



The Groton Independent

Vol. 138 No. 35 ♦ Groton, South Dakota ♦ Wednesday, May 5, 2021 ♦ Established in 1889

Columbia's Americanism Poetry Winners



Neely Althoff - Columbia's 1st place winner of this year's Americanism poetry contest with the theme: Always Serving Veterans Not Self. Neely also received 1st place in the District 4 Class II contest!



Halee Harder - Columbia's 1st place winner of this year's Americanism poetry contest with the theme: Always Serving Veterans Not Self. Halee also received 2nd place in the District 4 Class IV contest! (Courtesy Photo)

Both Neely and Halee were awarded \$10 for their 1st place finish (for Columbia.) (Courtesy Photo)

SD FFA Members Earn National Scholarships

There is a need to fill the pipeline of leaders in the agriculture industry, and industry is stepping up to help students meet that need. In 2020, the National FFA awarded \$55,250 in scholarships, to 21 SD FFA members, through the National FFA Scholarship program. Scholarships are sponsored by businesses and individuals through the National FFA Foundation and are given for a wide variety of experiences, career goals and higher education plans. These students devoted much time and effort to FFA involvement, work experience, supervised agricultural experience (SAE), community service, leadership skills and academics, making them likely future leaders in agriculture. Groton Recipients are:

Tessa Erdmann, Groton FFA, America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship Program, \$1,500.00

Tessa Erdmann, Groton FFA, BNSF Railway Foundation Scholarship, \$1,250.00

City Council

The following have been approved for the new library board: Council member Karyn Babcock with term the same as council term; server three-year terms are Kim Weber and Brenda Madsen, serving two-year terms are Jessica Adler and Becca Johnson, and serving a one-year term is Andrea Eisenbiesz.

There was also discussion on the airport. The wind has caused a lot of dirt to be blown in so the opportunity is being taken to redo the airport. The landing strip will be changed and the area will be more squared off. It will all be planted with new seed. It is expected that the airport will be closed for this year.



March Students of the Month

From back Left: Hannah Gustafson (11th), Dillon Abeln (9th), Jacob Lewandowski (10th), Alexa Herr (12th)

From Front Left: Jeslyn Kosel (8th), Logan Warrington (7th), Blake Lord (6th)

We are so proud of the above named students for being selected as the March Student of the Month for their grade!

Groton Area School works to ensure that all levels of academic instruction also include the necessary life skills teaching, practicing, and modeling that encourages essential personal life habits that are universally understood to facilitate helping our students become good human beings and citizens.

It is learning with our heads, hearts, and hands to be caring and civil, to make healthy decisions, to effectively problem solve, to be respectful and responsible, to be good citizens, and to be empathetic and ethical individuals.

Students are selected based on individual student growth in the areas of: positive behavior, citizenship, good attendance, a thirst for knowledge, and high academic standards.

Congratulations students! Well done!

- MS/HS Principal Kiersten Sombke



Gretchen Dinger has qualified for Middle School All State Band for three years

Congratulations Gretchen! She was presented an award Thursday night for being the first Groton student to ever make it to middle school all state band all 3 eligible years! (Photo Weston Dinger Facebook page)



By Jordan Wright

Minnesota Vikings' general manager Rick Spielman has earned the nickname Trader Rick because of his ability to move up and down in the draft, and he was at it once again Thursday night. With the Vikings on the clock at pick number 14 and the top two offensive tackles off the board, Spielman traded down nine spots and added two third-round picks in the process. With the 23rd pick in the 2021 NFL draft, the Vikings selected Christian Darrisaw, an offensive tackle from Virginia Tech.

Darrisaw was widely regarded as the third-best offensive lineman in the draft and would have been a great pick had the Vikings stayed at 14. Getting him, plus the draft picks, is an absolute win for the Vikings. He should be able to step in and start at left tackle on day one. At 6'5", 322 pounds, Darrisaw brings some much-needed size and strength to the Vikings' offensive line. My favorite stat: Christian Darrisaw did not allow a single sack or QB pressure in 2020. Grade = A.

"Love this move for the Vikings. Had they grabbed him in their original spot I would have liked it" – Jason La Canfora, NFL Network

"Darrisaw was my #1 offensive tackle. #Vikings got a plug-and-play guy" – Emory Hunt, Football Gameplan

"Steal by the Vikings. That would've been a good pick at 14." – Dan Kadar, Mocking the Draft

Heading into day two, Spielman and the Vikings had plenty of ammo to move around and get their guys. So it was a surprise when the Vikings elected to stand pat with their four third-round picks.

With the second pick in the third round, the Vikings drafted Kellen Mond, quarterback, Texas A&M. Mond is an athletic QB who has all the tools to be a solid pro, he just needs a year or two before he'll be ready to start. Cousin's job is still safe for now, but with only two years left on his contract, it's possible the Vikings just drafted his eventual replacement. Evaluators were all over the place when it comes to Mond, but some believed he could have been a surprise first-round pick, and all agree he has good potential. This was a solid pick. Grade = A.

Thirteen picks later, the Vikings were back on the clock. With Eric Wilson departing this offseason, the Vikings needed to add a linebacker at some point in the draft. Enter Chazz Surratt, linebacker, North Carolina. Surratt was recruited by the Tarheels to be a quarterback, before making the shift to linebacker a couple of years ago. He figures to come in and compete for playing time along with last year's draft pick Troy Dye, but his biggest contribution to the 2021 season will likely be on special teams. This pick wasn't a home run, but it's possible he develops into a solid starting linebacker within a year or two. Grade = B.

With the 23rd pick in the third round, the Vikings went back to the offensive line, drafting Wyatt Davis from Ohio State. Had Davis entered the draft last year, it's likely he would have been a first-round pick. However, he dealt with injuries in 2020 which caused his draft stock to dip. He is a feisty blocker who has the strength to dominate defensive tackles and won't stop blocking until either the whistle blows, or his opponent has been driven into the ground. Assuming Davis earns a starting role this season, the Vikings will move Ezra Cleveland to left guard and keep Wyatt at his college position of right guard. The Vikings needed to come out of the draft with two starting-caliber offensive linemen, and it appears they succeeded. Grade = A.

With the offensive line set, the Vikings turned their attention to the defensive line with their final pick of day two, selecting Patrick Jones II, defensive end from Pitt. Jones is a speedy lineman who already has a plethora of pass-rushing moves but will need to develop a dominant mindset and prove he can give 100 percent effort on every play. He is another playmaker for defensive line coach Andre Patterson to mold and will compete with D.J. Wonnum and Stephen Weatherly for playing time. Grade = B.

What did you think of the Vikings' draft haul through day two? Reach out to me on Twitter and let me know (@JordanWrightNFL). And make sure to check out next week's article, which will cover all the Vikings' draft picks from day three. Skol!

Marzahn is double winner at Webster, Traphagen wins 800m run

Groton Area picked up three first-place finishes at the Webster Area Track meet held last week. Andrew Marzahn won both the 100m and 200m dash events and Faith Traphagen won the 800m run. Jackson Cogley placed second in the high jump and Kenzie McInerney played second in the triple jump.

- Girls 100m Hurdles: 13, Jayla Jones, 21.02.
- Boys 300m Hurdles: 6, Jackson Cogley, 49.61.
- Girls 300m Hurdles: 14, Jayla Jones, 58.70
- Boys 100m Dash: 1, Andrew Marzahn, 11.79.
- Girls 100m Dash: 21, Karsyn Jangula, 15.10; 26, Camryn Kurtz, 15.49.
- Boys 200m Dash: 1, Andrew Marzahn, 24.46; 19, Tate Larson, 26.90.
- Girls 200m Dash: 19, Jayla Jones, 32.14; 26, Camryn Kurtz, 32.94.
- Boys 400m Dash: 5, Cole Simon, 57.85; 23, Douglas Heminger, 1:07.77.
- Girls 400m Dash: 4, Faith Traphagen, 1:09.64; 14, Anna Fjeldheim, 1:16.00; 16, Camryn Kurtz, 1:18.64.
- Boys 800m Run: 17, Douglas Heminger, 2:52.99.
- Girls 800m Run: 1, Faith Traphagen, 2:38.30.
- Boys 1600m Run: 8, Isaac Smith, 5:13.70; 9, Jacob Lewandowski, 5:16.44.
- Boys 500m Relay: 6, Groton (Andrew Marzahn, Tate Larson, Ethan Gengerke, Taylor Diegel), 48.97.
- Girls 400m Relay: 4, Groton (Jerica Locke, Aspen Johnson, Karysn Jangula, Laila Roberts), 56.93.
- Boys 800m Relay: 4, Groton (Andrew Marzahn, Tate Larson, Ethan Gengerke, Teylor Diegel), 1:41.64.
- Girls 800m Relay: 4, Groton (Jerica Locke, Aspen Johnson, Jayla Jones, Laila Roberts), 1:59.29.
- Girls 1600m Relay: 3, Groton (Jerica Locke, Rylee Dunker, Laila Roberts, Faith Traphagen), 4:42.03.
- Boys 1600m Relay: 5, Groton (Ethan Gengerke, Jacob Lewandowski, Cole Simon, Teylor Diegel), 3:59.74.
- Girls 1600 Medley Relay: 4, Groton (Emilie Thurston, Camryn Kurtz, Karsyn Jangula, Mia Crank), 5:21.01.
- Boys 1600m Medley Relay: 6, Groton (Ethan Gengerke, Teylor Diegel, Cole Simon, Jacob Lewandowski), 4:12.19.
- Girls 3200m Relay: 6, Groton (Rylee Dunker, Mia Crank, Anna Fjeldheim, Faith Traphagen), 12:10.21.
- Boys High Jump: 2, Jackson Cogley, 5-3.
- Girls High Jump: 8, Kenzie McInerney, 4-5.
- Boys Long Jump: 16, Jackson Cogley, 16-4.5; 22, Tate Larson, 15-1.75; Paxton Bonn, 12-11.
- Girls Long Jump: 3, Kenzie McInerney, 15-6; 9, Aspen Johnson, 14-03; 19, Emilie Thurston, 12-8.50.
- Boys Triple Jump: 12, Jackson Cogley, 34-2.5.
- Girls Triple Jump: 2, Kenzie McInerney, 32-9; 11, Aspen Johnson, 28-1.
- Boys Discus: 7, Caleb Furney, 104-9; 26, Caleb Hanten, 83-2; 28, Holden Sippel, 81-1.
- Girls Discus: 5, Chloe Daly, 86-0; 6, Maddie Bjerke, 84-4; 20, Faith Flihs, 70-10.
- Boys Shot Put: 18, Caleb Furney, 34-7.5; 22, Kaleb Antonsen, 32-0.75; 23, Seth Johnson, 31-5.75.
- Girls Shot Put: 5, Maddie Bjerke, 30-5.5; 7, Chloe Daly, 29-0; 11, Faith Flihs, 26-10.

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Fresh! At the Farmers' Market!

What Do You See at the Market?

LEMONS, BROCCOLI, GRAPES, APPLES, ORANGES

FRESH PRODUCE

1 V E G E T A B L E S
2
3
4
5 T A R P S
6 F A R M E R S
7 F
8
9 H E R B S
10 T A B L E S
11
12 T R U C K S

I love buying my berries, peaches and apples there!

Pick us, "peas"!

Honey is from a farmer's bees
Maple syrup is from his trees
Home-baked bread is from his oven
Flowers from gardens tended with lovin'!

Where Does It Grow?
1. B, 2. C, 3. A, 4. E, 5. D
1. C, 2. A, 3. B, 4. E, 5. D

As Seasons Change!

I love a juicy peach!

'Orangea' glad that there are so many vegetables, fruits, baked goods and fresh eggs and salsas to choose from?

Where's the bug who wants pie?



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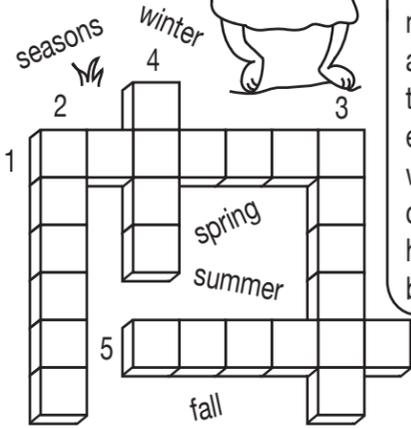
It looks hungry! Can you find it?

Kids: color stuff in!

Fresh! At the Farmers' Market!



Read the clues to fill in the puzzle:



As Fresh As Fresh Can Be!

- while some products are available all year round, in some areas, foods from the farms follow the _____
- in the _____: lettuce, radishes, asparagus...
- in the _____: corn, cucumbers, tomatoes...
- in the _____: squash, broccoli, potatoes...
- in the _____: turnips, kale, brussels sprouts...

You can't buy fresher fruits and vegetables than those at the farm or the farmers' market! I love buying my berries, peaches and apples there!

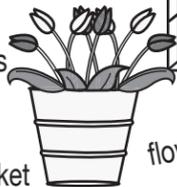
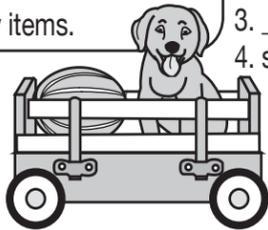
Ooooooo...pie!

Have you ever been to a farmers' market? It is a place where farmers bring, set up and sell their fruits, vegetables, potted plants and baked goods.

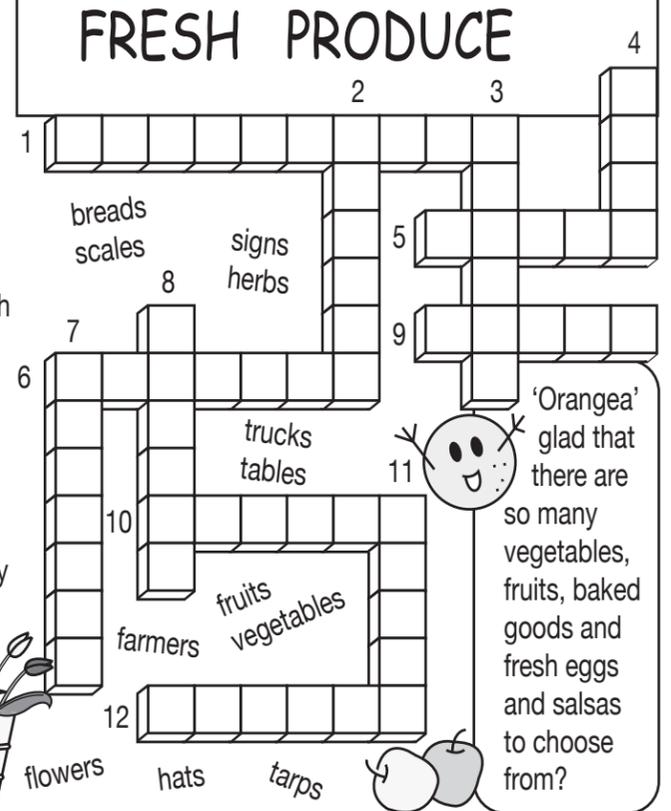
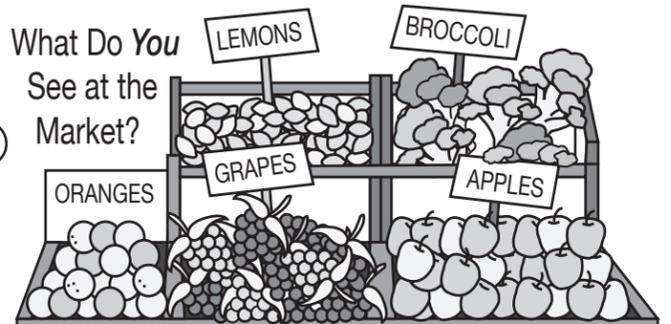
Most of these markets are held once a week, often at fairgrounds or in parking lots. Some people like to go to the market because they enjoy talking with other shoppers and asking farmers about their products. Others enjoy being outside where their children can play a little and help to choose and buy items.

There are many sights at the farmers' market. **Read the clues to fill in the crossword:**

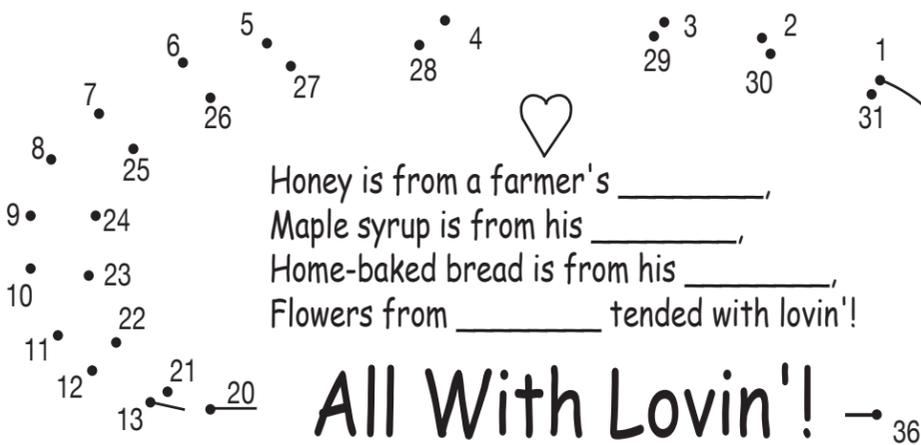
- green and yellow _____ piled high
- home-baked _____
- _____ for weighing food
- straw _____ for cooling heads
- _____ giving shade
- _____ talking and selling
- freshly cut _____
- samples of juicy _____ to try
- dried _____ hanging
- _____ laden with foods and potted plants
- _____ listing prices
- _____ to carry food and supplies to the market



What Do You See at the Market?



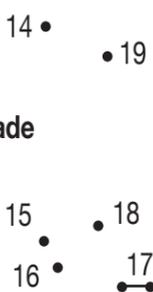
'Orangea' glad that there are so many vegetables, fruits, baked goods and fresh eggs and salsas to choose from?



Honey is from a farmer's _____,
Maple syrup is from his _____,
Home-baked bread is from his _____,
Flowers from _____ tended with lovin'!

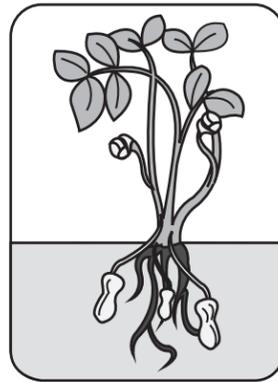
All With Lovin'!

Follow the dots to see a favorite homemade item!



Fill in the poem with these words:

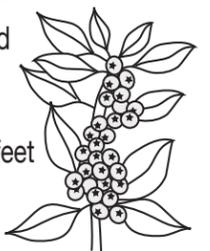
- gardens oven • 37
- trees bees • 38
- 39



Where Does It Grow?

How do foods grow? Where do you find the foods below when you want to harvest them? **Match these foods to where you find them:**

- under the ground
- trees
- vines
- plants (about 3 feet high)/vines
- bushes



- peanuts
- pineapple
- grapes
- bananas
- beets

- out of the ground on a plant with spiky leaves
- on woody vines
- flower above the ground, but grow below ground
- roots that grow in the ground
- grow on tall plants (not trees)

As Seasons Change!

As the seasons change, so do your choices at the farmers' market. Summer turns into autumn! The days have cooler temperatures and get shorter. At this time, the growing season ends in some areas of the country. They are the days when farmers will harvest and get ready for winter.

- Draw a line through the 5 items that are "Disappearing" from the market in late summer!
- Circle the 5 items that are at the market in the fall or are "Appearing."
- Mark an "X" on the 4 items that can be sold all year long.



I love a juicy peach!

Guthmiller places ninth at Redfield Golf Meet

Two Groton Area golfers competed in the Redfield Tournament held last week. Carly Guthmiller placed ninth with a score of 116, shooting a 55 in the front nine and an 61 in the back nine. Emma Schinkel scored a 128 with scores of 66 and 62.

In the junior varsity division, Shaylee Peterson shot a 118 with scores of 53 and 65. Trinity Smith shot a 127 with scores of 63 and 64. Hailey Monson shot a 145 with scores of 75 and 70.



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EARTHTALK

From the Editors of E - The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: You see a lot of people putting solar panels on their homes these days, but windmills not so much. Is there any future for small residential wind turbines as we transition to more renewable forms of energy?

-- M. Simon, Portland, ME



Backyard wind turbines could help us make the transition away from fossil fuels.

Credit: Cowrin, FlickrCC.

Wind power will likely play a key role in the transition to a zero-emission economy—especially if we can start to distribute it more widely and harness its benefits on a building-by-building basis. Could your own small wind turbine next to your home be the next way to keep up with the Joneses while augmenting the electricity you already get from the grid or solar panels?

The short answer is...definitely. Large wind turbines lined up along the highway in commercial wind farms typically stand at least 150 feet tall, each powering thousands of households per year. But smaller, much less obtrusive turbines might output just enough power to serve as a back-up to your existing solar system or reduce what you need from the grid. Limitations on how much electricity a turbine can extract as well as the variability of the wind itself means that wind power might never be your primary energy source. But there's no reason it can't meet an increasingly larger share of your energy needs.

Small stand-alone wind systems might make sense for a larger residence or for a commercial entity like a farm or small factory or warehouse. Turbines that can share the electricity generated among a group of homes or buildings as needed tend to be much more energy- and cost-efficient. And extra capacity in a wind system can be sold to the utilities via so-called Renewable Energy Credits (RECs), which can help offset the up-front costs of installing turbines in the first place.

Ultimately, the most important factor in determining whether to invest in a wind power system is the local climate. To maximize the efficiency of wind turbines, free-standing pole-mounted turbines need to be installed at a high-elevation locations with steady, strong sources of wind. After assessing wind conditions, work with an expert to choose the correct size turbine and tower. If the location is on the power grid, it'll serve you well to connect it to take advantage of RECs.

Overall, small, residential wind energy systems are essential to the nation's transition away from fossil fuels and toward a greener future. Though initial costs may seem unfavorable compared to cheap, non-renewable energy, investment in wind electricity will pay off in the long run. Both grid-tied and stand-alone wind systems are more energy and cost effective on wider scales, meaning that the more expansive the system, the more energy is generated and the overall cost goes down. Moving forward, higher demands for wind energy will lead to increased advancements in this technology, possibly offering even greater benefits and pointing toward a future powered by 100 percent renewable energy.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.



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HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
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MAIL ADDRESS:
ONE TOWER SQUARE, HARTFORD, CT 06183
ASSETS:

Bonds.....\$1,693,879,632.00
 Stocks.....0
 Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....0
 Real Estate Owned.....0
 Cash and Bank Deposits.....101,334,849.00
 Agents Balances or Uncollected Premiums.....185,204,730.00
 Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income.....16,858,812.00
 Due and Accrued.....147,082,152.00
 Other Assets.....2,144,360,175.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....1,660,000,000.00
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS
 Reserve for Losses.....935,523,138.00
 Reserve for Loss.....203,346,793.00
 Adjustment Expenses.....14,908,256.00
 Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees).....8,333,002.00
 Taxes, Licenses and Fees (excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes).....1,358,496.00
 Federal and Foreign Income Taxes.....332,019,415.00
 Unearned Premiums.....97,112,502.00
 All Other Liabilities.....1,592,601,600.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....1,234,681.00
 Special Surplus Funds.....6,000,000.00
 Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit.....125,632,050.00
 Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....418,891,844.00
 Unassigned Surplus.....551,758,575.00
 Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....2,144,360,175.00
TOTAL.....2,172,736.00

BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2020
 Direct Premiums Written.....2,172,311.00
 Direct Premiums Earned.....2,153,158.00
 Direct Losses Paid.....2,172,736.00
 Direct Losses Incurred.....3,734,181.00

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DIVISION OF INSURANCE
STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY
 WHEREAS, the Travelers Casualty Insurance Company of America, 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:

- 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 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 Property Damage (Other than Auto); 9) Auto Physical Damage; 10) Auto Fidelity & Surety; 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., 2021.

LARRY DEITER
 Director of Insurance

19070
FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
THE STANDARD FIRE INSURANCE
COMPANY
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
ONE TOWER SQUARE, HARTFORD, CT 06183
MAIL ADDRESS:
ONE TOWER SQUARE, HARTFORD, CT 06183
ASSETS:

Bonds.....\$2,638,036,158.00
 Stocks.....533,299,024.00
 Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....0
 Real Estate Owned.....0
 Cash and Bank Deposits.....232,205,158.00
 Agents Balances or Uncollected Premiums.....328,348,312.00
 Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income.....22,898,920.00
 Due and Accrued.....496,064,181.00
 Other Assets.....4,250,851,752.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....10,177,327.00
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS
 Reserve for Losses.....1,658,583,146.00
 Reserve for Loss.....360,512,264.00
 Adjustment Expenses.....26,442,940.00
 Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees).....14,773,527.00
 Taxes, Licenses and Fees (excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes).....2,821,876.00
 Federal and Foreign Income Taxes.....568,635,152.00
 Unearned Premiums.....288,280,038.00
 All Other Liabilities.....2,940,048,942.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....2,188,958.00
 Special Surplus Funds.....5,000,000.00
 Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit.....623,472,070.00
 Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....680,141,782.00
 Unassigned Surplus.....425,851,752.00
 Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....1,310,802,811.00
TOTAL.....4,250,851,752.00

BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2020
 Direct Premiums Written.....839,696.00
 Direct Premiums Earned.....1,070,588.00
 Direct Losses Paid.....407,226.00
 Direct Losses Incurred.....395,700.00

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DIVISION OF INSURANCE
STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY
 WHEREAS, the The Standard 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:

- 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 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 Property Damage (Other than Auto); 9) Auto Physical Damage; 10) Auto Fidelity & Surety; 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., 2021.

LARRY DEITER
 Director of Insurance

19100
FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
AMCO INSURANCE COMPANY
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
ONE WEST NATIONWIDE BLVD., COLUMBUS, OH 43215-2220
MAIL ADDRESS:
ONE WEST NATIONWIDE BLVD., 1-99-FIN7, COLUMBUS, OH 43215-2220
ASSETS:

Bonds.....\$166,538,284.00
 Stocks.....0
 Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....0
 Real Estate Owned.....0
 Cash and Bank Deposits.....232,205,158.00
 Agents Balances or Uncollected Premiums.....20,550,063.00
 Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income.....255,583,331.00
 Due and Accrued.....1,371,746.00
 Other Assets.....277,839,947.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....721,883,371.00
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS
 Reserve for Losses.....644,090.00
 Reserve for Loss.....37,047.00
 Adjustment Expenses.....29,855,912.00
 Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees).....135,719.00
 Taxes, Licenses and Fees (excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes).....284,568.00
 Federal and Foreign Income Taxes.....9,707,632.00
 Unearned Premiums.....485,213.00
 All Other Liabilities.....16,024,005.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....1,516,466.00
 Special Surplus Funds.....3,000,000.00
 Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit.....177,486,674.00
 Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....17,840,372.00
 Unassigned Surplus.....13,831,904.00
 Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....29,855,909.00
TOTAL.....1,149,767.00

BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2020
 Direct Premiums Written.....11,470,244.00
 Direct Premiums Earned.....11,370,020.00
 Direct Losses Paid.....691,919.00
 Direct Losses Incurred.....769,212.00

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DIVISION OF INSURANCE
STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY
 WHEREAS, the Amco Insurance Company, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Iowa, 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:

- 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 Property Damage (Other than Auto); 9) Auto Physical Damage; 10) Auto Fidelity & Surety; 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., 2021.

LARRY DEITER
 Director of Insurance

19186
FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
ALLIANCE INSURANCE COMPANY, INC.
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
1122 N MAIN STREET, MCPHERSON, KS 67460
MAIL ADDRESS:
PO BOX 1401, MCPHERSON, KS 67460
ASSETS:

Bonds.....\$24,457,015.00
 Stocks.....0
 Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....0
 Real Estate Owned.....0
 Cash and Bank Deposits.....2,788,693.00
 Agents Balances or Uncollected Premiums.....0
 Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income.....184,733.00
 Due and Accrued.....2,425,471.00
 Other Assets.....29,855,912.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....47,297,366.00
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS
 Reserve for Losses.....644,090.00
 Reserve for Loss.....37,047.00
 Adjustment Expenses.....29,855,912.00
 Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees).....135,719.00
 Taxes, Licenses and Fees (excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes).....284,568.00
 Federal and Foreign Income Taxes.....9,707,632.00
 Unearned Premiums.....485,213.00
 All Other Liabilities.....16,024,005.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....1,516,466.00
 Special Surplus Funds.....3,000,000.00
 Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit.....177,486,674.00
 Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....17,840,372.00
 Unassigned Surplus.....13,831,904.00
 Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....29,855,909.00
TOTAL.....1,149,767.00

BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2020
 Direct Premiums Written.....11,470,244.00
 Direct Premiums Earned.....11,370,020.00
 Direct Losses Paid.....691,919.00
 Direct Losses Incurred.....769,212.00

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DIVISION OF INSURANCE
STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY
 WHEREAS, the Alliance Insurance Company, Inc., a Corporation organized under the Laws of Kansas, 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, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 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 Property Damage (Other than Auto); 9) Auto Physical Damage; 10) Auto Fidelity & Surety; 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., 2021.

LARRY DEITER
 Director of Insurance

19194
FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
FARMERS ALLIANCE MUTUAL
INSURANCE COMPANY
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
1122 N MAIN STREET, MCPHERSON, KS 67460
MAIL ADDRESS:
PO BOX 1401, MCPHERSON, KS 67460
ASSETS:

Bonds.....\$237,126,195.00
 Stocks.....53,986,244.00
 Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....0
 Real Estate Owned.....5,062,429.00
 Cash and Bank Deposits.....19,395,014.00
 Agents Balances or Uncollected Premiums.....38,786,547.00
 Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income.....1,498,792.00
 Due and Accrued.....10,926,848.00
 Other Assets.....366,782,069.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....43,622,550.00
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS
 Reserve for Losses.....5,635,787.00
 Reserve for Loss.....296,626.00
 Adjustment Expenses.....1,230,020.00
 Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees).....0
 Taxes, Licenses and Fees (excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes).....0
 Federal and Foreign Income Taxes.....185,902,150.00
 Unearned Premiums.....11,178,211,325.00
 All Other Liabilities.....2,899,055,563.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....153,372,508.00
 Special Surplus Funds.....500,000.00
 Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit.....0
 Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....3,301,977,518.00
 Unassigned Surplus.....16,838,290,446.00
 Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....20,163,927,803.00
TOTAL.....366,782,066.00

BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2020
 Direct Premiums Written.....8,747,606.00
 Direct Premiums Earned.....8,324,635.00
 Direct Losses Paid.....6,475,240.00
 Direct Losses Incurred.....6,127,678.00

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DIVISION OF INSURANCE
STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY
 WHEREAS, the Farmers Alliance Mutual Insurance Company, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Kansas, 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, 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 Property Damage (Other than Auto); 9) Auto Physical Damage; 10) Auto Fidelity & Surety; 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., 2021.

LARRY DEITER
 Director of Insurance

19232
FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
ALLSTATE INSURANCE COMPANY
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
2775 SANDERS ROAD, NORTHBROOK, IL 60062
MAIL ADDRESS:
3075 SANDERS ROAD, SUITE G4E, NORTHBROOK, IL 60062
ASSETS:

Bonds.....\$31,919,103,672.00
 Stocks.....7,870,259,270.00
 Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....574,570,640.00
 Real Estate Owned.....301,473,685.00
 Cash and Bank Deposits.....943,852,098.00
 Agents Balances or Uncollected Premiums.....5,123,286,477.00
 Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income.....291,084,364.00
 Due and Accrued.....6,884,850,434.00
 Other Assets.....53,908,480,640.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....1,130,876,938.00
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS
 Reserve for Losses.....3,995,947,854.00
 Reserve for Loss.....1,546,908,374.00
 Adjustment Expenses.....65,610,200.00
 Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees).....185,902,150.00
 Taxes, Licenses and Fees (excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes).....11,178,211,325.00
 Federal and Foreign Income Taxes.....2,899,055,563.00
 Unearned Premiums.....33,744,552,837.00
 All Other Liabilities.....19,777,839.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....3,882,000.00
 Special Surplus Funds.....0
 Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit.....0
 Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....16,838,290,446.00
 Unassigned Surplus.....20,163,927,803.00
 Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....53,908,480,640.00
TOTAL.....8,493,055.00

BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2020
 Direct Premiums Written.....8,324,635.00
 Direct Premiums Earned.....6,475,240.00
 Direct Losses Paid.....7,518,141.00
 Direct Losses Incurred.....6,127,678.00

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DIVISION OF INSURANCE
STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY
 WHEREAS, the ALLSTATE INSURANCE 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:

- 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 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 Property Damage (Other than Auto); 9) Auto Physical Damage; 10) Auto Fidelity & Surety; 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., 2021.

LARRY DEITER
 Director of Insurance

64580
FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
ILLINOIS MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
300 S.W. ADAMS, PEORIA, IL 61634
MAIL ADDRESS:
300 S.W. ADAMS, PEORIA, IL 61634
ASSETS:

Bonds.....\$1,208,766,174.00
 Stocks.....75,319,360.00
 Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....78,831,693.00
 Real Estate Owned.....4,453,434.00
 Policy Loans.....16,734,020.00
 Cash and Bank Deposits.....15,246,203.00
 Agents Balances or Uncollected Premiums.....23,498,615.00
 Investment Income.....12,152,542.00
 Due and Accrued.....125,988,173.00
 Other Assets.....1,560,990,214.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....697,003,698.00
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS
 Reserve for Life Policies & Contracts.....354,941,613.00
 Reserve for Accident & Health Policies.....5,891,505.00
 Policy and Contract Claims (including Federal and Foreign Income Taxes).....1,700,070.00
 General Expenses.....2,385,911.00
 Taxes, Licenses & Fees Due or Accrued.....652,286.00
 Federal Income Taxes Due or Accrued.....0
 All Other Liabilities.....249,606,427.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....1,310,876,938.00
 Special Surplus Funds.....0
 Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit.....0
 Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....250,113,276.00
 Unassigned Surplus.....1,560,990,214.00
 Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....1,811,777,039.00
TOTAL.....1,960,625.00

BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2020
 Direct Premiums Received.....1,960,625.00
 Direct Losses Paid.....1,388,595.00
 Direct Losses Incurred.....2,316,021.00
 Life Insurance in Force.....181,177,039.00

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DIVISION OF INSURANCE
STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY
 WHEREAS, the Illinois Mutual Life Insurance Co., 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
 - 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 Property Damage; 9) Auto Physical Damage; 10) Auto Fidelity & Surety; 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., 2021.

LARRY DEITER
 Director of Insurance

65005
FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
RIVERSOURCE LIFE INSURANCE
COMPANY

HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
 227 AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL CENTER
 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55474
 MAIL ADDRESS:
 227 AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL CENTER
 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55474
ASSETS:

Bonds.....	\$17,807,454,375.00
Stocks.....	762,394,205.00
Mortgage Loans on	0
Real Estate	0
Real Estate Owned.....	2,425,555,754.00
Real Estate.....	81,722,270.00
Real Estate Owned.....	796,679,861.00
Policy Loans.....	2,751,397,841.00
Cash and Bank Deposits.....	5,181,200.00
Deferred and	0
Uncollected Premiums.....	148,857,280.00
Investment Income	0
Due and Accrued.....	93,065,701,846.00
Other Assets.....	117,844,944,632.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....	117,844,944,632.00
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS	
Reserve for Life	0
Reserve for Contracts.....	18,983,088,405.00
Reserve for Accident	0
Policy and Contract Claims	0
Life.....	60,496,158.00
Accident & Health.....	15,859,682.00
General Expenses	0
Due or Accrued.....	9,689,267.00
Taxes, Licenses & Fees	0
Due or Accrued.....	11,631,885.00
Federal Income Taxes	0
Due or Accrued.....	298,671,922.00
All Other Liabilities.....	90,653,310,866.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....	113,054,946,261.00
Special Surplus Funds.....	825,177,207.00
Capital Paid Up.....	3,000,000.00
Gross Paid In and	0
Contributed Surplus.....	2,635,577,101.00
Unassigned Surplus.....	1,326,250,063.00
Surplus as Regards	0
Policyholders.....	4,789,998,371.00
TOTAL	117,844,944,632.00
BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2020	
Direct Premiums Received.....	27,575,257.00
Direct Losses Paid.....	49,319,207.00
Losses Incurred.....	7,063,588.00
Life Insurance in Force.....	640,158,482.00

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DIVISION OF INSURANCE
STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the RiverSource Life Insurance Company, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Minnesota, 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, 20, 21
 - 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) Travel Accident Baggage; (23A) 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., 2021.

LARRY DETTER
 Director of Insurance

19429
FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
THE INSURANCE COMPANY OF THE
STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
 500 WEST MADISON STREET, SUITE 3000,
 CHICAGO, IL 60061
 MAIL ADDRESS:
 175 WATER STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10038
ASSETS:

Bonds.....	\$118,882,565.00
Stocks.....	0
Mortgage Loans on	0
Real Estate	0
Real Estate Owned.....	0
Cash and Bank Deposits.....	7,112,161.00
Agents Balances or	0
Uncollected Premiums.....	0
Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income	0
Due and Accrued.....	819,223.00
Other Assets.....	16,120,977.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....	142,934,926.00
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS	
Reserve for Losses.....	0
Reserve for Loss	0
Adjustment Expenses	0
Other Expenses (excluding	0
taxes, licenses and fees)	0
Taxes, Licenses and Fees	0
(excluding Federal and	0
Foreign Income Taxes)	0
Federal and Foreign	0
Income Taxes.....	4,964,635.00
Unearned Premiums.....	0
All Other Liabilities.....	91,668,288.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....	96,632,924.00
Special Surplus Funds.....	0
Capital Paid Up or	0
Statutory Deposit.....	5,005,500.00
Gross Paid In and	0
Contributed Surplus.....	17,320,615.00
Unassigned Surplus.....	23,975,887.00
Surplus as Regards	0
Policyholders.....	46,302,002.00
TOTAL	142,934,926.00
BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2020	
Direct Premiums Written.....	1,078,062.00
Direct Premiums Earned.....	1,050,080.00
Direct Losses Paid.....	2,036,853.00
Direct Losses Incurred.....	-576,694.00

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DIVISION OF INSURANCE
STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the THE INSURANCE COMPANY OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA, 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:

- 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 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., 2021.

LARRY DETTER
 Director of Insurance

19445
FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
NATIONAL UNION FIRE INSURANCE
COMPANY OF PITTSBURGH, PA.

HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
 2595 INTERSTATE DRIVE, SUITE 103,
 HARRISBURG, PA 17110
 MAIL ADDRESS:
 175 WATER STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10038
ASSETS:

Bonds.....	\$12,218,276,591.00
Stocks.....	487,821,050.00
Mortgage Loans on	0
Real Estate	0
Real Estate Owned.....	3,191,055,769.00
Cash and Bank Deposits.....	473,597,106.00
Agents Balances or	0
Uncollected Premiums.....	1,225,490,150.00
Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income	0
Due and Accrued.....	161,456,943.00
Other Assets.....	4,449,250,452.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....	22,206,946,061.00
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS	
Reserve for Losses.....	7,953,463,558.00
Reserve for Loss	0
Adjustment Expenses	0
Other Expenses (excluding	0
taxes, licenses and fees)	0
Taxes, Licenses and Fees	0
(excluding Federal and	0
Foreign Income Taxes)	0
Federal and Foreign	0
Income Taxes.....	18,333,675.00
Unearned Premiums.....	2,719,829,043.00
All Other Liabilities.....	4,663,598,936.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....	16,477,512,356.00
Special Surplus Funds.....	807,073,133.00
Capital Paid Up or	0
Statutory Deposit.....	4,478,750.00
Gross Paid In and	0
Contributed Surplus.....	4,809,878,052.00
Unassigned Surplus.....	108,005,769.00
Surplus as Regards	0
Policyholders.....	5,729,435,704.00
TOTAL	22,206,946,061.00
BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2020	
Direct Premiums Written.....	7,858,795.00
Direct Premiums Earned.....	8,395,999.00
Direct Losses Paid.....	2,735,197.00
Direct Losses Incurred.....	26,119,337.00

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DIVISION OF INSURANCE
STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the National Union Fire Insurance Company of Pittsburgh, Pa., a Corporation organized under the Laws of Pennsylvania, 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, 15, 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., 2021.

LARRY DETTER
 Director of Insurance

19640
FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
COLUMBIA NATIONAL INSURANCE
COMPANY

HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
 12329 SOUTHPORT PARKWAY, STE 200, LA VISTA,
 NE 68128
 MAIL ADDRESS:
 175 WATER STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10038
ASSETS:

Bonds.....	\$68,079,695.00
Stocks.....	6,641,576.00
Mortgage Loans on	0
Real Estate	0
Real Estate Owned.....	3,191,055,769.00
Cash and Bank Deposits.....	2,108,266.00
Agents Balances or	0
Uncollected Premiums.....	9,040,866.00
Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income	0
Due and Accrued.....	459,472.00
Other Assets.....	1,800,101.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....	88,129,966.00
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS	
Reserve for Losses.....	24,917,586.00
Reserve for Loss	0
Adjustment Expenses	0
Other Expenses (excluding	0
taxes, licenses and fees)	0
Taxes, Licenses and Fees	0
(excluding Federal and	0
Foreign Income Taxes)	0
Federal and Foreign	0
Income Taxes.....	18,333,675.00
Unearned Premiums.....	14,144,671.00
All Other Liabilities.....	4,097,306.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....	50,991,543.00
Special Surplus Funds.....	2,900,000.00
Capital Paid Up or	0
Statutory Deposit.....	4,478,750.00
Gross Paid In and	0
Contributed Surplus.....	4,809,878,052.00
Unassigned Surplus.....	108,005,769.00
Surplus as Regards	0
Policyholders.....	5,729,435,704.00
TOTAL	22,206,946,061.00
BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2020	
Direct Premiums Written.....	1,430,868.00
Direct Premiums Earned.....	1,515,487.00
Direct Losses Paid.....	1,431,356.00
Direct Losses Incurred.....	1,391,687.00

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DIVISION OF INSURANCE
STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Columbia National 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, 14, 15, 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., 2021.

LARRY DETTER
 Director of Insurance

19240
FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
ALLSTATE INDEMNITY COMPANY

HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
 2775 SANDERS ROAD, NORTHBROOK, IL 60062
 MAIL ADDRESS:
 3075 SANDERS ROAD, SUITE 64E, NORTHBROOK,
 IL 60062
ASSETS:

Bonds.....	\$101,810,071.00
Stocks.....	0
Mortgage Loans on	0
Real Estate	0
Real Estate Owned.....	0
Cash and Bank Deposits.....	2,040,268.00
Agents Balances or	0
Uncollected Premiums.....	0
Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income	0
Due and Accrued.....	815,979.00
Other Assets.....	7,102,202.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....	111,788,520.00
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS	
Reserve for Losses.....	0
Reserve for Loss	0
Adjustment Expenses	0
Other Expenses (excluding	0
taxes, licenses and fees)	0
Taxes, Licenses and Fees	0
(excluding Federal and	0
Foreign Income Taxes)	0
Federal and Foreign	0
Income Taxes.....	718,182.00
Unearned Premiums.....	10,997,872.00
All Other Liabilities.....	11,716,054.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....	11,716,054.00
Special Surplus Funds.....	0
Capital Paid Up or	0
Statutory Deposit.....	4,200,000.00
Gross Paid In and	0
Contributed Surplus.....	98,135,873.00
Unassigned Surplus.....	-2,283,407.00
Surplus as Regards	0
Policyholders.....	100,052,466.00
TOTAL	111,788,520.00
BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2020	
Direct Premiums Written.....	219,581.00
Direct Premiums Earned.....	198,825.00
Direct Losses Paid.....	280,475.00
Direct Losses Incurred.....	345,445.00

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DIVISION OF INSURANCE
STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the ALLSTATE INDEMNITY 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:

- 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 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., 2021.

LARRY DETTER
 Director of Insurance

19275
FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
AMERICAN FAMILY MUTUAL
INSURANCE COMPANY, S.I.

HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
 6000 AMERICAN PARKWAY, MADISON, WI 53783
 MAIL ADDRESS:
 6000 AMERICAN PARKWAY, MADISON, WI 53783
ASSETS:

Bonds.....	\$13,717,840,255.00
Stocks.....	5,517,251,459.00
Mortgage Loans on	0
Real Estate	0
Real Estate Owned.....	215,122,715.00
Cash and Bank Deposits.....	244,705,518.00
Agents Balances or	0
Uncollected Premiums.....	364,194,979.00
Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income	0
Due and Accrued.....	1,790,576,624.00
Other Assets.....	82,519,983.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....	24,745,786,325.00
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS	
Reserve for Losses.....	6,391,822,416.00
Reserve for Loss	0
Adjustment Expenses	0
Other Expenses (excluding	0
taxes, licenses and fees)	0
Taxes, Licenses and Fees	0
(excluding Federal and	0
Foreign Income Taxes)	0
Federal and Foreign	0
Income Taxes.....	39,903,622.00
Unearned Premiums.....	5,140,445,537.00
All Other Liabilities.....	2,894,326,413.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....	17,117,373,634.00
Special Surplus Funds.....	0
Capital Paid Up or	0
Statutory Deposit.....	0
Gross Paid In and	0
Contributed Surplus.....	490,690,000.00
Unassigned Surplus.....	7,133,471,691.00
Surplus as Regards	0
Policyholders.....	7,628,411,691.00
TOTAL	24,745,786,325.00
BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2020	
Direct Premiums Written.....	65,111,876.00
Direct Premiums Earned.....	65,906,538.00
Direct Losses Paid.....	72,093,027.00
Direct Losses Incurred.....	79,872,599.00

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DIVISION OF INSURANCE
STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the American Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I., a Corporation organized under the Laws of Wisconsin, 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, 18, 26, 27
- 1) Life: (2) Health; (3) Fire & Allied Lines; (4) In

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64505
 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
HOMESTEADERS LIFE COMPANY
 HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
 5700 WESTOWN PARKWAY, WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266
 MAIL ADDRESS:
 5700 WESTOWN PARKWAY, WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266

Bonds.....\$2,887,242,220.00
 Stocks.....3,869,500.00
 Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....171,084,477.00
 Real Estate Owned.....9,737,580.00
 Policy Loans.....1,533,083.00
 Cash and Bank Deposits.....65,502,124.00
 Deferred and Uncollected Premiums.....17,334,518.00
 Investment Income.....29,364,762.00
 Due and Accrued.....63,739,783.00
 Other Assets.....3,249,408,047.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....3,249,408,047.00
 Reserve for Life.....2,956,800,193.00
 Policies & Contracts Reserve for Accident & Health Policies.....0
 Policy and Contract Claims Life.....5,204,415.00
 Accident & Health General Expenses.....7,005,769.00
 Due or Accrued.....1,743,494.00
 Taxes, Licenses & Fees Due or Accrued.....0
 Federal Income Taxes Due or Accrued.....0
 All Other Liabilities.....68,706,949.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....3,039,460,820.00
 Special Surplus Funds.....0
 Capital Paid Up.....0
 Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....209,947,230.00
 Unassigned Surplus.....3,249,408,050.00
 Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....
BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2020
 Direct Premiums Received.....1,772,573.00
 Direct Losses Paid.....5,070,059.00
 Losses Incurred.....5,098,983.00
 Life Insurance in Force.....64,908,424.00

64246
 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
THE GUARDIAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA
 HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
 10 HUDSON YARDS, NEW YORK, NY 10001
 MAIL ADDRESS:
 10 HUDSON YARDS, NEW YORK, NY 10001

Bonds.....\$47,972,078,125.42
 Stocks.....1,317,055,084.77
 Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....4,815,515,589.68
 Real Estate Owned.....280,145,314.72
 Policy Loans.....3,809,542,003.11
 Cash and Bank Deposits.....421,576,090.15
 Deferred and Uncollected Premiums.....1,157,303,052.94
 Investment Income.....518,447,581.40
 Due and Accrued.....7,752,704,811.81
 Other Assets.....68,044,367,654.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....68,044,367,654.00
 Reserve for Life.....44,335,796,916.86
 Policies & Contracts Reserve for Accident & Health Policies.....4,633,463,084.57
 Policy and Contract Claims Life.....449,304,725.25
 Accident & Health General Expenses.....271,363,489.91
 Due or Accrued.....1,363,785,861.97
 Taxes, Licenses & Fees Due or Accrued.....35,849,189.18
 Federal Income Taxes Due or Accrued.....0
 All Other Liabilities.....9,195,062,385.26
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....60,284,625,653.00
 Special Surplus Funds.....1,501,142,816.67
 Capital Paid Up.....0
 Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....6,258,599,184.38
 Unassigned Surplus.....7,759,742,001.05
 Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....68,044,367,654.05
BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2020
 Direct Premiums Received.....5,633,322.26
 Direct Losses Paid.....9,014,930.56
 Losses Incurred.....7,125,343.84
 Life Insurance in Force.....417,186,661.00

63983
 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
UNITED HERITAGE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
 HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
 707 E UNITED HERITAGE COURT, MERIDIAN, ID 83642-7785
 MAIL ADDRESS:
 PO BOX 7777, MERIDIAN, ID 83680-7777

Bonds.....\$526,490,217.11
 Stocks.....47,383,414.05
 Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....4,574,879.16
 Real Estate Owned.....10,100,289.27
 Policy Loans.....4,963,488.66
 Cash and Bank Deposits.....1,486,178.57
 Deferred and Uncollected Premiums.....502,614.32
 Investment Income.....7,270,160.83
 Due and Accrued.....32,351,408.52
 Other Assets.....635,122,650.49
TOTAL ASSETS.....635,122,650.49
 Reserve for Life.....505,938,521.02
 Policies & Contracts Reserve for Accident & Health Policies.....1,955,457.78
 Policy and Contract Claims Life.....3,405,161.88
 Accident & Health General Expenses.....264,778.00
 Due or Accrued.....1,453,178.56
 Taxes, Licenses & Fees Due or Accrued.....466,808.39
 Federal Income Taxes Due or Accrued.....0
 All Other Liabilities.....47,033,660.71
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....560,517,566.34
 Special Surplus Funds.....5,200,000.00
 Capital Paid Up.....5,000,000.00
 Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....4,000,000.00
 Unassigned Surplus.....60,405,086.19
 Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....74,605,086.19
BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2020
 Direct Premiums Received.....635,122,652.53
 Direct Losses Paid.....2,949,511.92
 Losses Incurred.....2,022,823.29
 Life Insurance in Force.....20,232,532.00

63444
 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
ACCENDO INSURANCE COMPANY
 HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
 3148 WEST 3500 SOUTH, WEST VALLEY CITY, UT 84119
 MAIL ADDRESS:
 3148 WEST 3500 SOUTH, WEST VALLEY CITY, UT 84119

Bonds.....\$4,594,826.00
 Stocks.....0
 Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....0
 Real Estate Owned.....0
 Policy Loans.....0
 Cash and Bank Deposits.....11,944,188.00
 Deferred and Uncollected Premiums.....1,803,014.00
 Investment Income.....26,746.00
 Due and Accrued.....67,895,892.00
 Other Assets.....86,264,666.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....86,264,666.00
 Reserve for Life.....1,508,119.00
 Policies & Contracts Reserve for Accident & Health Policies.....1,427,970.00
 Policy and Contract Claims Life.....140,000.00
 Accident & Health General Expenses.....7,743,901.00
 Due or Accrued.....6,925,454.00
 Taxes, Licenses & Fees Due or Accrued.....779,883.00
 Federal Income Taxes Due or Accrued.....0
 All Other Liabilities.....40,887,054.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....59,412,381.00
 Special Surplus Funds.....0
 Capital Paid Up.....2,500,000.00
 Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....41,308,114.00
 Unassigned Surplus.....16,955,829.00
 Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....26,852,285.00
BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2020
 Direct Premiums Received.....86,264,666.00
 Direct Losses Paid.....868
 Losses Incurred.....212
 Life Insurance in Force.....3,149.00

63312
 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
GREAT AMERICAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
 HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
 301 EAST FOURTH STREET, CINCINNATI, OH 45202
 MAIL ADDRESS:
 P.O. BOX 5420 CINCINNATI, OH 45201-5420

Bonds.....\$27,578,284,997.00
 Stocks.....1,149,366,647.00
 Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....1,577,832,226.00
 Real Estate Owned.....66,050,992.00
 Policy Loans.....69,997,359.00
 Cash and Bank Deposits.....2,047,399,245.00
 Deferred and Uncollected Premiums.....7,808,952.00
 Investment Income.....257,292,198.00
 Due and Accrued.....3,043,119,985.00
 Other Assets.....35,797,152,601.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....35,797,152,601.00
 Reserve for Life.....30,127,660,056.00
 Policies & Contracts Reserve for Accident & Health Policies.....55,007,419.00
 Policy and Contract Claims Life.....216,450,014.00
 Accident & Health General Expenses.....397,186.00
 Due or Accrued.....24,056,093.00
 Taxes, Licenses & Fees Due or Accrued.....4,997,037.00
 Federal Income Taxes Due or Accrued.....0
 All Other Liabilities.....2,471,393,008.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....32,889,960,813.00
 Special Surplus Funds.....0
 Capital Paid Up.....1,507,500.00
 Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....8,013,960,675.00
 Unassigned Surplus.....2,081,723,613.00
 Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....2,897,191,788.00
BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2020
 Direct Premiums Received.....8,165,426.00
 Direct Losses Paid.....3,547,660.00
 Losses Incurred.....45,508.00
 Life Insurance in Force.....17,644,219.00

63274
 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
FIDELITY & GUARANTY LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
 HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
 801 GRAND AVE., SUITE 2600, DES MOINES, IA 50309
 MAIL ADDRESS:
 801 GRAND AVE., SUITE 2600, DES MOINES, IA 50309

Bonds.....\$21,429,985,272.00
 Stocks.....2,227,770,075.00
 Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....427,575,978.00
 Real Estate Owned.....0
 Policy Loans.....31,440,412.00
 Cash and Bank Deposits.....1,158,197,435.00
 Deferred and Uncollected Premiums.....5,121,724.00
 Investment Income.....201,737,979.00
 Due and Accrued.....3,927,994,181.00
 Other Assets.....29,409,823,056.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....29,409,823,056.00
 Reserve for Life.....14,439,745,526.00
 Policies & Contracts Reserve for Accident & Health Policies.....12,182.00
 Policy and Contract Claims Life.....15,430,406.00
 Accident & Health General Expenses.....25,908,661.00
 Due or Accrued.....5,125,975.00
 Taxes, Licenses & Fees Due or Accrued.....0
 Federal Income Taxes Due or Accrued.....0
 All Other Liabilities.....13,674,890,717.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....28,161,113,467.00
 Special Surplus Funds.....229,172,434.00
 Capital Paid Up.....3,000,000.00
 Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....1,282,111,290.00
 Unassigned Surplus.....490,574,139.00
 Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....1,248,709,585.00
BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2020
 Direct Premiums Received.....29,409,823,052.00
 Direct Losses Paid.....7,258,292.00
 Losses Incurred.....379,815.00
 Life Insurance in Force.....35,971,790.00

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Groton Independent ◊ Wed., May 5, 2021 ◊ 7

63983
 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
UNITED HERITAGE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
 HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
 707 E UNITED HERITAGE COURT, MERIDIAN, ID 83642-7785
 MAIL ADDRESS:
 PO BOX 7777, MERIDIAN, ID 83680-7777

64246
 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
THE GUARDIAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA
 HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
 10 HUDSON YARDS, NEW YORK, NY 10001
 MAIL ADDRESS:
 10 HUDSON YARDS, NEW YORK, NY 10001

63444
 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
ACCENDO INSURANCE COMPANY
 HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
 3148 WEST 3500 SOUTH, WEST VALLEY CITY, UT 84119
 MAIL ADDRESS:
 3148 WEST 3500 SOUTH, WEST VALLEY CITY, UT 84119

63312
 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
GREAT AMERICAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
 HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
 301 EAST FOURTH STREET, CINCINNATI, OH 45202
 MAIL ADDRESS:
 P.O. BOX 5420 CINCINNATI, OH 45201-5420

63274
 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
FIDELITY & GUARANTY LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
 HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
 801 GRAND AVE., SUITE 2600, DES MOINES, IA 50309
 MAIL ADDRESS:
 801 GRAND AVE., SUITE 2600, DES MOINES, IA 50309

64505
 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
HOMESTEADERS LIFE COMPANY
 HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
 5700 WESTOWN PARKWAY, WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266
 MAIL ADDRESS:
 5700 WESTOWN PARKWAY, WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266

64246
 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
THE GUARDIAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA
 HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
 10 HUDSON YARDS, NEW YORK, NY 10001
 MAIL ADDRESS:
 10 HUDSON YARDS, NEW YORK, NY 10001

63983
 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
UNITED HERITAGE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
 HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
 707 E UNITED HERITAGE COURT, MERIDIAN, ID 83642-7785
 MAIL ADDRESS:
 PO BOX 7777, MERIDIAN, ID 83680-7777

64246
 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
THE GUARDIAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA
 HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
 10 HUDSON YARDS, NEW YORK, NY 10001
 MAIL ADDRESS:
 10 HUDSON YARDS, NEW YORK, NY 10001

63444
 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
ACCENDO INSURANCE COMPANY
 HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
 3148 WEST 3500 SOUTH, WEST VALLEY CITY, UT 84119
 MAIL ADDRESS:
 3148 WEST 3500 SOUTH, WEST VALLEY CITY, UT 84119

63312
 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
GREAT AMERICAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
 HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
 301 EAST FOURTH STREET, CINCINNATI, OH 45202
 MAIL ADDRESS:
 P.O. BOX 5420 CINCINNATI, OH 45201-5420

63274
 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
FIDELITY & GUARANTY LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
 HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
 801 GRAND AVE., SUITE 2600, DES MOINES, IA 50309
 MAIL ADDRESS:
 801 GRAND AVE., SUITE 2600, DES MOINES, IA 50309

64505
 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
HOMESTEADERS LIFE COMPANY
 HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
 5700 WESTOWN PARKWAY, WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266
 MAIL ADDRESS:
 5700 WESTOWN PARKWAY, WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266

64246
 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
THE GUARDIAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA
 HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
 10 HUDSON YARDS, NEW YORK, NY 10001
 MAIL ADDRESS:
 10 HUDSON YARDS, NEW YORK, NY 10001

63983
 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
UNITED HERITAGE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
 HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
 707 E UNITED HERITAGE COURT, MERIDIAN, ID 83642-7785
 MAIL ADDRESS:
 PO BOX 7777, MERIDIAN, ID 83680-7777

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63444
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ACCENDO INSURANCE COMPANY
 HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
 3148 WEST 3500 SOUTH, WEST VALLEY CITY, UT 84119
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63274
 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
 YEAR END

Brown County Notice Sale of Property

NOTICE SALE OF PROPERTY
Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to Chapter 6-13 SDCL, the following described properties will be offered for sale by auction in the Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota on May 20th, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. The properties have been approved for public sale by the Brown County Commission. At the conclusion of this sale, Brown County will issue and file a Quit Claim Deed to the property in the name requested by the purchaser. All delinquent taxes, penalties and interest are abated and are not the responsibility of the new owner. Brown County makes no guarantee of absolute fee simple marketable title to the property. It is recommended that the purchaser of a county quit claim deed pursue a quiet title action in order to acquire marketable title to the property (see SDCL Chapter 43-30, title standards 26-01 and 26-02).

Purchase price of the property along with a \$30.00 recording fee shall be paid in full on the day of the sale. Property offered for sale is as follows:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: MINIMUM BID
ABERDEEN CITY
East Two Feet of Lot 12, Block 18, Highland Park Addition, \$50.00

Aberdeen, Brown County, South Dakota 1400 9th Ave SW, (Bare Lot)

Lot 2, Diver's 2nd Rearrangement of Lots 11-12, Block 23, First Addition to the City of \$2,000.00

Aberdeen, according to the plat thereof of record, Brown County, South Dakota
317 4th Ave SW
(Bare Lot)

Lot Ten(10), Block Fifty-One(51), Second Addition to Aberdeen, According to the Plat \$5,000.00 thereof of Record, Brown County, South Dakota
13 9th Ave SE
(Bare Lot)

STRATFORD CITY
Lot 10-11-12, Block 19 in town of Stratford, Brown County, South Dakota \$500.00
0 Stratford
(Bare Lot)
Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor
(0505.0512)
Published twice at the approximate total cost of \$42.90.
20028

Brown County Ord. 191 Kampa Hearing

NOTICE
Application has been made by Scott Kampa to the Brown County Board of Commissioners for a change of zoning. Hearing to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota on May 18, 2021 at 8:46 A.M. for the purpose of rezoning the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG):

Kampa Outlot A of "Kampa Outlot A" in the NW ¼ SW ¼ Section 31-T123N-R61W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (13556 400th Avenue)

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the amendment to Second Revision Brown County Ordinances pertaining to rezoning the described property. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt first reading of Ordinance No. 191

ATTEST: → Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor
(0505.0512)
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$22.34.
20029

Brown County Ord. 192 Rozell Hearing

NOTICE
Application has been made by Scott Rozell to the Brown County Board of Commissioners for a change of zoning. Hearing to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota on May 18, 2021 at 8:46 A.M. for the purpose of rezoning the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07

Mini-Ag District (M-AG):
Lot 1, "L.B. Addition" in the NE ¼ of Section 1-T121N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (14201 382nd Ave)
The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the amendment to Second Revision Brown County Ordinances pertaining to rezoning the described property. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt first reading of Ordinance No. 192.

ATTEST: →Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor
(0505.0512)
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$22.34.
20030

Brown County Ord. 193 Mensinger Hearing

NOTICE
Application has been made by Ed Mensinger to the Brown County Board of Commissioners for a change of zoning. Hearing to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota on May 18, 2021 at 8:46 A.M. for the purpose of rezoning the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.14 Highway Commercial District (HC):

W ½ of the East 32 Rods of the South 20 rods lying next North of the South 50' of the SW ¼ of Section 15-T123N-R63 W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (5405 E Hwy 12)
The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the amendment to Second Revision Brown County Ordinances pertaining to rezoning the described property. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt first reading of Ordinance No. 193.

(0505.0512)
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$22.92.
20031

Brown County Ord. 194 Kirschenmann Hearing

NOTICE
Application has been made by Bill Kirschenmann to the Brown County Board of Commissioners for a change of zoning. Hearing to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota on May 18, 2021 at 8:46 A.M. for the purpose of rezoning the following property from Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG) to Chapter 4.16 Heavy Industrial District (H-I):

Gisi's Lot A of "Outlot No. 1, Winter's Outlots" in the N ½ of Section 22-T453N-R64W, except R.O.W., of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (627 385th Ave S)
The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the amendment to Second Revision Brown County Ordinances pertaining to rezoning the described property. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt first reading of Ordinance No. 194.

ATTEST: →Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor
(0505.0512)
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$24.10.
20032

Brown County Ord. 195 Kamen Hearing

NOTICE
Application has been made by Kamen Equipment (Jerry Kamen) to the Brown County Board of Commissioners for a change of zoning. Hearing to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota on May 18, 2021 at 8:46 A.M. for the purpose of rezoning the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.14 Highway Commercial District (HC):

Lots 1&2, "Kamen First Subdivision" in the SW ¼ of Section 23-T122N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (13980 & 13998 386th Ave)

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present

comments and testimony regarding the amendment to Second Revision Brown County Ordinances pertaining to rezoning the described property. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt first reading of Ordinance No. 195.

ATTEST: →Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor
(0505.0512)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$23.51.
20033

Westport Town Vacate ROW Hearing Notice

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR VACATION OF PUBLIC ROADWAY

Notice is hereby given that a Petition requesting that a certain public roadway be vacated in City of Westport, Brown County, South Dakota, pursuant to SDCL: 31-3-6, as hereinafter specifically described has been received by the Westport Town Board of City of Westport; that the Petition may be examined by contacting the Westport Finance Officer at the address indicated below; that the specific description of the property being requested to be vacated is:

That the existing public right-of-way which includes the statutory right-of-way and any right-of-way acquired by deed(s) lying as follows:

Running Northwest and Southeast commonly known as the alley in Block 9, Westport and Hinz 2nd addition to Westport.

Bordered by Lot 1, Hinz 2nd Addition to Westport on the Northeast and Lot 2, Hinz 2nd Addition to Westport on the Southwest.

Located in the Southwest Quarter of Section 12, Township 125, Range 64, Brown County, South Dakota.

That said public right of way being approximately 16 feet wide and 75 feet in length.

Additional location information: The alley runs between 25 N Railway Avenue and 29 N Railway Avenue in Westport.

Therefore, notice is hereby given that the Westport Town Board of City of Westport will hold a public hearing to consider the vacation of the above described public roadway; that such meeting will be held on Tuesday, the 1st day of June, 2021 at 7 o'clock P.M. at Westport Town Hall.

That any person interested in the proposed action may be present at said date and time and present their information, opinions, and/or arguments relative to the proposed action. Any person(s) unable to attend this meeting may deliver their written opinion for consideration by the Board of Supervisors. Such testimony should be delivered prior to the date and time of the scheduled hearing by mailing or delivering the opinion to: Doreen Hertel, Finance Officer, City of Westport, Brown County.

WESTPORT CITY
By Doreen Hertel
Finance Officer
(0505.0512)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$46.42.
20034

Brown County April 27, 2021 Meeting Minutes

APRIL 27, 2021 – GENERAL MEETING:

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

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

MINUTES: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the general meeting, equalization and consolidated board of equalization minutes from April 20, 2021. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS & PAYROLL: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Sutton to approve the following claims:
PAYROLL: Commission \$4,327.95; Auditor \$8,935.95; Treasurer \$13,888.44; SA \$23,890.69; SVAWA \$1,730.76; Maintenance \$8,355.47; Assessor \$14,636.41; Register of Deeds \$9,124.96; VSO \$4,459.44; GIS \$2,411.38; IT \$7,734.99; HR \$3,691.33; Sheriff \$44,620.36; Jail \$51,635.00; Court Security \$6,078.13; JDC

\$24,019.92; Welfare \$2,982.62; Museum \$7,823.77; Parks/Fairgrounds \$5,072.98; Fair Board \$2,379.43; 4-H \$681.93; Weed \$884.14; Planning & Zoning \$3,864.71; Highway \$36,744.74; Dispatch \$26,606.38; Emergency \$4,160.96; Teen Court \$478.17; JDAI \$1,786.92; 24/7 Sobriety \$1,243.38; Landfill \$14,747.82; FICA \$20,227.32; Medicare \$4730.59; HSA \$350.00; Health Insurance \$119,699.38; Dental Insurance \$7,166.25; Life Insurance \$1,062.16; Retirement \$41,378.48. CLAIMS: Professional Fees: Avera St. Luke's \$771.32; Century Link \$270.69; Cogley Law \$7,656.25; Dohrer Law Office \$7,656.25; Michelle Gaikowski \$311.60; Christopher Haar \$7,070.31; Karpel Solutions \$7,375.00; Kuck Law \$7,070.31; LTR Intermediate Holdings \$2,833.88; Jerald McNeary \$7,070.31; Sanford Health Occupational \$49.00; SD Dept. of Health \$2,545.00; Christy Griffin-Serr Law \$7,070.31; Taliaferro Law \$7,656.25; University of North Dakota \$2,080.00; US Bank \$845.00. Publishing: Aberdeen American News \$920.01; Groton Independent \$209.51; Lee Enterprises \$19.42; US Bank \$295.00. Repairs & Maintenance: Farm & Home Publishers \$42.00; Fordham Signs & Design \$69.00; HF Jacobs & Son \$539.29; Jalene Palmer \$492.16; Leidholt Electric \$1,292.87; Pro Windmill \$250.00; Quality Welding \$102.00; Schwan Welding \$929.00; US Bank \$2,823.62. Supplies: Taser International \$8,670.00; Scott Bader \$23.28; Century Business Products \$11,880.66; Cole Papers \$272.98; Correct Rx Pharmacy \$5.06; Crescent Electric \$49.88; Dakota Fluid Power \$141.19; Dakota Oil \$62.10; Farm & Home Publishers \$480.00; GovConnection \$427.20; L.G. Everist \$2,659.56; Marco \$30.41; Menards \$243.69; Plumbing & Heating Wholesale \$357.30; Quality Welding \$28.00; Runnings \$170.84; Sander's Sew-n-Vac \$767.92; Truenorth Steel \$23,409.50; US Bank \$14,849.30. Travel & Conference: Karpel Solutions \$5,000.00; SD Narcotics Officers Conference \$50.00; US Bank \$1,548.98; Rachel Wilson \$307.38. Utilities: Century Link \$0.36; Dependable Sanitation \$165.00; Montana Dakota Utilities \$33.39; Northwestern Energy \$446.53; US Bank \$721.32. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to approve the HR Office Report, which includes the following: Acknowledge resignation of Emily Filsinger, Brown County Chief Deputy Auditor, effective April 30, 2021. Request to fill. Acknowledge Aaron Johnson, rescinded acceptance of employment as Brown County Landfill Maintenance, part-time. Request to fill. Approve hiring of Trevor Marquardt as full-time Brown County Jail Correctional Officer effective April 26, 2021, starting wage @ \$16.82/hour. Approve request to hire a Brown County Highway mechanic and a labor grade 3 worker. Approve reclassification of Amy Lake-Harmon, Brown County Jail Administrative Assistant to Brown County Jail Senior Office Deputy; wage @ \$18.20/hour, effective May 3, 2021. Approve increase wage of Rachel Wilson, with the Brown County Sheriff's office to \$18.40/hour, effective May 3, 2021. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FAIR CONTRACTS: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Brown County Fair Contracts: Sutton Rodeo @ \$46,200 for 2021, \$48,510 for 2022 & \$50,935.50 for 2023; Noah's Way Exotic Petting Zoo @ \$5,400. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

SD DOT AGREEMENT AMENDMENT: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to authorize the Chair to sign Amendment Number 2 to Agreement Number 614965 with SD Department of Transportation, adjusting the limiting amount for certain damaged county highways. A copy of the agreement is on file with the Brown County Auditor. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

JAIL WASHER & DRYER QUOTES: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the quote for a commercial washer and dryer for the Jail from Mid Dakota Equipment in the amount of \$19,332 with drain through, rejecting quotes from Richard-Ewing Equipment Co. in the amount of \$20,300 without drain through and Horwath Laundry Equipment in the amount of \$20,940 without drain through.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

SET HEARING DATE FOR ZONING REZONES: Moved by Kippley, seconded by Wiese to set hearing date for the following rezone ordinances on May 18, 2021 at 8:46a.m. at the Brown County Courthouse, Commission Chambers: Applicant Scott Kampa requesting to rezone the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG): Kampa Outlot A of "Kampa Outlot A" in the NW ¼ SW ¼ Section 31-T123N-R61W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (13556 400th Ave). Applicant Scott Rozell requesting to rezone the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG): Lot 1, "L.B. Addition" in the NE ¼ of Section 1-T121N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (14201 382nd Ave). Applicant Ed Mensinger requesting to rezone the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.14 Highway Commercial District (HC): W ½ of the East 32 Rods of the South 20 rods lying next North of the South 50' of the SW ¼ of Section 15-T123N-R63 W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (5405 E Hwy 12). Applicant Bill Kirschenmann requesting to rezone the following property from Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG) to Chapter 4.16 Heavy Industrial District (H-I): Gisi's Lot A of "Outlot No. 1, Winter's Outlots" in the N ½ of Section 22-T453N-R64W, except R.O.W. of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (627 385th Ave S). Applicant Kamen Equipment (Jerry Kamen) requesting to rezone the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.14 Highway Commercial District (HC): Lots 1&2, "Kamen First Subdivision" in the SW ¼ of Section 23-T122N-R54W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (13980 & 13998 386th Ave). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

PLATS:
RESOLUTION 21-21 PAULI ADDITION

Commissioner Feickert brought the following resolution: "Be it resolved by the County Commission of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "PAULI ADDITION IN THE NE ¼ OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 125 NORTH, RANGE 63 WEST OF THE 5TH P.M., BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA" having been examined is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-3, and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Commissioner Wiese. Roll call vote Commissioner Feickert – aye, Sutton – aye, Wiese- aye, Kippley – aye, Fjeldheim – aye. Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION 22-21 GUBIN SUBDIVISION

Commissioner Feickert brought the following resolution: "Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "GUBIN SUBDIVISION, IN THE E ½ OF SECTION 22-T121N-R62W OF THE 5TH P.M., BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA" having been examined, is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL 11-3, and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Commissioner Wiese. Roll call vote Commissioner Feickert – aye, Sutton – aye, Wiese- aye, Kippley – aye, Fjeldheim – aye. Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION 23-21 KAMPA OUTLOT A

Commissioner Feickert brought the following resolution: "Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "KAMPA OUTLOT A, IN THE NW ¼ NW ¼ SW ¼ OF SECTION 31-T123N-R61W OF THE 5TH P.M., BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA" having been examined, is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL 11-3, and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Commissioner Wiese. Roll call vote Commissioner Feickert – aye, Sutton – aye, Wiese- aye, Kippley – aye, Fjeldheim – aye. Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION 24-21 BOWEN FIRST ADDITION TO BLOCK 7 PRAIRIEWOOD VILLAGE

Commissioner Feickert brought the following resolution: "Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "BOWEN FIRST ADDITION TO BLOCK 7 PRAIRIEWOOD VILLAGE IN THE

NE ¼ OF SECTION 33-T124N-R63W OF THE 5TH P.M., BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA" having been examined, is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL 11-3, and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Commissioner Wiese. Roll call vote Commissioner Feickert – aye, Sutton – aye, Wiese- aye, Kippley – aye, Fjeldheim – aye. Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION 25-21 KAMEN SECOND SUBDIVISION

Commissioner Feickert brought the following resolution: "Be it resolved by the County Commission of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "KAMEN SECOND SUBDIVISION IN THE SW ¼ OF SECTION 23, TOWNSHIP 122 NORTH, RANGE 64 WEST OF THE 5TH P.M., BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA" having been examined is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-3, and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Commissioner Wiese. Roll call vote Commissioner Feickert – aye, Sutton – aye, Wiese- aye, Kippley – aye, Fjeldheim – aye. Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION 26-21 PIERSON ELM LAKE ADDITION

Commissioner Feickert brought the following resolution: "Be it resolved by the County Commission of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "PIERSON ELM LAKE ADDITION IN THE SE ¼ OF SECTION 17, TOWNSHIP 128 NORTH, RANGE 64 WEST OF THE 5TH P.M., BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA" having been examined is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-3, and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Commissioner Wiese. Roll call vote Commissioner Feickert – aye, Sutton – aye, Wiese- aye, Kippley – aye, Fjeldheim – aye. Resolution adopted.

TAX DEED SALE: Moved by Kippley, seconded by Sutton to authorize advertising the following described property to be offered for sale by auction in the Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, on May 20, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.: Aberdeen City: East 2' of Lot 12, Block 18, Highland Park Addition, Aberdeen, Brown County, South Dakota (1400 9th Ave SW), Lot 2 Diver's 2nd Rearrangement of Lots 11-12, Block 23, First Addition to the City of Aberdeen, according to the plat thereof of record, Brown County, South Dakota (13 9th Ave SE); Stratford City: Lot 10-11-12, Block 19 in town of Stratford, Brown County, South Dakota. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LEASES: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to approve the following lease agreement: Kathy Boschee for the lease of Richmond Lake Youth Camp (using lodge and one dorm) on May 1-2, 2021; SPURS for the lease of the 2555 John Deere Tractor and TR3 Arena Groomer for 4 days commencing on May 1 – July 31; Jeff Wolff for the lease of Hog and Sheep Barn on June 13; Aberdeen Humane Society for the lease of the Club House on April 24. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

AUDITORS REPORT OF ACCOUNTS – MARCH 2021: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Auditor's report of accounts for March: Total Cash and Checks on Hand \$7,700.00; Total Checking Account Balances: \$15,103,951.03; Total Savings Account Balances: \$3,675,447.42; Total Certificates of Deposit: \$3,976,798.16; Grand Total Cash and Balances: \$22,763,896.61; General Fund Cash and Investment Balances by Funds: General Fund \$10,895,883.32; Road & Bridge Fund \$1,737,856.30; Road & Bridge Fund - restricted \$423,243.27; 911 Service \$860,016.41; Emergency & Disaster \$108,814.54; Domestic Abuse \$811.50; Teen Court \$23,450.83; Grant \$32.11; JDAI -\$6,723.45; Richmond Youth \$21,916.96; 24/7 Sobriety \$21,578.98; ROD M&P \$106,790.97; Tif Debt Service \$12,797.82; Landfill + cash change \$3,347,775.07; Landfill restricted \$1,400,479.44; Trust and Agency Funds \$3,809,172.54; GRAND TOTAL GENERAL FUND CASH AND INVESTMENTS \$22,763,896.61. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

BROWN COUNTY FAIR QUIET HOURS: Tom Paepke (Fair Board President) and Sonje Oban (Interim Fair Manager) met to propose on extending quiet hours during the fair. Moved by Wiese, seconded by Sutton to set quiet hours during the Brown County Fair at 12:30am for Tue-Wed with service until 1:00am and at 1:00am for Thu-Sat. Hours set includes live music and generator use for campers. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE – HIGHWAY: Dirk Rogers (Highway Superintendent) met to give a department update including load limits being taken down on April 30. No actions taken.

APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to approve the following application submitted by Northern Valley Communications for telecommunication usage: occupancy of Brown County Highway 16/21, in Section 18,7,6,31,30,19,8,5,9, Township 122,123, Range 62, 63, Brown County, South Dakota. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS 2022 BUDGET: Commissioner Fjeldheim recommended to the Board of Commissioner to consider a 3% increase for all Brown County employees for the coming 2022 budget discussion. No actions taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Kippley, seconded by Sutton to go into executive session to discuss personnel and contract per SDCL 1-25-2(1, 4). All members present voting aye. Motion carried. The chair declared executive session closed with no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Kippley to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:58 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Jeannette McClain, Brown County Deputy Auditor
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$151.92. 200035.

Exhibit 1
STATEMENT OF FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL FUNDS

December 31, 2020	General Fund	Sales Tax Fund	Ball Park Fund	Governmental Funds	Other Funds	Enterprise Funds	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Total
Cash Assets:									
Cash in Checking Accounts	148,817.12	27,801.15	6,169.01				163,235.24		346,022.52
Change and Petty Cash									0.00
Passbook Savings									0.00
Savings Certificates									0.00
SD FIT account	13,978.76								13,978.76
101 FUND CASH BALANCES	162,795.88	27,801.15	6,169.01	0.00		0.00	163,235.24		360,001.28
Municipal funds are deposited or invested with the following depositories:									
								Dacotah Bank	346,022.52
								SD FIT account	13,978.76
									360,001.28

Exhibit 2
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL FUNDS

ALL FUNDS	General Fund	Sales Tax Fund	Ball Park Fund	Other Gov't Funds	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Total
Receipts (Source):							
311 Property Taxes	58,514.23						58,514.23
313 Sales Tax		28,238.53					28,238.53
311-319 Other Taxes	639.78						639.78
320 Licenses and Permits	1,140.00						1,140.00
335.1 Bank Franchise Tax	715.58						715.58
335.2 Prorate License Fees	1,120.93						1,120.93
335.3 Liquor Tax Reversion	941.37						941.37
335.4 Motor Vehicle Licenses (5%)	7,608.96						7,608.96
335.8 Local Government Highway and Bridge Fund	26,872.05						26,872.05
338.1 County Road Tax (25%)	93.00						93.00
338.3 County Wheel Tax	352.40						352.40
331-339 Other Intergovernmental Revenue	876.00						876.00
361 Investment Earnings	419.39					167.53	586.92
363-369 Other Revenues	12,496.48		50.00				12,546.48
ENTERPRISE FUNDS							
372-389 Enterprise Operating Revenue (380)						18,804.00	18,804.00
Total Receipts	111,790.17	28,238.53	50.00	0.00	0.00	18,971.53	159,050.23
Disbursements (Function):							
411-419 General Government	48,604.61	13,608.00					62,212.61
422 Fire	2,019.09						2,019.09
431 Highways and Streets	45,442.79						45,442.79
432 Sanitation	192.00						192.00
441-449 Health and Welfare	1,800.28						1,800.28
451-459 Culture-Recreation	2,023.99						2,023.99
490-493 Miscellaneous	150.00		15.00				165.00
ENTERPRISE FUNDS							
420 Other Expenses						35.00	35.00
426 Supplies and Materials						152.00	152.00
Total Disbursements	100,232.76	13,608.00	15.00	0.00	0.00	187.00	114,042.76
Subtotal of Receipts, Disbursements and Transfers	11,557.41	14,630.53	35.00	0.00	0.00	18,784.53	45,007.47
Fund Cash Balance, January 1, 2020	137,259.71	13,170.62	6,134.01			144,450.71	301,015.05
SD FIT balance	13,978.76						13,978.76
Restated Fund Cash Balance, January 1, 2020	151,238.47	13,170.62	6,134.01	0.00	0.00	144,450.71	314,993.81
FUND CASH BALANCE, December 31, 2020	162,795.88	27,801.15	6,169.01	0.00	0.00	163,235.24	360,001.28
Published once at the approximate cost of \$188.30. 20027							

Groton School April 26, 2021 Meeting Minutes

UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF EDUCATION GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6 REGULAR MEETING April 26, 2021

President Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Elementary Commons Area. Members present: Flihs, Gengerke, Pharis, Rix, Smith and Weismantel. Absent: Harder. Others present were Supt. J. Schwan, Principals B. Schwan and Sombke, and Business Manager Weber.

Moved by Weismantel, second Pharis to approve the agenda with one amendment under New Business Item #8 – approve resignation. Motion carried.

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

Members of the public are allowed five minutes to address the board on any topic of their choice. With no public members requesting to speak, the board proceeded with their agenda items.

Destination Imagination Coaches Joni Groebelinghoff and Julie Milbrandt provided an overview of their program. Adam Franken discussed FFA. Lindsey Tietz reported on FCCLA.

The board heard a report on the Groton-Langford Football Coop meeting held April 13, 2021. Langford is looking to coop in football and wrestling for school year 2022-23 and beyond. If Groton is selected as a

coop partner the team would be recognized as Groton-Langford Tigers using current Groton uniforms. A Langford homecoming game would be held if their field is kept in playable condition. Practices would be held in Groton. An open tryout of both schools' students would be held to determine cheerleader spots. Langford would provide a varsity and junior high coach. Other school activities could be added to the coop later. The schools will meet again after the fall 2021 football season to determine if an agreement can be reached.

Superintendent Schwan reported on COVID-19 issues related to the school district including Covid-19 active case updates for Groton Area School District, Brown County and the State of South Dakota and Abbott BinaxNOW rapid testing.

The following items were discussed in Administrative Reports: ESSER 3 Grant Funding, property liability insurance agent change, dual credit enrollment, e-learning enrollment and important upcoming dates and events.

Election results from the April 13, 2021 School Board Election were canvassed. Vote totals showed Kara M. Pharis-287, Martin D. Weismantel-283, Ryan Tracy-251, and Anna Schwan-216. There were 2,550 school district registered voters on the date voter registration closed. 605 school district patrons voted in this election for a percentage of 23.7%. Three ballots were spoiled, rejected or uncounted. One provisional ballot was cast. 85 absentee ballots were requested, and 74

absentee ballots were returned by election day. This election was not held in conjunction with any other municipal election. Moved by Gengerke, second Flihs to declare the results official, sign and certify the abstract of results. Motion carried 4-0 with Weismantel and Pharis abstaining.

Moved by Weismantel, second Flihs to approve request from Groton Youth Football for use of a school bus on May 17 and May

18 to attend NSU Youth Football Camp. Motion carried 5-0 with Gengerke abstaining.

Moved by Gengerke, second Pharis to hire Becky Hubsch as MS/HS Business/Computer Teacher for 2021-22. Motion carried.

Moved by Rix, second Weismantel to approve lane changes for Jodi Schwan from BS to BS+15 and for Travis Kurth from BS+15 to BS+30 for 2021-22 at an increase of \$900 each. Motion carried.

Moved by Rix, second Flihs to approve 2021-22 GTA Negotiated Agreement. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, second Rix to issue 2021-22 teaching contracts with a return date of May 7, 2021. Motion carried.

Moved by Gengerke, second Pharis to issue 2021-22 off-staff extra-curricular agreements with return date of Friday, May 7, 2021. Motion carried.

Moved by Pharis, second Flihs to approve resignation of elementary para-professional,

Andrea Brunson, effective at the end on the 2020-21 school term. Motion carried.

Moved by Pharis, second Flihs to adjourn at 8:04 pm. Motion carried.

M. J. Weber, Business Manager

Steven R. Smith, President
The addition of signatures to this page verifies these minutes as official.

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$45.25. 20036.

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dakoutdoors@midconetwork.com



Saturday was rummage sale day in Groton. The weather was perfect for the many city-wide rummage sales going on. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



A motorcycle rally stopped in Groton early Saturday afternoon, with many motorcycles lining up on Main Street and in the Legion parking lot. (Photos by Paul Kosel)

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, May 4

1 p.m.: Track: Varsity at Milbank

7 p.m.: Elementary Spring Concert, GHS Gym

Wednesday, May 5

Noon: Groton Chamber Meeting at Groton Community Center

7 p.m.: City Council Meeting at New City Hall (120 N Main)

Thursday, May 6

Elementary Track and Field Day

10 a.m.: 5th Grade DARE Graduation, GHS Arena

10:30 a.m.: Funeral Service for Dolores Baily at SEAS Church

7 p.m.: High School Spring Concert & Awards Night

Friday, May 7

Last Day of School

3 p.m.: Track: Varsity at Sisseton

Monday, May 10

4 p.m.: Track: 7th/8th at Aberdeen Roncalli (Swisher Field)

7 p.m.: School Board Meeting

Thursday, May 13

11 a.m.: Track: Northeast Conference Meet in Groton

12:30 p.m.: Scholarship Meet and Greet, GHS Library

Friday, May 14

3:30 p.m.: Track: 7th/8th @ Groton



By Jill Kruse, DO ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

Dear Moms, I See You

This has been an exhausting year for moms. Last spring, we had no idea we would still be dealing with this pandemic a year later. It presented difficult decisions, such as in-person school or remote learning, how to work from home while caring for children, or how to pay the bills without work, when to let children visit their grandparents, what to do for birthdays and holidays. Regardless of the decision made, it seemed someone somewhere was judging our choice. But I want you to know, I see you every day doing the best you can.

To all the new moms, I see you when the OB floor was empty of friends and family to celebrate the new life you brought into the world. If you were COVID positive, I see you with your beaming smile behind a mask as you hold your new baby.

Mothers of toddlers, I see you trying to keep little fingers out of mouths as you teach them to wash their hands. I see you attempting to be professional on a Zoom meeting with toddlers giggling and playing in the background.

I see you moms of elementary and middle school children as you took on the role of teacher to keep your kids learning during the shutdown. I see you search for answers to big questions from your children about when things will be "normal" again.

Mothers with high school children, I see you consoling your Juniors and Seniors who missed out on sports seasons, proms and graduation ceremonies that were altered, cut short, or cancelled. I see you advertising prom dresses for sale captioned "only worn once for pictures."

I see you moms of college age children, yes, they are still your babies, as they prepare to leave the nest for school or a job. This new world experience will not be the same as you remember, yet I see you helping to make the most of it.

Grandmothers, I see you, too! You have two sets of babies to think about, your adult children and your grandchildren. I see you longing for their visits and hugs. And I see you when your family could not be with you in the hospital or nursing home.

Moms, I see you for the force of nature you are as you nurture your family through this pandemic. To quote A.A Milne, "You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think. But the most important thing is, even if we're apart...I'll always be with you."

With much compassion and love, Tyler and Allie's mom (a.k.a. Dr. Kruse).

Jill Kruse, D.O. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices family medicine in Brookings, South Dakota. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit www.prairiedoc.org and follow Prairie Doc® on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show streaming on Facebook and broadcast on SDPB most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

AUCTIONS

ACREAGE FOR AUCTION: 25654 431st Ave Spencer, SD 57374 – Near I-90 Spencer exit. 25.5 acres with maintained home and numerous outbuildings. Monday, May 10th 6:30 pm on-site. Open house Wednesday, May 5th 5-7pm. Visit www.totalaar.com for terms. Total Auctions and Real Estate. Andy Harr auctioneer/broker 605-274-6500.

EMPLOYMENT

DENTAL HYGIENIST Are you a dental hygienist looking for a change? Delta Dental of South Dakota's Mobile Program is looking to hire a dental hygienist who will work under collaborative supervision in southwest South Dakota, primarily on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. This hygienist will join a team providing preventive services and oral health education in schools, Head Starts, etc. Extensive travel is required. Excellent salary and benefits including health, dental, vision, life/long term disability insurance, paid holidays, vacation/sick leave, 401k, and more. Opportunity for summer weeks off is available. The target start date for this position is August 1, 2021. For more information visit www.deltadentalsd.com. Submit a cover letter and resume to: summer.sporrer@deltadentalsd.com. Questions? Contact Summer Sporrer at 605-494-2569.

CITY OF CHAMBERLAIN - City Engineer/Public Works Director. Responsible for supervising water, sewer, streets, parks, airport, cemetery, and recreation, providing engineering support for city projects, serving as code enforcer, building and zoning official, and other duties. Bachelor's degree in engineering and a PE license or ability to obtain within one year preferred. Full benefit package. Wage DOE. Closing May 7, 2021. Contact (605)234-4401 for more information.

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SDSU EXTENSION offers career opportunity as Community Vitality Field Specialist at our regional center in Watertown, SD. Complete listing and application at <https://yourfuture.sdbor.edu/postings/22629> AA/EO employer.

CUSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT VACANCIES: Teachers: 7-12 Family Consumer Sciences; Elementary Grades 4, 5 and 6-8 in Hermosa; Coaches; Paras; Night Custodians in Custer and Hermosa. Apply online www.csd.k12.sd.us 527 Montgomery St., Custer, SD 57730, 605.673.3154.

MISCELLANEOUS:

COMBAT VETERANS, Free Booklet "Lessons Learned (The Hard Way) About Combat." Hated enough to kill? Hopeless? Wanted to die? Close calls – should be dead? Call/text 402-677-7082.

MAY OPEN HOUSES: Bed & Breakfast Innkeepers of South Dakota invite you to visit our beautiful inns during National Tourism Month. See Facebook for schedules. www.southdakotabb.com



Groton Music Contest Results

Superior + Ratings: Carlee Johnson, horn; Cadence Tullis, solo; Braden Freeman, tuba; Ashlynn Warrington flute; Blake Lord, tuba; Gretchen Dinger, flute; Kianna Sander, tenor sax; Jayden Schwan, trumpet.

Superior Ratings: junior high band; Julianna Kosel, solo; Ashtyn Bahr, solo; Shaylee Peterson, solo; Carter Barse, solo; Braden Freeman, solo; Axel Warrington, mallets; Sam Pappas, bari sax; Elianna Weismantel, piano; Garrett Schultz, baritone; Addison Hoffman, trumpet; Liby Althoff, flute; Jeslyn Kosel, flute; Avery Crank, trumpet; Gavin Kroll, trombone; Jackson Hopfinger, trombone; Brody Lord, trombone, Ben Hoeft, trumpet.

Superior - Ratings: Teagan Hanten, snare; Lincoln Krause, snare; Rylee Dunker, snare; Christian Ehresmann, snare; Lincoln Krause, mallets; Teagan Hanten mallets; Emily Clark, piano; Kira Clocksene, clarinet; Kayla Lehr, clarinet; Noah Theisen, tuba; Natalia Warrington, clarinet; Payton Mitchell, trumpet; Isaiah Scepaniak, trumpet; Emerlee Jones, alto sax; Logan Clocksene, trombone; Nathan Unzen, trumpet.

Excellent + Ratings: Axel Warrington, snare; Lydia Meier, trumpet; Kellen Antonsen, baritone; Kella Tracy, trumpet; Kaden Kampa, alto sax.

Excellent: McKenna Tietz, clarinet; Bradyn Wienk, trombone; Logan Warrington, trumpet.

Groton hosted a music contest today at the GHS Gym and Arena. Wieser, Kelly Wieser, Langford Area music director, and Sharon Schwan, retired music director from Warner, were the judges.

In the photo above, Shaylee Peterson is doing her solo with Desiree Yeigh as the accompanist and Wieser being the judge.

In the left photo, Wieser gives a critique of the Julianna Kosel's performance. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

The trumpet solos were the last ones to perform at the music contest held in Groton. In years past, area schools have gone to Webster for the music contest. However, due to COVID-19 and Groton Area getting of school prior to the contest in Webster, it was opted to have the contest in Groton this year. Other schools have done the same thing which makes it nice for parents and students not to make the journey to another school. Those closing out the day were Logan Warring (top left), Ben Hoeft (top right) and Jayden Schwan (bottom photo). Desiree Yeigh was the accompanists for all of the solo events. (Photos by Paul Kosel)

What if polio had become politicized

Those of us of a certain vintage grew up without fear of polio because Jonas Salk's vaccine against that awful virus went into distribution in 1955, quickly eradicating the disease in America. But many of us grew up seeing and knowing polio victims, many of them irreparably crippled, some unable to walk, others with atrophied limbs.

There was no great political divide, no protests about the loss of freedom that inexplicably might be tied to a very real public health hazard. Parents eagerly lined up their children for the vaccine and for a long list of others that followed that eliminated a myriad of diseases because people acted in both their best self-interest and in the public interest.

Any veterinarian will tell you that herd immunity is a very good thing. Experts say that to get America back in business, we need 70-85% immunity from COVID 19, either through vaccinations or the hard way—risking serious illness, long-term complications, and even death. At last count, nearly one third of Americans were infected and 576,000 had died. We all know someone who's suffered. Globally, 3.2 million have died and in India, funeral pyres light the night skies like forest fires.

Thanks to heroic efforts from the medical community that created a vaccine with a monumental effort that had a lot to do with prior research and a remarkable distribution effort by the current administration, about one-third of Americans are fully vaccinated. In North Dakota, that percentage is about 42% but we're showing signs of stalling out.

COVID hospitalizations were up nearly 60% in April for North Dakotans between the ages of 16-49 even as Gov. Doug Burgum, under pressure from political forces on the right, lifted the state's emergency declaration. Then, the legislature insisted that the governor's office surrender the power to issue mask mandates. That's just dumb. No matter what Facebook epidemiologists try to tell you, masks make a difference. That's why doctors wear them. When you go to your local clinic, you still must wear a mask. Shouldn't that tell you that this is still serious business? When the state issues a mask mandate, it gives local governments and businesses cover, plus a patchwork effort will always be limited.

On one side of the issue, you've got science working in the interest of public health. Let me repeat the words "public health." A refusal to cooperate simply delays our national recovery. The ironic thing is, the majority of anti-maskers/anti-vaxxers are the most outspoken about shutdowns and lumber yard mask rules. They simply don't connect the dots because they were sold a bill of goods from the previous president, who, rather than accept responsibility for the public health, chose to pretend nothing was happening, that it was a plot to make him look bad. His frail ego turned it into a political issue. It cost lives. What if polio had become a political issue?

Frankly, too many people are ill-informed and the blame falls squarely on certain politicians and media outlets as well as news consumers themselves. At the coffee shop, someone will mention side effects from the vaccination so everyone at the table decides a sore arm or having the chills for a couple of hours just isn't worth it, not understanding that the reaction is an indication that your immune system is doing exactly what it should to protect you from full-blown COVID.

As for the politicians and their media sycophants, all they would have to do is show leadership on this issue. Give people the facts. Let them know that the one-in-a-million chance of blood clots from one vaccine pales in comparison to the risks of the coronavirus. Post that vaccination selfie. Ivanka Trump did.

We all want to get our personal lives and American businesses and institutions back to normal. Together, we've sacrificed a great deal. Together. Remember that. The more cooperation we get from each other, the sooner we can move on. You want more personal freedom? Get the vaccination. Follow the mask rules. It's for your own good. Ask anyone who has been at death's door. Ask my friend Rob Port. Ask Ted Nugent. You don't want this virus. And if you don't want to think about yourself and the loved ones you might leave behind, think about your responsibility to the rest of us. Or has responsibility become just another empty word reserved for political conventions and campaigns?

© Tony Bender, 2021



That's Life by Tony Bender



Elementary Spring Concert



The fifth grade band performed, "Armada" and "Caribbean Breeze."



The junior kindergarten and kindergarten group sang, "Oceans of Fun" and "Baby Shark."



The first graders sang, "A Whale of a Tale" and "The Jellyfish."



The second graders sang, "How Far I'll Go." Then they sang, "Under the Sea" with the third graders.



The third graders sang, "Surf's Up."



The fourth graders sang, "Yellow Submarine" and "Surf Crazy."



The fifth graders split up with half playing the ukuleles as they sang, "Someone to Lava." The group then sang, "Octopus's Garden" and "Surfin' USA."

NOW HIRING

MJ's Sinclair of Groton is looking for someone to work weekends and nights. Stop out and see Jeff for an application.

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Deli
Marieke Gouda 5 Oz. Pkg. **\$5.99**

Drink of the Week
Almond Joy Blended



Kim Weber (Center) was the recipient of the Groton Elementary PAC ROAR Award for this school year.

The Groton Independent

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