



A view of just part of the over 100 vendors that were at the 2nd Annual White Shield Bazaar on Sunday afternoon. (submitted by Llore TwoCrow)

One stop shop for Christmas gifts

And Christmas cheer

BY TYSON MATTHEWS
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White Shield was the place to be on Sunday. Over 100 vendors filled Ralph Wells Jr Community Center for the 2nd Annual White Shield Holiday Bazaar. The White Shield Market Facebook page stated: “Everything you need to check off your Christmas shopping list. Come ready for good vibes, holiday cheer, unity and community, the White Shield Way.” Santa and the Grinch were there to oversee the festivities. The offerings included everything from local boutiques and businesses, artisans, vendors,

cooks, bakers, offeringneverything one might need to fulfill the gift. “It was a success. They’re huge events and keep growing,” Organizer Llore TwoCrow said. “This market is a small piece to the puzzle of sustainability initiatives that I do.” Besides the best shopping, there was live music from musically inclined community members and raffles given out throughout the day. There was even a sneak-peek fashion show by Cultured Couture. Once the vendor show wrapped up, community members were invited to the Ree Ranch to continue the fun at the Winter Wonderland.



Auctioneer **Doug Delorme** auctioned off items from the vendors at the 2nd Annual White Shield Bazaar this weekend. (Submitted by Llore Two Crow)

Ambulance District compensation approved

BY TYSON MATTHEWS
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Garrison-Max-Ryder-Makoti Ambulance District Board met Nov. 12 to discuss new equipment acquisitions, employee wages and benefits. The meeting called to order by board President Sandra Nelson-Olzweski at 7 p.m. **New Life-Saving Equipment** The Ambulance District announced the addition of new life saving equipment; a new ambulance, a new Lifepack 35 monitor, a new power load stretcher, and a new LUCAS CPR device. “These upgrades were essential to ensure that we could continue to provide our patients with the best possible care,” said ambulance manager Amanda Melby. “The Lifepack 35 is a cardiac monitor that allows our staff to quickly assess a heart rhythm, oxygen levels, blood pressure, and other vital signs. The upgrade was needed since they no longer make the Lifepack 15’s which we currently use so we would not be able to service or fix them in the event they had a major issue,” Melby said. The LUCAS CPR device provides consistent, high-quality chest compressions during cardiac arrest, helping with provider fatigue and minimizing interruptions in CPR, which frees up providers to be able to perform other lifesaving interventions. “These new, upgraded tools will strengthen our emergency response capabilities and help ensure the highest standard of



care to the communities that we serve,” Melby added. The costs for the new equipment are: the Ambulance - \$258,800, and the Lifepack 35 – \$61,653.49, the Power Load Stretcher – \$37,112.57, LUCAS CPR device - \$20,450.60. The board also discussed employee wages and benefits for the upcoming year. **Wages and Benefits** The board discussed employee wages and benefits for the upcoming year. Information on crew raises and wages from previous years was provided: the crew received a \$2 per hour wage increase in 2021, followed by raises 4 and 5 percent annually in the years after 2021. District managers provided a report for review, focusing on discussion on pay adjustments and

health insurance for full-time employees only. New health insurance rates will be available in May-June. A 5 percent pay increase for full-time employees was also approved unanimously by the board. **Christmas Bonuses** The board also discussed approving Christmas bonuses. Last year, managers received \$1,000 each and \$7,000 was allotted for other staff. The motion was passed unanimously by the board. Attending the meeting were Board Members Jeff McElwain, Nelson-Olzweski, Erickson, Reinisch, and J.R. Kerzman via Zoom. The managers in attendance were Craig Combs and Amanda Melby.

Internet and phones went dark

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Reservation Telephone Company (RTC) Networks, a telecommunication service provider in Parshall, faced a phone outage last Thursday. Officials with the provider posted to Facebook on Thursday morning that all incoming calls were not connecting. At 2:25 p.m. on Thursday, RTC posted another statement that the anticipated a restoration timeline of sometimes Thursday night or Friday morning. The reason for the outage was not stated.

Services were restored just before midnight on Thursday. RTC covers more than 8,800 square miles between eastern Montana and North Dakota. RTC was contacted on Monday and said they were glad service was restored but declined to comment on the reason for the outage. For future assistance with non-emergency situations, police departments say the public can call the State Emergency Communications Center at (701)-328-9921. Three Affiliated Tribes says you can call (701)-421-6427.



The West River Transit bus will take you where you need to go. Driver **Mike Maki** is at the ready. (Photo by Lisa Maki)

West River STILL running in Garrison

BY TYSON MATTHEWS
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Rumors overheard around town that West River Transit (WRT) had stopped running in Garrison due to lack of drivers. Mike Maki started driving for WRT in Garrison in August of 2024, and has never stopped. Although he predominantly focuses on continuing service to and from Garrison Public schools, rides are available “almost anywhere.” “As a daycare provider, I knew the struggle parents and families faced with transportation to and from school, especially the preschool aged students,” Garrison daycare provider Lisa Maki said. “Mike was looking for something to fill his time and get out of the house. He saw the need for a part-time bus driver and felt that his relationship with the younger Garrison community would be a match.”

The opportunity to serve Garrison and surrounding communities appealed to Mike because all ages can use the transit system. The following month, in September of 2024, Gerard Schwan also joined WRT as a bus driver. West River Transit currently provides transportation in McLean County as well as Burleigh, Dunn, Grant, Mercer, Morton, and Oliver counties. Any of the vehicles can be booked by any group, and the cost depends on travel distance and number of passengers. “I have booked the bus for daycare trips as they do have age-appropriate seat restraints with built-in car seats for youth and seatbelts,” Lisa Maki said. “We even used West River Transit for a birthday party trip to the White Sheild Rec Center.” Recently, the Butte Senior Center used WRT to visit the International Peace Garden. Driver Mike Maki provides his cell phone (701) 500-0394 as the local contact and can be reached via text or call anytime a ride is needed. While the main office

Fare Schedule
Local Shopping (within same city - Monday through Friday) Garrison, Underwood, Max, Washburn, Turtle Lake, Wilton (\$3)
To Bismarck: Every Thursday and Every 3rd Saturday from Garrison (\$12), Underwood (\$10), Butte (\$16), Max (\$1), Washburn (\$10), Riverdale (\$11), Turtle Lake (\$10), Wilton (\$8), Pick City (\$11).
To Minot: Every 1st Tuesday of each month from - Garrison (\$10), Max (\$9), Washburn (\$12), Butte (\$11)
To 4 Bears Casino - Every last Wednesday of each month, Every 2nd Wednesday from - Garrison, Max, Butte (each \$30)
Additional Rides - When + Where to Garrison to Last Friday Potluck (\$3), Garrison to Lamp-lighters Local Meeting - 2nd Tuesday of each month (\$3), Garrison to Butte - by appointment (\$10)
Bismarck Office Phone: (701)224-1876
Toll Free: 1-888-682-5826
Local Contact (Mike Maki) (701)500-0394

requests 24-hour notification prior to a ride, they will work with main office if a shorter timeframe is needed. Community members with questions can call Mike directly “I like (driving) because I meet people of all ages in our community,” Mike Maki said. “I like being able to help people keep their independence.” **About West River Transit** According to the West River Transit website, WRT was organized through a grant application in 1975, establishing us with the Federal Transit Administration and the North Dakota De-