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Coal Country Deliver by Monday

Monday, November 23, 2020 Vol. 51, No. 38

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Cenex, Richardton • 11:45 MT Cenex, Mott • 1:05 MT Wades's C-Store, Elgin • 2:20 MT Cenex, Glen Ullin • 4:40 CT

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The Riverdale-Pick City Ambulance Service will be sending out a flyer on Friday.

Please open and read the important message pertaining to our rural ambulance service.

Board of Directors member for the Riverdale-Pick City Ambulance Service



BAKE AND Friday, December 4 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Country Kettle, Beulah Baked goods,

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FirstLink's 2-1-1 helpline is a free phone service available 24/7 to the public. Call specialists offer supportive, non-judgmental listening ears and information about community programs statewide. To reach the helpline dial 2-1-1 or (701) 235-7335.

If you or someone you know is thinking of suicide, dial 1-800-273-8255 (TALK). (Available 24 hours a day)

Drive-Thru COVID-19 Testing: November 23

Free COVID-19 testing will be offered on Monday, November 23, from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. behind Sakakawea Medical Center. Please enter west of the Mercer County Ambulance building and drive through the SMC Ambulance Bay to be tested. Pre-registration at testreg.nd.gov is strongly recommended.

CCCHC Closed for Thanksgiving

Coal Country Community Health Center - Beulah, Center, Hazen and Killdeer Clinics will be closed on Thursday, November 26. Regular hours will resume Friday, November 27. We wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving!

Medicare Open Enrollment: October 15 – December 7

Have you compared plans yet? See if you can lower costs or find a plan that better suits your needs. Many people do. Even if you like your current plan, check to see if the costs or coverage are changing. There are Senior Health Insurance Counselors in your area. Call Elysa at CCCHC Hazen, (701) 748-2256; Julie or Rhonda at CCCHC Beulah, (701) 873-4445; Sharlene at CCCHC Killdeer, (701) 764-5822.

Health Insurance Marketplace Open **Enrollment: November 1 – December 15**

Open enrollment for 2021 health insurance coverage is here act fast! Open enrollment continues through December 15, 2020. CCCHC has Certified Application Counselors to assist you with finding quality coverage at a price you can afford. Find health coverage that works for you. Call Heidi at (701) 873-4445 for more information.







COVID takes out Dickens Festival

By JILL DENNING GACKLE

For 26 years, the Dickens Village Festival bloomed through bitter cold, snowstorms and even theft from its checking account.

This unlikely winter festival for more than a quarter of a century canceled only three days of its traditional seven day festival between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

One year, whiteout conditions canceled the final day of the festival and another time the final weekend was canceled because of a snowstorm. In 1997, the organization's bookkeeper cleaned out the bank account bringing the organization to its knees.

This year it was a worldwide pandemic that knocked the wind out of the Christmas Capitol's winter festival.

The Dickens Committee announced Saturday, With a heavy heart, we sadly announce the cancellation of the 2020 Dickens Village Festival in Garrison. The Committee held out hope for this years festival to spread Christmas cheer to our businesses, organizations, volunteers, and our guests. The rising pandemic has continued to bring many challenges and uncertainty and unfortunately has left us, with the help of our sponsors, to make the toughest decision.

"It's sad. It was one of the toughest decisions," said McKaila Matteson, Convention and Visitors Bureau director and Dickens Committee member. "We always knew there was that small possibility. But we held out hope."

The committee of seven planned for the worst, but forged on with a strong dose of hope that the festival in some form would happen.

"The committee never lost hope," she said. "We always tried to look forward. What was happening in March could get worse, or it could get better.

But committee members had to keep up on statewide restrictions in order to be prepared.

She said the committee spent hours discussing scenarios, restrictions and how to keep the public safe.

Matteson said the committee is sensitive to the impact to businesses and tourists.

We know how important Dickens is to our community. It's sad thinking what the Thanksgiving weekend and the next two weekends will look like. It will be so sad looking down Main Street, it will feel so empty," she said. "We know our businesses rely on Dickens and they've already had a tougher year because it's been a different year. We knew the nonprofits needed this, our guests and some our community needed the upbeat joyfulness the festival brings.

Tourists who had booked their weekend were expressing joyful anticipation of the festival.

We had so many guests that were so excited," she said. "They kept saying 'We just needed something. We needed something to look

DICKENS IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

Events canceled before Saturday- only High Tea
Hours each SACA cast member practiced- 50+
Dollars spent on 2020 marketing- \$6,600+
Expected visitors day of festival- 1,000+
Length of Dickens committee meetings- 2-3 hours
Number of floats that will be mothballed- 17
Dollars generated by 2019 street vendors- \$15,000+
Dollars collected by street urchins for Gifts from the
Heart- \$450
Craft vendors that were canceled- 23

Craft vendors that were canceled- 23 Street vendors that were canceled- 6. 2 canceled

Number of people who rode the Queen Elizabus last year- 750+

forward to. We're so happy you're going on.' People are at the point in their lives when they need something to look forward to. Everything they're looking forward to kind of vanishes. COVID takes another strike."

MEMORIES

One of the founders of the

festival, Jude Iverson knows what a tough decision the committee chairs had to make.

"It was a little sad because it is something we've been noticed for, all these years. It's put Garrison on the map, as far as winter events. It's something we should be proud that our



community pulled together to do so many years in a row," she said.

"On the other hand, I think it's very admirable of the committee to put the public safety ahead of anything else. I congratulate them for doing that. It's seems like it's the right

thing given the circumstances of ordinances and recommendations. It must be very hard for a whole year of work to be suddenly uprooted and set aside."

She recalled weather that

See **DICKENS**

on page 5

Health Insurance Marketplace OPEN ENROLLMENT

November 1 - December 15



If you don't enroll in a 2021 health insurance plan by December 15, 2020, you can't enroll in a health insurance plan unless you qualify for a special enrollment period.

Need Health Insurance? Need To Re-Enroll?

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Coal Country Community Health Center in Beulah, Hazen, Center and Killdeer will be closed on Thursday, November 26th. Regular business hours resume Friday, November 27th.



Coal Country Community Health Center





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caused hiccups in the festival schedule, but she added, "To have the entire festival canceled, it's tough."

What Next?

2021 is already on the minds of the planners.

"We're going to come back bigger and better than ever," Matteson said. She said it will most likely be a good year because people will have missed the festival and all it offers.

"Sometimes if you don't have it, you realize how much it means to you," she

"If this has taught us one thing, we know why the festival was started in the first place. Now more than ever, it is important to shop local ... our businesses need it. We need to try to fill the gap that has been left now without Dickens.'

Iverson said there are likely concerns going forward: "There's always this sinking feeling, can we come back? By missing a year, are we going to lose interest from people who have come for so many years." But she said fans will be back.

DICKENS.....Continued from page 3

The Dickens Committee posted on its website: "We are thankful for the gracious support we e received from our sponsors, organizations and guests. We will come back bigger and better. We look forward to welcoming you back for the 2021 Dickens Village Festival scheduled for Nov. 26-27, Dec. 3-4, and Dec. 10-11.

Matteson said the committee will most likely book the same entertainment that they planned to have this year since they were considered popular choices.

As far as the Sakakawea Area Council of the Arts play goes, Director Lisa Maki said, he entire cast and crew signed on knowing we could get all the way to opening night and be told 'no ' due to COVID. We have decided to call ourselves the 2020 COVID Cast and we plan to make a comeback on stage next year.

The festival's website said it best: From the Christmas Capitol of North Dakota, we wish you a happy and healthy Holiday Season. And so, as Tiny Tim observed, 'God Bless Us Everyone!'

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Bucktails of good quality from a harvested deer can be preserved and left in their natural hues or dyed to provide color to patterns. Simonson Photo.

Talking tails

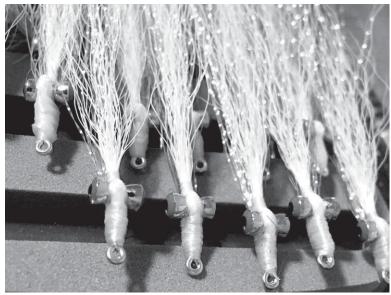
By Nick Simonson

When it comes to trophies following a successful hunt, most people's minds turn to the antlers on the buck they just shot, or the tenderloins in the doe they just tagged; but there's one part of a whitetail deer that stands out to those hunters who also create their own lures in the winter season that follows the hunt. The tail of a whitetail deer is one of the most ubiquitous sources of material for those looking to craft jigs for springtime smallmouth bass, in-line spinners for pike and muskies, and a wide variety of streamers for crappies, white bass and trout, and usually such a prize is present in a variety of colors in a lure making bench of fly tying desk, likely purchased from a store or online. However, tying these patterns and others with a bucktail from the deer you've harvested yourself adds to the reward of a good hunt and connects your most recent excursion with those you'll take next spring and summer.

QUALITY INSPECTION

A good bucktail will be clean and dry, so if you plan on saving one from a deer you've tagged, make sure to inspect it before removing it from the animal during the field dressing process, and do it before you get down to gutting. Make sure that the hairs are in good shape around the tail and it has both ample white and natural coloring. Check to see that there is not significant blood, feces, urine, mud or other contaminants on or in the hairs which may decrease its usability. Check also to see if the hair is in good shape. as deer can lose hair due to parasites, infections or other maladies. Also inspect the tail for burs or other natural materials which might render it unusable. If there are only minor accumulations of contaminants and no loss of hair, do what you can to wipe the tail clean before severing it from the body at its base with a sharp knife or small bone saw.

When you return home, debone the tail and skin it out. Then place it in a small



The Clouser minnow is a common fly tying pattern which catches fish of all species and incorporates bucktail in its most common incarnation. Simonson Photo. (Set near bottom third of article)

Ziploc bag and put it in the freezer to kill any ticks and mites and to better preserve the tail for use at the bench. Some Borax or salt on any flesh at the base will help dry it up during the curing process which takes a couple of weeks in the cold conditions. After that, you can use the tail as-is for great white and natural haired patterns or consider dyeing it with a number of commercial methods for the colors you want to tie your lures and flies in.

Many Uses

Bucktail hairs provide subtle motion in the water and are easily shaped with just a bit of thread tension. A harder pull when locking them into place on a jig, treble, or streamer hook will cause them to flare out, and they can be stacked clump over clump to provide added bulk without added weight. For jigs, keep them sparse and slightly flared to offer the most action in the water. Bucktail jigs provide a reliable go-to for smallmouth bass in spring when water temperatures are cold and a subtle presentation is required. Add a few strands of krystal flash for contrast and your homemade offering is sure to get snapped up.

Long before the in-line spinner market was dominated by Double Cowgirls and half-pound assemblies of #12 blades and mag flash skirts, bucktail spinners were the ticket to fast pike fishing and the occasional muskie. With a handful of 3/0 to 6/0 hooks, you can craft a reliable bucktail treble by layering the shaft with multiple bunches of hair from your harvest. White is a great color and comes naturally with the tail, and when set over a trio of red hackles creates that never-fail dynamic duo that members of the Esox genus just can't resist. Finally, from flies such as

Clouser minnows to blacknosed dace to shrimp patterns like the crazy Charlie, bucktail is a vital ingredient in streamers the work on trout in mountain streams, white bass and crappies in midwestern lakes, and saltwater species like redfish and speckled trout. Providing both profile and pulsation, the hollow hairs move with a strip through the water and help give that impression of a fleeing baitfish, crayfish or something else edible underwater. Whatever you angle for and however you do it, there's room for bucktail patterns tied from the tail of a deer you just harvested. Take care to consider this third trophy aspect when you put your tag on a whitetail this yearband tie the autumn adventure to those expeditions to come next spring and summer.

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Coal Country Community Health Center

For information and the company application, please visit www.coalcountryhealth.com

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Carbon Monoxide

Is a gas produced during combustion that you cannot see, taste or smell, which can cause severe side effects or even death.

Radon

Is a naturally occurring invisible, odorless, tasteless radioactive gas that increases the potential for lung cancer when exposed to at elevated levels.

Carbon Monoxide

it, and may show signs of poisoning sooner.

Fuel-powered devices can provide wonderful benefits when used properly. But they also underscore an important necessity in the home: the need for a carbon monoxide alarm. Carbon monoxide poisoning can results from faulty furnaces or other heating appliances, portable generators, water heaters, clothes dryers, or cars left running in garages. Young children are especially vulnerable to the effects because of their smaller bodies.

> Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include: Headache • Nausea • Dizziness • Drowsiness • Fatigue

Children process carbon monoxide differently than adults, may be more severely affected by

Top Tips

- 1. Make sure your home has a carbon monoxide alarm. As with smoke alarms, install a carbon monoxide alarm on every level of your home, especially near sleeping areas, and keep them at least 15 feet away from fuel-burning appliances.
- 2. Carbon monoxide alarms are not substitutes for smoke alarms, and vice versa. Combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are available.
- 3. Don't use a grill, generator or camping stove inside your home, garage or near a window.
- 4. If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Don't leave a car, SUV or motorcycle engine running inside a garage.
- 5. If using gasoline-powered devices, store gasoline in a locked location where children cannot access it. Keep only small quantities in an approved container that has child safety features.
- 6. Keep gasoline away from any source of heat, spark or flame. Even common household appliances such as water heaters and clothes dryers can start a gasoline fire. Be sure to store gasoline away from anything that could ignite it.

Radon

Radon has been found at elevated levels in homes across the country. The highest concentrations are usually found in basements and crawl spaces that's because they're located closest to the rocks or soil that are the source of the radon.

Radon exposure does not cause any short-term effects, such as coughing, trouble breathing or other respiratory symptoms. But its long-term effects can be serious.

Test your home for radon. The testing device, normally a charcoal canister kit, is set in the lowest habitable space (usually the basement during heating season when the house is kept closed) for a few days and then sent in for analysis.

If the reading exceeds the recommended level of 4 piocurries per liter of air, further testing will be needed to determine if sufficient radon is in the living space to required action to reduce the level.

Test kits are available from some hardware stores, your local public health district or the American Lung Association.

Reducing radon levels requires a combination of subslab suction using a fan, a sand or gravel layer under the concrete floor and basement floor crack sealing. Consult your extension service for more information.

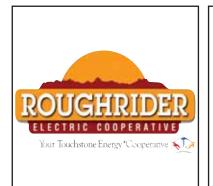
Having carbon monoxide and radon detectors are important for everyone's safety. You can purchase these detectors at most hardware and do-it-yourself stores.

> Keep your home healthy through proper home construction, maintenance and operation.

> > This message sponsored by the following.

MERCER-OLIVER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

www.mercercounty911.com



Make sure your home is free of radon and carbon monoxide, as well as propane leaks. Need assistance call Farmers Union Oil of Beulah 873-4363

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