LEAD ME HOME

Lead, South Dakota

LONG AWAITED RUSTIC NOOK BAKERY SET TO OPEN



-Sierra Ward

Rustic Nook Bakery has been trying to open for almost a year now and is finally going to make it happen! Leigha Patterson, has wanted to open a bakery to showcase her passion, "It's change) completely to focus on her always been my dream to open my own business and work for myself. I'm really good at baking and enjoy doing it. It's very therapeutic for me. So when I found someone who shared the same enjoyment for baking, I decided it was time to start a bakery and share our enjoyment with the community.," she says. Sadly the space she planned to rent from Nick Bennett on Main Street was held up after the price of materials and supplies spiked so crazily in 2020. On top of that contractors and tradespeople, always tough to find in good times, were even busier. "It's been so hard to get people to show up and prioritize what I think is a priority," said Leigha, laughing. Despite the remodel's snail pace, Leigha has decided to pull the trigger and open her shop space on October first. There may not be a full kitchen, but she and her assistant, Karen Linn plan to continue using the commercial kitchen at Bear Butte Gardens and sell their baked goods in their future space on Lead's Main Street until the kitchen is

Leigha has been a fixture at the Lead Area Chamber of Commerce and the Sanford Lab Homestake Visitor Center since the fall of 2019. She's for our organizations and all she will done an amazing job at organizing, and supporting with her attention to

detail and unparalleled work ethic. Leigha has decided that she needs to leave the Visitor Center (she had already pulled back significantly from the Chamber to facilitate this eventual new project. When asked why now she said, "Because I can't do two things half way. I need my focus and my passion to be in the bakery and I can't keep doing two things partially committed." She went on to say that it's been a difficult decision since she's loved working here, "I liked the fast pace and constantly having things to do. I liked working with the people, and meeting guests and chamber members."

Leigha adds that she learned about how to be involved in the community, and specifically how a chamber can help a business. "I learned a lot about business ownership and management from our chamber members by talking to them. I feel like I learned a lot that will help me as I make this transition."

The bakery comes at a perfect time of year when people have treats on the mind! "With the holidays coming we definitely wanted people to come in before the holidays," says Leigha.

Leigha will work until the last week of October, please come out on Thursday October 28th, which will also be Rustic Nook Bakery's ribbon cutting, October's Chamber Mixer, and a celebration of all Leigha has done continue to do in our community!

ates HAIR SHAFT 5 E MAN ST. 605 920 3956

Ribbon Cutting and September Chamber mixer was held on Friday 9/24 at Yates Hair Shaft to celebrate Chalsey's two years in business! We had a good turnout for this event as we celebrated a great accomplishment for a small business with cake, treats and a beautiful fall evening kick off to Fall in Love with Lead weekend. Want to schedule a mixer or ribbon cutting? Call Christine 584-3110 christine@leadmethere.org

Chamber Executive Reflects on Lessons Learned & Accomplishments for Lead

-Wendy Pitlick

When Sierra Ward took the reins as the executive director in November money from each individual event, 2018, the financial state of the Lead Area Chamber of Commerce was nearly dire. Several months had passed since the organization had leadership in the office, there was no money to pay for the Fourth of July fireworks, and the organization as a whole was slowly unraveling.

But Sierra's enthusiasm and sheer zest for Lead was infectious, and it wasn't long before she secured resources and support for her mission to promote Lead to the masses.

"We ended 2019 in the red. It was hard. It was a trial by fire," she said. "We hit the ground running because we had to come up with a lot of money in a short amount of time. I learned a lot about fundraising, sponsorship, and within just a couple of months we were able to pay for the fireworks and come up with money to get us back into financial health."

Working as a one-woman show for almost that first full year at the Chamber, Sierra was finally able to get some help in October 2019, when the Chamber board welcomed Leigha Patterson as the new assistant director. Together, Sierra and Leigha formed a team that would not only position the Chamber to be Lead's premier promotional powerhouse, but sent out was filled with praise and would also soon take over operations and fundraising for the Sanford Lab Homestake Visitor's Center.

"That same week (Leigha) started was the week that the board decided to reorganize both organizations and put me in charge of the visitor's center as well," Ward said. "Leigha is amazing. A testament to her amazingness is that two months later, I went on maternity leave. She held it together during several lonely winter months of early 2020, before I came back."

In order to pull the Chamber back into the "black," Sierra jumped headfirst into long-term fundraising and sponsorship initiatives. Before she came on board, she said it had been the practice for the Chamber to solicit sponsorships for individual events throughout the year. But Sierra recognized another way that would provide a larger pot of money, while

respecting business owners' time.

"Instead of piecemealing together which is what we had always done in the past, we went to people and asked for money to cover the whole year of what we were doing," Ward said. "That was an amazing program because it gave us a lot more freedom. It's also good because it frees up businesses that are very busy from being pestered all year long."

A natural introvert, Sierra said being thrust headlong into the world of fundraising also helped teach her some important life skills about how to build relationships. "I've never been in a job where the financial health of a company relied on me fundraising," she said. "Going to ask people for money is daunting, to say the least. But I think when you do those things that make you nervous and then you succeed, it's so exciting. This job has been full of those moments. I didn't even know I could do these things and I had to, because there was no one else to do it."

Fundraising also brought an opportunity to raise awareness about Lead, and Sierra made it her mission to spread the message about all the reasons residents and visitors alike should love the town. Everywhere she went and every digital message she promotion for Lead. This part of the job was easy for her, as Sierra's love for the town where her mother's family had roots was infectious, and motivated people from far and wide to explore the tiny mountain town with big adventure and an even bigger story.

"Raising money and getting us in the black was a great thing but my biggest accomplishment is making people see Lead in a new way," Sierra said. "I want people to see Lead as a special place, a place worth coming to and a place worth being part of. There are people who see Lead that way and we've been spreading that good news of Lead a lot further than we ever have in the past. I've had people tell me that I made them want to come to Lead."

SEPTEMBER CHAMBER MEMBERS

NEW MEMBERS - Christ Church Episcopal **NEW & RENEWING FRIENDS -** Paul Holtsclaw, Mary & Randy Stotz, Mike & Debbie Minter RENEWING BUSINESS MEMBERS - Black Hills Area Community Foundation, Cadillac Jacks Gaming Resort, CREMS Development, Executive Lodging of the Black Hills, Handley Recreation Center, Agnico Eagle USA, Lynn's Dakotamart, Mystic Hills Hideaway, Neighbor Works Dakota Home Resources, Prairie Hills Transit, Recreational Springs Resort, Twin City Animal Shelter, Matiland Partners

Thanks for being part of all we're doing! You make Lead, Miles Beyond Ordinary

WARD CONTINUED ON FLIP >>>

Winter Fun at Terry Peak for More Than 80 Years: A History



-Wendy Pitlick

Skiing has always been a part of life in the Trojan area around Terry Peak. For decades, children arrived at the Bald Mountain Ski Club joined the school on cross-country skis as their primary form of transportation. Then, when downhill skiing started to become popular in the 1930s, ski enthusiasts would ski down the Lost Camp trail along the Burlington Railroad Grade, across Annie Creek and eventually come out at Elmore, where a car would typically be parked to drive back up the mountain and do it all

It was a steep and narrow path that had left many terrified skiers feeling as though they had cheated death every time they made the run. Many skiers only did it once or twice before actual ski runs were estab-

That happened in 1937. The Lead Daily Call reported that a group called the Bald Mountain Ski Club began meeting in the "brand new" City Hall, about building a new ski slide on Terry Peak. By 1938, talks had escalated to action when several area organizations, including the Lead Commercial Club and the American Legion, issued donations for the new ski slide. Then, on Dec. 17, 1938, the first ski tow -arope hooked to a giant mechanical wheel, used to pull skiers back up to the top of the mountain - opened on Terry Peak. Homestake Mining Company donated the materials to build the tow rope, including 4,500-feet of rope line and a car engine used to power the wheel.

The first tow rope was about 2,400 feet long and paralleled the first ski run at Stewart Slope, which was named for Bertha Stewart, who had given the easement to make the ski slide possible.

During that first season, 173 skiers took to the slopes that had an elevation of more than 7,000 feet. They paid an initiation fee of \$2.50, and just \$1 a month afterward. According to reports from the Lead Daily Call, the first few years of skiing on Stewart Ed Keehn of Deadwood, and Bud Irish. Slope were quite popular, as skiers would drive to Trojan to park their car, reputation as a ski instructor at Terry and then walk a mile to Terry Peak. But World War II brought the fun to a screeching halt, and from 1942 to 1946 Bald Mountain Ski Area was closed. During that time the tow rope apparatus was disassembled, it's



metal and materials used for the war effort.

During the war, many members of U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division – a military company of skiers who fought the war from the mountainous region of Italy.

"The guys who started the Bald Mountain Ski Club and went to war actually served in a ski division in the war as ski troopers," said Linda Derosier, marketing manager for Terry Peak Ski Area. "When they were fighting in the 10th Mountain Division they would fight from the mountains and ski to where they needed to go."

When the soldiers in the 10th



Mountain Division returned to the United States, many of them started ski areas around the country. Terry Peak was no different, as members of the Bald Mountain Ski Club began talks about reopening winter sports in Lead in October of 1947. Shortly after the Bald Mountain Ski Club was incorporated, the group changed its name to the Terry Peak Ski Club in 1948. Some notable partners in the effort included Homestake attorney and businessman Ken Kellar, Bill Raybourn, Webb Weisenberg, high school principal F.D. Fitcher, John Rachetto,

Ed Keehn would go on to gain a Peak, logging the most hours of instruction over the course of 40 years. Another notable ski instructor was Walter Kussy, who had been a member of the 1938 Czech Olympic

Once winter sports went into full swing again, it seemed the entire community embraced snow life on Terry Peak. The venue soon hosted a winter carnival that included the crowning of the Terry Peak Snow Queen, and a snow sculpture, which artist Aldo Trucano built to mark the event. In 1947, the Terry Peak Ski Club began organizing ski jump teams, and by 1951 the Lead teams began competing in national competition. The 1,000-foot vertical runs combined

with the sparsely populated ski hill that allowed for extensive practice, was thought to have contributed to the success of many skiers in competitions around the country, including U.S. Olympians Scott Berry in 1972, and Jana Lindsey in 2006 and 2010.

Shortly after reopening skiing on Terry Peak, the Black Hills Chair Lift Company formed in 1952 and built the first chair lift, at a cost of \$65,000. Though many ski enthusiasts report that Terry Peak's first chair lift opened in 1954, reports from the Lead Daily Call prove otherwise. "Chair lift will open this weekend," was a Lead Daily Call headline in 1953. The article explains that organizers expected to see excellent snow conditions and large crowds who would enjoy adequate parking for the event that would feature the first wooden chair lift. "Skiers won't be the only ones who ride the lift," the article goes on to explain. "It will also be open to sight-seers who wish to climb Terry Peak in an easy chair." Non-skiers who simply wanted to ride the lift were charged \$1.50 for adults, and 75 cents for children.

Skiing would continue at Terry Peak for decades before managers began looking for efficient ways to make snow on the mountain in order to stabilize winter sports recreation that wasn't dependent upon Mother Nature. Derosier said the Terry Peak snow making well on Ben Hur, which is located high up on the mountain, was challenging to build in the late 1970s. "They couldn't drill deep enough," Derosier said. "So they ended up getting Homestake to help drill. They finally got through, but they apparently lost a very expensive drill bit in the process. Homestake helped Terry Peak get the well that currently serves our snow making operation. This improvement was a huge game changer for the future of Terry Peak. In the beginning of the snowmaking efforts, Terry Peak utilized the large Boyne fan snow guns that were somewhat inefficient and created an inconsistent icy snow surface."

Derosier recalled that in 1988 the Golden Reward Mine began investing in Terry Peak Ski Area. The investment allowed for the construction of Stewart Lodge, as well as the infrastructure and underground piping that serves the current snow making system based at Nevada Gulch

"This high-tech system uses huge compressors that push air and water through the underground piping system that covers more than 60% of the mountain. Highly compressed air and water are then combined at the snow gun nozzle and pushed out together during freezing temperatures to create a more natural type of man-made snow. The Black Hills winters are somewhat unpredictable so, the high-tech snowmaking system ensures our skiers and snowboarders great conditions from the beginning to the end of the season," she continued.

Overall, Terry Peak Ski Area has continued to serve as a major South Dakota attraction for winter sports enthusiasts, and the interest continues to grow. Currently the mountain hosts between 200,000 to 250,000 skiers in a season, and there are plans to develop the mountain for activities in the offseason months. The activities continue to evolve, as residents and visitors alike show appreciation for recreation in the Hills.

"To sum it up, Terry Peak is a gem located in the Northern Black Hills of South Dakota," she said. "It might just be the Best Kept Secret in the Midwest. However, with many changes in the ski industry more and more winter enthusiasts have found epic freedom and the cost advantages of skiing at Terry Peak."

Wendy Pitlick, deSales Writing wmpitlick@gmail.com

Thanks to Terry Peak for supplying all pictures.

Editor's Notes: Terry Peak season passes are on sale through the month of October! Don't miss this great deal! TerryPeak.com



WARD CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Because she loves spreading positive messages about Lead and being in a position to promote Lead in effective ways, Sierra said her decision to leave the Chamber was not an easy one. But as a mother to almost two year old Everett, the business manager for her husband's business, and most recently a student taking online seminary courses, Sierra said it was time to shift her focus.

"I waited a long time to be a parent," Sierra said. "I never wanted to pursue a career over motherhood. Because I had to wait so long, the career sort of accidentally happened. I have loved it so much. I strongly feel that you can do all the things in life, you just can't do them all at once. Right now, as Everett is getting older, I just want to really focus on being here for him. I was able to do a good job of being part time and juggling all the things when he was a baby. But it's a lot of job for it to be part time, and it means that even when I'm not working, I'm still mentally taxed. I think that both of these things in my life deserve more, and I'm not ready to sacrifice the thing I waited for, for so long."

Though she has turned in her resignation, Sierra said she plans to stick around the Chamber and Visitor's Center, to see some major projects through and to hopefully train her replacement before her official ending date of Nov. 26. Sierra added, "I'm so thankful for this opportunity and for all the help my staff has been in supporting our huge overhauls and these crazy past few years!" // Wendy Pitlick, deSales Writing - wmpitlick@gmail.com

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTORS

Sierra Ward, Executive Director

Christine often jokes that I've become the prom queen of Lead. I find this hilarious since it's a new found side of my personality since working in this public facing job. I definitely would never have been voted royalty of any kind when I was in high school. Tall, awkward and painfully shy I sometimes ate my lunch in the bathroom in order to avoid awkward social situations.

Someone once told me that I love to be the center of attention and all that's going on. "Isn't that why you throw parties and events and host everything under the sun?" Honestly, I actually shrink at being the center of attention. I throw parties so I can host them, and therefore work instead of actually attending them. I know I can be a ham, and I love to get people laughing, but it's really only in smaller groups and with people I know. The real secret to being the prom queen? It's that I've learned to care about people - to genuinely be interested in their lives and their experience at an event.

My mom once told me that shyness is just a form of selfishness, that usually we're thinking primarily of ourselves and our own discomfort. When I was young I poo pooed this idea, because honestly, WHAT do parents know anyway?! Ha. In college I became painfully aware of how right she was after several people told me how cool they thought I was (who, me?!), how they thought I probably would never be their friend because I was kind of snobby (WHAT?! snobby?!) I was horrified by these revelations, and vowed to take my mother's advice, because, turns out, she had been right. What was just painful awkwardness on my part actually had been seen as me worrying about myself and my own discomfort. And as much as we hate it, perception is reality.

Now in situations that feel awkward, I try to focus on others and about how I'd like to be welcomed to a party or event and how nice it is when someone comes up to initiate a conversation with me. I stop thinking about myself and start thinking about everyone else. I've also become genuinely interested in people, and hearing stories about their lives – people are so interesting after all! And then poof! the awkwardness disappears. Making it less about me and more about them has had the opposite effect, people are excited to know me because I'm excited to know them. Funny how being selfless works! Next time you're feeling awkward or nervous try this! I think you'll be surprised. // sierra@leadmethere.org

Christine Allen, Outreach & Membership Director

Hi Lead! It has been another busy month of telling Lead's story on the Trolley and wrapping up the events of the Summer. It allows me to start to focus on our members rather than our summer visitors. I for one am looking forward to that transition. My number one question from tourists is how we handle winter? I tell tourists that Lead gets over 200" of snow a year and they wonder how we even handle all that! Here is what I have learned so far.

1)Work your tail off during the summer so you can survive the winter! This includes all businesses from tourism, food service, construction, sales, pretty much everybody needs to make "Hay while the Sun Shines" in order to last through the slower winter months.

2) Be intentional about transitions. Some of our businesses don't actually slow down, they just pivot to a more "wintery" focus. Terry Peak will welcome thousands of slope enthusiasts both locals and tourists. Our construction companies may start snow removal and soon the trails will be roaring with snowmobiles instead of ATVs. Hot toddies will appear on bar menus and fireplaces will be roaring. Intentional focus means changing out inventory and curating experiences towards our winter guests.

3) Be prepared. For me that means buying snow tires and making sure the shovels and ice melt are at the ready. For others it means stacking firewood, changing out wardrobes, and buying supplies to last through the several inevitable snow days we will have.

4) Lastly, embrace the change! Slow down and enjoy the rest you have earned. If this continues to be a busy time, be intentional about taking some "you time" to sit in front of one of those warm fire places with a good book or good friends at least once a week. If this includes shorter hours for your business, maybe take this time to pursue some creative indoor hobbies and find joy in the coziness that winter brings. // Christine@LeadMeThere.org

CONDOLENCES

Dick Tinker - It is with regret that we mourn the passing of this long time Lead resident and chamber member. He was a wonderful part of our community and an active member of the Golden Gang. He is missed by many, including his family and his wife, Mona. Gary Goodrich - Long time Chamber member and Lead native passed away on 9/18. Some of you may remember his newsletter article last year about growing up in town and his many misadventures with cars. He is missed by many and survived by his children and his wife, Joanne. Memorial services will be at 11am on 10/8 at Fidler-Isburg Funeral Chapel in Spearfish.

NEW MEMBER

Christ Church Episcopal – We are excited to welcome this church to our membership! Their new pastor, Mother Lydia Simmons, has already thrown herself into the community and sees being a Chamber member as a part of the church's investment and committment to support Lead! As one of the oldest churches in town, they invite you to come to their services Sunday at 9:30am. Email Lydia@EpiscopalChurchSD.org for info.

WANTED

The Lead Area Chamber of Commerce & The Sanford Lab Homestake Visitor Center are seeking an **Executive Director**. Interested? Want more info check out the full job listing on www.LeadMeThere.org

COMMENTS

"It has not gone unnoticed that our current city leader-ship have worked hard to again lower the mil levy tax. Citizens appreciate that budgets are carefully crafted and taxes are lowered. Our city leads the way in fiscal responsiblity!" -Happy Citizen

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UPCOMING EVENTS

For a full list of upcoming events see our website calendar: <u>business.LeadMeThere.org/events</u> **Black Hills Paranormal Investigations** - Come to the Adams House Museum and search for paranormal activity using night vision cameras, full spectrum cameras, digital audio recorders, parascopes, Ovilus, and EMF meters. Tours are offered at 6, 7:30, 9, and 10:30 p.m. on 10/6, 7, 13, 14, 20, and 21. Tickets are \$35. 12+ to participate. Ages 12-16 must be accompanied by an adult. Reservations required. Tickets online at Deadwood-History.com or call 605-722-4800 for more information.

Festival of Trees - Save the date for Thursday, 12/9. Refreshments, party and LIVE auction return in force for this holiday favorite! This year's theme is "Christmas Around the World". If you are interested in donating items, call 605-584-2067 or email education@homestakeoperahouse.org.

Santa Bash & Tree Lighting - We look forward to this even hosted by the Lead Volunteer Fire Department and the Homestake Opera House on Saturday 12/11! Look for more details coming soon!

NEWS & NOTES

2022 LEAD Magazine - We're working on completing the Lead magazine in November. If you would like to be included in this year's magazine, be sure that you have a current membership as of 10/31/21 otherwise we can't guarantee that you'll be in! If you have questions about your membership please call Christine 584-3110! **Mentorship/Volunteer Opportunity** - This is from the TeamMates Program through the Lead-Deadwood Elementary School. Can you spare half an hour once a week to mentor a local child at the school? Training is provided, please contact Amanda Bender amanda.bender@kl2.sd.us for more information

Membership Drive Begins! - The Chamber and the Visitor Center will be starting their annual membership drive in October. Both organizations will be offering opportunities for individuals to show their support and receive a gift and monthly newsletter from each. These make great Christmas gifts. Contact Christine Allen for more information (605)584-3110

OCTOBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1	2 7pm Show: Black Hills Opry, HOH*
3 Oktoberfest @ St. Patrick's Church 11:30am-3pm	4 5pm City Commission © City Hall	5	6	7 12pm Preservation Thursday: Frances Perkins, DHI*	8 Paranormal Investigations begin, more info DHI*	9
10	11	12	13 4pm STEAM class, Boys & Girls Club	5pm Ray Davis Brithday Event, SLHVC*	15	16
17	18 5pm City Commission @ City Hall	19	20 7pm Show: Orion & Stacey Potter & Co., HOH*	21 8am LACC Board / 8:45am SLHVC* Board Meeting 12pm Preservation Thursday:DHI*	22 7pm Show: Supa- man, HOH*	23
24 31 HALLOWEEN	25	26		28 10:30AM GOLDEN FOLD 10:30, SLHVC* 4-6pm CHAMBER MIXER Rustic Nook Bakery / Leigha's Goodbye Party		30 2-6pm Haunted Hike with EF&A*

*LACC - Lead Area Chamber of Commerce //*SLHVC - Sanford Lab Homestake Visitor Center // *DHI - Deadwood History Inc. // *HOH - Homestake Opera House // *EF&A - Explore Fitness & Adventures

Weekly & Monthly

For more info and details visit www.LeadMeThere.org or 584-3110

WEEKLY

Mondays: **Kiwanis Meetings** - 5:30pm at the Christian Ministry Center.

Tuesdays: **Poker for Fun** - Texas Hold'em, 7pm at Hangar 7 Lounge at Blackstone Lodge.

Wednesdays: **Skate Night** - 5:30-7:30pm at the Handley Recreation Center.

Wed & Fri: **Zumba!** with Debbie Minter at Explore Fitness & Adventures at 5:30pm

MONTHLY:

Free Community Dinner - First Saturday at 5pm, Assembly of God Church

VFW Meeting - First Tuesdays at 7pm

Rod & Gun Club Meeting - First Wednesdays at 7pm, Clubhouse

Second Saturdays on Main Street -Explore Main Street (and adjacent) with specials, sales, vendors - 10am-4pm

Shepherd's Pantry - 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 9-12, SotH*

Classes in fitness, adult and children's dance, zumba & yoga @ EF&A*

Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) Meets 3:30pm on the 2nd and the 4th Sunday afternoons of each month Sept-May at SotH*

Lead Area Chamber of Commerce

501(c)6

(605)584-3110

Office Hours: 9am-5pm Monday - Friday

Mission To promote and enhance to opportunities for its membership and the community; to encourage the growth of existing industries and businesses while giving all proper assistance to any new firms or individuals ... to encourage and promote a positive, balanced and vibrant local economy...

Staff

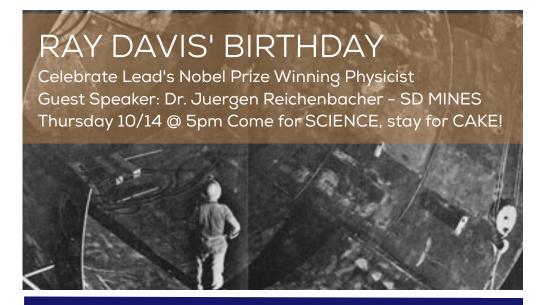
Sierra Ward, Executive Director sierra@leadmethere.org
Christine Allen, Outreach & Events Director christine@leadmethere.org
Daniel Egemo, Tourism Coordinator daniel@leadmethere.org

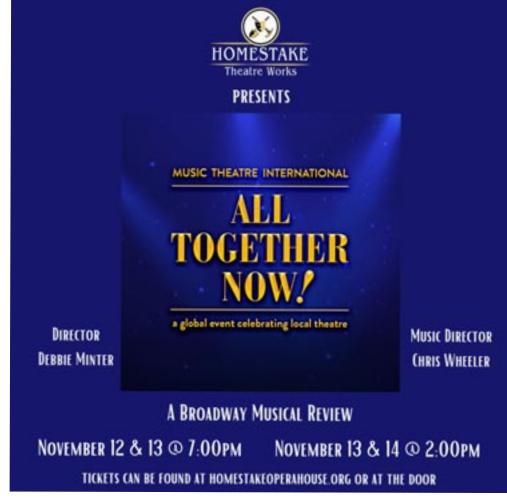
Seasonal Staff

Perry Oien, Debbie Minter, Mariana Pitlick, Sami O'Neil, Wayne Karpinen Board of Directors - terms go through years listed President, Marsha Nichols, ('20-'23) Vice President, Scott Engel ('19-'22) Secretary, Kim Huber ('20-'23) Treasurer, Dave Brueckner ('20-'23) Autumn Anderson, ('20-'23) Greg Hershman, ('21-'24) Duston Morehead ('18-'21)

Ron Everett, ex-officio Mike Headley, ex-officio

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Lead Area Chamber of Commerce 160 West Main Street Lead, SD 57754

