

The Groton Independent

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GHS Homecoming Royalty



GHS Homecoming Royalty are Dylan McGannon and Ashlynn Warrington. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Webers return home to be homecoming parade marshals

by Dorene Nelson

Mike Weber, originally from Tripp, South Dakota, worked in the family grocery store while in high school. He graduated from high school in 1982 and attended Dakota State College, getting a degree in Business Administration. Shortly after graduation, he learned of an opportunity to be the business manager in Groton.

Mike traveled to Groton and was interviewed by Superintendent Bob Olson and board members Duane Butrock and Dick Traphagen. As a result of that interview, he was hired and subsequently worked for the school district for thirty-seven years.

In the following years, Mike was part of the team that led to the transformation of the current football field and track complex as well as the construction and financing of the Groton Arena. He also was instrumental in the financing for new entrances at the elementary and high school/middle school.

Mike was also business manager for the North Central Special Ed Cooperative which hired speech therapists, early childhood teachers,



Lorrie and Michael Weber

and psychologists in a shared setting with nine other school districts. Mike also helped with the Groton/Bristol school merger.

Besides financial endeavors, Mike coached junior varsity boys' basketball with Les Hinds for two years and junior high football with Lance Hawkins for eleven years. He announced and served as referee for many, many Groton Arena, gym, baseball park and football sporting events. He was an active Emmanuel Lutheran Church member and served various positions for the Groton Chamber of Commerce as well as the Granary Fine Arts Center board.

Lorrie, originally from California, moved with her parents moved to Aberdeen, South Dakota when she was five. Her dad, Don Weifenbach, was a Columbia, South Dakota native. After graduating from Aberdeen Central, Lorrie got a college degree in Business Management from the University of Sioux Falls.

Mike and Lorrie married in 1996 and had their first and only child together, Allison, in 1997. Lorrie was also an active member at Emmanuel Lutheran, serving various positions including occasionally preaching as a lay minister when the church was without a pastor. She was a member of the Groton Lions Club and coached our kids in soccer, basketball and softball. She was also a varsity volleyball line judge for many years.

Lorrie and Mike retired in the summer of 2023 and moved into a 55+ retirement community in Henderson, Nevada, a town about the size of Sioux Falls. During our working years, we often vacationed in Las Vegas and knew that we someday wanted to move to a warmer climate. Realizing that Florida and Texas have hurricanes and tornados every year, the Webers settled on Nevada.

Although it can get rather hot in July and August, the dry heat is not unbearable. There is beautiful sunshine every day and best of all, no mosquitoes or snow shoveling! Lorrie does miss the green grass though. They are currently discovering and enjoying the 25 state and National parks located within a five-hour radius of Henderson. Lorrie likes to hike.

Together, Mike and Lorrie have six children, eight grandchildren, and a ninth on the way. Four of their kids graduated from the Groton School System and the oldest two from Aberdeen Central. Some of their children will be here celebrating homecoming week with the Webers. Mike and Lorrie especially miss the people in Groton and hope to visit and catch up with as many as they can during homecoming week.



The Royalty couple are pictured above with their parents. Pictured left to right are Sarah Sigdestad, Dylan McGannon, Ashlynn Warrington, and Jason and Robyn Warrington. Not pictured is Travis McGannon. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



In front are the GHS Royalty Dylan McGannon and Ashlynn Warrington. In back is the rest of court, left to right: Zander Harry, Gavin Kroll, Blake Lord, Brody Lord, Taryn Traphagen, Emerlee Jones, Avery Crank and McKenna Tietz. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Tigers collect golf titles, soccer wins and volleyball comeback

Groton Area athletes turned in several strong performances during the past week, highlighted by individual golf championships, a pair of girls soccer victories and a dramatic five-set volleyball comeback over previously unbeaten Aberdeen Roncalli.

Golfers claim back-to-back medalist honors

Groton golfers captured medalist honors at two meets during the week.

Jace Johnson won the Redfield Invitational Tuesday at Fischer Grove Golf Course, firing a five-over-par 75 on the par-70 course. Johnson opened with a 37 on the front nine and finished with a 38 on the back, recording birdies on the par-four eighth hole and par-five 13th.

Groton finished fourth in the team standings with a score of 363. Wassertown JV won the team championship with a 321, followed by Sioux Valley at 339 and Aberdeen Roncalli at 353.

Haden Harder was Groton's next finisher, placing 20th with a 93. Bentley Ehresmann finished one stroke behind with a 94 to place 21st. Liam Johnson was 29th with a 101, Easton Larson placed 30th with a 102 and Graham Rose finished 35th with a 107.

Groton's four counting scores came from Jace Johnson, Harder, Ehresmann and Liam Johnson.

Earlier in the week, Liam Johnson earned medalist honors at the Groton Invitational held at Olive Grove Golf Course.

Johnson fired a two-over-par 74 on the par-72 layout to win the individual championship by two strokes over Sisseton's Luke Nielson. Groton teammate Jace Johnson placed third with a 79, giving the Tigers two of the top three individual finishers.

Liam Johnson played the front nine at even-par 36 and finished with a 38 on the back. His round included birdies on the par-four fifth hole, par-five ninth and par-five 18th.

Jace Johnson shot rounds of 40 and 39 for his seven-over-par 79. Bentley Ehresmann was Groton's third finisher, placing ninth with an 86. He improved from a 46 on the front nine to a 40 on the back, including birdies on holes 17 and 18.

Haden Harder placed 22nd with a 94, Easton Larson was 23rd with a 95 and Graham Rose finished 26th with a 99.

Sioux Valley won the team championship with a 326, Sisseton was second at 332 and Groton finished just one stroke behind the Redmen with a 333.

Sunflower Classic

The Sunflower Classic Scramble Couples Tournament was held Sept. 6. Susie Sousa and Mark Papstein won the Championship Flight with a 66, tying Brevin Fliehs and Carly Guthmiller, who placed second.

Jake Unzen and Stacey Vikander won the First Flight with a 74, while Brad and Brenda Waage captured the Second Flight with a 79.

Pin prize winners were Carlee Johnson for women's closest to the pin on No. 4, Mark Papstein for men's closest to the pin on No. 8 and Madison Claymore for longest putt on No. 9.

Girls soccer collects two victories

Groton Area's girls soccer team put together a strong week with victories over Vermillion and Lennox.

The Tigers celebrated Senior Day with an 8-0 shutout of Vermillion, scoring six times in the first half and twice in the second.

McKenna Tietz led the offensive attack with three goals and an assist. Avery Crank, Ashlynn Warrington, Sydney Locke, Addison Hoffman and Devan Locke also scored.

Tietz's performance moved her into first place on Groton Area's career scoring list with 34 goals.

Coach Matt Baumgartner said the Tigers were able to generate opportunities throughout the match while also keeping Vermillion from threatening at the other end.

"Today had a great amount of offensive production, plenty of shots on goal and opportunities for everyone to play meaningful minutes," Baumgartner said. "I'm happy with the outcome of scoring eight and limiting chances on our defensive end."

He also praised Tietz for the impact she has made on the program.

"McKenna has been a focal point on our offense throughout the years," Baumgartner said, pointing to her speed, work ethic and ability to create opportunities both for herself and her teammates.

Tori Schuster recorded two saves in 45 minutes in goal, while Amelia Ewalt made one save during the second half.

Groton followed the shutout with a 2-1 home victory over Lennox.

Sydney Locke accounted for both Tiger goals. She put Groton ahead with 38:18 remaining in the first half, scoring off an assist from Tietz.

Groton added what proved to be the winning goal early in the second half. Emerlee Jones took a penalty kick and Locke knocked in the rebound to give the Tigers a 2-0 advantage.

"Credit to Sydney Locke, she had both goals tonight," Baumgartner said. "We had many other opportunities where girls could have scored."

Lennox cut the lead to 2-1 with 17:11 remaining, but Groton held on behind several key defensive plays and a strong performance from Schuster, who finished with nine saves.

"Credit to Tori Schuster," Baumgartner said. "She saved us on a couple really good saves."

Baumgartner was especially pleased with the way the Tigers opened the second half.

"That first 12 or 13 minutes were great," he said. "We were trying to get the next goal, and we ended up getting it seven minutes in. That was great to see."

The win improved Groton Area to 5-4.

The Groton boys came up one goal short against Vermillion in a 4-3 loss.

Ethan Kroll scored all three Groton goals. He gave the Tigers a 1-0 lead with 8:48 remaining in the first half before Vermillion tied the game late in the period.

Kroll struck again early in the second half on an assist from Ryder Schwan to put Groton ahead 2-1. Vermillion answered to tie the game and then took a 3-2 lead.

Just 25 seconds later, Kroll completed his hat trick to pull Groton even at 3-3, but Vermillion's Landon Sopoci scored the game-winning goal with 2:21 remaining.

Tigers hang with fifth-ranked Cyclones before second-half surge

Groton Area battled fifth-ranked Clark/Willow Lake to a 14-14 halftime tie Friday night in Clark before the Cyclones took control in the second half for a 36-14 victory.

Clark/Willow Lake struck first after an unusual special teams play. A Cyclone punt into a strong wind came down and struck a Groton player, allowing Clark/Willow Lake to recover at its own 47-yard line.

The Cyclones turned the second chance into a touchdown and conversion for an 8-0 lead.

"Sometimes weird stuff happens when you're playing football," Groton Area coach Jordan Carson said. "Sometimes you just can't prepare for what happens when the lights come

on."

Groton quickly answered defensively. Asher Johnson intercepted a pass and returned it 30 yards for a touchdown. Johnson then connected with TC Schuster for the conversion to tie the game at 8.

Clark/Willow Lake regained the lead in the second quarter, but Groton responded with one of its best drives of the season.

Starting at its own 28-yard line, Groton put together a 14-play drive that consumed nearly six minutes. With 25 seconds left in the half, Johnson connected with Anthony Tracy on a 19-yard touchdown pass to tie the game at 14.

At halftime, statistician Tom Woods said the Tigers had spent the week preparing for exactly that type of late-half situation.

"They practiced the no-huddle all week long," Woods said. "They practiced that all week long, and it worked well."

Woods also noted that Groton had held its own statistically against one of the top-ranked teams in Class 11B.

"Really good ball game here," Woods said. "Clark's number five rated in the state. I'm just really, really proud of the boys. They're just really working hard."

Clark/Willow Lake broke the tie in the third quarter and eventually scored 22 unanswered points in the second half.

Carson said the Tigers knew the challenge they were facing.

"We knew that they were going to be a tough one, and we wanted to hang around and hang around as long as we could," Carson said. "They've got size, they've got speed. They can throw it, they can run it. They kind of have the whole package."

Groton finished with 13 first downs and 159 rushing yards.

Johnson led the Tigers with 92 yards on 20 carries and completed seven of 13 passes for 54 yards and a touchdown. Tracy caught four passes for 45 yards and a touchdown.

Defensively, Tracy and Ryder Schwan led Groton with eight tackles each, while Layne Johnson had six. Asher Johnson had the interception return for a touchdown.

The loss dropped Groton Area to 2-2. The Tigers return home to host Elk Point-Jefferson.

Tigers complete dramatic reverse sweep of Roncalli

Groton Area's volleyball team completed a clean sweep of rival Aberdeen Roncalli Thursday night in Groton, highlighted by a dramatic comeback in the varsity match.

The Tigers dropped the first two sets before rallying for a 23-25, 20-25, 25-23, 25-21, 15-9 victory over the previously unbeaten Cavaliers.

Groton appeared to be in trouble after falling behind 2-0 in the match, but the Tigers stayed alive with a tight 25-23 victory in the third set. Eighth grader Tori Schuster delivered the set-



Anthony Tracy is looking for an opening in the Cyclone defense.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Sydney Locke led the back court with 43 digs.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

winning ace serve. Roncalli led 21-18 late in the fourth set and was four points away from ending the match, but Groton scored the final seven points to win 25-21 and force a fifth set.

The Tigers jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the deciding set. Roncalli tied it at 5 and again at 8, but Groton never trailed. Three consecutive ace serves from Tevan Hanson helped the Tigers pull away for the 15-9 victory.

Coach Chelsea Hanson said the comeback showed the importance of the team-first approach the Tigers have worked to establish.

"This is what happens when you train team," Hanson said. "We've been focused on team, playing as one. All 14 girls on our bench have played multiple sets."

Hanson said different players have been able to step forward throughout the season.

"They absolutely stick together," she said. "There were times when all of our players were struggling with something, and then someone else just picked them up."

Taryn Traphagen led Groton with 19 kills, one solo block and five assisted blocks.

"She's unstoppable," Hanson said. "There were so many times that she was hitting three inches over the block. Tonight was her night."

Chesney Weber finished with 16 kills, 32 digs and 25 assists. Tevan Hanson had 12 kills, six ace serves, 28 digs, one solo block and one assisted block.

Sydney Locke anchored the defense with 43 digs, while Kella Tracy added seven kills and four assisted blocks. Libby Althoff handed out 13 assists.

Hanson said the Tigers have handled injuries, lineup changes and other challenges while continuing to grow.

"There is a sense of calmness that this group has that I haven't had in a lot of teams I've coached before," Hanson said. "Their ability to ride the storm is really, really good."

The victory improved Groton to 5-4 and handed Roncalli its first loss of the season.

Groton also won the junior varsity match in straight sets, 28-26

and 25-19.

Abby Fjeldheim led the Tigers with nine kills and an ace serve. Neely Althoff had five kills and an ace, Brynlee Dunker recorded four kills, and Kinley Sandness and Brooklyn Spanier each added two.

The Tigers completed the sweep with a 27-25, 25-11 victory in the C match.

Groton trailed 18-8 in the opening set before rallying to tie the score at 23. After additional ties at 24 and 25, Charli Jacobsen delivered a key ace as the Tigers scored the final two points.

Jacobsen finished with eight kills and three aces. Maycee Moody had five kills and an ace, Brynlee Dunker recorded four kills and two aces, and Arianna Dinger added three aces.



Dale Ringgenberg from the Groton Rescue Squad was enjoying the evening.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

Classifieds and Card of Thanks

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

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

EMPLOYMENT

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ORDINANCE NO. 797
2026 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS
SECTION I:: BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Groton, South Dakota that the following sums are supplementally appropriated to meet the obligations of the City of Groton and shall be effective immediately following passage.
E 101-41920 General Gov't Buildings: \$52,000.00
E 101-41921 City Hall: \$6,500.00
E 101-45130 Baseball – General: \$210,000.00
E 101-45136 Softball: \$5,000.00
E 101-45138 14U Legion Baseball: \$7,000.00
E 101-45140 Baseball Grounds: \$5,500.00

E 101-45200 Parks: \$7,000.00
E 101-46500 Econ. Development & Assistance: \$5,000.00
E 266-43500 Airport: \$60,000.00
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS: \$358,000.00
SOURCE OF FUNDING
R 101-36721 Baseball Donations: \$195,500.00
R 101-36900 Other Revenue: \$9,500.00
R 266-38590 Airport: \$49,700.00
Unassigned Fund Balance (Cash Applied): \$103,300.00
TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCE: \$358,000.00:
Dated at Groton, South Dakota this 3rd day of September, 2026.
Scott Hanlon, Mayor
Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer
1st Reading: 8/18/2026
2nd Reading: 9/3/2026
Published:
Effective: 9/3/2026
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September 3, 2026
The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00pm at 120 N Main Street for their first monthly meeting with the following members present: Bahr, Babcock, Nehls via phone, Voss-Severson, Shilhanek, and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Also present were Attorney Chad Locken, Douglas Heinrich, Elizabeth Varin, and Lars Hanson.
Moved by Babcock and seconded by Voss-Severson to approve the agenda with no additions or changes. All members present voted aye.
Public comments were welcomed pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1, but none were received.
Department reports were reviewed and discussed.
The 2026 baseball report was reviewed and discussed. Moved by Shilhanek and seconded by Bahr to table the approval of the baseball report. All members present voted aye.
Hanson exited the meeting.
The second reading of Ordinance No. 797 – Supplemental Appropriations was approved on a motion by Shilhanek and seconded by Voss-Severson. All members present voted aye.
Upon review of the statements of qualifications for architectural/engineering services for park saferoom, it was moved by Shilhanek and seconded by Bahr to accept HKG's proposal pending SD OEM's approval for the park saferoom project. All members present voted aye.
The approval of the funding agreement for the 2028 Signing and Delineation Project was tabled on a motion by Shilhanek and seconded by Voss-Severson. All members present voted aye.
The minutes from the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Babcock and seconded by Shilhanek. All members present voted aye.
Moved by Voss-Severson and seconded by Babcock to authorize the following bill for payment. All members present voted aye.
Payroll, \$47,036.46, Employee salaries; Executive, \$563.86; Administrative, \$4,770.69; Pub-

lic Safety, \$10,111.70; Public Works, \$16,581.08; Culture & Recreation, \$15,009.13; City of Groton, \$483.20, Family Crisis utility assistance; Payment Service Network, Inc., \$207.25, PSN gateway and eBill fees - July 2026; Verizon Wireless, \$40.01, Wireless router; Dacotah Bank, \$10,831.10, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dacotah Bank, \$689.57, HSA contributions; Aflac, \$456.96, Employee insurance; Colonial Life, \$69.40, Employee insurance; Health Pool of SD, \$16,687.14, Employee insurance; Reliance Standard Life Insurance, \$85.60, Employee insurance; Dacotah Bank, \$4,009.57, Withholding/SS/Medicare; City of Aberdeen, \$700.00, Rental of utility vac truck - Sewer Dept.; The Groton Independent, \$48.08, Publishing costs; Harry Implement, Inc., \$58.72, Hydraulic hoses - Street Dept.; Irby, Inc., \$1,008.46, Form 45 meters - Electric Dept.; SD Department of Health, \$230.00, Water/sewer/pool testing; VES-TIS, \$70.43, Rug rent - City Hall; NW Energy, \$783.34, Natural gas service - Swimming Pool & PD; Galls, LLC, \$245.43, Uniform purchases, gauze, evidence bags, tape - Police Dept.; Locke Electric, Inc., \$1,941.98, New circuits at community center, power at city jail, light bulb at cemetery, and outlet repair at city hall; SD Supplemental Retirement, \$740.00, Supplemental retirement; S&S Lumber, \$561.88, Sawzall blades, gloves, landscaping staples, drill bit, keys cut, vacuum filter and sleeve, grass seed, fertilizer, screws, bits, trimmer line, washers, glass storm door replacement, chainsaw files - Multiple Depts.; J's Superior Cleaning, \$225.00, Commercial cleaning services - City Hall/PD; Dollar General, \$306.40, Food for resale, bottled water, toilet paper, batteries, paper towels, bug spray, garbage bags, landscaping fabric, cleaning supplies - Multiple Depts.; Dennis "Mike" Olson, \$901.10, Code enforcement services; Glacial Lakes Excavating, \$4,147.60, Sewer repair at trailer park; Branden Abeln, \$127.93, Reimbursement for ratchet straps purchased for Street Dept.; Employee cell phone reimbursement for July/Aug 2026; Douglas Heinrich, \$60.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - July/Aug 2026; April Abeln, \$60.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - July/Aug 2026; Kellie Locke, \$60.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - July/Aug 2026; Paul Kosel, \$60.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - July/Aug 2026; Jesse Anderson, \$60.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - July/Aug 2026; Korbin Kucker, \$60.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - July/Aug 2026; Teylor Diegel, \$60.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - July/Aug 2026; Trittech Software Systems, \$963.71, Annual software fees - PD; Runnings, \$39.96, Ratchet straps - Street Dept.; B&B Contracting, Inc., \$6,753.11, Dust control - Street Dept.;
Varin exited the meeting.
Moved by Voss-Severson and seconded by Bahr to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal matters 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 8:20pm. All members present voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 8:57pm.
Moved by Voss-Severson and seconded by Shilhanek to adjourn the meeting at 8:58pm. All members present voted aye.
Scott Hanlon, Mayor
Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer
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ment - July/Aug 2026; Paul Kosel, \$60.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - July/Aug 2026; Jesse Anderson, \$60.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - July/Aug 2026; Korbin Kucker, \$60.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - July/Aug 2026; Teylor Diegel, \$60.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - July/Aug 2026; Trittech Software Systems, \$963.71, Annual software fees - PD; Runnings, \$39.96, Ratchet straps - Street Dept.; B&B Contracting, Inc., \$6,753.11, Dust control - Street Dept.;

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TOWN OF WARNER
MINUTES FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th, 2026
MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Evans, Dave Fair, Gaylon Townsend, Stewart Nelson and Nichol Townsend. Sam Braun was also present.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Townsend and seconded by Evans to approve the minutes from August 19th, 2026 meeting. Motion carried.
FINANCIAL REPORTS: MSC: Evans/Townsend. Checking: Town \$387,549.85; Water \$92,992.38; Sewer \$206,405.35. CDs: Town \$35,014.25; Water \$52,781.59; Sewer \$29,869.21.
BILLS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT: MSC: Fair/Evans. AGTEGRA (fuel & chemical)

\$912.24, Gas N Goodies (gas) \$92.33, USDA (water & sewer loans) \$2083, Warner Post Office (supplies) \$90.05, WEB Water (city water) \$8533.59, Badger Meter (August readings) \$32.12, Brown County Treasurer (mosquito spraying) \$1181.88, Code Enforcement Specialists \$717.60, CoroMed (fees) \$138, Dependable Sanitation (garbage) \$2816, Groton Independent (advertising) \$49.79, Hofer Repair (repairs) \$305.1, Hydro Klean (sewer & storm sewer maintenance) \$21,816.72, Lien Transportation (supplies) \$80.64, Lyle Signs (supplies) \$144.57, Lynn Aman (janitorial) \$75, MAC'S (supplies) \$76.32, Midcontinent (phone & internet) \$308.85, Northwestern Energy (electricity) \$1994.26, SD Dept of Rev (Sales Tax) \$207.65, SD Federal Property Agency (supplies) \$287, SD Public Health Lab (water test) \$20, SD Public Assurance Alliance (fees) \$14,770.83, Town of Warner (Water/Sewer) \$268.73, SD Retirement Fund \$542.36, Payroll Taxes \$1244.84, PAYROLL: Stewart Nelson (101)\$1813.64 (602) \$906.83, (604) \$906.83, Barb Breidenbach (101) \$46.17, Terry Evans (101) \$275.20, Dave Fair(101) \$110.82, Linda Johannsen (101) \$46.17, Justin McCord (101) \$46.17, Gaylon Townsend (101) \$55.41, Nichol Townsend (101) \$930.43, Paul Vetch (101) \$46.17.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None
UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
2027 Budget: Final reading approved. MSC Townsend/Fair. General Fund: Expenditure \$298,974; Water Fund: Expenditure \$157,600; Sewer Fund Expenditure \$111,000; Total Expenditure: \$567,574. General Fund: Revenue \$298,974; Water Fund: Revenue \$157,600; Sewer Fund Revenue \$111,000; Total Revenue: \$567,574. 2026 Tax Levy Request is \$92,722.

Ag Well usage and fees were discussed. The city is looking into metering the usage and charging accordingly, rather than a base rate for everyone. Waiting for information regarding the cost of meter and keypad.

NEW BUSINESS:
Pickup and topper cannot be deemed surplus property yet as they are still in use.

Approved a special event liquor license for The Den Bar and Grill for October 10th, 2026 at 11 West Main Street. MSC: Fair/Townsend.

Community Center Rental Fees were discussed. Fees will be increasing as of January 1st 2027. Resolution to be approved at next meeting.

Building Permit Rates were discussed. Fees will be increasing as of January 1st, 2027. Resolution to be approved at next meeting.

Delinquencies: 4 were noted and notices will be posted on doors.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: October 14th, 2026 at 7 PM at the Warner Community Center.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
Dave Fair, Chairman; Nichol Townsend, Finance Officer
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Weekly SUDOKU												
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The Groton Independent
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- ACROSS**
- Ashley and Wynonna
 - Consumer protection agcy.
 - Catchall abbr.
 - Track star Bolt
 - Tic-tac-toe win
 - "The Matrix" character
 - Refuse an offer
 - Seattle sub-urb that's home to Microsoft
 - Credit rating publisher
 - Skin soother
 - Corp. money exec
 - Overly
 - Part of LGBTQ
 - Hit on the noggin
 - Japanese fish dish
 - Tranquil
 - Sort of dive
 - Police ID
 - Employ
 - Hairnet
 - Moray, for one
 - Past
 - Plane-related
 - Country song?

- Archbishop Tutu
- Stag
- Altar affirmative
- Reuben bread
- More practical
- Aachen article
- Rowing need
- Birch's kin
- Stuffed shirt
- Gift giver's words
- Low digits
- Atlantic fish
- Holmes (Sherlock's sister)
- Mortise partner
- Encryptions
- "Butterfly" singer Carey
- Medicated
- "60 Minutes" ainer
- Nemesis
- Fill in — blank
- Explosive sound

- Bed cover
- Wee bit
- Tiara stone
- Work unit
- Old Olds
- Census info
- "Sexy" Beatles girl
- "— say more?"
- Director Welles
- apso (small dog)
- Novelist Seton
- Airline to Tel Aviv
- Spanish gold
- Born
- Blunder

- DOWN**
- Roast beef au —
 - "Suits" net-work
 - "Shark Tank" star — John
 - Flintstones' pet



APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE NO. 2026-01
2027 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE
Be it ordained by the Municipality of Westport that the following sums are appropriated to meet the obligations of the municipality.

GENERAL FUND
Governmental Funds
411-419 General Government
Salary & benefits: 15,000.00
Supplies & Materials: 18,000.00
Miscellaneous: 10,000.00
431Public Works
Streets and Lights: 7,000.00
441Health and Welfare
Mosquito spraying: 2,000.00
Total 2027 Appropriations: 52,000.00

GENERAL FUND
Means of Finance:
310 Taxes
311 Property Taxes: 14,000.00
313 General Sales and Use Tax: 30,000.00
320 Licenses and Permits
Liquor license & Building permits: 980.00
330 Intergovernmental Revenue
334 State Grants
335 State Shared Revenue
335.1 Bank Franchise Tax: 165.00
335.2 Prorate License Fee: 332.00
335.3 Liquor Tax Reversion: 588.00
335.4 Motor Vehicle Licenses: 2,150.00
335.8 Local Highway and Bridge Fund: 12,000.00
338 County Shared Revenue
338.1 County Road Tax - 25%30.00
338.2 County Highway and Bridge: 400.00
338.3 County Wheel Tax: 100.00
Total Means of Finance: 60,745.00

Enterprise Fund	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Sewer Surcharge
Operating Funds: 38,800.00	3,600.00	18,620.00	
Revenue: 44,000.00	8,000.00	21,840.00	
	46,273.00		

Mitchell Wilson
President of the Board
Published September 16, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$29.66 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 27230



BATES TOWNSHIP WEED NOTICE:
OWNERS & TENANTS of Bates Township are hereby notified and required, according to law, to cut all weeds, grass, and trees in road ditches adjacent to their property or tenanted by them within Bates township on or before October 1, 2026 or same will be hired done by the township board and assessed property taxes at the rate of \$300 per half mile.

Bates Township Board of Supervisors reminds all landowners and tenants that the road right-of-way extends 33 feet from the center of the township road. This ditch is to be maintained and mowed. Any crops planted in the road right-of-way will be mowed and charged to the landowner. Landowner is responsible for spraying all noxious weeds.

Bates Township Board of Supervisors
Betty Geist
Township Clerk
Published September 16 and 23, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$19.46 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 27231



Riverside Township
NOTICE OF WEED / DITCH MOWING
To all citizens, property owners, and renters of Riverside Township of Brown County, as provided by law, you are hereby given notice to cut and remove all weeds on township roads and right-of-way abutting your property. Roadsides and ditches are to be mowed clean.

Weeds not cut by October 1st, 2026, will be hired cut, and the costs associated with it will be filed with the county to be added to your taxes.

Published September 16 and 23, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$13.16 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 27232



NOTICE OF VARIANCE HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT The Groton Planning & Zoning Commission will be holding a public hearing on September 28, 2026, at 6:00pm CDT at City Hall, 120 N Main Street, Groton, SD for a variance of Chapter 9, Section 9.0106 of the Groton Zoning Ordinance. This application was made by Randall Flitter to build a cornerstone/pillar for address identification within 5 feet of the north and west lot lines in a Residential (R-1) District located at 112 N 4th Street, Groton, SD, legally described as Lot 1-2 of Block 3 of the Original Addition, Groton, SD.

Any person wishing to present testimony for or against this variance may appear in person or by representative at the above time and place.

Doug Heinrich
Zoning Administrator
Published September 16, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$10.17 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 27233



Town of Westport General Meeting
The Town of Westport met on September 8, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., with Mitch Wilson, Shane Storm, Troy Tschappat, and Deb Schlosser present.

The following bills were presented:

City General: NW Energy-utilities (\$374.65), Groton Independent-August meeting minutes (\$23.18), Elan Financial Services-playground (\$183.46), K & S Plumbing-town hall repairs (\$434.18), Brown County Treasurer-mosquito spraying (\$882.42), Mitch Wilson-payroll (\$1325.00), Shane Storm-payroll (\$587.50), Troy Tschappat-payroll (\$575.00), Deb Schlosser-payroll (\$1,000.00), Jeff Schroeder-payroll (\$531.99)

Sewer: NW Energy-Lift Station utilities (\$49.62), Dakota Pump & Control-Lift Station repairs (\$11,600.08)

Water: Public Health Laboratory-August testing (\$20.00), WEB-water (\$2195.84), Banyon Data Systems-UB Meter Device & UB Support (\$1260.00), Water

Maintenance District-July testing (688.78)

Shane Storm motioned, second by Troy Tschappat to pay all bills.

The following deposits were presented:

City General: State of SD (\$1922.59), Brown County Collections (\$428.85), Kristi Kolb (\$75.00), Interest (\$50.01)

Sewer: Resident Payments (\$2628.39))

Water: Resident Payments (\$3942.59)

Public Concerns:
Old Business: Zoning Ordinances were looked at with no changes.

New Business: Motion by Troy Tschappat, second by Shane Storm to approve WEB Water rate increase resolution. Shane Storm motion, seconded by Troy Tschappat to approve 2027 Budget Ordinance. Motion by Troy Tschappat, second by Shane Storm to sign agreement with SD DOT for Delineation of County and Class II & II City Roads Project. This will be at no cost to Westport City. A letter was received from CVF Concrete & Masonry informing us they will no longer provide snow removal. Town will need to find another company.

Meeting dismissed at 7:38 p.m.

Deb Schlosser, Finance Officer
Published September 16, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$21.75 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 27234



RESOLUTION #2026-20
RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH NEW WATER/ SEWER RATES FOR THE CITY OF WESTPORT, SD.

WHEREAS, the current water rates are not sufficient enough to cover the cost of distributing water and provide for upgrade of the water delivery infrastructure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Westport City Council for Westport, South Dakota, that water/sewer rates for all residential and commercial users shall be as follows:

Each consumer shall pay a minimum charge of \$51.00 dollars per month base fee. Water used during such month shall be at the rate of \$9.40 per one thousand (1,000) gallons and the overage rate is \$17.00 per 1,000 gallons for over 12,000 gallons used.

Those consumers that have a hook up to the city water, but it is not currently using, will continue to pay and inactive fee of \$44.00 a month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these water rates shall go into effect payable November 1st, 2026.

Dated this 8th day of September, 2026.

Mitchell Wilson, Board President

Deb Schlosser, Finance Officer
Published September 16, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$13.99 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 27235



September 15, 2026
The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00pm at 120 N Main Street for their second monthly meeting with the following members present: Bahr via phone, Babcock via phone, Nehls, Voss-Severson, and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Also present were Attorney Chad Locken, Douglas Heinrich, Elizabeth Varin, and Dennis "Mike" Olson.

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

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

Olson discussed code enforcement in the city and his decision to retire. Olson suggested another code enforcement outfit out of Burke, SD to take over services to the city.

Olson exited the meeting.

Moved by Nehls and seconded by Babcock to table the monitoring system at the rubble site. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Bahr and seconded

by Babcock to table the 2026 baseball report. All members present voted aye.

The first reading of Ordinance No. 798 – Certifying 2027 City of Groton Property Tax Levy to Brown County was approved on a motion by Nehls and seconded by Voss-Severson. All members present voted aye.

The August finance report was approved on a motion by Voss-Severson and seconded by Nehls. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Voss-Severson to approve the contract of agreement for the Rural Attorney Recruitment Program. All members present voted aye.

The execution of the funding agreement for the 2028 Signing and Delineation project with the State of South Dakota was approved on a motion by Bahr and seconded by Babcock. All members present voted aye.

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

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

Payroll, \$35,792.42, Employee salaries; Administrative, \$4,770.69, ; Public Works, \$16,746.55, ; Public Safety, \$10,356.44, ; Culture & Recreation, \$3,918.74, ; US Bank, \$21,426.46, DW-05 loan payment; US Bank, \$6,734.43, DW-06 loan payment; City of Groton, \$410.84, Utility deposits applied to outstanding bills; Kami & Tom Lipp, \$90.92, Utility deposit/overpayment refund; Tucker Smith, \$89.16, Utility deposit refund; Northern Electric Coop, \$107.04, Power services at Airport - August 2026; USPS, \$351.23, Utility billing postage; Clay Wattier, \$298.77, Utility deposit/overpayment refund; WEB Water, \$30,677.98, Water services - August 2026; SD Retirement System, \$11,871.80, Employee retirement; SD State Treasurer, \$11,982.30, Sales/excise tax for August 2026; Douglas Heinrich, \$148.80, Med flex; Dacotah Bank, \$7,276.97, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dacotah Bank, \$689.57, HSA contributions; Dacotah Bank, \$4,058.40, Withholding/SS/Medicare; SD Supplemental Retirement, \$740.00, Supplemental retirement; Ken's Fair Foods, \$938.48, Fuel purchases, coffee, creamer, foam cups, food for resale - pool concessions - Multiple Depts.; MJ's Sinclair, \$2,221.84, Fuel purchases - Multiple Depts. ; Dacotah Bank Visa, \$610.79, Book purchases, lightning adapters, Foscam annual fee, flowers for Mayor Schaunaman's son's funeral, part for 2023 PD Tahoe, website hosting fee, fuel purchases, postage for return of electric meters, dividers - Multiple Depts. ; AutoZone, Inc., \$421.75, Wiper fluid, filters, engine oil, coolant reservoir, serpentine belt,

spark plug - Multiple Depts. ; Heartland Waste Management, \$12,486.90, Garbage hauling; IMEG Corp., \$40,000.00, Engineering services - Wastewater Project - invoice no. 11; WAPA, \$26,674.00, Power services - August 2026; Heartland Energy, \$62,209.87, Power services - August 2026; A&B Business Solutions, \$265.46, Printer/copier lease - City Hall; Farmers Union Cooperative, \$675.20, Fuel purchases - Parks/Cemetery; Badger Meter, Inc., \$184.23, Water metering fees - August 2026; Runnings, \$38.98, Grinding wheels - City Shop; Irby, Inc., \$7,690.00, Allen sockets, connectors, gloves, photocontrol receptors, LED lights for highway, batteries - Electric Dept.; FOP Lodge #4, \$100.00, Annual membership dues - Police Dept.; Associated Supply Co., Inc., \$645.36, Pool chemicals; Angerhofer Concrete Products, Inc., \$87.50, (5) sandblasted bricks w/ names - Swimming Pool; Butler Machinery Co., \$8.06, Key for

mini excavator - Electric Dept.; Full Circle Ag, \$560.92, Herbicide and propane; Altec Capital Services, LLC, \$2,189.93, Digger truck lease - Electric Dept. ; Grand Slam Computers, \$139.00, Nordic backup annual fee - Police Dept.; NVC, \$878.41, Telephone and internet services; Menards, \$63.54, Anti-fatigue mat, drip bowl, paper towels - Community Center; Follett Software, LLC, \$1,106.30, Annual software fee - Library; Jensen Rock & Sand, Inc., \$115,663.60, 2026 street resurfacing; Fire Safety First, \$10.71, 100ct extra strength acetaminophen - City Shop;

Moved by Voss-Severson and seconded by Babcock to adjourn the meeting at 8:01pm. All members present voted aye.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor
Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer

Published September 16, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$51.51 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 27236

Weekly SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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AVERA WELCOMES



Omar Abdelaziz, MD PSYCHIATRY

Dr. Abdelaziz joins the expert team at Avera Psychiatry in Aberdeen. He specializes in mental health care for adults, which includes diagnosing mental health conditions, medication management and ongoing treatment. No referral required.



Justin Van Der Meid, MD
Psychiatry



Carol Schaunaman, CNP
Psychiatric Care for Adults



Michele Thorpe, PMHNP
Psychiatric Care for Adults



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Groton Area voters to decide on multi-million school improvement bond

By Elizabeth Varin

Groton Area voters will decide in November whether to approve a bond to fund a major expansion and renovation project at the district’s Middle-High School after the Groton Area School Board approved the bond election Monday evening.

The proposed \$31 million project would include construction of a new classroom wing to replace the existing 1934 building, new Career and Technical Education spaces, and a new commons and cafeteria. The project also calls for renovations and improvements to existing school facilities, along with associated site improvements, utility work, infrastructure and other costs related to completing, furnishing and equipping the project.

Board members spent part of the meeting discussing the proposed bond amount and the length of time it would take to repay the debt before ultimately approving a resolution calling for the \$26 million bond election. If approved by voters, the bond would be repaid over 30 years.

The district plans to finance the remainder of the project through a \$5 million capital outlay certificate, which would be repaid over 20 years.

The board discussed how much of the project should be financed through capital outlay certificates. Members weighed the potential benefit of using more capital outlay funds to reduce the amount included in the bond, which could result in a lower tax burden for taxpayers and potentially make the proposal more appealing to voters. However, board members also acknowledged that committing a larger portion of the district’s capital outlay funds to the project would limit the flexibility those funds provide for addressing unexpected needs or costly repairs that could arise in the future.

“Being on the Buildings and Grounds Committee for nine years, I’ve seen all the projects we wish we could do,” said board member Tigh Fliehs. “It’s been nine years already, and we’re not even close to doing a lot of them. So, my personal feeling, I’d like to go down to \$3 million (in capital outlay certificates)”

After considering the balance between reducing the tax burden and maintaining financial flexibility, the board settled on proposing a \$5 million capital outlay certificate.

“I did the math. When you talk about \$7.5 million versus \$5 million, it’s basically \$182,000 a year of those payments,” said board member Heather Lerseth-Fliehs “...If you don’t have that (available capital outlay funding) too, then you don’t have that flexibility when the bus breaks down.”

Herseth-Fliehs added that the renovations would eliminate issues the district has faced with upkeep and maintenance through the last few years.

The board voted 6-1 to request issuing \$26 million in general obligation bonds and \$5 million in capital outlay certificates. Tigh Fliehs asked for an alternative that would lower the capital outlay certificate request to \$3 million and increase the general obligation bond request to \$28 million.

The bond election will be held from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3, with the Groton Area School District High School Library serving as the sole polling location. Changes to state law require bond elections to be held on the same date as primary or general elections. Some county election offices expressed concerns about having enough precinct workers to staff both a school district election and a primary or general election when they occur at the same time.

The district includes portions of five counties, and the school board had previously approved using one polling site before the last school board election. As a result, the district will continue with one polling location for the bond election.

Voters who are registered within the Groton Area School District will also have the option to vote in person by absentee ballot beginning Friday, Sept. 18, through Monday, Nov. 2. In-person absentee voting will be available at the district office from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Voters must be registered to vote and bring a driver’s license or other identification card.

The School Board also plans to hold three informational meetings to give residents an opportunity to learn more about the proposed project and bond election. The first meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7, at the Columbia American Legion, followed by a 7 p.m. meeting Tuesday, Oct. 13, at the Bristol Community Center. The final meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21, at the high school in Groton.

Additional information about the proposed improvements, project costs and financing is available on the Groton Area School District’s website.

- The board approved hiring Cole Anthony Holmes as the new middle school language arts/social studies teacher for the 2026-2027 school year. Holmes graduated from Northern State University with a bachelor’s degree in K-12 music education with a vocal emphasis.
- Other hires approved Monday evening included Nikki Kotzer as FFA Advisor and Darren Locke as food service team member. The board

also approved the resignation of Jana Simunek as food service team member.

- The board heard from Julie Erdmann, Megan Serr and Carrie Weisenburger about the special education work at the elementary school, as well as Reilly Ketterling, Sydney Kurtz and Todd Peterson about special education at the middle school and high school. Alexa Sperry and Lynette Grieve also gave a presentation to the board about the Title and RTI work at the elementary school to identify students who are struggling in math or reading and provide individualized support.

Groton City Council hears update on code enforcement, tables rubble site monitoring, baseball report

By Elizabeth Varin

The Groton City Council addressed changes to code enforcement in town and discussed oversight of the city’s rubble site during its Tuesday meeting, but tabling discussion related to the 2026 baseball end-of-year report.

The city’s contracted code enforcer Dennis “Mike” Olson told the council he plans to retire and recommended a potential replacement, Joel Johnson with Code Enforcement Specialists, a property code enforcement company based in Burke.

“I’ve passed the three quarter century mark and feel like I should slow down,” Olson said. “I hope the town feels like we’ve made good progress. I certainly want to let the council know that these efforts should continue.”

Olson told the council he said he would remain in the position until the city signs a contract with a new code enforcer. However, if the city decides to hold off on contracting with a replacement, Tuesday’s meeting marked his 30-day notice.

The council also discussed a proposal to install a camera monitoring system at the city’s rubble site. Questions arose about why more progress had not been made toward transitioning oversight of the site to City Hall employees.

Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich told the council that maybe 30 percent of the system to control the rubble site code system and cameras have been installed on City Hall computers.

Mayor Scott Hanlon asked him what they needed to do to get it all moved over to City Hall.

“By the end of the month it would be nice to get you guys to have control of it,” Hanlon said.

Council members discussed whether it would make more sense to put a new code and camera system in, something City Hall employees would be comfortable working with, Councilman Brian Bahr added.

Councilman Kevin Nehls asked that the item to add a new camera facing the rubble site be tabled until the original gate code and camera system is dealt with.

The council ultimately tabled the discussion, with members instead indicating they want to move forward with a new system to monitor the gate and emphasizing that they would like to see the system installed sooner rather than later.

The council also tabled the 2026 baseball end-of-year report, opting to wait until a majority of council members could meet in person to discuss and approve the report. Two council members participated in Tuesday’s meeting by phone, while another two council members were absent.

Council members confirmed that employees and contractors had been paid, but held off on approving the report. Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich said the only items pending the approval of the report are a reimbursement to the American Legion and the splitting of the gate fees from the season at the ballpark.

- The council approved signing an agreement for the Rural Attorney Recruitment Program after City Attorney Chad Locken assured the council the city would not incur costs with the program. The city is sponsoring the attorney, and the firm employing the attorney has agreed to be completely responsible for the municipality’s share of the incentive payment, \$4,379.76 per year.

- The city will enter into a funding agreement for the 2028 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. According to the joint powers financial and maintenance agreement between the state Department of Transportation and the city, the state will be the contracting party to install the new signs, obtain the required environmental clearance and provide construction engineering including construction supervision and inspection. One the project is complete, the city would take over the maintenance, repair and replacement of all street name signs installed on any part of the project that are within the city limits. The council voted to enter into the agreement and authorized the mayor to sign the agreement.

- The council approved the first reading of an ordinance to certify the city’s tax levy, essentially putting in writing how much the city will ask the county to collect for the city of Groton in property tax. Questions arose about opt-out agreements that have been in place for more than 20 years, but the council approved the first reading anyway.



**Mackenzie Feldhacker, OTD, OTR/L, CLT-LANA
and Allison Naber, Ph.D., OTD, OTR/L**

“Fit to Drive: CarFit Promotes Safety, Comfort, and Confidence”

More than 21% of all licensed drivers in the United States are 65 years of age or older, with these drivers making up 19% of reported fatal crashes. For older drivers throughout our region living in rural and remote areas, the ability to safely and independently drive is crucial to access food, healthcare and financial services without relying on family and friends. While there is no age limit for driving in South Dakota, there are steps older drivers can take to stay safe and confident behind the wheel for as long as possible.

Normal, age-related changes to vision, strength and flexibility can impact how comfortably and safely we drive and fit in our vehicles. To enhance the driver-vehicle fit, older drivers, specifically, can pay attention to the following:

- Driver's seat positioning
- Visibility over the steering wheel
- Ability to reach the pedals
- Ability to access and use the seatbelt
- Visibility with rear and sideview mirrors

CarFit can provide many additional tips and recommendations to enhance safety and comfort behind the wheel.

CarFit, a national partnership between AARP and the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), is a community-based education program that seeks to enhance older drivers' safety and independence by assessing how they “fit” in their vehicles. CarFit offers education to older drivers with community-specific resources to enhance safety and increase community mobility. A quick yet comprehensive 12-point checklist is used during a CarFit check-up to see how well an older driver and their vehicle are working together. Offered in a variety of formats including virtual, on-demand, one-on-one and public events, CarFit aims to provide education about the simple adjustments that can be made to one's vehicle to match someone's physical functioning. In doing so, CarFit enhances independence and confidence for older drivers so they can drive safely, comfortably and for as long as they wish. If you or someone you love is interested in learning more or having a personalized assessment of their fit in their vehicle, you may find additional resources and a listing of upcoming CarFit events on the CarFit website (<https://car-fit.org/>).

Many of us provide transportation for older adults in our families or communities, and the education provided through CarFit can also benefit older adult passengers, even if they are no longer driving. To enhance an older adult passenger's safety and comfort in a vehicle, family and friends may find the following equipment helpful:

- HandyBar: A handle that fits into the bracket on the door frame to provide a handle for someone to push up from to stand
- Swivel seat: A spinning seat cushion that helps someone turn their body when putting legs in or out of the car
- Seatbelt extender: An attachment for the seatbelt that provides a long handle to make it easier to reach when buckling the seatbelt

Occupational therapy can assist older drivers and their families as they navigate safe driving and the aging process. As we age, we often experience changes to our physical, sensory, emotional and cognitive health. Occupational therapy practitioners can help older drives and their families through participation in CarFit events, identifying methods or equipment to maintain mobility and driving independence, and even planning alternative modes of transportation. Please reach out to your local healthcare provider or visit www.aota.org for more information.

Mackenzie Feldhacker, OTD, OTR/L, CLT-LANA, is an associate professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy at the University of South Dakota. Dr. Feldhacker is a licensed occupational therapist in Iowa and South Dakota and a certified CarFit Event Coordinator, responsible for training CarFit Technicians, leading CarFit events and collaborating with community partners. Allison Naber, Ph.D., OTD, OTR/L, is the academic fieldwork coordinator and an associate professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy at the University of South Dakota. Dr. Naber is a licensed occupational therapist in Minnesota and South Dakota and a certified CarFit Technician and helps to coordinate and run CarFit events. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok to stay connected. Our programming includes the medical Q&A show On Call with the Prairie Doc® (most Thursdays at 7pm on SDPB, YouTube, and Facebook), along with two podcasts and a weekly radio program (Sundays at 6am and 1pm on SDPB).



Putney Strikers win 2026 state mixed bowling championship

The Putney Strikers captured the team championship at the 2026 South Dakota State USBC Mixed Championship held this spring.

The team of Austin Schuelke, Deb Schuelke, Suzie Easthouse and John Sippel finished at the top of the final standings with a combined score of 2,880. The team competed through the Aberdeen Area USBC.

Pictured are Austin and Deb Schuelke, Suzie Easthouse and John Sippel. (Courtesy Photo)



Firstly, a heartfelt thank you to our incredible veterans! It was an honor to honor all of you! To everyone who contributed by bringing something to display or drive through our parade, we truly appreciate your efforts!

We extend our gratitude to the area schools that attended the show on Friday. It's always a delight to witness children who have never experienced things done “the old-fashioned way.”

A special thank you to all our food vendors for feeding the crowds. A big shoutout to Mike and Kristi Stiklestad and their crew for taking on the responsibility of breakfast and lunch in the Feed Bin during the weekend.

On Saturday, we had the pleasure of welcoming the tractor pullers along with the kids pull on Saturday and Sunday, organized by Russell and Monica Larson. Such a great activity!

The Aberdeen Quilters put on a fantastic quilt show, and Joy Braun hosted a wonderful quilt trunk show on Saturday. Additionally, the Ladies of Steam provided an engaging talk and display.

We also want to express our gratitude to the Johnson family for setting up the new bleachers on a quick turn around. To Day County Ambulance for their invaluable assistance throughout the weekend, ensuring that any emergencies were promptly addressed.

Our deepest gratitude to Greg Johnson and his construction crew for their exceptional work in repairing the storm damage to our property. Additionally, we would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Stark Portable Toilets from Britton, SD for their services.

We'd like to acknowledge the talents of those who participated in various demonstrations, including the blacksmiths, the saw mill crew, small engine demonstrations, spinners and weavers, threshing, and plowing. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

A special thank you to Pastor Howie Krinke for delivering a wonderful church service and baptism Sunday morning.

Second to last, we want to express our deepest gratitude to all our members and volunteers. Their hard work and dedication have been instrumental in making our show a success, from the months and weeks leading up to the event to the days and weeks after. Their contributions have been invaluable, ranging from mowing and trimming the grounds to building maintenance, advertising, inventory management, cleaning, and organizing work day lunches. From emptying buildings, moving equipment, taking care of the garbage throughout the weekend, reservations for golf carts, managing the gates, along with the building workers who have been working tirelessly to keep everything in order. It's truly a testament to the power of teamwork that we can achieve such a smooth operation, and we can't thank everyone enough for their time and energy.

Lastly, we want to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who came to our show, whether they traveled near or far. We're incredibly lucky and humbled to have met so many people from all walks of life, and we truly appreciate each and every one of you.

See everyone in 2027!



mately take a 39-22 win.

All eyes were on Vikings quarterback Kyler Murray as he made his first start in purple and gold. It did not go well. His first pass attempt was an ugly interception off his back foot. On the third drive, he took a nasty hit and was evaluated for a concussion. I'm not ready to write him off yet, but overall, it was a bad start for a player hoping to res-urrect his career.

Murray wasn't the only player who had a rough start. The entire Vikings team looked sluggish. The Vikings' offense didn't find the end zone until after the two-minute warning in the first half, while the de-fense gave up three scores and seemed incapable of applying pressure to Packers QB Jordan Love. The Vikings seemed lucky to only be down two scores heading into halftime.

A three-and-out by the offense to start the second half, then allow-ing the Packers to go on a 12-play, 79-yard drive, had most Vikings fans ready to turn off the TV and call the season a bust. Nothing was going well, and the Vikings were praying to the gods for something, anything, to turn the tide.

And the gods delivered.

An electrifying kick return by Myles Price ignited the team. The of-fense finally woke up, scoring touchdowns on four straight drives. The defense started getting pressure on Love, forcing four straight turn-overs (two turnovers on downs, a fumble recovery, and an intercep-tion). Suddenly the Vikings went from barely hanging on to absolute domination, snatching victory from the jaws of defeat.

Skol-Worthy Performances

There were many players who helped the Vikings earn a week 1 win.

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Carson Wentz deserves a ton of credit, coming in for the injured Kyler Murray and throwing three touchdowns. Myles Price had the huge kick return that sparked the team. But there were two players who really stood out and deserve recognition: Justin Jefferson and Dallas Turner.

Justin Jefferson only had two touchdown catches in 17 games last season. The superstar wide receiver could have voiced his displeasure or been a distraction, but he was a consummate professional through and through. Which is why he deserves recognition for his play on Sunday. He caught eight passes for 92 yards and two touchdowns, reminding the world once again why he's the best in the business.

Dallas Turner entered the game with a ton of pressure on his shoulders. A first-round pick in 2024, Turner had shown glimpses of his potential over the past two seasons, but that was in a three-man rotation with Jonathan Greenard and Andrew Van Ginkel. Now, with Greenard gone, Turner was thrust into a full-time starting role. And he did not disappoint. His one sack was nice, but his seven(!) QB hits were evidence of his domination. He was constantly around Love all game, single-handedly wrecking the Green Bay offense. If he can keep up this level of play, the Vikings just might have another name to add to their extensive list of fantastic former pass rushers.

Looking ahead, the Vikings travel to Chicago for a matchup against the Bears, who just put up 59 points in their week 1 game against the Carolina Panthers. The Vikings will have to start fast in this one if they want to start the season 2-0.

Skol

Groton Chamber of Commerce

September 2, 2026
12pm City Hall

- Members present: Carol Kutter, Katelyn Nehlich, Mayor Scott Hanlon (briefly), Ashley Bentz, April Abeln, and Brian Dolan
- Area IV Senior Nutrition was welcomed at the Community Center. Photos were taken at the City Park with the newly installed seesaw.
- The minutes from the previous meeting were approved by Kutter and seconded by Dolan. All members present voted aye.
- The treasurer's report was given. Dacotah Bank checking account balance is \$19,443.41 in addition to the \$10,154.59 CD that expires October 14th. The bucks account balance is \$3,349.80. The report was approved by Kutter and seconded by Abeln along with the renewal of our CD for 8 months at approximately 3.6%. All members present voted aye.
- A thank you was received from Wage Memorial Library for the Storybook Land Theatre performance donation.
- Abeln made an email motion, and Heinrich seconded the motion to sponsor GDI Live for \$1,000. Sponsorship will include being listed in the home programs and a 30 second livestream ad. Members present via email voted aye.
- Seesaw is here and installed!
- Abeln will ask about popcorn sponsorship at an upcoming athletic event.
- Motion by Nehlich and seconded by Kutter to advertise on the Groton Community Transit van for 12 months. All members present voted aye.
- Event donations were discussed.
- Abeln will reach out to Kira at the Red Horse for a business welcome.
- Dues notices will be written and mailed next meeting. 1 spot on the Hwy 12 sign will be given away to members.
- Motion by Abeln and seconded Kutter to ask the GHS Art classes to design our 2027 window cling. Winner will receive \$50 Chamber Bucks. All members present voted aye.
- Motion by Kutter and seconded by Dolan to gift GHS scholarships to three 2026-2027 seniors. All members present voted aye.
- Businesses are reminded to send their decorated storefront photos to city.april@nvc.net. The most Facebook likes wins \$50 in Chamber Bucks! Winner announced September 21.
- Next Meeting: October 7th at 12pm at City Hall

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