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The Groton Independent

Vol. 143 No. 50 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2026 ♦ Established in 1889

Groton joins nation in honoring Dolly Parton

GROTON — The American flag at the Groton American Legion Post Home was lowered to half-staff Wednesday as Groton joined communities across the country in mourning the death of country music legend Dolly Parton.

Groton American Legion Commander Doug Hamilton lowered the flag in accordance with an order from President Donald Trump directing American flags to be flown at half-staff through sunset Tuesday, Sept. 1, in Parton's memory.

Parton died Tuesday, Aug. 25, in Nashville at the age of 80. Her death brought an outpouring of tributes for an entertainer whose influence extended far beyond country music.

Born in rural Tennessee in 1946, Parton rose from humble beginnings to become one of the most recognizable figures in American entertainment. Her six-decade career produced classics including "Jolene," "Coat of Many Colors," "9 to 5" and "I Will Always Love You." She also found success in movies, including 9 to 5 and Steel Magnolias.

But Parton's legacy stretched well beyond the stage.

Through her Imagination Library, she helped place hundreds of millions of books into the hands of young children, promoting childhood literacy in communities throughout the United States and around the world. She was also recognized for numerous other charitable efforts during her lifetime.

In ordering flags lowered, Trump described Parton's death as a tremendous loss and recognized the impact she had on millions of people. Flags at federal buildings and facilities across the nation are to remain at half-staff through sunset Sept. 1.

That national tribute could be seen Wednesday in Groton as Hamilton lowered the Stars and Stripes at the American Legion Post Home — a local gesture of respect for an American entertainer whose music, generosity and personality touched generations.

Swenson switches from math to shop

by Dorene Nelson

Eric Swenson has decided to switch his teaching job here in Groton. "I have been teaching middle school math here for three years but recently decided to switch to teaching shop and technology," Swenson explained.

"I started my teaching career at Roncalli High School, teaching math for four years," he said. "Following this I switched to Groton where I taught math for three years."

"I started my higher education career by getting a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. I worked in this field for only six months," Swenson explained. "In that short period of time, I knew I wasn't meant to be working in that field."

"Next I switched to the education field, getting my Master's Degree in Education at Northern State University," he said, "After getting my degree, I started teaching math at Roncalli."

"With Donley's resignation, I was very concerned that the industrial arts class would disappear," Swenson explained. "Therefore I took the Technology and Engineering Education Praxis test which qualified me to teach high school tech classes."

"I really enjoy working with technology and shop classes and was afraid they'd disappear here in Groton if there wasn't a qualified teacher," he admitted. "I've always enjoyed shop, tech, and machinery classes, so transferring from math to shop classes was just right for me!"

"I have big plans for this program where I teach the students actual skills they can use," Swenson stated. "The potential classes that I could teach will appeal to high school students. It's really great to be teaching actual skills that these students will need to know!"

"My wife and I live in Aberdeen with our eleven year old son who travels with me to Groton to attend school," he said.



Legion Commander Doug Hamilton lowers the flag to half mast at the Groton Post Home in downtown Groton.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

Johnson takes third, Groton places third at Northeast Conference Meet

GROTON — Jace Johnson turned in one of the top rounds of the day as Groton Area placed third in the team standings at the Northeast Conference Golf Meet held Tuesday, Aug. 25, at Olive Grove Golf Course.

Johnson fired a 1-over-par 73 on the 6,244-yard, par-72 layout to finish third individually, just one stroke behind the leaders.

Aberdeen Roncalli's Lucas Daggett captured medalist honors with an even-par 72, while teammate Harper Schnabel also finished at even par with a 72 to take second. Johnson was next with his 73.

Johnson was steady throughout the round. He went out in 37 and came home in even-par 36. His back nine included a birdie on the par-5 12th hole as he finished just one shot away from the top spot.

Groton teammate Liam Johnson also earned a top-10 conference finish, placing 10th with a 13-over-par 85. He shot 45 on the front nine before improving by five strokes with a 40 on the back.

Graham Rose finished 13th for Groton with a 94, shooting matching rounds of 47 on the front and back nine. Ryland Blackwood carded a 102 and finished 20th.

As a team, Groton posted a score of 349 to finish third in the six-team field.

Aberdeen Roncalli dominated the team competition, placing four golfers among the top seven individuals and winning the conference championship with a 307. Sisseton was runner-up at 340, nine strokes ahead of Groton.

Redfield finished fourth with a 396, followed by Milbank at 409 and Tiospa Zina at 497.

Behind the two Roncalli golfers and Johnson, Sisseton's Luke Nielsen placed fourth with an 80. Finn Anderson of Roncalli was fifth with an 81, followed by teammates Matthew Darling with an 82 and Matthew Gerlach with an 83. Sisseton's Malachi Anderson and Karter Duetsch each shot 84 before Liam Johnson rounded out the top 10 with his 85.

Groton's third-place team finish was highlighted by Jace Johnson's round, which left him only one stroke from the Northeast Conference championship on his home course.



Pictured left to right are Liam Johnson, Rylan Blackwood, Graham Rose, Jace Johnson and Bentley Ehresmann.

(Courtesy Photo Becca Johnson)

Tigers shut out Miller/Highmore-Harrold in Carson’s coaching debut

MILLER — Groton Area opened the 2026 football season in impressive fashion Friday night, giving first-year head coach Jordan Carson his first career victory with a 21-0 shutout of Miller/Highmore-Harrold.

The Tigers combined an efficient passing attack with a dominant defensive performance, holding the Rustlers to only 73 yards of total offense and three first downs.

For Carson, the victory was the culmination of weeks of preparation with a young Groton roster. “We prepared for it,” Carson said. “We had those kids working pretty hard from day one, and we had some goals, and we said we had to try to minimize our mistakes and try to capitalize on our opportunities, and I thought we did a pretty good job of that tonight.”

Groton received the opening kickoff and moved the football, with Jordan Schwan breaking loose for a 21-yard run, but the Tigers eventually turned the ball over on downs.

The Groton defense quickly forced a Miller/Highmore-Harrold punt, and the Tigers took over at their own 20-yard line. Seven plays and three first downs later, Asher Johnson scored on a two-yard run with 2:30 remaining in the first quarter. Ryder Schwan kicked the extra point to give Groton a 7-0 lead.

After another defensive stop, Groton struck again.

Brody Lord hauled in a 34-yard pass late in the first quarter to move the Tigers to the Miller/Highmore-Harrold 30-yard line. On the first play of the second quarter, Johnson connected with Anthony Tracy for a 26-yard touchdown. Schwan added the extra point and Groton led 14-0 with 11:51 remaining in the half.

Neither offense found the end zone again before halftime.

Miller/Highmore-Harrold managed its first first down of the second half but was again forced to punt. The Rustlers later caught a break when a punt bounced off a Groton player and was recovered by Miller/Highmore-Harrold at the Tiger 44-yard line.

Groton’s defense responded by stopping the Rustlers on fourth-and-seven.

The Tigers then began the drive that put the game away. Starting from their own 44 late in the third quarter, Groton picked up several first downs and moved into Miller/Highmore-Harrold territory.

With 10:35 remaining in the fourth quarter, Johnson and Tracy connected again, this time for another 26-yard touchdown pass. Schwan’s third successful extra point made it 21-0.

Miller/Highmore-Harrold fumbled on its next possession, and although Groton was unable to turn the turnover into points, the Tiger defense continued to keep the Rustlers off the scoreboard.

Miller/Highmore-Harrold put together one of its better drives late in the game, but Ryder Schwan intercepted Chase Hurd’s pass to end the threat.

Johnson finished nine-of-12 passing for 155 yards and two touchdowns. He also led the Tigers on the ground with 45 yards on 15 carries and a touchdown.

Tracy rushed five times for 19 yards and caught two touchdown passes. Ryder Schelle had two receptions for 38 yards and carried eight times for 26 yards. Lord had a 34-yard reception, while Case Reints caught one pass for 10 yards.

Groton finished with 114 rushing yards and 155 passing yards for 269 yards of total offense.

Miller/Highmore-Harrold was held to 41 rushing yards on 30 carries. Hurd completed four of 13 passes for 32 yards and an interception.

Defensively, Braeden Fliehs led Groton with five tackles, while Johnson finished with four. Isaiah Scepaniak forced a fumble, Reints recovered a fumble and Ryder Schwan recorded the interception.

The Tigers were also relatively disciplined, committing three penalties for just 15 yards. Groton had four fumbles but lost only one.

One concern coming out of the opener was the health of Jordan Schwan, who was injured after his 21-yard run early in the game.

Carson said Schwan rolled an ankle and was unable to play much of the remainder of the game. “We’re hopefully — hopefully he can heal up quick and be back for next week or weeks after,” Carson said.

Carson said one of his biggest challenges since taking over the program has been putting his system into place.

“I kind of know how I want to run things, but it’s implementing everything that we’re doing along the way,” Carson said. “Implementing a new offense has been a pretty good challenge so far with some young kids, but I thought we executed well tonight.”

The Tigers are relying heavily on a young roster this season, with sophomores and juniors filling many key roles and only a handful of seniors.

Carson said what the Tigers may lack in experience, they make up for with determination.

“I would say that we have some tenacious football players,” Carson said. “They might not be the biggest or the strongest or the fastest, but we’ve got some pretty tough kids. And I think they’re looking to get a lot better, and they want to keep getting better. So I think maybe tenacity is a good way to put it.”

Friday night also turned out to be a significant night in Groton football history.

Longtime Tiger statistician Tom Woods noted during the broadcast that Carson is the 31st head football coach in Groton history, with the program dating back to 1914.

The season opener was also the 850th varsity football game in school history, and Miller became the 55th different opponent Groton has faced. It was the first-ever football meeting between Groton and Miller.

Woods said the 2026 season marks the 110th season of varsity football at Groton. There were three years during the World War I era in which Groton did not play a football season.

The opener also marked a personal milestone for Woods, who is beginning his 40th year working with the Groton football program.

Woods said his involvement began when former Groton coach Becker asked him to come around the program, spend time with the players and offer encouragement.

Through four decades, that relationship with Tiger football has continued.

“There’s nothing that I find more joy in than being able to cheer the kids on,” Woods said, thanking the many Groton coaches over the years who have allowed him to remain involved with the program.

Woods’ extensive research into Groton football history has also helped uncover some pieces of the program’s past that had been forgotten.



Asher Johnson gets ready to throw the ball at the football game Friday in Miller. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Ryder Schelle catches the ball for a 30 yard pass play to get the ball down to the Rustlers’ 25 yard line. Three plays later Groton Area scored. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

He said he had previously listed 1972 as Groton’s first Northeast Conference championship, but a former Groton connection challenged him to look farther back into the newspaper archives. Woods discovered that Groton’s championship teams of the 1930s had also been members of the Northeast Conference and won back-to-back conference championships.

Woods said he plans to commemorate those teams and hopes the earlier championship years can eventually be added to the school’s championship banner.

He also discussed new athletic record boards being developed at the school. Football boards will include game, season and career records along with a “1,000 Club” recognizing 1,000-yard rushing, passing or receiving seasons.

Because complete statistics were not consistently kept in earlier decades, Woods said the football statistical record boards will generally begin with the 1987 season, when the records become much more complete.

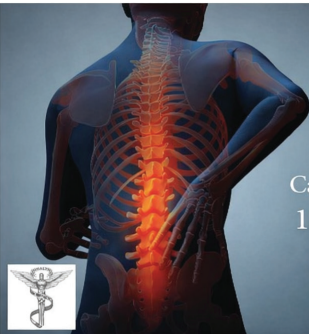
After celebrating the first win of his head coaching career, Carson was already looking ahead.

Groton Area, 1-0, will return home this week to host Beresford, which also won its season opener.

Carson said the Tigers will approach the next challenge the same way they approached Friday night.

“We’ll get some film on them and we’ll start prepping,” Carson said. “We’ll have our best game ready to go for them.”

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Tigers go the distance in volleyball season-opening thriller

HAMLIN — Groton Area and Hamlin made sure they got their money’s worth in Tuesday night’s volleyball season opener.

Every match went the distance, with the C and junior varsity teams each playing three sets before the varsity Tigers and Chargers battled through all five sets. Groton Area came up just short in the varsity match as Hamlin escaped with a 21-25, 25-17, 25-15, 18-25, 16-14 victory.

“It was exhausting,” Groton Area coach Chelsea Hanson said. “What more can you possibly want on opening night? Battles.”

Groton opened the varsity match with a 25-21 victory. The opening set was tied five times with three lead changes before the Tigers took control. Hamlin pulled even at 11, but Groton never trailed again.

The Chargers answered emphatically in the second set. After three early ties, Hamlin built an 18-8 advantage and went on to take the set, 25-17.

Hamlin carried the momentum into the third set, jumping out to a 4-0 lead. Groton could get no closer than two points before the Chargers scored the final six points for a 25-15 win and a 2-1 lead in the match.

Facing defeat, the Tigers responded.

The fourth set featured eight ties and four lead changes. The teams were deadlocked at 18 when Groton Area reeled off seven consecutive points to take the set, 25-18, and force a deciding fifth set.

“I thought when we went down 1-2, we were losing steam pretty fast,” Hanson said. “I was happy to see us bounce back in the fourth because I didn’t know that we quite had that in our tank.”

The fifth set was tied at six and seven before Hamlin gained a slight advantage. The Chargers maintained a one- or two-point edge until Groton fought back to tie the set at 13 and again at 14.

With the match pushed into extra points, Hamlin scored the final two points for the 16-14 victory.

“We put people in different positions and were just kind of trying to find our groove,” Hanson said. “It’s tough when you have to come out and play a good team to start the season, but it’s not going to get any easier from here. We’re here to be battle tested. We got better today. We learned things about ourselves, and we have some things we need to work on, but overall you definitely can’t be disappointed with the effort.”

Hamlin’s Addelyn Jensen proved to be the biggest obstacle for the Tigers, pounding down 28 kills while adding three assisted blocks, one solo block and 16 digs.

“She’s such a great player,” Hanson said. “We knew where the ball was going and still couldn’t stop her. She hits over the block and she hits around it. She’s a really good player. The fact that we could even take it five with a girl having a game like that is pretty remarkable.”

Paxton Neuendorf added nine kills for the Chargers.

Groton Area recorded 10 ace serves, led by Abby Feldheim and Tevin Hansen with three apiece. Chesney Weber added two aces.

Weber handled the bulk of the setting duties, finishing with 30 of Groton’s 38 assists. Sydney Locke had four assists and Hansen added two.

Hansen led the Tiger attack with 13 kills, while Weber and Kella Tracy finished with seven apiece.

Groton Area recorded nine blocks. Weber was involved in six assisted blocks. Libby Cole had five assisted blocks and one solo block, while Taryn Traphagen was credited with three assisted blocks.

The Tigers also totaled 81 digs. Locke and Hansen had 18 apiece, while Weber finished with 15.

Hanson said the heat inside the Hamlin gymnasium, combined with long rallies and a physical match, began to take a toll on both teams.

“Fatigue definitely set in, but this is how you get in shape,” she said. “This is a really good start for us for the week. Hopefully we gain a little stamina and have a few days to rest before we go in and play four games that are going to be just as hard on Saturday.”

Hanson said the difficult opening match was exactly the type of competition she wanted for the Tigers after last season.

“We came off last season frustrated that we weren’t at the state tournament, and I felt like we needed to play a tougher schedule,” she said. “If we could play games like this every single night, we’re going to get better by the end of the year.”

The junior varsity Tigers picked up a three-set victory.

Groton Area won the first set, 25-18, after breaking away from four early ties. Hamlin evened the match by winning the second set, 26-24. Groton had rallied from a 23-19 deficit to tie the set at 24 before the Chargers claimed the final two points.

The Tigers took control early in the deciding set, scoring four consecutive points to gain the advantage before finishing off a 15-8 victory.

Brooklyn Spanier led the JV Tigers with seven kills. Kinley Sandness had four kills and an ace serve. Abby Fjeldheim recorded three kills and two aces, while Neely Althoff had three kills, one block and an ace.

Brynlee Dunker and Maycee Moody each added three kills. Tori Schuster had a kill and two ace serves, while Makenna Krause added an ace.

Hamlin won the C match in three sets.

Groton Area opened with a 25-23 victory before Hamlin came back to take the second set, 26-24, in a set that was tied six times.

The Chargers jumped out to a 5-0 lead in the third set. Groton battled back to tie the score at six and seven, but Hamlin then scored six straight points on the way to a 15-9 victory.

Charli Jacobson led Groton with eight kills and an ace serve. Maycee Moody had seven kills and two aces, while Brynlee Dunker recorded two kills and two aces. Mya Moody added two kills, and Rowan Patterson and Rylee Stoltenberg each had one kill.

Groton Area will return to action Saturday at the Huron Tournament.

Varsity match sponsors on GDILIVE.COM were: Agtegra, Avantara-Groton, Bierman Farm Service, BK Custom Ts, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Farmers Union Insurance, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, Heartland Energy, Jacobson Electric, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Cafe, Locke Electric, Malpert Insurance, Poet, Rix Farms / R&M Farms, S & S Lumber, Spanier Harvesting and The Meat House of Andover. Farmers Union Insurance was the sponsor for the JV and C matches.

Tigers turn western road trip into three-win weekend

Groton Area’s soccer teams put together a successful western road trip over the weekend, combining for three victories in four matches against Belle Fourche and St. Thomas More.

The Tigers opened the trip Friday at Belle Fourche with both the girls and boys earning 2-1 victories before traveling to St. Thomas More on Saturday, where the boys posted a 3-0 shutout and the girls dropped a close 1-0 decision.

In Friday’s girls contest, Groton Area had to overcome an early deficit after Belle Fourche scored in the eighth minute following what Tiger coach Matt Baumgartner described as a defensive mis-assignment.

Groton answered in the 26th minute when Brenna Imrie gathered a ball that bounced out from an attacking sequence. From the middle of the field, Imrie launched a shot from about 30 yards that found the back of the net to tie the match at 1-1.

The Tigers took the lead eight minutes later when McKenna Tietz lined up a free kick from the far left side and drove the ball into the net in the 34th minute.

Neither team scored in the second half as Groton protected the 2-1 advantage.

Baumgartner said the Tigers created numerous offensive opportunities but were unable to turn many of them into goals.

“A game with many offensive chances only resulted in two long-range goals for the Tigers,” Baumgartner said. “The girls had a lot of time and space today but rushed opportunities and misplaced a lot of shots.”

While happy to get the victory, Baumgartner said the Tigers knew they could have been more efficient.

“Coming out ahead with a win is the scenario we traveled out for, but a 2-1 win with a dozen-plus missed shots stings at me and the team as a whole tonight,” he said.

Baumgartner said the early Belle Fourche goal forced the Tigers to settle in and respond.

“We gave up an early goal on a simple mis-assignment and crawled back to get the lead before the halftime whistle, and that calmed our nerves,” he said.

He was also pleased with the play of Groton’s younger players.

“Our young rotation pieces played very nicely today and are eagerly learning and adapting to varsity-speed soccer,” Baumgartner said. “Proud of the fight to crawl out a victory, but we know there’s smarter and more efficient soccer to be had from us.”

The Groton boys completed Friday’s sweep with their own 2-1 victory over Belle Fourche. Logan Olson and Ethan Kroll scored the Tigers’ goals in the win.

Groton Area continued the road trip Saturday against St. Thomas More.

The boys turned in one of their strongest defensive performances of the young season, shutting out the Cavaliers, 3-0.

Easton Weber, Kroll and Blake Malsam each scored a goal for Groton, while Olson and Weber recorded assists.

Goalkeeper TC Schuster helped preserve the shutout with 11 saves as St. Thomas More applied enough pressure to keep him busy throughout the contest.

The Groton girls were also locked in a defensive battle Saturday but came up just short, falling to St. Thomas More, 1-0.

The Cavaliers’ lone goal proved to be the difference as the Tigers were unable to find the equalizer.

Groton Area’s boys finished the two-day road swing with a 2-0 record, while the girls split their two matches.



ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
City of Columbia (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following project:
Columbia Collection System And Lagoon Improvements
Columbia, South Dakota
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Sealed bids for the construction of the Project will be received at Columbia City Hall at 122 4th Street, Columbia, SD 57433 until 2:00 pm, local time, September 15th, 2026 and then will be publicly opened and read immediately thereafter. No bids will be received after the specified hour and date, and Bids which are not prepared and filed in accordance with "Instructions to Bidders" may be rejected.
The project includes the following work:
In general, the project consists of constructing a new lagoon system northeast of City

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News Items: news@grotonsd.net
Deadline to submit items: Noon Monday]
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The Groton Independent (USPS# 230-440) is published weekly with its periodicals postage paid at Groton, SD.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Groton Independent, PO Box 34, Groton, SD 57445
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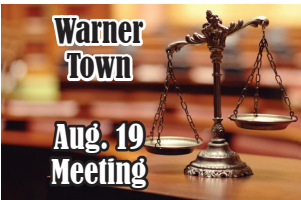
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Limits. The following trade work is anticipated: traffic control; erosion control; sanitary sewer collection; lift station and force main; and earthwork for lagoon system.
The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is Stockwell Engineers located at 801 North Phillips Ave, Suite 100, Sioux Falls, SD 57104, (605) 338-6668. Prospective bidders may download and examine complete electronic bidding documents at no charge at the designated website, www.stockwellengineers.com.
Prospective Bidders are urged to register with the designated website as a plan holder, even if Bidding Documents are obtained from a plan room or source other than the designated website in either electronic or paper format. The designated website will be updated periodically with addenda, lists of registered plan holders, reports, and other information relevant to submitting a Bid for the Project. All official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered only through the designated website. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, includ-

ing addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the designated website.
Per SDCL 5-18B-1, the Issuing Office will, upon request, furnish one copy of the Bidding Documents, without charge, to each contractor resident in South Dakota who intends, in good faith, to bid upon the project.
This project is funded through the State of South Dakota's SRF program and requires the following conditions.
1. Davis Bacon and Related Acts wages apply to this project. All provisions relative to those acts must be met.
2. The successful bidder – including any contractors and their subcontractors on the project, must be registered in SAM (System for Award Management)
3. Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the Equal Employment Opportunity regulations in 41 CFR Part 60 – 1.4(b) and all Civil Rights laws to include 1) Age Discrimination Act of 1975, 2) Section 13 of the FWPCA Amendments of 1972, 3) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and 4) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
4. Bidders on this work will be required to comply with Title 40 CFR 33 and Executive Order 12138. The requirements for bidders and contractors under this regulation which concerns utilization of Disadvantaged/Minority Business Enterprises (DBE/MBE) and Women's Business Enterprises (WBE) are explained in the specifications. The DBE/MBE and WBE goals for participation in this contract in terms of percentage of contract value are as follows:
MBE – 1.5%
WBE – 2.4%
5. The low responsive bidder will be required to certify to compliance with the American Iron and Steel provision of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014. This certification form may be found on page AIS-22 of the State Revolving Fund (SRF) General Conditions and must be included in the bid proposal. Please be advised that waivers or exemptions from the American Iron and Steel provision that cite International Trade Agreements DO NOT comply with the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 as it applies to the SRF programs. Claims from suppliers that the American Iron and Steel provision does not apply to certain products based on the International Trade Agreement

exemptions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 will not be accepted.
6. The low responsive bidder must assure compliance with the requirements of Public Law 115-232, Section 889, Prohibition on Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment. Contractors must assure that telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities), and video surveillance and telecommunications equipment produced by Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, or Dahua Technology Company (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities) WILL NOT be supplied for the project.
Bids shall be submitted on the prescribed form. Bids will be rejected if they show any conditions or uncalled for alternative bids. All bids shall be on the basis of cash payment according to the terms of the bidding documents.
The submittal of a Bid will constitute an incontrovertible representation by Bidder that the Bidder has examined carefully the bidding documents, visited the site, is familiar with the local conditions under which the work is to be performed, and correlated Bidder's observations with the requirements of the bidding documents.
Each bid shall be accompanied by Bid Security as specified in the bidding documents. Successful bidder shall begin the Work on receipt of the Notice to Proceed and shall complete the Work within the Contract Time. Work is subject to liquidated damages.
Per SDCL 5-18A-14, the City of Columbia reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any parts thereof. For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.
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Published August 26 and Sept. 2, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$119.03 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 27150



TOWN OF WARNER
MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19TH, 2026
MEMBERS PRESENT: Gaylon Townsend, Terry Evans, Dave Fair and Nichol Townsend. Stewart Nelson was absent.
DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None
APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Evans and seconded by Townsend to approve the minutes from July 8th, 2026 meeting. Motion carried.
FINANCIAL REPORTS: MSC: Fair/Townsend. Checking: Town \$385,506.59; Water \$88,313.78; Sewer \$199,294.17. CDs: Town \$35,014.25; Water \$52,781.59; Sewer \$29,869.21.
BILLS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT: MSC: Fair/Evans. Agtegra (gas/fuel) \$365.14, Amazon (supplies) \$183.55, Auto Value (supplies) \$190.94, DOR Motor Vehicle Division (title & reg. fee) \$34.70, Gas N Goodies (fuel) \$229.66, Office Depot (supplies) \$73.71, PGW Auto Glass (supplies) \$28.99, Tax990 (fees) \$479.40, The Boston Fern (supplies) \$52.04, Walmart (supplies) \$151.26, WEB Water (water usage) \$8680.53, USDA (water and sewer loans) \$2083.00, Badger Meter (fees) \$26.52, Brown County Treasurer (mosquito spraying) \$665.76, Cole Papers (supplies) \$248.19, Common Sense Manufacturing (repair & maintenance) \$3470, Dependable Sanitation (garbage service) \$3164, Groton Independent (advertising) \$49.73, Hanlon Brothers (supplies) \$1541.83, Hofer Repair (equipment repairs) \$5957.45, Lien Transportation (supplies) \$4055.40, Lynn Aman (CC Cleaning) \$75, MACS (supplies) \$39.17, Menards (supplies) \$4.94, Midcontinent (phone & internet) \$302.02, Northwestern Energy (electric & gas) \$2124.23, Premier Polysteel (supplies) \$2475, Riteway Business Forms (supplies) \$177.01, SD Dept of Rev/Sales Tax \$201.65, SD Public Health Lab (water test) \$20, SD One Call (locates) \$30.45, Town Water/Sewer \$275.20, TranSource (repairs) \$1368.44, Warner Township Fire Dept. (fire protection) \$3828.83, PAYROLL: Stewart Nelson (101) \$1813.64 (602) \$906.82 (604) \$906.82,

Scott Boone (101) \$266.89, Terry Evans (101) \$322.30, Dave Fair (101) \$64.64, (602) \$35.09, Wade Rozell (101) \$298.29, Gaylon Townsend (101) \$55.41, Nichol Townsend (101) \$959.91, SD Retirement Fund \$542.36, Payroll Taxes \$1329.56
PUBLIC COMMENTS: None
UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
Passed Resolution #81226: A RESOLUTION ADJUSTING WATER RATES WITHIN THE TOWN OF WARNER. Whereas, adjustments are needed because of the increase of water rates from WEB Water; NOW, therefore, it is hereby resolved that the TOWN OF WARNER adopts the following fees effective October 1st, 2026. 9-3-13B- Rates for Water Service: The minimum flat fee will be at \$40 per month. The per thousand gallons fee will be: \$6.95 per 1,000 gallons up to 6,000 gallons, \$.95 per 1,000 gallons from 6,001 to 12,000 gallons, \$10.95 per 1,000 gallons over 12,000. Dated this 19th Day of August, 2026. Signed by: David Fair, Chairman. Attest: Nichol Townsend, Finance Officer. MSC: Townsend/Fair.
Ag Well Fees and a keypad for usage were discussed. Will contact Midwest Pump & Tank for estimate on a keypad and installation.
NEW BUSINESS:
A 2027 preliminary budget was presented. The final reading will be next month.
The City of Warner has been awarded the Secretary's Award for Drinking Water Excellence by the SD DANR for the 24th consecutive year. This award honors public water systems and their operators that met all state drinking water standards, monitoring, reporting, and certification requirements in 2025.
Discussion was held regarding the use of the community center for a group fitness class. Council agreed to charge a per use fee rather than a per day fee since this will be an ongoing rental agreement with minimal usage each day it's rented.
Approved Resolution #81926: A Resolution to Vacate Street. Whereas, the Town of Warner has received a petition from Jason and Staci Kay for the vacating of 2nd Avenue NE from their driveway at 111 2nd Avenue NE to the North end of 2nd Avenue NE, Town of Warner and Whereas, no one appeared to object to the vacating of this street; and Whereas, it was deemed necessary to vacate this street so that Jason and Staci Kay and Mitchell and Michele Hoellein may replat their property, now Therefore, be it resolved by the Warner Town Board of Trustees that this street is vacated. Dated this 19th day of August, 2026. Chairman Board of Trustees, Dave Fair. Attest: Nichol Townsend, Finance Officer.
SD DOT 2028 Signing & Delineation Project was discussed. Council approved authorizing Dave Fair to sign the agreement on behalf of The Town of Warner. MSC: Townsend/Evans.
Code Enforcement was discussed. Code Enforcement officer will be in town within the next few weeks and will notify residents of any infractions.
DATE OF NEXT MEETING: September 9th, 2026 at 7PM at the Warner Community Center.
ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20PM.
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
Dave Fair, Chairman; Nichol Townsend, Finance Officer
Published August 19, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$49.79 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 27151

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Doves' home
5 Coach Parseghian
8 Beach crawler
12 Pizza cooker
13 Greyhound vehicle
14 — Martin (cognac)
15 Bread sellers
17 Sheltered
18 Hogwash
19 Thespians
21 Sheriff's star
24 Hold sway
25 Jealousy
26 Stalks for soups
30 Finale
31 Give it a go
32 Man-mouse link

- 33 Sets of prayer beads
35 Big gulp
36 Eyeglass frames
37 Lake flock
38 Hoi —
41 Enjoy Aspen
42 Mayberry young 'un
43 Officials with seals
48 Ivy in Philly
49 Literary collection
50 Corporate symbol

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- 51 Perimeter
52 Actress Myrna
53 Winter blanket
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2 Eggs
3 Shatner's "— War"
4 Vigor
5 Slightly
6 Regret
7 Military attacks
8 Moon cavity
9 Move, in Realtor lingo
10 Pt. of U.S.A.
11 Tournament passes
16 Caviar base
20 "Pinocchio" fish
21 "Cheers" order
22 Part of A.D.
23 Film formats
24 Point — Peninsula
26 Record holder?
27 "The Music Man" setting

- 28 Ireland
29 Droops
31 Small combo
34 Dahl of films
35 Marble cake patterns
37 Reggae relative
38 Vatican leader
39 Pundit's piece
40 TV journalist Lisa
41 Remain partner
44 Lennon's partner
45 Charged bit
46 Conceit
47 Plant seeds

A subscription to the Groton Independent makes a great gift!

Solution time: 23 mins.

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AUGUST 18, 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
DISCUSS HOME ARTS BUILDING AT THE FAIRGROUNDS: Dennis Jones wasn't in attendance at the time on the agenda. The Fair Staff, Fair Board Members and Foundation Members were in attendance regarding their support for replacing the Home Arts Building with the new 4-H Building and a discussion was held. Rachel Kippley, Fair Manager, stated that a decision needed to be made on where to put the new 4-H Building and the location of the Home Arts Building is key, the 4-H'ers need to know they come first because it is 4-H Achievement Days and make that a priority. Rachel then shared they had a Fair Board meeting yesterday and turned it over to Nancy Radke, Fair Board President to share what was decided. Nancy stated we need the new building, the current one is falling apart, and don't know how Dennis came up with the figures he had because any other carpenters have stated it is shot; they had to move a lot of things on Wednesday with the rain to keep the quilts from getting wet and we need something for the 4-H kids, I've been involved with 4-H with my kids and grandkids for 40 years, and Nancy feels they need something new. Rachel shared that at the Board Meeting a motion passed unanimously to ask the Commission to give them the new building and demolish the current building yet this fall. Rachel stated that they have back-up solutions if the new building is not completed by next fair.

Alley Shelton informed the Commission that she was the Chair of the Home Arts Building, and she spoke with her son who is a Contractor also – he stated there is no recommendation to fix it if the foundation is falling in.

Pearl Holt commented that 4-H Kids have never had a place at the Fairgrounds to meet so this would be simple this needs to be at the Fairgrounds.

Char Akkerman shared that she has been in the Home Arts Building for several years, working with the Fair Board to make it look nice; people have commented on how nice the building is but there is a reason the quilts are hung up along the walls, to cover how bad of shape it is in. The 4-H Kids shouldn't have to clean shops to have meetings or practices. She feels there is a lot of support for the 4-H Kids and the Community so this would be beneficial. Char also visited with another Construction person that had walked around the building at the Fair and he stated that it needs to go, there is no way you could even move it in one piece, and you need to do that in order to build a new foundation for it.

Chairman Sutton stated that several surrounding communities (Roberts, Grant, Spink County) have built new 4-H Buildings. It's time for Brown County to have one, the 4-H Kids and the Community deserve it. Would be only building on the fairgrounds that would be a multi-use, climate controlled with heat and air-conditioned building that can be used year round. The Highway Department will demo the building and haul it but that would save the County considerably. Dennis Jones has still not shown up, and we all know his position on this because of the history behind the building, but we are not discounting any of this – it is an important part of our history – but the three buildings he knew of, and this is the only one left. Feels the others have gone away because like our building they have served their purpose. We as a Commission need to declare the building as surplus. Commissioner Gage made a motion to put on the agenda next week to surplus the Home Arts/

Women's Building. Seconded by Dinger. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

RICHMOND DAM UPDATE: None
ORDINANCE #332 – FIRST READING: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Gage to approve the First Reading of Proposed Ordinance #332. Applicant Michael & Caroline Sommers to rezone from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its current use. Description of property: Lots 7 & 8, in the SW 1/4 of Section 17-T123N-R64W of the 5th P.M. Brown County, South Dakota (38310 133rd Street; Aberdeen Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSION ON HOME ARTS BUILDING AT THE FAIRGROUNDS:

Dennis Jones showed up at the meeting about preserving the Home Arts/Women's Building at the Brown County Fairgrounds. He stated that 90% of the people want to preserve this building and turn it back into the Women's Building. Dennis shared thoughts from others he has met with and then asked the Commission to pause the demolition of this building. Need to preserve the past and its history, this is the most important building in Brown County because it was built in 1921 for the Tri-State Fair and name the Women's Building after Women were given the 'Right to Vote', it may be the last one standing, so it has history. They have no issue with a new 4-H Building but build it somewhere else. He'd like to see this building become a Tourist Attraction, teach history and the past such as Mount Rushmore, it is the most important building in Brown County.

Jeff Kippley commented that we have a very tight budget in the County; roads don't get fixed, bridges get put off 3-4 years, the County Fair is ran on a shoestring budget and the Fair Board Members donate a lot of their time and finances. What you are asking is probably a Million Dollars to get it to a place that would be sustainable for 10 years, not a 100. The time this should've been done was 40 years ago, now it's cost prohibitive to do all this. It would be irresponsible to make this a Tourist Attraction, we need to do what benefits 4-H. This building is the one place that would be air-conditioned that would allow Fair goers to cool off, move the 4-H Concession stand inside and give them an upper hand over the other concession stands due to having seating with A/C. This would be a great benefit to 4-H.

Dennis stated that he has talked to 4 contractors and it won't cost that much to preserve it, doesn't need modernization. He doesn't believe it would only be around \$50 thousand; it will cost \$100 thousand just to tear the building down, which could go a long way to preserving the building. He has also been speaking with the City of Aberdeen to get involved in the endeavor. Dennis suggested putting it on the ballot and letting the people decide. Nancy Radke commented that she could poll people that want to replace it as well.

Commissioner Dinger informed Dennis that the Commission already motioned to surplus the building next week. Gave him and his group an option to purchase it and create a museum, but they would need to move it off the Fairgrounds.

Conald Burgard reminded Dennis of him of the comment he made at the Fair, we wished we could move the building off.

Chairman Sutton reinstated that the Commission plans to surplus the building and they are moving forward with their plans because the building is beyond repair, not ADA compliant. He has only heard from 3 people that want to preserve the building, but several others that want the new 4-H Building. Chairman Sutton informed Dennis he has a week to visit with his group to come back with a plan to either move it or it will be demolished this fall.

Commissioner Dennert shared that a 4-H Building is needed because they need a home for their activities. The County cannot afford to preserve the current building and build a new one.

Chairman Sutton asked Dirk for a rough estimate cost to demolish the building. Dirk stated it would take about 2 days and estimated \$40,000 but that is on the high side. Dennis then mentioned that you need to see if the building has asbestos because that is a whole new ball game.

Commissioner Gage informed Dennis that they plan to have a display of the current building in the new building with a scale model, and the history of the building can be included with that. They plan to incorporate some of the old building into the new building as well. They are not against women – over 50% of the people that work at the Fair and are on the Fair Board are women. A lot of farms are going with steel structures instead of repairing older buildings. 4-H is about 'Building Leaders of Tomorrow'.

Dennis suggested having the 4-H kids work with the construction workers to preserve this building. 4-H is about growing things.

Chairman Sutton again mentioned that Dennis and his group have a week to come up with a plan to move the building if they wish, otherwise the County will demolish it this Fall.

ORDINANCE #333 – FIRST READING: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Dennert to approve the First Reading of Proposed Ordinance #333. Applicant Wayne & Janeen Haas to rezone from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its current use. Description of property: Thomas' Outlot 1 in the SE 1/4 of Section 23-T126N-R64W of the 5th P.M. Brown County, South Dakota (38696 116th Street; Oneota Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #331 – SECOND READING/POSSIBLE ADOPTION: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dinger to adopt Ordinance #331. This Ordinance will impose a County Gross Receipts Tax and A Use Tax for Brown County, South Dakota for the purpose of providing additional revenue for Brown County, South Dakota, by imposing county gross receipts tax pursuant to the powers grant to the county by the State of South Dakota, by SDCL 10-XX entitled Uniform County Non-Ad Valorem Tax Law and acts amendatory thereto. The purpose of the county gross receipts tax is to provide property tax relief on the county property tax levy for all property classified as owner-occupied. All monies collected by the county from the gross receipts tax must be deposited into a property tax reduction fund, which is hereby created. From and after the first day of January 2027, a one half percent (0.5%) on the gross receipts of all persons engaged in business with the jurisdiction of Brown County, South Dakota, who are subject to the South Dakota Retail Occupational Sales and Service Tax, SDCL 10-45 and at the same rate upon all transactions or use, storage and consumption which are subject to the South Dakota Use Tax, SDCL 10-46, and acts amendatory thereto. Referring to a vote of the people in the General Election on November 3, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. (Full Ordinance on file in the Auditor's Office)

AMEND RESOLUTION #2026-06 – VOTE CENTER LOCATIONS: Auditor Heupel informed the Commission that they wanted to use Primrose Gym in place of the Best Western Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center for a Vote Center so asked to amend Resolution #2026-06. Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Gage to amend Resolution #2026-06 to replace Best Western Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center with Primrose Gym for Vote Center-2. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. (Complete Resolution is on file in the Auditor's Office).

APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve the following application submitted by Northern Electric for occupancy of Brown County Highway 13 in Section 6, Township 123N, Range 63W Brown County, South Dakota to plow and directional bore to install new 3 phase primary power. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent, informed the Commissioners they finished paving on Co. Hwy. 9 and will be going back to chip seal it. Bituminous will be working on 14. The Cold-In Place Project on 16, south of Bath will starting next week – August 24th. Dirk shared they will need to set bid dates next week for a couple of projects.

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve the General

Meeting Minutes of August 11, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to approve the following claims: Professional Fees: Alcohol Monitoring Systems, Inc. \$1,912.60; Certified Languages International LLC \$1,854.60; City of Aberdeen Treasurer \$262.00; Delaney, Neilsen & Sannes, P.C. \$6,657.00; Dependable Sanitation, Inc \$39,638.00; Dustrol, Inc \$498,099.32; Fox Law Firm, PLLC \$84.00; Horn Law Office Prof LLC \$164.70; IMEG Corp \$7,500.00; Kristi Brandt \$46.00; Kuck Law Office \$1,839.10; Kylee Boomsma \$244.00; Lewis & Clark BHS \$240.00; Lucy Lewno \$300.00; Mark Katterhagen \$40.00; Modern Day Health Care Prof LLC \$8,500.85; Sanford Health \$2,305.00; SD Dept of Health \$2,235.00; Taliaferro Law Firm, PC \$2,055.34; Tammy Stolle Court Reporting \$72.75; Thomson Reuters – West Payment Center \$595.49; Valerie Larson \$40.00; William A. Moss, Psy. D., LLC \$3,000.00; Yankton County Sheriff's Office \$100.00. Publishing: Groton Daily Independent \$348.33; McQuillen Creative Group, Inc \$113.99. Rentals: Dakota Electronics \$11.00; Vestis \$270.72. Repairs & Maintenance: C Express Inc \$36.00; Custom Installation Solutions \$400.00; DG Investment Intermediate Holdings 2, Inc \$1,191.85; House of Glass \$369.99; Jake's Heating & Cooling \$115.00; Meister Mowing LLC \$74.34; Safety Service, Inc \$22.50; Titan Machinery \$1,352.64. Supplies & Materials: Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$497.13; Avera LTC Pharmacy Aberdeen \$4,587.56; Century Business Products \$976.85; Cole Paper Inc \$613.86; Fox Law Firm, PLLC \$1.86; GovConnection, Inc \$185.13; Hall Sand & Gravel, Inc \$3,965.96; Hub City Equipment \$14,136.28; Jensen Rock & Sand Inc \$106,978.50; Johnson Brothers of South Dakota, Inc. \$565.10; Kuck Law Office \$50.27; Lien Transportation Company \$148,140.90; Lucy Lewno \$8.53; Menards \$400.93; Midstates Group \$2,568.50; Performance Oil \$559.44; Pitney Bowes Global Financial Services LLC \$15,000.00; ProLine, Inc. – Watertown \$165.00; Safety Service, Inc \$209.44; Shela Haugen \$18.92; Thee Glass Doktor, LLC \$60.26. Travel & Conference: Brian Koens \$665.60; Delaney, Nielsen & Sannes, P.C. \$650.00; Kent Karlen \$19.00; Neil Bittner \$19.00; SDACC \$250.00. Utilities: CenturyLink \$85.15; City of Aberdeen Treasurer \$5099.83; Northern Electric \$132.50; Northwestern Energy \$6,176.71; NVC \$2,293.78; State of South Dakota PMB 0112 \$88.00; T-Mobile USA Inc \$2,486.40. Other: The American Legion Sidney L Smith Post 24 \$1,787.50. Machinery & Equipment: Benco Products \$11,183.83; Cole Paper Inc \$12,657.26. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

o Last day for Seasonal Worker, Jackson Bahr, Brown County Highway; effective August 6, 2026.

o Hiring of Michael Volz as Brown County Deputy Sheriff, FT; starting wage \$27.52/hr. – effective August 17, 2026.

o Re-hire of Aleigha Allison as Brown County Jail Detention Officer, FT; starting wage \$22.59/hr. – effective August 19, 2026.

o Hiring of Jayden Dorn as Brown County Jail Detention Officer, FT; starting wage \$22.59/hr. – effective August 19, 2026.

o Hiring of Jacob Rombs as Brown County Jail Detention Officer, FT; starting wage \$22.59/hr. – effective August 31, 2026.

o Payment of retirement award for Cynthia Mitchell in the amount of \$150.00 before taxes, requirement was met.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

TRAVEL REQUESTS: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve the following Travel Requests: Patty VanMeter, Treasurer to attend 2026 SDACO Fall Convention. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

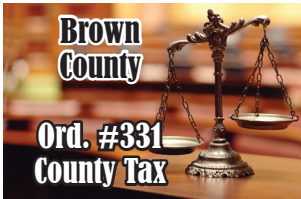
OTHER BUSINESS: None
EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dinger to go into Executive Session per SDCL 1-25-2 for Personnel, Contracts and Legal. All member present voting aye. Motion carried.

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 11:40 A.M. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

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ORDINANCE #331
AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING A COUNTY GROSS RECEIPTS TAX &

A USE TAX FOR BROWN COUNTY, SD

Notice is hereby given that Ordinance #331; for the purpose of providing additional revenue for Brown County, South Dakota by imposing county gross receipts tax pursuant to the powers grant to the County by the State of South Dakota by SDCL 10-XX entitled Uniform County Non-Ad Valorem Tax Law and acts amendatory thereto. The purpose of the county gross receipts tax is to provide property tax relief on the county property tax levy for all property classified as owner-occupied. All monies collected by the county from the gross receipts tax must be deposited into a property tax reduction fund, which is hereby created. From and after the first day of January 2027, a one half percent (0.5%) on the gross receipts of all persons engaged in business with the jurisdiction of Brown County, South Dakota, who are subject to the South Dakota Retail Occupational Sales and Service Tax, SDCL 10-45 and at the same rate upon all transactions or use, storage and consumption which are subject to the South Dakota Use Tax, SDCL 10-46, and acts amendatory thereto.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED The Board of County Commissioners chooses to refer this to a vote of the people in the General Election on November 3, 2026.

Passed and adopted this 18th day August 2026.

Duane Sutton, Brown County Commission Chairman

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Notice of Hearing: July 1, 2026

First Reading: July 28, 2026

Second Reading/Adoption: August 18, 2026

Published: August 26, 2026

Effective Date: September 15, 2026

Published August 26, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$20.35 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 27142



ADVERTISEMENT
Erickson Approach

Brown County, South Dakota

Sealed Bids will be received by the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 57401, until 8:45 AM local time on Tuesday, the 8th day of September 2026, for the above-referenced project. Bids shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the Bidding Documents. Brown County reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all Bids as set forth in the Bidding Documents.

A pre-bid conference will not be held.

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor
Published August 26 and Sept. 2, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$37.77 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 27144

the Brown County Commission at a subsequent meeting of the Brown County Commissioners.

The Project includes the following Work:

o Removal of the existing 2 – 84" diameter Corrugated Metal Pipe culverts,

o Installation of the 1 – 16' x 6' Precast Reinforced Concrete Box Culvert, and

o Additional items as set forth in the Contract Documents.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Documents. The Successful Bidder will be required to provide Payment and Performance Bonds as described in the Bidding Documents.

Bidding documents may be viewed and obtained at www.questcdn.com by entering QuestCDN project number 10334465. If you need assistance with the website, please contact QuestCDN Customer Support at 952-233-1632 or info@questcdn.com. Or on the Brown County website at <https://www.brown.sd.us/brown-county-bids-through-Public-Purchase>.

A pre-bid conference will not be held.

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

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ADVERTISEMENT
Str. No. 07-010-176 Abutment Replacement

Brown County, South Dakota

Sealed Bids will be received by the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 57401, until 8:45 AM local time on Tuesday, the 8th day of September 2026, for the above-referenced project. Bids shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the Bidding Documents. Brown County reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all Bids as set forth in the Bidding Documents.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at or shortly after the time named above at the Brown County Commission Meeting. Bids will be reviewed by the Brown County Commission at a subsequent meeting of the Brown County Commissioners.

The Project includes the following Work:

o Remove and reset the existing Double Tee deck units,

o Remove existing timber abutments,

o Install proposed steel abutments, and

o Additional items as set forth in the Contract Documents.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Documents. The Successful Bidder will be required to provide Payment and Performance Bonds as described in the Bidding Documents.

Bidding documents may be viewed and obtained at www.questcdn.com by entering QuestCDN project number 10327378. If you need assistance with the website, please contact QuestCDN Customer Support at 952-233-1632 or info@questcdn.com. Or on the Brown County website at <https://www.brown.sd.us/brown-county-bids-through-Public-Purchase>.

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ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

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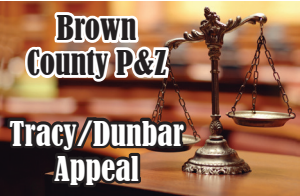
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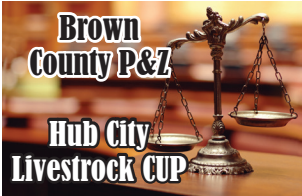
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605-403-0451



NOTICE OF HEARING
A PETITION to APPEAL ORDINANCE has been submitted to Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission. A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex on September 15, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.
Petitioner: Ryan Tracy / Mike Dunbar
Description of property: The south 1,249' of the west 725' of the NW1/4 of Section 24-T123N-R61W of the 5th P.M., except land platted, Brown County, South Dakota (509 N Harrison Street; Groton Twp.).
Reason: Appeal of Ordinance-Administrator Decision in an Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P)
The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the proposed petition.
Dated this 2nd day of September 2026.
Planning/Zoning Commission and
Scott Bader – P&Z Director
25 Market Street
Aberdeen, SD 57401
Office: (605) 626-7144
Published August 19, 2026 in the "Groton Independent" newspaper at the total approximate cost of \$12.72 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 27145



NOTICE OF HEARING
Application has been made to the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission for a CONDITIONAL USE PETITION (CUP). A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, on September 15, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.
Petitioner: Hub City Livestock
Legal description of property: Lot 1, "Hub City Livestock Third Subdivision" in the E1/2 of Section 26-T123N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (2502 S 5th Street; Aberdeen Twp.)
Reason: A Conditional Use Petition (CUP) for a kitchen expansion in a Heavy Industrial District (H-I).
The public may attend the hearing and present comments and testimony regarding the proposed Conditional Use Petition (CUP) request.
Dated this 2nd day of September 2026.
Planning/Zoning Commission and
Scott Bader – P&Z Director
25 Market Street
Aberdeen, SD 57401
Office: (605) 626-7144
Published August 19, 2026 in the "Groton Independent" newspaper at the total approximate cost of \$13.35 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 27146



NOTICE OF HEARING
Application has been made to the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission for a VARIANCE TO LOT FRONTAGE WIDTH. A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.
Petitioner / Owner: Ryan & Carla Tracy
Description of property: Proposed Lots 1 & 2, "Ryan and Carla Tracy First Addition", in the NE1/4 of Section 24-T123N-R61W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (509 N Harrison Street, Groton Twp.).
Reason: Variance to Lot Frontage Width to allow Proposed Lots 1 & 2 to have a 180'-0" frontage width rather than the 200'-0" required per Brown County Ordinance 4.0605.
The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the proposed ordinance amendment.
Dated this 2nd day of September 2026.
Planning/Zoning Commission and
Scott Bader – P&Z Director
25 Market Street
Aberdeen, SD 57401
Office: (605) 626-7144
Published August 19, 2026 in the "Groton Independent" newspaper at the total approximate cost of \$13.99 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 27147

The Life of Mary Jane Jark

The memorial service for Mary Jane Jark, 81, of Stratford, SD, will be 10:30am, Monday, August 31, 2026, at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, 214 7th Ave. SW, Aberdeen, with Pastor Bret Bierman officiating. Inurnment will follow at Oakwood Cemetery, West Rondell, Stratford. Mary Jane died Saturday, August 22, at her home in Stratford.

Visitation will be 3:00pm to 7:00pm, Sunday, August 30, with family present from 5:00pm to 7:00pm, followed by a prayer service at 7:00pm at Spitzer-Miller Funeral Home, 1111 South Main Street. Aberdeen.

Mary Jane was born March 21, 1945, in Webster, SD. She was raised by her grandparents John and Susan Johnson in Groton, SD. She attended school in Groton and worked at the bank and a café in Groton.

On July 12, 1969, Mary Jane was united in marriage to Duane Jark in Groton. They made their home in Stratford and raised their children there. Mary Jane worked at the United States Post Office in Stratford, Warner and later Aberdeen before retiring.

Mary Jane was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Stratford. She was also a member of Stratford American Legion Auxiliary Post 207. Mary Jane was active on the Brown County Fair Board and enjoyed helping with the flowers around the fairgrounds.

She was a wonderful cook and would take food to the elevator for Duane and his co-workers. She was also instrumental in providing the food for the Stratford Community Theatre. Mary Jane loved her flowers, especially geraniums, and caring for her yard with the mowing and trimming. Entertaining others, especially for the 4th of July celebrations, was a passion of hers. For many years, Mary Jane bowled on leagues in Groton at The Jungle Lounge and enjoyed ice skating at the Groton Ice Carnival. Mary Jane was the #1 Grandma. She was always there for her granddaughters cheering them on in all their activities. She was a loving wife and a great caregiver for Duane over the years.

Grateful for having shared Mary Jane’s life are her husband, Duane, her children: Larry Jark and Laura Haven; and her four grandchildren: Joclyn, Ella, Ashley, and Lilly Haven.

Preceding Mary Jane in death are her maternal grandparents, John and Susan, her granddaughter, Maria Kahla Haven, her uncle Joyce Johnson and great-aunt Nellie Larson.

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers memorials be made to Stratford Community Theatre, 293 Rondell Avenue, Suite 1, Stratford, SD 57474, or the Stratford American Legion Auxilliary Post 207, 14545 400th Ave, Stratford, SD, 57474.



The Life of David Blackmun

Mass of Christian Burial for David Blackmun, 83, of Groton will be 10:30 a.m., Friday, August 28th at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Groton. Father Jordan Samson will officiate. Burial with military honors will follow in Union Cemetery, Groton under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held on Thursday from 5-7 p.m. at the chapel with a wake service at 7:00 p.m.

Dave passed away Saturday, August 22, 2026 at Avantara Groton.

David George was born on May 7, 1943 in Groton to Earl and Phyllis (Schoch) Blackmun. As a youth, he participated in Cub Scouts and later Boy Scouts, did odd jobs such as paper routes, setting bowling pins and mowing lawns. He attended school in Groton and graduated in 1961. David was active in all sports and excelled as an athlete in football, basketball, track, skating and baseball. Following graduation, David joined the South Dakota National Guard from 1964 to 1970. He was united in marriage with Mary Kay Schumacher at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Aberdeen on April 14, 1967 and to this union, two sons were born, Micheal and David. David managed the UBC lumberyards in both Groton and Aberdeen. In 1978 David joined Super 8 Motels and became the president of Midwest Motel Supply until the sale of Super 8 Motels in 1993. David was a partner in RGB Development Corp. that developed and owned motels.

David enjoyed fishing, hunting, bowling and riding Harley Davidson motorcycles. He was also a golfer and served on the board at Olive Grove Golf Course. He and Mary Kay enjoyed 30 winters in Gold Canyon, Arizona and are members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Groton. One of his greatest joys was watching his sons and grandchildren participate in sports and music.

Celebrating his life is his wife, Mary Kay of Groton, sons, Mike (Stacy) Blackmun of Sioux Falls and Dave (Marcy) Blackmun of Groton, and his grandchildren: Rachel (Austin) Little, Korbin Blackmun, Logan Blackmun, Tyler Blackmun, Kaleb Blackmun and great grandson, Weston David Little. David is also survived by his sister, Laurel Sparks of Fargo and many nieces, nephews, in-laws and cousins.

Preceding him in death were his parents and his brother-in-law, Robert Sparks.

Honorary Casket bearers will be David’s Grandchildren.

Casket bearers will be Steve Schaller, Les Hinds, Brad Larson, Rob Wanous, Brad Waage and Frank Gould.

Memorials may be directed to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Olive Grove Golf Course, or Groton Baseball/Softball Foundation.

Strange but True

* Women lie more than men in their online dating profiles.

* Many quilts made by military soldiers were known as “convalescent quilts,” since they made them while recuperating from wounds received in the line of duty.

* Nuclear rain from the Chernobyl disaster fell as far west as Ireland.

* The word LEGO comes from the first two letters of the Danish words “leg” and “godt,” or “play well.”

* More than half a million pet owners worldwide have chosen to implant their pets with “neuticles,” which are testicular implants for a neutered pet.

* Egyptian butchers wore high heels to keep their feet free of blood and debris on the floor.

* It is thought that 80% of the world’s gold is still in the ground.

* The fear of vegetables is called “lachanophobia.”

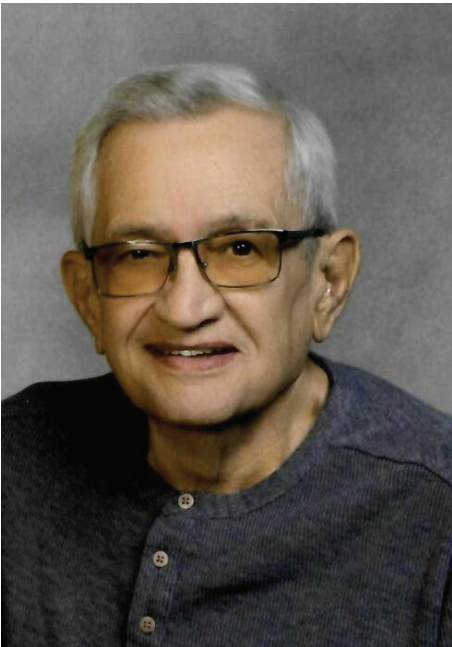
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NOTICE OF HEARING
A PETITION to REZONE has been submitted to Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission. A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex on September 15, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.
Petitioner: JN Development LLC
Description of property: Proposed Lot 1, "JN Development First Addition" in the SW1/4 of Section 35-T125N-R64W of the 5th P.M. Brown County, South Dakota (approx. 38614 124th Street; Lincoln Twp.).
Reason: Rezone parcel from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its future use.
The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the proposed rezone petition. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission will forward a recommendation to the Board of Brown County Commissioner's with a future meeting date in the Commission Chambers. Verify the meeting dates with the Brown County Auditor.
Dated this 2nd day of September 2026.
Planning/Zoning Commission and
Scott Bader – P&Z Director
25 Market Street
Aberdeen, SD 57401
Office: (605) 626-7144
Published August 19, 2026 in the "Groton Independent" newspaper at the total approximate cost of \$15.90 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 27148



NOTICE OF HEARING
A PETITION to REZONE has been submitted to Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission. A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex on September 15, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.
Petitioner: Matthew Arrowsmith
Description of property: "Bunke's Inventory Addition" in the SE1/4 of Section 18-T126N-R65W of the 5th P.M. Brown County, South Dakota (37390 115th Street; Franklyn Twp.).
Reason: Rezone parcel from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its current use.
The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the proposed rezone petition. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission will forward a recommendation to the Board of Brown County Commissioner's with a future meeting date in the Commission Chambers. Verify the meeting dates with the Brown County Auditor.
Dated this 2nd day of September 2026.
Planning/Zoning Commission and
Scott Bader – P&Z Director
25 Market Street
Aberdeen, SD 57401
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The Life of Carol Dohman

Mass of Christian Burial for Carol Ann (Rix) Dohman, 87, of Groton will be 10:30 a.m., Thursday, August 27th at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Groton. Father Greg Tschakert will officiate. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. There will be closed casket visitation prior to services.

A beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, teacher, and friend, passed away on Sunday, August 23, 2026 surrounded by the love of her family. Her life was defined by faith, devotion to family, hospitality, and a deep appreciation for the simple joys of life.

Carol Ann was born on November 8, 1938, in Aberdeen, South Dakota, to Arden and Dorothy (Donovan) Rix. She was raised on the family farm northeast of Groton, where she developed a lifelong love of horses and trail riding. Carol attended Groton Public Schools and graduated as class president in 1956. She continued her education at Presentation College in Aberdeen, earning a degree in education and beginning a career that reflected her passion for nurturing and guiding young people.

On June 30, 1958, Carol married the love of her life, Leslie "Les" Dohman, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Groton. Together they built a life centered on faith, family, and community.

Carol and Les began their married life in Miller, South Dakota, where Carol taught second grade and Les worked for Bell Telephone. They later moved to Aberdeen, where Carol taught at Sacred Heart School while Les continued his career with Bell Telephone. Their next chapter led them to a farm near Putney, a place that became especially dear to Carol's heart. There, she and Les raised their seven children and created countless cherished family memories.

In 1994, Carol and Les moved to Groton. Living across from the high school, Carol delighted in preparing lunches and welcoming her grandchildren into her home. She and Les faithfully attended countless school programs, sporting events, and activities, supporting their growing family with love and enthusiasm. In retirement, they enjoyed traveling to visit their children across the country and spending summer weekends relaxing at their cabin on Pickerel Lake.

A devoted member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Carol was active in the Altar Society, Putney Ladies Aid, several bridge clubs, the American Legion Auxiliary, Extension Club, and Wednesday Coffee Club. She valued the friendships and sense of community these organizations provided throughout her life.

Carol's home was a place of warmth and welcome. Her children and grandchildren always knew they would find something delicious to eat at Grandma's house. She found joy in crafting, sewing, scrapbooking, and playing games with her grandchildren. Whether sharing stories around the kitchen table or offering a favorite treat, Carol had a gift for making others feel loved. A Diet Coke and a cookie could always bring a smile to her face.

Carol was preceded in death by her husband, Les; her parents, Arden and Dorothy Rix; and three infant grandchildren, Aaron Dohman and twins Christopher and Taylor Bohnenkamp.

She leaves behind a loving family who will forever cherish her memory: her seven children, Anne Dohman; Arden (Vivian) Dohman; David (Tammy) Dohman; DeLynne (Andrew) Roloff; Susan (Jeff) Bohnenkamp; Steve (Tamra) Dohman; and Diane (Ryan) Kurtz. She is also survived by 18 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren, and her sister, Kathleen (John) Monson, along with many nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

Carol's legacy lives on through the family she cherished, the lives she touched as a teacher, and the countless memories created around her table. Her faith, kindness, generosity, and unwavering love will be remembered always.



The Minnesota Vikings lost to the Baltimore Ravens 13-3 Saturday, bringing their preseason record to 1-1. Luckily for the Vikings, the final score of a preseason game isn't nearly as important as the information we learned about each player. So, what did we learn?

McCarthy is not a starting-caliber NFL quarterback

When the Vikings drafted McCarthy with the 10th overall pick in 2024, expectations were through the roof. We all know what happened then. Injuries derailed his rookie season, while journeyman QB Sam Darnold led the team to 14 wins. The Vikings let Darnold walk in 2025 and handed the keys to McCarthy without any real competition for the role. Darnold went to Seattle and won a Super Bowl, while McCarthy missed nearly half the season because of injury and failed to impress when he was actually on the field (163 yards per game and more interceptions than touchdowns).

Determined to not make the same mistake, the Vikings brought in a veteran QB to compete with McCarthy this offseason. It didn't take long for head coach Kevin O'Connell to declare Kyler Murray the winner of the "competition."

With most of the Vikings' starters sitting out against the Ravens, McCarthy got the start. This was his chance to prove everyone wrong and possibly even open the competition back up. Instead, we saw the same problems that have plagued McCarthy since entering the league. Zero touch on the ball, scattershot accuracy, holding onto the ball too long, missing easy reads... I think it's safe to say McCarthy's time in Minnesota is about up. With Murray winning the starting job and McCarthy failing to take advantage of his opportunities, it wouldn't surprise me to see the team try to trade him and move on.

The Vikings' receiving group is among the best in the league

This isn't exactly breaking news, but Saturday's game just reinforced my opinion that the Vikings have one of the deepest WR groups in the NFL. Everyone knows about Justin Jefferson, Jordan Addison, and Jauan Jennings. But the battle for the other spots is the most competitive in training camp. Myles Price is the team's kick returner, so he has a spot virtually locked up, but he's also made huge strides as a receiver as well. Tai Felton has been getting rave reviews all off-season and likely secured his spot too. That leaves MAYBE one spot left. Right now, I see it coming down to Dontae Fleming and Dillon Bell. I think privately the Vikings were hoping to stash the undrafted rookie Bell on the practice squad, but after two preseason games, I don't think that's a possibility anymore. Which, I suppose, is a good problem to have.

The Vikings' defense is going to be a problem for opposing offenses

Again, this isn't a new revelation for anyone who has been watching the Vikings these last few years. But Brian Flores' ability to design defensive schemes to fit his players cannot be overstated. I'm still not comfortable with the team's depth at outside linebacker, but after two preseason games, I'm feeling better about depth at cornerback and safety. Speaking of safety, Jay Ward has really impressed me this year. He came into training camp with his eyes set on the open safety spot, and as it stands now, he's in the driver's seat.

Looking ahead, the Vikings wrap up preseason with a trip to Denver to face the Broncos. The game will be Friday, August 28, and kickoff is set for 8 pm. This will be the last chance for players on the bubble to make their case, because less than 48 hours after the game, the Vikings will have to trim the roster from 90 players to 53.

A subscription to the Groton Independent makes a great gift! Call/Text Paul 605-397-7460

Weekly SUDOKU

3		8		2			1
1			3		6		
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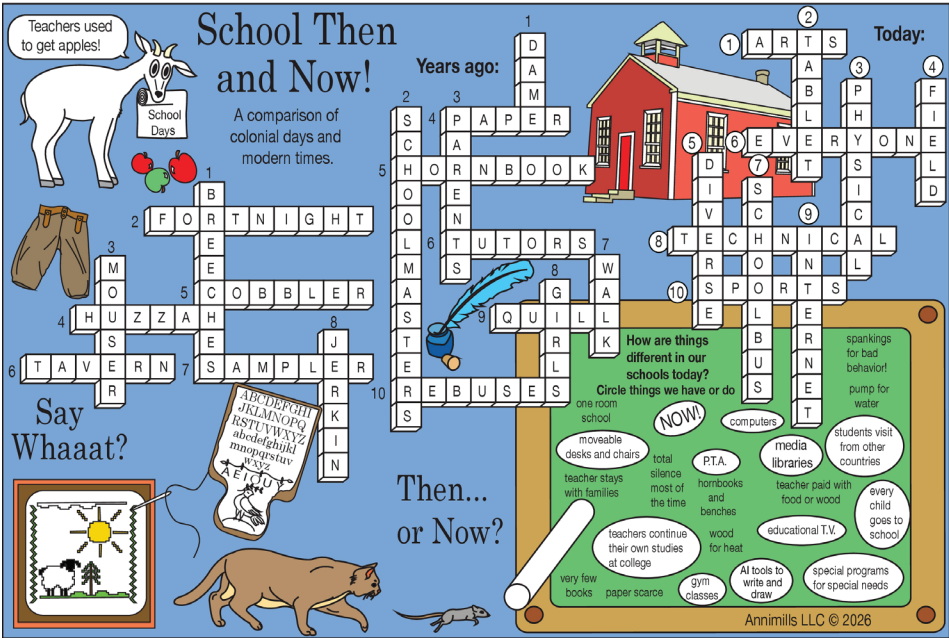
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Last Week's Answers



We read about all the fun events...

... in our community, so we can join in.



Newspaper Fun!

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Kids: color stuff in!

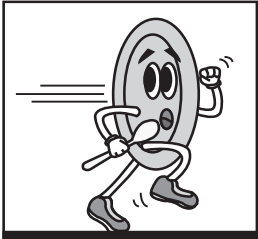
News! Read All About It!

Our Town News

September 30

Sunny, 73° F

Dish Runs Away With Spoon!



Breaking News!

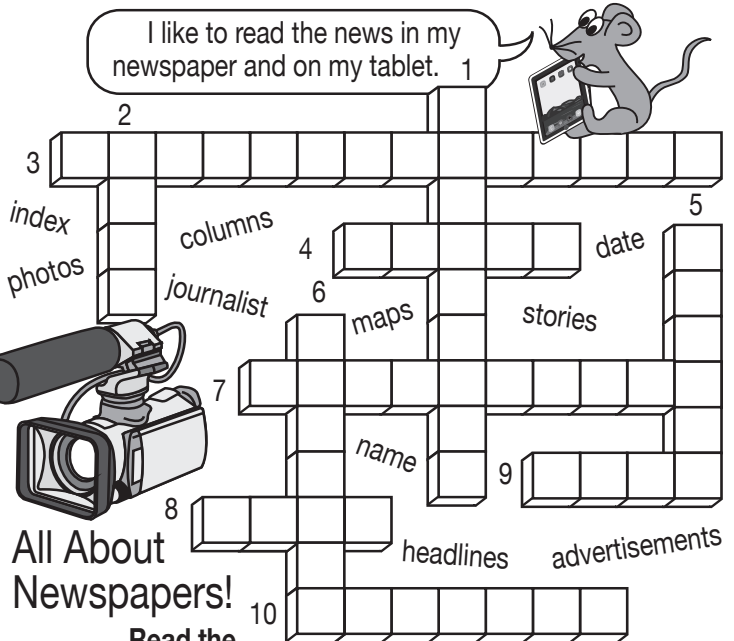
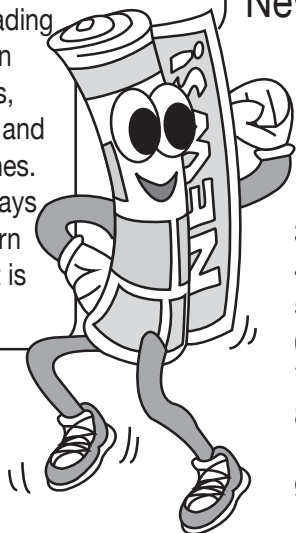
On Thursday, Sept. 29 at 9 p.m. officers responded to a complaint about loud noises in a small suburban kitchen.

On Friday, Mr. James Smith, owner of the home, explained what had happened.

"There was a rustling noise in the kitchen. I got up to check on it and, to my surprise, one of the dishes was running away with a spoon," he said.

Eyewitnesses included forks and knives. Most occupants, except the kitchen sink, claimed to have been thrilled by the daring escape.

Who gets important community news, information and stories out to the public? Reporters and journalists. There is a whole team of people behind every item published – from the reporter and video crew in the front to the columnists, editors, printers and publishers in the back. Today, lots of people enjoy the paper version of the newspaper, while many also are reading the news on their tablets, computers and smart phones. People always want to learn about what is going on.



All About Newspapers!

Read the clues below to fill in the puzzle.

1. short titles of articles
2. day, month, year
3. businesses pay to put these next to the news
4. tells section and page where item is located
5. pictures of people, events
6. advice, opinions
7. person who writes stories for publication
8. often largest words on the front page, newspaper's _____
9. for weather, road construction, travel
10. written information

I like to chew on the ideas in newspapers!

Hard news is best – it helps me to keep my gums healthy!

What's Inside Your Newspaper? (Index)

If you look on the front page of your newspaper you may see an index. An **index** lists where to find each section **inside** the newspaper. **Can you fill in the vowels that are missing in the index? Next, match each listing to what is in it.**

Inside

Where can I find the movie listings?

1. B _ s _ n _ s s
2. C l _ s s _ f _ _ d
3. C _ m _ c s
4. _ d _ t _ r _ _ l s
5. L _ v _ n g

- A. advertisements to sell and buy
- B. stories about what people are buying, new stores, stock market
- C. home, yard, clothing fashions
- D. cartoons, puzzles, contests
- E. people send letters or write articles to express their ideas
- F. forecasts of sunshine or rain, temperatures
- G. team news, game scores
- H. road work, places to visit
- I. listing of movies and shows
- J. local news

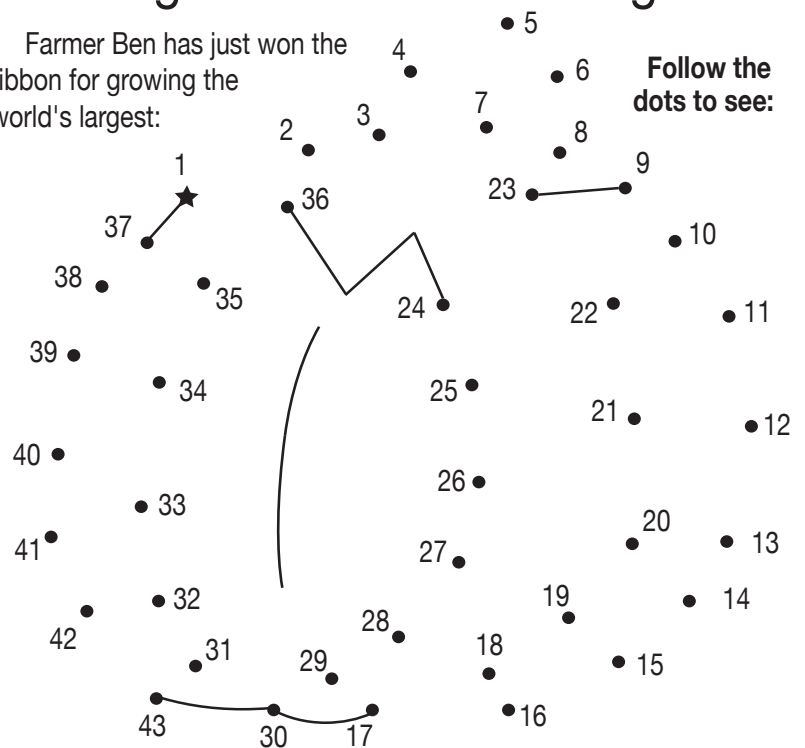
6. S p _ r t s
7. T _ l _ v _ s _ _ n
8. T _ w n N _ w s
9. T r _ v _ l
10. W _ _ t h _ r

u i o e e e e a a e i i e i e i a o i i e i o a o i o

Breaking News – World's Largest

Farmer Ben has just won the ribbon for growing the world's largest:

Follow the dots to see:

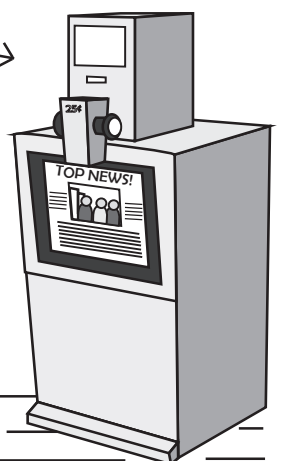
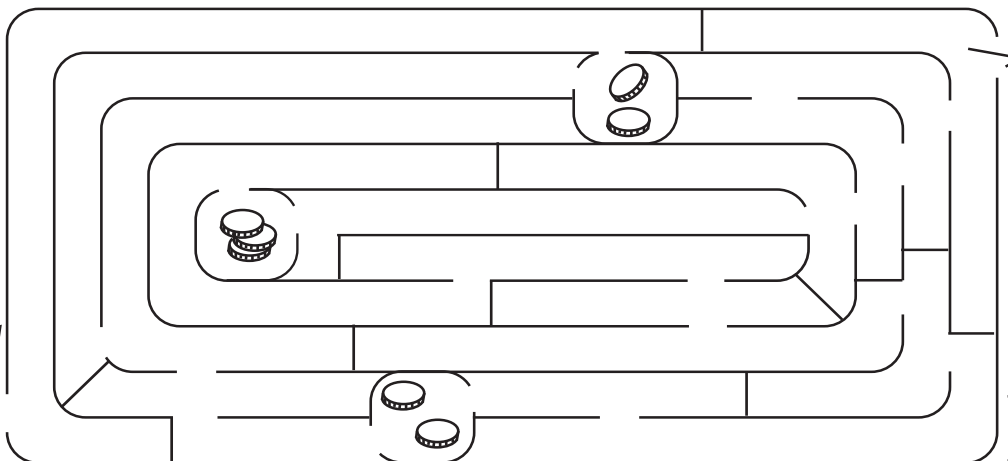


Today's News!

I really enjoy reading the newspaper. That's tricky for a dolphin!

Echo wants to buy today's newspaper from the box at the end of the pier.

Can you help him scoot through the maze to get it? Pick up all the coins as you go.



Newspaper Fun! Created by Animills LLC © 2026

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Not exercising weakens those supporting muscles.
Weak muscles put more stress on joints. - Mayo Clinic

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By David Adler

Blanche’s Expansion of Executive Privilege Builds Moat Around White House

Amid headlines of failing health conditions—inadequate food and water-- on the U.S.S. Lincoln, President Trump’s continued circumvention of Congress and the law while he erects monuments to himself, and his announcement that he will sell early access to his Truth Social Posts for \$100,000 per month, which is a likely means of knowing how the president will manipulate the markets, comes the news of the Trump Administration’s latest maneuver to further undermine the rule of law and evade checks, balances and accountability.

Just 24 hours after being sworn in as U. S. Attorney General, Todd Blanche issued a memo that dramatically expands executive privilege, the purported authority, as he described it, of the president “to withhold certain sensitive information for the public good.” According to Blanche, the president may now “shield presidential communications with private advisers so long as communications relate to presidential decision making.” And, the memo says, a “private adviser is “anyone the President consults with outside the Executive Branch.” This expansion of the presidential power of secrecy is executive privilege on steroids and it effectively builds a moat around the White House. Trump, alone, will decide what information about his acts, decisions and conversations with anyone, anywhere, anytime will be shared with Congress and the American people. A moat, indeed. So much for transparency, executive accountability and the quaint idea that the president serves the people.

This authoritarian curtain, a function of various motives, will be brought center stage soon and, certainly, if Democrats capture control of one or both houses of Congress and exercise legislative oversight and investigative powers, armed with subpoenas to the president while probing Trump’s numerous illegal, unconstitutional and corrupt actions since assuming office for a second term. Trump will surely balk at surrendering anything—memos, emails, letters and briefs— and will denominate as “advisers,” anyone with whom he conversed as pursuant

to “presidential decision making.” This assertion of unfettered power will render the president unaccountable to the rule of law and the

American people. Of course, lawsuits will be brought by Congress, but Trump’s stonewalling, bulked by a Department of Justice that exhibits no independence from the president, will stymie investigations and frustrate resort to the judiciary.

Blanche’s perversion of executive privilege is an accelerant for the fire that is consuming the rule of law in America. Lost in the mists of the time is the fact that the framers of the Constitution, in Article 1, Section 5, granted to Congress, not the president, the sole authority to withhold sensitive information from the American people by refusing to publish matters in the Congressional Record. The rationale was clear: the president might have a self-interest in withholding information from the public and Congress, as an institution, would be a better judge of what could be shared with the citizenry. Blanche’s expansion of executive privilege also flies in the face of his vow to Senate Republicans during his confirmation hearings that he would reduce, not enlarge, the scope of executive immunity.

For the Originalists among you, the concept of executive privilege is not mentioned in the text of the Constitution. It was never raised, discussed or debated in the Constitutional Convention. It was not the subject of consideration in the Federalist Papers, the Anti-Federalist Papers or any of the writings contemporaneous with the framing of the Constitution. All for good reason. If the framers had conferred upon the president the authority to withhold information from Congress, they would have granted to the president more power than that enjoyed by the King of England, who had a statutory duty to share all information with Parliament, whether requested or not. Imagine the outrage in the United States in 1787, if Americans, who had fought a war with England to free themselves of centralized executive power, had learned that the framers had created an embryonic monarchy at home.

President Eisenhower was the first to claim—on narrow grounds—the power of executive privilege, and Americans welcomed his assertion of power as a rebuff of the reviled Senator Joseph McCarthy. But national applause is not a substitute for constitutional authority. The Genie was out of the bottle. Subsequent presidents have invoked the privilege, often for less than meritorious reasons, and the Court, mistakenly, has blessed a “limited privilege.” Trump has eviscerated the boundaries, and we can see where the nation is headed.

David Adler is president of The Alturas Institute, a non-profit organization created to promote the Constitution, gender equality and civic education. This column is made possible with the support of the South Dakota Humanities Council, South Dakota NewsMedia Association and this newspaper.

This Week’s Answers

News! Read All About It!

No problem! There's something for everyone!

All About Newspapers!

I want the national news!

I want the comics!

I like to read the news in my newspaper and on my tablet.

I'm reading the newspaper.

The Index tells us what is Inside:

- 1. Business
- 2. Classified
- 3. Comics
- 4. Editorials
- 5. Living
- 6. Sports
- 7. Television
- 8. Town News
- 9. Travel
- 10. Weather

- A. advertisements to sell and buy
- B. stories about what people are buying, new stores, stock market
- C. home, yard, clothing fashions
- D. cartoons, puzzles, contests
- E. people send letters or write articles to express their ideas
- F. forecasts of sunshine or rain, temperatures
- G. team news, game scores
- H. road work, places to visit
- I. listing of movies and shows
- J. local news

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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)**

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Back to School, Back to Bedtime: Why Sleep Routines Matter

If bedtime has drifted an hour or two later over the summer, nothing has gone wrong. Late sunsets, camp schedules, vacations, and relaxed screen rules all nudge a child’s internal clock later. Pulling that clock back toward a school-year schedule is real work, and it usually takes a couple of weeks of consistent effort, not one good night. It is also normal to experience some protest, stalling, and a few rough mornings along the way. Sleep problems and irregular bedtimes are extremely common in childhood; roughly 20% to 30% of children are affected by insomnia at some point, so families who struggle with this are in the majority, not the minority.

It is important to be aware of the appropriate amount of sleep for your child’s developing body. The American Academy of Pediatrics endorses these nightly sleep targets:

- Preschool (3–5 years): 10–13 hours, including naps
- School age (6–12 years): 9–12 hours
- Teens (13–18 years): 8–10 hours

Sleep is one of the strongest levers parents have over a child’s mood and behavior. Getting the recommended hours is linked to better attention, learning, memory, emotional regulation, and mental health, while too little sleep is associated with depression, obesity, and high blood pressure.

The behavioral effects show up quickly. In studies where children’s sleep was experimentally extended or restricted, kids sleeping close to 10 hours had better emotional stability, less restless and impulsive behavior at school, and a more positive mood than kids sleeping about 8 hours. Short sleep impairs the brain’s “brakes” (impulse control and flexible thinking), which is why an under-slept child melts down over things they would otherwise shrug off.

If you find yourself just beginning to work on nighttime routine and sleep habits, there is good news. Children whose sleep improves over time show measurable declines in both emotional and behavioral problems. Working on sleep is not just damage control; it is an intervention to support wanted emotional and behavioral outcomes.

What are recommended strategies?

The American Academy of Pediatrics encourages using the 4Bs. Bathe, brush, books, bed. Using a consistent, predictable, calming sequence in the same order each night signals to the brain and the body that sleep is coming. This works for teens too, in an age-appropriate form.

Keep screens off for at least an hour before bedtime, and keep phones, tablets, and TVs out of the bedroom overnight. It is normal for children and teens to play music at night. Instead of using a tablet or a phone, purchase an alarm clock with digital music ability or a radio. Creating a nighttime playlist that can be played nightly is a predictable and consistent habit that signals to the brain and body it is time for sleep.

Consistency is what makes falling asleep and waking up easier. Try to keep weekend and vacation evenings consistent with weekdays.

Sunlight in the morning helps reset the internal clock. Open windows, turn on a light, or even get outside if you can.

Monitor caffeine intake. School-age children should not consume caffeine after noon. Common hidden sources include iced tea, chocolate, soda, and certain flavored waters. In a world where energy drinks and Starbucks are popular, educate your adolescent about how caffeine impacts sleep. Research identifies that adolescents consuming energy drinks are 4.5 times more likely to sleep fewer than 6 hours

As always, annual well-child visits with your Primary Care Physician are vital. This is an opportunity to work together on strategies to support healthy sleep habits and to discuss if your child snores regularly or has pauses in breathing, is very sleepy during the day despite adequate time in bed, takes a long time to fall asleep most nights, or wakes repeatedly. These difficult experiences are treatable, and they deserve evaluation rather than more willpower.

The American Academy of Pediatrics [healthychildren.org](https://www.healthychildren.org) is a great resource for parents. Under the “Healthy Living” tab, you will find multiple articles and resources on exploring appropriate curfews, bunk bed safety, separation anxiety, and more.

Resources

The Role of the Pediatrician in the Promotion of Healthy, Active Living. Pediatrics. 2024. Muth ND, Bolling C, Hannon T, Sharifi M.

Longitudinal Association of Nighttime Sleep Duration With Emotional and Behavioral Problems in Early Childhood: Results From the Danish Healthy Start Study.

Sleep. 2021. Zheng M, Rangan A, Olsen NJ, Heitmann BL.

Consensus Statement of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine on the Recommended Amount of Sleep for Healthy Children: Methodology and Discussion. Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine : JCSM : Official Publication of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine. lullab2016. Paruthi S, Brooks LJ, D’Ambrosio C.

Association Between Objectively Measured Sleep Duration and Symptoms of Psychiatric Disorders in Middle Childhood. JAMA Network Open. 2019. Ranum BM, Wichstrøm L, Pallesen S.

Nikki Eining is a private independent practice licensed social worker who serves as the Statewide Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program Coordinator for The USD Center for Disabilities and Owner of Grace Grit Growth Counseling LLC in Brookings, SD. Nikki brings a diverse set of experiences and passions spending over 18 years working in the mental health field. Her previous experience has focused on supporting youth and families in office, school, and community settings without outpatient behavioral health services and prevention programming. She has professional experience in clinical mental health, education, research design, non-profit, program development, and trauma-informed care practices.

Nikki is passionate about trauma and healing-informed practices, the power of protective factors and collaboration across communities to help decrease barriers for youth and families. Nikki is a Theraplay Level 1, 2 and Group trained therapist, SAPST trained prevention provider, and an ACE Interface Certified educator. 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).



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