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The Groton Independent

Vol. 144 No. 02 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2026 ♦ Established in 1889



T.J. Johnson Press Suite dedicated

Friday night at Doney Field was about more than football.

At halftime of the Groton Area and Elk Point-Jefferson football game, the community formally dedicated the Dr. T.J. Johnson Press Suite, honoring a former Groton Tiger whose life and connection to his hometown left a lasting impression on family, friends and the community.

A letter from the Johnson family was read during the dedication:

"Tonight I'll read a letter written by the TJ Johnson family. Thank you to everyone for being here tonight at the Groton Area High School football game as we dedicate the press suite and sign in Dr. TJ Johnson's honor. TJ's roots run deep in Groton. He was a proud member of the Groton Area High school class of 2001 and a true multi sport athlete participating in football, basketball, track and baseball. He held the school record in the 200 meter dash for many years, but football was his true it was on this very field that he made so many memories, built lifelong friendships and developed the character that would guide him through life. After graduation from Groton, TJ went on to play football for Northern State University where he eventually became a team captain for the Wolves. Even as life took him beyond Groton, he always knew he wanted to return to raise his family here. He loved his community and as an avid hunter and fisherman, he often said there was no better place to enjoy these passions than Golden Area. TJ would be truly humbled by this honor and is surely smiling down on us tonight. On behalf of Dr. T.J. Johnson's family, his wife Samantha, his two sons Titan and Gage, his parents Jay and Linda, his brother and sister in law JR and Paula, and their two boys Ryder and Asher, we want to sincerely thank everyone who made this dedication, press box and sign possible. It is such a great honor. Once a Tiger, always a tiger. Go Tigers."

Groton statistician Tom Woods also reflected on Johnson and what the new facility represents to the community.

Woods said the former press box had served its purpose for many years, but the new facility has transformed the appearance of Doney Field.

"This is just so beautiful," Woods said. "With the GT, Home of the Tigers, bright — I drove by early in the morning, late at night, and it shines so bright. And then Dr. T.J. Johnson Press Suite on Doney Field."

For Woods, the names associated with the facility connect different generations of Groton football history.

Doney Field honors Perry W. Doney, whose teams helped establish Groton's early football success. Woods said Doney coached in Groton for five years, won approximately 75 percent of his games and guided the Tigers to back-to-back Northeast Conference championships.

Now Johnson's name has been permanently added to the facility.

Johnson graduated from Groton Area High School in 2001 and went on to play football at Northern State University. Woods said he has kept mementos from Johnson's playing career, including a signed jersey and helmet, and has always enjoyed telling his story.

Woods also credited Trey Fliehs, one of Johnson's close friends, with helping turn the idea for the press suite into reality.

"Trey Fliehs, everything happened because of him," Woods said. "They were best friends. They were wonderful friends. He talked to people, and this entire press box is all built on donations, all built in the memory of T.J. Johnson."

Woods spent part of the day before the dedication looking back through Johnson's high school football statistics.

During his senior season, Johnson recorded 54 tackles. Offensively, he carried the ball 50 times for 237 yards and caught 36 passes for 399 yards. He scored six touchdowns, returned 12 kickoffs for 177 yards and had 10 punt returns for another 149 yards.

But Woods said Johnson's impact could never adequately be mea-



The T.J. Johnson family gathered at midfield during the dedication of the T.J. Johnson Press Suite held at halftime of the football game. (Photo by Tina Kosel)

sured by numbers.

"There's a song that I just really love," Woods said. "It talks about, 'I found out the measure of a man is not how tall we stand or how wealthy or intelligent we are.'"

For Woods, Johnson's measure was found in the way he treated his family, friends, patients and community.

Continues on Page 3

Morehouse is Farm Family of the Year

Aberdeen, SD — September 21, 2026: The Ag Committee of the Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce announced the 2026 Farm Family of the Year Award recipient at the Field to Fork event held on Thursday, September 17th at the Brown County Fairgrounds Clubhouse. The award honors a farm family who represents farming & ranching and the spirit of agriculture in northeastern South Dakota. To be eligible for the award, recipients must be actively engaged in farming or ranching, with the majority of income derived from production agriculture. 2026 nominees were: David and Dick Siefkes and Brad and Diann Morehouse.

The award recipient was Brad & Diann Morehouse. The Morehouse Farm began in 1952 by Ivan and Carolyn Morehouse. It began as a very diversified operation including dairy cattle, sheep, guineas and crops. In 1981 Brad and Diann took over the farm shortly with their kids: Justin, Brent, Jesse and Desiree. Dairy continued to be the main stay while they raised their kids, and Brad learned the art of butchering right out of High School. He butchered beef, pigs, deer and antelope for friends and family. That is when the MeatHouse was born.

In December of 2005, a lot of changes started to take place around the farm. The Holsteins got replaced with beef cows and they built the first feedlot. On top of that they started a trucking business. Fast forward several years to current time. The current operation has expanded greatly. Including thousands of acres of cropland, three small feedlots, a butcher shop and a saddle and tack store. All of Brad and Diann's kids are married and active in the cattle side of the operation as well as other areas.



Brad and Diane Morehouse accept the award from Gail Linde, Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce CEO.

Tigers faced a tough week

Groton Area teams had a busy week of fall sports action, highlighted by competitive performances in football, soccer, cross country and volleyball.

Football

The Tiger football team faced one of its toughest challenges of the season Friday night as top-ranked and undefeated Elk Point-Jefferson came to Doney Field and left with a 42-8 victory.

Groton showed the ability to move the football, finishing with 13 first downs and 232 yards of offense, but turnovers and Elk Point-Jefferson's powerful running attack helped the Huskies build a 28-0 halftime advantage.

Groton Area coach Jordan Carson said his young team continued to compete despite the deficit.

"Our guys never gave up, never quit one time," Carson said. "We talk about that a lot when we've got a young group like this, that it's important that you play every single play."

The Tigers finally broke through late in the fourth quarter when Ryder Schelle scored on a six-yard run. Asher Johnson then completed a pass to Schelle for the two-point conversion.

Johnson finished 13-of-28 passing for 201 yards. Anthony Tracy caught eight passes for 130 yards, while Jordan Schwan had three receptions for 54 yards. Schelle led the rushing attack with 25 yards.

Defensively, Johnson recorded eight tackles, while Gunner Hardy and Tracy each had seven. Hunter Aden recovered a fumble.

Elk Point-Jefferson rushed for 376 yards and six touchdowns. Brody Van Roekel rushed for 97 yards and two scores, while Aiden Hammitt had 74 yards and two touchdowns.

The Huskies improved to 4-0, while Groton Area fell to 2-3. The Tigers have a bye before traveling to Deuel Oct. 2.

Soccer

On the soccer field, Ethan Kroll played a role in all four Groton Area goals as the Tiger boys battled Freeman/Marion/Parker/Viborg-Hurley to a 4-4 tie Saturday in Groton.

Kroll scored twice on penalty kicks in the first half as Groton took a 2-1 lead into halftime. The Bobcats scored twice early in the second half to go ahead 3-2, but Kroll completed his hat trick with 22:58 remaining when he worked his way around the goalkeeper and knocked the ball into the open net.

Freeman/Marion/Parker/Viborg-Hurley regained the lead at 4-3 before Kroll helped create the equalizer. He sent the ball toward Ryder Schwan, who headed it into the net with 17:18 remaining. Neither team scored again.

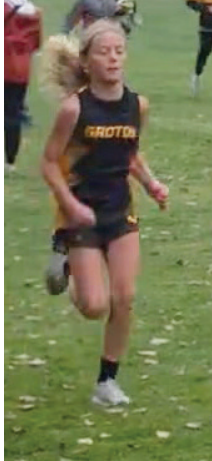
Cross Country



Haley Erickson
(Courtesy Photo)



Hazel Hill
(Courtesy Photo)



Railey Mulder
(Courtesy Photo)

Groton Area's cross country runners competed Monday at the Deuel Invitational in Clear Lake, where several Tigers recorded personal- or season-best performances.

Riley Shellenberger led the Groton boys, placing 13th in the varsity 5,000-meter race with a personal-best time

of 18 minutes, 41.8 seconds. Grayden "Grady" Zeck finished 50th with a season-best 21:54.6, while Tate Johnson placed 55th in 22:11.9.

Ryelle Gilbert led the Tiger girls with an 11th-place finish in a season-best 21:35.7. Ashlynn Warrington was 20th with a season-best 23:01.3.

Hazel Hill led Groton in the girls middle school race, placing fourth with a personal-best 12:48.5. Anna Oswald, Haley Erickson and Railey Mulder also recorded personal-best times as Groton finished fourth in the team standings.

Volleyball



Abby Fjeldheim
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

"This is the schedule that we wanted and what we wanted to see, and we'll bounce back," Hanson said. "Every loss, we can take value and learn from it."

The Tiger junior varsity and C teams both earned victories over Clark/Willow Lake.

The JV won 25-22, 25-22, with Tori Schuster closing the first set with three straight ace serves. Kinley Sandness, Brooklyn Spanier and Neely Althoff each had four kills.

Groton won the C match 25-15, 25-11. Maycee Moody had five kills and three ace serves, while Charli Jacobsen recorded five kills and two aces.



Taryn Traphagen goes high in the air for the kill attempt. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

rhythm.

"When you miss that many serves, it's so hard to get into any type of rhythm at all," Hanson said. "I thought they served more aggressively, which led us to pass poorly, or we weren't putting the sets where we needed them."

Warner also won the JV match 25-11, 27-25 and took the C match 25-18, 25-9.

Abby Fjeldheim led Groton's JV with five kills, while Makenna Krause had three kills and four ace serves. Maycee Moody led the C team with four kills.

Hanson said the difficult early-season schedule should benefit the Tigers as they move into the second half of the year.

"We knew what the first half of our season was going to look like, and the second half of our season, there are still opportunities for us to have a lot of good things happen," she said. "We have to go out and prove that we've been playing good teams and that we belong in the conversation."

On the volleyball court, Groton Area faced two of the stronger teams on its schedule during the week.

Fourth-ranked and undefeated Clark/Willow Lake swept the Tigers 25-21, 25-16 and 25-11.

Groton gave the Cyclones a battle in the opening set and held a 21-18 advantage before Clark/Willow Lake scored the final seven points. The Cyclones then controlled the final two sets.

Taryn Traphagen led Groton with seven kills and three blocks. Tevan Hanson had four kills, two ace serves and 15 digs, while Kella Tracy added four kills. Sydney Locke recorded 28 digs and McKenna Tietz had 10.

Groton coach Chelsea Hanson said playing teams such as Clark/Willow Lake is part of preparing the Tigers for the remainder of the season.

The Tigers returned home Tuesday to face another highly regarded opponent, Warner, and the Monarchs swept all three matches.

Warner won the varsity contest 25-19, 25-16 and 25-15 to improve to 15-1, while Groton Area fell to 6-8.

The opening set was tied eight times before Warner broke away from a 15-15 tie with five straight points.

Traphagen led Groton with eight kills, one solo block and two assisted blocks. Tevan Hanson added four kills and 10 digs, while Chesney Weber had three kills, 13 assists and six digs. Locke recorded 13 digs.

Coach Chelsea Hanson said the Tigers had difficulty establishing a



Groton JV Golf Team took part in the **Groton JH/JV Golf Tournament** held Monday at the Olive Grove Golf Course. **8th graders L-R Graham Rose, Bentley Ehresmann, Easton Larson, and Rylan Blackwood** **6th graders L-R Jack Schuelke, and Hayden Hubbart.** (Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)



Groton Team medalist L-R Graham Rose, Bentley Ehresmann, Easton Larson, and Rylan Blackwood . (Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)

Conde National League Bowling

Sept. 14 Team Standings: Braves 3, Stooges 2, Mets 2, Pirates 2, Cubs 2, Giants 1
Men’s High Games: Butch Farmen 198, Caleb Furney 165, Porter Johnson 162
Men’s High Series: Butch Farmen 506, Porter Johnson 460, Skip Kettering 425
Women’s High Games: Suzie Easthouse 173, Michelle Johnson 173, Sandy Hoops 169
Women’s High Series: Suzie Easthouse 481, Michelle Johnson 444, Joyce Walter 432

Sept. 21 Team Standings: Stooges 5, Pirates 5, Cubs 5, Braves 4, Mets 3, Giants 2
Men’s High Games: Chad Johnson 223, Austin Schuelke 214, Porter Johnson 161
Men’s High Series: Austin Schuelke 533, Chad Johnson 517, Porter Johnson 432
Women’s High Games: Suzie Easthouse 171, Michelle Johnson 163, Joyce Walter 157
Women’s High Series: Joyce Walter 426, Michelle Johnson 414, Suzie Easthouse 398

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Rapid City, SD	Oct. 1, 4-7pm; Oct. 2, 10-6pm; Oct. 3, 9-2pm SALON C. Hilton Rapid City Downtown Conv. Ctr, 505 N 5th St.
Dakota Dunes, SD	Oct. 16, 2-6pm I Country Inn & Suites, Lobby, 151 Tower Rd.
Aberdeen, SD	Oct. 29 & 30, 11-5pm Lilys Floral Design & Gifts, 423 S Main St.
Fargo, ND	Nov. 24, 12-6pm Lauries Boutique, 3265 45th St. South
Bismarck, ND	Nov. 25, 12-5:30pm Estate Gallery, 4521 Ottawa St.

Weekly SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Press Suite Dedication

Continued from front

“T.J. Johnson loved his family,” Woods said. “He loved the clients that he worked with as a chiropractor. He loved his patients.”

Johnson was 38 when he died, leaving behind his wife, Samantha, and sons Titan and Gage, along with his parents, Jay and Linda Johnson, brother and sister-in-law J.R. and Paula Johnson, nephews Ryder and Asher and a large circle of family and friends.

“I’m thankful for the 38 years, two months and a couple of days that T.J. lived his life,” Woods said, “because nothing was more important to him than family and friends and his community and the people that he served as a chiropractor and in the community.”

Woods said Johnson quietly supported causes and people in ways that many community members may never know.

“He gave so much for various causes that nobody will ever know,” Woods said.

The dedication also carried a special connection onto the football field Friday night. Johnson’s nephew, Asher Johnson, was among the Tigers playing beneath the new press suite bearing his uncle’s name. Woods noted at halftime that Asher was Groton’s leading tackler at that point in the game.

Woods said he believes Johnson himself would have shied away from all the attention.

“T.J. would not want to make this about himself,” Woods said.

Instead, the Dr. T.J. Johnson Press Suite now stands as both a working part of Doney Field and a permanent reminder of a Groton Tiger whose life extended far beyond the statistics he accumulated on the football field.

“In all the brokenness in this world, folks, we’ve got to focus on the things that bring us goodness and joy,” Woods said. “I’m thankful to live in a community that loves each other. Do we have brokenness? Do we have things when we argue and when we fight? Absolutely. That’s the human condition. But life is going to be better if we pull together.”

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
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SEPTEMBER 8, 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 Dinger, Gage, Sutton and Wiese. Commissioner Dennert was absent. Commissioner Gage 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: Tom Leidholt met with the Commission wondering if Title 8 – Animal Control includes Livestock or if it is strictly for pets because he was fined by the Brown County State’s Attorney under 8.001 because his cattle got out. Scott Bader, Planning & Zoning Director, will check into this.

BID OPENING – ERICKSON APPROACH: Time and place, as advertised to open, read and consider the bids for Erickson Approach for the Brown County Highway Department. Bids received were as follows: Level Contracting, LLC from Lake Norden, SD for \$168,921.42; BX Civil Construction from Dell Rapids, SD for \$197,734.29; Basin Construction from Hayti, SD for \$162,079.89. Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent, recommended accepting the bid from Basin Construction. Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to accept the bid from Basin Construction in the amount of \$162,079.89. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

BID OPENING – REPLACEMENT OF BR 350: Time and place, as advertised to open, read and consider the bids for Abutment Replacement of Bridge 350 for Brown County Highway Department. Bids were received from the following: Prahm Construction from Slayton, MN for \$258,101.50; General Excavating from Lincoln, NE for \$371,188.23 and Industrial Builders from Fargo, ND for \$243,692.00. Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent

asked to defer the decision to review the bids. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to defer the decision so Mike Gutankauf with IMEG could review the bids and check the numbers. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

DISCUSS WOMEN’S BUILDING AT THE FAIRGROUNDS: David Ochs and Dennis Jones met the Commission to further discuss the Women’s Building at the Fairgrounds. David Ochs just had one question; he wanted to know who did the asbestos inspection and what company they were with. Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent, shared that it was Jim Hehn out of Huron but couldn’t remember the company name but he was off the list provided by the State and it would be done on Friday.

Dennis Jones informed the Commission that he has heard from 4-H Families that the new 4-H Building should be on the west side of the Fairgrounds so after washing their animals and need to shower or clean up this building would be closer. Dennis also commented that the Government should not be competing with private enterprise and a line needs to be drawn in the sand; with hosting weddings and receptions the County is competing against churches and other convention centers in town. He feels the Women’s Building needs to be preserved, it has history and needs to make history, so he asked the Commission to make an agreement to keep this building and build the new one elsewhere. David Ochs added that the Sertoma Club and City of Aberdeen want to move it to Wylie.

Chairman Sutton shared that the Commission plans to move forward and declare this building surplus today, a new 4-H Building is necessary, and they determined the location needs to be where the Women’s Building is. Rachel Kippley shared that there were a couple of city representatives checking out the building. Commissioner Wiese added that the building is not on the historical registry list, there is limited space at the Fairgrounds, and it has no historical significance. He asked Dennis to provide him with a list of names of those that want to preserve it. Wiese stated that the building wouldn’t survive a move. Chairman Sutton also added that the 4-H Leader’s Association has agreed to donate \$100,000.00 to the new building and nothing was spoken of then about a different location. The County is aware of the requirements by DANR and that the County has looked into the historical aspect as well and the building is not eligible for the Historical Registry because it has been modified and they had a structural fire. Dennis Jones replied that the County is not doing their due diligence and will seek to file for an injunction. Dave Ochs then asked what the timeframe would be, Chairman Sutton replied by the end of October is his estimate but will depend on the Highway Departments schedule.

DECLARE WOMEN’S/HOME ARTS/COMPETITIVE EXHIBIT BUILDING SURPLUS: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Gage to determine the Women’s/Home Arts/Competitive Exhibit Building Surplus. Chairman Sutton explained first step is to declare the building surplus so we can continue to move forward with our plans. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

AWARD BID FOR BR 350: Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent recommended awarding the for the Abutment Replacement of Bridge 350 to Industrial Builders for \$243,692.00. They are comfortable with this for 2 reasons: there was no supply procurement and the time of the year. Commissioner Wiese asked if this will be completed by end of year and Dirk said yes. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to accept the bid from Industrial Builders at the cost of \$243,692.00 for the abutment replacement of Bridge 350. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

RICHMOND DAM UPDATE: Chairman Sutton shared the following update he received from Scott Meints, Emergency Management Director. SFC is done driving sheet piling on the upstream cofferdam, there has been 527’ of sheet piling driven in the upstream cofferdam. SFC will be driving a secondary row of sheet pilings to assist in the construction of the North approach wall. This work will begin in two- three weeks. SFC will construct the test step chute

pour. This is done to ensure the actual construction of the spillway goes smoothly, and everyone involved knows what is expected of them. Foothills Contracting is in the process of building a downstream coffer dam and will start de-watering the stilling basin area. Foothills Contracting will be removing the remainder of the spillway after the seepage cutoff wall has been completed and obtains strength. Bauer Foundations continues working on the seepage cutoff wall. Bauer is anticipating having that work completed around 09/12/26. Bauer continues to work 24/6. This work schedule will remain until the seepage cutoff wall is complete. The Journey Group, their environmental consultant, and SD DANR have been continuously monitoring the area of the tanker fire/diesel spill. Soil samples are still being taken. Any contaminants still found will be removed and hauled to an approved site for disposal.

2027 BUDGET HEARING: Time and place, as advertised for public hearing on the 2027 Provisional Budget was held. Patricia Kendall, Museum Director met with the Commission to request moving a Part-time employee to Full-time, which would be an addition of \$43,000.00. No decision was made at this time. Final Budget 2027 Approval will be held on Tuesday, September 29th.

2028 SIGNING & DELINEATION PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH S.D. D.O.T.: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the 2028 Signing & Delineation Project Agreement with S.D. D.O.T. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

DRAWDOWN REQUEST #1 FOR SW MANAGEMENT PROGRAM GRANT FOR CELL #5: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Drawdown Request #1 for the SW Management Program Grant for Cell #5. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LEASE AGREEMENT FOR ELM LAKE SW CONTAINER SITE: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the lease agreement for the Elm Lake SW Container Site with Hart Angus Farms. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

AGREEMENTS WITH DAKOTA COUNSELING GROUP: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dinger to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the agreements with Dakota Group Counseling for conducting QMHP’s and working with the Mental Illness Board. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

REAL ESTATE PURCHASE AGREEMENT (105 1st Ave SW, Aberdeen): Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the purchase agreement for purchasing the building at 105 1st Ave. SW for \$1.8 Million for future use of a Jail. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

POST-CLOSING OCCUPANCY AGREEMENT (105 1st Ave SW, Aberdeen): Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Post-Closing Occupancy Agreement for the building at 105 1st Ave. SW. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

REAL ESTATE LEASE (115 1st Ave SW, Aberdeen): Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the lease agreement with ZuntaFi Corp. for \$9,000.00/month for 5-years with option to extend for another 5-year renewal with increases annually at 3%. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Chairman Sutton shared that they are expanding the Brown County Jail and ZuntaFi approached the County about purchasing their building and then leasing them the other building we already had purchased. With the 10-year lease agreement it will pay for the building.

MINUTES: Commissioner Dinger asked to hold off on approving the minutes until after Executive Session.

CLAIMS: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Claims/Payroll. Claims: Professional Fees: Best Western Ramkota Hotel-Aberdeen \$14,629.43; CenturyLink-Lumen \$276.14; Fox Law Firm, PLLC \$192.00; IMEG Corp \$23,000.00; Lammers, Kleibacker, Dawson

& Miller, LLP \$1,720.20; Mark Katterhagen \$20.00; Minnehaha County Auditor \$409.41; Network Center, Inc \$3,844.90; Sanford Health Occupational Medicine \$1,604.00; Schneider Geospatial, LLC \$3,237.60; Taliaferro Law Firm, PC \$152.50; Valerie Larson \$20.00. Publishing: Hub City Radio \$350.00; McQuillen Creative Group, Inc \$986.43. Rentals: Linde Gas & Equipment Inc \$66.11. Repairs & Maintenance: Ace Refrigeration, LLC \$137.70; Big Scoop Snow Removal \$120.00; Butler Machinery Company \$6,261.02; Crawford Trucks & Equipment \$2,139.00; Dakota Fluid Power, Inc \$1,144.76; Diesel Machinery, Inc \$2,883.43; EcoLab Pest Elimination Division \$100.00; Graham Tire Inc \$33.60; Hoven Auto Repair, Inc \$1,314.96; Know Ink, LLC \$4,500.00; Leidholt Electric, LLC \$36.71; Olson’s Pest Technicians \$260.00; Prahm Construction, Inc \$412,400.73; RDO Equipment Co \$2,591.52; Safety Service, Inc \$261.55; Titan Machinery \$421.02; Transsource Truck & Equipment, Inc \$3,079.55; Valvoline Inc. \$98.98; Wright & Sudlow \$11,960.00. Supplies & Materials: Agtegra Cooperative \$67,922.13; Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$419.84; Auto Value Aberdeen \$1,292.91; Avera LTC Pharmacy Aberdeen \$93.66; Butler Machinery Company \$6,544.36; Cartney Bearing \$296.44; Central Network Retail Group LLC \$226.42; Century Business Products \$346.21; Children’s Miracle Network \$1,900.00; Cole Paper Inc \$937.36; Crawford Trucks & Equipment \$1,213.00; Dakota Fluid Power, Inc \$362.07; DETCO \$1,686.50; East Side Jersey Dairy Inc \$1,677.87; Fastenal Company \$634.83; Fox Law Firm, PLLC \$3.61; Full Circle Ag \$1,509.09; Graham Tire Inc \$1.14; Hoven Auto Repair, Inc \$112.00; Hub City Equipment \$225.62; Interstate Battery System of South Dakota \$98.72; Ken’s SuperFair Foods \$23.07; LabSource, Inc \$495.37; Lammers, Kleibacker, Dawson & Miller, LLP \$75.00; Leidholdt Tool Sales, LLC \$62.73; Lewis Family Drug LLC \$220.90; Lien Transportation Company \$16,608.60; Menards \$259.89; Midwest Pump & Tank \$56.00; Pantorium Cleaners Inc \$60.00; Premier Biotech Labs, Inc \$624.54; RDO Equipment Co \$1,778.70; Runnings \$457.67; Share Corporation \$559.20; Sprocket Ventures, LLC \$179.50; Transource Truck & Equipment, Inc \$1,747.38; Tri-State Water \$35.00; US Foods \$12,571.50; Valvoline Inc \$259.12. Travel & Conference: Austin Ball \$28.00; Becca Tullar \$397.00; Chris Anderson \$446.80; Lammers, Kleibacker, Dawson & Miller, LLP \$125.00; Neil Bittner \$19.00; Ron Keller \$151.00; Scott Kolb \$19.00. Utilities: AT&T Mobility \$44.73; CenturyLink \$296.42; City of Aberdeen Treasurer \$261.24; Leidholt Electric, LLC \$146.83; \$17,234.87; T-Mobile USA Inc \$613.00; Town of Frederick \$77.00. Other: Amusement Midway Providers Inc \$58,573.41. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

- o Resignation of Lee Isaak as Brown County Sheriff’s Office Records Technician, FT; effective August 24, 2026. Request to fill.
- o Temporary 2026 Brown County Election Workers September 18 - November 2, 2026 @ \$16.00/hr.
- o Delana Bertsch
- o Janis Erickson
- o Darlene Evans
- o Cheryl Finstad
- o Phyllis Gab
- o Deborah Kolbeck
- o Penny Rohrbach
- o Adding Auditor Volunteer Intern, Kyra Heupel, to the approved list for Work Comp purposes.

o Adding Chris & Sara Allen to the approved volunteers list for Work Comp purposes.

o Hiring of Nicholas Cochran as PT Brown County Jail Transport Driver and Court Security, starting wage \$27.52/hr.; effective September 14, 2026.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

AUDITOR’S REPORT OF ACCOUNTS FOR JULY 2026: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the Auditor’s Report of Accounts

for July 2026: Total Cash and Checks on Hand \$7,700.00; Total Checking Account Balances: \$18,445,640.10; Total Savings Account Balances: \$1,375,447.42; Total Certificates of Deposit: \$13,409,317.08; Grand Total Cash and Balances: \$33,238,104.60. General Fund \$19,130,309.91; Road & Bridge Fund \$2,983,517.19; 911 Service \$635,155.65; Emergency & Disaster \$151,236.37; Domestic Abuse \$1,404.03; SA Grants \$178,368.07; 24/7 Sobriety \$55,998.21; ROD M&P \$72,517.93; Opioid Settlement Fund \$60,565.18; Rural Access Infrastructure \$473,290.90; TIF Debt Service \$78,175.39; Landfill + cash change \$7,271,963.31; Landfill - restricted \$1,894,495.06; Trust and Agency Funds \$2,145,602.46; GRAND TOTAL GENERAL FUND CASH AND INVESTMENTS \$33,238,104.60. 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: DTOM 220 Foundation to lease Fairgrounds Expo Building Parking Lot on November 11, 2026; Rashel Newman & Craig Voight to lease the Clubhouse on June 25-28, 2027 for a wedding. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

TRAVEL REQUESTS: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to approve the following Travel Requests: Derek Hoefert from Sheriff’s Office to attend Proactive Patrol Tactics. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: Chairman Sutton shared there will be no Commission meeting on Tuesday, September 15th due to be attending the Statewide Fall County Convention.

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

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

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the General Meeting Minutes of September 1, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 11:17 A.M. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published September 23, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$161.96 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 27246



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.

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UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6
REGULAR MEETING
September 14, 2026

President Rix called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the GHS Library Conference Room. Members present: Fliehs, Harder, Lerseth-Fliehs, Rix, Strom, Weber, and Weismantel. Absent: None. Others present were Supt. J. Schwan, Principal Edwards, Principal B. Schwan, and Business Manager Neiber.

Motion by Weismantel, second by Strom, to approve the proposed agenda as amended by adding a Building, Grounds, and Transportation Committee Report as Item 3 under Old/Continuing Business. Motion carried.

Pursuant to SDCL 23-3, there was no potential conflict disclosure reported.

Motion by Fliehs, second by Weismantel to approve consent agenda items August 10, 2026, board minutes, August 18, 2026, special school board minutes, August 2026 financial reports, bills, lunch report, transportation report, lane change for Brooke Torrence from BS-15 to MS (+\$3,450), open enrollment applications #27-11, #27-12, #27-13, #27-14, and authorize business manager to pay district bills up to \$75,000 in advance, using the custodial advance payment account to be approved by the board for reimbursement at the following regular board meeting. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND: Net Salary \$250,282.19; Benefits \$72,211.57; Advance Auto Parts-Parts-277.29, Amazon Capital Services-School Supplies-526.43, ASBSD Worker's Compensation Fund-Workers Compensation-24,606.00, Boston Fern Homecoming Flowers-365.00, City Of Groton-Utility-16,287.13, Cole Papers, Inc.-Maint Supplies-1,592.50, Custodial Fund Advance Payment-22,786.40, Dependable Sanitation, Inc.-Garbage Service-1,577.00, Farm Tire Service-Tires-1,020.00, Geffdog Designs-BBB Plaques Awards/Staff Shirts-1,776.00, Good Shred-Shredding Service-43.50, Groton Chiropractic Clinic-DOT Physicals-250.00, Groton Dairy Queen-Gift Certificates-224.00, High Plains Virtual Academy-Virtual Ag Classes-4,500.00, Hillyard, Inc-Maintenance Supplies-1,770.98, House Of Glass, Inc.-Door Repairs-1,367.04, Hub City Roofing, Inc.-Roof Repair-170.00, Interstate All Battery Center-Battery-151.20, J.W. Pepper & Son Inc.-Music-534.41, Karlen Electric-FB Lights Repaired-233.08, Ken's Food Fair & Shell Express-Supplies-145.23, Lakeshore Learning Materials-JK Supply-66.68, Lang's Audio, Tv & Appliance-Maintenance Supplies-12.74, Locke, Darren-Background/CDL Reimb-133.00, Markley, Sam-Background Check-50.00, Mcleod's Printing & Office Supply-Election Supplies-268.99, Medco Supply Company-Med Supply-270.34, Menards-FB Field Painting-65.73, Mid-American Research Chemical-Maintenance Supplies-678.12, MJ's Sinclair Inc-Gas And Diesel-1,249.08, Nippon Sanso Matheson Inc-IA Supply-114.30, Northwestern Energy-Utility-741.19, Sanford Health-Athletic Training-332.50, SASD-Membership Dues-1,544.00, Scholastic Inc-Magazines-4,367.09, School Nurse Supply Inc-Nurse Supplies-848.11, School Specialty-HS Paper Room Supplies-820.40, SDASBO- Business Manager Resgistration-150.00, Sheyenne Transport Llc-Repair-1,099.67, Smith Autobody-Van Repairs-470.77, Sound Decisions-Sound System Repair-687.50, Taylor Music, Inc-Music/Mallets-186.00, Trevipay-Supplies-327.10, Warner School District-Consortium Fee-1,500.00 Fund Total: 96,186.50

CAPITAL OUTLAY: A & B Business Solutions-Managed Print Agreement-2,926.84, Amazon Capital Services-Band Supplies-620.93, Co Op Architecture-Master Planning-11,900.00, Custodial Fund Advance Payment-10,672.95, Decker Equipment-Bathroom Doors-731.42, Donley, Don-Project Work-2,520.00, Gopher

GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 06-6 FINANCIAL REPORTS							
	General Fund	Capital Outlay	Special Ed.	Food Service	OST	Driver's Ed	Custodial
August 1, 2026.....	\$2,604,846.42	\$1,712,800.52	\$625,486.91	\$50,935.81	\$71,456.87	\$19,457.66	\$208,381.44
RECEIPTS							
Local Sources	\$177,171.00	\$6,699.93	\$2,822.12	\$22,990.12	\$13,380.22		\$78,282.45
County Sources	\$3,983.57	\$444.08					
State Sources							
State Aid.....	\$49,979.00						
Wind Farm							
Mentor Teacher Program							
State Apportionment.....							
State Reimbursements.....							
Bank Franchise.....							
Federal Sources			\$1,008.07				
Sale of Assets.....							
Due from Govt/Others							
TOTAL MONTHLY RECEIPTS	\$231,133.57	\$7,144.01	\$3,830.19	\$22,990.12	\$13,380.22	\$0.00	\$78,282.45
FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$2,835,979.99	\$1,719,944.53	\$629,317.10	\$73,925.93	\$84,837.09	\$19,457.66	\$286,663.89
MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS.....	(\$229,451.29)	(\$224,530.04)	(\$17,013.71)	(\$7,248.88)	(\$11,563.31)	(\$2,516.21)	(\$58,304.02)
August 31. 2026.....	\$2,429,702.45	\$1,495,414.49	\$576,194.35	\$66,677.05	\$73,273.78	\$16,941.45	\$228,359.87

	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL EDUCATION	FOOD SERVICE	OST	DRIVER'S EDUCATION
Payroll					
Instruction	\$250,282.19	\$32,702.62	\$4,338.02	\$8,982.51	\$2,214.00
Employee Benefits	\$72,211.57	\$10,480.59	\$1,557.24	\$985.93	\$302.21
Total.....	\$322,493.76	\$43,183.21	\$5,895.26	\$9,968.44	\$2,516.21

Elem PE Supplies-2,267.54, House of Glass, Inc.-Door Repairs-2,356.96, IXL Learning-MS Math-750.00, Medco Supply Company-Health Science Lab-717.80, MRG Hauff-FB/Soccer Equipment-3,579.65, Savvas Learning Company-Curriculum HS Ela-58,315.00, School Nurse Supply Inc-Nurse Supplies/Equipment-7,776.70, School Specialty-Elem Chairs-1,628.04, Sound Decisions-Sound System Repair-1,369.94, Taylor Music, Inc-Music/Mallets-226.99, Trevipay-HS Equipment-509.78 Fund Total 106,870.54

SPECIAL EDUCATION: Net Salary \$32,702.62; Benefits \$10,480.59; Amazon Capital Services-Sped Supplies-33.64, ASBSD Worker's Compensation-Workers Compensation-4,492.00, Avera St. Luke's-OT/PT/Speech-9,821.12, NCS Pearson, Inc.-Sped Supplies-252.81, Schwab Audiology, Inc-Hearing Exam-535.00, Trevipay-Sped Supplies-39.16 Fund Total-15,173.73

FOOD SERVICE: Net Salary \$4,338.02; Benefits \$1,557.24; Amazon Capital Services-FS Supplies-48.73, ASBSD Worker's Compensation-Workers Compensation-1,800.00, East Side Jersey Dairy, Inc.-Milk-965.52, Hillyard, Inc-FS Supplies-591.80, Performance Foodservice-Food-8,566.85, US Foods-Food-7,073.87 Fund Total 19,046.77

ENTERPRISE: OST Net Salary \$8,982.51, Benefits \$985.93; Drivers ED Net Salary \$2,214.00, Benefits \$2,516.21; Amazon Capital Services-Ost Supplies-30.98, ASBSD Worker's Compensation-Workers Compensation-300.00, Custodial Fund Advance Payment-DE-162.96 Fund Total 493.94

Members of the public are allowed five minutes to address the board on any topic of their choice. With no public comments, the board continued with the agenda.

Program overview presentations were provided by the K-12 Special Education, Julie Erdmann, Megan Serr, Carrie Weisenburger, Reilly Ketterling, Sydney Kurtz, and Todd Peterson, and K-5 Title/RTI, Alexa Sperry and Lynette Grieve.

Building, Grounds, and Transportation Committee Report: The Committee present the Capital Outlay Summary and the Bond Option Summary. Board members discussed the information presented, including capital project needs, funding options, and potential bond considerations.

Motion by Weismantel, second by Lerseth-Fliehs to adopt the Resolution Calling for a Bond Election for a \$26,000,000 general obligation bond; to hold the bond election on November 3, 2026, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Groton Area High School; and to direct the Business Manager to administer the election. Harder, Lerseth-Fliehs, Strom, Weber, and Weismantel voted aye; Fliehs voted nay stating his support for pursuing a bond issue but expressing a preference for

The following items were discussed in administrative reports: J. Schwan: District-wide enrollment for Fall 2026 is currently 552 students, exceeding the spring projection of 544. The official fall enrollment count will be taken on September 25. The district recently completed its annual Protective Trust risk assessment and is awaiting a written report with any recommended corrective actions.

Annual personnel reporting is underway, with staff assignment and salary information due to

the Department of Education by October 15. Preparations have also begun for the Food Service Program Review, with initial documentation due by October 2. Administrative leadership will participate in upcoming SDSSA and SASD Executive board meetings focused on statewide education, legislative, and professional development issues, including the search for a new Executive Director. Additionally, the district will host an Emergency Action Plan meeting with coaches and local EMS Personnel to review and coordinate emergency response procedures for athletic venues.

B. Schwan gave the board an update on Elementary Enrollment. Homecoming Week activities were reviewed, including daily dress-up themes and plans for Tiger Takeover Friday. Families have been invited to attend the annual picnic lunch on Friday, with information sheets sent home to obtain an accurate meal count. Lunch and recess schedules have been adjusted to accommodate the event. Highlight of the new Student Leadership Team let by Heather Rowen and Alison Tvinnereim, which has taken responsibly for morning announcements, including daily meal information, birthdays, special announcements, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

S. Edwards noted technology issues. All students and staff now have their devices and can access the new science and social studies curriculum. However, they are experiencing problems with the NWEA MAPS assessment, which Mr. Helvig is currently addressing. Two Northern professors will be visiting at the end of the month to tour the Health Science lab, and Ms. Edwards hopes to create a future partnership that will enhance our students' hands-on learning.

M. Neiber stated that Cahill Bauer & Associates will be on-site October 7-9th.

Motion by Weismantel, second by Lerseth-Fliehs, to approve hiring Cole Anthony Holmes as a MS Language Arts/Social Studies Teacher, for the 2026-27 school year at \$47,860.00. Motion Carried.

Motion by Weber, second by Fliehs, to approve hiring Darren Locke as a Food Service Team Member at \$17.00/hr. Motion Carried.

Motion by Strom, second by Weber, to approve hiring Nikki Kotzer as the 2026-27 FFA Advisor at \$4,680.00. Motion carried.

Motion by Weismantel, second by Harder, to approve resignation of Jana Simunek, Food Service Team Member. Motion carried.

Motion by Fliehs, second by Weismantel, to adjourn at 7:32 pm. Motion carried.

The next regular school board meeting will be on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 7:00 a.m. in the GHS Library Conference Room.

Additional Note: The Board has scheduled three Bond Election Public Information Meetings for community members. Meetings will be held October 7, 2026, at 7 PM at the Columbia American Legion, October 13, 2026, at 7 PM Bristol Community Center, and October 21st 2026, at 7 PM at the Groton Area High School.

Madisyn Neiber, Business Manager Grant Rix, President

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

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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



2 - NOTICE to PUBLISH FOR VACATION OF ROADS

Notice is hereby given that a Petition requesting that (1) one right-of-way area be Vacated in the City of Stratford, Brown County, South Dakota, pursuant to SDCL: 31-3-6, as hereinafter specifically described has been received by the City Council of the City of Stratford; that the Petition may be examined by contacting the President Board of Trustees of the City of Stratford at this address; Vern Prickett @ 311 East Nelson Street, Stratford, SD 57474 (605)-395-7144 that the specific description of the property being requested to be Vacated is:

The partial alley right-of-way in Block 12, Original Plat of Stratford, Brown County, South Dakota commencing at the point of beginning being the northwest property corner of Lot 10, Block 12, thence north 16', thence east 225' to the southeast property corner of Lot 1, Block 12, thence south 16' to the northeast property corner of Lot 18, Block 12,

thence west 225' to the point of beginning.

That said public right-of-way being approximately 16 feet wide and 225 feet in length.

Therefore, notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Stratford will hold a public hearing to consider the vacation of the above described right of way; that such meeting will be held on Tuesday, the 13th day of October, 2026 at 6:30pm at the Stratford Community Hall. That any person interested in the proposed action may be present at said date and time and present their information, opinions, and/or arguments relative to the proposed action. Any person(s) unable to attend this meeting may deliver their written opinion for consideration by the City Council of the City of Stratford. Such testimony should be delivered prior to the date and time of the scheduled hearing by mailing or delivering the opinion to: Vern Prickett, President Board of Trustees of the City of Stratford, Brown County.

City of Stratford, Brown County, SD

By Vern Prickett
President Board of Trustees

Published once in the "Groton Independent" newspaper at the total cost of \$ 22.57 may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 27248

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Bath powders
6 Selected
11 Patronize, as a bistro
12 Cuts at an angle
14 Long-haired cat
15 Rise in defiance
16 Montmartre Mrs.
17 Wide
19 Big fuss
20 — ale
22 Rocker Nugent
23 Raced
24 Nosh at midnight
26 Bishop's district
28 Free (of)
30 Spanish gold
31 Pianist Arrau
35 Slowpoke
39 Fireplace shelves
40 Ump's call
42 Old U.S. gas brand
43 Balloon filler
44 Impetus
46 Weeding tool
47 Roma's land
49 Pub perches

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53 Lasso
54 Afternoon hour
6 Trucker's device
7 Obey
8 Eggs
9 Mexican shawl
10 Shakes off
11 Muffles
13 Fine china brand
18 British ref. work
21 Beige shades
23 Tea biscuit
25 Tease
27 Choice words?
29 Museum display
31 Desk go-with
32 Hang around
33 Rub the wrong way
34 Gigi's "yes"
36 On the beach
37 Tristan's love
38 Windblown soil
41 Sports bar fixture
44 Food regimen
45 Engrave
48 Meadow
50 Rowing need

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Constitution Day Reminder: How Checks and Balances Can Constrain the Executive

The historic effort of delegates to the Constitutional Convention to fence in executive power and subordinate the president to the rule of law, is worthy of celebration any day of the week, but certainly on this September 17—Constitution Day—as we applaud action by the U.S. Supreme Court and the House of Representatives to tether President Donald Trump to the moorings of the Constitution, particularly to those provisions that govern elections and warmaking.

Constraining the executive, a fundamental concern among the framers of the Constitution, has become, increasingly, a full-time job for the other two branches during Trump’s second term. Americans breathed a sigh of relief this week when the Supreme Court rejected the Trump Administration’s plan to restrict mail-in ballot delivery that would have severely disrupted the midterm elections, just 50 days away.

The Court left in place a lower-court ruling that blocked the U.S. Postal Service from implementing the new requirements, developed by the Trump Administration, due to the potential that millions of voters could be disenfranchised by not having their ballots delivered. Most of the Justices that formed the majority did not provide a rationale for their reasoning, since the case was heard on the Court’s emergency docket. The majority said simply that the administration’s position was unlikely to succeed and that the legal matters that brought the suit center stage did not favor lifting a lower court decision. Justice Brent Kavanaugh’s brief concurring opinion said that “state and local election officials do not have sufficient time to reasonably implement the rule before election.” Indeed, voting by mail has already begun in various states, including Alabama, North Carolina and Wisconsin, with others just days from starting, including Western states such as Hawaii, Oregon and Washington, in which elections are held primarily or fully with mail ballots.

Under Trump’s unconstitutional and meddlesome executive order, issued in May, states would have had to turn over lists of voters’ names

and addresses and have certain specific barcodes on ballot envelopes to have them delivered by the postal service. A federal district court ruling ruled earlier this month that Trump’s ballot requirements were likely illegal because the Postal Service has no authority to control mail-in voting. Of course, the president is given no constitutional role whatever in conducting or supervising elections. Rather the Constitution assigns to the states, in Article 1, section 4, principal authority to govern the time, place and manner of elections, while Congress is granted power to alter the regulations, except for places.

The Supreme Court’s rejection of Trump’s attempt to usurp authority over elections, offensive to states, advocates of states’ rights and powers, and the grant to Congress of sole and exclusive authority to alter some state regulations, was a welcome break from its pattern of supporting Trump’s positions in lawsuits. In many ways, the Trump Administration’s brazen power grab, like its earlier effort, also rejected by the Court, to rewrite the 14th Amendment to subvert Birthright Citizenship, was too much, even for this compliant Court.

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives, aided by seven Republicans who joined Democrats, to support a largely symbolic measure to halt the Iran War, in what constituted the latest bipartisan effort to stop Trump’s usurpation of the war power, signaled a welcome use by conscientious members of the House to defend the congressional power over war and peace. Even though the White House will ignore the measure, it is of the utmost importance for Congress to demonstrate its willingness to defend the constitutional enumeration of powers, approved and ratified by the citizenry. A statement of legislative defiance in the face of executive violation of the Constitution, particularly on a matter of such grave importance as Trump’s initiation of a war of choice, which is enormously unpopular and which has cost Americans dearly, in lives lost and injuries sustained, the skyrocketing cost of groceries, the obscene price of gasoline and rising inflation, spiked by the hostilities in Iran, states to the public that there are many compelling reasons to support constitutional governance. The price of ignoring constitutional provisions is a harsh reality. We feel it every day.

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



Dear EarthTalk: Is it true that Trump is working actively to cut back clean air protections that have been in place since the 1970s?
-- H.L., via e-mail

Yes, Trump is moving fast to unwind federal air-pollution and climate safeguards, with many changes to take effect before Trump leaves office in January 2029. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), led by Administrator Lee Zeldin, says the effort will cut regulatory costs and expand consumer and industry choice; health and environmental groups say it will mean dirtier air and more disease.

The biggest step came in February 2026, when EPA rescinded the 2009 Endangerment Finding—the scientific and legal determination underpinning federal regulation of greenhouse-gas emissions from vehicles—and simultaneously repealed greenhouse-gas standards for light-, medium- and heavy-duty vehicles. Zeldin called it “the single largest deregulatory action in U.S. history,” saying EPA expects more than \$1.3 trillion in regulatory savings.

Trump’s EPA is also weakening protections against pollutants people breathe directly. In February 2026, the agency repealed Biden-era upgrades to the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards for coal-fired power plants, eliminating tighter limits on mercury from lignite plants, tougher particulate-matter controls and continuous particulate-emissions monitoring. American Lung Association President Harold Wimmer responded: “EPA’s decision to reverse a rule that would better protect children from mercury and other toxic substances is inconceivable.”

Trump has also begun dismantling other pillars of clean-air policy. EPA missed a February 2026 legal deadline to designate which areas fail the strengthened national standard for fine-particle pollution, delaying the process that requires polluted regions to clean up their air. It is also reconsidering the “Good Neighbor Plan,” intended to curb ozone-forming pollution that blows across state lines, and has proposed loosening some state requirements for controlling ozone pollution. Critics see a systematic retreat from EPA’s public-health mission. Earthjustice attorney Nicholas Morales says the mercury rollback “will result in higher levels of mercury, soot and other hazardous pollution into our air and communities.”

Whether all these changes remain in force by 2028 is uncertain. Environmental and health organizations have already filed lawsuits challenging major rollbacks, including the Endangerment Finding and mercury standards, meaning federal courts could ultimately determine how much of Trump’s agenda survives.

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Trump is moving fast to unwind federal air-pollution and climate safeguards, with many changes to take effect before Trump leaves office in January 2029. Credit: Pexels.com.

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Andover Threshing Show Photos
Photos by Donna Anderson



Bruce Babcock, Groton American Legion, and Vern Prickett, Stratford American Legion, lead the parade Friday in the Andover James Valley Threshing Show.
(Photo courtesy Donna Anderson)

Veterans were treated to a supper at the Andover Threshing show.



Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

Under a dreary sky and a relentless downpour, the Minnesota Vikings sailed into Chicago with a simple mission: collect an elusive Bear pelt and return home victorious. What followed was a hard-fought defensive battle in which neither offense could find its footing, but the Vikings weathered the storm and escaped with a 9-3 victory.

Despite an encouraging week, Kyler Murray was ruled out of this game as he recovers from the concussion he suffered in Week 1, which meant backup QB Carson Wentz was at the helm in this second-straight divisional matchup. Running back Jordan Mason would also miss this game (he fractured his thumb in Week 1 and had surgery to repair it, so he's been placed on IR and will miss at least four games).

The lead-up to this game was all about Chicago's head coach Ben Johnson's offense against Brian Flores' defense. In Week 1, Flores relentlessly blitzed the Packers, wearing them down over the course of the game which led to complete domination as the game went on. Week 2 presented a different sort of problem. Chicago's offensive line is better than Green Bay's, and Bears QB Caleb Williams thrives against the blitz. This was going to be a true test of the Vikings' defense. Were they actually an elite unit? Or did they only look good against a team with a bad o-line?

Holding the Bears to only 3 points, after they put up 59 points in Week 1, emphatically answered that question.

The Vikings clearly wanted to control the clock in this game. Based on the poor weather, and an opposing offense that could put up plenty of points, head coach Kevin O'Connell put his faith in the run game. With Mason out, it was the Aaron Jones Sr. show, and he delivered, racking up 105 yards on 23 carries. It was his first game hitting triple digits since Week 12 of the 2024 season (also against the Bears).

For the second straight week, Dallas Turner lived in the opponent's backfield. Pro Football Focus credits Turner with 10 QB pressures, four QB hits, two sacks, and two tackles for loss. To put his dominance into perspective, Turner generated more pressure by himself than

Chicago's entire defense, which finished with eight. But no play was bigger than his last. With one second remaining, the Bears trailed by six and had one final chance from the Vikings' 12-yard line. Turner exploded around the edge and buried Tyson Bagent before he could get the pass away, securing the Vikings' victory. Turner's long-awaited breakout isn't coming... it's already here. And if he keeps this up, he'll be in the Defensive Player of the Year conversation.

While Turner was certainly in the mix for the prestigious WVR Player of the Game award, I'm giving it to Isaiah Rodgers, who made two game-altering plays. The first was early in the third quarter. Chicago had driven down the field and had first-and-goal at the one-yard line, but then Jalen Redmond punched the ball out of D'Andre Swift's hands and Rodgers recovered. The second play was midway through the fourth quarter. Down 6-3, Chicago attempted a game-tying field goal. Rodgers came off the edge to get a hand on the ball, blocking the attempt and preserving the Vikings' lead.

Looking ahead, the Vikings sail to Tampa Bay to battle the Buccaneers. The Bucs are 0-2 after losing to the Bengals and Browns in Weeks 1 and 2 respectively. The Buccaneers are a solid team, so it's surprising that they lost to two teams who were a combined 11-23 last season. Hopefully Kyler Murray will be back from injury, and we can finally see what this year's Vikings offense looks like. Skoll!

“Shingles Vaccines”

Too many people know the pain of having shingles. Shingles, or Zoster, occurs when a Herpes virus, the same one which caused chicken pox in childhood, re-emerges from dormancy in a spinal



Kelly Evans-Hullinger, MD

nerve. Symptoms include nerve pain and tingling followed by an eruption of a blistery red rash over the distribution following that nerve.

Typically the rash of shingles lasts up to a couple of weeks, but for some patients the associated nerve pain can continue and even be permanent, a condition known as post-herpetic neuralgia. A minority of patients are left with a chronic pain which can be very difficult to treat.

The duration of shingles, and the odds of developing post-herpetic neuralgia, can be reduced if an antiviral medication is started within the first 3 days of symptoms. But we have an even better option, a vaccine which reduces the risk of getting shingles at all.

The FDA approved vaccine for shingles is recommended for all adults age 50 and older and for younger adults who are immunocompromised. The vaccine is comprised of two doses, ideally given 2-6 months apart. Patients who receive both doses have over 90% reduced chance of getting shingles.

Already had shingles? You will still benefit from getting the vaccine series, as it will reduce your odds of a recurrence. Got the first shot but forgot to come back in 2-6 months? No big deal – just get the second dose now and you'll be caught up.

Exciting recent research suggests the vaccine against shingles may be associated with lower risk of other diseases as we age, including dementia. Although we can't yet be certain of a causative link, the numbers are promising enough that this may add another good reason to not miss out on an effective vaccine.

Decades from now, when the children who have benefitted from widespread vaccination against the chicken pox virus (VZV) reach their 50's, recommendations for shingles vaccination may change. But for now, we adults who had chicken pox (and if you don't recall having over chicken pox, you almost certainly still had the virus) clearly benefit from the shingles vaccine. I recommend it for all my eligible patients.

Dr. Kelly Evans Hullinger practices internal medicine at Avera Brookings. She serves as a volunteer host for the Prairie Doc® team, which is currently celebrating its 25th season of providing health education based

on science and built on trust. 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).

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