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The Groton Independent

Vol. 143 No. 52 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, Sept. 09, 2026 ♦ Established in 1889



Pictured left to right are Carol Kutter, Treasurer Katelyn Nehlich, Emma Woehl, Chad Masters, Marla Kiesz, Mayor Scott Hanlon, President Ashley Bentz, Secretary April Abeln, Barb Pohlkamp and Brian Dolan. (Photo courtesy April Abeln)

Groton Chamber welcomes Area IV Senior Nutrition

The Groton Chamber welcomed Area IV Senior Nutrition at its monthly September meeting. Area IV recently moved its senior meals from the Red Horse to the Groton Community Center. For reservations and more information call 605-397-2617.

Tensions, communication concerns surface during Groton baseball, softball discussion

By Elizabeth Varin

Tensions between the Groton City Council and the Groton Baseball/Softball Foundation took center field Thursday night as council members discussed the end-of-season baseball and softball report.

Foundation President Lars Hanson voiced a number of concerns to the council, including what he called "a skewed" revenue vs. expenses report. The foundation, a nonprofit organization that supports youth baseball and softball in Groton, raises money for improvements at the baseball complex and helps provide financial assistance to families who may otherwise be unable to afford registration and playing fees.

The financial report presented to the council compares baseball revenue and expenses from 2015 through the 2026 season. The city spent \$1,787,999.97 in that 12-year period while revenue totaled \$1,085,941.40. That brought the total financial loss for the city to \$712,058.57.

Hanson said the numbers alone don't tell the whole story. The city has a new concession stand and bathroom facility, as well as new scoreboards within the last few years.

"This program out there has never ever made any (money)," he said. "Neither has the pool. It's not designed for that. It's designed to keep people in this community."

"We need to keep everything going for the youth in this community," he continued. "That's the bottom line. If we lose the youth in this community, the community goes dry."

The concerns aired Thursday date back, in part, to a discussion at the council's Aug. 4 meeting. During that meeting, Baseball/Softball Foundation Vice President Jarod Fliehs raised safety concerns about the bleachers at the Locke-Karst Field at the baseball complex and presented a quote to move the bleachers, pour new footings and return them to their original location.

Councilman Brian Bahr questioned whether a less expensive solution could address the issue and also expressed frustration over the level of financial support the city already provides for the baseball and softball fields and programs. The exchange became part of a larger discussion Thursday about communication and the relationship between the council and the foundation.

Something needs to be done about the bleacher at the Locke-Karst field, Hanson said. The city can't host more state tournaments on the large field until the bleacher is fixed

"You can put lipstick on a pig and it's still a pig," Hanson told the council. "Fix it and fix it right, OK."

The city and local businesses benefit extensively from the tournaments, including increased sales at local stores and increased taxes being paid on those sales, he said.

Hanson also addressed specific concerns raised during the August meeting, specifically a request that foundation members volunteer more time during uniform handout days.

"That's bulls*** Brian," Hanson said. "You have no idea how much time we spend out there."

Councilman Brian Bahr responded to concerns about the bleachers by drawing on his experience in the construction industry.

Bahr discussed potential alternatives for addressing the safety issues while looking for a solution that would cost the city less than the proposed repair. He questioned whether the bleachers could be stabilized or repaired without the expense of removing them, installing new footings and replacing them.

"Safety is a main concern out there, and I do believe it," he said. "But we got to pump the brakes, and we've got to look at things instead of just throwing money at something."

The conversation extended beyond the past season, highlighting questions about roles, expectations and how the city and foundation can work together to support the community's youth sports programs.

"One of the things that I think we probably should work together on more is the delineation of roles and responsibilities," said Councilman Mike Shilhanek. "I do know that there's been some challenges, and I think those challenges may be because the roles and responsibilities are confusing."

Continues on Page 3



Groton Chamber President Adhley Bentz (right) presents Marla Kiesz from Area IV a Groton Chamber welcome bag.

(Photo courtesy April Abeln)



Babcock at National Legion Convention

Bruce Babcock of the Groton American Legion Post 39 attended as a South Dakota Legion delegate to the 107th National Convention of the American Legion in Louisville, KY. He is currently the District 4 Commander of the Department of South Dakota. His wife Karyn, traveled with him.

Tigers enjoy busy week across fall sports

Groton Area athletic teams were busy during the past week, with the volleyball team picking up a pair of Northeast Conference victories, the football team rolling past Flandreau, the soccer teams traveling to West Central and hosting James Valley Christian, and the boys golf team competing at Milbank.

Volleyball team sweeps Sisseton, Webster

The Groton Area volleyball team put together a strong week with sweeps of Sisseton and Webster Area.

The Tigers traveled to Sisseton Thursday and swept all three levels. The varsity won 25-14, 25-13 and 25-10, while the junior varsity posted a 2-0 victory and the C team battled back for a 2-1 win.

Taryn Traphagen led the varsity Tigers with 12 kills, one solo block and one assisted block. Tevan Hanson finished with nine kills, four ace serves and eight digs, while Abby Fjeldheim had seven kills and three aces.

Libby Althoff directed the offense with 29 assists and also recorded four ace serves, two assisted blocks and six digs. Tori Schuster added seven ace serves.

Groton Area coach Chelsea Hanson was pleased with how the Tigers created their own offense.

"That was a good game for us," Hanson said. "I was obviously impressed with not only the fact that we won, but we just kind of did it the right way. We didn't rely on them to score points for us. We did it ourselves."

Groton followed that performance Tuesday with another 3-0 varsity sweep, this time at Webster. The Tigers won 25-19, 25-18 and 25-23.

Webster made the final set especially difficult as the teams were tied 10 times and exchanged the lead six times before Groton scored the final two points.

Hanson led Groton with 12 kills, two ace serves and 17 digs. Sydney Locke had 13 digs, two assists and two aces, while Kinsley Rowan recorded 11 digs.

Traphagen finished with six kills, one solo block and one assisted block. Chazney Weber had six kills, two aces, one solo block and one assisted block, while Elizabeth Cole added five kills. Althoff recorded 24 assists and three kills.

Coach Hanson said Webster's short serving caused problems for Groton's serve receive and forced the Tigers to adjust throughout the match.

"They served short all game long, and that really disrupted our serve-receive pattern," Hanson said.

Groton also won the junior varsity match at Webster, 2-1, taking the deciding set 17-15. Webster won the C match, 2-1.

Neely Althoff led Groton's JV with eight kills and an ace, while Kinley Sandness and Brooklyn Spanier each had five kills.

Maycee Moody led the C team with 10 kills and an ace. Charli Jacobsen had four kills and an ace, Brynlee Dunker added three kills, a block and an ace, Sophia Fliehs had two kills and two aces, Arianna Dinger served two aces and Mya Moody had a kill.

Groton Area will return home Thursday to face Aberdeen Roncalli.

"I think Roncalli is a very, very good team, a very athletic team," Hanson said. "They have a lot of girls that can score."

Tigers run past Flandreau, 34-6

The Groton Area football team also picked up a victory during the week, defeating the Flandreau Fliers 34-6 Friday night in Groton.

The Tigers wasted no time taking control.

After Flandreau punted on its opening possession, Anthony Tracy broke free for a 65-yard touchdown run on Groton's first offensive

play. Freshman Ryder Schwan kicked the extra point for a 7-0 lead.

Alex Abeln added a three-yard touchdown run late in the second quarter to give Groton a 13-0 halftime advantage.

The Tigers then began the second half with another scoring drive, capped by a five-yard touchdown run from Ryder Schelle. Schwan's extra point made it 20-0.

Schelle scored again later in the third quarter, this time from three yards out, and Schwan added the PAT for a 27-0 advantage.

Flandreau's lone score came on Tucker Hemmer's 91-yard kickoff return.

Groton answered with a long fourth-quarter drive that consumed about seven and a half minutes. Quarterback Asher Johnson finished it with a four-yard touchdown run and Schwan's extra point completed the 34-6 final score.

The Tigers finished with 22 first downs compared to only two for Flandreau and outgained the Fliers 380-37.

Groton rushed for 327 yards on 48 carries.

Johnson led the Tigers with 127 yards and a touchdown on 14 carries, while Tracy rushed 11 times for 119 yards and a touchdown. Schelle scored twice and Abeln added one touchdown.

Johnson also completed six of 11 passes for 53 yards, with TC Schuster catching three passes for 42 yards.

Defensively, Gunner Hardy led Groton with nine tackles and forced two fumbles. Layne Johnson recovered two fumbles and Isaiah Scepianiak recovered another.

Groton coach Jordan Carson said he was pleased with the way his team finished the game, something the Tigers had been emphasizing after their first two contests.

"We played a little bit harder down the stretch," Carson said. "I thought we kept our composure a little bit better through some of the adversity, the injuries, the cramps, things like that."

Carson also liked the balance of the Tiger offense.

"I thought we shared the ball well and I thought we blocked well for each other," Carson said.

Groton improved to 2-1 and will travel to Clark/Willow Lake for the start of conference play.

Soccer teams battle West Central, JVC

The Groton Area soccer teams traveled to West Central Saturday.

The Tiger boys battled West Central to a 2-2 tie. Ryder Schwan scored both Groton goals, with Ethan Kroll and Connor Kroll each recording an assist.

The Groton Area girls dropped a 2-0 decision to West Central.

The boys were back in action Tuesday in Groton, where James Valley Christian handed the Tigers a 6-1 loss.

Trey Tietz scored Groton's lone goal, with Easton Weber recording the assist. Goalkeeper TC Schuster finished with six saves.

Groton golfers place sixth at Milbank

The Groton boys golf team competed Tuesday at the Milbank Invitational at Whetstone Creek Golf Course, finishing sixth with a team score of 387.

Groton was only two strokes behind fifth-place Sisseton, which finished at 385, while Milbank was seventh at 389.

Tri-Valley won the team title with a 317, followed by Sioux Valley at 329 and Watertown at 330.

Jace Johnson led Groton with an 89, shooting a 44 on the front nine and 45 on the back to finish 22nd individually.

Liam Johnson finished two strokes behind with a 91 and placed 24th. Haden Harder shot a 100 to finish 33rd, Bentley Ehersmann recorded a 107 to place 43rd and Easton Larson finished with a 116.

Groton's team score was made up of the four lowest rounds of 89, 91, 100 and 107.



Pictured left to right are Bentley Ehersmann, Easton Larson, Liam Johnson, Jace Johnson, Haden Harder and Graham Rose. (Courtesy photo Becca Johnson)



Sydney Locke gets ready for the ball. Also pictured is Tevan Hanson #3. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Taryn Trahpaghen gets a solid hit. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Ryder Schelle gains a few yards before being brought down by four Beresford players. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Classifieds

AUCTIONS

LIVE AUCTION with Online Bidding. Ft. Pierre Community Center. 60+ Guns, Western Memorabilia, Coins, Antiques, Wildlife Prints, More. September 13th. 11AM. DacotahDiamondAuctions.com. 605-354-8468

LIVE AUCTION with Online Bidding. Miller Community Center. Guns, Coins, Native American Artifacts, Antiques, More. September 20th. 11:00AM. DacotahDiamondAuctions.com. 605-354-8468

EMPLOYMENT

Wanted full or part time help for harvest. Someone who can drive combine, semi or tractor. Housing available. Near Aberdeen call 605-380-4898. (0819.0909pd).

BENNETT COUNTY is accepting applications for Highway Secretary. This position provides administrative and clerical support for the Highway Department. The ideal applicant will have basic computer skills, be detail oriented, self-motivated and good communication skills. This is a part-time position. For more information, please contact the county Auditor at 605-685-6931. Position will be open till filled.

BENNETT COUNTY is looking to hire a Highway Superintendent. Please pickup application and job description at the Bennett County Auditor's office Monday thru Friday 8am to 4:30pm. If you have any questions, you can call the Bennett County Auditor's office at (605)685-6931.

MISCELLANEOUS

DAKOTA TERRITORY GUN COLLECTORS Gun Show, Mobridge, SD. September 11-12. Friday 3pm-7pm & Saturday 9am-5pm. Call Gene @ 605-848-2427.

NOTICES

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YARD SALE

200 E. 2nd Avenue, Andover, South Dakota, Friday, September 11, and Saturday, September 12, 2026, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Tools, furniture, antiques, vintage, and collectibles. Everything goes!

The Life of William Feist



A Memorial service for William Feist, 40, of Sioux Falls will be 1:00 p.m., Saturday, September 12th at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Bobbi Larson will officiate. Inurnment will follow at a later date in Union Cemetery, Groton. Visitation will be held at the chapel from 11-1 p.m. on Saturday.

Billy passed away September 5, 2026 in rural Tabor.

William Carl Feist was born on July 25, 1986 in Breckenridge, Minnesota to James "Jim" and Peggy Ann (Thorson) Feist. He attended school in Groton and graduated in 2005. Billy worked

at Smithfield Foods in Sioux Falls as a maintenance manager. In his spare time, he enjoyed laser engraving/etching along with leatherwork and beadwork as hobbies. Billy also liked to fix-up and tinker on motorcycles just as much as he enjoyed the ride.

Celebrating his life is his mother, Peggy (Buster) Sichmeller of Webster, his siblings, Brian Feist (Bridgette) Gaukler of Lidgerwood, ND and Renee Feist Gaukler of Sioux Falls, Cory Feist (Stacey) of Pierpont, Tracy Feist, Michael (Ashley) Feist, and Daniel Feist all of Groton. Billy is also survived by his step-siblings, Jodi Sichmeller of MI, Amber (Waverly) Olson of Bozeman, MT, Rachel (Bob) Schuster of Britton, April (Marshal) Robbins of Enderlin, ND, Curtis (Catherine) Sichmeller of Webster and many nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his grandparents and his father, Jim.

City Council Continued from front

Councilman Karyn Babcock called out the hostility between the foundation and the City Council.

"I feel like there's a lot of hostility between the foundation and the City Council," she said. "I don't know how to resolve that or if you have any suggestions on how we can alleviate that. ...I would like for that (tension) to go away and us have a better relationship with the foundation, but I don't know how it got to that."

Councilman Jordan Voss-Severson added that she doesn't think the friction is from jersey handout or concrete sidewalk discussion.

"I think those are little pieces that are maybe causing issues today, but those issues didn't start 10 years ago for there to be this hostility between the two groups," she said. "I do think you coming was really great. ... I think that before it becomes a big thing that blows up ... there should be conversations leading up to that. You guys bringing concerns to us, having this discussion, I think it really helps smooth things over. Then I think everyone can really see both sides of the story."

Further discussion about baseball and softball was tabled to a future meeting.

The City Council reviewed department monthly reports, though most of the department heads had scheduling conflicts and couldn't attend Thursday's meeting. Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich told the council that Dennis "Mike" Olson with OCCS will be at the council's next meeting. Heinrich added that Olson may announce that he plans to retire and has someone in line if the city needs a contracted code enforcer.

The council held a second reading of a supplemental appropriation ordinance to transfer funds from specified funds to other ones. The city is transferring \$358,000 total out of the following funds.

- o \$195,500 from baseball donations
- o \$9,500 from other revenue
- o \$49,700 from airport
- o \$103,300 from unassigned fund balance

Those funds will go into the following to meet the obligations of the city.

- o \$52,000 to general government buildings
- o \$6,500 to city hall
- o \$210,000 to baseball general
- o \$5,000 to softball
- o \$7,000 to 14U Legion baseball
- o \$5,500 to baseball grounds
- o \$7,000 to parks
- o \$5,000 to economic development and assistance
- o \$60,000 to airport

The council reviewed statements of qualifications for architectural/engineering services for the park saferoom/bathroom project. It came after a review committee meeting earlier in the week, which included Mike Shilhanek, Brian Bahr and Scott Hanlon. Two proposals were received, one from Michael J. Burns Architects out of Fargo and one from HKG Architects out of Aberdeen. The review committee recommended HKG Architects, and the council agreed, voting unanimously to contract with HKG Architects contingent on the approval of the state Office of Emergency Management, a step required due to federal and state emergency management funds being used for the project.

The council held off on taking action to a requested agreement to participate in a state Department of Transportation signing and delineation project. The project will evaluate the need for new road signage (including stop, yield, curve warning, delineation, school zone and street name signs) on county and Class II and Class III city roads. The signs would be checked and installed at no cost to the city, but the city would be required to maintain the signs after installation. The agenda item was tabled to allow for legal review of the contract.

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PLAYING FROM 5-7 P.M.



City of Columbia Council Meeting – September 2, 2026
CALL MEETING TO ORDER – 7:00 p.m.
ROLL CALL – Cara Dennert, Dana Mohr, Jeremy Dosch, Sam Hoppock, Scott Meints, Trevor Meints
Community: Lorie Gilchrist, Larry Vietmeier, Patti Daly, Cyndy Larson, Ted Dickey
Mayor Mohr called the meeting to order. Dana called for a motion to approve the agenda. Scott Meints made a motion to approve the agenda. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All in favor – motion carried. Dana called for any conflict of interest on agenda items. There were no conflicts. Minutes were handed out from the August 5th meeting. Scott Meints made a motion to approve the minutes. Sam Hoppock seconded the motion. All were in favor – motion carried.

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Paul Irvin Kosel, Publisher paperpaul@grotonsd.net ~ 605-397-7460
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September 941 taxes – 679.91; Bobcat of Aberdeen– parts – 47.80
Jeremy Dosch made a motion to approve the vouchers. Sam Hoppock seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried.
COMMUNITY COMMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE: - community forestry grant e-mail – council will look into that further at next meeting; returned certified mail;
UNFINISHED BUSINESS- wastewater project – wastewater project update Stockwell is in the process of advertising for bids for the project. Those bids will be opened on the 15th. The engineers will then look over the bids and bring the information to a council meeting.
Nuisances – Letters have gone out from Code Enforcement.
Streets – Jeremy has been working on filling potholes.
Parks – Lots of discussion and explanation on the situation with the grass/irrigation at the new parks. The filters on the wells haven’t been reducing the amount of sodium in the water. There was a lot of conversation on how to go forward. The Columbia Foundation was present and discussed how much money they could contribute to help with the new park costs. Patti Daly reported that she didn’t receive any grant monies for the new building project – that is put on hold. She also wanted the council to know that the Columbia Social Committee is going to have a tree decorating contest this December.
Lagoon/Sewer- See new business.
Rubble Site – no report
NEW BUSINESS – Ted Dickey from NECOG was here to discuss a proposed Wastewater & Storm Water Improvement application that needs to be submitted to the SD DNR by Oct. 1st. With what is going with our current sewer project, it’s really just a formality to apply for this project. Mayor Mohr asked for a motion to sign the wastewater & storm water application. Trevor Meints made the motion to sign the application. Sam Hoppock seconded the motion. All were in favor – motion carried. Jeremy asked Ted Dickey about the possibility of getting any assistance for a reclamation effort on the 2nd lagoon. Ted said that he would add an amendment in the narrative of the wastewater application addressing the reclamation.

FINANCIAL REPORT
August 31, 2026 balances:
SF - \$ 148,889.92; SF Money Market –\$ 154,218.25;
GF - \$ 221,675.55; GF Money Market - \$ 51,746.37; CD Money Market - \$ 42,023.24
FIT - \$ 16,540.25; Cash on hand - \$0
Sam Hoppock made a motion to accept the financial report as given. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried.
Mayor Mohr adjourned the meeting.
Next City Council Meeting – 2nd Reading of 2027 Budget - Wednesday, Sept 23, 2026 - 7:00 p.m.
Next Regular City Council Meeting - Wednesday, October 7, 2026 - 7:00 p.m.
Submitted by Cara Dennert, Finance Officer
Published September 9, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$47.21 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 27217



UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6
SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 18, 2026
President Rix called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. in the HS Library Conference Room. Members present: Fliehs, Harder, Lerseth-Fliehs, Rix, Strom, Weber, and Weismantel. Absent: None. Others present: Supt. J. Schwan and Business Manager M. Neiber.
Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Harder, to approve the proposed agenda as written. Motion carried.
Pursuant to SDCL 23-3, no potential conflict of interest disclosure was reported.
Members of the public are allowed five minutes to address the board on any topic of their choice.
No public comments were made.
The Board continued discussion on the Middle/High School Building Project and Bond Election. Hausmann Construction presented on the conceptual

budget and Tom Grimmond from Collier Securities presented on the bond financing. The Board opened the floor for public comment, during which community members asked questions and provided comments regarding the topic. No action was taken.
Moved by Harder, seconded by Weismantel, to adjourn at 7:38 p.m. Motion carried.
Madisyn Neiber Business Manager
Grant Rix, President
The addition of signatures to this page verifies these minutes as official.
Published September 9, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$15.74 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 27218



ORDINANCE #332
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES AS AMENDED
TO REZONE CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY
Notice is hereby given that Ordinance #332, An Ordinance Amending Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended to rezone the following described property filed by petitioner Michael & Caroline Sommers was duly adopted by the Board of Brown County Commissioners on the 1st day of September 2026 and will become effective on the 29th day of September 2026.
BE IT ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota, that the Petition to Amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances is hereby amended to change the zoning on the following described property from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its current use.
Description of property: 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.).
BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission,

Brown County, South Dakota that the zoning official for the County of Brown is hereby authorized to change the official zoning map for Brown County to reflect this Ordinance.
Passed and adopted this 1st day September 2026.
Duane Sutton, Brown County Commission Chairman
ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor
Notice of Hearing: August 5, 2026
First Reading: August 18, 2026
Second Reading/Adoption: September 1, 2026
Published: September 9, 2026
Effective Date: September 29, 2026
Published September 9, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$21.30 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 27215



ORDINANCE #333
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES AS AMENDED
TO REZONE CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY
Notice is hereby given that Ordinance #333, An Ordinance Amending Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended to rezone the following described property filed by petitioner Wayne & Janeen Haas was duly adopted by the Board of Brown County Commissioners on the 1st day of September 2026 and will become effective on the 29th day of September 2026.
BE IT ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota, that the Petition to Amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances is hereby amended to change the zoning on the following described property from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its current use.
Description of property: 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.).
BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota that the zoning official for the County of Brown is hereby authorized to change the official zoning map for Brown County to reflect this Ordinance.
Passed and adopted this 1st day September 2026.
Duane Sutton, Brown County Commission Chairman
ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor
Notice of Hearing: August 5, 2026
First Reading: August 18, 2026
Second Reading/Adoption: September 1, 2026
Published: September 9, 2026
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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Grass clump
- 5 Pampering, for short
- 8 Bay Area force, briefly
- 12 Beige
- 13 Taunting laugh
- 14 — Minor
- 15 Airline to Tel Aviv
- 16 Greek vowel
- 17 Endure
- 18 Lustrous fabrics
- 20 Ascribe
- 22 Soda
- 23 Abysmal
- 24 Fairy tale figures
- 27 Surname of Judas
- 32 Terre Haute sch.
- 33 From — Z
- 34 Ruckus
- 35 Element No. 78
- 38 Recognized
- 39 Train lines (Abbr.)
- 40 CBS logo
- 42 More like Unger
- 45 Signed over
- 49 China setting
- 50 Here (Fr.)
- 52 Mani counter-part

DOWN

- 1 Golf props
- 2 Golden State sch.
- 3 Dorm alternative
- 4 Dutch exports
- 5 Actor
- 6 Long. crosser
- 7 Spiced drink
- 8 Inferior
- 9 Follower of Sigmund's methods
- 10 Jr.-year exam
- 11 Challenge
- 19 Rejection
- 21 CEO's degree, maybe
- 24 Trendy
- 25 Visual communication syst.
- 26 Protector
- 28 "Rugrats" dad
- 29 Late-night host, usually

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18				19			20	21				
			22					23				
24	25	26			27	28	29				30	31
32					33					34		
35			36	37					38			
		39					40	41				
42	43				44		45			46	47	48
49					50	51			52			
53					54				55			
56					57				58			

- 30 Poetic tribute
- 31 AAA job
- 36 Three-note chords
- 37 British verb ending
- 38 "Consider this a gift"
- 41 Old pronoun
- 42 Diplomacy
- 43 "La — Bonita"
- 44 Cracker name
- 46 Mazar of "Younger"
- 47 Idyllic place
- 48 Uses a shovel

Weekly SUDOKU

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

Solution time: 25 mins.

T	U	F	T		T	L	C		S	F	P	D		
E	C	R	U		H	A	H		U	R	S	A		
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S	A	T	I	N	S				I	M	P	U	T	E
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P	L	A	T	I	N	U	M		K	N	E	W		
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T	I	D	I	E	R				D	E	E	D	E	D
A	S	I	A		I	C	I		P	E	D	I		
C	L	A	D		T	E	A		I	B	E	G		
T	A	N	S		Z	E	N		T	I	N	S		



SEPTEMBER 1, 2026 - GENERAL MEETING

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None
RICHMOND DAM UPDATE: None

SURPLUS WOMEN'S/HOME ARTS/COMPETITIVE ARTS BUILDING AT THE FAIR-GROUNDS: Dennis Jones informed the Commission that he is working with the City of Aberdeen at the possibility of moving this building to Wylie Park. He also shared what DANR told him needs to be done if the building has asbestos in it, if don't follow the state regulations could be fined up to \$1 Million, so he again asked for the Commission to put their plan on hold. Chairman Sutton shared that the plan is to declare the building surplus and utilize the salvageable timber and build a Cold Storage Building at the Highway Shop and that the County is aware of the DANR regulations and the building is going to be inspected either today or tomorrow for asbestos. Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent, shared that it will cost \$900 for the inspection. Dennis still believes that it will cost less to preserve this building. After further discussion, Commissioner Wiese moved to defer this to next week to get the results of the asbestos inspection, seconded by Gage. Motion passed with all members voting aye except for Dinger who voted nay.

ORDINANCE #332 – SECOND READING/POSSIBLE ADOPTION: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to adopt Ordinance #332. Applicant Michael & Caroline Sommers to rezone from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring these parcels 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.

ORDINANCE #333 – SECOND READING/POSSIBLE ADOPTION: Moved by Commissioner

Dennert, seconded by Wiese to adopt Ordinance #333. Applicant Wayne & Janeen Haas to rezone from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring these parcels 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.

DISCUSS SPEED LIMIT CHANGE ON BC #13:

Commissioner Dennert brought the following Resolution **RESOLUTION #2026-37**

WHEREAS, Chapter 6.03 Speed Zones of the Second Revision of Brown County Ordinances authorizes the Brown County Commission to change the speed limit or the extent of any such limited speed zones, at any time they may deem necessary, and **WHEREAS,** all Speed Zones throughout the County were established by Resolution #46-05, as amended by Resolution #66-06, Resolution #39-08, Resolution #72-08, Resolution #101-08, Resolution #94-13, Resolution #69-14, Resolution #15-16, Resolution #26-17, Resolution #30-18, Resolution #51-21, Resolution #25-23, Resolution #37-23, Resolution #41-23 and Resolution #44-24.

WHEREAS, the Brown County Commission has recommended amending the speed zone on County Road #13

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Resolution #46-05, as amended by Resolution #66-06, #39-08, #72-08, #101-08, #94-13, #69-14, #15-16, #26-17, #30-18, #51-21, #25-23, #37-23, #41-23 and #44-24 be amended as follows:

AMEND: County Road #13, beginning one third of a mile east of the intersection of County Road #13 and 390th Ave. located between NE Corner of Section 5 and the NW corner of Section 4, Township 123N, Range 63W of the 5th PM, then two thirds of one mile to the intersection of County Road #14, at 45 mph. Seconded by Commissioner Dinger.

Following further discussion a roll-call vote was taken with the following results: Dennert-aye; Dinger-aye; Gage-nay; Sutton-nay; Wiese-nay. The Chairman declared that the motion failed and Resolution #2026-37 was not adopted.

LANDFILL CELL #5 CONSTRUCTION – PAYMENT #4: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Payment #4 for the Landfill Cell #5 Construction to Midland Contracting, Inc. for \$368,271.76. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

BENEFIT PLAN: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign

the Brown County Benefit Plan Documents amended from July 1, 2025 to be effective September 1, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

NEW CHECKING ACCOUNT FOR THE JAIL: Sheriff Lunzman met with the Commission and informed them they were switching to cloud-based software for the Commissary, and the software company recommends the Jail open a new account to start with a zero balance. The old account would remain open for 90-120 days until balanced then will be closed out. After further discussion Commissioner Wiese moved to approve and authorize the Jail to open a new checking account due to new software recommendations. Seconded by Dinger. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to approve the General Meeting Minutes of August 25, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Gage to approve the following claims/payroll. Claims: Professional Fees: Avera St. Luke's Hospital \$1,286.23; Black Hills Land & RV Rentals, LLC \$4,185.00; Brick's TV and Appliance \$2,763.75; Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$1,120.60; Devnet \$3,789.84; Dohrer Law Office, PC \$817.40; Helms & Associates \$34,565.05; Kristi Brandt \$141.20; Kuck Law Office \$1,072.00; Marshall & Swift/Boeckh, LLC \$413.15; Northeastern Mental Health Center \$1,662.50; Sanford Clinic \$1,479.31; Sanford Health \$648.00; SD Dept of Transportation \$1,767.40; Sewer Duck, Inc \$200.00; Taliaferro Law Firm, PC \$5,774.15; Tammy Stolle Court Reporting \$42.50; Yankton County Sheriff's Office \$50.00; Yankton County Treasurer \$153.75; Zylstra Investigations \$820.00. Publishing: Groton Daily Independent \$180.30; McQuillen Creative Group, Inc \$186.04. Repairs & Maintenance: Ace Refrigeration, LLC \$277.95; Jake's Heating & Cooling \$115.00; Lawson Products, Inc \$69.92; Precision Kiosk Technologies \$3,000.00; TripleC Pros LLC \$650.00. Supplies & Materials: Aberdeen Awards \$25.00; Amazon Capital

Services, Inc \$432.18; Bon Homme Colony \$38,350.00; Cartney Bearing \$125.31; Central Network Retail Group LLC \$63.93; Century Business Products \$956.18; Coca-Cola Bottling Company High Country \$34.00; Cole Paper Inc \$1,867.48; Dakota Electronics LLC \$63.50; Dakota Fluid Power, Inc \$387.27; Dakota Supply Group \$15,611.31; Fastenal Company \$40.15; FedEx \$43.57; Great Western Tire \$1,874.00; Jensen Rock & Sand Inc \$103,317.30; Johnson Brothers of South Dakota, Inc \$1,157.58; Josh Lee \$89.20; Kuck Law Office \$31.74; Lawson Products, Inc \$770.15; Lien Transportation Company \$11,008.80; Menards \$191.39; Midstates Group \$260.50; Performance Oil \$101.70; Phil Baker \$750.00; Pitney Bowes Global Financial Services LLC \$1,046.10; Pressure Washer Central \$262.00; Pro Ag Supply, Inc \$275.07; Runnings \$60.72; Sadie Frey \$300.36; Safety Service, Inc \$126.50; Sheila Haugen \$21.75; Stan Houston Equipment Company, Inc \$114.97. Travel & Conference: Beadle County or Jill Hanson \$206.59; Lynn Heupel \$360.90; Neil Bittner \$19.00; Scott Kolb \$19.00. Utilities: AT&T Mobility \$3.65; Montana-Dakota Utilities Co \$33.40; Northwestern Energy \$12,844.75; NVC \$59.06. Other: Midland Contracting Inc \$368,271.76. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

o Last day of internship for Gentry Pigors and Addisyn Heinrich, Brown County Fair/4-H Summer Interns; effective August 21, 2026.

o Resignation of Hunter Miller as Brown County Landfill Grounds Worker, PT; effective August 24, 2026.

o Resignation of Jeree Meyers as Brown County Jail Transport and Court Security, PT; effective August 21, 2026. Request to fill.

o Last day for seasonal worker, Greg Markley, Brown County Fairgrounds; effective August 5, 2026.

o Last day for seasonal workers, Lee Buechler and Aiden Hernandez, Brown County Fairgrounds; effective August 19,

2026.
o Resignation of Kramer Lummis as Brown County 911 Communications Officer, FT; effective August 27, 2026. Request to fill.
o Job description and title update for Senior Deputy Auditor-Elections Coordinator.
o Job description update for Chief Deputy Auditor.
All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
LEASE AGREEMENTS: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the following lease agreements: Cole Holmes to lease the Richmond Lake Youth Camp Lodge on October 18-19, 2026 for a wedding reception; Aberdeen Area Humane Society to lease the Holum Expo Building on September 25-27, 2026 for the Fall Second Paw Sale; RDO Equipment to lease the Holum Expo Building and parking lot on September 8-9, 2026 for Fall

Field Days Event. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: None
EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert 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 Wiese, seconded by Dennert to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:26 A.M. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

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Weekly SUDOKU

		7				5		4
3	5				9			
1	6	2			7	9	8	3
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				7	5	1	4	
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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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There is a reason the NFL is sometimes referred to as the Not For Long league, and nothing exemplifies this more than the days following the 53-man cutdown deadline. Some players are elated to find out they made the final roster, only to get a call 24 hours later informing them they’ve been released. On the flip side, some players get cut and are preparing for

a life outside of football when the phone rings, and it’s another team who wants to sign them.

Last week we broke down the Vikings’ initial 53-man roster. Now we break down the changes that have been made since, as well as the current practice squad, before getting into a preview of the Vikings’ week 1 matchup against the Green Bay Packers.

First, however, there is some breaking news out of Minnesota: Harrison Smith is back! The 37-year-old safety is back for season 15, and his presence on this team will be invaluable. I was nervous about the Vikings’ safety group, but with Hitman back, the group went from a liability to a strength. On a personal note, Harrison Smith is one of my favorite players, and I really hope he has a great season to help him lock up a spot in the Hall of Fame.

Now, on to the rest of the news.

The Vikings put in waiver claims on two offensive linemen, center Nick Samac and guard Trevor Keegan. To make room for the two new players, the Vikings waived QB Max Brosmer and WR Dillon Bell. Both of those players cleared waivers and were signed to the Vikings’ practice squad.

Speaking of the practice squad, new Vikings General Manager Nolan Teasley had an interesting comment that sheds some light on how he builds a team. During a press conference, Teasley said, “We really view this as seventy over fifty-three,” which tells me he doesn’t view the practice squad as a separate unit, but rather an extension of the 53-man gameday roster.

Here are the current players on the PS: QB Max Brosmer, RB DeeJay Dallas, WR Dillon Bell, WR Michael Briscoe, WR Trayvon Rudolph, TE Cam Grandy, OL Henry Byrd, OL Jack Nelson, DL Naquan Jones, DL

Jahvaree Ritzie, OLB Kyle Van Noy, ILB Bangally Kamara, CB Da’Veawn Armstead, CB Bryce Phillips, S Kahlef Hailassie, S Tavierre Thomas

If you’ve been reading my column, you know how much I wanted the Vikings to sign a veteran pass rusher to provide depth behind Dallas Turner and Andrew Van Ginkel. Well, my wish was granted when they signed Kyle Van Noy. The 35-year-old is entering his 13th season and has played with Vikings’ defensive coordinator Brian Flores in prior seasons. Despite his age, Van Noy is still productive and was a Pro Bowler in 2024.

Looking ahead, the Vikings will host division rival Green Bay on opening week. The Vikings and Packers have had some great matchups throughout the years, and this one should be no different. The Packers will be without a few key pieces, including Micah Parsons (injury) and Josh Jacobs (placed on the commissioner’s exempt list following criminal charges related to an arrest). This is a great chance for the Vikings to secure a win against a divisional foe and set the tone for the rest of the season. This will also be our first chance to see newly acquired QB Kyler Murray in action. I’m pumped up for the game and can’t wait to recap it with you next week!

Skol!

“Don't Just Take It From Me”

When your doctor prescribes a new medication, it's easy to just nod and head to the pharmacy. However, before you fill any new prescription, a few questions deserve answers and the best time to ask them is during your visit. Doctors and pharmacists would rather explain things in person than try to cover things later over the phone or through a patient portal.

Start with the obvious question: do you actually need a prescription, or could lifestyle changes, diet, or an over-the-counter option work? Sometimes they can, but other times, medication really is the best choice. Either way, you should know why. It is important to clearly know what is this medication supposed to do, and what result is your doctor hoping to see.

Next, ask how long you'll need to take it and how many refills you have. Some medications, like antibiotics or blood-thinners after a blood clot, are short-term. Others, like blood pressure or diabetes medications, are often long-term. Find out how long it takes for the new medication to start working and how you'll know if it is helping. With blood pressure medication, for example, you may not feel different, but your blood pressure numbers should improve. Also ask what happens when refills run out — do you stop taking it completely, call the pharmacy for a refill renewal, or is a new clinic appointment needed to check for improvement from the medication? Do you need to have any labs monitored while taking this medication?

Special instructions matter too. Should it be taken with food, on an empty stomach. Can this medication be taken with other medications, or does it need to be taken alone? Is timing important — morning or night? Statins, for instance, often work best at bedtime, since the liver produces cholesterol overnight. Ask what to do if you miss a dose. This is especially important for some medications like blood thinners or birth control, where a missed dose can matter a great deal.

Side effects are another key conversation. Package inserts list pages of possible reactions, but before ruling out a medication over one, ask how common it actually is. A side effect affecting just 1% of patients in a clinical trial still has to be listed even though it's rare.

Ask whether it's safe to drive on this medication, and whether you should avoid certain foods, drinks, or alcohol while taking it. Your doctor and pharmacist should already be checking for interactions with your other

medications, along with any allergies, but it never hurts to ask directly. If you're not comfortable taking something, please say so. Sharing your concerns gives your doctor a chance to address them or find an alternative that works better for you.

There are many things you need to know before starting a new medication, so don't just take it from me. Ask your doctor or pharmacist, so together you can make the best decision for your health. Prescription medications are just one of the tools we use to help you stay healthy out there.



Jill Kruse, DO

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