

P.O. Box 479 Columbus, MT 59019 406-322-5520

www.specialkranch.com E-mail: skr@wtp.net



at Special Olympics with Coach, Gary and spotters anticipating the "swoosh!"

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A BIG THANK YOU to LIVESTOCK DONORS

...who bought and donated livestock from the county fairs and the NILE.

Also to those who donated from their own herds.

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Davey Farm
Peter Yegen Jr.
Haven Marsh
Burnt Leather Ranch
Bair Ranch Fdtn
Louis & Cathy Dubs
Tom Heineman
Haglund Ranch

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Red Lodge Country

Pelican Truck Plaza

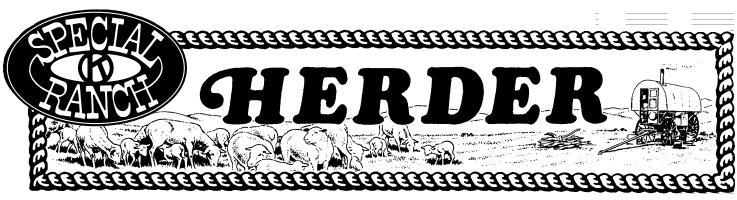
Palisades Livestock
EBMS
Agri-Liquid Fertilizer
Dr Tim Dernbach
First Citizens Bank
Gary & Yvonne Rome
Brookstone Monument
Dave & Jennifer Wagner
Peaks to Prairies/Seibert
McGarvey Feed & Grain
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Hanson, Toole & Dietrich Hanson Chemical Project Merc. Food Northern Ag Network Taylor Brown Ray & Agnes Havig

CONSIDER A GIFT

Feed Grain and Hay
Corral Panels
Dishwashers
Washers and Dryers
Livestock,
Calves & Sheep
Portable Generator
Dressers
Hand Tools
Vehicles to be Used at
Ranch or Sold

These are some items that Special K Ranch could use. If you have any of these you would be willing to donate, please give us a call. We can turn your surplus items into tools for ministry. Call us at 406-322-5520

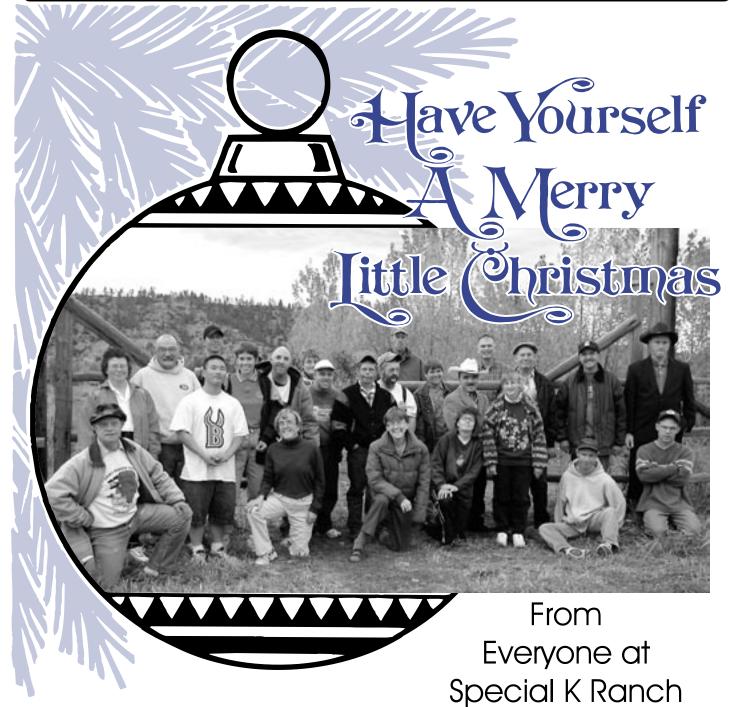


MISSION STATEMENT

Providing family oriented Christian homes for adults who have developmental disabilities, on a working ranch.

VOL. 18, NO. 2 "She

"Shepherding the Hesitant" DECEMBER 2004





MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By the summer of 1993 Special K and funding demands had become too much for one administrator. We were very fortunate to receive a two-year grant to fund a fundraiser/development position.

Nelson Rumore, former director of the Montana Rescue mission was hired for the position. When he left the job it was decided that I would continue the fundraising along with being executive director and we would hire a program

In July 1995 Michael Dooley was hired as our program director. Michael came with a strong business background and during his nine years with us two more resident homes were built and another house that was on the ranch was remodeled to accommodate four semi-independent residents bringing our resident population from twelve to twenty-four. The Wommack center was built and a steel storage building was erected.

Michael caught our vision of having a vocational Ranch was six years old and the growth program that would give the residents productive and meaningful work and with his direction we grew from a small 20' x 60' greenhouse to a complex of sixteen greenhouses covering 40,000 square feet. We just completed our sixth year of contract growing bedding plants and our second year of growing hothouse tomatoes.

> We are very appreciative for the leadership and service Michael gave to the Special K Ranch and we wish him well in his retirement.

In this newsletter you will meet our new program director Mike Oberg. Mike is not new to the ranch but in his new position he is full time. Mike's sense of call to Christian mission. His gentle and caring spirit, gift of working with people, and experience in business will be drawn on as he takes on this challenging job. Welcome Mike.

PROGRAM OBSERVATIONS

When you know that you know! As I walked off residents and the Ranch. I see their the plane from a mission trip to Russia, I knew my life God given gifts being put to use just as would never be the same. God wanted me in the mission field and I was sure it was in Russia. I began to pray that the Lord would make it clear where he wanted me. My wife Carla was sure it was some place a little closer to the equator. A few weeks had past when Carla came program?

day. As we left the ranch I knew that God had answered my prayers. Our mission field was not across some ocean in some foreign land. It was in our own backyard at the Special K Ranch. Carla and I have been running the horticulture program for 6 years now.

With the retirement of Mr. Dooley, I was asked to consider taking over the position of Program Director. I began to pray about it and in time God once again put me at ease with the decision. As each day passes I am becoming aware of the responsibility that comes with this position. The daily decisions that affect the residents, staff, budget, and my personal family as well, have brought me to my knees in prayer that God will guide these decisions and that the outcome be pleasing to Him.

God has brought the best staff to the Ranch that I have seen in 6 years. I truly believe that they have put personal agendas aside for the common good of the

our Lord planned it. This is the right staff, in the right place, at the right time for this transition to take place



For those of you who do not know home and said that Jim Kimmery of Village Gardens me yet, let me introduce myself. I have been married wanted to take us to this ranch to see their horticulture to my beautiful wife Carla Mae for 20 wonderful years. (God is good) We have a son Jarred who is 17 years old I had never heard of the Special K Ranch before that and a senior at Billings West High School. Our daughter Justene is 16 years old and is a junior at Billings West High School. Eight years later God decided that Carla and I did not learn enough as parents and blessed us with Jonah. He is 8 years old and a diehard Chicago Bears fan.

In 1996 I went on a mission trip to Haiti believing that I was going there to do something good for God. By the time I left it became very apparent that it was God who was doing something good for Mike. I have that same feeling here at Special K Ranch. God is doing something good for all who serve here at Special K Ranch.

Program Director

YOUR WILL A Wav To Help **Others**

A will is the simplest form of a planned gift and it affords everyone the opportunity to help others and have a living legacy. Consider naming Special K Ranch in your will for a percentage, a specific amount, or as the sole benefactor. Special K Ranch could also be named as beneficiary of a life insurance policy, your tax-deferred IRA or other retirement plan. The blessings you have received will continue to bless and help others. (Check with your attorney for the proper legal forms and wording.)



SPECIAL OLYMPICS TRIP

Another year of Special Olympics basketball has passed, and it was very exciting! The games were held in Butte this year. We had beautiful sunny clear weather for traveling both going on Thursday morning and returning Saturday afternoon. When we arrived home there was a hot meal waiting for all of us at the Wommack center. Thanks to the staff that kept the home fires burning.

We arrived at the motel early enough on Thursday so there was time for everyone to enjoy the pool and hot tub. On Friday night there was an all you can eat pizza dinner followed by a carnival and dance. We had a nice following of family and friends who were able to attend and cheer us to victory.

Special K Rams showed such class both on and off the courts and were rewarded. One team brought home gold medals and one team brought home silver medals. Every player in individual skills won a medal this year. Also for the first time in several years every player on a team made a basket in a game. We are very proud of our Rams. They prove that cream rises to the top. Special thanks to our coaches - Ron Malloy, Kenny White, and Gary Jones for their love and efforts with our athletes.



Kennu's Silver Medal Team



Linda Advisors at Ostrum

MEET THE PHELPS

How to get to Special K Ranch? Well you answer an ad in the Montana Livestock magazine. That's how we got here. Hi, our names are Larry and Linda Phelps, parents of four, grandparents of eight, and now home advisors to four men at Ostrum house. We hail from Colorado and have been at Special K Ranch since April of 2004.

As a couple we have farmed and ranched most of our forty-two years together. Larry was working for a company that took care of DD adults when we answered the ad. I had been unemployed for two years. We were talking about making a change but our families said Montana – did we realize how far away that was? Well, it is an 18-hour drive, that's how far it is.

After hearing about the homes, the greenhouses, the farm, the animals, and of course the people we would be assisting, everyone was happy for us and helped us pack.

Taking care of animals, crops, and cooking is just what we do well. Having people like Rod, Jeremy, Ron, and Tim appreciate what you do for them makes our job meaningful. Getting to know the staff, the residents, and their families has been a pleasure.

We are not cold and snow lovers, but everyone has assured us we will love it here. The decision – at our age - to leave our elderly mothers, children, grandchildren, church and friends was not easy. But here we are lock, stock, and barrel; getting into the swing of all there is to do here at this place called Special K Ranch.

When God wants you to do something and makes things happen in just a few days, it's almost impossible to

Special K Ranch is set in such a beautiful spot along the Yellowstone River. With the hills behind to the south, the big sky above it is a piece of heaven on earth for 24 residents and staff.

SKR FOUNDATION Charitable Gift Annuities

A gift annuity can provide you:

- A lifetime income for one or two people
- A significant tax deduction (if a Montana resident. a tax credit)
- Attractive, fixed interest rates for your lifetime
- A worthy investment, helping to improve the lives of people with disabilities

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS July – November 2004

We are pleased that the people memorialized and honored on these pages are part of the on-going ministry of Special K Ranch. A special thanks to those making these gifts.

Mary Ann Formanack

Fred & Gaynell

Herm "Bud" Funk Memorial

Harold & Joyce Brester

William & Rose Caton

Mrs. Mary Feuerbacher

Margaret & Leslie Frank

Howard & Lee Funk

Bob & Beverly Harper

J.J. & Bernadine Harris

Albert & Marq Racki

Bob & Betty Saxbury

Laverne Funk Memorial

Mrs. Irene Belusko

John Goehner Memorial

Don & Bey Goehner

Adeline Goodan Honorary

Charles & Roselynn Gray

Memorial

Dorothy Perrin

Tim & Charleen McInnis

Larry & Joy Goehner Honorary

Mom & Robert Bischof

Clifford & Helen Hanson

George & Karen Sonray

Emma Gremmer Memorial

Hank Gremmer Honorary

LJ & Vern Halvorson

Lee Gagnon Honorary

Guy & Betty Stormont

Dan & Lenna Holwegner

Margaret Funk

Ms. Jennine Budge

Memorial

Diane Aldridge Memorial Blake & Roberta Mackin

John & Bonnie Alt Memorial Raleigh & Rachel Lawson David & Laura Yoder

Hope Anderson Memorial Marcella & James Hull

Wraal Arthun Memorial Gladys Harrison Kenneth & Lucille Herem

Ann Baken Memorial Bobbie Ostrum Fred & Gaynell

Alvin Baldry Memorial Victor & Loretta Frank

Katie Baretta Memorial Fred & Gaynell

Gene Barsness Memorial Patrick & Helen Mullanev Don & Janet Ronan

Bob & Betty Saxbury Florence Baszer Memorial Margean Robinson

Bret Beavens Honorary McCammon Trucking Inc. Darrell & Pat McCammon Murl & Wilma McCammon

Bernard Behnke Memorial Leatha Behnke

Katherine Bergstrom Memorial Mildred Berg

Louise Blackford Memorial Gary & Audrey Hines

Pat Bloom Memorial Fred & Gaunell **Bud Boggio Memorial**

Fred & Gaynell Henry Boggio Honorary

Clay T. Donohoe Pat Boggio Memorial

Fred & Gaynell

Eric Braun Memorial Mom & Robert Bischoff

Doris Brew Memorial David & Berni Seibel

Roy Browning Memorial Malcolm & Pat McRae

Liz Burns Memorial Robert N. & Vera Ulschak

Iva J. Caton Memorial Darlene Berg William & Rose Caton Joel Harris Clara Evelyn Pierce Don & Janet Ronan Chuck & Francine Skillen Veterans of Foreign Wars Aux.

Rock Charlton Memorial Larry & Marilyn G. O'Dell

Amos Clark Memorial Fred & Gavnel

Robert Wagner

Gail Commack Honorary Mary Vanover

Lois Conway Memorial Mr. & Mrs. David & Bonnie

Clinton Cox Memorial Virginia Cox

Lillian Cunningham Memorial Mr. & Mrs. Steve & Deborah

Opal Cunningham Memorial Mr. & Mrs. Ken & Colleen Ekle

Ken Davis Memorial Mrs. Ruth Warren

Kenneth Davis Memorial Juanita Willcut

Duncan Degroot Memorial Kenneth & Lucille Herem Robbie Ostrum Fred & Gaunel

Mickey DeVanerio Memorial Fred & Gaunell

Mike & Helen Eastwood Honorary Willard & Carol Dale

George Eblen Memorial Larry Stevens

Bob & Zoe Edwards Memorial Rev. & Mrs. Charles & Debbie

Dallas Eide Honorary Thomas F. Frisby

KC Elhard Memorial Action Tov

Dewey D. Emmett Honorary Della Emmett

Randy Pendegraft's Father Memorial Carole M. Tetrault

Barney Faught Memorial

Lois Faulkner Memorial

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Mike Gradwohl Frank & Allison Gruss Virel & Dorothy Guinn LJ & Vern Halvorson

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Karen Madsen Don & Shirley Miller Patrick & Helen Mullaney

Andv Muri

Butch Ripley

Karen Ripley

John Smith

Darlene Spek

Bruce & Kerrie Robertson

Terry & Janet Schilmoeller

Reynold & Annabelle Schreiner

Don & Janet Ronan

Edith M. Thompson

Eric & Carla Ulschak

Robert N. & Vera Ulschak

Bob & Betty Saxbury

Quanda

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Joe Hoeksema Memorial

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Mrs. RC Tussing

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Hamilton

Betty Kuehn

Stella Hogan

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⁄Irs. Ann Jenkins

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Ada Hays Memorial Leo & Frances Kelsey

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Hazel Henry Memorial

Jim & Linda Peters

Louise Hoback Memorial

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Ada Mathews Memorial Fred & Gaunell

Clifford & Helen Hanson

Clifford & Helen Hanson Lisa McJunkin Memorial

Marian Michaelis Memorial Leon & Liz Kerkhove

Jan & Irene Stingley Ingeborg Marie Miller Memorial Bobby & Betty Porter

Donnie Miller, Jr. Memorial Lockie Rosebasky

Mom & Robert Bischoff

Dorothy Neufelder Memorial

Pat Shimskey Memorial Employee Benefit Mgmt. Serv. Virel & Dorothy Guinn

Pat Shimsky Memorial Jack & Charlotte Benner

Perry Rodreick Memorial Margaret & Leslie Frank Patrick & Helen Mullaney

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

...Continued

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Marge Kober Karen Kraft Honorary

Ed Kuest Memorial

Helen Leach Memorial Stan & Judy Eisenman Mrs. Mary Feuerbacher The Bowling Team

Gertrude Lefler Memorial Bobbie Lefler **Bill Leuthold Memorial**

William & Gladys Bernhardt Richard Lind Memorial Bobbie Ostrum

Herman Lofing Memorial Lawrence Lofing

Annabel Lombard Honorary Betsy R Wilcox George Lombard Memorial

Mr. John Ross Betsy R. Wilcox Thelma Long Memorial

James K. Wagner Elsie Armstrong Longley Memorial Hazel Stevens

Alden Lose Memorial Gerald & Marilyn Freitag

Florrie Landon Luke Memorial Frank & Linda Planichel

Carol & Kent Rogne Wayne Mahan Memorial

Albino Mancini Memorial

Bino Mancini Memorial Leon & Liz Kerkhove

Mary Matkin Memorial

Carol Matross Honorary

Donna Beutler

Mary Jo Milne Memorial

Joseph Misbrener Memorial Erick & Rita Erickson

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Bertha Neville Memorial Florence Cole

Don & Peggy Herzog Betty Kuehn Jack & Audrey Parks Richard & Janet Roberts Gloria Swanson Carole M. Tetrault Ruth L. Weinfurter Kay Wolterman

Jack Nicolson Memorial Ralph & Shirley Bowman Helen & Mike Eastwood Clain & Marcia Hughes R. B. & Jean R. Mac Leod

Phil Nieman Honorary Julie Canning

Harold Nordahl Memorial Columbus Volunteer Fire Dept. Gene & Eileen Davey Mr. & Mrs. Ken & Colleen Ekle Mrs. Mary Feuerbacher Leo & Shelia Hansen Betty Kuehn Curtis Kuehn John Leuthold David & Penelope McAlees T Farline Millsans Agnes Nordahl Don & Florence Nordahl Jim & Glenda Nordahl Vera Reineking Arden & Edith Riemann Corrine Rudshagen Gregg & Gail Schnieber Gary & Julie Waymire

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Doug & Evelyn Miller Ariadne "Babe" Schlacht Memorial Mary Vanover

Wilma D. Schnad Memorial Bobbie Ostrum

RANCHER OF THE MONTH

Greg Wennemar is one of the biggest men you'll ever meet, in many ways. Not only tall but a heart to match his size. Greg is a very crucial member of the ranch crew. He is responsible and aware of all farm chores. Greg also has a gift for befriending others who are not always popular, or easy to get to know. We are lucky to have our gentle giant here.

Bret Beavans is a wonder to behold. His personality is a force to be reckoned with as he has the energy of many rolled into one. Bret will never let an opportunity pass to tell others that "Jesus loves you man"! He walks a true Christian path of a servants' heart and cares deeply for others welfare in both this life and the afterlife.

Stephanie Haworth is a lovely work in progress. She came to us with some serious emotional issues. For quite awhile it was one step forward and three steps back. Stephanie did have determination to improve and has blossomed in the last year. She is a warm soul who will always give 100% of her ability and is game to try new things and help however she can.



A three way tie for November Rancher of the Month: Bret, Greg, and Stephanie (Shorti)

Gale Sickler Memorial Mrs. Ruth Warren

Gary Smith Memorial

Clarence & Dorothy Sider Memorial Rev. & Mrs. Charles & Debbie Sider

Judith Smith Kay Stahlecker Memorial Mr Winston Stahlecker

Walley Steffans Memorial Jim & Nancy Tarr Ray Steiner Memorial

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Lydia Yost Memorial Linda Berg Margaret & Leslie Frank Don & Janet Ronan

