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INSIDE TODAY



A Review Of Notable 2012 Deaths • 10

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Dec. 24
1 shopping day to Christmas

* * *

Schedule For New Year's Fun Week Announced

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE
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To give youth in Yankton an alternative to drugs and alcohol, the Coalition for a Drug Free Yankton has partnered with other community organizations to host the New Year's Fun Week this week.

Jennifer Berg, community prevention networker for the coalition, said the organization wanted to bring as many businesses and community members together as it could to have a variety of events available.

"We're really excited to serve the Yankton community and surrounding area, and we look forward to a good end of the year and good beginning of the year after that," she said. "This week is largely funded by the businesses in Yankton — the entire community puts forth an effort for this, the Coalition just happens to put it together."

In the past, Berg said, the events have been sponsored by Parents for a Safe Prom and were originally held on New Year's Eve. The coalition has decided to spread the activities throughout the week to be able to hold a variety of activities.

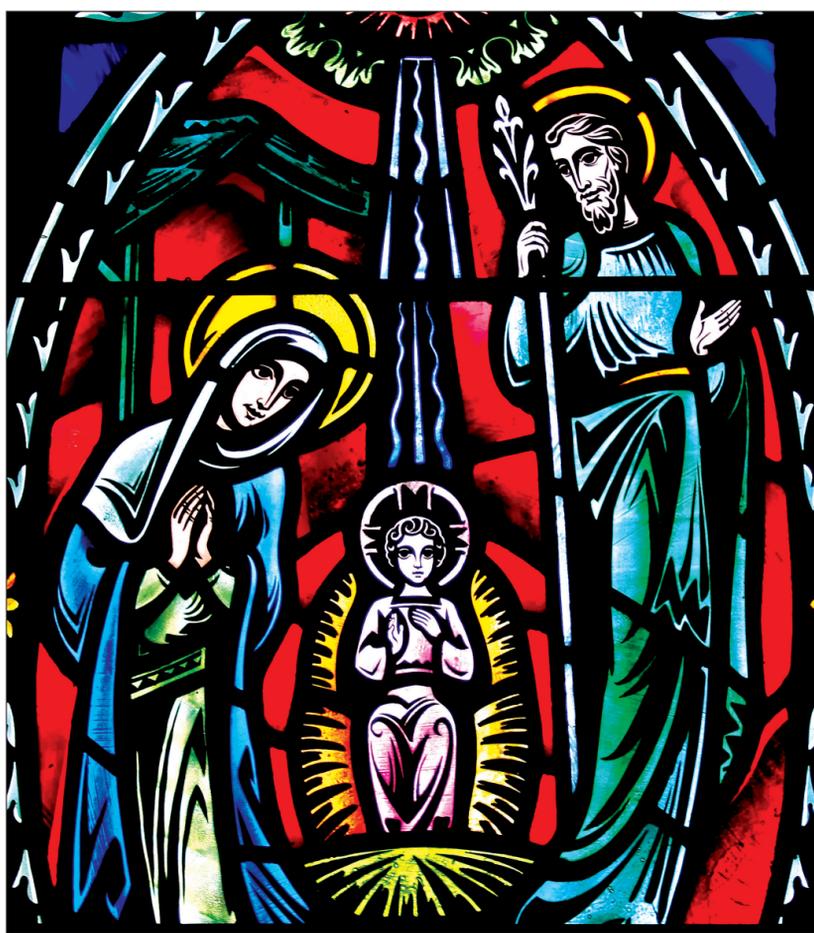
This year, a family movie night has been added to the list of events, and Berg is hoping community members will take advantage of the opportunity. A free youth ticket will be provided with every adult ticket purchased for a 7 p.m. movie showing at Carmike Cinemas on Sunday.

Berg is also looking forward to the first high school Hollidazzle Teen Dance for grades 9-12 on Thursday.

"We had a good amount of people participate last year, more so than we had planned," she said. "We've continued getting ready for it until now, and with the activities we added, there's going to be a good amount of individuals coming. This year we're hoping for 2,000

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THE MEANING



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

It's Christmas Eve 2012, and amid all the shopping, all the music, all the television specials and all the festive decorations, there remains a simple reason why we celebrate Christmas. That reason is captured on this stained-glass window at Bishop Marty Chapel in Yankton, in a photo taken during Mount Marty College's 2012 Vespers. As described in the Gospel of Luke: "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." The staff of the Press & Dakotan wishes you a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Firm NRA Opposes New Gun Legislation

Group Blames Media For Renewed Criticism After Conn. Massacre

BY KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An unwavering National Rifle Association said Sunday that new gun regulations would not make children safer and that a White House task force on gun violence may try to undermine the Second Amendment.

The organization blasted "a media machine" that it said relishes blaming the gun industry for each new attack like the one that occurred just over a week ago at a Connecticut elementary school.

"Look, a gun is a tool. The problem is the criminal," said Wayne LaPierre, the CEO of the nation's largest gun-rights lobby, in a television interview.

LaPierre hardly backed down from his comments Friday, when the NRA broke its weeklong silence on the shooting rampage at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

LaPierre's assertion that guns and police officers in all schools are what will stop the next killer drew widespread scorn, and even some NRA supporters in Congress are publicly disagreeing with the proposal. Rep. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., called it "the most revolting, tone deaf statement I've ever seen." A headline from *The New York Post* summarized LaPierre's initial presentation before reporters with the headline: "Gun Nut! NRA loon in bizarre rant over Newtown."



LaPierre

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BH Students Lend Helping Hand

Students Deliver Trucks Full Of Needed Items To County's Pantry

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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TYNDALL — When Christmas gifts arrived in Tyndall recently, they didn't come from Santa or arrive by sleigh and reindeer.

In the spirit of holiday giving, the Bon Homme school district's students and staff delivered three pick-up trucks loaded with food and supplies for the Bon Homme County pantry.

The items were taken to the pantry in Tyndall, but the donations will go to

residents around the county. Elementary, middle and high school students — along with teachers, office staff, custodians and administration — contributed to the effort.

Bon Homme superintendent Bryce Knudson said he was pleased with the generosity shown during the project.

"Our communities are very proud of the efforts of our students in collecting the food articles, as well as our teachers for initiating the annual project," he said. "It helps to stock the food pantry for the holiday season

and helps those in need."

The project spurred some friendly competition among classes, Knudson said. The first grade won the prize of a root beer float party by collecting nearly eight donated items per student.

Food pantry manager Shirley Mann wasn't prepared for the size of the students' delivery.

"We had an appointment with

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PHOTO: LISA SESTAK/BON HOMME SCHOOLS

Bon Homme High School juniors (from left) Ali Vicek, Megan Burbach, Danielle Tycz, Christine Pinkelman, Mariah Kostal and Brenda Walloch show off some of the hundreds of donated items collected by the school district's students and staff for the Bon Homme County Food Pantry.

Grant To Boost Visitation Center Security



Lyndsay Evans, coordinator of the Family Visitation Center (FVC) in Yankton, stands next to surveillance equipment used at the center during client visits.

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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Christmas may promote peace and goodwill, but for many separated or divorced parents, the holidays also bring stress and conflict over custody and visitation.

In such situations, the Family Visitation Center (FVC) of Yankton provides on-site supervised visits. The center also offers the supervised transfer of children from one parent to the other.

The center has seen soaring numbers each month this year, straining the ability to accommodate requests for visits, according to FVC coordinator Lyndsay Evans.

"We are set to see some record numbers. Our December visits look to double what we saw earlier in the year," she said. "We had 76 visits in December (as of last Friday), with another 27 scheduled during the last 10 days of the month — and we could have more."

The FVC recently received a \$4,000 Venture Grant from the United Way of Yankton, which should

"The Venture Grant has been such a blessing to me, our staff and the people who use the visitation center."

LYNSAY EVANS

greatly improve its ability to handle the growing demand, Evans said.

"The Venture Grant has been such a blessing to me, our staff and the people who use the visitation center," she said.

The FVC uses surveillance equipment to monitor parents' visits, with a staff member taking notes for documentation in addition to the video. The Venture Grant will be used to purchase another set of equipment, along with a metal detector for the front door to enhance security and safety.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS from all of us at the... YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN

