



A torrential rainfall fell Monday morning to the point that the storm sewer could not keep up. The water starting coming up on the curb in front of the Groton Daily Independent office. Half an inch of rain fell in a matter of minutes. The total amount of rain that fell so far this morning is 1.48. So far, May has recorded 2.08 inches of rain.

Final Day of School to be a full day

The last day of school this year will be a full day of the school instead of half a day. The last day is May 18th. It will be regular bus schedule and regular class schedule.

Sue Wattier is compiling and filing the annual Department of Education figures.

Track and Field Day is in question due to the rain. If more rain comes Wednesday and Thursday, the field may be too wet for the event. They are looking to see if there are any open days next week if it cannot be held on Friday.

The second of two water heaters sprung a leak. A 199 gallon rapid water heater was installed for \$18,000. The original estimate was \$40,000. They will see if one water heater will work. It was necessary to replace as it supplies hot water to the kitchen.

Superintendent Joe Schwan said that both libraries have a Veteran book written by Lee Raines. "It's kind of neat," he said.

Business Manager Mike Weber talked about a time management system that could replace the time clock punch. He is getting a cost estimate to present at a later school board meeting. This would eliminate the time being spent to calculate time sheets manually.

Weber presented a preliminary FY2023 budget. The preliminary data show that the district's valuation increased from \$1,239,610,317 to \$1,287,812,474.

The signed teacher contacts were approved. All expected contacts were turned in.

The summer employment agreements were approved.

The SDHSAA Amendment #7 was discussed. This would include a multiplier for the free and reduced meals to calculate average daily membership for athletics. The board took no action.

The board decided to move forward with having no varsity boys soccer schedule this year and leave the option on the table for a possible junior varsity schedule in case there is some interest. "We don't have the numbers right now," said Superintendent Joe Schwan. There is also no coach right now.

The board reviewed the COVID-19 policy and decided to delete the part that deals with working with local health officials for contact tracing.

GHS Graduation is Sunday, 2 p.m.

The graduation ceremony for the GHS 2022 graduating seniors will be held Sunday, May 15, 2022, at the GHS Arena.

The following students will take to the stage.

- Kennedy Anderson
- Jordan Bjerke
- Madisen Bjerke
- Jackson Cogley
- Jace Craig
- Ryder Daly
- Andrea Davidson
- Madeline Fliehs
- Megan Fliehs
- Kelsie Frost
- Marcos Garcia
- Hannah Gustafson
- Brayden Hansen
- Wyatt Hearnen
- Brooklyn Imrie
- Sarah Jacobs
- Rease Jandel
- Seth Johnson
- Trey Johnson
- Trista Keith
- Pierce Kettering
- Landon Kokales
- Julianna Kosel
- Jace Kroll
- Kansas Kroll
- Lane Krueger
- Kaden Kurtz
- Kody Lehr
- Riley Leicht
- Allyssa Locke
- Macine McGannon
- Evin Nehls
- River Pardick
- Favian Sanchez-Gonzalez
- Cassandra Schultz
- Trinity Smith
- Spencer Sperry
- Michal Tabke
- Alyssa Thaler
- Emilie Thurston
- Travis Townsend
- Torrence Wiseman
- Tatum Wright
- Jayden Zak
- Christina Zoellner

Weekly Vikings Recap

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

Last week, we discussed the Vikings' draft picks from the first three rounds of this year's draft. This week, we will look at the Vikings' fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh-round picks. Of those four rounds, the Vikings ended up selecting a total of six players from various positions.

Round 4: No. 118 – Akayleb Evans, Cornerback (Missouri)

Leading up to the draft, Vikings General Manager, Kwesi Adofo-Mensah, commented during a press conference how there was one player in this year's draft that he would watch tape of in a dark room that he loved. Turns out that player was Akayleb Evans. Evans is a tall, athletic cornerback who many experts have stated improved every year in college.

The reason Kwesi might have fallen in love with Evans is his physicality. Evans seems to enjoy playing press coverage with wide receivers and is not afraid to get physical in the run game. Obviously, a fourth-round pick will come with weaknesses, but Evans may come to be a reliable player for the Vikings.

Round 5: No. 165 – Ezezi Otomewo, Defensive End (Minnesota)

For the first time in twelve years, the Vikings selected a Gopher in the draft. Although Otomewo is not your typical speedy, athletic edge rusher that you see in the NFL nowadays, Otomewo will provide value on the Vikings' defensive line purely based on his size alone. Otomewo stands 6'5", weighs 280 lbs., and has an impressive 35" arm length. If the Vikings decide to move Otomewo inside as a defensive tackle, he will be able to use his size and strength more than having to rely on his average athleticism.

Round 5: No. 169 – Ty Chandler, Running Back (North Carolina)

It took the Vikings five rounds to finally select a player at an offensive skill position. Ty Chandler will be joining a packed running back room with the Vikings. Although it will likely be hard for Chandler to establish himself as a ball carrier, he will be able to provide value to the Vikings' offense thanks to his pass-catching ability. Although Chandler finished his career with only 73 receptions, he does appear to be comfortable catching passes out of the backfield. For a Vikings team that lacks the traditional 3rd down, pass-catching running back, Chandler might make a name for himself if he can continue to improve on his pass-catching ability.

Round 6: No. 184 – Vederian Lowe, Offensive Tackle (Illinois)

Like every Vikings draft before it, the Vikings took another late-round offensive lineman who will likely never become a reliable starter. Vederian Lowe is a large, fairly athletic tackle who many experts think will eventually move inside to the guard position. Lowe has the ideal size that you want in an offensive lineman, standing 6'6" and weighing 320lbs. However, there is a reason it took six rounds for Lowe to be picked, he is just not an elite blocker.

Round 6: No. 191 – Jalen Nailor, Wide Receiver (Michigan State)

Of the day three picks for the Vikings, this was my favorite. One thing about Nailor that stands out is how much he looks like Stefon Diggs in his movement. Even crazier is how they are pretty much identical in body type. Nailor, who stands 6'0" and weighs 190 lbs., is the same height as Diggs and weighs only one pound less than him. The thought that Nailor could become as good of a player as Diggs was for the Vikings is not that crazy of a thought. Diggs, like Nailor, was also a day three draft pick. Furthermore, it appears the Vikings see something special in Nailor. Rumor is that Vikings wide receivers coach, Keenan McCardell, "pounded the table" for the Vikings to draft Nailor.

Round 7: No. 227 – Nick Muse, Tight End (South Carolina)

The Vikings waited till the seventh round to finally select a tight end, a position of need for the Vikings. Muse is a big tight end who appears to have the ability to both excel as a receiving and blocking tight end. However, like every other 7th-round pick, it will be a long road ahead for Muse to make any impact with the Vikings.

School Board

Continued from front

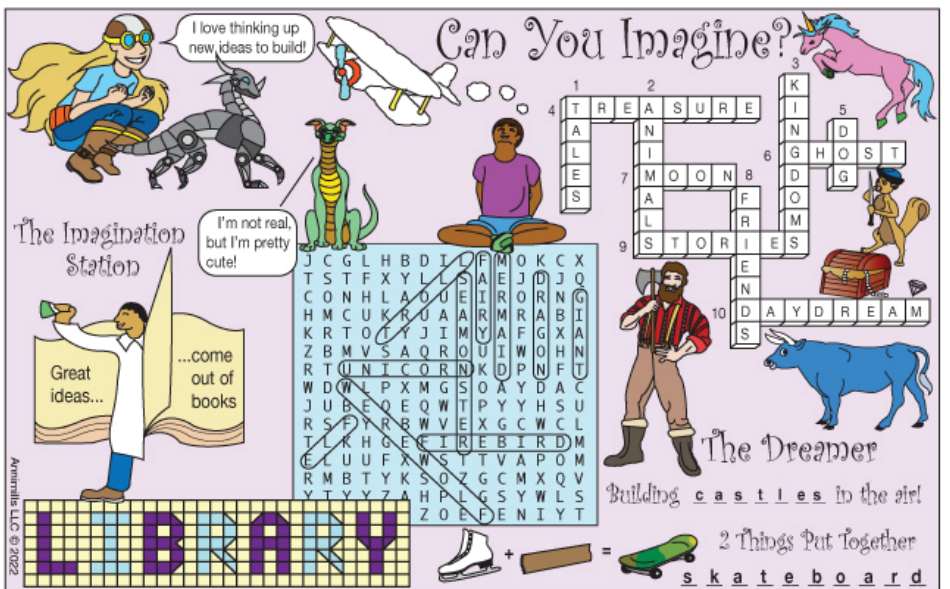
The resignation of Jill Helvig as Title Math Interventionist at the end of the school year was approved. The board also approved the resignation of Mike Nehls as head custodian effective June 3, 2022.

The board approved the re-assignment of Alexa Schuring from junior kindergarten/kindergarten to Title Math/Reading Interventionist for the 2022-23 school year, pending finding a suitable replacement for the JK/K teaching position.

Off-staff extra curricular agreements were approved: Rylee Furman as MS/HS special ed and junior high volleyball coach, Chelsea Hanson as head volleyball coach, Jenna Strom as assistant girls volleyball coach, Chris Kucker as head soccer coach, Seth Erickson as assistant football coach, Aubrey Harry and Jasmine Schinkel as co-cheering advisors, Matt Locke as head and Trent Traphagen as assistant girls basketball coaches, Darin Zoellner as head and Ryan Scepaniak as assistant wrestling coaches, Ryan Scepaniak as junior high football coach, Kristi Peterson and yearbook advisor, Brenda Madsen as senior class advisor, Brian Dolan as head boys basketball coach and athletic director, Joni Groebelinghoff as co-DI coordinator.

A 4.5 percent increase in the base salary of certified teachers was approved.

- Paul Kosel



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**Taylor Anderson escorting princess
Maya**



**Travis Swisher escorting princess
Molly**



**Craig Dunker escorting princess
Brynlee**



**Eric Moody escorting princesses
Maycee and Mya**



**Kris Harry escorting princesses
Annie and Harper**



**Bryan Sombke escorting princess
Maryn and Teagan**



**Brooks Kleffman escorting princess
Rilynn**



**Randy Lord escorting princess
Jozie**

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Drake Patterson escorting princess Rowan



Joshua Cowan escorting princesses Willow and Aspen



Mark Thompson escorting princess Taylor


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SPECIAL REPORT PART 2: CO2 pipelines could affect the land, lives and livelihoods of S.D. property owners

By: **Bart Pfankuch**

Editor's note: This article was produced through a partnership between South Dakota News Watch and the Solutions Journalism Network, a national non-profit group that supports rigorous journalism about responses to problems. This is Part 2 of a two-part series; Part 1 published last week.

Peggy Hoogestraat is a wife, mother, grandmother, farmer and rancher who also happens to be one of the most knowledgeable, organized and relentless opponents of underground pipelines being built across South Dakota.

Hoogestraat's path from gray-haired granny to grizzled anti-pipeline activist was laid in 2014 when she began a battle to protect her ranch land in Minnehaha County from becoming part of the route for the Dakota Access Pipeline.

After being sued twice, putting thousands of miles on her pickup to attend numerous meetings and hearings, spending significant sums on legal fees and holding out for as long as she could, Hoogestraat eventually succumbed to an eminent-domain ruling that forced her to allow the multi-state DAPL oil line to be buried on her land.

And then, a letter she received in the mail in 2021 — sent by Summit Carbon Solutions of Iowa — reignited her passion to prevent a pipeline from crossing that 287-acre parcel west of Hartford. This time, it was a proposed carbon-capture and sequestration pipeline that would carry CO2 across the same parcel where her son raises crops and runs cattle and where the DAPL now lies beneath the surface.

To Hoogestraat and a few hundred other eastern South Dakota landowners, the pipeline plan by Summit, and another CO2 line being proposed by Navigator Carbon Ventures, are an offense to their land and their lives.

Not only do they see the pipeline as an interference on their property rights, but they also worry over the loss of usable farmland and ranch land and are concerned over the risk that a leak could someday poison people or animals. They also resent the time, money and emotions they expend in trying to fight off the pipeline firms or to ensure impacts from the intrusion are as limited as possible.

Certainly, some property owners along the proposed pipeline routes welcome the use of their land, and see buried pipelines as safe and unobtrusive. They likely see the lease payment for use of their land as an unexpected bonus, and will gladly accept up to three years of payments for any crop losses.

An official with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission, which has permitting authority over the two pipeline proposals, said the number of people signed up to comment on the Summit pipeline is the most of any utility project in recent memory.

Among the many opponents, some interviewed by News Watch, the unwanted use of their land cuts deeply into their beliefs that private land is sacred, that it is part of a family's soul spanning generations, and that it should not be interfered with without their permission or for great cause.

"I was raised to be a steward of the land, with an understanding that it's a gift to me while I'm here on this earth, and that I need to take the best care of it while I can," Hoogestraat said. "You have a connection to the land that nobody can really understand unless they are in the same situation. Not only does it provide an income for your family, but you have the connection of family that has gone before



Peggy Hoogestraat points to the piece of her farmland west of Hartford where the Dakota Access Pipeline is buried beneath the surface. Hoogestraat is one of the most vocal opponents of pipeline projects built on private property, and she is once again fighting to protect landowner rights during the siting of two carbon capture pipelines proposed for eastern South Dakota. Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

South Dakota News Watch

and what they did to make it productive, and you have all those memories that have been made out there in the fields, and the pastures, and as you fix the fences or walk the land, all those things come to you."

Hoogestraat is also angry that the oil pipeline on her land may prevent her or future generations of her family from selling or developing the land, which is located in a high-growth suburban area west of Sioux Falls.

Hoogestraat looks back with a mix of anger, sadness and sometimes humor on how the pipeline battle changed her as a person. But there's no question the three years of grappling with DAPL officials over use of her land, and the impacts of the digging, pipe-laying and attempts to return her land to normal, have stiffened her resolve to fight for her own land and the rights of other landowners.

"I feel very sorry for the people who have to go through this," she said.

In the legal fight, she spent time and money and was sometimes separated from her husband and family while meeting with land agents, attending PUC meetings or sparring with lawyers. She insisted on personally overseeing construction work to ensure safety and the sanctity of her land, putting 1,400 miles on her truck through daily trips from her home in Chancellor to the ranch land about 20 miles north.

During construction, her drain tile that controls water flow was damaged and had to be fixed. A group of cows were once locked away from their water source and had to be rescued.

Since oil began to flow, the pipe on her property leaked, and she was never told how much oil had seeped onto and into her land.

Mixing of soils during pipeline construction has led to reduced crop production. She now sees changes in water flow that require adjustment of ranching methods, and depressions in the soil along the pipeline route create risks of damage to the legs and hooves of cows.

"Just the other day I went out and took pictures of the route, and there are sinkholes in that pasture and I'm watching to see how severe they get before something has to be done with that," she said. "I don't want the cattle to be hurt when they walk in those holes created by the pipeline."

Hoogestraat, 65, acknowledges she is somewhat of an unexpected activist. She sometimes wonders if her determination to fight the pipelines has its roots in a successful battle she

fought against breast cancer some years ago, and also in part to her strong faith in God.

"I went through cancer myself, and that was a piece of cake compared to these pipelines," she said. "I hate to say that, but it's true."

Looking back on the DAPL fight, considering the wall of boxes of legal materials she collected, and thinking of how she has gained knowledge and strength to fight another pipeline, Hoogestraat allows that in some ways she has always been someone who doesn't like to be pushed or sit by idly while someone else is suffering.

"Everything I do, I give my all; let's put it that way," she said. "I have had to be responsible for a lot of things in life and I've learned from those experiences that I do not like to see people mistreated and I do not like dishonest people."

Companies vow to be good stewards

Both the Summit and Navigator proposed pipelines would use carbon-capture and sequestration technology to collect carbon dioxide from ethanol plants, pressurize it into liquid form and ship it to a site where it can be pumped and held deep underground for years.

The 2,000-mile, \$3.7 billion Summit Carbon Solutions pipeline would cross 469 miles in South Dakota, carrying CO2 north from 32 ethanol plants in five states to a site in central North Dakota, where the CO2 would be buried more than a mile underground.

The South Dakota portion of the Summit project was submitted for permitting to the PUC in February, and a public hearing is expected to be held before the end of 2022.

The \$3 billion, 1,300-mile Navigator project would capture CO2 from 20 ethanol and fertilizer plants in five states. The Navigator pipeline would cross 62 miles in South Dakota and terminate at a site in central Illinois. Navigator plans to submit its pipeline permit application to the PUC this summer, said Elizabeth Burns-Thompson, a company spokeswoman.

Combined, company officials say, the two CCS projects would capture carbon equivalent to eliminating emissions from 5.8 million cars a year. They also point to positives such as creation of thousands of jobs, new tax revenues for states and local governments, and raised profits of ethanol plants that may be able to sell biofuels into new low-carbon markets.

Continued on next page



When the Dakota Access Pipeline was proposed to run through Peggy Hoogestraat's farmland west of Hartford in 2014, she erected this sign to generate opposition to the pipeline among her neighbors. Hoogestraat is shown with her son, Matthew Anderson and granddaughter Kendall Anderson. In the end, DAPL officials used eminent domain to lay the pipeline across Hoogestraat's land. Photo: Courtesy Peggy Hoogestraat

During a legislative hearing on the Summit project in January, state Sen. Lee Schoenbeck, R-Watertown, said he was concerned that Summit was not being straightforward with property owners along the proposed pipeline route. At one point, Schoenbeck said, the pipeline route would have run through a proposed new development in his district and "ruined" the housing project.

After he contacted Summit, the company emailed him an hour later to tell him that the route had been moved away from the development. But Schoenbeck said the landowners were never told the route had been moved away from their properties.

"What happened in my community was not right, so they should make sure they're doing a better job of talking to landowners," said Schoenbeck, an attorney in Watertown. "My only concern is that they need to make sure they're straight-up honest with the landowners."

During the hearing, Schoenbeck asked questions about funding of the pipeline proposal, offering that the project was only "some kind of goofy tax-scheme thing." Summit is taking advantage of federal CCS tax credits, and the Navigator project is being funded by a large private-equity group.

In a subsequent interview with News Watch, Schoenbeck said reducing carbon emissions and expanding the market for South Dakota ethanol plants are "laudable objectives," but added that he is wary of any project so deeply subsidized by federal tax dollars.

"It's not my world to tear apart the finances of that pipeline, and it wouldn't be fair to call me a proponent or an opponent," Schoenbeck said. "But I'm a conservative, so anybody that is playing around with the market based on government programs, I have to look carefully at those deals."

Jake Ketzner, a spokesman for Summit, said the project is receiving strong support among regulatory officials and landowners based on its goals of removing carbon from the atmosphere and for creating thousands of new jobs.

But CO2 pipelines also benefit corn farmers across the Midwest, Ketzner testified before the South Dakota Legislature in January. Carbon-capture projects strengthen the long-range market for ethanol producers, which also provides farmers a valuable and consistent market for their corn.

"There's folks who really support these projects for the environmental purposes, and there's folks in our particular case who support it for what it's going to do for agriculture and the corn markets," he said. "It's not just the landowners on our route, it's every corn grower in these states that will be positively affected by this project because we're going to drive demand."

Ketzner said the CO2 pipelines will strengthen rural economies in the short term and in the long term.

"If every other row of corn, or close to that,



Peggy Hoogestraat said that drain tiles in her farm field west of Hartford were damaged during construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline, and that she hired her own construction workers to oversee the repairs done by workers with DAPL.

Photo: Courtesy Peggy Hoogestraat



Ruts and depressions in the land, such as these and sometimes worse, occasionally result along the Dakota Access Pipeline route that runs through Peggy Hoogestraat's land in western Minnehaha County. The ruts can make farming difficult and cause damage to the legs and feet of cattle. Photo: Courtesy Peggy Hoogestraat

goes to ethanol plants, and that demand goes away in five or ten years, we're going to see a significant problem in our rural economies," he said.

Elizabeth Burns-Thompson, a spokeswoman for Navigator CO2 Ventures, said the company intends to work closely and in harmony with landowners along the 1,300-mile route of its Heartland Greenway CO2 pipeline project that crosses five states.

For example, Burns-Thompson said Navigator intends to bury its CO2 lines five feet below the surface, much more than federal standards that require only 30- or 36-inch depths.

Affected landowners on the 62 miles of pipeline planned for South Dakota should have received information packets in the mail, and Navigator has extensive information about the project on its website.

She said Navigator hopes to find workable solutions for use of land that will not include eminent domain, which is a legal taking of land for public use.

"Eminent domain is not something we want to do, and it's a tool that's available, but we're seeking a voluntary process," she said. "Holistically, we want to put forth a project that not only are we proud of but that the communities and landowners across the project are proud of, and that takes listening and doing it right."

Both Summit and Navigator have hosted numerous listening sessions with affected landowners. Navigator is also hiring a tribal consultant to address any concerns of Native American individuals, tribes or communities, and will conduct a cultural survey on the pipeline route in the coming months, Burns-Thompson said.

Battle far from over

Betty Strom is a retired teacher from Sioux Falls who owns land south of Madison, S.D., that is home to part of the Dakota Access oil pipeline and is now being eyed by Summit to run its CO2 line.

Strom opposed Dakota Access five years ago and is opposed now to Summit's proposal.

"Why would you put a pipeline next to DAPL when we had such a horrible time with that?" she asked.

Strom ultimately allowed the oil pipeline on her land before the matter reached court, and is likely to settle again to avoid the costs and stress of facing eminent domain.

Strom said she received a payment for use of her land by DAPL and will likely be compensated by Summit as well. But she said she ended up paying much of that money in new taxes.

Strom sees the pipelines as an unlawful, unfriendly taking of her property to benefit big corporations while leaving her with a pipeline she doesn't want, the stress of negotiating with pipeline officials and land that she said becomes less valuable.

"I don't fall under their bleeding-heart rhetoric that they're doing this for the environment," she said of Summit and Navigator. "It's all about a group of businessmen and women who want to make a profit. It's almost like a taking of my property for their benefit, and I'm

being paid cents on the dollar of what they're going to make."

Strom said she understands that some neighboring landowners welcome the pipeline and any payments they may receive. But her connection to the land, held by her family for generations, runs deep.

"There's a lot of reasons we value our land, and when you're out here in the middle of nowhere, you don't expect some big outfit to come plowing through it," she said. "I have a lot of respect for this land, and there's a lot of blood, sweat and tears that went into buying it."

Charlie Johnson runs an organic farm on leased land near Strom's property in southern Lake County. Johnson took a vocal stand against DAPL when it crossed the land he farms, and will do so again regarding the Summit project, also targeting the land he farms. Johnson feels sorry for property owners who feel they have no choice but to allow a pipeline on their property, because it is disruptive to the land and to their livelihoods.

"It's a highway of uncertainty for the landowners," he said.

Johnson said it took a year for the upturned and mixed soil on the DAPL route to recover, and in some cases it remains unproductive.

"Look at the destruction they've done cutting through farmable land and a pristine prairie," he said. "And now, it will be 2,000 miles from Illinois to North Dakota."

Johnson said property owners nearer to municipalities may see significant future losses in land value if development is halted due to an underground pipeline crossing it.

"If your piece of property 50 years from now is a valuable site for a housing development or something, you're out of luck," he said.

Strom said she wrote on the bottom of her land-use survey agreement that DAPL officials should let her know when they were surveying so she could be present, and to inform her immediately if they found anything of value or historical interest on her land.

"This was Indian territory, it certainly was," she said.

Strom never heard back from the company, but well after the survey was complete and the pipeline fully installed, she received a package in the mail. It contained a Native American spearpoint.

Strom's conclusion as to why the pipeline company delayed sharing the artifact with her until after construction was finished: "I think they were afraid I was going to join in with the other opponents," she said.

Peggy Hoogestraat was never formally notified of any changes in the proposed route of the Summit pipeline, but she recently looked at maps on the PUC website and now believes her land near Hartford is no longer a target of

Continued on next page



Betty Strom is a retired teacher from Sioux Falls who owns land south of Madison, S.D., where the Dakota Access Pipeline was buried. Strom closely tracked DAPL construction and is also monitoring new efforts by Summit Carbon Solutions to build a carbon dioxide pipeline through her property. Photo: Bart Pfrankuch, South Dakota News Watch

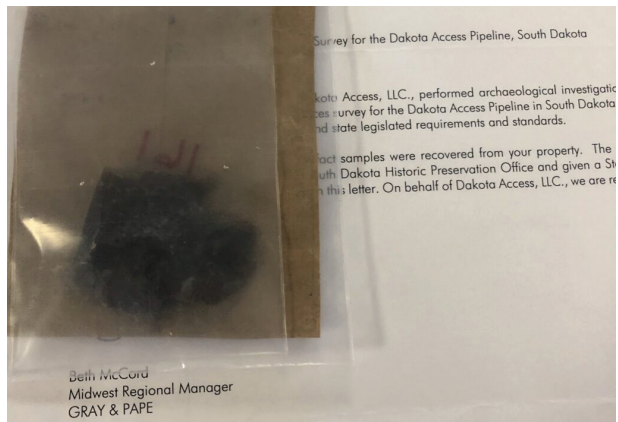


Peggy Hoogestraat has spent many hours in her truck traveling to meetings and hearings about pipelines proposed to be built on her farmland, and through years of battling the pipelines, Hoogestraat said she has tried to maintain a positive outlook and maintain a sense of humor about her mission to defend the rights of herself and other landowners in South Dakota. Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

Continued from previous page

the CO2 project. Despite the good news for her and her family, Hoogestraat said she has no intention of being less involved in fighting for landowner rights during the pipeline planning and construction process.

"I feel sorry for the landowners who have these pipelines on their land," she said. "It may have had something to do with me being very vocal at a public meeting with them, but it looks like they changed the route away from my land," she said. "But it doesn't change my view of the pipeline whatsoever because it's still going to cross the land of my neighbors and friends and family members, including my sister's land. Maybe I can't stop it, but at least I hope I can help the other landowners in some way, shape or form."



Officials from the Dakota Access Pipeline found this Native American spearpoint on Betty Strom's land during pipeline construction but did not send it to her until after the project was completed. Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch



ABOUT BART PFANKUCH

Bart Pfankuch, Rapid City, S.D., is the content director for South Dakota News Watch. A Wisconsin native, he is a former editor of the Rapid City Journal and also worked at newspapers in Florida. Bart has spent more than 30 years as a reporter, editor and writing coach.

Balloons and Jumbo Cards headquarters is the Groton Independent!

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605-397-7460

Johnson is 7th best in the state in the triple jump

The Groton Area track meet took in one meet at Sisseton and there was a lot of movement among the top performers in the state. The top 24 will advance to the state track meet. Aspen Johnson is Groton Area's top honor with a seventh place rating in the triple jump.

Here is a look at the changes for Groton Area as of Tuesday's posting.
 Andrew Marzahn is clinging to the 24th spot in the 100m dash with an unchanged time of 11.54.
 Andrew Marzahn dropped two spots to 18th place in the 200 dash with an unchanged time of 23.74.
 Andrew Marzahn dropped six places to 36th place in the 400m dash with a time of 54.14.
 The boys 400m Relay Team's time improved from 46.24 to 46.14, and remain in a tie for 18th spot.
 The boys 800m Relay Team slipped one spot to 15th place, improving its time from 1:35.90 to 1:34.70.
 The boys 1600m Relay Team's time remains unchanged at 3:45.10. They hold steady at the 22nd spot.
 The boys 3200m Relay Team remains in 20th place with an unchanged time of 8:58.10.
 The boys Sprint Medley Relay Team moved up two spots with an improved time from 3:59.70 to 3:58.20.
 Jackson Cogley improved his height in the high jump from 5-6 to 5-8 and rocketed into the top 24. He is tied at 24th with six other athletes. He was in 35th place at the last posting.
 Jackson Cogley improved his 37-2.5 triple jump distance to 38-5.75 and moved back up from 51st place to 37th place.
 The girls 400m Relay team remains at 30th place as its time remains unchanged at 54.64. The 24th spot has improved from 54.34 to 54.04.
 The girls 800m Relay Team's time remains unchanged and slipped one spot to 22nd. Its time is 1:54.40.
 The girls 1600m Relay team's time remains unchanged at 4:28.20 and slipped from 18th place to 20th place.
 The girls 3200m Relay Team dropped out of the top 24 to 25th place with an unchanged time of 10:50.50.
 The Groton Area girls Sprint Medley Relay team has an unchanged time of 4:40.90 as they dropped one spot to 18th place.
 Aspen Johnson moved up to the number seven spot after improving her distance in the triple jump from 32-4 to 34-1.75.

- Paul Kosel

Guthmiller takes first at Groton Invite

Carly Guthmiller placed first at the Groton Invitational golf meet held Tuesday at the Fisher Grove Golf Course in Redfield. She shot a 45 and a 50 for a 95 score, one better than Moberg's Cade Peltier.
 Emma Schinkel placed 13th, with a 55 and a 59 score for a total of 114. Other's participating were Shaylee Peterson with a score of 119 and Carly Gilbert with a score of 131. Ava Wienk participated in the JV match with a score of 153.

Groton Area Stymied by Redfield Area Muskrats, Lose 10-1

Groton Area couldn't keep up with Redfield Area Muskrats and fell 10-1 on Wednesday. Keaton Rohlfs earned the victory on the hill for Redfield Area Muskrats. The righty surrendered one run on four hits over seven innings, striking out two.
 Jackson Cogley took the loss for Groton Area. Cogley went five innings, allowing eight runs on 13 hits.
 Groton Area totaled four hits. Bradin Althoff and Cole Simon all collected multiple hits for Groton Area. Simon and Althoff each managed two hits to lead Groton Area.
 Redfield Area Muskrats saw the ball well today, racking up 16 hits in the game. Fehi Fanoelua, Camden Osborn, Erik Salmen, Rohlfs, Peyton Osborn, and Easton Millar each collected multiple hits for Redfield Area Muskrats. Fanoelua led Redfield Area Muskrats with three hits in four at bats. Redfield Area Muskrats tore up the base paths, as two players stole at least two bases. Osborn led the way with two.

- Seth Erickson



New Leanin' Tree Graduation Cards at the GDI

We have a new selection of Leanin' Tree graduation cards at the Groton Daily Independent office. And don't forget, we also have the Jumbo cards and a nice selection of balloons. Call/Text Paul at 605-397-7460 or Tina at 605-397-7285

Brown County May 3, 2022

Meeting Minutes

MAY 03, 2022 – GENERAL MEETING

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Moved by Wiese, seconded by Feickert to approve the agenda. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

An opportunity for public comment was given.

DACOTAH PRAIRIE MUSEUM ANNUAL REPORT:

Patricia Kendall, Museum Director gave the 2021 museum annual report.

APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY (RIGHT OF WAYS):

Moved by Weise, seconded by Feickert to approve the following application for occupancy: Northwestern Electric for occupancy of Brown County Highway Number 20, in section 11 SW1/4, township 124N, range 60W for Buried Primary Electrical. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY (RIGHT OF WAYS):

Moved by Weise, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve the following application for occupancy: Northwestern Electric for occupancy of Brown County Highway Number 14, in section 9 NE1/4, township 123N, range 63W for Buried Primary Electrical. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES:

Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Gage to approve the general meeting minutes of April 26th, 2022 and consolidated board of equalization meeting minutes. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS:

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims: Professional Fees: Aberdeen Cardiology \$9,57; Aberdeen Orthopedics \$46.49; AVERA ST. LUKE'S \$13,792.62; BRICK'S TV & APPLIANCE \$2,542.00; CARRELS & BAIN FAMILY DENTAL CENTER, LLC \$174.25; CGI \$426.72; Dakota County District Court \$14.00; DARC Y LOCKWOOD \$63.00; Emergency Service Marketing Corp, Inc \$5,631.75; HELMS & ASSOCIATES INC \$5,820.80; HOUSTON ENGINEERING, INC. \$11,391.00; LINCOLN COUNTY TREASURER \$691.20; LUCY LEWNO \$655.00; MARK KATTER-HAGEN \$63.00; MICHELLE GAIKOWSKI \$87.40; MINNEHAHA COUNTY, SD \$1,989.00; Sanford Clinic \$459.80; SANFORD CLINIC ABERDEEN \$133.72; Sanford Health Network \$2,305.02; SCHRIVERS MEMORIAL MORTUARY INC \$1,800.00; SD JUNIOR POINT SHOW \$300.00; SHI INTERNATIONAL CORP \$22,865.29; US BANK \$1,663.00; YANKTON COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE \$100.00; Publishing: GateHouse Media South Dakota Holdings, Inc. \$2,027.00; GROTON INDEPENDENT \$142.44; US BANK \$499.00; Repairs & Maintenance: ABERDEEN ASPHALT INC \$264.00; HOUSE OF GLASS \$2,125.94; US BANK \$1,330.90; VOSIKA FENCING \$7,981.00; Supplies: ADVANCE AUTO PARTS \$233.14; CENTURY BUSINESS PRODUCTS \$173.43; COLE PAPERS \$2,217.56; DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP \$489.43; FEDEX \$16.93; GOVCONNECTION INC \$235.62; LUCY LEWNO \$24.62; MENARDS \$137.19; PANTORIUM CLEANERS INC. \$28.00; PLUMBING & HEATING WHOLESALE, INC. \$94.67; RUNNINGS \$841.50; US BANK \$15,403.39; WEST PUBLISHING CORP. \$1,839.44; Travel & Conference: BRIAN KOENS \$326.18; JOE KRAFT \$251.34; US BANK \$890.94; Utilities: AT&T MOBILITY \$385.37; MID-CONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS \$268.75; NORTHWESTERN ENERGY & COMMUNICATIONS \$4,328.34; US BANK \$3,297.28; Others: WEX HEALTH INC. \$3,000.00; OLYMPIC SALES, INC \$33,250.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT:

Moved by Wiese seconded by Gage to approve the following Human Resource Report: Acknowledge union negotiated wages as follows effective April 17, 2022: ARNDT, JARELL @ 19.85 per hour; BIERMAN,

MCKENZIE @ 20.65 per hour; Cronin, Kaycee @ 15.97 per hour; DANNEN, MICHELLE @ 17.33 per hour; DOHMAN, ANNE @ 17.11 per hour; Duxbury, Brandon @ 16.27 per hour; ENGQUIST, TRACY @ 18.54 per hour; EPPARD, CINDY @ 18.39 per hour; FORSTING, JOLENE @ 19.26 per hour; FORSTING, MONTY @ 17.25 per hour; GROTE, TROY @ 20.11 per hour; GRUENSTEIN, CHARLES @ 20.6 per hour; HEUPEL, MATTHEW @ 19.8 per hour; HOVENDICK, ELIZABETH @ 16.83 per hour; JANUSZ, ANDREW @ 18.44 per hour; JENSEN, CASEY @ 21.04 per hour; JUENGER, NICHOLAS @ 20.99 per hour; KALLENBERGER, JASON @ 20.61 per hour; Keough, Joseph @ 19.6 per hour; KOST, KYLE @ 20.45 per hour; LANE, CORY @ 27.32 per hour; LEHRKAMP, Gerald @ 20.94 per hour; LOU, TERRY @ 20.66 per hour; MARTTILA-KLIPFEL, MARIANNE @ 17.33 per hour; Matthews, Joshua @ 19.6 per hour; Morgan, Stephanie @ 16.55 per hour; NEHLICH, BRAD @ 20.92 per hour; ORMAND, JACQUELYN @ 19.77 per hour; Otte, Dwain @ 19.6 per hour; OWENS, BRYAN @ 21.09 per hour; PIGORS, KURT @ 22.77 per hour; Randall, Joel @ 15.97 per hour; RAWSTERN, SHERRI @ 20.56 per hour; ROHRBACH, MICHAEL @ 20.11 per hour; SCHLOSSER, DANIEL @ 19.11 per hour; SCHNABEL, SHAWN @ 24.37 per hour; SCHULZ, MICKEY @ 19.65 per hour; Seiler, Jeffrey @ 19.51 per hour; SHEFFIELD, JO @ 18.69 per hour; SUTTON, JORDON @ 19.75 per hour; ULMER, JOSHUA @ 19.96 per hour; WIPF, PAUL @ 22.98 per hour; WOODFORD, CINDY @ 18.54 per hour; ZUMBAUM, DEAN @ 20.89 per hour.

Approve promotion for Meagan Delahanty from Brown County Jail Correctional Officer to Brown County Jail Shift Sergeant, starting wage \$20.84 per hour, effective May 15, 2022.

Approve hiring of Keri Walker as Brown County Dacotah Prairie Museum inter, wage \$12.50 per hour, effective May 9, 2022.

Approve return of Breanna Locke as Brown County Fairgrounds part-time summer help; wage \$13.50 per hour; effective May 6, 2022.

Approve return of Richard Burns as Brown County Fairgrounds full-time summer help; wage \$13.50 per hour; effective May 2, 2022.

Approve payment of retirement award for Jeffrey Kirman in the amount of \$150 before taxes, the requirement was met.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ABATEMENTS:

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following property tax abatements: Kenneth Bjur BOLS 300'N of S 333' of E 350' NE 27-123-64 (MH) 1994 Century 16x80 MY9489140K (moved out of state) @ \$122.37; Prairies Edge Dev LLC – LT A Prairie's edge 7th Add (Replatted) @ \$115.80; Prairies Edge Dev LLC – LT A Prairie's Edge 7th add (Replatted) refunds prior year @ \$464.31. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LEASES:

Moved by Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the following leases: Heidi Klein for lease of Richmond Lake Youth Camp June 24-26, 2022 approved alcohol use permission form; Allison Vetch for lease of Clubhouse June 4-5, 2022 with approved alcohol use permission form; Aberdeen Running Club for lease of fairgrounds (running area) May 26th, 2022 with approved alcohol use permission form. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Commission Gage gave an update on Senior Week Events. Commission Chair Sutton shared that May is Military Appreciation Month and thanked military members.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to go into executive session per SDCL 1-25-2 (Personnel and Legal). All members present voting aye. Motion carried. The Chair declare the executive session closed with no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Gage to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:50a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$74.78. 21198

Groton City Amateur Baseball Special Events

Notice of Hearing upon Application for a Special Event Alcoholic Beverage License

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT The Groton City Council on the 17th day of May, 2022 at 7:00pm at the Groton City Hall, 120 N Main Street, Groton, South Dakota will meet in regular session to consider a special event alcoholic beverage license for Amateur Baseball Games at 411 W 3rd Avenue in the City of Groton, South Dakota on the following dates: 5/22/2022, 6/5/2022, 6/12/2022, 6/26/2022, 7/10/2022, 7/17/2022, and 7/23/2022-7/31/2022.

Any person interested in the approval or rejection of any such application may appear and be heard.

Dated at Groton, South Dakota this 9th day of May, 2022.

Douglas Heinrich, Groton City Finance Officer

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$9.50. 21199

Groton City May 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00 PM at 120 N Main Street for their first monthly meeting with the following members present: Bahr, Babcock, Cutler, Flihs, Wells, Blackmun, Kevin Nehls, Jason Wambach, and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Also present were: Attorney Drew Johnson, Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich, and Darrell Hillestad.

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

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Flihs and seconded by Blackmun. All members voted aye.

Moved by Wells and seconded by Babcock to adjourn the 134th City Council. All members voted aye.

Flihs and Blackmun were thanked for their service to the community and exited the meeting thereafter.

The 135th City Council was convened on a motion by Babcock and seconded by Cutler. All members voted aye. Mayor Hanlon gave the Oath of Office to Kevin Nehls and Jason Wambach.

Moved by Bahr and seconded by Cutler to elect Bahr as President. All members voted aye.

Moved by Bahr and seconded by Cutler to approve the following committee representative list:

All members voted aye. NCOG Representative: Babcock

Planning & Zoning Representative: Cutler

Committees: Chairman, Co-Chairman

Electric, Transit, Insect & Weed Control, Airport: Cutler, Wells

Water, Swimming Pool, Skating, Economic Development: Babcock, Wambach

Streets, Baseball, Storm Drainage, Other Rec (Tennis, Basketball, Golf): Nehls, Bahr

Wastewater, Cemetery, Civil Defense, Community Center: Wells, Nehls

Finance Office, Legal, Library, Insurance, General Admin, Elections, Code Enforcement: Wambach, Babcock

Solid Waste, Rubble Site, Parks, Forestry, Liquor: Bahr, Cutler

Police: Cutler, Nehls

Drew Johnson was appointed as the City Attorney on a motion by Babcock and seconded by Bahr. All members voted aye.

Groton Police Officer, Tom Strickland, was given the Oath of Office from Mayor Hanlon.

Moved by Cutler and seconded by Wells to approve bills each meeting and authorize the Finance Officer to pay payroll and all regular monthly bills in a timely manner to avoid penalties and take advantage of discounts. All members voted aye.

Moved by Cutler and seconded by Wambach to table the approval of electricity installation at Airport to the next council meeting. All members voted aye.

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Cutler to authorize the following bills for payment. All members voted aye.

Payroll, \$40,886.38, Employee salaries; Executive, \$17,128.33; Administrative, \$4,416.59; Public Safety, \$7,842.98; Public Works, \$11,498.48; Drew Johnson, \$1,750.00, Legal Fees - March 2022; Aflac, \$458.36, Employee Insurance; Guardian Insurance,

\$72.61, Employee Insurance; Allied, \$8,356.45, Employee Insurance; Employers Mutual Insurance, \$77.30, Employee Insurance; Altec Capital Services, LLC, \$6,569.79, Lease for Digger Truck; City of Groton, \$100.00, Utility Deposit Refund - Ron Belden; Roger Rix, \$50.00, Utility Deposit Refund - Anna Rix; Dakotaland FCU, \$730.00, Employee Savings; Dacotah Bank, \$5,820.90, SS/Withholding/Medicare; Dacotah Bank, \$5,355.65, SS/Withholding/Medicare; Colonial Life, \$69.40, Employee Insurance; CapFirst Equipment Finance, \$32,810.00, Street Sweeper Lease; Michael Todd & Co, Inc., \$281.23, High Powered LED Warning Light; Dell Technologies, \$2,284.01, Computers for Groton PD & Finance Office; S&S Lumber Co., \$50.47, Bait chunks, sawz-all blades; Irby, Inc., \$11,316.70, Splices, electrical tape, overhead connectors, underground material; Verizon Wireless, \$40.01, Wireless Router; Douglas Heinrich, \$23.20, Mileage Reimbursement - NEFOG Meeting - Aberdeen; April Abeln, \$187.20, NEFOG Meeting Registration; Med Flex; SD Dept of Health, \$30.00, Water Testing; Groton Daily Independent, \$204.08, Publication Fees; AutoZone, \$45.83, Oil Filters; SD Supplemental Retirement, \$340.00, Employee retirement; D&J Equipment, \$412.50, Hoist Inspection - City Shop; Stacy Mayou, \$196.75, Med Flex; SD Retirement System, \$11,491.58, Employee retirement; Darrel's Sinclair, \$1,340.00, 4 new tires for white Chevy tree truck; Galls, Inc., \$147.19, Gear for new GPD officer - Strickland; Dollar General, \$42.90, Batteries, candy, coffee, creamer; NorthWestern Energy, \$13.08, Natural Gas Service; Eide Bailly LLP, \$1,000.00, Onsite assistance for annual report and journal entries; Drew Johnson, \$1,330.00, Legal Fees - April 2022; Greg's Repair, \$30.00, 1 Weekend Tire Repair - Groton PD; Runnings Supply Co, \$317.93, Battery tender, 13" wheel and tire for 4" pump, rain coats; SD Govt Finance Officer Assoc, \$75.00, Finance Officer School Registration Fee; SD Govt Human Res. Assoc., \$100.00, Human Resources School Registration Fee

Department reports were reviewed and discussed.

The 2021 Annual Report was approved on a motion by Babcock and seconded by Cutler. All members voted aye.

Discussion took place regarding the possibility of a community garden.

Moved by Bahr and seconded by Wambach to approve the amended Resolution 20222 authorizing the Mayor of Groton, South Dakota to enter into an agreement for financial assistance between the City of Groton, South Dakota and South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources as follows (all members voted aye):

WHEREAS, the CITY OF GROTON has determined it is necessary to proceed with C462051-06, WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 2 PROJECT (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the CITY OF GROTON has determined that financial assistance will be necessary to undertake the Project and an application for financial assistance to the South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources (the "Board") was prepared; and

WHEREAS, the CITY OF GROTON submitted a funding application for \$1,326,000 for the Project to the Board; and

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and South Dakota Senate Bill 62 have allowed for additional grant allocations; and

WHEREAS, CITY OF GROTON qualifies for \$9,660,000; and

WHEREAS, the CITY OF GROTON received \$266,747.78 ARPA funds; and

WHEREAS, the Board will match \$266,747.78 of those funds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF GROTON:

1. That the CITY OF GROTON is hereby authorizing a request for consideration by the Board for a total of an additional \$664,547 of ARPA grant funds to be provided for this project.

2. That the CITY OF GROTON is hereby authorized to execute the applications and submit it to the South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources and to execute and deliver such other documents and perform all acts necessary to effectuate the application for financial assistance.

3. That the MAYOR OF GROTON, SOUTH DAKOTA is hereby designated as the authorized representative of the CITY OF

GROTON to do all things on its behalf to certify and sign payment requests in the event financial assistance is awarded for the Project.

The second reading of Ordinance No. 760 – Amending Rates for Municipal Utility Customers was approved on a motion by Babcock and seconded by Cutler. All members voted aye.

Moved by Wells and seconded by Nehls to approve Douglas Heinrich to attend Budget Training in Sioux Falls on June 29th, 2022, and allow one overnight hotel stay on June 28th. All members voted aye.

Announcement – Regular garbage routes have resumed.

Moved by Cutler and seconded by Babcock to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal items 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 8:10 PM. All members voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 8:36 PM.

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Wambach to hire the following seasonal baseball/softball employees: Anna Fjeldheim – U10 Girls Softball Coach; Brian Dolan – U8/U10/U12 Day Baseball Coach; Rebecca Padfield – Concessions Manager. All members voted aye.

Moved by Bahr and seconded by Nehls to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 PM. All members voted aye.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor
Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$80.02. 21200

Brown County Edwards Rezoning Notice

NOTICE

Application has been made by Edwards Legacy Family Limited Partnership 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 17th at 8:45 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):

Proposed Lot 1, "Bauer-Edwards First Addition" in the SW1/4 of Section 10-T123N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota

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. 218.

ATTEST:
Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

(0504.0511)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$22.07. 21184

Brown County Steger Rezoning Notice

NOTICE
Application has been made by Jared Steger 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 17th at 8:45 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):

"Boesl Addition" in the SE1/4 of the SE1/4 of Section 32-T122N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (38980 142nd ST, Warner)

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. 217.

ATTEST:
Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

(0504.0511)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$21.53. 21183

Brown County Voter Registration Notice

NOTICE OF DEADLINE FOR VOTER REGISTRATION

Voter registration for the General Election to be held on June 7, 2022 will close on May 23, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. Failure to register by this date will cause forfeiture of voting rights for this election. If you are in doubt about whether you are registered, check the Voter Information Portal at www.sdsos.gov or call the county auditor at (605) 626-7110.

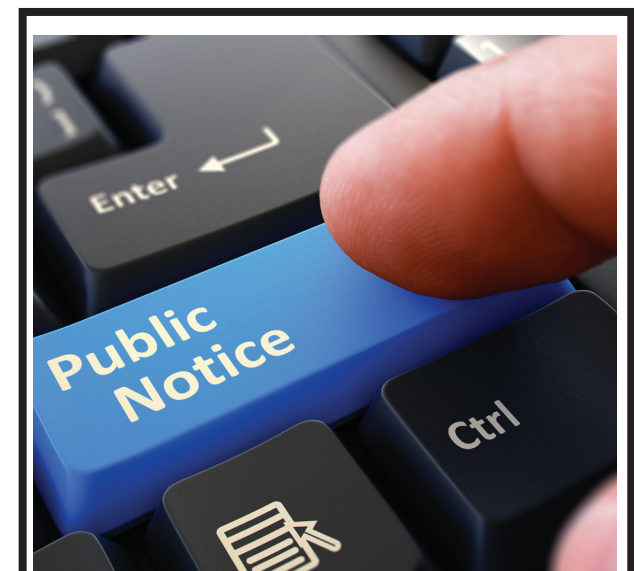
Registration may be completed during regular business hours at the county auditor's office, municipal finance office, secretary of state's office, and those locations which provide driver's licenses, SNAP, TANF, WIC, military recruitment, and assistance to the disabled as provided by the Department of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

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

Cathy McNickle – Brown County Auditor

(0504.0511)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$23.73. 21176.



All of the public notices now appearing in the Groton Independent are posted on-line at sdpublicnotices.com There are a number of search options available To see the notices published in the Groton Independent, select **THE GROTON INDEPENDENT** and then search

Brown County Surplus Property Sale Notice

NOTICE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY SALE

Notice is hereby given for surplus auction. Auction to consist of the following Brown County Highway department surplus: 2000 MODEL TK-110-HDG S/N Y0254 ;1997 832B WITH CAB S/N B208C18882U;1987 SP12 PHEUMATIC RUBBER TIRE S/N 633; 2000 MODEL 312-ST S/N 462599; 1988 MODEL 11HT-B1WH ONE WAY S/N5760 OFF A 2011 VOLO NO TIRES. Bids may be submitted online at Purplewave.com. Auction to conclude May 24, 2022. For information please contact the Brown County Highway at (605) 626-7118.

ATTEST:
Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor
(0504.0511)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$16.00. 21185

JVT Annual Meeting Notice

NOTICE OF 65th ANNUAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the 65th Annual Meeting of the members of James Valley Co-operative Telephone Company, will be held at the Groton High School Arena in Groton, South Dakota on Thursday, June 2, 2022 at 12:30pm, with registration beginning at 11:30am.

The meeting is called pursuant to the cooperative's bylaws for the following purposes:

1. To receive and act upon reports of the officers and management of the cooperative for the previous year's operations.
2. To elect two directors for terms of three years.
3. To act upon any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

By order of the Board of Directors.
Dated: 1/27/2022
Roger Zastrow, Secretary

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$10.78. 21202

Groton School April 25, 2022 Meeting Minutes

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

April 25, 2022
President Gengerke called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the GHS Library Conference Room. Members present: Flihs, Gengerke, Harder, Pharis, Rix, Smith, and Weismantel. Others present were Supt. J. Schwan, Principals B. Schwan and Sombke and Business Manager Weber.

Moved by Weismantel, second Pharis to approve the agenda as presented. 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.

2nd Grade Teachers Emily Dinger and Anne Zoellner and 3rd Grade Teachers Melissa Smith and Deb Winburn provided an overview of their programs.

Moved by Harder, second Flihs to cast ballot for Dr. Jeff Danielson of Watertown as District II Superintendent Representative for SDHSAA. Motion carried.

Moved by Rix, second Flihs to vote Yes on SDHSAA Constitutional Amendment #1. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, second Rix to vote Yes on SDHSAA Constitutional Amendment #2. Motion carried.

Moved by Smith, second Pharis to vote Yes on SDHSAA Constitutional Amendment #3. Motion carried.

Moved by Harder, second Flihs to vote Yes on SDHSAA Constitutional Amendment #4. Motion carried.

Moved by Flihs, second Weismantel to vote Yes on SDHSAA Constitutional Amendment #5. Motion carried.

Moved by Flihs, second Weismantel to vote Yes on SDHSAA Constitutional Amendment #6. Motion carried.

Moved by Smith, second Rix to table decision on SDHSAA Constitutional Amendment #7. Motion carried.

Moved by Harder, second Weismantel to allow Groton Youth Football to use a bus to attend NSU Football Camp on May 22 and 23. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, second Harder to approve resignation of Jennifer Gilchrist as MS/HS Special Education Paraprofessional, effective at the end of the school term.

Moved by Weismantel, sec-

ond Flihs to go into executive session at 7:36 pm pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) for personnel issues and SDCL 1-25-2(4) for negotiations. Motion carried.

Gengerke declared the board out of executive session at 8:50 pm.

Moved by Weismantel, second Flihs to approve 2022-23 GTA Negotiated Agreement. Motion carried.

Moved by Rix, second Flihs to issue 2022-23 teaching contracts with a return date of May 4, 2022. Motion carried.

Moved by Flihs, second Pharis to adjourn at 8:51 pm. Motion carried.

M. J. Weber, Business Manager
Deborah Gengerke, President

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

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$30.08. 21202

Groton City Amending Rates Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. 760
An Ordinance entitled "Amending Rates for Municipal Utility Customers"

Be it ordained by the City of Groton, South Dakota that Section 6 and 7 of Ordinance No. 8-1-4 be amended to read as follows:

8-1-4 Rates
6. Solid Waste:
\$16.50 monthly

This charge will be discontinued only if the water line has been capped.

7. Electricity:
The schedule of rates governing consumers of electricity in the City of Groton which follows is to be used for billing on a monthly basis throughout each year. Each electric service is figured independently from any other electric service at each customer's location.

Schedule A - Load Management Participating Electric Residential Rate

- Base Bill - \$25/month
- All kwh at \$.097/kwh

Schedule B - Interruptible Power (Dual Heat & Heat Storage Units) Participating Electric Residential Rate

- Heat Meter - All kwh at \$.05/kwh
- Minimum charge-\$10.00/month- November-April

Schedule C - Geothermal/Heat Pump (with Minimum 10 KW Resistance Backup) Electric Heat Rate

- Heat Meter - All kwh at \$.08/kwh
- Minimum charge-\$10.00/month- November-April

Schedule D - Load Management Participating Single Phase General Services Electric Rate

- Base Bill - \$35/month
- All kwh at \$.097/kwh
- Any demand over 25KW will be charged \$14/KW (highest 15 minute demand established in current month) and all kwh will be at \$.075/kwh

Schedule E - Load Management Participating Three Phase General Services Electric Rate

- Base Bill - \$70/month
- All kwh at \$.097/kwh
- Any demand over 25KW will be charged \$14/KW (highest 15 minute demand established in current month) and all kwh will be at \$.075/kwh

Schedule F - Interruptible Power General Service Electric Rates

- Base Bill: \$35/month for single phase service
- Base Bill: \$70/month for three phase service
- All kwh at \$.05/kwh

Schedule G - General Service Capacity Charge Rate

- Minimum Bill - \$2
- All KVA at \$.10/KVA

Schedule H - Load Management Nonparticipating Electric Customer Rate

- 150% of their Participating Rate Class Schedule

Schedule I - Load Management Controlled Electric Hot Water Heaters

- \$2.00/month credit

Schedule J - Load Management Controlled Electric Air Conditioner (Not on Interruptible (Dual Heat) Power Rate

- \$7/month credit on June, July, & August billings

Schedule K - Security Lights

- \$.10/month per unmetered light
- \$3/month per metered light
- \$20/month for 400-watt directional light
- Disconnection or Reconnection Fee - \$50

Schedule L - Heat Storage Unit Payback

- Minimum Bill \$25
- All kwh on HSU meters at \$.01/kwh

Passed First Reading: 4/19/2022
Passed Second Reading: 5/3/2022

Published: 5/11/2022
Effective: 5/31/2022
Scott Hanlon, Mayor

Attest:
Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$37.10. 21203

Groton City 2021 Financial Report

ANNUAL REPORT FOR CITY OF GROTON
AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS--MODIFIED CASH BASIS

	Debt Service Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Beginning Balance	960,408.00	294,186.00	1,254,594.00
Revenues and Other Sources:			
Taxes:			
Property Taxes	721,060.00		721,060.00
Airflight Property Tax			
General Sales and Use Taxes	794,762.00	38,635.00	833,397.00
Gross Receipts Business Taxes			
Amusement Taxes			
Excise Tax	319.00		319.00
Tax Deed Revenue			
Penalties and Interest on			
Delinquent Taxes	3,199.00		3,199.00
Licenses and Permits	25,437.00		25,437.00
Intergovernmental Revenues:			
Federal Grants	16,004.00		16,004.00
Federal Shared Revenue			
Federal Payments in Lieu of Taxes			
State Grants	141,814.00		141,814.00
State Shared Revenue	91,164.00		91,164.00
State Payments in Lieu of Taxes	1,961.00		1,961.00
County Shared Revenue:			
Other Intergovernmental Revenue			
Charges for Goods and Services:			
General Government	1,945.00		1,945.00
Public Safety	1,004.00		1,004.00
Highways and Streets	942.00		942.00
Sanitation			
Health			
Culture and Recreation	133,608.00		133,608.00
Ambulance			
Cemetery	3,350.00		3,350.00
Other			
Fines and Forfeits			
Court Fines and Forfeits			
Animal Control Fines	878.00		878.00
Parking Meter Fines			
Library			
Other			
Miscellaneous Revenue and Other Sources:			
Investment Earnings	762.00		762.00
Rentals		17,819.00	17,819.00
Special Assessments	42,435.00		42,435.00
Maintenance Assessments			
Contributions and Donations from Private Sources	20,799.00		20,799.00
Liquor Operating			
Agreement Income	16,512.00		16,512.00
Other Revenues	13,955.00		13,955.00
Lease Proceeds			
Sale of Municipal Property	2,494.00		2,494.00
Compensation for Loss or Damage to Capital Assets			
Long Term Debt Issued			
Total Revenue and Other Sources	1,991,969.00	56,454.00	2,048,423.00
Expenditures and Other Uses:			
Legislative	22,560.00		22,560.00
Executive	8,540.00		8,540.00
Elections	864.00		864.00
Financial Administration	317,527.00		317,527.00
Other General Government	368,939.00		368,939.00
Police	444,065.00		444,065.00
Fire			
Protective Inspection			
Corrections			
Other Protection	279.00		279.00
Highways and Streets	407,565.00		407,565.00
Sanitation	2,469.00		2,469.00
Water			
Electricity			
Airport		27,772.00	27,772.00
Parking Facilities			
Cemeteries	16,743.00		16,743.00
Natural Gas	2,500.00		2,500.00
Transit			
Health	2,561.00		2,561.00
Home Health			
Mental Health Centers			
Humane Society			
Drug Education			
Ambulance			
Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Rest Homes			
Other Health and Welfare			
Recreation	255,980.00		255,980.00
Parks	8,589.00		8,589.00
Libraries	33,080.00		33,080.00
Auditorium	8,568.00		8,568.00
Historical Preservation			
Museums			
Urban Redevelopment and Housing			
Economic Development and Assistance (Industrial Development)	13,981.00		13,981.00
Economic Opportunity			
Debt Service	206,025.00	45,282.00	251,307.00
Intergovernmental Expenditures			
Capital Outlay			
Judgments and Losses			
Other Expenditures	438.00		438.00
Liquor Operating Agreements	38.00		38.00
Discount on Bonds Issued			
Payments to Refunded Debt			
Escrow Agent			
Total Expenditures and Other Uses	1,915,286.00	73,054.00	1,988,340.00
Transfers In (Out)			
Special Item (specify)			
Extraordinary Item (specify)			
Increase/Decrease in Fund Balance	76,683.00	-16,600.00	60,083.00
Ending Fund Balance:			
Nonspendable			
Restricted			
Committed			
Assigned			
Unassigned	1,037,091.00	177,541.00	1,214,632.00
Total Ending Fund Balance	1,037,091.00	177,541.00	1,214,632.00
Governmental Long-term Debt			
PROPRIETARY FUNDS--MODIFIED CASH BASIS			
Water Fund			
Beginning Balance	616,463.00		616,463.00
Revenues	1,179,526.00		1,179,526.00
Expenses	1,116,650.00		1,116,650.00
Transfers In (Out)			
Ending Balance:			
Restricted for Equipment Repair	180,000.00		180,000.00
Restricted for Other Purposes	67,271.00		67,271.00
Unrestricted	432,068.00	43,277.00	475,345.00
Long-term Debt	682,478.00		682,478.00
The preceding financial data does not include fiduciary funds or component units. Information pertaining to those activities may be obtained by contacting the municipal finance officer at 123-4567.			
Municipal funds are deposited as follows:			
Depository		Amount	
Dacotah Bank	\$3,151,117.00		\$3,151,117.00
SD FIT	\$1,554,843.00		\$1,554,843.00
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$281.20. 21204			

18988

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021
AUTO-OWNERS INSURANCE COMPANY
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
6101 ANACAPRI BOULEVARD, LANSING, MI 48917-3988

MAIL ADDRESS:
P.O. BOX 30660, LANSING, MI 48909-8160

ASSETS:
Bonds.....\$9,937,644,262.00
Stocks.....\$8,838,320,862.00
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....\$18,419,564.00
Real Estate Owned.....\$229,097,249.00
Cash and Bank Deposits.....(\$12,958,904.00)
Agents Balances or Uncollected Premiums.....\$858,524,014.00
Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income.....\$63,147,002.00
Due and Accrued.....\$1,515,440,414.00
Other Assets.....\$21,447,634,263.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....\$21,447,634,263.00

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS
Reserve for Losses.....\$2,441,077,622.00
Reserve for Loss.....\$599,854,402.00
Adjustment Expenses.....\$533,302,946.00
Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees).....\$40,436,946.00
Taxes, Licenses and Fees (excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes).....\$1,630,093.00
Federal and Foreign Income Taxes.....\$2,376,748,936.00
Unearned Premiums.....\$630,882,885.00
All Other Liabilities.....\$6,623,933,830.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....\$3,000,000.00
Special Surplus Funds.....\$1,250,000.00
Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit.....\$0.00
Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....\$14,819,450,433.00
Unassigned Surplus.....\$14,823,700,433.00
Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....\$21,447,634,263.00
TOTAL.....\$21,447,634,263.00

BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2021

Direct Premiums Written.....\$8,873,711.00
Direct Premiums Earned.....\$57,910,459.00
Direct Losses Paid.....\$28,843,901.00
Direct Losses Incurred.....\$29,677,264.00

**STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DIVISION OF INSURANCE
STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE**

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Auto-Owners Insurance Company, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Michigan, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota:

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

- 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 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., 2022.

LARRY DEITER
Director of Insurance

19038

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021
TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
ONE TOWER SQUARE, HARTFORD, CT 06183

MAIL ADDRESS:
ONE TOWER SQUARE, HARTFORD, CT 06183

ASSETS:
Bonds.....\$11,599,074,841.00
Stocks.....\$4,384,274,072.00
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....\$0.00
Real Estate Owned.....\$0.00
Cash and Bank Deposits.....\$310,928,929.00
Agents Balances or Uncollected Premiums.....\$1,787,899,954.00
Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income.....\$91,759,463.00
Due and Accrued.....\$2,024,281,928.00
Other Assets.....\$20,198,219,187.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....\$20,198,219,187.00

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS
Reserve for Losses.....\$7,316,629,039.00
Reserve for Loss.....\$1,579,274,263.00
Adjustment Expenses.....\$117,376,259.00
Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees).....\$65,896,910.00
Taxes, Licenses and Fees (excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes).....\$23,101,267.00
Federal and Foreign Income Taxes.....\$2,668,067,637.00
Unearned Premiums.....\$597,903,090.00
All Other Liabilities.....\$12,366,249,466.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....\$3,000,000.00
Special Surplus Funds.....\$25,000,000.00
Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit.....\$2,629,824,585.00
Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....\$5,166,546,838.00
Unassigned Surplus.....\$808,911.00
Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....\$7,629,970,720.00
TOTAL.....\$20,198,219,187.00

BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2021

Direct Premiums Written.....\$813,493.00
Direct Premiums Earned.....\$908,911.00
Direct Losses Paid.....\$238,143.00
Direct Losses Incurred.....\$182,010.00

**STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DIVISION OF INSURANCE
STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE**

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Travelers Casualty and Surety Company, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Connecticut, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota:

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

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

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

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal at Pierre, S.D., this 1st day of May, A.D., 2022.

LARRY DEITER
Director of Insurance

19046

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021
TRAVELERS CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
ONE TOWER SQUARE, HARTFORD, CT 06183

MAIL ADDRESS:
ONE TOWER SQUARE, HARTFORD, CT 06183

ASSETS:
Bonds.....\$1,869,997,522.00
Stocks.....\$0.00
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....\$0.00
Real Estate Owned.....\$0.00
Cash and Bank Deposits.....\$17,387,467.00
Agents Balances or Uncollected Premiums.....\$191,841,106.00
Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income.....\$17,230,776.00
Due and Accrued.....\$159,606,647.00
Other Assets.....\$2,225,063,518.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....\$1,160,831,907.00

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS
Reserve for Losses.....\$981,060,770.00
Reserve for Loss.....\$211,759,269.00
Adjustment Expenses.....\$15,635,083.00
Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees).....\$8,835,882.00
Taxes, Licenses and Fees (excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes).....\$1,098,871.00
Federal and Foreign Income Taxes.....\$357,751,702.00
Unearned Premiums.....\$118,117,697.00
All Other Liabilities.....\$1,694,259,274.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....\$1,153,049.00
Special Surplus Funds.....\$6,000,000.00
Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit.....\$125,632,050.00
Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....\$429,019,145.00
Unassigned Surplus.....\$561,804,244.00
Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....\$2,256,063,518.00
TOTAL.....\$1,160,831,907.00

BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2021

Direct Premiums Written.....\$1,928,783.00
Direct Premiums Earned.....\$1,941,435.00
Direct Losses Paid.....\$2,651,004.00
Direct Losses Incurred.....\$2,882,985.00

**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, 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., 2022.

LARRY DEITER
Director of Insurance

19062

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021
THE AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE COMPANY OF HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
ONE TOWER SQUARE, HARTFORD, CT 06183

MAIL ADDRESS:
ONE TOWER SQUARE, HARTFORD, CT 06183

ASSETS:
Bonds.....\$979,281,307.00
Stocks.....\$0.00
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....\$0.00
Real Estate Owned.....\$0.00
Cash and Bank Deposits.....\$11,224,608.00
Agents Balances or Uncollected Premiums.....\$96,271,911.00
Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income.....\$159,898,659.00
Due and Accrued.....\$64,155,422.00
Other Assets.....\$4,516,773,925.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....\$1,160,831,907.00

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS
Reserve for Losses.....\$492,327,200.00
Reserve for Loss.....\$106,267,473.00
Adjustment Expenses.....\$7,831,286.00
Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees).....\$4,434,124.00
Taxes, Licenses and Fees (excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes).....\$6,653,996.00
Federal and Foreign Income Taxes.....\$634,255,765.00
Unearned Premiums.....\$332,843,902.00
All Other Liabilities.....\$3,131,924,120.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....\$2,044,234.00
Special Surplus Funds.....\$5,000,000.00
Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit.....\$623,472,070.00
Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....\$754,333,502.00
Unassigned Surplus.....\$1,394,849,805.00
Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....\$4,516,773,925.00
TOTAL.....\$958,463.00

BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2021

Direct Premiums Written.....\$932,403.00
Direct Premiums Earned.....\$568,711.00
Direct Losses Paid.....\$518,744.00
Direct Losses Incurred.....(\$32.00)

**STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DIVISION OF INSURANCE
STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE**

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Automobile Insurance Company of Hartford, Connecticut, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Connecticut, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota:

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

- 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 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., 2022.

LARRY DEITER
Director of Insurance

19070

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021
THE STANDARD FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
ONE TOWER SQUARE, HARTFORD, CT 06183

MAIL ADDRESS:
ONE TOWER SQUARE, HARTFORD, CT 06183

ASSETS:
Bonds.....\$3,016,442,098.00
Stocks.....\$527,381,027.00
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....\$0.00
Real Estate Owned.....\$43,938,450.00
Cash and Bank Deposits.....\$23,633,482.00
Agents Balances or Uncollected Premiums.....\$340,113,902.00
Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income.....\$23,960,497.00
Due and Accrued.....\$1,560,844.00
Other Assets.....\$300,425,786.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....\$903,283,902.00

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS
Reserve for Losses.....\$1,739,316,530.00
Reserve for Loss.....\$375,426,690.00
Adjustment Expenses.....\$27,762,156.00
Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees).....\$15,665,081.00
Taxes, Licenses and Fees (excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes).....\$6,653,996.00
Federal and Foreign Income Taxes.....\$634,255,765.00
Unearned Premiums.....\$332,843,902.00
All Other Liabilities.....\$3,131,924,120.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....\$2,044,234.00
Special Surplus Funds.....\$5,000,000.00
Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit.....\$623,472,070.00
Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....\$754,333,502.00
Unassigned Surplus.....\$1,394,849,805.00
Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....\$4,516,773,925.00
TOTAL.....\$958,463.00

BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2021

Direct Premiums Written.....\$932,403.00
Direct Premiums Earned.....\$568,711.00
Direct Losses Paid.....\$518,744.00
Direct Losses Incurred.....(\$32.00)

**STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DIVISION OF INSURANCE
STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE**

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, 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 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., 2022.

LARRY DEITER
Director of Insurance

19100

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021
AMCO INSURANCE COMPANY
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
1100 LOCUST STREET, DES MOINES, IA, 50391-1100

MAIL ADDRESS:
ONE WEST NATIONWIDE BLVD, 1-99-FIN1,
COLUMBUS, OH, 43215-2220

ASSETS:
Bonds.....\$187,026,905.00
Stocks.....\$0.00
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....\$0.00
Real Estate Owned.....\$0.00
Cash and Bank Deposits.....\$23,633,482.00
Agents Balances or Uncollected Premiums.....\$290,636,885.00
Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income.....\$1,560,844.00
Due and Accrued.....\$300,425,786.00
Other Assets.....\$903,283,902.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....\$1,739,316,530.00

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS
Reserve for Losses.....\$0.00
Reserve for Loss.....\$375,426,690.00
Adjustment Expenses.....\$27,762,156.00
Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees).....\$15,665,081.00
Taxes, Licenses and Fees (excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes).....\$6,653,996.00
Federal and Foreign Income Taxes.....\$634,255,765.00
Unearned Premiums.....\$332,843,902.00
All Other Liabilities.....\$3,131,924,120.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....\$2,044,234.00
Special Surplus Funds.....\$5,000,000.00
Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit.....\$623,472,070.00
Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....\$754,333,502.00
Unassigned Surplus.....\$1,394,849,805.00
Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....\$4,516,773,925.00
TOTAL.....\$958,463.00

BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2021

Direct Premiums Written.....\$9,416,655.00
Direct Premiums Earned.....\$8,623,477.00
Direct Losses Paid.....\$9,306,091.00
Direct Losses Incurred.....\$7,122,503.00

**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 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., 2022.

LARRY DEITER
Director of Insurance

19232

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021
ALLSTATE INSURANCE COMPANY
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
2775 SANDERS ROAD, NORTHBROOK, IL 60062

MAIL ADDRESS:
3075 SANDERS ROAD, SUITE G4E, NORTHBROOK, IL 60062

ASSETS:
Bonds.....\$28,979,837,324.00
Stocks.....\$7,124,953,122.00
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....\$737,144,434.00
Real Estate Owned.....\$391,679,405.00
Cash and Bank Deposits.....\$1,965,883,370.00
Agents Balances or Uncollected Premiums.....\$7,627,841,703.00
Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income.....\$245,404,167.00
Due and Accrued.....\$11,694,318,578.00
Other Assets.....\$58,767,062,103.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....\$16,690,922,185.00

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS
Reserve for Losses.....\$3,309,170,441.00
Reserve for Loss.....\$1,802,550,221.00
Adjustment Expenses.....\$1,802,550,221.00
Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees).....\$153,166,648.00
Taxes, Licenses and Fees (excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes).....\$0.00
Federal and Foreign Income Taxes.....\$12,961,752,153.00
Unearned Premiums.....\$5,418,480,786.00
All Other Liabilities.....\$40,336,042,434.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....\$15,859,471.00
Special Surplus Funds.....\$3,882,000.00
Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit.....\$3,284,769,264.00
Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....\$15,126,508,934.00
Unassigned Surplus.....\$18,431,019,669.00
Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....\$58,767,062,103.00
TOTAL.....\$9,466,576.00

BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2021

Direct Premiums Written.....\$9,272,999.00
Direct Premiums Earned.....\$5,695,062.00
Direct Losses Paid.....\$5,917,028.00
Direct Losses Incurred.....\$5,917,028.00

**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 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., 2022.

LARRY DEITER
Director of Insurance

19194

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021
FARMERS ALLIANCE MUTUAL
INSURANCE COMPANY

1122 N MAIN STREET, MCPHERSON, KS 67460
MAIL ADDRESS:
PO BOX 1401, MCPHERSON, KS 67460
ASSETS:

Table with financial data for Farmers Alliance Mutual Insurance Company, including Bonds, Stocks, Mortgage Loans, Real Estate, Cash and Bank Deposits, Agents Balances, Uncollected Premiums, Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income, Due and Accrued, Other Assets, and various Liabilities and Surpluses.

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, 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 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., 2022.

LARRY DEITER
Director of Insurance

19240

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021
ALLSTATE INDEMNITY COMPANY

2775 SANDERS ROAD, NORTHBROOK, IL 60062
MAIL ADDRESS:
307 S SANDERS ROAD, SUITE 64E, NORTHBROOK, IL 60062
ASSETS:

Table with financial data for Allstate Indemnity Company, including Bonds, Stocks, Mortgage Loans, Real Estate, Cash and Bank Deposits, Agents Balances, Uncollected Premiums, Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income, Due and Accrued, Other Assets, and various Liabilities and Surpluses.

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., 2022.

LARRY DEITER
Director of Insurance

19275

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021
AMERICAN FAMILY MUTUAL
INSURANCE COMPANY, S.I.

6000 AMERICAN PKWY., MADISON, WI 53783
MAIL ADDRESS:
6000 AMERICAN PKWY., MADISON, WI 53783
ASSETS:

Table with financial data for American Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I., including Bonds, Stocks, Mortgage Loans, Real Estate, Cash and Bank Deposits, Agents Balances, Uncollected Premiums, Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income, Due and Accrued, Other Assets, and various Liabilities and Surpluses.

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, 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., 2022.

LARRY DEITER
Director of Insurance

19283

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021
AMERICAN STANDARD INSURANCE
COMPANY OF WISCONSIN

6000 AMERICAN PKWY., MADISON, WI 53783
MAIL ADDRESS:
6000 AMERICAN PKWY., MADISON, WI 53783
ASSETS:

Table with financial data for American Standard Insurance Company of Wisconsin, including Bonds, Stocks, Mortgage Loans, Real Estate, Cash and Bank Deposits, Agents Balances, Uncollected Premiums, Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income, Due and Accrued, Other Assets, and various Liabilities and Surpluses.

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DIVISION OF INSURANCE
STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY
WHEREAS, the American Standard 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) 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., 2022.

LARRY DEITER
Director of Insurance

19429

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021
THE INSURANCE COMPANY OF THE
STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

500 WEST MADISON STREET, SUITE 3000,
CHICAGO, IL 60661
MAIL ADDRESS:
1271 AVENUE OF THE AMERICANS, 37TH FLOOR,
NEW YORK, NY 10020
ASSETS:

Table with financial data for The Insurance Company of the State of Pennsylvania, including Bonds, Stocks, Mortgage Loans, Real Estate, Cash and Bank Deposits, Agents Balances, Uncollected Premiums, Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income, Due and Accrued, Other Assets, and various Liabilities and Surpluses.

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:

- 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 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., 2022.

LARRY DEITER
Director of Insurance

63274

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021
FIDELITY & GUARANTY LIFE
INSURANCE COMPANY

801 GRAND AVE, SUITE 2600, DES MOINES, IA 50309
MAIL ADDRESS:
801 GRAND AVE, SUITE 2600, DES MOINES, IA 50309
ASSETS:

Table with financial data for Fidelity & Guaranty Life Insurance Company, including Bonds, Stocks, Mortgage Loans, Real Estate, Cash and Bank Deposits, Agents Balances, Uncollected Premiums, Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income, Due and Accrued, Other Assets, and various Liabilities and Surpluses.

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., 2022.

LARRY DEITER
Director of Insurance

63312

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021
GREAT AMERICAN LIFE INSURANCE
COMPANY

301 EAST FOURTH STREET, CINCINNATI, OH 45202
MAIL ADDRESS:
PO BOX 5420, CINCINNATI, OH 45201-5420
ASSETS:

Table with financial data for Great American Life Insurance Company, including Bonds, Stocks, Mortgage Loans, Real Estate, Cash and Bank Deposits, Agents Balances, Uncollected Premiums, Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income, Due and Accrued, Other Assets, and various Liabilities and Surpluses.

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DIVISION OF INSURANCE
STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY
WHEREAS, the Great American Life Insurance Company, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Ohio, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota:

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

- 1, 2, 16, 20, 21
1) Life; 2) Health; 3) Fire & Allied Lines; 4) Inland & Ocean Marine; 5) Workmen's Compensation; 6) 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., 2022.

LARRY DEITER
Director of Insurance

64246 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021
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
ASSETS:

Bonds.....\$50,111,955,025.00
 Stocks.....\$1,307,924,997.00
 Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....\$5,329,797,620.00
 Real Estate Owned.....\$289,755,272.00
 Policy Loans.....\$3,765,370,955.00
 Cash and Bank Deposits.....\$790,591,671.00
 Deferred and Uncollected Premiums.....\$1,152,820,718.00
 Investment Income Due and Accrued.....\$483,747,818.00
 Other Assets.....\$8,895,320,807.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....\$72,127,294,885.00

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS
 Reserve for Life Policies & Contracts \$47,030,513,643.00
 Reserve for Accident & Health Policies \$4,764,705,757.00
 Policy and Contract Claims Life.....\$474,946,264.00
 Accident & Health General Expenses \$303,931,539.00
 Due or Accrued. \$1,349,925,446.00
 Taxes, Licenses & Fees Due or Accrued. \$30,912,963.00
 Federal Income Taxes Due or Accrued.....\$0.00
 All Other Liabilities.....\$9,883,398,556.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....\$63,538,334,168.00

Special Surplus Funds.....\$1,502,366,212.00
 Capital Paid Up.....\$0.00
 Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....\$0.00
 Unassigned Surplus.....\$7,086,584,505.00
 Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....\$0.00
TOTAL.....\$8,588,950,717.00

BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2021
 Direct Premiums Received.....\$6,334,991.00
 Direct Losses Paid.....\$3,270,197.00
 Losses Incurred.....\$3,847,991.00
 Life Insurance in Force.....\$556,509,214.00

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA DIVISION OF INSURANCE
STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE
COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY
 WHEREAS, the GUARDIAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA, a Corporation organized under the Laws of New York, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota:
 NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned, Director of Insurance of the State of South Dakota, pursuant to the provisions of said laws, do hereby certify that the above named Company is fully empowered through its authorized agents to transact the numbered lines of business listed below:
 1, 2
 1) Life; 2) Health; 3) Fire & Allied Lines; 4) Inland & Ocean Marine; 5) Workmen's Compensation; 6) Bodily Injury Liability (Other than Auto); 7) Property Damage (Other than Auto); 8) Auto Bodily Injury; 9) Auto Property Damage; 10) Auto Physical Damage; 11) Fidelity & Surety; 12) Glass; 13) Burglary & Theft; 14) Boiler & Machinery; 15) Aircraft; 16) Credit; 17) Crop-Hail; 18) Livestock; 19) Title; 20) Variable Annuities; 21) Variable Life; 22) Reinsurance; 23A) Travel Accident Baggage; 23B) Pre-Paid Legal; 23C) Bail Bonds Surety; 26) Commercial; 27) Personal Commercial; 27) Personal

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal at Pierre, S.D., this 1st day of May, A.D., 2022.

LARRY DEITER
 Director of Insurance

64505 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021
HOMESTEADERS LIFE COMPANY
 HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
 5700 WESTOWN PARKWAY, WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266
 MAIL ADDRESS:
 5700 WESTOWN PARKWAY, WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266
ASSETS:

Bonds.....\$3,045,470,056.00
 Stocks.....\$5,947,800.00
 Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....\$204,840,134.00
 Real Estate Owned.....\$9,451,763.00
 Policy Loans.....\$3,765,370,955.00
 Cash and Bank Deposits.....\$42,894,287.00
 Deferred and Uncollected Premiums.....\$17,773,993.00
 Investment Income Due and Accrued.....\$29,404,737.00
 Other Assets.....\$94,379,458.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....\$3,451,571,841.00

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS
 Reserve for Life Policies & Contracts \$3,107,357,680.00
 Reserve for Accident & Health Policies.....\$0.00
 Policy and Contract Claims Life.....\$5,117,675.00
 Accident & Health General Expenses.....\$0.00
 Due or Accrued. \$8,123,357.00
 Taxes, Licenses & Fees Due or Accrued. \$4,167,196.00
 Federal Income Taxes Due or Accrued.....\$0.00
 All Other Liabilities.....\$132,152,818.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....\$3,256,918,726.00

Special Surplus Funds.....\$0.00
 Capital Paid Up.....\$0.00
 Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....\$0.00
 Unassigned Surplus.....\$194,653,110.00
 Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....\$3,451,571,836.00
TOTAL.....\$194,653,110.00

BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2021
 Direct Premiums Received.....\$9,681,637.00
 Direct Losses Paid.....\$4,099,285.00
 Losses Incurred.....\$4,078,125.00
 Life Insurance in Force.....\$70,987,506.00

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

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal at Pierre, S.D., this 1st day of May, A.D., 2022.

LARRY DEITER
 Director of Insurance

64580 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021
ILLINOIS MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE CO
 HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
 300 SW ADAMS, PEORIA, IL 61634
 MAIL ADDRESS:
 300 SW ADAMS, PEORIA, IL 61634
ASSETS:

Bonds.....\$1,200,530,836.00
 Stocks.....\$95,395,934.00
 Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....\$87,161,389.00
 Real Estate Owned.....\$4,415,316.00
 Policy Loans.....\$15,735,321.00
 Cash and Bank Deposits.....\$18,148,865.00
 Deferred and Uncollected Premiums.....\$24,031,591.00
 Investment Income Due and Accrued.....\$11,980,542.00
 Other Assets.....\$137,574,985.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....\$1,594,974,779.00

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS
 Reserve for Life Policies & Contracts \$698,829,687.00
 Reserve for Accident & Health Policies.....\$346,024,833.00
 Policy and Contract Claims Life.....\$6,912,681.00
 Accident & Health General Expenses.....\$1,889,301.00
 Due or Accrued. \$2,619,650.00
 Taxes, Licenses & Fees Due or Accrued. \$449,709.00
 Federal Income Taxes Due or Accrued.....\$0.00
 All Other Liabilities.....\$280,625,310.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....\$1,317,351,171.00

Special Surplus Funds.....\$0.00
 Capital Paid Up.....\$0.00
 Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....\$277,623,608.00
 Unassigned Surplus.....\$0.00
 Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....\$277,623,608.00
TOTAL.....\$277,623,608.00

BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2021
 Direct Premiums Received.....\$1,801,661.00
 Direct Losses Paid.....\$2,950,278.00
 Losses Incurred.....\$1,038,553.00
 Life Insurance in Force.....\$167,181,332.00

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 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 Commercial; 27) Personal

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal at Pierre, S.D., this 1st day of May, A.D., 2022.

LARRY DEITER
 Director of Insurance

63444 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021
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
ASSETS:

Bonds.....\$52,345,738.00
 Stocks.....\$0.00
 Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....\$4,415,316.00
 Real Estate Owned.....\$0.00
 Policy Loans.....\$4,803,767.35
 Cash and Bank Deposits.....\$107,292,845.00
 Deferred and Uncollected Premiums.....\$6,754,866.00
 Investment Income Due and Accrued.....\$250,525.00
 Other Assets.....\$42,002,769.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....\$208,646,743.00

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS
 Reserve for Life Policies & Contracts \$6,547,478.00
 Reserve for Accident & Health Policies.....\$3,188,783.00
 Policy and Contract Claims Life.....\$3,464,751.00
 Accident & Health General Expenses.....\$20,297,256.00
 Due or Accrued. \$1,586,348.00
 Taxes, Licenses & Fees Due or Accrued. \$5,340,344.00
 Federal Income Taxes Due or Accrued.....\$0.00
 All Other Liabilities.....\$43,316,479.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....\$83,741,439.00

Special Surplus Funds.....\$0.00
 Capital Paid Up.....\$2,500,000.00
 Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....\$226,308,114.00
 Unassigned Surplus.....(\$103,902,810.00)
 Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....\$76,147,468.58
TOTAL.....\$682,175,877.95

BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2021
 Direct Premiums Received.....\$93,030.00
 Direct Losses Paid.....\$66,883.00
 Losses Incurred.....\$72,309.00
 Life Insurance in Force.....\$1,309,000.00

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA DIVISION OF INSURANCE
STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE
COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY
 WHEREAS, the Accendo Insurance Company, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Utah, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota:
 NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned, Director of Insurance of the State of South Dakota, pursuant to the provisions of said laws, do hereby certify that the above named Company is fully empowered through its authorized agents to transact the numbered lines of business listed below:
 1, 2
 1) Life; 2) Health; 3) Fire & Allied Lines; 4) Inland & Ocean Marine; 5) Workmen's Compensation; 6) Bodily Injury Liability (Other than Auto); 7) Property Damage (Other than Auto); 8) Auto Bodily Injury; 9) Auto Property Damage; 10) Auto Physical Damage; 11) Fidelity & Surety; 12) Glass; 13) Burglary & Theft; 14) Boiler & Machinery; 15) Aircraft; 16) Credit; 17) Crop-Hail; 18) Livestock; 19) Title; 20) Variable Annuities; 21) Variable Life; 22) Reinsurance; 23A) Travel Accident Baggage; 23B) Pre-Paid Legal; 23C) Bail Bonds Surety; 26) Commercial; 27) Personal Commercial; 27) Personal

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal at Pierre, S.D., this 1st day of May, A.D., 2022.

LARRY DEITER
 Director of Insurance

63983 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021
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
ASSETS:

Bonds.....\$566,109,610.94
 Stocks.....\$56,008,915.60
 Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....\$4,191,219.91
 Real Estate Owned.....\$9,748,309.99
 Policy Loans.....\$4,803,767.35
 Cash and Bank Deposits.....\$3,220,583.03
 Deferred and Uncollected Premiums.....\$283,176.52
 Investment Income Due and Accrued.....\$7,092,905.32
 Other Assets.....\$30,737,389.29
TOTAL ASSETS.....\$682,175,877.95

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS
 Reserve for Life Policies & Contracts \$540,111,529.42
 Reserve for Accident & Health Policies.....\$2,153,905.68
 Policy and Contract Claims Life.....\$2,968,483.38
 Accident & Health General Expenses.....\$1,228,231.02
 Due or Accrued. \$597,678.68
 Taxes, Licenses & Fees Due or Accrued.....\$0.00
 All Other Liabilities.....\$58,699,877.19
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....\$606,028,409.37

Special Surplus Funds.....\$4,600,000.00
 Capital Paid Up.....\$5,000,000.00
 Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....\$4,000,000.00
 Unassigned Surplus.....\$62,547,468.58
 Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....\$76,147,468.58
TOTAL.....\$682,175,877.95

BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2021
 Direct Premiums Received.....\$3,587,216.53
 Direct Losses Paid.....\$2,047,171.66
 Losses Incurred.....\$1,919,335.49
 Life Insurance in Force.....\$93,040.00

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA DIVISION OF INSURANCE
STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE
COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY
 WHEREAS, the United Heritage Life Insurance, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Idaho, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota:
 NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned, Director of Insurance of the State of South Dakota, pursuant to the provisions of said laws, do hereby certify that the above named Company is fully empowered through its authorized agents to transact the numbered lines of business listed below:
 1, 2
 1) Life; 2) Health; 3) Fire & Allied Lines; 4) Inland & Ocean Marine; 5) Workmen's Compensation; 6) Bodily Injury Liability (Other than Auto); 7) Property Damage (Other than Auto); 8) Auto Bodily Injury; 9) Auto Property Damage; 10) Auto Physical Damage; 11) Fidelity & Surety; 12) Glass; 13) Burglary & Theft; 14) Boiler & Machinery; 15) Aircraft; 16) Credit; 17) Crop-Hail; 18) Livestock; 19) Title; 20) Variable Annuities; 21) Variable Life; 22) Reinsurance; 23A) Travel Accident Baggage; 23B) Pre-Paid Legal; 23C) Bail Bonds Surety; 26) Commercial; 27) Personal Commercial; 27) Personal

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal at Pierre, S.D., this 1st day of May, A.D., 2022.

LARRY DEITER
 Director of Insurance

64238 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021
GUARANTY INCOME LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
 HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
 200 1ST ST SE, SUITE 1300, CEDAR RAPIDS, IA, US 52401
 MAIL ADDRESS:
 2638 SOUTH SHERWOOD FOREST BLVD, STE 200, BATON ROUGE, LA, US 70816
ASSETS:

Bonds.....\$2,269,923,381.00
 Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....\$564,846,976.00
 Real Estate Owned.....\$164,054,213.00
 Policy Loans.....\$3,196,349.00
 Cash and Bank Deposits.....\$889,053.00
 Deferred and Uncollected Premiums.....\$176,528,141.00
 Investment Income Due and Accrued.....\$28,278.00
 Other Assets.....\$16,625,852.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....\$3,458,117,086.00

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS
 Reserve for Life Policies & Contracts \$1,968,631,524.00
 Reserve for Accident & Health Policies.....\$0.00
 Policy and Contract Claims Life.....\$873,433.00
 Accident & Health General Expenses.....\$2,312,052.00
 Due or Accrued. \$83,000.00
 Taxes, Licenses & Fees Due or Accrued.....\$0.00
 All Other Liabilities.....\$856,800,648.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....\$2,826,388,604.00

Special Surplus Funds.....\$62,000,000.00
 Capital Paid Up.....\$2,500,000.00
 Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....\$499,158,660.00
 Unassigned Surplus.....\$68,069,822.00
 Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....\$631,728,482.00
TOTAL.....\$3,458,117,086.00

BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2021
 Direct Premiums Received.....\$206,016.00
 Direct Losses Paid.....\$93,040.00
 Losses Incurred.....\$0.00
 Life Insurance in Force.....\$0.00

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA DIVISION OF INSURANCE
STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE
COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY
 WHEREAS, the Guaranty Income Life 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, pursuant to the provisions of said laws, do hereby certify that the above named Company is fully empowered through its authorized agents to transact the numbered lines of business listed below:
 1, 2
 1) Life; 2) Health; 3) Fire & Allied Lines; 4) Inland & Ocean Marine; 5) Workmen's Compensation; 6) Bodily Injury Liability (Other than Auto); 7) Property Damage (Other than Auto); 8) Auto Bodily Injury; 9) Auto Property Damage; 10) Auto Physical Damage; 11) Fidelity & Surety; 12) Glass; 13) Burglary & Theft; 14) Boiler & Machinery; 15) Aircraft; 16) Credit; 17) Crop-Hail; 18) Livestock; 19) Title; 20) Variable Annuities; 21) Variable Life; 22) Reinsurance; 23A) Travel Accident Baggage; 23B) Pre-Paid Legal; 23C) Bail Bonds Surety; 26) Commercial; 27) Personal Commercial; 27) Personal

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal at Pierre, S.D., this 1st day of May, A.D., 2022.

LARRY DEITER
 Director of Insurance

19186 FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021
ALLIANCE INSURANCE COMPANY, INC.
 HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:
 1122 N. MAIN STREET, MCPHERSON, KS 67460
 MAIL ADDRESS:
 PO BOX 1401, MCPHERSON, KS 67460
ASSETS:

Bonds.....\$25,067,901.00
 Stocks.....\$0.00
 Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....\$0.00
 Real Estate Owned.....\$0.00
 Cash and Bank Deposits.....\$5,132,174.00
 Agents Balances or Uncollected Premiums.....\$0.00
 Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income Due and Accrued.....\$159,621.00
 Other Assets.....\$2,038,307.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....\$32,398,003.00

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS
 Reserve for Losses.....\$5,448,964.00
 Reserve for Loss Adjustment Expenses.....\$682,693.00
 Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees).....\$43,532.00
 Taxes, Licenses and Fees (excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes).....\$149,776.00
 Federal and Foreign Income Taxes.....\$0.00
 Unearned Premiums.....\$10,327,282.00
 All Other Liabilities.....\$783,941.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....\$17,436,188.00

Special Surplus Funds.....\$1,516,466.00
 Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit.....\$758,660.00
 Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....\$12,686,692.00
 Unassigned Surplus.....\$14,961,818.00
 Policyholders.....\$32,398,006.00
TOTAL.....\$32,398,006.00

BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2021
 Direct Premiums Written.....\$1,267,685.00
 Direct Premiums Earned.....\$1,215,347.00
 Direct Losses Paid.....\$603,962.00
 Direct Losses Incurred.....\$54,341.00

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 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 Commercial; 27) Personal

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal at Pierre, S.D., this 1st day of May, A.D., 2022.

LARRY DEITER
 Director of Insurance



Principal's Middle School 6th Grade Honor Roll

Congratulations to these 6th graders who have been selected for the Principal's Middle School 6th Grade Honor Roll at Groton Area High School. To be eligible for this award, the sixth graders had to be on the honor roll at Groton Area High School every quarter for one year.

Back Left: De Eh June Say, Thomas Schuster, Wyatt Wambach, Easton Weber, Chesney Weber, Addison Hoeft, Ryder Schelle, Jace Johnson, Layne Johnson, John Bisbee, Ethan Kroll,
Front Left: Kason Oswald, Rylie Rose, Taryn Thompson, Sydney Locke, Ryelle Gilbert, Kyleigh Kroll, Mckenna Krause, Destin Pardick. Not pictured: Elizabeth Cole. (Courtesy Photo)



Principal's Middle School 8th Grade Honor Roll

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

Back Left: Benjamin Hoeft, Lucas Carda, Ryder Johnson, Gage Sippel, Keegen Tracy, Logan Warrington, Jayden Schwan, Rylee Dunker, Oliver Stiegelmeier,
Middle Left: Lincoln Krause, Nathan Unzen, Mia Crank, London Bahr, Raelee Lilly Cali Tollifson, Talli Wright, Jaedyn Penning,
Front Left: Carly Gilbert, Jerica Locke, Natalia Warrington, De Eh Tha Say. (Courtesy Photo)

Brown County Constitutional Amend. C

2022 Statewide Ballot Measure

Constitutional Amendment C
 Title: A Constitutional Amendment Requiring Three-Fifths Vote for Approval of

Ballot Measures Imposing Taxes or Fees or Obligating over \$10 Million.

Attorney Explanation:
 Currently the constitution requires that any new tax or tax increase must be approved either by voters or by two-thirds of the members of each legislative branch. To be approved by voters, such a measure must obtain a majority of the votes cast. This constitutional amendment requires that any initiated measure, proposed constitutional amendment, or referred

measure imposing or increasing taxes must obtain three-fifths of the votes cast to be approved.

This constitutional amendment also adds the requirement that any initiated measure, proposed constitutional amendment, or referred measure obligating the state to appropriate \$10 million or more in any of the first five fiscal years must obtain three-fifths of the votes cast to be approved.

This constitutional amendment additionally requires any initiated measure, proposed constitutional amendment, or referred measure which imposes or increases fees to obtain three-fifths of the votes cast to be approved.

Vote "Yes" to adopt the amendment
 Vote "No" to leave the Constitution as it is.

Full Text of Constitutional

Amendment C:

A JOINT RESOLUTION, Proposing and submitting to the voters at the next primary election a new section to Article XI of the Constitution of the State of South Dakota, relating to a three-fifths vote requirement for certain initiated or Legislature-proposed constitutional amendments and initiated or Legislature-referred measures.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, THE SENATE CONCUR-

RING THEREIN:

Section 1. That at the next primary election held in the state, the following amendment to Article XI of the Constitution of the State of South Dakota, as set forth in section 2 of this Joint Resolution, which is hereby agreed to, shall be submitted to the electors of the state for approval.

Section 2. That Article XI of the Constitution of the State of South Dakota, be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read: §16. Constitutional amend-

ments or measures--Taxes or fees--Certain funding obligations--Vote required.

Any initiated constitutional amendment, initiated measure, constitutional amendment proposed and submitted to the people by the Legislature, or measure referred to the people by the Legislature that imposes or increases taxes or fees, and any initiated constitutional amendment, initiated measure, constitutional amendment proposed and submitted to the

people by the Legislature, or measure referred to the people by the Legislature that obligates the state to appropriate funds of ten million dollars or more in any of the first five fiscal years after enactment, to be annually adjusted for inflation as determined by the Legislature, shall become part of the Constitution or statute only if approved by three-fifths of the votes cast thereon.

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$35.57. 21205

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★ Walworth County Sheriff's Office ★

Is looking for a

Full Time Deputy Sheriff

This position will be open until filled.
 Certification is preferred but not required.

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 (605) 649-7600

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Groton Independent ♦ Wed., May 11 2022 ♦ 15

Dean's 90th Birthday
 Please join us in celebrating our Mom's 90th birthday on May 15th by sending birthday wishes to Pearl Dean, 1324 12th Ave. SE # 32, Aberdeen, SD 57401.

Madison Bulldogs Captures Lead Early to Defeat Groton Area

Groton Area watched the game slip away early and couldn't recover in a 12-2 loss to Madison Bulldogs Varsity on Sunday. Madison Bulldogs Varsity scored on a walk by Riley Kearin and a walk by Mickale Dohrer in the first inning.

The Groton Area struggled to put runs on the board and had a tough time defensively containing Madison Bulldogs Varsity, giving up 12 runs.

Madison Bulldogs Varsity got on the board in the first inning. Jared Kennington was hit by a pitch, driving in a run.

Madison Bulldogs Varsity scored three runs in the sixth inning. Mason Kennington and Addison Gehrels each had RBIs in the frame.

Dohrer earned the victory on the pitcher's mound for Madison Bulldogs Varsity. The righthander went five innings, allowing two runs on seven hits, striking out three and walking one. Calvin Kelsey threw one inning in relief out of the bullpen.

Pierce Kettering took the loss for Groton Area. The righthander allowed three hits and six runs over three innings, striking out four.

Bradin Althoff led Groton Area with two hits in three at bats. Groton Area didn't commit a single error in the field. Kaleb Hoover had the most chances in the field with seven.

Madison Bulldogs Varsity racked up eight hits. Gehrels and Aspen Dahl all managed multiple hits for Madison Bulldogs Varsity. Michael Peters led Madison Bulldogs Varsity with two stolen bases, as they ran wild on the base paths with 14 stolen bases. Madison Bulldogs Varsity was sure-handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. Dahl had the most chances in the field with four.

Groton Area Outdone by Outlaws Varsity, 6-5

Groton Area got things moving in the first inning. Dillon Abeln drove in one when Abeln singled.

Outlaws Varsity scored four runs in the sixth inning. Landon Cleveland, Carson Stephenson, and Cade Mohling powered the big inning with RBIs.

Quinten Christensen earned the victory on the hill for Outlaws Varsity. The lefthander allowed zero hits and zero runs over one inning, walking one. Kaden Krutzfeldt threw two innings in relief out of the bullpen.

Bradin Althoff took the loss for Groton Area. The pitcher allowed three hits and three runs over two and a third innings, striking out one.

Abeln started the game for Groton Area. The righty surrendered three runs on five hits over five and a third innings, striking out four. Mason Schelske started the game for Outlaws Varsity. The southpaw surrendered four runs on five hits over five innings, striking out nine.

Groton Area racked up seven hits in the game. Abeln and Pierce Kettering all had multiple hits for Groton Area. Kettering and Abeln all had two hits to lead Groton Area. Groton Area stole ten bases during the game as three players stole more than one. Kettering led the way with three.

Outlaws Varsity totaled eight hits in the game. Blaze Herdman and Christensen each had multiple hits for Outlaws Varsity.

Marzahn is quadruple winner at Sisseton

Several Groton Area track team members took first place at the Sisseton Track Meet held Friday. Andrew Marzahn was a quadruple winner, winning the 100m dash and was on the winning 400m, 800m and sprint medley relay teams. Jackson Cogley took first in the high jump and Aspen Johnson took first in the triple jump.

Placing second were the boys 3200m relay team, Holden Sippel in the shot put, Faith Traphagen in the 800m run and the girls 800m relay team.

Third place finishers were Colby Dunker in the 300m hurdles, Jackson Cogley in the triple jump, and the girls 3200m relay team.

Boy's Division

Team Points: 1. Lisbon 213.83; 2. Milbank 111.5; 3. Groton Area 106; 4. Redfield 64.67; 5. Florence/Henry 62; 6. Dakota Hills 50; 7. Sargent County 49; 8. Sisseton 44; 9. Wyndmere-Lidgerwood 18; 10. Webster Area 13; 11. Herreid/Selby Area 11

100 Meters: 1. Andrew Marzahn, 11.5; 11. Korbin Kucker, 12.4; 13. Jayden Zak, 12.5

200 Meters: 7. Tate Larson, 24.8; 10. Christian Ehresmann, 25.7; 16. Colby Dunker, 26.6

400 Meters: 5. Ryder Johnson, 58.4; 17. Karsten Jeschke, 1:10.1

800 Meters: 4. Jacob Lewandowski, 2:15.1

110m Hurdles - 39": 5. Caden McInerney, 20.5

300m Hurdles - 36": 3. Colby Dunker, 48.6; 5. Jacob Zak, 50.1; 9. Tristan McGannon, 53.2

4x100 Relay: 1. Kaden Kurtz, Keegan Tracy, Andrew Marzahn, Teylor Diegel, 45.9

4x200 Relay: 1. Kaden Kurtz, Keegan Tracy, Andrew Marzahn, Teylor Diegel, 1:35.7

4x800 Relay: 2. Cole Simon, Jacob Lewandowski, Lane Tietz, Keegan Tracy, 9:48.7

SMR 200-200-400-800m - [2-2-4-8]: 1. Kaden Kurtz, Teylor Diegel, Andrew Marzahn, Cole Simon, 3:59.2

Shot Put - 12lb: 2. Holden Sippel, 40' 0.5; 8. Logan Ringgenberg, 36' 11; 9. Caleb Hanten, 36' 10.5; 14. Kaleb Antonsen, 33' 9.5

Discus - 1.6kg: 7. Caleb Hanten, 99' 6; 10. Logan Ringgenberg, 97' 11; 12. Holden Sippel, 97' 6; 13. Kaleb Antonsen, 90' 6

High Jump: 1. Jackson Cogley, 5' 8

Long Jump: 6. Jacob Zak, 18' 10.25; 11. Ryder Johnson, 17' 5.25; 14. Tate Larson, 16' 4 SR

Triple Jump: 3. Jackson Cogley, 38' 5.75; 6. Jacob Zak, 36' 4.75; 10. Tristan McGannon, 33' 4

Girl's Division

Team Points: 1. Lisbon 157; 2. Milbank 97.5; 3. Redfield 92; 4. Florence/Henry 83.5; 5. Dakota Hills 69; 6. Groton Area 59; 7. Webster Area 56.5; 8. Wyndmere-Lidgerwood 55; 9. Sargent County 43; 10. Sisseton 26.5; 11. Herreid/Selby Area 14.

100 Meters: 13. Karsyn Jangula, 14.4; 15. Brooklyn Hanson, 14.7; 17. Kayla Lehr, 14.9; 24. Riley Leicht, 16.2

200 Meters: 4. Rylee Dunker, 28.6; 8. Karsyn Jangula, 29.6; 10. Brooklyn Hanson, 29.8; 11. Kayla Lehr, 30.0

400 Meters: 8. Brooklyn Hanson, 1:17.1; 9. Sydney Leicht, 1:17.5

800 Meters: 2. Faith Traphagen, 2:35.8 SR

300m Hurdles - 30": 4. Talli Wright, 54.7

4x100 Relay: 5. Jerica Locke, Kennedy Hanson, Aspen Johnson, Laila Roberts, 58.2

4x200 Relay: 2. Jerica Locke, Kennedy Hanson, Aspen Johnson, Laila Roberts, 1:55.2

4x800 Relay: 3. Rylee Dunker, Faith Traphagen, Kella Tracy, Taryn Traphagen, 11:32.7

SMR 200-200-400-800m - [2-2-4-8]: 5. Kayla Lehr, Kella Tracy, Rylee Dunker, Taryn Traphagen, 5:09.3

Shot Put - 4kg: 7. Maddie Bjerke, 29' 5.5; 12. Emma Kutter, 27' 3.5; 13. Faith Flihs, 27' 2

Discus - 1kg: 6. Maddie Bjerke, 84' 11; 13. Faith Flihs, 74' 3 SR; 23. Ashley Johnson, 55' 9; 25. Emma Schinkel, 50' 5

High Jump: 6. Anna Fjeldheim, 4' 5

Long Jump: 6. Aspen Johnson, 14' 4.5, 9. Trista Keith, 13' 3.5, 22. Anna Fjeldheim, 1' 0.5

Triple Jump: 1. Aspen Johnson, 34' 1.75; 11. Emerlee Jones, 27' 10

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The trails that led us here

My friend Jack McDonald received an award at the North Dakota Newspaper Association convention last Friday for his tireless legal defense of freedom of the press. Our freedom. Your freedom. We listened in the great ballroom, elbows on white tablecloths among the cake crumbs and carcasses of Chicken Cordon Bleu..



That's Life
by Tony Bender

In his speech, Jack pondered the "what if's" in life. The paths traveled. The detours. And he wondered how his life might have changed had he made different decisions. Is it destiny? Free will? A crapshoot with eight billion other crapshooters? I dunno, but I think about such things, too. We all do.

What if my girlfriend hadn't gotten pregnant and what if I hadn't dropped out of college anticipating that I needed to get married, get a job, start a family at 18, and what if she hadn't miscarried? These events detoured me into radio, a 12-year adventure that took me to Denver, Juneau, and Myrtle Beach and points in-between, but all along I knew I would write. In time.

The gang knew it before I did, but I wonder if I'd have done so had they not been so certain and so insistent that someday, "You need to write about us!" My English teacher, Bernice Rollo, encouraged me, too. We never had a conversation about it, but every composition I wrote, she read aloud to the class. In those moments, even the hooligans listened with rapt attention. Like they were in church. Inexplicably, my columns are occasionally quoted from pulpits. Don't they know I'm on the other side?

What if my newspaper journey and an NDNA convention a thousand years ago hadn't led me into the arms of spectacular redhead, a skilled newspaperwoman? Would've I decided to buy my own publications? Would I have taken the leap without her? I wonder.

I wonder, too, about The Poet, the Tiny Dancer with China doll features, and I remember the Saturday I awoke, peered from my second-story bedroom, and saw her climb out of a new, laughably-huge jet-black GMC pickup—she almost needed a ladder—and begin moving in across the street. I just knew. And when we see each other these days, we still know.

But then I was offered my first decent radio job and I knew I couldn't take her with me. She'd recently lost her parents in a car crash and I understood she needed to be close to her brother and sister. Somehow, the 100 miles between us seemed insurmountable, and I still wonder why I didn't drive that stretch every weekend. But then it was off to Denver and Juneau and Myrtle Beach, and, well, life goes on, and these days I'm at peace with lost loves.

Things would have been different because she couldn't have kids and being a father is the best job I'll ever do. I've told Dylan and India about her, but how could I have regrets? "Because, then," I tell them, "I wouldn't have you."

What if I'd joined that rock-n-roll band in Aberdeen? Jon, my friend, the guitarist, was convinced I could learn to play bass. Maybe. But I remember a high school music teacher, 20 years ago, sighing at my ineptitude after numerous guitar lessons. "Tony, I just don't know what to tell you."

I could've handled a tambourine, the microphone, and the spotlight, and I have a hunch that we'd have made it, but if so, I might be dead in some hotel room because musicians work like rented mules. Then again, only the good (guitar players) die young.

I still buy guitars, drums, trumpets and saxophones, and I give them to my kids who are brilliant when they take them to the stage. I've become a stage mother.

What if... I counted my near-death experiences recently, and all I can say is that comparatively, cats are pikers. I was losing a fight in an RV park populated by custom combiners when I was in my 20's, on my back being strangled to death until I got pissed. "I am not going to die in effing Oklahoma!" Whatever motivates you to win. To live. In this case, rage.

India's decided that we need to get family tattoos—a cockroach—because like them, we're survivors, and until proven otherwise, immortal.

Different turns, different timing, would surely mean I wouldn't be here. Now. In this sun. In this solitude. Birds singing.

It feels right. Maybe it's destiny. Maybe these chapters were written in the sky before I took my first breath. Maybe the angels got it right.

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Dear EarthTalk: Since when did cargo ships start using wind power (again)? Does this save us from a lot of carbon emissions?
 -- Bill H. Elizabeth, NJ

EARTHTALK



A few pioneering companies — like Wallenius with its OceanBird concept — are harnessing the power of the wind to reduce the carbon footprints of their cargo shipping operations.

To many, sailboats invoke either the 18th century "Age of Sail" or preppy regattas. But some environmentalists and engineers are looking past these connotations and rewiring the art of sailing to suit modern technology.

In fact, the 21st century Age of Sail is already in its infancy, due to concerns about fossil fuel shortages that are used in exorbitant amounts to power enormous cargo ships.

This rewiring of sailing matters because of the immense emissions that cargo ships produce. Because they consume fossil fuels, much of our supply chain is riddled with emissions problems. In fact, marine emissions contribute to ocean acidification and greenhouse gas buildups in the atmosphere, and even an alarming feedback loop between the two. This may influence, among other things, coral reef die-offs. Cargo ships that use sails could partially or even completely eliminate the environmental impacts of diesel usage.

Very practical examples abound. Wine companies like Grain de Sail are not just paying lip service to sustainability or otherwise "greenwashing" their products. They are making sure their products truly reject fossil fuel usage by using canvas sails on a boat similar to 19th century schooners. Its ship uses 100 percent wind energy to propel itself across the ocean.

OceanBird, manufactured by Wallenius, is another innovation. OceanBird is a cargo ship that can reach speeds similar to normal cargo ships using high tech modifications of sails that are closer to helicopters or airplane wings than canvas sails. They use changing air currents and automated shifts in the positioning of the "wings" to maximize speed of transport. While this may sound like science fiction, OceanBird's experimental prototype will soon be on the market.

Grassroots efforts to support wind-powered cargo ships are still in their infancy, but you can "vote with your wallet" to support companies like Grain de Sail that use cargo sailboats to propel their goods across the water, if you can afford luxuries like their wines.

If not, you can do your part to avoid the shipping industry by shopping at your local thrift store or farmer's market for local or secondhand goods.

Wind-propelled technologies are not only more picturesque than diesel-based cargo ships belching out emissions, dirtying the air and creating noise pollution. They have an opportunity to revolutionize the shipping industry and break our addiction to fossil fuels. To paraphrase Jimmy Dean, "[We] can't change the direction of the wind, but [we] can adjust [our] sails to always reach [our] destination." And when the end destination is a world free from fossil fuels, the journey is worth it.

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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Mentioning the Unmentionables

Over the course of my career, I have performed countless pelvic exams on women of all ages from all walks of life. There are two common patient behaviors that I have observed. First, most women leave their socks on. This could be the fact that most stirrups are cold, but it also seems like one feels just a little less exposed when wearing at least one item of their own clothing. The other thing that almost every woman does in the exam room is hide her undergarments under her pile of clothes. It is interesting that almost everyone, me included, feels the need to cover and hide their "unmentionables" when they are about to bare the very areas normally covered by these garments.

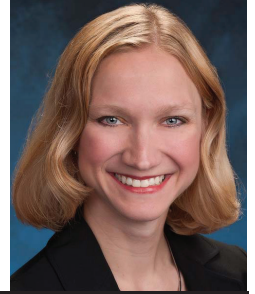
Therefore, it is no surprise that it can be difficult for women to voice concerns when it comes to their "private areas." These areas are just that, private! Women do not often visit with family or friends about incontinence, menstrual irregularities, or pelvic pain. It may be easy to discuss gallbladder issues or a migraine headache, but it is much more embarrassing to ask a friend if she leaks a bit of urine when she sneezes, jumps, or coughs after birthing a child. This condition is common, and it can be treated. But if we don't talk about it, we may not realize when something is "normal" or if it is something to be concerned about.

It is perfectly fine for women to hide our underwear from our health care provider, but let's not hide our concerns or be embarrassed about discussing the areas covered by these garments. If we choose not to talk about it, what may seem like a minor nuisance could lead to a bigger problem. For example, vaginal spotting or bleeding after menopause is never normal and should always be reported to your provider. It could be caused by harmless uterine fibroids, but it might also be a sign of uterine cancer. The sooner you discuss it with your doctor, the better.

Unfortunately, I have seen too many women who suffer in silence because they figure whatever is happening to them must be "normal" or just a sign of "getting older" or is the "price of having children". Primary care providers and obstetrician-gynecologists are ready to help you talk about these sensitive topics. When you uncover and discuss your concerns, they will listen, diagnose, and treat with care.

So go ahead, keep your socks on and hide your "unmentionable" clothing, but please, never hide your health concerns.

Jill Kruse, D.O. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices as a hospitalist in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org and on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show celebrating its twentieth season of truthful, tested, and timely medical information, broadcast on SDPB and streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.



By Jill Kruse, D.O.

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