

LEGALS

FROM PAGE 16

JON GODFREAD
Commissioner of Insurance

50020

ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31, 2025
of the
Dakota Homestead Title Insurance Company
In the state of SD

Total Assets	6416635
Total Liabilities	1170104
Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds	0
Common Capital Stock	497473
Preferred Capital Stock	900000
Aggregate Write-ins for Other Than	0
Special Surplus Funds	
Surplus Notes	0
Gross Paid in and	
Contributed Surplus	1163051
Unassigned Funds	2686007
Total Capital and Surplus	5246531
Total Liabilities,	
Capital And Surplus	6416635

NORTH DAKOTA BUSINESS ONLY
FOR THE YEAR 2025

Total Direct Premiums	
Earned	0
Total Direct Losses	
Incurred	0

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
OF INSURANCE

I, Jon Godfread, Commissioner of Insurance of the State of North Dakota, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true Abstract of Statement, as officially filed by the Company in this office.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of this office at Bismarck, the first day of March, A.D. 2026 (SEAL).

JON GODFREAD
Commissioner of Insurance

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
OF INSURANCE
COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF
AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the above corporation duly organized under the laws of its state or country of domicile, has filed in this office a sworn statement exhibiting its condition and business for the year ending December 31, 2025 conformable to the requirements of the laws of this State regarding the business of insurance and

WHEREAS, the said company has filed in this office a duly certified copy of its charter with certificate of organization in compliance with the requirements of insurance law aforesaid.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JON GODFREAD, Commissioner of Insurance of the State of North Dakota, pursuant to the provisions of said laws, do hereby certify that the above named company is fully empowered through its authorized agents and representatives, to transact its appropriated business of authorized insurance in the state according to the laws thereof, until the 30th day of April, A.D. 2027.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal at Bismarck this first day of March, A.D., 2026

(SEAL)
JON GODFREAD
Commissioner of Insurance

ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31, 2025
of the

American Bankers Insurance Company Of Florida
In the state of Florida

Total Assets	3,121,162,968
Total Liabilities	2,487,305,682
Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds	0
Common Capital Stock	5,083,164
Preferred Capital Stock	0
Aggregate Write-ins for Other Than	0
Special Surplus Funds	
Surplus Notes	0
Gross Paid in and	
Contributed Surplus	265,075,599
Unassigned funds (surplus)	363,698,523
Total Capital and Surplus	633,857,286
Total Liabilities, Capital And Surplus	3,121,162,968

NORTH DAKOTA BUSINESS ONLY
FOR THE YEAR 2025

Total Direct Premiums	
Earned	5,873,732
Total Direct Losses	
Incurred	3,831,146
Total Accident and Health Direct Premiums	0
Earned	
Total Accident and Health Direct Losses	0
Incurred	

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
OF INSURANCE

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JON GODFREAD
Commissioner of Insurance

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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
OF INSURANCE
COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF
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(SEAL)
JON GODFREAD
Commissioner of Insurance

10111

Dakota Datebook

Dandelion Wars

By Sarah Walker

June 15 – On this date in 1946, one E. G. Wanner, known as Cap, was embroiled in a vicious battle. Daily, he marched out to check on the battle, and to make his plans. For Cap, the battle was “strictly personal,” and he was ready to fight for the finish. Except that this battle was close to home—it took place on the State Capitol Grounds in Bismarck. Cap, who was superintendent of the grounds, had declared war on dandelions—the “blight of the Capitol lawn.”

That year’s crop of the sunny, yellow flower, which some people eat, some find cheerful, and even more people hate, had been particularly bad that year, and the flowers had “clotted the entire lawn,” thousands upon thousands threatening to spread even more seeds for the upcoming year.

So Cap, with the help of County Agent L. H. Stahler from the Federal Bureau of Plant Industry, and Lars A. Jensen, a state extension agronomist, staked out a test area in one of the most heavily infested sections of the lawn. He divided it into sections, and treated each part with one of several selective broad-leafed plant killers. Some sections were also treated with fertilizer to determine if that would aid the grass as the weeds were killed off. This vicious battle, man to weed, was monitored for the next three weeks.

When the testing was done, Cap planned to use the winning combination on the entire capitol lawn to eradicate the problem. Obviously, Cap did not quite find common ground with Ralph Waldo Emerson, who wrote “What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered.”

Dunseith Vigilantes

By Jayme L. Job

June 16 – Located near the present-day International Peace Garden, the North Dakota town of Dunseith is named for a Gaelic word meaning “city of peace” – although there have certainly been times in the city’s history when peace was in short supply. June of 1893 was just such a time, when a mysterious cowboy appeared in the small town and caused quite a bit of trouble.

Despite its modest size, Dunseith had a bustling downtown in 1893, with a grocery, a new bank, and even a modern jewelry store. Farmers and ranchers from the surrounding area often came into town to make purchases and conduct business, even from the Canadian side of the border. So, when the stranger wearing dungarees was seen around town, no one took notice. Although he was around for a few days, no one

learned anything about him, not even his name.

On the evening of June 16, the stranger rode his horse up to the Turtle Mountain Bank around 8 p.m. Cashier J. C. Tucker was just closing up when the cowboy entered the bank and drew his pistol. Threatening Tucker with the revolver, the bandit managed to persuade the cashier to open the bank’s safe, which he quickly emptied. He then marched Tucker out to his horse at gun-point. Although early in the evening, few people were out and about, and no one noticed as the cowboy mounted the horse and rode off into the mountains. Tucker quickly sent up the alarm, however, alerting the townspeople of the robbery. The bandit, meanwhile, decided that the \$1,000 he had stolen was not enough, and turned his horse around. He decided he would also rob Kotchevar’s jewelry store.

Returning to town, he went into the store and ordered the clerk, James McRae, to hand over cash and jewelry. McRae attempted to overpower the stranger, but was shot in the struggle. By this time, the townspeople had begun to organize themselves to discuss the robbery and put together a posse to follow the bank robber. When they heard the shot from the jewelry store, they rushed to the scene with guns drawn. The citizen posse chased after the cowboy, and soon caught up with the nameless bandit, shooting both him and his horse.

Dr. Webster Merrifield

By Merry Helm

June 17 – Dr. Webster Merrifield became UND’s third president on this date in 1891. He refused for a number of years before finally accepting the position.

Merrifield grew up in Vermont and graduated from Yale in 1877. For the next two years, he taught in a private school at Newburg, NY, and then spent the next four as a Greek and Latin tutor at Yale. He moved to Dakota Territory in 1883 to fill the chair of Latin and Greek at the newly established University of North Dakota, where he also taught Literature and Political Science. He was Secretary of the Faculty, the University’s first Librarian, and a driving force behind adopting a liberal arts curriculum rather than offering a more practical education.

UND’s early years were particularly difficult, as they were for all the state’s schools. The state had taken on too many costly institutions without enough people to support the tax base needed to fund them. In 1885, President Blackburn was dismissed, and Merrifield was asked to take over. Instead, Merrifield found UND’s second president, Homer Sprague, to take over. By 1891, Merrifield couldn’t hold off the offer any

longer and took over the position of president, which he held for the next 15 years.

Merrifield faced the same challenges as his peers and predecessors – lack of money and resources. The territory was struggling toward statehood, there were political problems, and the economy was on the downturn. In 1894, an outbreak of typhoid fever paralyzed both the university and the city of Grand Forks. The following year, the governor refused to appropriate any money for UND, and it looked like it would have to close its doors.

The University of Montana saw an opportunity and tempted Merrifield to become its president and to bring his entire faculty along with him. The city of Grand Forks rallied, however, raising \$26,000, and the teaching staff voted to accept a 25% pay cut.

During Merrifield’s presidency, UND’s system was reorganized and actually expanded. The School of Mines opened in 1897, and two years later the Law School opened. 1901 saw the creation of the College of Mining Engineering, and of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, and also the College of Liberal Arts and the Normal College took shape. In 1905, a two-year School of Medicine was established, and in 1906, Merrifield and the president of Wesley College agreed to essentially share their resources with each other.

Freshmen dubbed the first campus telephone the “class tree” and “got back and forth to Grand Forks on daily afternoon trains or a horse and carriage bus called the “Black Maria.” The few students who lived on campus during those earliest years occupied two large barracks called the Bull Pen and the Ram Pasture. One story tells of a pious classman who loudly delivered bedtime prayers that included the names and misdeeds of everyone in the whole Bull Pen – loudly enough for professors to hear. It was reported that students “took matters into their own hands with a forced dip in a cold bathtub, which soon solved the problem.”

Merrifield also worked to develop and greatly improve curricular standards and graduation requirements for the state’s many fledgling high schools. In fact, at his retirement in 1912, he was honored as the “father of secondary schools” in North Dakota.

Dr. Webster Merrifield died in his Pasadena home in January 1916.

Andy Jones

By Sarah Walker

June 18 – Pierce County was created by an act of the legislature of the Territory of Dakota in 1887. By 1891, the present shape of the county was finalized, with a total of 30 town-

Southwest Water Authority releases 2025 drinking water quality reports

Courtesy of Southwest Water Authority

DICKINSON, N.D. – Southwest Water Authority (SWA) has released its 2025 Consumer Confidence Reports, confirming that drinking water provided to residents and businesses across southwest North Dakota continues to meet or exceed all state and federal water standards.

The annual reports highlight SWA’s ongoing commitment to delivering safe, high-quality drinking water to the region. SWA again received Certificates of Achievement from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for meeting all Safe Drinking Water Act requirements across its five water systems.

“Providing safe, reliable drinking water is at the core of everything we do,” said Jen Murray, SWA manager and CEO. “These reports reflect the dedication of our team and our continued commitment to protecting public health while delivering quality water our customers can trust.”

Consumer Confidence Reports are federally required annual reports that provide information about drinking water sources, water quality testing results, potential contaminants and related health information. The reports are designed to help customers better understand their drinking water and the measures taken to ensure its safety.

Copies of SWA’s 2025 Consumer Confidence Reports were recently mailed to customers. Reports for all five SWA water systems are available online at swwater.com/consumer-confidence-reports/. Customers may also request a copy by contacting SWA at 701-225-0241 or toll-free at 888-425-0241.

Since 1986, the Southwest Pipeline Project has been constructing an efficient network of pipelines, pump stations, reservoirs, and treatment facilities to bring quality water to the region. To date, 33 communities and more than 7,800 rural service locations, 24 contract customers, 25 raw-water customers, and two rural water systems are served by the Project. Reaching rural areas where people continue to wait is dependent on everyone’s support. Southwest Water Authority continues its mission of Quality Water for Southwest North Dakota.