



\$2

The Groton Independent

Vol. 141 No. 34 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, May 15, 2024 ♦ Established in 1889



Groton Pool opening next week

The Groton Municipal Swimming Pool is nearly ready for business already! The pool is filled and the boiler to the pool should be operational by Thursday, May 16th. Sign-up for swimming lessons and the selling of season passes will be done on Sunday, May 19th from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and on Monday, May 20th, from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The pool is schedule to be open on Wednesday May 22nd. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Preliminary budget, assistant coach resignations

The Groton Area School District Board got a first look at the 2025 fiscal year budget during a more-than-five-hour meeting.

The board met Monday evening, though they didn't adjourn until Tuesday. That came after four hours of executive session discussion related to personnel and contract negotiations.

Within the first hour, though, board members took a look through next year's preliminary budget.

The district will see an increase in its biggest expenses: salary, benefits and health insurance. The preliminary budget shows a four percent increase in those areas, said Business Manager Becky Hubsch.

Elementary salaries totaled \$878,992 in the district's 2023-2024 budget. The preliminary 2024-2025 budget total increases to \$912,962. Elementary employee benefits also rose from \$257,556 (2023-2024 budget) to an estimated \$266,459 (2024-2025 proposed budget).

Middle school salaries totaled \$428,542 in the district's 2023-2024 budget. The preliminary 2024-2025 budget total increases to \$445,324. Middle school employee benefits also rose from \$109,162 (2023-2024 budget) to an estimated \$112,843 (2024-2025 proposed budget).

High School salaries totaled \$718,024 in the district's 2023-2024 budget. The preliminary 2024-2025 budget total increases to \$744,170. High school employee benefits also rose from \$204,279 (2023-2024 budget) to an estimated \$211,076 (2024-2025 proposed budget).

Some adjustments have been made to cut expenses, including reviewing nontechnical supplies, Hubsch said. Morning monitoring and ICU at the middle/high school were also eliminated from the upcoming budget as those services are underutilized.

Upcoming capital outlay expenses include updating the elementary school science curriculum, repair some sidewalks by the high school, middle school room flooring and some computer purchases.

Some increased prices are expected, according to the presented preliminary budget. The cost for having seconds during breakfast and/or lunch needs to increase. GRASP-OST may also see a rise in cost.

The district is still looking to transfer some money from the capital outlay fund to the general fund. That is because the opt-out of tax limitations that was approved by a vote in April won't be available until the end of the 2024-2025 school year, Hubsch told the board.

More discussion is set to take place through the next few months, but, for now, Hubsch told the board, "you've got your homework."

- Two assistant coaches have resigned. The board accepted resignations from assistant basketball coach Kyle Gerlach and assistant volleyball coach Jenna Strom for the 2024-2025 school year. Gerlach, who is also K-12 physical education and health teacher, earned the Boys

See School Board on Page 12

Anna Bisbee to Compete for Miss South Dakota Outstanding Teen Title in Brookings

Anna Bisbee will compete in the 77th Annual Miss South Dakota Scholarship Competition May 30th through June 1st at the Oscar Larson Performing Arts Center in Brookings, SD. Bisbee is from Columbia and will graduate from Groton High School this spring. She currently holds the title of Miss Wolf Pack's Outstanding Teen. Bisbee is one of 12 delegates hoping to be crowned the next Miss South Dakota Outstanding Teen and compete in the Miss America's Teen competition in early 2025.



The theme of this year's program is Swingin' Glam with delegates judged on interviews, talent, and red carpet. As part of the competition, each candidate champions a social impact project. Bisbee's initiative is Support for Children of Law Enforcement Officers which focuses on giving support to the younger children of Law Enforcement Officers. Bisbee's personal impact of being a child of a law enforcement officer helps further her mission to support children to understand their feelings are normal and they are not alone.

Throughout its 77-year history, the Miss South Dakota program has impacted 18,000 young women. Last year, over \$56,000 in scholarships were awarded during the three-day event. The Miss South Dakota Scholarship Program is a means for statewide awareness of the Miss America and Miss America's Teen programs. Their mission is to uphold the four points of the crown: Service, Scholarship, Success, and Style. The Miss South Dakota Outstanding Teen Competition is an official preliminary of the Miss America's Teen Competition, the nation's leading achievement program and the world's largest provider of scholarship assistance to young women.

Participation in this program provides young women with the opportunity to promote a platform of community service and share their talents, intelligence, and positive values while serving as role models in their communities. The program is run entirely by volunteers and is supported by private donations which help the delegates in their pursuit of academic excellence, service, and lifelong success.

Queen of Hearts

The tenth week of the Queen of Hearts drawing was held Thursday night. The jackpot was \$14,765. Ticket sales for the week were \$1,740 with 10 percent of that as a consolation prize. June Thompson got the consolation prize of \$174. Her number was 29 with the eight of spades. The jackpot for the next drawing on May 16th should be around \$17,000.

Graduation advice

For about as long as I've been writing this column, I've been dispensing advice to graduates. I dunno, after taking a look around at the state of the world, I sorta feel responsible. So I hereby rescind my previous advice to fight for your right to party or party like it's 1999.

Something I was right about is anyone can grow up to be president. So there's hope. Sorta.

One thing I don't think I've ever advised graduates to do, is really important. Vote. Vote in every election, every time. And make sure you understand what you're voting for or against. Do your homework—and homework isn't 30-second campaign commercials. Trust me, the guy wearing a flannel shirt standing in a billowing field of wheat probably doesn't know an air seeder from a manure spreader, and in the case of the later, it's ironic.

The bottom line is, nothing happens in this country without the expressed will of the people. And when the people are silent, bad things happen. After love, voting is the greatest form of expression ever invented. Followed by music, prose, art and baseball. Vote. Even if you're on the losing side of an issue, that vote sends a signal. Change is a process. Life involves compromise. None of us is so right in our convictions that they can't be improved upon.

I had a brief conversation the other day with a nice young man—he might have been 16—and during a bit of friendly verbal jousting, he said that he was a member of a particular political party. No you're not, kid. You're too busy trying to figure out how you're going to lose your virginity, and if she tells you she's a member of the Green Party, you're going to start dressing like a leprechaun.

Live a little. Experience has a way of hardening or softening our beliefs. Even changing them. Trust the evidence life offers.

Anyway, political parties are a bad idea because both sides always try to define who everyone in the other party is. Lazy socialists. Heartless conservatives. But people are more nuanced than that. Life is more nuanced than that. You can be a fiscal conservative and a social liberal. You can be an atheist and spend your life doing good works. You can be a zealot and leverage your beliefs to justify just about anything.

Be an independent. In doing so, your generation may have a shot at fixing things my generation screwed up. The irony of a Baby Boomer offering this advice is not lost on me. But in my defense, you'll find that the marginal players are sometimes the best coaches.



That's Life

by Tony Bender

They've learned from their own mistakes and shortcomings. We're graduates of the School of Hard Knocks. What you learn is, just about anything can be overcome. You can grow from adversity. Or you can be embittered.

Despite the chaos my previous advice to graduates has created, I'm sticking with some of it. It's like trickle-down economics. It'll work if you wait long enough or if you click your ruby slippers three times. One of those.

Here goes... The most important thing is to do something you love. You see, our society has become so materialistic, the goal has become wealth. Shouldn't the goal be happiness? Misguided people spend their lives chasing wealth, doing something they hate for decades, with the idea that when they've amassed enough money, they'll do the things that'll them happy.

Live a rich life along the way. When you love what you do, it's not work. If you can, work for yourself. It's about freedom. But before then, when you're working for someone else, do the job so well that when you leave, they really miss you.

Let debt be a tool, not your master. Things have a way of owning you.

Recognize opportunity when it presents itself. Seek out beauty in museums, at concerts, or in your back yard. Plant a tree.

It's an incredible epoch with incredible challenges. Sometimes it may seem overwhelming. Bad news and uncertainty. Then, if you can, step out under the stars or into the sunshine and breathe. You'll find things are just fine where you are. In fact, it's glorious.

Believe. Negative thoughts manifest negative outcomes. Think positive. It works.

Now, go get 'em.

© Tony Bender, 2019

Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

The Minnesota Vikings began their rookie minicamp this past week, offering fans their first glimpse of two players who could potentially become cornerstones of the franchise — J.J. McCarthy and Dallas Turner.

There is not a ton of information about how well Turner was looking during minicamp. The Vikings released a fancy video that showed him putting his helmet on, stretching, and going through some drills. That was about it. The biggest reason for the lack of information? The media had their sights set on number nine, the highest-drafted quarterback in Vikings' history.

Playing quarterback in the National Football League comes with a lot of scrutiny. Every moment that player is on the field, he will have cameras trained on him. Every step he takes, every pass he throws, and every word he says, will be evaluated and dissected. So it comes as no surprise that when McCarthy threw an interception on his first day, social media was

abuzz. However, before we judge too harshly, it's important to understand the context.

Head coach Kevin O'Connell spoke to the media after the practice and offered us a glimpse into what goes on behind closed doors in the NFL. O'Connell told reporters that he encourages his players, especially young players, to be a little reckless in practice. He said it's important for rookies to take risks because it's the fastest way for them to learn how much different it is to play as a professional versus playing at the collegiate level. So when McCarthy threw an interception, it was all part of the process.

The Vikings' roster currently sits at 90 players, and while there will undoubtedly be some turnover at the bottom, we already have a good idea of what that roster will eventually look like when it is whittled down to 53. Taking a look, it's clear there are a few positions with huge question marks.

Left guard might be the biggest area of need for the Vikings heading into the 2024 season, especially since a rookie will more than likely be taking snaps at some point during the season. Understandably, the Vikings couldn't address every need in the draft due to the lack of premium picks, but what baffles me is why the team hasn't re-signed Dalton Risner. While he may not be an elite offensive lineman, he was more than serviceable after he signed mid-season last year.

Defensive tackle is another area that will need to be addressed before the season starts. The Vikings spent a lot of money to upgrade the defense this offseason, but very little attention was paid to the defensive line. Unfortunately for the Vikings, most of the starting-quality defensive linemen are already off the market. Maybe the Vikings can make a trade. Maybe one of the cheap offseason signings will take a huge step forward this year. Either way, as it sits now, it's a clear weakness.

Wide receiver might not seem like a huge need, considering the Vikings have the best WR in the NFL, a very good receiver who is entering his second season, and a top-five tight end. However, T.J. Hockenson is coming off a serious injury that could keep him out of the lineup to begin the season. The Vikings need to find a reliable third receiver who can pick up some slack until Hockenson gets back (and in case Jefferson or Addison miss any time). Luckily, unlike defensive line, there are some quality receivers still available in free agency, including Michael Thomas, Hutter Renfrow, Mecole Hardman, and Marquez Valdes-Scantling.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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We learned the rules for tennis and...



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...practiced every day so we could play.



Kids: color stuff in!



I love the season of spring with its warmer temperatures, flowers and green, green grass. People go...



Read the clues to fill in the crossword puzzle.

...outside and work in their yards, hike in the parks, walk pets, and bicycle and run on the roads and trails again.

Which spring sports and activities do you like to do? You can join a team to play baseball or softball. Fishing, skateboarding and kite flying are all fun to do with family or friends. **There's something for everyone - so spring up and get going!**

This sport is played with (or done using):

1. nets on the end of long sticks, special face masks and a ball
2. ropes and harnesses to keep you from falling
3. bats, leather gloves and balls on a diamond
4. a large pool of water with a ball and 2 goals
5. long clubs, balls, large grass area that has sand and water traps
6. a ball that the player can only touch with his or her feet and kicks into a large netted goal
7. megaphone, pom-poms; this sport really gets the crowd going
8. fast inline skating, people like to do jumps and tricks
9. balls (larger than baseballs), bats and leather gloves on a diamond
10. a good pair of running shoes, hurdles, whistles
11. a large net and a racquet; the ball bounces very easily
12. rods and lures; relaxing sport; some people do it in winter on lake ice

Spring Up and Out!

Spring Sports & Activities

baseball
rock climbing
soccer
cheerleading
lacrosse
fishing
softball
golf
water polo
rollerblading
tennis

Chatter and I are trying sports that we haven't played before. She found 8 that she likes playing disc golf in the park. I love the fast pace of ultimate frisbee!

Check your local parks and recreation department to see what is offered for outdoor fun!



I'm picking up toys and sticks, and raking up old leaves to clean the yard before Dad has to mow the fresh spring grass.

Here are some other spring activities that people are doing. Maybe there is one that you would like to try or help with.

Things to Do!

Can you find and circle these spring sports and activities?

- flying kites
- fishing
- rock climbing
- hiking
- jogging
- dog walking
- badminton
- inline skating
- gardening
- roller skating
- camping
- bird watching
- yard work
- bicycling

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

More Springtime Sports & Activities

Places to Go!

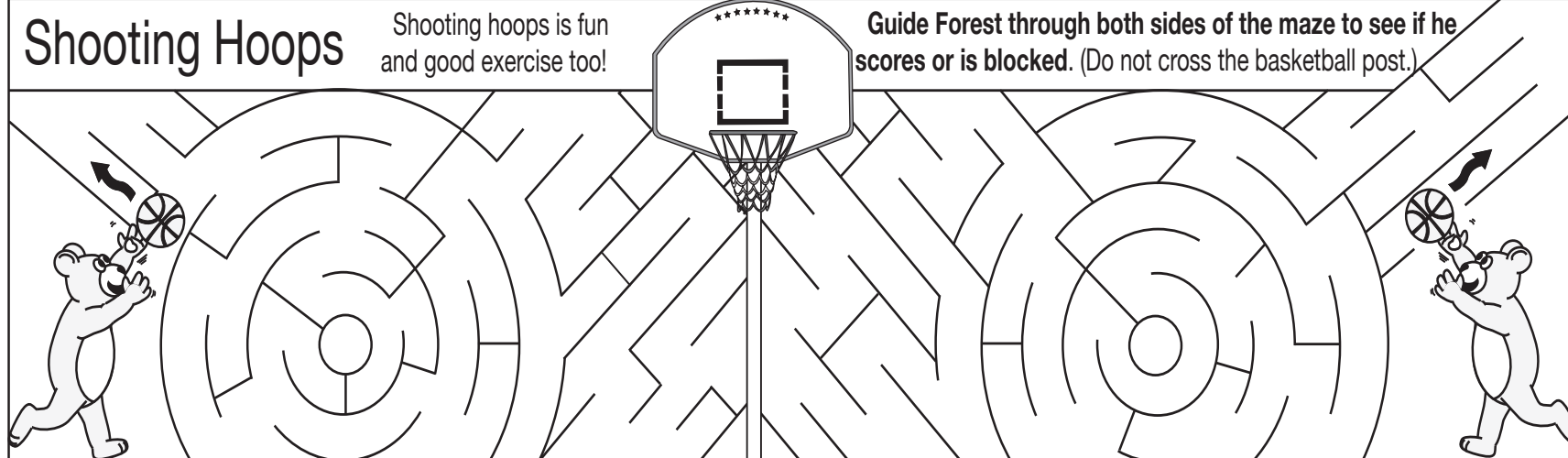
- Find these too!
- aquariums
 - museums
 - zoos
 - parks
 - picnics
 - playgrounds
 - amusement parks
 - arboretum

An **arboretum** is like a park - full of nice trees, shrubs and flowers.

Shooting Hoops

Shooting hoops is fun and good exercise too!

Guide Forest through both sides of the maze to see if he scores or is blocked. (Do not cross the basketball post.)



FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT	
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023	
KANSAS CITY LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:	3520 BROADWAY KANSAS CITY, MO 64111-2565
MAIL ADDRESS:	3520 BROADWAY KANSAS CITY, MO 64111-2565
ASSETS:	
Bonds	\$1,879,328,171.00
Stocks	\$63,460,047.00
Mortgage Loans on	
Real Estate	\$552,694,727.00
Real Estate Owned	\$86,625,402.00
Policy Loans	\$58,041,056.00
Cash and Bank Deposits	\$62,777,594.00
Deferred and	
Uncollected Premiums	\$6,266,095.00
Investment Income	
Due and Accrued	\$23,231,618.00
Other Assets	\$518,136,319.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$3,250,491,032.00
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS	
Reserve for Life	
Policies & Contracts	\$2,108,055,273.00
Reserve for Accident	
& Health Policies	\$5,151,862.00
Policy and Contract Claims	
Life	\$21,815,698.00
Accident & Health	\$4,481,091.00
General Expenses	
Due or Accrued	\$36,661,388.00
Taxes, Licenses & Fees	
Due or Accrued	\$3,819,875.00
Federal Income Taxes	
Due or Accrued	\$11,759,844.00
All Other Liabilities	\$781,121,950.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$2,917,866,193.00
Special Surplus Funds	\$10.00
Capital Paid Up	\$218,180,528.00
Gross Paid in and	
Contributed Surplus	\$41,025,001.00
Unassigned Surplus	\$454,780,367.00
Surplus as Regards	
Policymakers	\$277,624,840.00
TOTAL	\$3,250,491,030.00
BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2023	
Direct Premiums Received	\$895,255.00
Direct Losses Paid	\$518,607.00
Losses Incurred	\$679,453.00
Life Insurance in Force	\$154,346,955.00

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

DIVISION OF INSURANCE, STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Kansas City Life Insurance Company, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Missouri, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota;

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

1, 2, 20, 21
1) Life; 2) Health; 3) Fire & Allied Lines; 4) Inland & Ocean Marine; 5) Workmen's Compensation; 6) Bodily Injury Liability (Other than Auto); 7) Property Damage (Other than Auto); 8) Auto Bodily Injury; 9) Auto Property Damage; 10) Auto Physical Damage; 11) Fidelity & Surety; 12) Glass; 13) Burglary & Theft; 14) Boiler & Machinery; 15) Aircraft; 16) Credit; 17) Crop-Hair; 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., 2024.

LARRY DEITER
Director of Insurance

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT	
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023	
JACKSON NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:	1 CORPORATE WAY LANSING, MI 48951
MAIL ADDRESS:	1 CORPORATE WAY LANSING, MI 48951
ASSETS:	
Bonds	\$38,257,779,802.00
Stocks	\$1,218,352,659.00
Mortgage Loans on	
Real Estate	\$10,278,311,557.00
Real Estate Owned	\$226,591,548.00
Policy Loans	\$4,241,715,886.00
Cash and Bank Deposits	\$2,064,327,463.00
Deferred and	
Uncollected Premiums	\$203,084,449.00
Investment Income	
Due and Accrued	\$585,905,472.00
Other Assets	\$212,441,042,064.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$3,691,577,910,900.00
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS	
Reserve for Life	
Policies & Contracts	\$25,250,874,249.00
Reserve for Accident	
& Health Policies	\$0.00
Policy and Contract Claims	
Life	\$760,037,227.00
Accident & Health	\$0.00
General Expenses	
Due or Accrued	\$208,003,317.00
Taxes, Licenses & Fees	
Due or Accrued	\$2,506,082.00
Federal Income Taxes	
Due or Accrued	\$720,888.00
All Other Liabilities	\$238,702,347,490.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$26,912,489,253.00
Special Surplus Funds	\$502,793,870.00
Capital Paid Up	\$13,800,000.00
Gross Paid in and	
Contributed Surplus	\$4,631,054,966.00
Unassigned Surplus	\$695,022,189.00
Surplus as Regards	
Policymakers	\$4,652,621,647.00
TOTAL	\$2,691,577,910,900.00
BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2023	
Direct Premiums Received	\$30,949,683.00
Direct Losses Paid	\$89,050,419.00
Losses Incurred	\$44,769,651.00
Life Insurance in Force	\$287,411,935.00

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

DIVISION OF INSURANCE, STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Jackson National Life 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:

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-Hair; 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., 2024.

LARRY DEITER
Director of Insurance

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT	
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023	
RIVERSOURCE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:	227 AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL CENTER MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55474
MAIL ADDRESS:	227 AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL CENTER MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55474
ASSETS:	
Bonds	\$8,371,150,828.00
Stocks	\$499,369,360.00
Mortgage Loans on	
Real Estate	\$1,314,850,716.00
Real Estate Owned	\$72,173,765.00
Policy Loans	\$651,623,870.00
Cash and Bank Deposits	\$2,121,399,403.00
Deferred and	
Uncollected Premiums	\$5,636,761.00
Investment Income	
Due and Accrued	\$94,806,527.00
Other Assets	\$91,789,429,678.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$105,117,440,848.00
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS	
Reserve for Life	
Policies & Contracts	\$11,144,960,358.00
Reserve for Accident	
& Health Policies	\$3,064,920,146.00
Policy and Contract Claims	
Life	\$55,813,934.00
Accident & Health	\$18,759,801.00
General Expenses	
Due or Accrued	\$21,479,394.00
Taxes, Licenses & Fees	
Due or Accrued	\$31,115,592.00
Federal Income Taxes	
Due or Accrued	\$0.00
All Other Liabilities	\$87,455,265,510.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$102,060,314,735.00
Special Surplus Funds	\$2,585,017,230.00
Capital Paid Up	\$3,000,000.00
Gross Paid in and	
Contributed Surplus	\$1,050,731,922.00
Unassigned Surplus	\$581,623,039.00
Surplus as Regards	
Policymakers	\$3,057,126,113.00
TOTAL	\$105,117,440,848.00
BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2023	
Direct Premiums Received	\$31,266,970.00
Direct Losses Paid	\$25,351,074.00
Losses Incurred	\$24,713,972.00
Life Insurance in Force	\$634,185,306.00

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

DIVISION OF INSURANCE, STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the RiverSource Life Insurance Company, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Minnesota, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota;

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

1, 2, 20, 21
1) Life; 2) Health; 3) Fire & Allied Lines; 4) Inland & Ocean Marine; 5) Workmen's Compensation; 6) Bodily Injury Liability (Other than Auto); 7) Property Damage (Other than Auto); 8) Auto Bodily Injury; 9) Auto Property Damage; 10) Auto Physical Damage; 11) Fidelity & Surety; 12) Glass; 13) Burglary & Theft; 14) Boiler & Machinery; 15) Aircraft; 16) Credit; 17) Crop-Hair; 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., 2024.

LARRY DEITER
Director of Insurance

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT	
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023	
KANSAS CITY LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:	3520 BROADWAY KANSAS CITY, MO 64111-2565
MAIL ADDRESS:	3520 BROADWAY KANSAS CITY, MO 64111-2565
ASSETS:	
Bonds	\$1,879,328,171.00
Stocks	\$63,460,047.00
Mortgage Loans on	
Real Estate	\$552,694,727.00
Real Estate Owned	\$86,625,402.00
Policy Loans	\$58,041,056.00
Cash and Bank Deposits	\$62,777,594.00
Deferred and	
Uncollected Premiums	\$6,266,095.00
Investment Income	
Due and Accrued	\$23,231,618.00
Other Assets	\$518,136,319.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$3,250,491,032.00
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS	
Reserve for Life	
Policies & Contracts	\$2,108,055,273.00
Reserve for Accident	
& Health Policies	\$5,151,862.00
Policy and Contract Claims	
Life	\$21,815,698.00
Accident & Health	\$4,481,091.00
General Expenses	
Due or Accrued	\$36,661,388.00
Taxes, Licenses & Fees	
Due or Accrued	\$3,819,875.00
Federal Income Taxes	
Due or Accrued	\$11,759,844.00
All Other Liabilities	\$781,121,950.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$2,917,866,193.00
Special Surplus Funds	\$10.00
Capital Paid Up	\$218,180,528.00
Gross Paid in and	
Contributed Surplus	\$41,025,001.00
Unassigned Surplus	\$454,780,367.00
Surplus as Regards	
Policymakers	\$277,624,840.00
TOTAL	\$3,250,491,030.00
BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2023	
Direct Premiums Received	\$895,255.00
Direct Losses Paid	\$518,607.00
Losses Incurred	\$679,453.00
Life Insurance in Force	\$154,346,955.00

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

DIVISION OF INSURANCE, STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Kansas City Life Insurance Company, a Corporation organized under the Laws of Missouri, has complied with all requirements of the Insurance Laws of the State of South Dakota;

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

1, 2, 20, 21
1) Life; 2) Health; 3) Fire & Allied Lines; 4) Inland & Ocean Marine; 5) Workmen's Compensation; 6) Bodily Injury Liability (Other than Auto); 7) Property Damage (Other than Auto); 8) Auto Bodily Injury; 9) Auto Property Damage; 10) Auto Physical Damage; 11) Fidelity & Surety; 12) Glass; 13) Burglary & Theft; 14) Boiler & Machinery; 15) Aircraft; 16) Credit; 17) Crop-Hair; 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., 2024.

LARRY DEITER
Director of Insurance

FROM ANNUAL STATEMENT	
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023	
JACKSON NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	
HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:	1 CORPORATE WAY LANSING, MI 48951
MAIL ADDRESS:	1 CORPORATE WAY LANSING, MI 48951
ASSETS:	
Bonds	\$38,257,779,802.00
Stocks	\$1,218,352,659.00
Mortgage Loans on	
Real Estate	\$10,278,311,557.00
Real Estate Owned	\$226,591,548.00
Policy Loans	\$4,241,715,886.00
Cash and Bank Deposits	\$2,064,327,463.00
Deferred and	
Uncollected Premiums	\$203,084,449.00
Investment Income	
Due and Accrued	\$585,905,472.00
Other Assets	\$212,441,042,064.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$3,691,577,910,900.00
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS & OTHER FUNDS	
Reserve for Life	
Policies & Contracts	\$25,250,874,249.00
Reserve for Accident	
& Health Policies	\$0.00
Policy and Contract Claims	
Life	\$760,037,227.00
Accident & Health	\$0.00
General Expenses	
Due or Accrued	\$208,003,317.00
Taxes, Licenses & Fees	
Due or Accrued	\$2,506,082.00
Federal Income Taxes	
Due or Accrued	\$720,888.00
All Other Liabilities	\$238,702,347,490.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$26,912,489,253.00
Special Surplus Funds	\$502,793,870.00
Capital Paid Up	\$13,800,000.00
Gross Paid in and	
Contributed Surplus	\$4,631,054,966.00
Unassigned Surplus	\$695,022,189.00
Surplus as Regards	
Policymakers	\$4,652,621,647.00
TOTAL	\$2,691,577,910,900.00
BUSINESS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2023	
Direct Premiums Received	\$30,949,683.00
Direct Losses Paid	\$89,050,419.00
Losses Incurred	\$44,769,651.00
Life Insurance in Force	\$287,411,935.00

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

DIVISION OF INSURANCE, STATE CAPITOL, PIERRE

COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Jackson National Life 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:

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-Hair; 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., 2024.

LARRY DEITER
Director of Insurance

Girls are winners in three relay events at Hamlin Track

The Groton Area girls 400m relay team, 800m relay team, 1600m relay team and Sprint Medley Relay Team were all winners at the Hamlin Invitational Track Meet held Monday in Hayti. Those taking second were Keegen Tracy in the 200m and 400m dash, Blake Pauli in the 800m run, Colby Dunker in the Javelin and Taryn Traphagen in the 400m dash.

Boy's Division

- Team Scores:** 1. Elkton-Lake Benton 137, 2. Hamlin 107, 3. Viborg-Hurley 93, 4. Ipswich 64, 5. Flandreau 62, 6. Sioux Valley 56, 7. Groton Area 49, 8. Clark/Willow Lake 38.5, 9. Estelline/Hendricks 36, 10. Sisseton 31, 10. Aberdeen Roncalli 31, 12. Florence/Henry 14, 13. Iroquois/Lake Preston 13.5, 14. Wilmot 8
- 200 Meters:** 2. Keegen Tracy, 23.19; 16. Gage Sippel, 25.62
- 400 Meters:** 2. Keegen Tracy, 51.93; 9. Gage Sippel, 57.69
- 800 Meters:** 2. Blake Pauli, 2:04.83; 9. Jayden Schwan, 2:19.32; 13. Garrett Schultz, 2:35.33
- 300m Hurdles:** 16. Tristin McGannon, 48.92
- 4x200 Relay:** 5. Lane Tietz, Colby Dunker, Blake Pauli, Keegen Tracy, 1:35.96
- 4x800 Relay:** 3. Jayden Schwan, Tristin McGannon, Gage Sippel, Logan Warrington, 9:30.69
- Shot Put:** 5. Logan Ringgenberg, 45' 2.25; 19. Karter Moody, 35' 7.5
- Discus:** 6. Logan Ringgenberg, 124' 1.5; 10. Holden Sippel, 112' 1; 28. Karter Moody, 88' 1
- Javelin:** 2. Colby Dunker, 148' 1; 14. Karter Moody, 108' 5; 25. Drew Thurston, 86' 2
- Triple Jump:** 11. Tristin McGannon, 31' 11

Girl's Division

- Team Scores:** 1. Sioux Valley 90.5, 2. Ipswich 73.5, 3. Clark/Willow Lake 69, 3. Groton Area 69, 5. Howard 61, 6. Estelline/Hendricks 56, 7. Flandreau 52.5, 8. Iroquois/Lake Preston 51, 9. Elkton-Lake Benton 50, 10. Florence/Henry 36, 11. Viborg-Hurley 30, 11. Hamlin 30, 13. Sisseton 26, 14. Aberdeen Roncalli 23, 15. Wilmot 5.5
- 100 Meters:** 20. Elizabeth Flihs, 14.46; 22. Kayla Lehr, 14.49
- 200 Meters:** 4. Rylee Dunker, 27.88; 17. Elizabeth Flihs, 30.20; 25. Kayla Lehr, 30.74
- 400 Meters:** 2. Taryn Traphagen, 1:02.89; 9. Ashlynn Warrington, 1:07.05; 15. Elizabeth Flihs, 1:10.16
- 800 Meters:** 7. Ashlynn Warrington, 2:39.41
- 100m Hurdles:** 6. McKenna Tietz, 17.81; 13. Talli Wright, 19.36; 17. Emerlee Jones, 20.41
- 300m Hurdles:** 4. McKenna Tietz, 51.08; 10. Talli Wright, 54.72
- 4x100 Relay:** 1. Laila Roberts, Kella Tracy, McKenna Tietz, Rylee Dunker, 52.37
- 4x200 Relay:** 1. Laila Roberts, Kella Tracy, Jerica Locke, Rylee Dunker, 1:49.44
- 4x400 Relay:** 1. Jerica Locke, Taryn Traphagen, Kella Tracy, Laila Roberts, 4:11.79

- SMR 1600m:** 1. Laila Roberts, Rylee Dunker, Taryn Traphagen, Faith Traphagen, 4:28.47
- Shot Put:** 3. Emma Kutter, 33' 4; 15. Faith Flihs, 26' 11.75; 20. Avery Crank, 25' 2
- Discus:** 12. Faith Flihs, 76' 6; 13. Avery Crank, 76' 0.5; 15. Emma Kutter, 71' 4.5
- Javelin:** 9. Emma Kutter, 79' 8; 11. Avery Crank, 74' 2; 17. Ashley Johnson, 57' 3
- High Jump:** 14. Emerlee Jones, 4' 0
- Long Jump:** 24. Teagan Hanten, 12' 3
- Triple Jump:** 11. Emerlee Jones, 28' 1.5; 14. Teagan Hanten, 26' 8

Guthmiller takes second at NEC Golf

Carly Guthmiller took second place at the Northeast Conference Girls Golf Meet held Monday in Redfield. She finished the day with a 94. Carlee Johnson placed fourth with a 97, Mia Crank was 12th with a 115, Claire Schuelke was 13th with a 119, Carly Gibert was 14th with a 120 and Halee Harder was 20th with a 141. Roncalli won the team title with 381 points followed by Groton Area with 425, Milbank with 495 and Redfield with 564.

Aberdeen Central Field Event Meet

The Aberdeen Central Field Event Meet was held Tuesday. Logan Ringgenberg placed fourth in the boys shot put and Emma Kutter was eighth in the girls shot put.

Boy's Division

Groton Area takes first in three events at NEC Track Meet

The North Eastern Conference (NEC) varsity track meet was held Thursday in Sisseton SD. The girls battled Milbank with Groton Area finishing a close second in the overall team NEC Championship. The boys tied with Clark/Willow Lake for 6th.

- Bruce Babcock

Emma Kutter took first in the Javelin, McKenna Tietz took first in the 300m hurdles and the boys sprint medley relay team took first place.

Boy's Division

100 Meters: 2. Keegen Tracy, 11.59

200 Meters: 10. Lane Tietz, 25.09; 18. Gage Sippel, 26.43

400 Meters: 2. Keegen Tracy, 52.22; 12. Gage Sippel, 57.82

800 Meters: 7. Jayden Schwan, 2:18.58

1600 Meters: 17. Garrett Schultz, 5:59.12

300m Hurdles: 11. Tristin McGannon, 49.47

4x200 Relay: 5. Lane Tietz, Colby Dunker, Blake Pauli, Gage Sippel, 1:41.85

4x800 Relay: 6. Tristin McGannon, Logan Warrington, Jayden Schwan, Garrett Schultz, 9:52.90.

SMR 1600m: 1. Lane Tietz, Colby Dunker, Keegen Tracy, Blake Pauli, 3:46.90.

Shot Put: 6. Logan Ringgenberg, 42' 11; 10. Karter Moody, 36' 11.25; 11. Holden Sippel, 36' 8

Discus: 4. Logan Ringgenberg, 123' 7; 7. Holden Sippel, 116' 5; 21. Karter Moody, 88' 2

Javelin: 11. Karter Moody, 101' 1; 28. Drew Thurston, 80' 1.

Triple Jump: 12. Tristin McGannon, 32' 8.5SR

Girl's Division

100 Meters: 3. Laila Roberts, 13.24; 4. Rylee Dunker, 13.44; 21. Hannah Sandness, 14.93

200 Meters: 2. Laila Roberts, 28.61; 3. Rylee Dunker, 29.39; 13. Elizabeth Fliehs, 31.02

400 Meters: 2. Taryn Traphagen, 1:02.18; 4. Laila Roberts, 1:02.83; 5. Kella Tracy, 1:03.66

800 Meters: 3. Faith Traphagen, 2:35.34; 4. Taryn Traphagen, 2:38.95

1600 Meters: 4. Ryelle Gilbert, 5:42.97

3200 Meters: 5. Ryelle Gilbert, 13:08.50

100m Hurdles: 2. McKenna Tietz, 18.07; 10. Talli Wright, 18.93; 15. Emerlee Jones, 20.16

300m Hurdles: 1. McKenna Tietz, 51.98; 5. Emerlee Jones, 54.03; 6. Talli Wright, 54.53

4x100 Relay: 5. McKenna Tietz, Rylee Dunker, Jerica Locke, Elizabeth Fliehs, 54.97.

4x200 Relay: 2. Rylee Dunker, McKenna Tietz, Jerica Locke, Elizabeth Fliehs, 1:52.55.

4x400 Relay: 2. Jerica Locke, Kella Tracy, Taryn Traphagen, Ashlynn Warrington, 4:17.94.

4x800 Relay: 2. Faith Traphagen, Kella Tracy, Taryn Traphagen, Ashlynn Warrington, 10:01.47.

SMR 1600m: 6. Elizabeth Fliehs, Ashlynn Warrington, Jerica Locke, Kella Tracy, 4:58.15.

Shot Put: 2. Emma Kutter, 34' 4; 15. Avery Crank, 27' 3.5; 21. Faith Fliehs, 26' 0

Discus: 11. Avery Crank, 78' 7; 13. Faith Fliehs, 78' 5; 16. Emma Kutter, 74' 1

Javelin: 1. Emma Kutter, 87' 10; 18. Avery Crank, 64' 5; 23. Ashley Johnson, 58' 10

Long Jump: 8. Laila Roberts, 13' 11.75; 18. Teagan Hanten, 13' 3

Triple Jump: 18. Emerlee Jones, 27' 7.75; 20. Teagan Hanten, 27' 5

Groton Area Tigers Varsity Raly Defeats Redfield Area Muskrats

Groton Area Tigers Varsity trailed by as many as four, but came back to best Redfield Area Muskrats on Wednesday, 8-4.

Redfield Area Muskrats opened the scoring in the first after Elijah Morrissette doubled, scoring two runs.

A double by Morrissette extended the Redfield Area Muskrats lead to 4-0 in the top of the second inning.

Groton Area Tigers Varsity tied the game in the bottom of the second thanks to a single by Braxton Imrie, a walk by Dillon Abeln, and a single by Bradin Althoff.

In the bottom of the sixth, Groton Area Tigers Varsity broke up the tie when Colby Dunker tripled, scoring three runs. Then a ground out by Logan Ringgenberg followed to extend the lead to 8-4.

Abeln led things off on the bump for Groton Area Tigers Varsity. The right-handed pitcher surrendered six hits and four runs (two earned) over five innings, striking out seven and walking four. Kevin Weller led things off on the mound for Redfield Area Muskrats. The starting pitcher allowed nine hits and eight runs over six innings, striking out none and walking seven. Jarrett Erdmann tossed two innings of zero-run ball for Groton Area Tigers Varsity in relief.

The reliever allowed zero hits, striking out six and walking three. Groton Area Tigers Varsity collected nine hits in the game. Dunker drove the middle of the lineup, leading Groton Area Tigers Varsity with three runs batted in. The left fielder went 1-for-3 on the day. Number nine hitter, Imrie, showed the depth of Groton Area Tigers Varsity's lineup, by leading them with three hits in three at bats. Althoff collected two hits for Groton Area Tigers Varsity in three at bats. Karsten Fliehs paced Groton Area Tigers

Varsity with two walks. Overall, the team had patience at the plate, amassing seven walks for the game.

Morrissette drove the middle of the lineup, leading Redfield Area Muskrats with four runs batted in. The right-handed hitter went 3-for-3 on the day. Redfield Area Muskrats had patience at the plate, amassing seven walks for the game. Weller, Conner Zens, and Hunter Binger led the team with two free passes each.

Redfield Area Muskrats turned one double play in the game.

Third Week Trap Shoot

The third week of the Trap Shoot League scores have been released with two Groton Area shooters having perfect scores. Turner Thompson returned to the top and was joined by Payton Mitchell with perfect scores to lead the group. Cadence Feist was one behind with a 49 while Faith Fliehs had a 48 and five more with a 47.

Name	Rd1	Rd2	Total
THOMPSON, TURNER	25	25	50
MITCHELL, PAYTON	25	25	50
FEIST, CADENCE	24	25	49
FLIEHS, FAITH	25	23	48
KAMPA, JAEGER	23	24	47
KAMPA, TRISTAN	25	22	47
HOLMES, ASHTON	23	24	47
MITCHELL, PAISLEY	23	24	47
MOREHOUSE, WESLEY	23	24	47
HANSON, LAYNE	24	22	46
POWERS-DINGER, MICHAEL	21	25	46
SMITH, TREY	22	24	46
WAMBACH, BRYSON	22	23	45
SCEPANIAC, ISIAH	23	22	45
STANGE, TYTON	21	23	44
SPERRY, OWEN	23	19	42
THOMPSON, TARYN	22	20	42
FROST, CHARLIE	20	21	41
PIGORS, GENTRY	18	21	39
SCEPANIAC, NOAH	19	20	39
SPERRY, ASHLYN	16	18	34
KOTZER, ADELINE	16	17	33
KUTTER, IAN	18	14	32
LEICHT, TUCKER	17	13	30
HOLMES, SYDNEY	16	10	26
RUDEBUSCH, JACLYN	10	4	14

King Crossword

ACROSS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18			19			20				
21			22			23				
24	25	26				27		28	29	30
31			32			33		34		
35		36		37				38		
39		40		41						
42	43			44		45		46	47	48
49					50			51		
52				53				54		
55				56				57		

1 Reddish brown
 5 \$ dispenser
 8 Cries of aversion
 12 Spiced tea
 13 Goat's plaint
 14 Entreaty
 15 Mystique
 16 Blue Angels events
 18 Australian red wine
 20 Fedora feature
 21 Medicinal plant
 23 PC key
 24 Schubert compositions
 28 "Monopoly" cubes
 31 Misery
 32 Barbs
 34 "Science Friday" network
 35 Adjoining
 37 Sweeten
 39 Rocker Nugent
 41 Minnesota —
 42 Penniless one
 45 Fearsome fly
 49 Relaxing time on the slopes
 51 Equitable
 52 "Understood"

53 Lucy's TV pal
 54 Forearm bone
 55 Minus
 56 Season opener?
 57 Some July babies
 7 Painter
 8 Supported
 9 Acting smug
 10 Hacks with an axe
 11 Postpaid enc.
 17 Mexican Mrs.
 19 Sleep like —
 22 Treble clef lines
 24 Bristle
 25 Caviar base
 26 Fabric features
 27 Calming drug
 29 Tax pro
 30 Mess up
 33 Bygone jets
 36 Prairie homes
 38 Of service
 40 — Moines
 42 Beach bucket
 43 Church area
 44 Invitation notation
 46 Story
 47 China (Pref.)
 48 Historic periods
 50 White wine cocktail

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Donley's Construction Class Builds Small House

Two years ago, Joe Foertsch was the first area businessman to help Donley's construction class with the building of their small house by helping to level the floor. He was also the last one to volunteer this spring by assisting students in hanging the front door.

Several area businessmen volunteered to help teach the students in various areas involved in the construction process. These men include Jim Lane, Austin Blocker, Locke Electric who assisted with wiring, John Sippel who helped with the cabinets, and Ryan Scepaniak who helped with the plumbing.

A huge thank you also goes to S&S Lumber as most of the materials were purchased from this business. Everything was provided by local contractors and businesses except for the rare occasion when a few items were not available in Groton.

The greatest lesson learned was how willing these businesses and contractors were with their support and help as well as the importance of keeping it local!

The small house is just under 500 square feet with 2x6 walls, insulated floor, energy heel on the rafters with 18" of insulation in the attic, LED lighting, and LE windows.

It is hoped that \$44,000.00 can be raised with the sale of this small house to pay for the materials. Any extra funds received beyond the cost of the materials will be placed in the school's shop department account. The house can easily be moved with a stack mover.

This project gave the students an excellent opportunity to sample different aspects of the various construction trades.

A sincere thank you goes out to all the area contractors, businesses, and individuals who donated their time in teaching the students all of the various mechanics that go into building a house.

- Dorene Nelson



Standing in back Joe Foertsch Students in front Blake Dennert, Nick Morris, Kaden Kampa, Jaeger Kampa, Carson Herrick, Christian Ehresmann, Riley Carman, absent Tristan Kampa. (Photo by Dorene Nelson)



King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

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

Donley's Construction Class Builds Small House

(Photos by Dorene Nelson)



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I AM A NAVY VETERAN,
... AND A DAD, FOUNDER OF THE DTOM 22/0 FOUNDATION, NATIONAL PUBLIC SPIRIT AWARD WINNER, & SOUTH DAKOTA VETERAN OF THE YEAR.
NOT A CAREER POLITICIAN
A CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICAN VOICE THAT YOU CAN TRUST TO
GET THE JOB DONE & GET HOME.

CHRISTOPHER REDER DISTRICT 1 HOUSE

School Board

Continued from front

Region 1 Assistant Coach of the Year title after the 2023-2024 basketball season. The board accepted Gerlach's resignation from the assistant coaching position if a suitable replacement can be found. Strom, who has been assistant volleyball coach since 2017, also submitted her resignation. Because Strom is not a full-time employee of the district, her resignation was accepted without qualifiers.

- The board also accepted the resignation of Robin Bitz, special education paraprofessional. Bitz was hired in September.

- Superintendent Joe Schwan discussed recently-released Title IX rules. The U.S. Department of Education released new regulations in April to "promptly and efficiently address all forms of sex discrimination," according to federal government officials. Those regulations are scheduled to go into effect on August 1, but those rules are facing legal challenges from states, including South Dakota. Earlier this month, school districts received a letter from the South Dakota Secretary of Education requesting districts refrain from changing policies yet. Districts are in "limbo" about upcoming policy changes, but new policies likely won't go into place until the legal battles play out, Schwan told the board.

- The board hired Brittany Hubbard, science/health science teacher and oral interp adviser, as HOSA-Future Health Professionals advisor for the 2024-2025 school year at 5 percent of base salary.

- The board approved summer employment agreements for Connect 4Ed Summer School, special education extended school year and summer custodial work. Emily Dinger and Julie Erdmann will work for the Connect 4Ed Summer School program at 50 hours each in June at \$31.25 per hour and 50 hours each in July at \$32.50 per hour. Anne Zoellner was hired for both extended school year services and Connect 4Ed Summer School. She will work 100 hours in June at \$31.25 per hour and 75 hours in July at \$32.50 per hour. Ann Gibbs, Todd Peterson and Reilly Fuhrman were hired for the extended school year program. Gibbs will work 50 hours in June at \$31.25 per hour and 25 hours in July at \$32.50 per hour. Fuhrman will work 20 hours in June at \$31.25 per hour. Peterson will work 28 hours in June at \$31.25 per hour and 24 hours after July 1 at \$32.50 per hour. Summer custodial members work 40 hours per week. Those workers include Kristen Dolan (\$15.70-\$16.33 per hour), Delbert Hinkelman (\$14.74-\$15.33 per hour), JoAnn Donley (\$14.74-\$15.33 per hour) and Brandon Clocksene (\$15.69-\$16.32 per hour).

- Hub City Roofing will finish the last portion of roofing work needed at Groton Area Elementary School. The project was broken into multiple parts, with the final portion including the northeast section of the elementary school. Hub City Roofing submitted a base bid of \$110,000 with a 20-year warranty. ARS, a company out of Sioux Falls, submitted a base bid of \$171,140 with a 15-year warranty.

- The board approved establishing custodial accounts for student groups fundraising. Those groups include girls basketball, boys basketball, boys soccer, girls soccer, football, volleyball and music. The move allows student leaders to have more responsibility in balancing the budgets of their student groups and allows for more transparency.

- The board cast three ballots for the South Dakota High School Activities Association. The Groton board voted for Lyman School District Superintendent Chris Long to serve as West River At-Large Representative on the SDHSAA Board of Districts. The board also supported Todd County High School Activities Director Chuck Wilson for the Native American At-Large Representative seat. Finally, the board voted to amend the SDHSAA By-Laws to include policy updates related to student-athletes being paid for promotions. The move comes after the NCAA instituted policy changes to allow college student-athletes to receive compensation from sponsors without impacting their student-athlete status.

- Elizabeth Varin



There were a lot of people using the pickleball/tennis/basketball courts on a beautiful Sunday afternoon.



The 131st Annual Commencement Ceremony was held Sunday. The presentation of the scholarships and awards was announced with the diplomas being presented afterwards. The ceremony lasted 55 minutes.

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Thank you!
Dick Kolker

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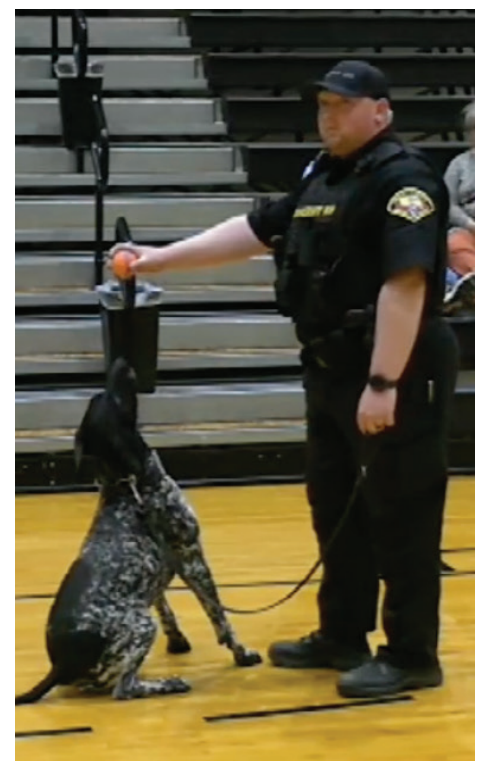

The DARE Essay winners are Grady Zeck, third place; Ayce Warrington, second place; Preston Hinkelman and Libby Johnson, first place, Andi Iverson, second place and Tori Schuster, third place. The DARE graduation was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM and the video is archived under Other Events. The audio of the presentations is very clear on the video. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



This group of Groton Area fifth graders graduated from D.A.R.E. on Tuesday. In front, left to right, are Lilly Davis Bentley Ehresmann, Quinton Flores, Hadley Heilman, Hank Hill, Brayson Hubbs, Jeremiah Hubben and Andi Iverson; in the second row from front, left to right, are Charli Jacobsen, Libby Johnson, Kendyll Kroll, Easton Larson, Mason Locke, Maycee Moody, Colton Morehouse and Hallie Perkins; in second row from back, left to right, are Caelynn Pullan, Carlos Rodriguez, Graham Rose, Grady Rowen, Tori Schuster, Ivan Schwan, Chase Slight and Addison Steffes; in back are Janel Lone, Emmett Zoellner, Landon Thornton, Parker Zoellner and Groton Police Chief Stacy Mayou. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



This group of Groton Area fifth graders graduated from D.A.R.E. on Tuesday. In front, left to right, are Bella Barrera, Rylan Blackwood, Carter Boerger, Gracie Borg, Brynlee Dunker, Amara El-Salahy, Ambrielle Feist and Drew Fjeldheim; in the second row from front, left to right, are Jaela Flihs, Danielle Franken, Keith Furman, Preston Hinkelman, Rylee Hofer, Rayna Loeschke, Blake Malsam and Mya Moody; in the second row from back, left to right, are Knox Mulder, Zoe Olson, Cash Reif, Kinley Sandness, Charles Telkamp, Kinton Tracy, Taylynn Traphagen and Ayce Warrington; in back, left to right, are Shelby Hendrickson, Joslynn White Crane, Legend Whiteaker, Grady Zeck and Groton Police Chief Stacy Mayou. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Brown County Deputy Joshua Lee had a presentation with his K-9 drug dog, Hari. Lee has had Hari for three years. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)

Dear EarthTalk: Why are conventional toothpaste tubes not eco-friendly? What better alternatives are out there? -- Jackie V., Pittsburgh, PA

The impact of conventional toothpaste tubes is significant and largely negative. Typically made from non-biodegradable plastic and aluminum, they present significant challenges in recycling processes. The mixed material composition requires complex, costly separation techniques, making recycling inefficient and often nonviable. According to Forbes, some 1.5 billion toothpaste tubes are discarded each year.

The production and disposal of these tubes involves substantial energy use and emissions. From the extraction and processing of raw materials to manufacturing and eventual disposal, the lifecycle of conventional toothpaste tubes is energy-intensive and ecologically damaging. After use, they are typically "discarded at a facility and will end up in the landfill" says Julie Smith of Aspire Colorado.

In response to these issues, there has been a rise in eco-friendly alternatives. Zero-waste toothpastes, which eschew traditional tubes, are becoming increasingly popular. These typically come in tablet or powder form and are packaged in biodegradable or recyclable materials. Toothpaste tablets are especially sustainable as they also reduce water usage, relying instead on saliva of water.

Other innovative solutions include toothpastes packaged in metal tubes, which are easier to recycle than plastic ones, and brands that use plant-based container materials. These efforts reflect growing consumer demand for sustainable products, reflecting a broader trend towards environmental responsibility.

Several brands have been leading the way in this shift towards sustainability. David's Natural Toothpaste offer toothpaste is packaged in metal tubes, and The Humble Co. uses plant-based materials for their biodegradable tubes. Both options present a significant reduction in waste compared to traditional plastic tubes. These products not only help to reduce environmental impacts and also cater to health-conscious consumer by avoiding harmful chemicals often found in conventional toothpastes.

However, transitioning to these eco-friendly alternatives is not without its challenges. Makers face significant hurdles in altering established production lines, sourcing materials that meet quality and safety standards and potentially incurring higher costs. Consumers may also be hesitant to switch to new formats, such as tablets or powders, or may be skeptic



The production and disposal of toothpaste tubes involves substantial energy use and emissions. Credit: Pexels.com.

about their efficacy. Additionally, the initial cost of these alternatives can be higher, which may deter widespread adoption.

Regulation and industry standards play a crucial role in facilitating this transition. Governments can promote the use of sustainable packaging by implementing policies that encourage recycling, reduce the use of non-recyclable materials or provide incentives for companies to develop greener products. Specific regulations that mandate the use of recyclable materials in packaging can drive innovation in the industry, leading to more sustainable options becoming available and economically viable.

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Telegraph, Telephone, Telemedicine

Technology has come a long way in the past 200 years. The telegraph was invented in 1837 and made rapid long range communication possible. Messages could be

sent around the world through a series of connected wires. The telegraph had medical applications in the Civil War. It was used to order medical supplies and report information about injuries and casualties to medical teams. This was cutting edge technology at the time, but it now is considered an obsolete method of communication.

Alexander Graham Bell patented the telephone in 1876. By 1900 there were nearly 600,000 telephones in use. At the end of 1910 there were over 5.8 million active telephones. The telephone was seen as a tool to connect doctors and patients together over a distance. A report in The Lancet Journal from 1879 described how a doctor could use the telephone to listen to a baby's cough and diagnose croup.

In 1924 The Radio News Magazine predicted a two way video encounter with a "radio doctor" using a television-like device. In 1959 the University of Nebraska became the first place to use two-way video communications for telemedicine applications. This was done using closed circuit television to connect medical students at the main campus in Omaha with patients at the Norfolk State Hospital 112 miles away. However, Telemedicine as we know it today did not get its start until the 1970's.

Telemedicine can also be used to send radiology images remotely to radiologists who can be in a different state or even a different country. With the improvement of cellular technology, EKGs can be sent from the back of an ambulance to the hospital. So before a patient even sets foot inside the door of the hospital, the Emergency Room doctors and Cardiologists can be prepared. This can not only save time, but can save lives when someone is having a heart attack.

With the COVID 19 pandemic, there was an increased push to use telemedicine for virtual visits in the clinic setting. Telemedicine has also been used when patient transfer from smaller hospitals to larger tertiary care centers is not possible or when dangerous winter driving conditions make transfers unsafe. This technology helps bridge the gap in medical care between rural areas without specialists and urban medical centers.

The jump from telegraphs to telemedicine with virtual visits is a big one. I can only imagine what the next 200 years of technological advancements will bring to how we deliver health care. No matter how we interact, there will always be a doctor ready to connect and help you, stay healthy out there.

Jill Kruse, D.O. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices as a hospitalist in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org and on Facebook and Instagram featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show providing health information based on science, built on trust, on SDPB and streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

Jill Kruse, DO