



\$5

The Groton Independent

Vol. 143 No. 39 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, June 10, 2026 ♦ Established in 1889

2026 GHS Senior Spotlight and Awards Edition



The GHS Band, under the direction of Sharon Schwan, played the pre-commencement and recessional music.



12th Grade Principal Honor Roll

Congratulations to the following seniors for earning Principal's Honor Roll recognition! These students have achieved honor roll status every quarter during grades 9–12. We are proud of their hard work, dedication, and commitment to academic excellence!

Back Left: Nathan Unzen, Jayden Schwan, De Eh Tha Say, Hannah Sandness, Natalia Warrington, Keegen Tracy, Olivia Stiegelmeier,

Middle Left: Karter Moody, Gage Sippel, Karsten Fliehs, Ryder Johnson, Logan Warrington, Talli Wright, Raelee Lilly

Front Left: Paisley Mitchell, Carly Gilbert, Mia Crank, Jerica Locke, London Bahr, Rylee Dunker, Cambria Bonn



Senior speakers were Olivia Stiegelmeier and Jerica Locke.



Jayden Schwan did the student-led prayer.



The left photo features the Schwan family that has been instrumental in the Groton Area School District. Jodi Schwan has been the Opportunity Coordinator for many years. Jayden Schwan is the senior this year. Jordan Schwan is pictured in the middle. Then we have Sharon Schwan and Superintendent Joe Schwan. Sharon has been the band director the second semester and has done wonders with the band. She is the mother to Joe Schwan. So here we have a 3-generation photo!

Nathan James Unzen
with Highest Honor

Parents: Jake and Tiffany Unzen
Hometown: Groton.
Siblings: Three sisters: Haley, Megan, and Erin
Hobbies: Running, reading, watching movies, spending time with family and friends, and playing music



School/Community Activities: High School Marching Band and Concert Band/Pep Band. I work at S & S Lumber

Favorite High School Memory: My favorite memories in school are the trips we went on in band and other classes.

Future Plans: Attend Northern State and get an education. I plan to study biochem. I plan to stay around here but travel as much as I can.

Awards: Gwendolyn O'Connor Broman Memorial Scholarship, NSU High School Dual Credit Scholarship, South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship, South Dakota Regent Scholars Diploma, Boys State Representative, James Valley Bob Peterson Memorial Scholarship, Kay and David Donovan Memorial Scholarship, Principal Four Year Honor Roll, Groton Area Class of 1969 Scholarship, NSU Wolfpack Scholarship, Sammuli- Rix Memorial Scholarship, Cortland & Lois Kuehnert Valedictorian Scholarship, Davita Children's Foundation Scholarship.



Carly Lynn Gilbert
with Highest Honor

Parents: Neil and Melissa Gilbert
Hometown: Groton.
Sibling: Brooklyn
Hobbies: Going to the lake, hanging out with friends and family, and reading

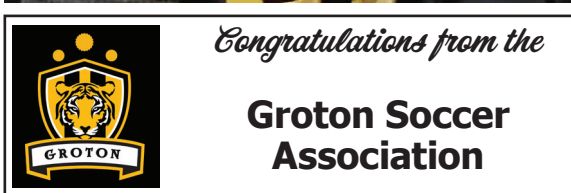


School/Community Activities: FCCLA, Soccer, United Methodist Church youth group, youth soccer coach, Sunday school teacher, class officer

Favorite High School Memory: Making it to state in my sports

Future Plans: Attending University of Nebraska-Lincoln for Accounting and Business Analytics.

Awards: D.A.R. Good Citizen Award, University of Nebraska Lincoln New Nebraskan Scholarship, South Dakota Regent Scholars Diploma, National Honors Society Member, University of Nebraska Lincoln Student Scholarship, Stratford Community Theater Scholarship, Groton Area Class of 1969 Scholarship, FCCLA Service Award winner, P.E.O STAR Scholarship, Cortland & Lois Kuehnert Financial Need Scholarship, Principal Four Year Honor Roll.



Jaedyn Liliana Penning
with Highest Honor

Parents: Brad and Janel Penning
Hometown: Pierpont
Siblings: Jameson- 8th and Jagger- 4th
Hobbies: Sports, reading, pickleball, going to the lake



School/Community Activities: Volleyball, soccer, basketball, softball, HOSa, FCCLA, and yearbook

Favorite High School Memory: After the Sweet 16 SFC basketball game, walking around town with the whole basketball team

Future Plans: Attend Dakota Wesleyan University to become an Athletic Trainer.

Awards: South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship, South Dakota Regent Scholars Diploma, DWU family legacy Scholarship, Girls State Representative, National Honors Society Member, Groton Area PAC Community Service Scholarship, DWU impact award, Beck Memorial Scholarship, Principal Student Service Award, Principal Four Year Honor Roll, Hopps Dow Memorial Scholarship, Susan Deann Weismantal Memorial Scholarship, Wilfred N. and Lucille A. Heinz Memorial Scholarship, DWU achievement award, Groton Area Class of 1969 Scholarship, Barry Schuring Memorial Scholarship, DWU Dual Credit Scholarship, FCCLA Service Award winner, Sammuli-Rix Memorial Scholarship, Loretta Abeln Memorial PEO Scholarship- Chapter AC.



Natalia Warrington & Jaedyn Penning

Hopps Dow Scholarship



Logan Warrington

SDSU Alumni and Friends Scholarship

Dale D. Wolter Memorial Scholarship



Hannah Sandness

Groton Area Class of 1982 Scholarship



Jerica Locke

Doug Doeden Memorial Scholarship



Ben Hoeft

Dr. T.J. Johnson Memorial Scholarship

Talli Ann Wright with Highest Honor

Parents: Adam and Nicole Wright

Hometown: Turton

Sibling: Tatum Wright-23

Hobbies: Playing sports, camping, spending time with friends and family, making TikToks with friends

School/Community Activities: Volleyball, basketball, softball, FCCLA, HOSA, yearbook

Favorite High School Memory: Region volleyball game against Britton to go to SoDak

Future Plans: Attend Northern State University to major in psychology to become a Clinical Psychologist.

Awards: National Honors Society Member, Groton Chamber of Commerce Scholarship, Principal Four Year Honor Roll, NSU WolfPACT Scholarship, South Dakota Regent Scholars Diploma, NSU Dual Credit Scholarship, FCCLA Service Award winner, Cortland & Lois Kuehnert Honor Student Scholarship.



Mia Layne Crank with Highest Honor

Parents: Tom and Rachel Crank

Hometown: Groton.

Siblings: Avery Crank (17), Sam Crank (16)

Hobbies: school, sports, work, hanging out with friends, going to the lake, babysitting

School/Community Activities: Soccer, basketball, FCA, FCCLA, HOSA, youth soccer coach, Carnival of Silver Skates, yearbook, student council

Favorite High School Memory: Going to the State Championship in Soccer for two years in a row

Future Plans: I plan to go to Dakota Wesleyan University for Athletic Training and Pre-Physical Therapy.

Awards: South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship, South Dakota Regent Scholars Diploma, National Honors Society Member, DWU Achievement Scholarship, DWU Dual Credit Scholarship, DWU Impact Scholarship, Groton Chamber of Commerce Scholarship, FCS Scholarship, Irvin and Janice Fliehs Family Scholarship, P.E.O Friendship and Love Graduate Award, Principal Four Year Honor Roll.



Jerica Johanna Locke with Highest Honor

Parents: Matt and Tammy Locke

Hometown: Groton.

Siblings: Allyssa Locke- senior in college, Sydney Locke- 10th grade, Mason Locke- 7th grade

Hobbies: Hanging out with friends, going to the lake, shopping, doing puzzles, and playing piano

School/Community Activities: Basketball, volleyball, soccer, softball, FCCLA, HOSA, and yearbook

Favorite High School Memory: My favorite high school memory is winning the second round of regions in double overtime against Milbank

Future Plans: Attend North Dakota State College of Science to pursue a degree in Dental Hygiene, I am also committed to play volleyball there.

Awards: Groton Chamber of Commerce Scholarship, Bjerke Family Farm Endowment Scholarship, South Dakota Regent Scholars Diploma, National Honors Society Member, Stratford Community Theater Scholarship, NDSCS Women's Volleyball Scholarship, Groton Area Class of 1969 Scholarship, Dacotah Bank Scholarship, NDSCS Foundation Scholarship, FCCLA Service Award winner, Groton Lion's Scholarship, Doug Doeden Memorial Scholarship, Cortland & Lois Kuehnert Trade/ Tech Scholarship, Principal Four Year Honor Roll.



Olivia Stiegelmeier, Cara Dennert, Rylee Dunker
Columbia American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship



Back Left: Ben Hoeft, Lucas Carda, Nathan Unzen
Front Left: Natalia Warrington, Mia Crank, Jaedyn Penning
South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship

Thank you to Jodi Schwan for the many years of helping us make this special section possible. She coordinated with everyone in getting the awards pictures taken. It's no easy task and we have been grateful for your help!

Grant Rix, president of the Groton Area School Board, presented the diplomas in the photos presented in this edition

Ryder Jay Johnson with Highest Honor

Parents: J.R. and Paula Johnson

Hometown: Groton.

Siblings: Younger brother Asher is a freshman

Hobbies: Basketball, football, going to the lake, playing with my dog, hanging out with friends and family, lifting weights, playing video games

School/Community Activities: Basketball, football, youth group at Methodist Church, working youth basketball and football events, 1 on 1 youth basketball training

Favorite High School Memory: Making the State A boys basketball tournament 3 years in a row

Future Plans: Attend Dakota Wesleyan University for Business, and to play basketball

Awards: DWU Dual Credit Scholarship, National Honors Society Member, DWU Achievement A & A Scholarship, Don Bartz Memorial Scholarship, DWU Methodist Recognition Scholarship, Principal Four Year Honor Roll.



Allied Climate Professionals
Heating & Cooling Installations & Services

Call Service Professional
Kevin Nehls at **626-6522** **YORK**
It's time to get comfortable

Gage Carl Sippel with Honor

Parents: Crystal Strom, Doug Sippel

Hometown: Groton.

Sibling: Holden Sippel-20

Hobbies: Hunting, fishing, hoopin, lifting weights, going to the lake, hanging out with friends and family, and playing video games

School/Community Activities: Basketball, soccer, United Methodist youth group, Help at youth sport camps, helped at FCCLA food drive

Favorite High School Memory: Making it to the state tournament for basketball three times and spending time with my friends.

Future Plans: Attend SDSU for exercise science and USD for physical therapy school.

Awards: SDSU Yellow and Blue Scholarship, South Dakota Regent Scholars Diploma, National Honors Society Member, Principal Four Year Honor Roll, SDSU Jackrabbit Journey Dual Credit Scholarship, Don Bartz Memorial Scholarship.



Rylee Grace Dunker with Honor

Parents: Craig and Tasha Dunker

Hometown: Conde

Siblings: Colby Dunker-20 years old, Brynlee-7th grader/13 years old

Hobbies: Going to the lake, going on walks, runs, bike rides, golfing, volleyball, and basketball

School/Community Activities: FCCLA, HOSA, FCS, Volleyball, basketball, track, St. John's youth group, Carnival of Silver Skate

Favorite High School Memory: My favorite memory is the volleyball game against Northwestern my sophomore year on pink night

Future plans: Attend Northern State University to major in nursing and then go onto occupational Therapy School

Awards: Columbia American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship, Dacotah Bank Scholarship, NSU Dual Credit Scholarship, National Honors Society Member, Kay and David Donovan Memorial Scholarship, FCS Scholarship, FCCLA Service Award winner, Groton Lion's Scholarship, NSU WolfPACT Scholarship, Groton Community Foundation Scholarship, Stratford Community Theatre Scholarship, Principal Four Year Honor Roll.



Jayden Schwan, Raelee Lilly, Jaedyn Penning, Keegen Tracy
Principal Service Award



Katelyn Nehlich, Jerica Locke, Rylee Dunker, Joy Larson
Dacotah Bank Scholarship

The Groton Independent

21 N Main, Groton 605/397-NEWS (6397)
Paul Irvin Kosel, Publisher paperpaul@grotonsd.net ~ 605-397-7460

Tina Kosel, Office Manager office@grotonsd.net ~ 605-397-7285

Notices: legals@grotonsd.net

News Items: news@grotonsd.net

Deadline to submit items: Noon Monday
Yearly Subscription Rates are listed below.
The Groton Independent (USPS# 230-440) is published weekly with its periodicals postage paid at Groton, SD.

Postmaster: Send address changes to
Groton Independent, PO Box 34, Groton, SD 57445

© 2026 The Groton Independent



Natalia Warrington
Faith Forever Scholarship



Jayden Schwan, Carly Gilbert, Rylee Dunker, Jerica Locke, Ben Hoeft
Stratford Community Theater Scholarship

Natalia Marie Warrington

with Honor

Parents: Amy and Neil Warrington

Hometown: Groton

Siblings: Axel (19), Novalea (15), Ayce (13), Aschar (11)

Hobbies: Playing guitar, being outside, and singing

School/Community Activities: Concert band, marching band, pep band, color guard, show choir, school play, football and basketball cheer, FCCLA, dance team, drumline, flex band, Emmanuel Lutheran Luther League, FCS, Choir, and chamber choir

Favorite High School Memory: Attending state basketball and getting to cheer for them, with my friends

Future Plans: I plan to attend Blacks Hills State University to major in psychology and become a mental health and addictions counselor.

Awards: Black Hills State University School of Distinction Scholarship, South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship, South Dakota Regent Scholars Diploma, Tri-M Music Honor Society, Girls State Representative, National Honors Society Member, Principal Four Year Honor Roll, Enrich Groton SD Inc. Scholarship, Hopps Dow Memorial Scholarship, Emmanuel Lutheran Church Faith Forever Scholarship, Al & Vicki Strom Memorial Scholarship, Groton Lion's Scholarship, Groton Community Foundation Scholarship.



Congratulations from

SUN & SEA TRAVEL CO.

Becah Fliehs: 605-846-0580

Raelee Marie Lilly

with Honor

Parents: Kaitie and Brian Lilly

Hometown: Groton.

Hobbies: Hang-out with family and friends and doing family game night

School/Community Activities: Mission trips to Duluth, Denver, New Orleans, and Indianapolis, and FCCLA

Favorite High School Memory: Making quilts with my FACS class

Future Plans: I plan to go to Northern and major in elementary education.

Awards: Principal Student Service Award, NSU WolfPACT Scholarship, Richard 'Dick' Voss Memorial Scholarship, NSU Millicent Atkins 1901 Scholarship, NSU Dual Credit Scholarship, Groton Area Teaching Scholarship, Principal Four Year Honor Roll.



Karsten Brody Fliehs

with Honor

Parents: JoAnn and Lance Fliehs

Hometown: Groton.

Siblings: Kameryn, Braeden and Jaela

Hobbies: Hunting, fishing, hanging out with friends, and playing video games

School/Community Activities: Soccer, Spring and Summer Baseball, New Life Fellowship Youth Group

Favorite High School Memory: All of the bus and van rides with the soccer team

Future Plans: Attend Lake Area Tech and major in Ag. Business and Ag-Finance.

Awards: Ruden Family Ag Scholarship, Principal Four Year Honor Roll.



Malpert insurance

Protect your business with coverage THAT MATTERS & SERVICE THAT CARES.

605-475-2600 | staff@malpertinsurance.com | 306 W. 11th Avenue • Redfield, SD

LOCAL PEOPLE • LOCAL SERVICE • LOCAL COMMITMENT

DYLAN HANSON | 605-846-7724

De Eh Tha Say

with Honor

Parents: Ah De and Eh Lah

Siblings: I have one brother and three sisters, all are older than me with most having a family.

Hobbies: My hobbies consist with anything art related and computer

School/Community Activities: I was part of HOSA, Robotic, and Bible Quizzing and competing in Dakota Art Exhibits

Favorite High School Memory: My favorite high school memory is Homecoming. I enjoy watching the parade and decorating the float.

Future Plans: My plan for the future is to go to college and pay off my tuition.

Awards: NSU WolfPACT Scholarship, Principal Four Year Honor Roll, NSU Dual Credit Scholarship.



Congratulations, De Eh Tha!

DQ Dairy Queen.

Groton

God's blessings on your future!



Delayne Jones & Logan Warrington
FFA Alumni Scholarship



Jaedyn Penning & Katy
Venture Communication Scholarship



Mia Crank & Rylee Dunker
FCS Scholarship

Paisley Rene Mitchell
with Honor

Parents: Corey and Jamie Mitchell
Hometown: Columbia
Sibling: Payton Mitchell-19 years old
Hobbies: Cheer, dance and trap
School/Community Activities: HOSA, Junior Fair board, and National Honor Society



Favorite High School Memory: Cheering at the state tournament, my sophomore, junior, and senior years
Future Plans: To attend NDSU and get my bachelor's degree in diagnostic sonography.
Awards: Girls State Representative, Principal Four Year Honor Roll, Columbia American Legion Scholarship, NDSU Bison Merit Award, Columbia Fire Department Scholarship.



Congratulations from



41599 US Hwy 12 Andover, SD
(605) 298-6328
themeathouse@nvc.net
themeathousesd.com

Becker Victor Bosma
with Honor

Parents: Rich and Jana Bosma
Hometown: Aberdeen.
Siblings: Chloe and Sophie, 20 years old
Hobbies: golf and basketball
School/Community Activities: Varsity Basketball team, Varsity Soccer team



Favorite High School Memory: Going to state basketball 2 years in a row
Future Plans: employment



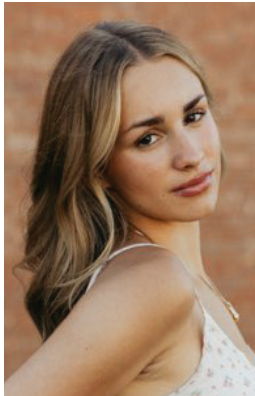
Congratulations, Becker!



God's blessings on your future!

London Reese Bahr
with Honor

Parents: Damian Bahr, Erin Bahr
Hometown: Langford.
Siblings: Jackson Bahr-21
Hobbies: Any outdoor activity, shopping, hanging out with family and friends
School/Community Activities: Work as CNA for the Aberdeen Community



Favorite High School Memory: Courthouse field trip
Future Plans: Nursing School, EMT/Firefighter.
Awards: NSU WolfPACT Scholarship, Columbia Legion Scholarship, NSU Dual Credit Scholarship, Principal Four Year Honor Roll.



Allied Climate Professionals
Heating & Cooling Installations & Services

Call Service Professional
Kevin Nehls at 626-6522 YORK
It's time to get comfortable



Becky Hunter & Lincoln Krause
Rob Luecke Memorial



FCCLA Service Award

Olivia Stiegelmeier, Hannah Sandness, Jerica Locke, Carly Gilbert, Talli Wright, Rylee Dunker, Jaedyn Penning



Carly Gilbert & Jaedyn Penning
Shawn Weismantel Kramer & Susan Deanne Weismantel Scholarships



Raelee Lilly & Cambria Bonn
Groton Area Teaching Scholarship



Karter Moody & Karsten Fliehs
Ruden Family
Ag- Related Career Scholarship



Logan Warrington & Jarrett Erdmann
Jack & Helen Walter
Memorial Scholarship

Keegen Michael Tracy with Honor

Parents: Ryan and Carla Tracy

Hometown: Groton, South Dakota

Siblings: Kelby, Kella, and Kinton Tracy

Hobbies: Fishing, hunting, hanging out with friends, going to the lake, playing sports, and watching Netflix

School/Community Activities: Basketball, football, track, National Honor Society, HOSA

Favorite High School Memory: Going to three state basketball tournaments, messing around in Hantens, and hanging out with all my friends

Future Plans: To go to Northwestern College for Physical Therapy and play basketball and run track.

Awards: Northwestern College Men's Basketball Scholarship, Richard Durre Memorial Scholarship, Principal Student Service Award, Northwestern College Men's Track and Field Scholarship, Principal Four Year Honor Roll, Northwestern College Academic Scholarship, National Honors Society Member, Don Bartz Memorial Scholarship.



Congratulations from

41599 US Hwy 12 Andover, SD
(605) 298-6328

themeathouse@nvc.net
themeathousesd.com



Aiden Michael Meyers with Honor

Parents: Jennifer Traylor

Hometown: Ipswich, SD; Claremont, SD

Siblings: Caleb, Alyssa, Kellani, Corbin

Hobbies: Playing video games, technology work, programming, video editing

Favorite High School Memory: My favorite high school memory is going to Gencybercampat Dakota State University during the summer of my junior year

Future Plans: I plan on attending college for computer science and going into IT work.



Lucas Daniel Carda with Honor

Parents: Joe Carda, Renee Carda

Hometown: Ferney.

Siblings: Kaden and Brenna

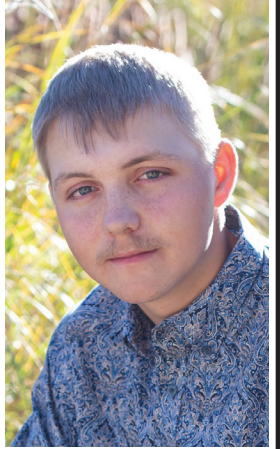
Hobbies: Archery, Cross-country skiing, camping

School/Community Activities: Trap, Muzzlebader Shooting

Favorite High School Memory: The first Taco Fest

Future Plans: Flying Planes.

Awards: South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship, South Dakota Regent Scholars Diploma.



Harry Implement

"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"

(605) 395-6421



Ferney



Hannah Grace Sandness with Honor

Parents: Brock and Julie Sadness

Hometown: Groton

Siblings: Brysen-grade 10 and Kinley-7th

Hobbies: baking, cooking, shopping, going to the lake, and bike rides

School/Community Activities: Softball, FCCLA, and FCS

Favorite High School Memory: When Talli fell off the golf cart during GMS week

Future Plans: LAke Area for Cosmetology.

Awards: National Honors Society Member, FCCLA Service Award winner, Principal Four Year Honor Roll, Groton Area Class of 1982 Scholarship.



Jaedyn Penning
GHS PAC
Volunteer
Scholarship
Beck Memorial
Scholarship



Garrett Schultz
Groton Robotics
Scholarship



Keegen Tracy
Richard Duerre
Memorial
Scholarship



Drake Peterson
Groton Area STEM
Scholarship



Drake Peterson & Nathan Unzen
James Valley Telecommunications Bob
Peterson Memorial Scholarship



Logan Warrington & Jaedyn Penning
Robert & Barry Schuring Memorial
Scholarship

Olivia Rae Stiegelmeier
with Honor

Parents: Whitney and Jordan Stiegelmeier
Hometown: Columbia.
Siblings: Blake-ly Stiegelmeier-13 years olds and Veda Stiegelmeier- 8 years old
Hobbies: Clean, organize, help people with their problems, I love watching NFL football especially the Minnesota Vikings



School/Community Activities: FCCLA and volunteer through the community whether that is concessions or working games for the Columbia Halloween and Christmas party.

Favorite High School Memory: My favorite memory was the Junior class skit. We only practice once. I would say we did a pretty good job. I was the main character in the skit.

Future Plans: I plan to attend Lake Area Technical College in Business. I hope to be successful and give back to my community.

Awards: Girls State Representative, Columbia American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship, FCCLA Service Award winner, Principal Four Year Honor Roll, Darlene Raap Memorial Scholarship, Columbia American Legion Scholarship.



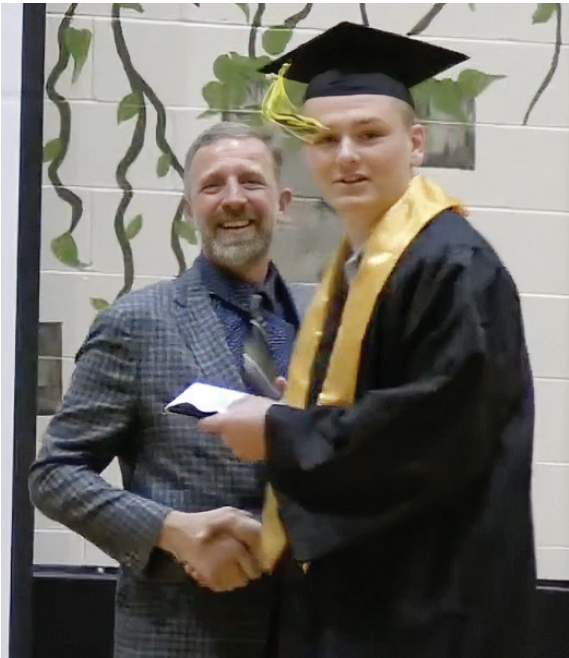
Malpert insurance
Protect your business with coverage THAT MATTERS & SERVICE THAT CARES.
605-475-2600 | staff@malpertinsurance.com | 306 W. 11th Avenue • Redfield, SD
LOCAL PEOPLE • LOCAL SERVICE • LOCAL COMMITMENT
DYLAN HANSON | 605-846-7724

Logan James Warrington
with Honor

Parents: Jason and Robyn Warrington
Hometown: Groton, SD
Siblings: Ashlynn and Greyson
Hobbies: Sports, gaming, and farming
School/ Community Activities: FFA, 4-H, FCS, football, and basketball
Favorite High School Memory: Going to the State "A" basketball tournament
Future Plans: Go to SDSU and major in Ag Business.



Awards: Boys State Representative, National Honors Society Member, Enrich Groton SD Inc. Scholarship, Dale D. Wolter Memorial Scholarship, SDSU Yellow and Blue Scholarship, SDSU Jackrabbit Journey Dual Credit Scholarship, Jack & Helen Walter Memorial Scholarship, Robert Schuring Memorial Scholarship, Principal Four Year Honor Roll, Groton Lion's Scholarship, Groton FFA Alumni Scholarship, FFA FMNE Scholarship, 4-H CFEL Scholarship, Brown County 4-H Leaders Association Scholarship, Dennis and Shirley Larson Scholarship, SDSU Alumni and Friends Scholarship.



Congratulations from



41599 US Hwy 12 Andover, SD
(605) 298-6328
themeathouse@nvc.net
themeathousesd.com

Benjamin Robert Hoeft
with Honor

Parents: Travis and Tiffany
Hometown: Bath
Sibling: Addison-16
Hobbies: Video games, driving, hunting, fishing, and building things
School/Community Activities: Wrestling, football, and FFA
Favorite High School Memory: Going hunting with my friends
Future Plans: LATC for Welding, work, retire eventually.



Awards: Build Dakota Scholarship, Darlene Raap Memorial Scholarship, South Dakota Regent Scholars Diploma, Stratford Community Theater Scholarship, South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship, Lake Area Technical College A-OX Welding Supply Scholarship.



Natalia Warrington & Rylee Dunker
Groton Community Fund Scholarship



Ryder Johnson, Gage Sippel, Keegen Tracy
Don Bartz Memorial Scholarship



Lincoln Krause, Logan Warrington, Drake Peterson
Dennis K. & Shirley R. Larson Family Scholarships

Cambria Elizabeth Bonn

Parents: Kristi and Cody Bonn

Hometown: Groton.

Siblings: Kaedynce Bonn (15) Cannon Bonn (7)

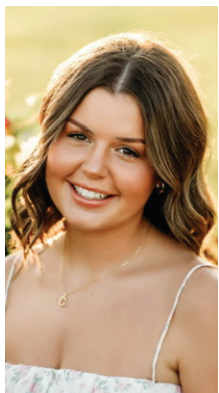
Hobbies: Hanging out with friends, driving around, going to the lake, and working at Bethesclas Learning Academy and spending time with the kids

School/Community Activities: FCCLA

Favorite High School Memory: Homecoming and group hangouts

Future Plans: I plan on attending Northern State University for elementary education.

Awards: Groton Area Teaching Scholarship, NSU WolfPACT Scholarship, Groton Fire and Rescue Department Scholarship, NSU Millicent Atkins 1901 Scholarship, NSU Dual Credit Scholarship, Principal Four Year Honor Roll.



Congratulations from

SUN & SEA TRAVEL CO.

Becah Flihs: 605-846-0580

Gavin Oscar Englund

Parents: Brenda and Brandon Englund

Hometown: Groton

Hobbies: Hunting, fishing, hanging with friends/family, watching sporting events

School/Community Activities: Wrestling, football, baseball, church group at New Life

Favorite High School Memory: Becoming a state champ

Future Plans: Study Energy Operations at Lake Area Tech.

Award: Build Dakota Scholarship.



Allied Climate Professionals Heating & Cooling Installations & Services



Call Service Professional

Kevin Nehls at **626-6522** **YORK** It's time to get comfortable.

Emma Teresa Davies

Parents: Traci and Dale Kramer

Hometown: Groton.

Siblings: Gabbie Kramer-26, Ava Kramer-21, Skyler-18

Hobbies: Dancing, Ice skating, baking, hanging out with family, dog sitting, and spending time outdoors

School/Community Activities: Dance team, Ice skating

Favorite High School Memory: Homecoming week activities and getting together as a class and having funny moments in class and class games

Future Plans: Continue my education to Lake Area Tech for cosmetology.

Awards: Groton Fire and Rescue Department Scholarship, Masonic Lodge Scholarship, Groton Area Class of 1969 Scholarship, Edna Bugner Memorial Scholarship.



Groton ~ 397-8456 ~ kenssuperfair.com

Jarrett Ryan Erdmann

Parents: Julie and Darrin Erdmann

Siblings: Tessa Erdmann-23

Hobbies: Baseball, going to the lake, golfing, going to the gym

School/Community Activities: Baseball, golf and FFA

Favorite High School Memory: Making pancakes in the Ag library when Mrs. V was gone

Future Plans: Play college baseball at Northern State and major in Ag business.

Awards: Jack & Helen Walter Memorial Scholarship, Richard 'Dick' Voss Memorial Scholarship, Edna Bugner Memorial Scholarship, Groton Fire and Rescue Department Scholarship.



NEW CONSTRUCTION • REMODELING • HOOP BARN

(605) 216-2677

(605) 228-4062

Dreston Terrance Dennert

Parent: Corey Dennert

Siblings: Blake Dennert, ReAnn Dennert

Hobbies: Working, snowmobiling, hunting, and fishing

Future Plans: Work



FIRST IN THE FIELD WITH QUALITY SEED

John Wheeting ~ 605-228-3309

Charlie James William Frost

Parents: Jason and Britt Frost

Hometown: Groton.
Siblings: Kelsie Frost, 22, Hollie Frost, 21

Hobbies: Hunting, fishing, trap shooting

School/Community Activities: Trap shooting

Favorite High School Memory: Spending time with Mrs. Kurtz and Mrs. Kettering

Future Plans: Attend Lake Area Tech for diesel mechanics



Congratulations from



MEATHOUSE

ESTD 1976

41599 US Hwy 12 Andover, SD
(605) 298-6328

themeathouse@nvc.net
themeathousesd.com



**Natalia Warrington & Patti Daly
Al & Vicki Strom Memorial**

Nicholas Robert Groeblinghoff

Parents: Matt and Joni
Hometown: Groton
Siblings: Katie, Joe, Ryan

Hobbies: Hunting, fishing, and baseball
School/Community Activities: Baseball

Favorite High School Memory: Cooking pancakes in the ag library without the teacher knowing.
Future Plans: Attend Lake Area for Ag Business



Keegan Riley Harry

Parents: Jeff Roberts Harry and Betsy Kay Harry

Hometown: Ferney.

Siblings: Reagen Kay Harry (11), Madison Elenore Harry (10)

Hobbies: Basketball, golf, fourwheeler, driving pickup, and being around people

School/Community Activities: Golf, Boy's State

Favorite High School Memory: Senior JUnle Days

Future Plans: Going to Lake Area Technical College for a welding degree.

Award: Boys State Representative



Harry Implement
"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"
(605) 395-6421
CASE III Ferney MASSEY FERGUSON

Breslyn Mae Jeschke

Parents: Jeremy Jeschke and Charity Hinman

Hometown: Groton.

Siblings: Adam and Justine (sister-in-law)-28, Karsten-19, Nori-11, Jax-9, Kodi-9

Hobbies: I love to dance and cheer, bake and to draw

School/Community Activities: Cheer

Favorite High School Memory: Going to State Basketball and winning the Spirit-of-Six back to back

Future Plans: I plan on furthering my education and going to college at Aims Community College in Colorado for Rad Tech.

Award: Groton Fire and Rescue Department Scholarship



KRUEGER BROTHERS
Road Maintenance • Dirt & Gravel
Dave: 397-8387 • Roger & Dan: 397-2618

Wishing you success in all your future endeavors.

Delayne Kay Jones

Parents: Stacey and Jarrett Jones
Hometown: Bath.
Siblings: Makayla, Jayla, Porter

Hobbies: Rodeo, working horses, hanging out with friends

School/Community Activities: FFA

Favorite High School Memory: CDE's for FFA

Future Plans: Attend Lamar Community College- Lamar, CO Horse training and management A.A.S.

Award: FFA Alumni Scholarship



THUNDER SEED
FIRST IN THE FIELD WITH QUALITY SEED
John Wheeting ~ 605-228-3309

Lincoln James Krause

Parents: Pat and Kayla Krause

Hometown: Groton.

Siblings: Mya (23), Makenna (16), Micah (11)

Hobbies: I like to play whiffle ball with my brother, I like playing video games, and I like to watch shows

School/Community Activities: Band, football, baseball, wrestling, and track

Favorite High School Memory: Being back to back jungle day champions

Future Plans: Attend NSU for undergrad in Human Performance and become an athletic trainer.

Awards: Rob Luecke Memorial Scholarship, South Dakota Regent Scholars Diploma, NSU WolfPACT Scholarship, Dennis and Shirley Larson Scholarship, NSU Dual Credit Scholarship.



Allied Climate Professionals
Heating & Cooling Installations & Services
ACP Call Service Professional Kevin Nehls at 626-6522 YORK

Tristin Todd McGannon

Parents: Todd McGannon, Jessica Schmieg

Siblings: Shaela McGannon

Hobbies: Hunting, fishing, working, and sports

School/Community Activities: Football, track, baseball, working to Pumpkin Fest and Summer Fest

Favorite High School Memory: Cooking pancakes in the Ag library

Future Plans: Work with my dad and eventually take over the business.



LW Sales, Inc.
Groton ~ 397-8111



Karter Ryley Moody

Parents: Eric and Darcie Moody

Hometown: Groton

Siblings: Mya: 13, Maycee: 13, Keenan: 11

Hobbies: Hunting, fishing, . Gambling with the fellas, and golfing

School/Community

Activities: Football and baseball manager, little league softball coach, and National Honor Society

Favorite High School Memory: Senior English with the boys

Future Plans: Attend Montana State University for business and aviation and hopefully become a careflight pilot or smokejumper pilot.

Awards: Montana State Achievement Scholarship, Groton Fire and Rescue Department Scholarship, South Dakota Regent Scholars Diploma, National Honors Society Member, Principal Four Year Honor Roll, Ruden Family Ag Scholarship.



Drake Archer Peterson

Parents: Kristi and Ben Peterson

Siblings: Jocelyn-29 and Shaylee-21

Hobbies: Hunting, fishing, camping, gaming, pateo digs, spending time with family and friends

School/Community Activities: Playing soccer and working at OST

Favorite High School Memory: My senior soccer season

Future Plans: I plan to attend SDSU and major in mechanical engineering.

Awards: James Valley Bob Peterson Memorial Scholarship, Dennis and Shirley Larson Scholarship, Groton Area STEM Scholarship, SDSU Yellow and Blue Scholarship.



Gentry Jane Pigors

Parents: Eric and Brenda Pigors, Kristin McMahan

Hometown: Jamestown, ND

Siblings: Christina-28, Micheal-26, Grady-22, Marissa-21, Christian-13, Aiden-13

Hobbies: I enjoy farming, hunting, fishing, baking, and showing cattle

School/Community Activities: HOSA, Marching band, Pep band, volunteer firefighter and first responder with Groton, and Junior Fair Board Member

Favorite High School Memory: One of my favorite high school memories is playing pep band with Mrs. Schwan being our band director

Future Plans: Attend Lake Area Technical College to become a Paramedic/Firefighter.

Awards: Jake & Renee McKiver Memorial Scholarship, Casey Kulm Memorial Scholarship, Groton Fire and Rescue Department Scholarship.



We are so proud of you.

Garrett Paul Schultz

Parents: Shawn and Melissa

Hometown: Bath

Sibling: Cassie- 21 years old

Hobbies: fishing, project truck, and archery

School/Community

Activities: Robotics

Favorite High School

Memory: Receiving the Judges award at South Dakota State Robotics Championship

Future Plans: Working but doing online school through Lake Area.

Awards: South Dakota Regent Scholars Diploma, Groton Area Robotics' Scholarship.



Landon Allen Smith

Parents: Ben Smith, Leslie Gualrapp

Sibling: Summer

Hobbies: playing the guitar

Favorite High School Memory: Homecoming

Future Plans: Welding



DON'T MISS THE MEMORIES!

2026 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Get your copy on a **GDILIVE FLASH DRIVE**

ONLY \$25



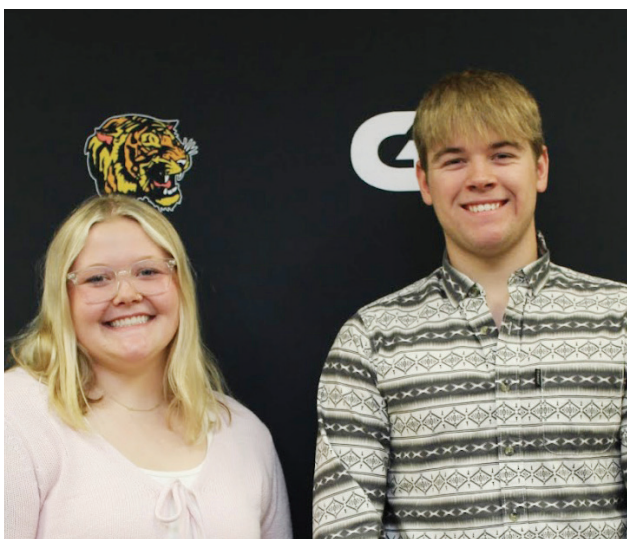
WATCH IT AGAIN
SHARE WITH FAMILY
KEEP IT FOREVER

Text Paul at
(605) 397-7460

GDILIVE.COM
— YOUR MEMORIES. OUR MISSION. —



Jarrett Erdmann & Emma Davis
Edna Bugner Memorial Scholarship



Olivia Stiegelmeier & Ben Hoeft
Darlene Raap Memorial Scholarship

Jayden Jonathan Schwan

Parents: Joe and Jodi Schwan

Hometown: Groton

Sibling: Jordan

Hobbies: Playing sports and hanging with friends

School/Community Activities: FCA Cross Country, track, golf, basketball

Favorite High

School Memory: Decorating Mr. Hawkins room

Future plans: Going to the University of Jamestown to study exercise science.

Awards: South Dakota Regent Scholars Diploma, University of Jamestown Honors Scholarship, Tri-M Music Honor Society, Martin & Mary Lou (Johnson) Weismantel Memorial Scholarship, Boys State Representative, Principal Four Year Honor Roll, Principal Student Service Award, Stratford Community Theater Scholarship, University of Jamestown Men's Cross Country and Track Scholarship, Cortland & Lois Kuehnert Athletic Scholarship, University of Jamestown Alumni Referral Scholarship.



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

Jacob John Tewksbury

Parents: Sarah and Brad Tewksbury

Hometown: Groton

Siblings: Owen-14 and Sebastian-8 months

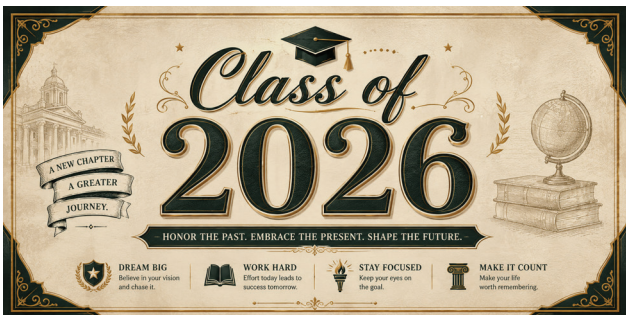
Hobbies: Golf, playing video games, and hanging out with friends

School/Community Activities: Golfing

Favorite High

School Memory: Keegan falling off of the golf cart

Future Plans: Go to the Southeast tech, work for a popular baseball team or famous golf course



Cali Marie Tollifson

Parents: Debra and Travis Kurth

Hometown: Groton

Siblings: Marlee Tollifson-21 yrs old, Boston Kurth-12 yrs old, Laken Kurth-10 yrs old

Hobbies: Reading and hanging out with my friends and family

Favorite High

School Memory: Leaving 3rd hour for dual credits with my friends

Future Plans: Attend Aims Community College in Colorado for radiologic technology



Cortland and Lois Kuehnert Scholarships
Jayden Schwan (Athletic), Jerica Locke (Tech/Trade), Carly Gilbert (Financial Need), Talli Wright (Honor Student) Nathan Unzen (Valedictorian)



Carna Pray & Natalia Warrington
Eastern Star Scholarship

CLASS OF 2026

SENIORS

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

DACOTA BANK

Here for you.™

BANKING • INSURANCE • MORTGAGE • TRUST

dacotabank.com



Regent Scholar Diploma
Back Left: Nathan Unzen, Lincoln Krause, Lucas Carda, Karter Moody, Gage Sippel, Jayden Schwan, Ben Hoeft, Garrett Schultz
Front Left: Natalia Warrington, Mia Crank, Carly Gilbert, Jerica Locke, Talli Wright, Jaedyn Penning

Bradyn Thomas Wienk

Parents: Lisa Wienk, Brent Wienk

Hometown: Aberdeen

Siblings: Ava Wienk, 19

Hobbies: My hobbies include model building, video games, and coding

School/Community Activities: I was part of the Groton Robotics Team

Favorite High School Memory: My favorite high school memory was when we had a school trip to Washington D.C. as freshmen

Future Plans: I plan on attending Dakota State University for computer science

Awards: Boys State Representative, Montgomery GI Bill for Books, Supplies, Housing; South Dakota National Guard; Post 9-11 Montgomery GI Bill, full Tuition, books, and Housing each year for 4 years; National Guard Federal Tuition Assistance.



Milbrandt Enterprises, Inc.

39870 139th St, Groton
(605) 395-6581 ~ ggm@nvc.net



P.E.O Scholarships

Carna Pray, Ann Gibbs, Mia Crank, Jaedyn Penning, Carly Gilbert, Emily Sternhagen



Enrich Groton SoDak Inc. Scholarship

April Abeln, Natalia Warrington, Logan Warrington, Nancy Larsen, Topper Tastad



**Jaedyn Penning and Tom Heinz
Wilfred N. and Lucille A. Heinz
Memorial Scholarship**



Groton Chamber Scholarship

April Ablen, Bruce Babcock, Jerica Locke, Mia Crank, Talli Wright, Katelyn Nehlich, Doug Heinrich



**Katie McKiver, Gentry Pigors,
Patti Daly
Jake & Renee McKiver Memorial
Scholarship**



Kay & David Donovan Memorial Scholarship

Steve Donovan, Kristi Larsen, Nathan Unzen, Rylee Dunker, Ruby Donovan, and Dick Donovan



Congratulations to the following 6th graders for earning Principal’s Honor Roll recognition! These students have achieved honor roll status every quarter throughout their 6th grade year. We are proud of their hard work, dedication, and commitment to academic excellence!

Back Left: Kacie McComsey, Elise Pharis, Lennox Locke , Ryan Hanson, Harley Furman, Taylor Fliehs, Hank Fliehs, Blakely Steigelmeier , Taylor Thompson , Simon Simuek
Middle Left: Kaelee Morehouse, Rowan Hanson, Shaelee Gilchrist , Avery Huber, Devan Locke, Micah Krause, Deylon Johnson, Hayden Hubbard, Hudson McGannon, Kayson Hofer
Front Left: Jernie Weig, Giedeon Rix, Willow Cowan , Calvin Locken, Titan Johnson, Jack Schuelke, Brody Zimmerman, Boston Kurth, Arther Eichler



**Nathan Unzen & Jaedyn Penning
Sammuli Rix Scholarship**



**Raelee Lilly & Jarrett Erdmann
Richard 'Dick' Voss
Memorial Scholarship**



Congratulations to the following 8th graders for earning Principal’s Honor Roll recognition! These students have achieved honor roll status every quarter throughout both their 7th and 8th grade years. We are proud of their hard work, dedication, and commitment to academic excellence!

Back Left: Asher Zimmerman, Ryder Schwan, Liam Johnson, Gavin Hanten, Liam Lord, Kyson Kucker, Axel Abeln, Tracy Schelle, Sophia Fliehs, Rowan Patterson,
Middle Left: Elias Heilman, Nolan Bahr,
Front Left: Jameson Penning, Hudson Eichler, Haden Harder, Keegan Kucker, Trey Tietz, Andi Gauer, Amelia Ewalt



**Emma Davies
Masonic Lodge
Scholarship**



**Nathan Unzen
Gwendolyn
O'Connor Broman
Memorial
Scholarship**



**Groton Lion’s Club Scholarship
Nancy Larson, Logan Warrington, Natalia Warrington, Jerica Locke,
Rylee Dunker, Topper Tastad**



**Groton Area Class of 1969 Scholarship
Jerry Schley, Tom Mahan, Nathan Unzen, Carly Gilbert, Jerica Locke,
Jaedyn Penning, Emma Davis, Rae Nelson, Nancy Larson, Tom Heinz**



**Jayden Schwan
Martin & Mary Lou
Weismantel
Memorial
Scholarship**



**Mia Crank
Irvin and
Janice Fliehs
Family
Scholarship**