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**Call Classifieds**  
**665-7811**

**Lent**

From Page 1

the Messiah shows for us," he said.

The ashes remind Christians to focus on their eternal life, Olsen said.

"The ashes show immortality in ways, to keep in mind that life is very temporary. You have the words from the book of Sirach, 'Keep in mind your last end, and you will never sin,'" he said. "It's where we're headed and motivated to prepare for that. There is no greater sign of immortality than the signs of the ashes on the forehead."

**ASH WEDNESDAY PRACTICES**

As part of the Lenten observance, many Christians practice prayer, fasting and almsgiving, Olsen said. Catholics fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and they don't eat meat on Ash

Wednesday and all Lenten Fridays, he said.

The fasting consists of one major meal and two small meals, along with no snacking between meals, Olsen said. Some Catholics follow a strict fast and don't eat at all.

"The meatless meals come from the fact that meat was always seen as a sign of celebration. It was quite an event to kill the animal that was the productive in the flock," he said. "Anytime you were fortunate to have meat, it would be a celebration. During the Lenten season, it's where you abstain from meat for days of penance."

The practice of meatless Fridays is linked to Good Friday, Olsen said. "Jesus' death requires a special level of dedication and commitment from us," he said.

While many Christians fast on Ash Wednesday, Pearson said his parish also carries on a pre-Lenten tradition practiced by many churches.

"Our youth group holds a Shrove Tuesday pancake feed on

the night before Ash Wednesday," he said. "In western Christianity, they gave up bacon, eggs and other fats for the leanness of Lent. Shrove Tuesday was a time when they used up the fat that they were giving up. The term 'shrove' comes from 'shrivein,' which translates to 'forgiveness.'"

Many Christians also "give up" something pleasurable during Lent as a form of spiritual discipline, Olsen said.

"There is the danger of living in a society as blessed as ours, with so much at our disposal, to take it for granted and become somewhat enslaved to our desires," he said. "We want to be liberated from these things. We want to enjoy them but not be enslaved to them. We don't want them to control us, and we don't want to be controlled by our passions."

Lent isn't just for giving up something pleasurable, Olsen said.

"On the other side of the coin, we are able to do positive habits that may have fallen by the way-

side," he said.

In addition to acts of self-denial such as fasting, Christ Episcopal parishioners practice alms-giving, Pearson said.

"Our members give up something, but we also take on a generous project," he said. "We have the alms plate, and we will decide where the alms go during Easter."

At Trinity Lutheran, Wildermuth sees well-attended Ash Wednesday services setting the stage for the following midweek Lenten services. As a pastor, he stresses good actions to benefit others rather than acts of self-denial.

"Rather than give up selfish things in the first place, I put some emphasis on giving to others," he said.

**A SPECIAL SEASON**

Ash Wednesday marks the start of a Lenten period where Christians break out of their routine, Olsen said.

"We gear up for that feeling that comes in February. We antici-

pate with the arrival of Lent that something is in the air," he said. "I think people realize the special graces involved in the Lenten season. They respond to those graces and grow in holiness."

In describing the preparation for Ash Wednesday and Lent, Olsen used the analogy of wind sprits for athletics.

"It's something that's not very fun, but to be successful late in the game, you have to develop a discipline," he said. "It allows us to be able to face the adversity that comes during times of trial."

The sports analogy also describes the fresh start signified by Ash Wednesday and Lent, Olsen said.

"I think it's a great benefit, the change of seasons," he said.

"There's always a special excitement with the start of a new sports season. Everyone has hope, and everyone is running for the championship. We display our talents and give back as much as we possibly can."

**YSD**

From Page 1

fund budget of \$21,065,143. In FY10, there was an 8 percent increase; in FY11, there was a 15 percent increase; and in FY12, there was an 8 percent increase in costs to ACSD.

According to the Brandon Valley School District's (BVSD) FY2012 budget, \$2,174,600 will be spent on health insurance out of the general fund (an additional \$478,000 is spent out of the Special Education fund and \$120,000 out of the Food Service fund). Health insurance expenditures represent 12.3 percent of the total FY2012 general fund budget of

\$17,685,000. In FY10, there was a 6.7 percent increase; FY11, there was a 6.8 percent increase; and in FY12, there was a 3.5 percent increase in costs to BVSD.

According to the Brookings School District's (BSD) FY2012 budget, \$2,023,910 will be spent on health insurance out of the general fund (an additional \$521,325 is spent out of the Special Education fund and \$160,000 out of the Food Service fund). Health insurance expenditures represent 12.3 percent of the total FY2012 general fund budget of \$16,463,955. In FY10, there was no increase; FY11, there was a 6.15 percent increase; and FY12, there was a 12 percent increase in costs to BSD.

According to the Huron School District's (HSD) FY2012

budget, \$1,300,000 will be spent on health insurance out of the general fund (an additional \$135,000 is spent out of the Special Education fund and \$35,000 out of the Food Service fund). Health insurance expenditures represent 9.4 percent of the total FY2012 general fund budget of \$13,843,000. In FY10, there was a 25 percent increase; FY11, there was a 12 percent increase; and FY12, there was a 4.5 percent increase in costs to HSD.

According to the Mitchell School District's (MSD) FY2012 budget, \$930,267 will be spent on health insurance out of the general fund (an additional \$222,628 is spent out of the Special Education fund, \$42,000 out of the Food Service fund and \$900,582 is spent out of other funds\*).

Health insurance expenditures represent 6.6 percent of the total FY2012 general fund budget of \$14,055,000. In FY10, there was a 3 percent increase; FY11, there was a 3 percent increase; and in FY12, there was a 6 percent increase in costs to MSD.

According to the Pierre School District's (PSD) FY2012 budget, \$971,334 will be spent on health insurance out of the general fund (an additional \$211,709 is spent out of the Special Education fund and \$55,934 out of the Food Service fund). Health insurance expenditures represent 6.8 percent of the total FY2012 general fund budget of \$14,219,753. In FY10, there was a 5 percent increase; FY11, there was a 2 percent decrease; and in FY12, there was a 10 percent increase in costs to PSD.

to PSD.

According to the Watertown School District's (WSD) FY2012 budget, \$2,019,927 will be spent on health insurance out of the general fund (an additional \$658,434 is spent out of the Special Education fund, \$69,300 out of the Food Service fund and \$885,717 out of other funds\*). Health insurance expenditures represent 9.5 percent of the total FY2012 general fund budget of \$21,295,045. In FY10, there was an 8 percent increase; FY11, there was an 8.2 percent increase; and FY12, there was a 5.3 percent increase in costs to WSD.

Watertown and Mitchell school districts both oversee a vocational-technical school and the additional money spent represents funds from those programs.

**Lion**

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snap away as Cody, a student at South Dakota State University, returned to Brookings after his holiday break ended.

When he returned home last Friday for the long President's Day weekend, Cody retrieved the digital card from the camera, and began reviewing them on his computer.

"We set it (the camera) up during the first part of January, right after Christmas," Matt said, "and we hadn't checked it since then. He took the card out of the camera and put it in his laptop, and he began scrolling through all of the photos."

The camera snapped several images that weren't all that surprising. The Olsons presented the gift to Cody because they thought it would be neat to collect photos

of deer, raccoons, coyotes and other wildlife that live in the countryside in Clay County.

"There was about 180 pictures on there of deer and raccoon and coyotes, and he got about halfway through, and there was a picture of a mountain lion," Matt said. "He was pretty surprised."

"And my wife was obviously very surprised," Matt said. "She jogs a lot down in that area, and she made the comment, especially when the corn was tall, that she was always kind of nervous ... pretty soon, you know, you think stuff could come out of a field and start chasing you, and she was talking about mountain lions. At the time, I didn't doubt that they may be around, but I don't think they'd be out stalking somebody. But she's nervous about it now."

The Olsons have a second game camera set up about a mile from Cody's camera. "We haven't gotten anything on that," Matt said.

It's impossible to tell just from

the photo if the mountain lion is male or female. "I don't know if it was just passing through the area, or what," he said.

For several years now, outdoorsmen in the Vermillion area have reported seeing what they believe may be mountain lions, or have spotted tracks that could belong to the big cats, but they've never been able to confirm those suspicions.

"We hunt down in that area a lot, and a couple, three years ago, my dad, Erlan, saw something out in a field. It was a long ways away, and it was out near a tree line, and it jumped back into the trees," Matt said. "It looked like it had a big tail, and he instantly thought it could have been a mountain lion. But when you simply catch a glimpse of something like that, you just don't know for sure."

Cody's camera has put those doubts to rest. It has confirmed that, on occasion, the fauna of Clay County may, on occasion, in-

clude a mountain lion.

"I've heard rumors that they are around, and I've never doubted it," Matt said. "But, it's kind of interesting to get one on a camera. If he had been walking the other way, it wouldn't have been nearly as good. You maybe even would have questioned what it was."

"It was kind of neat that he was walking toward the camera and we got a good shot of him," he said.

The camera also has the capability of shooting video. "It takes more battery to shoot video, of course, but there a lot of different ways you can set it up. It takes a picture every 30 seconds, I think, and we were able to get one good shot of him."

"Some of the deer that walk by ... you just get a little bit of them ... maybe just their hind end as they're walking away, so this photo (of the mountain lion) was about as good a shot as you can get."

**Snow**

From Page 1

What we're seeing is a normal spring pattern here," Kaiser said.

The dry fall and early winter is presenting a much different situation for farmers, many of whom struggled to even get into the field during the wet spring of 2011. The U.S. Drought Monitor shows much of the Dakotas facing abnormally dry or drought conditions.

"I'd say it's a little dry right now on top and we definitely could use some moisture before spring planting," eastern South Dakota farmer Jarrod Haven told KELO-TV. "The wintertime is a good time to have a drought, I guess. We've never lost a crop in February before. As long as we get a little timely rain this spring, we'll be in good shape."

The state may have some of your money.

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