By Carolyn Lee
The Imperial Republican

For the second year, the Southwest Nebraska Ministerial Association is hosting a free Christmas dinner. It will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Imperial Eagles Club.

Spokesman Todd Burpo stressed that the dinner is for “anyone who doesn’t have anyone to share Christmas with. We don’t want anyone to spend Christmas alone.” It is not based upon “need.”

Burpo said churches, businesses and individuals have contributed to the effort. “A lot of people are behind this making this meal happen,” he added.

Anyone who wants to help serve or donate food may contact Jody Bopp at 882-4406, Burpo at 882-4677 or David Kahle at 883-5655.

Turkey, ham, potatoes, sweet potatoes, dressing, salads, rolls, pie and beverages will be served. People may come and go as they please.

This is the second year the Ministerial Association has sponsored the meal. Last year about 150 people were served. Burpo thought bad weather may have deterred some people from attending.

Food left over last year was donated to the Imperial Community Center. Nothing goes to waste, Burpo noted.

Although the meal is free, persons wishing to donate money may do so at the dinner.

The Ministerial Association has taken over the funding of indigent care, or people passing through the area. The Chase County Food Pantry used to provide that service.

Money donated at the dinner will go toward the Ministerial Association’s account for added expenses from the indigent care project.

“This is the community coming together to provide” a meal to those alone, Burpo stated.