he travels on this road all the time and it is more on the drivers that are pulling out in front of the semis. Chairman Sutton shared that this was put on the agenda for discussion and since waiting for more information, we will look into it and take it into consideration. No action taken at this time.

RICHMOND DAM UPDATE: Chairman Sutton informed everyone that he had contacted Commissioner Brock Greenfield with S.D. School & Public Lands to keep Brown County informed about the Richmond Dam Project so that the Commission could share any updates throughout the project. So, this will be on the weekly agenda and so we can pass on any information as it is provided. Currently, the pumps are pumping water out of the lake and there are concerns of Foote Creek spreading. The water flows to the Moccasin Creek then into the Jim River. Scott Bader, Planning & Zoning Director shared that the Archery Club is getting hit hard due to releasing so much water at once. They plan to keep it 1 foot below the flood stage but at the gauging station it went from 4.3 to 8.4 in one day. Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent, stated they are pumping 800 gallons/second. Hoping this is the highest level or peak for the water level. Commissioner Dinger and Dennert reminded everyone that the contractor just got the permit from the State of S.D. and this is the fastest they have seen approved funding go to execution.

ORDINANCE #324 – FIRST READING: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Gage to approve the First Reading of Proposed Ordinance #324. Applicant Shawn & Melissa Schultz to rezone from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its current use: Description of property: Lot 3, "Jones 2nd Subdivision" in the SE1/4 of Section 22-T123N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (39756 134th Street, Bath Twp.). All members present voting ay. Motion carried.

HKG ARCHITECTS AGREEMENT: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to approve and authorize Chairman

Sutton to sign the agreement with HKG Architects for the Brown County Detention Center Project. Bob Schatz asked about reviewing the plans and timeline for this project. Chairman Sutton stated that the plans will not be released due to security reasons, put could share the timeline once they receive more information. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve the General Meeting Minutes of May 12, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to approve the following Claims/Payroll. Claims: Insurance: Insurance Plus \$549.32. Professional Fees: Aberdeen ED \$1,228.18; Avera St. Luke's Hospital \$1,343.75; Bill Schaefer \$30.00; Brick's TV and Appliance \$2,070.00; Certified Languages International LLC \$1,549.35; Darrin Olson \$43.00; Dependable Sanitation, Inc \$37,162.00; Fox Law Firm, PLLC \$222.00; HKG Architects Inc \$26,000.00; IMEG Corp \$200.00; Lewis & Clark BHS \$675.00; Lincoln County Auditor \$334.99; Northern Plains Psychological Associates, LLC \$225.00; Priority Dispatch Corp \$8,288.00; Sanford Clinic \$16,304.81; Taliaferro Law Firm, PC \$7,595.90; Valerie Larson \$30.00; Yankton County Sheriff's Office \$50.00. Publishing: Groton Daily Independent \$488.58; McQuillen Creative Group, Inc \$2,182.34; Midstates Group \$3,191.50. Rentals: Advantage Self Storage \$276.00. Repairs & Maintenance: C Express Inc \$12.00; CommTech Inc \$600.00; Crawford M S & F Inc \$4,784.27; EcoLab Pest Elimination Division \$165.33; Gary's Auto Body & Accessories \$157.50; HF Jacobs & Son Const. Inc \$770.26; Leidholt Electric, LLC \$135.85; Otis Elevator Company \$350.00; Pierson Ford Lincoln, Inc \$190.00; Pomp's Tire Service, Inc \$104.00. Supplies & Materials: ADAPCO LLC \$4,498.00; Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$873.14; Avera LTC Pharmacy \$1,763.50; Black Book \$279.64; Century Business Products \$1,243.02; Cole Paper Inc \$499.80; Crawford M S & F Inc \$9,044.75; Dakota Electronics LLC \$1,320.50; East Side Jersey Dairy Inc \$1,656.21; Fox Law Firm, PLLC \$3.57; Gary's Auto Body & Accessories \$137.80; Geffdog Designs \$3,000.00; Hillyard Sioux Falls \$54.57; Leidholt Electric, LLC \$156.58; Lien Transportation Company \$50,853.15; Marco Technologies, LLC \$23.34; Menards \$197.97; Midstates Group \$100.00; Midwest Pump & Tank \$15.00; Mike Janes \$49.45; Newman Signs, Inc \$98.30; Pauer Sound, LLC \$1,700.00; Performance Oil \$276.25; Pierson Ford Lincoln, Inc \$202.50; Pomp's Tire Service, Inc \$635.08; Premier Biotech Labs, Inc \$624.64; Pro Ag Supply, Inc \$73.09; Quality Welding, Inc \$45.04; Runnings \$46.99; Safety Service, Inc \$522.41; Steven Lust Automotive \$266.48; Van Diest Supply Company \$17,352.25. Travel & Conference: American National Red Cross & Its Constituent Chapters & Branches \$1,924.50; Austin Ball \$19.00; John Andersen \$16.00; Michael Wiese \$289.05; Neil Bittner \$19.00; Patricia VanMeter \$240.70; Scott Kolb \$19.00. Utilities: CenturyLink \$505.98; City of Aberdeen Treasurer \$962.45; City of Hecla \$207.63; Northern Electric \$117.50; Northwestern Energy \$143.79; NVC \$2,753.95; Verizon Wireless \$460.29. Payroll: Commission \$5,165.81; Elections \$5,668.57; Auditor/Welfare \$12,276.97; Treasurer \$20,852.59; SA \$38,149.14; Public Defender \$14,589.46; Maintenance \$13,676.35; Assessor \$17,520.48; Register of Deeds \$11,511.06; VSO \$5,006.26; GIS \$3,110.76; IT \$10,766.94; HR \$5,721.14; Sheriff \$60,487.46; Jail \$75,499.94; Coroner (Voucher) \$1,000.00; Court Security \$8,823.84; JDC \$33,023.39; Museum \$14,214.85; Parks/Fairgrounds \$8,159.46; Fair Board \$4,858.36; 4-H \$881.60; Weed \$5,969.62; Planning & Zoning \$8,510.51; Highway \$50,216.76; Dispatch \$33,802.12; Emergency \$5,805.33; 24/7 Sobriety \$2,944.30; Landfill \$19,715.97; Meal Benefits \$95.00; FICA \$29,455.07; Medicare \$6,888.68; HSA \$2,412.04. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

o Resignation of Jesse Hernandez as Brown County Seasonal Fairgrounds worker, PT; effective May 13, 2026. Request

to fill.

o Hiring of Lola Sandoz as Brown County Jail Detention Officer, FT; starting wage \$22.59/hr-effective May 19, 2026.

o Hiring of Yokselin Garcia-Garcia as Brown County Jail Detention Officer, FT; starting wage \$22.59/hr. – effective May 20, 2026.

o Hiring of Madison Miller as Brown County 911 Communications Officer, FT; starting wage \$23.73/hr. – effective June 8, 2026.

o Hiring of Kelly Billeter as Brown County 911 Communications Officer, FT; starting wage \$23.73/hr. – effective July 13, 2026.

o Hiring of Jackson Bahr as Brown County Highway Seasonal worker, PT; starting wage \$18.00/hr. – effective May 18, 2026.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

PRIMARY WORKERS: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve the Primary Election workers as presented. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

TEMPORARY SPECIAL EVENT ALCOHOL LICENSE PERMIT HEARING FOR RICHMOND LAKE ASSOCIATION: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Gage to authorize advertising public hearing for the following Special Event Alcohol License Permit: 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 on June 9, 2026. (Special Event Alcohol License effective July 3, 2026). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LEASE AGREEMENTS: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Dennert to approve and authorize Chairman to sign the following Lease Agreements: Brown County 4-H for lease of Competitive Exhibits Building on June 18, 2026 for 4-H Project Day; Brown County 4-H for lease of Hog & Sheep Barn on July 21, 2026 for 4-H Showmanship Workshop; Titan Machinery for lease of Clubhouse on July 11, 2026 for Employee Appreciation; Heather Scheidt for lease of Clubhouse on June 4-7, 2027 for a wedding. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

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

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

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Dennert to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:57 A.M. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published June 3 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$146.47 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26878



NOTICE

An application has been made by James Arneson to the Brown County Board of Commissioners for a change of zoning. Hearing to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota on June 16, 2026 for the purpose of rezoning the following property from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring these parcels into compliance for their current use.

Description of property: Proposed Lots 1 & 2, "Arneson Addition" in the NE1/4 of Section 35-T126N-R64W of the 5th P.M. Brown County, South Dakota (11715 387th Avenue; Oneota Twp.).

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the amendment to the Second Revision Brown County Ordinances pertaining to rezoning the property described. At conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt

the first reading of Ordinance No. 325.

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published June 3, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$12.57 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26880



NOTICE

An application has been made by Katherine Osterman/Eric Olson to the Brown County Board of Commissioners for a change of zoning. Hearing to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota on June 16, 2026 for the purpose of rezoning the following property from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its current use.

Description of property: "Johnson's Outlot 1" in the SW1/4 of Section 15-T123N-R61W of the 5th P.M. Brown County, South Dakota (40310 133rd Street, Henry Twp.).

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the amendment to the Second Revision Brown County Ordinances pertaining to rezoning the property described. At conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt the first reading of Ordinance No. 326.

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published June 3, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$12.57 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26881



NOTICE

An application has been made by TC Wright Trust to the Brown County Board of Commissioners for a change of zoning. Hearing to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota on June 16, 2026 for the purpose of rezoning the following property from Heavy Industrial District (H-I) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its current use.

Description of property: Proposed Lot 2, "Specialty-Wright Addition" in the W1/2 of Section 8-T123N-R62W of the 5th P.M. Brown County, South Dakota (13146 395th Avenue; Bath Twp.).

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the amendment to the Second Revision Brown County Ordinances pertaining to rezoning the property described. At conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt the first reading of Ordinance No. 327.

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published June 3, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$12.25 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26882



NOTICE OF HEARING

A PETITION to REZONE has been submitted to Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission. A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex on June 16, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.

Petitioner: Stanley & Carol Gage

Description of property: Proposed Lot 1, "Zemlicka Addition" in the NE1/4 of Section 12-T124N-R64W of the 5th P.M. Brown County, South Dakota (12541 388th Avenue; Lincoln Twp.).

Reason: Rezone parcel from

Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its future use.

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

Dated this 3rd day of June 2026.

Planning/Zoning Commission and

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

Published June 3, 2026 in the "Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$15.71 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26889



NOTICE OF HEARING

Application has been made to the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission for a CONDITIONAL USE PETITION (CUP). A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, on June 16, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.

Petitioner: Ledcor (LTS Telecommunications)

Legal description of property: The NE1/4 of Section 10-T125N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (approx. 38593 119th Street, Westport Twp.)

Reason: A Conditional Use Petition (CUP) to construct 2 utility equipment shelters in an Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P).

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

Dated this 3rd day of June 2026.

Planning/Zoning Commission and

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

Published June 3, 2026 in the "Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$13.20 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26883



NOTICE OF HEARING

Application has been made to the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission for a VARIANCE PETITION. A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, on June 16, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.

Petitioner / Owner: Nathan Wright

Description of property: Lot 1, "L and J Fliehs First Addition" in the NE1/4 of the NE1/4 of Section 22-T125N-R60W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (12105 410th Avenue, Claremont Township).

Reason: Variance to Setbacks in a Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to allow an (East) Front Yard Setback of 40' rather than the 100' setback required by Brown County Ordinance 4.0706 to build a new house.

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

Dated this 3rd day of June 2026.

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

Published June 3, 2026 in the "Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$13.51 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26886



MAY 26, 2026 – GENERAL MEETING

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: Corey Sauerwein with Comstock Construction, Inc., shared that they are a new Full Service General Contracting Company in Aberdeen. They also have locations in Wahpeton, ND, Fargo, ND and Fergus Falls, MN. They have done work from commercial services to healthcare facilities and more. Looking forward to having the opportunity to possibly work with Brown County. There office is located at 717 385th Ave. South (old Harley Davidson Building).

RICHMOND DAM UPDATE: Chairman Sutton shared a text message he received from Commission Brock Greenfield on the Richmond Dam Project: the pumps started out brining down the lake at approximately 4"/day, which will accelerate as the pool becomes more shallow. Last week, they were at 1357' elevation, so they're probably approaching 1355' by now. Journey drives downstream roads regularly to monitor the water levels in Foot and Moccasin Creeks. Last Friday, they throttled the pumps back a bit.

One concern they found out from a lake resident is people going out there to see what's going on. He has received pictures of kids climbing around on pipes, and a man posing in front of the pipes. Wants to emphasize this is an active construction zone and could be dangerous, so people should not be accessing this area and climbing around on the pipes and things.

Commissioner Dinger asked Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent, to give us an update on the detour bypass. He shared they are working on the west 2 miles today, putting down oil; then on Thursday will do the first layer of chip sealing on the 4 east/west miles.

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the General Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Claims: Professional Fees: Ace Refrigeration, LLC \$137.70; Avera St. Luke's Hospital \$1,181.37; Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$2,689.20; IMEG Corp \$16,823.18; Joseph Keough \$43.00; Kuck Law Office \$2,873.10; Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC \$3,141.50; Sanford Health \$756.00; SD Dept of Health \$2,085.00; Spray Sync \$2,120.00; Tammy Stolle Court Reporting \$111.55; TJ Counseling \$2,500.00; William A. Moss, Psy.D., LLC \$2,500.00; US Bank \$442.28. Publishing: Groton Daily Independent \$86.53; US Bank \$39.83. Repairs & Maintenance: B&B Contracting, Inc \$675.00; Chemtek, Inc \$280.56; HF Jacobs & Son Const. Inc \$7,367.89; House of Glass \$1,234.50; Olympic Sales, Inc \$1,974.27; Otis Elevator Company \$3,314.64; Ultimate Upholstery Solutions, LLC \$300.00; US Bank \$1,278.33. Supplies & Materials: A-1 Locksmithing \$99.00; AgTegra Cooperative \$3,379.86; Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$658.99; Century Business Products \$129.03; Chemtek, Inc \$1,430.60; Cole Paper Inc \$3,276.69; Dakota Electronics LLC \$110.00; Dakota Supply Group \$17,587.73; Geffdog Designs \$305.60; HF Jacobs & Son Const. Inc \$662.00; House of Glass \$1,292.39; Jebro Inc \$30,463.10; Jensen Rock & Sand Inc \$252.59; Kuck Law Office \$76.72; Menards \$362.18; Midstates Group \$346.00; Performance Oil \$739.37; Republic National Distributing Co. LLC \$730.50; Ultimate Upholstery Solutions, LLC \$603.32; US Bank \$14,430.57. Travel & Conference: Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC \$80.00; Sarah Jesz \$333.80; US Bank \$4,490.62. Utilities:

City of Aberdeen Treasurer \$86.92; Dependable Sanitation, Inc \$652.00; Montana-Dakota Utilities Co \$38.13; Northwestern Energy \$4,255.41; T-Mobile USA Inc \$1,593.70; US Bank \$4,137.35. Other: US Bank \$108.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

o Resignation of William Esser as Brown County Jail Detention Officer; FT; effective May 21, 2026. Request to fill.

o Resignation of Elizabeth Hovendick as Brown County Deputy Treasurer, FT; effective June 5, 2026. Request to fill.

o Amendment to HR Report of April 14, 2026; adjusted hire date for Brown County Fair/4-H Summer Intern Addisyn Henrich from May 19, 2026 to June 1, 2026.

o Amendment to HR Report of May 5, 2026; adjusted resignation date for Brown County Jail Detention Officer, Emily Jacobs from May 15, 2026 to May 18, 2026.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LEASE AGREEMENTS: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Dennert to approve and authorize Chairman to sign the following Lease Agreements: S.D. Dressage Association for lease of the Akkerman Open Horse Arena on July 25, 2026; Aberdeen Area Veterans, Inc. (AAVI) to lease 4 People Movers on July 4, 2026; I Heart Cookies Co. to lease Expo Building Parking Lot on May 30, 2026; Approve Alcohol Permission Slip for Jennifer Tichi for July 17-20, 2026 at Clubhouse. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

TRAVEL REQUESTS: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to approve the following Travel Requests: Mike Rohrbach & Jerry Lehrkamp, Weed & Pest to attend Annual Weed & Pest Conference; Chris Hemen, Mike Rohrbach & Jerry Lehrkamp, Weed & Pest to attend Annual Weed & Pest Field Day. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ZONING ORDINANCES-SET HEARING DATE/AUTHORIZE ADVERTISING: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to set hearing date and authorize publication for the first reading of the following zoning ordinances to be held on June 16, 2026 in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota. Proposed Ordinance #325, applicant James Arneson for the purpose of rezoning from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring these parcels into compliance for their current use: Description of property: Proposed Lots 1 & 2, "Arneson Addition" in the NE1/4 of Section 35-T126N-R64W of the 5th P.M. Brown County, South Dakota (11715 387th Avenue; Oneota Twp.). Proposed Ordinance #326, applicants Katherine Osterman/ Eric Olson for the purpose of rezoning from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its current use: Description of property: "Johnson's Outlot 1" in the SW1/4 of Section 15-T123N-R61W of the 5th P.M. Brown County, South Dakota (40310 133rd Street, Henry Twp.). Proposed Ordinance #327, applicant TC Wright Trust for the purpose of rezoning from Heavy Industrial District (H-I) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its current use: Description of property: Proposed Lot 2, "Specialty-Wright Addition" in the W1/2 of Section 8-T123N-R62W of the 5th P.M. Brown County, South Dakota (13146 395th Avenue; Bath Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ARNESON ADDITION PLAT: RESOLUTION #2026-20
Commissioner Dinger brought the following Resolution "Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat entitled "ARNESON ADDITION" in the NE ¼ of Section 35-T126N-R64W of the 5TH P.M., Brown County, South Dakota", which has been submitted for examination pursuant to law, and it appearing that all taxes and special assessments have been paid and that such plat and the survey thereof have been made and executed according to law, the plat is hereby approved, and the County Auditor

is hereby authorized and directed to endorse on such plat a copy of this Resolution and certify the same. Seconded by Dennert. All members present voting aye. Resolution adopted.

WW RENTALS THIRD ADDITION PLAT:

RESOLUTION #2026-21
Commissioner Dennert brought the following Resolution "Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota that the plat showing "WW RENTALS THIRD ADDITION" to the City of Columbia, in the NE ¼ of Section 29-T125N-R62W of the 5TH P.M., Brown County, South Dakota" having been examined, is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL 11-3, and any amendments thereof. Seconded by Gage. All members present voting aye. Resolution adopted.

COLUMIBA ADDITION PLAT: RESOLUTION #2026-22

Commissioner Dinger brought the following Resolution "Be it resolved by the County Commission of Brown County, South Dakota that the plat showing "COLUMBIA ADDITION" to the City of Columbia, in the SW ¼ of Section 21-T125N-R62W of the 5TH Principal Meridian, Brown County, South Dakota" having been examined is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-3 and any amendments thereof. Seconded by Wiese. All members present voting aye. Resolution adopted.

RS ZASTROW ADDITION PLAT:

RESOLUTION #2026-23
Commissioner Gage brought the following Resolution "Be it resolved by the County Commission of Brown County, South Dakota that the plat showing "RS ZASTROW ADDITION" in the SE ¼ of Section 19-T125N-R62W of the 5TH P.M., Brown County, South Dakota" having been examined is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-3, and any amendments thereof. Seconded by Wiese. All members present voting aye. Resolution adopted.

SPECIALTY-WRIGHT ADDITION PLAT:

RESOLUTION #2026-24
Commissioner Dinger brought the following Resolution "Be it resolved by the County Commission of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "SPECIALTY-WRIGHT ADDITION" in the W ½ of Section 8-T123N-R62W of the 5TH P.M., Brown County, South Dakota" having been examined is hereby approved with the provisions of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-3, and any amendments thereof. Seconded by Wiese. All members present voting aye. Resolution adopted.

LM LARSEN ADDITION PLAT: RESOLUTION #2026-25

Commissioner Dennert brought the following Resolution "Be it resolved by the County Commission of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "LM LARSEN ADDITION" in the SE ¼ of Section 9-T124N-R61W of the 5TH P.M., Brown County, South Dakota" having been examined is hereby approved with the provisions of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-3, and any amendments thereof. Seconded by Dinger. All members present voting aye. Resolution adopted.

OTHER BUSINESS: None
EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to go into Executive Session per SDCL 1-25-2 for

Contracts. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:01 A.M. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published June 3, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$110.28 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26879



NOTICE OF HEARING

Application has been made to the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission for a VARIANCE PETITION. A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, on June 16, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.

Petitioner: Braun Family LP – Stacy Braun

Legal description of property: The S1/2 of the NW1/4 of Section 2-T121N-R64W of the 5th P.M., except land deeded, Brown County, South Dakota (38645 142nd Street, Warner Twp.)

Reason: Petitioner would like to have an East 100' separation and a West 170' separation from existing approaches for a new approach to access a new home site rather than the 500' required by Brown County Ordinance 4.0608.

The public may attend the hearing and present comments and testimony regarding the proposed ordinance amendment. Dated this 3rd day of June 2026.

Planning/Zoning Commission and

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

Published June 3, 2026 in the "Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$13.51 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26884



NOTICE OF HEARING

Application has been made to the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission for a CONDITIONAL USE PETITION (CUP). A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, on June 16, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.

Petitioner: Kevin Larson
Description of property: Lot 1, 'Whitney's First Addition' in the SE1/4 of Section 16-T123N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (38466 133rd Street, Aberdeen Twp.).

Reason: A conditional Use Petition (CUP) to build a 130' x 80' equipment shop in a Heavy Industrial District (H-I).

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present com-

ments and testimony regarding the proposed Conditional Use request.

Dated this 3rd day of June 2026.

Planning/Zoning Commission and

Scott Bader – P&Z Director
25 Market St.
Aberdeen, SD 57401

Office: (605) 626-7144

Published June 3, 2026 in the "Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$12.25 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 26887



NOTICE OF HEARING

Application has been made to the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission for a VARIANCE PETITION. A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, on June 16, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.

Petitioner / Owner: Kelly Tracy
Description of property: Schanaman's Outlot 3, "Miller's Richmond Lake Subdivision" in the SW1/4 of Section 19-T124N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (approx. 382642 N. Shore Drive, Lincoln Township).

Reason: Variance to Setbacks to allow a road R.O.W. setback of 3.92' from the property line rather than the 30' setback required by Brown County Ordinance for a new 40' x 48' storage building in an Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P).

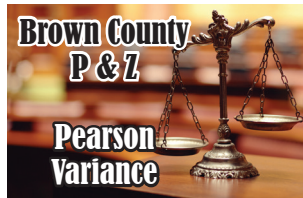
The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the proposed ordinance amendment. Dated this 3rd day of June 2026.

Planning/Zoning Commission and

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

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NOTICE OF HEARING

Application has been made to the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission for a

VARIANCE PETITION. A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, on June 16, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.

Petitioner / Owner: Matthew & Kris Pearson

Description of property: Lot 1, "Scott Bierman Addition" in the W1/2 of the SW1/4 of Section 33-T122N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (38404 142nd Street, Warner Township).

Reason: Variance to Shelterbelt Setbacks in an Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to allow a Front Yard Shelterbelt Setback of 55' rather than the 150' setback required by Brown County Ordinance 4.0607.1 for an existing shelterbelt and future shelterbelts.

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the proposed ordinance amendment. Dated this 3rd day of June 2026.

Planning/Zoning Commission and

Scott Bader – P&Z Director
25 Market Street
Aberdeen, SD 57401

Office: (605) 626-7144

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Understanding the Ups and Downs of Pain During Recovery

Many equate pain with injury and thus assume that pain should be a straight line when recovering. So, if pain flares up a bit, they worry that something is wrong. Maybe the injury is getting worse, or they “overdid it” the day before. In reality, pain often rises and falls during normal recovery, and these ups and downs do not automatically mean you’re injuring yourself. Pain is more complex than a simple measure of tissue damage.

Healing tissues and a sensitive alarm system

Pain is best thought of as your body’s alarm system. Early after an injury or surgery, that alarm is turned up on purpose to protect healing tissues. Even as the tissues recover normally, the alarm may remain slightly sensitive for a while. This means everyday movements, increased activity, or changes in routine can trigger pain, even when the tissues themselves are safe.

This sensitivity usually settles with time, movement and confidence. A short-term increase in pain does not automatically mean damage has occurred. It often reflects a nervous system that’s still learning what is safe again.

Next day pain

Pain that shows up later, such as soreness the next day, is often blamed on “overdoing it.” While extreme overload can contribute to flare-ups, changes in pain from one day to the next are often a normal response to increased movement. Your body adapts to activity gradually, and mild soreness or stiffness can be part of that process, especially when trying something new or returning to activities you’ve avoided.

Pain levels don’t always match how well your body is healing. You are recovering successfully, even on days when pain feels worse.

Stress, sleep and mood matter

Your nervous system doesn’t work in isolation. Poor sleep, emotional stress, worry or fatigue can increase pain sensitivity. We often say, “You’re getting on my nerves” when someone stresses us out. Biologically, that’s true. Stressful events release chemicals that make nerves more sensitive. On stressful days, the pain alarm becomes easier to trigger, which is why pain

may spike during busy weeks, after poor sleep or during emotional strain without any change in the injury itself.

These influences are real and biological; they are not imagined or “in your head.”

Your body’s healing chemistry

Your body naturally produces both pro-inflammatory chemicals (which increase sensitivity) and anti-inflammatory chemicals (which reduce sensitivity) as part of the healing process. This balance shifts from day to day, like a teeter-totter. Some days you may feel more sensitive, and other days less so. These shifts are a normal part of recovery and help explain why pain often fluctuates.

Pain doesn’t equal harm

One of the most important principles of recovery is this: pain does not always mean damage. Pain is often a sign of sensitivity rather than danger. Gradually continuing to move, even with some discomfort, is often part of restoring normal function and confidence.

When to check in

While fluctuating pain is common, steadily worsening pain, new symptoms or pain accompanied by significant swelling, weakness or loss of function should be discussed with a health care provider. Otherwise, ups and downs are a normal and expected part of recovery.

Healing isn’t about eliminating every painful moment. It’s about helping your body and nervous system feel safe enough to move forward, one step at a time.

Kory Zimney, PT, DPT, PhD is a professor at the University of South Dakota, School of Health Sciences Physical Therapy Department and director of the PhD in Health Science program. Dr. Zimney is part of the Center for Brain and Behavioral Research at the University of South Dakota and the Therapeutic Neuroscience Research Group, conducting research specifically in the areas of pain science and therapeutic alliance. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Tik Tok. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on SDPB, YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).



By Kory Zimney, PT, DPT, PhD

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