

UPCOMING EVENTS

If you have a free event that is open to the public, let us know before Tuesday, 10 a.m., and it will be added to this column. Send to lswym@hotmail.com or janet@mainstreetmedia.us, or call 620-285-3111 (by Monday, 12 noon).

YOU'RE INVITED:

The stockings are hung; the trees are lit—now all we need is you! Bring your family and enjoy our Christmas Village. Snap a picture or two, hot chocolate and goodies are on us or bring the kids and visit Santa. Come celebrate the most wonderful time of the year. Let's enjoy our community, making connections, make memories and share the Christmas joy with our residents. **Details:** The Christmas Village display is available for family pictures any time in December, no appointment necessary; **Santa** will be here for pictures on Monday, Dec. 22, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Photography is not provided. Hot chocolate and goodies will be available. Admission, FREE

Thursday, December 18

United Way of Central KS Christmas Basket Coffee Hour, Carr Auction & Real Estate, 9:30 -10:30 a.m., 900 Auction Avenue

Larned Civic Pride BINGO, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Haas Building, 400 East 18th Street

Friday, December 19

Coffee and Donut Hour at the Burdett Seniors from 9:30 to 11 a.m., sponsored by Joe Miller Cabinets. Everyone welcome

Ash Valley Community Center Christmas Program, 7:00 p.m., Ash Valley. Contact: Dallas Hiebert 620-285-1212

Sunday, December 21

Food Pantry, 1 to 2 p.m., Valley Community Church Educational Building, Burdett

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Service, 5 p.m., Valley Community Church, Burdett

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, First Presbyterian Church, 6:30 p.m., 1004 West 8th Street

Wednesday, December 31

Weather permitting, come celebrate with us at New Year's Eve Game Night at the Burdett Seniors, 7 to ?; bring a snack to share. Open to ALL

Things You Did Not Know (But Now You Do)

BY JUDI TABLER

Christmas Traditions Of Other Countries Part 1

In Norway, no Christmas is complete without *juleøl* (Yule ale). "Historically, brewing one's own beer was expected, and gathering to drink it was considered an almost sacred act. At one point, the drink—which traces back to the pre-Christian pagan midwinter festival but was later adopted to honor Mary and Jesus—was mandatory. "Today it's still a central and common part of enjoying the festive period," says the university. And while Norway does have Santa Claus, it also has its own *Fjøsniissen* (barn santas), who are small, shy, elf-like mythical creatures who like animals more than people and, if not left a bowl of Nissegrøt (rice porridge) on Christmas Eve, may be offended and get up to some mischief.



The festive season in the Philippines spans what's locally known as the Ber Months (September, October, November, December) and are heralded on Sept. 1 by the sounds of Jose Mari Chan—the Southeast Asian country's answer to Mariah Carey—blaring in malls and the sales of holiday decorations such as parols (star-shaped lanterns). As in some Latin American countries, it's traditional in the Philippines to celebrate Christmas Eve with a Noche Buena feast, and some devout Catholics—in a country where 4 in 5 practice the religion—will head for the Midnight Mass. After Christmas Day, there's no clear date on when the season ends, but some consider the Epiphany in January as the last day.

"No Christmas Eve supper in Poland can pass without the Christmas wafer or *oplatek*, a thin slice of bread made of white flour. The tradition dates back centuries and is practiced elsewhere in Europe, too, though "it's in Poland that it is most closely associated with Christmas Eve." Family members offer wishes to one another before eating the wafer, which is said to symbolize forgiveness, reconciliation, friendship, and love.

In Portugal, it is traditional to have a special supper, or *Consoada*, on Christmas Eve. For those who are religious, the meal, which usually consists of salted cod and other dishes, can take place either before or after the *Missa do Galo* (midnight mass, or literally "rooster's mass") and marks the end of a fasting period before Christmas. It is the custom for people to reserve places at the table set for the *Consoada* supper for those relatives who have recently passed away, or else to leave the table laid and a candle or lamp lit throughout the night to comfort and warm their souls.

The camel is the star of Syria's Christmas. The camel takes the place of Santa in bringing gifts to well-behaved children, tracing back to the legend that camels carried the Three Magi to Bethlehem to see baby Jesus, who then blessed the creatures with eternal life. "To welcome him, children fill shoes with hay and put out bowls of water on Christmas Eve," according to the report, which also notes that some Syrians—as well as Iraqi Christians—also traditionally, after a reading of the nativity story under candlelight, burn a bonfire of dried thorned branches, with the belief that if the thorns disintegrate completely into ash, the incoming year will have good fortune.

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Thursday, Dec. 18-LHS Winter Music Concert @ Community Center 7pm

Friday, Dec. 19-LHS Wrestling @ Hoisington. LHS Basketball @ Kingman. LES Cup Stacking Tournament

Saturday, Dec. 20-LMS 8th Grade Basketball Tournament @ Hesston. LHS Snowball Dance @ Community Center 8pm

Monday, Dec. 22-Jan. 6, 2026-Winter Break. No School

PAWNEE HEIGHTS

Thursday, Dec. 18-JH Basketball @ Ingalls

Friday, Dec. 19-HS Basketball vs. Spearville @ Rozel. End of 1st Semester

Monday, Dec. 22-Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2026. Winter Break. No School

DID YOU KNOW.....That in Larned's earlier days, they would erect a huge Christmas Tree at the intersection of Fifth & Broadway? The popular use of automobiles eventually eliminated the practice.

City of Larned's Holiday Sanitation Schedule:

Monday... Regular Route
Tuesday... Tuesday & Wednesday Routes
Wednesday... Thursday & Friday Routes
No trash Thursday or Friday

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Trail Talk

FLHS Annual Meeting

By Katie Norman, SFTC Executive Director

The Fort Larned Historical Society recently hosted its Annual Meeting with a warm and festive evening that brought together supporters, volunteers, staff, and board members to reflect on a successful year and look ahead to the future. A total of 65 guests attended the meeting, filling the space with conversation, celebration, and holiday cheer.

Christmas decorations set the tone for the evening, creating a cozy and welcoming atmosphere. Guests enjoyed a delicious meal of bowtie pasta with bolognese, Italian dipping bread, salad, and a sweet finish of Texas sheet cake or cookies for dessert.

The meeting included a review of accomplishments from 2025, highlighting the collective efforts that helped move the Santa Fe Trail Center forward throughout the year. Attendees celebrated milestones, community engagement, and the continued growth of programs and events that connect visitors to the history of the Santa Fe Trail.

A special moment of the evening was dedicated to recognizing Richard Lartz, who concluded his time serving on the Board of Directors. His dedication and service were acknowledged with sincere appreciation.

During the business portion of the meeting, members voted to approve two updates to the organization's bylaws. Additionally, three new board members were officially voted in: Jed Fleske, Jerry Goeckel, and Karen Gore. The Santa Fe Trail Center looks forward to the experience and perspective they bring to the board.

The organization extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make the evening a success, including volunteers Cole Brownlee, Gabe Norman, Keirstin Pinkston, and Derek Slack; staff members Mitch and Brenda Van Voorhees; and board members Richard Lartz, Angie Murray, Katelyn Nusser, and Beth Slack. Their time and support made the annual meeting both meaningful and memorable.

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

-Winston Churchill

EARLY DEADLINE for Weeks of Dec. 21 & Dec. 28:

Deadline for ads, legals & articles will be MONDAY, Dec. 22 & MONDAY, Dec. 29 at 2:00 PM!

The Tiller & Toiler office will be closed Thursday, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

WELCOME INN MENU

113 W. 4th, Larned • 620-285-3504

The facility is available to rent for public meetings or parties. Please call 620-285-3504

December 22 - 26

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Potluck	Hog Dog w/Bun Sauerkraut Mac & Cheese Baked Beans Cookie	Holiday Casserole Vegetable Roll & Fruit No In House Dining Site closing at 10:30

THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Closed for Christmas	Closed

We have home-bound meals for those unable to get out



Reed Pharmacy

326 W. 14th, Larned • 285-6286

DRIVE THRU



117 W. 6th Street - Larned 620-285-6011