

Senior Spotlights and Awards Special Edition

Independent



\$5

Vol. 133 No. 42 ♦ Groton, Brown County, South Dakota ♦ Sunday, June 5, 2016 ♦ Established in 1889

Seniors on the move

<p><u>Northern State</u> Josie Doeden Kari Hanson Kelsey Iverson Jayleen Lier Jasmine Schaller Carly Wheeting</p> <p><u>SDSU - Brookings</u> Hailey Hanson Katie Miller Jaden Oliver Maggie Simon James Thompson Megan Unzen Hannah Webb</p> <p><u>Lake Area Tech</u> Kailli Aberle Hayden Anderson Dustin Fish Brady Graf Adam Herman Zara Maag Alexia Musch Taryn Rossow Aaron Severson Sarah Stange Tia Thompson Lane Weig Alex Worlie</p> <p><u>USD - Vermillion</u> Marlee Jones</p> <p><u>Minnesota State Univ. Mankato</u> Aubray Harry</p>	<p><u>South Dakota School of Mines</u> Lily Cutler Garrett Stene Chris Zarycki</p> <p><u>Mitchell Tech</u> Isaiah Cutler Jerick Hanson Landon Johnson Carter Jondahl Kyle Miller Matthew Richards</p> <p><u>Black Hills State Univ.</u> Angela Locke</p> <p><u>Presentation College</u> Mikaela Blumhardt Jamie Krueger Kaitlyn Ringgenberg</p> <p><u>University of Nebraska Lincoln</u> Allison Weber</p> <p><u>Univ. of Mn. Crookston</u> Brody Sombke</p> <p><u>Univ. of Mn. Twin Cities</u> Kiernan McCranie Emily Raap</p> <p><u>Military</u> Steven Fey Jack McKiver Keegan Schelle</p> <p><u>Employment</u> Joy Htoo John Jensen Brady Keith Hunter Lerew Toby Weber</p>
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**Groton
Area
High
School**



**"Together we have experienced life.
Separately we will pursue our dreams.
Forever our memories will remain."**

**Class Flower: Daisy
Class Colors: Gold and Silver**





Marlee Em Jones With Highest Honor

Parents: Jim and Mendy Jones

Hometown: Groton

Brother and sister: Austin Jones 14, and Emerlee Jones 7

Hobbies: swim team (ASC), hunting, fishing, camping, and reading

School/community activities: soccer, volleyball, boy's basketball statistician, FCCLA, FBLA, FCA, yearbook, track, youth soccer coach, tutoring, UMYF youth group

Favorite high school memory: going to Florida for our show choir trip sophomore year

Future plans: attend the University of South Dakota to major in Medical Biology and minor in Psychology. I plan to become a Physician

Awards:

President's Award in Education 2016

Principal's 4 year Honor Roll 2016

SD Regents Scholar Diploma

National Honor Society

Wendy's High School Heisman School Winner 2015

Associated School Boards Governor's Academic Excellence Recognition 2016

Groton Lions Club Scholarship

USD Presidential Alumni Scholarship

Avera St. Luke's Auxiliary Scholarship

YBA Scholarship

USD Valedictorian Scholarship

Groton FCCLA Service Award

SD Opportunity Scholarship

Groton Area Hopps Dow Scholarship

Susan Deanne Weismantel Memorial Scholarship

Groton Cortland and Lois Kuehnert Valedictorian Scholarship



Maggie Ann Simon With Highest Honor

Parents: Steve and Peggy Simon

Hometown: Groton

Brothers: Stephen 21 and Shane 17

Hobbies: going to the lake, spending time with friends and family. Hunting, fishing, reading, shopping, singing, and working out

School/community activities: band, jazz band, choir, show choir, chamber choir, girls basketball statistician, SEAS youth group, FCCLA, FBLA, dance team, and cheerleading

Favorite high school memory: I can't choose just one. I have truly enjoyed all of the fun times spent with family and friends. I have experienced a lot of great memories and laughs over the years

Future plans: to attend SDSU to pursue a major in Agricultural business and to one day be a Crop Insurance Agent

Awards:

President's Award in Education 2016

Principal's 4 year Honor Roll 2016

Groton CTE Curriculum Scholar

National Honor Society

SDSU Yellow and Blue Scholarship

YBA Campanile Match Scholarship

YBA SME Scholarship

Beck Memorial Scholarship

Catholic Order of Forrester's Scholarship

SD Opportunity Scholarship

Groton Chamber of Commerce Scholarship

Full Circle Ag Scholarship

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Knights of Columbus Scholarship

Groton Cortland and Lois Kuehnert Salutatorian Scholarship



Lily Constance Cutler With Highest Honor

Parents: James and Lisa Cutler

Hometown: Claremont

Hobbies: reading, sewing, knitting, coloring, volunteering, listening to music, flying model air planes, spending time with family and also spending time with friends

School/community activities: Destination Imagination, Oral Interp, Debate, yearbook, Claremont United Methodist Youth Group

Favorite high school memory: attending Destination Imagination Global finals in Knoxville, TN, three years in a row with my amazing team

Future plans: attend South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and major in Chemical Engineering, with the Intention of going into Pharmaceuticals or Environmental Engineering. I also plan to minor in Political Science, and one day run for Political Office.

Awards:

President's Award in Education 2016

Principal's 4 year Honor Roll 2016

SD Regents Scholar Diploma

SD Girls State Representative 2015

National Honor Society

Principal's Student Service Award 2016

John Westby Memorial Scholarship

Groton Lions Club Scholarship

Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis Education Foundation Scholarship

SDSM&T Freshman Scholarship

SD Creativity Association

SD Opportunity Scholarship

Vicki Strom Memorial Scholarship

Gwendolyn O'Connor Broman Memorial Scholarship

Groton Cortland and Lois Kuehnert Trade/Technical/Science or Math Scholarship



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Megan Amber Unzen With Highest Honor

Parents: Jacob and Tiffany Unzen

Hometown: Groton

Brother and sisters: Haley 19, Erin 13, and Nathan 8

Hobbies: Art, Netflix, reading, fishing, biking and hanging out with friends

School/community activities: all the adventures and memories made with my friends

Future plans: attend South Dakota State University and earn a Bachelor's degree. I am undecided in a major at this time

Awards:

- President's Award in Education 2016
- Principal's 4 year Honor Roll 2016
- SD Regents Scholar Diploma
- National Honor Society
- James Valley Bob Peterson Memorial Telecommunications Scholarship
- SDSU Blue and Yellow Scholarship
- SD Opportunity Scholarship
- Dakota Corps Critical Need Scholarship
- Groton Irvin and Janice Flihs Family Scholarship



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Hailey Shirrie' Hanson With Highest Honor

Parents: Jeff and Shawn Hanson

Hometown: Bath

Brothers: Logan 21, Layne 10

Hobbies: I enjoy dancing and working with cattle as well as attending livestock events

School/community activities: Groton dance team, dance at Living Arts Dance Studio, cheerleading, FBLA, FFA, showing cattle, livestock judging, youth group, peer minister, National Honor Society and tutor

Favorite high school memory: spending time with my friends at the county fair and cheering at football games

Future plans: I have a passion for the Ag Industry; consequently I plan to attend SDSU this fall and major in Ag Business or Agronomy.

Awards:

- President's Award in Education 2016
- Principal's 4 year Honor Roll 2016
- SD Regents Scholar Diploma
- National Honor Society
- SDSU Jackrabbit Guarantee
- Brown County Crop Improvement Scholarship
- Anthony O'Brokaw Memorial Scholarship
- SD Opportunity Scholarship
- Groton FFA Alumni Scholarship
- Groton Simon Insurance and Auction Scholarship
- National FFA Wilbur Ellis Company Agribusiness Division Scholarship
- Ruden Family Ag Scholarship



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Groton



Emily Marie Raap With Highest Honor

Parents: Jon and Sherry Raap

Hometown: Groton

Brother and sisters: Dustin Koepke 31, Sara Raap 25, Kayla Raap 24

Hobbies: I love staying active and being outside! Enjoying hanging out with friends and family, keeping up with my little nephew! I love to travel and have many destinations on my bucket list!

School/community activities: band, show choir, cheerleading, flag corp, FBLA, FCCLA, yearbook staff, dance team, youth group at the Methodist Church in Groton

Favorite high school memory: over prom week junior year, decorating and hanging out with everyone all week long, Also winning Jungle days two years in a row.

Future plans: attend the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities. I am undecided on a major, but am thinking of something involving Business. I plan to travel all over the world.

Awards:

- Principal's 4 year Honor Roll 2016
- SD Regents Scholar Diploma
- Brenda Harms Memorial Scholarship
- Jerald W. Peterson Memorial Scholarship
- Groton Class of 1969 Scholarship



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Megan Unzen is the recipient of the James Valley Bob Peterson Memorial Telecommunications Scholarship

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CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATE!



Carly Teresa Wheating With Highest Honor

Parents: John and Chris Wheating
Hometown: Groton
Sisters: Lauren Wheating, and Meagan Stearns
Hobbies: playing basketball, showing and judging livestock, hanging out with family and friends
School/community activities: basketball, volleyball, track, FBLA, FFA, tutoring
Favorite high school memory: winning NEC track in 2015 and attending Table Talks
Future plans: attend Northern State and double major in Elementary Education and Special Education
Awards:
 DAR representative Groton Area High School 2015
 Principal's 4 year Honor Roll 2016
 Groton CTE Curriculum Scholar
 American Legion Citizenship Award 2016
 Principal's Student Service Award 2016
 Groton Lions Club Scholarship
 Rob Luecke Memorial Scholarship
 Dakotah Bank Scholarship
 Northern State WolfPACT Scholarship
 Brenda Harms Memorial Scholarship
 Groton FFA Alumni Scholarship
 Groton Simon Insurance and Auction Scholarship
 Groton Kiwanis Community Service Scholarship
 Wilfred N. and Lucille A. Heinz Memorial Scholarship



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President's Education Awards Program

Eight students in the Class of 2016 have qualified for the President's Education Awards Program. The awards are an effort by the U.S. Department of Education to recognize outstanding educational achievement and effort. The criteria have been developed to reflect changes occurring in the schools and to provide schools with both clear guidelines and flexibility. They are meant to reflect the state, local and national efforts to raise academic standards as embodied in the National Education goals.



Jasmine Kay Schaller With Honor

Parents: Steve Schaller and Julie Schaller
Hometown: Groton
Brother and sisters: Stephy 30, Arelle 25, Cheyenne 20, and Hunter 14
Hobbies: going to crossfit, spending time with friends, and family, art, and buying Nike shoes
School/community activities: cross country, soccer, girls basketball stats, track, show choir, yearbook, FBLA, St. John's Lutheran youth group
Favorite high school memory: tying Aberdeen Central 0-0 in soccer on their homecoming in front of their crowd or getting NEC champs in track last year
Future plans: I plan on attending college, leaning towards NSU, undecided on my major.
Awards:
 Principal's 4 year Honor Roll 2016
 SD Regents Scholar Diploma
 Northern State WolfPACT Scholarship
 SD Opportunity Scholarship
 Groton Sammuli-Rix Scholarship



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MASEY FERGUSON

"It is really nice to be able to recognize these seniors. They have worked hard for four years, have exceptional grade point averages, and have performed well on standardized testing," stated Jodi Sternhagen, Groton Area High School Counselor. The President's Award for Educational Excellence is signed by the President, Secretary of Education, and the school principal. Criteria include a grade point average of 3.5 or above and standardized test achievement at the 85th percentile or higher in math or reading.



Kelsey Marilyn Iverson With Honor

Parents: Karry Iverson and the late John Iverson
Hometown: Groton
Hobbies: baking and cooking, hanging with my friends, and traveling
School/community activities: debate, oral interp, student congress, Sunday school teacher at Claremont United Methodist church, upward band
Favortie high school memory: all of high school was great. My favorite memory was probably when my best friend, Paige and I had to wear plastic bags on our feet for a Chem lab because we were wearing flip flops.
Future plans: I plan to attend NSU in the fall and major in Secondary Education in the subject Math
Awards:
 SD Regents Scholar Diploma
 Susan Clawson Grace Memorial Scholarship
 John Westby Memorial Scholarship
 Northern State WolfPACT Scholarship
 Groton Eastern Star Scholarship
 SD Opportunity Scholarship
 Groton Area Hopps Dow Scholarship
 Groton Cortland and Lois Kuehnert Financial Need Scholarship



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Those qualifying in the Class of 2016 are: **Back - Megan Unzen, Jaden Oliver, Mikaela Blumhardt, Hailey Hanson; Front - Marlee Jones, Maggie Simon, Lily Cutler, Kiernan McCranie**



Kiernan Isolde McCranie With Honor

Parents: Jo Dee and John McCranie
Hometown: Groton
Brother and sister: Courtland McCranie 24, and Grayson McCranie 21
Hobbies: dance and dance teacher
School/community activities: dance, band, cheerleading, dance teacher
Favorite high school memory: Chicago band trip
Future plans: attend University of Minnesota in Minneapolis
Awards:
President's Award in Education 2016
Principal's 4 year Honor Roll 2016
SD Regents Scholar Diploma
SD Girls State Representative 2015



Mikaela Louise Blumhardt With Honor

Parents: Shane Blumhardt and Penny Sampson
Brother and sister: Kemari Blumhardt 24, and Connor Blumhardt 22
Hobbies: different types of crafting. Working on the farm, and reading. Hanging out with family and friends
School/community activities: high school band, softball, show choir tech crew, and play tech crew
Favorite high school memory: during my junior year of high school our high school band went to Chicago. I found out the day we went that I had Mono.. It was an enjoyable trip with Mono and strep throat.
Future plans: I plan on attending Presentation College for Nursing. After graduating from college, I want to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist
Awards:
President's Award in Education 2016
Principal's 4 year Honor Roll 2016
Groton CTE Curriculum Scholar
Groton Lions Club Scholarship
Presentation College Merit Scholarship
Stratford Community Theatre Scholarship
Aberdeen Federal Credit Union
SD Opportunity Scholarship
Groton Community Foundation Scholarship



Jaden Lee Oliver With Honor

Parents: Stacy and Chad Oliver
Hometown: Groton
Brother: Jackson 16 -Sophomore
Hobbies: art, working, Netflix, going to the lake, spending time with friends and family
School/community activities: jazz band, show choir, yearbook, FBLA
Favorite high school memory: going to Chicago for our band trip junior year!
Future plans: I plan on attending SDSU where I will major in Nursing and minor in Spanish
Awards:
President's Award in Education 2016
Principal's 4 year Honor Roll 2016
SD Regents Scholar Diploma
National Honor Society
Groton Lions Club Scholarship
SDSU Jackrabbit Guarantee
Groton Eastern Star Scholarship
SD Opportunity Scholarship
Groton Edna Bugner Memorial Scholarship



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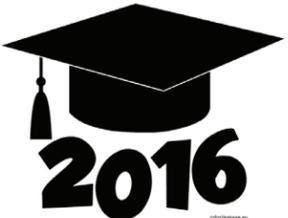
Maggie Simon received a scholarship from the Catholic Order of Forrester



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Congratulations GHS Class of 2016!



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Katie Alyssa Miller With Honor

Parents: Kenny and Lynn Miller

Hometown: Watertown

Brother: Kyle 18

Hobbies: Barrel Racing

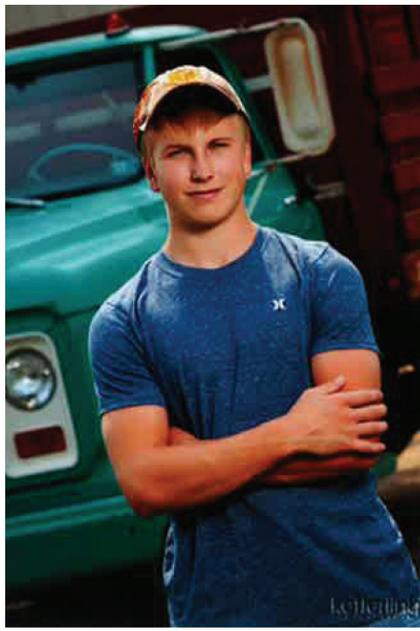
School/community activities: FFA, high school band, jazz band, debate, student council. Student congress, oral Interp and play

Favorite high school memory: winning state FFA with my horse team and representing Groton, South Dakota at National FFA with my best friend Kaitlyn

Future plans: being a Nurse Practitioner and working in a hospital

Awards:

National Honor Society
Principal's 4 year Honor Roll 2016
Groton CTE Curriculum Scholar
SD Girls State Representative 2015
John Westby Memorial Scholarship
Groton Lions Club Scholarship
SDSU Jackrabbit Guarantee
Groton FFA Alumni Scholarship
Groton Simon Insurance and Auction Scholarship
Groton Don Bartz Scholarship



James Lee Thompson With Honor

Parents: Lee and Jennifer Thompson

Hometown: Groton

Hobbies: hunting, fishing, and sports

School/community activities: coaching soccer
Favorite high school memory: playing soccer

Future plans: become an Agronomist

Awards:

Principal's 4 year Honor Roll 2016
Groton CTE Curriculum Scholar
Robert Knickrehm Agricultural Scholarship
SDSU Jackrabbit Guarantee
Groton Masonic Lodge
SD Opportunity Scholarship
Full Circle Ag Scholarship



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Megan Unzen (Irvin and Janice Flihs Family Scholarship) and Carly Wheeting (Wilfred N. and Lucille A. Heinz Memorial Scholarship)

Left Photo: **Marlee Jones (recipient of the 2016 Susan Deanne Weismantel Memorial Scholarship) and Allison Weber (recipient of the 2016 Shawn Weismantel Kramer Memorial Scholarship)**



Allison Ann Weber With Honor

Parents: Michael and Lorrie Weber

Hometown: Groton

Brothers and sisters: Keith Schilling 34, Kyle Schilling 31, Nick Weber 29, Samantha Bahr 27, and Megan Weber 25

Hobbies: my hobbies are traveling with friends and being outside. I like watching movies and listening to music

School/community activities: I am involved in the Carnival of Silver Skates, Future Business of America, yearbook, cheerleading, and dance team. In my church I am a Sunday school teacher and a member of Luther League.

Favorite high school memory: I loved going to Chicago with Mr. Johnson for a band trip. The best part was seeing the Million Dollar Quartet and eating Gino's Pizza

Future plans: I plan on attending the University of Nebraska Lincoln to major in Business Administration with a emphasis in Human Resources and a minor in Finance

Awards:

SD Girls State Representative 2015
Principal's 4 year Honor Roll 2016
Principal's Student Service Award 2016
Groton PEO Scholarship
Emmanuel Lutheran Faith Forever Scholarship
Groton PAC Community Service Scholarship
YBA Scholarship
Groton Class of 1969 Scholarship
Shawn Weismantel Kramer Memorial Scholarship



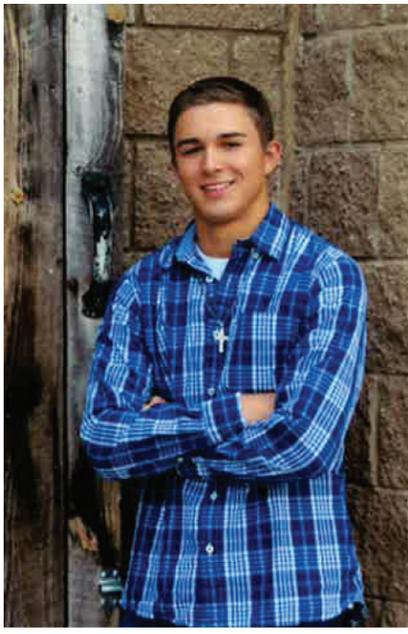
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Adam Mark Herman With Honor

Parents: Mark and Kari Herman

Hometown: Willmar, MN

Sister: Kyla Herman 21

Hobbies: playing sports, singing and listening to music, and being with friends

School/community activities: football, soccer, basketball, track and field, baseball, choir, and show choir

Favorite high school memory: being a part of Groton sports

Future plans: attend Lake Area Technical Institute and receive a degree in business

Award:

Groton Edna Bugner Memorial Scholarship



Aubray Lynne Harry With Honor

Parents: Joe and Shonna Harry

Hometown: Ferney

Brother: Trevor 13

Hobbies: Living Arts Dance Studio in Aberdeen, and youth group

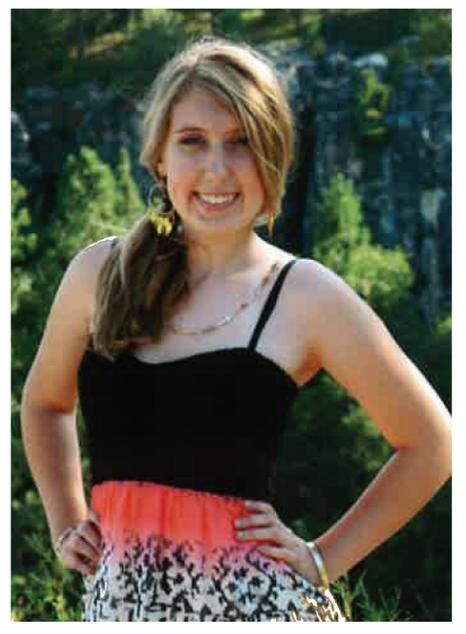
School/community activities: cheerleading, dance team, Ice skating, show choir, chamber choir, flag corp.

Favorite high school memory: traveling places for cheerleading in the van

Future plans: attend Minnesota State University Mankato and double major in Dental Hygiene and dance.

Award:

Groton Darlene Raap Memorial Scholarship



Jayleen Emily Ruby Lier With Honor

Parents: Jay and Bobbie Lier.

Hometown: Bath

Siblings: Chris 26, Jayde 23, Jaycee 10.

Hobbies: Traveling, watching movies, reading, listening to music, hanging with friends and family, baking.

School/Community Activities: Show choir tech, FCCLA.

Favorite High School Memory: Being back to back champs in Jungle Days.

Future Plans: Go to Northern State University and major in Business Administration.

Awards:

Groton CTE Curriculum Scholar

Northern State WolfPACT Scholarship

SD Opportunity Scholarship

Groton Sammuli-Rix Scholarship



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Principal's Student Service Award

Five seniors at Groton Area High School, have been nominated for the Principal's Student Service Award. To be eligible for this award the students had to document exemplary community service during high school and complete an application and essay. The award winners in 2016 are: Left to right: **Allison Weber, Carly Wheeting, Brody Sombke, Lily Cutler, Alexia Musch**

"These students have made significant contributions to our community," stated School Counselor Jodi Sternhagen. "They have always been willing to volunteer when help is needed. When we've needed someone to help with a project, these students have stepped forward. Community service is extremely important in today's world and they have shown that they can make a difference."

The students' service areas included: peer tutoring, participating in the Food Drive, tutoring, helping youth, organizing events, and helping with youth activities such as coaching and refereeing. Each student received a pin from the National Association of Secondary School Principals for service.

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JAMES VALLEY SEED



Darlene Raap Memorial. Kari Hanson and Aubray Harry



Kaili Ann Aberle

Parents: Roger Aberle and Kristi Jones
Hometown: Groton

Brothers: Scott Aberle (35), Austin Aberle (10), and the late Douglas Aberle (37)

Hobbies: hanging with friends and family, working out, working, babysitting and listening to music.

School/community activities: being part of youth group at St. John's Lutheran Church. Helping with senior meal program at Red Horse, and helping with Bible school at the St. John's Lutheran Church.

Favorite high school memory: my favorite high school memory would be winning Jungle days my Junior and Senior year.

Future plans: my future plan is to attend Lake Area Tech to pursue my dream of studying to be a Medical Assistant



Isaiah Quinn Cutler

Parents: Tom and Nancy Cutler
Hometown: Groton

Brothers and sister: Walker, Forrest, and Sophie

Hobbies: hunting, fishing, working out

School/community activities: sports, CMA church/youth group

Future plans: attend Mitchell Technical Institute for precision Agriculture



Hayden Thomas Anderson

Parents: Bryon Anderson and Kristi Anderson

Hometown: Bristol

Sister: Madelyn Anderson 22

Hobbies: hunting, fishing trapping, fixing old farm equipment

School/community activities: FFA, high school play

Favorite high school memory: one of them would be when Maghus Jensen came to Groton my junior year as a foreign exchange student

Future plans: going to Lake Area to get my degree in Diesel Technology and going to school in Fargo this summer to get my Welding degree.

Awards:

Jean Conley Brokaw Memorial Scholarship

Groton FFA Alumni Scholarship

Groton Simon Insurance and Auction Scholarship

Jerald W. Peterson Memorial Scholarship

Barry Schuring Memorial Scholarship



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John Wheating
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Regents Scholar

The 2016 GHS recipients are: **Back - Marlee Jones, Megan Unzen, Jaden Oliver, Kelsey Iverson, Hailey Hanson; Front - Jasmine Schaller, Lily Cutler, Kiernan McCranie, Emily Raap**

Nine seniors from Groton Area High School are recipients of a Regents' Scholar Diploma awarded by the South Dakota Department of Education and Cultural Affairs and the South Dakota Board of Regents.

The diplomas recognize students for academic achievement over the course of their high school career. Students earning the award automatically qualify for entry into any of South Dakota's six state-supported universities.

To earn a Regents' Scholar Diploma, students must have at least a 3.0 grade point average, no final grade below a C (2.0) and must complete four units each of English, mathematics and science, three units of social studies, two units of one modern or classical language and one-half unit each of fine arts and computer science.

The diplomas are signed by Governor Dennis Daugaard, the Secretary of State, the Department of Education Secretary, the South Dakota Board of Education President, and the Board of Regents President.



Josie Elizabeth Doeden

Parents: Toby and Liz Doeden
Hometown: Groton
Brothers and sisters: Jackson 19, Jennie 16, Jonathon 15
Hobbies: volleyball, track, piano, Saxophone, babysitting, and baking
School/community activities: show choir pit crew, 5th grade volleyball coach, piano teacher, playing organ in church, boys basketball statistician and Luther League
Favorite high school memory: beating the #1 seed in volleyball all three years of high school volleyball
Future plans: I plan to attend Northern State University and major in Elementary Education
Awards:
 Groton CTE Curriculum Scholar
 Northern State WolfPACT Scholarship
 Emmanuel Lutheran Faith Forever Scholarship
 SD Opportunity Scholarship
 Groton Phyllis J. Jark Memorial Education Major Scholarship



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Steven Michael Fey

Parents: Michael and Roxanne Fey
Hometown: Groton
Sisters: Stephanie 23, and Nicole 17
Hobbies: going to Walmart, spending time with my dog Annie, watching the Walking Dead, spending time with my Friends, building things with metal
School/community activities: football, basketball, track, and Lutheran youth group
Favorite high school memory: 2 years in a row state semifinals for football, spending time with teachers and coaches, making a touchdown and the team went wild
Future plans: Air Force, Rapid City



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The Grizz



Dustin James Fish

Parents: Robert Fish
Hometown: Groton
Brothers: Brandon Fish 23, and Tyler Fish 21
Hobbies: snowmobiling, hanging with friends and family
School/community activities: football manager
Favorite high school memory: prom and having fun with friends in school
Future plans: attending Lake Area Tech for Automotive



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Brody Sombke and Maggie Simon were selected as the Groton Chamber of Commerce Scholarship recipients



Brody Sombke and Hailey Hanson received the Ruden Family Ag Scholarships



FFA Alumni and Simon Insurance and Auction Scholarships - Back - Hannah Webb, Hayden Anderson, Kyle Miller, Brody Sombke, Kaitlyn Ringgenberg; Front - Carly Wheeting, Katie Miller, Hailey Hanson



Brady Allen Graf

Parents: Pernell and Neolla Graf
Hometown: Groton
Brothers and sisters: Dylon 14, Caroline 16, Alex 17, Elizabeth 21, Tim 27, Cheryl 29
Hobbies: Golfing with friends, bowling with friends and hanging out with friends skiing
School/community activities: wrestling, track, and field, football, and FFA
Favorite high school memory: beating Bridgewater-Emerly/Ethan in football
Future plans: attend Lake Area to get a degree in Energy Operations



Jerick Thomas Hanson

Parents: Rick Hanson and Pam Hanson
Hometown: Groton
Hobbies: hanging with friends and family, watching movies, traveling and entertaining others
School/community Activities: school play, show choir, tiger mascot
Favorite high school memory: entertaining the crowd as the tiger mascot
Future plans: attending MTI and getting an Associates degree in Telecommunications
Award: SD Build Dakota Scholarship



Kari Lynn Hanson

Parents: Lars and Kelli Hanson
Hometown: Groton
Brothers: Cody 26, and Dyllan 23
Hobbies: piano, shopping, spending time with friends and family, baking, traveling dancing at Living Art Dance Studio
School/community activities: show choir, chamber choir, dance team, jazz band, cheerleading, FBLA, FCCLA, 4-H
Favorite high school memory: traveling for school functions with my friends
Future plans: attend University of North Dakota to gain a bachelors degree in Music Therapy with a minor in Sociology
Awards:
 Northern State WolfPACT Scholarship
 Northern State Vocal Scholarship
 Groton FCCLA Service Award
 Groton Darlene Raap Memorial Scholarship



"Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind."

-Dr. Seuss



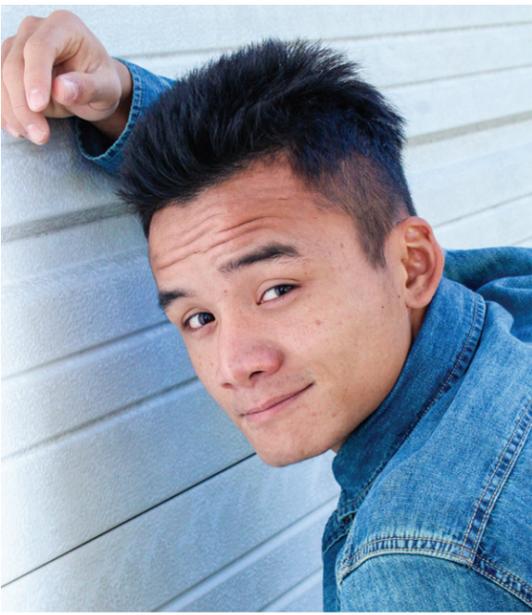
These students received scholarships from Groton organizations
 Back - Megan Unzen, Allison Weber, Brody Sombke, Kyle Miller, Jaden Oliver, Kelsey Iverson
 Front - James Thompson, Carly Wheeting, Maggie Simon, Jamie Krueger



John Westby Memorial scholarships-
 Katie Miller, Lily Cutler, Kelsey Iverson



These students received scholarships from Youth Business Adventure - Marlee Jones, Maggie Simon, Allison Weber



Joy Nay Htoo

Parents: Kyaw Kay, Hla Kay

Hometown: Buffalo, NY

Brothers and sisters: Christ Moo 25, Eh moo 23, Say Gay Paw 15, Eh Paw 14, Say Kow 11, and Eh ler Moo 9.

Hobbies: I like watching movies, love playing soccer, and a little bit of reading

School/community activities: soccer, track, cross country

Favorite high school memory: hanging out with friends in Groton and Aberdeen

Future plans: getting a job, buy a house and a fast car.



John Wesley Jensen

Parents: Nick and Connie Jensen

Hometown: Bristol

Sister: Hannah, 17

Hobbies: Farming

School/community activities: FFA, Church

Future plans: Work on the family farm



Landon Lee Johnson

Parents: Alan Johnson, Kristi and Paul Eckrich

Hometown: Groton

Brothers: Nick Johnson 21, and Jeremy Johnson 15

Hobbies: Hunting, fishing, trapping, being outdoors, having a good time with my friends

School/community activities: work

Favorite high school memory: shooting critters with my buddies

Future plans: attending Mitchell Tech for Power line Construction/maintenance and Natural Gas/Propane Technologies

Awards:

Mitchell Technical Legacy Scholarship

Healthcare Plus Federal Credit Union Scholarship



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"The future lies before you like a field of driven snow, be careful how you tread it, for every step will show."

-Author Unknown



Emmanuel Lutheran scholarships- Allison Weber, Josie Deden, Aaron Severson, Carter Jondahl



FCCLA Service Awards - Kari Hanson, Marlee Jones, Tia Thompson, Jamie Krueger, Hannah Webb

"Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened."

-Dr. Seuss



Marlee Jones (Kuehnert Valedictorian), Maggie Simon (Kuehnert Salutatorian), Lily Cutler (Kuehnert Trade, Technical, Science, or Math), Kelsey Iverson (Kuehnert Financial Need)



Carter Ray Jondahl

Parents: Craig and Lana Jondahl
Hometown: Groton
Brothers: Andy 31, and Landon 27
Hobbies: hunting, fishing, lifting weights, and hanging out with friends
School/community activities: football, track and field, FFA, Emmanuel Lutheran church Luther League
Favorite high school memory: defeating Bridge Water Emery-Ethan in the quarter finals football game my senior year
Future plans: attend Mitchell Tech
Awards:
 Emmanuel Lutheran Faith Forever Scholarship
 Richard Duerre Memorial Scholarship

Brady Wayne Keith

Parents: Bary and Tricia Keith
Hometown: Groton
Brother and sister: Brandon 16, Trista 12
Hobbies: shooting hoops, hanging with friends
School/community activities: basketball, baseball, St. John's Lutheran Church
Favorite high school memory: state baseball
Future plans: attend Lake Area Tech for Computer Tech

Jamie Lynn Krueger

Parents: Doug and Heidi Krueger
Hometown: Groton
Hobbies: going to movies, being at the lake, bike rides, listening to music, hanging with friends
School/community activities: FCCLA, FBLA, show choir, St. John's Lutheran youth group, Carnival of Silver Skates.
Favorite high school memory: being back to back champions with Jungle Days during homecoming
Future plans: attend Presentation college in Aberdeen to major in Radiology.
Awards:
 Groton Lions Club Scholarship
 Presentation College Merit Scholarship
 Groton FCCLA Service Award
 Groton Lisa Sippel Memorial Scholarship
 Renee McKiver Memorial Scholarship



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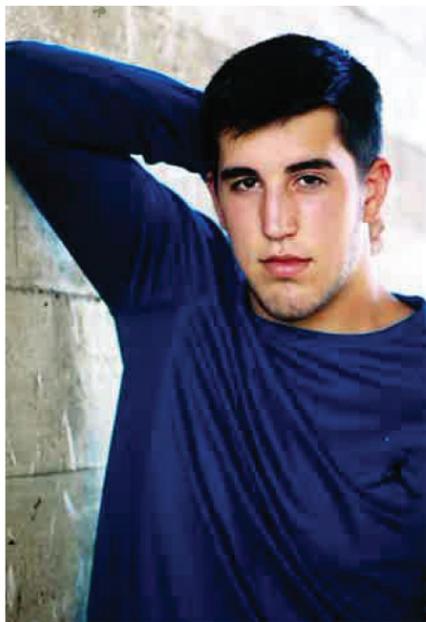


These students received college scholarships
 Back - Mikaela Blumhardt (Presentation), Brody Sombke (University of Minnesota Crookston), Landon Johnson (Mitchell Tech)
 Front - Jamie Krueger (Presentation), Marlee Jones (University of SD), Lily Cutler (SD School of Mines and Technology)

"If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it."
 -Steve Jobs



Left to right - Mikaela Blumhardt (Aberdeen Federal Credit Union), Carly Wheeting (Dakotah Bank) and Landon Johnson (Healthcare Plus Federal Credit Union) received scholarships from local banks and credit unions



Hunter Dwayne Lerew

Parents: Dwayne Lerew and Bobbie Lerew
Hometown: Mellette

Brother and sisters: Courtney Barondeau 26, Erica Lerew 24, and Ray Lerew 21

Hobbies: Basketball, football, hunting

School/community activities: varsity sports

Favorite community memory: coming to Groton and being on a winning football and basketball teams and winning the soccer championship at State '14-15'

Future plans: graduate high school and go on and start working



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Angela Rose Locke

Parents: Beth and Randy Locke

Hometown: Groton

Sisters: Shawn Locke (12), and Amber (26)

Hobbies: Art, and Sims

School/community activities: Groton soccer, FBLA, and FCCLA

Favorite high school memory: getting lost in a cornfield with Emily Raap after a football game.

Future plans: attend BHSU and major in English and minor in Art. Joining the Peace Corps after receiving bachelor degree for a two year term. Eventually become an English Professor.

Award: Groton Area School Employee Teaching Scholarship



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Zara Belle Maag

Parents: Meredith and Ron Gubin

Hometown: Watertown

Brothers and sisters: Oliver 7, Hunter 16, Sherokee 23

Hobbies: I like to hang out with friends, work, go for midnight walks, clean, listen to music

Favorite high school memory: spending time with friends

Future plans: going to Lake Area Tech for Medical Assisting in Watertown



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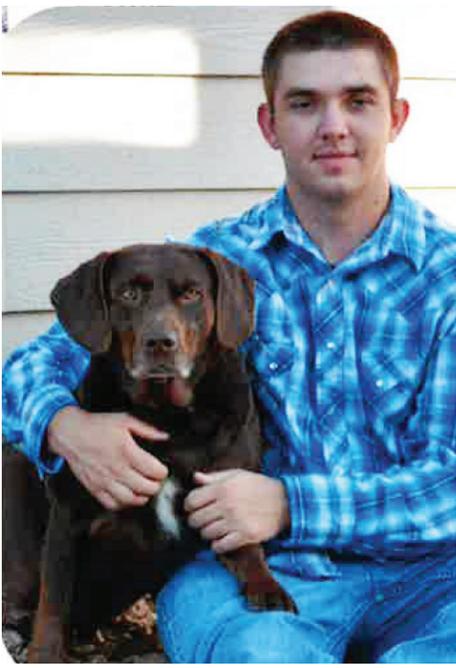
These students received scholarships from organizations
 Back - Marlee Jones, Jaden Oliver, Brody Sombke, Maggie Simon, Alexia Musch
 Front - James Thompson, Mikaela Blumhardt, Lily Cutler, Hailey Hanson



Mikaela Blumhardt and Brody Sombke received Stratford Community Theatre Scholarships



Carter Jondahl received the Richard Duerre Memorial Scholarship



Jack Conrad McKiver

Parents: Al and Collen McKiver

Hometown: Groton

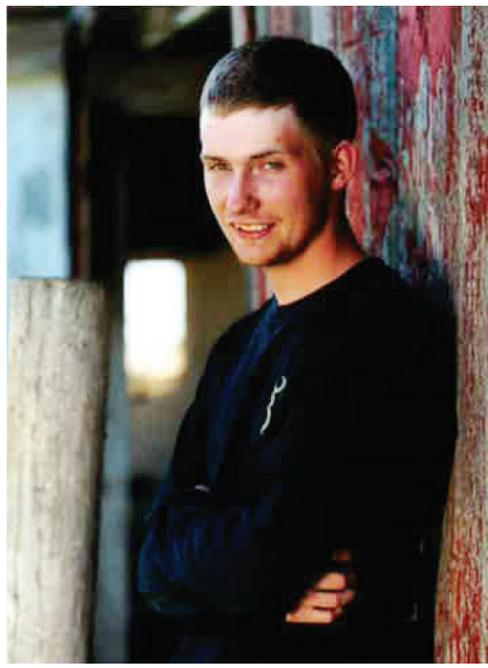
Brother and sister: Alex 27, and Naomi 21

Hobbies: I like long walks on the beach

School/community activities: football

Favorite high school memory: graduating

Future plans: Military



Kyle Aaron Miller

Parents: Kenny and Lynn Miller

Hometown: Watertown

Sister: Katie Miller 18

Hobbies: Fishing, hunting

School/community activities: FFA

Future plans: Lineman, Mitchell Tech

Awards:

Orval and Bernice Smith Memorial Scholarship

Groton FFA Alumni Scholarship

Groton Simon Insurance and Auction Scholarship

Charles Strom FFA Lifetime Alumni Membership Scholarship



Alexia Ann Musch

Parents: Shawna and Derek Kiefer

Hometown: Columbia

Sister: Addison Everson, 8.

Hobbies: Hanging out with family and friends.

School/Community Activities: Football manager

Favorite High School Memory: Spending after school and weekends with friends.

Future Plans: Attend Lake Area Technical Institute for a degree in Early Childhood Development.

Awards:

Principal's Student Service Award 2016

SD Jump Start Scholarship



Kyle Miller received the Orval and Bernice Smith Memorial Scholarship



These students received scholarships from SDSU
Left to right - Katie Miller, Megan Unzen, James Thompson, Jaden Oliver, Hailey Hanson, Maggie Simon



Josie Doeden (Phyllis J. Jark Memorial Education Major Scholarship) and Angela Locke (Groton Area School Employee Teaching Scholarship)



Matthew Cole Richards

Parents: Scott Richards and Rebecca Meyers

Hometown: Sisseton

Brothers and sister: Tyler Richards (18), Cody Richards (16), and Sheyanne Richards (13)

Hobbies: drawing and play video games with friends

Favorite high school memory: meeting the girl of my dreams

Future plans: do online college for game programming and game design or game art



Kaitlyn Opal Ringgenberg

Parents: Michael and Molly Ringgenberg

Hometown: Columbia

Brother and sister: Bailey Ringgenberg 21, and Logan Ringgenberg 10

Hobbies: showing cattle, horses, and pigs

School/community activities: FFA, show choir, school play, 4-H

Favorite high school memory: dissecting hearts and sheep eyes in Bio II

Future plans: graduate college from Presentation College and become a Surgical Technician

Awards:

SD Girls State Representative 2015

Groton FFA Alumni Scholarship

Groton Simon Insurance and Auction Scholarship



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James Thompson, Full Circle Ag rep Kelly Erickson, and Maggie Simon; James and Maggie were recipients of Full Circle Ag Scholarships



American Legion Citizenship - Left to right: Brody Sombke, American Legion representative Bob Wegner, Carly Wheeting

Brody Sombke and Carly Wheeting, seniors at Groton Area High School, have been selected to receive the 2016 American Legion Citizenship Award. The basis for the award is honor, courage, scholarship, leadership, and service. Brody and Carly received medals from the Groton American Legion Post #39.

Brody plans to attend the University of Minnesota Crookston and is the son of Clint and Kiersten Sombke. Carly plans to attend Northern State University and is the daughter of John and Chris Wheeting.



Keagan Richard Schelle

Parents: Rick and Dianne Schelle
Hometown: Groton
Brother: Alex McKiver 27
Hobbies: hanging out with friends, watching football, and playing video games.
School/community activities: football
Favorite high school memory: Winning Jungle games both years.
Future Plans: Joining the U.S. Army as an Infantryman. Possibly go to school after that for political science. Hopefully at the University of Pittsburgh.



Aaron Alan Severson

Parents: Leon and Alice Severson
Hometown: Groton
Brothers: Jeremy 31, Preston 23, Quenton 21, and Waylon 20
Hobbies: baseball in the summer
School/community activities: basketball, show choir, Kids Against Hunger, President of the Emmanuel Lutheran Lather League, President of the class of 2016.
Future plans: plan to attend LATI for a Business degree.
Award: Emmanuel Lutheran Faith Forever Scholarship



Brody James Sombke

Parents: Clint and Kiersten Sombke
Hometown: Ferney
Brother: Wyatt Sombke 20
Hobbies: Golfing, and fishing
School/community activities: 4-H, FFA, Golf team
Favorite high school memory: going to state FFA and all of the other contests
Future plans: attend the University of Minnesota Crookston for Aquatic Biology
Awards:
 Wendy's High School Heisman School Winner 2015
 National Honor Society
 Prudential Spirit of Community School Winner Award 2015
 American Legion Citizenship Award 2016
 Principal's Student Service Award 2016
 Stratford Community Theatre Scholarship
 University of Minnesota Crookston Distinguished Scholar Scholarship
 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Scholarship
 University of Minnesota Crookston Speech/Acting Scholarship
 Brown County 4-H Leaders Scholarship
 Lazy Farmers 4-H Club Scholarship
 Groton FFA Alumni Scholarship
 Groton Simon Insurance and Auction Scholarship
 Groton Chamber of Commerce Scholarship
 Ruden Family Ag Scholarship



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Emily Raap, Mike Harms, Sarah Harms, Carly Wheeting; Emily and Carly are the recipients of the Brenda Harms Memorial Scholarship

Special thanks to Jodi Sternhagen for getting all of the pictures of the award winners. As you can tell, there are a lot of awards and it takes a tremendous amount of coordination to get this done!

Right Photo: **Lily Cutler and Leonard Broman; Lily is the recipient of the Gwendolyn O'Connor Broman Memorial Scholarship**

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Sarah Michelle Stange

Parents: Keith and Shelley Stange
Hometown: Conde
Brothers and sisters: Randy Drobny 31, Samantha Drobny 28, Gary Stange 27, Ryan Stange 25 and Jessica Dell 19
Hobbies: photography
School/community activities: theater
Favorite high school memory: directing the all school play my senior year and filming the football games
Future plans: attend Lake Area Technical Institute for Business Associate in Photography and Media



Garrett Norman Stene

Parents: Rhonda May, and Glenn Stene
Brothers and sisters: Ashley Stene 22, Chris Larson 19, Eric May 22, Alex May 26
Hobbies: football, robotics, show choir, chamber choir
School/community activities: football, show choir, chamber choir, band
Favorite high school memory: show choir, trip to Orlando Fl.
Future plans: attend Lake Area Technical Institute for Aviation Maintenance to become an airline Mechanic.



Tia Marie Thompson

Parents: Bill Zoellner and the late Wanda Zoellner
Hometown: Groton
Sisters: Christina Zoellner 12, and Bailee Thompson 19
Hobbies: writing!!! Reading, drawing, sewing, Pinterest, and pretty much anything artistic.
School/community activities: FCCLA, youth group
Favorite high school memory: choir with Aleaya Worlie. She and I are close, and she has an incredible sense of humor. She can always make me laugh
Future plans: I'll attend Lake Area Tech for Law Enforcement, and after that, I'll go to Pierre for the 8 week Police Academy
Awards:
 Groton FCCLA Service Award
 David and Kay Donovan Memorial Scholarship



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Emily Raap and Hayden Anderson were the recipients of the Jerald W. Peterson Memorial Scholarship



Jamie Krueger and Lily Cutler (left to right); Jamie Krueger is the recipient of the Renee McKiver Memorial Scholarship and Lily Cutler is the recipient of the Vicki Strom Memorial Scholarship



Tia Thompson, Richard Donovan. Tia Thompson is the recipient of the Kay and David Donovan Memorial Scholarship



Left Photo: Left to right - Allison Weber is awarded the Groton PEO Scholarship by Linda Thurston, PEO representative



Hannah Jo Webb

Parents: Kent Webb and Lori Webb

Brother: Turner 17

Hobbies: showing Calves

School/community activities: FCCLA, FFA, 4-H, FBLA, God Squad Youth Group

Awards:

Groton FCCLA Service Award

Groton FFA Alumni Scholarship

Groton Simon Insurance and Auction Scholarship



Toby Tabitha Weber

Parents: Dean and Lisa Weber

Hometown: Andover

Brother and sisters: Heidi 22, Amanda 18, and Vernon 10

Hobbies: working with animals and kids, reading

School/community activities: FBLA, project skills

Favorite high school memory: working with the kids at OST

Future plans: graduate and work at a daycare



Lane Mark Weig

Parents: Jade Weig and Tena Lund

Hometown: Groton

Sisters: Jernie Weig 2 years old and Sydney Lund 6 years old

Hobbies: hunting, fishing, sports, working

School community activities: soccer and work

Favorite high school memory: winning state A championship soccer in 2014.

Future plans: attend Lake Area Tech for Agriculture



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Lions Club Scholarship recipients
Back - Marlee Jones, Carly Wheeting, Lee Schinkel (Lions Club rep), Mikaela Blumhardt
Front - Jamie Krueger, Katie Miller, Lily Cutler, Jaden Oliver



Youth Business Adventure

These juniors at Groton Area High School have been selected to attend the summer 2016 Youth Business Adventure program to be held this summer in Vermillion and Spearfish. YBA is a one-week learning experience in economics, management, and marketing. It expands the students' technical understanding of business management by participation in a computer-simulated management game and provides a place for them to interact with other students and business leaders.

Back - Whitney Voss, Megan Malsam, Heather Lone

Front - Nick Achen, Alex Kern



Alex Richard Worlie

Parents: Ron and Jean Worlie

Hometown: Conde

Brothers and sisters: April 27, Aaron 23, Amanda 21, and Alenya 16

Hobbies: hunting, fishing, camping, and farming

School/community activities: The Class building stuff for the community

Favorite high school memory: Kathy Harry study hall

Future plans: go to Watertown for Precision Ag then get a job close to home.

Future Plans: Hopefully make a Hunting Lodge out of our family farm



Christopher Michael Zarycki

Parents: John and Amy Zarycki

Hometown: Groton

Hobbies: hunting, fishing, and camping

School/community activities: football, Robotics, and track

Favorite high school memory: joining Robotics and being set free to accomplish a goal

Future plans: go to School of Mines for Computer Engineering



Build Dakota & Dakota Corps - Megan Unzen (Dakota Corps) and Jerick Hanson (Build Dakota)



Allison Weber received the Groton PAC community service scholarship and Carly Wheeting received the Groton Kiwanis community service scholarship



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Marlee Jones is recognized by the Associated School Boards Governor's Academic Excellence Recognition Day 2016 with Governor Dennis Daugaard



Marlee Jones and Kelsey Iverson received the 2016 Hopps Dow Scholarships.



NSU Music - Kari Hanson



Lee Schinkel, Kelsey Iverson, Amanda Hogg; Kelsey Iverson was selected as the recipient of the Susan Clawson Grace Memorial Teaching Scholarship



These students received scholarships from NSU Back - Carly Wheeting, Jayleen Lier, Kelsey Iverson Front - Kari Hanson, Josie Doeden, Jasmine Schaller



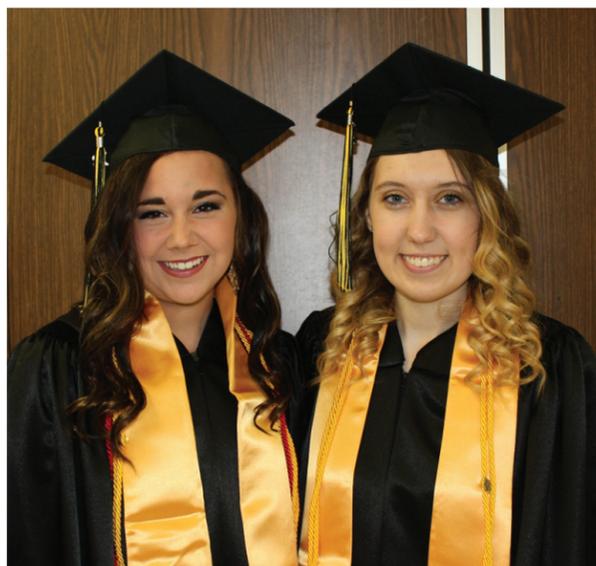
SD Opportunity Scholarship

The South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship was established for Regents Scholar and CTE recipients with an ACT score of 24 or greater. The scholarship provides \$6500 over four years to a qualifying student who attends an eligible higher education institution in South Dakota. While in college, students must maintain certain criteria. This scholarship is non-competitive; all students who meet the requirements and complete the application can receive the scholarship.

Twelve members of the Class of 2016 have qualified for the SD Opportunity Scholarship. They are: **Back - Jasmine Schaller, Jaden Oliver, Marlee Jones, Jayleen Lier, Maggie Simon, Kelsey Iverson, Megan Unzen; Front - Mikaela Blumhardt, Lily Cutler, James Thompson, Josie Doeden, Hailey Hanson**



Class of 69. Emily Raap and Allison Weber



Sammuli Rix Award. Jasmine Schaller and Jayleen Lier



Groton CTE Scholar

Seven Groton Area High School students have qualified for the Groton Area High School CTE scholar designation in 2016. Career and Technical Education scholars are students who have completed approved courses in the technical electives, sciences, and mathematics areas and maintain an overall GPA of 3.0, no final grade below a C (2.0) and must complete four units each of English, mathematics and science, three units of social studies, two units of technical electives, and one-half unit each of fine arts and computer science.

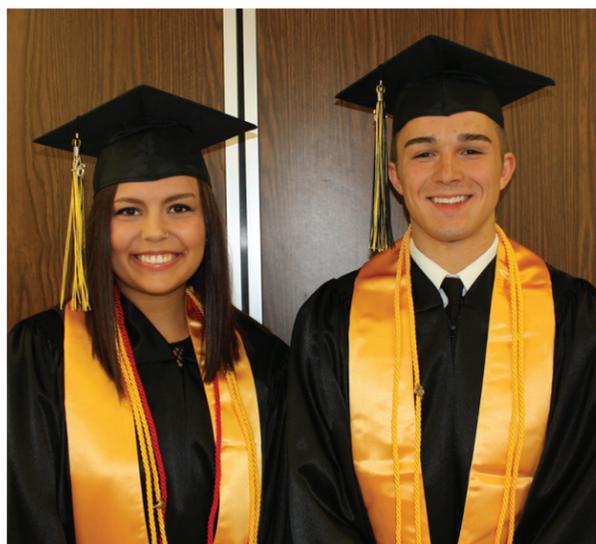
The GHS 2016 award recipients are: **Back - Katie Miller, Josie Doeden, Jayleen Lier, Maggie Simon; Front - Mikaela Blumhardt, Carly Wheeting, James Thompson**



Hayden Anderson (Jean Conley Brokaw) and Hailey Hanson (Anthony O' Brokaw)



Katie Miller received the Don Bartz Scholarship, Hayden Anderson received the Barry Schuring Memorial Scholarship, and Mikaela Blumhardt received the Groton Community Foundation Scholarship



Jaden Oliver and Adam Herman received the Edna Bugner Memorial Scholarship

DVDs of Groton's Graduation, music concerts, banquets, and prom are available for \$25 each (\$30 each if mailed). Call 397-6397 to place your order. Mail check to Groton Independent, 110 N. Washington St., Groton SD 57445-2252.



Principal's 6th Grade Honor Roll

Twenty-two sixth graders in the Class of 2022 have been selected for the Principal's Middle School 6th Grade Honor Roll at Groton Area High School. To be eligible for this award, the sixth graders had to be on the honor roll at Groton Area High School every quarter for one year.

This year's sixth graders on the Principal's Honor Roll are: **Back - Madeline Flihs, Trista Keith, Madisen Bjerke, Kaden Kurtz, Jackson Cogley, Travis Townsend, Lane Krueger, Jordan Bjerke, Pierce Kettering, Jackson Becker, Seth Johnson, Jayden Frohling; Front - Julianna Kosel, Kansas Kroll, Hannah Gustafson, Allyssa Locke, Macine McGannon, Kennedy Anderson, Megan Flihs, Stella Meier, Christina Zoellner Missing - Trey Johnson**



Principal's Middle School Honor Roll

Thirteen eighth graders in the Class of 2020 have been selected for the Principal's Middle School 8th Grade Honor Roll at Groton Area High School. To be eligible for this award, the eighth graders had to be on the honor roll at Groton Area High School every quarter for two years.

This year's eighth graders on the Principal's Honor Roll are: **Back - Rylee Rosenau, KaSandra Pappas, Tadyn Glover, Ashley Flihs, Katlyn Kyar, Payton Colestock, Kya Jandel, Madeline Schuelke; Front - Kayla Jensen, Nicole Marzahn, Peyton Johnson, Austin Jones, Kaycie Hawkins**



Principal's High School Honor Roll

Fourteen seniors in the Class of 2016 have been selected for the Principal's Honor Roll at Groton Area High School. To be eligible for this award, the seniors had to be on the honor roll at Groton Area High School every quarter for four years.

"This is a very special award," stated Anna Schwan, Principal at Groton High School. "These students have worked very hard academically and should be commended."

This year's seniors on the Principal's Honor Roll are: **Back - Katie Miller, Emily Raap, Jasmine Schaller, Megan Unzen, Mikaela Blumhardt, Jaden Oliver, Maggie Simon, Carly Wheeting, Allison Weber; Front - Marlee Jones, Kiernan McCranie, James Thompson, Lily Cutler, Hailey Hanson**



Board President Steve Smith presented Angela Carlson for her 24 years of service to the Groton Area School District.



The senior choir members sang, "I Will Always Remember You." They were directed and accompanied by Cody Swanson.



Superintendent Joe Schwan presented a plaque to Lars Hanson. Hanson has been on the Board of Education for nine years.

Dorene Nelson was also recognized as she has been on the Board of Education for 12 years and has spent 70 percent of her lifetime dedicated to the Groton Area School District.



Marlee Jones presented the leftover funds from the senior account to the Board President Steve Smith. The money is to be used for the landscaping project around the high school building.



Superintendent Joe Schwan gave the welcome at the Commencement program.



Aaron Severson and Carly Wheeting were the senior speakers.



Jamie Krueger led the student-led prayer at the commencement program.



Dr. Anna Schwan, Groton Area Middle/High School Principal, announced the special senior awards program.

Left Photo: This photo was found on Facebook of Glenna Remington with her plaque for her six years as a paraprofessional to the Groton Area School

Below: The Groton Area High School Band, under the direction of Desiree Yeigh, played the pre-commencement and recessional music.

