



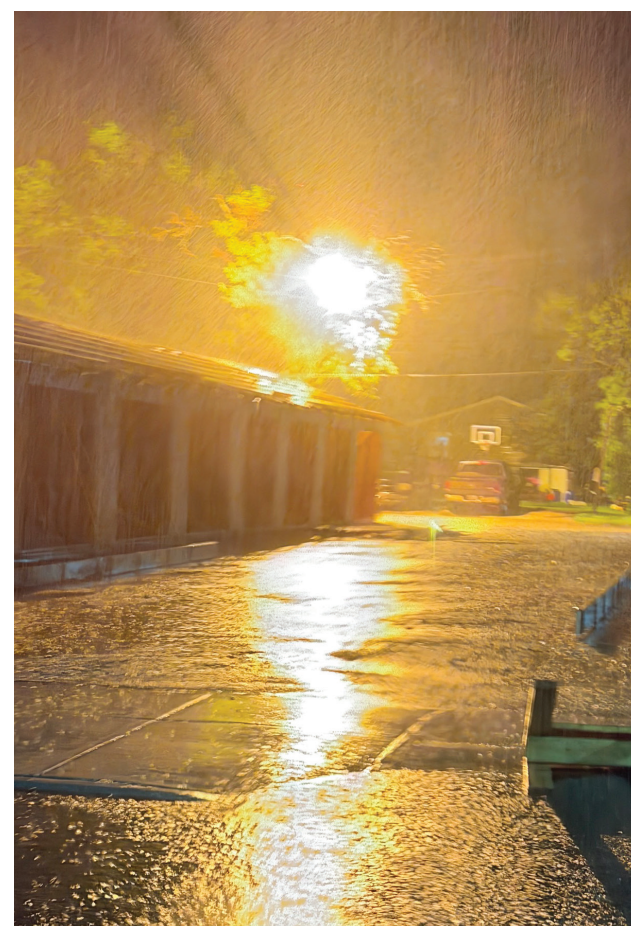
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The Groton Independent

Vol. 143 No. 46 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, July 29, 2026 ♦ Established in 1889



The wind from Saturday's storm took down three flag poles at the Veteran's Circle at the Groton Union Cemetery. (Photo by Wanda Hamilton)



Storm rolls through Groton

A severe storm rolled through Groton last evening, bring down branches and causing power outages.

The northern part of Groton (north of US 12) experienced an outage. After a review of the line, the breaker in the substation had tripped from an unknown issue. Power was restored shortly after the storm.

Then (top photo) behind the American Legion, a tree had fallen on the power line causing a ball of fire. It ended up burning all three primary phases. Paul Kosel and Teylor Diegel worked through the night, with the assistance of Ben Peterson from Northern Electric, to fix the lines and restore the power by 3 a.m. That circuit experienced a total brief outage was fuses were put into place.

The rain came down in sheets, dropping .71 of rain in the short period of time.



Many large branches were lying on the streets and the yards from Saturday's storm. Dwight Zerr from the city Public Works Department is using the payloader to remove a large branch off of Washington Street Sunday morning. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Blue Star Banner



Calling All Military Families

The Groton American Legion Post 39 and Auxiliary Unit 39 would like to support our local parents (Groton and surrounding communities) that have son's and daughter's currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. We would like to gift you a Blue Star Banner to display in the window of your home while your loved one is proudly serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Please contact Bruce at 605-377-0225 or Jan at 605-448-3002 to receive your banner. We will be collecting information through September 30. Thank you.



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Competing for a roster or practice squad spot: Cam’Ron Stewart, Arden Walker
Why I’m confident: Andrew Van Ginkel is one of the most unique players in the NFL and has the potential to be a game changer, just like he was in 2024 when he was named an AP 2nd-team All-Pro. Dallas Turner is entering year three in the NFL and last year showed flashes of why he was a first-round pick, racking up 6.5 sacks in the second half of the season. Both starters are also versatile, which Brian Flores will continue to take advantage of, designing schemes that will confuse opposing offenses and provide AVG and Turner opportunities to shine.
Cause for concern: A few months ago, a case could be made that the Vikings had one of the best pass rushing units in the NFL. Then the Vikings traded the best player in the group, Jonathan Greenard. Suddenly the Vikings’ three-headed pass-rushing monster was gone.
There is no question Andrew Van Ginkel is a good outside linebacker. The biggest question mark is his health. AVG suffered a concussion and injured his neck in week one of the 2025 season. He returned week three, had two sacks, a tackle for a loss, and a QB hit in only eight snaps(!), then was re-injured and missed the next five weeks. Neck injuries are no joke, and there is no guarantee he’ll ever be the same player he was before the injury.
Dallas Turner has yet to prove that he’s a capable NFL starter. He’s shown flashes, and really came on in the second half of last season, but will he continue to get better? Or will his potential stagnate now that he’s a full-time starter and teams can game plan against him?
The final concern is the depth behind AVG and Turner. The Vikings really need one (or two) of the young guys to step up. Bo Richter is likely penciled in as the top backup, having played in all 17 games last season. But that was mostly on special teams, and he only saw 52 snaps on defense. Tyler Batty and Chaz Chambliss are one step below Richter. Both are entering their second season after playing 12 games each in 2025. Batty had 42 snaps on defense; Chambliss had 25.
Potential upgrades: If the Vikings want to bring in a pass rusher, they have plenty of options. Joey Bosa is the biggest name available in free agency and would allow the Vikings to have three starting-caliber pass rushers to rotate through. Leonard Floyd, Von Miller, Jadeveon Clowney, and Haason Reddick are others who would provide excellent depth and easily fill in if AVG or Turner were hurt.
Ultimately, this position group has enough talent to be dangerous, but very little margin for error. If Van Ginkel and Turner stay healthy and continue to improve, the Vikings should be in good shape. If not, this could quickly become one of the team’s biggest weaknesses.



There’s a reason the lights don’t come back on immediately

One thing I’ve noticed after every major storm is the flood of social media posts about power outages. Most people are understanding, but every now and then you’ll see comments that are a little snide, as if the electric crews are just sitting around waiting to flip a switch. I’ve seen them across the state.
The reality couldn’t be further from the truth.
Last night in Groton, we had two separate outages. One affected about seven blocks on the south side of town, while another outage occurred on the north side.
When the lights go out, our first priority isn’t restoring power. It’s making sure everyone is safe.
Ben Peterson from Northern Electric and I first drove every line in the north part of town. At that point, we had no idea what had caused the outage. Was there a tree across the line? Were wires lying on the ground? Had a pole been damaged? Before we could restore electricity, we had to know that energizing those lines wouldn’t put anyone in danger.
Once we determined everything was clear and safe, I went to the substation, closed the breaker, and the power came right back on.
Could I have gone to the substation first and restored power much sooner? Absolutely.
But what if a line had been lying across someone’s yard? What if a tree had pulled a wire to the ground? Restoring power without knowing the condition of the system could have created a deadly situation.
Safety always comes first.
The south side of town presented a much bigger challenge. Behind the American Legion, a large tree had fallen across all three phases, burning each conductor apart. That wasn’t a simple fix.
Ben, Taylor Diegel, and I spent hours working through the night with two bucket trucks and a digger truck. First, we removed the tree from the lines. Then we installed protective grounds on both ends of the damaged section before making repairs and splicing the conductors back together.
Those grounds are not optional. They are there to protect us.
Many people own generators today, and unfortunately, not every generator is wired correctly. A generator that is backfeeding into a power line can energize what we believe is a dead line. If we don’t properly ground the circuit before working on it, someone can be seriously injured or killed.
As we neared the end of the repair, we had another safety decision to make. It was time to reinstall the fuses that would restore power to those seven blocks. Because we didn’t know exactly how much electrical load would be placed on the line when it was re-energized, Ben and I talked it over and decided the safest approach was to return to the substation and briefly shut down the entire circuit while the fuses were snapped back into place.

It meant a few more customers were without power for a very short time, but it also meant everyone working on the line could do the job much more safely.
As Ben put it, it’s better to interrupt power to a larger portion of town

for a couple of minutes than to rush the job and risk having a fuse explode in someone’s face or another serious accident occur. That’s exactly why substations have breakers. They are there to protect the electrical system, the equipment, and most importantly, the people working on it.
Every procedure exists because someone, somewhere, was injured or killed before that rule was written.
I understand how frustrating it is to be without electricity. We depend on it for almost everything in our daily lives. But electricity is also one of the first services affected by severe weather and one of the most dangerous utilities to repair.
While many people were heading to bed last night, lineworkers across South Dakota were climbing into bucket trucks, replacing broken poles, removing trees, repairing downed wires, and restoring service in the dark. They weren’t home with their families. They were out in the wind, rain, and darkness doing everything they could to safely get the lights back on.
We finished our work in Groton at about 3 a.m. As Ben and I were talking before heading home, he mentioned that Northern Electric’s last outage crew was also just returning to headquarters at about the same time. They had been working through the night restoring power to their customers as well.
That really drove home a point that often gets overlooked. Whether it’s a city utility crew, a rural electric cooperative, or an investor-owned utility, lineworkers across the state are doing the same thing after a storm. While most people are asleep, they’re out in the darkness, often in miserable conditions, working as quickly—and as safely—as possible to restore a service that we all depend on.
So the next time the power goes out, remember that if it’s taking longer than you’d like, there’s probably a very good reason. We’d much rather spend a little extra time making sure the job is done safely than rush and have someone get hurt.
I also want to thank Ben Peterson from Northern Electric and Taylor Diegel for coming back to help with the restoration effort in Groton. Teamwork made the difference. I have to add it was fun working with Ben again. He and I had worked together for many years here in Groton. And thanks to Councilman Kevin Nehls who made the contact to have Ben come over and work with us during the night.
There’s a great sense of satisfaction in knowing we were able to restore power safely and get life back to normal for our community.
That’s what the job is all about.

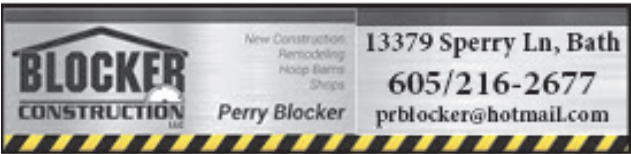
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Downtown Groton

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Call/Text Tina: 605-397-7285

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Community Calendar
Saturday, Aug. 1
Third Annual Celebration in the Park/Rib Cook-Off at the City Park, 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.
State B Legion Tournament in Madison
Sunday, Aug. 2
Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion at St. John's, 9 a.m., at Zion, 11 a.m.
United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.
Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.
State B Legion Tournament in Madison
Monday, Aug. 3
Senior Menu: Salisbury Steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, fruit, whole wheat bread.
First day of soccer practice
Wrestling Camp, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., GHS Gym and Arena
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
State B Legion Tournament in Madison
Tuesday, Aug. 4
Senior Menu: Scalloped potatoes with ham, carrots, fruit, whole wheat bread.
Wrestling Camp, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., GHS Gym and Arena
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.
City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
State B Legion Tournament in Madison
Wednesday, Aug. 5
Senior Menu: Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes with gravy, winter blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.
Wrestling Camp, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., GHS Gym and Arena
Emmanuel Lutheran: Sarah Circle, 5 p.m.
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.
Groton Chamber meeting, noon, City Hall
Thursday, Aug. 6
Senior Menu: Tuna noodle casserole, peas, fruit, whole wheat bread.
First day of football practice
Emmanuel Lutheran: Nigeria Circle, 2 p.m.
Family Fun Fest, 5:30-7:30 p.m., downtown Groton
Summer Smash, 7:30 p.m., GHS Parking Lot
Friday, Aug. 7
Senior Menu: Taco bake with ground beef, Mexican rice with beans, Catalina blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.
Storybook Land Theatre Presentation, 10 a.m., GHS Gym
State Jr. Legion Baseball Tournament at Redfield
Saturday, Aug. 8
State Jr. Legion Baseball Tournament at Redfield
Sunday, Aug. 9
Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m., at Zion, 11 a.m.
United Methodist: Worship with communion at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.
Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.
State Jr. Legion Baseball Tournament at Redfield

Monday, Aug. 10
Senior Menu: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, fruit, whole wheat bread.
First day of boys golf practice
First day of cross country practice
School Board meeting, 6 p.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
Senior Citizens meet at the Community Center, 1 p.m.
School Board Meeting, 6 p.m.
Tuesday, Aug. 11
Senior Menu: Beef and bean burrito, Spanish rice, corn, fruit.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Council, 6 p.m.
Wednesday, Aug. 12
Senior Menu: Chicken bacon ranch pasta, broccoli, fruit, whole wheat bread.
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.
Groton Area Staff Development Day at NSU, 8 a.m.
Thursday, Aug. 13
Senior Menu: Meatloaf, au gratin potatoes, peas and carrots, fruit, whole wheat bread.
First day of volleyball practice.
Friday, Aug. 14
Senior Menu: Grilled chicken sandwich, roasted sweet potatoes, California blend, fruit.
Girls Soccer at NSU vs. Dakota Valley, 3 p.m.
Boys Soccer at NSU vs. Custer, 5 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 15
Boys Soccer hosts Hot Springs, 11 a.m.
Girls Soccer hosts Sioux Falls Christian, 1 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 16
Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m., at Zion, 11 a.m.
United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.
Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.
Monday, Aug. 17
Senior Menu: Chef salad with deli ham, tomatoes and cucumbers, fruited Jell-o, fruit.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
Groton Area Staff Development Day
Boys Golf at Sioux Valley Invitational, 10 a.m.
Back-to-School Open House, 4-6 p.m.
Senior Citizens meet at the Community Center, 1 p.m.
Tuesday, Aug. 18
Senior Menu: Sloppy joe on a bun, baked potato, baked beans, fruit.
St. John's Lutheran: Quilting, 9 a.m.
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.
Groton Area Staff Development Day
Girls Soccer at Lennox, 4 p.m.
City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Aug. 19
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
Senior Menu: Chicken alfredo, tossed salad, broccoli, fruit, breadstick.
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Nominations Committee Meeting, 6 p.m.; Groton Ad Council, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Aug. 20
Senior Menu: BBQ pulled pork with Mac n cheese, cucumber salad, fruit, whole wheat bread.
Emmanuel Lutheran: WELCA "Do Day", 1:30 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 21
Senior Menu: Hot turkey combo, mashed potatoes with gravy, carrots, fruit, whole wheat bread.
Soccer at Belle Fourche (Girls at 5 p.m., boys at 7 p.m. MT)
Football at Miller/Highmore-Harrold, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 22
Soccer at St. Thomas More/Rapid City Christian (girls at 11 a.m., boys at 1 p.m. MT)
Sunday, Aug. 23
Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion and baptism, 9 a.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion at St. John's, 9 a.m., at Zion, 11 a.m.
United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.
Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.
Monday, Aug. 24
Senior Menu: Ground beef stroganoff with noodles, peas, fruit, whole wheat bread.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
Senior Citizens meet at the Community Center, with potluck at noon
Tuesday, Aug. 25
Senior Menu: Egg salad sandwich, tomato spoon salad, fruit, cookie.
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.
NEC Boys Golf Meet, 10 a.m., Olive Grove Golf Course
Volleyball at Hamlin (C match at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m. followed by varsity)
Wednesday, Aug. 26
Senior Menu: Roasted chicken breast, roasted potatoes, California blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, Aug. 27
Senior Menu: Cheeseburger casserole, sweet potatoes, corn, fruit, whole wheat bread.
Boys Soccer at Freeman/Marion/Parker/Viborg-Hurley, 4 p.m.
Girls Soccer at Garretson, 4:30 p.m.
Cross Country at Whetstone Creek Golf Course, Milbank, 5 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 28
Senior Menu: Ham and cheese sandwich, potato salad, fresh celery, fruit.
Football hosts Beresford, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 29
Volleyball: C Match at Matchbox, Aberdeen, 9 a.m.
Volleyball: at Huron Arean (vs. Brandon Valley at 10 a.m.; vs. Brookings at noon; vs. Huron at 1 p.m., vs. Sturgis, 4 p.m.)
Boys Soccer hosts Dakota Valley, 1 p.m.
Airport Fly-In/Drive In at Groton Airport
Sunday, Aug. 30
Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m., at Zion, 11 a.m.
United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.
Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.
Airport Fly-In/Drive In at Groton Airport
Monday, Aug. 31
Senior Menu: Cheeseburger on bun, tator tots, carrots, fruit.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
JH Football vs. Ellendale at Kulm, 4:30 p.m.
JV Football at Kulm, 5:30 p.m.
JH Volleyball hosts Redfield (7th and 8th at 6 p.m. on 2 courts in the Arena)



JULY 21, 2026 – GENERAL MEETING

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None
AWARDING BID FOR 4x4 CHASSIS OR FLATBED TRUCK: Chris Hemen, Weed & Pest Supervisor informed the Commission that he went and looked at the two vehicles that Pierson

Ford offered in their bid last week and he recommends going with the 2019 Ford F-550 4x4 Supercab Chassis Cab that includes a flatbed so that will save some money them between \$22-30 thousand dollars. Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve the bid from Pierson Ford for the 2019 Ford F-550 4x4 Supercab Chassis Cab at the cost of \$50,000.00 All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

RICHMOND DAM UPDATE: Chairman Sutton shared that Emergency Management Director, Scott Meints had informed him that the contractors have one pump to maintain the lake elevation. Julie Johnson joined via phone to report on the Appropriations Meeting that was held in Pierre yesterday. She stated that Commissioner Greenfield gave a presentation and both the State and DNR Engineers were in attendance. Julie shared that on the Commissioner Greenfield’s website they have documents stating that it will be 49 – 247 days to refill the lake (1 season under normal conditions).

GREEN SPACE: Patricia Kendall, Dacotah Prairie Museum Director asked to use the Green Space in front of the Courthouse for their Summertime History Fun tomorrow from 12pm to 5pm. Generally, they would have used the parking lot but due to the election and absentee voting they didn’t want to take away parking spaces. The Commission agreed to allow her to use the Green Space in front of the Courthouse.

REQUEST FOR FUNDING: Patricia Kendall, Dacotah Prairie Museum Director met with the Commission to request funding for the Expansion Project. Patricia informed the Commission that their attendance has increased by 36% and they have exceeded their physical capacity. They need more space to host larger traveling exhibits. Patricia is asking the County to consider an appropriation of either \$125,000 per year for four years or \$100,000 per year for five years. She stated that she has also visited with the City to invest in the project as well and

the Museum Foundation will be raising the majority of the Funds. Patricia will plan to come each year to make the request during the Budget Hearings.

QUOTES FOR TALENT BOOKING AGENCIES: Rachel Kippley, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager presented 3 Quotes to the Commission for Talent Booking Agencies to be used by the Brown County Fair. Quotes were as follows:

NAME, 2027, 2028.....TOTAL
Triangle Talent, \$32,000.00,
\$33,000.00\$65,000.00
Romeo Entertainment Group
\$27,500.00, \$29,500.00.....
\$57,000.00 + \$750/day onsite x
4 = \$3000 annually
Fran Romeo Agency,
\$24,999.99, \$24,999.00.....
\$49,999.98

Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Gage to approve quote from Fran Romeo Agency for total of \$49,999.98 for 2027 and 2028 Brown County Fair along with authorizing Chairman to sign the contract. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Classifieds and Card of Thanks

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

- 1 Week: \$9 for first 30 words, 20¢/word thereafter
 - 2 Wks: \$17 for first 30 words, 38¢/word thereafter
 - 3 Wks: \$24 for first 30 words, 54¢/word thereafter
- 4th consecutive week is free
605/397-NEWS (6397)

EMPLOYMENT

Position available for full-time Electric Utility Superintendent. Journeyman certification required. Salary negotiable DOE. Benefits include medical insurance, life insurance, and SD State Retirement. Please send application and resume to the City of Groton, PO Box 587, Groton, SD 57445, or email to city.doug@nvc.net. Position is open until filled. Full job description and application may be found at https://www.grotonsd.gov/o/grotoncity/page/employment-options. For more information, please call 605-397-8422. Equal opportunity employer. (0729.0805)

Position available for full-time Public Works Laborer. Formal training and/or experience highly preferred. Salary negotiable DOE. Benefits include medical insurance, life insurance, and SD State Retirement. Please send application and resume to the City of Groton, PO Box 587, Groton, SD 57445, or email to city.doug@nvc.net. Position is open until filled. Full job description and application may be found at https://www.grotonsd.gov/o/grotoncity/page/employment-options. For more information, please call 605-397-8422. Equal opportunity employer. (0729.0805)

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JERAULD COUNTY HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT open position. Full-time with benefits package. Contact the Jerauld County Auditor’s Office at (605) 539-9301 or email at auditor@jerauldsd.com.

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FOR SALE: 2018 S595 MELROE BOBCAT, 2-speed, AC/heat, stereo – includes 5-foot bucket, 6-foot bucket, 1 set pallet forks. Less than 1,600 hours. Call Todd: 605-553-0796.

NOTICES

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

DISCUSSION ON HOME ARTS BUILDING AT THE FAIR- GROUND: Dennis Jones, resident of Brown County, met with the Commission to ask them to make a motion to hold off on the demolition of the Women’s Building. Dennis covered some of the history of the building being built and called the Women’s Building in 1921 after women were given the right to vote in 1920. Also, he has been in contact with National Trust for Historic Registry and since this building was from the original Tri-State Fair he feels it should be preserved, not modernized and the new building could be built somewhere else on the Fairgrounds.

Rachel Kippley, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager stated she appreciates Dennis’ position put the Achievement Days are the Center of the Fairgrounds which is for the kids, so we need to replace the building because it would be a lot of work and money to fix this building up and the wood is rotting. Patricia Kendall, Museum Director, shared that the building is not eligible for the Historic Registry because of the shape that it is in; the Fair and 4-H have thought this through and due to Public Safety and Fiscal Responsibility the best thing is to replace the building.

Becca Tullar, 4-H Advisor stated that the tradition of Brown County Fair is to keep the Fair and 4-H alive and with that comes change; this building will give 4-H a home and community. They plan to use the historic doors and windows to keep the character and charm in the new building.

Chairman Sutton commented that it has been stated the building is not eligible for the National Registry and change is inevitable. He referred to the YMCA, Boys & Girls Club and Bethlehem Church as other examples in the community. Architecture of the new building incorporates the windows and doors to maintain some of the historic meaning. Also, smaller communities such as Grant County, Roberts County and Spink County have already built new buildings. We need to modernize ours and make it the centerpiece of the Fairgrounds for the next 150 years. Building Committee is discussing demolishing the building after the Fair, to show the community we are serious about wanting to make this building a reality.

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERORMANCE GRANT (LEMPG): Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the 3rd quarter LEMPG Grant Report. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

CLAIMS: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dinger to approve the following Claims: Insurance: SD Assoc of County Commissioners \$16,552.00; SD Public Assurance Alliance \$1,389.86. Professional Fees: Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$515.84; American Legion Post 58 \$100.00; Anna Johnson \$40.00; Avera St. Lukes Hospital \$523.22; Becky Erickson \$40.00; Brown County 4-H Leaders Association \$5,200.00; Certified Languages International LLC \$589.05; CGI, LLC \$1,537.50; Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$7,638.60; Dean Schaefer Court Reporting \$312.00; Dependable Sanitation, Inc \$46,720.00; Houston Engineering, Inc \$22,103.44; IMEG Corp \$46,944.98; Insurance Plus \$176.00; John Noyes – Bantz, Gosch & Cremer \$7,604.40; Kelli Lardy \$280.25; Kennedy Pier Loftus & Reynolds, LLP \$231.80; Kuck Law Office \$4,389.00; Lewis & Clark BHS \$480.00; Medical Waste Transport, Inc \$235.50; SD Assoc of Assessing Officers \$1,000.00; Tammy Stolle Court Reporting \$58.20; Willam A. Moss, Psy.D., LLC \$3,000.00; Yankton County Treasurer \$331.90; Jury Duty Participants \$1,708.40. Publishing: Groton Daily Independent \$126.23; McQuillen Creative Group, Inc \$255.13; Midstates Group \$350.00. Repairs & Maintenance: Asphalt Zipper \$1,362.66; Diamond Mowers LLC \$234.67; Double D Body Shop \$350.00; EcoLab Pest Elimination Division \$312.07; Graham Tire Inc \$130.00; Jake’s Heating & Cooling \$115.00; Leidholt Electric, LLC \$217.94; Midwest Pump & Tank \$133.18; Pomp’s Tire Service, Inc \$956.50; Steven Lust Automotive \$331.08; Titan Machinery \$209.68. Supplies

& Materials: A-1 Locksmithing \$65.00; Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$1,718.04; Asphalt Zipper \$4,037.50; Avera LTC Pharmacy Aberdeen \$1,808.99; Brown County 4-H Leaders Association \$223.00; Century Business Products \$1,070.90; Cole Paper Inc \$482.10; Diamond Mowers LLC \$1,217.40; Filevine \$6,622.80; Geffdog Designs \$134.30; GovConnection, Inc \$387.04; Graham Tire Inc \$10.40; HBD Inc \$128.19; Jebro Inc \$56,102.11; Jensen Rock & Sand Inc \$5,830.20; John Noyes – Bantz, Gosch & Cremer \$283.53; Kessler’s \$64.22; Kuck Law Office \$135.84; Maken-dra Ochsner \$150.00; Marco Technologies, LLC \$12.31; Menards \$199.02; Midwest Pump & Tank \$525.92; Pomp’s Tire Service, Inc \$7.00; Pro Ag Supply, Inc \$230.09; Regalia Manufacturing Co \$101.13; Runnings \$60.57; Steven Lust Automotive \$264.57. Travel & Conference: CGI, LLC \$210.70; Controlled F.O.R.C.E., Inc \$1,390.00; Joe Kretchman \$19.00; Lynn Heupel \$48.00; Mike Eliason \$3,357.16; Tammy Spellman \$236.35. Utilities: City of Aberdeen Treasurer \$4,515.65; City of Hecla \$166.21; Northern Electric \$117.50; Northwestern Energy \$981.39; NVC \$2,073.03; T-Mobile USA Inc \$2,452.80; Town of Frederick \$77.00. Other: South Dakota Department of Health \$15,969.75. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

- o Resignation of Mark Milbrandt as Brown County Landfill Worker, PT – effective July 16, 2026.
- o Resignation of Lynn Zacher as Brown County Sheriff’s Office Administrative Coordinator, FT – effective July 22, 2026. Request to fill.
- o Resignation of Wesley Jones as Brown County Jail Detention Officer, FT – effective July 25, 2026. Request to fill.
- o Last day of internship for Mayson Coyle, Brown County State’s Attorney Intern – effective July 31, 2026.
- o Temporary 2026 Brown County Fair Bartender Workers, August 6th to 16th
- o Dexter Hanson at \$10.00/hr. + tips
- o Jessica Reise - \$10.00/hr. + tips

(Bartenders filling in as Leads will be \$12.00/hr. + tips)
All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

TRAVEL REQUESTS: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Gage to approve the following Travel Requests: Stephanie Morgan and Joe Kraft with Department of Equalization to attend SDAAO School; Lynn Heupel, Auditor to attend Election Workshop in Pierre; Lynn Heupel, Sara Swisher and Erin Kempf with the Auditor’s Office along with Allison Tunheim, Human Resources Director to attend the SDACES Training. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Gage to spend the \$100,000 LATCF Funds on the new 4-H Building. Commissioner Dennert shared that he was for this and it is a one-time expense. All members in attendance voting aye. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to go into Executive Session per SDCL 1-25-2 for Personnel and Legal. All member present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:45 A.M. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published July 29, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$110.16 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 27035

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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]
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July 21, 2026
The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00pm at 120 N Main Street for their second monthly meeting with the following members present: Bahr, Babcock, Voss-Severson, Shilhanek, Nehls, Cutler, and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Also present were Douglas Heinrich, Todd Gay, and Elizabeth Varin.

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

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

Two bids were received for the 2007 Ford F550 Bucket Truck. The first bid was from Pharis Transportation, Inc. in the amount of \$17,500 and the second bid was from the City of Hecla in the amount of \$14,001. Moved by Bahr and seconded by Cutler to award the bid to Pharis Transportation, Inc. in the amount of \$17,500. All members present voted aye.

Gay exited the meeting.

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

Discussion took place regarding the park saferoom.

Discussion took place regarding vacating portions of West 7th Avenue and North Lincoln Street.

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

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

Payroll, \$52,255.13, Employee salaries; Administrative, \$4,785.22, ; Public Safety, \$9,849.85, ; Public Works, \$16,439.87, ; Culture & Recreation, \$21,180.19, ; USPS, \$327.82, Utility billing postage; Clark Rotary Club, \$300.00, Legion baseball entry fee; SD State Treasurer, \$12,575.27, Sales and Excise Tax - June 2026; City of Groton, \$833.32, Utility deposits applied to outstanding bills; Rebecca Hearnen, \$103.02, Utility deposit refund; Craig Dunker, \$215.25, Utility deposit refund; Shelly Lerew, \$148.51, Utility deposit refund; Stacy Mayou, \$125.74, Med flex; Dacotah Bank, \$4,660.03, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Northern Electric Coop, \$90.21, Power services at airport - June 2026; NVC, \$887.03, Telephone and internet services; Dacotah Bank, \$9,765.11, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dacotah Bank, \$689.57, HSA contributions; SD Supplemental Retirement , \$740.00, Supplemental retirement; Ecolab Pest Elimination, \$202.70, Pest control - Rubble Site & Community Center; Krueger Brothers, \$5,011.20, Crushed gravel; Brick's Poo Fighters, \$500.16, Pumping of manhole and lift station; Irby, Inc., \$182,314.22, FR clothing, meters for metering project - Electric Dept.; MJ's Sinclair, \$2,590.81, Fuel purchases; Heartland Waste Management, \$12,467.45, Garbage hauling; Geffdog Designs, LLC, \$800.00, PD uniform patches (x100); Cole Papers, \$280.39, Garbage bags - Multiple Depts; Heartland Energy, \$54,963.14, Power services - June 2026; Sydney Kurtz, \$173.81, 2026 U10 softball coach mileage reimbursement ; Altec Capital Services, LLC, \$2,189.93, Digger truck lease - Electric Dept.; A&B Business Solutions, \$262.13, Printer/copier lease - City Hall; Reilly Ketterling, \$648.47, 2026 U12 softball coach mileage reimbursement; Galls, LLC, \$245.21, PD uniform purchases; SD 811, \$70.35, Message fees - Q2 of 2026; Steven Lust Automotive, \$283.50, Repair to brake pedal - 2023 PD Tahoe; Lien Transportation Co, \$4,524.30, Hot mix; Truck World, Inc., \$71.30, Parts for dump truck - Street Dept.; The Groton Independent, \$97.29, Publishing costs; Locke Electric, \$462.69, Troubleshooting dugout outlets and install light in concessions cooler - Baseball; Dacotah Bank Visa, \$6,074.79, Food for resale - BB Concessions, softball glove and steaming, fuel purchases, pool sample postage, website hosting, forever stamps, hotel stay for FO/HR school, DFM disabler, book purchases, ink cartridges,

display sign letter organizers, white-out, table food warmer, facial tissues, napkins, paper plates, U8/U10 BB trophies, U12 tournament entry fee - Multiple Depts.; Pat and Kayla Krause, \$50.00, Reimbursement for add'l Legion BB entry fee; Thomas Strickland, \$70.09, Reimbursement for uniform hemming and patches sewn on shirts - Police Dept.; NW Energy, \$13.94, Natural gas service at water tower; Amanda Bisbee, \$626.15, 2026 U14/U16 softball coach mileage reimbursement; Carrie Cole, \$76.85, 2026 U8 softball coach mileage reimbursement; SD Department of Health, \$260.00, Pool/water/sewer testing; Matt Locke, \$1,242.63, 2026 14U Legion baseball coach mileage reimbursement; reimbursement for U10/U12 baseball tournament empire costs;

Announcement: Family Fun Fest on August 6, 2026, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Main Street to be blocked off.

Varin exited the meeting.

Moved by Cutler and seconded by Voss-Severson to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal matters 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 7:30pm. All members present voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 9:06pm.

Moved by Bahr and seconded by Cutler to begin accepting applications for a full-time public works laborer. Position is open until filled. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Voss-Severson and seconded by Babcock to adjourn the meeting at 9:06pm. All members present voted aye.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor

Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer
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NOTICE OF HEARING FOR SPECIAL EVENT ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

Notice is hereby given according to SDCL 35-2 & 35-4-124, a Public Hearing on the following Special Event Alcoholic Beverage License (Malt Beverage) Application is set for the 4th day of August, 2026, in the chambers of the Brown County Commissioners, in the Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota, at which time any interested persons wishing to register a complaint on their approval may appear:

Boys & Girls Club of Aberdeen Area, Aberdeen, SD – Brown County Fair Grandstand – SW ¼ of Sec 1-T123N-R64W Brown County, SD.

Temporary Special Event Alcohol License effective August 10-16

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published July 29, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$10.17 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 27037

Locke Electric bats erupt in 18-6 victory over Merchants

NORTHVILLE — The bottom half of Groton Locke Electric’s lineup fueled a big offensive afternoon Sunday as Groton rolled to an 18-6 victory over the Merchants.

The bottom three hitters in the lineup combined to drive the attack, with Ryan Groebelinghoff, Alex Morris and Palmer Boyd accounting for eight of Groton’s 16 hits, six runs scored and eight RBIs.

The Merchants grabbed a brief 1-0 lead in the top of the first inning when Ashton Remily connected for a solo home run to center field.

Groton answered immediately with a four-run first inning. Brian Hansen tied the game with a sacrifice fly before Ty Sieber launched a two-run homer to right field. Morris followed with an RBI single and Groebelinghoff capped the inning with a bases-loaded walk to give Locke Electric a 4-1 advantage.

Bradin Althoff added a solo home run to center field in the second inning before the Merchants answered with a solo blast by Kyle Stahl in the third.

Locke Electric stretched its lead with three more runs in the bottom of the third. Groebelinghoff delivered an RBI single down the left-field line, Althoff added an RBI single to center and Sieber drew a bases-loaded walk.

Groton then put the game away with a nine-run fourth inning. Brevin Fliehs doubled home two runs, Hansen followed with a two-run single, Jonah Schmidt forced in a run with a walk, Morris cleared the bases with a three-run triple and Boyd added an RBI single to cap the outburst.

Wyatt Locke earned the win on the mound, allowing six runs, four earned, on six hits over six innings. He struck out five and walked seven. Groebelinghoff closed out the game with a scoreless inning of relief, striking out three without allowing a hit.

Boyd paced the offense by going a perfect 4-for-4, while Morris finished 2-for-3 with a team-high four RBIs. Groebelinghoff, Bradin Althoff, Brevin Fliehs and Ben Althoff each added two hits as Groton finished with 16 hits.

Schmidt drew three of Groton’s 12 walks as the home team consistently put pressure on the Merchants’ pitching staff.

Remily led the Merchants offensively, going 3-for-3 with two RBIs, while the visitors also drew seven walks and played error-free defense despite the loss.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Photo, for short
4 Senate staffer
8 Scoff
12 Rx overseer
13 Classic theaters
14 Bohemian
15 Tunes from Trinidad
17 Pinta's companion
18 MSN rival
19 Acapulco native
21 NAACP co-founder W.E.B.
24 Collection
25 — Cruz Kayne of "Barbie"
26 D.C. baseballer
28 Serious
32 Overlook
34 Inherited
36 "Little Caesar" role
37 Group spirit
39 Rug cleaner, briefly
41 Buddy
42 Felon's flight
44 Arctic shoe
46 Bitter orange liqueur
50 French monarch
51 Unsigned (Abbr.)
52 All-important

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- 56 Male deer
57 Notes after "do"
58 Bird (Pref.)
59 Harboring a grudge
60 "I'm a klutz!"
61 Napkin's perch
7 Relaxes
8 Custodian
9 Rocker
10 Sicilian volcano
11 Vanna's "Wheel of Fortune" colleague
16 " — -hoo!"
20 Crosses (out)
21 Title for Judi Dench
22 One
23 Droop
27 "Mazel —!"
29 Scripture-based
30 Beige
31 Castle
33 Singer Knowles
35 Highland hat
38 Pouch
40 Actress Jamie Lee
43 PC shortcut
45 Japanese pond carp
46 Mama — Elliot
47 Golden Rule word
48 Den noise
49 Black-and-white cookie
53 Little rascal
54 Hollywood's Gardner
55 Sass

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SATURDAY

AUGUST 1ST

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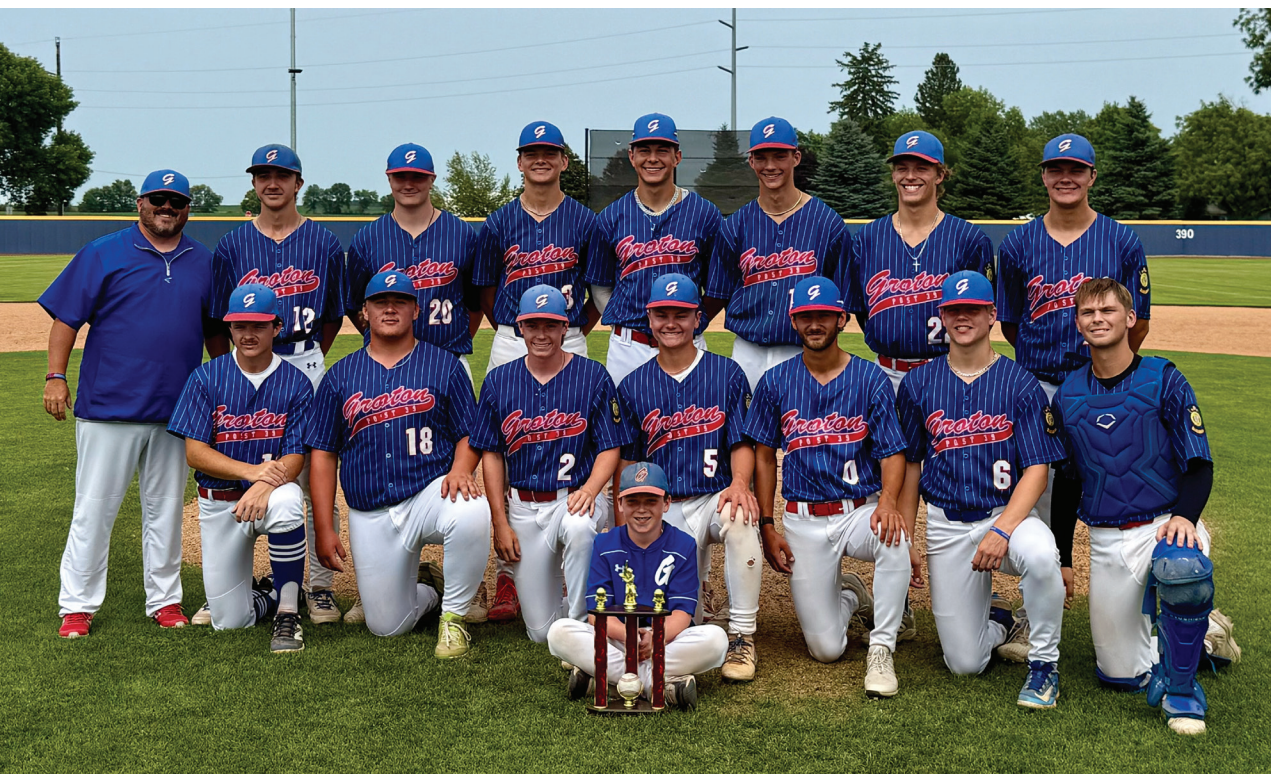
8AM	RIB COOKS SET UP
9:30AM	RIB COOK MEETING WITH RULES
11AM-4PM	CRAFT FAIR & FARMERS MARKET
12PM-4PM	LIONS VISION VAN
12:30PM-5PM	HOT DOGS, CHIPS, & GIANT FREEZES SOLD AT THE GRAIN BIN
1PM-4PM	GELLY BALL
1PM-4:30PM	INFLATABLES & KIDDIE TRAIN
4:30PM	WATER BALLON FIGHT
5PM	RIB TICKETS GO ON SALE. ONLY \$1 PER RIB.
6PM-9PM	KARAOKE BY B&M TUNES
7PM	RIB COOK AWARDS

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Senior Legion Team is state bound!

Back Row: Coach Pat Krause, Kason Oswald, Isaiah Scepaniak, TC Schuster, Carter Simon, Jordan Schwan, Braeden Fliehs
Front Row: Nicholas Groebelinghoff, Gavin Englund, Lincoln Krause, Alex Abeln, Jarrett Erdmann, Ryder Schelle, Karsten Fliehs, Bat Boy Micah Krause in front with trophy. (Courtesy photo Bruce Babcock)

The victorious Groton American Senior Legion team wins its Senior Legion B Regional tournament in the championship game with a 2-1 win over Sisseton. Now they are on their way to the State Senior Legion B Tournament this week in Madison. Groton plays Garretson at 5 p.m. on Friday.

Groton Sr. Legion claims Region 1B title, advances to state tournament

MILBANK — Groton Post 39 is headed to the South Dakota American Legion State Tournament after edging Sisseton Post 50, 2-1, in Thursday’s Region 1B championship game. In a game dominated by pitching, Groton’s Gavin Englund and Sisseton’s L.J. Crooks matched each other nearly pitch for pitch before Groton held on for the one-run victory. Groton struck first in the bottom of the second inning when Lincoln Krause drew a bases-loaded walk to force home the game’s first run. Post 39 added what proved to be the game-winning run in the third inning as Englund grounded out to bring home another run for a 2-0 advantage. Sisseton cut the deficit to 2-1 in the sixth inning, but Groton’s pitching staff closed the door to secure the regional championship. Englund earned the victory on the mound, working 5 2/3 innings while allowing one run on five hits. He struck out seven and walked three before giving way to Braeden Fliehs, who tossed 1 1/3 scoreless innings in relief, allowing no hits while striking out one and walking two to earn the save. Crooks kept Sisseton within striking distance throughout the game, allowing two runs on four hits over six innings while striking out seven and walking six. Groton managed four hits in the contest, with T.C. Schuster, Englund, Carter Simon and Karsten Fliehs each recording one. Krause and Englund each drove in a run, while Karsten Fliehs reached base twice on walks to help pace a patient Post 39 offense that drew six walks. For Sisseton, Kellen Rempp collected two of the team’s five hits, while Crooks drove in the lone run. Sisseton played a clean defensive game without committing an error. With the victory, Groton captures the Region 1B championship and advances to the South Dakota American Legion State Tournament, which begins Friday in Madison. Groton will open tournament play against Garretson at 5 p.m. Friday.

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Friday’s Bracket

VOLGA POST 114
Region 6B Champion

GAME 1
10:00 AM

DELL RAPIDS POST 65
Region 2B Champion

GROTON POST 39
Region 1B Champion

GAME 3
5:00 PM

GARRETSON POST 23
Region 5B Champion

PARKSTON POST 194
Region 4B Champion

GAME 2
30 Minutes after Game 1

BELLE FOURCHE POST 32
Region 7B Champion

DAKOTA VALLEY POST 319
Region 3B Champion

GAME 4
30 Minutes after Game 3

Madison Post 25
Host

Groton’s 14Ustate tournament run ends in Vermillion

VERMILLION — Groton Post 39’s season came to an end Saturday after a pair of losses at the South Dakota Class B 14U American Legion State Baseball Tournament. Groton opened the tournament Friday with a hard-fought 12-8 extra-inning loss to Dell Rapids before being eliminated Saturday with an 11-1 defeat against Scotland/Menno/Freeman/Canistota (SMFC) Post 152. In Friday’s opener, Dell Rapids built a 5-0 lead through three innings before Groton mounted an impressive comeback in the fourth. Post 39 erupted for seven runs in the inning to take an 8-5 lead, despite recording just one hit. Trayce Schelle supplied the big blow with a two-run single as Groton capitalized on eight walks and several Dell Rapids defensive miscues. Dell Rapids battled back in the seventh in-

ning, tying the game at 8-8 on an RBI single by Oakley W. and a run-scoring double by Dawson B. The game remained deadlocked until the eighth inning when Dell Rapids pushed across four runs to secure the victory. Henry B. was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded to force home the go-ahead run before Oakley W. followed with a two-run single. Another run scored on a fielder’s choice to complete the scoring. Schelle turned in a strong performance on the mound for Groton, allowing five runs — only two earned — on six hits over five innings while striking out three and walking five. Schelle also paced the Groton offense with two RBIs. He and Asher Zimmerman each collected a hit, while Bentley Ehresmann and Mason Locke each drew two walks. Keegan Kucker added two stolen bases as Groton showed patience at the plate with eight walks. Dell Rapids finished with 11 hits, led by Dawson B., who went 3-for-4 with four RBIs. Oakley W. and Easton D. each added multiple-hit games. The loss dropped Groton into Saturday’s elimination bracket against SMFC, which had fallen 11-5 to Winner/Colome in its tournament opener. SMFC wasted little time taking control, scoring five runs in the first inning on RBI singles by Hayes S., Dylan D. and Parker S., along with a two-run double by Destry H. The 79ers added four more runs in the second inning as Asher S. singled home two runs, Dylan D. doubled in another and Parker S. added an RBI single to extend the lead to 9-0. Groton scored its lone run in the third inning when Hank Hill drove in a run, but SMFC’s offense continued to roll on its way to the 11-1 victory. Tucker Leicht started on the mound for Groton, allowing eight runs on eight hits in 1 1/3 innings. Brigham R. earned the win for SMFC, limiting Groton to two hits over 2 2/3 scoreless innings while striking out five. Hill finished 1-for-2 with Groton’s only RBI. Carter Boerger, Keegan Kucker, Schelle, Bentley Ehresmann and Hill each recorded one hit, while Post 39 drew six walks. SMFC pounded out 16 hits in the contest. Asher S. and Hayes S. each collected three hits, with Asher driving in three runs. Dylan D., Destry H. and Parker S. also had multiple-hit performances, while Parker stole two bases.

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Groton battles back to reach Region 1B Junior Legion championship

Groton Post 39 Junior Legion battled back from an opening-round loss to reach the championship game before seeing its season come to an end at the Region 1B Junior Legion Baseball Tournament in Sisseton. After dropping its opener to Big Stone City, Groton rattled off three straight elimination-game victories before falling to host Sisseton in the winner-take-all championship.

Groton opened tournament play Monday with a hard-fought 3-1 loss to Big Stone City. The game was tied 1-1 until the Badgers broke through with two runs in the bottom of the sixth inning.

Alex Abeln turned in an outstanding performance on the mound despite taking the loss. He struck out 10 batters while allowing just one run on five hits over 5 1/3 innings. Zach Fliehs, John Bisbee and Lincoln Shilhanek each collected a hit for Groton, which tied the game in the sixth inning when Big Stone City committed an error before the Badgers answered in their final at-bat.

Facing elimination Tuesday morning, Groton responded with a dominant 7-0 shutout of Claremont.

Kason Oswald tossed a one-hit complete game, never allowing Claremont to threaten while leading Groton into another elimination contest. Groton scored twice in the first inning on RBI hits by T.C. Schuster and Ryder Schelle before adding insurance throughout the game.

Schelle finished 3-for-4 with two RBIs, Braden Fliehs added two hits, and Schuster also drove in a pair of runs.

Just hours later, Groton erupted offensively in a 17-3 victory over Big Stone City to avenge its opening-round defeat.

Groton raced to a 4-0 lead in the first inning before breaking the game open with a nine-run third. T.C. Schuster earned the pitching victory, while Braden Fliehs provided 2 1/3 innings of scoreless relief. Schelle drove in three runs, Fliehs and Shilhanek each had two hits, and John Bisbee added a two-run single during the decisive third inning. Groton also showed patience at the plate with 10 walks and turned two double plays defensively.

The win advanced Groton into the championship round against previously unbeaten Sisseton, meaning Groton needed two victories while Sisseton needed just one.

Groton forced the "if necessary" championship game by defeating Sisseton 12-8 in an exciting first meeting Wednesday.

T.C. Schuster delivered the biggest hit of the tournament for Groton, clearing the bases with a three-run double in the sixth inning to snap an 8-8 tie. He finished with four RBIs after also driving in a run with a sacrifice fly earlier in the game.

Braden Fliehs and Zach Fliehs each collected three hits as Groton pounded out 16 hits. John Bisbee, Ryder Schelle and Alex Abeln also had multiple-hit games. After surrendering a 4-1 lead and trailing following a six-run Sis-

seton fourth inning, Groton answered with four runs in the sixth to stay alive and hand Sisseton its first loss of the tournament. With both teams now carrying one loss, the regional championship came down to one final game. Sisseton built an early 6-0 advantage and went on to claim the region title with a 7-4 victory. The hosts scored three runs in the first inning and added three more in the second before Groton mounted a comeback. Jordan Schwan provided a strong relief effort, striking out seven over 5 1/3 innings, but the early deficit proved too much to overcome. Braden Fliehs, T.C. Schuster, Ryder Schelle, Alex Abeln and Lincoln Shilhanek each recorded a hit for Groton. Zach Fliehs and Shilhanek each drove in a run, while Groton showed its discipline at the plate by drawing eight walks and played error-free defense in the season finale. Despite falling one game short of a state



Starting Groton Jr Legion pitcher Alex Abeln winds up on the mound during the Big Stone City game. (Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)



Groton Jr Legion starting pitcher Kason Oswald pitched a one hit shutout against Claremont. He is pitching in the rain prior to 2 inning rain delay. (Photo courtesy)

Mohs Surgery Available in Aberdeen

Bo Wang, MD PhD, double board-certified dermatologist and Mohs surgeon, offers specialized treatment for common skin cancers including basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma. Mohs surgery provides among the highest cure rates available by examining the cancer margins microscopically during the procedure, allowing complete removal while preserving as much healthy tissue as possible. Trust Dr. Wang with expert skin cancer care close to home in Aberdeen.



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— King Crossword —
Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

Weekly SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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“Replacing Missing Teeth; 21st Century Solutions to an Age Old Problem”

Your tooth broke, it was painful, the dentist said it couldn’t be fixed and it had to be pulled. Now what?

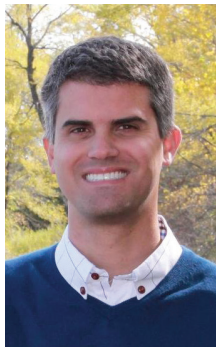
That missing tooth, like a critical bolt missing from an engine, is a problem that may take months or years to show its face. Missing one or more teeth can lead to changes in bite, space between teeth resulting in food getting stuck and difficulty chewing and speaking. Every week I see patients that are starting to break front teeth because they have no back teeth to chew with. When back teeth are missing, the front teeth take all the force of chewing and start to wear down.

The great news is that we have modern solutions for missing teeth!

Quickly becoming the standard of care to replace teeth are dental implants. The process begins when a titanium post is placed to mimic the tooth root and is finished when the final crown is attached to the dental implant. Patients report that their dental implant looks, feels and works just like a natural tooth. A dental bridge is another simple tooth replacement option and can be utilized to replace 1 or 2 missing teeth. The process involves placing dental crowns on the teeth adjacent to the missing tooth with an artificial tooth in between. The adjacent teeth are effectively the anchors for the bridge.

For patients that are missing all of their teeth, the Teeth-in-a-Day procedure or also known as All-on-X is the preferred treatment plan. All-on-X refers to having all the replacement teeth anchored with X number of implants. That X number of implants can range from 4 to 8. While dentures can look nice and provide minimal chewing force, most people cannot tolerate a lower full denture due to how uncomfortable it is. When a patient leaves the office after having the Teeth-in-a-Day procedure, they take home a fixed set of teeth that look great and can provide some chewing ability. After healing and the final prosthetic is made, the patient is allowed to eat their favorite foods again and can laugh with confidence knowing that their teeth are not going to fly across the room.

Whether you’re replacing one missing tooth or restoring your entire mouth, there’s a solution to fit your lifestyle and goals. Take the first step toward a more comfortable smile by consulting your dentist today.



By Dr. Bradley Jordan

Dr. Bradley Jordan is the owner and dentist at Lone Oak Dental in Brookings, South Dakota. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and completed an Advanced Education in General Dentistry residency at the Audie L. Murphy VA Clinic in San Antonio, TX. He is happily married and has two teenage boys. 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).

Tvinnereim is Groton Area Maintenance Director

Aaron Tvinnereim, originally from Webster, is the new Maintenance Director for the Groton Area School District.

“We live in Aberdeen and have a son and a daughter,” he said. “My wife Alison is the elementary librarian at the Groton Elementary School and also works as a para.”

“Becoming the Maintenance Director is



The Tvinnereim family

new to me,” Tvinnereim admitted. “Before accepting this job, I had been in the military with the National Guard for 29 years.”

“I have several things to learn about this job, but the biggest challenge is simply learning everything that needs to be done,” he admitted. “Superintendent Schwan and the other maintenance workers are a great help!”

“Part of the learning process involves not being afraid to ask questions and seeking advice from the staff about what has to be done in this summer ‘clean everything’ work!” Tvinnereim smiled.

“I’ve only been on the job for five days so am still a novice,” he admitted. “I’m not afraid to ask for ideas and suggestions from the staff. I’ve learned one thing already: the work is time-consuming and requires physical skill and ability.”

“For example, just stripping and cleaning the floors and hallways in both buildings is quite the process,” Tvinnereim explained. “The floors must be stripped and thoroughly cleaned, allowed to dry completely, and followed by numerous coats of wax!”

“There are seven employees in the school maintenance department,” he said, “which includes some of the teaching staff who help out in the summer. These individuals are great help since they’ve been here several years and know what needs to be done.”

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KEN'S BAKERY FRESH WHITE HAMBURGER BUNS

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BBQ, Chips & Pop

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FLAVOR OF THE WEEK CHERRY CHOCOLATE CHEESECAKE

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Ken's Food Court

Will be open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 10 am - 2 pm. Aberdeen Ken's Parking Lot Only

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