

S. Dakota Family Wins Free Home In Drawing

RAPID CITY (AP) — A South Dakota family has won a free home in a drawing entered by more than 5,000 people from eight states. Elaine Keester of Scenic says she and her husband entered the drawing at Iseman Homes in Rapid City. They won a new double-wide manufactured home that has about 1,400 square feet of living space, two bathrooms and a patio.

She tells KOTA-TV that she considers the new home a Christmas present. The couple's current home is more than 40 years old and was damaged by a small tornado about a year ago.

Keester says the new home might not be installed until spring because the home site is located down about 15 miles of thin, winding road.

Plant Can Process Unlimited Number Of Cattle

ABERDEEN (AP) — Northern Beef Packers can now process an unlimited number of cattle after getting its permanent certificate of occupancy from the city of Aberdeen.

The city previously had restricted the plant in northeastern South Dakota to processing 125 head of cattle a day because of delays in the installation of wastewater equipment.

The *Aberdeen American News* reports the plant received a permit last week that lifted any production restrictions.

Aberdeen Building Inspector Chad Nilson says some issues remain with wastewater operations. But he says those issues will be handled through enforcement of a wastewater permit, not through building inspection.

Nilson says inspections at the plant will continue as it increases production and adjusts equipment.

The plant is expected to process 1,500 head of cattle a day when it's fully operational.

Report: University Of Neb. Expanding Its Assets

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The University of Nebraska increased its assets this year through a combination of investments, insurance and cost-savings measures, according to a new state report.

A state auditor's report shows that the university's unrestricted net assets grew by 10 percent this year, to \$902 million.

The report says the university's partnership with the Nebraska Medical Center generated \$7 million for the university this year. The university's insurance balances for property, general liability and group health insurance also grew by \$17 million.

The university's cash reserves increased by \$5 million, due largely to cost-saving measures. The report shows that compensation and benefits for employees increased by 2 percent, while expenses for supplies, materials and utilities decreased.

Car Dealership Celebrates 105th Year Of Business

BY DAVID ROOKHUYZEN
Capital Journal

PIERRE — The owner of a newfangled horseless carriage in the early 20th century wouldn't recognize much about the cars now on the road. But he would still recognize the name of the family in Pierre to see for all things automotive — Wegner.

Wegner Auto Company, the oldest car dealership in the state, may have changed with the times, but it's still the same business a mill operator from Nebraska founded more than a century ago.

Henry Wegner traveled up the Missouri River in the early 1900s to see the newly established permanent state capital of Pierre, eventually becoming enamored with the area.

In 1907 he seized on a business opportunity and founded a livery next to where a new hotel, the St. Charles, was slated to be built. Once the hotel was up and running, Wegner fixed vehicles and provided a covered area for patrons to keep the open-air wagons and horseless carriages of the time safe from the elements.

His fledgling business grew and Wegner began driving vehicles to Pierre from Minneapolis or Omaha for various distributors in order to sell them. From that sprung the Wegner dealership that would employ the next three generations of his family.

Henry's great-grandson, Jim Wegner, said the company has survived as long as it has because it has diversified and expanded to meet the various challenges of the last century.

A log book from the 1940s sitting in the dealership's lounge gives a dramatic example. It records five Oldsmobile purchases in 1942 and then a dearth of sales for the next two and a half years as World War II disrupted automobile production by diverting

steel, rubber and other goods to the war effort. The company survived by focusing on repair work and keeping the cars on the streets running, Wegner said.

The dealership has also sold tires for 80 out of its 105 years of operation, he said. In the late 1940s it branched out into the farm implement and equipment industries. The dealership sold Allis-Chalmers single round balers, which would bring in more money than any car in that era.

In 1972, seeking more space, the company moved from its original location to its current spot on Sioux Avenue. Once there, the business began slowly buying out surrounding buildings to continuing expanding, including a gas station on the corner of Sioux and Highland avenues, and a beer wholesaler where the body shop now stands.

Wegner said the company has grown beyond being just a car dealer. It's now a "transportation consultant," whose various departments — parts, service, body shop, collision center — support a customer as long as they own a vehicle.

"Every transportation need you have we've got here, anything you want we've got here," he said.

And although he's the fourth generation to run the dealership, Wegner said that wasn't planned by either he or his family. After college he came back to help in the parts department while the business was moving to its new facility, and wound up staying for 40 years simply because he enjoyed it.

"They didn't say 'We want you to come back' or 'You got to come back.' There's never been any pressure to do anything like that," he said.

His sister, Jenny Wegner-Boocock, followed the same path, eventually coming back to Pierre after several years of working in the Black Hills. Her son, Bryan, also now works for the dealership.

Report: Politics Don't Influence Neb. Roadwork

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Most Nebraska road and bridge projects are chosen based on need, not political pressure, and a few receive priority because of public support or other factors, according to a new legislative audit.

The report from the Legislature's Performance Audit Committee was commissioned after lawmakers approved a controversial roads-funding law in 2011. The new law, which takes effect in July, will divert about \$65 million in state sales tax revenue into roads projects each year for the next two decades. Nebraska schools and advocacy groups opposed the law, saying it would drain money from education and other programs.

Former state roads director Monty Fredrickson, who retired in August, told lawmakers that 90 percent of the projects during his 20-year tenure were chosen based on need, according to the report released this month. Fredrickson testified that he could not recall a situation where an elected official had pressured him to choose or prioritize a specific project.

Some district engineers and highway commissioners testified that mayors and state senators occasionally contacted them about specific projects, but they said they referred the officials to the Department of Roads' central office in Lincoln. Others said they recorded the comments just as they would any other public input.

"No one we talked to cited any evidence that a project's prioritization had been significantly influenced by factors" other than the needs-based assessment, committee members said in the report.

About 10 percent of the projects were scheduled because of other factors, such as the availability of permits, the department's ability to complete them, and public support. Fredrickson said.

Nebraska Department of Roads spokeswoman Mary Jo Oie said Wednesday that projects are sometimes delayed because agency officials are waiting for environmental approval from federal regulators.

The committee report relied on testimony from agency officials, as well as budget and roads department records. Scottsbluff Sen. John Harms, the panel's chairman, said the audit showed that the department is generally meeting its goals.



304 W. 3rd,
Yankton

**Try Our New
Homemade Pizzas!**

Dec. 29.....Go Figure

**Dec. 31 New Year's
Eve Party – Go Figure**
Hors d'oeuvres, Party Favors &
Champagne. Drawing for Trip to
Las Vegas (must be present to win)

**Joe's
Substation**

Rural Lesterville • 605-364-7414

**Will Be Closed on
Tuesday Dec. 25
No Chicken Buffet
Dec. 26 but will be
back on Jan. 2nd!**

**Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year
From All Of Us At Joe's!**

Come

**Ring in the
New Year!**

at



**Mac's
Pub**
Volin, SD
Phone 267-3333

Join Us Monday, December 31

Tenderloin Tips Dinner Special

Enjoy The Music Of **Mike & Jay**
playing 9PM-?

**HAVE A BLESSED
New Year.**

Authentic Mexican



EL TAPATIO

FAMILY MEXICAN RESTAURANT
2502 Fox Run Parkway • eltapatio-sd.com
Just North of Wendy's • (605) 260-1701

**OPEN
New Year's Eve
and
New Year's Day
11am-10pm**

Enjoy Our Daily Specials



**Godfather's
PIZZA**

**A PIZZA YOU
CAN'T REFUSE.**

www.godfathers.com

\$2 PIZZA

**BUY ANY
LARGE PIZZA AT
REGULAR PRICE
AND GET
SECOND**
(of equal or lesser value)
**For Only
\$2.00 More**

Present coupon when ordering.
Valid at participating locations. Not
valid with any other specials or
coupons. Delivery extra. Add \$1.00
for Mozza-Loaded Crust. Sales tax
not included. Expires 1/7/13.

2101 Broadway, Yankton, SD 605.665-2525

DEC. 28, 29, 30

RED DAWN
DIGITAL UP AND RUNNING!

Fri. 7:30 PM • Sat. 7:30 PM • Sun. 4 PM
Students \$2.00 Adults \$5.00

Idle Hour Theatre
Tripp, SD

**Overnight Trip To
Royal River Casino
at Flandreau, SD**

Next Trips
Jan. 3 & 4 (Senior Day)
Jan. 14 & 15
**For Reservations Call
Hennen Tours**
1-800-551-5275
or 402-394-1547
or 507-530-0587

Celebrate New Year's Eve at the Argo Hotel



**Featuring Live
Entertainment**

Seating starts at 5:30pm
RESERVATIONS ONLY
402-388-2400

Romantic Room Packages
Available For New Year's Eve
– Call Today!

The Argo
Open Thurs.-Fri.-Sat. at 5:30
1-402-388-2400
www.theargohotel.com
email: argo@gpcom.net CROFTON, NE

**Special
Whiskey Steak
and Jumbo Shrimp**

**Celebrating 100 Yrs. with
Room Package Drawings**

December 31

BLACK&WHITE
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Live Music  *Real Steel*
10PM-1AM

FREE! NO COVER CHARGE
Free Snacks & Refreshments

Win! HOT SEAT PRIZES WORTH OVER
\$2000

7:30PM-11:30PM \$200 WINNERS EVERY 30 MINUTES • MIDNIGHT \$213 WINNER
— Guests Dressed in Black & White Get \$5 in Free Play! —

OHYA
CASINO • RESORT

5 MI. E. OF NIOBRARA, NE ON HWY. 12 • 402.857.3860 • OHYACASINO.COM



**Out On
The Town**

CJ's At The Lake

OPEN ALL YEAR!
CJatthelake.com for menu's, events & bands • 402-388-4267
Weigan Rd., NE side of the lake • 10 miles north of Crofton • 11 miles southwest of Yankton

Great Food...Fantastic View...Awesome Wild Animal Display!

FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL!

Friday Nite All The Walleye & Grilled Shrimp You Can Eat!
Saturday Nite All The BBQ Ribs & Chicken You Can Eat
and Salad Bar **ONLY \$13.95**

**New Year's Eve Specials
at...**



BRUNO'S
605-667-7262

Monday, Dec. 31st

Prime Rib.....\$14.50
Stuffed Shrimp...\$9.25
Walleye.....\$11.50

All meals come with
potato & salad bar

COMEDIAN BOB ZANY



"From The Bob & Tom Show!"

NEW YEAR'S EVE LIVE!

TWO GREAT COMEDY SHOWS

1st Show -> Doors at 7pm, Show at 7:30pm \$20
2nd Show -> Doors at 9:30pm, Show at 10pm \$25
< Shows will go on SNOW OR SHINE, no refunds >

**PURCHASE TICKETS AT MINERVAS
OR BY CALLING 605.664.2244**

Minervas

1607 East Hwy 50 Yankton, SD 57078 605.664.2244

Monday December 31st