



\$2

# The Groton Independent

Vol. 142 No. 33 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Thursday, May 7, 2025 ♦ Established in 1889



**Pictured left to right area Claire Schuelke, Halee Harder, Carly Gilbert, Rylie Rose and Carlee Johnson.** (Courtesy Photo)

## Johnson takes second as Groton girls golf team wins Redfield Invite

Carlee Johnson took second place at the Redfield Invitational Golf Meet held Thursday. Her score was a 96. Kensley Heath of Sisseton took first with a n 87.

Others golfing for Groton Area were Claire Schuelke in fifth with a 111, Halee Harder was sixth with a 111 Carly Gilbert was seventh with a 113 and Rylie Rose was 10th with a 121.

There were only two complete teams with Groton Area winning the meet over Milbank, 431-516.



**BDM HIRES NEW MANAGER – The BDM Rural Water Board of Directors has hired Tom Jones (right) as the new BDM Rural Water General Manager. Jones is pictured with Board Chairman Kevin Deutsch (center) and Retiring General Manager Rodney Kappes (left).** ~ Courier Photo

## BDM announces New General Manager

The Board of BDM Rural Water System, Inc. wishes to announce that Thomas Jones of rural Britton has been selected to assume the duties as the next General Manager, as of Jan. 1, 2026, succeeding current General Manager Rodney Kappes.

Jones, a lifelong member of BDM and advocate of the cooperative business model, comes to the role having spent the past nine years with the USDA Rural Utilities Service working with Electric Cooperatives across the state of South Dakota and the Northern Great Plains. Prior to that time he was on the board at Lake Region Electric Cooperative and worked for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in various locations in North and South Dakota.

Jones is extremely excited to bring his experiences and ag background to BDM at an exciting time as the company finishes the new water treatment plant and adds significant resources to the overall system. Tom and his wife Marcy, a teacher at Britton-Hecla school, are the parents of three, all living in the Britton area. In his free time Jones enjoys carpentry and dog training along with all activities outdoors.

Tom's employment with BDM will begin Oct. 1, 2025, allowing for a smooth transition where Tom will mentor with Rodney until Rodney's retirement date of Dec. 31, 2025.

## Groton City Council swears in new councilman, appoints new city attorney, approves wastewater improvement project

**By Elizabeth Varin**

Two new people joined the Groton City Council table at Tuesday's meeting.

Mike Shilhanek was sworn in as council member for Ward 1, replacing Shirley Wells. Soon after, Mayor Scott Hanlon appointed new City Attorney Chad Locken, taking over the position previously held by Drew Johnson for 42 years.

Hanlon thanked Wells and Johnson for their time with the city, including reading a statement to celebrate Johnson's years of service.

"Drew's life is defined by service, justice and love for his family," Hanlon said. "Thank you Drew for putting up with us for all these years and for all that you've done."

After the council reorganization, the topic moved to a possible road project and wastewater improvement funding.

The council approved a \$6.587 million wastewater improvement project, which has been a discussion item since mid-2024. The council officially approved the project and a plan to work with the state's Department of Natural Resources for a \$4.587 million 30-year loan and a consolidated grant that can't exceed \$2 million.

The council also approved signing a design/engineering agreement with IMEG Corporation to solidify plans for the project.

Council members expressed concerns about whether the improvements in the project would keep the city's system going through at least the life of the loan. IMEG Corporation Senior Civil Designer Ken Hier said the wastewater improvement study from 2024 included a long life for the wastewater improvement project, and there should even be room for the city to grow a bit.

The council approved both the project and engineering agreement with two 5-0 votes. Shilhanek abstained from the vote, saying he wasn't comfortable voting on the project without reviewing it further.

The council also reviewed a grant opportunity that would allow the city to improve Railroad Avenue, from Broadway Street to the golf course.

**Continues on back page**

## Ethan Clark among students honored at DSU Dean's Cup

Each year, The Beacom College of Computer & Cyber Sciences Dean's Cup highlights the talents of Dakota State University students.

This year was no exception, but in addition to the talents of the contestants, the competition showcased the abilities of last year's winner, too.

John Brumels, a cyber defense master's degree student from Sioux Falls, took first place last year, and jumped in to help organize this year's event. He decided that instead of just a standard hackathon, the competition should be a build-a-thon.

Over one week, students in all majors were given the opportunity to build something using technology, and create a five-minute video explaining their project. A panel of judges critiqued the projects on four categories:

- Innovation and creativity
- Technical execution
- Impact and expression
- Presentation clarity

"The students really stepped up to the challenge," said Dr. Mary Bell, dean of The Beacom College. "All demonstrated what they can accomplish when technology meets with imagination," she stated.

Three students were honored with cash awards for their projects, funds which are generated from the annual DakotaCon cybersecurity conference.

Ethan Clark, computer science and cyber operations double major from Groton, S.D., 1st place for creating a hardware-based VPN client using a Raspberry Pi

Hunter Wade –a cyber defense master's degree student from Flاندreau, S.D., 2ndplace for his powersheel-based automation tool

Rayn Light, cyber operations major from Brandon, S.D., 3rd place for building a QUIC-over-HTTP/3 command and control infrastructure

Two students were awarded prizes as part of a raffle, Brooks Robison and Oluwajuwon Adedowole.



# Four athletes are triple winners at Sisseton

The Groton Area boys team took first place in five events while the girls took first in seven events at the Sisseton Legion Relays held Friday.

Keegen Tracy, MaKenna Krause, Taryn Traphagen and McKenna Tietz were all triple winners. Tracy won the 100m, 400m, and ran the first leg of the 4x400 relay. Krause won the 100m, the long jump and anchored the SMR 1600m relay. Tietz won the 100m hurdles and ran on the 4x200 and 4x400m relay events and Traphagen was on three winning relay teams. Others taking first were Blake Pauli in the 800m run, Jayden Schwan in the 1600m run and the girls won three other relay events: 4x100 relay, 4x400m relay and the 4x800m relay.

Both teams placed third at the meet.

## Boy's Division

**Team Standings:** 1. Milbank 170, 2. Sisseton 88, 3. Groton Area 86, 4. Frederick Area 82, 5. Border West 74, 6. Britton-Hecla 56, 7. Tri-State 49, 8. Lisbon 35, 9. Waubay/Summit 31, 10. Hankinson 30, 11. Northwestern 29, 12. Langford Area 15, 13. Richland 12, 14. Webster Area 7, 15. Wilmot 3.

**100 Meters:** 1. Keegen Tracy, 11.59; 5. Lincoln Krause, 12.13

**200 Meters:** 10. Jordan Schwan, 25.83

**400 Meters:** 1. Keegen Tracy, 51.55

**800 Meters:** 1. Blake Pauli, 2:04.06; 7. Tristin McGannon, 2:19.02; 15. Kason Oswald, 2:33.06

**1600 Meters:** 1. Jayden Schwan, 4:50.33; 5. Jace Johnson, 5:23.34

**4x100 Relay:** 4. (Brevin Fliehs, Lincoln Krause, Jordan Schwan, Ryder Schelle), 47.43.

**4x400 Relay:** 1. (Keegen Tracy, Blake Pauli, Jayden Schwan, Ethan Kroll), 3:35.57.

**SMR 1600m - [200-200-400-800]:** 2. (Brevin Fliehs, Lincoln Krause, Jordan Schwan, Jace Johnson), 4:04.76.

**Shot Put - 12lb:** 6. Karter Moody, 39' 4.75"

**Discus - 1.6kg:** 17. Karter Moody, 86' 1"

**Javelin - 800g:** 14. TC Schuster, 96' 5"; 19. Karter Moody, 86' 3"

**Long Jump:** 5. Ethan Kroll, 18' 9.5"; 26. Kason Oswald, 14' 9.5"; 29. TC Schuster, 13' 8.5"

**Triple Jump:** 3. Ethan Kroll, 38' 0.5"; 12. Tristin McGannon, 33' 6.5"

## Girl's Division

**Team Standings:** 1. Border West 146, 2. Lisbon 118, 3. Groton Area 110, 4. Britton-Hecla 80, 5. Milbank 64, 6. Richland 54, 7. Tri-State 47, 8. Sisseton 38, 9. Langford Area 36, 10. Frederick Area 26, 11. Webster Area 11, 12. Hankinson 5, 12. Waubay/Summit 5, 14. Northwestern 4, 15. Wilmot 3.

**100 Meters:** 1. MaKenna Krause, 13.37; 23. Elizabeth Fliehs, 15.26

**200 Meters:** 6. Rylee Dunker, 30.35; 15. Elizabeth Fliehs, 31.94

**800 Meters:** 2. Faith Traphagen, 2:41.27

**1600 Meters:** 3. Ryelle Gilbert, 5:50.54

**100m Hurdles - 33":** 1. McKenna Tietz, 17.44; 5. Talli Wright, 19.30; 9. Teagan Hanten, 20.51; 10. Hannah Sandness, 20.76

**300m Hurdles - 30":** 3. McKenna Tietz, 51.31; 9. Talli Wright, 56.49; 13. Teagan Hanten, 59.26; 14. Hannah Sandness, 1:02.46

**4x100 Relay:** 3. (Rylee Dunker, Faith Traphagen, Ashlynn Warrington, Elizabeth Fliehs), 56.19.

**4x200 Relay:** 1. (Laila Roberts, Kella Tracy, McKenna Tietz, Taryn Traphagen), 1:53.06.

**4x400 Relay:** 1. (Laila Roberts, Taryn Traphagen, McKenna Tietz, Kella Tracy), 4:18.54.

**4x800 Relay:** 1. (Faith Traphagen, Kella Tracy, Taryn Traphagen, Ryelle Gilbert), 10:19.56

**SMR 1600m - [200-200-400-800]:** 1. (Rylee Dunker, Ashlynn Warrington, Ryelle Gilbert, MaKenna Krause), 4:41.19.

**Shot Put - 4kg:** 3. Emma Kutter, 30' 11.75"; 18. Libby Cole, 25' 4"; 26. Avery Crank, 23' 0.5"; 28. Audrey Davis, 22' 6.75"; 29. Ashley Johnson, 22' 4.5"

**Discus - 1kg:** 8. Avery Crank, 80' 11"; 17. Libby Cole, 74' 11"; 21. Emma Kutter, 69' 9"; 33. Audrey Davis, 61' 4"; 34. Kyleigh Kroll, 60' 7"

**Javelin - 600g:** 9. Avery Crank, 75' 9"; 11.



**Tiger hurdlers cross the 100m highs L-R Hannah Sandness, Talli Wright, and Teagan Hanten.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



**Addison Hoffman throwing javelin.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)

Emma Kutter, 69' 2"; 16. Elizabeth Fliehs, 64' 6"; 18. Addison Hoffman, 62' 1"; 24. Ashley Johnson, 51' 11"

**Long Jump:** 1. MaKenna Krause, 15' 5"; 24. Rylie Rose, 11' 8"; 26. Teagan Hanten, 11' 2.5"; 29. Addison Hoffman, 9' 11.25"

**Triple Jump:** 14. Teagan Hanten, 26' 11.25"



**Tiger Ace hurler McKenna Tietz during the girls 300m intermediate hurdle race placing 3rd. Earlier in meet in the 100m hurdles McKenna placed first in a cross border competitive field.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



**Tiger girls long distance ace Ryelle Gilbert in the 1600m run placing third.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



**Tiger ace long distance runner Jayden Schwan wins the 1600m (mile) run and sets yet another personal record.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



**Tiger freshman long jumper and runner Ethan Kroll in his long jump 5th place finish. He also placed 3rd in the triple jump.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



**Tiger sophomores standouts Kella Tracy hands off to McKenna Tietz in the winning 4x200m relay.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)

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**Groton area swept the boys and girls MVP honors in the Sisseton Legion Relays with Keegen Tracy and MaKenna Krause. Keegen had triple first places in 100m, 400m, and 4x400 relay. Makenna also had triple first places in 100m, SMR 1600m relay, and long jump.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



**Groton Area Tigers boys 4x400m relay winners and personal record rear L-R Blake Pauli, Jayden Schwan. Front L-R Ethan Kroll and Keegan Tracy.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



The board of trustees for the town of Claremont met on January 14 2025 at 8pm in city hall at 606 6th Ave. in Claremont. Trustees Thompson and Rasmussen were present Spencer called the meeting to order. The minutes of the December meeting were approved on a motion by Thompson and seconded by Rasmussen. Motion carried. On a motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Thompson the following warrants were allowed: BDM water purchased, 852.40; Full Circle Ag, propane/city hall, 664.64; James Valley, phone and internet, 160.72; Ecolab, pest Elimination, 190.74; Northwestern, street lights, 620.59; Northwestern, city hall, 196.21; Northwestern, pump power, 34.34; Northwestern, new sewer lift, 43.54; USDA Rural Development, water lion, 576.00; SD. Dept. of Health Lab, water samples, 29.00; Charla Rye wage, 500.00; Claremont Township, 1/2 cemetery mowing, 1650.00; GDi, Resolutions for stormwater sewer, 304.00; IRS 4th Quarter Fed report, 602.16; With no further business before the board a motion was made to adjourn by Thompson and seconded by Rasmussen. Carried.

C. Rye, Finance Officer  
Town of Claremont

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**Ethan Kroll anchors the winning boys 4x400m relay.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)

**Veteran Tiger junior hurdler Talli Wright clears the intermediate hurdle to best her season record.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



**Groton Area Tigers girls 4x400m relay winners rear L-R Kella Tracy and Taryn Traphagen. Front L-R Laila Roberts and McKenna Tietz.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



**Emma Kutter lets the shot put fly in her 3rd place finish.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



**Laila Roberts hand off to Taryn Traphagen in the winning 4x400m relay. The Groton Area Tigers girls won 4 out of the 5 relays.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



**Blake Pauli hands off to Jayden Schwan in the winning 4x400m relay.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



**Keegan Tracy hands off to Blake Pauli in the winning 4x400m relay.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



**Two Groton Tiger standouts McKenna Tietz hands off to Kella Tracy in the winning 4x400m relay.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



**Faith Traphagen hands off to Rylee Dunker in 4x100m relay.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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

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Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.

1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204

The Groton Independent

21 N Main, Groton 605/397-NEWS (6397)

Paul Irvin Kosel, Publisher [paperpaul@grotonsd.net](mailto:paperpaul@grotonsd.net) ~ 605-397-7460

Tina Kosel, Office Manager [office@grotonsd.net](mailto:office@grotonsd.net) ~ 605-397-7285

Notices: [legals@grotonsd.net](mailto:legals@grotonsd.net)

News Items: [news@grotonsd.net](mailto:news@grotonsd.net)

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

Last week we did an instant analysis of the Minnesota Vikings’ draft picks, with a quick breakdown of each rookie and how they might fit on the team, not only this year but also in the future. This week we take a look at the experts’ opinions of the Vikings’ draft haul. This should all be taken with a grain of salt, of course, since we won’t know how good or bad a draft class is until they’ve been in the league for a few years. But that’s not going to stop us from looking at some knee-jerk reactions from around the league.

René Bugner (@RNBWCV) put together a handy chart that we'll be using for these evaluations. The chart lists 24 draft grades taken from all the “experts” around the league, then averages them out to rank how each team did. And I have to say, the experts were not kind to the Vikings.

When all the draft grades are averaged out, it gives us a GPA for each team. The Vikings are ranked 29th with a 2.35 GPA. Comparatively, the New England Patriots were 1st with a 3.67 GPA, followed by the New York Giants (3.65) and the Seattle Seahawks (3.63). The Cincinnati Bengals had the worst GPA by far (2.06).

Looking around the NFC North, the Chicago Bears had top marks in the division with a 3.04 GPA, tied for 19th league-wide. The Green Bay Packers appear next with a 2.65 GPA, which is 25th league-wide. The Lions were last in the division with a 2.33 GPA, which was the second-lowest grade when looking at the league as a whole.

Digging into the Vikings’ grade, Chris Trapasso from CBS Sports was the only expert to give the Vikings an A. Here’s what he had to say:” General manager Kwesi Adofo-Mensah started this draft with four selections, added one more, and knocked this selection process out of the park. Jackson in Round 1 directly helps J.J. McCarthy and the run game. He’s a pro-ready guard with All-Pro upside.

Felton’s speed is evident on film -- and from looking at his combine workout -- but there’s also run-after-the-catch pop his profile, and Ingram-Dawkins can be another chess piece for Brian Flores up front.

King is a throwback type linebacker who provides much needed size to that position, and Bartholomew was probably the most underrated receiving tight end in the class. Needs met, and they were aligned with prospects snagged at the right values”

The lowest grades the Vikings received were from Thor Nystrom and Vinnie Lyer, who both gave the Vikings Ds.

Thor had a lengthy breakdown at Fantasy Life, but his overall breakdown was: “(Vikings’ GM) Adofo-Mensah told the media over the weekend that, in the circumstances that he was in, hitting it down the fairway was the best course of action. That’s what he did, adding an immediate starter at LG while fleshing out the roster’s depth.”

Vinnie Lyer from Sporting News wrote: “The Vikings had an underwhelming draft after some strong previous work from Kwesi Adofo-Mensah. They ended up with some good offensive line depth early with Jackson, but the rest of the picks don’t work to keep them as a playoff team in QB transition. They also should not have bothered trading for Sam Howell”

Groton Senior Citizens

March 10

Groton Seniors met with ten members to play cards. Cards were played. The winners of each game, pinochle- Ruby Donovan,Whist- Elda Stange, Canasta- Julie Shilhank, door prizes Ruby Donovan, Julie Shilank, Tony gold age, Eunice McColister served lunch.

King Crossword

March 17

Groton Seniors met with nine members president opened with allegiance to the flag. Secretary and treasurer reports were read.A card was all signed for Julie Shilhank who was having surgery . Meeting adjourned and cards played the winners were pinochle- Ruby Donovan, whist-Darlene Fischer , Canasta- Eunice McColister, Door prizes Ruby Donovan, Dick Donovan,Elda Stange. Lunch was served by Darlene Fischer

March 24

Groton Seniors met with eleven members for their pot dinner. President led the flag pledge and table prayer. After dinner bingo was played. Pat Larson won Blsck out. Cards were played after bingo. Door prizes Bev Sombke, Dick Donovan, Ruby Donovan. Lunch was served from left over from dinner before going home.

ACROSS

1 Completely

4 Playwright Levin

7 Done with

11 Secular

13 Collection

14 Water carrier

15 Airline to Tel Aviv

16 ET's craft

17 Dutch cheese

18 Ersatz chocolate

20 One-named supermodel

22 Tree fluid

24 Trombone parts

28 Grassy tract

32 January, to Juan

33 Grassy area

34 Shade provider

36 FBI guy

37 Alpha's opposite

39 "The Hunger Games" heroine

41 Dance clubs

43 Prefix with athlete

44 Tom Joad, for one

46 Urged (on)

50 Hive population

53 Schlep

55 Luau dance

56 Vegetarian's no-no

57 Mine material

58 Russian ruler

59 Saturates

60 Scale member

61 Blasting stick

DOWN

1 Sir Guinness

2 In — land

3 Deceitful person

4 Terre Haute sch.

5 Mortgage again, for short

6 Molecule parts

7 Exciting Broadway event

8 YouTube clip, for short

9 Clean air org.

10 "The One I Love" band

12 Loan application fees

19 "Cheers" setting

21 Pub order

23 Bakery purchase

25 Singer Lovato

26 Historic periods

27 Male children

28 Trudge

29 Actor Malek

30 Dazzles

31 Caribou kin

35 Yoga pad

38 Fine, to NASA

40 Italian "three"

42 Farm towers

45 Franc replacement

47 Sudden wind

48 Flair

49 Scurry

50 German auto

51 Shoe width

52 Have breakfast

54 Solidify



The junior high track meet was held Monday at Sisseton with Groton Area winning in 17 events.

**100 Meters 7th Grade:** 1. Ryder Schwan, 12.54; 2. Trayce Schelle, 13.86; 3. Trey Tietz, 13.90; 6. Ivan Schwan, 14.17; 8. Liam Johnson, 14.44; 10. Kinton Tracy, 14.57; 14. Carlos Rodregiz-Cen..., 15.27

**200 Meters 7th Grade:** 1. Ryder Schwan, 25.76; 2. Trayce Schelle, 28.46; 3. Trey Tietz, 29.50; 5. Kinton Tracy, 30.35; 6. Carlos Rodregiz-Cen..., 30.71; 7. Quinton Flores, 31.53





**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Application has been made to the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission for a VARIANCE PETITION. A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Court House Annex on May 20, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.  
Petitioner / Owner: Brody & Brooke Leikvold  
Description of property: Proposed Lot 1, "Leikvold Second Addition" in the SW1/4 of Section 26-T124N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (Approx. 38634 129th Street, Lincoln Twp.).  
Reason: A Variance for Approach Separation in a Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to be 215' and 250' from existing approaches rather than the 500' required in Brown County Zoning Ordinances.  
The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the proposed variance request.  
Dated this 7th day of May 2025  
Planning/Zoning Commission and  
Scott Bader – P&Z Director  
25 Market Street  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
Office: (605) 626-7144  
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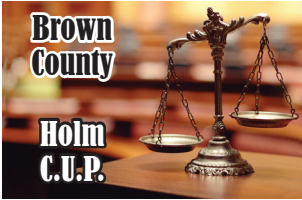


**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
A PETITION to REZONE has been submitted to Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission. A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex on May 20, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.  
Petitioner: Jeff Brockel / Jacob Palmer  
Description of property: Lots 1 thru 10, "Todd Rosebrock First Subdivision" in the NW1/4 of Section 9-T123N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (4095, 4185, 4275, 4365, 4395, 4390, 4360, 4270, 4180 & 4090 Paper Lane; Aberdeen Twp.).  
Reason: Rezone parcel from Highway Commercial District (HC) to Commercial District (C) to bring these parcels into compliance for their current use.  
The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the proposed rezone petition. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission will forward a recommendation to the Board of Brown County Commissioner's with a future meeting date in the Commission Chambers. Verify the meeting dates with the Brown County Auditor.  
Dated this 7th day of May 2025.  
Planning/Zoning Commission and  
Scott Bader – P&Z Director  
25 Market Street  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
Office: (605) 626-7144  
Published May 5, 2025, in "The Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$15.64 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25569



**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Application has been made to the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission for a VARIANCE PETITION. A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, on May 20, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.  
Petitioner / Owner: Anthony & Kelsey Scarborough  
Description of property: Proposed Lot 1, "Scarborough Second Addition" in the NW1/4 of Section 22-T121N-R65W of the

**6 ♦ Groton Independent ♦ Wed., May 7, 2025**

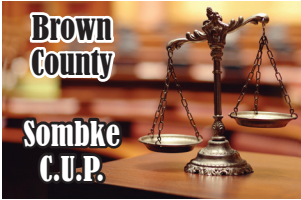


**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Application has been made to the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission for a CONDITIONAL USE PETITION (CUP). A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, on May 20, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.  
Petitioner / Owner: A-1 Sanitation – Steve Holm  
Legal description of property: Lot 2, "Wheat Growers West Subdivision" in the N1/2 of Section 21-T123N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (38435 133rd Street; Aberdeen Twp.).  
Reason: A Conditional Use Petition (CUP) for a new 25' x 45' storage building in a Heavy Industrial District (H-I).  
The public may attend the hearing and present comments and testimony regarding the proposed Conditional Use Petition (CUP) request.  
Dated this 7th day of May 2025.  
Planning/Zoning Commission and  
Scott Bader – P&Z Director  
25 Market Street  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
Office: (605) 626-7144  
Published May 5, 2025, in "The Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$12.88 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25562



**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
A PETITION to REZONE has been submitted to Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission. A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex on May 20, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.  
Petitioner: Edward Price for Braun Family Limited Partnership  
Description of property: Lot 1, "E. Price Addition" in the NW1/4 of the NW1/4 of Section 23-T121N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (14510 392nd Avenue; West Rondell Twp.).  
Reason: Rezone parcel from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its current use.  
The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the proposed rezone petition. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission will forward a recommendation to the Board of Brown County Commissioner's with a future meeting date in the Commission Chambers. Verify the meeting dates with the Brown County Auditor.  
Dated this 7th day of May 2025.  
Planning/Zoning Commission and  
Scott Bader – P&Z Director  
25 Market Street  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
Office: (605) 626-7144  
Published May 5, 2025, in "The Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$15.33 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25570

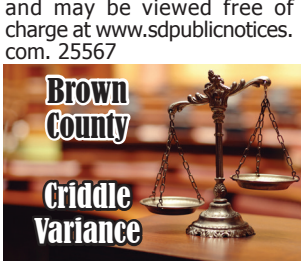
5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (14536 377th Avenue, New Hope Township).  
Reason: Variance to Lot Size to allow Lot 1 (3.16 acres) to be smaller than 40.0 acres and stay zoned as Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) per 4.0605 of Brown County Ordinances.  
The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the proposed ordinance amendment.  
Dated this 7th day of May 2025.  
Planning/Zoning Commission and  
Scott Bader – P&Z Director  
25 Market Street  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
Office: (605) 626-7144  
Published May 5, 2025, in "The Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$12.88



**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Application has been made to the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission for a CONDITIONAL USE PETITION (CUP). A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, on May 20, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.  
Petitioner / Owner: Bryan & Bryce Sombke  
Legal description of property: Lot 1A, "Sombke Second Subdivision" in the S1/2 of Section 8-T121N-R60W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (40752 144th Street; Bates Twp.).  
Reason: A Conditional Use Petition (CUP) to expand the existing hunting lodge 60' x 40' in an Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P).  
The public may attend the hearing and present comments and testimony regarding the proposed Conditional Use Petition (CUP) request.  
Dated this 7th day of May 2025.  
Planning/Zoning Commission and  
Scott Bader – P&Z Director  
25 Market Street  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
Office: (605) 626-7144  
Published May 5, 2025, in "The Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$13.18 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25564



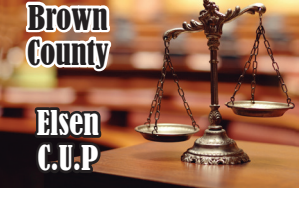
**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
A PETITION to REZONE has been submitted to Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission. A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex on May 20, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.  
Petitioner: Darian & Kimberly Browning  
Description of property: Lot 1, "Browning First Subdivision" in the SW1/4 of Section 35-T122N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (14172 378th Avenue; Highland Twp.).  
Reason: Rezone parcel from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its current use.  
The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the proposed rezone petition. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission will forward a recommendation to the Board of Brown County Commissioner's with a future meeting date in the Commission Chambers. Verify the meeting dates with the Brown County Auditor.  
Dated this 7th day of May 2025.  
Planning/Zoning Commission and  
Scott Bader – P&Z Director  
25 Market Street  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
Office: (605) 626-7144  
Published May 5, 2025, in "The Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$15.02 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25571



**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Application has been made to the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission for a VARIANCE PETITION. A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex on May 20, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.  
Petitioner/Owner: Ross Criddle / David & Nancy Criddle  
Description of property: The SW1/4 of Section 21-T121N-R63W, except "Criddle's Outlot



**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Application has been made to the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission for a VARIANCE PETITION. A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex on May 20, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.  
Petitioner/Owner: Jenny Nelson for Sylte Brothers  
Description of property: "Goldade Outlot 2" in the NW1/4 of Section 22-T123N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (5260 E Highway 12; Bath Twp.).  
Reason: A Variance for Building Setbacks in a Highway Commercial District (HC) to have a 5'-0" West Side Yard Setback rather than the 25'-0" Setback required by Brown County Zoning Ordinances.  
The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the proposed variance request.  
Dated this 7th day of May 2025  
Planning/Zoning Commission and  
Scott Bader – P&Z Director  
25 Market Street  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
Office: (605) 626-7144  
Published May 5, 2025, in "The Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$12.88 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25563



**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Application has been made to the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission for a CONDITIONAL USE PETITION (CUP) for a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO). A hearing will be held in the basement Community Room of the Brown County Courthouse Annex, on May 20, 2024, at 7:00 P.M.  
Petitioner: Michael & Julie Elsen  
Legal description of property: The SE1/4 of Section 5-T128N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (Liberty Twp).  
Reason: A Conditional Use Petition (CUP).  
The public may attend the hearing and present comments and testimony regarding the proposed Conditional Use Petition (CUP) request.  
Dated this 7th day of May 2025.  
Planning/Zoning Commission and  
Scott Bader – P&Z Director  
25 Market Street; Suite 5  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
Office: (605) 626-7144  
Published May 5, 2025, in "The Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$12.57 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25572

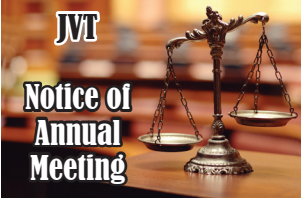
1", of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (14580 390th Avenue; West Rondell Twp.).  
Reason: A Variance for Building Setbacks in an Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to have a 45' West Front Yard Setback rather than the 100' Setback required by Brown County Zoning Ordinances.  
The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the proposed variance request.  
Dated this 7th day of May 2025  
Planning/Zoning Commission and  
Scott Bader – P&Z Director  
25 Market Street  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
Office: (605) 626-7144  
Published May 5, 2025, in "The Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$12.88



**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Application has been made to the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission for a CONDITIONAL USE PETITION (CUP). A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, on May 20, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.  
Petitioner / Owner: Fantasyland and Properties, LLC  
Legal description of property: Lot 3, "Todd Rosebrock First Subdivision" in the NW1/4 of Section 9-T123N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (4275 Paper Lane; Aberdeen Twp.).  
Reason: A Conditional Use Petition (CUP) for open storage of campers, trailers and some vehicles in a proposed Commercial District (C).  
The public may attend the hearing and present comments and testimony regarding the proposed Conditional Use Petition (CUP) request.  
Dated this 7th day of May 2025.  
Planning/Zoning Commission and  
Scott Bader – P&Z Director  
25 Market Street  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
Office: (605) 626-7144  
Published May 5, 2025, in "The Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$13.18 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25565



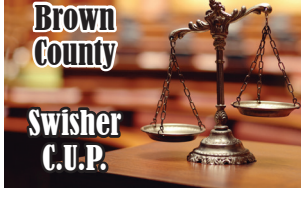
**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Application has been made to the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission for a VARIANCE PETITION. A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex on May 20, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.  
Petitioner/Owner: Amber Crouch  
Description of property: Lot 7, Block 2, Original Plat of Stratford in the SW1/4 of Section 4-T121N-R62W, of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (315 Campbell Avenue; Stratford City).  
Reason: A Variance to Building Setbacks in a Rural Urban District (R-U) to have a 6' South Front Yard Setback rather than the 25' Setback & a 5'-4" West (Street) Side Yard Setback rather than the 15' Setback required by Brown County Zoning Ordinances.  
The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the proposed variance request.  
Dated this 7th day of May 2025  
Planning/Zoning Commission and  
Scott Bader – P&Z Director  
25 Market Street  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
Office: (605) 626-7144  
Published May 5, 2025, in "The Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$13.80 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25573



**NOTICE OF 68th ANNUAL MEETING**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the 68th Annual Meeting of the members of James Valley Cooperative Telephone Company will be held at the Groton High School Arena in Groton, South Dakota on Thursday, May 29, 2025, at 6:30pm, with registration and meal beginning at 5:30pm.



**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Application has been made to the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission for a CONDITIONAL USE PETITION (CUP). A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, on May 20, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.  
Petitioner / Owner: Jeff Brockel  
Legal description of property: Lot 9, "Todd Rosebrock First Subdivision" in the NW1/4 of Section 9-T123N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (4180 Paper Lane; Aberdeen Twp.).  
Reason: A Conditional Use Petition (CUP) for a new 60' x 152' building with living space in a proposed Commercial District (C).  
The public may attend the hearing and present comments and testimony regarding the proposed Conditional Use Petition (CUP) request.  
Dated this 7th day of May 2025.  
Planning/Zoning Commission and  
Scott Bader – P&Z Director  
25 Market Street  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
Office: (605) 626-7144  
Published May 5, 2025, in "The Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$13.18 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25566



**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Application has been made to the Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission for a CONDITIONAL USE PETITION (CUP). A hearing will be held in the Basement Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, on May 20, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.  
Petitioner / Agent: Tim Swisher, Inman & McDowell, Inc.  
Legal description of property: "Inman Irrigation Addition" in the SW1/4 of Section 14-T123N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (421 392nd Avenue; Bath Twp.).  
Reason: A Conditional Use Petition (CUP) for up to 4) 60'x216', finished, 7-unit storage buildings in an Heavy Industrial District (H-I).  
The public may attend the hearing and present comments and testimony regarding the proposed Conditional Use Petition (CUP) request.  
Dated this 7th day of May 2025.  
Planning/Zoning Commission and  
Scott Bader – P&Z Director  
25 Market Street  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
Office: (605) 626-7144  
Published May 5, 2025, in "The Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$12.88 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 255734

The meeting is called pursuant to the cooperative's bylaws for the following purposes:  
1. To receive and act upon reports of the officers and management of the cooperative for the previous year's operations.  
2. To elect one director for a term of three years.  
3. To act upon any other business that may properly come before the meeting.  
By order of the Board of Directors.  
Dated: 12/19/2024  
Roger Zastrow, Secretary  
Published May 5, 2025, in "The Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$11.07 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25575





April 29, 2025 – GENERAL MEETING

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

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

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:** Senator Perry informed the Commission that tonight from 5pm – 8pm at Arby's a portion of the sale proceeds will be donated to the Aberdeen Homeless Coalition.

**ORDINANCE #292 – SECOND READING/POSSIBLE ADOPTION:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to adopt Ordinance #292. Petitioner Donald & Jolene Bonn to rezone from Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to Lake Front Residential District (R-3) to bring these parcels into compliance for its current use: Description of property: Lot 6, "Greg Hoffman Addition" in the E1/2 of Section 14-T124N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (126979 West Shore Drive, Ravinia Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE #293 – SECOND READING/POSSIBLE ADOPTION:** Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to adopt Ordinance #293. Petitioner Donald & Becky Wegleitner to rezone from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its current use: Description of property: The E 42.5 Rods of the S 77.75 Rods in the NE 1/4 of Section 4-T125N-R60W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (11831 409th Avenue, Claremont Twp.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY FOR GENE WOLTER:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve the following application submitted by Gene Wolter for occupancy of Brown County 6 (aka 382nd Ave.) in Section 30-T124-R64, Brown County, South Dakota to install potable water line. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**ANNUAL ENROLLMENT BENEFITS:** Allison Tunheim, Human Resources Director, met with the Commission to discuss the Annual Enrollment Benefits. The County will stay with Optilegra for Vision Insurance, there are no plan changes or increases; Dental insurance will stay with Delta Dental and there will be a 2.8% increase; Health Insurance will stay with Wellmark but there will be changes to keep the increase at the lowest rate, which will be 4.2%; switching the FSA, HSA & Dependent Care provider from WEX Health to HealthEquity. Open Enrollment will start on May 5th and go through May 16th. A Benefit Fair will be held on May 5th & 6th in the Community Room, all Vendors will be in attendance. Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve the plans and companies shared by Allison. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**MINUTES:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to approve the General Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Gage to approve the Brown County Board of Equalization Minutes of April 22, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS:** Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Claims: Professional Fees: Aberdeen Advanced Care Ambulance \$969.18; Carrels & Bain Family Dental Care, LLC \$984.51; CGI, LLC \$1,047.16; Christy Griffin-Serr Law Office \$3,630.00; Dixon Oil Recycling, Inc \$1,500.00; Dohrer Law Office, PC \$984.00; Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC \$600.00; Richardson, Wyly, Wise, Sauck & Hieb, LLP \$702.50; SD Dept of Health \$140.00; Taliaferro

Law Firm, PC \$1,182.00; Zylstra Investigations \$760.00. Publishing: Aberdeen Area Arts Council \$69.92; Aberdeen Parks, Recreation and Forestry \$500.00; Groton Daily Independent \$509.49; McQuillen Creative Group, Inc. \$1,952.00. Repairs & Maintenance: Double D Body Shop \$582.97; Gary Fischer \$1,500.00; Haar Plumbing & Heating \$536.48; HF Jacobs & Son Const. Inc \$3,834.88; Interstate Powersystems \$1,016.75; Lawson Products, Inc \$43.07; Fire Safety First \$3,787.19; Superior Jetting, Inc \$4,631.25; Wallys Skidsteer Service \$4,947.00. Supplies: Advance Auto Parts \$44.21; Amazon Capital Services, Inc. \$803.45; Cole Paper Inc \$1,073.40; Dakota Fluid Power, Inc \$155.36; Dakota Oil \$149.40; Fastenal Company \$268.78; Geffdog Designs \$128.00; Haar Plumbing & Heating \$37.50; Johnson Bros of South Dakota \$6,381.40; Lawson Products, Inc \$481.34; Midstates Group \$2,166.00; Nelson Sales & Service \$55.00; Safety Service \$173.41; Fire Safety First \$3,938.11; T-Mobile USA Inc \$298.18; Trav's Outfitter Inc \$1,929.89; Tri-State Water \$37.00. Travel & Conference: Austin Ball \$14.00; City of Aberdeen – Rideline \$80.00; Jon Lemke \$100.00; Keith Baker \$100.00; Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC \$80.00; Neil Bittner \$14.00; Scott Kolb \$14.00; Terrence Evans \$100.00; The Lodge at Deadwood \$210.00. Utilities: Montana-Dakota Utilities Co \$53.27; Northwestern Energy \$2,908.84; State of South Dakota PMB 0112 \$113.36; T-Mobile USA Inc \$14,292.79; Verizon Wireless \$82.74. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

o.....Retirement of Jolene Forsting, Brown County Chief Deputy Treasurer; FT – effective April 25, 2025.

o.....Retirement of Lori Goldade, Brown County Deputy Treasurer; PT – effective May 9, 2025.

o.....Payment of Retirement Award for Jolene Forsting in the amount of \$150.00 before taxes, the requirement was met.

o.....Payment of Retirement Award for Roxanne Hilgenberg in the amount of \$150.00 before taxes, the requirement was met.

o.....Hiring of Aleigha Allison as Brown County Fairgrounds Seasonal Worker; starting wage \$14.50/hr. – effective April 30, 2025.

o.....Hiring of Boyd Willems as Brown County Fairgrounds Seasonal Worker; PT as needed; starting wage \$14.50/hr. – effective April 30, 2025.

o.....Hiring of Gentry Pigors as Brown County Fair Intern, FT; starting wage \$13.00/hr. – effective May 19, 2025.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**MALT BEVERAGE & SD FARM WINE LICENSE RENEWALS:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to approve the renewal of the following Retail (On-Off sale) Malt Beverage and SD Farm Wine Licenses to operate outside of the Municipality: : Aberdeen Hockey Association (Brown County Fairgrounds SW ¼, Sec 1-T123N-R64W – Odde Hockey Building); PZA Inc. DBA Anchors Away Lodge & Resort (Palmer's Richmond Resort SD Lt 1, SD OL 1 Richmond OL 1 & 2); Bath Quick Stop (Lot B Weismantels 1st Subdivision of Lot 1 EX N 12' Jenkins Subdivision E ½ of SE ¼ Section 18-123-62); Brown County Centennial Village (Brown County Fairgrounds SW ¼ Sec 1-T123N-R64W – Centennial Village) Motor Sports LLC DBA Brown County Speedway (Brown County Fairgrounds SW ¼ Sec 1-T123N-R64W – Grandstand); County Line Club (Lt 1 Ronnie's Way ADD NW 17-123-63 – Ste. 1); County Line Club (Lt 1 Ronnie's Way ADD NW 17-123-63 – Ste. 2); County Line Club (Lt 1 Ronnie's Way ADD NW 17-123-63 – Ste. 3); County Line Club (Lt 1 Ronnie's Way ADD NW 17-123-63 – Ste. 4); County Line Club (Lt 1 Ronnie's Way ADD NW 17-123-63 – Ste. 5); County Line Club (Lt 1 Ronnie's Way ADD NW 17-123-63 – Ste. 8); ARR LLC DBA Flatland Flyways Lodge (Lodge OL Art Russo OLS in GOV Lt 3 & 4 NW 1-127-62); Stacy Gossman DBA Head East (Lt 1B Gossman 1st ADD (Kessler's OL1) S ½ 15-123-63 – Ste. 2);

Moccasin Creek Country Club Inc (Prairiewood Village OL 7, E2, 33-124-63); Parkview Nursery Inc. (Lot 1 Parkview Nursery Addition to Aberdeen in the NE ¼ Sec 25-T123-R64W); Jackie Chantal LLC DBA Richmond Oasis (Lot 4 Schaeffer Richmond Lake 2nd Add NW & NE 25-124-65 5 AC); Richmond Pavilion LLC (Richmond Resort Outlot 2, NE ¼ of Section 25-T124N-R65W); Stacy Gossman DBA: Up North (Lt 1B Gossman 1st ADD (Kessler's OL1) S ½ 15-123-63 – Ste. 4); Stacy Gossman DBA: West Bound (Lt 1B Gossman 1st ADD (Kessler's OL1) S ½ 15-123-63 – Ste. 3). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**TOWNSHIP BONDS:** Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Township Bonds (Treasurer & Clerk): PORTAGE #1 – Mary A. Ewing Thorpe, Tom Stehly; GREENFIELD #2 – Valerie Weisser, Karen Lunzman; FREDERICK #3 – Dennis Walworth, Jill Gisi; ALLISON #4 – Kash Cutler, Pamela Sue Cutler; LANSING #5 – Dixie Clark; ONEOTA #6 – Karla Engelhart, Neil Schaunaman; BRAINARD #7 – Charles Dennert, Diane Bruns; SHELBY #8 – Michael Knecht, William Colby Crawford; NORTH DETROIT #9 – Candi Beck; CLAREMONT #10 – Donald J. Wegleitner, Justin Wegleitner; COLUMBIA #11 – Martin Weismantel, Amy Weismantel; WESTPORT #12 – Bruce Jones, Doug Fjeldheim; CARLISLE #13 – Ashlee Nelson; ORDWAY #14 – Kerry Howell, Mike McHugh; CAMBRIA #15 – Monte McNickle, Brenda Johnson; RIVERSIDE #16 – Steve Simon, Adam Sippel; GROTON #17 – Allen Walter, Layne Howard; HENRY #18 – Matt Oswald, Darlene Sass; BATH #19 – David Stahl, Scott Sperry; ABERDEEN #20 – Sandra Tople, Heather Basham; MERCIER #21 – Rodney Artz, Daryl Reick; NEW HOPE #22 – Alan Borchard, Kim Schneider; WARNER #23 – Stacie Wiedebush, Robert Seaton; GEM #24 – Loel Schott, Bob Simon; EAST HANSON #25 – Justin Harry, Lynn Miller; GARDEN PRAIRIE #26 – Craig Dunker, Todd Osterman; EAST RONDELL #27 – Carson Stange, Megan McNeil; PALMYRA #28 – Renae Martin, Greta Thorpe; OSCEOLA #29 – Lucinda Gunther, Zachary Christopher Sumption; SAVO #30 – Stacy Bretsch, Calvin Raisanen; LIBERTY #31 – Todd Lunzmann, Janet Elsen; RAVINIA #34 – Anna Wyly, Peggy Salwei; HIGHLAND #35 – Dan Misslitz, Deanna Nelson Henderson; FRANKLYN #36 – Chelsea Gappa, Shirley Stein; RICHLAND #37 – Cheryl L. Gelling (Clerk); LINCOLN #39 – Tawney Beitel-spacher, Amber Gillen; BATES #44 – Kathy Dobberpuhl, Betty Geist; GARLAND #46 – Landon Dennert, JoLynn Podoll; PUTNEY #48 – David LaMee, Mark Thompson; WEST HANSON #49 – Alyssa Lord, Jennifer Dirks; HECLA #50 – Susan Rosendahl, Mary Tisher; PRAIRIEWOOD #53 – Heidi Carrels, Matt Pohn; WEST RONDELL #57 – Jim Fischbach, Allen Ryckman; SOUTH DETROIT #59 – Faye Hoines. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**ABATEMENT:** Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Dennert to approve the following abatement: For Tax Yr. 24PY25 – Parcel #9751 - \$123.29. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to go into Executive Session for Contracts & Legal per SDCL 1-25-2. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:08 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published May 5, 2025, in "The Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$109.00 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25576



NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE #292  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES AS AMENDED  
TO REZONE CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that Ordinance #292, an Ordinance Amending Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended to rezone the following described property filed petitioner Donald & Jolene Bonn was duly adopted by the Board of Brown County Commissioners on the 29th day of April 2025 and will become effective on the 27th day of May 2025.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota, that the Petition to Amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances is hereby amended to change the zoning on the following described property from Mini - Agriculture District (M-AG) to Lake Front Residential District (R-3) to bring this parcel into compliance for its current use:

Description of property: Lot 6, "Greg Hoffman Addition" in the E1/2 of Section 14-T124N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (126979 West Shore Drive, Ravinia Twp.).

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota that the zoning official for the County of Brown is hereby authorized to change the official zoning map for Brown County to reflect this Ordinance.

Passed and adopted this 29th day of April 2025.

Mike Gage, Brown County Commission Vice-Chairman

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Notice of Hearing: April 2, 2025

First Reading: April 15, 2025

Second Reading/Adoption: April 29, 2025

Published: May 7-8, 2025

Effective Date: May 27, 2025

Published May 5, 2025, in "The Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$18.21 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25577



NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE #293  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES AS AMENDED  
TO REZONE CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that Ordinance #293, an Ordinance Amending Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended to rezone the following described property filed petitioner Donald & Becky Wegleitner was duly adopted by the Board of Brown County Commissioners on the 29th day of April 2025 and will become effective on the 27th day of May 2025.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota, that the Petition to Amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances is hereby amended to change the zoning on the following described property from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini - Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its current use:

Description of property: The E 42.5 Rods of the S 77.75 Rods in the NE1/4 of Section 4-T125N-R60W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (11831 409th Avenue, Claremont Twp.).

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota that the zoning official for the County of Brown is hereby authorized to change the official zoning map for Brown County to reflect this Ordinance.

Passed and adopted this 29th day of April 2025.

Mike Gage, Brown County Commission Vice-Chairman

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Notice of Hearing: April 2, 2025

First Reading: April 15, 2025

Second Reading/Adoption: April 29, 2025

Published: May 7-8, 2025

Effective Date: May 27, 2025

Published May 5, 2025, in "The Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$18.21 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25578



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
COUNTY OF BROWN

) ) )  
SS

IN CIRCUIT COURT  
FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

A&N25-22

NOTICE OF ADJUDICATORY HEARING

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA IN THE INTERESTS OF

A.G. A.G., & M.G., MINOR CHILDREN,

AND CONCERNING ANGEL GARTER AND MARSHALL DOSAL, RESPONDENTS.

TO: Angel Garter

Please take notice and be advised that the above-entitled matter has been scheduled for an ADJUDICATORY HEARING on the 23rd day of June, 2025, at the hour of 1:15 p.m. of said day, before the Honorable Circuit Court Judge Julie Dvorak, at the Brown County Courthouse, Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Failure to appear at these Adjudicatory proceedings shall be deemed an admission. Dated this 29th day of April, 2025.

/s/ Karla Nelson

Brown County States Attorney

Published May 5, 2025, in "The Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$12.26 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25579



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
COUNTY OF BROWN

) ) )  
SS

IN CIRCUIT COURT  
FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

A&N 24-108

AMENDED NOTICE OF CONTINUED ADJUDICATORY HEARING

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA IN THE INTEREST OF

L. G. AND Z. G. M., MINOR CHILDREN, AND CONCERNING ANGELA TERESA GAUTHIER CARDONA, LOUIS GAUTHIER SR., ANDZULMA MARTINEZ-TROCHE RESPONDENTS

TO: Zulma Martinez-Troche

Please take notice and be advised that the above-entitled matter has been scheduled for a CONTINUED ADJUDICATORY HEARING on the 28th day of May,2025, at the hour of 9:45 a.m. of said day, before the Honorable Circuit Court Judge Julie Dvorak, at the Brown County Courthouse, Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Failure to appear at these Adjudicatory proceedings shall be deemed an admission.

Dated this 29th day of April, 2025.

/s/ Karla Nelson

Brown County States Attorney

Published May 5, 2025, in "The Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$14.140 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25580



ADVERTISEMENT  
BRF 6251(00)25-1, PCN 0A70  
Brown County, South Dakota  
Sealed Bids will be received by the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 57401, until 8:45 AM local time on Tuesday the 20th day of May 2025 for the above referenced project. Bids shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the Bidding Documents. Brown County reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all Bids as set forth in the Bidding Documents.

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

The Project includes the following Work:

•Removal of existing ±249'-0" Five Span Steel Girder Bridge.

•.....Installation of proposed 242'-0" Three Span Prestressed Concrete Girder Bridge.

•Additional items as set forth in the Contract Documents.

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

Bidding documents may be viewed and obtained at [www.questcdn.com](http://www.questcdn.com) by entering QuestCDN project number 9656254. If you need assistance with the website, please contact QuestCDN Customer Support at 952-233-1632 or [info@questcdn.com](mailto:info@questcdn.com).

A pre-bid conference will not be held.

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published April 30 and May 5, 2025, at the total approximate cost of \$31.46 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25542



NOTICE OF DEADLINE FOR VOTER REGISTRATION

Voter registration for the Aberdeen City Council Election for the SE and SW District to be held on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, will close on Monday, May 19, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. Failure to register by this date will cause forfeiture of voting rights for this election. If you are in doubt about whether you are registered, check the Voter Information Portal at [www.sdsos.gov](http://www.sdsos.gov) or call the Brown County Auditor's Office at 605-626-7110.

Registration may be completed during regular business hours at the county auditor's office, municipal finance office, secretary of state's office, and those locations which provide driver's licenses, SNAP, TANF, WIC, military recruitment, and assistance to the disabled as provided by the Department of Human Services. You may contact the county auditor to request a mail-in registration form or access a mail-in registration form at [www.sdsos.gov](http://www.sdsos.gov).

Any voter who needs assistance, pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, may contact the county auditor for information and special assistance in voter registration.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Brown County, SD

Published April 30 and May 5, 2025, at the total approximate cost of \$24.28 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25541



Groton Independent ♦ Wed., May 7, 2025 ♦ 7



19682 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024  
HARTFORD FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY  
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:  
ONE HARTFORD PLAZA  
HARTFORD, CT 06155  
MAIL ADDRESS:  
ONE HARTFORD PLAZA  
HARTFORD, CT 06155

ASSETS:		
Bonds .....	\$8,423,505,615.00	
Stocks .....	\$5,985,304,899.00	
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate .....		
Real Estate Owned .....	\$1,695,590,955.00	
Real Estate Owned .....	\$283,466,249.00	
Cash and Bank Deposits .....	\$855,639,204.00	
Agents Balances or Uncollected Premiums .....	\$4,015,475,979.00	
Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income Due and Accrued .....	\$87,523,061.00	
Other Assets .....	\$6,867,275,926.00	
TOTAL ASSETS .....	\$28,213,781,888.00	
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS		
Reserve for Losses .....	\$9,455,425,907.00	
Reserve for Loss		
Adjustment Expenses .....	\$2,262,617,621.00	
Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees) .....		
Taxes, Licenses and Fees .....	\$100,334,780.00	
(excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes) .....		
Federal and Foreign Income Taxes .....	\$46,650,892.00	
Unearned Premiums .....	\$0.00	
All Other Liabilities .....	\$2,853,522,077.00	
TOTAL LIABILITIES .....	\$995,305,913.00	
TOTAL LIABILITIES .....	\$15,713,857,190.00	
Special Surplus Funds .....	\$850,000,000.00	
Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit .....	\$55,320,000.00	
Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus .....	\$4,724,845,202.00	
Unassigned Surplus .....	\$6,869,759,496.00	
Surplus as Regards Policyholders .....	\$12,499,924,698.00	
TOTAL .....	\$28,213,781,888.00	
BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2024		
Direct Premiums Written .....	\$13,409,388.00	
Direct Premiums Earned .....	\$10,455,077.00	
Direct Losses Paid .....	\$3,616,578.00	
Direct Losses Incurred .....	\$5,624,760.00	

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
DIVISION OF INSURANCE | STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE  
COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the HARTFORD FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Connecticut, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota:

NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned, Director of Insurance of the State of South Dakota, pursuant to the provisions of said laws, do hereby certify that the above named Company is fully empowered through its authorized agents to transact the numbered lines of business listed below:

- 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 26, 27  
1) Life; 2) Health; 3) Fire & Allied Lines; 4) Inland & Ocean Marine; 5) Workmen's Compensation; 6) Bodily Injury Liability (Other than Auto); 7) Property Damage (Other than Auto); 8) Auto Bodily Injury; 9) Auto Property Damage; 10) Auto Physical Damage; 11) Fidelity & Surety; 12) Glass; 13) Burglary & Theft; 14) Boiler & Machinery; 15) Aircraft; 16) Credit; 17) Crop-Hail; 18) Livestock; 19) Title; 20) Variable Annuities; 21) Variable Life; 22) Reinsurance; 23A) Travel Accident; Baggage; 23B) Pre-Paid Legal; 23C) Bail Bonds Surety; 26) Commercial; 27) Personal

In this State according to the Laws thereof, unless this Certificate of Authority is otherwise revoked, suspended or withdrawn.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal at Pierre, S.D., this 1st day of May, A.D., 2025.

LARRY DEITER  
Director of Insurance

19690 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024  
AMERICAN ECONOMY INSURANCE COMPANY  
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:  
175 BERKELEY STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116  
MAIL ADDRESS:  
175 BERKELEY STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

ASSETS:		
Bonds .....	\$10,437,796.00	
Stocks .....	\$0.00	
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate .....		
Real Estate Owned .....	\$9,593,876.00	
Real Estate Owned .....	\$0.00	
Cash and Bank Deposits .....	\$930,382.00	
Agents Balances or Uncollected Premiums .....	(\$47.00)	
Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income Due and Accrued .....	\$52,716.00	
Other Assets .....	\$131,043.00	
TOTAL ASSETS .....	\$21,139,766.00	
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS		
Reserve for Losses .....	\$0.00	
Reserve for Loss		
Adjustment Expenses .....	\$356.00	
Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees) .....		
Taxes, Licenses and Fees .....	\$0.00	
(excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes) .....		
Federal and Foreign Income Taxes .....	\$0.00	
Unearned Premiums .....	\$10,840.00	
All Other Liabilities .....	\$0.00	
TOTAL LIABILITIES .....	\$788,441.00	
TOTAL LIABILITIES .....	\$799,637.00	
Special Surplus Funds .....	\$0.00	
Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit .....	\$5,000,000.00	
Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus .....	\$11,330,548.00	
Unassigned Surplus .....	\$4,009,581.00	
Surplus as Regards Policyholders .....	\$20,340,729.00	
TOTAL .....	\$21,139,766.00	
BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2024		
Direct Premiums Written .....	\$3,173,558.00	
Direct Premiums Earned .....	\$2,414,944.00	
Direct Losses Paid .....	\$3,616,578.00	
Direct Losses Incurred .....	\$5,175,286.00	

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
DIVISION OF INSURANCE | STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE  
COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the American Economy Insurance Company, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Indiana, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota:

NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned, Director of Insurance of the State of South Dakota, pursuant to the provisions of said laws, do hereby certify that the above named Company is fully empowered through its authorized agents to transact the numbered lines of business listed below:

- 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 26, 27  
1) Life; 2) Health; 3) Fire & Allied Lines; 4) Inland & Ocean Marine; 5) Workmen's Compensation; 6) Bodily Injury Liability (Other than Auto); 7) Property Damage (Other than Auto); 8) Auto Bodily Injury; 9) Auto Property Damage; 10) Auto Physical Damage; 11) Fidelity & Surety; 12) Glass; 13) Burglary & Theft; 14) Boiler & Machinery; 15) Aircraft; 16) Credit; 17) Crop-Hail; 18) Livestock; 19) Title; 20) Variable Annuities; 21) Variable Life; 22) Reinsurance; 23A) Travel Accident; Baggage; 23B) Pre-Paid Legal; 23C) Bail Bonds Surety; 26) Commercial; 27) Personal

In this State according to the Laws thereof, unless this Certificate of Authority is otherwise revoked, suspended or withdrawn.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal at Pierre, S.D., this 1st day of May, A.D., 2025.

LARRY DEITER  
Director of Insurance

19704 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024  
AMERICAN STATES INSURANCE COMPANY  
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:  
175 BERKELEY STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116  
MAIL ADDRESS:  
175 BERKELEY STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

ASSETS:		
Bonds .....	\$44,601,176.00	
Stocks .....	\$0.00	
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate .....		
Real Estate Owned .....	\$0.00	
Real Estate Owned .....	\$0.00	
Cash and Bank Deposits .....	\$7,482,833.00	
Agents Balances or Uncollected Premiums .....	\$7,055.00	
Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income Due and Accrued .....	\$305,729.00	
Other Assets .....	\$2,264,418.00	
TOTAL ASSETS .....	\$54,661,211.00	
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS		
Reserve for Losses .....	\$0.00	
Reserve for Loss		
Adjustment Expenses .....	\$486,935.00	
Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees) .....		
Taxes, Licenses and Fees .....	\$0.00	
(excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes) .....		
Federal and Foreign Income Taxes .....	\$0.00	
Unearned Premiums .....	\$137,442.00	
All Other Liabilities .....	\$0.00	
TOTAL LIABILITIES .....	\$4,742,759.00	
TOTAL LIABILITIES .....	\$5,367,135.00	
Special Surplus Funds .....	\$0.00	
Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit .....	\$5,000,000.00	
Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus .....	\$29,693,485.00	
Unassigned Surplus .....	\$14,600,589.00	
Surplus as Regards Policyholders .....	\$49,294,075.00	
TOTAL .....	\$54,661,211.00	
BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2024		
Direct Premiums Written .....	\$712.00	
Direct Premiums Earned .....	\$922.00	
Direct Losses Paid .....	\$203,771.00	
Direct Losses Incurred .....	\$41,627.00	

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
DIVISION OF INSURANCE | STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE  
COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the American States Insurance Company, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Indiana, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota:

NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned, Director of Insurance of the State of South Dakota, pursuant to the provisions of said laws, do hereby certify that the above named Company is fully empowered through its authorized agents to transact the numbered lines of business listed below:

- 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 26, 27  
1) Life; 2) Health; 3) Fire & Allied Lines; 4) Inland & Ocean Marine; 5) Workmen's Compensation; 6) Bodily Injury Liability (Other than Auto); 7) Property Damage (Other than Auto); 8) Auto Bodily Injury; 9) Auto Property Damage; 10) Auto Physical Damage; 11) Fidelity & Surety; 12) Glass; 13) Burglary & Theft; 14) Boiler & Machinery; 15) Aircraft; 16) Credit; 17) Crop-Hail; 18) Livestock; 19) Title; 20) Variable Annuities; 21) Variable Life; 22) Reinsurance; 23A) Travel Accident; Baggage; 23B) Pre-Paid Legal; 23C) Bail Bonds Surety; 26) Commercial; 27) Personal

In this State according to the Laws thereof, unless this Certificate of Authority is otherwise revoked, suspended or withdrawn.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal at Pierre, S.D., this 1st day of May, A.D., 2025.

LARRY DEITER  
Director of Insurance

19879 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024  
SECURITY NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY  
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:  
BRANDYWINE PLAZA, 1521 CONCORD PIKE, SUITE 201  
WILMINGTON, DE 19803  
MAIL ADDRESS:  
800 SUPERIOR AVENUE EAST, 21ST FLOOR  
CLEVELAND, CT 44114

ASSETS:		
Bonds .....	\$739,158,486.00	
Stocks .....	\$53,820,250.00	
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate .....		
Real Estate Owned .....	\$0.00	
Real Estate Owned .....	\$0.00	
Cash and Bank Deposits .....	\$13,512,171.00	
Agents Balances or Uncollected Premiums .....	\$231,677,248.00	
Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income Due and Accrued .....	\$4,287,604.00	
Other Assets .....	\$112,317,351.00	
TOTAL ASSETS .....	\$1,154,773,110.00	
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS		
Reserve for Losses .....	\$501,870,320.00	
Reserve for Loss		
Adjustment Expenses .....	\$85,512,020.00	
Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees) .....		
Taxes, Licenses and Fees .....	\$249,260.00	
(excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes) .....		
Federal and Foreign Income Taxes .....	\$4,681,321.00	
Unearned Premiums .....	\$0.00	
All Other Liabilities .....	\$188,959,327.00	
TOTAL LIABILITIES .....	\$856,042,669.00	
TOTAL LIABILITIES .....	\$31,954,080.00	
Special Surplus Funds .....	\$0.00	
Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit .....	\$4,000,000.00	
Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus .....	\$224,495,310.00	
Unassigned Surplus .....	\$38,281,051.00	
Surplus as Regards Policyholders .....	\$298,730,441.00	
TOTAL .....	\$1,154,773,110.00	
BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2024		
Direct Premiums Written .....	\$1,082,822.36	
Direct Premiums Earned .....	\$998,688.76	
Direct Losses Paid .....	\$148,160.90	
Direct Losses Incurred .....	\$390,510.06	

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
DIVISION OF INSURANCE | STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE  
COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Security National Insurance Company, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Delaware, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota:

NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned, Director of Insurance of the State of South Dakota, pursuant to the provisions of said laws, do hereby certify that the above named Company is fully empowered through its authorized agents to transact the numbered lines of business listed below:

- 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 26, 27  
1) Life; 2) Health; 3) Fire & Allied Lines; 4) Inland & Ocean Marine; 5) Workmen's Compensation; 6) Bodily Injury Liability (Other than Auto); 7) Property Damage (Other than Auto); 8) Auto Bodily Injury; 9) Auto Property Damage; 10) Auto Physical Damage; 11) Fidelity & Surety; 12) Glass; 13) Burglary & Theft; 14) Boiler & Machinery; 15) Aircraft; 16) Credit; 17) Crop-Hail; 18) Livestock; 19) Title; 20) Variable Annuities; 21) Variable Life; 22) Reinsurance; 23A) Travel Accident; Baggage; 23B) Pre-Paid Legal; 23C) Bail Bonds Surety; 26) Commercial; 27) Personal

In this State according to the Laws thereof, unless this Certificate of Authority is otherwise revoked, suspended or withdrawn.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal at Pierre, S.D., this 1st day of May, A.D., 2025.

LARRY DEITER  
Director of Insurance

20044 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024  
BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESTEAD INSURANCE COMPANY  
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:  
1314 DOUGLAS STREET, SUITE 1300  
OMAHA, NE 68102  
MAIL ADDRESS:  
1314 DOUGLAS STREET, SUITE 1300  
OMAHA, NE 68102

ASSETS:		
Bonds .....	\$33,030,886.00	
Stocks .....	\$1,588,871,232.00	
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate .....		
Real Estate Owned .....	\$0.00	
Real Estate Owned .....	\$0.00	
Cash and Bank Deposits .....	\$2,992,681,411.00	
Agents Balances or Uncollected Premiums .....	\$242,477,655.00	
Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income Due and Accrued .....	\$713,480.00	
Other Assets .....	\$19,571,641.00	
TOTAL ASSETS .....	\$4,877,281,305.00	
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS		
Reserve for Losses .....	\$1,055,216,070.00	
Reserve for Loss		
Adjustment Expenses .....	\$237,946,745.00	
Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees) .....		
Taxes, Licenses and Fees .....	\$10,908,951.00	
(excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes) .....		
Federal and Foreign Income Taxes .....	\$7,267,043.00	
Unearned Premiums .....	\$12,913,220.00	
All Other Liabilities .....	\$353,285,318.00	
TOTAL LIABILITIES .....	\$425,862,059.00	
TOTAL LIABILITIES .....	\$2,103,398,806.00	
Special Surplus Funds .....	\$0.00	
Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit .....	\$4,000,000.00	
Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus .....	\$146,240,599.00	
Unassigned Surplus .....	\$2,623,641,900.00	
Surplus as Regards Policyholders .....	\$2,773,882,499.00	
TOTAL .....	\$4,877,281,305.00	
BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2024		
Direct Premiums Written .....	\$4,486,922.00	
Direct Premiums Earned .....	\$3,783,910.00	
Direct Losses Paid .....	\$2,254,015.00	
Direct Losses Incurred .....	\$2,727,679.00	

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
DIVISION OF INSURANCE | STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE  
COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Berkshire Hathaway Homestate Insurance Company, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Nebraska, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota:

NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned, Director of Insurance of the State of South Dakota, pursuant to the provisions of said laws, do hereby certify that the above named Company is fully empowered through its authorized agents to transact the numbered lines of business listed below:

- 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13  
1) Life; 2) Health; 3) Fire & Allied Lines; 4) Inland & Ocean Marine; 5) Workmen's Compensation; 6) Bodily Injury Liability (Other than Auto); 7) Property Damage (Other than Auto); 8) Auto Bodily Injury; 9) Auto Property Damage; 10) Auto Physical Damage; 11) Fidelity & Surety; 12) Glass; 13) Burglary & Theft; 14) Boiler & Machinery; 15) Aircraft; 16) Credit; 17) Crop-Hail; 18) Livestock; 19) Title; 20) Variable Annuities; 21) Variable Life; 22) Reinsurance; 23A) Travel Accident; Baggage; 23B) Pre-Paid Legal; 23C) Bail Bonds Surety; 26) Commercial; 27) Personal

In this State according to the Laws thereof, unless this Certificate of Authority is otherwise revoked, suspended or withdrawn.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal at Pierre, S.D., this 1st day of May, A.D., 2025.

LARRY DEITER  
Director of Insurance

20052 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024  
NATIONAL LIABILITY & FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY  
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:  
1314 DOUGLAS STREET, SUITE 1400  
OMAHA, NE 68102  
MAIL ADDRESS:  
1314 DOUGLAS STREET, SUITE 1400  
OMAHA, NE 68102

ASSETS:		
Bonds .....	\$112,746,805.00	
Stocks .....	\$2,060,732,902.00	
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate .....		
Real Estate Owned .....	\$0.00	
Real Estate Owned .....	\$0.00	
Cash and Bank Deposits .....	\$3,652,060,122.00	
Agents Balances or Uncollected Premiums .....	\$211,112,758.00	
Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income Due and Accrued .....	\$2,301,027.00	
Other Assets .....	\$49,727,944.00	
TOTAL ASSETS .....	\$6,088,681,558.00	
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS		
Reserve for Losses .....	\$2,060,548,862.00	
Reserve for Loss		
Adjustment Expenses .....	\$506,147,560.00	
Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees) .....		
Taxes, Licenses and Fees .....	\$7,988,666.00	
(excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes) .....		
Federal and Foreign Income Taxes .....	\$8,416,538.00	
Unearned Premiums .....	\$18,290,415.00	
All Other Liabilities .....	\$454,740,028.00	
TOTAL LIABILITIES .....	\$3,666,893,886.00	
TOTAL LIABILITIES .....	\$16,461,834,752.00	
Special Surplus Funds .....	\$0.00	
Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit .....	\$5,000,000.00	
Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus .....	\$95,822,263.00	
Unassigned Surplus .....	\$2,320,965,408.00	
Surplus as Regards Policyholders .....	\$2,421,787,672.00	
TOTAL .....	\$6,088,681,558.00	
BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2024		
Direct Premiums Written .....	\$1,203,897.00	
Direct Premiums Earned .....	\$1,082,655.00	
Direct Losses Paid .....	\$243,892.00	
Direct Losses Incurred .....	\$1,260,953.00	

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
DIVISION OF INSURANCE | STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE  
COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the National Liability & Fire Insurance Company, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Connecticut, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota:

NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned, Director of Insurance of the State of South Dakota, pursuant to the provisions of said laws, do hereby certify that the above named Company is fully empowered through its authorized agents to transact the numbered lines of business listed below:

- 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14  
1) Life; 2) Health; 3) Fire & Allied Lines; 4) Inland & Ocean Marine; 5) Workmen's Compensation; 6) Bodily Injury Liability (Other than Auto); 7) Property Damage (Other than Auto); 8) Auto Bodily Injury; 9) Auto Property Damage; 10) Auto Physical Damage; 11) Fidelity & Surety; 12) Glass; 13) Burglary & Theft; 14) Boiler & Machinery; 15) Aircraft; 16) Credit; 17) Crop-Hail; 18) Livestock; 19) Title; 20) Variable Annuities; 21) Variable Life; 22) Reinsurance; 23A) Travel Accident; Baggage; 23B) Pre-Paid Legal; 23C) Bail Bonds Surety; 26) Commercial; 27) Personal

In this State according to the Laws thereof, unless this Certificate of Authority is otherwise revoked, suspended or withdrawn.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal at Pierre, S.D., this 1st day of May, A.D., 2025.

LARRY DEITER  
Director of Insurance

20281 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024  
FEDERAL INSURANCE COMPANY  
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:  
ONE AMERICAN SQUARE, 202 N. ILLINOIS STREET, SUITE 2600  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46282  
MAIL ADDRESS:  
436 WALNUT STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106



FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024  
**VALLEY FORGE INSURANCE COMPANY**  
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:

THREE RADNOR CORPORATE CENTER, 100 MATSONFORD RD  
RADNOR, PA 19087  
MAIL ADDRESS:  
151 N. FRANKLIN ST  
CHICAGO, IL 60606

ASSETS:

Bonds	\$51,307,577.00
Stocks	\$0.00
Mortgage Loans on	
Real Estate	\$0.00
Real Estate Owned	\$0.00
Cash and Bank Deposits	\$1,080,227.00
Agents' Balances or Uncollected Premiums	\$0.00
Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income	
Due and Accrued	\$427,100.00
Other Assets	\$6,955.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$52,822,359.00

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS

Reserve for Losses	\$0.00
Reserve for Loss	
Adjustment Expenses	\$0.00
Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees)	\$0.00
Taxes, Licenses and Fees (excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes)	\$0.00
Federal and Foreign Income Taxes	\$78,691.00
Unearned Premiums	\$0.00
All Other Liabilities	\$0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$78,691.00

Special Surplus Funds	\$0.00
Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit	\$4,200,000.00
Gross Paid in and Contributed Surplus	\$32,810,097.00
Unassigned Surplus	\$15,733,571.00

Surplus as Regards Policyholders	\$52,743,668.00
TOTAL	\$52,822,359.00

BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2024

Direct Premiums Written	\$784,335.00
Direct Premiums Earned	\$758,822.00
Direct Losses Paid	\$157,851.00
Direct Losses Incurred	\$197,351.00

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

DIVISION OF INSURANCE, STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Valley Forge Insurance Company, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Pennsylvania, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota;

NOW HEREOF, the undersigned, Director of Insurance of the State of South Dakota, pursuant to the provisions of said laws, do hereby certify that the above named Company is fully empowered through its authorized agents to transact the numbered lines of business listed below:

2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18  
1) Life; 2) Health; 3) Fire & Allied Lines; 4) Inland & Ocean Marine; 5) Workmen's Compensation; 6) Bodily Injury Liability (Other than Auto); 7) Property Damage (Other than Auto); 8) Auto Bodily Injury; 9) Auto Property Damage; 10) Auto Physical Damage; 11) Fidelity & Surety; 12) Glass; 13) Burglary & Theft; 14) Boiler & Machinery; 15) Aircraft; 16) Credit; 17) Crop-Hail; 18) Livestock; 19) Title; 20) Variable Annuities; 21) Variable Life; 22) Reinsurance; 23A) Travel Accident Baggage; 23B) Pre-Paid Legal; 23C) Bail Bonds Surety; 26) Commercial; 27) Personal

In this State according to the laws thereof, unless this Certificate of Authority is otherwise revoked, suspended or withdrawn.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal at Pierre, S.D., this 1st day of May, A.D., 2025.

LARRY DEITER  
Director of Insurance

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024  
**ACE PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY**  
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:

436 WALNUT STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106  
MAIL ADDRESS:  
436 WALNUT STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106

ASSETS:

Bonds	\$12,949,279,714.00
Stocks	\$206,296,684.00
Mortgage Loans on	
Real Estate	\$0.00
Real Estate Owned	\$0.00
Cash and Bank Deposits	\$215,469,600.00
Agents' Balances or Uncollected Premiums	\$1,974,229,854.00
Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income	
Due and Accrued	\$122,030,281.00
Other Assets	\$1,842,571,010.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$17,309,871,43.00

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS

Reserve for Losses	\$6,778,259,058.00
Reserve for Loss	
Adjustment Expenses	\$1,711,415,542.00
Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees)	\$0.00
Taxes, Licenses and Fees (excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes)	\$27,021,978.00
Federal and Foreign Income Taxes	\$271,453.00
Unearned Premiums	\$2,494,283,941.00
All Other Liabilities	\$2,435,979,405.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$13,447,231,383.00

Special Surplus Funds	\$0.00
Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit	\$10,000,000.00
Gross Paid in and Contributed Surplus	\$1,561,674,995.00
Unassigned Surplus	\$2,290,970,765.00

Surplus as Regards Policyholders	\$3,862,645,760.00
TOTAL	\$17,309,871,43.00

BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2024

Direct Premiums Written	\$343,227,595.00
Direct Premiums Earned	\$341,695,444.00
Direct Losses Paid	\$248,843,892.00
Direct Losses Incurred	\$242,434,095.00

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

DIVISION OF INSURANCE, STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the ACE Property and Casualty Insurance Company, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Pennsylvania, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota;

NOW HEREOF, the undersigned, Director of Insurance of the State of South Dakota, pursuant to the provisions of said laws, do hereby certify that the above named Company is fully empowered through its authorized agents to transact the numbered lines of business listed below:

2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 26, 27  
1) Life; 2) Health; 3) Fire & Allied Lines; 4) Inland & Ocean Marine; 5) Workmen's Compensation; 6) Bodily Injury Liability (Other than Auto); 7) Property Damage (Other than Auto); 8) Auto Bodily Injury; 9) Auto Property Damage; 10) Auto Physical Damage; 11) Fidelity & Surety; 12) Glass; 13) Burglary & Theft; 14) Boiler & Machinery; 15) Aircraft; 16) Credit; 17) Crop-Hail; 18) Livestock; 19) Title; 20) Variable Annuities; 21) Variable Life; 22) Reinsurance; 23A) Travel Accident Baggage; 23B) Pre-Paid Legal; 23C) Bail Bonds Surety; 26) Commercial; 27) Personal

In this State according to the laws thereof, unless this Certificate of Authority is otherwise revoked, suspended or withdrawn.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal at Pierre, S.D., this 1st day of May, A.D., 2025.

LARRY DEITER  
Director of Insurance

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024  
**PALOMAR SPECIALTY INSURANCE COMPANY**  
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:

1050 SW SIXTH AVE., SUITE 1100  
PORTLAND, OR 97204  
MAIL ADDRESS:  
7979 IMAHINE AVE., SUITE 500  
LA JOLLA, CA 92037

ASSETS:

Bonds	\$686,591,749.00
Stocks	\$146,342,958.00
Mortgage Loans on	
Real Estate	\$0.00
Real Estate Owned	\$0.00
Cash and Bank Deposits	\$45,143,035.00
Agents' Balances or Uncollected Premiums	\$235,453,104.00
Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income	
Due and Accrued	\$6,001,226.00
Other Assets	\$182,378,830.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,301,910,902.00

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS

Reserve for Losses	\$120,255,575.00
Reserve for Loss	
Adjustment Expenses	\$35,043,620.00
Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees)	\$11,662,146.00
Taxes, Licenses and Fees (excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes)	\$13,260,456.00
Federal and Foreign Income Taxes	\$0.00
Unearned Premiums	\$465,454,641.00
All Other Liabilities	\$190,953,040.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$812,869,022.00

Special Surplus Funds	\$0.00
Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit	\$5,000,000.00
Gross Paid in and Contributed Surplus	\$232,552,688.00
Unassigned Surplus	\$214,065,921.00

Surplus as Regards Policyholders	\$451,718,609.00
TOTAL	\$1,264,587,631.00

BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2024

Direct Premiums Written	\$912,492.00
Direct Premiums Earned	\$805,567.00
Direct Losses Paid	\$6,048,761.00
Direct Losses Incurred	\$14,175,183.00

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

DIVISION OF INSURANCE, STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Palomar Specialty Insurance Company, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Oregon, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota;

NOW HEREOF, the undersigned, Director of Insurance of the State of South Dakota, pursuant to the provisions of said laws, do hereby certify that the above named Company is fully empowered through its authorized agents to transact the numbered lines of business listed below:

2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18  
1) Life; 2) Health; 3) Fire & Allied Lines; 4) Inland & Ocean Marine; 5) Workmen's Compensation; 6) Bodily Injury Liability (Other than Auto); 7) Property Damage (Other than Auto); 8) Auto Bodily Injury; 9) Auto Property Damage; 10) Auto Physical Damage; 11) Fidelity & Surety; 12) Glass; 13) Burglary & Theft; 14) Boiler & Machinery; 15) Aircraft; 16) Credit; 17) Crop-Hail; 18) Livestock; 19) Title; 20) Variable Annuities; 21) Variable Life; 22) Reinsurance; 23A) Travel Accident Baggage; 23B) Pre-Paid Legal; 23C) Bail Bonds Surety; 26) Commercial; 27) Personal

In this State according to the laws thereof, unless this Certificate of Authority is otherwise revoked, suspended or withdrawn.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal at Pierre, S.D., this 1st day of May, A.D., 2025.

LARRY DEITER  
Director of Insurance

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024  
**PACIFIC INDEMNITY COMPANY**  
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:

2022 HALL'S MILL ROAD  
PORTLAND, OR 97204  
MAIL ADDRESS:  
436 WALNUT STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106

ASSETS:

Bonds	\$11,988,445,113.00
Stocks	\$4,282,855.00
Mortgage Loans on	
Real Estate	\$0.00
Real Estate Owned	\$0.00
Cash and Bank Deposits	\$127,815,757.00
Agents' Balances or Uncollected Premiums	\$660,188,855.00
Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income	
Due and Accrued	\$121,376,639.00
Other Assets	\$3,559,584,971.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$16,461,694,190.00

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS

Reserve for Losses	\$6,778,259,057.00
Reserve for Loss	
Adjustment Expenses	\$1,711,415,543.00
Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees)	\$0.00
Taxes, Licenses and Fees (excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes)	\$27,021,978.00
Federal and Foreign Income Taxes	\$67,434,057.00
Unearned Premiums	\$2,494,283,940.00
All Other Liabilities	\$1,323,441,855.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$12,401,856,440.00

Special Surplus Funds	\$0.00
Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit	\$5,535,000.00
Gross Paid in and Contributed Surplus	\$520,019,566.00
Unassigned Surplus	\$3,534,283,184.00

Surplus as Regards Policyholders	\$4,059,837,750.00
TOTAL	\$16,461,694,190.00

BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2024

Direct Premiums Written	\$284,322.00
Direct Premiums Earned	\$208,155.00
Direct Losses Paid	\$192,408.00
Direct Losses Incurred	\$369,708.00

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

DIVISION OF INSURANCE, STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Pacific Indemnity Company, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Delaware, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota;

NOW HEREOF, the undersigned, Director of Insurance of the State of South Dakota, pursuant to the provisions of said laws, do hereby certify that the above named Company is fully empowered through its authorized agents to transact the numbered lines of business listed below:

2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14  
1) Life; 2) Health; 3) Fire & Allied Lines; 4) Inland & Ocean Marine; 5) Workmen's Compensation; 6) Bodily Injury Liability (Other than Auto); 7) Property Damage (Other than Auto); 8) Auto Bodily Injury; 9) Auto Property Damage; 10) Auto Physical Damage; 11) Fidelity & Surety; 12) Glass; 13) Burglary & Theft; 14) Boiler & Machinery; 15) Aircraft; 16) Credit; 17) Crop-Hail; 18) Livestock; 19) Title; 20) Variable Annuities; 21) Variable Life; 22) Reinsurance; 23A) Travel Accident Baggage; 23B) Pre-Paid Legal; 23C) Bail Bonds Surety; 26) Commercial; 27) Personal

In this State according to the laws thereof, unless this Certificate of Authority is otherwise revoked, suspended or withdrawn.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal at Pierre, S.D., this 1st day of May, A.D., 2025.

LARRY DEITER  
Director of Insurance

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024  
**VIGILANT INSURANCE COMPANY**  
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:

1133 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS, 41ST FLOOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10036  
MAIL ADDRESS:  
436 WALNUT STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106

ASSETS:

Bonds	\$294,648,150.00
Stocks	\$0.00
Mortgage Loans on	
Real Estate	\$0.00
Real Estate Owned	\$0.00
Cash and Bank Deposits	\$4,783,053.00
Agents' Balances or Uncollected Premiums	\$25,575,095.00
Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income	
Due and Accrued	\$1,526,286.00
Other Assets	\$187,491,111.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$514,023,695.00

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS

Reserve for Losses	\$0.00
Reserve for Loss	
Adjustment Expenses	\$0.00
Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees)	\$0.00
Taxes, Licenses and Fees (excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes)	\$0.00
Federal and Foreign Income Taxes	\$1,034,382.00
Unearned Premiums	\$0.00
All Other Liabilities	\$120,641,436.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$121,675,818.00

Special Surplus Funds	\$0.00
Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit	\$4,500,000.00
Gross Paid in and Contributed Surplus	\$25,168,845.00
Unassigned Surplus	\$362,679,032.00

Surplus as Regards Policyholders	\$392,347,877.00
TOTAL	\$514,023,695.00

BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2024

Direct Premiums Written	\$161,688.00
Direct Premiums Earned	\$163,862.00
Direct Losses Paid	\$265,069.00
Direct Losses Incurred	\$1,330,656.00

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

DIVISION OF INSURANCE, STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Vigilant Insurance Company, a Corporation organized under the Laws of New York, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota;

NOW HEREOF, the undersigned, Director of Insurance of the State of South Dakota, pursuant to the provisions of said laws, do hereby certify that the above named Company is fully empowered through its authorized agents to transact the numbered lines of business listed below:

2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14  
1) Life; 2) Health; 3) Fire & Allied Lines; 4) Inland & Ocean Marine; 5) Workmen's Compensation; 6) Bodily Injury Liability (Other than Auto); 7) Property Damage (Other than Auto); 8) Auto Bodily Injury; 9) Auto Property Damage; 10) Auto Physical Damage; 11) Fidelity & Surety; 12) Glass; 13) Burglary & Theft; 14) Boiler & Machinery; 15) Aircraft; 16) Credit; 17) Crop-Hail; 18) Livestock; 19) Title; 20) Variable Annuities; 21) Variable Life; 22) Reinsurance; 23A) Travel Accident Baggage; 23B) Pre-Paid Legal; 23C) Bail Bonds Surety; 26) Commercial; 27) Personal

In this State according to the laws thereof, unless this Certificate of Authority is otherwise revoked, suspended or withdrawn.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal at Pierre, S.D., this 1st day of May, A.D., 2025.

LARRY DEITER  
Director of Insurance

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024  
**AMERICAN CASUALTY COMPANY OF READING**  
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:

THREE RADNOR CORPORATE CENTER, 100 MATSONFORD RD - 5  
RADNOR, PA 19087  
MAIL ADDRESS:  
151 N. FRANKLIN ST  
CHICAGO, IL 60606

ASSETS:

Bonds	\$39,315,542.00
Stocks	\$52,743,668.00
Mortgage Loans on	
Real Estate	\$0.00
Real Estate Owned	\$0.00
Cash and Bank Deposits	\$0.00
Agents' Balances or Uncollected Premiums	\$3,143,516.00
Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income	
Due and Accrued	\$365,989.00
Other Assets	\$4,536.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$95,573,251.00

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS

Reserve for Losses	\$0.00
Reserve for Loss	
Adjustment Expenses	\$0.00
Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees)	\$0.00
Taxes, Licenses and Fees (excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes)	\$0.00
Federal and Foreign Income Taxes	\$78,121.00
Unearned Premiums	\$0.00
All Other Liabilities	\$0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$78,121.00

Special Surplus Funds	\$0.00
Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit	\$4,200,000.00
Gross Paid in and Contributed Surplus	\$64,242,834.00
Unassigned Surplus	\$27,052,297.00

Surplus as Regards Policyholders	\$95,495,130.00
TOTAL	\$95,573,251.00

BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2024

Direct Premiums Written	\$1,683,495.00
Direct Premiums Earned	\$1,674,785.00
Direct Losses Paid	\$2,698.00
Direct Losses Incurred	\$263,356.00

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

DIVISION OF INSURANCE, STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the American Casualty Company of Reading, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Pennsylvania, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota;

NOW HEREOF, the undersigned, Director of Insurance of the State of South Dakota, pursuant to the provisions of said laws, do hereby certify that the above named Company is fully empowered through its authorized agents to transact the numbered lines of business listed below:

2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17  
1) Life; 2) Health; 3) Fire & Allied Lines; 4) Inland & Ocean Marine



20443	FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT	20478	FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT	65838	FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT	65919	FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT	65935	FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT	65978	FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT	66869	FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024		YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024		YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024		YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024		YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024		YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024		YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024	
<b>CONTINENTAL CASUALTY COMPANY</b>		<b>NATIONAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF HARTFORD</b>		<b>JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY (U.S.A.)</b>		<b>PRIMERICA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY</b>		<b>MASSACHUSETTS MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY</b>		<b>METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY</b>		<b>NATIONWIDE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY</b>	
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:		HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:		HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:		HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:		HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:		HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:		HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:	
151 N. FRANKLIN ST CHICAGO, IL 60606		151 N. FRANKLIN ST CHICAGO, IL 60606		197 CLARENDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02116		1 PRIMERICA PKWY DULUTH, GA 30099-4000		1295 STATE STREET SPRINGFIELD, MA 01111		8270 CRANE NEST DRIVE, 3RD FLOOR TAMPA, FL 33647		ONE WEST NATIONWIDE BLDV. COLUMBIUS, OH 43215-2220	
MAIL ADDRESS:		MAIL ADDRESS:		MAIL ADDRESS:		MAIL ADDRESS:		MAIL ADDRESS:		MAIL ADDRESS:		MAIL ADDRESS:	
151 N. FRANKLIN ST CHICAGO, IL 60606		151 N. FRANKLIN ST CHICAGO, IL 60606		197 CLARENDON ST BOSTON, MA 02116		1 PRIMERICA PKWY DULUTH, GA 30099-4000		1295 STATE STREET SPRINGFIELD, MA 01111		8270 CRANE NEST DRIVE, 3RD FLOOR TAMPA, FL 33647		ONE WEST NATIONWIDE BLDV., 1-99-FIN7 COLUMBIUS, OH 43215-2220	
<b>ASSETS:</b>		<b>ASSETS:</b>		<b>ASSETS:</b>		<b>ASSETS:</b>		<b>ASSETS:</b>		<b>ASSETS:</b>		<b>ASSETS:</b>	

Bonds.....	\$34,757,599,832.00
Stocks.....	\$5,564,395,793.00
Mortgage Loans on	
Real Estate.....	\$1,012,328,304.00
Real Estate Owned.....	\$0.00
Cash and Bank Deposits.....	\$974,802,696.00
Agents Balances or	
Uncollected Premiums.....	\$2,984,433,299.00
Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income	
Due and Accrued.....	\$371,247,764.00
Other Assets.....	\$3,890,274,873.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS.....</b>	<b>\$49,555,082,562.00</b>

<b>LIABILITIES, SURPLUS &amp; OTHER FUNDS</b>	
Reserve for Losses.....	\$19,074,836,656.00
Reserve for Loss	
Adjustment Expenses.....	\$2,604,401,963.00
Other Expenses (excluding	
taxes, licenses and fees)	\$569,894,572.00
Taxes, Licenses and Fees	
(excluding Federal and	
Foreign Income Taxes).....	\$162,696,075.00
Federal and Foreign	
Income Taxes.....	\$18,516,908.00
Unearned Premiums.....	\$4,736,111,208.00
All Other Liabilities.....	\$1,223,932,849.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES.....</b>	<b>\$38,390,390,238.00</b>

Special Surplus Funds.....	\$648,620,244.00
Capital Paid Up or	
Statutory Deposit.....	\$35,632,565.00
Gross Paid In and	
Contributed Surplus.....	\$5,684,824,266.00
Unassigned Surplus.....	\$4,795,615,250.00
Surplus as Regards	
Policyholders.....	\$11,164,692,324.00
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$49,555,082,562.00</b>

<b>BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2024</b>	
Direct Premiums Written.....	\$14,292,680.00
Direct Premiums Earned.....	\$621,881.00
Direct Losses Paid.....	\$7,144,392.00
Direct Losses Incurred.....	\$9,895,007.00

<b>STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA</b>	
<b>DIVISION OF INSURANCE I STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE</b>	
<b>COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY</b>	

WHEREAS, the Continental Casualty Company, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Illinois, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota:	
NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned, Director of Insurance of the State of South Dakota, pursuant to the provisions of said laws, do hereby certify that the above named Company is fully empowered through its authorized agents to transact the numbered lines of business listed below:	
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 23A, 27	
1) Life; 2) Health; 3) Fire & Allied Lines;	

4) Inland & Ocean Marine; 5) Workmen's Compensation; 6) Bodily Injury Liability (Other than Auto); 7) Property Damage (Other than Auto); 8) Auto Bodily Injury; 9) Auto Property Damage; 10) Auto Physical Damage; 11) Fidelity & Surety; 12) Glass; 13) Burglary & Theft; 14) Boiler & Machinery; 15) Aircraft; 16) Credit; 17) Crop-Hail; 18) Livestock; 19) Title; 20) Variable Annuities; 21) Variable Life; 22) Reinsurance; 23A) Travel Accident Baggage; 23B) Pre-Paid Legal; 23C) Bail Bonds Surety; 26) Commercial; 27) Personal	
in this State according to the Laws thereof, unless this Certificate of Authority is otherwise revoked, suspended or withdrawn.	

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal at Pierre, S.D., this 1st day of May, A.D., 2025.	
LARRY DEITER	
Director of Insurance	

20478	FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT	65838	FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT	65919	FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT	65935	FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT	65978	FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT	66869	FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024		YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024		YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024		YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024		YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024		YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024	
<b>NATIONAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF HARTFORD</b>		<b>JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY (U.S.A.)</b>		<b>PRIMERICA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY</b>		<b>MASSACHUSETTS MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY</b>		<b>METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY</b>		<b>NATIONWIDE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY</b>	
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:		HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:		HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:		HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:		HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:		HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:	
151 N. FRANKLIN ST CHICAGO, IL 60606		197 CLARENDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02116		1 PRIMERICA PKWY DULUTH, GA 30099-4000		1295 STATE STREET SPRINGFIELD, MA 01111		8270 CRANE NEST DRIVE, 3RD FLOOR TAMPA, FL 33647		ONE WEST NATIONWIDE BLDV. COLUMBIUS, OH 43215-2220	
MAIL ADDRESS:		MAIL ADDRESS:		MAIL ADDRESS:		MAIL ADDRESS:		MAIL ADDRESS:		MAIL ADDRESS:	
151 N. FRANKLIN ST CHICAGO, IL 60606		197 CLARENDON ST BOSTON, MA 02116		1 PRIMERICA PKWY DULUTH, GA 30099-4000		1295 STATE STREET SPRINGFIELD, MA 01111		8270 CRANE NEST DRIVE, 3RD FLOOR TAMPA, FL 33647		ONE WEST NATIONWIDE BLDV., 1-99-FIN7 COLUMBIUS, OH 43215-2220	
<b>ASSETS:</b>		<b>ASSETS:</b>		<b>ASSETS:</b>		<b>ASSETS:</b>		<b>ASSETS:</b>		<b>ASSETS:</b>	

Bonds.....	\$52,643,355,183.00
Stocks.....	\$4,134,642,882.00
Mortgage Loans on	
Real Estate.....	\$10,192,562,581.00
Real Estate Owned.....	\$4,719,795,351.00
Policy Loans.....	\$3,330,442,921.00
Cash and Bank Deposits.....	\$5,680,074,963.00
Deferred and	
Uncollected Premiums.....	\$44,077,194.00
Investment Income	
Due and Accrued.....	\$903,655,506.00
Other Assets.....	\$180,996,374,665.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS.....</b>	<b>\$262,144,931,246.00</b>

<b>LIABILITIES, SURPLUS &amp; OTHER FUNDS</b>	
Reserve for Life	
Policies & Contracts.....	\$54,258,219,788.00
Reserve for Accident	
& Health Policies.....	\$185,260,689.00
Policy and Contract Claims	
Life.....	\$431,616,273.00
Accident & Health.....	\$16,055,464,377.00
General Expenses	
Due or Accrued.....	\$265,891,966.00
Taxes, Licenses & Fees	
Due or Accrued.....	\$4,373,812.00
Federal Income Taxes	
Due or Accrued.....	\$0.00
All Other Liabilities.....	\$98,755,566,438.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES.....</b>	<b>\$25,155,895,472.00</b>

Special Surplus Funds.....	\$142,689,321.00
Capital Paid Up.....	\$4,828,940.00
Gross Paid In and	
Contributed Surplus.....	\$3,218,827,821.00
Unassigned Surplus.....	\$6,886,927,233.00
Surplus as Regards	
Policyholders.....	\$10,989,035,774.00
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$262,144,931,246.00</b>

<b>BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2024</b>	
Direct Premiums Received.....	\$121,735,900.00
Direct Losses Paid.....	\$70,293,321.00
Losses Incurred.....	\$28,030,349.00
Life Insurance in Force.....	\$5,214,232,382.00

<b>STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA</b>	
<b>DIVISION OF INSURANCE I STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE</b>	
<b>COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY</b>	

WHEREAS, the John Hancock Life Insurance Company (U.S.A.), a Corporation organized under the Laws of Michigan has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota:	
NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned, Director of Insurance of the State of South Dakota, pursuant to the provisions of said laws, do hereby certify that the above named Company is fully empowered through its authorized agents to transact the numbered lines of business listed below:	
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17	
1) Life; 2) Health; 3) Fire & Allied Lines;	

4) Inland & Ocean Marine; 5) Workmen's Compensation; 6) Bodily Injury Liability (Other than Auto); 7) Property Damage (Other than Auto); 8) Auto Bodily Injury; 9) Auto Property Damage; 10) Auto Physical Damage; 11) Fidelity & Surety; 12) Glass; 13) Burglary & Theft; 14) Boiler & Machinery; 15) Aircraft; 16) Credit; 17) Crop-Hail; 18) Livestock; 19) Title; 20) Variable Annuities; 21) Variable Life; 22) Reinsurance; 23A) Travel Accident Baggage; 23B) Pre-Paid Legal; 23C) Bail Bonds Surety; 26) Commercial; 27) Personal	
in this State according to the Laws thereof, unless this Certificate of Authority is otherwise revoked, suspended or withdrawn.	

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal at Pierre, S.D., this 1st day of May, A.D., 2025.	
LARRY DEITER	
Director of Insurance	

65919	FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT	65935	FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT	65978	FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT	66869	FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024		YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024		YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024		YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024	
<b>PRIMERICA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY</b>		<b>MASSACHUSETTS MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY</b>		<b>METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY</b>		<b>NATIONWIDE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY</b>	
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:		HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:		HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:		HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:	
1 PRIMERICA PKWY DULUTH, GA 30099-4000		1295 STATE STREET SPRINGFIELD, MA 01111		8270 CRANE NEST DRIVE, 3RD FLOOR TAMPA, FL 33647		ONE WEST NATIONWIDE BLDV. COLUMBIUS, OH 43215-2220	
MAIL ADDRESS:		MAIL ADDRESS:		MAIL ADDRESS:		MAIL ADDRESS:	
1 PRIMERICA PKWY DULUTH, GA 30099-4000		1295 STATE STREET SPRINGFIELD, MA 01111		8270 CRANE NEST DRIVE, 3RD FLOOR TAMPA, FL 33647		ONE WEST NATIONWIDE BLDV., 1-99-FIN7 COLUMBIUS, OH 43215-2220	
<b>ASSETS:</b>		<b>ASSETS:</b>		<b>ASSETS:</b>		<b>ASSETS:</b>	

Bonds.....	\$1,792,069,880.00
Stocks.....	\$508,103,438.00
Mortgage Loans on	
Real Estate.....	\$0.00
Real Estate Owned.....	\$0.00
Policy Loans.....	\$680,555.00
Cash and Bank Deposits.....	\$43,696,764.00
Deferred and	
Uncollected Premiums.....	(\$227,807,696.00)
Investment Income	
Due and Accrued.....	\$15,568,461.00
Other Assets.....	\$295,890,804.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS.....</b>	<b>\$2,428,202,206.00</b>

<b>LIABILITIES, SURPLUS &amp; OTHER FUNDS</b>	
Reserve for Life	
Policies & Contracts.....	\$614,358,320.00
Reserve for Accident	
& Health Policies.....	\$4,738,683.00
Policy and Contract Claims	
Life.....	\$6,200,728.00
Accident & Health.....	\$19,147.00
General Expenses	
Due or Accrued.....	\$35,759,825.00
Taxes, Licenses & Fees	
Due or Accrued.....	\$18,031,376.00
Federal Income Taxes	
Due or Accrued.....	\$666,509.00
All Other Liabilities.....	\$984,734,118.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES.....</b>	<b>\$1,664,508,706.00</b>

Special Surplus Funds.....	\$2,500,000.00
Capital Paid Up.....	\$2,500,000.00
Gross Paid In and	
Contributed Surplus.....	\$495,201,598.00
Unassigned Surplus.....	\$265,991,902.00
Surplus as Regards	
Policyholders.....	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$163,693,500.00</b>

<b>BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2024</b>	
Direct Premiums Received.....	\$5,138,561.00
Direct Losses Paid.....	\$2,582,271.00
Losses Incurred.....	\$3,416,796.00
Life Insurance in Force.....	\$1,539,552,233.00

<b>STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA</b>	
<b>DIVISION OF INSURANCE I STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE</b>	
<b>COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY</b>	

WHEREAS, the Primerica Life Insurance Company, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Tennessee has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota:	
NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned, Director of Insurance of the State of South Dakota, pursuant to the provisions of said laws, do hereby certify that the above named Company is fully empowered through its authorized agents to transact the numbered lines of business listed below:	
1, 2	
1) Life; 2) Health; 3) Fire & Allied Lines;	

4) Inland & Ocean Marine; 5) Workmen's Compensation; 6) Bodily Injury Liability (Other than Auto); 7) Property Damage (Other than Auto); 8) Auto Bodily Injury; 9) Auto Property Damage; 10) Auto Physical Damage; 11) Fidelity & Surety; 12) Glass; 13) Burglary & Theft; 14) Boiler & Machinery; 15) Aircraft; 16) Credit; 17) Crop-Hail; 18) Livestock; 19) Title; 20) Variable Annuities; 21) Variable Life; 22) Reinsurance; 23A) Travel Accident Baggage; 23B) Pre-Paid Legal; 23C) Bail Bonds Surety; 26) Commercial; 27) Personal	
in this State according to the Laws thereof, unless this Certificate of Authority is otherwise revoked, suspended or withdrawn.	

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal at Pierre, S.D., this 1st day of May, A.D., 2025.	
LARRY DEITER	
Director of Insurance	

65935	FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT	65978	FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT	66869	FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024		YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024		YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024	
<b>MASSACHUSETTS MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY</b>		<b>METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY</b>		<b>NATIONWIDE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY</b>	
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:		HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:		HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:	
1295 STATE STREET SPRINGFIELD, MA 01111		8270 CRANE NEST DRIVE, 3RD FLOOR TAMPA, FL 33647		ONE WEST NATIONWIDE BLDV. COLUMBIUS, OH 43215-2220	
MAIL ADDRESS:		MAIL ADDRESS:		MAIL ADDRESS:	
1295 STATE STREET SPRINGFIELD, MA 01111		8270 CRANE NEST DRIVE, 3RD FLOOR TAMPA, FL 33647		ONE WEST NATIONWIDE BLDV., 1-99-FIN7 COLUMBIUS, OH 43215-2220	
<b>ASSETS:</b>		<b>ASSETS:</b>		<b>ASSETS:</b>	

Bonds.....	\$163,629,228,594.00
Stocks.....	\$28,057,337,527.00
Mortgage Loans on	
Real Estate.....	\$23,692,319,580.00
Real Estate Owned.....	\$322,671,947.00
Policy Loans.....	\$17,658,158,526.00
Cash and Bank Deposits.....	\$6,003,993,461.00
Deferred and	
Uncollected Premiums.....	\$1,313,587,524.00
Investment Income	
Due and Accrued.....	\$5,346,896,637.00
Other Assets.....	\$99,161,350,583.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS.....</b>	<b>\$345,185,544,379.00</b>

<b>LIABILITIES, SURPLUS &amp; OTHER FUNDS</b>	
Reserve for Life	
Policies & Contracts.....	\$175,057,703,256.00
Reserve for Accident	
& Health Policies.....	\$3,200,176,297.00
Policy and Contract Claims	
Life.....	\$519,233,675.00
Accident & Health.....	\$29,204,926.00
General Expenses	
Due or Accrued.....	\$917,143,435.00
Taxes, Licenses & Fees	
Due or Accrued.....	\$193,318,288.00
Federal Income Taxes	
Due or Accrued.....	\$0.00
All Other Liabilities.....	\$137,386,332,954.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES.....</b>	<b>\$317,303,112,811.00</b>

Special Surplus Funds.....	\$6,254,385,060.00
Capital Paid Up.....	\$4,944,667.00
Gross Paid In and	
Contributed Surplus.....	\$5,795,906,116.00
Unassigned Surplus.....	\$3,035,955,877.00
Surplus as Regards	
Policyholders.....	\$9,786,806,660.00
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$339,041,077,626.00</b>

<b>BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2024</b>	
Direct Premiums Received.....	\$37,802,139.00
Direct Losses Paid.....	\$34,698,445.00
Losses Incurred.....	\$16,237,022.00
Life Insurance in Force.....	\$11,905,099,811.00

<b>STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA</b>	
<b>DIVISION OF INSURANCE I STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE</b>	
<b>COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY</b>	

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Massachusetts has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota:	
NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned, Director of Insurance of the State of South Dakota, pursuant to the provisions of said laws, do hereby certify that the above named Company is fully empowered through its authorized agents to transact the numbered lines of business listed below:	
1, 2, 16, 20, 21	
1) Life; 2) Health; 3) Fire & Allied Lines;	

4) Inland & Ocean Marine; 5) Workmen's Compensation; 6
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UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6  
REGULAR MEETING  
April 28, 2025

President Rix called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the GHS Library Conference Room. Members present: Rix, Fliehs, Gengerke, Harder, Lerseth-Fliehs, Strom, and Weismantel. Others present were Supt. J. Schwan, Principal B. Schwan, Principal Edwards, and Business Manager Hubsch.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Lerseth-Fliehs, to approve the agenda as amended with the addition of approval of the resignation of Kelby Tracy as JH Volleyball Coach. Motion carried.

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

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

Destination Imagination's advisors, Julie Milbrandt and Joni Groebelinghoff, presented an overview of the program, and two groups performed their skits that they will perform at Globals this year. Brittany Hubbard provided an overview of the health science classes and starting a new HOSA chapter. Lindsey Tietz presented an overview of the FACS classes and discussed future changes to classes for next year, and an overview of FCCLA. Lindsey Vanderwal gave an overview of the Agriculture

classes and the FFA chapter.

The Board had a second reading of the recommended policy changes: GDBE Support Staff Vacations and Holidays and GCBE Professional Staff Vacations and Holidays. Motion by Gengerke, seconded by Fliehs to approve the recommended policy changes. Motion carried.

The following items were discussed in the administrative reports:

Superintendent Schwan reported on the Title VI nondiscrimination certification requirements and continuing CSTAG, Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines, training provided by the South Dakota Office of Homeland Security. Principal B. Schwan reported on the Comprehensive Needs Assessment team meeting and upcoming end-of-school-year dates and activities. Business manager Hubsch reported on dates for upcoming training opportunities for administrators and board members through ASBSD and SASD.

The first reading was conducted for the recommended policy changes: Elementary Student Handbook. No action was taken.

Moved by Gengerke, seconded by Weismantel, to hire Boston Marlow as a full-time Maintenance Team Member at \$15.33 per hour. Motion carried.

Moved by Fliehs, seconded by Gengerke, to hire Joshua Friez as 5-12 Instrumental Music Teacher with salary to be published with fiscal year 2026 contracts. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Strom to approve Chantel Duerre from BS+15 to MS. Motion carried.

Moved by Lerseth-Fliehs, seconded by Fliehs to approve the resignation of Brian Dolan, Head Boys Basketball Coach. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Gengerke, to approve the resignation of Kelby Tracy, JH

Volleyball Coach. Motion carried.

Motion by Harder, seconded by Fliehs, to approve off-staff coaching agreements with salary to be published with fiscal year 2026 contracts. Motion carried.

Motion by Gengerke, seconded by Flighs, to approve Employment Agreements for Auxiliary Administrative Staff with salaries to be published with fiscal year 2026 contracts. Motion carried.

Motion by Weismantel, seconded by Harder, to approve the Administrative Negotiated Agreement and signed Adminis-

trative Contracts with salaries to be published with the fiscal year 2026 contracts. Motion carried.

Moved by Harder, seconded by Lerseth-Fliehs, to adjourn at 8:15 pm. Motion carried.

Becky Hubsch, Business Manager

Grant Rix, President The addition of signatures to this page verifies these minutes as official.

Published May 5, 2025, in "The Groton Independent" at the total approximate cost of \$38.63 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25581

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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.

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**605/397-NEWS (6397)**

PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

## EMPLOYMENT

GENERAL MANAGER – MOODY COUNTY ENTERPRISE. We're looking for a dynamic General Manager to lead the Moody County Enterprise in Flandreau, SD. This is a jack-of-all-trades role for someone who can write, sell, and lead our local newspaper into a bright future. If you're passionate about community journalism and ready to take charge, we want to hear from you. Interested? Email your resume to [bmc-macken@newsmediacorp.com](mailto:bmc-macken@newsmediacorp.com).

CUSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT is hiring: Assistant Principal/AD, Dean of Students, Teachers, Elem. School Counselor, Paraprofessionals, Coaches. Please see [www.csd.k12.sd.us](http://www.csd.k12.sd.us) to apply. 527 Montgomery St., Custer, SD 57730 605-673-3154 EOE

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WANTED: TRACTORS. Select farm machinery. John Deere tractor parts. Vintage farm primitives. Guaranteed funds . No hassle. We do all the work from start to finish. 605-464-4683



**605/397-2311**  
**[www.grotonford.com](http://www.grotonford.com)**

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024 <b>MIDLAND NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY</b> HOME OFFICE ADDRESS: 8300 MILLS CIVIC PARKWAY WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266 MAIL ADDRESS: 8300 MILLS CIVIC PARKWAY WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266	
<b>ASSETS:</b>	
Bonds.....	\$55,583,610,658.54
Stocks.....	\$3,134,161,789.45
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....	\$3,893,862,407.23
Real Estate Owned.....	\$95,965,693.08
Policy Loans.....	\$596,440,099.37
Cash and Bank Deposits.....	\$2,719,144,528.51
Deferred and Uncollected Premiums.....	\$176,018,120.27
Investment Income Due and Accrued.....	\$523,658,725.22
Other Assets.....	\$15,990,810,741.69
<b>TOTAL ASSETS.....</b>	<b>\$82,713,372,763.36</b>
<b>LIABILITIES, SURPLUS &amp; OTHER FUNDS</b>	
Reserve for Life Policies & Contracts.....	\$45,218,216,308.41
Reserve for Accident & Health Policies.....	\$12,826.00
Policy and Contract Claims Life.....	\$265,197,151.42
Accident & Health.....	\$64,197.58
General Expenses Due or Accrued.....	\$148,526,075.41
Taxes, Licenses & Fees Due or Accrued.....	\$8,717,790.88
Federal Income Taxes Due or Accrued.....	\$0.00
All Other Liabilities.....	\$32,070,243,620.34
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES.....</b>	<b>\$77,710,971,976.04</b>
Special Surplus Funds.....	\$1,490,523,843.61
Capital Paid Up.....	\$2,549,439.00
Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....	\$893,927,235.39
Unassigned Surplus.....	\$2,615,394,269.32
Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....	\$5,002,394,787.32
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$82,713,372,763.36</b>
<b>BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2024</b>	
Direct Premiums Received.....	\$22,752,745.55
Direct Losses Paid.....	\$11,927,807.32
Direct Losses Incurred.....	\$11,630,055.57
Life Insurance in Force.....	\$3,574,997,067.40

LARRY DEITER  
Director of Insurance

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024 <b>MINNESOTA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY</b> HOME OFFICE ADDRESS: 400 ROBERT STREET NORTH ST. PAUL, MN 55101 MAIL ADDRESS: 400 ROBERT STREET NORTH ST. PAUL, MN 55101	
<b>ASSETS:</b>	
Bonds.....	\$21,839,495,805.00
Stocks.....	\$1,063,516,033.00
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....	\$5,777,093,602.00
Real Estate Owned.....	\$43,401,567.00
Policy Loans.....	\$1,140,198,596.00
Cash and Bank Deposits.....	\$353,428,677.00
Deferred and Uncollected Premiums.....	\$160,171,443.00
Investment Income Due and Accrued.....	\$243,073,558.00
Other Assets.....	\$32,800,238,015.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS.....</b>	<b>\$63,420,616,296.00</b>
<b>LIABILITIES, SURPLUS &amp; OTHER FUNDS</b>	
Reserve for Life Policies & Contracts.....	\$26,393,374,293.00
Reserve for Accident & Health Policies.....	\$214,957,137.00
Policy and Contract Claims Life.....	\$396,001,211.00
Accident & Health.....	\$89,362,382.00
General Expenses Due or Accrued.....	\$150,798,669.00
Taxes, Licenses & Fees Due or Accrued.....	\$6,486,683.00
Federal Income Taxes Due or Accrued.....	\$0.00
All Other Liabilities.....	\$32,861,407,449.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES.....</b>	<b>\$60,112,387,824.00</b>
Special Surplus Funds.....	\$367,834,106.00
Capital Paid Up.....	\$5,000,000.00
Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....	\$596,540,267.00
Unassigned Surplus.....	\$2,338,854,099.00
Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....	\$3,308,228,472.00
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$63,420,616,296.00</b>
<b>BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2024</b>	
Direct Premiums Received.....	\$14,441,951.00
Direct Losses Paid.....	\$29,958,289.00
Direct Losses Incurred.....	\$3,284,526.00
Life Insurance in Force.....	\$1,271,649,972.00

LARRY DEITER  
Director of Insurance

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024 <b>HEARTLAND NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY</b> HOME OFFICE ADDRESS: 401 PENNSYLVANIA PARKWAY, SUITE 300 INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46280 MAIL ADDRESS: 4200 LITTLE BLUE PARKWAY, SUITE 400 INDEPENDENCE, MO 64057	
<b>ASSETS:</b>	
Bonds.....	\$119,486,800.60
Stocks.....	\$0.00
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....	\$0.00
Real Estate Owned.....	\$935,454.53
Policy Loans.....	\$0.00
Cash and Bank Deposits.....	\$98,307,639.27
Deferred and Uncollected Premiums.....	\$2,809,757.35
Investment Income Due and Accrued.....	\$1,511,757.15
Other Assets.....	\$11,189,418.94
<b>TOTAL ASSETS.....</b>	<b>\$234,240,827.80</b>
<b>LIABILITIES, SURPLUS &amp; OTHER FUNDS</b>	
Reserve for Life Policies & Contracts.....	\$11,388,413.27
Reserve for Accident & Health Policies.....	\$5,138,751.67
Policy and Contract Claims Life.....	\$0.00
Accident & Health.....	\$2,542,265.14
General Expenses Due or Accrued.....	\$384,936.01
Taxes, Licenses & Fees Due or Accrued.....	\$268,974.08
Federal Income Taxes Due or Accrued.....	\$0.00
All Other Liabilities.....	\$199,371,512.70
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES.....</b>	<b>\$219,094,852.90</b>
Special Surplus Funds.....	\$7,000,000.00
Capital Paid Up.....	\$1,500,000.00
Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....	\$19,273,909.22
Unassigned Surplus.....	\$5,627,934.66
Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....	\$15,145,974.56
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$234,240,827.80</b>
<b>BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2024</b>	
Direct Premiums Received.....	\$2,148,442.92
Direct Losses Paid.....	\$2,191,729.00
Direct Losses Incurred.....	\$2,216,636.00
Life Insurance in Force.....	\$195,733.00

LARRY DEITER  
Director of Insurance

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024 <b>NATIONAL GUARDIAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY</b> HOME OFFICE ADDRESS: 2 EAST GILMAN STREET MADISON, WI 53703 MAIL ADDRESS: 123 TOWN SQUARE PLACE, PMB 749 JERSEY CITY, NJ 07310	
<b>ASSETS:</b>	
Bonds.....	\$4,091,909,895.00
Stocks.....	\$37,873,427.00
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....	\$184,729,670.00
Real Estate Owned.....	\$23,725,505.00
Policy Loans.....	\$21,708,573.00
Cash and Bank Deposits.....	\$93,284,274.00
Deferred and Uncollected Premiums.....	\$35,141,229.00
Investment Income Due and Accrued.....	\$49,876,103.00
Other Assets.....	\$991,076,260.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS.....</b>	<b>\$5,729,324,936.00</b>
<b>LIABILITIES, SURPLUS &amp; OTHER FUNDS</b>	
Reserve for Life Policies & Contracts.....	\$3,358,681,880.00
Reserve for Accident & Health Policies.....	\$16,011,630.00
Policy and Contract Claims Life.....	\$19,277,375.00
Accident & Health.....	\$281,802.00
General Expenses Due or Accrued.....	\$15,125,889.00
Taxes, Licenses & Fees Due or Accrued.....	\$1,633,391.00
Federal Income Taxes Due or Accrued.....	\$0.00
All Other Liabilities.....	\$1,241,938,333.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES.....</b>	<b>\$4,652,950,300.00</b>
Special Surplus Funds.....	\$98,044,064.00
Capital Paid Up.....	\$0.00
Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....	\$0.00
Unassigned Surplus.....	\$398,330,572.00
Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....	\$1,711,405.00
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$5,129,324,936.00</b>
<b>BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2024</b>	
Direct Premiums Received.....	\$1,670,297.00
Direct Losses Paid.....	\$2,222,232.00
Direct Losses Incurred.....	\$1,771,405.00
Life Insurance in Force.....	\$20,505,007.00

LARRY DEITER  
Director of Insurance





The Groton Area High School Music Department presented its spring concert Thursday evening.

**Band - directed by Desiree Yeigh**  
Choose Joy.....Randall D. Standridge  
Solo: Gretchen Dinger, Flute  
Action Front.....Ronald C. Knoener  
Kaboom!.....Rob Remeyn  
Soloists: Gretchen Dinger, Flute    Teagan Hanten, Mallets    Jackson Hopfinger, Trombone  
Overture to Gremlins.....arr. by Larry Norre  
How To Train Your Dragon.....arr. By Sean O’ Loughlin  
Soloists: Carlee Johnson, Horn    Gretchen Dinger, Flute    Emerlee Jones, Alto Sax    Jayden Schwan, Trumpet



**Treble Choir - Directed by Landon Brown**  
I Wanna Go Back.....Ingrid Michaelson



**HS Choir - Directed by Landon Brown**  
Accompanied by: Amy Warrington  
Like A River In My Soul.....Tim Osiek  
Flower of Beauty.....John Clements  
How Can I Keep from Singing? .....Greg Gilpin  
Soloists: Addison Hoeft and Natalia Warrington

# Tobacco tax shift burns up mosquito control money for cities, counties

## Quiet change in 2014 tied West Nile prevention budget to anti-smoking efforts

BY: JOHN HULT - APRIL 2, 2025 5:05 PM

A move to put more tobacco tax money toward South Dakota’s day-to-day government expenses might mean more mosquito bites — and a greater risk of West Nile virus — after July.

Gov. Larry Rhoden signed Senate Bill 54 into law on Friday. It reduces the amount of yearly tobacco tax revenue used to help people quit and avoid smoking from \$5 million to \$2 million. The rest of the money raised annually by the tax — more than \$40 million, typically — goes to the state’s general fund.

Backers of the bill said smoking rates have dropped, the need for prevention is lower, and the state needs the money to pay for its expanded Medicaid program. Opponents called the move foolish, citing spikes in the use of nicotine vape products as a blind spot in tobacco prevention that could cause public health trouble down the road.

One piece of the tobacco tax change didn’t get much attention, though.

For the past 10 years, South Dakota has funneled a half-million dollars of the sin tax bounty it collects annually from tobacco users into mosquito control grants for cities and counties.

Those grants, cities and counties learned last week, won’t be available for the next fiscal year, which starts July 1.

The goal of the grant program was to reduce the risk of West Nile virus, the most severe version of which can be deadly. Fifty-four South Dakotans have died from West Nile since 1999.

The loss of the grant money could impact smaller communities more than larger ones. Joe Kippley, public health director for the city of Sioux Falls, said his department anticipated the loss and has budgeted to continue mosquito spraying.

In smaller towns, the loss of grant funding could be a little harder to replace.

After this summer, “we’re not sure what will happen,” Viborg Finance Officer Brandy Skonhovd said.

**Moving mosquito money around**

The story of how cigarette dollars turned into insecticide grants begins in 2006.

That’s the year voters passed Initiated Measure 2, which slapped an additional \$1-per-pack tax on cigarettes and an extra 25% tax on other forms of tobacco on top of the state’s existing tobacco taxes.

The first \$30 million of tax revenue generated as a result went to the state’s general fund, the measure specified, after which \$5 million would be put in the Tobacco Prevention and Reduction Trust Fund and used for anti-smoking programming.

Tax collections beyond \$35 million would split between the Property Tax Reduction Fund, the Education Enhancement Tobacco Trust Fund and the Health Care Tobacco Trust Fund.

That setup had shifted by 2014.

That’s the year Doneen Hollingsworth, who was the secretary of the Department of Health, asked lawmakers to sign off on using a half-million dollars from the \$5 million anti-smoking fund for mosquito control grants.

The recession of 2007 through 2009 tightened budgets, she said. The state had already begun to dip into that fund to pay for things like childhood immunizations, she told them, and there was a new problem to address in 2014.

The federal money for West Nile monitoring and mosquito con-

trol made available to states when the virus first emerged had dried up. Then-Gov. Dennis Daugaard proposed using tobacco tax money that year, Hollingsworth said, “to address this urgent public health issue” by keeping the grant money flowing to local governments.

That wouldn’t break the law, Hollingsworth



**Tom Hedrick calibrates a mosquito fogger for the city of Groton.** (Paul Kosel/Groton Independent)

assured the Legislature’s Joint Appropriations Committee.

The state, in 2014 and today, gets about a million anti-smoking dollars a year from the federal government. As long as that money is available, she said, the state could skim up to a million prevention trust fund dollars off the top and still meet voters’ expectations.

“We’ve always spent at least \$5 million on tobacco prevention and control,” she said.

### Another tobacco tax shift

Since then, the state has spent about \$5 million from the fund to control mosquitoes. Grant awards, used for chemicals or the equipment needed to spray it, are tied to the prevalence and risk of West Nile in local communities.

During debate on this year’s legislative Senate Bill 54, Bureau of Finance and Management Commissioner Jim Terwilliger told lawmakers it never made much sense to tie the grants to tobacco funding.

“That’s an example of the different things that I think can go away, and we could be smarter with these funds,” the commissioner told the Senate Appropriations Committee in February, during his pitch for reducing the amount of tobacco tax money the state spends on anti-smoking programs.

Terwilliger rattled off statistics on lower smoking rates among teens and adults in the years since voters passed the tobacco tax, too, and said South Dakota spends more on anti-tobacco programming than other states.

Jennifer Stalley, Midwest policy director for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, was on hand to refute Terwilliger point-by-point in her opposition testimony.

But she and Terwilliger saw eye to eye on one thing.

“I would tell you that I don’t think that fits within the letter of the law,” Stalley said of the use of tobacco money for mosquito control.

Lawmakers’ passage of SB 54 put an end to the \$500,000 carve-out for West Nile, and appropriators didn’t supplement the state budget with any replacement funds to keep the grants going.

Tia Kafka, spokeswoman for the state Department of Health, said the state will continue parts of its West Nile virus programming. That includes federally funded risk prediction modeling and a federally funded epidemiologist to serve as the program’s overseer.

Also continued will be the state’s West Nile Virus dashboard, which shows modeled risk and the mapped results of the mosquito collection



efforts that attempt to catalog the prevalence of the mosquito species that spread the virus.

“However, very limited mosquito testing will occur in 2025, and the program’s sustainability beyond that year is uncertain,” Kafka said.

Virus modeling predicted 60 cases for 2024; the dashboard lists 21 total West Nile cases and one death from the disease. The Health Department’s website does not show a prediction for 2025.

Cities plan for uncertain future

It costs Viborg around \$2,500 to buy the insecticide used to reduce West Nile risk, according to Skonhovd, the city finance officer. The city got \$8,000 last year, though, to pay for new equipment.

The spraying in and around the southeast South Dakota town of 834 starts in May and continues into the fall.

“When we have football games, we try to keep the mosquito population down for those,” Skonhovd said.

SD BAND: Bridging Rural Behavioral Healthcare Needs in South Dakota

As a school psychologist working for a small public school, I remember a teacher asking me to observe a student in her classroom. She expressed concerns about an elementary student’s unusual behavior, lack of playing with classmates, lack of communication and even some unusual

motor movements, including flapping her hands. This was in 2001, and I was experiencing my first referral for a student who would eventually receive an educational diagnosis of autism.

At that time, autism was considered rare, and providing educational support to meet their needs was challenging. I began to see a growing number of referrals, increasing communication and behavioral challenges, and came to realize that my training and experience as a school psychologist weren’t enough. In 2010, after completing the required coursework and supervision, and passing the National Behavior Analyst Certification Board examination, I began a career as a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) in South Dakota. At that time, fewer than 10 BCBA professionals were in South Dakota.

Today, there are 88 active BCBAs registered in South Dakota, far below Minnesota (517), Iowa (282), and Nebraska (300). Even when compared to states with similar rural and frontier characteristics, South Dakota lags behind North Dakota (97), Montana (92), and Alaska (89) . Currently, nationwide demand for behavior analysts is higher than ever. Annual nationwide demand for individuals holding BCBA certification has increased each year since 2010, with a striking 58% increase from 2023 to 2024.

One major reason South Dakota has fallen behind was the absence of an in-state training program until 2021. Recognizing this critical gap, a partnership between the Public Health and Health Sciences programs in the University of South Dakota’s School of Health Sciences, the University of South Dakota’s Center for Disabilities, and LifeScape -a Sioux Falls-based non-profit organization- launched the Applied Behavior Analyst (ABA) two-year graduate program. This program aims to expand South Dakota’s behavioral health workforce and contribute essential public health services across the state.

Students who complete the USD ABA graduate program must independently complete 2,000 hours of ABA supervised fieldwork experience. When you consider that most BCBAs in South Dakota live near the state’s larger population centers, Sioux Falls and Rapid City, it’s apparent that those supervised fieldwork experience hours are mostly completed where supervision is available. This barrier creates limited access to BCBAs in rural communities but highlights a great opportunity: addressing disparities in access to specialists in rural areas. South Dakota continues to experience critical shortages of professionals trained to support individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities.

The South Dakota Behavior Analyst Network Development (SD BAND) was formed to address the critical need for enhanced behavioral health services and the greater integration of BCBAs throughout the state, especially in underserved rural communities. This network of state partners includes the University of South Dakota (USD), Community Healthcare Association of the Dakotas (CHAD), South Dakota Department of Social Services (SD DSS), South Dakota Department of Human Services (SD DHS), and the Community Support Providers of South Dakota (CSPSD). SD BAND is tasked with expanding the presence and collaboration of BCBAs within community health centers and other health care settings across South Dakota, to raise awareness among health care providers, adult service providers, and the broader community about the crucial role of BCBAs, and to facilitate their integration into existing service delivery options.

Ryan Groeneweg, Ed.S., BCBA, Mr. Groeneweg has been the Director of Community Education at the USD Center for Disabilities since January 2019. In this role, he is the principal investigator (PI) for the South Dakota Department of Education Training and Technical Assistance Grant (2019 to present), and the South Dakota State Autism Grant (2019 to present). He is also an assistant professor at the USD School of Medicine and the program director for the USD School of Health Science Master in Health Science, with a Specialization in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and the USD ABA Certificate Graduate program. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, and on social media. Watch On Call with the Prairie Doc, most Thursday’s at 7PM streaming on Facebook and listen to Prairie Doc Radio Sunday’s at 6am and 1pm.



Paul Kosel runs the mosquito control program for Groton, population 1,355. Kosel is also the newspaper publisher and information technology supervisor for the community, bordered by wetlands on the eastern side of Brown County. That county has long been the state’s most reliably risky for West Nile in the two-plus decades the disease has been endemic in South Dakota.

“Trying to do mosquito control in Groton is a living nightmare because we’re surrounded by water,” Kosel said.

Kosel and Skonhovd both say they feel confident they’ll be able to pay for this year’s work with the money that’s available until July 1, when the tobacco-funded grant spigot turns off with the end of the state’s fiscal year.

After that, they both hope the state finds a way to keep things going. Insecticide and equipment can be a strain on a small-town budget.

“It’s not cheap, that’s for sure,” Kosel said.

Larger cities could have an easier time. Joe Kippley, public health director for the city of Sioux Falls, set aside \$750,000 for mosquito control this summer. Last year, the city received \$20,000 from the state for spraying, but Kippley said the city knew the money would go away this year, and that it had previously set its budget up to withstand the expense of spraying with or without state help.

“We do not budget for these grant dollars annually because they are distributed through an application process and are therefore not guaranteed each year,” Kippley said in an emailed statement. “The discontinuation of this funding will not impact the city’s mosquito control program and services.”

John is the senior reporter for South Dakota Searchlight. He has more than 15 years experience covering criminal justice, the environment and public affairs in South Dakota, including more than a decade at the Sioux Falls Argus Leader.

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## Continued from front

Ken Hier with IMEG Corporation discussed a couple of roadway improvement options, but said he wasn't convinced with a lower-cost option. He told the city he would want to core the roadway and do some more engineering before making any recommendations on the project.

"That's a large chunk of money on a road that's decent in my opinion," he said. "We have some roads on the west side of town" that should be prioritized.

"I think we have streets elsewhere we should do instead of spending \$200,000 or more on this," he added.

- The council approved hiring three more summer recreational employees.
  - o Jace Johnson was hired as a lifeguard with no previous experience listed.
  - o Katelyn Giedt was hired as U8 softball coach with no previous experience listed.
  - o Amanda Bisbee was hired as U14 softball coach with no previous experience listed.
- Some council members indicated support for spending money to ship swimming pool chemicals faster in order to open the pool earlier in May. The pool could open as soon as May 20, though no official date has been announced.

All five girls relay teams took first place at the Milbank Invitational Track Meet held Tuesday, boosting the team to a tie for second place. The boys took third place with Jayden Schwan winning the 1600m run and the boys 3200m relay team also taking first.



**Groton Area Taryn Traphagen and Milbank Emmett Hanson won the Valley Queen Cheese track VIP award. Taryn claimed 1st place in four events. The 4x200m relay, 4x400m relay, 4x800m relay, and SMR 1600m relay. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)**

Wilmet 43, 10. Tri-State 28, 11. Florence/Henry 22, 12. Webster Area 20.

**100 Meters:** 2. Keegen Tracy, 11.32; 6. Lincoln Krause, 11.77; 28. Ryder Schelle, 12.62

**200 Meters:** 2. Keegen Tracy, 22.90; 18. Brevin Fliehs, 24.94; 31. Ryder Schelle, 27.12

**400 Meters:** 2. Keegen Tracy, 52.16; 13. Jordan Schwan, 58.18

**800 Meters:** 2. Blake Pauli, 2:08.51; 9. Tristin McGannon, 2:23.34

**1600 Meters:** 1. Jayden Schwan, 4:50.32; 12. Jace Johnson, 5:33.50  
**4x100 Relay:** 6. (Brevin Fliche, Ryder Schelle, Jordan Schwan,

**4x100 Relay:** 6. (Brevin Fliels, Ryder Schelle, Jordan Schwall, Lincoln Krause), 48.16.

**4x200 Relay:** 8. (Brevin Fliehs, Ethan Kroll, Lincoln Krause, Jordan Schwan), 1:40.90

**4x400 Relay:** 3. (Jayden Schwan, Jordan Schwan, Ethan Kroll, Blake Pauli), 3:45.48.

**4x800 Relay:** 1. (Jayden Schwan, Jace Johnson, Tristin McGannon, Blake Pauli), 8:44.94.

**Shot Put - 12lb:** 6. Karter Moody, 41' 4"

**Javelin - 800g:** 17. TC Schuster, 102' 1"; 25. Karter Moody, 81' 8"

**Long Jump:** 5. Ethan Kroll, 18' 10.5"; 27. TC Schuster, 15' 6.5"

**Triple Jump:** 3. Ethan Kroll, 38' 4"; 13. Tristin McGannon, 34' 6.5"

## Girl's Division

**Team Scores:** 1. Clark/Willow Lake 166.5, 2. Milbank 121.5, 2. Groton Area 121.5, 4. Webster Area 81, 5. Aberdeen Roncalli 46.5, 6. Tri-State 43, 7. Britton-Hecla 38, 8. Langford Area 37, 9. Sisseton 34, 9. Great Plains Lutheran 34, 11. Florence/Henry 32, 12. Hamlin 18.

**100 Meters:** 2. MaKenna Krause, 12.89; 16. Rylee Dunker, 14.09; 26. Elizabeth Fliehs, 15.10

**200 Meters:** 12. Rylee Dunker, 29.22; 26. Hannah Sandness, 31.97  
**400 Meters:** 18. Elizabeth Fliehs, 1:16.22

**800 Meters:** 4. Faith Traphagen, 2:37.83

**1600 Meters:** 2. Ryelle Gilbert, 5:39.77; 6. Ashlynn Warrington, 5:59.95

**100m Hurdles - 33":** 2. McKenna Tietz, 17.03; 6. Talli Wright, 19.08; 16. Ella Kettner, 21.97

**300m Hurdles - 30":** 1. McKenna Tietz, 49.11; 6. Talli Wright, 54.01; 13. Ella Kettner, 56.63

**4x100 Relay:** 2. (Laila Roberts, Rylee Dunker, MaKenna Krause, Ella Kettner), 52.56.

**4x200 Relay:** 1. (Laila Roberts, Kella Tracy, McKenna Tietz, Taryn Traphagen), 1:48.82.

**4x400 Relay:** 1. (Laila Roberts, Taryn Traphagen, McKenna Tietz, Kella Tracy), 4:07.80.

**4x800 Relay:** 1. (Faith Traphagen, Ryelle Gilbert, Taryn Traphagen, Kella Tracy), 9:51.40.

**SMR 1600m - [200-200-400-800]:** 1. (Laila Roberts, MaKenna Krause, Taryn Traphagen, Kella Tracy), 4:35.76.

**Shot Put - 4kg:** 3. Emma Kutter, 33' 4"; 17. Libby Cole, 26' 11.5"; 25. Avery Crank, 24' 11.5"

**Discus - 1kg:** 8. Avery Crank, 84' 4"; 10. Emma Kutter, 79' 6"; 19. Libby Cole, 63' 10"

**Javelin - 600g:** 2. Avery Crank, 89' 11"; 6. Emma Kutter, 78' 2"; 14. Elizabeth Fliehs, 70' 7"

**Long Jump: 2. MaKenna K**

**Triple Jump:** 15. Teagan Hanten, 28' 5.25"

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