



\$2

# The Groton Independent

Vol. 140 No. 34 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ♦ Established in 1889

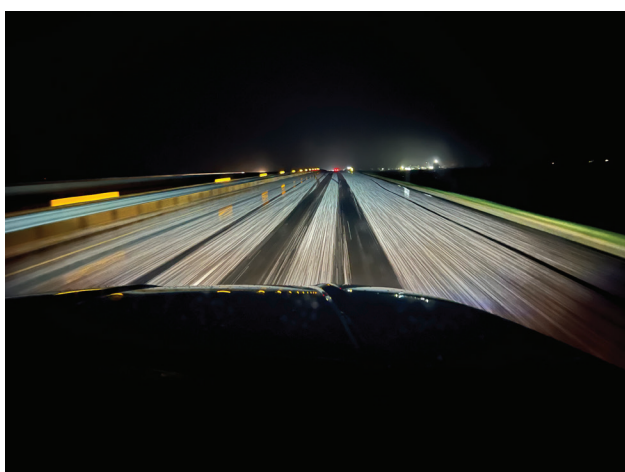


The lights at the basketball court and tennis court are operational. The left photo features Paul Kosel replacing a burnt out bulb on the tennis court. The right photo features Todd Gay and Landon Johnson having to double team to rewire the north light pole on the basketball court for the new LED fixtures.

**Groton Post #39 Officers**  
The Groton American Legion Post 39 installed new officers last evening. (L-R) Aaron Grant, new Vice-Commander, and Bruce Babcock, new Post Commander. Not pictured Doug Hamilton, Adjutant and Treasurer. (Courtesy Photo)



**A slow moving pop-up thunder storm produced heavy rain and hail late Tuesday evening. Picture of a hail pile outside of a house in Groton.** (Courtesy Photo)



**Hail accumulation on US Highway 12 west of the overhead bridge at 9:45 p.m. Tuesday.** (Courtesy Photo)

## Old gym renovation could cost millions; Schuring tapped for athletic director position

by Elizabeth Varin

A complete rehaul of the Groton Area High School old gymnasium could cost between \$6.8 million and \$8.5 million, according to estimates presented to the district board Monday evening.

The board reviewed a report from JLG Architects estimating costs to upgrade the 1969 gymnasium and commons area. The original report included price ranges for sections of the project, but district staff requested a drilled down list of potential costs.

A variety of projects could be included in renovations for the old gym.

A curtain currently separates the gym floors and the commons area, which is used as a lunch room. The concept of the curtain is fine, but the existing curtain needs to be replaced, said Superintendent Joe Schwan.

Vinyl sheet flooring with a hard rubber pad for movable bleachers would cost between \$231,000 and \$276,000, according to the report. New wood flooring would cost between \$278,000 and \$312,000.

New standard gym bleachers are estimated between \$322,000 and \$515,000, while moveable bleachers would cost between \$450,000 and \$708,000.

While moveable bleachers would create more options when using the gym, there are concerns about potential damage to the floor from moving the heavy seating.

Board member Tigh Fliehs brought up bleachers possibly leaving divots in the flooring.

"It seems they're engineered for it, but common sense says it would be a problem," replied Superintendent Schwan.

Additional costs would come in to renovate the restrooms and locker rooms to make them handicap accessible. The JLG report estimates range from \$293,000 to \$315,000 for the restroom work, while the locker rooms improvements could cost between \$1.59 million to \$1.713 million.

Work on the stage is estimated to cost between \$901,000 and \$1.288 million.

That brings estimated totals to between \$6.8 million and \$8.5 million, Schwan said. And those costs could go up about 12 percent by next year.

Board members expressed concerns over the high price tag.

"With total numbers of \$6 to \$8 million, you could build one heck of a shop," Fliehs said.

It might be better to just build a new facility instead of putting all that money into renovating the 1969 gym, he added.

However, a new building might not be feasible either.

"We can't quite tear apart the middle of our whole school to build something new," said board member Grant Rix.

The solution might have to be picking and choosing what areas to improve, said Board President Deb Gengerke.

Vice President Marty Weismantel added he would seriously consider replacing the bleachers and curtain between the two rooms. It's already hard to pull out the current bleachers.

**See School Board on Page 4**

## Are we going to trust the government to potty train us?

Fargo Forum columnist Jim Shaw wrote last week, "To paraphrase Gerald Ford, our long statewide nightmare is over. The North Dakota Legislature has adjourned."

This one was a doozy, one for the ages, inane focused on culture wars, leaving critical funding issues for the very end of the session.

A faction of self-righteous busybodies declared war on librarians, doctors, teachers, parents, school lunches, and the LGBTQ community. Was any letter of the alphabet was left unscathed? Certainly not P.

They imported a contrived national culture war agenda to solve problems that don't exist. Job security, I guess. In the end, SWAT teams didn't descend on libraries over the placement of National Geographic, but there's an obsession over bathrooms and who can use them.

Are we really going to trust the government to potty train us?

Any guy who's gone to a concert or a nightclub has watched women invade the restroom. No one blinks. People have been negotiating this for years without legislation. When we drank beer out on the prairie, boys to the front, girls to the rear, and somebody would always press the brake pedal just for fun.

I've done the math on this, and it seems to me that anyone in "the wrong bathroom" is going to be in a stall. (We'll pause for some of you to sort through that.) Isn't that the dignified solution? Stalls? Separate showers? Co-ed facilities are common in Europe, and we've had unisex, family bathrooms for ages and no one died.

What are we so afraid of? Someone please cite the long list of North Dakota bathroom crimes. It's nonexistent. The last big regional bathroom arrest involved an Idaho Republican in the Minneapolis airport. When they say, "Don't squeeze the Charmin, in Minnesota, they're serious.

It's just silly, and that's how we look to the nation. There was a time when we wanted less government and personal privacy. You know, personal responsibility, local control, freedom, and all of that. Or was that just for T-shirts and bumper stickers?

The reality is, parents, doctors, teachers, school boards, county and city governments, typically know what's best for them, their families, and their communities. When will we learn that one-size, cookie-cutter solutions often cause more issues than they solve?

Maybe I'm naive, but I trust my librarian, Larry Flynt, to keep the bodice-busters under the counter in a brown paper wrapper, and school administrators to sort out bathroom concerns, and let's face it, it's custodians who get solve the real problems. Gosh, no one's ever legislated plungers and yet, we figured it out all by ourselves without Big Bathroom Brother.

Meanwhile, with the rest of the country mocking North Dakota Legislative Luddites, we're spending millions to promote the state and recruit workers to fill 30,000 workplace vacancies. Famously, it was recently reported, we snagged nine. Nine people

showed up to work as a result of millions spent.

Talk about mixed messaging. One corner shouts, "We're Legendary!" while others demand you to drop your pants before you get to the bathroom. Along with armed guards, perhaps we'll post licensed psychiatrists outside the door who'll make you complete a psychological profile to make sure you're not gay and therefore attracted to the general population inside. Then which bathroom must you use? Defecation's never been more complicated. Used to be, the only concern was if there was paper on the spool.

It's silly. Mean and unproductive.

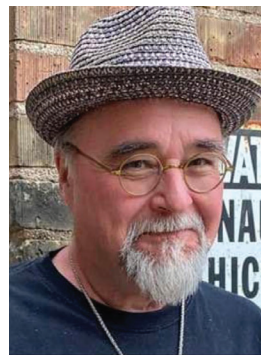
What if we sent a different message? What if—and I know this might require constitutional changes—every resident got an oil rebate check every year just like Alaskans? Imagine every family member receiving \$2,000 just for living here. Instead, we keep giving Big Oil tax cuts for no reason. Folks, they're only here because we've got oil. Duh.

What if we significantly paid down higher education and healthcare costs for residents? Incentivize North Dakota citizenship! Cuz, you know the weather isn't working for us. Unless, maybe, we put a snowmobile in every garage.

Legislators need to seriously consider the messages they're broadcasting to the world. The citizens of this once-great state are overwhelmingly kind, openminded, and far more progressive than those who purportedly represent us. Let's reflect that. Let that be our message.

Make North Dakota Great Again.

© Tony Bender, 2023



## That's Life

by Tony Bender

Andre Carter II - Edge Rusher (Army)  
With the rumors swirling around Za'Darius Smith not wanting to remain in Minnesota, some experts thought the Vikings needed to address the edge rusher position in this year's draft. Surprisingly, the Vikings waited until after the draft to do so by signing Andre Carter II, the undrafted edge rusher out of Army. Carter, who stands 6'6" was ranked on the consensus draft board as the 101st overall player in this year's draft. Based on that ranking, Carter should have gone in the late third round.

Carter's fall out of the draft can be likely chalked up to his disappointing 2022 season at Army. In 2021, Carter was a star at Army with an impressive 15.5 sacks, the second most sacks in the country that year. However, Carter's performance dipped massively in 2022 as he was able to only make a total of 3.5 sacks. Carter's lack of production in 2022, along with his skinny frame for an edge rusher, made Carter fall entirely out of the draft. However, if the Vikings can find a way to bulk up Carter, he could become a useful edge rusher for the Vikings in the future.

Ivan Pace Jr. - Inside Linebacker (Cincinnati)

Ivan Pace Jr. was one of the most unique players coming into this year's draft. Standing at only 5'10", he is quite undersized for the inside linebacker position. However, Pace makes up for his lack of size through his athleticism and aggression. What makes Pace so unique is the way he played the inside linebacker position in college. In today's NFL, inside linebackers are asked to cover wide receivers and tight ends more than they have before. Rarely are inside linebackers asked to blitz the quarterback on pass plays. However, that's what made Pace so impressive in college. In his lone season at Cincinnati, Pace blitzed so often on pass plays that he ended with a staggering nine sacks on the season.

Coming into this year's draft, the consensus draft board had Pace ranked as the 153rd overall player, in other words, a 5th-round ranking. However, given Pace's lack of size and that the inside linebacker position has started to lose value in the current NFL, NFL teams did not value Pace enough to take him in the draft and Pace went surprisingly undrafted.

With the departure of Eric Kendricks this offseason, the starting inside linebacker duo for the Vikings will likely be Jordan Hicks and Brian Asamoah. After that, the position group is slim and Pace has a legitimate chance to be the third inside linebacker on the depth chart come September. With Brian Flores as the new defensive coordinator, the Vikings might get creative with how they use Pace, should he make the final roster.

Here is the full list of undrafted players who signed with Minnesota:

- OL Alan Ali, TCU
- DT Calvin Avery, Illinois
- ILB Abraham Beuplan, Marshall
- OLB Andre Carter II, Army
- OL Jacky Chen, Pace
- CB C.J. Coldon, Oklahoma
- ILB Wilson Huber, Cincinnati
- WR Cephus Johnson, Southeastern Louisiana
- WR Malik Knowles, Kansas State
- ILB Ivan Pace, Jr., Cincinnati
- K Jack Podlesny, Georgia
- TE Ben Sims, Baylor
- WR Thayer Thomas, N.C. State
- CB NaJee Thompson, Georgia Southern
- CB Jaylin Williams, Indiana

## Weekly Vikings Recap - Undrafted Free Agents

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud


With the Minnesota Vikings only making six picks in last week's NFL Draft, the team made a concerted effort to sign some of the most coveted prospects that went undrafted. In total, the Vikings signed 15 undrafted players this past week. Most of these players will likely not make the final roster come September, and many of them are honestly just on the Vikings as of now so the team has enough players for all their offseason practices. However, there are two players in this undrafted group that fans should keep an eye on as they have a legitimate shot to make the Vikings' final 53-man roster and even make major contributions to the team this year.

# MEYERS

## TRACTOR SALVAGE

ABERDEEN, SD

1000+ Salvaged Tractors & Combines  
400+ Reground Crankshafts  
500+ Tractor Tires  
300+ Rebuilt Radiators



Large Line of Swather, Baler & Cutter Parts.

**GREAT BUYS & SERVICE!**

WANT TO BUY TRACTORS, COMBINES & SWATHERS FOR SALVAGE

Phone (605) 225-0185

5 Miles North & 1 Mile West of CASE-IH

# GROTON

605/397-2311

[www.grotonford.com](http://www.grotonford.com)

## Groton Chiropractic Clinic

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.

1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204

## JOHNSON AGENCY

Real Estate & Insurance

Jay Johnson, Broker

[www.johnsonagencygroton.com](http://www.johnsonagencygroton.com)

102 N Main St. Office: 605/397-2424  
Groton, SD 57445 Home: 605/397-8565

## Harry Implement

"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"



(605) 395-6421

Ferney

# We the People

The South Dakota Humanities Council is making available a weekly column -- "We the People" -- that focuses on the U.S. Constitution. It is written by David Adler, who is president of The Alturas Institute, a non-profit organization created to promote the Constitution, gender equality, and civic education.



By David Adler

## Church and State: The Court Prohibits Religious Tests for Office

Delegates to the Constitutional Convention, as part of their commitment to separating church from state, unanimously adopted a clause in Article VI, declaring that "no religious Test shall ever be required as a qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States."

In their adoption of the Oath Clause, the Framers demonstrated a liberality of spirit because all of delegates except those from New York and Virginia came from states that discriminated against some religious denominations by imposing some religious test as a requirement for holding public office. By prohibiting religious tests, the Convention showed a greater respect for religious liberty than most of the states.

The constitutional prohibition on religious tests was a reaction to the odious English practice, inherited by American colonies, of imposing a religious test or oath of those holding office. In the early 18th century, for example, Rhode Island enacted a law that limited citizenship and eligibility for public office to Protestants. A Pennsylvania law required a belief that God was "the rewarder of the good and punisher of the wicked." North Carolina disqualified from office anyone who denied the existence of God, the truth of the Protestant religion or the divine authority of either the Old or New Testament.

These laws—establishments of religion—became the objects of attack after the Revolutionary War by those seeking "disestablishment," including the elimination of religious tests. In 1786, the Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom, authored by Thomas Jefferson, declared that "our civil rights have no dependence on our religious opinions," and proscribed religious tests as violating the natural rights of citizens. James Madison made this statute the centerpiece of the First Amendment when he introduced the Bill of rights three years later.

In the view of the Framers of the Constitution, the Oath Clause was critical to the protection of religious liberty. A law characterizing citizens as unworthy of holding office unless they professed or renounced state approved religions was a recipe for theocracy and tyranny, not republicanism.

The constitutional prohibition, however, only applied to federal offices, and some states had religious tests in their laws or constitutions and did not repeal them. Some, such as Maryland, prohibited citizens from holding office unless they swore a belief in the existence of God. Article 37 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights was invoked to deny an otherwise fully qualified citizen from holding office—appointment

as a Notary public—for refusing to sign the state's oath.

In 1961, in the landmark case of *Torcaso v. Watkins*, the Supreme Court held the denial unconstitutional. The Court, in a unanimous opinion written by Justice Hugo Black, ruled that the oath violated both the First Amendment's Establishment Clause and Free Exercise Clause, as well as the liberty guarantee of the Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment.

The Court pointed out that the Establishment Clause prohibits not merely preferential treatment of one religion over another but also preferential treatment of religion against nonreligion. The oath requirement constituted a law representing an establishment of religion. Invoking the Free Exercise Clause, the Court said that the oath also invades "freedom of religion and belief."

Justice Black invoked the history of the practice of imposing religious oaths. He wrote, "It was largely to escape religious test oaths and declarations that a great many of the early colonists left Europe and came here to worship in their own way." Ironically, once they were in America, many "turned out to be perfectly willing, when they had power to do so, to force dissenters from their faith to take test oaths in conformity with that faith." Religious persecution, although denounced in principle, seemed to turn on who was holding the big stick.

Justice Black stated that neither a state nor the federal government could constitutionally force individuals to profess a belief or a disbelief in any religion, impose requirements that aid religions as against non-believers, or aid religions based on a belief in the existence of God as against religions based on different beliefs. Black pointed to Buddhism and Taoism as religions that do not teach "what would generally be considered belief in the existence of God." Maryland's religious test for public office unconstitutionally invaded *Torcaso's* "freedom of belief and religion and therefore cannot be enforced against him."

Justice Black, who had written several other opinions for the Court on issues that raised separation of church and state concerns, drew upon an earlier opinion and stated that "the test oath is abhorrent to our tradition."

Black dismissed Maryland's argument that *Torcaso* is "not compelled to hold office." Black wrote that the "fact that a person is not compelled to hold public office cannot possibly be excuse for barring him by state-imposed criteria forbidden by the Constitution." A constitutional right to hold office cannot be reduced to a mere "abstract right," which would make folly of the Bill of Rights.

As in so many landmark cases involving civil rights and civil liberties, it is the character of the state that is under scrutiny. States, like individuals, are better guided by the liberality of spirit displayed by the Framers when they sought protection for religious liberty by curbing the instincts of lawmakers to require adherence to religion in the public square.



It's a dirty job, but someone has to do it. Tate Larson was busy scrubbing off the bird poop on the bleachers at Locke-Karst Field on Monday.



## New Legion members installed

New members Ben Smith and Todd McGannon were installed last night by Post Commander, Bruce Babcock, in Groton American Legion Post 39. (L-R) Ben Smith, Todd McGannon and Bruce Babcock all of Groton. (Courtesy Photo)

## Guthmiller places fourth at Roncalli Golf Meet

The Groton Area girls golf team took part in its first meet of the year, Thursday, at Lee Park in Aberdeen. Carly Guthmiller placed fourth with a score of 88, Mia Crank was 12th with a 96, Shaylee Peterson was 17th with a 99, Carlee Johnson was 21st with a 105 and Carly Gilbert was 22nd with a 108. Overall, Groton Area placed third with a score of 388.

## Guthmiller takes first at Milbank golf meet

Carly Guthmiller took first place at the Milbank Invitational golf meet held Monday. Guthmiller shot a 39 in the front nine, five strokes better than the second place golfer to help propel her to the win. She shot a 36 in the back nine and finished with a total score of 85. The runner-up was Madison's Delilah Maxwell who shot a 90.

Others golfing for Groton Area were Carly Gilbert with a 115, Shaylee Peterson with a 113, Carlee Johnson with a 114 and Mia Crank with a 127. Madison won the team title with 399 points while Groton Area took second with 427, Roncalli had a 438 and Milbank had a 468.

## NOTICES

ADVERTISE IN NEWSPAPERS statewide for only \$150. Put the South Dakota Statewide Classifieds Network to work for you today! (25 words for \$150. Each additional word \$5.) Statewide Full Digital Ad is \$300 for 1 week. Call the Groton Independent at 397-7460 for details.

"From minor scratches to a complete rebuild... we can do it all!"

**NOW OPEN**

# Harris

**Auto Body** ABDN

225 Brown County Hwy 19 South  
Aberdeen: 605/725-4900

# The Groton Independent

21 N Main, Groton 605/397-NEWS (6397)  
Paul Irvin Kosel, Publisher [paperpaul@grotonsd.net](mailto:paperpaul@grotonsd.net) ~ 605-397-7460

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

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

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

Deadline to submit items: Noon Monday]

Yearly Subscription Rates are listed below. The Groton Independent (USPS# 230-440) is published weekly with its periodicals postage paid at Groton, SD.

**Postmaster: Send address changes to Groton Independent, PO Box 34, Groton, SD 57445**

© 2023 The Groton Independent

## School Board

Continued from front

The whole idea behind renovating the old gym was to involve the community and raise funds for the work, Gengerke said.

"So we'll wait for a more itemized report to see if anything's even feasible," she said. "Keep playing the lottery."

### Budget process begins

The board also took a look at the preliminary 2024 fiscal year budget.

From the 2023 fiscal year to the 2024 fiscal year, general fund expenses and revenues are both set to rise, said Business Manager Mike Weber. However, the general fund balance is budgeted to drop \$40,000 to \$1,302,652. The general fund balance has been falling since fiscal year 2021.

The capital outlay fund balance is also set to go down, with projects like the HVAC system upgrades and health science lab improvements taking place this summer.

The special education fund balance increased from the 2022 fiscal year to the 2023 fiscal year due to an open position that wasn't filled during this school year. However, the fund balance is budgeted to decrease in the 2024 fiscal year as new special education staff are hired.

### New athletic director is familiar face

The board approved hiring Alexa Schuring as athletic director for the 2023-2024 school year.

The idea was to bring the position back within the district's staff, said Board President Deb Gengerke. Currently the district has an off-staff extra-curricular agreement for the position.

Brian Dolan has served as athletic director and head boys basketball coach since 2019. Before that, he held both those positions at Roncalli High School in Aberdeen.

In Groton, the athletic director position has been held by Superintendent Joe Schwan and, before him, Brian Schuring. Brian Schuring resigned as athletic director in 2018.

Now a new Schuring is taking the mantle as new athletic director.

Alexa Schuring, Brian Schuring's daughter, is currently the district's Title Math Interventionist. She has also been the junior high volleyball coach and a former Groton Area athlete.

- The board voted to hire Sadie Hanna as an elementary special education teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. Hanna is currently a reading tutor at May Overby Elementary School in Aberdeen. She completed her Bachelor's Degree at Northern State University. The salary rate will be published in July with other 2023-2024 school year teacher salaries.

- The board voted to issue off-staff extra-curricular agreements for the 2023-2024 school year.

- Chelsea Hanson as head volleyball coach for \$4,950

- Jenna Strom as assistant volleyball coach for \$3,150

- Kelby Tracy as junior high volleyball coach for \$2,250

- Seth Erickson as assistant football coach for \$3,150

- Darin Zoellner as head wrestling coach for \$5,400

- Ryan Scepaniak as assistant wrestling coach for \$3,600

- Matt Locke as head girls basketball coach for \$5,400

- Trent Traphagen as assistant girls basketball coach for \$3,600

- Brian Dolan as head boys basketball coach for \$5,400

- Chris Kucker as head girls soccer coach for \$3,150

- Aubray Miller as football cheer and co-basketball cheer coach for \$2,025

- Madisen Bjerke as co-basketball cheer coach for \$1,012.50

- Kristi Peterson as yearbook adviser for \$3,600

- Amanda Bisbee as all-school play adviser for \$2,250

- Brenda Madsen as senior class adviser for \$450

- Amy Warrington as show choir adviser for \$4,500

- Groton Area School District will cast ballots for South Dakota High School Activities Association positions and amendments. The district board supported Randy Hartmann of Pierre School District for large school board of education member and Adam Shaw of Madison High School for Division III representative. The board also voted "yes" to amend the SDHSA Constitution to tighten rules prohibiting recruitment of athletes and clarify student and coach ejections from games.

- The board approved hiring Jordan Carson as junior high football coach for the 2023-2024 school year at 5 percent of base salary.

- The district will hire Chantel Duerre as middle and high school special education teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. Duerre had worked with a teacher at Groton Area School District before and has spent the last two years teaching in Langford and Britton-Hecla.

- The board approved 11 open enrollment applications for the 2023-2024 school year. Open enrollment applications allow parents or guardians to request to enroll their student in a different district than they live in. Board member Tigh Fliehs asked about denial based on capacity in classrooms. Superintendent Schwan answered district policy wouldn't allow open enrollment if there were too many students in classrooms. The levels are dependent on grade. Kindergarten through second grade can't exceed 26 students per teacher. Third through fifth grade can't exceed 28 students per teacher. Sixth through eighth grade can't exceed 30 students per teacher. And ninth through twelves grade classes can't exceed building capacity.

- Elementary School Principal Brett Schwan's report included a playground slide update (new slide has arrived, but likely won't be installed until after school is out), the track and field day date and times (May 12) and recent field trips.

- Middle School and High School Principal Kiersten Sombke's report included NWEA MAPS testing times (May 10 through May 25 for sixth grade through 11th grade students), American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Presentation for eighth through 11th grade students on May 9 and graduation rehearsal and ceremony times.

## Classifieds

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

WELL ESTABLISHED RAPID CITY tour company for sale with a turn key operation opportunity. Outstanding customer service and figures. More Information call: 605-786-4941.

### EMPLOYMENT

NEW STARTING PAY! THE MOBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT is hiring for full-time Police Officers. Pay is DOE. Applications may be obtained through the Mobridge Police Department website or by calling 605-845-5000.

BULK FUEL DRIVER. Deliver fuel (regular CDL w/HazMat endorsement required). Wages DOE. Benefit package. Contact Bruce Yanish. 605-579-0192 or 605-772-5568. Howard SD Farmers Coop.

### LAND

FARMLAND rents are strong. Do you need representation or a Farmland Manager? Contact Tim Peters at 605.270.9410 or [tpeters@pifers.com](mailto:tpeters@pifers.com). Pifer's Land Management, [www.pifers.com](http://www.pifers.com)

### PETS

USE ItchNoMore® SHAMPOO on dogs & cats to relieve secondary dermatitis, treat yeast infections, & eliminate doggy odor. At Tractor Supply® ([www.fleabeacon.com](http://www.fleabeacon.com))

## The Groton Independent

Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

### Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.5% Sales Tax

- Black & White.....\$48.99/year
- Colored.....\$79.88/year
- Colored.....\$42.60/6 months
- E-Weekly\*.....\$31.95/year

\* The E-Weekly is a PDF file emailed to you each week. It does not grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

## Groton Daily Independent

[www.397news.com](http://www.397news.com)

### Subscription Form

This option will grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

- 1 Month.....\$15.98
- 3 Months.....\$26.63
- 6 Months.....\$31.95
- 9 Months.....\$42.60
- 12 Months.....\$53.25

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

The following will be used for your log-in information.

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Password \_\_\_\_\_



Pay with Paypal. Type the following into your browser window:

[paypal.me/paperpaul](https://paypal.me/paperpaul)

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent

P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034

or scan and email to [paperpaul@grotonsd.net](mailto:paperpaul@grotonsd.net)

## Girls win 10 events at Webster Invitational Track

The Groton Area girls track team took first in 10 events at the Webster Invitational Track Meet held Monday. Winners in the girl's varsity division were Talli Wright in the 300m hurdles, McKenna Tietz in the 200m run, Ashlynn Warrington in the 400m dash, Faith Traphagen in the 800m run, Aspen Johnson in the long jump and triple jump, and the 400, 800, 1600 and medley relay teams.

In the junior high division, Ruelle Gilbert was the lone winner, taking the 800m run.

### Varsity

**100m Hurdles - 30":** 2. Talli Wright, 20.53; 3. Hannah Sandness, 22.09

**300m Hurdles:** 1. Talli Wright, 54.32; 2. McKenna Tietz, 56.01; 4. Hannah Sandness, 1:01.39

**100 Meters:** 9. Shaela McGannon, 16.22

**200 Meters:** 1. McKenna Tietz, 17.71; 3. Rylee Dunker, 19.34; 4. Talli Wright, 19.98

**400 Meters:** 1. Ashlynn Warrington, 1:07.86; 4. Elizabeth Fliehs, 1:11.92

**800 Meters:** 1. Faith Traphagen, 2:38.58; 2. Taryn Traphagen, 2:41.25; 4. Ashlynn Warrington, 2:52.98; 5. Elizabeth Fliehs, 2:57.45

**4x100 Relay:** 1. (Rylee Dunker, McKenna Tietz, Talli Wright, Laila Roberts), 55.39

**4x200 Relay:** 1. (Rylee Dunker, Jerica Locke, Laila Roberts, Taryn Traphagen), 1:57.45

**4x800 Relay:** 1. (Taryn Traphagen, Faith Traphagen, Ashlynn Warrington, McKenna Tietz), 10:45.83

**SMR 1600m:** 1. (Jerica Locke, Rylee Dunker, Kennedy Hansen, Kella Tracy), 4:36.12

**High Jump:** 3. Emerlee Jones, 4-05.00; 5. Anna Fjeldheim, 4-03.00

**Long Jump:** 1. Aspen Johnson, 14-10.75; 2. Sydney Leicht, 14-04.50; 10. Shaela McGannon, 11-06.00

**Triple Jump:** 1. Aspen Johnson, 32-06.00; 4. Emerlee Jones, 27-02.00

**Discus:** 7. Faith Fliehs, 74-09; 10. Emma Kutter, 65-06; 15. Kayleigh McGannon, 56-06; 16. Ashley Johnson, 48-08; 18. Emma Davies, 36-04

**Shot Put - 6lb:** 2. Emma Kutter, 30-01.00; 9. Faith Fliehs, 25-03.00; 14. Ashley Johnson, 21-02.00; 17. Kayleigh McGannon, 19-03.50; 18. Emma Davies, 18-01.00

### Seventh Grade

**200m Hurdles - 30":** 4. Ella Kettner, 40.40

**100 Meters:** 7. MaKenna Krause, 15.69; 10. Chesney Weber, 16.55; 14. Kinsley Rowin, 16.94; 17. Journey Zieroth, 17.09; 19. Ella Kettner, 17.23; 20. Sydney Locke, 17.28; 31. Rylie Rose, 17.84; 35. Kyleigh Kroll, 19.38

**200 Meters:** 13. Sydney Locke, 37.05; 14. Ella Kettner, 37.21; 25. MaKenna Krause, 4:18.31; 30. Rylie Rose, 4:39.72

**400 Meters:** 10. Addison Hoeft, 1:33.71

**800 Meters:** 1. Ruelle Gilbert, 2:57.72

**1600 Meters:** 2. Ruelle Gilbert, 6:35.29; 3. Rylie Rose, 7:48.20

**4x100 Relay:** 3. (Kinsley Rowin, Sydney Locke, Chesney Weber, MaKenna Krause), 1:02.56

**4x200 Relay:** 4. (Kinsley Rowin, Ruelle Gilbert, Chesney Weber, MaKenna Krause), 2:10.79

**old SMR 100-100-200-400m:** 4. (Sydney Locke, Libby Cole, Kinsley Rowin, Ruelle Gilbert), 2:24.73

**High Jump:** 7. Addison Hoeft, 3-07.00

**Long Jump:** 11. Rylie Rose, 9-00.00

**100m Hurdles - 30":** 4. Ella Kettner, 22.41; 6. Journey Zieroth, 23.04; 10. Addison Hoeft, 25.26

**Discus:** 4. Libby Cole, 58-00; 12. Kyleigh Kroll, 39-07

**Shot Put - 6lb:** 7. Libby Cole, 25-08.50; 13. Kyleigh Kroll, 20-07.00; 14. Journey Zieroth, 16-06.00

### Eighth Grade

**100m Hurdles - 30":** 5. Teagan Hanten, 20.95

**100 Meters:** 11. Addison Hoffman, 16.97

**4x100 Relay:** 4. (Addison Hoffman, Teagan Hanten, Journey Zieroth, Avery Crank), 1:04.31

**Long Jump:** 5. Addison Hoffman, 10-09.00; 6. Teagan Hanten, 10-06.50

**Triple Jump:** 3. Teagan Hanten, 26-03.50; 4. Addison Hoffman, 24-06.50

**Discus:** 3. Avery Crank, 64-03

**Shot Put - 6lb:** 5. Avery Crank, 26-08.75

## Groton Area boys win six events at Webster Invitational Track

The Groton Area boys varsity track team won six events in the varsity level and seven events in the seventh grade division. Winners in the varsity division were Andrew Marzahn in the 100m run, Blake Pauli in the 800m run, Jacob Zak in the long jump, Logan Ringgenberg in the discus and the 400 and sprint medley relay teams.

Ryder Schelle was a quadruple winner in the seventh grade division, winning the 100m, 200m, 400m dashes and was on the winning 400m relay team.

### Varsity

**110m Hurdles:** 2. Caden McInerney, 20.09

**300m Hurdles - 30":** 4. Caden McInerney, 48.13

**100 Meters:** 1. Andrew Marzahn, 11.98; 2. Jacob Zak, 12.10; 3. Korbin Kucker, 12.17; 4. Teylor Diegel, 12.28; 12. Logan Ringgenberg, 13.36; 14. Logan Warrington, 14.35

**200 Meters:** 3. Lane Tietz, 24.29; 9. Colby Dunker, 26.37; 11. Gage Sippel, 26.51; 18. Caden McInerney, 29.90

**400 Meters:** 4. Gage Sippel, 58.83; 6. Logan Warrington, 1:04.14

**800 Meters:** 1. Blake Pauli, 2:13.90; 5. Jayden Schwan, 2:30.48; 10. Tristin McGannon, 2:42.12

**1600 Meters:** 2. Jayden Schwan, 5:36.00; 5. Nicolas Fernandez, 6:29.42; 6. Garrett Schultz, 6:31.38

**4x100 Relay:** 1. (Korbin Kucker, Ryder Johnson, Teylor Diegel, Andrew Marzahn), 45.47

**4x200 Relay:** 2. (Korbin Kucker, Lane Tietz, Teylor Diegel, Andrew Marzahn), 1:39.96

**4x800 Relay:** 2. (Colby Dunker, Jacob Lewandowski, Blake Pauli, Tristin McGannon), 9:23.11

**SMR 1600m:** 1. (Ryder Johnson, Lane Tietz, Cole Simon, Keegen Tracy), 3:50.90

**Long Jump:** 1. Jacob Zak, 19-03.75; 4. Gage Sippel, 17-11.00; 5. Tristin McGannon, 16-02.50

**Triple Jump:** 2. Jacob Zak, 38-09.50; 4. Tristin McGannon, 32-09.00

**Discus - 1kg:** 1. Logan Ringgenberg, 122-10; 4. Kaleb Antonsen, 109-09; 5. Holden Sippel, 102-03; 8. Karter Moody, 95-04; 9. Caleb Hanten, 95-02; 18. Drew Thurston, 69-11; 21. Payton Mitchell, 64-09

**Shot Put - 8lb:** 2. Logan Ringgenberg, 40-02.00; 3. Holden Sippel, 40-00.00; 4. Caleb Hanten, 39-07.25; 5. Karter Moody, 37-08.00; 6. Kaleb Antonsen, 37-02.75; 11. Drew Thurston, 32-11.00; 23. Payton Mitchell, 25-02.25

### Seventh Grade

**100 Meters:** 1. Ryder Schelle, 13.78; 2. Easton Weber, 14.41; 3. Owen Sperry, 14.49

**200 Meters:** 1. Ryder Schelle, 28.88; 2. Owen Sperry, 29.27; 3. Ethan Kroll, 30.10

**400 Meters:** 1. Ryder Schelle, 1:08.75

**800 Meters:** 2. Jace Johnson, 2:58.04; 3. Kason Oswald, 3:31.36

**1600 Meters:** 2. Jace Johnson, 6:35.88; 3. T.C Schuster, 6:51.14; 4. Kason Oswald, 8:22.45

**4x100 Relay:** 1. (Owen Sperry, Easton Weber, Karson Zak, Ryder Schelle), 53.57

**SMR 800m:** 1. (Owen Sperry, Easton Weber, Jace Johnson, Karson Zak), 2:02.14

**High Jump:** 2. T.C Schuster, 4-03.00; 2. Ethan Kroll, 4-03.00

**Triple Jump:** 1. Karson Zak, 32-01.50

**Shot Put - 8lb:** 3. Quinn Cogley, 23-06.00; 11. Shaydon Wood, 16-08.00

**Long Jump:** 1. Karson Zak, 14-08.00; 2. Ethan Kroll, 14-03.00; 10. T.C Schuster, 12-04.00; 12. Jace Johnson, 11-07.00; 13. Quinn Cogley, 11-04.00

**Discus - 1kg:** 3. Quinn Cogley, 61-06; 9. Shaydon Wood, 48-09

### Eighth Grade

**100 Meters:** 6. Gavin Kroll, 14.54; 13. Aiden Strom, 15.94

**200 Meters:** 5. Aiden Strom, 32.42; 7. Blake Lord, 34.29; 8. Brody Lord, 35.09

**800 Meters:** 7. Gavin Kroll, 2:45.03; 8. Blake Lord, 2:54.94

**4x100 Relay:** 3. (Aiden Strom, Gavin Kroll, Blake Lord, Brody Lord), 1:00.16

**Long Jump:** 7. Aiden Strom, 11-08.00

## Groton Area in top 24 in 10 Events

Some went up, some went down in the latest track rankings by the South Dakota High School Activities Association. Jacob Zak fell out of the top 24 in the triple jump while Lane Tietz is knocking on the door in the 200m dash. Eight relay teams remain in the top 24. Aspen Johnson in the triple jump and Emma Kutter in the shot put also remain in the top 24.

**Girls 4x200 Relay:** Groton Area fell to 14th (10th last week) with a time of 1:52.27.

**Girls 4x400 Relay:** Groton Area moved up five places to 19th with an improved time of 4:22.54. Their time last week was 4:30.89.

**Girls 4x800m Relay:** Groton Area fell one spot to 15th with a same time of 10:41.24.

**Girls Sprint Medley:** Groton Area fell five spots to 19th with a same time of 4:37.60.

**Shot Put:** Emma Kutter fell one spot to 21st with a same distance of 34-4.

**Triple Jump:** Aspen Johnson remains at 14th with a same distance of 32-9.

**Boys 200m Dash:** Lane Tietz is in 26th place with a time of 23.74. The 24th place time is 23.72.

**Boys 4x100m Relay:** Groton Area fell one spot to 16th despite taking .06 off their time which is now 45.74.

**Boys 4x200m Relay:** Groton Area moved up three spots to 14th with an improved time of 1:34.84. Their last time was 1:35.87.

**Boys 4x400m Relay:** Groton Area moved up five spots to 10th place with a time of 3:37.04. Their former time was 3:40.49.

**Boys 4x800m Relay:** Groton Area dropped five spots to 21st with a same time of 8:59.34

**Boys Triple Jump:** Jacob Zak fell two spots to 25th place with the same distance of 39-00.5.

# Princess Prom: Enchanted Forest Part 2



**Eric Moody escorting Maycee and Mya Moody.** (Photo #6097 by Paul Kosel)



**Jordan Bethke escorting Karter Merkel.** (Photo #6094 by Paul Kosel)



**Keith Wipf escorting River Wipf.** (Photo #6100 by Paul Kosel)



**Jeff Flihs escorting Sophia Flihs.** (Photo #6095 by Paul Kosel)



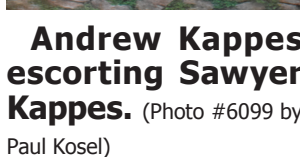
**Randy Lord escorting Jozie Lord.** (Photo #6101 by Paul Kosel)



**Mark Thompson escorting Taylor Thompson.** (Photo #6096 by Paul Kosel)



**John Witchey escorting Chloe Witchey.** (Photo #6102 by Paul Kosel)



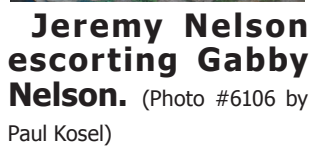
**Heath Giedt escorting Preslee, Emersyn and Hazel Giedt.** (Photo #6098 by Paul Kosel)



**John Florey escorting Atleigh Florey.** (Photo #6104 by Paul Kosel)



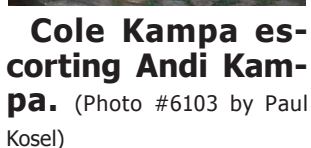
**Adam Borg escorting Gracie and Kylie Borg.** (Photo #6107 by Paul Kosel)



**Jeremy Nelson escorting Gabby Nelson.** (Photo #6106 by Paul Kosel)



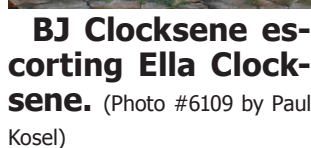
**Scott Kampa escorting Dacey Kampa.** (Photo #6110 by Paul Kosel)



**Cole Kampa escorting Andi Kampa.** (Photo #6103 by Paul Kosel)



**Joshua Cowan escorting Willow and Aspen Cowan.** (Photo #6108 by Paul Kosel)



**BJ Clocksene escorting Ella Clocksene.** (Photo #6109 by Paul Kosel)



**Scotty Hinman escorting Nori and Kodi Hinman.** (Photo #6111 by Paul Kosel)



**Jade Weig escorting Jernie Weig.** (Photo #6112 by Paul Kosel)



**Shawn Hulbert escorting Rayna Loeschke.** (Photo #6115 by Paul Kosel)



**Travis Swisher escorting Molly Swisher.** (Photo #6117 by Paul Kosel)



**Tony Mulder escorting Railey Mulder.** (Photo #6116 by Paul Kosel)



**Jason Hill escorting Hazel Hill.** (Photo #6113 by Paul Kosel)



**Dustin Stahl escorting Madilyn Stahl.** (Photo #6118 by Paul Kosel)



**Logan Huber escorting Avery and Liv Huber.** (Photo #6114 by Paul Kosel)



**Ryan Tarpein escorting Kate Tarpein.** (Photo #6119 by Paul Kosel)

**HARR Motors**  
www.harrmotors.com  
605-225-3078 ~ 1-800-658-3463

**Hanlon Brothers Gravel Hauling**  
New & Cleaning of Stockdams with our 60' reach trackhoe  
**605/395-6531**



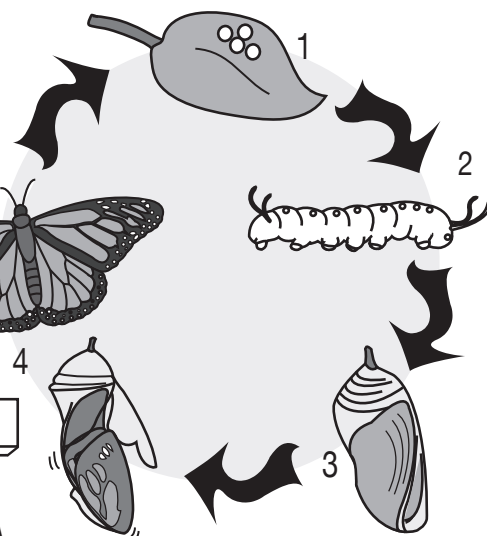
## Butterflies

Have you ever watched butterflies flutter by and wondered where they come from and where they go? I wanted to learn more about them, so I visited a butterfly house, where I learned that there are more than 17,500 kinds of butterflies. They live everywhere except Antarctica. I'd tell you more, but I want you to **read my clues to fill in my puzzle!**

### Butterflies:

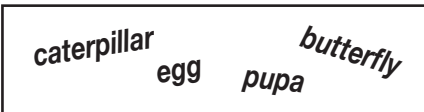
- are \_\_\_\_\_, they have 6 legs.
- have 2 pairs of \_\_\_\_\_ and a narrow body
- have a \_\_\_\_\_ from one half inch (the Pygmy Blue found in southern U.S.) to almost a foot (Queen Alexandra's Birdwing in rain forests of New Guinea)
- have a sense of taste through their \_\_\_\_\_
- feed on nectar from \_\_\_\_\_ or juice from rotting fruit through a "strawlike" tongue
- "\_\_\_\_\_ " through their antennae
- can see \_\_\_\_\_: red, green and yellow
- have skeletons on the \_\_\_\_\_ of their bodies (exoskeleton)
- are protected from being \_\_\_\_\_ by their terrible odor or taste
- may have \_\_\_\_\_ on their wings that scare predators away
- colors may help them \_\_\_\_\_ or blend with backgrounds
- fly mostly during the \_\_\_\_\_
- hang from leaves, crawl into cracks in rocks to sleep at \_\_\_\_\_
- live for about one \_\_\_\_\_ (some live longer)

(A Cycle of Life)  
Metamorphosis  
(Transforming or changing)



Do you know the four stages of a butterfly's life? **Read the clues to fill in the blanks and find out!**

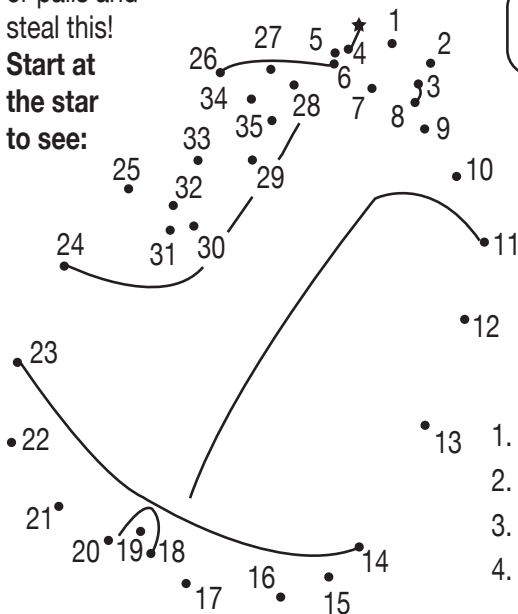
- a butterfly \_\_\_\_\_ is laid on a leaf
- a \_\_\_\_\_ (larva) hatches and eats its own eggshell, then it eats the leaves of the plant on which it hatched
- it hangs by silken threads and forms a \_\_\_\_\_ (or chrysalis)
- later, the \_\_\_\_\_ (winged adult) comes out - and the cycle begins again



## What's In a Name? Butterfly Thieves!

Although butterflies have nothing to do with butter, the English called them "butterflies" because many years ago they were thought to flutter around, land on butterchurns or pails and steal this!

**Start at the star to see:**



Who's taking whaaaaaat?



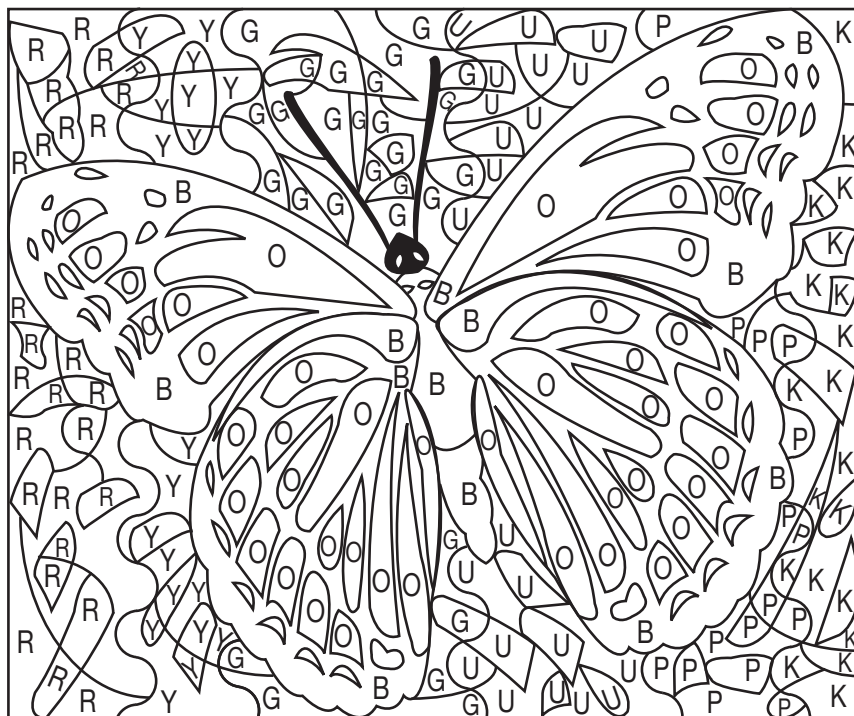
- O = orange
- B = black
- R = red
- Y = yellow
- G = green
- U = blue
- P = purple
- K = pink

12 Butterflies have different names in other languages. **Match these up!**

- |    |            |  |
|----|------------|--|
| 13 | 1. English | A. papillon (also a dog with "butterfly"-looking ears) |
|    | 2. French  | B. butterfly   |
|    | 3. Russian | C. petalouda (petal leaf)                              |
|    | 4. Greek   | D. babochka (bow tie)                                  |

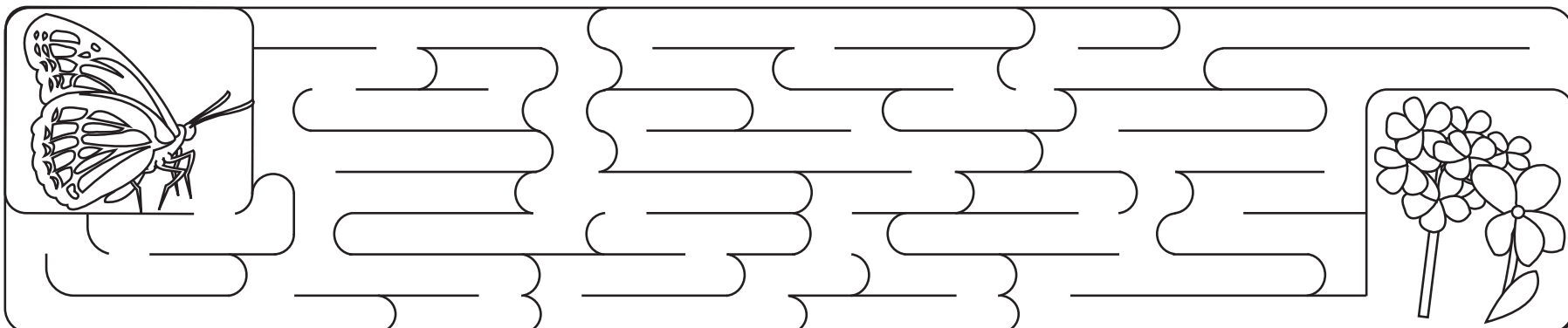
## Monarch Migration

Monarch butterflies travel over 2,000 miles from the U.S. to Mexico. They start flying at the end of summer and get there by November to stay for the winter. **Use the color key to see what they look like!**



## Butterfly House

Have you ever heard of a Butterfly House or Zoo? They are places where butterflies live protected. They are full of plants and flowers! The butterflies breed and live in an environment set up for all their needs. **Help the butterfly land on the flowers:**



FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022 ILLINOIS MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE CO HOME OFFICE ADDRESS: 300 SW ADAMS, PEORIA, IL 61634 MAIL ADDRESS: 300 SW ADAMS, PEORIA, IL 61634

Table with financial data including Bonds, Stocks, Mortgage Loans, Real Estate, Policy Loans, Cash and Bank Deposits, Agents Balances, Uncollected Premiums, Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income, Due and Accrued, Other Assets, TOTAL ASSETS, LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS, Reserve for Losses, Policies & Contracts, Reserve for Accident & Health Policies, Policy and Contract Claims, Life, Accident & Health General Expenses, Due or Accrued, Taxes, Licenses & Fees, Federal Income Taxes, All Other Liabilities, Special Surplus Funds, Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit, Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus, Unassigned Surplus, Surplus as Regards, Policyholders, TOTAL, BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2022, Direct Premiums Written, Direct Premiums Earned, Direct Losses Paid, Losses Incurred, Life Insurance in Force.

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA DIVISION OF INSURANCE STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY WHEREAS, the Illinois Mutual Life Insurance Co, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Illinois, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota:

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

- 1, 2
1) Life; 2) Health; 3) Fire & Allied Lines; 4) Inland & Ocean Marine; 5) Workmen's Compensation; 6) Bodily Injury Liability (Other than Auto); 7) Property Damage (Other than Auto); 8) Auto Property Damage; 10) Auto Property 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., 2023.
LARRY DEITER Director of Insurance

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022 THE AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE COMPANY OF HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT HOME OFFICE ADDRESS: ONE TOWER SQUARE, HARTFORD, CT 06183 MAIL ADDRESS: ONE TOWER SQUARE, HARTFORD, CT 06183

Table with financial data including Bonds, Stocks, Mortgage Loans on Real Estate, Real Estate Owned, Cash and Bank Deposits, Agents Balances or Uncollected Premiums, Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income, Due and Accrued, Other Assets, TOTAL ASSETS, LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS, Reserve for Losses, Adjustment Expenses, Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees), Taxes, Licenses and Fees (excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes), Federal and Foreign Income Taxes, Unearned Premiums, All Other Liabilities, TOTAL LIABILITIES, Special Surplus Funds, Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit, Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus, Unassigned Surplus, Surplus as Regards, Policyholders, TOTAL, BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2022, Direct Premiums Written, Direct Premiums Earned, Direct Losses Paid, Direct Losses Incurred.

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA DIVISION OF INSURANCE STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY WHEREAS, the 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:

- 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 Property Damage; 10) Auto Property 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., 2023.
LARRY DEITER Director of Insurance

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022 THE STANDARD FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY HOME OFFICE ADDRESS: ONE TOWER SQUARE, HARTFORD, CT 06183 MAIL ADDRESS: ONE TOWER SQUARE, HARTFORD, CT 06183

Table with financial data including Bonds, Stocks, Mortgage Loans on Real Estate, Real Estate Owned, Cash and Bank Deposits, Agents Balances or Uncollected Premiums, Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income, Due and Accrued, Other Assets, TOTAL ASSETS, LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS, Reserve for Losses, Adjustment Expenses, Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees), Taxes, Licenses and Fees (excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes), Federal and Foreign Income Taxes, Unearned Premiums, All Other Liabilities, TOTAL LIABILITIES, Special Surplus Funds, Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit, Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus, Unassigned Surplus, Surplus as Regards, Policyholders, TOTAL, BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2022, Direct Premiums Written, Direct Premiums Earned, Direct Losses Paid, Direct Losses Incurred.

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA DIVISION OF INSURANCE STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY WHEREAS, the The Standard Fire Insurance Company, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Connecticut, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota:

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

- 18, 26, 27
1) Life; 2) Health; 3) Fire & Allied Lines; 4) Inland & Ocean Marine; 5) Workmen's Compensation; 6) Bodily Injury Liability (Other than Auto); 7) Property Damage (Other than Auto); 8) Auto Property Damage; 10) Auto Property 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., 2023.
LARRY DEITER Director of Insurance

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022 AMCO INSURANCE COMPANY HOME OFFICE ADDRESS: 1100 LOCUST STREET, DES MOINES, IA, 50391-1100 MAIL ADDRESS: ONE WEST NATIONWIDE BLVD, 1-99-FIN7, COLUMBUS, OH, 43215-2220

Table with financial data including Bonds, Stocks, Mortgage Loans on Real Estate, Real Estate Owned, Cash and Bank Deposits, Agents Balances or Uncollected Premiums, Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income, Due and Accrued, Other Assets, TOTAL ASSETS, LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS, Reserve for Losses, Adjustment Expenses, Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees), Taxes, Licenses and Fees (excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes), Federal and Foreign Income Taxes, Unearned Premiums, All Other Liabilities, TOTAL LIABILITIES, Special Surplus Funds, Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit, Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus, Unassigned Surplus, Surplus as Regards, Policyholders, TOTAL, BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2022, Direct Premiums Written, Direct Premiums Earned, Direct Losses Paid, Direct Losses Incurred.

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA DIVISION OF INSURANCE STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY WHEREAS, the AMCO Insurance Company, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Iowa, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota:

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

- 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 26, 27
1) Life; 2) Health; 3) Fire & Allied Lines; 4) Inland & Ocean Marine; 5) Workmen's Compensation; 6) Bodily Injury Liability (Other than Auto); 7) Property Damage (Other than Auto); 8) Auto Property Damage; 10) Auto Property 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., 2023.
LARRY DEITER Director of Insurance

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022 AUTO-OWNERS INSURANCE COMPANY HOME OFFICE ADDRESS: 6101 ANACAPRI BOULEVARD, LANSING, MI 48917-3968 MAIL ADDRESS: MI 48917-3968 P.O. BOX 30660, LANSING, MI 48909-8160

Table with financial data including Bonds, Stocks, Mortgage Loans on Real Estate, Real Estate Owned, Cash and Bank Deposits, Agents Balances or Uncollected Premiums, Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income, Due and Accrued, Other Assets, TOTAL ASSETS, LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS, Reserve for Losses, Adjustment Expenses, Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees), Taxes, Licenses and Fees (excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes), Federal and Foreign Income Taxes, Unearned Premiums, All Other Liabilities, TOTAL LIABILITIES, Special Surplus Funds, Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit, Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus, Unassigned Surplus, Surplus as Regards, Policyholders, TOTAL, BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2022, Direct Premiums Written, Direct Premiums Earned, Direct Losses Paid, Direct Losses Incurred.

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 Property Damage; 10) Auto Property 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., 2023.
LARRY DEITER Director of Insurance

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022 TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY HOME OFFICE ADDRESS: ONE TOWER SQUARE, HARTFORD, CT 06183 MAIL ADDRESS: ONE TOWER SQUARE, HARTFORD, CT 06183

Table with financial data including Bonds, Stocks, Mortgage Loans on Real Estate, Real Estate Owned, Cash and Bank Deposits, Agents Balances or Uncollected Premiums, Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income, Due and Accrued, Other Assets, TOTAL ASSETS, LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS, Reserve for Losses, Adjustment Expenses, Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees), Taxes, Licenses and Fees (excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes), Federal and Foreign Income Taxes, Unearned Premiums, All Other Liabilities, TOTAL LIABILITIES, Special Surplus Funds, Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit, Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus, Unassigned Surplus, Surplus as Regards, Policyholders, TOTAL, BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2022, Direct Premiums Written, Direct Premiums Earned, Direct Losses Paid, Direct Losses Incurred.

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 Property Damage; 10) Auto Property 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., 2023.
LARRY DEITER Director of Insurance

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022 TRAVELERS CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA HOME OFFICE ADDRESS: ONE TOWER SQUARE, HARTFORD, CT 06183 MAIL ADDRESS: ONE TOWER SQUARE, HARTFORD, CT 06183

Table with financial data including Bonds, Stocks, Mortgage Loans on Real Estate, Real Estate Owned, Cash and Bank Deposits, Agents Balances or Uncollected Premiums, Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income, Due and Accrued, Other Assets, TOTAL ASSETS, LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS, Reserve for Losses, Adjustment Expenses, Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees), Taxes, Licenses and Fees (excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes), Federal and Foreign Income Taxes, Unearned Premiums, All Other Liabilities, TOTAL LIABILITIES, Special Surplus Funds, Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit, Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus, Unassigned Surplus, Surplus as Regards, Policyholders, TOTAL, BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2022, Direct Premiums Written, Direct Premiums Earned, Direct Losses Paid, Direct Losses Incurred.

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, 18, 26, 27
1) Life; 2) Health; 3) Fire & Allied Lines; 4) Inland & Ocean Marine; 5) Workmen's Compensation; 6) Bodily Injury Liability (Other than Auto); 7) Property Damage (Other than Auto); 8) Auto Property Damage; 10) Auto Property 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., 2023.
LARRY DEITER Director of Insurance



19186

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022

ALLIANCE INSURANCE COMPANY, INC.

HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:  
1122 NORTH MAIN STREET, MCPHERSON, KS  
67460

MAIL ADDRESS:  
PO BOX 1401, MCPHERSON, KS 67460

ASSETS:

Bonds.....	\$3,221,966.00
Stocks.....	\$-
Mortgage Loans on	\$-
Real Estate.....	\$-
Real Estate Owned.....	\$-
Cash and Bank Deposits.....	\$1,891,661.00
Agents Balances or	\$-
Uncollected Premiums.....	\$-
Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income	\$193,778.00
Due and Accrued.....	\$9,546,271.00
Other Assets.....	\$3,151,678.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....	\$3,151,678.00

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS

Reserve for Losses.....	\$5,016,266.00
Reserve for Losses.....	\$700,609.00
Adjustment Expenses.....	\$-
Other Expenses (excluding	\$51,249.00
taxes, licenses and fees)	\$-
Taxes, Licenses and Fees	\$-
(excluding Federal and	\$-
Foreign Income Taxes)	\$1,86,848.00
Federal and Foreign	\$-
Income Taxes.....	\$26,551.00
Unearned Premiums.....	\$1,514,899.00
All Other Liabilities.....	\$572,550.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....	\$1,806,887.33
Special Surplus Funds	\$-
Capital Paid Up or	\$-
Statutory Deposit.....	\$1,516,466.00
Gross Paid In and	\$-
Contributed Surplus.....	\$758,660.00
Unassigned Surplus.....	\$12,807,584.00
Surplus as Regards	\$-
Policyholders.....	\$1,508,271.00
TOTAL.....	\$3,151,683.00

BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2022

Direct Premiums Written.....	\$1,412,689.00
Direct Premiums Earned.....	\$1,334,523.00
Direct Losses Paid.....	\$3,876,455.00
Direct Losses Incurred.....	\$4,617,950.00

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

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., 2023.

LARRY DEITER  
Director of Insurance

19194

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022

FARMERS ALLIANCE MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:  
1122 NORTH MAIN STREET, MCPHERSON, KS  
67460

MAIL ADDRESS:  
PO BOX 1401, MCPHERSON, KS 67460

ASSETS:

Bonds.....	\$233,481,003.00
Stocks.....	\$72,645,250.00
Mortgage Loans on	\$-
Real Estate.....	\$-
Real Estate Owned.....	\$6,303,452.00
Cash and Bank Deposits.....	\$20,573,162.00
Agents Balances or	\$-
Uncollected Premiums.....	\$4,840,015.00
Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income	\$1,458,566.00
Due and Accrued.....	\$1,839,071.00
Other Assets.....	\$399,240,519.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....	\$399,240,519.00

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS

Reserve for Losses.....	\$47,521,301.00
Reserve for Losses.....	\$-
Adjustment Expenses.....	\$6,130,310.00
Other Expenses (excluding	\$422,726.00
taxes, licenses and fees)	\$-
Taxes, Licenses and Fees	\$-
(excluding Federal and	\$-
Foreign Income Taxes)	\$1,634,923.00
Federal and Foreign	\$-
Income Taxes.....	\$-
Unearned Premiums.....	\$100,755,365.00
All Other Liabilities.....	\$17,725,368.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....	\$174,189,993.00
Special Surplus Funds	\$500,000.00
Capital Paid Up or	\$-
Statutory Deposit.....	\$-
Gross Paid In and	\$-
Contributed Surplus.....	\$224,550,523.00
Unassigned Surplus.....	\$-
Surplus as Regards	\$-
Policyholders.....	\$225,050,523.00
TOTAL.....	\$399,240,516.00

BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2022

Direct Premiums Written.....	\$1,073,013.00
Direct Premiums Earned.....	\$1,035,178.00
Direct Losses Paid.....	\$14,000,129.00
Direct Losses Incurred.....	\$16,336,289.00

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

DIVISION OF INSURANCE

STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Farmers Alliance Mutual Insurance Company, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Kansas, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota.

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

- 2, 3, 4, 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., 2023.

LARRY DEITER  
Director of Insurance

19232

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022

ALL STATE INDEMNITY COMPANY

HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:  
3100 SANDERS ROAD, SUITE 201, NORTHBROOK, IL 60062

MAIL ADDRESS:  
3100 SANDERS ROAD, SUITE 201, NORTHBROOK, IL 60062

ASSETS:

Bonds.....	\$29,072,441,342.00
Stocks.....	\$72,645,250.00
Mortgage Loans on	\$-
Real Estate.....	\$671,046,303.00
Real Estate Owned.....	\$295,623,365.00
Cash and Bank Deposits.....	\$20,573,162.00
Agents Balances or	\$-
Uncollected Premiums.....	\$7,882,392,469.00
Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income	\$291,758,166.00
Due and Accrued.....	\$12,434,077,279.00
Other Assets.....	\$57,972,921,780.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....	\$57,972,921,780.00

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS

Reserve for Losses.....	\$20,759,137,969.00
Reserve for Losses.....	\$-
Adjustment Expenses.....	\$3,390,893,872.00
Other Expenses (excluding	\$1,661,861,211.00
taxes, licenses and fees)	\$-
Taxes, Licenses and Fees	\$-
(excluding Federal and	\$-
Foreign Income Taxes)	\$171,392,208.00
Federal and Foreign	\$-
Income Taxes.....	\$-
Unearned Premiums.....	\$14,363,375,547.00
All Other Liabilities.....	\$5,381,757,177.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....	\$45,128,437,964.00
Special Surplus Funds	\$12,006,408.00
Capital Paid Up or	\$-
Statutory Deposit.....	\$3,882,000.00
Gross Paid In and	\$-
Contributed Surplus.....	\$3,284,769,264.00
Unassigned Surplus.....	\$8,943,826,124.00
Surplus as Regards	\$-
Policyholders.....	\$12,244,493,796.00
TOTAL.....	\$57,972,921,780.00

BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2022

Direct Premiums Written.....	\$9,929,602.00
Direct Premiums Earned.....	\$1,035,178.00
Direct Losses Paid.....	\$8,209,318.00
Direct Losses Incurred.....	\$11,304,367.00

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

DIVISION OF INSURANCE

STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Allstate Indemnity Company, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Illinois, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota.

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

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

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

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal at Pierre, S.D., this 1st day of May, A.D., 2023.

LARRY DEITER  
Director of Insurance

19240

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022

ALL STATE INDEMNITY COMPANY

HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:  
3100 SANDERS ROAD, SUITE 201, NORTHBROOK, IL 60062

MAIL ADDRESS:  
3100 SANDERS ROAD, SUITE 201, NORTHBROOK, IL 60062

ASSETS:

Bonds.....	\$97,284,144.00
Stocks.....	\$29,072,441,342.00
Mortgage Loans on	\$4,654,917,451.00
Real Estate.....	\$671,046,303.00
Real Estate Owned.....	\$295,623,365.00
Cash and Bank Deposits.....	\$4,194,996.00
Agents Balances or	\$-
Uncollected Premiums.....	\$7,882,392,469.00
Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income	\$291,758,166.00
Due and Accrued.....	\$12,434,077,279.00
Other Assets.....	\$57,972,921,780.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....	\$115,940,894.00

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS

Reserve for Losses.....	\$20,759,137,969.00
Reserve for Losses.....	\$-
Adjustment Expenses.....	\$3,390,893,872.00
Other Expenses (excluding	\$1,661,861,211.00
taxes, licenses and fees)	\$-
Taxes, Licenses and Fees	\$-
(excluding Federal and	\$-
Foreign Income Taxes)	\$171,392,208.00
Federal and Foreign	\$-
Income Taxes.....	\$-
Unearned Premiums.....	\$14,363,375,547.00
All Other Liabilities.....	\$5,381,757,177.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....	\$14,546,091.00
Special Surplus Funds	\$-
Capital Paid Up or	\$-
Statutory Deposit.....	\$4,200,000.00
Gross Paid In and	\$-
Contributed Surplus.....	\$3,284,769,264.00
Unassigned Surplus.....	\$8,943,826,124.00
Surplus as Regards	\$635,335.00
Policyholders.....	\$101,394,803.00
TOTAL.....	\$115,940,894.00

BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2022

Direct Premiums Written.....	\$9,929,602.00
Direct Premiums Earned.....	\$279,717.00
Direct Losses Paid.....	\$8,209,318.00
Direct Losses Incurred.....	\$1,615,027.00

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

DIVISION OF INSURANCE

STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Allstate Indemnity Company, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Illinois, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota.

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

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

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

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal at Pierre, S.D., this 1st day of May, A.D., 2023.

LARRY DEITER  
Director of Insurance

19275

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022

AMERICAN FAMILY MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY, S.I.

HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:  
6000 AMERICAN PARKWAY, MADISON, WISCONSIN 53783

MAIL ADDRESS:  
6000 AMERICAN PARKWAY, MADISON, WISCONSIN 53783

ASSETS:

Bonds.....	\$14,212,023,070.00
Stocks.....	\$4,957,621,632.00
Mortgage Loans on	\$-
Real Estate.....	\$254,082,268.00
Real Estate Owned.....	\$158,545,667.00
Cash and Bank Deposits.....	\$1,397,765,329.00
Agents Balances or	\$-
Uncollected Premiums.....	\$2,718,728,961.00
Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income	\$819,566.00
Due and Accrued.....	\$13,642,198.00
Other Assets.....	\$115,940,894.00
TOTAL ASSETS.....	\$28,097,806,395.00

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS

Reserve for Losses.....	\$7,444,636,690.00
Reserve for Losses.....	\$-
Adjustment Expenses.....	\$1,461,091,839.00
Other Expenses (excluding	\$1,357,678,944.00
taxes, licenses and fees)	\$-
Taxes, Licenses and Fees	\$-
(excluding Federal and	\$-
Foreign Income Taxes)	\$11,753,890.00
Federal and Foreign	\$-
Income Taxes.....	\$198,443.00
Unearned Premiums.....	\$6,360,492,173.00
All Other Liabilities.....	\$4,121,877,810.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....	\$20,757,531,346.00
Special Surplus Funds	\$-
Capital Paid Up or	\$-
Statutory Deposit.....	\$-
Gross Paid In and	\$-
Contributed Surplus.....	\$1,489,449,374.00
Unassigned Surplus.....	\$5,846,575,675.00
Surplus as Regards	\$635,335.00
Policyholders.....	\$7,340,275,049.00
TOTAL.....	\$28,097,806,395.00

BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2022

Direct Premiums Written.....	\$312,459.00
Direct Premiums Earned.....	\$279,717.00
Direct Losses Paid.....	\$549,841.00
Direct Losses Incurred.....	\$1,615,027.00

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

DIVISION OF INSURANCE

STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the American Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I., a Corporation organized under the Laws of Wisconsin, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota.

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

- 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 26, 27
- 1) Life: 2) Health: 3) Fire & Allied Lines: 4) 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., 2023.

LARRY DEITER  
Director of Insurance

19283

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022

AMERICAN STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY OF WISCONSIN

HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:  
6000 AMERICAN PARKWAY, MADISON, WISCONSIN 53783

**19429** FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT  
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022  
**THE INSURANCE COMPANY OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA**  
 HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:  
 500 WEST MADISON STREET, SUITE 3000,  
 CHICAGO, IL 60661  
 MAIL ADDRESS:  
 1271 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS, 37TH FLOOR,  
 NEW YORK, NY 10020-1304  
**ASSETS:**

Bonds.....	\$95,571,659.00
Stocks.....	\$-
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....	\$-
Real Estate Owned.....	\$-
Policy Loans.....	\$-
Cash and Bank Deposits.....	\$29,282,848.00
Agents Balances or Uncollected Premiums.....	\$-
Interest, Dividends and Real Estate Income Due and Accrued.....	\$633,041.00
Other Assets.....	\$6,455,707.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS.....</b>	<b>\$131,943,255.00</b>
<b>LIABILITIES, SURPLUS &amp; OTHER FUNDS</b>	
Reserve for Losses.....	\$-
Reserve for Loss Adjustment Expenses.....	\$-
Other Expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees).....	\$-
Taxes, Licenses and Fees (excluding Federal and Foreign Income Taxes).....	\$-
Federal and Foreign Income Taxes.....	\$594,173.00
Unearned Premiums.....	\$90,942,643.00
All Other Liabilities.....	\$91,536,816.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES.....</b>	<b>\$182,073,532.00</b>
Capital Paid Up or Statutory Deposit.....	\$5,005,500.00
Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....	\$17,320,615.00
Unassigned Surplus.....	\$18,080,324.00
Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....	\$40,406,439.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$131,943,255.00</b>

**BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2022**  
 Direct Premiums Written.....\$1,015,146.00  
 Direct Premiums Earned.....\$1,012,609.00  
 Direct Losses Paid.....\$741,523.00  
 Direct Losses Incurred.....\$1,676,429.00

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

**COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY**  
 WHEREAS, the The Insurance Company of the State of Pennsylvania, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Illinois, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota:

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

- 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18
- 1) Life; 2) Health; 3) Fire & Allied Lines; 4) Inland & Ocean Marine; 5) Workmen's Compensation; 6) Bodily Injury Liability (Other than Auto); 7) Property Damage (Other than Auto); 8) Auto Bodily Injury; 9) Auto Property Damage; 10) Auto Physical Damage; 11) Fidelity & Surety; 12) Glass; 13) Burglary & Theft; 14) Boiler & Machinery; 15) Aircraft; 16) Credit; 17) Crop-Hail; 18) Livestock; 19) Title; 20) Variable Annuities; 21) Variable Life; 22) Reinsurance; 23A) Travel/Accident/Baggage; 23B) Pre-Paid Legal; 23C) Ball 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., 2023.

LARRY DEITER  
 Director of Insurance

**64246** FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT  
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022  
**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.....	\$51,055,889,558.21
Stocks.....	\$1,251,743,849.79
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....	\$5,993,792,375.42
Real Estate Owned.....	\$249,686,164.38
Policy Loans.....	\$4,010,523,057.87
Cash and Bank Deposits.....	\$1,349,607,900.26
Deferred and Uncollected Premiums.....	\$1,161,664,433.84
Investment Income Due and Accrued.....	\$492,903,296.74
Other Assets.....	\$10,432,704,059.08
<b>TOTAL ASSETS.....</b>	<b>\$75,998,514,695.39</b>
<b>LIABILITIES, SURPLUS &amp; OTHER FUNDS</b>	
Reserve for Life Policies & Contracts Reserve for Accident & Health Policies.....	\$50,016,167,894.50
Policy and Contract Claims.....	\$5,020,315,518.68
Life.....	\$462,630,416.34
Accident & Health General Expenses.....	\$328,279,415.97
Due or Accrued.....	\$1,076,960,996.60
Taxes, Licenses & Fees Due or Accrued.....	\$29,252,050.65
Federal Income Taxes Due or Accrued.....	\$-
All Other Liabilities.....	\$10,219,486,757.24
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES.....</b>	<b>\$67,153,093,049.98</b>
Special Surplus Funds.....	\$1,503,589,608.10
Capital Paid Up.....	\$-
Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....	\$7,341,832,037.07
Unassigned Surplus.....	\$8,845,421,645.17
Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....	\$75,998,514,694.90
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$75,998,514,694.90</b>

**BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2022**  
 Direct Premiums Received.....\$6,232,799.22  
 Direct Losses Paid.....\$8,437,138.80  
 Losses Incurred.....\$6,341,008.97  
 Life Insurance in Force.....\$567,779,535.00

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

**COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY**  
 WHEREAS, THE GUARDIAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, a Corporation organized under the Laws of NEW YORK, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota:

NOW 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) Ball Bonds Surety; 26) 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., 2023.

LARRY DEITER  
 Director of Insurance

**64246** FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT  
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022  
**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.....	\$51,055,889,558.21
Stocks.....	\$1,251,743,849.79
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....	\$5,993,792,375.42
Real Estate Owned.....	\$249,686,164.38
Policy Loans.....	\$4,010,523,057.87
Cash and Bank Deposits.....	\$1,349,607,900.26
Deferred and Uncollected Premiums.....	\$1,161,664,433.84
Investment Income Due and Accrued.....	\$492,903,296.74
Other Assets.....	\$10,432,704,059.08
<b>TOTAL ASSETS.....</b>	<b>\$75,998,514,695.39</b>
<b>LIABILITIES, SURPLUS &amp; OTHER FUNDS</b>	
Reserve for Life Policies & Contracts Reserve for Accident & Health Policies.....	\$50,016,167,894.50
Policy and Contract Claims.....	\$5,020,315,518.68
Life.....	\$462,630,416.34
Accident & Health General Expenses.....	\$328,279,415.97
Due or Accrued.....	\$1,076,960,996.60
Taxes, Licenses & Fees Due or Accrued.....	\$29,252,050.65
Federal Income Taxes Due or Accrued.....	\$-
All Other Liabilities.....	\$10,219,486,757.24
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES.....</b>	<b>\$67,153,093,049.98</b>
Special Surplus Funds.....	\$1,503,589,608.10
Capital Paid Up.....	\$-
Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....	\$7,341,832,037.07
Unassigned Surplus.....	\$8,845,421,645.17
Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....	\$75,998,514,694.90
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$75,998,514,694.90</b>

**BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2022**  
 Direct Premiums Received.....\$6,232,799.22  
 Direct Losses Paid.....\$8,437,138.80  
 Losses Incurred.....\$6,341,008.97  
 Life Insurance in Force.....\$567,779,535.00

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

**COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY**  
 WHEREAS, THE GUARDIAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, a Corporation organized under the Laws of NEW YORK, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota:

NOW 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) Ball Bonds Surety; 26) 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., 2023.

LARRY DEITER  
 Director of Insurance

**64505** FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT  
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022  
**HOMESTEADERS LIFE COMPANY INSURANCE COMPANY**  
 HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:  
 5700 WESTOWN PARKWAY WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266  
 MAIL ADDRESS:  
 5700 WESTOWN PARKWAY WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266  
**ASSETS:**

Bonds.....	\$3,218,070,583.00
Stocks.....	\$8,228,900.00
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....	\$214,487,383.00
Real Estate Owned.....	\$9,117,320.00
Policy Loans.....	\$1,350,566.00
Cash and Bank Deposits.....	\$43,664,337.00
Deferred and Uncollected Premiums.....	\$18,364,801.00
Investment Income Due and Accrued.....	\$32,295,852.00
Other Assets.....	\$83,357,711.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS.....</b>	<b>\$3,638,937,655.00</b>
<b>LIABILITIES, SURPLUS &amp; OTHER FUNDS</b>	
Reserve for Life Policies & Contracts Reserve for Accident & Health Policies.....	\$3,251,911,287.00
Policy and Contract Claims.....	\$4,923,027.00
Life.....	\$140,168,179.00
Accident & Health General Expenses.....	\$390,642.00
Due or Accrued.....	\$48,404,491.00
Taxes, Licenses & Fees Due or Accrued.....	\$2,060,039.00
Federal Income Taxes Due or Accrued.....	\$-
All Other Liabilities.....	\$15,549,051,488.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES.....</b>	<b>\$40,050,458,821.00</b>
Special Surplus Funds.....	\$-
Capital Paid Up.....	\$1,507,500.00
Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....	\$815,178,800.00
Unassigned Surplus.....	\$2,015,896,538.00
Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....	\$2,832,582,838.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$42,883,041,659.00</b>

**BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2022**  
 Direct Premiums Received.....\$14,630,731.00  
 Direct Losses Paid.....\$8,500,620.00  
 Losses Incurred.....\$1,896,594.00  
 Life Insurance in Force.....\$4,924,145.00

**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, 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) Ball Bonds Surety; 26) 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., 2023.

LARRY DEITER  
 Director of Insurance

**63312** FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT  
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022  
**MASSMUTUAL ASCEND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY**  
 HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:  
 191 ROSA PARKS STREET, CINCINNATI, OH 45202  
 MAIL ADDRESS:  
 P.O. BOX 5420, CINCINNATI, OH 45201-5420  
**ASSETS:**

Bonds.....	\$33,331,904,289.00
Stocks.....	\$868,253,770.00
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....	\$3,088,813,560.00
Real Estate Owned.....	\$-
Policy Loans.....	\$31,459,162.00
Cash and Bank Deposits.....	\$1,991,236,955.00
Deferred and Uncollected Premiums.....	\$7,742,452.00
Investment Income Due and Accrued.....	\$414,726,057.00
Other Assets.....	\$3,148,905,414.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS.....</b>	<b>\$42,883,041,659.00</b>
<b>LIABILITIES, SURPLUS &amp; OTHER FUNDS</b>	
Reserve for Life Policies & Contracts Reserve for Accident & Health Policies.....	\$24,259,873,748.00
Policy and Contract Claims.....	\$50,510,234.00
Life.....	\$140,168,179.00
Accident & Health General Expenses.....	\$390,642.00
Due or Accrued.....	\$48,404,491.00
Taxes, Licenses & Fees Due or Accrued.....	\$2,060,039.00
Federal Income Taxes Due or Accrued.....	\$-
All Other Liabilities.....	\$15,549,051,488.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES.....</b>	<b>\$40,050,458,821.00</b>
Special Surplus Funds.....	\$-
Capital Paid Up.....	\$1,507,500.00
Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....	\$815,178,800.00
Unassigned Surplus.....	\$2,015,896,538.00
Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....	\$2,832,582,838.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$42,883,041,659.00</b>

**BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2022**  
 Direct Premiums Received.....\$14,630,731.00  
 Direct Losses Paid.....\$8,500,620.00  
 Losses Incurred.....\$1,896,594.00  
 Life Insurance in Force.....\$4,924,145.00

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

**COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY**  
 WHEREAS, the MassMutual Ascend 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) Ball Bonds Surety; 26) 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., 2023.

LARRY DEITER  
 Director of Insurance

**63444** FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT  
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022  
**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.....	\$67,681,779.00
Stocks.....	\$-
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....	\$5,750,000.00
Real Estate Owned.....	\$-
Policy Loans.....	\$-
Cash and Bank Deposits.....	\$210,132,809.00
Deferred and Uncollected Premiums.....	\$16,978,340.00
Investment Income Due and Accrued.....	\$497,046.00
Other Assets.....	\$61,030,736.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS.....</b>	<b>\$362,070,710.00</b>
<b>LIABILITIES, SURPLUS &amp; OTHER FUNDS</b>	
Reserve for Life Policies & Contracts Reserve for Accident & Health Policies.....	\$28,059,699.00
Policy and Contract Claims.....	\$154,385,172.00
Life.....	\$5,867,770.00
Accident & Health General Expenses.....	\$39,414,144.00
Due or Accrued.....	\$2,964,540.00
Taxes, Licenses & Fees Due or Accrued.....	\$2,330,218.00
Federal Income Taxes Due or Accrued.....	\$-
All Other Liabilities.....	\$45,576,604.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES.....</b>	<b>\$278,598,147.00</b>
Special Surplus Funds.....	\$-
Capital Paid Up.....	\$2,500,000.00
Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus.....	\$436,308,114.00
Unassigned Surplus.....	\$(355,335,551.00)
Surplus as Regards Policyholders.....	\$83,472,563.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$362,070,710.00</b>

**BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2022**  
 Direct Premiums Received.....\$471,083.00  
 Direct Losses Paid.....\$295,838.00  
 Losses Incurred.....\$317,730.00  
 Life Insurance in Force.....\$2,068,000.00

**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) Ball Bonds Surety; 26) 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., 2023.

LARRY DEITER  
 Director of Insurance

**63983** FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT  
 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022  
**UNITED HERITAGE LIFE INSURANCE**  
 HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:  
 707 EAST UNITED HERITAGE COURT, MERIDIAN ID 83642  
 MAIL ADDRESS:  
 PO BOX 7777, MERIDIAN, ID 83680-7777  
**ASSETS:**

Bonds.....	\$590,742,594.43
Stocks.....	\$48,409,054.52
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate.....	\$3,671,075.48
Real Estate Owned.....	\$9,369,468.08
Policy Loans.....	\$4,809,594.83
Cash and Bank Deposits.....	\$802,692.21
Deferred and Uncollected Premiums.....	\$413,040.99
Investment Income Due and Accrued.....	\$7,302,017.86
Other Assets.....	\$38,577,424.16
<b>TOTAL ASSETS.....</b>	<b>\$704,086,962.56</b>
<b>LIABILITIES, SURPLUS &amp; OTHER FUNDS</b>	
Reserve for Life Policies & Contracts Reserve for Accident & Health Policies.....	\$562,330,410.84
Policy and Contract Claims.....	\$2,232,700.78
Life.....	\$2,542,576.53
Accident & Health General Expenses.....	\$287,919.00
Due or Accrued.....	\$1,691,247.66
Taxes, Licenses & Fees Due or Accrued.....	\$293,624.49
Federal Income Taxes Due or Accrued.....	\$-
All Other Liabilities.....	\$56,628,968.02
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES.....</b>	<b>\$626,007,447.32</b>

## Groton City May 2, 2023 Meeting Minutes

May 2, 2023  
The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00 p.m. at 120 N Main Street for their first monthly meeting with the following members present: Bahr, Wells, Babcock, Cutler, Wambach, Nehls, and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Also present were: Attorney Drew Johnson, Douglas Heinrich, Ted Dickey, Ken Hier, Darrell Hillestad, Paul Kosal, Topper Tastad, Mike Nehls, Doug Hamilton, Dwight Zerr, Terry Herron, Todd Gay, and Jarod Flihs.

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 Bahr and seconded by Wells. All members voted aye.

Moved by Nehls and seconded by Cutler to adjourn the 135th City Council. All members voted aye.

The 136th City Council was convened on a motion by Wambach and seconded by Babcock. All members voted aye. Mayor Hanlon appointed Jon Cutler as Ward 1 Councilperson. Mayor Hanlon gave the Oath of Office to Jason Wambach, Karyn Babcock, Shirley Wells, and Jon Cutler.

Moved by Bahr and seconded by Nehls to retain the same committee representative list and officers as 2022. All members voted aye. The committee representative list is as follows:

2023 Committee Representatives  
NECOG 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, Nehls  
Streets, Baseball, Storm Drainage, Other Rec (Tennis, Basketball, Golf): Wambach, 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 Cutler. All members voted aye.

Moved by Wambach and seconded by Wells to approve bills at 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.

Ted Dickey from NECOG and Ken Hier from IMEG discussed the park bathroom facility and some of the requirements for a FEMA grant to make the facility a storm shelter.

Darrell Hillestad discussed the progress at the Groton Municipal Airport with the water drainage.

Darrell Hillestad exited the meeting.

Department reports were reviewed and discussed.

Terry Herron, Dwight Zerr, and Todd Gay exited the meeting.

Topper Tastad discussed the potential for a sound system to be installed at the city park.

Discussion took place regarding the baseball concessions project.

Jarod Flihs and Doug Hamilton exited the meeting.

Topper Tastad and Mike Nehls discussed the jailhouse in Groton and their want for it to be donated to the Groton Historical Society.

Topper Tastad and Mike Nehls exited the meeting.

Economic development was discussed.

Ted Dickey and Ken Hier exited the meeting.

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Nehls to authorize the signing of the Renewable Energy Certificate Designated Entity Contract between Heartland Energy and WAPA. All members voted aye.

Moved by Cutler and seconded by Bahr to surplus the 1992 Chevy digger truck. All members voted aye.

The 2022 Annual Report was approved on a motion by Babcock and seconded by Wambach. All members voted aye.

No action was taken on the emergency snow removal signs

on Main Street.

Moved by Nehls and seconded by Bahr to purchase a sign for the Groton Police Department from Service Signs, Inc. in the amount of \$2,800. All members voted aye.

Moved by Cutler and seconded by Nehls to table the joining of the PFAS Cost Recovery Program. All members voted aye.

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

Payroll, \$42,366.91, Employee salaries; Executive, \$17,288.85; Administrative, \$4,427.86; Public Safety, \$8,939.78; Public Works, \$11,710.42; NW Energy, \$67.47, Natural gas service - water tower; Aberdeen Women's Softball Assoc., \$1,050.00, U18 softball registration fee; Allied Benefit Systems, \$11,570.19, Employee Insurance; Colonial Life, \$69.40, Employee Insurance; Aflac, \$336.62, Employee Insurance; Guardian Insurance, \$38.49, Employee Insurance; Employer's Mutual Insurance, \$82.70, Employee Insurance; Dacotah Bank, \$5,364.19, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dakotahland FCU, \$730.00, Employee Savings; Dacotah Bank, \$622.90, HSA Contributions; Stacy Mayou, \$303.94, Med Flex; Dacotah Bank, \$6,045.44, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dacotah Bank, \$50.00, HSA Contributions; Groton Daily Independent, \$222.72, Publication fees; Border States Industries, Inc., \$962.40, Various bolts, cable pull swivel; SD Department of Health, \$30.00, Water testing; Verizon Wireless, \$40.01, Wireless router; Galls, Inc., \$317.92, PD uniform purchases - boots & LED flashlight; Greg's Repair, \$30.00, Tire repair - '17 Ford Police Interceptor; Kay's Computing, LLC, \$252.00, Setup assistance w/ new Dell computer; S&S Lumber Co., \$593.26, Cable ties, test plugs, rakes, replacement ceiling tiles, snap links, gloves, L-bracket, hose clamps, bolts, nuts, washers, ice melt, hose, extension cord, sump pump, heat shrink tubing, oil enamel, brushes; SD Supplemental Retirement, \$290.00, Employee retirement; Eide Bailly LLP, \$4,500.00, On-site assistance for bank reconciliation and progress billing for 2020-21 audit; CapFirst Equipment Finance, Inc., \$32,810.00, Street sweeper lease; Irby, Inc., \$204.00, FR clothing; Geffdog Designs LLC, \$614.50, Little League Baseball caps; Todd Gay, \$287.50, Mileage reimbursement - Heartland Energy Annual Conference in Madison, SD & SDMEA Conference in Watertown, SD; City of Groton, \$1,610.00, Change bags for summer recreation; NW Energy, \$13.01, Natural gas service - PD; Harry Implement, Inc., \$352.77, Repair to hose on payload; Colonial Research Chemical Corp., \$1,141.04, Swimming pool cleaner; Dollar General, \$116.40, Bottle water, candy, coffee, ibuprofen, dish soap, toilet paper, garbage bags; Drew Johnson, \$1,850.00, Legal Fees - April 2023; Justin Cleveland, \$600.26, Mileage/Meal/Hotel Reimbursement - SOR Conference in Deadwood, SD; EcoLab Pest Elimination, \$106.00, Rubble site rodent control; Traci Schaumann, \$297.34, Utility deposit/overpayment refund; On-Site Repair, \$1,392.63, Repairs to swimming pool feature pump; J's Superior Cleaning, \$240.00, Commercial cleaning services - April 2023; Core & Main, \$453.41, Water meter setters; Darrel's Sinclair, \$45.90, Diesel barrel filters; SD Retirement System, \$10,333.01, Employee retirement;

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Wells to authorize the signing of the 2020/2021 audit engagement letter with Eide Bailly. All members voted aye.

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Wambach to authorize the signing of the 2022 single-year audit engagement letter with Eide Bailly. All members voted aye.

Moved by Cutler and seconded by Wells to reschedule the May 16, 2023 council meeting to May 17, 2023 at the normal time of 7:00pm. All members voted aye.

Moved by Nehls and seconded by Wells to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal matters 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 9:00pm. All members voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 9:45pm.

Moved by Cutler and seconded by Nehls to adjourn the meeting at 9:45pm. All members voted aye.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor  
Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer  
Published May 10, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$77.54 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 22183

## Brown County Land Bid Auction Notice

NOTICE OF SEALED BID AUCTION  
Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners at the Brown County Courthouse Annex, 25 Market Street, Suite 1, Aberdeen, South Dakota; until the hour of 8:45 A.M. on June 13, 2023, at said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read and considered by the Brown County Board of Commissioners for: purchase of property that is situated at 2914 Industrial Avenue, Aberdeen, Brown County, SD. Interested bidders are encouraged to contact Judy Dosch, Brown County Building Superintendent at 605-715-5818 or Judy.Dosch@browncounty.sd.gov, who has been designated Brown County's Bid Representative.

This Invitation for Sealed Bids is subject to, and all bids submitted must be in compliance with, the Schedule, Special Terms of Sale, Instructions to Bidders, General Terms of Sale, and Bid Forms and Acceptance, all of which are attached hereto and by this reference made a part hereof.

BID DEPOSIT: Bid deposit is due at time of bid submission. Ten Percent (10 %) of Bid required for the Sale Item in the form of a cashier's or certified check made payable to "Brown County Treasurer". A Bid Deposit is required for the Sale Item bid. No offer will be accepted without a Bid Deposit in the form and amount indicated above.

Balance of purchase price is due upon closing. The high bid will be considered a continuing offer for a period of 30 calendar days. The high bidder must be prepared to close within 60 days following notification of the Brown County Commission bid acceptance.

Contract: The Invitation for Sealed Bids, and the bid when accepted by Brown County, shall constitute an agreement for sale between the successful bidder and Brown County. Such agreement shall constitute the whole contract to be succeeded only by the formal instruments of transfer, unless modified in writing and signed by both parties. No oral statements or representations made by, or for, or on behalf of either party shall be a part of such contract. Nor shall the contract, or any interest therein, be transferred or assigned by the successful bidder without consent of Brown County, and any assignment transaction without such consent shall be void.

Copies of the specifications can be obtained at no charge and are on file at the following locations:  
Brown County Website: Brown.SD.US  
Brown County Auditor's Office: 25 Market Street, Ste. 1, Aberdeen, SD 57401. Phone: 605-626-7110  
Brown County Building Maintenance Office - Phone 605-715-5818 or E-mail: Judy.Dosch@browncounty.sd.gov  
ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor  
Published May 10 and 17, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$22.74 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 22184

## Columbia City May 3, 2023 Meeting Minutes

City of Columbia Council Meeting - May 3, 2023  
CALL MEETING TO ORDER - 7:00 p.m.  
ROLL CALL - Cara Dennert, Corey Mitchell, Cole Kampa, Trevor Meints, Emily Eichler, Meghan Butler  
Community - Rod Tobin, Brent, Don, Linda Raba, Jeremy Dosch, Sydney Hanna, Julie Lillis, Julie Larson, Kathy Vitense  
Corey Mitchell called the meeting to order. He called for a motion to approve the agenda. Emily Eichler made a motion to approve the posted agenda. Cole Kampa seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried. Corey Mitchell called for any conflict of interest on agenda items. There were no conflicts. Minutes were passed out from the April 10th meeting. Trevor Meints made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Meghan Butler seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried. All in favor - motion carried. Minutes were passed out from April 11th Election canvassing meeting. Meghan

Butler made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Emily Eichler seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried.  
Warrant Vouchers: Jeremy Dosch - April wages - 419.99; Cara Dennert - April wages - 1235.25; Corey Mitchell - snow removal & rental April - 316.03; Trevor Meints - snow removal April - 185.29; Cole Kampa - snow removal & rental April - 420.58; Menards - 329.91; JGE - skid steer service - 236.82; GDI - publication - 327.85; Dacotah Bank - shop supplies, fuel - 107.98  
Cara Dennert stated that she had inadvertently left out a couple invoices from Menards - the new total is reflected above. Meghan Butler made a motion to accept the vouchers as corrected. Cole Kampa seconded the motion. All in favor - motion carried.  
COMMUNITY COMMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE DANR - Surface Water Discharge Permit Renewal App. & Compliance Inspection Report;  
UNFINISHED BUSINESS - baseball field update Dacotah bank baseball account is now closed out  
Nuisances - Rod Tobin was present advising us on our policies for nuisance issues. He encouraged us to set fines for the following areas. We are updating our ordinances to include the following fees: setting fines for chickens - \$50 per chicken per day, junk vehicles - \$100 per car plus cost of removal, junk in yards - \$75 per day plus cost of 3rd party clean up. The ordinances will be amended at the next city council meeting.  
Streets - B&B Contracting bladed the streets - they are looking good. Bids were collected for gravel. Shane Johnson presented a (Johnson Rocks & Gravel) bid of \$12.50 a ton barring fuel surcharge. Cole Kampa made a motion to accept his bid. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried. Shane Moser presented a bid for culvert replacement & ditch work on the north end of town of \$13,699. We also had a bid from Liens of \$14,215. Meghan Butler made a motion to accept Shane's bid. Trevor Meints 2nd the motion. All were in favor - motion carried.  
Parks - Corey collected bids regarding the mowing of the ball park and new city park. It will come out to \$1700 a week to mow everything. He will get this information to the Columbia groups that are meeting tomorrow night. We will also look into our Parks budgets over the past few years.  
Lagoon/sewer - Meghan will be taking a sample tomorrow to get sent off.  
Rubble Site - The site has been inspected.  
NEW BUSINESS - Ted Dickey from NECOG was present at the meeting. He explained that the Raba family has been contacted by the state regarding underground tanks - tanks that qualify for removal under state one time funding. The state is trying to clean up 15 sites state wide that meet this criteria. Ted is filling out the application for the state - still a work in progress. Rod & Ted discussed the liability issues. Ted will bring more answers to our June meeting. Ted asked if we had any other concerns. Corey mentioned that he has been looking into applying for the FEMA funds for flood damage for our lagoon. Jeremy has taken measurements and pictures of the site. Corey will also be talking with Scott about the issue. Julie, Sydney, and Julie were present to tell us about what some of the Columbia committees are up to. The Columbia Cares group is having a Clean Up Day on May 20th. There is going to be a Yard of the Month contest - judged the 15th of the summer months. There was also some information on the Columbia Fest - set for July 29th. Emily Eicher stated that she will be holding Summer Rec on Tuesday or Thursdays this summer. Corey Mitchell was sworn in as Mayor.  
FINANCIAL REPORT - Cara Dennert presented bank balances. She alerted the council that a CD will be coming mature next week and will be added to the CD Dacotah Bank account at that time. Trevor Meints made a motion to accept the financial reports as given. Meghan Butler seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried.  
April 31, 2023 balances: SF - \$ 154,306.94; SF Money Market - \$50,150.86; GF - \$ 168,944.80; GF Money Market - \$50,150.86; CD Money Market - \$ 28,125.29; Baseball Fund - \$0; FIT - \$ 14,301.11

Cash on hand - \$0  
Mayor Corey Mitchell declared the meeting adjourned.  
Next Regular City Council Meeting - June 14, 2023 7:00 p.m. (Rescheduled from the 7th because of Finance Officer School.)  
Submitted by Cara Dennert, Finance Officer  
Published May 10, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$52.15 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 22185

## Groton City Baseball Special Event License

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, 2023 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: 6/9/2023, 6/18/2023, 7/1/2023, 7/16/2023, 7/23/2023, 7/24/2023, 7/25/2023, 7/26/2026, and 7/27/2023.  
Any person interested in the approval or rejection of any such application may appear and be heard.  
Dated at Groton, South Dakota this 8th day of May, 2023.  
Douglas Heinrich, Groton City Finance Officer  
Published May 10, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$10.42 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 22186

## Westport Town May 1, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Town of Westport General Meeting  
May 1st, 2023  
The Town of Westport met on May 1st, 2023 with Larry Schmit, Shane Storm, Mitch Wilson and Doreen Hertel present.  
The following expenses were presented:  
City General NWPS (\$650.42), RDO equipment (\$12,000), Groton Independent (\$36.15), B&B contracting (\$1,327.50), Elan Financial Services (\$76.73) & SD public assurance alliance (\$2,726.50).  
Sewer NWPS (\$ 60.87), DANR (\$9.00) & NRW - loan repayment (\$210.13).  
Water WEB (\$2,051.05), State of SD (\$15.00) & Water Maintenance District (\$600.00).  
Larry Schmit made motion to pay all bills; second by Shane Storm.  
The following deposits were presented:  
City General Brown County Collections (\$1,166.69), State of SD (\$3,011.11) & Interest (\$4.36).  
Sewer Resident Payments - (\$1,900.00).  
Water Resident Payments - (\$2,909.17).  
NEW BUSINESS:  
Water loss is increasing, please keep on the lookout for surface water, where it shouldn't be at.  
Doreen Hertel, Finance Officer  
Published May 10, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$14.62 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 22187



**Eilers Furs**  
EST. 1921

**Furrier Roadshow Schedule**  
It's fur and leather cold storage and cleaning time! Protect your investment with off season cold storage and regular cleaning. Our fur experts also repair, alter, restore, repurpose fur garments into treasures to last a life time. Join us as we visit a city near you!  
[www.eilersfurs.com](http://www.eilersfurs.com)

Rapid City, SD	<b>May 12-13, 10-6:00pm &amp; May 14, 10am-3pm.</b> Holiday Inn Rushmore Plaza, 505 N 5th St.
Fargo, ND	<b>May 17-18, 10-6:00pm.</b> Laurie's Boutique, 3265 45th St. South Ste. 100
Aberdeen, SD	<b>May 19, 10-5:30pm &amp; May 20, 10-4:00pm.</b> Lilys Floral Design & Gifts, 423 S Main St.

F

From a poverty-stricken, barefoot 6-year-old farm boy working a pair of horses in the field before starting the 1st grade of elementary school, to my Mother's sudden and unexpected death less than 2 years later, to a United States Marine Corps officer flying jet warplanes almost 5 years over various nations in peacetime, to a missionary evangelist traversing steep mountains, rugged coastlines and several islands far and wide in Japan for 5 decades, I am the most blessed and fulfilled human creature on the face of this earth. Please read my autobiography and my missionary stories on my website.

www.Christ-is-all.us  
Richard Yerby c/o CHRIST IS ALL,  
PO Box 490, Vernon, AL 35592-0490

When you need assistance, we have you covered.



Dakota at Home is the one resource for older adults and people with disabilities. Don't scurry around. Call today.

SD's Aging and Disability Resource Center

1-833-663-9673

Dakota at Home

One Call Countless Resources

[DakotaAtHome.org](http://DakotaAtHome.org)

**Brown County  
May 2, 2023**

**Meeting Minutes  
MAY 2, 2023 – GENERAL MEETING**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Commissioner Gage moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Wiese. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:** Dave Meyer with Summit Carbon Solutions stated that even though we passed Ordinance #243 last week, they are still committed to providing proper training to First Responders in our area as they move forward with the progress of the pipeline.

**BID – BIG SCREENS FOR BCF:** Time and place, as advertised to open, read and consider sealed bids to provide Large Video Screens, all equipment, and technicians for Brown County Fair Grandstand Entertainment in years 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026. Bids were received from Sideline Productions for two 11' x 19.5' LED Displays in the amount of \$15,900.00 per year, for four years; TMS for two 16' x 9' LED Screens in the amount of \$35,450.00 per year for four years; Fire Up Video two 8.5' x 15' mobile jumbotrons in the amount of \$28,999.00 per year for four years. Rachel Kippley requested to defer awarding the bid for 2 weeks to review all the details and discuss it with the Fair Board. Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to defer bids for 2 weeks. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**JDC AGREEMENT WITH ABERDEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT:** Chair-

man Sutton shared that Sheriff Lonzman had reviewed the agreement and shared that it is acceptable from his perspective. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the JDC Agreement with Aberdeen School District. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**RFP FOR SURPLUS PROPERTY:** Ross Aldentaler, State's Attorney Deputy stated the biggest thing were dates and how long they want to leave it open for potential bidders and his recommendation was give the County 30 days to accept bid and then close within 60 days. After further discussion it was set to be published on May 10th & 17th with bid opening set for June 13th. Commissioner Wiese Thanked Ross and Chairman Sutton for working on the Specs. Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim to approve the RFP for Surplus Property with bid opening of June 13th, seconded by Dennert. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**MINUTES:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the General Meeting minutes of April 25, 2023. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Gage to approve the Consolidated Board of Equalization minutes of April 25, 2023. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the amended minutes of April 11, 2023. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS:** Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims: Professional Fees: Avera St. Luke's Hospital \$753.78; Dakota Group LLC \$2,500.00; Gary J. Cooney, Clerk of Circuit Court and Comptroller \$11.00; Kuck Law Office \$200.00; Lewis & Clark BHS \$736.00; Lumen \$192.36; Sanford Health Oc-

cupational Medicine \$108.00; SD Dept of Health \$2,230.00; SDAAO-SD Assoc of Assessing Officers \$750.00; State Bar of South Dakota \$425.00; Tyler Technologies, Inc \$260.00; US Bank Visa \$795.63; Yankton County Sheriff's Office \$50.00. Publishing: Aberdeen Parks, Recreation and Forestry \$450.00; GateHouse Media South Dakota Holdings, Inc. \$386.48; Groton Daily Independent \$153.70; Orlando Sentinel \$151.92; The Argus Leader \$45.93. Repairs & Maintenance: Aberdeen Asphalt, Inc \$632.50; Brown County Speedway \$400.00; Custom Installation Solutions \$135.00; Election Systems & Software \$7,035.00; Gardner Locksmithing \$80.00; Gary's Auto Bod & Accessories \$2,394.31; JGE, Inc \$457.93; K & S Plumbing, Inc \$1,812.48; Laursen Asphalt Repair Equipment, LLC \$15.75; Lawson Products, Inc \$49.72; Leidholt Electric, LLC \$322.65; Little Falls Machine, Inc \$136.55; Matt's Tree Service \$1,800.00; Mega Construction Inc \$3,238.78; Nardini Fire Equipment \$410.00; US Bank Visa \$852.49. Supplies: Avera LTC Pharmacy Aberdeen \$2,999.75; Century Business Products \$145.91; Dakota Supply Group \$1,547.43; GovConnection, Inc \$131.45; Great Western Tire \$5,730.02; Laursen Asphalt Repair Equipment, LLC \$71.25; Lawson Products, Inc \$774.61; Leidholt Tool Sales, LLC \$130.95; Leidholt Electric, LLC \$120.00; Little Falls Machine, Inc \$655.79; Matheson Tri-Gas, Inc \$926.88; Menards \$70.68; Midstates Group \$131.00; Nelson Sales & Service, LLC \$396.73; Pantorium Cleaners Inc \$28.00; Performance Oil \$351.33; Plumbing & Heating Wholesale, Inc \$965.53; Pomp's Tire Service, Inc \$244.71; Runnings \$20.29; SD Federal Property Agency \$1,720.00; Stan Houston Equipment Company, Inc \$35.50; TrueNorth Steel \$7,102.84; US Bank Visa \$14,994.79. Travel & Conference: Aaron Walberg \$614.72; Danica Hillestad \$48.00; Doreen Howell \$104.04; Jesse Milbrandt \$14.00; John Clark \$48.00; Karla Nelson \$267.58; Lesli Geranen \$48.00; Linn Kamin \$68.00; Mariann Malsom \$203.20; Patti Woods \$258.50; Rachel Wilson \$48.00; Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center \$464.00; US Bank Visa \$3,845.41. Utilities: AT&T Mobility \$140.68; CenturyLink \$284.83; Montana-Dakota Utilities Co \$124.37; Northwestern Energy \$9,908.80; Verizon Wireless \$41.80; US Bank Visa \$3,713.77. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**HR REPORT:** Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Human Resource Report submitted by Human Resources Director, Erica Coughlin to approve the resignation of Erica Coughlin, Brown County Human Resources Director, FT; effective May 18, 2023. Request to fill. Acknowledge the resignation of Kari Harmon, Brown County Jail Detention Officer FT; effective April 25, 2023. Request to fill. Hiring Jeree Meyers as Brown County Jail Transport Driver/Court Security, as needed; effective April 30, 2023. Hiring of Mary Jane Lonzman as Brown County Jail/JDC, blood draw, PRN; effective April 30, 2023. Hiring of Matthew Coughlin as Brown County Landfill Grounds Worker; wage \$18.55/hour; effective April 29, 2023. Hiring of Karly Winter as Brown County States Attorney; wage \$4,423.08/pay period; effective July 10, 2023. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**TRAVEL REQUESTS:** Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Travel Requests: Russell Metz, DOE to attend 2023 Annual Assessor School in Rapid City, SD on Sept. 18-22, 2023; Scott Bader and Ron Keller, Planning & Zoning to attend GIS Mapping Workshop in Rapid City, SD on May 8-12, 2023; Tony Sorensen & Wes Graff, SO to attend Taser Instructor Course in Madison, SD on May 19, 2023; Polly Rush, DOE to attend 2023 Annual Assessor School in Pierre, SD on Oct. 2-6, 2023; Wes Graff, SO to attend Statewide Narcotics Officers Conference in Deadwood, SD on May 10-12, 2023; Ernest Thompson, Ross Aldentaler, Karla Nelson, SA to attend State's Attorney Conference in Deadwood, SD on May 2-5, 2023 and Laurie Richardson & Adele Mouna SA to attend Victim Assistance Conference in Deadwood, SD on May 3-5, 2023. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**LEASE AGREEMENT:** Moved

by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve and authorize the Chairman sign the following lease agreement: Aberdeen Downtown Association for 1-Stage, Picnic Tables and Panels Downtown Concert Series on the following dates: June 22, 2023; July 27, 2023, and August 25, 2023. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**CLAIM ASSIGNMENTS:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to authorize and approve the Auditor sign the Claim Assignment against an individual to Credit Collections Bureau for the purpose of collecting liens. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**MALT BEVERAGE & SD FARM WINE LICENSE RENEWALS:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the following applications for RETAIL (ON-OFF SALE) MALT BEVERAGE & SD FARM WINE Licenses to operate outside of the Municipality: Aberdeen Hockey Association (Brown County Fairgrounds SW ¼, Sec 1-T123N-R64W – Odde Hockey Building); PZA Inc. DBA Anchors Away Lodge & Resort (Palmer's Richmond Resort SD Lt 1, SD OL 1 Richmond OL 1 & 2); Bath Quick Stop (Lot B Weismantels 1st Subdivision of Lot 1 EX N 12' Jenkins Subdivision E ½ of SE ¼ Section 18-123-62; Motor Sports LLC DBA Brown County Speedway (Brown County Fairgrounds SW ¼ Sec 1-T123N-R64W – Grandstand); Brown County Centennial Village (Brown County Fairgrounds SW ¼ Sec 1-T123N-R64W – Centennial Village); Elm Lake Resort LLC (Lot 1 Elm Lake Resort SE ¼ 8-128-65); ARR LLC DBA Flatland Flyways Lodge (Lodge OL Art Russo OLS in GOV Lt 3 & 4 NW 1-127-62); Moccasin Creek Country Club Inc (Prairiewood Village OL 7, E2, 33-124-63); Jackie Chantal LLC DBA Richmond Oasis (Lot 4 Schaeffer Richmond Lake 2nd Add NW & NE 25-124-65 5 AC); Richmond Pavilion LLC (Richmond Resort Outlot 2, NE ¼ of Section 25-T124N-R65W ); Marge Frohling DBA The Connection (Lots 10-11-12-13 & 14, Block 2 Sec 31-T127-R61). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to go into executive session to discuss Personnel, Legal and Pending Litigation per SDCL 1-25-2. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. The chair declared the executive session closed with no action taken.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Discussion was held on consideration for proposed salary increase for Budget Requests and was decided to go with 3% as a place holder.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission meeting at 9:58 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published May 10, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$97.68 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 22179

**Brown County  
May 2, 2023  
Consol. Equal.**

MAY 2, 2023 – CONSOLIDATED BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

Meeting called to order by Chairman Sutton at 1:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. Present were Commissioners Dennert, Gage and Sutton, Aberdeen School Board Member Duane Alm and Councilman Rob Ronayne.

**STIPULATIONS:** Moved by Aberdeen School Board Member Alm, seconded by Council Ronayne to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization for Skyline Recreation, Inc. on LT C VILLAGE BOWL 1ST ADD from \$739,505.00 to \$739,505.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to adjourn the Consolidated Board of Equalization meeting at 1:08 p.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published May 10, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$10.76 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 22180

**Brown County  
May 2, 2023  
County Equal.**

MAY 2, 2023 – BROWN COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

Meeting called to order by Chairman Sutton at 10:30 A.M. in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. Commissioners Dennert, Gage, Sutton, and Wiese along with Director of Equalization Gene Loeschke, Assessors Sarah Swenson, Polly Rush and Russell Metz were present. Commissioners Fjeldheim was absent.

**CONTESTED APPEALS:** Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization: Kelly & Lori Kingzett LT 2, THORPE'S 2ND ELM LAKE SD NE 17-128-65 from \$336,230.00 to \$336,230.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**STIPULATIONS:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the following recommendation from the Director of Equalization: DANIEL NAPTON BOLS AB RR ROW SE SW 2-127-64 (4.41A) 1971 BONNAVILLA VIN# 170916 from \$1,000.00 to \$0.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to adjourn the Board of Equalization meeting at 11:00 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

Published May 10, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$13.80 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 22181

**Groton City  
Johnson Variance  
Notice**

NOTICE OF VARIANCE HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT The Groton Planning & Zoning Commission will be holding a public hearing on May 22, 2023, at 6:00pm CDT at City Hall, 120 N Main St., Groton, SD for a variance of Part 11, Chapter 11.01, Section 11.0106 of the Groton Zoning Ordinance. This application was made by Michael Johnson for a deck to be built within 23 feet of the East lot line in a Residential (R-3) District at 402 N Broadway St., Groton, SD, legally described as Lt 5-8, Bk 28, of the WB Hayes Addition.

Any person wishing to present testimony for or against this variance may appear in person or by representative at the above time and place.

Doug Heinrich  
Zoning Administrator  
Published May 10, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$10.12 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 22182

**A  
subscription  
to the Groton  
Independent  
makes a  
great gift!**

63274

**FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022  
FIDELITY & GUARANTY LIFE  
INSURANCE COMPANY**

**HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:**

801 GRAND AVE, SUITE 2600, DES MOINS, IA 50309

**MAIL ADDRESS:**

801 GRAND AVE, SUITE 2600, DES MOINS, IA 50309

**ASSETS:**

Bonds .....	\$30,301,070,356.00
Stocks .....	\$2,746,614,757.00
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate .....	\$390,236,337.00
Real Estate Owned .....	\$-
Policy Loans .....	\$50,822,386.00
Cash and Bank Deposits .....	\$2,074,993,449.00
Deferred and Uncollected Premiums .....	\$(15,818,428.00)
Investment Income Due and Accrued .....	\$296,607,524.00
Other Assets .....	\$10,907,923,539.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS .....</b>	<b>\$46,752,449,920.00</b>
<b>LIABILITIES, SURPLUS &amp; OTHER FUNDS</b>	
Reserve for Life Policies & Contracts .....	\$17,541,552,518.00
Reserve for Accident & Health Policies .....	\$6,097.00
Policy and Contract Claims Life .....	\$33,583,635.00
Accident & Health .....	\$-
General Expenses Due or Accrued .....	\$42,728,682.00
Taxes, Licenses & Fees Due or Accrued .....	\$8,731,800.00
Federal Income Taxes Due or Accrued .....	\$-
All Other Liabilities .....	\$27,256,367,551.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES .....</b>	<b>\$44,882,970,283.00</b>
Special Surplus Funds .....	\$431,272,455.00
Capital Paid Up .....	\$3,000,000.00
Gross Paid In and Contributed Surplus .....	\$2,003,811,290.00
Unassigned Surplus .....	\$(793,604,108.00)
Surplus as Regards Policyholders .....	\$1,869,479,637.00
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$46,752,449,920.00</b>

**BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2022**

Direct Premiums Received .....	\$19,047,551.00
Direct Losses Paid .....	\$408,833.00
Losses Incurred .....	\$707,124.00
Life Insurance in Force .....	\$86,612,284.00

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

**COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY**

WHEREAS, the Fidelity & Guaranty 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:

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., 2023.

LARRY DEITER  
Director of Insurance

SDSU Extension's Community Vitality  
**ENERGIZE! Conference**

May 31<sup>st</sup> - June 1<sup>st</sup>

Wessington Springs, SD



**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Contact Peggy Schlechter – (605) 394-1722

<https://extension.sdstate.edu/event/energize-2023>

“Let the redeemed of the Lord (Jesus Christ) say so.” (The Holy Bible) I want to proclaim to everyone that I have repented of my sins to my Creator God the Father, and have put my trust in God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (God's Saviour to Mankind) to save me from the punishment of my sins. Thus wise, I have been redeemed by the Precious Blood of God that Jesus Christ shed on the cross for me.

[www.Christ-is-all.us](http://www.Christ-is-all.us)

Richard Yerby c/o CHRIST IS ALL,  
PO Box 490, Vernon, AL 35592-0490

**Make Smoking History**  
SOUTH DAKOTA

**INTRODUCING THE MUSEUM OF EXTINCTION**  
The home of the last smoke.

Imagine a world in which cigarettes, vape pens and chewing tobacco have gone the way of the dinosaurs...  
Visit [TheLastSmoke.org](http://TheLastSmoke.org) to see more of this hopeful future.

Paid for by the South Dakota Department of Health.

## Groton Area boys dominate relays at Sisseton Twilight Meet

The Groton Area boys relay teams sprinted to first place in four of the five relay events they participated in at the Sisseton Track Meet held Friday. The wins propelled the boys to a second place finish in a field of 20 teams.

The girls placed fourth with the 3200m relay team and Aspen Johnson in the triple jump winning their events.

### Boy's Division

**Team Points:** 1. Lisbon 87.5; 2. Groton Area 77; 3. Milbank 71; 4. Border West 70; 5. Aberdeen Roncalli 50; 6. Great Plains Lutheran 48; 7. Sargent County 46.5; 8. Sisseton 38; 9. Wyndmere-Lidgerwood 36.5; 10. Oakes 36; 11. Dakota Hills 33; 12. Britton-Hecla 32; 13. Webster Area 30.5; 14. Hankinson 21; 15. Warner 16; 16. Langford Area 12; 17. Frederick Area 10; 18. LaMoure/Litch-Marion 10; 19. Richland 8; 20. Tiospa Zina 2

**100 Meters:** 9. Teylor Diegel, 11.9; 13. Jacob Zak, 12.0; 55. Logan Warrington, 13.6

**200 Meters:** 5. Lane Tietz, 23.9; 8. Teylor Diegel, 24.2; 9. Korbin Kucker, 24.3; 33. Gage Sippel, 26.2

**400 Meters:** 5. Cole Simon, 54.7; 15. Gage Sippel, 58.7; 35. Logan Warrington, 1:04.0

**800 Meters:** 16. Jacob Lewandowski, 2:31.8

18. Jayden Schwan, 2:34.6

**1600 Meters:** 12. Jayden Schwan, 5:37.4; 20. Jacob Lewandowski, 5:47.5; 27. Nicolas Fernandez, 6:27.0; 28. Garrett Schultz, 6:28.2

**110m Hurdles:** 9. Caden McInerney, 19.7

**4x100 Relay:** 1. (Korbin Kucker, Ryder Johnson, Andrew Marzahn, Keegen Tracy), 45.5

**4x200 Relay:** 1. (Keegen Tracy, Ryder Johnson, Andrew Marzahn, Lane Tietz), 1:34.6

**4x400 Relay:** 1. (Keegen Tracy, Ryder Johnson, Andrew Marzahn, Cole Simon), 3:36.8

**4x800 Relay:** 3. (Blake Pauli, Jacob Lewandowski, Tristin McGannon, Colby Dunker), 9:24.0

**SMR 1600m:** 1. (Korbin Kucker, Teylor Diegel, Colby Dunker, Blake Pauli), 4:03.2

**Shot Put:** 5. Holden Sippel, 40' 2.5; 6. Logan Ringgenberg, 39' 8; 11. Caleb Hanten, 38' 5; 16. Karter Moody, 37' 0.25

**Discus:** 2. Logan Ringgenberg, 117' 4; 7. Holden Sippel, 107' 10; 13. Caleb Hanten, 98' 6

**Long Jump:** 31. Tristin McGannon, 15' 11.25; 41. Gage Sippel, 14' 9.25

**Triple Jump:** 4. Jacob Zak, 38' 2

### Girl's Division

**Team Points:** 1. Lisbon 93, 2. Oakes 78.83, 3. Great Plains Lutheran 70.5, 4. Groton Area 55, 5. Sargent County 48, 6. Border West 47, 7. LaMoure/Litch-Marion 37, 8. Wyndmere-Lidgerwood 34, 9. Milbank 32.33, 10. Webster Area 31.5, 11. Aberdeen Roncalli 25.5, 12. Sisseton 25, 13. Britton-Hecla 23, 14. Dakota Hills 22, 15. Tri-State 18, 16. Langford Area 13.5, 17. Richland 3.33, 18. Warner 2, 19. Frederick Area 0.5

**100 Meters:** 38. Shaela McGannon, 15.8

**200 Meters:** 10. Rylee Dunker, 29.3

**800 Meters:** 6. Faith Traphagen, 2:44.4; 13. Elizabeth Fliehs, 2:59.1

**100m Hurdles:** 8. Talli Wright, 18.6; 17. Hannah Sandness, 21.4

**300m Hurdles:** 6. Talli Wright, 53.7; 7. Mckenna Tietz, 54.6; 13. Hannah Sandness, 1:01.5

**4x100 Relay:** 4. (Laila Roberts, Kennedy Hansen, Mckenna Tietz, Jerica Locke), 56.3

**4x200 Relay:** 4. (Jerica Locke, Kennedy Hansen, Rylee Dunker, Laila Roberts), 1:54.5

**4x400 Relay:** 2. (Jerica Locke, Kennedy Hansen, Rylee Dunker, Laila Roberts), 4:22.3

**4x800 Relay:** 1. (Faith Traphagen, Taryn Traphagen, Ashlynn Warrington, Rylee Dunker), 10:52.8

**SMR 1600m:** 2. (Laila Roberts, Kennedy Hansen, Jerica Locke, Taryn Traphagen), 4:46.3

**Shot Put:** 10. Emma Kutter, 31' 1; 19. Faith Fliehs, 28' 4.5; 56. Ashley Johnson, 22' 4; 62. Kayleigh McGannon, 20' 0.5

**Discus:** 30. Emma Kutter, 71' 2; 60. Ashley Johnson, 47' 0

**High Jump:** 18. Anna Fjeldheim, 4' 2

**Triple Jump:** 1. Aspen Johnson, 31' 11.25 20. Emerlee Jones, 27' 9

## Groton Area Tigers Varsity Takes the Game Over Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern in a Blow-Out Victory, 8-2

Groton Area Tigers Varsity had no trouble on offense today, winning big over Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern 8-2

Groton Area Tigers Varsity opened up scoring in the first inning, when Cole Simon singled on a 0-2 count, scoring one run.

Ryan Groeblichhoff led the Groton Area Tigers Varsity to victory on the mound. The righthander went six innings, allowing one run on three hits and striking out 16. Tate Larson threw one inning in relief out of the bullpen.

Quinton Fischbach took the loss for Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern. The pitcher allowed five hits and six runs over three innings, striking out six and walking one.

Simon led Groton Area Tigers Varsity with two hits in four at bats.



**Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola, National Commander of The American Legion attended a luncheon in Aberdeen this past week. Legion Groton Post 39 Commander Bruce Babcock and Vice-Commander Aaron Grant pose with the National Commander.** (Courtesy Photo)



**(R) Katie Kesterson congratulates (L) Krystina McCollum, both of Groton, at her Presentation College nursing pinning ceremony Friday evening.** (Courtesy Photo)



**(L-R) Emily Locke (Radiologic Technology) and Krystina McCollum (Nursing), both from Groton, graduated from Presentation College on Saturday. This graduation is the last ceremony at PC because of the announced closer. PC started in 1951.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)

## Groton Area Tigers Varsity Walks Away Victorious Over Elkton Blue Sox Varsity in High-Scoring Game, 13-6

The base paths were crowded today for both offenses in a high-scoring game where Groton Area Tigers Varsity came out on top against Elkton Blue Sox Varsity, 13-6.

Groton Area Tigers Varsity secured the victory thanks to seven runs in the first inning. Groton Area Tigers Varsity batters contributing to the big inning included Colby Dunker, Cade Larson, Dillon Abeln, Braxton Imrie, and Brevin Fliehs, all driving in runs in the inning.

Groton Area Tigers Varsity fired up the offense in the first inning, when Dunker drew a walk, scoring one run.

Elkton Blue Sox Varsity scored three runs in the fifth inning. Ryan Krog and Ashton Neill each had RBIs in the frame.

Bradin Althoff earned the victory on the hill for Groton Area Tigers Varsity. The pitcher surrendered four runs on six hits over four and two-thirds innings, striking out eight. Logan Ringgenberg threw two and a third innings in relief out of the bullpen.

Eliot Erickson toed the rubber for Elkton Blue Sox Varsity. Erickson lasted one inning, allowing four hits and seven runs. Colt Beck, Jack Stein, and Krog each contributed in relief for Elkton Blue Sox Varsity.

Groton Area Tigers Varsity totaled 13 hits. Althoff, Larson, Fliehs, and Tate Larson each collected multiple hits for Groton Area Tigers Varsity. Althoff led Groton Area Tigers Varsity with three hits in four at bats.

Elkton Blue Sox Varsity had nine hits in the game. Erickson and Krog all managed multiple hits for Elkton Blue Sox Varsity. Erickson went 3-for-4 at the plate to lead Elkton Blue Sox Varsity in hits.

Dear EarthTalk: Why are "forever chemicals" so bad, and how can I avoid them? -- M.N., via email

"Forever chemicals" are types of highly persistent and toxic synthetic chemicals widely used in many industries, including firefighting foam, non-stick cookware, food packaging and water-resistant clothing. These chemicals are called "forever" because they do not break down easily in the environment and can persist for decades or even centuries, accumulating in soil, water and air.

The most common types of forever chemicals are per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which include compounds such as perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS). PFAS have been linked to a range of health problems, including cancer, immune system damage, hormone disruption and developmental delays. The problem with forever chemicals is that they can accumulate in our bodies over time, as well as in the bodies of animals and plants, leading to long-term health and environmental consequences. Because these chemicals do not break down easily in the environment, they can also contaminate soil, water and air, potentially impacting entire ecosystems.

To avoid exposure to forever chemicals, there are several steps you can take. First, avoid using non-stick cookware and other products that contain PFAS. Instead, opt for stainless steel, cast iron or ceramic cookware. Secondly, avoid using products that are labeled water-resistant, stain-resistant or grease-resistant, as they may contain PFAS. Thirdly, use natural, organic and biodegradable cleaning products instead of conventional cleaning products that may contain PFAS. When shopping for food, choose products that are packaged in glass, metal or paper containers instead of plastic containers, as plastic can contain PFAS. Finally, if you live in an area where PFAS contamination is a concern, consider installing a water filtration system that is designed to remove these chemicals.

According to the non-profit Environmental Working Group, a watch-

dog organization that tracks contaminants and chemicals in food, health and beauty products, nearly all Americans, including newborn babies, have forever chemicals in their bloodstreams, while 200 million of us may well be drinking tap water contaminated with these toxins. And we're not the only ones at risk. Researchers have found traces of forever chemicals in wildlife all over the world, including some endangered species. Who would've thought that such a risk would threaten polar bears in the Arctic let alone tigers, monkeys and pandas in milder locales and even dolphins and fish across the world's oceans?

Forever chemicals have been ubiquitous in our ecosystems and bloodstreams for decades, but it wasn't until March 2023 that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) started to address the issue by setting Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) goals for PFAS and related persistent chemicals in drinking water supplies. While this might be too little too late for those of us exposed to these toxins year after year, at least it's a step in the right direction. "Decades of unchecked use and releases of PFAS chemicals have devastated the planet by contaminating people, drinking water, and food, including fish and wildlife across the globe," says Tasha Stoiber, a senior scientist at EWG. "The proposed nationwide standards to limit exposure to PFAS in drinking water are a welcome development to address the harms these toxic chemicals have already inflicted upon individuals and communities."

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](mailto:question@earthtalk.org).



Non-stick pans like these are coated in so-called "forever chemicals" that can potentially flake off into your food. Credit: Alpha, FlickrCC.

**Ken's SUPER FAIR FOODS**  
www.kenssuperfair.com  
• ABERDEEN • GROTON • CLARK • IPSWICH • EUREKA • BRITTON •

**FREE CARNATION**  
for All Ladies at All Locations  
Friday & Saturday!  
In Honor of Mothers Day!  
\*While Supplies last

**Mix & Match**

**USDA Choice Demkota Boneless New York Strip Steak**  
12 Oz. **\$7.99** Each

**Cold Water Lobster Tails**  
4 Oz. **\$7.99** Each

**Red Ripe Strawberries**  
1 Lb. Pkg. **\$2.99**

**O' West BBQ Sauce**  
16 Oz. Bottle **\$3.99**

**Pillsbury Cake Mix**  
15.25 Oz. Boxes **2/\$3**

**Pillsbury Ready to Spread Frosting**  
12-16 Oz. Tub **\$1.99**

**Kraft Mayonnaise**  
30 Oz. Jar **\$3.99**  
Sale Price \$4.99  
Digital Coupon -\$1.00  
Net Price

**Hunt's Squeeze Ketchup**  
20 Oz. Bottle **\$1.29**

**APP DEAL OF THE WEEK**

**Oyster Crackers**  
9 Oz. Pkg. **FREE** w/\$10 purchase & Ken's App

**Stop by Ken's Deli in Aberdeen!**  
Family Fresh SUSHI  
Made Fresh Daily

**Meat**  
**Ken's Fresh 80% Lean Ground Beef**  
**\$3.79** Per Lb.

**Dairy**  
**Ken's Milk 2% or 1%**  
**\$3.49** 1 Gallon Jug

**Frozen**  
**Blue Bunny Ice Cream**  
**\$3.99** 46-48 Oz. Tub

**Liquor**

**CAPTAIN MORGAN ORIGINAL RUM**  
1.75 LITER **\$27.99**  
MAIL IN REBATE **-\$5.00**  
YOUR FINAL COST **\$22.99**

**SMIRNOFF VODKA**  
SMIRNOFF PEACH OR PINK LEMONADE VODKA  
1.75 LITER **\$17.99**  
MAIL IN REBATE **-\$5.00**  
YOUR FINAL COST **\$12.99**

Offer Expires 5/31/23

**Household**

**Fiora Bath Tissue 8 Mega Roll, Paper Towels & Roll Bundle or Napkins**  
500 Ct. Pkg. **\$3.99**

**Bakery**  
**Ken's Bakery Fresh White or Wheat Party Buns**  
12 Ct. **\$3.49**

Be sure to stop by & check out our variety of Salads, Meats, Party Trays & MUCH more to make your Graduation Party Complete!

## "It's Always Construction Season for the Body"

Like a car racing along the interstate, exiting onto a highway, and finally reaching the family farm along a dusty gravel road, our blood circulates inside our bodies. There are the major blood vessels, such as the aorta running out of the heart, and there are the tiny capillaries allowing blood cells one at a time to carry oxygen and nutrients to all the cells in our bodies. The network of capillaries is so complex it is estimated there are over 40 billion in one person, and if stretched out in a single line they would cover over 100,000 miles.

Our blood is made up of a mix of liquids and solids. The liquid, plasma, is composed of water, salts, and proteins. The solids include red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets. In general, the red blood cells deliver oxygen and carry away carbon dioxide, the white blood cells help fight infections, and the platelets help form clots if you get a cut. Bone marrow is the spongy material inside our bones that helps make new blood cells, which only last so long. Red blood cells last about 120 days, platelets last 6 days, and white blood cells may last less than a day or much longer.

As with any stretch of road, accidents happen. The blood cells can become clogged, causing a stroke in the brain or a heart attack in the heart. Sometimes what goes wrong is a problem of overproduction causing a cancer of the blood. Leukemia is a cancer of the white blood cells, lymphoma is a cancer of the tissues that produce and carry white blood cells, and multiple myeloma is a cancer of plasma proteins. A cancer of too many red blood cells is called polycythemia vera.

While some cancers often cause the growth of a solid tumor, the overproduction of blood cells may be harder to detect. Symptoms are often vague, including fatigue, weakness, night sweats, bone pain, weight loss, frequent infections, enlarged lymph nodes, and other nonspecific symptoms.

Advancements in cancer therapies have made large strides in the treatment of blood cancers. Besides chemotherapy and radiation therapies, treatments can include stem cell transplants, immunotherapies, and targeted therapies which are more specific on the molecular level to what is being overproduced. Immunotherapies include modifying T cells to recognize and attack cancer cells.

The complexities of the human body are endless and amazing. Part of the wonder is how the cells in our bodies are constantly growing and being replaced. Just like our highway system, there is always construction.



Based on Science, Built on Trust



Andrew Ellsworth, MD.

Andrew Ellsworth, M.D. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices family medicine in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at [www.prairiadoc.org](http://www.prairiadoc.org) and on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show based on science, built on trust for 21 seasons, most Thursdays on SDPB and streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.