

Kids’ e-bikes, e-scooters in Crosby draw concern

Riders violating traffic laws can be ticketed, city council decides

By John Bayer
Divide County Sheriff Zach Schroeder spoke to the Crosby City Council last week with concerns about unsafe use of electric bicycles and scooters among kids in the city.

“I bring this up because we got a lot of calls at the sheriff’s office,” Schroeder told the council at its monthly meeting Nov. 3. “I get a lot of comments when I’m out in the public.” Schroeder went on to describe a recent event in which a



Sheriff Zach Schroeder

driver making a left-hand turn almost hit a child who was ignoring traffic laws while riding his e-bike. “Little fella come by right through that stop sign, and she just about hit him, and I had to calm her down,” Schroeder said. “She was in panic mode.” Schroeder expressed concern that the number of these bikes on the streets will only increase. “Christmas is coming up; every kid is going to want one,” Schroeder said. “They go 36

miles an hour. Our speed limit in town is 25 miles an hour.” City Attorney Seymour Jordan cited the current ordinance stating that riders of bicycles and scooters can be ticketed. After some discussion, the council authorized law enforcement officers to ticket e-bike users when they are in violation of traffic laws. Schroeder said he believes that it would not take too long for dangerous riding to be curbed.

“Once you write one, the word spreads pretty good,” Schroeder said. On a related safety topic, the council discussed the abundance of recreational vehicles, campers and boats currently being kept on the street by residents, often year-round. City Auditor Alexa Kruger cited one particular case in town where emergency vehicles arguably wouldn’t be able to get through. “And then people can’t see kids, and there’s kids all over

on that corner now,” Kruger said. “Zach has talked to them on more than one occasion.” While the current city ordinance discusses the removal of nuisance vehicles from properties, it does not address vehicles on the street. “Right now, we have no teeth to do anything,” Jordan said. The council instructed Jordan to draft a new ordinance addressing this issue, in time to have a first reading in December. (See CITY, Page 4)



Avonlea Brown -- The Journal
A residential property at 212 Fifth St. NE in Crosby, one of 21 properties in Crosby and Noonan scheduled for auction at a Divide County tax sale on Nov. 18.

21 properties may be up for sale at Divide auction

List of parcels delinquent on taxes this year is unusually long

By Avonlea Brown
Twenty-one recently foreclosed properties in Crosby and Noonan are up for auction by the Divide County Auditor’s Office on Nov. 18. The owners of the properties, foreclosed because they have three years of delinquent taxes, have the opportunity to reclaim them up until the day of the auction, Auditor Gayle Jastrzebski told The Journal. In order to reclaim the property, all three years of overdue taxes must be provided. Of the properties up for sale, 16 are in Crosby and five are in Noonan. Two other delinquent properties, in Noonan and Fortuna, have been reclaimed as of last week.

In Crosby, the properties comprise eight houses, five undeveloped lots and two lots with unclassified buildings. The Noonan properties are five undeveloped lots. Jastrzebski said the number of foreclosed properties this year is unusually high. “Normally we only get a couple back, if any,” Jastrzebski said. Foreclosure notices went out to the property owners, any residents of the property and anyone inheriting the property on June 1, according to Divide County’s website. Several notices go out on the county auditor’s website and in The Journal prior to the auction. The auction is scheduled to start at 10 a.m. at the auditor’s office, located in the Divide County Courthouse in Crosby. Jastrzebski will begin bidding for each property at its approved appraisal amount. The price also includes a \$20 document recording fee, and the deed will be signed over to

the winning bidder once the amount is paid. Depending on the number of people who show up, Jastrzebski added, the auction may have to move to a larger room in the courthouse. Buying a foreclosed home comes with potential perks and drawbacks. Foreclosed homes often have low sale price and are an opportunity to build home equity quickly. However, the condition of the home or the land is not guaranteed. People wanting to purchase land or homes on sale at the auction should be aware that the properties are “sold as is,” Jastrzebski said. Anyone interested in participating in the auction or with questions about the properties can contact the auditor’s office at (701) 965-6351. The county has also published a list of foreclosed properties and their identifying parcel numbers as a public notice in this week’s issue of The Journal.

Medora Christmas show is coming back to Crosby

Concordia will host tour stop; tickets available

By Avonlea Brown
The popular “A Magical Medora Christmas” touring musical is coming back to Crosby for the first time in four years, and tickets are now on sale. The Crosby show will take place Dec. 1 at Concordia Lutheran Church at 7 p.m. The last time the show performed in Crosby was in 2021, at Divide County High School. Host and producer Bill Sorensen was interested in bringing it to Crosby because it was the hometown of the late John Andrist, a major supporter of the arts in Medora. “We liked it last time,” Sorensen said, “and I have some old friends in the Andrists. So it will be nice to come up and see some old friends and perform in a new venue.”

Concordia Lutheran Church is a smaller venue than the group is used to. Sorensen added that he has only ever performed the show in a church three times before. “This is one of the fun things about a show on the road,” Sorensen said. “Every day you run into new challenges and you have to figure it out.” Sandra Simonson, Concordia’s council president, received a call asking if the musical could perform in the church. “I brought it to the council, and we thought it would be a nice way to enhance Christmas for everybody,” Simonson said. In addition to the musical, Simonson added, the church will hold a silent auction for wreaths and porch pots, and offer an assortment of sweet and savory treats at 5:30 p.m. All proceeds go to the Northwest United Lutheran Parish. Tickets are currently available for \$39 each at the Crosby branches of The Bank of



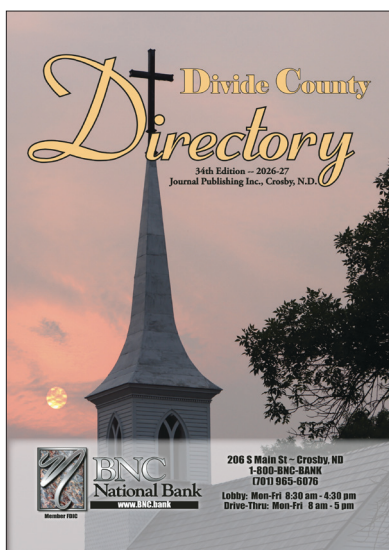
Journal Archive
Members of the “A Magical Medora Christmas” cast in 2021 during a performance at Divide County High School. The show returns to Crosby on Dec. 1 at Concordia Lutheran Church.

Tioga and First State Bank and Trust and online at medorachristmas.com. In honor of the recently concluded 60th season of the “Medora Musical,” the Christmas show will reach back through 60 years of entertainment, including tributes to Ed Sullivan, Andy Williams and North Dakota’s own Lawrence Welk. “A Magical Medora Christmas” travels to 24 communities in four states in less than a month. “It is a bit of a grind,” Sorensen said. “It helps to have a few smaller towns in rotation, and this year we chose Crosby as one of them.” Sorensen added the ninth edition of the Christmas tour also promises to be a big show. “Last year was the most fun we’ve ever had,” Sorensen said, “and we’ve got all the same performers back this year, so the sky is the limit.” Sorensen, former host of the “Medora Musical” and a lifelong entertainer, said this year’s show will begin with a tribute to Williams, followed by music tied to Welk, a native of Strasburg. The third section of the show will feature Sullivan, followed by a game show bit, a sort of musical “Family Feud,” a Western set and the finale.

As host, Sorensen keeps the audience engaged with lively banter, jokes and magic. But he’ll leave most of the magic to his protege, master magician Colin Zasadny. The cast of performers include: music director Travis Smith, of Columbus, Ohio; Cydney McQuillan-Grace, a New York City vocalist and songwriter; Trent and Megan Taber, fellow New Yorkers who grew up in Jenks, Oklahoma, and will also be accompanied by their first child, Henry; husband-wife duo Evan Raines and Emily Schuman; and Misti Koop and Damon Fichter, North Dakotans who both have long experience in Medora and on the Christmas tour. All of the performers have current or former ties to the “Medora Musical.” They’ll start this year’s Christmas tour Nov. 28 in Hettinger and travel into South Dakota and Montana, and then across North Dakota and into Minnesota before concluding the tour Dec. 21 in Bismarck. Following the show in Crosby are performances in Williston and Tioga. The Williston show is Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the Williston High School auditorium. The Tioga show is Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. at the Tioga Community Center.

New 2026-27 DC Directory

Journal Publishing this week is releasing the 34th edition of the Divide County Directory. The directory is included in all local print copies of The Journal this week. The Journal also has directories available for purchase at a discounted price through Tuesday: \$2 for pickup or \$5 for mail delivery. Residents needing to add or correct a directory listing may contact The Journal.



Mosaic of Cultures returns Saturday at Divide County High School

By John Bayer
The second-ever Mosaic of Cultures fair this weekend in Crosby is designed to show the cultural diversity that exists within Divide County, according to the event’s organizers. The event is Saturday from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Divide County High School commons. Admission is free. “We’ve got plenty (of diversity) in this town, and a lot of people don’t even know it,” said Marie Kauhako, who leads the event’s steering committee. The inaugural Mosaic of Cultures event took place in 2023.



Journal Archive
A group of Filipino dancers at the 2023 Mosaic of Cultures fair in Crosby.

The event will feature booths representing various countries or regions, put together by Divide County residents with ties to those cultures. Around

a dozen countries and regions will be represented. Upon entering the event, visitors will be given a “passport,” which they can have stamped at each booth that they visit. The event will have some refreshments for purchase, including several soups from around the world. Additionally, many of the booths will be selling food and trinkets from their region. Some booths will also be offering door prizes. Kauhako said the door prize at the Hawaiian booth will be a “Spam lei,” a necklace strung with

varieties of the canned lunch meat, which is quite popular on the islands. Entertainment will be provided by the Slough Foot Singers and Dancers, a group from the Turtle Mountain area in North Dakota. Kauhako said she loves that the people in this area take pride in their Scandinavian roots and hopes Mosaic of Cultures will show that people with other roots take just as much pride in their cultures. “It’s important that we share it and let the children see,” Kauhako said.