

Snowflakes and Eggs: Winter weather doesn't stop Easter fun

by Iain Woessner

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Easter egg hunts are a big deal, and no amount of cold weather was going to stop dozens of area children from scrambling to get as many eggs into their baskets as they could hold. It was a fun-filled day on the lawn of the Governor's Mansion.

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A veritable army of children gathered in anticipation of the annual Elk's Lodge Easter Egg Hunt, a tradition held on the lawn of the governor's mansion, with Governor Kristi Noem herself presiding as a master of ceremonies, inviting local children to enjoy a mad scramble for eggs and prizes.



The weather began to take a turn Saturday night, and by Sunday morning the skies were gray and the wind cut cold. Children assembled at the Governor's mansion bundled up, some going the extra mile by donning rabbit-shaped earmuffs. Stalwart moms and dads and even grandparents were right along with them.

Noem herself expressed her love of this tradition, noting that some 30-odd members of her own family were participating in the egg hunt, which divided the lawn up into sections for each age group. Among the eggs were some larger prizes to be snatched up by the fastest. There was a raffle to offer gift cards to a local bike shop and plenty of loyal volunteers handing out candy and much needed warm smiles to keep spirits bright.

Cold weather is no obstacle to a good time for South Dakota, and this Easter showcased just how strong the area's love of the most sacred of Christian holidays is.

Easter is the holy day that marks the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, three days following his death by crucifixion. In Western Christian tradition, it is the beginning of Eastertide, a season that lasts seven weeks and culminates in the feastday of Pentecost.