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The Groton Independent

Vol. 143 No. 49 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2026 ♦ Established in 1889



Water break at GHS

Yvonne Lorenz sent a text to Paul Kosel at 2:04 that asked, "Is there supposed to be water coming out of the ground by the east side of the high school, and running across the streets?" Well, that didn't sound good, so Paul text city supervisor Dwight Zerr the message. As it turned out, the water service line entering the high school gym utility room had busted. For a spell, two blocks of water were turned off until the valve for the high school was found and then turned off. The above photo features Superintendent Joe Schwan inspecting the corner of the utility room where water had seeped in. The below photo features Dwight Zerr turning the water main back on as Jesse Anderson is at the end of the block monitoring the water as the main had to be flushed out before returning to service. So just days before the start of school, the school will have to deal with the repairs of the water service line.



Dockter is new band director

by Dorene Nelson

Megan Dockter, a native of Watertown, SD, is the new 5th-12th grade band teacher. "After graduating from high school, I attended Northern State University where I received my music education degree," she explained. "I then attended North Dakota State University to get my Master's of Music Degree."

"This is my first year of teaching, and I am looking forward to becoming acquainted with my students and teaching band to students in the fifth through the twelfth grade," Dockter stated.

"I will be teaching instrumental and marching band," she said. "I intend to quickly get the students playing their instruments as they march down the street. This will be something new for the incoming sixth graders, but they'll learn quickly!"

"In addition to class as a large group, I'll also give individual lessons," Dockter said. "This will help them be more comfortable and confident as the group plays together."

"Since this is my first year, all of us have a lot to learn," she admitted. "I really want my students to know that I truly do care about them and their success and enjoyment."

"One of the first things I will have them learn is how to play the school song," Dockter explained. "I want them to be engaged and happy to be in band."

"I intend to be visible and easy to talk to," she said. "Hopefully I can get the kids ready to be outside marching by the second week of school."

"I already know a few of the students due to my junior field experience," Dockter stated. "I had some previous experience in several places, which helped me to become more self-assured."

"I aim to have the band ready to play in the beginning sports games," she said. "I am also looking forward to being in the classroom, working with my students as they learn life skills and enjoy playing music together."



Megan Dockter is the new GHS Band Director



The Dahme Construction crew were busy working on the broken water service feeding the GHS Gym area. An old cast iron pipe is needing to be replaced and the crew was digging back to see where it meets up with PVC pipe. (Photos by Paul Kosel)

School Building Project costs exceeds \$31 million; but only \$23.5 million to paid by general obligation bond

The proposed Groton Area middle/high school addition and renovation project now carries an early conceptual price tag of approximately \$31.3 million, with district officials considering a combination of a general obligation bond and capital outlay certificates to finance the work.

The Groton Area School Board heard detailed presentations Tuesday night from its construction manager and financial adviser as it continues preparing for a possible November bond election. No decision on the amount of the bond could be made Tuesday because action on the financing proposal was not included on the agenda.

The board is expected to determine the proposed ballot question at its Sept. 14 meeting.

Dallis Preheim presented the first detailed conceptual construction budget, emphasizing that the \$31.3 million figure remains an early estimate because much of the project's final scope and design has yet to be determined.

"This is a very early, high-level budget," Preheim said.

The proposal includes new academic space, a commons addition, career and technical education space and extensive renovation work in portions of the existing school.

Continues on page 6



Savannah Bible is the new assistant on the GDILIVE.COM team this year. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Hay bales started on fire three miles north and about two miles east of Groton Sunday evening. The Groton and Bath Fire Departments responded to the fire and are pictured below refilling with water at a fire hydrant at Groton Ford. (Photos by Paul Kosel)



Football season is officially back! The Minnesota Vikings defeated the New York Giants 13-10, a strong start to their preseason and hopefully a harbinger of things to come in 2026. Was it a meaningless game? Yep. Did I still watch every second of it? Yep. Last week, Vikings head coach Kevin O’Connell officially named Kyler Murray the starting quarterback for 2026,

ending months of speculation and daily practice recaps of each QB’s performances. Some people think it was never a true competition to begin with, but I disagree. I think the Vikings were hoping J.J. McCarthy would rise to the occasion, grab the starting role, and never look back. Heck, even if things had been close, the Vikings likely would have gone with the younger player with more upside. Unfortunately for McCarthy, Murray was clearly the better QB. And after watching the first preseason game, it’s fair to wonder if McCarthy becomes the team’s QB2. Carson Wentz is still on the roster, and after playing well last season, he continued that strong play Saturday – and even got an extended run because Max Brosmer was injured (it didn’t look too serious).

Before we get into the game recap, I have to point out the bad news. Jamal Adams, signed to provide depth at both linebacker and safety, went down with a non-contact injury and had to be carted into the locker room. As of this moment, there isn’t an official diagnosis, but by the sounds of it, he’s likely out for the season. It’s a tough injury for a player who, by all accounts, was having a great training camp.

Now, on to the recap. The Vikings have been talking about a revamped rushing attack, and it was on full display Saturday. Aaron Jones Sr and Jordan Mason both had three carries, combining for 44 yards (7.3 yards per carry). Demond Claiborne had 12 carries (more than every other RB combined) and was close to popping some big runs. He’s likely locked up that RB3 spot, and his speed will be a great complement to the starting duo of Jones and Mason.

The Vikings have an embarrassment of riches at the WR position. I know I’ve said that before, but seeing the depth in an actual game reinforced my opinion. The top five spots are pretty much locked up at this point (Justin Jefferson, Jordan Addison, Jauan Jennings, Tai Felton, and Myles Price). The Vikings only kept five WRs on the opening day roster last season, but in 2023 and 2024 they had six. I think the Vikings were hoping to sneak undrafted rookie Dillon Bell onto the practice squad, but he played well on Saturday and even had two runs for 27 yards. I think he makes the 53-man roster.

Coming as a shock to absolutely nobody, Brian Flores’ defense brought the heat all game. Free agent signee James Pierre led the team in tackles. Four Vikings had sacks, highlighted by Jay Ward doing his best Harrison Smith impression by blitzing off the edge and destroying Giants’ QB Jaxson Dart (who briefly left the field and was checked for a concussion). The Vikings’ defense was practically living in the backfield all day, evidenced by the fact that eight different players had a tackle for a loss. It’s going to be a long day for opposing offenses.

Player of the game This week’s player of the game was Myles Price. Undrafted in 2025, Price made the roster as the team’s kick return specialist, but he only played 17 snaps on offense. This year he’s out to change that. After performing well in training camp, Price led the team in catches and receiving yards against the Giants. He also made the play of the game, snagging a one-handed touchdown catch for the Vikings’ only TD of the game.

Looking ahead, the Vikings will host the Baltimore Ravens this week for joint practices before the two teams face off for their second preseason game. The game will be on Saturday, August 22. Kickoff is at noon.

Dear EarthTalk: What’s new in terms of making the cons- Dear EarthTalk: Has climate change already had any significant impacts on wine production around the world?

—Wendy Baumgarten, Dubuque, Iowa

Eight out of the ten hottest years on record have occurred in the past decade. Thus, it is no surprise that rising global temperatures have had a significant impact on wine production. One study by the University of British Columbia (UBC) found that temperatures during the wine growing season have drastically increased around the world. “That kind of change can affect harvest times, grape ripening, and thus the taste of the wine,” reports UBC’s Elizabeth Wolkovich, one of the study authors.

One aspect of wine production that climate change has affected is the growing cycle. Warmer temperatures lead to the growing cycle happening earlier. In fact, budding, flowering, fruit-set, veraison (when the grapes begin to ripen and change color), and harvest all take place around ten days to two weeks sooner than normal. This leads to higher alcohol levels, lower acidity levels, and less refined tannins, all of which affect taste. Hot temperatures during the growing season also make it more difficult for those who grow wine to achieve balance in the fruit. During the winter, mild temperatures lead to vines coming out of dormancy quicker and becoming more vulnerable to frost as a result.

Global warming has also increased weather disasters. As vines are one of the most weather-sensitive agricultural crops, weather catastrophes can be detrimental. Smoke from wildfires can easily cover vineyards and ruin wines, a phenomenon that has already occurred in the U.S., Australia, and South Africa. A shortage of rainwater can decrease the fruitfulness of wine production, while hail can be extremely destructive. Droughts and wildfires, both of which have become more common due to climate change, have therefore negatively affected the quality of harvests.

Amid this crisis, one study published in the journal Nature Reviews Earth and Environment shows that around 90 percent of coastal and low-altitude regions in California may be unable to produce good wine if global warming exceeds +2°C, reducing the growable surface area of wine. With increasing temperatures reducing grape crops and the quality of wine, researchers estimate that up to 70 percent of the world’s suitable wine regions will become too warm for production by the end of the century. That said, a warmer climate is expected to boost production in 25 percent of current wine regions.

Winemakers have begun taking adaptive measures. For instance, new grape varieties are being used as they are better suited to climate change. Growers can also plant on differently oriented slopes that receive less sun and more wind, or slopes at higher altitudes to mitigate temperature increases. While these measures may come at high costs, they are now crucial to preserving the prosperity of wine production worldwide.



The wine industry as we know it is on the ropes thanks to climate change.

Credit: Pexels.com.

Tigers show early-season growth as girls rebound with road victory

Groton Area's soccer teams opened the season with a busy stretch of matches, highlighted by a tie for the boys and the first victory of the season for the girls.

The Groton Area boys battled Hot Springs to a 2-2 tie Friday at the Northern State University soccer complex in Aberdeen.

Ryder Schwan and Easton Weber scored Groton's goals. Schwan also had an assist, while Logan Olson picked up the other assist for the Tigers. Goalkeeper TC Schuster finished with eight saves as Groton Area matched Hot Springs goal-for-goal throughout the contest.

The Groton Area girls, meanwhile, faced a demanding opening weekend with matches against Dakota Valley and Sioux Falls Christian before bouncing back Tuesday with a 3-0 road victory over Lennox.

Groton Area opened with a 10-2 loss to Dakota Valley on Friday. Brenna Imrie and Devan Locke scored the Tigers' goals.

The girls returned home Saturday to face perennial power Sioux Falls Christian. Groton Area stayed within a goal through the opening half before the Chargers pulled away for a 5-0 victory.

Sioux Falls Christian took a 1-0 lead when Maci Connell scored with 22:54 remaining in the first half. Groton's defense kept the Chargers from adding to the lead before halftime.

The Tigers had an opportunity to tie the game early in the second half when McKenna Tietz was awarded a penalty kick with 31:52 remaining, but her attempt went wide to the left.

Sioux Falls Christian then began to create separation.

Makinli Reitsma scored with 25:48 remaining, Emily Van Hofwegen added a goal at the 20:35 mark and Connell scored her second goal with 20:11 left. Victoria Gassen also found the net for the Chargers.

Groton goalkeeper Tori Schuster was busy throughout the match and finished with 18 saves. Sioux Falls Christian goalkeeper Nealie Stanford recorded four saves.

Despite opening the season with two losses, Groton Area coach Matt Baumgartner said the opening weekend gave his young team an opportunity to learn where improvements were needed.

"We've learned a lot," Baumgartner said. "We've learned where people need to be on the field in certain situations that need to be fixed. Fitness might be a little bit off at the moment, but everyone still has to fight till the final whistle."

Baumgartner said approximately nine of the team's 19 players are seventh- or eighth-graders, meaning a number of young Tigers will gain considerable varsity experience this fall.

"We're a little bit younger on that end, so there'll be plenty of minutes for them to experience varsity soccer this fall," Baumgartner said. "We've got to learn and adapt as we go."

He said the Tigers showed improvement Saturday after struggling at times to stay together during Friday's loss.

"Overall, I'm pleased with what we're doing," Baumgartner said. "We're learning and adapting our shape to the season, and the girls are learning their roles. We'll just have to take it day by day and pick different pieces of the puzzle and put them together each and every single day."

That learning process paid dividends Tuesday at Lennox.

Groton Area broke through early and never let up, earning a 3-0 victory while recording its first shutout of the season.

Sydney Locke opened the scoring in the 12th minute, finishing a play set up by Tietz to give the Tigers a 1-0 advantage.

Groton Area doubled its lead in the 30th minute when Emerlee Jones converted a penalty kick, sending the Tigers into halftime with a 2-0 cushion.

"A new week, and a great opportunity to take hold of our season," Baumgartner said. "We came out again very positive minded and fast moving for a thick grass field for the opening 10 minutes once again for the third time this season. The difference today was we got a goal in the opening stages and kept with it all game."

Groton added an insurance goal in the 63rd minute when Avery Crank found the net to make it 3-0.

The Tigers also used a different defensive look, and Baumgartner was pleased with the organization he saw from the back line.

"Today we played a different look throughout our back line and I'm happy I saw organization in those spots, and it's something we plan to build off," he said.

Schuster finished with nine saves to complete the shutout.

"Proud of the way we showed up, performed on the road, and played together," Baumgartner said.

The Tigers will now head west for matches against Belle Fourche on Friday and St. Thomas More on Saturday.

"Excited for our road trip west to play Belle Fourche and St. Thomas



Groton Area's Ryder Schwan keeps the ball in bound during the first half of Friday's game at the Northern State University soccer complex. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Groton Area's Tori Schuster grabs the ball to keep Dakota Valley from scoring during Friday's game at the Northern State University soccer complex. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

More Friday and Saturday," Baumgartner said.

Groton Area still has ambitious goals despite the difficult opening weekend. Baumgartner said the Tigers hope to work their way into one of the top positions in the state standings and earn the opportunity to host a postseason match.

"I think we want to be top four, top three in the state so we can get ourselves a home playoff game and kind of control the cards from there," he said. "Each game at a time. We've got to take one game at a time."

Saturday's home match with Sioux Falls Christian was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Agtegra, Avantara, Bierman Farm Service, BK Custom Ts & More, Dacotah Bank, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, Heartland Energy, Jacobson Electric, John Sieh Agency, Rix Farms/R&M Farms and The Meat House of Andover. Savannah Bible assisted Paul Kosel with the broadcast.

Johnson leads Groton golfers at Sioux Valley Invitational

VOLGA — Jace Johnson turned in a strong round to place third individually and lead the Groton Area boys golf team to a tie for sixth place at the Sioux Valley Invitational held Tuesday at Meadow Creek Golf Course in Volga.

Johnson finished the 18-hole round with a 6-over-par 78 on the par-72 course. He went out in 37 and came home in 41.

Johnson's round included a birdie on the par-5 fourth hole, where he carded a three, and another birdie on the par-5 13th with a four. He also recorded pars on holes 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 11, 16 and 17.

Bentley Ehresmann was Groton's second-lowest scorer, finishing 34th with a 98. Ehresmann was consistent over the two sides, shooting 49 on both the front and back nine. His round included pars on the second, fourth and 10th holes.

Liam Johnson placed 36th with a 100. He opened with a 47 on the front nine before shooting 53 on the back. Johnson recorded pars on the fourth, ninth and 17th holes.

Graham Rose followed with a 101 to place 38th. Rose shot a 50 on the opening nine and a 51 on the back. He made par on the third, sixth and seventh holes.

Haden Harder finished 43rd with a 103. Harder carded a 50 on the front nine and a 53 on the back, with a par on the par-3 eighth hole.

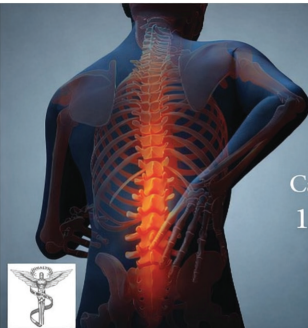
Easton Larson rounded out the Groton contingent with a 107, placing 46th. Larson shot 52 on the front and 55 on the back and recorded pars on the third and 17th holes.

The four lowest scores counted toward the team total, giving Groton a 377, or 89-over par. That put the Tigers in a tie for sixth place with Sioux Valley Blue.

Brookings JV won the team competition at 39-over par, finishing three strokes ahead of Aberdeen Roncalli at plus-42. Sioux Valley Gold was third at plus-47, followed by Dell Rapids at plus-63 and Sisseton at plus-70.

Groton and Sioux Valley Blue were tied at plus-89, while Milbank finished eighth at plus-120 and Redfield was ninth at plus-130.

The tournament was played on the 6,344-yard Meadow Creek Golf Course.



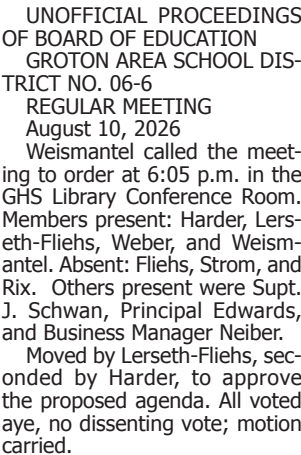
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4 Radiant
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"Presto!"
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	44	Lith., once
	45	Small combo
a	46	Mound
	50	Non-Rx
	51	Newt
	52	— Lanka
room	53	Boston squad, for short

SPECIAL EDUCATION: Amazon Capital Services-ELEM/Sped Supplies-103.86, Avera St. Luke's-PT/OT-8,358.00, School Specialty-ELEM/JMS Supplies-589.02, Schwab Audiology-Speech-510.00 Fund Total: 9,560.88

FOOD SERVICE: Ace Refrigeration-Freezer Repair-647.70, Custodial Fund Advance Payment-Meal Reimb-88.00, Sheraton Sioux Falls-Travel-617.92 Fund Total: 1,353.62

ENTERPRISE OST: Amazon Capital Services-OST Supplies-232.55, Custodial Fund Advance Payment-OST Supplies-310.03, Ken's Food Fair & Shell Express-OST Supplies-83.75, Trevipay-OST Snacks-968.54 Fund Total: 1,594.87

Shannon Marvel was present. No public comments were offered, and the board continued with the agenda.

Superintendent Schwan led continued discussion on Middle/High School Building Project and Bond Election. No motion was held.

The following items were discussed in administrative reports: J. Schwan: Discussed bond election timelines and the upcoming meeting on August 18th at 6:00 pm in the GHS Library Conference Room with representatives from Collier Securities and Hausmann Construction.

S. Edwards noted schedules were released on August 7, and the schedule change day is Tuesday, August 11th. Back-to-school open house is on Monday, August 17th, from 4 pm to 6 pm. Staff will be attending the back-to-school workshop at NSU, new curriculum for Middle School English and Reading, and noted that the district continues to navigate solutions for open positions.

M Neiber reported on the progress of the District's State Annual Report. AFLAC representatives will be visiting the staff in the next couple of weeks. Delta Dental Open Enrollment was discussed. Neiber will attend the SD Association of School Business Officials Conference at the end of September.

Moved by Harder, seconded by Weber, to approve fall 2026 volunteer coaches: Boys Soccer: Kelsey Roberts, Girls Volleyball: Josi Stevens, Boys Football: Quintin Bierman. All voted aye, no dissenting vote; motion carried.

Motion by Weber, seconded by Lerseth-Fliehs, to approve work agreement for Jackson Bahr, Bus Driver at \$105.04/day. All voted aye, no dissenting vote; motion carried.

Motion by Harder, seconded by Lerseth-Fliehs, to approve work agreement for Brandon Clocksene, Bus Driver at \$105.04/day. All voted aye, no dissenting vote; motion carried.

Moved by Lerseth-Fliehs, seconded by Harder, to adjourn at 6:27 pm. All voted aye, no dissenting vote; motion carried.

Madisyn Neiber, Business
Manager
Grant Rix, President

The addition of signatures to this page verifies these minutes as official.

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AUGUST 11, 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 Gage led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: Dennis Jones met with the Commission to ask if there was some common ground that they could come to an agreement and save the Women's Building at the Brown County Fairgrounds. He informed them that they had stickers made that state 'It Ain't Over Til It's Over' – Save the Building because by demolishing the building you are destroying too much history. All the people that they surveyed stated they want the building saved. He feels the money they are going to use to demolish the building and build a new one should be put towards preserving the current building.

Jim Hundstad was in attendance with Dennis Jones and would also like to see the building saved. He commented that you need to see where you are at and where you are going. This is a historic building that was not built cheaply. Mr. Hundstad also stated that you need to think about what it means to the 4-Her's, preserve it instead of building something cheaply to replace it.

Dave Ochs was also in attendance with Dennis Jones. He questioned what the building was going to be used for because the name keeps changing. Chairman Sutton stated that it will be for 4-H and informed them that during Public Comment the Commission can not engage in discussion. Mr. Ochs believes it will cost \$100,000 just to tear the building down and shared there is a new vinyl tile roof material that could be used to preserve the roof of the current building.

Dennis Jones shared some postcards that people had returned from their survey and comments that were written on them.

RICHMOND DAM UPDATE: Chairman Sutton shared the information he received from Emergency Management Director, Scott Meints: SFC is maintaining the lake elevation at 1349'; they are continuing to drive sheet piling on the upstream cofferdam; there has been approximately 350' of sheet piling drove in the upstream cofferdam with roughly 175' remaining; Foothills Contracting started building the upstream cofferdam, this should be done early next week and they will remove the existing bridge and spillway after the upstream cofferdam is complete; Bauer Foundation started production of the seepage cutoff wall on August 3rd, they will start on the south end and work their way north digging out earth material and filling the void with self-hardening slurry. Bauer started the 24 hr. work schedule on August 4th, and this will continue until the seepage cutoff wall is complete. Interstate Drilling is monitoring the piezometers daily to ensure there is no movement of the dam.

SUBRECIPIENT CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH FOREIGN NATIONAL VETTING REQUIREMENTS FOR BR. CO. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT:

Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dinger to authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Certification of Compliance with Foreign National Vetting requirements for the Brown County Emergency Management Performance Grant. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

RECONVEYANCE OF REAL PROPERTY TO THE OWNER OF RECORD: Commissioner Dennert offered the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION #2026-34
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RECONVEYANCE OF REAL PROPERTY

TO THE OWNER OF RECORD

WHEREAS, On June 1, 2026 Brown County accepted a Tax Deed for real property located at: Lot 3, together with the West 17 feet of vacated North Congress Street, lying adjacent to said Lot 3, Block 23, Howard and Dedger's Replat of the North-western Addition to Aberdeen, being a part of the West Half of the Northwest Quarter (W1/2 of NW 1/4) of Section 18, Township 123, Range 63, according to the plat thereof of record, Brown County, South Dakota ; and

WHEREAS, Alvin Doerr, record owner, wishes to enter into an agreement for reconveyance of said property from Brown County, South Dakota ; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota Codified Law 10-25-41 to 44 permits county commissioners to authorize a reconveyance by quitclaim deed to the record owner on payment in cash of the price fixed by the resolution of the county commissioners, which amount shall not be less than the total principal, interest, and costs of all taxed represented in the tax deed and any other taxes and interest which are unpaid on the real property; and

WHEREAS, the total amount due and owing Brown County calculated through August 2026 is \$4,042.63.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in consideration for the amount due and owing of \$4,042.62 the Board of Brown County Commissioners does hereby authorize the reconveyance by quitclaim deed to Alvin Doerr:

Lot 3, together with the West 17 feet of vacated North Congress Street, lying adjacent to said Lot 3, Block 23, Howard and Dedger's Replat of the North-western Addition to Aberdeen, being a part of the West Half of the Northwest Quarter (W1/2 of NW 1/4) of Section 18, Township 123, Range 63, according to the plat thereof of record, Brown County, South Dakota

Dated at Aberdeen, South Dakota, this 11th day of August, 2026

Seconded by Commissioner Gage.

Roll Call Vote: Dennert-aye; Dinger-aye; Gage-aye; Sutton-aye; Wiese-absent. Resolution adopted.

APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Dennert to approve the following application submitted by Northern Electric for occupancy of Brown County Highway 16 & 7 in Section 8, NE ¼ & SE ¼, Township 126N, Range 62W for primary electrical. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent, informed the Commissioners that they had some equipment fall through the road, so they abandoned the County 14 project. Bituminous Paving will be doing 6 miles on Co. Rd. 27 and 7 miles on Co. Rd. 14. Dirk plans to do the Hall Bridget the 1st year and then the road the second year to match up to the bridge which is better when doing it with concrete. The Cold-In-Place project will start on August 19th. Paving on County 9 will finish this week and they will chip seal it in a couple of weeks.

Chairman Sutton shared with Dirk that he received compliments on work done on Co. Rd. 14. Dirk commented that he would like to have the money the county will receive for the detour go back to the Highway Budget.

BROWN COUNTY FAIR PROMOTIONAL TICKET LIST-AMENDED: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve the promotional ticket list for the 2026 Brown County Fair as amended. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. (The full list is on file at the Brown County Fair Office).

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Gage to approve the General Meeting Minutes of August 4, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to approve the Post Election Audit Minutes of August 6, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dinger to approve the following claims/payroll. Claims: Insurance: SD Public Assurance Alliance \$1,283.47. Professional Fees: Aberdeen Advanced Care Ambulance \$711.52; Carrels & Bain Family Dental Care, LLC \$2,811.24; CGI, LLC \$1,425.00; Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$1,073.60; County of Edmunds

\$11,220.00; Dohrer Law Office, PC \$1,087.60; Helms & Associates \$42,656.80; Kuck Law Office \$805.20; Kylee Boomsma \$7,515.20; Language Line Services, Inc \$970.31; LexisNexis Risk Data Mgt, LLC \$200.00; Northern Plains Animal Health \$341.78; PharmChem, Inc \$2,080.80; Sanford Health Occupational Medicine \$638.00; Sara Zahn \$169.30; Taliaferro Law Firm, PC \$2,084.50; Make-A-Wish Foundation of South Dakota & Montana \$250.00; Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association \$1,200.00; Aleda Tollefson \$50.00; Ann Gibbs \$50.00; Ashley Seeklander \$50.00; Becky Erickson \$50.00; BJ Clocksene \$50.00; Brian Sharp \$50.00; Brown County Treasurer \$4,645.00; Caitlyn Oleson \$50.00; Cara Dennert \$50.00; Cathy Jorgenson \$50.00; Cindy Schnabel \$50.00; Courtney Wolff \$50.00; Gretchen Sharp \$50.00; Heather Wells \$50.00; Janet Wright \$50.00; Janice Bohling \$50.00; Jean Hommel Kessler \$150.00; Karin Porter Bartell \$50.00; Kathy Novstrup \$50.00; Kim Kipp \$50.00; Linda Huettl \$50.00; Lisa McNeely \$50.00; Lisa Stamm \$100.00; Mary Anne Whitman \$50.00; Michelle Johnson \$50.00; Michelle Olson \$50.00; Nancy Klungseth \$50.00; Nicole Hoines \$50.00; Ric Dias \$50.00; Rosalie Schumacher \$50.00; Samantha Bowman \$50.00; Sarah Koepke \$50.00; Stephanie Denise Sombke \$50.00; Susan Gerlach \$50.00; Tayler Wolff \$50.00; Vicki Nash \$50.00; 4-H Performing Arts \$200.00; Aberdeen Amateur Hockey Association \$550.00; Aberdeen Cyling Association \$10,000.00; ACBM-SJPK LLC \$1,000.00; Addie Schnabel \$150.00; Addison K Design \$1,575.00; Brandon Hooth \$1,350.00; Brooke Hendrickx \$150.00; Brown County Fair Foundation \$900.00; Carolina Boy, Inc \$113,500.00; CASA of the Fifth Judicial Circuit \$350.00; Craig Zimprich \$150.00; Drew Pederson \$200.00; Elizabeth Hofer \$2,900.00; Frederick Area Cross Country \$1,000.00; George Birge, LLC \$30,000.00; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church \$4,000.00; Greenbroke, Inc. \$50,000.00; Groton Area School District HOSA \$7,850.00; Groton Lions Club \$2,400.00; Halley Becking \$250.00; Home Clean Home by Maria LLC \$20,710.00; Hub Area Habitat for Humanity \$2,000.00; Hunter Miller \$250.00; Jan Zuidema \$300.00; Jodie Smalley \$5,000.00; Jyl Graves \$50.00; Keith Raymond \$1,650.00; Knights of Columbus Council 820 \$950.00; Lakefront Entertainment, LLC \$24,999.99; Logan Schlim \$275.00; Michael Grann \$100.00; Monte Beringer \$6,500.00; NSU Swim Team \$8,250.00; Pauer Sound, LLC \$20,100.00; Pete J. Burckhard \$450.00; Phil Baker \$750.00; Raesa Zelinsky \$100.00; Re-cooped Touring, LLC \$42,500.00; Renegade Photography \$1,000.00; Robert Kent VanMeter \$2,580.00; SD Nurses Association \$1,000.00; Sevendust Touring Inc \$45,000.00; Show On, Inc \$112,000.00; Sideline Productions \$18,500.00; Sprocket Ventures, LLC \$675.00; T & K Rentals, LLC \$19,400.00; The Last Outlaws, Inc \$25,000.00; Theory of a Deadman LLC \$56,001.00; TMS Production Integration \$22,460.00; Venessa Elizabeth Carpenter \$1,000.00; Wayne Fischer \$150.00; Wow Talent & Entertainment LLC \$5,600.00. Publishing: Dakota Broadcasting, LLC \$795.00; Groton Daily Independent \$554.85; Hub City Radio \$350.00; i3G Media \$1,410.00; McQuillen Creative Group, Inc \$2,550.42; The Watertown Current \$286.20. Rentals: Linde Gas & Equipment Inc \$65.45; Dakota Portable Toilets, Inc \$20,500.00; Radio One \$2,400.00; TLM Holdings LLC \$21,088.00. Repairs & Maintenance: Big Scoop Snow Removal \$180.00; City of Aberdeen Finance Office \$6,477.50; Dakota Doors Inc \$153.58; Dakota Fluid Power, Inc \$38.32; Diesel Machinery, Inc \$16,000.00; EcoLab Pest Elimination Division \$296.57; Graham Tire Inc \$3,353.74; Hoven Auto Repair, Inc \$15.00; Matt's Tree Service \$3,200.00; Olson's Pest Technicians \$455.00; RDO Equipment Co \$3,498.45; Runnings \$307.80; Transource Truck & Equipment, Inc \$5,015.82; Valvoline Inc. \$186.17. Supplies & Materials: Advance Auto Parts \$18.38; Amtegra Cooperative \$40,074.89; Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$1,858.45; Auto Value Aberdeen \$502.31; Avera LTC Pharmacy Aberdeen \$401.90; Butler Machinery Company \$425.00; Central Network Retail Group LLC \$667.70; Century Business

Products \$408.30; Christina M. Flack \$1,000.00; Cole Paper Inc \$2,277.26; Crawford Trucks & Equipment \$569.21; Dakota Doors Inc \$225.50; Dakota Fluid Power, Inc \$1,369.13; Diesel Machinery, Inc \$321.17; Doll Distributing LLC \$20,239.92; East Side Jersey Dairy Inc \$2,173.80; Hoven Auto Repair, Inc \$56.00; Interstate Battery System of South Dakota \$216.90; Jensen Rock & Sand Inc \$66,870.90; Kessler's \$137.48; Kuck Law Office \$16.52; Lewis Family Drug LLC \$74.65; Lien Transportation Company \$120,625.20; Linde Gas & Equipment Inc \$530.18; Menards \$430.46; Nippon Sanso Matheson, Inc. \$1,152.58; NVC \$29.50; Pantorium Cleaners Inc \$60.00; Pierson Ford Lincoln, Inc \$32.11; RDO Equipment Co \$4,043.44; Runnings \$1,105.83; Share Corporation \$378.65; Shop 4-H/National 4-H Council \$125.50; Sprocket Ventures, LLC \$85.75; Tri-State Water \$35.00; US Foods \$12,894.09; Valvoline Inc \$328.47; Joe Simon Enterprises Inc \$35,000.00; Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association \$27,000.00; Ashely E Productions, LLC \$5,800.00; Brandon Hooth \$1,350.00; Carolina Boy, Inc \$36,500.00; Christina Marlene Case \$10,000.00; Dakota Kids Pedal Pulls \$825.00; Daniel Pollreis \$2,400.00; Danielle Haugan \$2,000.00; Elizabeth Hofer \$3,100.00; John Mogen \$2,000.00; Keith Raymond \$4,200.00; Re-cooped Touring, LLC \$7,500.00; RKM Fireworks, Inc \$4,000.00; Show On, Inc \$13,000.00; Sierra Weiland \$650.00; Steve Russell \$4,600.00; Theory of a Deadman LLC \$21,999.00; TMS Production Integration \$18,600.00; Wow Talent & Entertainment LLC \$5,400.00. Travel & Conference: Austin Ball \$38.00; CGI, LLC \$23.04; Neil Bittner \$19.00; Scott Kolb \$19.00; Cathy Jorgenson \$42.05; Courtney Wolff \$80.77; Heather Wells \$99.41; Jean Hommel Kessler \$23.37; Karin Porter Bartell \$60.51; Lisa Stamm \$280.02; Nicole Hoines \$68.83; Rosalie Schumacher \$88.81; Sarah Koepke \$143.26; Tayler Wolff \$80.77; Addie Schnabel \$114.01; Brooke Hendrickx \$263.76; Craig Zimprich \$213.76; Drew Pederson \$299.78; Halley Becking \$209.97; Hunter Miller \$367.74; Jan Zuidema \$275.43; Logan Schlim \$197.10; Michael Grann \$106.18; Raesa Zelinsky \$233.68; Wayne Fischer \$190.56. Utilities: AT&T Mobility \$43.73; City of Aberdeen Treasurer \$2,642.74; Dakota Electronics LLC \$626.50; Northwestern Energy \$2,738.57; NVC \$542.74; Town of Frederick \$77.00; WEB Water Development Association, Inc \$137.37. Other: SD Assoc of County Officials \$1,120.00; SD Dept of Agriculture & Natural Resources \$6,541.78. Payroll: Commission \$5,165.81; Elections \$20,493.01; Auditor/Welfare \$9,128.44; Treasurer \$19,962.97; SA \$38,966.19; Public Defender \$14,449.33; Maintenance \$12,590.52; Assessor \$17,506.93; Register of Deeds \$12,672.04; VSO \$5,259.85; GIS \$3,110.76; IT \$10,616.94; HR \$5,631.70; Sheriff \$58,792.13; Jail \$74,388.02; Coroner (Voucher) \$2,250.00; Court Security \$7,981.99; JDC \$33,358.52; Museum \$15,264.85; Parks/Fairgrounds \$10,313.36; Fair Board \$5,662.43; 4-H \$1,921.65; Weed \$6,436.08; Planning & Zoning \$8,575.57; Highway \$59,830.23; Dispatch \$38,811.82; Emergency \$5,641.78; 24/7 Sobriety \$2,774.12; Landfill \$14,510.83; Meal Benefits \$76.00; FICA \$30,250.81; Medicare \$7,074.86; HSA \$2,463.36; Health Insurance-Wellmark BCBS \$153,340.27; Dental Insurance-Delta \$9,991.20; Life Insurance-Deaorborn \$1,127.44; Retirement-SDRS \$65,324.59. 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 Retirement of Cynthia Mitchell as Brown County Sheriff Office Jail Sergeant, FT; effective August 31, 2026. Request to fill.
- o Hiring of Jared Bourdon as Brown County Landfill Heavy Equipment Operator, FT; starting wage \$24.93/hr. – effective August 10, 2026.
- o Hiring of Taylor Sime as Brown County Seasonal Weed & Pest Control Technician; starting wage \$24.93/hr. – effective August 10, 2026.
- o Promotion of Sheila Haugen from Brown County Sheriff Office Administrative Assistant to Brown County Sheriff Office Administration Coordinator; starting wage \$24.32/hr. – effective August 16, 2026.

o Job description and title update for Senior Deputy Auditor – Lien Specialist.

fective August 16, 2026.

o Job description and title update for Senior Deputy Auditor – Lien Specialist.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

TRAVEL REQUESTS: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Gage to approve the following Travel Requests: Josh Lee, Sheriff's Office to attend NRA Law Enforcement Handgun with PMO Instructor Development School. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to go into Executive Session per SDCL 1-25-2 for 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 Dennert, seconded by Dinger to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:39 A.M. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

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CITY OF GROTON REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS – SAFE ROOM ARCHITECT/ENGINEERING SERVICES
The City of Groton, South Dakota, will accept statements of qualifications (SOQ) from qualified architectural or engineering firms for proposed construction of a Tornado Safe Room at the Groton City Park. SOQ's will be accepted up to and opened

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The construction plan has generally been organized around work on the east and north-east side of the building followed by work on the south side. Under the current concept, the two-story academic addition and commons would be completed together to gain construction efficiencies before crews move to the south side.

Renovation work would include portions of the existing shop, auxiliary gym, locker rooms, kitchen and band and vocal areas.

Preheim said the locker rooms and kitchen are currently budgeted as extensive renovations. The auxiliary gym work includes a new floor, bleachers and improvements near the stage. Money has also been included for audiovisual improvements and a new curtain at the stage.

One of the more substantial renovation items involves the band and vocal area, where the plan calls for filling existing riser areas and raising the roof to provide additional clear height.

Work in the existing shop area would include structural changes resulting from demolition of the 1934 portion of the school, along with roof replacement and other improvements.

Mechanical, electrical and plumbing upgrades are also included in the estimate.

Preheim said the estimate assumes normal, durable school finishes rather than either high-end finishes or bare-bones construction.

“We’re not giving you the Taj Mahal, we’re not going to give you a concrete box,” Preheim said, describing the budget as based on typical school construction finishes.

More decorative and durable materials could be used in highly visible areas such as the commons, while classrooms would generally use more economical finishes.

The construction estimate also includes contingencies, insurance, general conditions and escalation. Other costs outside the construction contract include architectural and design expenses, testing, asbestos-related work and furniture, fixtures and equipment.

Preheim said furniture, fixtures and equipment could become an important part of future budget discussions because classroom furniture, televisions, artwork and similar items can require a substantial investment.

The current estimate includes a construction escalation factor. Preheim said the company commonly uses approximately 1.05 percent per quarter during early budgeting, although actual construction costs can change because of market conditions and material prices.

The preliminary construction schedule calls for approximately 27 months to complete the entire project, including all additions and renovation work.

The academic addition and commons are expected to become available before the entire project is finished.

Preheim said one of the challenges will be scheduling renovation work around students and staff.

“Kids’ safety at number one priority, staff safety,” Preheim said.

Board members also discussed whether portions of the project could be separated into phases if the district decided not to complete everything at once.

It was mentioned that the public may want to know what individual portions of the project would cost.

“Maybe the only thing people want is phase one, potentially,” one person said.

Preheim said those scenarios can now be developed because much of the initial estimating work has been completed. Costs could also be adjusted to show what would happen if one phase began in 2027 and another was delayed several years.

The discussion drew several questions from members of the public, including whether the

district should have someone independently monitoring construction costs and workmanship.

The district selected Hausmann Construction after receiving approximately 10 applications and interviewing four firms, according to the discussion.

Preheim said Hausmann’s construction management fee if the project moves forward would be 1.95 percent. The pre-bond cost to the district was described during the meeting as approximately \$5,000.

The company would also have an on-site construction superintendent during the project, with another representative making regular visits.

Questions were also raised about why the project had previously been discussed at approximately \$27 million and is now estimated at more than \$31 million.

Board members said the earlier figure came from a preliminary architectural estimate and was presented as a range. They said the new estimate is based on considerably more detailed work by the construction manager and subcontracting trades and should therefore provide a better picture of anticipated costs.

The proposed demolition of the 1934 school building generated some of the evening’s most extensive public discussion.

Bob Swisher urged the district to consider preserving the building because of its historical and emotional significance to generations of Groton graduates.

“When you knock down a building like that, it’s like when your kids come home and you’ve moved into a new house,” Swisher said. “They’re not home until they go back and see where they grew up at.”

Board President Grant Rix said architects have discussed preserving elements and the character of the historic school even if the structure itself cannot economically be retained.

Board members said renovation of the 1934 building has been studied previously and the conclusion was that modern electrical, plumbing and other building requirements make renovation impractical.

Insurance is also becoming a concern.

Board Member Marty Weismantel said the district’s insurance carrier has raised questions about the older building and cited another South Dakota school district that was forced to demolish an older portion of its school in order to maintain coverage for the connected facility.

“We’ve already had questions raised about it from the underwriters,” Weismantel said. “And it’s not going to get better.”

Recent water problems in portions of the Groton school were also cited as an example of the continuing challenges presented by aging infrastructure.

Another member of the public asked whether the district should instead demolish the entire existing complex and construct a completely new school.

Board members said that option had previously been studied and was estimated at more than \$50 million for the building alone. Moving athletic facilities would add several million dollars more.

Board Member Heather Lerseth-Fliehs said community surveys conducted during the planning process did not show strong support for an entirely new school.

The current proposal would retain portions of the school considered structurally sound, including much of the 1969 construction, but subject them to substantial renovation.

Chad Locken questioned whether investing \$31 million in a combination of new and renovated facilities would leave the district facing another major replacement project in several decades, suggesting the community may want to consider whether spending more now for an entirely new facility could make sense over the long term.

That question could continue to be discussed during upcoming public meetings.

“Nothing’s a for-sure deal until you get the public to vote on it,” Grant said.

The second major presentation Tuesday dealt with how a \$31 million project could be financed.

Tom Grimmond from Colliers Securities outlined one possible structure consisting of approximately \$23.5 million in general obligation bonds and \$7.5 million in capital outlay certificates.

The \$23.5 million bond amount was selected because it would result in an estimated levy of approximately 99 cents per \$1,000 of taxable valuation over 30 years.

For a property with \$100,000 in taxable valuation, the additional general obligation bond tax would be approximately \$99 per year, or \$8.25 per month.

Grimmond estimated the impact on agricultural property at approximately \$3 per acre for cropland and 81 cents per acre for grassland, based on average Brown County valuations used for the presentation. He stressed that individual taxpayers should use the taxable value appearing on their property tax statement to calculate their actual impact.

The remaining approximately \$7.5 million could be financed with capital outlay certificates over 20 years.

Initially, Grimmond calculated that amount as representing approximately 38.5 cents per \$1,000 of valuation. District officials clarified, however, that they are considering paying those certificates from within the district’s existing capital outlay levy rather than adding another tax levy.

“The capital outlay certificate is going to be paid with existing, within the existing tax structure of the district’s capital outlay budget,” Superintendent Joe Schwan explained.

That would make the general obligation bond the portion creating the new tax increase.

The district has existing capital outlay debt from the elementary school project that is scheduled to be paid off in 2036. Grimmond said the district could structure the new certificates around that debt to reduce the initial impact on the capital outlay fund.

Lerseth-Fliehs asked administrators to further study the district’s capital outlay budget before the September meeting to make certain dedicating \$7.5 million of new debt to the fund over 20 years would be sustainable.

Grimmond also reminded residents that a general obligation bond requires approval from district voters, while capital outlay certificates may be authorized by the school board.

A school general obligation bond requires a 60 percent supermajority for passage.

The ballot question must include both a maximum dollar amount and maximum term. Grimmond said those are “not to exceed” figures, meaning the district would not have to borrow the entire amount or use the full 30-year term if construction costs or interest rates allowed it to borrow less.

Interest rates are considerably higher than when the district refinanced previous debt in 2021. Grimmond said current rates could be around 4 to 4.25 percent for 20-year financing, compared with approximately 2.25 percent during the earlier refinancing.

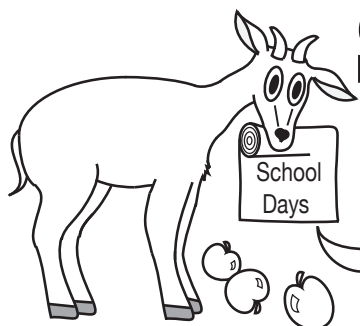
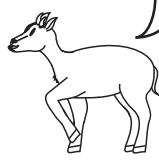
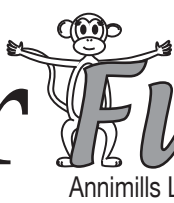
Future refinancing could be possible if interest rates fall.

Grimmond said the construction market in South Dakota is currently somewhat softer than it had been, which could result in more bidders and competitive construction pricing.

The construction manager-at-risk approach could also allow the project to be divided into smaller bid packages, potentially giving local contractors a better opportunity to participate.

Public discussion repeatedly returned to whether residents have received enough information about the project.

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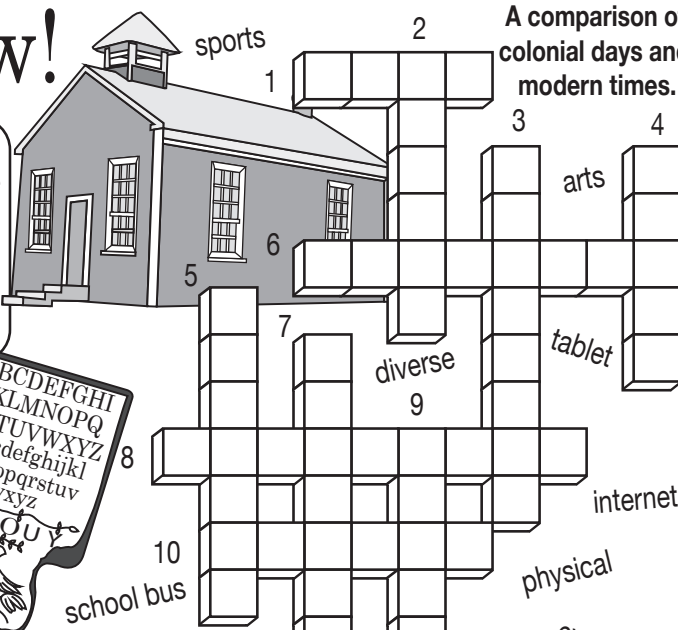
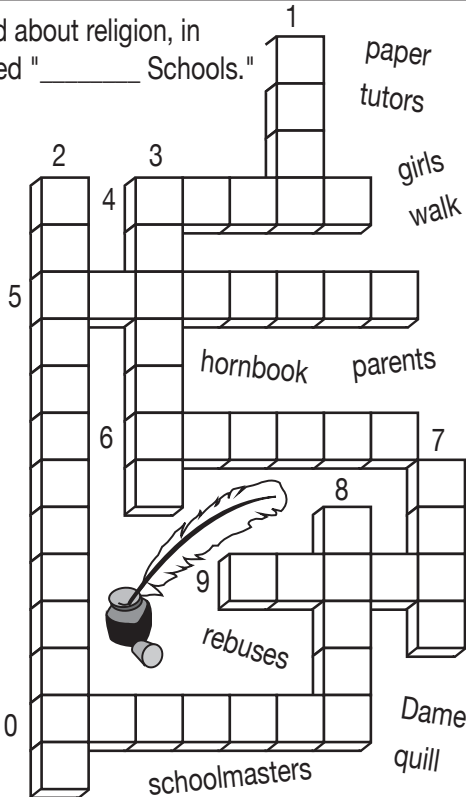


School Then and Now!

Long ago it was hard to get a good education. People had to work long days just to survive. Some taught their children at home or sent them to craftsmen to learn a skill. Then Americans realized that the country needed people who could lead and do many kinds of jobs. Laws were passed that required all children to go to school so they would have the chance for a good education.

Did you know that years ago:

1. housewives taught children their alphabet, and about religion, in their kitchens for a small fee? These were called "_____ Schools."
2. teachers in schoolhouses were almost always men and were called _____?
3. _____ working hard just to survive had to teach their children at home?
4. _____ was very expensive and scarce?
5. students used a flat, wooden board with a handle called a _____? A paper with a lesson was placed on it.
6. wealthy families hired _____ to teach in their homes?
7. some students had to _____ many miles in all kinds of weather to get to school?
8. _____ often stayed home to learn skills for running a household: sewing, cooking, the alphabet, etc?
9. students were lucky to have charcoal or _____ pens to write with?
10. one way to teach reading was by using pictures in stories, called _____?

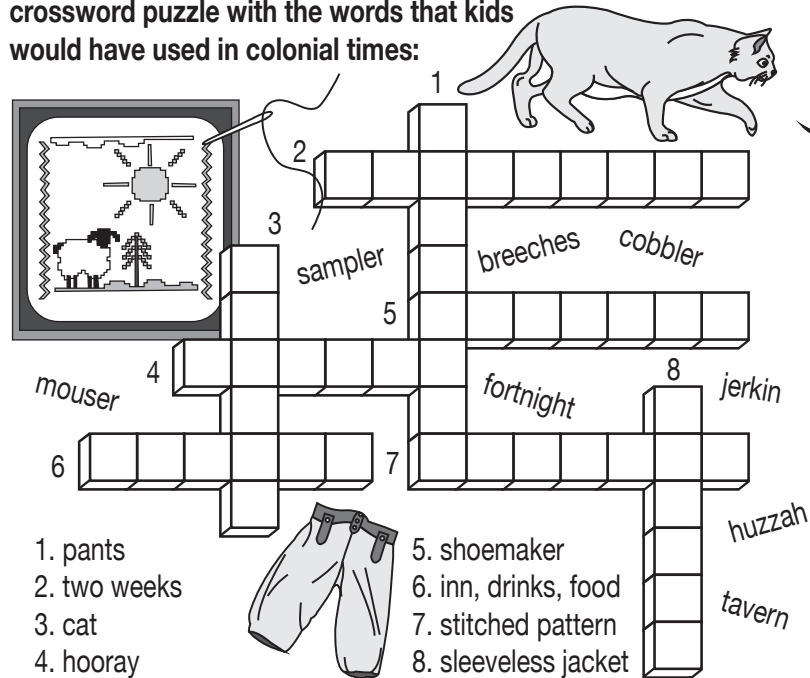


Today:

1. _____ like painting, dancing, music are taught in all schools
2. students may have handheld _____ computers
3. _____ education helps kids learn about keeping fit
4. classes go on _____ trips to visit places: museums, zoos
5. classrooms are _____: students, teachers of many cultures
6. _____, as a child, has to attend school
7. many students ride on a _____
8. _____ schools teach useful trades for work
9. _____ gives students access to information from all over the world
10. after school _____ teach teamwork

Say Whaaat?

Words and phrases continuously change throughout the years. **Read the clues below to fill in this crossword puzzle with the words that kids would have used in colonial times:**



Then... or Now?

Schooling has changed throughout the years. Reading, writing and arithmetic are still the basis for a good education! But, demands on teachers, ways to teach, and subjects taught are different. Computer classes anyone?

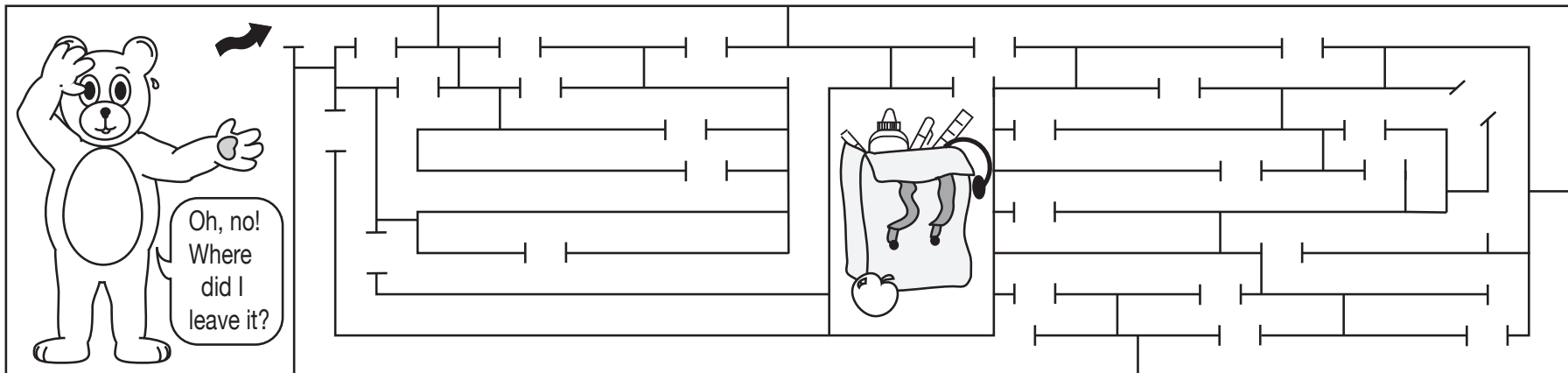
Draw a ring around 11 things we have or do...

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| one room school | spankings for bad behavior! | media libraries | computers |
| moveable desks and chairs | P.T.A. | wood for heat | pump for water |
| teacher stays with families | hornbooks and benches | total silence most of the time | paper scarce |
| teachers continue their own studies at college | AI tools to write and draw | gym classes | educational T.V. |
| very few books | | | programs for kids with special needs |

NOW!

Sweating School!

Forest is really sweating because school is starting tomorrow and he's lost his backpack. **Can you help him find it?**



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Merry Lone
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Terri Pallesen
Sales Specialist - Personal Lines
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Football

8/6/26: 1st Day of Football Practice
8/21/26: @ Miller/Highmore-Harold
8/28/26: Beresford
9/4/26: Flandreau
9/11/26: @ Clark/Willow Lake
9/18/26: Elk Point-Jefferson (HC)
9/25/26 BYE
10/2/26: @ Deuel
10/9/26: Mobridge-Pollock
10/16/26: @ Aberdeen Roncalli
10/22/26: FB 1st Round Playoff
10/29/26: FB Qtr Finals Playoff
11/6/26: FB SemiFinal Playoff
11/12-14/26: State Football

8/31/26 JV/JH FB @ EEK (@ Kulm)
9/14/26 JV/JH FB vs. CWL
9/22/26 JV/JH FB @ Webster
9/26/26 JV/JH FB @ Webster Jamboree
9/28/26 JV FB @ Milbank
9/29/26 JHFB vs. Milbank
10/1/26 JHFB vs. Roncalli
10/5/26 JV/JH FB vs. Deuel @ Langford
10/12/26 JV FB vs. Roncalli

Cross Country

8/10/26: 1st Day of Cross Country Practice
8/27/26: @ Milbank Breathe Easy
9/3/26: @ Redfield (Fisher Grove)
9/8/26: @ Britton
9/14/26: @ Webster
9/17/26: @ Roncalli (Lee Park)
9/21/26: @ Deuel
9/24/26: @ Clark/Willow Lake
9/29/26: @ Groton
10/1/26: @ Sisseton
10/8/26: @ NEC Webster
10/14/26: @ Region 1A (Webster)
10/24/26: @ State (Sioux Falls - Yankton Trail)

Boys Golf

8/10/26: 1st Day of Boys Golf Practice
8/17/26: @ Sioux Valley
8/25/26: @ NEC (Groton)
9/1/26: @ Aberdeen Central (Lee)
9/8/26: @ Milbank
9/10/26: @ Groton
9/15/26: @ Redfield
9/24/26: @ Sisseton
9/28/26: @ Region 3A
10/5-6/26: State A Boys Golf @ Mitchell

Volleyball

8/13/26: 1st Day of Volleyball Practice
8/25/26: @ Hamlin
8/29/26: @ Huron Tournament
9/1/26: Ipswich
9/3/26: @ Sisseton
9/8/26: @ Webster
9/10/26: Roncalli
9/17/26: Clark/Willow Lake
9/19/26: @ Hamlin Tournament
9/22/26: Warner
9/24/26: Mobridge/Pollock
10/3/26: @ Redfield Tournament
10/5/26: Tiospa Zina
10/12/26: @ Britton-Hecla
10/15/26: @ Deuel
10/17/26: @ Miller Tournament
10/19/26: Langford
10/20/26: @ Northwestern
10/23/26: Redfield
10/26/26: @ Faulkton
10/27/26: @ Milbank
11/3/26: Region Tournament - 1st Round
11/5/26: Region Tournament - 2nd Round
11/10/26: SoDak 16 Volleyball
11/19-21/26: State Volleyball @ Rapid City

Girls Soccer

8/14/26: Dakota Valley, 3:00 PM
8/15/26: SF Christian, 1:00PM
8/18/26: @ Lennox, 4:00PM
8/21/26: @ Belle Fourche, 5:00 PM
8/22/26: @ St. Thomas More, 11:00 AM
8/27/26: @ Garretson, 4:30 PM
9/5/26: @ West Central, 12:00 PM
9/12/26: Vermillion, 1:00 PM
9/15/26: Lennox, 4:00PM
9/26/26: @ Dakota Valley, 1:00 PM
9/28/26: West Central, 5:30 PM
10/1/26: Garretson, 4:30 PM
10/6/26: Soccer Playoffs - Quarterfinals
10/10/26: Soccer Playoffs - Semifinals
10/17/26: State Soccer at Watertown

Girls Wrestling

11/16/26: 1st Day of Wrestling Practice
12/4/26: @ Watertown
12/11/26: @ Baltic
12/17/26: NEC Wrestling Tournament @ Deuel
12/18/26: @ Sioux Valley
12/29/26: @ SF Lincoln
12/31/26: @ McCook Central
1/8/27: @ Miller
1/15/27: @ Potter County (Gettysburg)
1/22/27: @ Pierre
1/29/27: @ Lee Wolf
2/5/27: Big Dakota at Stanley County
2/18/27: Region Wrestling Tournament @ Clark
2/25-27/27: State B Wrestling @ Rapid City

Basketball

11/23/26: 1st Day of GB Practice
11/30/26: 1st Day of BB Practice
12/4/26: GB @ Britton-Hecla
12/8/26: GB: Northwestern
12/11/26: DH @ Hamlin
12/15/26: DH: Sisseton
12/18/26: DH @ Vermillion
12/22/26: DH: Redfield
12/29/26: GB @ NSU vs. Chamberlain
1/2/27: America's Hometown Basketball Classic - Madison
1/5/27: DH: Warner
1/7/27: DH: C/WL
1/9/27: DH @ Hankinson
1/12/27: BB @ Webster
1/14/27: DH: Tiospa Zina
1/16/27: DH @ Dell Rapids
1/21/27: DH @ Milbank
1/26/27: GB: Roncalli
2/1/27: GB vs. Florence/Henry @ Henry
2/2/27: BB @ Roncalli
2/4/27: DH: Deuel
2/6/27: BB @ Freeman Classic
2/6/27: GB @ Colman-Egan
2/12/27: BB: Lennox
2/13/27: DH @ Mobridge/Pollock
2/15/27: BB: Florence/Henry
2/16/27: GB: Webster
2/19/27: BB: Britton/Hecla
2/26/27: BB vs. Aber. Chr. @ Civic Arena
2/23/27: GB: Regions
2/25/27: GB: Regions
3/2/27: BB: Regions
3/4/27: GB: SoDak 16
3/5/27: BB: Regions
3/9/27: BB: SoDak 16
3/11-13/27: State A GB @ Brookings
3/18-20/27: State A BB @ Rapid City

Boys Soccer

8/14/26: Custer, 5:00 PM
8/15/26: Hot Springs, 11:00AM
8/21/26: @ Belle Fourche, 7:00PM
8/22/26: @ STM, 1:00 PM
8/27/26: @ Freeman , 4:00 PM
8/29/26: Dakota Valley, 1:00 PM
9/5/26: @ West Central, 2:00 PM
9/8/26: James Valley Christian, 4:00 PM
9/12/26: Vermillion, 2:30 PM
9/19/26: Freeman , 12:00 PM
9/24/26: @ James Valley Christian, 4:00 PM
9/26/26: @ Dakota Valley, 3:00 PM
9/28/26: West Central, 4:00 PM
10/6/26: Soccer Playoffs - Quarterfinals
10/10/26: Soccer Playoffs - Semifinals
10/17/26: State Soccer at Watertown

Boys Wrestling

11/16/26: 1st Day of Wrestling Practice
12/5/26: Wrestling @ Clark
12/12/26: @ Baltic
12/17/26: NEC Wrestling Tournament @ Deuel
12/19/26: @ Sioux Valley
1/9/27: @ Garretson
1/14/27: Triangular (Webster/Redfield) @ Webster
1/16/27: @ Potter County
1/19/27: Triangular vs. Hamlin, Clark/WL @ Groton
1/22/27: Dual vs. Deuel
1/23/27: @ Kingsbury Co
1/26/27: Quad @ Mt Vernon (Parkston, Garretson)
1/29/27: Quad - B/H, McLaughlin, Canistota
1/30/27: Groton Wrestling Invite
2/2/27: @ Lyman Quad
2/6/27: @ Big Dakota - Stanley County
2/20/27: Region Wrestling Tournament
2/25-27/27: State B Wrestling @ Rapid City

Girls Golf

3/30/27: 1st Day of Practice
4/19/27: @ Sisseton
4/22/27: @ Milbank
4/26/27: @ NEC (Roncalli)
4/29/27: @ Redfield
5/6/27: @ Roncalli
5/10/27: @ Groton
5/18/27: @ Region 3A @ Mitchell
6/7-8/27: State Golf @ Hot Springs

School Events

Aug. 17: Open House Events
Aug. 19: First Day of School
Sept. 4 & 7: NO SCHOOL - Labor Day
Sept. 14: Homecoming Week
Oct. 8: P-T Conferences (1:30-8)
Oct. 9: NO SCHOOL - Staff Development
Oct. 9: Lake Region Marching Festival
Oct. 12: NO SCHOOL - Native Am. Day
Oct. 20: End of First Quarter
Nov. 11: Veteran's Day Prog., 2 p.m.
Nov. 25-27: NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving
Dec. 10: MS/HS Concert, 7 p.m.
Dec. 22: Elementary Concert, 1 p.m.
Dec. 22: Early Dismissal, 2 p.m.
Dec. 22: End of Second Quarter
Jan. 4: NO SCHOOL - Staff Development
Jan. 5: School Resumes
Feb. 11: P-T Conferences (1:30-8)
Feb. 12: NO SCHOOL - Staff Development
Feb. 15: NO SCHOOL - President's Day
March 9: End of Third Quarter
March 18-19: NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
March 26-29: NO SCHOOL - Easter Break
April 17: Prom
April 22: Middle School Concert, 7 p.m.
April 27: Elementary Concert, 7 p.m.
April 29: High School Concert, 7 p.m.
May 15: Graduation, 2 p.m.
May 17: Last Day of School (unless makeup days)
May 18: Staff Development

*All make-up days will be added to the end of the school calendar.

2026-27
GHS TIGERS

Track

3/1/27: 1st Day of Track Practice
3/23/27: @ NSU
3/30/27: @ NSU
4/6/27: @ Ipswich Early Bird
4/9/27: @ Gettysburg
4/13/27: @ Eureka
4/15/27: @ Milbank (National Guard)
4/16/27: @ Roncalli Invite
4/20/27: @ Britton-Hecla (Orville Pfitzer)
4/22/27: @ Redfield Relays
4/24/27: @ Ipswich Relays
4/27/27: @ Groton (Rob Luecke Invite)
4/30-5/1: @ Howard Wood
4/30/27: @ Sisseton
5/4/27: @ Milbank (Valley Queen)
5/7/27: @ Aberdeen Central
5/13/27: @ NEC (Hamlin)
5/17/27: @ Warner Last Chance
5/20/27: @ Webster
5/27-29/27: State Track - Howard Wood

Girls Softball

3/15/27: First Day of Practice
3/30/27: @ Sisseton
4/1/27: @ Aberdeen Central
4/8/27: Deuel
4/19/27: Arlington
4/20/27: Hanson
4/24/27: @ Groton Tournament
4/26/27: @ Clark/Willow Lake
5/1/27: @ NEC Tournament
5/4/27: @ Mobridge/Pollock
5/6/27: @ Florence/Henry
5/11/27: Milbank
5/17/27: Redfield
5/21/27: Clark/Willow Lake
5/25/27: SoDak 16 Softball
6/3-5/27: State Softball

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Anatomical Variations: Inherent Challenges in Comprehending Cancer

Human anatomy is fascinatingly and frustratingly complex. In each body, 600 muscles, 206 bones, and 360 joints provide structural stability and movement; two lungs circulate air through 1,500 miles of airways to 480,000,000 alveoli with every breath; one heart circulates 5-6 liters of blood through 60,000 miles of vessels every 30 seconds; 600 lymph nodes activate the immune system and filter foreign invaders (e.g., bacteria, viruses), cellular debris, and cancer cells coursing through 100,000 miles of lymphatic vessels; and the list continues.

As human anatomy applies to clinical medicine, some concepts are fundamentally more conceivable than others. For example, if an individual breaks a bone, they can often logically identify the etiology, understand the inhibited function, and realize the immediate need for urgent care. A radiologist would then localize and visualize the fracture, and an orthopedic surgeon would reduce and fix the bone. Cancer, however, is generally more arduous to conceptualize.

Cancer develops from a single cell, and comprehending the size of one cell is inherently challenging. There are around 30,000,000,000,000 (30 trillion) cells that compose each human body, and the average cell diameter is about 5 micrometers. For reference, the smallest object an unaided human eye can identify is approximately 100 micrometers (0.1 millimeters, or comparatively about one-tenth the thickness of a standard office staple), so it would take about 8,000 average-size cells arranged in a 20x20x20 cluster to be perceived by the naked eye as a minimally visible “speck.”

A single cell becomes cancerous when it acquires a mutation in its genetic code that causes it to grow and divide uncontrollably, ultimately creating many copies of its dysfunctional self. The microscopic scale at which this initially occurs makes it highly implausible to notice, and this is why signs and symptoms of cancer do not present until replication has created enough cellular mass to manifest physical or functional effects. To complicate matters further, while cancer can develop essentially anywhere in the body, cancer cells can relocate (metastasize) throughout the body via the extensive vascular, respiratory, and lymphatic pathways.

Thorough surface examinations (e.g., skin observation, breast/testicle self-exams, digital rectal exam, colonoscopy) are important routine screening procedures, and specialized imaging techniques (e.g.,

CT, MRI, PET, US) can confirm the presence and location of suspicious lesions (abnormal tissues). A biopsy of an alleged cancer tissue is normally collected to allow a pathologist to observe the associated cells, much like how a radiologist views bones in radiographs. A histologist slices the tissue thinly (~5 micrometers thick) and applies pigmented stains so each cell in the plane can be easily examined. A pathologist then inspects the tissue using a microscope to determine if cancer cells are present and what characteristics they exhibit.

Based on the diagnostic findings, an oncologist can establish the best treatment plan with the patient. Unfortunately, as cancer originates as part of the body’s tissues, treatment via surgical resection, chemotherapy, or radiation often also destroys healthy tissue as it is difficult to confidently target all and only the microscopic cancerous cells.

Ethan L. Snow, PhD, MA is a Clinical Anatomist and Associate Professor at South Dakota State University in Brookings, South Dakota. Dr. Snow leads the Snow Lab Research Team – a collaborative and interdisciplinary team of undergraduate students, professional students, faculty, and clinicians who analyze rare and unique clinical cases involving anatomical variations. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm, on SDPB, YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).



By Ethan L. Snow, PhD, MA

We the People

How Shall America Live: The Urgency of Checks and Balances

by Dave Adler

In our continuing conversation about the defining question of the character of our nation—How shall America live? —we address the defining features of American Constitutionalism, first sketched in the 1760s by colonists who were outraged by English laws and practices that trenched upon their natural rights and rights as Englishman and the sweeping powers of King and Parliament. The expanding circle of complaints and protests, as readers know, fired the imaginations of those who sought separation from England and exploded in the Declaration of Independence, which declared to the world and to posterity, that a new nation was born, one grounded on the principles of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Over the next decade, drafters of state constitutions trumpeted governing mechanisms that would grant and limit the powers of those elected to office in service of the citizenry. These fundamental assumptions were embraced, refined and extended by delegates to the Constitutional Convention, who unleashed the First Principles of American Constitutionalism.

The distinctive feature of American Constitutionalism—the doctrine of checks and balances—represents the engine, indeed, the workhorse, of our governmental system. When it works well, it maintains the fundamental rights of the citizenry to self-governance, representation, adherence to and fulfillment of the enumeration of powers, essential limits on those serving in the legislative, executive and judicial branches, protection of civil rights and civil liberties, equal protection of the law and, certainly, voting rights. In sum, the doctrine of checks and balances represents the guarantor of government of, by and for the people, the essential rationale of the American Revolution.

When the system of checks and balances is not functioning well, when it is rendered ineffective by the lapses of those at the helm, the men and women vested by law with powers and responsibilities to turn the wheels of our constitutional democracy, anything can happen. Our rights and liberties can be trampled, limits on power ignored and violated, the allocation of powers approved and authorized by the people in the ratification of the Constitution and subsequent amendments to the Constitution—the exercise of popular sovereignty—shredded beyond recognition, and, of course, the rise of an authoritarian president.

The collapse of checks and balances can be seen in the misappropriation of tax dollars for personal presidential projects not authorized by Congress, ICE agents roaming the streets of blue and purple states, acting far beyond their initial mission and purpose of border control to break into homes of citizens without adequate search warrants, assaulting and killing Americans, without accountability and in defiance of courts of law, and a presidential war of choice in Iran, which has already cost taxpayers well in excess of \$50 billion, resulted in the deaths of 18 soldiers, dozens and dozens of unreported injuries to members of our military, censorship at the Pentagon, unmitigated attacks on freedom of the press and freedom of speech, and unprecedented concentration of power in the executive that smashes the restraints on the presidency conceived by the framers of the Constitution.

Each of these grave injuries to American democracy has implications for the citizenry. There is, for example, no apparent, face-saving exit for President Trump from the war in Iran, which he started, and which has spread throughout the Middle East, which means the rising costs of the war that you and I endure—at the gas pump and the grocery store—will continue. That is our immediate future, one that will span the months ahead as American workers make difficult choices between gasoline, food and medicine. This failure of checks and balances, conspicuous in Trump’s unconstitutional presidential war-making and the absolute failure of Republicans in Congress to reclaim the institution’s constitutional control over matters of war and peace, reach into your living rooms, your kitchen, your ability to pay rent and meet mortgage payments. In short, the failure of checks and balances has a direct effect on the pocketbooks of Americans, which is precisely why we citizens should care deeply about the violation of this fundamental feature of the American Constitutionalism.

Since the doctrine of checks and balances is a defining feature of America, the question of if, when and how, our elected representatives adhere to it, represents a commentary on how American is living. It is a question about the character of our nation. Do we like what we see in the mirror?

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